



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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SCRIBE: FRANK SCARPA

" Imagination is more important than knowledge."

Albert Einstein

Following a preliminary session of light banter, which included competing sports trivia questions, President **RUSS HARDEN** opened the official meeting at 10:00am and got us directly into our "We Are the RMA" anthem. **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** followed by leading the Pledge.

Corr. Sec. **ARNOLD GORDON** reminded everyone of the puzzler he posed last week about the night watchman who overheard a shooting ("Frank, don't do it") and was able to identify the killer out of the three people he saw when he entered the room. But how? Member **JERRY STINSON** had the answer: the other two were females.

ARNOLD then recited a human-interest story in the form of a reminiscence of life during the time when the Special Group of Americans born between 1930 and 1946 was growing up, people like most RMA members, now from 76 to 91 years old. [CLICK HERE](#) to recall "life" during those special years.

He then introduced **WAYNE DeVRIES**, jokester for the day, who channeled Lenny Bruce with a pair of jokes fit to make a sailor blush, concerning the love lives of two long-married couples.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PETER STERN noted the presence of 71 members and 1 guest--Wayne Campbell, the guest of **PETER BERG**. "Nomads" (a new category since the advent of Zoom) included **FRANK SCARPA**

and **PETER TUNLEY** (Florida) and **GERRY GIBIAN** (parts unknown). **PETER STERN** noted the following birthdays: **GERRY BOYLE**, 83; **RON WILSON**, 79; **FLEMMING HEILMAN**, 85; **PETER TUNLEY**, 76; and **RICK HOLZ**, 73. The membership was allowed to "unmute" for the birthday song.

MICHAEL AMBROSINO reported on the successful and amicable negotiations with the First Presbyterian Church, which included President **RUSS HARDEN**: The monthly rent will be \$500, which will include coffee at the weekly meetings. The target date for resuming in-person meetings is Wednesday, June 16--assuming the further lifting of COVID related restrictions by the State Department of Health. (Vaccination status will be documented for in-person attendees.) Yellow parking forms will be updated and should be available upon request.

Please welcome **TIM BROOKS** as the newly elected CBB Chairman and Editor. **TIM** will be moving into his new role on May 5th, 2021, so be sure to send any future CBB notifications or input to **TIM** at tbro@aol.com. **JOE MANCINELLI** would like to thank his excellent CBB Team for all their support and effort over the past two and half years. The CBB Team names are listed above in the header on the front page of the CBB. "Thanks, CBBers ... it has been fun."

THIS WEEK'S SPEAKER

HOLLISTER STURGIS previewed our first trans-oceanic Zoom lecturer, the Right Honourable Jesse Norman. In a talk co-sponsored by the Greenwich branch of the English-Speaking Union, Parliamentarian Norman will address "Global Britain, Brexit and COVID".

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

GERRY SCHWENDEMAN previewed Matthew West, Project Coordinator at Doctors Without Borders", who will speak to us on "Doctors Without Borders--A Voice from the Field." Mr. West has spent six years in the field with MSF, working in nine developing countries in Africa and the Middle East.

ANNUAL REPORT

President **RUSS HARDEN** summarized this year's Annual Report: To date, the RMA has held 49 Zoom meetings.

Our last in-person meeting was held on March 18, 2020. Although some outdoor sporting events continued this past year, all social events had been cancelled. The average meeting attendance has been from 66 to 68 (down from in-person attendance.) Total membership

stands at 224, with 16 new members having been inducted this past year. 26 members were "lost", either from mortality, geography, or other reasons. Cash reserves have risen to \$72,000, now invested in short-term CDs. A new sliding scale of dues for new members has been instituted. The special Survey attained almost 150 responses.

The Annual Holiday Party was held via Zoom and was an uplifting event.

The membership echoed a note of thanks to **RUSS** for his leadership in these turbulent times.

PARKS AND RECREATION

GOLF: PAUL CAMPION reported on a splendid day at the Griff, with 18 participants. **MARK FOX** was the star, with an 86; and **TOM HEALY** chased him with an 89. **ERF PORTER** was the "best dressed". Next week's times are from 8:20 to 9:00. (The Griff will be putting out a member survey soon, and we are encouraged to fill it in.)

INDOOR TENNIS: ANDY HOLMES noted that 20 players have signed up. (There is room for more. Interested parties may contact ANDY at andyholmes56@gmsil.com.)

Last Friday's winners were **RANDY MOTLAND** and **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** on Court #1, and **PETER DODGE** and **ART DELMHURST** on Court #2. Next week's captain is **JOE MANCINELLI**.

PICKLEBALL: JOHN KNIGHT noted that 8 players competed at Christiano Courts on a beautiful day. (The group meets every Monday at 11 A.M.)

BRIDGE: ANDRZEJ MAZUREK reported the following scores: **ED MASTOLONI**--4,910; **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** --4,770; and **JOHN FEBLES**--3,980.



WALKERS: TAD LARRABEE reported that **JOHN DENNE** guided the group from the First Congregational Church to the Riverside Yacht Club and back--a beautiful walk, though cool and windy. (Initially, the walkers were advised that they would not be allowed to park at the Eastern Greenwich Civic center unless they were actually using the facility. This is problematic, to say the least !)

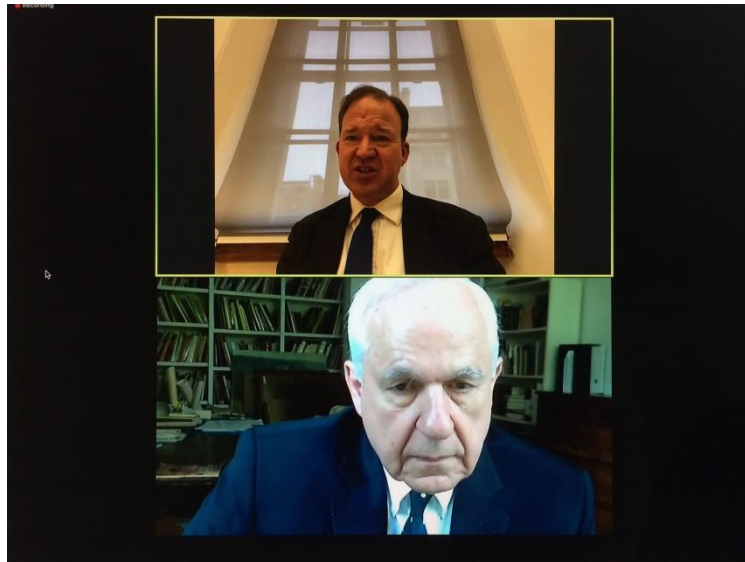
(The Walkers group has a small offshoot of about 6 RMA members who take bike hikes fairly often during the biking season, pictured here.)

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** is on travel to Santa Monica but will be returning on May 6th. With the survey results in and the weather becoming increasingly favorable, Tai Chi Basic Moves classes are now available in central and eastern Greenwich, and in the mornings and afternoons. Visit experiencetaichi.org to find out the specifics and to register.

Registration provides notice of class locations, schedule changes or reversions to Zoom due to bad weather.

THIS WEEK'S SPEAKER

For a talk co-sponsored by the Greenwich branch of the English-Speaking Union, **HOLLISTER STURGIS** introduced the Right Honourable Jesse Norman. Mr. Norman is a Parliamentarian, who is also an academic, a writer and a financial advisor. He had lived in the U.S. (Washington, D.C.) for six years. He holds an M.A. in Classics from Oxford and a Ph.D. in Philosophy from University College in London. He spoke to us on Zoom from his office in London on the topic "Global Britain, Brexit and COVID."



Mr. Norman pointed out that Great Britain entered the E.U. out of belief in the concept of a "Common Market". Over time, some grew to believe that the E.U. had become more of a political than an economic union. (The feeling that the Country had "given up" things was thrown into highlight by COVID, which has set extraordinary challenges.) Despite the controversial "divorce" concept engendered by Brexit, Mr. Norman has been surprised and impressed by the amount of goodwill in the nation. He posits that Britain responded quickly to COVID "as a sovereign nation", and that a multi-national response would have been much slower.

HOLLISTER STURGIS then adroitly moderated a lively Q and A session, during which the British government manifested its energy-saving orientation by turning down the lights in Mr. Norman's office. A brief summary follows in bullet point style:

- * Initial mask wearing skepticism was overcome once the aerosol transmission of the virus was understood.
- * With regard to the financial markets, Mr. Norman is "not too worried" and feels that the banks will "very rarely" follow their threats to move to the Continent.
- * It is important not to overstate the Irish border issue. Both sides need to "evolve".
- * Regarding agriculture and Brexit, Britain is working toward a "zero tariff, zero quota" solution.
- * There have been no serious delays in Channel crossings.
- * Great Britain is trying to cut down on corporations' avoidance of taxes.
- * Britain's corporate tax rate is still the lowest in the G7.
- * Mr. Norman feels that Brexit will increase the UK' political influence.
- * The origins of Brexit: After 2003, the wages of the bottom decile of the population ceased growing, and there was growing hostility to tradesmen from Eastern Europe and their downward pressure on wages. And the banking system had been widely over-leveraged.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Matthew West, Project Coordinator at Medicines sans Frontiers (Doctors Without Borders) will speak to us as a "Voice from the Field" on the activities of this NGO.

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 **AV RIVEL**. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to **AV** at av@rivels.org.

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 **TIM BROOKS** at tbro@aol.com if you are interested in supporting this continuing effort.

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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 - tادلarra@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