

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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VOLUME 69 NUMBER 4 August 11, 2021

SCRIBE: JOE ANGLAND

"If you are going through hell, keep going" - Winston Churchill

President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** opened the meeting, which began with **GEORGE UBOGY'S** piano rendition of "Erie Canal." This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MICHAEL reported that we have reached an open-ended agreement with the First Presbyterian Church regarding the continued use of the current space. We will continue to use the space, but either party will have the right to terminate the agreement at will. This will give each party flexibility in dealing with the risks arising from the pandemic.

Membership: **PETER STERN**, with assistance from **DOUG TAYLOR** who served as counter, reported that there were 63 members present in person and 8 more attending by Zoom. No guests were present. **PETER** acknowledged the following birthdays:

JOE	MANCINELLI	71
ALAN	GUNZBURG	62
BOB	UNDERWOOD	95

GEOFFREY BURGE nominated Bob Samuels for membership. **GEOFFREY** said that he got to know Bob when he saw him wearing a distinctive cycling jacket and struck up a conversation. They were soon sharing 60-mile bike rides, with Bob introducing **GEOFFREY** to more scenic alternatives to the main roads on which he typically travelled. Bob grew up

on Long Island and worked in the family's successful fish wholesale business in New York City, supplying restaurants, shops and wholesalers with fresh fish. He was drafted into the U.S. army in 1965 and served in Saigon during the Vietnam war.

On **GEOFFREY'S** motion, which was seconded by **ARNOLD GORDON**, Bob was unanimously elected a member. Bob expressed his appreciation for having been elected and said he looked forward to his time with the group.



Bob Samuels

ARNOLD GORDON sadly reported that **LARRY REBAK** passed away last week in Palm Beach, Florida, at the age of 84. Larry also lived in Greenwich and was inducted to the RMA in September 2004, but has been too ill for the past couple of years to attend meetings. **ARNOLD** will give a remembrance at a future meeting.

ARNOLD urged members to give notice whether they will be attending the September 15 picnic, because a good head count is needed to avoid over-purchasing food and other items.

BOB BISHOP gave a memorial for **WILLIAM HOWARD SALTSMAN**, who died peacefully in his home on July 20, 2021, shortly after celebrating his 95th birthday. **BILL** enlisted in the Navy when he was 18, and he was honorably discharged in 1946. After receiving a B.S. in Business Administration from Kent State University and a J.D. from Ohio State University Law School, he spent the bulk of his career practicing law at Reid & Priest in New York City. Following his resignation as a partner at that firm he served as a legal consultant for U.S. Tobacco Co., spending much time in South America representing that client. **BILL** was predeceased by Mary Sue, his beloved wife of 65 years. He is survived by his three children and their families: Nancy Saltsman Carver, Ellen Saltsman, and Tom Saltsman. **BILL** was a loving and supportive father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. The family is planning a memorial service to celebrate the lives of **BILL** and Mary Sue on Saturday, October 23, at 2:00 p.m. in the Christ Church, Greenwich, Memorial Garden with a reception to follow. **BOB** shared memories of his nearly 50-year friendship with **BILL**. A moment of silence was observed. Rest in peace **BILL**.

JOHN FEBLES reported that in July there were a total of 778 Outside Hours and 469 Inside Hours, with **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** leading the way with 99 hours. Please continue using the link at the end of the CBB to report your hours. If you have any questions, please let **JOHN** know (203-550-5049).

JOHN CRAINE explained that the weather gods had required that the RMA Raft-up, which had been scheduled for August 12, be postponed until Thursday, August 26. All will rendezvous at the anchorage off Great Captain's Island. All participants must be vaccinated, and they should bring delectable edibles and frosty beverages. Those interested should contact **JOHN** (203-698-0118) or **BARRY RICHELSON** (203-637-5454).

PETE UHRY invited members to help spruce up Binney Park's gardens around the pond. Volunteers and park staff will be mulching and weeding at the park on August 21 from 9:00 am to noon. Meet at the bridge leading to the island on Arch Street. Wear work clothes and bring water, gloves, weeding tools and clippers.

ARNOLD GORDON reported that today's speaker will be Jim Knox, who will speak about "Saving Animals from Extinction: Tales of Species Recovery in Connecticut and Beyond."

HOLLISTER STURGES announced that next week's speaker (by Zoom) will be Robert Gallucci, former Dean of the Foreign Service School at Georgetown University and President of the MacArthur Foundation, who will address the foreign policy challenges facing the United States.

Treasurer **JEFF JUNKER** reports, "Dues should have been paid by June 30, 2021. As of August 11th, 165 members had paid their membership dues of \$100 for the new fiscal year which started May 1, 2021. Thanks for **ANDY HOLMES** for reaching out to eight members who signed up and paid for the Tennis League, but have not yet paid their membership dues. I will be sharing the list of 57 members who have not responded to the dues reminders in the CCB with the Membership Chair and select past and present officers after our August 11 meeting. Please save us all a lot of work by either bringing a check for \$100 made out to the RMA to the next meeting, or sending it to **JEFF** at 9 Tree Top Terrace, Greenwich, CT 06831."

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.

FUN AND GAMES

Golf: **PAUL CAMPION** reported that **PAT YUEN** had shot a personal best of 86, including a birdie. **TOM HEALY** also shot an 86 with a birdie. **JIM BOARDMAN** and **BART BARTHOLOMEW** also birdied. **PAUL** reminded everyone that next week's start would be late: 10:30 a.m. He also noted that the Griff plans to aerate greens on August 23, but that our members who prefer to avoid aeration days should note that our August 24 date is the backup date for aeration if there is rain on the 23rd.

Bridge: **JOHN FEBLES** reported the week's bridge scores: (1) **JOHN FEBLES**, 3170; (2) **JOE WATTS**, 2740; (3) **TONY COCCHI**, 2370.

Hearts: **DON CONWAY** reported that after **GRANT PERKINS** won the first game, **TOM HEALY** dominated play thereafter with multiple moon shots. **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** stated that we would be able to play both bridge and hearts at the Women's Club this afternoon, but that an agreement to extend the arrangement had not been reached.

Walkers and Talkers: **TAD LARRABEE** reported that last Thursday seven members of the group walked in the woods of the Babcock Preserve in north Greenwich. The park was enlarged a few years ago by a new parcel managed by the Greenwich Land Trust (GLT) and the group took a loop trail in that new area. The Town maps of the park are not up to par and the trails were very poorly marked, so the walkers decided that GLT stood for "Getting Lost with Tad"! In **TAD'S** defense, all found their way back to their cars, so all is well.

Human Interest: **TAD LARRABEE** noted that August 13 marks the 60th anniversary of the construction of the Berlin Wall, one of the hottest moments of the Cold War. **TAD** was an eyewitness to history unfolding, as he had been hitchhiking around Europe and happened to be staying at a youth hostel in Germany at the time. Upon hearing of the events that were unfolding, he headed towards (not away from!) Berlin, much to the surprise of an American military guard who had serious questions about the direction in which he was traveling. The fear at the time was that a military engagement was imminent. **TAD** recounted the less-than-hospitable reaction of the East German troops to a young

American taking pictures as the wall rose (apparently for fear that their faces would be captured, making them vulnerable to reprisals if there was a war and the East lost). He described the marshalling of military forces he saw in the East – large tank columns and troops with fixed bayonets. **TAD** also recalled meeting a German who hoped for war, saying that he wanted the opportunity to kill as many Russians as possible before he died, and showing **TAD** the arm that his Russian captors had mangled when he was a POW at the end of W.W. II. **TAD** also recalled the less intimidating economics of the time: His five weeks in Europe had cost him only about \$33, a very cheap fee to be present for so pivotal a development.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

ARNOLD GORDON introduced today's speaker, Jim Knox. Mr. Knox is the Curator of Education at Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo in Bridgeport and directs its Education and Wildlife Conservation programs. He has been an on-camera expert for many TV programs and currently is a science advisor for the Bruce Museum. Mr. Knox talked about the Species Survival Plan – an effort to protect the rarest animal species on the planet. He focused on several species specifically, including Black Rhinos, Amur (formerly "Siberian") tigers, the red wolf, the giant anteater (which actually prefers avocados to ants), and the Pink Floyd pistol shrimp (an inch-long creature whose ability to kill prey with a sonic blast was discovered when it wreaked havoc on a U.S. Navy acoustic array). He explained the steps being taken to protect these species, and the value to society of doing so.

Mr. Knox also talked about the other end of the spectrum: new species that are being discovered. He mentioned a species of frog recently discovered near Yankee Stadium that had been around for a long time but had gone unnoticed. And this was just one of the roughly 20,000 new species that are discovered each year.

In response to questions, Mr. Knox talked about the impact of climate change, noting the evidence that species had responded to warming by changing both the latitude and the altitude they frequented to find cooler climes. The video of Mr. Knox's talk may be accessed through the RMA website.

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: that was the late and much-missed **RICH LIMBACHER** at the bowling alley. **RICH** was a Melody Man and was RMA president from 2007-2008, and, according to **PETE**, had “one of the greatest senses of humor in the last 20 years.”



This week’s stumper: who are these two gents holding forth at a past RMA picnic?



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: next week’s CBB scribe will be →**JOE MANCINELLI**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB promptly to **JOE** at jlmanc@optonline.net.

TO ALL RMA MEMBERS: 2021-2022 dues are now overdue – deliver a check for \$100, made out to RMA, to **JEFF JUNKER**. Now! You can deliver your check to **JEFF** at the next meeting you attend, 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** on his new form: <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.

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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 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