

Cigar Box Bulletin

Mission and Vision of Habitat for Humanity

Molly Pietrantonio

Volunteer Program Manager for Habitat for Humanity in MetroWest/Greater Worcester

Reporter: Bill Beebee & Bob Cooke



Molly Pietrantonio - got her start with Habitat for Humanity MetroWest/Greater Worcester serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteer in Service To America) member in 2012 and has been with the organization ever since. In her leadership role she supports both the volunteer engagement across the build sites and in ReStore (building supply store) locations as well as the community outreach efforts for the organization. Molly is a 2012 graduate of Assumption College and lives in Webster, MA. Her presentation focused on the history, mission, and vision of Habitat for Humanity and ReStore as well as talking through their programs that involve more than just the building of affordable housing.

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February 10, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Hybrid Meeting with RMAers at the Church and on Zoom

Reporter: Bill Beebee

Chris Hammer welcomed everyone to the February 2023, meeting of the RMA. **Chris** led the reading the *Pledge of Allegiance*, and this was followed by **Ken Watson** playing the *Star-Spangled Banner* on the piano.

Chris thanked those members volunteering support at the Meeting as follows:

- Reporting on the Minutes – **Bill Beebee**
- Reporting on the Speaker – **Bill Beebee / Bob Cooke**
- Bulletin - **Jorgen Hansen / Sam Merra**
- Set-up and Check-in and Put-away – **Curt Schubert / Dan Verrico**
- Badges – **Frank DiPace**

- First Computer - Slide Show – **Richard B. Smith**
- Second Computer - PowerPoint support - **Ken Mattes**
- Zoom Real-time Monitoring – **Ray Atkins**
- Sound - **Ron Riggert**
- Data - **Karl Coumou / Ron Riggert**
- Videography and Photography - **Nick Paganella** (Every member please make sure that **Nick** has your picture.)
- Coffee - **Mike Bennett**
- Pastries/fruit - **Ted Grenham / John Iberg**

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UPCOMING RMA MEETINGS

Friday, March 10
In person and via Zoom

Friday, April 14
In person and via Zoom

Friday, May 12
In person and via Zoom

Speaker Continued:

Habitat For Humanity International was founded in GA (today, located in Atlanta) in 1976. Habitat affiliates can now be found in 1400 communities across the US and in 70 countries. By 2020, 35 million people had been supported by HFH, and 5.9 million people were engaged at that time. Locally, Molly's Habitat Metro West/Greater Worcester service area is a rough rectangle centered around Worcester. The NE corner is Sudbury-Wayland; the SE corner is Uxbridge; the NW corner is Barre; and the SW corner is Sturbridge. There are 17 other HFH affiliates in MA.

Molly said that Habitat brings people together to build homes, communities and hope:

"Our shared vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live. The Habitat program is one of self-empowerment: 'a hand up, not a handout.'"

To these ends, HFH has four programs. The most well-known is Affordable Home Construction, focused on providing adequate shelter and affordable housing. For some families the choice of where to live importantly involves selecting a quality school district; their kids need to grow up educated, competent and facing a good future. Once that decision is made, a suitable site is selected, and the real work can begin.

Construction volunteers are expertly guided in these efforts by experienced carpenters, plumbers, glaziers, electricians, painters and mess-picker-uppers. Much of this work is done on Saturdays, when volunteer workers are more available and expert "builders" can weigh in. The existing organization usually takes care of buying supplies such as lumber, wiring, glass, paint; brooms and brushes; and other materials. These goods are ready "on site" as the volunteer workers arrive.

The prospective owner must show a need for adequate shelter and affordable housing and must be able to pay for a Habitat House. Homes are sold at 30% of a family's income at low interest for 25-30 years; they are deeded so that the owner cannot make a quick sale and gather unfair profits. The owner must be willing to partner with Habitat to help build a community around the house. Construction sweat equity from the owner is also required, to save money and build respect for the whole process.

An example of new construction is a triple town house on Harrison Street in Worcester.



The second of the four HFH programs is Operation Playhouse. Playhouses are built for the children of current-military and veteran families.



Speaker Continued:

The third HFH program is Critical Home Repair - restoring otherwise unlivable housing.



The fourth and final HFH program is their network of ReStore building supply stores. They operate like Goodwill Thrift Stores except that they provide new and gently used building materials at reduced prices. There are about 900 ReStore stores in the US.



Among other activities, they take in such materials that are otherwise headed for landfills but are still useful. The local ReStore network has a website with the address letsrestoreonline.org which makes it easy to search for particular materials.

Molly cheerfully gave an informative presentation that opened the eyes of RMAers to the positive influences of HFH in our communities. One of our former members (Dave Stallard) used to work for this fine organization. Other RMAers have also been involved and are proud of it.



The Cigar Box Bulletin
P.O. Box 261
Wayland, MA 01778

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*Thank You to Our Proofreader:
 Sam Merra*

*Published monthly by the
 Retired Men's Association
 of Boston/MetroWest and nearby
 communities*

Minutes Continued:

WELCOME TABLE: Nick Veeder

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| • New Members | Sponsor |
| Ralph Abbot | Paul Motyka |
| Ted Klein | Louis Petrovic |
| Dave Manalan | Paul Motyka |
| Frank McInnis | John Clancy |
| Steve Noone | Paul Motyka |
| Kent Sharp | Paul Motyka |

• **Guests**

Bill Austin was introduced by **Paul Sturgis**.

Ken Harbisan was a walk-in who had responded to an ad.

John Mancini was introduced by **John Clancy**.

Roger Manwaring (lawyer doing civil litigation out of his Sudbury house before retiring) was introduced by **Paul Sturgis**.

Dudley Post was also a walk-in who had responded to an ad.

Bruce Rideout (taught psychology in a college near Philly before moving up to Sudbury) was introduced by his neighbor, **Jim Carlton**.

Travel Reports

Merrill Mack - India

His two-week tour in Northern India, in a 5-person group, was entitled "Tigers and The Taj". He started in Delhi and visited several bustling old cities. He spent 3 1/2 days in a jeep tour of the Tiger Preserve where they saw (luckily from a jeep) no tigers but lots of other wildlife. Then, he went to the Taj Mahal followed by a boat tour of the Ganges River before flying home.

Chris Hammer - Antarctica

On the way south, he stopped in Buenos Aires, the Capital of Argentina, a beautiful city. At the southern tip of South America, he boarded the nearly-new ship *Ocean Explorer* for the rest of the trip - with 111 guests onboard. The trip south saw moderately-heavy seas which appeared to be typical. Once there, they took Zodiac inflated boats to get ashore twice a day. All going had to wear special clothing and be decontaminated before every trip in. There is great concern about humans bringing biological contaminants into environmentally-fragile Antarctica. They saw lots of penguins and seals. The latter can get violent and have to be watched from a distance. Besides going ashore, the Zodiacs took them to an iceberg and an extinct volcano, allowing them to climb on both. The temperatures ranged from 30 - 50 F since it is Antarctic Summertime.

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Anniversaries in February

Member		Spouse	Anniversary	Years
Daniel	Verrico	Janet Keith	02/14/1994	29
Frederick	Pryor	Barbara	02/20/1965	58
Sam	Merra	Judy	02/01/1958	65
Nick	Paganella	Pat	02/19/1955	68
William T.	Ladoulis	Bess	02/28/1954	69
Average Years Married				58



Birthdays in February

Member	Member	Birthday	Age
Henry P	Sorett	02/08/1947	76
Richard	Testa	02/12/1943	80
Karl	Coumou	02/07/1938	85
Michael R.	Daniel	02/26/1937	86
Robert	Fitzgerald	02/09/1934	89
Joseph D.	Bausk	02/27/1932	91
Norman E.	Sears	02/17/1927	96
		Average Age	87



Minutes Continued:**Announcements: Chris Hammer**

- Thanks to all who sent in their Annual Dues – If haven't, send Dues to:

R.M.A., PO Box 261, Wayland, MA. 01778
Make check out to Retired Men's Association

- Let Nick Veeder know if you did not receive dues notice.

Nv2ma2@gmail.com or 781-235-1066

- RMA promotional materials for area Senior Centers on Nick's table

- RMA tri-fold brochures
- Cigar Box Bulletins

- Winter Weather – RMA Monthly Meeting – Zoom only when Sudbury School System closes due to Weather.

- Members check your emails regularly before meeting with suspect weather.
- Is there a member that lives in Sudbury that can back up Richard B. Smith?

Contact richardbsmithjr@yahoo.com

Activities – Status: Chris Hammer**Hiking/Walking – Hikes will resume in Spring 2023****Send suggestions to:**

- Mike Patterson, Peter Dodds, Ray Atkins - sponsors
- Contact Ray Atkins at rcatkins@onebox.com

Events

- Selection of Events will be presented at March meeting
- Contact Larry Vifquain lbviquain@gmail.com
- Events Team: Larry Vifquain/Tom Jacoby/Joe Bausk/John Clancy

Volunteering for the RMA**Where to plug in and contribute?**

- Monitor Sudbury School Closing – contact **Richard B. Smith**
- Writers for Speaker's Program and Minutes – contact **Bill Beebee**
- Report on Health of Members – contact **Dick Testa**
- Helping limited-income folks with their income taxes - contact **Merrill Mack**

RMA Discussion Group

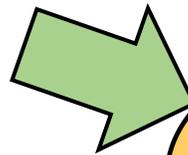
- Discussion Group is an open forum - Topics/comments can be controversial.
- Monthly In-Person meeting to discuss interesting contemporary topics.
- All attendees should be fully vaccinated.
- Meeting is on the Wednesday after the regular monthly RMA Meeting. Starts at noon, enjoy lunch, leave about 1 PM / 1:15 PM.
- **Next meeting – February 15, 2023**
- **Topic:** - Will select at the meeting, based on current events.
 - SUGGESTIONS – YOUR THOUGHTS?
 - Are US citizens losing their citizenship?
 - The Marriage Act signed by the President.
 - Guns, public access – so many people being shot, why?
 - The economy, inflation
 - School safety
 - TBD
- **Location:** New Sudbury Point Grill, 120 Boston Post Rd, Sudbury.
- All attendees should be fully vaccinated.
- **Please Contact Chris Hammer** chammer6060@gmail.com if interested.

RMA Bulletin Board

If you change your email address, be sure to let Ron Riggert know so you continue to receive RMA emails.
Ron's email is:
rkriqert@verizon.net

Consider invite your friends, as a guest for our March meeting.
Just bring him to the meeting or forward the ZOOM meeting link to them and then email Nick Veeder that you have a guest.
Nick's email Rmena.acct@gmail.com

Contacting
RMA President
Dick Testa:
dickteta@verizon.net
978-621-8553



Have You Tried
The RMA Website
RMenA.org

SAVE THE DATE

LET'S HAVE ANOTHER PARTY!

September 27, 2023

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE



Wedgewood Pines Country Club
215 Harvard Road, Stow
Wednesday September 27, 2023
From 5:00 to 9:00PM
Price per person \$60

Minutes Continued:**SAVE THE DATE****Tuesday August 8, 2023****TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME!**

At the new Worcester Red Sox
Polar Stadium
Playing Buffalo Bisons
Tuesday August 8th 2023
Game Time 6:45PM
Gates Open 5:45PM



RMA has 20 seats reserved Section 7 near home plate.

Special Price of \$25/person

Ample Parking

To obtain tickets:

Email Larry Vifquain lbvifquain@gmail.com with number of tickets needed.

Send check made out to Retired Men's Association to R.M.A., PO Box 261, Wayland, MA. 01778

R.O.M.E.O. Lunch

Evviva Trattoria at 129 Parker St, Maynard 12:30pm after Meeting

Host is **Ken Mattes**; send conformation to matteskc@gmail.com or call 508-878-7449



Next meeting is Friday, March 10th, in person or via Zoom. In-person, masks are optional.

The speaker will be: Katharine Lange

Policy Specialist, Massachusetts Rivers Alliance

Topic is : Water Pollution

Vital Statistics: Richard B. Smith

The Oldest Birthday belongs to **Norman Sears** at 96 years.

The Oldest Anniversary belongs to Bess and **Bill Ladoulis** - still in love after 69 years.

Health of our members: Dick Testa / Chris Hammer

Since the meeting **Paul Sturgis** received news that his old friend, **Richard G. Smith**, passed away this past Sunday, Feb. 12, after a long battle with cancer.



Does anyone know of a member in poor health?

Send a note to **Dick Testa** at dicktesta@verizon.net or call 978-621-8553

Humor: Harold Wilkinson

Geography Jokes:



I have never been in Cognito; I hear that nobody recognizes you there.

However, I have been in Sane. They do not have an airport and you must be driven.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump and I am not much on physical activity.

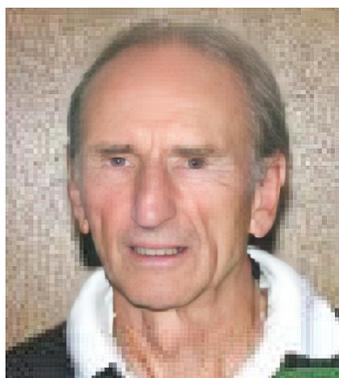
A Musical Interlude

Ken Watson played "Bohemian Rhapsody", live on the keyboard.

Chris Hammer then announced the Coffee Break and setup time for the Speaker.

Molly Pietrantonio was introduced by **Dan Verrico**

Let's get Acquainted with Bill Tafuri



I was born in Amityville, (Long Island) NY as there was no hospital in Wyandanch, NY where my family lived. My father owned a gas station and auto repair shop where I spent a part of my time working until I attended high school in the nearby town of Lindenhurst.

After graduating from high school, I went to Cornell University and enrolled in a five-year Electrical Engineering program with a major in Control Systems. At Cornell I met my wife, Karen and we were married at the end of my fourth year. At Cornell I enrolled in Army Reserve Officer Training and had orders to report for service after graduation, but they were delayed for several months. That being the case I applied for a job at Boeing Aircraft in Seattle, WA. They offered me work and my wife and I enjoyed the chance to drive to Seattle and see much of the country that we had never seen before.

In March of 1961 I reported to the Army base at Ft. Bliss in El Paso, TX where I received training in the Nike and Hawk air defense missile systems. During that time our first daughter was born at the Ft. Bliss Army Hospital at a cost of \$7. After two years in the Army and having had some exposure to the Hawk Missile System which was built by Raytheon Company I applied for work at Raytheon in Massachusetts. I was offered a job in Control Systems and accepted it beginning a 43-year career in Missile Air Defense and Radar Systems. About two years after starting at Raytheon, our second daughter was born at Newton Wellesley Hospital at a cost of \$700.

Most of my career at Raytheon was in the design, development, and testing of shipboard Missile Air Defense Systems. Initially I worked on the redesign of shipboard Tartar Missile system. Later, I participated in the design, development, and testing of the shipboard NATO Seasparrow Air Defense System. I wrote the specifications for the system digital computer based on an existing Norwegian computer. This involved several trips to Norway during the design and development of the computer and later during testing of the Norwegian shipboard system at North Cape, Norway. I especially enjoyed visiting Norway and working with my Norwegian counterparts who were outstanding hosts. Another system that I worked on at Raytheon was the Terminal Doppler Weather Radar that we designed for the FAA. This system was specifically designed to aid in the detection of downbursts in the vicinity of airports and is now installed at all the major airports in the United States.

After retiring from Raytheon in 2006, I continued to work part-time Raytheon for a few years before making the adjustment to full retirement and more time with my family and hobbies. My wife and I traveled to several countries before I retired, and we were able to enjoy traveling even more after my retirement. I have, for over 40 years, enjoyed playing tennis and still play a few times a week. My other interest has been sailing and in 1972 I bought my first sailboat. My wife and I and our two young girls enjoyed many days of sailing on Buzzards Bay and sailing trips to Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and Newport. In 1991 we upscaled to a larger sailboat, and I still enjoy sailing with family and friends. I also have been volunteering as a trail steward for the Sudbury Valley Trust (SVT) since retirement.

One Concept / One Photo

Optimism



Excitement



Submitted by Bill Beebee

Part 2 Chapter 6

Saint Ann's

Sir Alex and James arrived at Saint Ann at 10:05 and presented themselves at the front desk.

« Comment puis-je vous aider? » Inquired a gentleman behind the desk in a uniform of the French Army.

"When was this building built," inquired Sir Alex.

"It was built in 1751. It replaced an older building of the same name built in 1610.

"I think it is a beautiful building but needs some maintenance," stated Sir Alexander III.

"You are most observant, but we operate on a restricted budget. Have you come to see one of our residents? Do you have an appointment? Most of the residents are in the yard or their room at present. I can contact them and have them come to the library. The library is used to store books and is a quiet place for the residents to receive visitors. There is no one in the library at the moment. Who have you come to visit?" again inquired the tall gentleman in an army uniform in a polite but insistent voice.

"We have come to see Napoleon, a dear friend of mine," stated Sir Alex in a firm but polite voice.

"We have many Napoleons here," stated the tall man in an Army uniform.

"He is a short man with black hair," stated Sir Alex in as noble a voice as he could muster.

"He's a nice gentleman but a little confused. He was recently in England where my employer met him. He is quite short and frequently has his hand holding his belly. He once ate a raw egg that hatched in his stomach. Since then, he has been suffering from pain in his upper abdomen. His doctors tried several treatments, but they proved useless," James stated.

"When did he come to stay at Saint Ann's?" Inquired the tall man in an Army Uniform.

"I am not sure when he started living in Saint Ann's. He left England to return to Paris eight months ago," stated James in a clear voice.

"There are several gentlemen who fit your description living here at the moment. I will ask the one who recently joined us to meet you in the library. If he is not the one you seek, just send him back to me. I will arrange for one of the other Napoleons to come to the library," stated the tall gentleman in an Army uniform.

Sir Alex and James made their way to the library. As they walked along a very long hallway, Sir Alex stated to James,

"It is odd that several men with the Napoleon would be living here. »

"I am not sure, but if it is common in France for people to name their children after well know celebrities. It is a common practice in England. I am named after King Charles," stated James.

The two visitors arrived at the library and noted that most books appeared tatted and worn. " It seems that the residents of Saint Ann's are avid readers," remarked Sir Alex.

James inspected several volumes and soon realized that all the books were old. Most had notations indicating that they had once belonged to various libraries and a handwritten inscription stating the date the book was donated to Saint Ann's on the title page.

Soon a bedraggled gentleman arrived in the company of a young man in the Army uniform of a private. The gentleman was dressed in a white shirt and brown pants. Both were unpressed and dirty.

" This is not Napoleon. He is an impostor," stated Sir Alex in a loud voice.

The bewildered man was alarmed by Sir Alex's loud voice and began to cry.

« Où êtes-vous à la bataille de Waterloo ? » asked James.

« Bien sûr que j'y étais. », declared the man in the white shirt and brown pants.

James turned to Sir Alex and said, "he states he was not at the Battle of Waterloo."

" No problem. We have many more for you to meet. I will go and have several others come. I am sure one of them is the man you are looking for." stated the man in the Army uniform of a private.

Within 20 minutes, the man in the Army uniform of a private returned with 6 men in white shirts and brown pants. When James questioned them, each assured him they were at the Battle of Waterloo. They all talked at the same time in loud voices. Each stated defeat was due to the incompetence of General Jacque, who was entertaining a young Belgian maiden in his tent when the English attacked.

Yes, they all agreed that General Jacque was a traitor to the dignity and honor of France. His name will go down in history as a man who put his own desires before the glory of his country.

by Al Persson



R.M.A
Box 261
Wayland, MA 01778

Your Bulletin

Next Meeting
Friday, March 10th
In Person and via Zoom
Web site RMenA.org
E-mail rmena.acct@gmail.com

Next RMA Meeting Friday, March 10th in Person and via Zoom.

Guest Speaker: **Katharine Lange**



Topic: Learn the top challenges to Massachusetts rivers right now, and how you can get involved in supporting the solutions

Katharine Lange works as the Policy Specialist for the Massachusetts Rivers Alliance, a statewide nonprofit organization with 85 member groups dedicated to protecting and restoring the rivers and streams of the Commonwealth. She's all in on climate action; she works directly with legislators to craft and advance state legislation to improve the environment and local climate resilience, and to increase funding to the state agencies who steward our lands and waters. Katharine attended the University of Connecticut for her BA and Master's in Public Administration, and worked on land conservation policy in Connecticut for two years.

Invite a Guest to our March Live or Zoom Meeting!