

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**

VOLUME 69 NUMBER 5 August 18, 2021

SCRIBE: JOE MANCINELLI

"The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good."
- Samuel Johnson

The opening bell was sounded promptly at 9:45am by President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**. Without missing a beat, **ANDY HOLMES** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and then with a smooth segue, **JIM SANTORA**, launched into a lively medley of patriotic tunes on the keyboard.

HUMOR

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** provided a brief reminder regarding the upcoming Annual RMA Picnic scheduled for September 15th, and then turned to one of our resident humorists, **TOM HEALY**, for a joke, or in this case two jokes. His first witticism involved a wife who insisted on intimately sharing all her husband's daily experiences. She was ultimately disappointed with the "end" result. **TOM's** second tale featured a father providing his definition of "politics" to his young son. After witnessing certain household events, the little boy provided his own unique interpretation of "politics."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MICHAEL AMBROSINO requested a show of hands regarding participation in the upcoming "Wearing of the Green – Thank You Parade" that will be held on September 19th on Greenwich Ave. The response from the membership was positive and he said he would

follow up with further details. **MICHAEL** also explained that most of his time as President has been spent on securing a long-term location for the weekly RMA membership meetings. However, now that the meeting location has been addressed, he will be focused on obtaining additional volunteer support for internal RMA activities, such as projection duties, weekly scribes for the CBB and other support functions. He also announced that **ARNOLD GORDON** will be holding a Picnic Committee meeting on August 25th, in the Chapel.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR PETER STERN provided the following meeting stats: In-person attendance 73 and Zoom 5, for a total of 78 attendees. There was one guest, Don Hamilton, sponsored by **IRV PORTER**. For birthdays: **JOE WATTS**, 75, **ART DELMHORST**, 83, **BRUNO SCHRAGE**, 83, **BART BARTHOLOMEW**, 84, **ABBOTT JONES**, 87, **GRANT PERKINS**, 78, **RON MURRAY**, 87, **GENE SCHWARTZ**, 88, **TOM WEST**, 81, **ED BLOOM**, 92, and **TOM MCGUIRE**, 94. While no singing is currently allowed in the hall, all the birthday boys were treated to a Happy Birthday melody on the piano.

JEFF JUNKER's treasury update: We collected \$166 in cigar boxes located in the back of the meeting room, so thanks to the members for their participation in contributing the \$2 weekly meeting dues when they enter (or leave) the meeting. This new system has eliminated the need for disrupting the meeting by passing the box around as we used to do. Also, as of yesterday, 166 members had renewed their membership with the payment of their annual dues.

MICHAEL AMBROSINO informed us that **PETER UHRY** has RMA decals available. If anyone would like one see **PETER**. He also extended a much deserved thank you to **JACK WEIR** for all his support in providing a thorough and detailed review of recent agreements pertaining to RMA activities.

JOHN CRAINE reminded all that there is a new date of Thursday, August 26, for the Annual RMA Raftup. Plans are well underway, additional boats are always welcomed and it promises to be a day of friendly scuttlebutt, delectable edibles, frosty beverages, and beautiful surroundings, including Island Beach and Wee Captain Island.

PROGRAM

HOLLISTER STURGES noted that today we will be hearing from Mr. Robert Gallucci on "Major U.S. Foreign Policy Challenges."

Next week's speaker will be Page Knox for a discussion of "Alice Neel: People Come First," a comprehensive survey of over 100 paintings and works on paper by one of the twentieth century's most prolific figure painters. Page Knox is a contractual adjunct professor in the Art & History Department of Columbia University.

FUN AND GAMES

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** teased us with a new "Tai Chi Joint Oil" and is anxious to provide further details. Join **WILL** at 4:00pm Wednesday afternoons at the Greenwich Commons across from the Senior Center. Contact **WILL** at wdmorrison@gmail.com.

Hearts: **DON CONWAY** indicated that while the Hearts group was quite lively and loud, the Bridge group was suspended in a silence that was almost deadly. He could not accurately provide the Hearts scores since his notes only addressed first names and initials. Likewise, the Scribe was not able to decipher the scoring notes, but it appears that it was an enjoyable game.

Bridge: **TONY COCCHI** provided the numbers: **RON MURRY**, 2540, **JOHN FEBLES**, 2350, and **JOE WATTS**, 1840.

Walkers: **TAD LARRABEE** indicated last week's walk was cancelled due to bad weather.

Golf: **PAUL CAMPION** reported a pleasant August day with a surprising low turnout of thirteen members participating. Some random results: **GRAN BURGESS** had a solid 91, **MIKE ROSS** had a superb round with a lengthy putt of 16 ft. on hole #7. **BOB MORGAN** birdied #15 while also winning closest to the pin at 4' 3", awfully close! Longest Drive winner is still "unknown", but we are reviewing the video. Next week, same late start, 11:00 am. Be prepared for the fact that the GRIFF will be "aerating the greens" the day before, which some members of the RMA find objectionable!!! MAKE SURE you are comfortable with signing up for play on Tuesday.

**** ONE DISTURBING NOTE ****

We had a handful of "No Shows" which is unusual, and the GRIFF is not pleased. Therefore, they have penalized the RMA one tee-time slot which displeased the golf committee. Please, when you "sign up", make sure that you are going to be there at Tee-Time!

Pickleball: **PAT MacCARTHY** said there was a good turnout for pickleball. It is played on Mondays and Thursdays at 9:00 am at Christiano Field. Once tennis begins in September, pickleball will most likely be going down to one day a week.

TV SERIES REVIEW

We were treated to a review of the Amazon Prime Series *The Restaurant* by **HOLLISTER STURGES**. Similar to a modern-day *Downton Abbey* with Swedish and English subtitles, it takes place in Stockholm just after World War II ends and goes into the early '70s. A family story, spanning two generations, with well-defined characters, romance, love, greed, intrigue and betrayal, and ambition.

The superb photography of 20th century Stockholm is combined with lots of plots and subplots, impossible love affairs, star-crossed lovers, bitter family rivalry, child custody disputes, class struggle, marital problems, even petty spats in the kitchen. Not to be overlooked are contemporary issues and conflicts that include immigration, child custody challenges, labor disputes, gay rights, old age, and illness. Certainly, a show to be placed on your TV watchlist! (Ed. note: *The Restaurant* is available on several streaming channels, including Sundance Now, AMC+, and DirecTV. Amazon Prime requires a separate subscription to Sundance Now or AMC+. Episodes are also available for purchase on Amazon and elsewhere.)



TODAY'S SPEAKER

HOLLISTER STURGES introduced Today's Speaker, Dr. Robert Gallucci. Robert Gallucci is an American diplomat and Distinguished Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy at Georgetown University. He has held teaching posts at Swarthmore College, Johns Hopkins University and Georgetown University. He received fellowships from Harvard University and the Brookings Institution, among others. The discussion today focused on "Major U.S. Foreign Policy Challenges." The discussion was skillfully facilitated by **HOLLISTER** using an interview format. Professor Gallucci provided comments on a wide range of foreign policy topics including current Biden administration foreign policy aspirations, challenges posed by China, Russia, and Afghanistan, as well as the political climate in America and its impact on foreign policy.

In general, Robert Gallucci expressed his relief to see Joe Biden elected as President of the United States. He knew Biden as a Senator and as Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and he feels Biden is steeped in the tradition of American foreign policy. President Trump was innocent in a lot of the assumptions that people make about the foundations of American foreign policy such as the importance of alliances and our standing as a voice of reason or a moral authority in the international scene. He gives President Biden high marks in terms of his declaratory policies for issues that affect the American people at home and how they will affect our foreign policy.

HOLLISTER introduced one topic that was very timely for today's presentation, the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Question: Regarding our withdrawal from Afghanistan, was it the right policy or flawed execution?

Professor Gallucci: America has been in Afghanistan since 2001, and actually before that in a covert manner. Getting out of Afghanistan was not a sudden decision, we have been attempting to get out for ten years and there was great enthusiasm for that decision. The Taliban really came back to Afghanistan before the US left. That was because there were limits to American training and cultural change that can be imposed on a country. We have

seen a growth in American objectives, considering that our original mission was to get Osama Bin Ladin. However, many things have happened since 2001 and our objectives have been modified over the years. It is not in America's interest to stay there, and while we can leave some troops behind, as we have done in Europe, Korea, and Japan, we attempted to make a transition to utilize Afghani military to maintain order. The recent catastrophic imagery will hurt us, what is going to happen to those left on the ground is a major question. Laying all this history at Biden's feet is unfair, however what has just happened, and the terrible images created, are his responsibility. This was poor execution to say the least. However, fundamentally, the basic issue of withdrawal is the right decision. We would only continue to remain in Afghanistan if the US leadership and its people are willing to expend our blood and treasure to preserve a way of life that cannot be preserved without our continued presence.

Professor Gallucci responded an array of foreign policy topics, providing insightful and informative opinions. The discussion was followed by questions and answers from the in-person audience as well as the zoom audience.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Page Knox, for a discussion of "Alice Neel: People Come First." a comprehensive survey of over 100 paintings and works on paper by one of the twentieth century's most prolific figure painters.

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: The two members holding forth at a past RMA picnic (date unknown) are identified by **PETE** as none other than **BOB BISHOP** and **JOHN CRAINE**.



Does anyone else have pictures from the RMA's past that they can submit to be published here?

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 overdue! If you have not paid, please 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. Don't create work for the volunteers who have to chase you down!

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.

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc. · 37 Lafayette Place · Greenwich, CT 06830 · USA. Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org.

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