



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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SCRIBE: AV RIVEL

"The world would be happier if men had the same capacity to be silent that they have to speak"

Baruch Spinoza

The formal meeting was preceded by a display of virtual headgear by several tech and fashion-savvy members...you had to be there.

At precisely 10:00am EST the sounds of **BOB MORGAN'S** "We are the RMA" wafted over the ether to the 50 members who had already signed into the weekly Zoom meeting. This was followed by a heartfelt pledge to our country, led by **ARNOLD GORDON** accompanied by a full screen video of a waving Old Glory.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In keeping with the generally informal nature of the Zoom meeting, announcements were not limited to a particular time spot. But for the sake of simplicity and clarity are gathered here.

ARNOLD GORDON:

Inquired as to the new location of Neighbor to Neighbor. **JEFF JUNKER** supplied the info that they had moved to the Teen Center on Arch Street.

Reported that the Westchester Dinner Theatre, a favorite RMA destination, had closed their doors permanently.

Requested folks to sign up to entertain at the Holiday Program on December 23.

ajgordo@verizon.net

TOM MCGUIRE: Reported that the folks at Nathaniel Wetherill have been in virtual lockdown since March because of COVID 19 restrictions, with only limited visiting permitted. They are looking forward to a grim Holiday Season. He asked our help to **Brighten Christmas at Nathaniel Witherell by:**

Sending personally signed Christmas cards from the RMA to
Chaplin Card Drive, Nathaniel Witherell, 70 Parsonage Road, Greenwich CT.

Encouraging family, friends, and organizations in which you participate to send signed Christmas cards to the same address.

Contributing to an appropriate gift for each resident by sending a check for \$5.00, or any amount, with the notation RMA GIFT and made payable to Scott Neff, Nathaniel Witherell, 70 Parsonage Road, Greenwich CT, 06830.

A deluge of Christmas cards will warm the heart, raise the spirits, and brighten the Christmas of each resident to know someone cares.

Let's turn on the bright lights and blow the fuses at Nathaniel Witherell!

JOHN FEBLES:

Reported that he is now monitoring volunteer hours and reminded all that even during the pandemic, many of us are volunteering and he would like to have everyone keep him up to date with their hours. Please catch him up with your hours since September 1, 2020 at jfebles13@gmail.com.

Invited all to participate in the Salvation Army virtual auction. There are some great prizes including artwork and jewelry, signed sports memorabilia, iPads, and vacation adventures. Details at handbid.app.link/RescueChristmasAuctionCTRL

WEEKLY JOKESTER

Coming back from his short retirement **JERRY** (with a **J**) **SCHWENDEMAN** told a knee-slapper about an easy diagnosis of an unusual disease.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP: **PETER STERN** stepped up, so to speak, with this week's numbers:

Attendance - 62; Birthdays -**GIG CHELWICK** – 95! **ROBERT WHITBY** -80; Note, **GIG** joined RMA in 1996! There were no guests and no inductions. Welcome back **GENE SCHWARTZ** who has been MIA from RMA meetings for some time.

PETER repeated his oft stated plea to have all members sign into the Zoom meeting with their full names to make identification easier during the meeting.

TREASURY: **JEFF JUNKER** reported that there was nothing to report.

VISITING- **MIKE AMBROSINO'S** only item to report was personal.

I tested positive for COVID-19. I was tested on Monday., results came in last night. 90% sure my physical therapist transmitted the virus to me - he was tested positive on Saturday. I feel fine, temp is 97.5, I walk 5 miles a day with no shortness of breath, but I am being conservative and quarantining myself for 12 more days. Stay safe all.

PROGRAM: **STEVE MYERS** reported that today's speaker would be Radley Horton, Ph.D., Earth and Environmental Science, Associate Reach Scientist at the Center for Climate Systems Research at Columbia University. His topic will be: "The Heat is on: The Climate Imperative," see more below.

BOB PHILLIPS gave the heads' up on next week's speaker Josh Geballe who will be talking about the modernization and streamlining of Connecticut state government. Josh is Chief Operating Officer and Commissioner of Administrative Services for Connecticut. As such he is responsible for the operation of 25 State agencies employing 30,000 people who provide critical support services to the agencies. Beyond day-to-day operations Josh is charged by his boss (Gov. Lamont) with envisioning ways of shaking up how CT does business, that is modernizing and streamlining systems and practices. Check out the flier in your email in-box for more details.

SPECIAL: President **RUSS HARDEN** noted that today would have been the date of the RMA annual dinner which is actually a luncheon. He recalled that the event always ended with the singing of "We'll Meet Again". In honor of the date he invited Melody Man **DON CONWAY** to sing it as part of our Zoom meeting. By the time **DON** got toward the end of the song many of the assembled had joined him creating a genuine feeling of nostalgia. Thanks **DON** and **RUSS**.

RMA FUN AND GAMES

PLATFORM TENNIS: **RUSS HARDEN** lobbied the info that they kept no scores, but 7 players had a great time this past week. He invited anyone interested to join them on Tuesday's at 9:30 at Loughlin Avenue Park.

HEARTS: **DON CONWAY** dealt the data: **TOM HEALY** won 4 games and generously allowed **MIKE AMBROSINO**, and **GRANT PERKINS** to win one. **JOHN STANKUNAS** was shut out; he got back at them by shooting the moon twice while the others only did it once.

WALKERS: **TAD LARRABEE** stepped up to report that eleven walkers explored the Rye Marshlands, completing two different trail loops out to Long Island Sound – a nice walk! There is no walk on Thanksgiving Day.

If you want to receive the walk announcements, please ask Tad Larrabee to add you to the email list at tadlarra@optonline.net

TAI CHI: **WILL MORRISON** very calmly announced "Curious about what *tai chi* movements are and all about? Think they might be too difficult or strange?" You have an open invitation to learn the answers to these and other questions and to sample some of the movements and internal tai chi thought processes.

Drop him a note. He will look for a convenient time to get together through Zoom. Spouses and friends are welcome. wdmorrison@gmail.com

Otherwise the regular classes continue at 3:00 Mondays and via Zoom.

TENNIS: **JOHN KNIGHT** served up the winning pairs from this past week:

SAM MARASSO & MIKE SMITH, JOHN KNIGHT & SAM MARASSO and **DON BREISMEISTER & SAM MARASSO**. Looks like **SAM** was hot that day. Next week's captain – **DAVID KANE**.

After all the Fun and Games were reported an open discussion about the state of RMA pickleball and the Town facilities took place.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:44 am.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Climate Scientist Radley Horton, Ph.D., Earth and Environmental Science, Associate Reach Scientist at the Center for Climate Systems Research at Columbia University presented his talk in a unique format for RMA speakers.

For the first 30 minutes he presented two videos of talks on his subject and then allowed a full half hour for questions.

His thesis on climate change was: 1) It's real, 2) It's us, 3) It's serious and the window of time to prevent widespread dangerous impact is closing fast.

Both videos presented many graphs showing the rise of climate change indicators over time with the serious increases occurring with the start of the industrial revolution in the early 19th century and the 1970's. They also presented models to show the effect of man-made pollution vs. had there been no human effect, making point #2. But all is not grim; Dr. Horton believes that steps can be taken, and events are happening that can mitigate the effects of mankind messing with the environment. Some indicators/forces are the economic viability of alternate energy, improving the infrastructure for storing and transmitting electricity, reducing the subsidies for fossil fuel producers, better planning for dealing with extreme weather.

The Q& A was particularly lively and informative.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Governor Lamont's State Modernization and "Streamlining Agenda"

Josh Geballe -Chief Operating Officer and Commissioner of Administrative Services for the state of Connecticut.

NOTE 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 to **FRANK** at frankjscarpa@gmail.com.

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Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org.

RMA 2020 CALENDAR

Weekly Repetitive Activities			
Date	Time	Activity	Contact
Mondays	3:00 to 4:00	Zoom: Better Balance through Tai Chi	Will Morrison @ wdmorrison@gmail.com
Tuesdays	9:30 to 11:00	Platform Tennis, Loughlin Ave. Cos Cob	James Dean @ jhdeanco@gmail.com
Wednesdays	10:00to 11:00	RMA Weekly Zoom Meeting	Horst Tebbe @ onehorst@optimum.net or Len Carusi @ lencarusi@gmail.com
Wednesdays	1:00 to 3:00	On-Line Bridge	Andre Mazurek @ mazurek.a.g@gmail.com
Wednesdays	3:00 to 4:00	Zoom: Better Balance through Tai Chi	Will Morrison @ wdmorrison@gmail.com
Thursdays	9:00 AM	RMA Walking	Tad Larrabee @ tadarra@optonline.net
Fridays	1:00 PM	On-Line Hearts	Don Conway @ spiderduck4@gmail.com
Fridays	1:30pm to 3:00pm	Indoor Tennis	Andy Holmes @ andyholmes56@gmail.com
	Various Times TBD	On-Line Hearts	Don Conway @ spiderduck4@gmail.com