

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 6 August 25, 2021

SCRIBE: ARNOLD J. GORDON

"Some of the most insecure things in the world are called securities. People who play the market are often led astray by false profits" - Henny Youngman

At 9:43am, President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** began corralling the wild herd for a 9:45 start. **BILL WIGGIN** led us in the pledge, followed by a jaunty performance on the keyboard by **BOB MORGAN** of "My Country Tis of Thee." El Presidente reminded everyone that church policy still forbade singing and required masking everywhere indoors. **MICHAEL** mentioned that **TAD LARRABEE** was Mentor for the day.

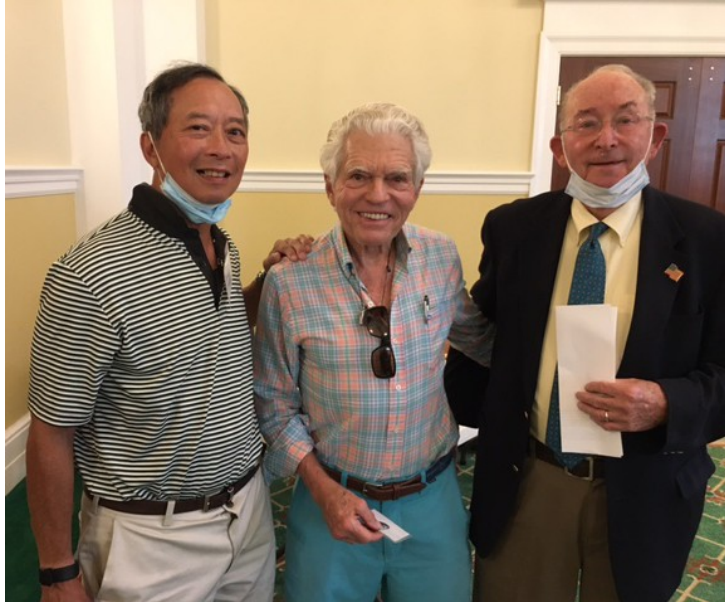
Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** opined that the best news of the week was his grandson's wedding held just outside Chicago this past weekend. He then asked for more volunteers to help with the September 15 picnic. His appeal was successful; two members approached him at the break with their gladhands. Many thanks to **JIM DEAN** and **TONY FITZPATRICK**. **BOB LUCE** then sauntered to the stage to relate a story about a blond woman who proudly announced she was pregnant with twins. How did she know? She found out at Sam's Club, but **BOB** refused to reveal what happened next (maybe next week, we will hear the rest of the story!).

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

President **MIKE** reported on several ongoing issues.

- The church has agreed to an open-ended agreement for us to continue meeting in the Social Hall.
- Membership dues are overdue; thus far 177 have paid but 45 seem to have “forgotten” to send in their checks; **MICHAEL** appealed to them to please ante up. Either hand deliver a check to **JEFF JUNKER** at the September 1st meeting, or mail a check to him at 9 Treetop Terrace, Greenwich, CT 06831.
- **MICHAEL** also reminded everyone to deposit \$2 in the cigar box when entering the Social Hall.
- One of the Board’s current goals is to launch a campaign for recruiting new members; a flier will be prepared for circulation and posting at many places in the area including churches, synagogues, and other public places. **MIKE** would welcome input from members with experience in marketing on the best positioning for this outreach.
- On behalf of **TIM BROOKS**, CBB Editor, he called for more volunteers to join the scribe fraternity.
- Hearts and Bridge players are still able to play at the Greenwich Women’s Club without paying a fee.
- The Greenwich Police Department will hold an antique car show on Saturday, August 28, at Town Hall.
(see <https://greenwichfreepress.com/around-town/greenwich-police-department-car-show-set-for-saturday-august-28-165518/>).
- A big parade that will celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Greenwich Police Department and honor Greenwich Hospital Staff, First Responders, and Essential Workers who helped us through the pandemic will be held on Saturday, September 19th. It promises to be a huge event; the RMA has been invited to participate.
More details will follow, but see this for now:
<https://www.greenwichsentinel.com/event/wearing-of-the-greenwich-thank-you-parade-and-tattoo/>

Membership: **PETER STERN** had us wish **JIM BUTLER**, 79, happy birthday. There were 75 men in the room and another seven looking in via Zoom. **ERF PORTER** nominated Don Hamilton for membership, seconded by **PAT YUEN**. Don was approved unanimously. **DON** was a successful investor and a hedge fund pioneer and was a member of the RTM for several years. He enjoys skiing, racket sports, music, the arts and other interests as a retiree. Welcome **DON** (and your wife, Marcia).



Don Hamilton (center), with sponsors Pat Yuen (l) and Erf Porter (r)

Visiting: MICHAEL AMBROSINO welcomed back **LEN CARUSI** after his successful surgery. **MICHAEL** is still looking for someone to replace him for the visiting function. If interested, write to him, and everyone please let **MICHAEL** know if any of our members are ill or hospitalized (brooklynoil@yahoo.com).

JOHN CRAINE reported that the annual RMA Raft-Up, scheduled for August 26th, has been postponed to Thursday, September 9th due to the extremely hot and humid weather forecast. The event will begin at noon with a rendezvous at the Great Captain's Island anchorage. Sail and power boats are welcome with boaters and non-boaters. Several vessels have already been committed. All participants must be vaccinated. Bring edibles and beverages. If interested, contact **BARRY RICHELSON** (203-637-5454) or **JOHN** (203-698-0118).

Today's talk was described by **HOLLISTER STURGES**. Page Knox, who has appeared several times before, will talk about a fascinating 20th century female artist, Alice Neel, whose works were the subject of a recently completed, highly successful exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum. See details below. He also mentioned next week's speaker, **DAVID ALAN RICHARDS**, an RMA member and a top real estate lawyer, who will talk on "Creation of the Highline: New York City's Park in the Sky." In closing, **HOLLISTER** mentioned that he encourages members to suggest future speakers, and to volunteer for the Program Committee.

FUN AND GAMES

Pickleball: We are in a pickle – no report.

Walkers & Talkers: Due to the brutally hot and humid weather last Thursday, the walkers stayed home. Tomorrow, the 26th, looks like more of the same, so walk around the house (indoors, of course).

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** invited everyone to try his magic remedy, Joint Oil, for which he is seeking regulatory approval from the RMA. Meet 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 (wdmorrison@gmail.com). There are classes in Old Greenwich: Tuesdays at 9:00am and Thursdays 4:00pm at the First Congregational Church. Be sure to let **WILL** know if you intend to stop by. For more information about Tai Chi visit: experiencetaichi.org.

Golf: **PAUL CAMPION** gave another entertaining report but first posed a quiz: what is the origin of the word “fore” as used on the golf course? If interested, find the answer(s) here: <https://www.scottishgolfhistory.org/origin-of-golf-terms/fore/>.

On a very humid and hot Tuesday, August 24th, there were only 10 players. **TONY FITZPATRICK** scored an 86 with a birdie on the 15th. Our newest member (as of today), **DON HAMILTON**, had his exercise by carrying his bag for the entire 18 holes. **JOE MANCINELLI** won the “Sand Pail Award” after landing in every sand trap on the course! Tee time next week will be 10 am.

Bridge: **RON MURRAY** shuffled to the lectern to tell us the top scores for August 18: **RON**, 3160, **JOE WATTS**, 3100, and **TONY COCCHI**, 2900.

Hearts: **TOM HEALY** reported that on August 18th, eight gamers played at two tables. Winners at table one were **JACK SWEGER** and **JOHN KAVANAGH**; moonshots were had by **JACK, TOM** and **JOHN** (2). Winners at table two were **PETER BERG** and **JOE DOWLING** with moonshots by **JOHN KNIGHT** and **PETER**.

HUMAN INTEREST TALES AND OTHER DIVERSIONS

While **TIM BROOKS** was deleting spam email recently, he came across a genuine and very interesting site that caters to book lovers: www.shepherd.com. As **TIM** related, it was launched recently by an entrepreneur, Ben Fox, who had founded nine successful web hosting and design firms. Ben promised to promote a book that **TIM** had recently published in exchange for his recommending five books on his topic of special interest. The site is based on the fact that while places like Amazon are great for one-click buying, the recommendations they make are typically generated by algorithms that assume you want something else exactly like what you recently looked at. In other words, they keep you in your lane. In a bookstore or library, on the other hand, you might be exposed to something quite different, which nevertheless catches your eye. And maybe, just maybe, exposes you to a different take on that subject.

Shepherd.com does not sell books, only recommends them. The approach is that Ben and his staff solicit established authors, people who know their field, to recommend five other good books in that field, by other authors, and briefly give the reasons why. In return he will list the recommending author's book. For some examples, see the attached slides.

To see slides [CLICK HERE](#)

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

SPEAKER PROGRAM

HOLLISTER STURGES introduced Page Knox, adjunct professor in the Art History Department of Columbia University and a lecturer and educator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She is also highly active in leading trips for "Travel with the Met," and is scheduled to conduct tours in Rome, Florence, Malta, and the Prado in Madrid. This is the fifth time Page has spoken to the RMA. She reviewed the life and times of Alice Neel, until fairly recently a relatively unrecognized 20th century female artist who was born in 1900 and died in 1984. As a basis for her talk, Page used the recently completed, highly

successful Neel exhibit at the Met, the first retrospective of her work in 20 years. The exhibit was divided into several categories of her work: Counterculture, The Human Comedy, Motherhood, and Abstracts, demonstrating the depth and breadth of her painting ability. The theme of the show is best expressed by Neel herself in this quote from 1950: “For me, the people come first. I have tried to assert the dignity and eternal importance of the human being.”

Throughout her career, Neel focused on the unrepresented young and old people who were part of the counterculture, including activists for racial equity and women’s’ rights. She had an uncanny ability to get inside her subjects’ psyche through her talkative nature and sense of humor, which led to very expressive and revealing portraits. A half-nude painting of Andy Warhol, a notoriously private man, is one example of her tenacity. For an example of her bright and comedic personality, you can watch this video of her appearance on the Johnny Carson TV show about 40 years ago.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nAvVA9-P00E>

Neel attended the Philadelphia School of Design for Women in 1925-1926 near the city of her birth, after which she honed her skills at the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts. Her personal life was difficult due in part to some poor choices in relationships with men. She had a somewhat tragic life, as she dealt with depression, sexism, extreme poverty (was on welfare for a while), fraught relationships and got swept up in the radical intellectual circles of the 20th century. Married as a young woman to a Cuban, Carlos Enriquez, from a wealthy family, she gave birth to a girl while in Havana. His family refused to support them in their desire to move to Paris – the thing to do in those days for budding artists. Instead, they moved to the Bronx in 1927 where she painted at a studio outside her home, while Carlos was left to care for their one-year-old daughter. Sadly, the child died from diphtheria. After giving birth to a second daughter, Carlos took the baby to Cuba without Alice, who saw the child only two more times in her life. The experience devastated Alice, leading to attempted suicide and institutional recuperation for 18 months. In 1932, she moved to Greenwich village where she became active in the communist and socialist community, participating in many demonstrations against the Nazis and capitalism; the FBI maintained a file on her during the McCarthy era. She lived with Kenneth Doolittle, a heroin addict. In December 1934 in a rage, he burned more than three hundred of Neel’s drawings

and watercolors and slashed more than fifty oil paintings at their apartment on Cornelia Street. Neel's painting of Isabetta, her second daughter, was slashed beyond repair.

She then relocated to Spanish Harlem in 1938, a rare white woman within the black community who befriended children and adults alike, who became her subjects. She was then living with her lover, Puerto Rican nightclub singer and guitarist José Santiago Negróna, with whom she gave birth to two sons, Richard and Hartley, who as adults kept their mother's legacy alive and managed her estate. Although in her early years as a painter her work was regarded as retrograde against the background of the newest artists, such as Matisse and Picasso, it is now considered radical. Neel painted herself in her eightieth year of life, seated on a chair in her studio. She presented herself fully nude in a totally revealing manner as she exposed her saggy breasts and belly for everyone to see. In spite of her challenging and difficult life, she has left behind a body of wonderful art that captures the human spirit.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

DAVID ALAN RICHARDS, a retired Manhattan real estate lawyer, who represented the railroads Conrail and CSX in their long but successful effort to donate the High Line to New York City in the creation of a public park, will describe "Creation of the Highline: New York City's Park in the Sky," the City's most popular tourist attraction.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Past President **PETE UHRY** has asked that we include a few "historical" RMA pictures, with a question of the week. The next few honor veterans who were RMA members. Who are these two? The one on the left, as can be seen, served on the USS Intrepid. Answer next week.



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 →**AV RIVEL**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB promptly to **AV** at av@rivels.org.

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: The CBB Team works 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 if you are interested in supporting this continuing effort.

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 – brooklynol@yahoo.com
Tuesdays	Various tee times	RMA Golf, “The Griff Golf Course,” Greenwich	Paul Champion – paulchampion1@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