

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

Chair/Editor: **Tim Brooks**

Scribes: **Av Rivel, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell,
Joe Mancinelli, Frank Scarpa, Tim Brooks**

Archivist: **Tad Larrabee** Website: **Mark Geimer** Format: **Len Carusi, Mark Geimer**

VOLUME 68 NUMBER 46 June 2, 2021

SCRIBE: FRANK SCARPA

"The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good."

- Samuel Johnson

After a "chat session" which involved, among other things, Bitcoin and arborists, the meeting was opened at **9:45 (the new start time henceforth)**, after a 9:00 am Chat Room) with a classic taped rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" by the Melody Men at Shea Stadium. President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** presided. **PETER BERG**, after noting that the day is "Lou Gehrig Day", led the membership in the Pledge.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** then noted the passing of **FRED BROOKS** at Yale New Haven Hospital. **FRED**, who died of colon cancer at age 86, had been a member of the RMA since July, 2001. **ARNOLD STANCELL** delivered a eulogy. **FRED** grew up in New York City and attended the Horace Mann School. He subsequently obtained a Bachelor's degree in Business from Columbia. He ultimately became Chairman of Riddell Sports Group, where he played a role in the career of Muhammad Ali. **FRED** and his wife then moved to Greenwich, where they raised three children. He became active in Town politics and served on the P and Z Board from 2006 to 2015. He was involved with the Bruce Museum as well as the RMA, where he organized a weekly post meeting luncheon meeting at the Greenwich Hospital Cafe.

To see the obituary, [CLICK HERE](#)

ARNOLD then introduced **GEOFFREY BURGE**, who resurrected a pair of classic golf jokes for our entertainment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visiting: President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** happily proclaimed that no members were currently ill or hospitalized.

In other announcements, he stated that **PETER UHRY** is in charge of the procurement and distribution of the new steel blue RMA hats. We are to contact him if we are interested in purchasing one at a price of \$14.

PETER noted that 31 people participated in RMA representation at the Memorial Day Parade in Old Greenwich, and he expressed his thanks. A number of pictures were taken memorializing the event, and a short video.

To see the video, [CLICK HERE](#)



Getting organized



On the Road



RMA does a crowd-pleasing “360”



Young and younger

Membership: PETER STERN noted the presence of 68 members and one guest: Michael Karp, guest of AV RIVEL. FRANK LEE joined the Zoomers for the first-time last week.

The sole returnee was BILL O'DONNELL, who has returned from Florida, replacing RICK HOLZ, who returned to the “Gunshine State.” ERF PORTER is the sole Birthday Boy this week, at 85. He was serenaded with the appropriate and customary song.

Re-Opening Plan: MICHAEL AMBROSINO noted that we will be back to in-person meetings at the First Presbyterian Church (FPC) on June 16. (Zoom will also be available for those who so desire.) Only fully vaccinated members and guests may attend in person. Masks must be worn at all times in FPC, especially entering and leaving, except when in the Fellowship Hall. FPC will open at 9:00 am, but not before, and the new meeting start time will be 9:45 am. A new (green) parking permit will be issued at the meeting by BOB BISHOP and DON CONWAY. The old yellow permit may be used until July 7. After that, only the GREEN permit will be honored. Members are urged to bring their proof of vaccination if they have not already provided it by e-mail. DON urged that the street parking be saved for members for whom walking is more burdensome, and that others use the lot.

MICHAEL pointed out that negotiations with FPC have guaranteed us access until 8/25. Negotiations for extension of that time are still ongoing.

Budget: Attached is JEFF JUNKER's Treasurer's Report for member review.

To see the RMA Treasurer's Report, [CLICK HERE](#)

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

BOB PHILLIPS previewed today's speaker, Laurence Kantor, Ph.D. (Ohio State U.), who is appearing before us for the sixth time. Larry is an economist and a senior leader in the financial industry. He was a 2016 Advanced Leadership Institute Fellow at Harvard following his retirement as Managing Director and Global Head of Research at Barclays. He will speak to the "Pandemic, Recession and Recovery".

HOLLISTER STURGIS previewed next week's speaker, Rob MacKay, Director of Public Relations, Tourism and Marketing for the Queens Economic Development Corporation, where he has worked since 2011. A Princeton graduate, Rob has recently published *Historic Houses of Queens*, which is the nucleus of his planned presentation--including history and famous personages of the borough.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Pickleball: **TONY COCCHI** reported on eight players on Monday and eleven on Thursday. Start time is 9 am.

ROME Luncheon: **TONY COCCHI** noted that the ROME luncheon will be held on 6/10 at Greenwich Point. This is a "bring your own" lunch, though the "Cafe" MAY be open. The Walkers and the Tai Chi group plan to be there. All are invited, although non-Greenwich residents will not be able to take their vehicles.

Walkers: **TAD LARRABEE** noted that the walkers enjoyed coffee and donuts on **BRUCE PANTANO's** porch prior to embarking on their latest stroll.

Golf: **PAUL CAMPION** reported that some 20 golfers participated. Despite the firm fairways and greens, the Griff Greenskeeper mandated "Cart Paths Only", which ironically meant that those who rode actually walked 3.3 miles more than those who walked. (Research attributed to **PETER UHRY**.) The star of the day was **TONY FITZPATRICK**, who birdied #8 and #11 and carded an 84. Next week's tee times will start at 11 am. In making requests, it would be helpful for members to indicate whether they are planning to walk or to take a cart, in order to facilitate the pairings.

Outdoor Tennis: **JOHN KNIGHT** noted that last week had been rained out. The Christiano courts are reserved Mondays from 9 to 11 am.

Bridge: **ANDRE MAZUREK** reported the following scores: **ANDRE MAZUREK**, 2,840; **RON FRIEDMAN**, 2,660 and **JOHN FEBLES**, 2,310.

Hearts: **DON CONWAY** reported no action the past week. The game is open to everyone. Anybody interested should e-mail **DON**, **ANDY HOLMES** or **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**.

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** suggested joining the demonstration of Tai Chi Walk which will be featured at the upcoming ROMEO lunch. It will be followed by a guided walk hosted by the Walking Group.

Wednesdays at 4:00 at the Greenwich Commons Park are open to those who want to explore Tai Chi. **ARN WELLES** and **CRO MARTIN** are new joiners! Be sure to let **WILL** know if you intend to stop by. He collects email addresses to notify of any change of plans. Contact: wdmorrison@gmail.com. For more information about Tai Chi visit: experiencetaichi.org.

Trivia: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** teased us with a bit of pop music history concerning "The Day the Music Died." (Ed. note: The phrase refers to the day in 1959 when three early rock 'n' roll stars, Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and the Big Bopper, died in a small plane crash. The phrase was popularized by the 1971 Don McLean song "American Pie".)

THIS WEEK'S SPEAKER

BOB PHILLIPS introduced Larry Kantor, Ph.D., a prominent economist and academic, who addressed us on "The Pandemic Recession and Recovery, Implications for the economy and financial markets".

Dr. Kantor likened COVID (which directly affected 33 million Americans) to a natural disaster. Twenty million people lost jobs. Currently, one year after the "bottom", we are experiencing an extraordinarily rapid recovery, thanks to the vaccines and to the government's support. More than 60% of American adults have received at least one dose

of vaccine. We are experiencing a "boom" secondary to the above and also to the resurrection of pent-up demand (money saved plus stimulus money). Much of the rebound has involved spending on goods, but spending on services is now surging. Nevertheless, employment figures are far below pre-pandemic levels. GDP growth forecasts are between 6.5 and 8 per cent--a pace we have not seen in four years.

Labor shortages may be attributed to 1) Fear of infection, 2) Home care responsibilities (note that half of grades K to 8 are not yet fully opened), 3) Federal employment benefits, which have been unusually large, and 4) Supply chain bottlenecks. Also, many small businesses have failed and may not come back. Finally, behaviors have changed--e.g. remote meetings, increasing automation, artificial intelligence.

As for financial markets, the S&P is up 12% year to date. Overall, earnings are up and showing the strongest growth in decades. The stock market seems to be rotating away from tech stocks. Kantor cited three main causes for concern: financial "drag", inflation, and an asset price bubble. He elaborated on each of these factors in what proved to be an animated, clear, comprehensive and knowledgeable presentation. A candid Q and A session was then moderated by **BOB PHILLIPS**. The video is available on the RMA web site, www.greenwichrma.org, and is well worth watching.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Rob MacKay will discuss highlights from his recently published book, *Historic Houses of Queens*.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS!

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 promptly to **AV** at av@rivels.org. Also, we need more scribes!

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.

ALL MEMBERS are reminded that in addition to streaming on the Internet, RMA speakers are normally shown each week on the local public access TV channels, Verizon FIOS channel 24 and Optimum (Cablevision) channel 79.

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RMA 2021 CALENDAR

Weekly Repetitive Activities*			
Day	Time	Activity	Contact
Mondays	10:00 am	Outdoor Pickle Ball at Christiano Park	Tony Cocchi - anthony.cocchi@lehman.cuny.edu
Mondays	2:00 pm	Hearts	Andy Holmes – andyholmes56@gmail.com Don Conway – spiderduck4@gmail.com
Various	various	Hearts	Michael Ambrosino – brooklynoil@yahoo.com
Tuesdays	Various tee times	RMA Golf, “The Griff Golf Course,” Greenwich	Paul Champion – paulchampion1@optonline.net
Wednesdays	9:45 to 10:30 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.j@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
Thursdays	9:00 am 10:00 am	Tennis Pickleball Both at Christiano Park	Tony Cocchi - anthony.cocchi@lehman.cuny.edu

*Day & time of some events may vary; check with contact