

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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VOLUME 66 NUMBER 45 May 26, 2021

SCRIBE: TIM BROOKS

"I'm walkin', yes indeed, I'm talkin', 'bout you and me..."

- Fats Domino, dedicated to Tad Larrabee's Walkers & Talkers



Following the pre-meeting chat session, which ended with an animated discussion of "drip systems," President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** continued to surprise by opening the meeting with a custom video of the RMA Walkers "in the wild," set to the music of "The Impossible Dream" from *Man of La Mancha*. The clever video was produced by **STEPHEN MARINO**.

[CLICK HERE TO SEE THE VIDEO](#)

Since the assigned pledge-reciter was MIA, **MICHAEL** quickly followed by reciting the pledge of allegiance himself as Old Glory waved on our screens.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** bemoaned the fact that we on the East Coast were deprived of the super blood moon eclipse event that was visible from the West Coast. However, pictures of the impressive event, seen from many interesting vantage points, can be found here:

[CLICK HERE TO SEE SUPER BLOOD MOON ECLIPSE EVENT](#)

ARNOLD then introduced jokester **TOM HEALY**, who proceeded to recount how a “smart ass” (two words) got out of a deep well, and the revenge he exacted on his owner.

Membership Chairman **PETER STERN** announced that there were 68 members in attendance. Birthdays during the past week were as follows.

TOM	HEALY	83
LARRY	POSNER	73
AL	KNIGHT	79
DICK	BERGSTRESSER	87
DAVE	KANE	88

All were serenaded with the Happy Birthday song.

Two guests were welcomed, Mike Catalano, the guest of **JEFF JUNKER**, and Michael Karp, the guest of **AV RIVEL**. **ALEX & Lucy GOSPODINOFF** and **CHARLIE & Marge MARSHALL** do not Zoom into our meetings but said hello to all from an outdoor dinner at Cobber North last weekend. Zoom regular **Dr. PETE ARTURI** thanked the RMA for a belated (4 ½ Years) birthday cake (actually, fudge brownies). “Better late than never.”

PETER STERN concluded his remarks by thanking the 77 RMAers who have submitted their COVID-19 proof-of-vaccine cards, to facilitate entry to our upcoming in-person meetings. He cannot wait to “bump elbows”.

Treasurer **JEFF JUNKER** reported that 80 members had mailed him 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 four weeks. As was done last year, please send a check for

\$100 made payable to "RMA" to the treasurer at the following address: Jeff Junker, 9 Tree Top Terrace, Greenwich, CT 06831.

MICHAEL AMBROSINO reclaimed the spotlight in his role as Visiting chair (anyone want the job?), to report that **TOM MORONEY** suffered a heart attack ten days ago and was treated at White Plains Hospital for three days after receiving a stent. He is at home and recuperating, and he sounds good and optimistic. **GENE SCHWARTZ** was released from Stamford Hospital last week and is now rehabbing at the Villa in North Stamford; he would welcome calls at 203-918-3884, but he is struggling with memory loss and at times may not remember the caller. **MICHAEL** spoke to **JACK CUFF** who is a care giver for his wife, Mary, who suffers from memory loss. **JACK** would welcome calls and or emails.

MICHAEL added that RMAers attending the Memorial Day parade will gather at Saint Claire Avenue in Old Greenwich from 9:00 to 9:30 am on Monday, May 31st. All are welcome, including sons, daughters, wives, neighbors, relatives, friends, grandchildren, and dogs.

MICHAEL reminded everyone that in-person meetings will resume (at last!) at the First Presbyterian Church on June 16th.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, he reminded us that beginning on June 2 and thereafter the RMA business meeting will start →Wednesdays at 9:45 am.←

This is a momentous change for an organization steeped in tradition. Remember, the new starting time is →Wednesdays at 9:45 am! ← The pre-meeting chat session will start fifteen minutes earlier as well, at 9:00 am, to allow ample time for discussion of shoes, ships, sealing wax and drip systems.

ARNOLD GORDON invited everyone to stay tuned for today'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. **BOB PHILLIPS** previewed next week's speaker, economist Dr. Laurence Kantor, who will speak on "The Pandemic Recession and Recovery: Implications for the Economy and Financial Markets."

In other announcements, **DON ROTZEIN** reminded all that the upcoming ROMEO lunch will be on June 10 at Greenwich Point, and will be a BYO (bring-your-own food) affair. **PETE UHRY** previewed the new "official RMA cap," which will be a handsome dark blue and will be available for a modest \$14, same as the last one.

FUN AND GAMES

Walkers: **TED LARRABEE** reported that “Our walk on Thursday, May 20th, started at Crawford Park in Rye, NY. **JEFF JUNKER** guided our gang on a new four-mile, mostly level walk exploring neighborhoods that he wanted to show us along with two war memorials to support a Memorial Day theme. The spring weather was again great for walking. Come join us for a friendly walk!”

Golf: **PETER TUNLEY**, subbing for **PAUL CAMPION**, weighed in with “It was a beautiful day on the golf course yesterday, a little cold for the first two holes, but we had 24 golfers in attendance. The first foursome consisted of **JIM BOARDMAN, MIKE SMITH, TOM HEALY** and **BART BARTHOLOMEW. BART** was the low man with an 88. **TOM** had a birdie on the seventh hole with the two. In the second group both **MARK FOX** and **PETER TUNLEY** also shot an 88 and **PETER** had a birdie on the par five third hole. President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** had a wonderful birdie on the par three eleventh hole and also was under 100 for the second week in a row. Congratulations! Next week, June 1, golf starts at 11:10 after the ladies and there are 20 slots available. Please let **PAUL CAMPION** know ASAP if you would like to play. The course is in great shape to come out and play.”

PAUL passed along a trivia question for the golfers, “Which golf course in the state of New York is Pete Dye’s only creation? It’s within 25 miles of Greenwich.” Past president **PETE UHRY** immediately piped up with the answer, the Pound Ridge golf course.

Tennis and Pickleball: **JOHN KNIGHT** informed all, with remarkable brevity, that “We had a good turnout for tennis last Thursday and pickleball this Monday. We will be playing both pickleball (10 am) and tennis (9 am) at the Christiano Park courts tomorrow, Thursday. It's supposed to be a beautiful day!”

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** advised that a demonstration of walking using Tai Chi principles will be featured at the upcoming ROMEO lunch. It will be followed by a regular guided walk led by the Walking Group. It will give you a chance to try it out.

Wednesdays at 4:00 at the Greenwich Commons Park are open to those who want to explore Tai Chi. Be sure to let me know if you intend to stop by. I collect the email addresses to notify of any change of plans. Contact: wdmorrison@gmail.com. For more information about Tai Chi visit: experiencetaichi.org.



Tai Chi: "Standing in the stable and open posture"

Bridge: **ANDRE MAZUREK** reported the top bridge scores: **RON FRIEDMAN** (3,940), **ANDRE MAZUREK** (3,830), and **ED MASTOLONI** (3,260). **ED** and **ANDRE** bid and won slam for 1,010 points, but it was still not enough to catch **RON**.

Hearts: The inimitable **DON CONWAY** reported that two groups played this past Monday. The first group, consisting of **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**, **GRANT PERKINS**, **TOM HEALY**, and **JOHN STANKUNAS**, were all winners: **TOM** (two games), and **MICHAEL**, **GRANT**, and **JOHN** (one each). Moon shots were scored by **TOM** (two) and **JOHN** (one).

As for group two, **ANDY HOLMES**, **JACK SWEGER**, **JOHN KNIGHT** and **DON CONWAY**, winners were **JACK** (four games) and **ANDY** and **JOHN** (one game each). **ANDY**, **JACK** and **JOHN** each had two moon shots, and **DON** finally made the boards with one.

The meeting ended with a lengthy book review by **JIM FISHBEIN** of the non-fiction book *A Primate's Memoir* by biologist Robert Sapolsky. The book describes Sapolsky's years in Kenya as a graduate student studying baboons, and **JIM** described it as engaging, at times humorous, and filled with surprising parallels between baboons and humans. Among the aspects studied was the effect of stress on life expectancy.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

ARNOLD GORDON introduced the day's speaker, David Pogue, popular TV (CBS Sunday Morning) and newspaper (*New York Times*) commentator, and author of the new book, *How to Prepare for Climate Change*. Pogue is in fact something of a publishing explosion, having written or co-written more than 120 books according to his bio. In his latest he brings the much-discussed subject of climate change down to a very personal level, for example where to live, how to build, where to invest, what to eat, and how to talk to your kids (and whether to have them).

In today's talk, Pogue focused primarily on two of the many areas covered in his book. Under "where to live," he spoke about the surging seas, and how low-lying Florida is pretty much doomed. Much more favorable as a place to live is the upper Midwest, particularly the Great Lakes region. Under "where to invest," fossil fuel companies such as coal and gas are not promising, but power companies may be. They will adapt to new, clean sources of energy. His practical suggestions were quite wide ranging. On the subject of personal safety, as the climate changes and civil unrest rises, he advised against getting a gun. Instead, think about bright outside lighting (to deter thieves).

Pogue's talk was chatty and entertaining, a mix of humor and serious points. It was followed by a lively Q&A in which he addressed such subjects as the ongoing migration of Americans to Texas and the Southwest (bad idea), how long it will take for gas-powered cars to be replaced by electric (good idea, but it will be a while), the availability of lithium for all the batteries needed (a problem), and cows emitting large amounts of methane (stop eating meat!).

The video of David Pogue's talk may be accessed through the RMA web site, www.greenwichtma.org.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS!

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 promptly to **FRANK** at frankjscarpa@gmail.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	11:00 am	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	9:45 to 10:30 am (eff. June 2)	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
	*Day & time can vary; check weekly		