

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

"My ignorance of science is such that if anyone mentioned copper nitrate, I should think he was talking about policemen's overtime" - Donald Coggan (Archbishop of York, UK)

President **JOE MANCINELLI** began the business meeting at 9:48 am. **JEFF JUNKER** led us in the Pledge which was followed by some hearty singing led by **JIM BUTLER** and his accompanist **BOB MORGAN**. "America the Beautiful," "Everybody Loves Somebody," and "Sentimental Journey" were the old-time selections.

President **JOE** urged members to pay their dues if they have not done so. Please give a check for \$100 made out to the RMA to **JEFF JUNKER**, or mail it to him at 9 Tree Top Terrace, Greenwich CT 06831.

JOE welcomed **SAM MARASSO** to the mic to deliver a memorial for his close friend, recently deceased member **ROBERT WHITBY** who had joined the RMA in August 2015. He passed away on June 26 at the age of 81. **ROBERT** was quite accomplished in so many ways. He graduated from Yale and earned an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1966. He was very successful in his business career spanning over 40 years, primarily in management consulting, advising large corporations such as Booz Allen, Citicorp, and Ernst & Young. In his leisure time, **ROBERT** was an avid sailor and served on the board of Indian Harbor Yacht Club, also as a Regatta Chair and Nominating Committee co-chair. He was a member of the New York Explorers Club, the Yale Alumni Association, and the

Stamford Symphony. He volunteered for many organizations such as the Bruce Museum, SoundWaters, Abilis, the Avon Theatre, and the board of the Harvard Business School Club. His passion for mountain climbing led him at the age of 51 to climb the highest peak on each continent, a feat known as “The Seven Summits.” He gave a talk to the RMA of his exploits (video here: <https://vimeo.com/284220399>). While he successfully climbed six of the peaks, he had to be evacuated off Mount Everest after reaching Camp 2. A private memorial service was held on July 8th at Gallagher’s Funeral Home.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** asked who watched the NASA debut of the first images from the James Webb telescope, shown online Tuesday morning at 10:30. Surprisingly, only one hand rose (you guessed it – physicist **STEPHEN MYERS**). **ARNOLD**, who also had tuned in, opined that people had missed a spectacular example of wondrous science, engineering and technology in the service of astronomy which will help us understand the origins and evolution of our universe. You can see the NASA presentation here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nmMRMIE3MGw>. He also mentioned that a PBS special on NOVA about the telescope was scheduled for broadcast on Channel 13 at 9 pm on July 13th; if you missed it, you can watch it by streaming on the PBS web site. Awesome!

Claiming to share useful information, **ARNOLD** asked members if there was interest in buying gas for \$1.50; her urged them to go to Taco Bell. Then pointing out that children can say or write the darndest things (remember the Art Linkletter show?), he shared some verbatim answers by children who were questioned about religious matters.

“The seventh commandment says that thou shall not admit adultery”;

“Jesus created the Golden Rule: Do one to others before they do one to you”;

“A Christian should have only one spouse - this is called monotony.”

Finally, from an elementary school teacher who asked her students to complete common sayings:

“Don't bite the hand that - looks dirty”;

“You can't teach an old dog new – math”;

“The pen is mightier than the – pigs”;

“A penny saved is - not much;”

“Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and - you have to blow your nose”;

“Children should be seen and not - spanked or grounded”;

“Better late than - pregnant.”

Unfortunately, due to a medical issue, **CARL WHITE**, scheduled jokester for the day, was unable to appear.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: **PETER STERN** reported that there were 85 live bodies and 10 Zoomers attending. Guests and their sponsors were Chick Donohue (**STEVE MARINO**), Donn Reinelt (**BILL FEATHERSTON** and **BOB BISHOP**), and Jose Niell (**AL KNIGHT** and **FRANK SCARPA**). Returning from Florida were **FRANK SCARPA** and **GEORGE UBOGY**; **PETER UHRY** arrived from Maine and **ED PARKER** from Cape Cod. A shout-out was given to **ED FARRELL** and **PAUL CAMPION**, both recuperating from recent surgery but dedicated RMA Zoomers. The birthday boys were **TOM CAHILL**, 91, **MIKE CATALANO**, 69, **GEORGE DEY**, 79, **BOB LUCE**, 85, **NORMAN MASRI**, 91, **BOB BISHOP**, 88, and **JEFF JUNKER**, 70.

PETER led an induction ceremony for Bob Giaquinto, who was nominated by **ARTHUR**



Fishbein, Giaquinto, Stampleman

STAMPLEMAN and **JIM FISHBEIN**, and unanimously voted in. **BOB** was born in Astoria, NY, lived in Brooklyn for a while until his family moved to Rye in 1946, where he has lived ever since. He had all his schooling in Rye except for five years in SUNY at Buffalo, at the School of Pharmacy, where he got his BS in pharmacy in 1963. His parents had purchased Rye Beach Pharmacy near Playland in 1946. He joined the business after college and with his brother helped to expand it; it grew to a staff of over 50, including nine pharmacists with five

delivery vehicles serving 20 towns around Rye, a compounding lab and a vitamin/supplement department. It is the only independent pharmacy in Rye. His son Kenny has been extremely active at the company since 2001 and is now CEO. **BOB** retired at the beginning of covid. He likes sports and looks forward to becoming a pickleball player. He is also a kayaker and boater, is on the Walkers and Talkers list already, and looks forward to volunteering. In his "acceptance speech," **BOB** began a story about one of

his life's experiences which he will no doubt continue with a human-interest story at a future meeting. Welcome, **BOB**.

Visiting: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** had no report.

Volunteer Hours: **DON ROTZIEN** summarized the results for the week of July 6th: 160 outside hours and 42 inside hours. **MAURICE KROHN** led the pack with 42 hours, while **MARK FOX** registered 44 hours for the month of June.

Speakers: **GEORGE UBOGY** announced that this week's speaker would be Dr. Joseph Polisi, whose talk is based on his recent book, *A Beacon to the World: A History of Lincoln Center*. Next week's speaker, as related by **TIM BROOKS**, will be RMA member **DAVID MICHONSKI**, national authority on residential real estate, who will discuss "The Outlook for Greenwich Residential Real Estate: Boom or Bust?" He will review the most recent results for single family homes and condos/coops in Greenwich and look at longer term trends. Comparisons to the national real estate market may be an eye-opener, as he will explain that Greenwich has seriously under-performed.

RMA Raft-Up: **JOHN CRAINE** invited everyone to consider participating in the annual event that this year will begin at noon on Thursday, July 28th. Rendezvous of sail and motor boats will be off Great Captain's Island. Fully vaccinated (with boosters) boaters, former boaters, and land-lubbers, with guests, are invited, subject to boat capacity. The event will end about 2:30 pm. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Bring your own edibles and drinkables and enjoy a relaxing cruise around the islands. For more information, contact **JOHN** at 203-698-0118 or **BARRY RICHELSON** at 203-637-5454.

Special Event: **MAURICE KROHN** reminded everyone about the Yonkers Brewery and Beer Garden tour, tasting and lunch, beginning at 11:30 am on Thursday, July 14th. He mentioned that 15 people had signed-up for the event.

RMA Picnic: **WILL MORRISON** reminded everyone to mark their calendars for the annual event on September 14th. It promises to be better than ever with some surprises.

FUN AND GAMES

Pickleball: **PAT MacCARTHY** reminded us that play occurs every Monday and Thursday from 10 am to noon at Christiano Field. Both courts were filled this past Monday. To be put on the mailing list, contact **MARK GEIMER** (mark.geimer@gmail.com) or **PAT** (pmaccarthy415@gmail.com). **PAT** offers free lessons; just contact him. He also referred to a 10-page article on the sport in a recent *Sports Illustrated* issue: <https://www.si.com/sports-illustrated/2022/05/24/pickleball-fastest-growing-sport-daily-cover>

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** said that there will be no Tai Chi session on Monday, July 18th while he is away at an advanced Tai Chi camp. The group usually meets at the First Congregational Church in Old Greenwich on Mondays, with a beginner's session at 8:45 am and a session for the more experienced at 9:30 am. Contact **WILL** to join or find out more: wdmorrison@gmail.com.

Golf: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** reported that on Tuesday there were 12 players, 11 who played 18 holes and one who played half as many! Closest to the pin on holes 5, 7, and 15 were, respectively, **MIKE ROSS**, **KIP SCHULZ** and **JOE MANCINELLI**. **JOE** also had the longest drive at hole 8 and scored under 100, as did **JAY SCHONDORF**. Next week's captain is **JACK WEIR**.

Hearts: **DON CONWAY** provided the news about the eight players at two tables who finished six games. **DON** won three games and had three moonshots (can you believe it?). **GRANT PERKINS** won two games and **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** grabbed one. Other moonshooters, at one each: **JACK SWEGER**, **BOB SHULMAN**, **TOM HEALY** and **JOHN STANKUNAS**. Next week's captain is **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**.

Bridge: **RON MURRAY** announced the top outcomes out of nine players. **TONY COCCHI**, 3210, **FRANK LEE**, 3290, and **ED MASTOLONI**, 3440. Newcomers are welcome. Play begins at 1pm on Wednesdays at Greenwich Library.

Walkers and Talkers: **TAD LARRABEE** said that weather gods provided another delightful day last Thursday for a nice walk on the Thirteen Bridges and Eagle Hill Trails in the Rockefeller State Park not far from the Hudson River. **TAD** mentioned that he has culled his mailing list of people who have not walked with the group in a very long time. If anyone who had been on the list does not receive the usual Wednesday afternoon email announcing next Thursday's walk, and wants to remain on the list, please let him know

and you will be readed. He will also happily add anyone else's email if you want to join, even if only occasionally. Contact: tadlarra@optonline.net.



Walkers at rest: your editor, C. MacKay, T. Larrabee

Outdoor Tennis: **JOHN KNIGHT** disappointingly reported that no one showed at the courts this past Friday. Play is scheduled for July 15th at Christiano Field from 10 to noon and he would appreciate receiving messages indicating interest. Unless enough players plan to play, summer tennis will be cancelled. Contact **JOHN** at 917-683-1460 or johnknight7@gmail.com.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

GEORGE UBOGY introduced Joseph Polisi, who had previously spoken at the RMA about the Julliard School, of which he was president from 1984 until 2018, far longer than any other leader. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Yale and a degree in international relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University. He is currently Julliard's Chief China Officer, overseeing the development of The Tianjin Juilliard School.



Dr. Polisi spoke about the little known but fascinating history of the creation and operation of Lincoln Center in New York City. The

full story can be found in his recent book, covering the period from 1955 through 2020, *A Beacon to the World: A History of Lincoln Center*. He began by explaining his exposure to music through his father, a bassoonist with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra; he became a bassoonist himself. Joseph felt that a history of Lincoln Center, which contains such distinguished representations of dance, music and drama, was important. Contrary to popular belief, Lincoln Center is not a physical entity, but a federation of 10 Performing Arts organizations that occupy several buildings on the 16-acre site that is sub-leased from the City and bounded by 62nd to 70th streets, and Broadway to Amsterdam Avenue. Using 27 images from his book, he explained how it all started, evolved and resulted in one of the major cultural locations of the world.

It began as a concept suggested in 1955 by John D. Rockefeller III, one of four brothers, who was responsible for the philanthropic activities of the family. He envisioned locating several different arts organizations in one center and an administrative entity was born with him as president until 1961. J. D. provided \$4.8 million (\$50 million in today's dollars) for the purchase of the land, which was made possible by the 1949 Federal Housing Act, which allotted federal funds for "slum clearance" in cities with a goal of increasing the supply of quality housing. The site ultimately used for Lincoln Center displaced many minority families, yet no new housing was built on the site as a result of a controversial decision influenced by then Mayor Robert Wagner and Robert Moses. There was a strong sentiment that in the middle of the Cold War it would be beneficial to create a U.S. cultural eminence that would enrich the lives of the people and the country, at a time when the overriding spirit was military strength and prowess.

A team of distinguished architects was assembled, among them Philip Johnson (who designed the N. Y. State Theater) and Eero Saarinen (responsible for Lincoln Center Theater). Much debate took place as to whether there should be one huge building or separate structures for the different disciplines, the latter emerging victorious after much compromise on other issues. The project had such high visibility that President Eisenhower "dug the dirt" at the ground breaking. The first opening, on September 23, 1962, was of Philharmonic Hall (subsequently named Avery Fisher Hall but now David Geffen Hall). A very long concert by the New York Philharmonic led by Leonard Bernstein was attended by luminaries from all walks of life, including Jackie Kennedy representing the president. Amidst all the joy and satisfaction, a problem arose that would haunt the hall for many years, less than great acoustics! During the loud sections of the music, there

were reverberations in the hall and the sound would echo. Since then, seven renovations have been made to improve the acoustics and to redesign the seating arrangements.

Openings of the other buildings and their art performances took place over the years, beginning with the New York City Ballet, founded and led by Balanchine and his partner Lincoln Kirstein. What was considered the grandest opening of all was that of the Metropolitan Opera House on September 16, 1966, the sixth building to open. In attendance, somewhat strangely, were Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos, but only because of their relationship with J. D. Rockefeller III, who was involved in U.S.-Asian politics. *Life* magazine referred to it as the biggest opening in history. Samuel Barber's opera *Antony and Cleopatra* was performed but did not receive good reviews. However, it was her role as Cleopatra that launched Leontyne Price on her illustrious career. There are several pieces of art and sculpture (Calder, Moore, et al.) within and around the Met, including two giant murals by Chagall that were inadvertently installed in the reverse positions on the wall. Although very upset, he said he would live with it.

Initially against the wishes of the Met Opera, the New York City Opera also was given a home at the site. Soon after the Met debut, they performed Handel's *Julius Caesar*, with Beverly Sills as Cleopatra. It was the start of her highly successful career. She retired from the stage in 1979 but remained very active and influential as chair of City Opera, chair of Lincoln Center, and chair of the Metropolitan Opera at various times.

Alice Tully Hall opened in September 1969. It was funded with a gift of \$1.2 million by Alice, an opera singer and aviatrix from a wealthy family. The 1080 seat auditorium is the home of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and the Julliard Orchestra. Since its opening, Tully Hall has served as a venue for numerous events, including Mostly Mozart, Great Performers, the New York Film Festivals, and Jazz at Lincoln Center, the latter first brought to the Center in 2004 through the efforts of Wynton Marsalis.

Philharmonic Hall was renamed Avery Fisher Hall in honor of philanthropist Avery Fisher, who donated \$10.5 million (about \$100 million today) to the orchestra in 1973. In 2015, the Hall was given its present name after David Geffen donated \$100 million to the Lincoln Center. The Hall is under major reconstruction with new seating arrangements for 2200 patrons and what is hoped will be great acoustics.

After a lively Q&A session, Dr. Polisi signed copies of his book, for sale at the Social Hall entrance.

For those interested in viewing the full presentation, go to the RMA website and click on the video at <https://vimeo.com/user9053619/videos>.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER: RMA member David Michonski, who has lectured, marketed, taught and consulted on real estate sales and marketing around the world for 30 years will cover "The Outlook for Greenwich Residential Real Estate: Boom or Bust?" David has held many executive positions at national and international real estate organizations as well as having managed the Greenwich office of Coldwell Banker. He is the author of three award-winning real estate books,

Please Note: Attendees must show proof of vaccination and booster at the door for admittance. Masks are optional.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: Scribe for the next meeting, on July 20, will be →**AV RIVEL**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to av@rivels.org.

ALL MEMBERS: Volunteers are needed to assist with audio, video and Zoom at our meetings. Please see **HORST TEBBE** if you can assist in this critical need

ALL 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 Scribe Tribe. Please contact **TIM BROOKS** at tbroo@aol.com if you can support this continuing effort.

ALL MEMBERS: Do not forget to report all your inside and outside volunteer hours to **JOHN FEBLES** at jfebles13@gmail.com.

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.

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc. · 37 Lafayette Place · Greenwich, CT 06830 · USA. Visit our website at <https://greenwichrma.org>

RMA 2022 CALENDAR

Weekly Repetitive Activities*			
Day	Time	Activity	Contact
Mondays	8:45 am	QiGong and Tai Chi Workout	Will Morrison – wdmorrison@gmail.com
Mondays	10:00 am	Pickleball at Christiano Park	Pat MacCarthy – pmaccarthy415@gmail.com Mark Geimer – mark.geimer@gmail.com
Tuesdays	Various tee times	RMA Golf, the Griff Golf Course, Greenwich	Mike Ryan – ryantomac@netscape.net
Tuesdays	10:00 to 11:00 am	Platform (paddle) tennis at Loughlin Field, Cos Cob	John Dean - Jhdeanco@gmail.com
Wednesdays	9:45 to 10:30 am	RMA Weekly Meeting	Horst Tebbe – onehorst@optimum.net or Len Carusi at lencarusi@gmail.com
Wednesdays	1:00 pm	Hearts	Bob Shullman – bob.shullman@gmail.com
Wednesdays	12:30 pm	Bridge	Andre Mazurek - Mazurek.a.j@gmail.com
Thursdays	9:00 am	RMA Walking	Tad Larrabee - tadlarra@optonline.net
Thursdays	10:00 am	Pickleball at Christiano Park	Pat MacCarthy – pmaccarthy415@gmail.com Mark Geimer – mark.geimer@gmail.com
Friday	11:00	Outdoor Tennis, Bruce Park	John Knight - johnknight7@gmail.com
Friday	1:30-3:00 pm	Indoor Tennis (resumes in fall)	Andy Holmes - Andyholmes56@gmail.com

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