



# CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



[www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org)  
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**SCRIBE: FRANK SCARPA**

"The desire to take medicine is perhaps the greatest feature that distinguishes man from animals."  
Sir William Osler

President **RUSS HARDEN** opened the Zoom meeting promptly at 10 with the playing of "We are the RMA". **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** then led us in the pledge.

Corresponding secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** noted that Connecticut has the 5th highest COVID-19 vaccination rate in the nation. An interim analysis has revealed that an age-based prioritization plan would be the most efficient and least confusing program going forward. Here are the dates when various age groups will become eligible to register online in Connecticut:

- March 1, 2021: Expands to all CT residents ages 55 to 64.
- March 22, 2021: Expands to all CT residents ages 45 to 54.
- April 12, 2021: Expands to all CT residents ages 35 to 44.
- May 3, 2021: Expands to all CT residents ages 16 to 34.

Note: In addition to the above schedule, the program will expand to include pre-K-to 12 School staff and teachers, as well as early childhood providers, all of whom will be provided the vaccine at dedicated clinics.

As a specific age group becomes eligible, you may go to the following website to sign up:  
**CLICK HERE** for vaccination website.

<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Vaccination-Scheduling-Options>

Regarding climate change, **ARNOLD** recommends watching a debate on the proposition "It's Time to Expand Nuclear Power". **CLICK HERE** for nuclear power debate.

<https://www.intelligencesquaredus.org/debates/it%E2%80%99s-time-expand-nuclear-power>.

**GEOFFREY BURGE** then exposed us to three "Guru-themed" jokes, which were met by a chorus of groans and canned laughter.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PETER STERN** noted the presence of 65 members (soon to expand to 68) and One guest, Flemming Heilmann (guest of **BOB MEANY** and **HOLLISTER STURGES**.)

Three attendees were logging in from Florida: **FRANK SCARPA**, **GEORGE UBOGY** and **GERRY GIBIAN**.

**BIRTHDAYS**: **PETER** noted the birthdays of **PETER SHIEFERDECKER** (a robust looking 96), **RANDY MOTLAND**, 86; and **WAYNE DeVRIES**, 78. A chorus of "Happy Birthday" was showered upon the three men.

**VISITING**: **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** noted that **DERYCK DUNCALF** is at Edgehill, recuperating from a bout of congestive heart failure. He is being quarantined for 14 days and is not receiving visitors or phone calls. **COREY DUNHAM** has been a resident of the Nathaniel Witherell for over two years. He would appreciate phone calls from any of his RMA friends, but visitors are not allowed. (203 992 8583.)

**TAD LARRABEE** noted that he needs a new TV editor and a website editor. Training and performance of these tasks can be done remotely. Contact **TAD** at [tadlarra@optonline.net](mailto:tadlarra@optonline.net).

**HUMAN INTEREST**: **RUSS HARDEN** recalled for us the story of Dame Vera Lynn, who died last year at age 103. She was widely referred to as the "Forces Sweetheart" for her singing to the British troops during World War II. She is most well-known for singing "We'll Meet Again."

### PROGRAM NOTES

This week's speaker: **GEORGE UBOGY** previewed Barry Strauss, PhD., Professor of Classics at Cornell. Dr. Strauss will speak on "How to Stay Free Under an Empire: Lessons from Imperial Rome."

Next week's speaker: **ARNOLD GORDON** previewed Bill Diamond, President and CEO of the SETI Institute, who will speak to "Seeking Life in the Cosmos--The Search for Intelligent Life in the Universe and What it Means for Humankind."

**SPECIAL REQUEST**: **JOHN FEBLES** wants to encourage members to submit volunteer hours to him. He is happy with the response so far.

Also, The League of Women Voters is looking for volunteers to assist in the vaccine administration process.

## FUN AND GAMES

TENNIS: **ANDY HOLMES** reported on four matches last Friday. Round 1 winners: **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** and **PETER ORBANOWSKI** on court 1, and **MIKE SMITH** and **PETER DODGE** on court 2. Finals round: **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** and **PETER DODGE** on court 1, and **RANDY MOTLAND** and **BRIAN MAHONEY** on court 2. This week's captain is **PAT MacCARTHY**.

HEARTS: **ANDY HOLMES** reported on six games. **JACK SWEGER, TOM HEALY** and **ANDY HOLMES** each won two games. Moon shooters were **JACK SWEGER (2), TOM HEALY (2),** and **TOM MORONEY (1)**.

PLATFORM TENNIS: **RUSS HARDEN** reported on 8 players in a Round Robin at Loughlin Field.

PICKLEBALL: **TONY COCCHI** noted that last week had been cancelled on account of weather. Plans are for Thursday at 1:00 at Christiano Courts.

TAI CHI: **WILL MORRISON** noted that last week's session (Wednesday at 3) had a "Moon" theme, and that this week's is themed "Golden Cock."

BRIDGE: **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** reported on 4 players, **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** topped out at 5,960 with **RON FRIEDMAN** coming in at 5,540. Both players bid and won 2 slams.

WALKERS: **TAD LARRABEE** noted that last week was "snowed out."

## TODAY'S SPEAKER

**GEORGE UBOGY** introduced Barry Strauss, Ph.D., Professor of Classics at Cornell and author of many books on ancient Rome and Greece. The formal title of today's lecture is "How to Stay Free Under an Empire: Lessons from Imperial Rome."

Dr. Strauss reminded us of current challenges to freedom in Russia (the poisoning and incarceration of opposition candidate Navalny), Iran (crackdowns on dissidents) and China (repressions in Hong Kong). He opined that Americans have often considered themselves as "New Romans." The lecture focused on the period from 44BC to 117CE, during which time the Romans performed "cultural genocide." Using a map to illustrate Rome's geographical reach at the time, he pointed out that the cultures of Carthage, Gaul and Dacia (located in modern Rumania) literally disappeared. However, other cultures managed to survive, e.g., Germany,

Greece, Egypt and Judaism. Dr. Strauss ties their survival to "keeping freedom." Egypt succeeded by "lying low" and becoming a fertile area for the development of Christianity. Greece benefitted from Rome's "cultural snobbery." Although their armed resistance failed, Emperor Hadrian cut them a deal and offered them a kind of "equity." The Germans "took a beating and had to leave." However, the German leader Arminius managed to "Romanize" Germany and trick the Romans into an ambush. Despite many failed rebellions, Judaism survived. Churchill recognized this phenomenon when he declared that "nations that went down fighting" rose again. Jews were able to settle in Yavna (south of today's Tel Aviv) and produce the "Babylonian Talmud."

Christianity, however, seems to be the "most successful resistance movement in history." Christians succeeded by mingling in Roman society and meeting in small groups, maintaining a "network." They became a "revival movement." Emperor Trajan decided to "turn a blind eye."

Martyrs became the seedbed of the Church.

Dr. Strauss' "takeaway" from the success of Christianity is that it is important to be willing to fight, but it is more important to build up networks and have "faith" (i.e., faith in freedom).

**GEORGE UBOGY** then moderated a lively Q and A session covering a wide range of topics, including slavery and the role of Stoic philosophy.

#### NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Bill Diamond, President and CEO of the SETI Institute will discuss "Seeking Life in the Cosmos: The Search for Intelligent Life in the Universe and What it Means for Mankind."

**NOTE TO CBB CONTRIBUTORS:** next week's CBB scribe will be **ARNOLD GORDON**. Please send a copy of any remarks you want included in the CBB to **ARNOLD** at [ajgordo@verizon.net](mailto:ajgordo@verizon.net).

**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](mailto:jlmanc@optonline.net) if you are interested in supporting this continuing effort.

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## RMA 2020 CALENDAR

<b>Weekly Repetitive Activities</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Contact</b>
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 @ tadlarra@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