



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org
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SCRIBE: ED FARRELL

"Courage is rightly esteemed the first of human qualities because it has been said, it is the quality which guarantees all others."

Winston Churchill

Following a pre-meeting discussion focused on a variety of topics including the Chauvin conviction, World Series MVPs, Daniel Boone's family life, Bruce Park renovations, and the possible change to the RMA meeting venue President **RUSS HARDEN** opened the meeting by introducing the Melody Men's rendition of the RMA anthem. **RUSS** then turned to **ED PARKER**, who led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** reminded everyone that Earth Day is tomorrow, Thursday, and highly recommended the Science section of the NY Times from Tuesday's paper (April 20, 2021). It was devoted entirely to climate change issues and can serve as an excellent primer on the subject. He then revealed the answers to the puzzlers given last week. (1) Why do we yawn and why is it contagious? Even today, no one really knows why we yawn; among the most common ideas by scientists is that it is triggered when the body and/or the brain become too warm (rush of cool air and oxygen). About half of all adults yawn after seeing someone else yawn; chimpanzees are the only other animal to do so. Why the contagion remains a mystery. (2) Why do our eyes close when we sneeze? There is no definitive answer, but the involuntary action is thought due, at least in part, to the fact that the sneeze reflex itself involves muscles in the eyelid region. And since a sneeze releases many thousands of microparticles, eye-protective mechanisms probably come into play.

PUZZLE

RMA PUZZLER FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 21, 2021 An off-duty policeman is working as a night watchman in an office building. He is doing his rounds and he comes upon a closed door.

Behind the door he hears voices; people are talking, and an argument seems to be taking place. He hears someone say, "No, Frank, no; don't do it, you'll regret it." Bang! Bang! Bang!

The night watchman bursts through the door; what does he see? A dead man on the floor. And the proverbial what? Smoking gun.

And in the room, he finds a minister, a doctor, and a plumber. He walks over to the minister and says, "You're under arrest. You have the right to remain silent."

How does he know that it was the minister that pulled the trigger?

HUMOR

ARNOLD welcomed storyteller **BOB CAREY**, who told a tale of a parrot who found himself transferred from a house of ill-repute to a family home, where he recognized the father of the family as someone he knew from his former home.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PETER UHRY noted that the Perrot Library is hosting a Zoom meeting of the Binney Park Advisory Committee at 7:00 PM this evening, and he will provide invitations to anyone who is interested in participating.

MICHAEL AMBROSINO announced that **PETER UHRY** will soon be ordering steel blue RMA hats. See **PETER**, if you would like to purchase a hat.

JOHN FEBLES is researching a way to improve volunteer hours collection. He noted that March hours were 448 for outside agencies and 52 for the RMA. Only 11 members reported hours. Top contributor was **ALAN GUNZBURG** with 165 hours reported.

DON CONWAY reported that Call-a-Ride is recruiting new drivers. If interested, please contact Call-a-Ride directly.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR PETER STERN welcomed **PETER BERG'S** guest, Wayne Campbell and then saluted this week's birthday boys: **PAT MACCARTHY** (72); **BRIAN MAHER** (80); **AV RIVEL** (85); **TIM BROOKS** (79); **JOE DOWLING** (82); **BOB ROBINS** (83). He then introduced **PETER UHRY** to nominate Robert Sibley for RMA membership (for detailed nomination remarks **CLICK HERE**.) Following a second from **PETER DODGE**, **ROBERT SIBLEY** was unanimously elected to membership.

TREASURER JEFF JUNKER reported that there was little activity in our treasury this past week. He did notified members that our new fiscal year starts on May first and RMA dues for the

new year would be \$100. More information will follow in the coming weeks on when and how we will collect membership dues.

ELECTED RMA OFFICIALS

To see the RMA List of recently elected officials for 2021-22: ([CLICK HERE.](#))

PROGRAM

GEORGE UBOGY said today's speaker will be Janice Nimura, who will offer a webinar on "The Doctors Blackwell: How Two Pioneering Women Sisters Brought Medicine to Women – and Women to Medicine."

HOLLISTER STURGES noted that next week's speaker will be the Rt. Honorable Jesse Norman, Conservative Member of Parliament, Government minister, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, writer and academic. His subject will be: "The Re-emergence of Global Britain: Brexit, Covid and Beyond."

FUN AND GAMES

Hearts: DON CONWAY reported results from April 19 games table 1: **JACK SWEGER** won the 1st two games with **ANDY HOLMES** winning the last three games. Moon shots were made by **JACK**, (4) and **ANDY**, (1.)

JOHN STANKUNAS reported results from April 19 games table 2:

Winners: **GRANT PERKINS** (2); **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** (2); **JOHN STANKUNAS** (1)

Moon shots: **GRANT PERKINS** (2); **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** (1); **TOM HEALY** (1.)

Walkers: TAD LARRABEE indicated last week's walk was cancelled due to bad weather. He said, weather permitting, the walkers will tour the scenic back roads of Riverside tomorrow, April 22.

Tennis: ANDY HOLMES announced that he is currently getting next season's indoor tennis season organized. To date, 20 players have signed up for next season with room for additional players. If you have an interest in joining or have any questions about indoor tennis, contact **ANDY** at andyholmes56@gmail.com.

As for last Friday's tennis results, the winners in the Finals Round were **PETER ORBANOWSKI** and **PETER DODGE** on court 1 and **SAM MARASSO** and **JOE MANCINELLI** on court 2. This week's captain will be **RANDY MOTLAND**.

Golf: PAUL CAMPION reported that yesterday's outing drew 20 players. He noted that **RUSS HARDEN** shot an 88 and **GEOFFREY BURGE** shot an 89. **PAUL** noted that next week's starting time is 11:00 AM, and he urged all players to sign-up ASAP.

Pickleball: JOHN KNIGHT said Pickleball is played on Mondays at 11:00 AM at Christiano field. If you are interested, contact **TONY COCCHI** at Anthony.Cocchi@Lehman.cuny.edu.

Tai Chi: Tai Chi meets at 4:00 Wednesday afternoons. If the weather is good, we meet at the Greenwich Commons across from the Senior Center. If not, by Zoom. To see what it is like, join us at the park. It will be much more informative and fun. Contact **WILL** at wdmorrison@gmail.com to get the park vs Zoom email notices. The next class is Wednesday, May 12. **WILL** is visiting his older son's family in Los Angeles. See you then! For more info, check experiencetaichi.org.

MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE

JACK WEIR appropriately provided a "THANK YOU" to our outgoing President **RUSS HARDEN** for guiding our membership through the difficult challenges resulting from the past year's pandemic and for facilitating our weekly membership meetings using Zoom technology despite our inability to meet face to face. **Great job RUSS!**

TODAY'S SPEAKER

GEORGE UBOGY introduced Janice P. Nimura, author of *The Doctors Blackwell* a recollection of the lives of Elizabeth and Emily Blackwell, who were respectively the first and third American female doctors. Ms. Nimura recounted the difficulties faced by Elizabeth, a brilliant and strong-willed woman, as she struggled for admittance to an exclusively male medical profession in the 1800s, and how she ultimately graduated first in her class from the Geneva Medical School in 1849. Following medical school, Elizabeth joined the staff at the Philadelphia Almshouse, where she learned to treat a variety of illnesses impacting the largely indigent patients who came to that facility. She travelled to Paris, where she again encountered male opposition, but found work at the Port Royal Abbey treating the indigent and expanding her interest in public health. While treating a patient, Elizabeth contracted eye gonorrhoea, which ultimately caused the loss of an eye. She went to London, where she practiced at St. Bartholomew's Hospital (Britain's oldest hospital), before returning to the United States. Elizabeth persuaded her sister, Emily, to pursue a career in medicine, and she too encountered male opposition, even rejection from Elizabeth's alma mater, Geneva Medical School. However, Emily was accepted at the Cleveland Medical School (now Case-Western Reserve) and graduated in 1854.

In 1857 Elizabeth and Emily founded The New York Infirmary for Women, which focused on the health and treatment of indigent women, but also was a teaching hospital, which expanded the then typical 2-year medical school program to 3 years. In time Elizabeth returned to England, where she focused on writing and lecturing rather than practicing medicine, while Emily remained in New York.

Ms. Nimura noted that not much is published about the Blackwell sisters, and much that is published can be found largely in Children's books. Fortunately, for the researcher the sisters and their seven siblings were prolific letter writers and many of their letters have been preserved.

Ms. Nimura offered members and guests a stimulating look into the lives of two pioneering women, who, against overwhelming odds, broke more than one glass ceiling for women and made significant contributions to medicine.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

On April 28, 2021, our speaker will be the Rt. Honorable Jesse Norman, Conservative Member of Parliament, Government minister, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, writer and academic.

His subject will be: "The Re-emergence of Global Britain: Brexit, Covid and Beyond."

REMINDER: Do not forget to report all your inside and outside volunteer hours to **JOHN FEBLES** at jfebles13@gmail.com.

NOTE TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: next week's CBB scribe will be **FRANK SCARPA**. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to **FRANK** at frankjscarpa@gmail.com.

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 if you are interested in supporting this continuing effort.

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Visit our website at www.greenwichtma.org.

RMA 2021 CALENDAR

Weekly Repetitive Activities			
Date	Time	Activity	Contact
Mondays	11:00am	Outdoor Pickle Ball at Christiano Park	Tony Cocchi - anthony.cocchi@lehman.cuny.edu
Tuesdays	Various Tee Times	RMA Golf, "The Griff Golf Course," Greenwich	Paul Campion – paulcampion1@optonline.net
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	4:00 to 5:00	"Tai Chi New Joiners" – Greenwich Commons	Will Morrison - wdmorrison@gmail.com
Thursdays	9:00 AM	RMA Walking	Tad Larrabee - tadlarra@optonline.net
Fridays	Various times TBD	On-Line Hearts	Don Conway - spiderduck4@gmail.com
Fridays	1:30pm to 3:00pm	Indoor Tennis	Andy Holmes - andyholmes56@gmail.com