

# CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



[www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org)

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**SCRIBE: ED FARRELL**

*"We are here on earth to do good unto others. What the others are here for, I have no idea."*  
- W.H. Auden

President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** opened the meeting by introducing **DON CONWAY** to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. **MICHAEL** then introduced **BOB MORGAN**, who announced we now have permission to again sing at our meetings, as long as we wear masks. With **JIM SANTORA** on the piano, **BOB** led us in singing "God Bless America," "It's a Grand Night for Singing," and "Blue Skies."

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** reported that there were about 130 people at the picnic on September 15, including six widows of former members. As **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** promised, the weather was sunny and warm. Games were played, separate male and female winners were rewarded with wine, and a catered meal was provided and served by Garden Catering of Old Greenwich. Unfortunately, we ran out of food items before everyone could have their fill, even though the order was for 140 people. The caterer apologized and discounted the bill. The revelers were treated to two energetic lip sync performances by **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** and his quartet of singer-dancers. He thanked the approximately 20 members who helped plan, set-up, and run the picnic for their great work. More details and suggestions will be provided in a full report to the Board and for future picnic organizers. **ARNOLD** mentioned that the highlight of the picnic for him

was in winning the Corn Hole competition by sinking seven out of 12 tosses! He is considering turning pro. (See below for some pictures)

**ARNOLD** then welcomed to the mic, fresh from his Oscar-worthy performance at the picnic with the lip-syncers, **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN**, who told a story of a duck whose death was confirmed by a real cat scan (meow) and a real Lab (retriever) test. **JERRY** then told of a generous old lady, who donated her veterinarian son's cat house receipts to the church.

**MICHAEL AMBROSINO** noted a positive response to his call for volunteers for various committees, but reiterated his call for a member(s) to chair the Public Relations Committee. **MICHAEL** thanked the 15 members who participated in the Greenwich Police Dept. parade on September 19<sup>th</sup>, and noted the above-and-beyond contribution of **BOB BISHOP**. **MICHAEL** also noted that, henceforth, members arriving at our meetings prior to 9:00 am must use the kitchen entrance to enter. Members arriving at 9:00 am or later will continue to use the lobby door. He also noted that, except for a speaker-reserved parking space and the one handicap space, members are prohibited from using the church parking spaces.

**BRUCE PANTANO** wants to alert fellow MAC computer users of a serious security vulnerability that has been identified for MAC computers. A patch is available, and all MAC users should install it.

**JOE MANCINELLI** reminded all of the **November 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Luncheon** at the Tamarack CC. He noted he will soon be looking for volunteers to help with arrangements, as well as table captains. He also noted that Tamarack will be in compliance with all state and local Covid-19 restrictions, and that proof of vaccination will be required.

**JOHN FEBLES** announced that Abilis is holding a walk/run event at Greenwich Point on Sunday, October 17, from 7:30 am until 4:00 pm. Volunteers are needed. For further information or to volunteer please contact Donna Krausman at [krausman@abilis.us](mailto:krausman@abilis.us).

## REPORTS

Visiting: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** announced that **GERRY GIBIAN** was hospitalized for nine days at Greenwich Hospital fighting pneumonia, and is at home continuing his recovery. He

welcomes calls and/or emails. **ERF PORTER** suffered a stroke two weeks ago that has adversely affected his sight. **ERF's** wife recently broke an ankle. Keep both in your thoughts.

**Membership: PETER STERN** presented the following report:

1. Attendance: 68      Guests: 1  
Zoom: 11  
Total: 79 members

2. Birthdays:

GERHARD	PETER	74
JIM	SANTORA	80
JOHN	TONER	75
JOE	BOLDT	76
JERRY	STINSON	74
CARL	WHITE	73
STEVE	LEIFER	83
PETER	ORBANOWSKI	77
BOB	SAMUELS	78
GEOFFREY	HORNBECK	78
STEPHEN	MARINO	92
DAVE	RICHARDS	76

3. Fred Wu was the guest of **STEVE MYERS** and **PAT MACCARTHY**.

**Program: HOLLISTER STURGES** reported that today's speaker will be Stuart Malina, conductor of the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra, and candidate for Music Director with the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Malina will speak on the role of the orchestra conductor. **STEVE MYERS** said that next week's speaker will be Steve Holmes, Ph.D, Physicist, who will speak on "What's Out There and Where's it Going: the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revolution in Cosmology." For those with an interest in cosmology, it was noted that on Saturday, Sept. 25, the New Haven Free Public Library will host a program entitled, "Touring the Universe from Your Backyard." Laurie Averill and Jim Mazur from the Astronomical Society of New Haven will teach participants about phenomena in the night sky. Learn about objects both near and far that are visible to the naked eye, binoculars, and

telescopes. Registration is required. Contact the library at 203-946-8130 or [www.nhfpl.org](http://www.nhfpl.org).  
Library address: 133 Elm Street, New Haven, CT 06510

## **FUN AND GAMES**

**Walkers:** **TAD LARRABEE** reported the September 9 walk was cancelled due to rain. On September 16<sup>th</sup>, the walkers were greeted by **GEORGE UBOGY** at his home, where we saw his and his wife Jo's monarch butterfly cage where they have grown small caterpillars to adult butterflies and then released them to the wild! George then took us on a back trail into Mianus River Park for a very enjoyable walk in the woods. If you want to join our walking group, please email **TAD** at [adlarra@optonline.net](mailto:adlarra@optonline.net) or call him at 203-637-4023.

**Golf:** **PAUL CAMPION** had no scores to report, but announced the RMA golf season will end the second week of October. **FRANK SCARPA** noted there was play this week and announced the following: **JAY SCHONDORF** was closest to the pin on #7, and **RUSS HARDEN** was closest to the pin on #15. **KEATING HAGMANN** had the longest drive on #17.

**Pickleball:** **JIM DEAN** reported we will play on Mondays and Thursdays. On Thursdays we will play both Pickleball and tennis depending on the choice of players. We play at Christiano Field. Call **TONY COCCHI** or **JOHN KNIGHT** if you're interested in playing.

**Bridge:** **JOHN FEBLES** noted last week's winners were: **TONY COCCHI** (3060), **RON FRIEDMAN** (2540) and **JOHN FEBLES** (1750). **JOHN** said bridge players meet at the Greenwich Women's Club each Wednesday at 1:15 pm. Newcomers are welcome. Contact **JOHN** at [jfebles13@gmail.com](mailto:jfebles13@gmail.com).

**Tai Chi:** **WILL MORRISON** noted the Tai Chi feel good group meets at 4:00 pm each Wednesday in the Greenwich Commons Park to pursue their Tai Chi practice. Please email **WILL** to register at [wdmorrison@gmail.com](mailto:wdmorrison@gmail.com) to be notified of schedule changes. To learn more about Tai Chi visit [experiencetaichi.org](http://experiencetaichi.org)

**Indoor Tennis:** **ANDY HOLMES** said the second session of Fall tennis was held at the Old Greenwich Tennis Academy. Opening round winners: Court #1, **DON BREISMEISTER** and **ANDRE MAZUREK**; Court #2, **ARN WELLES** and **ANDY HOLMES**. Final round winners: Court

#1, **ANDRE MAZUREK** and **ARN WELLES**; Court #2, **PETER ORBANOWSKI** and **BOB GRAYSON**. The captain this Friday will be **RALPH NEWITTER**.

**Hearts:** **DON CONWAY** announced three games were played last week. Winners were **GRANT PERKINS** (two games); **JOE DOWLING** (one game). Moon shots: **GRANT PERKINS** (two); **JOE DOWLING** and **DON CONWAY** (one each).

**Book Review:** **ED MILLER** offered a review of the book, *The Rise and Fall of Bin Laden*, by Peter Bergen. In light of all that is going on in the world today, **ED** suggests that, if you have an interest in how a rich Saudi man became the number one most hated person in the world, this well documented book will help you understand why and how Bin Laden became a jihadist with a hatred for Russia and America, and how he survived for so long before he was eventually found and killed in Pakistan.

### **TODAY'S SPEAKER**

Using an unusual RMA guest speaker format, **GEORGE UBOGY** interviewed Maestro Stuart Malina, a long-time music director and conductor, in what was a very informative and entertaining hour. Maestro Malina is currently Music Director for the Harrisburg, PA, Symphony Orchestra. He gave members an insight into how he migrated from being a math major at Harvard to being the music director and conductor for Broadway shows and symphony orchestras in several major U.S. cities. He noted that he is the son of music loving parents, and that growing up he was surrounded by music. He became aware of his musical talent when he began learning the piano at a very early age, and discovered he had a great gift for sight reading

Early on Maestro Malina began music teaching and directed many junior high school and high school productions. With a Harvard music degree in-hand he sought directing and conducting positions in New York, but such positions were few and far between. Through a friend he secured an invitation to apply for the Charleston, SC, symphony orchestra, as Assistant Director. Initially rejected for the position, he was recalled and ultimately became director and spent about 15 years in that position. During that period, he also won a Tony for orchestrating the works of Billy Joel in collaboration with choreographer Twyla Tharp. He has done some musical compositions, but he does not think of himself as a writer.

When asked what is important in program development, Maestro Malina offered several suggestions including: challenge the orchestra; balance style (e.g., baroque / modern); market the program; include a familiar or loved piece; watch the bottom line. When asked what to look for in a concert, he suggested a good program will affect the listener emotionally, will communicate well with the audience, and will evince good chemistry between conductor and orchestra.

When asked the difference between conductor and director, Maestro Malina said the conductor conducts. The director chooses the program and, frequently, the players, markets the program, obtains funding, etc. He noted that his current employer, the Harrisburg Symphony, and the Greenwich Symphony are both Per Service symphonies, i.e., members are paid per rehearsal/performance, as opposed to being salaried. Maestro Milano concluded the program by offering a “one-minute” course on how to be a conductor, and with a snappy piano rendition of Gershwin’s “I Got Rhythm.”

### **The 2021 RMA Picnic Extravaganza**

After a Covid-induced hiatus, the annual picnic returned last week, held at the Clambake Area at Greenwich Point Park. The weather cooperated, and a grand time was had by all. The event was well organized by hard-working **ARNOLD GORDON** and the Picnic Committee.

In addition to two raffles, there were six pre-lunch competitions. Winners of the “Giant Tumbling Tower” competition were couples Wilma and **TOM NACINOVICH** and Barb and **JOHN KAVANAGH**. The other five had individual women’s and men’s winners:

Horseshoes – Bev Riggi and **LEN CARUSI**

Simon Sez – Susi Orbanowski and **PETER UHRY**

Ladder Toss – Madeline Debrise and **TONY RIGGI**

Bean Bag Bucketz – Christina Cahill and **JOE HAVRANACK**

Corn Hole – Bev Riggi and **ARNOLD GORDON**

Here are some photos, most of them taken by official photographer **ANDY HOLMES**.





Picnic Chair Extraordinaire Arnold Gordon



President Michael "Rock & Roll" Ambrosino



The Giant Tumbling Tower



Chow down!



L-R Mancinelli, Cocchi, Schwendeman, Conway and Ambrosino channel Danny & the Juniors doing "At the Hop"



Schwendeman cuts a rug (or a piece of turf?)



The audience loved it!

Competition champs Bev & Tony Riggi  
enjoy their bottled winnings

### 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. According to **PETE**, shown last issue were **PETE** “standing with **BOB OPPENHEIMER** when we served up a large cake to honor **BOB's** 100<sup>TH</sup> birthday (Dec. 31, 2014). **BOB** was a WWII veteran and served in the US Army. He was stationed in the Pacific much of the war. He rarely spoke about what he did but I know he moved from one island to another as the war shifted West toward Japan.”



We will have a few more pictures in weeks to come.

**Correction** to the September 8 CBB: **JOE DOWLING** advises that he is not yet credentialed as a referee for the National Pickleball Association. “I am studying to become credentialed. I need volunteers to play games for me to referee under guidance of my mentor.”



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USA. Visit our website at [www.greenwichrma.org](http://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 - <a href="mailto:anthony.cocchi@lehman.cuny.edu">anthony.cocchi@lehman.cuny.edu</a>
Mondays	2:00 pm	Hearts	Andy Holmes – <a href="mailto:andyholmes56@gmail.com">andyholmes56@gmail.com</a> Don Conway – <a href="mailto:spiderduck4@gmail.com">spiderduck4@gmail.com</a>
Various	various	Hearts	Michael Ambrosino – <a href="mailto:brooklynol@yahoo.com">brooklynol@yahoo.com</a>
Tuesdays	Various tee times	RMA Golf, “The Griff Golf Course,” Greenwich	Paul Campion – <a href="mailto:paulcampion1@optonline.net">paulcampion1@optonline.net</a>
Wednesdays	9:45 to 10:30 am	RMA Weekly Zoom Meeting	Horst Tebbe - <a href="mailto:onehorst@optimum.net">onehorst@optimum.net</a> or Len Carusi at <a href="mailto:lencarusi@gmail.com">lencarusi@gmail.com</a>
Wednesdays	1:00 to 3:00 pm	On-Line Bridge	Andre Mazurek - <a href="mailto:mazurek.a.j@gmail.com">mazurek.a.j@gmail.com</a>
Wednesdays	4:00 to 5:00 pm	“Tai Chi New Joiners” – Greenwich Commons	Will Morrison - <a href="mailto:wdmorrison@gmail.com">wdmorrison@gmail.com</a>
Thursdays	9:00 am	RMA Walking	Tad Larrabee - <a href="mailto:tadlarra@optonline.net">tadlarra@optonline.net</a>
Thursdays	9:00 am	Pickleball and/or Tennis at Christiano Park	Tony Cocchi - <a href="mailto:anthony.cocchi@lehman.cuny.edu">anthony.cocchi@lehman.cuny.edu</a>

\*Day & time of some events may vary; check with contact