

MEN'S CLUB

Resident Dennis Rappaport Zooms In



BY HOWARD ARKIN

The North Shore Towers Men's Club recently featured resident Dennis Rappaport as the guest speaker on Zoom. The choice must have been a good one because when Toby Horowitz began the session, there was barely a n empty box for me to get into on my laptop. We must have set a record with 60 Zoom attendees.

Dennis, a professional boxing promoter and manager, has lived at North Shore Towers with his wife Linda for 28 years. He began his lecture by telling us about the origins of boxing, which dates back to 3000 BC in Egypt. Boxing continued into the Roman Empire, where the gladiators fought to the finish. And I do mean finish! The sport found its way to eighteenth century England where the combatants fought with bare knuckles. The Marquis of Queensbury Rules, as well as the use of boxing gloves, were introduced a century later. Dennis then went on to discuss boxing in the United States, highlighting the famous John L. Sullivan vs. Jim Corbett fight in 1892.

Dennis's introduction to boxing occurred when he was a youngster in Brooklyn and his father took him to a gym where he met Sugar Ray Robinson. He still considers him to be the greatest boxer of all time. Dennis reminisced



Dennis and Muhammad Ali take a break
Photo courtesy of Linda Rappaport

about 1982 being one of the most fruitful years of his entire life. He not only married his beautiful wife Linda, but along with co-manager Mike Jones handled Gerry Cooney in his heavyweight title fight against Larry Holmes. Five years later he again managed Cooney in his championship battle against Leon Spinks.

Both Dennis and Mike had reputations for the many creative and crazy ways they promoted their fighters, earning the title "the wacko twins." Some of their more notable antics were having fighter Ronnie Harris wear a yarmulke while fighting or getting a gorilla to come into the ring. Dennis mentioned another funny story when Hector Camacho wanted to skip

training and jumped out of a second-floor window. When Dennis confronted him, Camacho claimed it was martial artist Bruce Lee who had jumped. This was unlikely as he had been dead for about 10 years. I'm still wondering how Hector survived the fall! Dennis also discussed a long list of boxing movies, going all the way back to the 1930's. Raging Bull, a more current day movie starring Robert DeNiro, was noted to be more realistic than many of the older boxing films.

Other notable fighters besides Cooney that Dennis either managed or promoted are Trevor Burbick, Tony Tucker and the Russian champ Oleg Maskaev. Dennis was inducted to the New York State Boxing Hall of Fame in 2016. There are not many people in their lifetimes that have met as many people in the entertainment and sports world as Dennis has, among them Muhammad Ali, Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope, Eddie Murphy and George Steinbrenner. He was also part of a group that had made a bid to purchase the Yankees from Steinbrenner.

On another note, a new face appeared on the screen this evening, and we were introduced to a new member. Welcome to the club, Joe Rosenberg! For information about the Men's Club or to join, please contact Toby Horowitz at tmhgmt@yahoo.com.

Men's Club Zoom Meeting Recap

BY HOWARD ARKIN

On February 18, the Men's Club continued its lecture series with another informative and interesting Zoom session on the topic of cybersecurity, moderated by Scott Shinberg. Mr. Shinberg is an award-winning author with an impressive resume spanning over 30 years, having obtained degrees in electrical engineering from the Air Force Academy and Virginia Tech. He has served in leadership positions with the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI as well as serving as an Air Force intelligence operations officer.

Much of Mr. Shinberg's presentation pertained to the computer security and telephone and bank card fraud scams. We all were able to come away from his presentation with a better grasp on how to protect ourselves from hackers and scammers online. For instance, the technical support scam is one which many of us fall prey to. This scam

has someone purporting to be from Apple or Microsoft calling to warn you that your computer has been infected with a virus but that they can fix it for a fee.

Mr. Shinberg also discussed a scam known as the "grandparent scam." This one has a grandparent receiving an email or telephone call supposedly from your grandchild. The grandchild might say they are in a foreign country and need money for bail to get out of jail, going on to say they were robbed and their passport was stolen as well. May the day never arrive that we fall for that one.

Another scam that is currently in vogue is "the work from home scam." In this scam you sign on to work for an employer where you will be ordering merchandise online and sending it to an overseas address once you receive it. Your "employer" will ask for your social security number and other banking information so he can send out your paycheck, which you will never receive (surprise, surprise).

One scam that Mr. Shinberg did not mention is what I refer to as "the spam scam." On the left-hand side of your computer screen where your emails are located is the word "spam." Beware, clicking on "spam" will not get you a little tin can of jellied pork, but will instead possibly entangle you in a scammer's web. In the 30 years that I have owned a computer I have religiously deleted every spam message as soon as I've gotten it.

Mr. Shinberg then went on to warn us of the gas pump skimmer. These are crooks who put their own credit card reader over the gas pump's legitimate card reader. The pump will work fine and you will be totally unaware that your credit card information has been stolen until unfamiliar charges start appearing on your statements. If you see something suspicious at the pump, report it to the attendant.

As we advance further into the world of cyberspace, scammers and hackers will continue to find



new ways to commit crime at our expense. However, if we remain alert and informed, we will surely be able to stay a few steps ahead of them and minimize potential losses.

The following dates are upcoming Men's Club zoom events:

April 15, Ann Margaret Carozza (Attorney) discussing Eldercare, protection of assets, long term health care and other financial decisions.

May 13, James Coll (Professor) understanding how the Supreme Court works.

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