

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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"Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself." - Max Ehrmann

Pianist **JIM SANTORA** warmed us up with intonations of "The Moonlight Sonata" and "Take Five" before President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** called the meeting to order at 9:43. **DON CONWAY** then eased into leading us in the Pledge. **JIM** then returned to the scene with a piano rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** reminded everyone about the excellent facilities and free programs available through the Greenwich Historical Society and the Bush-Holley House. Examples include an outdoor jazz concert on September 16 at 6:30 pm (bring a picnic) and the Tavern Garden Markets every other Wednesday at 10 am (next one September 22). For details, see <https://greenwichhistory.org/>. Many other events may be found at <https://ingreenwichct.com/calendar>.

The RMA Annual Picnic will take place next Wednesday, the 15th, at Greenwich Point, where we will gather for mirth, meal and mayhem. The weather forecast is favorable. Lots of prizes and cash to be won, so save your shekels for tickets... Please complete the questionnaire and RSVP that you should have received by email. As of this transmission, 45 members, 24 guests and 1 widow have signed up. If you have not received the announcement, please contact **ARNOLD** at ajgordo@verizon.net or 203-340-9336. Proof of vaccination must be provided for every attendee. (Members who are already registered for

our regular meetings are already in our vaccination database, but others will have to display proof of vaccination.)

ARNOLD served as jokester this week, and started with a mini-barrage from his array of groaners. Then he provided an anecdote about the humorist Leo Rosten and his take on the background of Jewish humor--providing us with a fine example of a revenge story about an anti-Semitic bully.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visiting: MICHAEL AMBROSINO explained that his announcements might occasionally be constrained by privacy concerns. That said, he was happy to announce that there was nothing to report this week.

MICHAEL again reminded us to put our \$2.00 contributions into the Cigar Box at the back of the Parish Hall. He also filled in for the Treasurers report, noting that 197 members have paid their dues. **JEFF JUNKER** is working on 12 others who are in arrears.

Parade: MICHAEL reminded us that a parade in honor of the 125th anniversary of the Greenwich Police Department will take place at 12:30 on Sunday, the 19th, and proceed down Greenwich Avenue. We hope to have a good showing of RMA members marching together.

Membership: PETER STERN reports 71 attending in person and seven more via Zoom. He shouted out a special "welcome back" to "Mr. Hearts", **JACK SWEGER**, and another to **RICK HOLTZ**, who has returned (again) from Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Florida. **BIRTHDAYS: PETER** noted that **FRED GOODSTEIN** has turned 74, **JERRY SCHWENDEMANN** attained 82, and **ED PARKER** reached 76. **JIM SANTORA** provided the musical congratulations.

TOM HEALY announced that Belmont Racetrack has confirmed availability of its private Belmont Room on Thursday, October 14. A minimum of 30 attendees will be required. The plan is to depart by bus from St. Catherine's Church at 10:30. The fee is \$105, and a sumptuous buffet lunch is included. Attendance will have to be finalized by this Thursday, the 9th.

Raftup: **BARRY RICHELSON** reported that the Raftup has had to be cancelled on account of weather.

Romeo Lunch: **DON ROTZIEN** noted that the next ROMEO lunch will be held on Thursday, October 7 at noon behind the main concession stand at Greenwich Point. This will be a "Bring Your Own Lunch" event. Bring your mask and beach pass. If you have no beach pass, contact **TONY COCCHI** at anthony.cocchi@lehman.cuny.edu for a one-day pass. He will have them available at the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center at 11:30 on the day of. Any additional questions, contact **DON** at dsrotzien@gmail.com

JOE DOWLING noted that he is now a Credentialed Referee for the National Pickleball Association. (He is actually the New England Ambassador for the organization.) He is looking for a volunteer to join him in this endeavor.

Hats: **PETER UHRY** has more RMA hats available for \$14 each--ideal for wearing in the Parade. He is looking to acquire more RMA bumper stickers.

GAMES AND SPORTS

Pickleball: **MARK GEIMER** informed us that **PAT MacCARTHY** is now heading up our pickleball group. About eight men have been showing up on Mondays and Thursdays, and all have been accommodated.

Hearts: **JACK SWEGER** reported on two tables with eight players. At table #1, **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** and **JACK SWEGER** each won one game. Moon shots were completed by **TOM HEALY** and **JACK SWEGER**. At table #2. **PETER BERG** won two games and **JOHN KNIGHT** won one. Moon shots were accomplished by **PETER BERG, JOE DOWLING** and **JOHN KNIGHT**. Music was provided by "The Ambrosino Recording Company". Next week's captain is **DON CONWAY**.

Walkers and Talkers: **TAD LARRABEE** reported that six walkers showed up for a Thursday walk, despite Ida, and they had a good view of the rushing waters in the Mianus River Natural Park. This week's walk may take place at Cos Cob Park.

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON**, back from Breckenridge, is getting the TC Feel Good Society back together this afternoon at 4.

Schooner Trip: **DON CONWAY** is trying to organize a schooner trip, which will leave for the Sound on October 1. The cost would be \$45 per person. He asks those interested to contact him.

Golf: **PAUL CAMPION** reported on a beautiful early fall day. The only submitted score was an 88 for **BART BARTHOLOMEW**. **PAT YUEN** achieved both the longest drive on #17 and closest to the pin on #7. Closest to the pin on #15 was **MIKE SMITH**. **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** made a reputed 50-foot birdie putt on #15, and **JIM BOARDMAN** had a lengthy chip in. Next week's tee times will start at 8:30.

Human Interest: **JIM FISHBEIN** entertained us with a planetary quiz, replete with excellent photographs.

Speakers: **BOB MEANY** previewed Dr. Curtis Martin, who will speak to us today on "American Whaling in the Age of Sail". There will be no speaker next week on account of the picnic. **GEORGE UBOGY** previewed the September 22 speaker, Stuart Malina, who is a candidate for the conductor of the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra.

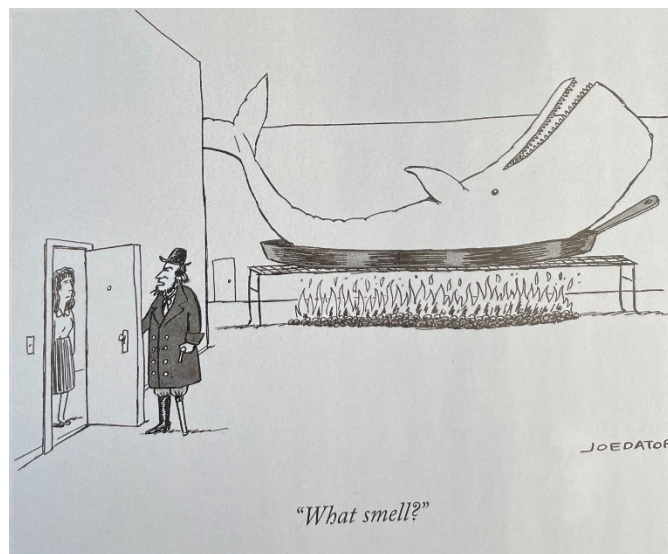
TODAY'S SPEAKER

BOB MEANY introduced Dr. Curtis Martin, who retired from Merrimack College in 2012. Dr. Martin is a graduate of Harvard and obtained his Doctorate from Tufts. He speaks to us on the topic "American Whaling in the Age of Sail", one of his post-retirement scholarly pursuits.

The whaling "industry" in America dates back to Colonial times and extended into the post World War I period of the early '20s. The heyday was in the mid 19th century, when it was the fifth most important industry and the third most important in New England. Whale oil was the central "product", and it was of international importance both for lighting and lubrication. Baleen, obtained from the mouths of non-toothed whales, was an important if secondary by-product--used where we might now use plastics or spring steel--e.g. womens corsets, umbrellas and canes. A momentous change for the industry was the construction

of sailing ships that were able to not only capture and kill but also "process" the animal by-products while still at sea. Even though there were refining plants on shore, the whale blubber was rendered, boiled into oil and stored in barrels aboard ships. At its peak, the industry employed 70,000 people. Many of the important whaling centers were along the New England Coast. (New Bedford was prominent, but Hartford may have been the fourth largest.)

Dr. Martin provided and illustrated the details of life aboard a whaling ship--the actual harpooning and killing of the whales, the on-board butchering and rendering of the blubber and other by products. He provided a thorough picture of the sailor's life, living quarters, diet and hazardous duty. Voyages in the late 19th Century could last up to five years. After the Civil War, whaling declined--mainly on account of the discovery of petroleum. The California Gold Rush also led to a decline in available crew members, who often abandoned their ships in California ports in search of easier fortune.

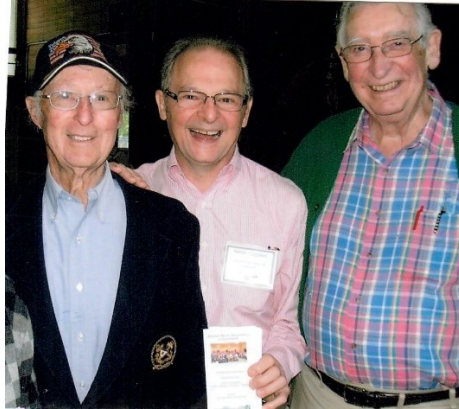


SPECIAL FEATURE

Past President **PETE UHRY** has asked that we include a few "historical" RMA pictures, with a question of the week. Some honor veterans who were RMA members.

Shown last week were Chuck Standard, Ralph Viggiano, and Rich Limbacher. Chuck (I) was engaged in battles in the Pacific, and served on the USS Yorktown. Ralph (c) served on the

USS Intrepid. Rich (r) joined the Air Force in 1950 during the Korean Conflict and served in an Air Sea Rescue Squadron in Canada.



This week we have one final picture. Who are these two, and what are they celebrating? (Look closely.)



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

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: Scribe for the next meeting, which will be on September 22, will be →ED FARRELL←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB promptly to ED at ejf1038r@gmail.com.

TO YOU-KNOW-WHO-YOU-ARE: 2021-22 dues are overdue! Those few laggards who 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.

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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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