

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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"I Wasted time and now time doth waste me" - Shakespeare-Richard II



President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** took his bell to the back of the hall in hopes of encouraging people to move forward to start the meeting. It didn't help, and the meeting started at 9:47--give or take. Pledge leader **JOHN KNIGHT** led smartly with a very sharp "about face" to the flag.

Pianist and house musicologist **GEORGE UBOGY** prefaced his performance by explaining that in honor of coming Labor Day and Veterans' Day (remember when it was called Armistice Day?), he would play two labor songs "Union Maid" and "Solidarity Forever." "Solidarity Forever's" lyrics are strictly "Union" but the music is "Battle Hymn of the Republic", befitting Veterans' Day. "Union Maid" uses the tune of a 1907 popular song, "Red Wing."



ANNOUNCEMENTS

President **AMBROSINO** reported:

- There was no Visiting to report.
- Some members have still not paid their annual dues, c'mon fellas, get with it.

- Hearts and Bridge players were well ensconced at the Women’s Club for their weekly games.
- The need for volunteers to serve the RMA continues; he praised the following members for recently volunteering for RMA duty: **TONY COCCHI, JOHN KAVANAGH, BOB SAMUELS, TONY FITZPATRICK** and **JIM DEAN**.
- The Town is planning a big parade down Greenwich Avenue on September 19th to honor the GPD, Greenwich Hospital staff and other First Responders and essential workers. RMA has been invited to participate. Details as they become available.
- Call-A-Ride is looking for drivers. See **MICHAEL, JEFF JUNKER** or **JOHN FEBLES** for more information.

JOHN CRAINE gave an update on the Raft-up, which has now been rescheduled for Thursday September 9. **JOHN** guaranteed good weather. Participants must be vaccinated. For more information or to sign up contact **JOHN** at 203-698-0118 or **BARRY RICHELSON** at 203-637-5454.

Breaking with traditional order, the President then called on **PETER STERN** to give the membership report. Attendance was: in-house, 70, on Zoom, 10, for a total of 80. There was one guest, Steve Hatch, a guest of **ERF PORTER**. A special in-person “welcome back” was extended to **PETE JUNIUS, BILLY LONDON, LARRY POSNER, DON SARGEANT,** and **LOU TROVATO**. Returnees were **PETER ORBANOWSKI**, from Switzerland, **AV RIVEL**, from North-west France, and **MIKE SMITH**, from New Jersey.



Birthdays: **JOE ANGLAND, 72, BRIAN MAHONEY, 74, BARRY RICHELSON, 75, RON CANTWELL, 78, RUSS HARDEN, 79, SAM MARASSO, 82, MIKE SMITH, 82.**
Happy Natal Day, kids.

Batting out of turn this week only, **ARNOLD GORDON** asked the audience who had received a covid-19 vaccine booster and only two members raised their hands. When asked who would like to obtain the booster shot, virtually all the rest of the group did. He then shared his experience on having been rejected for a shot at one Greenwich CVS location but tried again at the Riverside, CT, location off Exit 5 of I95 and was successful. There are many places that administer the vaccine: <https://covidvaccinefinder.ct.gov/?query=06830>.

It seems that in most local CVS locations, only the Moderna vaccine is available, whereas the Pfizer product can be had at Walgreens. One can register online or by telephone for both chains: www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine and www.walgreens.com/topic/promotion/covid-vaccine.jsp. Another place that might accommodate you is Stamford Health at 292 Long Ridge Rd. (203-276-7300) or 22 5th Street, Stamford (475-241-0740).

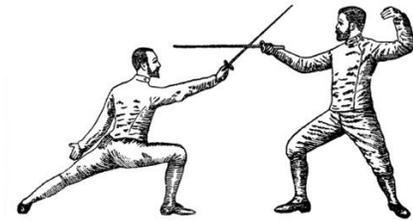
It is also possible to receive the vaccination by walk-in. Be sure you have your Medicare card and vaccination card. (Ed. note: I walked in to the Riverside CVS Wednesday afternoon after the meeting and received the Moderna shot with no problems; the nurse advised another customer, who needed Pfizer, to go the nearby Walgreens.)

ARNOLD then introduced **AV RIVEL**, who told two knee-slappers about what happens after you pass through the pearly gates.



PROGRAM NOTES

HOLLISTER STURGES encouraged all to stay to hear our own member **DAVID ALAN RICHARDS** who will talk about “Creation of the High Line: New York City’s Park in the Sky.” **BOB MEANEY** gave a heads’ up on next week’s speaker, Curtis H. Martin, Ph.D. who will enlighten us about “American Whaling in the Age of Sail.” Dr. Martin, a well credentialed academic, will discuss the U.S. whaling industry from the 17th to the early 20th century, including its historical development and economic importance. In doing so he will discuss the dangers inherent in whaling; species hunted, products sold, and design of the ships and the life of the crews. Finally, Dr. Martin will address the ultimate decline of the industry and how it impacted New England.



THE SPORTS PAGE

Pickleball – **PAT MCCARTHY** reported “We play pickleball every Monday and Thursday 9-11:00 am. 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 that for reasons unclear to this ungolfered person, there were no scores to report. Next week's tee time is 8:00 am. Sign-up sheets for the next two weeks were on the bulletin board.

Tai Chi - **WILL MORRISON** is out-of-town.

Walkers -**TAD LARRABEE** reported that Walker/Talkers were rained out for the fourth week in a row. Stay tuned for this week's plan. (Note: a walk was later confirmed for Thursday.)

Bridge – Only three people showed up last week so they didn't play, and there are no scores.

Hearts - **DON CONWAY** dealt up: Table one winners were **PETER BERG** (6) and **JIM DEAN** (10). Table two winners were **DON CONWAY** (2) and **JACK SWEGER** (1). **CONWAY** was on his way to win number three when time ran out. Moonshots: **JOHN KAVANAGH** (2), **TOM HEALY**, **JACK SWEGER**, **PETER BERG**—one each

A HUMAN INTEREST STORY

To cap off the formal meeting, **PETER BERG** presented a human-interest story based on his experience of being born on February 29th, and only having a birthday every four years. He explained that he and other “Leaplings” compensate by celebrating a “half birthday” six months after their actual birthday, his being August 29. Belated happy half-birthday **PETER**.

There are other folks who celebrate half-birthdays, among them folks who are born on a holiday, and the holiday overwhelms the fact that their birthday is also Christmas or Independence Day etc., school kids whose birthdays fall during summer break, kids who live in states where they can legally drive at age 16½, and more.

This is such a prevalent “problem” that Hallmark has cards for half-birthdays viz “Haffy Birthday.”

It was a fun and interesting presentation. Thank you, **PETER**.



TODAY'S SPEAKER

HOLLISTER STURGES introduced our member **DAVID ALAN RICHARDS** whose talk was titled “Creation of the High Line: New York City’s Park in the Sky.”

RICHARDS started by informing the group that the High Line is the most popular tourist attraction in New York City, surpassing the number of visitors that visit the Statue of Liberty or the Metropolitan Museum of Art. What is it and how did it get there?

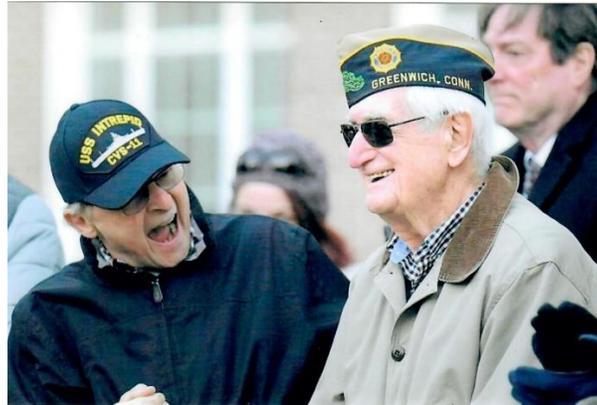
It is now a 1 ½ mile long park sitting 30 feet above the city that winds between and through buildings on its way. It used to be working railroad tracks that picked up and delivered freight to the buildings it serviced and connected to the main lines. It was built in the early 1930’s in order to eliminate the train traffic at street level. As the railroad industry grew and consolidated, the name of the railroad that ran and maintained the line changed. The last freight train ran on the high line in 1988. The question was then, tear it down or

repurpose? It took 26 years, until 2014, to make the decisions, get the permits and financing arranged and physically prepare the first section to be opened to the public.

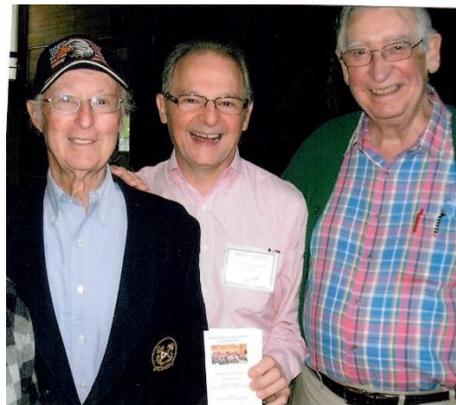
Our speaker represented the CSX railroad company (the owner-operator of the high line in 1988) through the legal and political morass that ensued. It was interesting history that included a mini-seminar in New York City real estate law. A spirited RMA Q&A followed.

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. Shown last week were former RMA President Ralph Viggiano, who served on the USS Intrepid, and Vin Massi, who joined the Navy late in WWII.



This week we have three more. Who are these vets?



If anyone else has pictures from the RMA’s past feel free to submit them to be published here.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: next week's CBB scribe will be →**FRANK SCARPA**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB promptly to **FRANK** at frankjscarpa@gmail.com.

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 being part of 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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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