

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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"We hang petty thieves and appoint major thieves to public office" - Aesop



After urging recalcitrant members to move forward and take seats, President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** opened the meeting at 9:45 - give or take.

Pledge leader **PETE UHRY** prefaced the pledge by sharing a personal story about a flag experience at an Air Force base in Japan.

Pianist *de jour*, **GEORGE UBOGY**, gave a short history lesson on the critical Revolutionary War battle of Yorktown, which the Colonists won with help of French troops. He then played "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" in honor of Independence Day, and "La Marseilles" in honor of the French troops at Yorktown.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARNOLD GORDON sadly announced the passing of **BILL SALTSMAN** last night; he had recently celebrated his 95th birthday. No further details are available. He then went on to report that a recent article in the *Greenwich Free Press* describes the Holly Hill Book Exchange which was created and run by former member **DOUG FRANCEFORT** and his wife. It is now named after him. **DOUG** was a member from October 1990; he died a year

ago January at the age of 91, having been a member for some 30 years. There is a picture of him in the article wearing his RMA hat. His wife and son are still active at the Exchange, which reopened on July 16th after having been closed since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020. Do read the article, a tribute to **DOUG** for creating and running the Book Exchange, which usually draws about 250 people each day it is open, mostly seniors.

[Article Regarding Doug and the Book Exchange](#)

In the process of creating a grand plan to improve Greenwich Avenue, the Department of Public Works has launched a new interactive website. The main purpose of the website is to solicit valuable feedback from residents, retailers, restaurant owners and anyone with a vested interest in the Town of Greenwich. Feedback provided by the community will help them determine the prioritization of proposed intersection projects and identify key design aspects, which will help to develop a detailed cost estimation for each project location. To learn more about the Greenwich Avenue Streetscape project and to provide feedback, click here:

[Greenwich Ave Streetscape Website](#)

ARNOLD further announced that the annual RMA picnic will take place on September 15th and details will be provided in future announcements and mailings. The picnic committee held its first meeting by Zoom on Monday morning to make decisions and assign responsibilities for the myriad of chores. New volunteers are always welcome; just let **ARNOLD** know if you would like to help (ajgordo@verizon.net). Although the picnic is about two months away, it is important to let you know one of the decisions made: attendance will require proof of full vaccination. Although we already have such proof for many members, that is not the case for non-members (spouses, guests) or for members who have yet to be cleared. Whether or not you plan to come to the picnic, I urge you to get the shot(s) if you have not already done so.

ARNOLD then introduced **GEOFFREY BURGE**, the famous Australian comic, who regaled the group with two knee slappers about the foibles of members of the legal profession.

President **AMBROSINO** then announced that negotiations to hold the August 4 meeting at the First Congregational Church have broken down, and the meeting on that date will be a Zoom meeting. Stay tuned for details. Negotiations for a meeting place for the fall and into

2022 continue with St. Catherine's, First Presbyterian, and Christ Church. There is still hope that the Bridge and Hearts guys will be able to play at the Women's Club, stay tuned.

JOHN FEBLES requested help from the group in helping the Salvation Army make contact with The Steven and Alexandra Cohen Foundation of Stamford. If anyone has a contact, please notify him at jfebles13@gmail.com or 203-550-5049

Hats off to **PETE UHRY** who was ready to distribute new, blue, RMA hats to those who had ordered them and would part with \$14 on the spot. If you haven't previously ordered one and think you might like one of these dapper lids, email **PETE** at uhry@sbcglobal.net. If there are at least 12 orders he will order an additional batch.

Head techie **HORST TEBBE** cautioned attendees that if they wanted to watch the meeting on Zoom while attending in person, it's OK, but please turn off your microphone, as it affects the transmission.

ALAN GUNZBURG invited all to attend a celebration of the 31st Anniversary of the signing of Americans with Disability Act, Monday, July 26 at 11:30 am at the Greenwich Library. They will be highlighting ADA upgrades to the library including the new ADA entrance, the renovated theatre and the Library Café by Abilis.

PETER STERN informed the assembled that the check-in at the door was part of a mandated contact tracing plan. It is essential that **everyone** check in, regardless of your vaccination status.

Commodore **JOHN CRAINE** gave a status report on the Raft-Up to be held Thursday, August 12 from noon to about 2:30 pm at the anchorage off Great Captains Island. There were two boats definitely participating and two "definite maybes". He was hoping to rope in a couple more before August 12. There is a sign-up sheet for boaters and passengers on the bulletin board or contact **JOHN** at 203-698-0118 or **BARRY RICHELSON** at 203-637-5454.

COMMITTEE REPORTS



Membership: **PETER STERN** led off the committee reports.

1. Attendance: 67 in house, three on Zoom, total 70.

2. Birthdays: **ANDRE MAZUREK, 64, JIM DEAN, 77, BOB FRISHMAN, 81, WALT ANDERES, 93!!**
3. Special In-Person Welcome: Bill Holland is attending his 1st in-person meeting
4. VERY SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: Mary & **JOHN CRAINE** have celebrated their 62nd Anniversary!



Visiting: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** reported that no news is good news.

Treasury: Treasurer **JEFF JUNKER** reported that there were still 81 active members who had not paid their 2021-2022 dues, you know who you are, and so does he. Please mail your check for \$100 made out to RMA to **JEFF** at 9 Tree Top Terrace, Greenwich 06831 to save our volunteer leadership from having to contact you directly.

Volunteer Hours: **JOHN FEBLES** thanked all who are using the special form for reporting hours. It is listed at the end of this Bulletin, and it makes his life a lot easier. If you want to know when your last report was, email him at jfebles13@gmail.com.

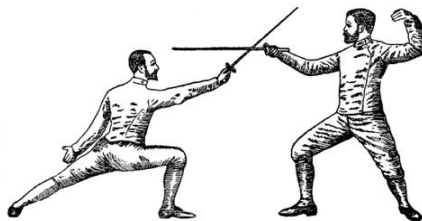


PROGRAM NOTES

Today: **PETER BERG** encouraged all to stay to hear Connecticut Attorney General William Tong talk on “The Pandemic and the Law.”

Next Week: **GORGE UBOGY**, who has delivered a couple of talks on music himself, announced that next week’s speaker would be Dr. Joseph W. Polisi, President Emeritus of the Juilliard School who will inform us on “The Juilliard, Past, Present and Future.” It should be music to our ears.





THE SPORTS PAGE

Pickleball: **MARK GEIMER** reports “We play pickleball every Monday and Thursday 9-11:00 am. Last week we had two courts going with eight players both days. If you've ever played tennis or paddle or badminton it's easy to pick up. We have extra paddles so you don't need to have one to play.”

Golf: **PAUL CAMPION** reported “There were 20 players on a hazy day. **JIM SANTORA** parred all four of the par three holes. **BART BARTHOLOMEW** shot a 65 and had the longest drive. **TONY FITZPATRICK** shot a birdie on 12. Closest to the pin on seven was **TOM HEALY** and on 15, **JOE MANCINELLI**. The group of **BARTHOLOMEW, SMITH, FOX** and **HEALY** finished in under four hours. On July 27 and August 2 the tee-offs are at 11:00 am.”

Tai Chi: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** read **WILL MORRISON'S** report. **WILL** is researching how to turbo charge those good tai chi feelings by participating a weeklong, high quality Tai Chi Master Class held through Zoom. In the meantime, today's Wednesday class will meet at 5:15, get this, under the tree that is half way between the Greenwich Commons Park and the Town Hall elevated parking lot! For any questions, contact **WILL** at wdmorrison@gmail.com.

Walkers: **TAD LARRABEE** reported that “Last Thursday was very warm, but the Walkers had a nice woods walk starting in Pomerance Park and wandering into Montgomery Pinetum and back. Thirteen of us started, but only eleven returned! That was not because we lost two walkers, but because **JOHN** and **Carol FEBLES** bailed early. Contact **TAD LARRABEE** at 203-637-4023 to join the group.



Tad's happy walkers & talkers

Indoor Tennis: **ANDY HOLMES** continues to plan for the fall season. Contact him at 203-615-3351.

Bridge: **JOHN FEBLES** reported for **TONY COCCHI**. There was no game last week.

Hearts: **DON CONWAY** dealt up: **GRANT PERKINS** and **TOM HEALY** each won two games; **DON CONWAY** won one; and **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** watched the action. No moon shots were reported.



PETER BERG introduced today's speaker, Connecticut Attorney General Willian Tong who spoke on "The Pandemic and the Law." A.G. Tong started off by reviewing the history of the pandemic in Connecticut from the early days when the state was very hard hit, a consequence of being located between New York City and Boston, both hard hit cities and with open borders (at least in the beginning), to today, when 98% of citizens over 65 are vaccinated. The Delta variant now threatens to undo some of the gains made to date.

All the actions by the State to keep us safe emanate from the Governor's power to act in an emergency. These powers, Tong explained, are by statute, granted by the legislature which reserves the right to review and potentially overrule the Governor's actions. The "state of emergency" and the Governor's ability to act, are only good for six months and must be renewed. There have been renewals since the first proclamation in March 2020. He explained his role in governing during the pandemic included advising the Governor, investigating and remediating price gouging and the return of deposits for events which did not happen, and fighting vaccination disinformation.

During his talk, before explaining a point of law, he would comment, "now for some Law School 101." For we non-lawyers, most of the talk was an easy intro to Law School 101.

During the spirited Q & A after the talk, A.G. Tong was asked to comment on the settlement made by big pharma and the several states who sued them for overselling opioids. He commented that he was unhappy with the cash settlements which were not big enough and did not hurt the industry enough. He felt that the Sackler Family got a free pass despite the fact that their company Purdue Pharma was forced into bankruptcy.

Another high-quality talk from our prolific Program Committee.

The video of A.G. Tong's talk may be accessed through the RMA website, www.greenwichrma.org.

Special note from the Scribe to all who submitted material for this edition of the CBB.
Thank you all for promptly submitting your copy, either by email or at the meeting. I had it all by Wednesday afternoon.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Past President **PETE UHRY** has asked that we include a few "historical" RMA pictures, with a question of the week. The answer to last week's question is that the car in the Memorial Day Parade was being driving by... **AV RIVEL!** This week's stumper: who owned this very early plum-colored RMA hat? Answer next week.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: next week's CBB scribe will be →**ARNOLD GORDON**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB promptly to **ARNOLD** at ajgordo@verizon.net.

TO ALL RMA MEMBERS: 2021-2022 dues are now overdue. If you haven't paid up deliver a check for \$100, made out to RMA, to **JEFF JUNKER**. Now! You can deliver your check to **JEFF** at the next meeting, or mail it to him at 9 Tree Top Terrace, Greenwich, CT 06831.

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

[CLICK HERE TO REPORT VOLUNTEER HOURS](#)

ALL MEMBERS are reminded that in addition to streaming on the Internet, RMA speakers are normally shown 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 – 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 at 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