

# CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



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

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**SCRIBE: ARNOLD GORDON**

*"If you stop telling lies about me, I'll stop telling the truth about you" - Henny Youngman*

At 9:45am on the dot, President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** called the meeting to order and introduced **HORST TEBBE** to lead us in the pledge. We then had the pleasure of hearing **BOB MORGAN'S** rendition of "God Bless America" on the Steinway; although singing was still disallowed, **BOB** belted out the lyrics as he played. I believe I also saw **DON CONWAY** join him with his mellifluous voice but no one reported him to the church authorities. **MICHAEL** mentioned that **RUSS HARDEN** was Mentor for the day.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** reported that a memorial service will be held for **SAL DeANGELO'S** former wife, Anne, on Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 am at Saint Michael the Archangel Church, 469 North Street. He then introduced the "renowned jokester" **BOB CAREY**, who had two brief stories. Golfers would be sympathetic to the first one, in which a man relinquished his wife's empty seat at a U. S. Open tournament to a stranger, since her funeral was that day. He then gave us a linguistic lesson in how explain the difference between the words *complete* and *finished*, often used interchangeably. "Marry the right woman and you are complete; the wrong woman and you are finished. Fool around with someone else's wife and you are completely finished."

**There were several important announcements.**

- **There will not be an in-person meeting next week** (August 4<sup>th</sup>). It will be held via Zoom only and there will not be a speaker program.
- **JEFF JUNKER reminds everyone that dues should have been paid by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.** As of July 28th, 150 members had paid their \$100 for the new fiscal year which started May 1st. Seventy-four members on the active member list have still not paid. Either bring a check made payable to "RMA" and hand deliver it to **JEFF** at the August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, or mail a check to him at 9 Treetop Terrace, Greenwich, CT 06831. After August 11, the Board will be making calls to those members who have not paid.
- **JEFF** also reminded us that we are again collecting \$2 per member at each live meeting. Rather than passing the "Cigar Boxes" around for the collection, they are on the table as you enter the Social Hall. We are depending on the honor system; today worked out quite well as \$150 was collected.
- **MICHAEL** reviewed the efforts being made to locate alternate locations for our meeting place in case long-term arrangements with the First Presbyterian Church prove unsatisfactory; he will be meeting with church officials within the next two weeks. Possibilities are being explored with St. Catherine's Church and Christ Church; discussions are still ongoing with First Congregational Church in Old Greenwich.
- Our President has secured an arrangement with the Women's Club of Greenwich, 89 Maple Avenue, for the Hearts and Bridge players to use one of their rooms to play. And it's free!

### **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership:** **PETER STERN** welcomed back **DOUG TAYLOR**, our distinguished head counter. There were 65 men in the room and another four looking in via Zoom. Don Hamilton attended as a guest of **ERF PORTER**. Birthdays for the week: **CHARLIE MARSHALL**, 91, **JOHN KAVANAGH**, 76, **TONY RIGGI**, 89, **BOB MEANEY**, 74, and the elder statesman **SAL DeANGELO**, a wonderful 98, which generated a round of applause. **BOB MORGAN** played the birthday song (but did not sing this time).

**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](mailto:brooklynoil@yahoo.com)).

**MICHAEL** thanked **JIM FISHBEIN** for his excellent service as Secretary for the RMA Board for several years, and he was given a well-deserved round of applause. **ED FARRELL** will assume that role from now on.

**BOB MORGAN** encouraged members to consider a subscription to the 2021-2022 season of the Greenwich Symphony, an ensemble he praised as one of the finest in the region. Five concerts will be given in September, November, January, February and April in the new Greenwich High School auditorium. RMA members receive a subscription discount of \$35 (indicate you are a member when ordering your tickets). See [www.greenwichsymphony.org](http://www.greenwichsymphony.org)

**JOHN CRAIN** reminded everyone that the annual RMA Raft-Up will be held on Thursday, August 12 beginning at noon with a rendezvous at the Great Captain's Island anchorage. Sail and power boats are welcome with boaters and non-boaters. Four vessels have already committed with two more possible. All participants must be vaccinated. Bring edibles and beverages. If interested, contact **BARRY RICHELSON** (203-637-5454) or **JOHN** (203-698-0118).



**Speakers:** Today's talk was described by **GEORGE UBOGY**. Dr. Joseph W. Polisi, who was President of The Juilliard School for 35 years, will talk about the school's past, present, and

future. There will not be a speaker next week. On August 11<sup>th</sup>, we will hear from zoologist Jim Knox, Curator of Education at Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo, where he directs Education and Wildlife Conservation programs. Jim is writer and host for PBS television's *Wild Zoofari* and has served as an on-camera wildlife expert for *The Today Show*, *The CBS Early Show* and Fox News. He will speak about "Saving Animals from Extinction: Tales of Species Recovery in Connecticut and Beyond."

**Volunteer Hours:** **JOHN FEBLES** reminds everyone to send him your volunteer hours using the link provided at the end of this CBB. If any questions, contact him ([jfebles13@gmail.com](mailto:jfebles13@gmail.com)).

**PETE UHRY** is taking more orders for the new steel blue, adjustable, washable, RMA logo-imprinted hat for \$14. The order will be placed on Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>; if interested, let **PETE** know by Monday afternoon ([uhry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uhry@sbcglobal.net)). If you already ordered one, it is available for pick up the next time we meet in person (August 11<sup>th</sup>); bring \$14 with you.

## FUN AND GAMES

**Outdoor Tennis:** No report, most likely because no one played! **JOHN KNIGHT** welcomes everyone to play on Thursdays, 9-11 am at Christiano Park. If interested, contact him ([johnknight7@gmail.com](mailto:johnknight7@gmail.com)).

**Pickleball:** **PAT MacCARTHY** reported that the game is more popular than ever. More players can be accommodated (up to 12) at 9 am at Christiano Field on Monday and Thursday. Anyone interested should contact **TONY COCCHI** ([tony.cocchi2@gmail.com](mailto:tony.cocchi2@gmail.com)).

**Walkers:** **TAD LARRABEE** reported that on a gorgeous day for walking last Thursday, four very resolute walkers (**JEFF JUNKER**, **CRO MARTIN**, **TAD** and Cynthia McKay, who is **ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN'S** wife), explored the Mianus River Park from one end to the other. They were naughty and trespassed through a hole in the fence and visited a private dam on the river and then scrambled over another fence to return to the park. Where they came out on the northern end remains a mystery, but they successfully negotiated the confusing trails with a map and got back to their cars in time for lunch. Due to lots of rain recently, they found many different types of mushrooms that Cynthia was able to identify using her cell phone and a wonderful plant-identifying program called "Seek" that allows one to

identify all kinds of plants. Because some warned of their lethal nature, we decided against lunching on mushrooms, but **JEFF** snacked on some wild raspberries. The accompanying photo shows **JEFF** and **TAD** in front of the private waterfall on the Mianus River. Tomorrow, subject to weather, the plan is to visit Rockefeller State Park, a favorite hiking spot. Join the announcement list by sending your email address to [tadlarra@optonline.net](mailto:tadlarra@optonline.net).



**Tai Chi:** Join **WILL MORRISON** on Wednesdays at 4:30 pm at the Greenwich Commons Park to join the “Tai Chi Feel Good Society” under a special tree. Get on the Tai Chi mailing list to be alerted of any change of plans ([wdmorrison@gmail.com](mailto:wdmorrison@gmail.com)). There are classes in Old Greenwich on 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. For more information about Tai Chi visit: [www.experiencetaichi.org](http://www.experiencetaichi.org).

**Golf:** **TONY FITZPATRICK** reported that 20 RMA members played on a warm sunny day on July 20th. Due to repair work, the par five 3rd hole was played as a short par 3 and the 4th was played from the shortest ladies’ tees; remarkably those holes produced zero RMA birdies. However, birdies were later scored by **TONY RIGGI** on #7, **GEOFFREY BURGE** on #8, **BART BARTHOLOMEW** on #10 and #15, **MARK FOX** on #10 and **RUSS HARDEN** on #14. **MARK FOX** had the longest drive, **GEOFFREY BURGE** was closest to the pin on # 7, and **TOM HEALY** was closest on #15. **BART BARTHOLOMEW'S** 84 was the lowest score for the day. In **PAUL CAMPION's** absence for vacation, **JACK WEIR** will be captain for August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Tee times start at 11:20. Please contact **JACK** to sign up asap ([johnkweir47@aol.com](mailto:johnkweir47@aol.com)).

**Bridge:** No report. I guess the bridge was closed for repairs.

**Hearts: DON CONWAY** reported that on July 23<sup>rd</sup> **JOHN STANKUNAS, JOHN KNIGHT, MIKE AMBROSINO** and the **DON** himself played four games. **JOHN** won three, **DON**, one, and **MIKE** had the only moonshot.

### **HUMAN INTEREST TALES AND OTHER DIVERSIONS.**

President **MICHAEL** closed the meeting by serving a review of one of his favorite restaurants, Pasquale's, just over the Greenwich border in Port Chester. Good Italian fare for excellent value.

To see full review, [CLICK HERE](#)

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

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

### **SPEAKER PROGRAM**

**GEORGE UBOGY** introduced Joseph W. Polisi who was president of The Juilliard School for 34 years, from 1984 to 2018, far longer than any other leader. As President Emeritus, he supervised the development of The Tianjin Juilliard School as Chief China Officer. Influenced by his father, who was a bassoonist for the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, Polisi went from studying the piano to the cello and finally the bassoon. Although he studied political science for his BA degree at UConn and received an MA in international relations at the Fletcher School at Tufts, he returned to his musical roots and obtained a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Yale. He described the origins and growth of the world-famous institution now called the Juilliard School of Performing Arts (music, dance, drama), located at Lincoln Center since October 1969. It began in 1905 as the Institute of Musical Art (IMA) and was modeled after the European style of music pedagogy. In 1919, a very wealthy wool merchant, Augustus Juilliard, left 19 million dollars in his will divided between the Metropolitan Opera and for a new "music conservatory." However, the Met relinquished its donation and the total (equivalent to more than 250 million dollars in today's dollars) was used to create a new conservatory. A merger with the IMA in 1929-1930, and conversion to a single institution in 1945 under the Juilliard name, created the entity we know today.

Under Dr. Polisi's leadership, the school's endowment grew from 90 million dollars to 1.1 billion dollars. Enrollment is about 850 from 44 states and 42 countries. Tuition, room and board costs \$63,000 per year; however, 68% of all incoming funds is used for scholarships. Only about 7% of the large number of applicants is admitted to the school each year. Under a NY state rule, schools of higher education or professional development must include the liberal arts as at least 25% of the curriculum; to meet that mandate, Julliard emphasizes the great books literature series.

On September 28, 2015, the Juilliard School announced a major expansion into Tianjin, China, the institution's first such full-scale foray outside the United States. It is a municipality and a coastal metropolis in Northern China with a population of about 16 million and a short high-speed train ride from Beijing. Dr. Polisi showed a video of the very modern structure that now houses the school there since 2010; with lots of glass and large open spaces it provides an inspirational setting for budding artists.

When asked for his opinion of the state of music and art education in the U.S., Dr. Polisi was not very optimistic, pointing out that for many years the once healthy inclusion of such programs in grade school and high school has greatly diminished. The commitment to those subjects is far more extensive in the educational systems of China, Japan and Korea, e.g. About 60 million Chinese students study piano. In years to come, he foresees that the center for western classical music will be in Asia, not in the U.S. or Europe.

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

#### **NEXT SPEAKER**

The speaker program on August 4<sup>th</sup> is canceled. On August 11<sup>th</sup> the speaker will be Jim Knox, Curator of Education at Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo. who will discuss "Saving Animals from Extinction: Tales of Species Recovery in Connecticut and Beyond."

#### **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 bright plum colored cap was owned by **DOUG FRANCEFORT**. This week’s stumper: who is ringing the bell at the A&P, and in what year was he doing it? (Ed. Bonus question: what ever happened to the giant A&P grocery chain, which was part of our youth?)



### IMPORTANT REMINDERS

**TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS:** next week’s CBB scribe will be →**FRANK SCARPA**←. This, remember, will be a Zoom-only meeting. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB promptly to **FRANK** at [frankjscarpa@gmail.com](mailto:frankjscarpa@gmail.com).

**TO ALL RMA MEMBERS:** The CBB Team works diligently 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** at [tbroo@aol.com](mailto:tbroo@aol.com) if you are interested in supporting this continuing effort. It’s a great way to engage with your fellow RMA members.

**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:** <https://forms.gle/bsUUdVgzMk3GJrKAA>.

**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. At least, when **HORST** remembers to set it up.

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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 - <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 at <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	Pickleball and/or Tennis 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