

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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Joe Mancinelli, Frank Scarpa, Tim Brooks**

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VOLUME 66 NUMBER 44 May 19, 2021

SCRIBE: ED FARRELL

“Attitude is a little thing that makes a BIG difference.” - Winston Churchill

Following a pre-meeting group chat that touched on a variety of topics including the Melody Men's plans for renewal of their concert engagements, dogs at the Memorial Day parade, parade music, and where parking will be permitted when we return to in-person meetings at the First Presbyterian Church (FPC), President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** opened the meeting by introducing James Cagney and Frances Langford's rendition of "Over There." **MICHAEL** then introduced **LEN CARUSI**, who led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** introduced **RUSS HARDEN**, who gave a memorial for **GARY MILLER**, member from February 2013 until May 2020

For the obituary, [CLICK HERE](#)

ARNOLD reminded everyone that the annual RMA picnic will be on September 15th and he asked for volunteers to help with the organizing and implementation; a committee has already been formed, but others are more than welcome. Please write to **ARNOLD** at ajgordo@verizon.net. After torturing the members with a few groaners, **ARNOLD** introduced his "friend" Dustin Hoffman on a video telling a story about a flea who could not find a warm, sunny, vacation spot.

If you missed it at the meeting [CLICK HERE](#)

MICHAEL AMBROSINO reported he is continuing conversations with the FPC regarding our return to that meeting venue and that **DON CONWAY** is working with the town to resolve parking arrangements. An update will be provided to members on June 2. **MICHAEL** also offered a review of Enzo's Restaurant in the Bronx, his favorite Arthur Ave. eatery

To see more on Enzo's [CLICK HERE](#)

PETER STERN, Membership Chair, indicated 65 members and one guest in attendance. Mike Catalano was recognized as the guest of **JEFF JUNKER**. A rousing "Happy Birthday" was offered for: **BOB PHILLIPS** (80); **JIM FISHBEIN** (75); **JAY SCHONDORF** (84); **DICK FRANCK** (85); **MAURICE KROHN** (72); **JAMES CLEMENTS** (74); **KLAUS JANDER** (81); **KIP SCHULZE** (82); **DOUG FIELDS** (79); and **BILL O'DONNELL** (76).

PETER recognized returning snowbirds **FRED GOODSTEIN**, **TONY FITSPATRICK**, **FRANK SCARPA**, **KIP SCHULZE**, and **PETER TUNLEY**.

PETER also noted that, when we return to in-person meetings at the FPC, only fully vaccinated members will be able to attend meetings. Members should have received an e-mail from **ARNOLD GORDON**, **JOE MANCINELLI**, **BOB RIMMER**, or **JACK WEIR** asking if they had been vaccinated. Please reply as requested so we can create a "Pre-submitted" list of fully vaccinated members.

Treasurer **JEFF JUNKER** reported that 62 members have paid their membership dues of \$100 for the new fiscal year which started May 1, 2021. Renewal of membership in the RMA will continue over the next five weeks. As was done last year, please write out a check for \$100 made payable to "RMA" and mail it to: Jeff Junker, 9 Tree Top Terrace, Greenwich, CT 06831

MICHAEL AMBROSINO, Visiting, mentioned that **TOM CAHILL** would appreciate some companionship for a short walk during the week – he is in good health, but he has difficulty speaking.

JOEL BLUMBERG said today's speaker will be Dr. Michael Parry, M.D. who will offer a webinar on "Protecting Public Health: An Update on The Pandemic." **ARNOLD GORDON** invited everyone to watch next week's speaker, David Pogue, Westport resident and TV commentator, who will talk about what is in store for us as individuals and families in the face of serious climate change issues, and what we can do about it.

TIM BROOKS, the new Editor of this August journal, had three announcements. At the request of the Scribes the deadline for submissions to the CBB has been established as 12 noon on Thursday, following the meeting. However, speakers are asked to send their remarks to the week's Scribe earlier if possible, even before the meeting if they wish. Second, activity leaders are urged to submit pictures of their activity from time to time, to enliven their reports. Also, a new CBB member or his sponsor is invited to submit a picture of the new member for publication, so that we can get to know each other better. Finally, additional Scribes are badly needed. It's a rewarding activity that introduces you to many members, and need not take an undue amount of your time. Please contact **TIM** at tbroo@aol.com for further info.

FUN AND GAMES

Walkers: **TAD LARRABEE** indicated that eight walkers car-pooled in a caravan from Glenville for a relaxed stroll around the center of Rockefeller State Park. The weather was great and everyone enjoyed about a three mile walk on nice carriage paths through both woods and fields. **STEPHEN MARINO** took a bunch of casual photographs and made them into a montage with accompanying music, which we look forward to seeing at a future meeting. If you want to join the walking group, please email **TAD** at tadlarra@optonline.net or call him at 203-637-4023.

Tennis: **ANDY HOLMES** announced that the indoor tennis season wrapped up two weeks ago, but he is already preparing for the next indoor tennis season, which will begin a little over three months from now in early September. Deposits have been received from 21 players, but there is room for more players. If you have an interest in joining or have any questions about the indoor tennis program, contact **ANDY** at andyholmes56@gmail.com.

Golf: **PAUL CAMPION** reported Tuesday was a perfect day for golf, and 24 players took advantage of the great weather. **FRED GOODSTEIN** and **JOE MANCINELLI** took longest drive honors warming up for the Griff's longest drive contest in June. **TONY FITZPATRICK** took low gross with 86, including a "birdie" at the par-five third hole. **RUSS HARDEN** shot 90; **PETER TUNLEY** shot 91 and **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** happily broke 100!!

Next week we start at 8:10 am. Sign-up with **PAUL CAMPION** ASAP. You are welcome to "pick your partners"; **PAUL** will try to accommodate those requests. A "Tip of the Cap Award" to **JACK WEIR** for his successful efforts in aiding the RMA Golf program to add additional tee times.

Pickleball: **TONY COCCHI** reported there were ten players last Monday and, as usual, players rotated so that everyone played during two hours of play. Beginning next week, we will play on Mondays and Thursdays. On Thursdays we will play both pickleball and tennis depending on the choice of players. We play at Christiano Field. Call **TONY** or **JOHN KNIGHT** if you are interested in playing.

Bridge: **TONY COCCHI** noted last week's winners were: **JOHN FEBLES** (5,000 pts), **ED MASTOLONI** (4,420 pts), and **ANDRE MAZUREK** (4,050 pts). Bridge is played each Wednesday at 1:00 pm. Contact **ANDRE MAZUREK** or **TONY COCCHI** if you are interested in joining the bridge players.

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** noted the Tai Chi group has found a great spot in the shade under a magnificent beach tree in the Greenwich Commons park to pursue their Tai Chi practice. **CRO MARTIN** has joined **DICK** and Polly **FRANCK**, **BRUNO SCHRAGE** and **GRANVILLE BURGESS** and his brother, Frank, and sister-in-law Diana, to improve their flexibility, balance, and gain innumerable health benefits. Spouses are most welcome. There is plenty of room for more joiners. Please email **WILL** at wdmorrison@gmail.com to register and be notified of schedule changes. To learn more about Tai Chi visit experiencetaichi.org

Hearts: **DON CONWAY** said he, **ANDY HOLMES**, **JACK SWEGER** and **TOM MORONEY** played five games on Monday, May 17. Winners were **ANDY** (2.5 games), **DON** (2.5 games) and **JACK** (one game). **ANDY** and **TOM** each had a moon shot. **DON** also reported that **TOM HEALY**, **GRANT PERKINS**, **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** and **JOHN STANKUNAS** also played five games on Monday. Winners were **MICHAEL** (two games) and **GRANT**, **TOM** and **JOHN** (one game each). Moon shots were made by **TOM** (one) and **MICHAEL** (one).

TODAY'S SPEAKER

JOEL BLUMBERG introduced Dr. Michael Parry, M.D., Director of Infectious Diseases at



Stamford Hospital, who offered members and guests a very interesting explanation of the composition of the Covid-19 virus, as well as a review of its impact on humanity. He noted that, since early 2020, this virus has infected about 165 million people and caused about 3.3 million deaths worldwide. Dr. Parry observed early in his presentation that while the incidence of infection is declining in many countries, it has recently exploded in India, largely, it would appear, because of the density of population and the relative absence of available medical staff and equipment, as well as a short supply of vaccines.

Dr. Parry indicated that the three vaccines currently being used in the United State (Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson), while they were developed using different techniques, are all 85-95% effective and their side effects are largely the same. He illustrated the efficacy of vaccines by citing a Texas hospital's "informal" survey of 8,000 persons that found fully vaccinated persons showed virtually no Covid symptoms, while partially or unvaccinated persons showed significant signs of infection. He noted that the serious side effect that caused the recall of the J&J vaccine was experienced by only 16 patients of the seven million who had received the vaccine. He said vaccinated people can become re-infected, but the incidence of such infections is low and largely limited to persons with underlying health problems.

With respect to variants of the Covid-19 virus, Dr. Parry said that the vaccines currently in use seem to be effective against the UK, South African and Brazilian variants, but RNA viruses tend to generate multiple variants, and that booster shots may be required in the future.

Dr. Parry said Connecticut is a leader in vaccination acceptance and that 57% of CT eligible residents have had at least one shot. However, demand for vaccination has fallen off, and there is more vaccine on hand than is being requested. For this reason, CT is moving to more actively engage those who have been reluctant to be vaccinated.

When asked about Covid-19 testing, Dr. Parry noted testing for Covid-19 has improved significantly and that test results are typically returned in one day or less.

Dr. Parry expressed great confidence that the pandemic will wind-down in the not-too-distant future, but he recommended we continue using masks and keeping distance from others, especially indoors.

Next Week's Speaker: On May 26, 2021, our speaker will be David Pogue, Westport resident and TV commentator, who will talk about what is in store for us as individuals and families in the face of serious climate change issues, and what we can do about it.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS!

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: next week's CBB scribe will be →**TIM BROOKS**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB promptly to **TIM** at tbroo@aol.com.

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.

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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