

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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SCRIBE: ARNOLD J. GORDON

"Why does a woman work ten years to change a man's habits and then complain that he is not the man she married?" - Barbra Streisand

The school bell was ringing at 9:43 am as President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** prepared for the usual 9:45 start. **JOE MANCINELLI** led us in the pledge, followed by a jaunty performance on the keyboard by **PHIL SANTORA** as we all sang to the lyrics projected on the wall for three songs: Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land," "Hey Look Me Over," and "Pennies from Heaven." Our nattily dressed President then made several announcements:

- **Mentors** for the day were **TONY COCCHI** and **PETE UHRY**
- **Visiting:** Fortunately, there were no reports of illness or hospitalization; **MICHAEL** again asked that someone assume the responsibility for this role that he has had for three years. Please contact him: brooklynoil@yahoo.com.
- A new committee for **Public Relations** has been formed with **JACK WEIR** as its chair. Volunteers are needed to help (johnkweir47@aol.com).
- More scribes are needed for preparing the CBB; time for your inner writer's craving to come to the fore; contact **TIM BROOKS** (tbroo@aol.com).
- Covid-related restrictions remain in effect: masking throughout the church building; no gathering or lingering in the lobby; no front door entry before 9:00 am but entry before then is allowed via the kitchen entrance (door just behind the speaker parking spot in front of the church).

- Parking in the spots in front of the church continue to be an issue; we are allowed only three: two for the handicapped and one for speaker of the day. If violated, you risk a ticket.
- Meeting dates for the holiday season remain a challenge. November 10th is the annual RMA luncheon (no meeting); whether meetings will be held on December 22nd and 29th will depend on the whether the church will be using the Social Hall. To be decided soon.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** gave a sales pitch for the dozen new calendars he had amassed, which were there for the taking. He then polled the group on who was despondent about the Yankees loss to the Red Sox the previous day, depriving the team of a chance to vie for the pennant. Many hands went up. Many fewer were raised when they were asked who was elated over the outcome.

GEOFFREY BURGE, just back from his trip to Europe, told a tale of the doctor who was examining an 80-year-old man whose father (102) and grandfather (123) were still alive; furthermore, the grandfather had to get married because his girlfriend was pregnant. According to the 80-year-old, the secret to longevity is to bicycle every morning before sunrise followed by two glasses of wine. The doctor has been doing so ever since. A second story described a man who was subjected to testicular torture! You had to be there.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: **PETER STERN** estimated that there were 86 in attendance with another five joining via Zoom. There were three guests: Ed Berman guest of **ANDY HOLMES**, Bob Shulman guest of **ANDY HOLMES** and **BILLY LONDON**, and Fred Wu guest of **STEVE MYERS**, **PAT MacCARTHY**, and **PETE UHRY**. The birthday song was sung to congratulate **HECTOR ARZENO**, 74, **GERRY MAYFIELD**, 86, **ANDY HOLMES**, 65, and **ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN**, 86. **PETER** noted the return of **GEOFFREY BURGE** from London and Land's End in Cornwall, England. As part of group of 1,000, he had bicycled 1,410 km (876 miles) to John o' Groats, Scotland; on the way home, he had to quarantine in Toronto, Ontario, Canada prior to returning to the USA.

Annual RMA Luncheon: **JOE MANCINELLI** reported that 15 tables have already been filled but reminded everyone to give their checks for \$60 per person to their Table Hosts. Proof of vaccination will be required to attend the event at the Tamarack Country Club in

Greenwich. If you are not already part of a table and need a spot, contact **JOE** (jlmanc@optonline.net).

Today's talk was described by **HOLLISTER STURGES**. Jack T. Scully and J. Chris Davala, who grew up in Greenwich, will talk about "Mianus Village—History and Literature," a tale of what it was like in Greenwich during the post-WWII years through the 1950s. Their story is told in their recently published book of the same name, signed copies of which were available for sale after their presentation. **PETE UHRY** invited everyone to attend next week's program, a description of the evolution of European classical music by RMA member Dr. **GEORGE UBOGY** - "European Music Distinctive Characteristics."

ROMEO: DON ROTZIEN reminded everyone that a BYO lunchtime gathering would be held the next day (Thursday, October 7th) starting at noon just behind the second refreshment stand at Greenwich Point. Of course, it will be over when you read this unless you can time-travel back a few days.

Parking: **DON CONWAY** has established an agreement with the Town to continue the arrangement for use of our passes. He mentioned that handicap parking is free at the meters on the street as well.

FUN AND GAMES

Pickleball: PAT MacCARTHY alerted members that Thursday, October 7, is the last day play will be held from 9 am to 11 am at Christiano field. Beginning next week every Monday and Thursday, play will take place from 11 am to 1 pm. Please be advised that since next Monday (October 11th) is Columbus Day, a Town Holiday, there will be no access via the Transfer Station entrance (aka the dump); the nearest place to park is on Lyon Avenue. Feel free to show up even if you don't have a pickleball paddle; extras will be available.

Walkers: According to **TAD LARRABEE** last Thursday was a beautiful, clear autumn day which the walkers-talkers enjoyed by hiking in Rockwood Hall. It is a separate western section of Rockefeller State Park with nice views of the Hudson River. They welcomed back **ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN** for his first walk since his back operation, and he showed his resilience in recovery (thanks to the encouragement of his wife, Cynthia MacKay)!

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** invited any and all to the usual session at 4 pm on Wednesday at the Greenwich Common. He mentioned that he would attend an advanced Tai Chi “camp” on the evening of October 8th. For more information about Tai Chi visit:

www.experiencetaichi.org.

Golf: **PAUL CAMPION** reported that 18 golfers were ready for the rain that did not come, but the grounds were soggy. **GRAN BURGESS** easily broke 100 but did it the hard way with two nine’s on his scorecard! **PETE UHRY** had the longest drive, although **JAY SCHONDORF** might cry foul and file a counterclaim. The “best dressed award” (most colorful) went to **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**. Indications of interest for playing on October 12th and October 19th are being solicited (paulcampion1@optonline.net). Starting tee-time: 11:00 am. **JOHN CRAINE** will be captain on the 19th. **PAUL** asked if anyone knows the origin of the use of the term “scratch golfer.” He could not find the answer anywhere, and the members were no help. FYI, a scratch golfer is someone who has around a zero handicap. This means that the player will usually shoot right around par on any given course. Your humble scribe has found one speculative answer:

https://www.phrases.org.uk/bulletin_board/43/messages/316.html

Bridge: No report.

Hearts: **PETER STERN** heartily reported that last Wednesday, there were three tables with 12 players (the most in 18 months!). Winners were **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**, one game, **JOE DOWLING**, two, **GRANT PERKINS**, three, **JOHN STANKUNAS**, two, and **PETER STERN**, one. Moon shots, one each by **JOE DOWLING**, **JOHN KAVANAGH**, **JOHN KNIGHT**, **JOHN STANKUNAS** and **JACK WEIR**; **GRANT PERKINS** had two. Today’s Captain is **GRANT PERKINS**. Play continues to be held at 12:45 pm on Wednesday at the Woman's Club of Greenwich, 89 Maple Avenue.

Tennis: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** gave the results of the final rounds for Friday, October 1: Court one winners, **ARN WELLES** and **PETER DODGE**; Court two – **ANDRE MAZUREK** and **MICHAEL** himself. Next week’s captain is **PAT MacCARTHY**.

Paddle Tennis: In **JOHN DEAN**’s absence, **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** mentioned that to play, a check for \$25, made out to the Town of Greenwich, should be given to **JOHN**. Contact him for more information (jhdeanco@gmail.com).

HUMAN INTEREST TALES AND OTHER DIVERSIONS

On the occasion of the anniversary of the famous October 3, 1951 game between the New York Giants and the Brooklyn Dodgers, which **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** called “The Shot Heard ‘Round the World,” **MICHAEL** regaled members with the details of that last of a three-game series which was played at the Polo Grounds. It was the first nationally televised baseball game. The winner would take the National League pennant and go on to the World Series. With Sal “the barber” Maglie pitching for the Giants and Don Newcombe for the Dodgers, the score was tied at one to one after seven innings. But Brooklyn scored two runs in the eighth inning. It was the bottom of the 9th inning and the Giants scored two runs and had a runner on second and third with one out. Up to the plate came Bobby Thompson with the Dodgers ahead three to two. Dodger manager, Charlie Dressen, called in Ralph Branca to replace Newcombe. The first pitch was a called strike. The next pitch was high and inside but Thompson “tomahawked” the ball which landed in the left field lower deck for a home run. Radio announcer Russ Hodges screamed “the Giants win the pennant, the Giants win the pennant, the Giants win the pennant,” an iconic announcement. Ironically, the left field foul line was only 257 feet from the plate, which would be an easily caught, routine fly ball in most other ball parks. The Giants lost the world series to the Yankees, four games to two.

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

SPEAKER PROGRAM

After the usual housekeeping remarks, **HOLISTER STURGES** introduced Jack T. Scully and J. Chris Davala for their talk based on Jack’s book “Mianus Village in History and Literature.” Jack traveled from Georgia to be with us and Chris came from Vermont. With a combination of back-and-forth banter between them along with well-chosen photos and videos, they vividly described what it was like to grow up in Greenwich while living in Mianus Village. It is located on Dyer Street in Riverside, where the Veterans Administration erected 40 “tiny” houses (about 750 sq. ft. each) for the returning vets. Both of their fathers were in the military during WWII, Jack’s in the Army, Chris’s in the Navy.

Jack was born in Greenwich but Chris came to Mianus Village from the Bronx when he was eight; the two went to school together and became life-long friends. Chris had a career in broadcasting and investigative reporting, and was the morning anchor at WGCH for several years. Jack is a long-time writer of fiction and non-fiction and has penned many free verse poems; you can read about his work here - <https://antrimhousebooks.com/scully.html>

Their fathers were among the 16 million Americans who came home from the war. Among the men who lived in Mianus Village, there were three veterans who fought and survived in the Normandy Invasion. Six war brides lived in the Village which was a very tight-knit community. Within five years after the houses were occupied, there were 100 children. Many women worked during the war at jobs usually done by men (remember Rosie the Riveter?). When the men came home from the war, most of the women lost their jobs so the men could resume their place. Jack's mother was one of them. Chris described the strict rules at Catholic grammar school at St. Catherine's church; discipline was rigorous and students had to wear uniforms. Jack described the incident when he was caught shooting a spit ball which earned him a serious rap on the knuckles. Jack and Chris both attended St. Mary's Catholic High School.

By the 1960s most of the original owners had moved on. Jack returned to the Village not long ago and was moved to write a poem reflecting his feelings of the Village long after he had left; it is called "Aftermath." Today, in the Village, there are some large, expensive homes on the shore of the Mianus River. There are still 40 dwellings, some the original structures. The large audience in the Social Hall included the daughter of one of the original residents and a good friend of Jack and Chris from the early days.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

In his fifth appearance at the RMA, member **Dr. GEORGE UBOGY** will cover "European Music Distinctive Characteristics." He will discuss the notable eras of European classical music, their distinctive characteristics, the variety in compositions, and how to listen to a performance. He will include the playing of several pieces.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Past President **PETE UHRY** has asked that we include a few “historical” RMA pictures, with a question of the week. Last week’s challenge was to identify the two gents on the left. They were past President Ralph Viggiano (standing) and Al Hartig, at the 2009 RMA picnic. The week’s virtual award goes to **JOHN FEBLES**, who correctly identified them both, adding “they were both good guys.”

Now, who are the two on the right? Anybody know? It was a birthday for one of them.



If you have any aging pictures (or daguerreotypes) of RMA activities that we might use, contact the Editor.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: Scribe for the next meeting 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: 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. Also, activity chairs are asked to review the calendar at the end of the CBB to make sure their data is up to date.

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	11:00 am to 1:00 pm	Pickleball at Christiano Park	Pat MacCarthy – pmaccarthy415@gmail.com Mark Geimer – mark.geimer@gmail.com
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	11:00 am to 1:00 pm	Pickleball at Christiano Park	Pat MacCarthy – pmacCarthy415@gmail.com Mark Geimer – mark.geimer@gmail.com

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