

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: ED FARRELL

“After the game, the King and the pawn go into the same box.” - Old Italian Proverb

President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** opened the meeting by introducing the “Star-Spangled Banner” rendered by **JIM SANTORO** on the piano. **TOM HEALY** followed by leading members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPORTANT NOTE: Beginning today the new **green parking pass** will be required to park in the Lafayette Parking Lot and on Lafayette Place.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** noted there will be a memorial service for our dear former member, **WAYNE WRIGHT**, on Saturday, July 11th, at the First Congregational Church in Old Greenwich.

ARNOLD also said there is a wonderful article in a recent issue of the *Greenwich Free Press* about an interview with one of our oldest members, 98-year-old **SAL DeANGELO**. It is a personal story covering the history of Greenwich and his life over the many decades he has lived in this town. He has an amazing memory for details that are fascinating. The article can be found at the following link. Salut to **SAL**.

<https://greenwichfreepress.com/around-town/celebrating-a-century-in-greenwich-with-sal-deangelo-162264/>

ARNOLD reminded members of the upcoming RMA picnic on September 15, and noted this year, in addition to fine food and games, the raffle will feature many gift certificates from Greenwich's finer businesses. **ARNOLD** then switched to his Henny Youngman persona and told the following groaners:

- What did Snow White say when she came out of the photo booth? Someday my prints will come.
- What do you call a lazy kangaroo? A pouch potato.
- Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.
- If people from Poland are called Poles, then why aren't people from Holland called Holes?
- Do Lipton Tea employees take 'coffee breaks?'
- A husband read an article to his wife about how many words women use a day: 30,000 to a man's 15,000. The wife replied, 'The reason has to be because we have to repeat everything to men.... The husband then turned to his wife and asked, 'What?'

MICHAEL AMBROSINO said the RMA board of directors continues to review other potential meeting venues in case a change becomes necessary. He also asked members to think about providing book and restaurant reviews, as well as human interest stories to improve our meeting content.

JOHN CRAINE announced the annual RMA Raft up, on hiatus during COVID, will be held starting at noon, Thursday, August 12. (For those who are not familiar with it, this activity welcomes sail and power boaters, members, spouses and crews, to meet and "raft up"--tie up side by side--at a designated location in Greenwich. Participants bring their own food and drink and share tales on the largest boat. Non-boat owners are welcome. A sign-up sheet is available.) This year's event will include rag haulers (sail) and stink potters (power). All will rendezvous at the picturesque anchorage off Great Captain's Island. All participants must be vaccinated. Plan to bring delectable edibles and frosty beverages.

DON CONWAY offered some "what happened on this date" (July 7) trivia: Lou Gehrig gave his famous farewell (1939); The USMA at West Point opened (1802); Larry Doby became the first African American AL player (1947); Arthur Ashe won the U.S. Tennis Open (1975).

Visiting: MICHAEL AMBROSINO announced that **JOHN STANKUNAS** is at Greenwich Hospital recovering from hip surgery.

Membership: **PETER STERN** reported 72 members in attendance. He offered a special welcome to long time member, **MARIO BONAPARTE**, and noted that now that we are back meeting in-person, we are reinstating Returnee Reporting. When you have been unable to attend one or more meetings, upon your return you may note your return on the Returnee Form at the Membership desk, and your return will be announced during the meeting.

PETER acknowledged the following birthdays:

TONY	FITZPATRICK	72
ALEX	GOSPODINOFF	94
HOLLISTER	STURGES	82
DAN	FREDLAND	87
JOE	HAVRANEK	78
HOWARD	RICHMAN	68
BUD	SPANN	91
DAVE	SCHERAGA	89

MARK GEIMER nominated Joe Watts for RMA membership, saying “Joe Watts has been my good friend for many years. We first met back in the ‘90s and since then we've shared a lot of meals and have vacationed together as well. Joe and his wife Mary moved to Greenwich in the 1970s and raised their son Andrew here. Andrew lives in town with his wife and two daughters. Joe is a physician and spent most of his working life as an ear, nose and throat doctor at Greenwich Hospital, and so possibly some of you already know him in that capacity. Joe's interests include history, science, opera, golf, bridge, and travel. He is provocative conversationalist and never at loss for words. I think Joe will be a worthy new member of the RMA and I whole-heartedly recommend him.” Following a second by **FRANK SCARPA**, **JOE** was unanimously voted into the RMA.



Joe Watts

Treasurer: **JEFF JUNKER** reported:

A) We are again collecting \$2 per member 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. Today worked out quite well as we collected \$142.75 in the Cigar boxes from the 68 members attending the live meeting.

B) Dues should have been paid by June 30, 2021. As of July 7th, 139 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 month with reminder notices for those not yet paid being emailed in mid-July. 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 next RMA meeting you attend, OR, mail the check to the treasurer at 9 Tree Top Terrace, Greenwich, CT 06831.

Program: **BOB PHILLIPS** reported that today's speaker will be Mark Nunan, Ph.D., who will speak on the subject: "Fiorello La Guardia: Scourge of the Old Order, Inventor of the New." **ARNOLD GORDON** said that next week's speaker will be Dana Gunders, Executive Director and founding board member of ReFED, a national nonprofit working to advance solutions to reduce loss and waste throughout our food system. Ms. Gunders is a national expert on food systems and one of the first people to raise the alarm about how much food is wasted across the country and the subsequent impacts on our environment, food security, and the economy. The title of Ms. Gunders' talk is "Rethinking Our Food System: How Wasting Less is Critical to Sustainability." The RMA has invited WasteFree Greenwich (www.wastefreegreenwich.org/), whose mission is to share relevant information & news to build awareness and educate residents toward a waste free community, to attend. They will have an exhibit in the Social Hall.

FUN AND GAMES

Walkers and Talkers: **TAD LARRABEE** noted that despite the threat of rain, five walkers met at the Rye Marshlands Conservancy for a warm walk that was cooled a bit by walking in the shade of the woods followed by some nice sea breezes from the Sound as we walked the outer islands. We got back to our cars before 11:30 and did not suffer a single drop of rain! We met the groundskeeper for the John Jay property within the Conservancy who advised us about deer ticks whose nymphs are very small this time of year. We stayed clear of tick-infested areas! We also encountered several deer, one of whom had a very new fawn. If you want to join our walking group, please email **TAD** at tadlarra@optonline.net, or call him at 203-637-4023.



Four of the five hardy walkers

Golf: **PAUL CAMPION** reported that the Griff was an extremely hot course on Tuesday, temperature-wise. **JIM BOARDMAN** shot a 42 on the front nine; however, he did not complete 18 holes. **BART BARTHOLOMEW** birdied seven and 18, had five two-putt greens and finished with a final score of 85. **PAT YUEN** had a “sandy” on 10. **JACK WEIR** won the best dressed award displaying a five-color ensemble. Next week play begins at 8:00 am. Please get names to **PAUL** ASAP.

Pickleball: **TONY COCCHI** reported we will play on Mondays and Thursdays. On Thursdays we will play both pickleball and tennis depending on the choice of players. We play at Christiano Field. Call **TONY** or **JOHN KNIGHT** if you're interested in playing.

Bridge: No scores this week. Contact **ANDRE MAZUREK** or **TONY COCCHI** if you are interested in joining the bridge players.

The Tai Chi Feel Good Society: **WILL MORRISON** reports that “Members were spotted under a tree in Greenwich Commons Park last Wednesday at 4 pm moving very slowly, evidently feeling very good, and dressed in black. Why would they be dressed in black when it is 85 degrees out? Was that why they were moving so slowly? Members voted on meeting at the park for the next several Wednesdays, as long as it feels good.”

Email **WILL** at wdmorrison@gmail.com to be notified of schedule changes. To learn more about Tai Chi visit experiencetaichi.org

TODAY'S SPEAKER

BOB PHILLIPS introduced Mark Nunan, Ph.D., a retired international executive and former Senior Vice President at COS, Inc., a private firm which provides business and economic development services to corporations and governments. Dr. Nunan, who recently spoke to the RMA on the life and times of Robert Moses, on this occasion offered a biographical presentation on Fiorello La Guardia's impact as a three-term reform mayor of New York City, describing him as the scourge of the old order and inventor of the new order or new city. In 1933 La Guardia was elected the 99th mayor of NYC, but only the twelfth since the consolidation of Queens, Brooklyn, The Bronx and Staten Island with Manhattan in 1888 to form the city as we know it today.

During his early years, the La Guardia family re-located frequently, because Fiorello's father was a renowned musician, who travelled throughout Europe and, eventually, the United States. At some point Fiorello's father joined the U.S. army and was assigned to Prescott, AZ, where Fiorello, an avid reader, learned of the corrupt Tammany Hall, and the Democrat Party control of NYC. At another time, while on assignment in New Orleans, Fiorello's father was poisoned by the toxic ingredients in the food served to service men. Though his father survived, Fiorello developed a hatred for the profiteers, who profited from allowing the toxic content of the food. As a young adult, Fiorello, who was multi-lingual, took a position with the State Department in Croatia, where he learned that many Croatians seeking admission to the United States were being turned away, because they failed medical testing at Ellis Island. He also learned that the Cunard Steamship Line was making significant profits from transporting ill Croatians to and from the United States. He argued that medical testing be done on emigrants prior to their leaving their homeland to avoid having to pay Cunard for return trips. His proposal was accepted and implemented throughout Europe.

Because he observed so much corruption in so many places and organizations, Fiorello resolved to become a "Ghetto Lawyer" and defend the powerless. In today's terms, he would be called a strong progressive. He ran for Congress in 1914, but lost; however, he defeated the same opponent in 1916. He voted to enter WW1, resigned from Congress, joined the army and was sent to Italy, where he played a major role in the success of Italy's aircraft industry (he was a licensed pilot) and spoke frequently in support of the war effort.

Upon his return to the U.S. Fiorello was elected President of NYC's Board of Aldermen, where he set about rooting-out corruption. Sixty-seven Aldermen were jailed during his first year. He was re-elected to Congress as a Socialist in 1924, but soon joined the Republican party. He was elected NYC mayor in 1933 running on a fusion ticket supported by a coalition of regular Republicans, a minority of reform-minded Democrats, Socialists, a large proportion of middle-class Jews, and the great majority of Italians. The Italians had been loyal to Tammany; their switch proved decisive.

As mayor, during the Great Depression and World War II, La Guardia unified the city's transit system; expanded construction of public housing, playgrounds, parks, and airports; reorganized the NYC Police Department; and implemented FDR's federal New Deal programs within the city. He pursued a long series of political reforms curbing the power of the powerful Tammany Hall political machine and re-establishing merit-based employment and promotion within city administration.

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

IMPORTANT REMINDERS!

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: next week's CBB scribe will be →**JOE ANGLAND**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB promptly to **JOE** at jangland@optonline.net. (Ed. note: welcome to **JOE** as our newest scribe!)

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**, using 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 and/or Tennis at Christiano Park	Tony Cocchi - anthony.cocchi@lehman.cuny.edu

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