



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

60 Years of Fellowship and Community
Service

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Here are the volunteers who publish this Bulletin each week for your enjoyment. **Editor/Chairman:** Chet Risio. **Scribes:** Av Rivel, Kurt Schaffir, Ed Farrell, Gerry Lessuk, Dan Fredland, and George Stockbridge. On leave: Arnold Gordon, Steve Elliot, Marshall Toppo. **Archivist:** Harold Frost. **Format:** Jack Cuff, Gene Schwartz, and Andrzej Mazurek. **Graphics:** Av Rivel, **Print/Distribution:** Chet Risio.

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January 3, 2017

Scribe: Ed Farrell

We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing"
– **George Bernard Shaw**

On a very cold January day, President DON CONWAY rang the opening bell at 10:00 AM and introduced ED FARRELL to lead us in the Pledge.

Accompanied by GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE on the piano, JACK SWEGER led us in singing *The Star-Spangled Banner, Yes Sir, That's My Baby and You Are My Sunshine.*

AV RIVEL then drew loud laughter for his story about the creation of woman and the origin of the headache.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. DON CONWAY reminded all of the importance of paying the annual dues and the weekly \$2 fee to support the CBB. He noted we are experiencing a significant short-fall in the latter.
2. Don also reported that TED SPOOL is undergoing treatment for a blood disorder, but hopes to return to the RMA soon.
3. Don was pleased to announce receipt of a note from BOB OPPENHEIMER's daughter reporting that BOB, the RMA's longest living "former" member, celebrated his 103rd birthday on December 31, 2017.

COMMITTEES

PROGRAM: BOB ROBINS urged members to remain for a talk by **Art Gottlieb**, who will address members on the history and morality of America's use of the atomic bomb in 1945. BOB RIMMER noted next week's speaker will be **Vanessa Richards**, who leads Connecticut's efforts to combat cyber fraud.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE reported a combined 94 members and guests present at today's meeting. HORST also announced today's birthday boy: DOUG FRANCEFORT (89); BILL EDIC (81); KEATING HAGMANN (72).

VOLUNTEER HOURS: HAROLD KUPLESKY reported 30 men donated 285 hours to outside agencies, and 22 men reported 99 volunteer hours for the RMA. BOB CAREY had the most hours for the week (34)

FUND AND GAMES

No Bridge or Tennis scores were reported for this week.

HEARTS: Hearts: JACK SWEGER reported that there were 8 players on December 27. At table #1 TOM HEALY won 2 games and JOHN KNIGHT won 1 game. At table #2 DON CONWAY won all of the 3 games played – the first time in RMA play that anyone has accomplished this feat. More amazingly DON won 2 games by just one point each. Nice going Mr. President. JACK also announced this week's moon shooters: RALPH VIGGIANO (twice); JACK SWEGER; JOHN KNIGHT; TOM HEALY; LOU TROVATO.

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TODAY'S SPEAKER

Art Gottlieb, the former Technical Director of Exhibits at the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space museum in New York City, offered members a balanced look at the history of the development of the atomic bomb and the morality of the decision to employ that weapon. Mr. Gottlieb recalled that in the 1930s Germany was interested in the development of an atomic weapon, but that its research was stalled when it expelled or allowed to migrate some of its best scientists. Those scientists, in turn, persuaded President Roosevelt to develop such a weapon, as well as a delivery system, the B29 Superfortress bomber.

When it became evident that so many thousands of Japanese people had died, when atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, many Americans and others questioned the morality of using such a weapon. The key argument supporting its use, then and now, seems to be that, because Japanese culture at the time forbade any thought of surrender, perhaps millions of Americans and Japanese would die, if Japan's main islands were invaded – what seemed to be the only alternative to using the atomic bomb.

The key argument for not using the bomb is that the incendiary bombing of Japan, which was having a devastating effect on its people and industry, would, despite cultural attitudes, drive Japan to surrender. What seems clear is that, whichever course was followed, many people would die. Perhaps the question that should be asked is: in mid-1945 should the United States and its allies have allowed for something other than unconditional surrender on the part of Japan?

Editor's note: On the suggestion of ARNOLD GORDON and STEPHEN MYERS a link is provided herein for those wishing to further explore the alternatives to using the atom bomb.

<http://blog.nuclearsecrecy.com/2015/08/03/were-there-alternatives-to-the-atomic-bombings/>

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all members, guests, candidates and spouses. Checks to be made out to RMA, and must be received within two weeks or the reservation will be cancelled. Contact MIKE FERRARESE (myagentmike@yahoo.com / 203-554-0678) or ABBEY SMOLER (abbeysmoler@gmail.com / 203-531-0235)

New York Philharmonic Rehearsal, January 11, 2018. Lunch at the Atlantic Grill, \$110. Bus departs from St. Catherine's parking lot at 7:45 a.m. Status: Wait Listed

Elmsford Dinner Theater, "A Chorus Line" February 22, 2018, Lunch at the theater, \$95. Status: Wait Listed

Bruce Museum, March 22, 2018, Lunch at the Millbrook Club, \$95. Transportation: Self. Arrive at Bruce Museum at 9:45 a.m. Status: 26 places available

West Point tour, April 19, 2018. Lunch at the Thayer Hotel, \$85. Bus departs 8:45am from St. Catherine's' Church parking lot. Status 2 places available.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Next week the RMA will welcome: **Vanessa Richards**, Assistant U.S. Attorney and Jeremy Tendler, Postal Inspector Subject: National Security, Cyber Crimes and the Dark Web – Federal Government Actions

Editor's note: Normally, the Member Profile is published in the first issue of each month. However, due to the holidays and the severe snowstorm on January 4, 2018, we were unable to obtain the high resolution photos required. The Profile will be published in the next issue.

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

