



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN



Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

60 Years of Fellowship and Community Service
Visit us on the web at www.greenwichrma.org

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 24, 2018

Scribe: **CHET RISIO**

Sign over a bar on Bowen Island, South Carolina -
"If you have a problem with alcohol, cholesterol or protocol, you're in the wrong place"

President DON CONWAY rang the bell at 10:01am and asked for a volunteer to lead our group in the weekly songfest, and TOM HEALY stepped up.

First JOHN CARON led us in the Pledge, then TOM conducted the singing with black bandaged hand and wrist. (Looks like he was in the wrong place somewhere). We sang "Blue Skies, It's a Grand Old Flag and It's a Grand Night for Singing." JIM SANTORO accompanied on the 88s and also did the music later for our birthday boys.

BOB RUSS, our Corresponding Secretary, told a tale of stolen white powder, a bullet riddled corpse and an apologetic note about snorting "the wrong stuff".

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. DON indicated the need for more members to join the Mentor Program which seeks to help guests and candidates become familiar with the RMA. Mentoring only requires an occasional commitment during any meeting. See PETER UHRY or email him at uhry@sbcglobal.net.
2. DON also asked for a volunteer to run the ROMEO lunch. The effort is minimal: collect names, money and find a place for lunch. Any country club will take us.

COMMITTEES

PROGRAM: BOB PHILLIPS urged all to hear today's speaker, **Les de Villiers**, talking about gorillas. JOEL BLUMBERG said next week's speaker will be **Bettina Wohlforth**, clinical audiologist speaking on hearing loss.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE gave us attendance figures for this meeting; 99 members, 1 candidate and 1 guest for a total of 101. The guest was Peter Carstenson, g/o JIM BUTLER and PAUL BRADY.

HORST read off the **birthday boys:** ABBEY SMOLER 87, PETER STREICH 87, BOB GRAYSON 73, LEN SAARI 80, BERT KLEBANOW 94, and MIKE HAYDEN 86

The candidate/inductee, Dave Kane, was sponsored by PETER UHRY and FRANK ZAVATTARO. Mr. Kane is a longtime resident, teacher and School Administrator in Greenwich. He was instrumental in planning and building the new Greenwich High School. DAVE was heartily accepted into the RMA.

HORST also made several pitches:

- Call-A-Ride is looking for volunteers.
- Recent inductees are requested to pay pro-rated dues.
- The video team is looking for help with audio, camera and editing.

VOLUNTEER HOURS: GERRY MAYFIELD gave the numbers for the week of January 24, 2018; 332 outside hours by 31 members, 128 inside hours by 21 members and the top honors went to AV RIVEL with 36 hours.

SPECIAL EVENTS: ABBEY SMOLER urged all to sign up for trips, even those that are wait listed. Invariably there are cancellations that allow wait listees to participate. See details about the trips below.

FUN AND GAMES

HEARTS: With his usual enthusiasm, RALPH VIGGIANO gave the scores: Jan 17: Table 1, game 1, JACK SWEGER and game 2, ANDY HOLMES. Table 2, game 1, RALPH VIGGIANO and game 2, PETER STERN and shooting the moon, RALPH VIGGIANO..

BRIDGE: RALPH again with the scores for Jan. 17: there were seven players with ANDRZEJ MAZUREK at 3030, RON FRIEDMAN at 2590 and MARTIN WAINE at 2240.

TENNIS; MIKE AMBROSINO noted the scores for Jan 19: winners on court 1 were GERRY GIBIAN and MIKE SMITH. Winners on court 2 were ANDRZEJ MAZUREK and BILL FAKUNDINY. Next week's captain is RON FRIEDMAN.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

BOB PHILLIPS introduced Les de Villiers who spoke on "Gorillas in our Midst". Tracking the mountain gorillas in the Virunga Mountains of Rwanda was, in his words, "a life changing experience". Mr. de Villiers grew up in South Africa and is a graduate of its Stellenbosch University with a Doctorate in Economic History.

He said gorillas first came to the attention of the modern world in 1845 although ancient texts in 500BC refer to them as "hairy beasts". Despite their menacing size and King Kong appearance, gorillas are gentle creatures. They are family oriented with a male silverback dominating the group.

Experienced native guides took Mr. de Villiers and a small group through an exhausting mountain hike to the gorilla habitat. As they were instructed, everyone took a submissive attitude as the silverback approached within a couple of feet. Closeup photos revealed their majestic appearance.

Mountain gorillas were being slaughtered for bushmeat and only about 800 now survive. Dian Fossey's book and film "Gorillas in the Mist" brought their plight to the attention of the public. The talk was accompanied by excellent photos, videos and graphics.

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)

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

Bruce Museum, March 22, 2018, Lunch at the Millbrook Club, \$95. Transportation: Self. Arrive at Bruce Museum at 9:45 a.m. Status: 18 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 Wait listed.

Botanical Gardens, lunch at Mario's Restaurant on Arthur Ave., May 24, \$105pp. Bus departs St. Catherine's at 8:45am. Status: 31 places open.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Bettina Wohlforth, AuD. "I Think I Have a Hearing Problem, Now What Do I Do"?