

MEN'S CLUB

Members Keep Busy During Covid Times



BY HOWARD ARKIN

Over the last months, we have had the good fortune of being able to tune into North Shore Towers Channel 995 and be treated to some great shows. One of the programs that I look forward to seeing is Board President Ed Phalen's presentations with the Board's committee chairmen. I have a better grasp of the workings of our community than ever before.

In addition, Fred Chernow hosted shows on Johnny Carson, Judy Garland and a New York institution of bygone days, the Automat.

Channel 995 recently featured a program in which five residents (three of which are Men's Club members: Paul Arden, Terry Feit and Dennis Rappaport) took us down memory

lane telling us some interesting experiences that they recalled.

Paul Arden told us of his awakening to a new world when as a young teacher in Bedford Stuyvesant he had to inform the mother of his twelve-and-a-half year student that her daughter was pregnant. The girl's mother wasn't surprised. She was living her own past experience.

Terry Feit's story centered around his teenage years working as a bus boy and counselor at his grandmother's hotel in the Catskills. I related to his telling of his blueberry picking. When I picked blueberries, I made sure that I took my mother's largest pot. (Do you know that blueberries cost about two dollars a pound today?)

Dennis Rappaport, who was a Men's Club Zoom guest speaker in January, delved into his encyclopedic knowledge of boxing to keep us

well entertained.

Speaking to Fred Chernow, he said the program was well received and he would be interested in doing more them. If you are interested in possibly appearing on one, you can contact Fred at 347-836-8400 or 516-967-2971.

The Men's Club event chairman, Jerry Siegel, has been busy scheduling Zoom speakers for our members. Coming up are:

Thursday, March 11, 7:30 pm

Sal St. George: Billy Crystal

Thursday, March 25, 7:30 pm

Zoom discussion with Ed Kranepool, former NY Met

Thursday, April 15, 7:30 pm

Ann Margaret Carrozza: Protecting your assets from new taxes, long term health care finances, and other financial decisions.

New York City's Golden Age of Baseball

BY HOWARD ARKIN

On January 21, the North Shore Towers Men's Club Hosted a Zoom meeting with guest speakers who treated our members to an interesting and informative lecture by St. John's professors Howard Ehrlich and Harvey Sackowitz on "New York City's Golden Age of Baseball."

The period following World War II was nothing short of pure ecstasy if you were a young baseball fan living in New York City. The city was the only one in the United States to have three major league teams, two of them being very good and the other one being good every so often. From the years 1947 to 1964, one of the three teams, either the New York Yankees or the New York Giants, appeared in the World Series. The back pages of the city's newspapers introduced us to names such as Di Maggio, Berra, Stengel, Robinson, Reese, Mays, Thomson and Durocher--names

North Shore Towers Men's Club - Zoom - New York Golden Age of Baseball



that would stay with us for decades.

This was the period that Major League Baseball finally broke the race barrier when the Dodgers signed Jackie Robinson in 1947. Four years later, Jackie would watch on as Bobbie Thomson circled the bases having hit "the shot heard round the world." The next big occurrence discussed was the date "that will live in glory." It was October 4, 1955, and the Dodgers defeated the mighty Yankees to win their first World Series. The Yankees were the dominant team in all of baseball then, and their exploits were not overlooked in the lecture. They were so successful that it was said "rooting for the

Yankees was like rooting for US Steel." But they did have two of baseball's most humorous characters, Yogi Berra and their manager, Casey Stengel.

Unfortunately, the era came to a crashing end in 1957 when the Dodgers and Giants whistled "California Here I Come" and departed. Someone in the Zoom audience raised a good question on their departure. How did it happen and who was to blame? The consensus among the group was that it would not happen today and that Walter O'Malley, the Dodger president, was to blame, with the NYC parks commissioner a close second.

After the lecture, Toby Horowitz (president of the men's club) opened the mike for questions and opinions that the members might have. Jack Sevita recalled going to Yankee Stadium almost every weekend when the admission was only 60 cents. It's quite possible that he might have bought a bag of peanuts from member Bob Mark,

who was selling them at the time.

Jerry Siegel was a little disappointed that the 1969 Mets were not mentioned. But fear not, Jerry, better times are a-coming. Gary Zwetschenbaum told us of his extensive memorabilia collection, which includes every Mickey Mantle card from his rookie year in 1952 to 1964. Last month a 1952 Mickey Mantle sold for 5.2 million dollars. Keep your door locked, Gary.

Howard Erlich and Harvey Sackowitz were quite entertaining and they also lecture on other subjects. Hopefully we will be seeing them again.

Find out more about the Men's Club.
Contact President Toby Horowitz at tmhgmt@yahoo.com or call him at 718-279-0082.