



# 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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Scribe: Av Rivel

*Love is blind; friendship closes its eyes ...Nietzsche*

It was a relatively balmy day as President DON CONWAY rang the opening bell at 10:00am. JOHN CRAINE to lead us in the Pledge. ERF PORTER, accompanied by PETER RYAN, led the song singing. The patriotic song was America the Beautiful. ERF then introduced what he hoped would be a Ray Bolger medley of Once in Love with Amy and Toot, Toot, Tootsie Good-bye. Only to be later informed that the latter is really an Al Jolson song. BOB CAREY then entertained us with a story about nuance.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

DON CONWAY -1) Encourage all to attend the POCD meeting at town hall to be held shortly. 2) Asked if anyone had experience writing for TV, he had a contact looking for same. 3) Recalled four members who had recently died and asked for people familiar with them to volunteer to do a eulogy. DAVID BURLESON, RON KLINGER, WILLIAM GERSCHE and HAVEN KNIGHT.

PETER UHRY came forth and polled the house for Numismatists or Philatelists who might be interested in forming a group; there were very few coin or stamp collectors.

GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE announced the first meeting of the Shakespeare Group. Contact him at [203-698-0710](tel:203-698-0710) for details.

### COMMITTEES

**VISITING:** DON CONWAY, acting chair, reported that DON BREISMEISTER is rehabbing at home after back surgery. JOHN TONER is at Nathaniel Witherhell after knee replacement and TED SPOOL is still out and fighting.

**PROGRAM:** BOB RIMMER did double duty introducing both this week and next week's speakers. Today's program presented Assistant US District Attorney for Connecticut, **Vanessa Richards**, and **Jeremy Tandler**, coordinator for cyber crime investigations for the US Postal Service in all of New England who spoke on How to Protect Yourself from Cyber Crime. More below. Next Week's speaker will be **Jerry Shereshevsky** whose topic will be Social Media and the Communications Revolution. Looks like someone is trying to drag us old codgers into the 21st Century.

**MEMBERSHIP:** HORST TEBBE recounted the numbers, 93 members, 3 candidates and 2 inductees for a total of 98. Candidates in attendance were Dieter Frank, Dave Kane and Mr. Carstensen. Birthday celebrants who were serenaded included BOB ALDEN 90 !!! (way to go BOB), JAN MEYER 83, BILL FAKUNDINY 86, MIKE HAYDEN 86, BOB JAMIESON 73 and JACK POOLE 75.

Felicitations to all.

### **INDUCTEES**

**Charlie Adams**, sponsored by HOLLISTER STURGES and PETER UHRY (standing in for ARNOLD GORDON. Charlie is a Brooklyn native living in Greenwich since 1985. In real life (before retirement) he was a Development Aid professional working around the world in the non-profit and NGO world. He presently hangs out at the Norwalk Aquarium giving talks and diving in the shark tank.

**Ken Kolb**, sponsored by PETER UHRY and seconded by HORST TEBBE. Ken, a former practitioner of Broadcast Advertising Sales and long-time Greenwich native (he came to town as a three year old) is an amateur Sports Historian. In his spare time he dons a zebra shirt and referees ice hockey, volleyball and baseball (OK, he umpes baseball). Welcome aboard CHARLIE and KEN.

**VOLUNTEER HOURS:** DON HERMANN volunteered the information that 30 men reported a total of 261 outside hours and 16 men 62 RMA hours. High man of the week was Brian Maher with 22 hours.

ABBEY SMOLER spoke on coming trips. He mentioned that the West Point trip was oversubscribed and he and MIKE FARRARESE were working to see if they could increase the head-count.

### **GAMES RMAers Play**

**HEARTS:** JOHN KNIGHT reported that on table 1, TOM HEALY bested JOHN STANKUNAS in a tiebreaker game and JACK SWEGER and MIKE AMBROSINO were winners on table 2. Only MIKE shot the moon. Next week's captain, ED FARRELL.

**BRIDGE:** FRANK LEE dealt out the scores for last week's games; #1 WAYNE DEVRIES 3380, #2 KURT SCHAFFIR 2700 and #3 GRANT PERKINS 2590.

**TENNIS:** MIKE AMBROSINO served the scores. On Court 1 PETER ORBANOWSKI and ANDRZEJ MAZUREK triumphed and on Court 2 TOM HEALY and MIKE AMBROSINO bested the other guys.

### **TODAY'S SPEAKERS**

**Vanessa Richards**, assistant Federal District Attorney, and **Jeremy Tendler**, senior inspector for the US Postal Service, gave an enlightening and alarming talk about cyber crime. They started off by explaining the efforts by both of their organizations in combatting cyber crime, then explained the different kinds of fraud, deception and extortion that was lurking "out there". They explained and gave examples of Phishing, Spearfishing, Malware and Ransomware. The motivation for cyber fraud is most often financial gain. Other motives include, Hacktivism: i.e. using the internet to cause harm in the name of a particular cause and, more sinisterly, cyber fraud is used for espionage and terrorist activities. Finally, our guests explained tactics for avoiding falling victim to cyber crime. The chilling conclusion is that the only way for computer users to avoid being victimized is vigilance, awareness, and thinking before clicking the mouse.

### **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](mailto:myagentmike@yahoo.com) / [203-554-0678](tel:203-554-0678)) or ABBEY SMOLER ([abbeysmoler@gmail.com](mailto:abbeysmoler@gmail.com) / [203-531-0235](tel: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. Bus departs St. Catherine's at 10:00am. Status: 1 Opening

**Bruce Museum, March 22, 2018,** Lunch at the Millbrook Club, \$95. Transportation: Self. Arrive at Bruce Museum at 9:45 a.m. Status: 24 places available

**West Point Tour, April 19, 2018.** Lunch at the Thayer Hotel, \$85. Bus departs 8:45am from St. Catherine's parking lot. Status: wait listed. Trying to open more spots.

## **NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER**

Next week the RMA will welcome **Jerry Shereshewsky**, a serious player in media sales and marketing who will inform us about Social Media and the Communications Revolution.

**Editors Note: The monthly Member Profile will shortly follow this Bulletin**

### **Member Profile of THOMAS J. CAHILL**

**This is the nineteenth in a series of Member Profiles intended to allow members to get to know one another beyond a face and a name tag.**

**TOM CAHILL was born in Mt. Vernon, New York, in 1931, the third of six children. Both his parents had come to the United States from Ireland (by way of Canada in the case of his mother). His father came in 1922, met his mother and they married. Tom's father worked in a grocery store and soon opened his own store. In 1945, Tom's father went back to Ireland to attend to their family farm from March to October. He continued to do that for years afterwards.**

**Tom attended parochial schools in Mt. Vernon and New Rochelle, New York, ultimately graduating from the Blessed Sacrament High School in New Rochelle. He attended Iona College for two years but took a break when the Korean War broke out and joined the U.S. Marines for a three-year commitment. He was stationed in the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, Florida for approximately 2 years, attaining the rank of Sergeant. He left in 1954 after fulfilling the three-year commitment, declining an offer from the Marines to attend Officer Candidate School as a Lieutenant because it would have required an additional six-year commitment.**

**After his stint with the Marines, Tom returned to Iona to complete his college degree with a major in English. Tom recalls that "when I was in the service, a fellow with me had an ambition to go to Georgetown Law School and I started thinking along those lines." Tom studied in the summers to push up the time when he could enter Georgetown. He successfully entered Georgetown Law School and graduated in the top ten percent of the class. He was on the board of editors at the Georgetown Law Journal and was a member of the Butler Law Club. While at Georgetown, he made a number of life-long friends, including a classmate who would be the Godfather to Tom's first born. During this time, Tom worked for the Department of Justice, doing research for the Foreign Litigation Unit, Civil Division. On graduation, Tom took a position with a newly appointed U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Lloyd F. McMahon, as**

his first law clerk. He would serve in that prestigious clerkship for two years and Judge McMahon would be a valued mentor of his for years to come.



**Susan and Tom Cahill March 1962**

It was around this time that Tom first met his future wife, Susan Daly, on the beach in the Hamptons. Susan was also the child of Irish immigrants. Later that summer, while driving her and other friends to a party, he inadvertently went through a stop sign. The resulting accident left Susan in the hospital with a concussion.

As Tom recalls the accident took place in late August: *“The following April, I was working downtown with Judge McMahon. I left the office to get a haircut. In the distance, I spotted Susan. I approached her and inquired what matter was bringing her to the courthouses. She explained that she was meeting with her lawyer.*

*Confused, I asked why she needed to meet with a lawyer. With a twinkle in her eyes, she relied ‘Why to sue you of course.’”*

In spite of this inauspicious beginning, romance blossomed. Tom recalls that their first date was seeing the horror movie, “Psycho.” Despite these awkward starts, they married in March 1962 and the rest is history.

Tom and Susan moved into a one bedroom apartment in Stuyvesant Town and soon Susan gave birth to identical twin girls in January 1963. That prompted a move into a two bedroom apartment. Within two years, two boys were born. Needing more space, Tom and Susan bought a home in Mt. Vernon, New York, the town where Tom had grown up himself. Their fifth child, a girl, was born on Easter Sunday, 1970, during a driving snow storm. Five years later, their sixth child, another girl, was born, compelling Susan and Tom to look once again for a larger house.

After a lengthy search, they made a very happy move to Greenwich in 1975. They rented for 2 years before moving to their home on a tidal inlet in the Bruce Park area. Many decades later they continue to call this lovely house their home.

Following his clerkship, Tom was hired by Robert Morgenthau, then the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, to be an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Office's Criminal Division. Morgenthau had been appointed to the post by President Kennedy, and was close to the then Attorney General, Robert Kennedy.

Those were heady times. Tom worked in that Office for five years in the securities fraud unit. These years would leave an indelible mark on Tom's future professional life and his personal life, providing him with many life long friendships.

Following the U.S. Attorney's Office, in 1965, Tom went to work for a prestigious Wall Street law firm, Winthrop Stimson Putnam & Roberts, where he remained for five years. While at the firm, Tom worked in civil law and litigation with two significant matters. The first involved fraudulent business operations and the second involved a successful bankruptcy negotiation for the world's leading printing press company, R. Hoe and Co.

As the Hoe matter was coming to a close, Tom received a call from Paul Curran, an attorney at Kaye Scholer. Paul was on a leave from his firm, having been appointed Chairman of the State Commission of Investigation by Governor Nelson Rockefeller. Curran was tasked with an investigation into the criminal justice system of New York City. Curran asked Tom to join his team. When Winthrop refused to grant Tom a similar leave of absence, Tom quit to join ranks with Paul.

Similar to his stint at the U.S. Attorney's Office, this decision would forever shape Tom's future professional life and he and Paul formed a life long bond.



Former and current United States attorneys at their reunion. *Standing left to right:* Otto Obermaier, Preet Bharara, Michael Garcia, James Comey, Robert Morgenthau, John Martin, *Seated from left:* Thomas Cahill, Robert Fiske, Jr, Mary Jo White, and David Kelley, Jr.



Shortly thereafter, in 1973, Paul was appointed U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York. He asked Tom to join him as his Chief Assistant. Perhaps the most important matter Tom worked on during this time period was an investigation into fraud at Long Island's Franklin National Bank, the Bank's later spectacular collapse (the biggest bank failure to that point in American history, and which had economic ramifications internationally) and the related high profile indictments of its senior officers, including Italian financier Michele Sindona. The criminal case and its aftermath were front page news for some time, largely because of Sindona's colorful history (he was linked to the Italian mafia) and strategic ploys to avoid trial, including a staged kidnapping and staged suicide attempt. While serving time on his federal conviction, Sindona was extradited to Italy to stand trial for a contract killing, convicted, sentenced to life imprisonment and killed by poisoning (possibly by his own hand) while in an Italian jail.

When Paul Curran eventually honored his leave from Kaye Scholer and returned there in October 1975, Tom was named the interim U.S. Attorney. Tom considered the office one concerned with federal law enforcement but primarily as an investigative agency. "Narcotics is still much of a prime area for our office because New York is a prime market for heroin and cocaine. It's where the heavy hitters are," he was quoted as saying at the time. He remained in that post until Robert Fiske's nomination as U.S. Attorney in March 1976.

On leaving the government, Tom went into private practice where he enjoyed an interesting mix of criminal, civil and bankruptcy work. Tom never returned to work in a law firm, preferring to be a solo practitioner so as to pursue any type of matter that he found challenging without worry of conflicts.

Some of his subsequent cases included:

- The 1979 investigation of former President Jimmy Carter's family peanut business. His friend and former colleague, Paul Curran, had been appointed Special Counsel by the Justice Department to investigate possible wrongdoing and, once again, asked Tom to join him. The case was significant in that Paul was the first attorney to ever examine a sitting president under oath. The seven month investigation, much of which took place in Atlanta, Georgia, found Carter innocent of any illegal activity.
- The recovery of art stolen by the Nazis in World War II on behalf of a Polish client, including success in halting the public auction of the art in question.
- Successfully represented financial institutions in pursuing a fugitive fraudster through Ireland, the Caymans and Canada and recovering assets sufficient to satisfy their obligations, plus interest.

- In a case involving sensitive diplomatic issues, obtained the dismissal of the federal indictment of a Polish executive awaiting extradition in Germany for the alleged illegal transfer of military arms to the Middle East.
- Representing an individual defendant in a multi-defendant federal criminal price fixing case tried in Philadelphia. The trial reunited several of Tom's former colleagues from the U.S. Attorney's Office, all of whom had moved into defense work. Tom's client took the stand in his own defense and Tom achieved an acquittal (as did the codefendants) following a three-month jury trial, an extremely rare occurrence.



Tom returned to public service in 1998, serving for the State of New York over the next nine years as Chief Counsel to the First Judicial Department Disciplinary Committee. In that role, he was responsible for a staff of approximately 20 lawyers and charged with the investigation of alleged legal misconduct by lawyers practicing and admitted to practice in New York City. His office at [65 Broadway](#) was directly opposite the World Trade Center. He witnessed the falling of the two towers while “running like hell to get out of there.” A dear family friend died in that horrific collapse.

Tom retired in 2007. Two years later, at the ripe age of 78, Tom walked the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage in northern Spain. During that month plus, nearly 500 mile, trip, he was joined at different stages by two of his children. He returned to the Camino again in 2013 to join one of his daughters on one stage of her journey. Tom travels regularly to Ireland to check on his late father's property (a portion of which Tom now owns) and to visit with family. His love of travel also includes recent trips to London where his youngest daughter currently lives. Other adventures with his wife Susan have included trips to Argentina, Hong Kong, the Ivory Coast (where his youngest daughter was stationed during her tour with the Peace Corps), Italy and France. The



entire family, including all six children and assorted spouses and eight grandchildren ranging from the ages of 13 to 2 years, traditionally take a family vacation in Europe every other year. Favorite spots have included Belle Ile, off the coast of Brittany, France and Lucca, Italy.

Tom has enjoyed very good health with few exceptions. In 1990 he underwent prostate cancer surgery at Johns Hopkins. Later he had a carotid artery operation. Today he remains a vigorous and daily walker and is seen all over town with his signature spring in his step and a mop of white hair.

Tom belongs to an informal group of retired Assistant U.S. Attorneys who served under Robert Morgenthau and which meets once a month or so. He also remains involved with the late Judge McMahon's law clerk association. At John DeCsepel's invitation, Tom joined the RMA in 2008. Along with Doug Francefort, he volunteered at the Book Swap at Greenwich Recycling until last year when poor eyesight forced him to retire. Tom continues to enjoy and look forward to the weekly camaraderie of the RMA.