



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:** Gran Burgess, Av Rivel, Kurt Schaffir, Ed Farrell, Chet Risio, Gerry Lessuk, Steve Elliot, George Stockbridge, Emeritus. (On leave: Gran Burgess, Jim Butler, and Arnold Gordon). **Archivist:** Harold Frost. **Format and Layout:** Gene Schwartz and Jack Cuff. **Reproduction/Distribution:** Walker Collins, and Chet Risio.

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January 4, 2016

"It has been my experience that folks who have no vices have very few virtues"....

Abraham Lincoln

President PETER UHRY called the meeting to order at 10:03AM. TOM HEALY led all in the Pledge. It being a New Year!

CHUCK STANDARD called for singing "The Star Spangled Banner" followed by "God Bless America" and "You're A Grand Old Flag".

GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE played the piano prior to the meeting and during the songfest.

HARRY TWITCHELL told the story of an old lady who, faced with an outrageous hotel bill on her big night out, turned the tables on a snippy hotel manager.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PETER UHRY informed all that the Social Seniors of St. Catherine's will run a trip to Mohegan on Sunday, Jan. 11. The bus leaves at 8:00AM. The charge is \$30.00 which includes \$15 for free bets and \$15 for food vouchers. Call Roseann Benedict at 203 979-9104 or Carol Weigold at 203 637-9619.

PETER asked members if a musical program like the one done on Dec. 21 should be repeated. The answer: definitely!

JIM SANTORA, subbing for ARNOLD GORDON, will gather and make Memorial Presentations for the next few months.

GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE announced that Literacy Volunteers of America is starting a training class on Tuesday, Jan. 17. Anyone who would like to learn to be a tutor of English to speakers of other languages, call Lucia Cook, 203 324-3167. GEORGE also

said there is a waiting list for the RMA Opera Group which is limited to 12 members. For more info contact GEORGE at 203 698-0710 or grspersonal@aol.com.

PETER announced that HORST TEBBE returned from visiting his daughters in San Diego and Oakland, CA.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VISITING: CHUCK STANDARD happily stated that DICK BERGSTRESSER is back from rehab and "It's another beautiful day".

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE gave the figures for the weekly attendance: 113 members, one candidate and four guests for a total of 118. The candidate is Jerry Friedman. Guests were; Andy Mazurek, g/o ED FARRELL, Jesun Paik, g/o JACK WEIR, Bruce Pantano, g/o GERRY MAYFIELD, Bob Connochie, g/o DON SARGEANT and Peter LeBeau, g/o ERF PORTER. **The birthday boys** were BILL EDIC , 80, DOUG FRANCEFORT, 88 and ROBERT K. HAGMANN, 71.

PROGRAM: DON CONWAY urged all to stay for today's speaker, **Amy Siebert**, Greenwich Commissioner of Public Works. HOLLISTER STURGES announced James Heavey, next week's speaker, Greenwich Police Chief, will speak on his recent training with the FBI.

VOLUNTEERING: **Volunteer hours** were reported by GERRY MAYFIELD for the week of Jan. 4: Outside hours of 418 reported by 42 members and 134 inside hours by 25 members. Highest hours of 40 were reported by BOB CAREY.

SPECIAL EVENTS: MIKE FERRARESE again requested that payment for all events be paid within two weeks of making the reservation. Details below.

SPORTS AND SORTS

Bridge: scores for Dec. 28 were given by KURT SCHAFFIR: There were a total of 12 players with JAMES CHUNG scoring highest at 4090, GRANT PERKINS at 3680 and BRUNO SCHRAGE with 3540. KURT also applauded CHUNG for his diligent efforts in making arrangements for the bridge group.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

DON CONWAY introduced today's speaker, **Amy Siebert**, Greenwich's Commissioner of Public Works, who highlighted the many and varied areas her department maintains. Some of these include 265 miles of roadway, 10,000 storm drains, 28 waste water pumping stations, 4000 sewer manholes, 30 off street parking areas plus traffic signals and school signs. With a slide show accompanying her talk, Commissioner Siebert illustrated how the town's 75 road and pedestrian bridges are constantly repaired and strengthened and its 145 miles of sidewalks are maintained. The

department is also under seasonal time constraints. 31,000 cubic feet of fallen leaves, enough to fill 96 olympic pools, must be collected in 29 working days before snow falls. She said the public can also aid the department by preventing dog waste from entering catch basins, not pouring kitchen grease down drains and, above all, conserving water.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all members, spouses, candidates and guests. For reservations call Trip Coordinators ABBEY SMOLER at 203 531-0236 (abbeysmoler@gmail.com) or MIKE FERRARESE 203 554-0678 (myagentmike@yahoo.com)

NY Philharmonic, Jan.26, 2017. Lunch at the Atlantic Grill. \$100.00 pp. Bus departs St. Catherine's at 8:00am. Status: Wait listed

The Mark Twain house and museum, Feb 23, 2017. Box lunch. \$76.00pp. Bus departs St. Catherine's at 9:00am. Status; 10 places available.

Lamont Earth Observatory, March 30, 2017. Lunch at Lamont, \$60.00pp. Bus departs St. Catherine's at 9:00am. Status: 10 places available.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Greenwich Police Chief **James Heavey**, will speak on his recent training with the FBI.

CBB Scribe; CHET RISIO

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MEMBER PROFILE

This is the eighth in a series of profiles intended to allow members to know one another beyond a face and a name tag

GERALD (GERRY) LESSUK was born in New York City and attended primary and secondary schools there. As a teenager he was employed by New York City as a lifeguard on Coney island's beaches. During World War II he served in the United States Armed Forces, in the U.S. Army Infantry and in the Adjutant Generals' Department. He was stationed on the island of Oahu in the Hawaiian Islands and in the Japanese Ryukyu Islands on Le Shima and Okinawa. After separation from the Armed Forces he enrolled in George Washington University in Washington,

D.C. and attended undergraduate and Law School and received a J.D. (Juris Doctor) law degree. Upon examination by the Legal Bars of New York State and of the District of Columbia he was licensed to practice law in those jurisdictions.

Gerry practiced law for several years in New York City, specializing in Labor and Employment, and also was employed by Brunswick Corporation at its headquarters in the greater Chicago area in Illinois. With Brunswick he served as Director of Corporate Labor-Management relations and Collective Bargaining activities.

He met his late wife, Santina (Tina) Bagalini, in New York City and they married there in 1960. Shortly thereafter they relocated to the Chicago, Illinois area and while there raised two children, a son now married and living in Los Angeles, CA and a daughter also married and living in Riverside, CT. He moved to Connecticut in 2008 and resides in Old Greenwich. His immediate family consists of his two children and their spouses, four grandchildren, and a sister living in N.Y.C.

Gerry joined the RMA in 2009. He learned about the RMA from Greenwich's website which listed John deCsepel's name as a contact. John and Steve Marino sponsored him for membership in the RMA. He has chaired RMA's Special Events Program for several years, individually, and with the late Richard Limbacher. He recently became a Scribe for the CBB. He has also served for several years as a driver for Call-A-Ride. In addition to the RMA, Gerry's current interests are golf, classical music and opera in all forms, "working out" at the local health club, and serving on the Board of Directors of Old Greenwich Gables' Common Ownership Community