

# 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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**SCRIBE: ARNOLD GORDON**

*"We are here on earth to do good unto others. What the others are here for, I have no idea." - W. H. Auden*

While 20 of us were hard at work at a Program Committee Zoom meeting that started at 9:00 am, the schmoozing regulars carried on from 9:15 until game time at 10, when "**Brooklyn MIKE**" **AMBROSINO** opened the festivities. Our President then introduced the Star-Spangled Banner as our song for the second week in a row, this time in honor of Armed Forces Day (Friday); we had the pleasure of watching a video of the Melody Men in their performance a few years ago at Shea Stadium. **DON CONWAY** recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** reported the sad news that **GARY COLLINS**, a member from February 2013 until May 2020, had suddenly passed away at 82 in Hanover, NH, where he and his wife had recently moved from Greenwich. A memorial will be delivered at next week's meeting. **ARNOLD** then offered assistance to anyone who needed help in getting their covid-19 immunization, pointing out that proof of full vaccination will be needed in order to attend in-person meetings at First Presbyterian Church, the first one tentatively scheduled for mid-June. Appointments are readily available at Yale New Haven Health 833-275-9644, Stamford Health 203-276-7300, Hartford Healthcare 860-827-7690, and at selected locations at CVS Health 800-679-9691, Walgreens 800-925-4733, and Walmart (<https://www.walmart.com/cp/1228302>).

**ARNOLD** mentioned that a real, outdoor picnic is scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup> at the usual place on Greenwich Point. Although several members have already volunteered, more would be welcome to help with the myriad chores that will need attention. Write to him at [ajgordo@verizon.net](mailto:ajgordo@verizon.net) if interested. He then reminded everyone of the puzzlers he posed at the previous meeting. (1) Where do houseflies go in the winter? Nowhere! They just die. (2) Why do only old men have hairy ears? No one knows! Probably better than piercings though.

**AV RIVEL** then took the stage and may have shocked a few members with a couple of bawdy tales about sexual encounters. One involved a grammatical conundrum: is infrequently one or two words?

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. **PETER STERN**, Membership, noted a maximum of 72 in attendance. The birthday song was played for **PAUL CAMPION**, 84, **SERGE GABRIEL**, 92, and **JACK CUFF**, 73. **GEORGE UBOGY** is still guarding our southern front from Naples, FL. New Member **ROBERT SIBLEY** was in attendance and Mr. "Hearts" **JACK SWEGER** zoomed in.
2. Treasurer **JEFF JUNKER** noted that 22 members had mailed their membership dues of \$100 to him for the new fiscal year which started May 1, 2021. Renewal of membership in the RMA will continue over the next 6 weeks. Please write a check for \$100 made payable to "RMA" and mail it to **JEFF** at 9 Tree Top Terrace, Greenwich, CT 06831. A deposit of \$900 for indoor tennis was made into the RMA checking account this past week.
3. Visiting: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** gladly reported there were no members he was aware of with medical issues. He also asked for someone to replace him for that function. If interested, write to him, and everyone please let **MICHAEL** know if any of our members are ill or hospitalized ([brooklynoil@yahoo.com](mailto:brooklynoil@yahoo.com)).
4. **MICHAEL** then provided an update on live RMA meeting plans. **PETER STERN** is heading a committee to obtain before June 16<sup>th</sup> a list of members who have been fully vaccinated, a requirement for attending. **MICHAEL** will meet with church representatives after their May 19<sup>th</sup> planning meeting to determine if June 16<sup>th</sup> can be our opening date and what arrangements will have to be made. As of now, plans are to continue with a Zoom format along with a live gathering. **DON CONWAY** added that from his discussions with Town Hall, we are assured of continued free parking at the lot and on the street; the yellow passes we

had been using prior to the pandemic are still valid. If you do not have one, new ones will be made available.

5. **MICHAEL** held the microphone a bit longer to tell us that the RMA will participate in the Memorial Day Parade in Old Greenwich on Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. He promised to bring his signature musical entertainment and encouraged all to invite their family and friends to join us. Plan to meet at St. Claire Avenue around 9 am. More details to follow.

6. **GEORGE UBOGY** urged members to watch today's speaker program with Carl Steinitz, PhD, a pioneer in his field who will talk about "Geodesign: Toward a Long-Term Strategy for Local-to-Global Conservation and Development – and How it Can be Designed." **JOEL BLUMBERG** announced next week's speaker, Dr. Michael Parry from Stamford Hospital, who will present "Protecting Public Health: An Update on the Pandemic." Members are reminded that in addition to streaming on the Internet, RMA speaker talks are normally shown simultaneously on the local public access TV channels, Verizon FIOS channel 24 and Optimum (Cablevision) channel 79.

7. Volunteer Hours: **JOHN FEBLES** gave us the data for April: Total 428 hours; Outside 296 by 14 men, Inside 132 by 8 men. The person that reported the most hours was **BO JARNSTEDT** with 97; **BO** is the cat's meow (inside joke). Please report all inside or outside volunteer hours that you have worked to **JOHN**, this is an important metric for the RMA. **JOHN** took the opportunity to mention that May 10 – May 16 is National Salvation Army Week. Consider making a donation for this very worthy cause at <https://tinyurl.com/32v8ydcb>.

### FUN AND GAMES

1. INDOOR TENNIS: **PETER DODGE** noted that last Friday's competition marked the end of the busy indoor season. The winners on Court One were **JOE MANCINELLI** and **PETER**; on Court Two, **BILL HOWLAND** and **ART DELMHORST** took the trophy.

2. OUTDOOR TENNIS: **JOHN KNIGHT** announced that summer tennis would begin tomorrow (May 13) at 9 am, Loughlin Avenue courts in Cos Cob. The location might change from week to week, so if interested in getting in on the racket, get in touch with **JOHN** [johnknight7@gmail.com](mailto:johnknight7@gmail.com).

3. TAI CHI: **WILL MORRISON** informed us that the health benefits don't change, but the number and locations of outdoor classes has increased. Drop him a note at [wdmorrison@gmail.com](mailto:wdmorrison@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining any of these outdoor venues:

- Old Greenwich - Tuesday 4:00 pm, Wednesday 8:30am
- Greenwich - Wednesday 4:00 pm at Greenwich Commons

Registration enables communication of changes to the schedule due to weather and other influences.

4. WALKERS: **TAD LARRABEE** trod to the mic and reported that last Thursday, the Walkers visited an unknown six-acre park on the Mianus River in Riverside that has just been cleaned up by the Riverside Association and the Town. They then visited the fish ladder on the west side of the Mianus River and returned to Riverside to walk some less-traveled roads north of the Post Road. Everyone agreed that they would visit Rockefeller State Park this week. If interested, please e-mail **TAD** at [tadlarra@optonline.net](mailto:tadlarra@optonline.net).

5. BRIDGE: **ANDRE MAZUREK** dealt the top three scorers: **TONY COCCHI**, 5,100, **RON FRIEDMAN**, 4,400, and **ANDRE MAZUREK**, 3,430. They play every Wednesday at 1 pm using the Trickster bridge app; if interested, contact **TONY COCCHI** ([tony.cocchi2@gmail.com](mailto:tony.cocchi2@gmail.com)).

6. HEARTS: Two different groups play on Mondays. This past Monday, they mixed players among the groups. **DON CONWAY** nearly bawled when reporting that his playing was a disaster - above 100 in all six games. **TOM HEALY** won four games, **JOHN STANKUNIS**, one, and **TOM MORONEY**, one. **TOM HEALY** shot the moon five times, **JOHN STANKUNIS**, three times and **TOM MORONEY**, once. **ANDY HOLMES** gave the results for the other mixed group, **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**, **ANDY**, **JACK SWEGER**, and **GRANT PERKINS**. In the first four games each player won one game. They decided to play a fifth and deciding game to break the tie. It came right down to the end with **ANDY** beating **MICHAEL** by one point. **JACK SWEGER** had the only moonshot for the day.

7. PICKLEBALL: **TONY COCCHI** reported that eight men rotated teams on two courts in playing several sets on Monday. Please note that play begins at 10 am now. Weather permitting, come to Christiano Field. Anyone interested should contact **TONY** ([tony.cocchi2@gmail.com](mailto:tony.cocchi2@gmail.com)).

8. GOLF: **BOB MORGAN** reported on Tuesday's activities where some 20 golfers enjoyed another great day, a little damp but sunny. **RUSS HARDEN** shot a 90 to go along with his 88 from last week, so he's "ready" for the big time. Other impressive scores: **PETER TUNLEY**, 95, **JOE MANCINELLI**, 97, and **GEOFFREY BURGE**, 96. **BOB MORGAN** had a "birdie" on #11. The nine-hole group of **JOHN CRAINE**, **KIP SCHULZE**, **BRUCE PANTANO** and **TONY COCCHI** were greeted at their finish with a surprise visitor, **MIKE RYAN**; they all joined in for a

festive lunch at Cos Cobber North. **MIKE** has had a tough spring and is recovering nicely! **KIP SCHULZE** won the Best Dressed Award, totally coordinated top to bottom! Next week players will “get off” early, 8:20 through 9:00 am. Try to be on time. Get your names to **PAUL CAMPION** ASAP ([susancampion1@gmail.com](mailto:susancampion1@gmail.com)). The Griff golf course is in really great shape so "Come on out and join us!"

### HUMAN INTEREST TALES AND OTHER DIVERSIONS

Mr. Yankee Baseball himself, **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**, repeated a baseball quiz that had been posted in last week’s CBB. There were some tough questions, but members were up to the challenge and successfully answered most of them correctly. **DON CONWAY** cooked up a couple of restaurant reviews to whet our appetites. He and a stalwart group of regulars enjoy the lunch food and ambience at the Stamford Diner, just off Exit 6 of I95. A more rustic atmosphere, lots of beer, and good food are found at The Little Pub in Cos Cob (531 East Putnam Avenue; [www.littlepub.com](http://www.littlepub.com), 203-717-1147), which also has valet parking.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

No events are currently scheduled and any for the future will depend on the pandemic situation.

### SPEAKER PROGRAM

**GEORGE UBOGY** welcomed everyone and introduced Dr. Carl Steinitz, Emeritus professor of landscape architecture at Harvard University Graduate School of Design, and Honorary



Visiting Professor at the Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis at University College London. **GEORGE** mentioned that he and Carl were childhood friends and went to the same college. Carl specializes on long-term (20-30 years), large projects that require multidisciplinary vision that must take into account among other things human needs

and pressures, fertility rates, water availability and food sources. The major challenge is how to plan for long-term changes that are unpredictable and often contentious. He and his colleagues have developed this field, now called Geodesign, by creating processes for collaborative efforts of different specialists. Management of the different perspectives, priorities, and requirements that invariably arise in large projects involving planners and decision makers from different disciplines is explained in his book “Framework for Geodesign”

(<https://www.gisagents.org/2013/12/book-review-framework-for-geodesign.html>). This how-to guide on collaborative work for large, complicated projects includes novel software (Geodesign Hub) that uses color coding to identify and integrate input for decision making.

He described several examples of very large, complicated projects that he and his team have conducted involving many players from different disciplines, resulting in planning and decision-making within days instead of the months such efforts usually take. One example involves a 30-year plan for 750,000 housing units between Oxford and Cambridge as part of a “growth of London” project that is estimated to cost about a trillion dollars over 30 years. Improving the area in and around the Japanese city of Soma to mitigate the destruction caused by the Fukushima nuclear disaster was the goal of another project that created three different plans for housing, agriculture and flood mitigation in two days. Other areas that lend themselves to planning by Geodesign are electric cars, water generation, and influences of climate change on very large seaside communities, all of which have long-term horizons and difficult choices. The speaker opined that climate change will lead to major population migration and distribution over the next decades with significant effects on societies around the world; planning for such transformations can benefit from Geodesign. As usual, our astute and inquisitive members posed several interesting questions.

### **NEXT WEEK’S SPEAKER**

May 19th, Dr. Michael Parry, Director of Infectious Disease at Stamford Hospital, will present “Protecting Public Health: An Update on the Pandemic.”

### **IMPORTANT REMINDERS!**

**TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS:** next week’s CBB scribe will be →**ED FARRELL**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to **ED** at [ejf1038r@gmail.com](mailto:ejf1038r@gmail.com).

**TO ALL 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 CBB Editor **TIM BROOKS** at [tbroo@aol.com](mailto:tbroo@aol.com) if you are interested in supporting this continuing and interesting work. It’s a great way to get to know about the RMA’s activities and people.

**TO ALL RMA MEMBERS:** 2021-2022 dues are now due – send a check for \$100, made out to RMA, memo: “Dues”, to: **JEFF JUNKER**, 9 Tree Top Terrace, Greenwich 06831

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

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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	10:00 to 11:00 am	RMA Weekly Zoom Meeting	Horst Tebbe - onehorst@optimum.net or Len Carusi @ lencarusi@gmail.com
Wednesdays	1:00 to 3:00 pm	On-Line Bridge	Andre Mazurek - mazurek.a.g@gmail.com
Wednesdays	4:00 to 5:00 pm	"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	1:30 to 3:00pm	Indoor Tennis	Andy Holmes - andyholmes56@gmail.com