

# CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



[www.greenwichrma.org](http://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**

**VOLUME 68 NUMBER 49 June 23, 2021**

**SCRIBE: TIM BROOKS**

*"I'm so glad we had this time together, just to have a laugh or sing a song,  
Seems we just got started, and before you know it,  
Comes the time we have to say, 'So long'."*

- Theme from *The Carol Burnett Show*

President **MICHAEL "Fashion Plate" AMBROSINO** opened the meeting at 9:45 am, and immediately cued "song" leader **TOM HEALY** and pianist **JIM SANTORA** who rendered an enthusiastic but wordless version of "You're a Grand Old Flag" (singing is still banned in Fellowship Hall). This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by **JOE DOWLING**.

**MICHAEL** issued a plea for volunteers to help maintain RMA activities, especially on the projectionist team and at the check-in desk in the lobby. These do not require an inordinate amount of time, and will greatly relieve the burden on the small group of volunteers who currently and selflessly serve our members. (To this the CBB Editor would add that we also need volunteers for the Scribe team.) Step up and help, gents!

**MICHAEL** reported that we have a possible "plan B" at the First Congregational Church in Old Greenwich for future meetings, in case we need it. St. Catherine's in Riverside is also a possibility. Suggestions for alternative sites would be most welcomed.



Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** informed us that a memorial service for **WAYNE WRIGHT** will be held on Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 11 am at First Congregational Church in Old Greenwich. According to his obituary, **WAYNE** was known as Sunny as a child because of his cheerful disposition. His obituary is here:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/stamfordadvocate/name/paul-wright-obituary?n=paul-wright&pid=197772451>. **WAYNE**, who had been a member of the RMA since October 1990, passed away in February this year.

On behalf of **PETE UHRY**, **ARNOLD** then reminded members that orders for the new RMA hat must have been given to **PETE** before Friday this week.

Scheduled jokester **BOB LUCE** was unable to make it to the church on time, so **ARNOLD** told two tales about husbands who do not or cannot understand or appreciate their wives. A familiar theme no doubt!

Membership Chair **PETER STERN** reported that 83 members were present in person, with an additional eight on Zoom, for a total membership of 91. Two guests were Bob Samuels, guest of **GEOFFREY BURGE**, and Michael Karp, guest of **AV RIVEL**. Birthday boys, who were serenaded with a wordless chorus of “Happy Birthday,” were:

TONY	COCCHI	80
ART	ROBINSON	90
HERNANDO	MADERO	82
MIKE	AMOROSO	84

Parking czar **DON CONWAY** reminded everyone that the temporary parking passes recently handed out (see him if you need one) are for parking either at the Lafayette Lot near the church or on the street, despite wording to the contrary on the pass. However, he urged

able-bodied members to use the lot, and leave street parking, if any, to those who are impaired and need to be closer. Handicapped spaces are also available outside the church itself.

Although esteemed Treasurer **JEFF JUNKER** does not report during the meeting, he has two messages for members. First, we are again collecting \$2 per member from those attending our live meetings. Rather than disrupting the meeting by passing the "Cigar Boxes" around to members, we are leaving them on tables in the foyer area of the meeting room. We are depending on the honor system for members contributing to the cigar box when they attend. Second, dues should be paid by June 30, 2021. As of June 23rd, 126 members had paid their membership dues of \$100 for the new fiscal year which started May 1. Renewal of membership in the RMA will continue over the next week. Now that we are meeting at the Church you can either write out a check for \$100 made payable to "RMA" and hand deliver to the treasurer at the meeting; or, as was done last year, mail the check to the following address: Jeff Junker, 9 Tree Top Terrace, Greenwich, CT 06831.

**PETER SCHIEFERDECKER** announced that the speaker today would be Jim Campbell, WGCH radio personality and author of the new book, *Madoff Talks: Uncovering the Untold Story Behind the Most Notorious Ponzi Scheme in History*. **ARNOLD GORDON** then told the group that next week's speaker will be Zooming from Israel, and will speak on "Musical Bridges: Bringing Together Arab and Jewish Communities in Israel." This is a fascinating story about Polyphony Conservatory, an organization dedicated to youth and community development which brings together talented musicians of all faiths and ethnicity from throughout the country in an effort to overcome long-existing cultural boundaries.

### **GAMES PEOPLE PLAY**

**Tai Chi:** Unaccustomed as he was to being called on first, **WILL MORRISON** rose to the occasion, announced a successful session during the past week, and invited members to join him for a relaxing and productive time at future sessions as noted in the activities table at the end of this report.

**Walkers:** **TED LARRABEE** reported that "Last Thursday was a spectacular day, a perfect day for a walk in the woods! Our intrepid group visited Cranberry Lake Preserve near Vahalla, NY. The large wooded area includes the quarry that provided the stone for the Kensico Dam from 1912 to 1917. Many walkers consider this to be one of our best walks for its

varied landscape of lakes, hills and woods plus the view from the top of the stone quarry. This time, we climbed the challengingly steep quarry wall from the bottom and celebrated our success at the top! That was the easier path and most rewarding. We briefly visited a small, man-made stone cave that is reputed to be one of stops on the famed 19<sup>th</sup> century's Leatherman's regular walks through CT. We walked a little over three miles."



Walkers?

Following **TAD, BRUCE PANTANO** invited all to join a group of kayakers on Friday at 11 am at Todd's Point Community Sailing for a tour guided by **JOHN DENNE** on back channels to Old Greenwich. You could bring your own kayak or rent one (at \$24/hour) from 203-698-0599. All were invited, not just RMAers.

**Pickleball:** **TONY COCCHI** reported that “there were eight players each day, and the players played every game. We play Monday and Thursday from 9 to 11 at Christiano field. Come join us for exercise and fun!”

**Tennis:** **JOHN KNIGHT** announced with sadness that tennis had been canceled for the summer, due to lack of interest. Seems that pickleball has stolen the players away.

**Golf:** **JOHN CRAINE**, subbing for **PAUL CAMPION**, reported that “weather yesterday was a mixed downer, with early sun followed by windy clouds then on and off rain. Fourteen hearty golfers showed up. Scores and highlights were washed out. Next week, June 29, our tee times will again be 11:10 through noon. Sign up on the bulletin board or email **PAUL** at [paulcampion1@optonline.net](mailto:paulcampion1@optonline.net). Get requests in ASAP, next week looks much more favorable. In two weeks, on July 6, our tee times move back to 8:30 am.”

No hearts or bridge reports.

With a little time remaining, **MICHAEL** called on **CHET RISIO** for a human-interest story about a novel plan to end wars—send the old men! Read the whole clever and amusing plan here. [CHET RISIO HUMAN INTEREST STORY](#)

### TODAY’S SPEAKER

The day’s speaker, Jim Campbell, was jointly introduced by **PETER SCHIEFERDECKER** and a representative of the Greenwich Public Library. Jim lives in Greenwich and is known for his nationally syndicated radio show, *Business Talk with Jim Campbell*. He spent years communicating with the imprisoned Bernie Madoff, gaining his trust and becoming his prison “pen pal.” Jim also extensively interviewed members of the Madoff family, in an attempt to figure out how one man had managed to run a \$65 billion Ponzi scheme for 40 years without getting caught.

The result was Jim’s new book, *Madoff Talks: Uncovering the Untold Story Behind the Most Notorious Ponzi Scheme in History*, released, ironically, just days after Madoff’s death in a North Carolina prison in April 2021. Jim began by describing the explosion in interest in the book which came as a result of this coincidence, including national interviews and major newspaper features. He then went on to engagingly describe the results of his research,



which pointed to several factors behind Madoff's audacious scheme. Among these were his desire not to repeat the failures of his businessman-father; his burning desire to never appear to lose money on any transaction; his resentment at greedy Wall Street investors and the realization that they were willing to look the other way if they thought he was making them money; the incompetence of government regulators; and his extremely controlling nature, and cleverness, which allowed him to compartmentalize his activities in a way that no one, except him, could see the whole picture of what was really going on. Regarding the morality of what he was doing, according to Jim he was basically delusional.

Madoff actually ran two investment firms, one completely above-board and squeaky clean, and the other the shadowy entity that executed the Ponzi scheme. Because of his good reputation from the first, both investors and regulators seemed to miss the second one.

Jim's talk was followed by a lively Q&A, and a book signing arranged by Diane's Books.

The video of Jim's talk may be accessed through the RMA web site, [www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org).

Next week's speaker will be Nabeel Abboud-Ashkar, via Zoom from Nazareth, Israel, on "Musical Bridges: Bringing Together Arab and Jewish Communities in Israel."

### **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 [frankiscarpa@gmail.com](mailto:frankiscarpa@gmail.com).

**TO ALL RMA MEMBERS:** 2021-2022 dues are now due – deliver a check for \$100, made out to RMA, to **JEFF JUNKER**. Now! Repeat, now!

**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).

**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](http://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 - <a href="mailto:anthony.cocchi@lehman.cuny.edu">anthony.cocchi@lehman.cuny.edu</a>
Mondays	2:00 pm	Hearts	Andy Holmes – <a href="mailto:andyholmes56@gmail.com">andyholmes56@gmail.com</a> Don Conway – <a href="mailto:spiderduck4@gmail.com">spiderduck4@gmail.com</a>
Various	various	Hearts	Michael Ambrosino – <a href="mailto:brooklynoil@yahoo.com">brooklynoil@yahoo.com</a>
Tuesdays	Various tee times	RMA Golf, “The Griff Golf Course,” Greenwich	Paul Campion – <a href="mailto:paulcampion1@optonline.net">paulcampion1@optonline.net</a>
Wednesdays	9:45 to 10:30 am	RMA Weekly Zoom Meeting	Horst Tebbe - <a href="mailto:onehorst@optimum.net">onehorst@optimum.net</a> or Len Carusi @ <a href="mailto:lencarusi@gmail.com">lencarusi@gmail.com</a>
Wednesdays	1:00 to 3:00 pm	On-Line Bridge	Andre Mazurek - <a href="mailto:mazurek.a.j@gmail.com">mazurek.a.j@gmail.com</a>
Wednesdays	4:00 to 5:00 pm	“Tai Chi New Joiners” – Greenwich Commons	Will Morrison - <a href="mailto:wdmorrison@gmail.com">wdmorrison@gmail.com</a>
Thursdays	9:00 am	RMA Walking	Tad Larrabee - <a href="mailto:tadlarra@optonline.net">tadlarra@optonline.net</a>
Thursdays	9:00 am 10:00 am	Pickleball Tennis Both at Christiano Park	Tony Cocchi - <a href="mailto:anthony.cocchi@lehman.cuny.edu">anthony.cocchi@lehman.cuny.edu</a>

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