

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

Chair/Editor: **Tim Brooks**

Scribes: **Av Rivel, Arnold Gordon, John Kavanagh, Frank Scarpa, Joe Angland, Paul Barbian, Jim Dean, Bob Giaquinto, David Michonski, Bob Shullman, Fred Wu**
Archivist: **Tad Larrabee** Website: **Mark Geimer** Format: **Len Carusi, Mark Geimer**

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SCRIBE: ARNOLD J. GORDON

"Those are my principles, and if you don't like them... well, I have others." - Groucho Marx

President **JOE MANCINELLI** began the Zoom-only business meeting at 9:46 am and led us in the pledge. It was the first and possibly only Zoom meeting he will conduct; the church needed the Social Hall. In place of live piano and singing, the famous video of the Melody Men performance of the "Star-Spangled Banner" at Citi Field in 2014 was shown. There were 57 members on the Zoom meeting. **JOE** regaled us with a bit of nostalgia by providing statistics from 1922, 100 years ago. Here are some choice examples:

- * The average life expectancy for men was 47 years.
- * Only 14% of homes had a bathtub. Only 8% of homes had a telephone.
- * The average U.S. wage in 1922 was 22 cents per hour. The average US worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.
- * A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2,000 per year. A dentist earned \$2,500 per year.
- * More than 95% of all births took place at home
- * Sugar cost four cents a pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen. Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.
- * The five leading causes of death were: pneumonia and influenza, tuberculosis, diarrhea, heart disease and stroke, in that order.

- * Two out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write And, only six percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.
- * Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were available over the counter at local drugstores.
- * There were about 230 reported murders in the ENTIRE U.S.A.

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** had no important news to convey, bad or good, but did have an investment tip. He is buying stock – chicken, beef and vegetable, trying to become a boulionaire. In the next installment of his challenge to members to consider imponderables, these are examples:

- * If a deaf child signs swear words, does his mother wash his hands with soap?
- * If one synchronized swimmer drowns, do the rest drown too?
- * If man evolved from monkeys and apes, why do we still have monkeys and apes?

He then introduced **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** as the real jokester for the day who related the tale of an old codger at the patient waiting room who told the receptionist after an argument that he could not pee out of his ear. Ask **JERRY** for the full story!

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: **PETER STERN** announced the birthday boys but they were deprived of the usual Happy Birthday Song; they are urged to listen to the song next week. **RUSS HARDEN**, 80, **MIKE SMITH**, 83, **BOB GIAQUINTO**, 82, **SAM MARASSO**, 83, and **BARRY RICHELSON**, 76. There were two guests with us online, Tog Pearson (g/o **SKIP AUCH** and **ED BLOOM**) and Michael LaGamma (g/o **PAT MACCARTHY**).

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

Volunteer Hours: **JOHN FEBLES** summarized the results for week ending August 24: Outside, 107 hours by 14 men, inside, 58 hours by 13 men. The member reporting the highest number of hours was **HORST TEBBE** with 25 hours. **HORST** operates production and broadcast at the Greenwich Community Television station and does the same for the RMA. **JOHN** also mentioned that at the annual November RMA lunch, awards will be given to the volunteers with the most hours. If you have gaps in your reporting, please let him know - 203-869-5343 or jfebles13@gmail.com.

Volunteer Programs: **WILL MORRISON** mentioned that so far 36 members have responded to the survey he issued, intended to identify the primary community service organizations and projects supported by RMA members. The results will help build further support amongst the membership. Thus far, the results show that 60 different service organizations are supported. The most are RMA – 11, Call-A-Ride – 9, Places of Worship – 7, Abilis – 2, Greenwich Green and Clean – 2, Meals on Wheels – 2.

[CLICK HERE IF YOU HAVE NOT YET RESPONDED TO THE SURVEY](#)

Speakers: For today's speaker, **TIM BROOKS** announced that music critic Will Friedwald will talk about the life and music of Nat King Cole, subject of Will's latest book. Next week's speaker, as announced by **HOLLISTER STURGES**, will be author, journalist and TV host, Jonathan Lemire, who will talk about his latest book, *The Big Lie: Election Chaos, Political Opportunism, and the State of American Politics After 2020*. He will trace the origins and pervasiveness of disinformation that has shaped our current politics and why such a sizable percentage of the American public is willing to believe it and what the consequences are. **Please Note: Attendees must show proof of vaccination and booster at the door for admittance. Masks are optional.**

RMA Raft-Up: **JOHN CRAINE** reminded everyone that the annual event this year will begin at noon on Thursday, September 8th. There will be three sail boats and three motor boats; 15 people have signed up to date. 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 will be 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.

RMA Picnic: **WILL MORRISON** reminded everyone to mark their calendars for the annual event on September 14th. Weather forecast calls for mostly sunny and 81 degrees. We can always use more help with the set up and take down. Please reach out to **GRANVILLE BURGESS, ARNOLD GORDON, JIM DEAN, ANDY HOLMES, JOHN KAVANAGH, PETER STERN** or **WILL**. RSVP attendance to date: 114 members have responded, 95 Yes or Maybe, with 58 bringing a guest for a possible total of 153.

If you have not responded or have a change of plans, please RSVP again with your new status. We will use your last response. The last day to RSVP is next week's RMA meeting, September 7.

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP FOR THE PICNIC](#)

FUN AND GAMES

Pickleball: **PAT MacCARTHY** reminded us that play occurs every Monday and Thursday from 10 am to noon at Christiano Field. There were 10 members playing last Thursday on two courts and six players last Monday. They will be playing on Monday, September 5th (Labor Day). 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.

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** said that there will be a Tai Chi session on Monday, Labor Day. 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: **MIKE RYAN** reported that they had 19 players on a hot, clammy Tuesday this week. Closest to the holes were: hole 5, **TOM HEALY**, hole 7, **JIM SANTORA**, hole 8, **JOHN CRAINE**, and hole 15, **RICHARD BARTHOLEMEW**. Notable scores: 99 for **DON HAMILTON** and **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**, 97 for **TONY COCCHI**, 96 for **GRAN BURGESS**, 95 for **JIM BOARDMAN**, 90 for **TOM HEALY**, 87 for **RICHARD BARTHOLEMEW**. **JOHN CRAINE** had the longest drive, on hole 8. Shot of the Day: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** had a chip-in for a birdie on hole 10. One for the ages! **JOHN CRAINE** will be our captain next week. Start times for the month of September will be mid-day.

RMA Annual Golf Lunch: Folks are reminded that it will be held on Wednesday, October 12, immediately following the RMA meeting. The venue again will be the Field Club. The cost is \$50, payable by cash or a check made out to the RMA. Retired RMA golfers as well as RMA non-golfers are more than welcome to attend. Starting with next Wednesday's meeting, **MIKE RYAN** will be taking sign-ups, collecting money, and logging entree selections (broiled salmon or chicken).

Hearts: **JOHN KNIGHT** reported there were eight players at two tables. Three games were played on Table 1. Winners were **DON CONWAY** (2 games) and **JACK SWEGER**. Moon shots were made by **DON** (2), **JACK** (1) and **JOHN KNIGHT** (1). At Table 2, winners were **JOHN STANKUNUS** (2 games), **ANDY HOLMES** (1 plus a tie), and **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** (1). Moon shots were by **JOHN STANKUNUS** (2), **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** (1) and **TOM HEALY** (1). It was noted that **MICHAEL** and **JACK** are teaching seniors at the Senior Center how to play the game.

Bridge: **JOHN FEBLES** said there were eight men and two tables last week. In third place, **FRANK LEE** (2450 points), second, **ANDRE MAZUREK** (2710), and the champ was **RON FRIEDMAN** (3030). Play takes place in the main library cafe at 12:45 on Wednesdays. Contact **JOHN** at 203-550-5049 (c) or 203-869-5343 (h).

Walkers and Talkers: **JEFF JUNKERS** subbed for **TAD LARRABEE** and reported that seven walkers gathered in the Cos Cob Library parking lot last Thursday to explore



sections of Cos Cob. They crossed Strickland Brook to the elementary school and followed it to Orchard St. From there they went up Grove Street to a path that led into the west end of the Bible Street Park. They found an old cemetery there behind the bocci courts, went down Bible St. to Orchard St. and across Route 1 to Mead Avenue to the waterfront. They then crossed River Road and followed the waterfront path at the Water Club/Marina properties, crossed the Cos Cob inlet and went under the Thruway bridge to a small

Veteran's Memorial pocket park. They continued on River Road under the railroad bridge and into Cos Cob Park where they visited the 9/11 memorial. As if that were not enough, they back-tracked up River Road to the Bush-Holly Museum which they could not visit due to lack of time. So up Strickland Road they went past several Victorian houses to the old cemetery and Cos Cob center, crossed Route 1 and returned to the library via the firehouse. The picture shows a group of walkers at the historic plaque by the firehouse. To join the group, contact: tadlarra@optonline.net.

Indoor Tennis: **ANDY HOLMES** reported that tennis will resume on Friday, September 9.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

TIM BROOKS, a jazz aficionado himself, introduced Will Friedwald, who spoke about his most recent book, *Straighten Up and Fly Right: The Life and Music of Nat King Cole*. Will is the author of ten books on jazz, popular music, other musical genres, and biographies of some of the great performers of the mid twentieth century, such as Frank Sinatra and Tony Bennett. He has also written extensively for the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times* and several entertainment magazines.

During an interview format with **TIM**, the author reviewed the amazing skill and versatility of Nat King Cole, as a pianist, bandleader, small ensemble leader, singer, TV personality, and as a skillful explorer and performer of all kinds of music, from pop to jazz to rhythm and blues to country and western. The interview included rare clips of Cole in movies and on TV in the 1940s and 1950s.

Nathaniel Adams Coles was born in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1919 and died in 1965, but was known professionally as Nat King Cole. At the age of four, he moved with his family to Chicago, at that time a major center for jazz, almost exclusively among black musicians. Nat was a child prodigy on the piano and would sneak out of the house to visit clubs where he learned to love jazz by sitting outside to hear Louis Armstrong, Earl Hines, and Jimmie Noone. He dropped out of high school at the age of 15 to pursue a musical career. Before he was 20, while playing piano in nightclubs, a club owner asked him to form a band and he hired bassist Wesley Prince and guitarist Oscar Moore, a novel combination of instruments at that time. They called themselves the King Cole Swingsters but changed their name to the King Cole Trio before making radio transcriptions and recording for small labels.

According to legend, he became a singer, in 1940, when one or more bar patrons insisted he sing a song he was playing. His first big recording hit was "Straighten Up and Fly Right" in 1944. Although early in his career he recorded for Excelsior, Decca and other labels, the majority of his work was with Capitol Records from the mid-1940s through the 1950s. The label became known as "The House That Nat Built." In 1946, the trio broadcast *King Cole Trio Time*, a 15-minute radio program, one of the first radio programs featuring a black musician. The trio also performed on many other radio programs, such as the *Kraft Music Hall*. Cole was a great fan of the Great American Songbook and recorded many songs by composers such as Gershwin, Berlin, and Porter, often accompanied by a string

orchestra. His stature as a popular star was established by many hits, such as "All for You," "The Christmas Song" (a perennial favorite even today), "(Get Your Kicks on) Route 66", "(I Love You) For Sentimental Reasons", "Nature Boy" (a huge hit), "Mona Lisa" (No. 1 song of 1950), and "Too Young" (No. 1 song of 1951).

Throughout the 1950s, Cole sold millions of records around the world, making him one of the most successful African-American solo stars in history. His versatility was demonstrated in 1958 when he recorded an album in Cuba sung entirely in Spanish. It was very popular in Latin America and the U.S. and was followed by two more Spanish-language albums.

Cole recorded over 100 songs that became pop-chart hits, one after the other, remaining popular into the rock and roll era with hits such as "Send for Me," "Rambling Rose" and "Those Lazy-Hazy-Crazy Days of Summer." His trio was influential for small jazz ensembles that followed. Cole also appeared in films such as *Cat Ballou*, and on television, and was the first African-American man to host an American television series. His daughter, singer Natalie Cole (1950–2015), was a successful artist in her own right. In an unusual recording made almost 40 years after its original popularity, using modern technology Natalie was able to record a duet with the voice of her father singing "Unforgettable," making it famous again in 1991. It reached the top of the pop charts!

Nat King Cole had been a heavy cigarette smoker and was diagnosed with lung cancer in 1964. He died in February 1965. At his funeral, the pall bearers were among the most famous names in politics and entertainment; thousands of fans stood outside the church with 400 in attendance. His eulogy was delivered by Jack Benny, whose words eloquently describe Cole's life and contributions: "Nat Cole was a man who gave so much and still had so much to give. He gave it in song, in friendship to his fellow man, devotion to his family. He was a star, a tremendous success as an entertainer, an institution. But he was an even greater success as a man, as a husband, as a father, as a friend."

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE FULL PRESENTATION](#)

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: Scribe for the next meeting, on September 7, will be →**BOB GIAQUINTO**←. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to bgq19@live.com.

ALL MEMBERS: The CBB team works every week to write and publish an informative and concise bulletin for our members' enjoyment. We can always use new members to join the Scribe Tribe. Please contact **TIM BROOKS** at tbroo@aol.com if you can support this 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