

***RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)
invites you to attend its meeting, on Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2013.
First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Pl., Greenwich.***

PETER McSPADDEN

A VISIT TO COMMUNIST CUBA



It is a time of transition and change in Cuba. Fidel Castro, who has exercised power since 1959, resigned the Presidency in 2008. He still can be said to exercise control through his brother Raul, but Fidel is 87 years old and in failing health. The United States does not have formal diplomatic relations with Cuba, and has maintained an embargo since 1960, which makes it illegal for United States corporations to do business in Cuba. Still, President Clinton, in 1999 eased travel restrictions to Cuba; and, in 2009, President Obama began implementing a less strict policy toward Cuba: travel restrictions were further loosened, economic sanctions were eased, and U.S. telecommunications law was modified to allow Cuba easier access to the Internet.

To best understand the future of Cuba, one does not look to the distant past, but to the present. Recently, Peter McSpadden and his wife Barbara spent 10 days in Cuba, as part of a small private tour. They travelled all over the island from Havana to Santiago, and met and spoke with Cuban citizens from all walks of life. They will share with us their observations, as Cuba moves away from Communism, to its unique brand of socialism.

Peter, a retired advertising executive, was President, Chief Operating Officer of Dancer Fitzgerald Sample and later Saatchi and Saatchi Advertising North America. He is a past Director of the American Association of Advertising Agencies, the American Advertising Federation, and the National Advertising Review Board. Since retirement, he has served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Bradford College and was Chairman of the Board of Visitors of the Nelson A. Rockefeller Center for Public Policy at Dartmouth College, where he also is a member of the President's Public Affairs Advisory Committee. Locally, he is a former Trustee of The Greenwich Hospital and currently of River House; and a Trustee and member of the Executive Committee of the Farnsworth Museum in Rockland, Maine. Peter and Barbara have been married for 57 years, and have three grown sons and four grandchildren.

RMA meetings are free and open to the public; no reservations are required. Please plan to arrive around 10:30 for our social break (coffee and cake), followed by our speaker at 10:45. Meetings are held at the First Presbyterian Church in Greenwich. For additional information, call Bernard Schneider, 203-698-2558; bgsesq@gmail.com.