

# CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



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

Chair/Editor: **Tim Brooks**

Scribes: **Av Rivel, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell, Joe Mancinelli, Frank Scarpa, Tim Brooks, Joe Angland, Bob Samuels**  
Archivist: **Tad Larrabee** Website: **Mark Geimer** Format: **Len Carusi, Mark Geimer**

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**SCRIBE: FRANK SCARPA**

*"Real friends offer both hard truths and soft landings." Anna Quindlen*

President **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** got the meeting off to a timely start at 9:43 by introducing **PETER STERN** to lead the pledge. **GEORGE UBOGY**, today's multifaceted star, entertained us with a brief version of the Duke of Mantua's "La donna è mobile" from *Rigoletto*. **GEORGE** then provided us with a brief human-interest interlude in recommending two not-so-prominent features of the Sunday *New York Times*; 1) the Metropolitan Diary in the Metro Section, providing five examples; and 2) "Social Qs," an entertaining advice column to be found just before the "Women's Sports Pages," i.e., the bridal announcements.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** then noted that sadly, a former member passed away several days ago. **JOE MALARA** was 100 years old last year. He joined the RMA in 1989 and remained a member for 27 years. A funeral service was held on October 13<sup>th</sup>. **JOE** was a loveable character. Next week, **MIKE RYAN**, who was a close friend of **JOE**, will deliver a memorial. There is more sad news, unfortunately. Former member **LAWRENCE "BUD" SPANN** died on October 8<sup>th</sup>. He was 91 years old. **BUD** joined the RMA in August 2017. If anyone knew him well and would like to present a memorial, contact **ARNOLD** at [ajgordo@verizon.net](mailto:ajgordo@verizon.net).

**ARNOLD** continued that it is flu season again and to make it easy for Greenwichites to get the vaccine, the Town has set up special clinics; the pneumonia vaccine will also be available. The shots are free if you have insurance. The dates are October 13<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 3 pm at Eastern Civic Center, October 18<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 5 pm at Town Hall, and October 27<sup>th</sup>, also at Town Hall, from 11 am to 2 pm. See the attached notice for details. You must fill out a special form (attached).

[Information Regarding Flu Clinics](#)  
[Form to Receive Flu Shot](#)

Finally, most of us receive multiple, unwanted and annoying robocalls and spam attempts. See the following article about the magnitude of the problem and some suggestions on how to deal with and possibly block such calls (found at the end of the article).

[Article Regarding Spam Calls](#)

**ARNOLD** then introduced the comedian of the day, the suave **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN**, who entertained us with a reflection on "Is there sex after death?" that might make reincarnation as a lagomorph seem appealing to some.



**MICHAEL AMBROSINO** spoke for **BOB BISHOP** in encouraging us to observe the parking rules out of respect for the authorities and also to avoid being ticketed. He also reminded us to observe the masking rules required by the first Presbyterian Church and to remind others of same.

Today's Mentor is **RUSS HARDEN**.

**Visiting:** **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** welcomed **FRANK SCARPA** (present and busily Scribing) and **JOE DOWLING** (at home) back from Greenwich Hospital. **CHET RISIO** is currently in Hospice.

**HORST TEBBE** and **STEVE MYERS** both made pleas for volunteers to help with video recording of meetings. This is an important and enjoyable job for someone with the appropriate skills, and it is precarious to continue to depend solely upon these two men.

**Membership:** **PETER STERN** reported on 74 members present and an additional six on Zoom. There were seven guests. As for birthdays, **PETER** noted that **ED FARRELL** has reached 83 and **DAVID WATKINS** turned 77. Maestro **UBOGY** tinkled out the birthday song to accompany the masked and muffled membership.

**PETER** noted that **GEORGE UBOGY's** talk had lured in a plethora of guests:

Tony Kane g.o. **RUSS HARDEN** and **GERRY MAYFIELD**

Bob Shullman g.o. **ANDY HOLMES** and **TIM BROOKS**

Ed Berman g.o. **ANDY HOLMES**

Larry Severino g.o. **GEOFFREY HORNBECK** (back after long absence)

Win Brignoli g.o. **GEOFFREY BURGE**

Lee Lundy g.o. **PETER STERN** and **PETE UHRY**

John Clark g.o. **FRANK SCARPA**

**Banquet/Luncheon:** **JOE MANCINELLI** reminded us that the Annual Luncheon will take place on November 10 at 10:30 am at the Tamarack Club. Members are urged to pay their fees (\$60 per person) to their table host. Members will be assigned to a table if they have not yet identified a host. Proof of vaccination should be submitted in advance to table hosts. Jacket and tie are required for men.

**Today's Speaker:** **PETE UHRY** previewed **GEORGE UBOGY**, who will grace us with his fifth musical presentation--this time on the evolution of European music. **Next Week's Speaker:** **BOB MEANEY** previewed Ambassador Clark T. Randt, Jr. (ret.), who will speak to "U.S. - China Relations." Mr. Clark was Ambassador to China for more than seven years.

**MICHAEL AMBROSINO** noted that Covenant House in Stamford is holding its annual food drive. Gifts of non-perishable food items or checks are welcome, and may be made through **MICHAEL**.

**Volunteer Hours:** **JOHN FEBLES** noted that 29 men had reported their hours. The leader with 104 inside hours was **PETER STERN**. Top outside hours were registered by **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** at 50. **JOHN** reminded us of the importance of submitting our hours, either on the list at the back of the meeting room or online. (Due to lack of popularity, the online form will be discontinued. Send an email.) Any questions, contact **JOHN** at 203-550-5049.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

**Pickleball:** **GEORGE UBOGY** noted the popularity of the round robin format at Christiano Field. Interested men may contact either **MARK GEIMER** or **PAT MacCARTHY**.

**Walkers:** **TAD LARRABEE** noted that October 7 was a beautiful day for a walk. The walk went up the overlook trail in Binney Park and wandered around Riverside for a total of 4.1 miles. At the conclusion, the walkers joined the ROMEO group for lunch at Greenwich Point. The Group will meet this Thursday at the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center and conclude again with the ROMEOs at noon. Several options are under consideration. Please let **TAD** know if you are coming along.

**Hearts:** **GRANT PERKINS** reported two tables with seven players. At Table #1, **GRANT PERKINS** won two games and **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** won one. **JOHN STANKUNAS** and **JACK SWEGER** each had a moon shot. Table #2 had three players. **DON CONWAY** won two games, and **TOM HEALY** scored a moon shot. Next week's captain is **JOHN KAVANAGH**.

**Paddle Tennis:** Paddle Chairman **JIM DEAN** noted that the season will start on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Two courts have been reserved. **JIM** recommended a series of twists and squats and other stretches as well as daily hydration in order to prepare for the season. He may be reached at 203-550-0657. There is an application form mandated for those who wish to participate.

**Indoor Tennis:** Last Friday, **ANDY HOLMES**, **PAT MacCARTHY** and **PETER DODGE** were the big winners. **JOHN KNIGHT** did well.

**Golf:** **PAUL CAMPION** reported on 18 golfers. **MARK FOX** won closest to the pin on #5 as well as longest drive on #17. Kudos to **MARK** for winning the Super Seniors Championship at the Griff for the second year in a row. **JOHN CRAINE** will be Captain for Oct 19 and may be reached at [Jcraine1@optimum.net](mailto:Jcraine1@optimum.net)

**Tai Chi:** **WILL MORRISON** welcomes new enthusiasts--"no illness required."

**Bridge:** **TONY COCCHI** reported the following scores; **JOHN FEBLES**, 3140, **ED MASTOLONI**, 2970, and **RON MURRAY**, 1030. Play is at 12:30 on Wednesdays at the Women's Club.

**ROMEO: TONY COCCHI** reminded us that the ROMEOs will lunch at Greenwich Point at noon on Thursdays. Last week, 16 men attended.

### **HUMAN INTEREST**

**GEOFFREY BURGE** entertained us with a well-illustrated account of his September 4-12 bicycle Ride Across Britain. Seventy-year-old **GEOFFREY** detailed his training and preparation for this 105-mile, hilly adventure. One thousand one hundred riders started (though only 660 finished). Twelve hours each day were consumed with riding. **GEOFFREY** provided many details--even a photo of his special seat, and anecdotes of the mini-epidemic of Norovirus. The material--including striking photos--was enough to fill a lecture in itself. **GEOFFREY** is a cheerful and inspirational narrator.

### **SPEAKER PROGRAM**

Our own Dr. **GEORGE UBOGY** comes to us for the fifth time as a lecturer on a musical topic, and he does not disappoint. The number of guests and members present bespeak his renown. His topic today is "European Music: Distinctive Characteristics." **GEORGE** introduced his lecture at the piano (where he remained) with strains from Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto. He noted that the "origins" of what we think of as European music began when the ancient Greeks 'stretched a string" and appreciated the relationship between music and math. (Pythagoras said that "music is mathematics rendered audible.") Ultimately, voice was introduced, and formed a primitive "opera." Later, the Catholic Church suppressed "pagan cults" and their trappings. But the urge to produce music won out in the form of "chants"--e.g., Gregorian ones.

Music expanded after the Dark Ages and became polyphonic. Ultimately, this blossomed into works such as those of J.S. Bach--epitomized by his "St. Matthew Passion." Baroque music followed, as exemplified by Handel and Vivaldi. Shortly, this led to the "Classic" period, exemplified by C.P.E. Bach, emphasizing clarity of melody and accompaniment, with an increasing emphasis on form and STRUCTURE, as exemplified by the sonata form. Towards the end of the Classic Period, there emerged "great" composers--the best example of which is Beethoven, a "rule pusher"...

The Romantic Period followed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, with an increasing interest in conveying mood and atmosphere. Examples such as Schubert's "Erlking" and his lieder. Dr. **UBOGY** meanwhile illustrated many of these points on his piano. Schumann and Liszt, perhaps the finest pianist of his time, carried this movement even further with their transcriptions.

The 20<sup>th</sup> century greeted the radical Stravinsky, who manifested a "different vocabulary." Dr. **UBOGY** recounted the tumultuous debut of "The Rite of Spring," under the patronage of the impresario Dhiagelev. (There was actually a melee and pandemonium at the premiere!) Dr. **UBOGY** concluded with a recounting of his experience with the Cornell Chimes, followed by a musical tribute to Mendelssohn's "Venetian Gondola Song."

### 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 are President **BOB PHILLIPS** (at right) and **BOB OPPENHEIMER** at the mic, being feted on his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, in 2014.

Now, who are the three smiling gents on the right? Anybody know?



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

### IMPORTANT REMINDERS

**TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS:** Scribe for the next meeting will be →**AV RIVEL**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB promptly to **AV** at [av@rivels.org](mailto:av@rivels.org).

**TO ALL RMA MEMBERS:** The CBB Team works every week to write and publish an informative and concise bulletin for our members’ enjoyment. We welcome new members to join the CBB Team. Please contact **TIM BROOKS** at [tbroo@aol.com](mailto:tbroo@aol.com) if you are interested in being part of this interesting activity. Also, activity chairs are asked to review the calendar at the end of the CBB to make sure their data is up to date.

**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 – <a href="mailto:pmacCarthy415@gmail.com">pmacCarthy415@gmail.com</a> Mark Geimer – <a href="mailto:mark.geimer@gmail.com">mark.geimer@gmail.com</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:brooklynOil@yahoo.com">brooklynOil@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	11:00 am to 1:00 pm	Pickleball at Christiano Park	Pat MacCarthy – <a href="mailto:pmacCarthy415@gmail.com">pmacCarthy415@gmail.com</a> Mark Geimer – <a href="mailto:mark.geimer@gmail.com">mark.geimer@gmail.com</a>

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