

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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SCRIBE: FRANK SCARPA

"Arguing with a fool proves there are two." - Doris M. Smith

President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** began ringing his bell at 9:43 and was able to call the meeting to order at 9:45. **JIM SANTORA** played a perfect version of "God Bless America" on the piano. (The only thing missing was the vocal rendition.) **PETER STERN** then led the pledge.

In honor of July 4th, **MICHAEL** read aloud a newspaper article about the life stories of the 56 signatories of the Declaration of Independence. Five of them died after torture. Twelve were captured by the Royalists. Nine fought and died in the Revolution. They came from a variety of walks of life, and many endured severe sacrifices. This Holiday is an opportunity to reflect on them and be thankful.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** channeled the late **CHUCK STANDARD** by offering a few calendars to the membership. He then introduced today's two jokesters. First, **BOB LUCE** regaled us with a story of two Cajun pastors with a road sign reading "The end is near." A skeptical motorist ignored the sign and unwittingly reenacted the Mianus River Bridge catastrophe of 1983. Then **AV RIVEL** delivered three Biblical "groaners" involving Moses, Noah and Adam.

Visiting: MICHAEL AMBROSINO noted that **GERRY LESSUK** has moved into Edgehill on account of a series of falls.

MICHAEL also thanked the membership for their good response in filling in as "greeters" at the check-in desk. He made a plea for more projectionists and scribes.

MICHAEL noted that the August 4 meeting will be held at a location (TBD) other than the First Presbyterian Church on account of a Vacation Bible School. The possible locations for other future meetings-- The First Congregational Church, St. Catherine of Siena and the Greenwich Library-- are all being investigated by **MICHAEL** and **DON CONWAY**.

MICHAEL warned that **illegally parked cars in the Lafayette parking lot will be ticketed** - only metered spaces are legal with our green parking pass. Apparently about 6 members were ticketed yesterday for parking in non metered spaces.

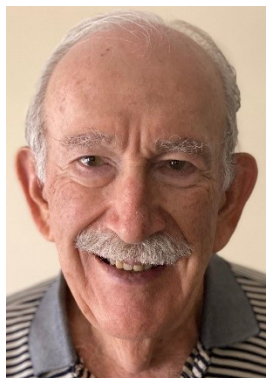
JACK WEIR noted the presence of two "cigar boxes" at the back of the hall--one for single dollar bills and the other for larger denominations. The standard \$2 contributions are requested to defray miscellaneous meeting expenses, and members attending are urged to contribute. Today's intake exceeded \$136.

A "raft up" is being tentatively planned for August.

President **AMBROSINO** is to be meeting with the President of the Greenwich Womens' Club to discuss the possibility of our holding our Hearts and Bridge events at their facility.

Membership: **PETER STERN** noted that there were 63 members in live attendance, plus six on Zoom. One guest, Joe Watts, was hosted by **MARK GEIMER**. **PETER** also tipped his rhetorical hat to the week's three Birthday Boys: **TOM NACINOVICH** at 81, **PETE UHRY** at 82, and **CRO MARTIN** at 68. Pianist **JIM SANTORA** tickled the ivories with the unsung Birthday Song.

Inductee: **AV RIVEL** introduced his guest, Michael Karp, for membership. Michael was born in Jerusalem and moved to the U.S. at age 16. He attended Jamaica High School, then studied chemistry at Penn State. Later, he and **AV** initiated their long friendship while post graduate students at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Mike became a Manhattanite



Michael Karp

and held various career positions at Smith-Corona, Lytton Industries and KPMG. Ultimately, he founded his own consulting practice. Currently, Mike enjoys bicycling, and he and his wife Carolyn enjoy the cultural opportunities of New York City. With **PETER STERN** seconding Mike's nomination, Mike was warmly and unanimously welcomed into the RMA fold.

SPEAKERS

ARNOLD GORDON previewed this week's speaker, Nabeel Abboud-Ashkar, who will be speaking to us live from Nazareth. Mr. Ashkar is co-founder of "Polyphony," a classical music school and performance group which since 2012 has been making a serious effort to calm the troubled waters in Palestine and Israel.

BOB PHILLIPS previewed next week's speaker, Mark Nunan, Ph.D, who will speak to us on "Fiorello LaGuardia: Scourge of the Old Order, Inventor of the New". Dr. Nunan recently provided us with a stimulating talk on Robert Moses. La Guardia took office in 1934, during the Great Depression, and succeeded beyond all expectations, and his life story is a fascinating one.

Volunteer Hours: JOHN FEBLES spoke to the importance of volunteering and service in the ethos of the RMA. The volunteer work of our members has been admirable, and the recording of total hours served is important for us to promote our message to the community. Since the onset of the pandemic, reporting has been spotty and irregular. With the help of **WILL MORRISON**, an online reporting form has been developed. Members are urged to use this form to keep **JOHN** up to date on their volunteer hours.



Jeff Junker volunteering for Call-a-Ride

To report hours: <https://forms.gle/bsUUdVgzMk3GJrKAA>

Treasurer: 132 members have paid their \$100 dues so far. The rest should write a check made payable to "RMA" and mail it to the treasurer, **JEFF JUNKER**, 9 Tree Top Terrace: Greenwich, Ct. 06831 or hand deliver to him at the next RMA meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Pickleball: **MARK GEIMER** reminded us that this ever-popular event takes place at the Christiano Courts on Mondays and Thursdays at 9 am.

Tai-Chi: **WILL MORRISON** announced the new designation of the "Tai Chi Feel Good Society"

Walkers: Not to be outdone, **TAD LARRABEE** has renamed his group the "Walkers and Talkers". Fourteen people walked and talked at the Greenwich Audubon preserve last week. Tomorrow the group will walk at a Rye nature area.



Walkers & Talkers

In addition, on Friday, June 25th, eight people took a kayak trip. In the foreground, left to right, are **ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN, JOHN DENNE, CYNTHIA MACKAY**. In the distance on the right are **BRUCE PANTANO, BARRY RICHELSON, TAD LARRABEE**. Not shown are **JOHN FEBLES** and photographer **GRAN BURGESS**.



Keep paddling!

Golf: **PAUL CAMPION** noted that yesterday's hot and humid event will be dubbed "The Poland Springs Open" in honor of the amount of water consumed. **TONY FITZPATRICK** shot an 85, with two birdies. **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** and **JIM SANTORA** each chipped in for birdie on #10. Next week, we will return to early starting times. **PAUL** emphasized the importance of commitment to the assigned times--or early notice of cancellation--in order to keep us in the good graces of the Griff. (Special kudos to **MARK FOX** for an excellent showing in the Town Tournament!)

Hearts: **TOM HEALY** reporting. Winners: **TOM HEALY**, three. **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**, two. **GRANT PERKINS**, one. Moon shots: **TOM HEALY**, two.

Book Review: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** gave us a brief and glowing review of the best-seller *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. The book's premise is of an alternate universe "what if" reflection on one's life. It hypothesizes that we consider the possibility of "the path not taken". It is about choices, regrets, and embracing life.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Nabeel Abboud-Ashkar was introduced by **ARNOLD GORDON**. Mr. Ashkar spoke to us via Zoom from Nazareth--the longest-distance Zoom conference we have had to date. Nabeel is a graduate of Tel Aviv University, with a degree in physics. Born in Nazareth, he developed an interest in classical music at an early age, inspired by his father's passion for this medium. Nabeel took up the violin at the age of eight, and his brother became an accomplished pianist. Our speaker went on to obtain a master's degree in music from the Hochschule fur Musik in Rostock, Germany. He returned to Nazareth in 2006 and performed with the Youth Orchestra in the West Bank. This evolved into the "Polyphony Conservatory", which was dedicated to bringing together young people of all backgrounds to perform excellent symphony music in the region, in an effort to break barriers and overcome long-existing cultural obstacles. Aided by 20 excellent teachers, the initial cadre of 21 students grew and was able to participate in competitions after their third year. A video of 22-year-old violinist Yamin Saadi was presented. (In 2020, Saadi won the most prestigious music prize in Israel.) Polyphony reaches 10,000 children from kindergarten to sixth grade in its teaching of music appreciation. The program for young musicians included ten Nazarenes and ten Israelis, and has now grown to 36 musicians. Their Galilee Chamber Orchestra is scheduled to debut at Carnegie Hall next March. Additional videos from 2012 and 2019 (Berlin--Schubert's Trout) were presented. A Q&A session, moderated by **ARNOLD GORDON**, was replete with praise for this use of music to build bridges in times of conflict.

The video of Nabeel's talk may be accessed through the RMA web site, www.greenwichrma.org.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Mark Nunan, Ph.D., will speak on "Fiorello LaGuardia: Scourge of the Old Order, Inventor of the New". LaGuardia's life story is a fascinating one. Dr. Nunan demonstrated his facility for recounting modern history when he presented the life and career of Robert Moses to us this past year.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS!

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: next week's CBB scribe will be →**ED FARRELL**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB promptly to **ED** at ejf1038r@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!

TO ALL RMA MEMBERS: Don't forget to report your inside and outside volunteer hours to **JOHN FEBLES**.

Use the new form at <https://forms.gle/bsUUdVgzMk3GJrKAA>.

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	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 – brooklynoil@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	Pickleball at Christiano Park	Tony Cocchi - anthony.cocchi@lehman.cuny.edu

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