

# CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.  
37 Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT 06830



[www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org)

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"The true administration of justice is the firmest pillar of good government."

George Washington

President **RUSS HARDEN** got the meeting off to a start promptly at 10:00am with the playing of "We Are the RMA"; and he segued immediately into leading us in the Pledge.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** started his remarks by answering last week's puzzle, informing us of the origin of the word "dashboard". Two puzzlers for next week:

- 1) Why and when did 18 holes become the standard for a round of golf?
- 2) What is the rationale for clocks turning "clockwise" when baseball and American racetracks run counterclockwise?

**ARNOLD** then donned his Rodney Dangerfield hat with jokes about "Heinz sight" and the "roaming catholic" nun. He also repeated one of his favorites about the grandfather (reported to be DON CONWAY) and grandson who became separated at Walmart.

Two additional stories intimated that wives would prefer flowers and kitchen furnishings to baking or sex.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

VISITING: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** noted that **DERYCK DUNCALF** is recovering at home from Edgehill, and so far, **JOE MANCINELLI** is tolerating his outpatient prostate therapy without difficulty.

MEMBERSHIP: **PETER STERN** reported 69 members and 1 guest (Lou Rupnik, guest of **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** and **PETE UHRY**) in attendance.

BIRTHDAYS: **BOB RIMMER** celebrates his 83rd. **JOHN HARKINS** has reached 79. **SKIP AUCH** turns 76. And **JOHN AWDZIEWICZ** has turned 89. The birthday song was showered upon these four worthies.

NOMADS: Scribe **FRANK SCARPA** is still reporting in from Florida, as is **PETER TUNLEY**.

**TOM HEALY** reported in from a different time zone, Salt Lake City.

**DON CONWAY** noted that the Greenwich BET will be meeting tomorrow from 11:30 to 4 to discuss the Davis Avenue Bridge, which will be closed in May.

**PETER BERG** noted that the League of Women Voters will be discussing affordable housing at 1 PM.

Both above meetings may be accessed on Zoom or on the town cable channel.



## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Report: Provided by **PETER STERN**.

INDUCTEES: **ERIC ZITZMANN** was nominated by **JAN MEYER** and **PETER SCHIEFERDECKER**. **ERIC** is a retired orthopedic surgeon who had practiced in Westchester. He is a graduate of Cornell University and Cornell Medical School, in addition, he saw service in the U.S. Navy. He is an accomplished sailor and has travelled widely. He has resided in Riverside and Greenwich and has recently moved to Edgehill.

**JOE ANGLAND** is sponsored by **JERRY POLLACK** and **PETER BERG**. **JOE** is a graduate of MIT and Harvard Law School. He has resided in Greenwich for 27 years and retired from the active practice of law in 2017. **JOE** has been very active in Greenwich town politics and has

served as Chairman of the Greenwich Democratic Town Meeting. He and his wife are the founders of the Gateway Classical Music Society.

Both men were unanimously voted into the RMA, and they each had gracious comments on their acceptance.

**JEFF JUNKER** noted that 103 members voted to elect the proposed slate of officers. There were no negative votes. For final election results of the RMA Slate and Photo Gallery for 2021:

[CLICK HERE TO SEE SLATE OF OFFICERS](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR PHOTO GALLERY](#)



### PROGRAM NOTES

Today's Speaker: **PETER BERG** previewed Connecticut's Senior Senator, Richard Blumenthal. Senator Blumenthal is a resident of Greenwich and a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, as well as the Armed Services Committee, VA Affairs, Science and Transportation and Commerce committees. He has been a strong advocate for social justice and firearms safety.

Next week's speaker: **HOLLISTER STURGIS** previewed Thomas Dyja, who will discuss his recent book "New York, New York, New York--Four Decades of Success, Excess and Transformation". This talk is co-sponsored by the Greenwich Library.



### FUN AND GAMES

TENNIS: **SAM MARASSO** reporting: Court #1 winners: **RANDY MOTLAND** and **PETER DODGE**. Court #2 winners: **BILL HOWLAND** and **ART DELMHORST**. This week's captain will be **BRIAN MAHONEY**.

PLATFORM TENNIS: **RUSS HARDEN** reported on 10 players on Tuesday morning at Loughlin Field.

PICKLEBALL: **TONY COCCHI** reported on the windy challenge faced by the 5 stalwarts at 1 pm at Christiano Courts. Hopes for moving to an earlier time slot for the summer, however a standing reservation through the town of Greenwich may not come to fruition.

TAI CHI: **WILL MORRISON** noted that classes at the Senior Center may start in June. Otherwise, the group will continue to meet outside. When the weather is poor, the group will use Zoom. For information, contact [wdmorrisson@gmail.com](mailto:wdmorrisson@gmail.com) or click on [experiencetaichi.org](http://experiencetaichi.org).

WALKERS: **TAD LARRABEE** noted that **JEFF JUNKER** led the group on a walk-through Chickahominy. Much of the special stonework there dates back to the original Italian immigrants of the early 20th century.

BRIDGE: **JOHN FEBLES** noted the top score of **RON FRIEDMAN** at 3660. **ED MASTOLONI** placed at 3360. And **JOHN** turned in a score of 3150. For further info, contact either **TONY COCCHI** or **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK**. The group uses <http://www.trickstercards.com/game>.

GOLF: **PAUL CAMPION** is aiming for an April 20 Opening Day, with four slots allocated each week.



### TODAY'S SPEAKER

**PETER BERG** introduced Richard Blumenthal, Senior U.S. Senator from Connecticut, who presented "A Report from Washington".

Senator Blumenthal is a member of several important Senate committees, including the Judiciary and Veterans Affairs Committees. He spoke to us from Hartford, noting that he returns to Connecticut every weekend by car, to listen to his constituents.

Although this past year has been a tough one, the senator praised the new American Rescue Plan as an historic one--containing provisions for rental aid, landlords, paycheck protection for small businesses, and nutritional programs. Money will go to states and local governments to fund the costs of COVID and shore up transportation systems. The Infrastructure Program is a 2.2 trillion-dollar proposal that is essential to national security.

This brief prologue was followed by a more extensive Q and A session, capably moderated by **ARTHUR STEMPLEMAN**--summarized here in the form of bullet points:

- The senator gives kudos to President Biden for sending a clear message to both China and Russia on issues such as election interference and cybersecurity.
- The Founding Fathers rejected the concept of super-majority requirements, and the senator is in favor of reforming or repealing the filibuster.
- Senator Blumenthal described in detail his personal experience during the January 6 attack on the Capitol, praising the "common bipartisan resolve" that day in returning to finish the job of certifying the election.
- Consumer Finance Protection will become more active in investigating all types of fraud.
- Tours of the White House are still limited to about 2 per month.
- The Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act is designed to help the disabled to find employment.
- The American Rescue Plan provides tens of millions of dollars to Connecticut for childcare.
- RE: Pandemic issues. We need long-term preventive measures. Going forward, we will need prompt and decisive action. "Viruses know no borders." Vaccine hesitancy and resistance need to be overcome, especially in the military (where there is no present mandate).
- Regarding "cybercrimes", we need to ask what constitutes an "act of war", and we need to punish foreign actors appropriately. (Some of this information may have been "overclassified", and the American public deserves to know about it.)
- UFO's: There is no new credible information.
- The senator is concerned about the size of the national debt. But crises like the present one demand investment. He feels that a robust economy is the answer.
- Infrastructure: The "Gateway"--Holland and Lincoln tunnels--are critical and need bipartisan attention.
- China is seeking to rival us by "projecting power". The U.S. is still the preeminent military power. Connecticut plays a role in maintaining that by building 2 submarines per year, continuing to develop the S-35 fighter, and turning out Blackhawk and heavy-lift helicopters. The country needs to invest in infrastructure and a skilled workforce. Our immigration system needs to be reformed and business supported.

Senator Blumenthal offered his private cell phone number for anyone who wishes to contact him at 202 641 0532.

## NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Thomas Dyja, will discuss his recent book "New York, New York, New York--Four Decades of Success, Excess and Transformation". This talk is co-sponsored by the Greenwich Library.

REMINDER: Don't forget to report all your inside and outside volunteer hours to **JOHN FEBLES** at [jfebles13@gmail.com](mailto:jfebles13@gmail.com).

**NOTE TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS:** next week's CBB scribe will be **ARNOLD GORDON**. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to **ARNOLD** at [ajgordo@verizon.net](mailto:ajgordo@verizon.net).

**NOTE TO RMA Members:** The CBB Team works every week to write and publish an informative and concise bulletin for our members enjoyment. We can truly use new members to join the CBB Team. Please contact **JOE MANCINELLI** at [jlmanc@optonline.net](mailto:jlmanc@optonline.net) if you are interested in supporting this continuing effort.

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## RMA 2021 CALENDAR

<b>Weekly Repetitive Activities</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Mondays	1:00pm	Outdoor Pickle Ball at Christiano Park	Tony Cocchi - anthony.cocchi@lehman.cuny.edu
Tuesdays	9:30 to 11:00	Platform Tennis, Loughlin Ave. Cos Cob	James Dean - jhdeanco@gmail.com
Wednesdays	10:00to 11:00	RMA Weekly Zoom Meeting	Horst Tebbe - onehorst@optimum.net or Len Carusi @ lencarusi@gmail.com
Wednesdays	1:00 to 3:00	On-Line Bridge	Andre Mazurek - mazurek.a.g@gmail.com
Wednesdays	3:00 to 4:00	Zoom: "Tai Chi New Joiners"	Will Morrison - wdmorrison@gmail.com
Thursdays	9:00 AM	RMA Walking	Tad Larrabee - tadlarra@optonline.net
Fridays	1:00 PM	On-Line Hearts	Don Conway - spiderduck4@gmail.com
Fridays	1:30pm to 3:00pm	Indoor Tennis	Andy Holmes - andyholmes56@gmail.com
	Various Times TBD	On-Line Hearts	Don Conway - spiderduck4@gmail.com