



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

"To build may have to be the slow and laborious task of years. To destroy can be the thoughtless act of a single day."

Winston Churchill

Following the weekly rendition of the RMA anthem President **RUSS HARDEN** opened the meeting at 10:00 AM and lead us in the pledge.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** noted the following: AS OF THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11th, 2021, INDIVIDUALS AGE 65 AND ABOVE ARE ELIGIBLE TO SIGN UP FOR A COVID-19 VACCINE APPOINTMENT IN CONNECTICUT VIA ANYONE OF THE **LINKS BELOW**:

<https://dphsubmissions.ct.gov/onlinevaccine>

<https://covidvaccine.ynhh.org/>

<https://officeofthegovernor.cmail19.com/t/j-l-akldto-tllukttklj-a/>

The next eligible group will include individuals below age 65 who have "certain medical conditions" that increase the risk of complications from COVID-19 infection. Here are some of those qualifying medical conditions: Asthma (i.e., moderate to severe), Cancer, Chronic kidney disease, COPD (i.e., chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), Heart conditions such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies, Hypertension (i.e., high blood pressure), Immunocompromised state (i.e., weakened immune system), Liver disease, Neurologic conditions such as dementia, Obesity (i.e., body mass index of 30 kg/square meter or above), Overweight (i.e., body mass index of 25 to 30 kg/square meter), Pregnancy, Smoking, Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes mellitus. The date for openings for this group has not been set.

ARNOLD highly recommended a prize-winning Netflix series, Borgen, from Denmark, which ran for 3 seasons and 30 episodes. It is an intricate political drama about a female Prime

Minister. It goes much further with politics made human and the relationship between government and the media. It is about democracy and the relationships between people, the relationship between work and home (especially interesting at this moment). It is about journalism, women, values, having children, not having children. It covers the same controversial topics we face in the US, such as immigration, the economy, political strife, foreign affairs. In other words, it is about all of us. For a description, **CLICK HERE:** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borgen_\(TV_series\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borgen_(TV_series)).

Putting on his jester's hat, **ARNOLD** offered a series of jokes including a silver haired gentleman's exposure of chest hair while visiting a Social Security office, some ducks happily enjoying puddles and some engaging quotes from Confucius.

ARNOLD also noted that a Pickle Ball tourney is currently being televised on FIOS channel 597 and probably can be found on Cablevision (check Google).

TOM HEALLY wanted everyone to know that he and Kathy are celebrating 53 years of wedded bliss. God bless Kathy.

TAD LARRABEE announced two opportunities for RMA members to learn some new and interesting skills and to have a positive impact on RMA:

1) Website Editor: Reporting to the Website Chairman, this task does NOT require technical knowledge. The Editor should have a good sense of what RMA members and the general-public wish to read about on our RMA Website. You would bring your knowledge about RMA to our website to ensure that the website's content truly reflects RMA at its best, ensuring that the content is correct, up-to-date and consistent. Review of the website would be ongoing, but only requiring a thorough review once a year. Ideas for website improvements and corrections would be conveyed to the Website Chairman who would implement the technical and content changes.

2) TV Editor: Reporting to the Co-Chairmen of the TV Editing Committee, this task will involve learning how to edit our TV recordings that are posted on the RMA website after each speaker presentation and made available to the Town's TV station. The Co-Chairs have extensive knowledge and experience that, while continuing their involvement, they wish to pass on after doing this task for several years. Our speaker program is our most vibrant face to the public and the recordings are frequently consulted for many months after the actual presentation. Therefore, good quality editing of our TV recordings is an important resource for both RMA and the general- public.

Please volunteer for these interesting positions and increase your knowledge while giving back to RMA.

Contact **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN**, Chairman of the Nominating Council, at JerrySchwendeman@Yahoo.com.

Membership chair **PETER STERN** announced 68 members in attendance. He then announced the following birthdays: **JACK SWEGER** (90); **JOERG BLASER** (75); **GRAN BURGESS** (74); **HAROLD FROST** (87).

Treasurer **JEFF JUNKER** reported no noteworthy activity in the last week.

Visiting chair **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** announced he is unaware of any members facing health issues.

JIM FISHBEIN and **PETER STERN** offered a review of responses to-date to the ongoing survey of membership meeting preferences. They also provided a list of members who have not responded to the survey and asked members in attendance, who know the non-responders, to work with **PETER** (pmstern@optonline.net) in soliciting responses from them.

[CLICK HERE FOR LIST OF NON-RESPONDERS](#)

Human interest: **RUSS HARDEN** suggested that any senior citizen who cannot afford a nursing home should apply for Social Security Plan G. The plan provides each applicant with a gun and one bullet to be used to “take care” of one person. Following a murder conviction, the applicant will be housed in a prison, where he/she will be provided with meals, recreation/therapy, medical care, etc. free of charge for life.

Programs: **BOB PHILLIPS** said today’s speaker will be author Steven Ujifusa, whose presentation will be on “Barons of the Sea: And Their Race to Build the World’s Fastest Clipper Ship.”

PETER BERG noted next week’s speaker will be Congressman Jim Himes, who will discuss the new Congress and the Biden Administration.

Fun and Games

Tennis: **BILL FAKUNDINY** presented the results of last Friday's tennis matches:

Opening Round Winners: Court 1 - **RANDY MOTLAND** and **MIKE SMITH**, Court 2 - **ANDRE MAZUREK** and **PETER DODGE**

Final Round Winners: Court 1 - **ANDRE MAZUREK** and **RANDY MOTLAND**, Court 2 - **DON BREIMEISTER** and **PAT MACCARTHY** vs **TOM HEALY** and **BILL FAKUNDINY** - Ended in a tie (ran out of time)

Next Friday's captain is **MIKE SMITH** subbing for **JOHN KNIGHT**.

Pickleball: **TONY COCCHI** said Winter Outdoor Pickleball was cancelled last week. We play Mondays at 1PM at Christiano Park (by the town Dump). If you are interested in playing contact: **TONY COCCHI** at Anthony.Cocchi@Lehman.cuny.edu

Platform Tennis: **JIM DEAN** reported last week's games were cancelled.

Walking: **TAD LARRABEE** reported last Thursday morning ten walkers visited Cove Island in Stamford, a nice walk on the Sound.

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** asks: Preparing for the end of the world, running out of Netflix shows, or worrying about slipping on a banana? **WILL** suggests a good dose of Constant Bear, Holding the Moon, and Repulse Monkey moves once or twice a week can work wonders, as documented by Harvard Medical School, the Mayo Clinic, and Case Western. At the very least, you will not be slipping on a banana! Join your fellow RMA members for Tai Chi on Wednesday afternoons at 3:00. Email **Will** for more info and to get set up. wdmorrison@gmail.com

Hearts: **DON CONWAY** reported a busy week for Hearts players.

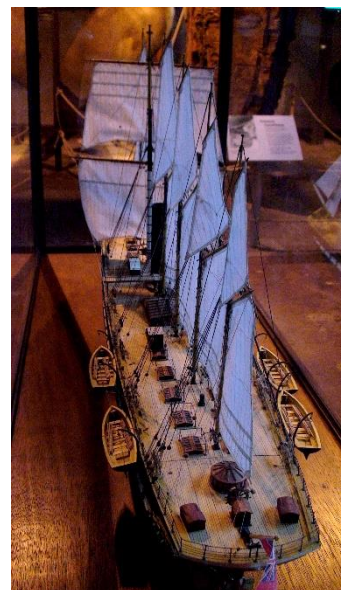
Thursday 2/4: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO, LOU TROVATO, PETER BERG** and **DON CONWAY**. **MICHAEL** won 2 games, **LOU** and **DON** won 1 apiece. Moon shot: 3 by **LOU**.

Monday 2/8: **JACK SWEGER, LOU TROVATO, TOM HEALY** and **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**. **JACK** won 2 games and **LOU** won 1 game. **JACK** and **DON** had one moon shot with **LOU** getting 2.

Tuesday 2/9: **GRANT PERKINS, TOM HEALY, MICHAEL AMBROSINO** and **DON CONWAY**. **TOM** won 4 games with **MICHAEL** winning just 1. **TOM** went crazy and shot the moon 6 times, with **GRANT** getting 2 and **MICHAEL** getting 1. **TOM** shot double moon shots in the 3rd and 5th games. Fantastic card playing.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Today's Speaker: **BOB PHILLPPS** introduced author Steven Ujifusa, whose recent book, *Barons of the Sea: And Their Race to Build the World's Fastest Clipper Ship*, recounts American trade with China in the mid-19th century— importation of teas, silks and porcelains paid for by U.S. merchants largely from profits from the sale of opium into China. Mr. Ujifusa introduced members to the major designers and builders of the ships that brought riches to the few who ventured from New England and New York around Cape Horn across the Pacific to China and brought back products much in demand in the United States. Among the leading Clipper Ship Builders, were Donald McKay



and Warren Delano, FDR's grandfather. The three masted Clipper Ships, similar to the picture shown here, made such ventures possible, because they sacrificed capacity for speed that allowed them to bring goods to market faster than other ship types in the first two thirds of the nineteenth century. They travelled at between 15 and 18 knots, and they typically were manned by a crew of about 60 who worked long hours in dangerous conditions. Few passengers travelled on Clipper Ships, because of cost and poor accommodations. The age of the Clipper Ships ended during the 1870s, when ship building began on the U.S. West coast, steam power began to dominate shipping and transcontinental railroads were built. Mr. Ujifusa's interesting presentation offered members insights into a fascinating time in American history.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

On February 17, 2021, our speaker will be Congressman Jim Himes, who will discuss the new Congress and the Biden Administration.

NOTE TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS: next week's CBB scribe will be **AV RIVEL**. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to **AV** at av@rivels.org.

NOTE TO 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 **JOE MANCINELLI** at jlmanc@optonline.net if you are interested in supporting this continuing effort.

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RMA 2020 CALENDAR

Weekly Repetitive Activities			
Date	Time	Activity	Contact
Mondays	1:00pm	Outdoor Pickle Ball at Christiano Park	Tony Cocchi @ anthony.cocchi@lehman.cuny.edu
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: "Tai Chi New Joiners"	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