

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, Joe Angland**

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

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SCRIBE: ARNOLD GORDON

"I am a marvelous housekeeper. Every time I leave a man, I keep his house."

- Zsa Zsa Gabor

In-person meetings are on Wednesdays, 9:45 am, First Presbyterian Church
There will be NO pre-meeting chat on Zoom

Regarding the resumption of in-person meetings:

Click here to read [new safety rules](#).

Click here for info on [parking passes](#).

Click here for info on [future meetings](#).

An enthusiastic crowd of 89 members in-person and another 12 via Zoom attended the first in-person RMA meeting in more than 15 months, at the First Presbyterian Church (FPC). It was a joyous occasion for all, as members began arriving at 9:00 am donned with masks, were cleared for vaccine status, and entered the Fellowship Hall where masks were removed and no social distancing was required. Coffee and tea were available as usual, but the traditional, help yourself pastries were disallowed. However, an anonymous donor (I have my suspicions as to who the thoughtful and generous gentleman is) supplied prebagged individual cookies, three kinds to boot (and to eat).

It took a while for President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**, dressed in a sharp summer suit and colorful tie, to quiet the group for a 9:50 am start to the business meeting. He expressed his gratitude to all the members who helped organize and manage the re-opening of the

face-to-face meeting, and thanked everyone who attended. The usual group singing of songs was verboten according to a last-minute order from the church (covid fumes? bad breath?). Instead, everyone recited the song “God Bless America” whose lyrics were displayed on the wall. **BOB MORGAN** and **GRAN BURGESS** cleverly repurposed two other songs whose lyrics were also spoken by all: “Hello Dolly” became “Hello Fellows” (“... nice to have us back where we belong...”); “Hey Look Me Over” became “Hey Look Us Over” (“... I figure when we’re down and out the only way is up..... And look out world, here we come”).

MICHAEL mentioned that **RUSS HARDEN** had the bad luck to have been President this past year with no in person meetings and asked him to come forward to introduce **BOB BISHOP** who then led everyone in the Pledge. **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** was given a similar honor by introducing Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** (and what a great honor that is).

ARNOLD relayed the sad news that Anne DeAngelo, wife of long-time member **SAL DeANGELO**, died several days ago at 89. **SAL**, who is a young 97, attended the meeting and people were able to extend their condolences in person. The funeral will be private but a celebration of Anne’s life will be held during the summer (to be announced). **ARNOLD** then reminded everyone about the September 15 RMA picnic; his planning committee had their first meeting at Greenwich Point on June 11th. Here is the proof:



Picnic Committee, picnicking

ARNOLD asked for a volunteer to help organize the games program for the picnic, an opportunity for a new member, e.g., to become involved in a fun activity; if interested in volunteering for this role or any other, write to ajgordo@verizon.net. He also solicited input from the attendees on whether they would be interested in having a dance, with live

music, as part of the entertainment. To his chagrin, only about 5 or 6 hands were raised; **ARNOLD** plans to tell the wives of the nay-raisers. Finally, he introduced **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** as the newest member of the current crop of Corresponding Secretary joke tellers; he had been a member a few years ago but missed us terribly. **JERRY** told the tale of a couple's plane ride at a country fair. The pilot offered to waive the \$50 cost if neither of them uttered a word during the wild ride. Punch line: hubby told pilot he almost yelled out when his wife fell out of the plane, but 50 bucks is 50 bucks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Budget:** President **MIKE** called for a vote to approve the new RMA budget that had been posted with the CBB for the past two weeks. **HORST TEBBE** so moved, seconded by **JACK WEIR**; the vote was unanimous. He then mentioned that he and others had toured the facilities of the First Congregational Church in Old Greenwich on June 10th for the possibility of meeting there on August 4th, when the FPC will not be available; it will also give members a chance to judge whether that location might be a permanent site for meetings should it become necessary.
2. **Membership:** **PETER STERN** introduced a guest of **MARK GEIMER**, Joe Watts. The birthday boys this week: **PAUL KEELER**, 77 and **BOB CAREY**, 89. Special birthday greetings were announced for former member **RALPH MASTOLONI** who was celebrating his 99th year with his member brother **ED MASTOLONI** at the Mews. Special mention was made of members in attendance who had not been seen in a while: **SAL DeANGELO**, member since 1999, **TOM CAHILL** since 2008, **CHET RISIO**, CBB Editor Emeritus, and **DOUG TAYLOR**, our official Attendance Monitor. During our Zoom meetings since March 2020, there have been 17 new members inducted: **JOE ANGLAND**, **HECTOR ARZENO**, **ALAN BARRY**, **MIKE CATALANO**, **ART DELMHORST**, **ANDERS EKERNAS**, **DAVE HARDMAN**, **FLEMMING HEILMANN**, **BO JARNSTEDT**, **STEVE MESKERS**, **LOU RUPNIK**, **DAVE SCHERAGA**, **ROBERT SIBLEY**, **BRUCE SOCKET**, **STEVE STEIN**, **BART STEINFELD**, and **ERIC ZITZMANN**.
3. **Treasurer:** **JEFF JUNKER** reported that 119 members had mailed their membership dues of \$100 to him for the new fiscal year which started May 1, 2021. **Dues should be paid by June 30, 2021.** Please write a check for \$100 made payable to "RMA" and mail it to **JEFF** at 9 Tree Top Terrace, Greenwich, CT 06831 or hand deliver it to him at an RMA meeting.

4. **Visiting:** There was no report but **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** is looking 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).
5. **Speakers:** **BOB MEANEY** told us to stay for today's speaker, John Hibbing, PhD, Professor of Political Science, whose topic is: "The Securitarian Personality – What Really Motivates Trump's Base and Why it Matters for the Post-Trump Era." Next week's speaker, Jim Campbell, was announced by **PETER SCHIEFERDECKER**; Jim's talk, "Madoff Talks: Uncovering the Untold Story Behind the Most Notorious Ponzi Scheme in History," is based on his recently published book.
6. **ROMEO:** **DON ROTZIEN** reported on the first event of the year, a bring-your-own lunch at Greenwich Point on June 10th. Joining in were some of the Tai Chi group and the Walker group, who did their thing around the Point pre-lunch.



In all 27 members enjoyed beautiful weather, friendship, and joviality. See what you missed? Another outdoor lunch, this time on Island Beach, is being considered for the next ROMEO event. If interested, contact **TONY COCCHI** (Tony.Cocchi2@gmail.com).

7. **Mentoring: PETE UHRY** reported that now we are back at the church, the Mentor Program is being revived under his leadership. He is looking for volunteers willing to serve at one Wednesday meeting every second month. Mentors engage with guests and candidates for membership to help them learn more about the RMA and to understand the positive values of becoming a member. Mentors should arrive at 8:45 am on their assigned Wednesday and work with the membership desk to engage visitors. If willing to help do this hour-long in-house volunteering, see **PETE** or e-mail him at uhry@sbcglobal.net. **PETE** also told members that orders for new RMA hats will be cut off following the meeting next Wednesday (June 23rd). There are currently about 20 requests. If you want a steel blue, adjustable, washable, RMA logo-imprinted hat, now is the time to place your order. Over 125 members ordered our beige hats six years ago and many probably need replacement. For \$14, you can let others know you are an RMAer. And, your dermatologist will like you. Send an e-mail to uhry@sbcglobal.net to place your order today.



The RMA cap (will have logo)

8. **Volunteer Hours: JOHN FEBLES** reminds everyone to send him your volunteer hours. (jfebles13@gmail.com). You can also register them at the meetings.

FUN AND GAMES

1. **Outdoor Tennis:** **JOHN KNIGHT** bemoaned the fact that it seems that no one wants to play, opting instead for pickleball. However, he is not giving up and hopes that some will show up for the regularly scheduled games on Thursdays, 9-11 am at Christiano Park. (johnknight7@gmail.com).
2. **Pickleball:** Rained on Monday; no games. Last Thursday, however, eight players fought it out. Please note that play begins at 9 am now. Weather permitting, come to Christiano Field on Monday and Thursday. Anyone interested should contact **TONY COCCHI** (tony.cocchi2@gmail.com).
3. **Walkers:** **TAD LARRABEE** reported that on June 10th the group met at 10 am instead of the usual 9 am so that they could join the noon ROMEO group for a great picnic at Greenwich Point. They had a nice meandering walk during which they found every possible hill while also enjoying seaside paths and woods.



4. **Tai Chi:** Join **WILL MORRISON** on Wednesdays at 4:00 at the Greenwich Commons Park to explore Tai Chi. Get on the Tai Chi mailing list to be alerted of a change of plans. There are new times for classes in Old Greenwich: Tuesdays at 9:00 am and Thursdays 4:00 pm at the First Congregational Church. Be sure to let **WILL** know if you intend to stop by. The Senior Center is still sorting out how and when it will re-open. Contact: wdmorrison@gmail.com. For more information about Tai Chi visit: experiencetaichi.org
5. **Golf:** Tuesday, June 15th was a beautiful day for playing according to **PAUL CAMPION**. Eighteen men showed up. **PAT YUEN** shot a 94 but beating everyone was **GEOFFREY BURGE** with a laudable 84. **TONY COCCHI** was closest to the pin on number seven.

Best dressed award went to **MIKE ROSS**. Next week, tee time is 11:10 through noon. Sign-up for two weeks is available on the bulletin board, or write to **PAUL** (paulcampion1@otonline.net).

6. **Bridge: ANDRE MAZUREK** dealt the top three scores: **JOHN FEBLES**, 5430, **TONY COCCHI**, 4210, and **ANDRE**, 3710. They play every Wednesday at 1 pm using the Trickster bridge app; if interested, contact **TONY COCCHI** (tony.cocchi2@gmail.com).
7. **Hearts: DON CONWAY** provided the results. On June 10th, **MIKE AMBROSINO** won three games (“pure luck” says **DON**), **TOM HEALY**, two; **JACK** and **DON** split a win for one game. Moonshots: **MIKE**, two, **JACK**, one, **TOM**, three. On June 14th, **JACK SWEGER** won three games; **JOHN KNIGHT**, **ANDY HOLMES** and **DON** each won one. Moonshots: **JACK**, two, and no one else.

HUMAN INTEREST TALES AND OTHER DIVERSIONS

- President **MICHAEL** closed the meeting by pointing out that it lasted 45 minutes but he welcomed more voluntary offerings from members to add additional interest and excitement. Book reviews, restaurant reviews, unusual personal stories, trip recommendations... If interested, let **MICHAEL** know (brooklynoil@yahoo.com).

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

SPEAKER PROGRAM

For the first time, the RMA speaker program was held as a Zoom webinar with a live audience at the FPC, and the speaker appearing from Nebraska and projected on the wall. Following the usual announcements, **BOB MEANEY** introduced John R. Hibbing, PhD, the Foundation Regents Professor of Political Science at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. His previous works include *Stealth Democracy and Predisposed: Liberals, Conservatives, and the Biology of Political Differences*. His talk was based on his recently published book, *The Securitarian Personality*, which explores the psychological and ideological composition of President Trump’s most ardent supporters. Some audio problems during the first few

minutes deprived the audience of some of Hibbing's introductory remarks, but once fixed it was clear listening.

Using a professional polling company, Hibbing gathered lots of data on voters who he defines as Trump Venerators (TV), those who declared in a preliminary poll that Trump was the best President in history; for comparison, he relied on a population that self-defined as Liberals. The main study population consisted of 1,000 people: 22% non-white, 52% with greater than \$57,000 in annual income, 50% with at least some college education, 62% from non-rural or non-small towns, and 41% were younger than 55. TVs constituted 17% of the sample and the challenge confronting Hibbing was to determine "who are they" and can they easily be defined? Another 800-person sample defined simply as "Trump supporters" was also polled. The demographic statistics and others belie a common perception of avid Trump supporters as less educated, from rural areas or small towns, and poor. However, they do have some very divergent views and beliefs from Liberals and ordinary conservatives. For example, when asked if they felt threatened by immigrants, 75% of TVs and only 7% of liberals said yes. Similarly, for terrorist attacks: TVs 82%, liberals, 31%. When asked what the country's most important issues were, TVs chose immigration, national defense, gun rights, and law and order. In sharp contrast liberals' choices were racial justice, healthcare, women's rights, and income inequality. What seems like a militant attitude by TVs is supported by their belief that one of the worst things our country can do is project weakness (TVs 60%, liberals 27%) and that our main goal is to show strength to outsiders (TVs 88%, liberals 29%). Thus, Hibbing's use of the term "securitarian" for TVs, a word that describes people who regard security as an absolute priority, can have an inordinate obsession with security, and abhor "outsiders." This personality was also reflected in differences between them, liberals, and conservatives in general with regard to racial attitudes and immigration. TVs appear to dislike any immigration, whether legal or illegal.

Among other findings that characterize TVs are the following:

- They like the concept of Christianity which they regard as the core of America, but are mostly not religious themselves.
- Like the concept of military service more than they are first to enlist.
- Our foreign policy should be based on protection; no interventionism; walls at the borders.
- Do not want other concerns to side-track from protecting the country.

- Do not like to submit to authority (e.g., mask wearing, social distancing).

In concluding his presentation, Hibbing expressed a lot of worry about the stability of our democracy. He cited some recent statistics on the lengths some people (up to 17%) would go with illegal behavior if they believed in their hearts that a politician's policies were harmful or wrong. When asked to choose between security and democracy, 59% of TVs opted for security, liberals 13%. Finally, he described the concession speeches supportive of the winner and our election process by Richard Nixon, Al Gore and Hillary Clinton, losers in highly contested Presidential elections. He expressed great disappointment that Trump had not done the same for the good of the country.

If interested in Hibbing's book, which has lots more interesting data, see <https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-19-009648-9>.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Mark Nunan, Ph.D., Retired as VP of COS, Inc., a private consulting firm providing business and economic development services to companies/governments in North America and Europe, "Fiorello La Guardia: Scourge of the Old Order, Inventor of the New."

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.

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** if you are interested in supporting this continuing effort.

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.

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc. · 37 Lafayette Place · Greenwich, CT 06830 · USA. Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org.

RMA 2021 CALENDAR

Weekly Repetitive Activities*			
Day	Time	Activity	Contact
Mondays	9:00 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 – brooklynol@yahoo.com
Tuesdays	Various tee times	RMA Golf, “The Griff Golf Course,” Greenwich	Paul Campion – paulcampion1@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	Pickleball Tennis Both at Christiano Park	Tony Cocchi - anthony.cocchi@lehman.cuny.edu

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