



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: Gerry Lessuk

"When the debate is lost, slander becomes the tool of the loser". (Socrates)

President DON CONWAY called the meeting to order at 10 AM. The pledge of allegiance was led by PAUL BRADY. Song Leader JERRY SCHWENDEMAN, with the able assistance of pianist GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE, led the singing of the following songs: *The Battle Hymn of The Republic*, *Blue Skies*, and *It Had To Be You*. Corresponding Secretary AV RIVEL related a story regarding sex frequency which rested on whether the key word was articulated as one word or two words. There was one returnee, GRANT PERKINS, from Egypt.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. In relation to the **Mentoring Program**, PETER UHRY said there was a need for additional volunteers to back up existing volunteers.
2. RALPH VIGGIANO related that the next meeting of the **Prostate Cancer Education** Forum will be held on February 5, 2018 at 6PM - 7PM in the Noble Conference Room of the Greenwich Hospital. The Speaker will be a Radiation Oncologist on the topic "Radiation Therapy and Clinical Trials".
3. Doctor JOEL BLUMBERG urged members to **get a Flu Shot**. This years seasonal strain is especially virulent for children and seniors.
4. GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE said the **RMA Shakespeare Group** will be meeting on Thursday afternoon, February 8, 2018, at the home of JOE MANCINELLI, 77 Havemeyer Lane (jlmanc@optonline.net; 973-886-17498) to view a production of Shakespeare's play "Hamlet" featuring Mel Gibson and Glenn Close. Contact JOE if you are interested in joining the Group.
5. In Memoriam: BOB ALDEN gave a brief memoriam for the recently deceased member RON KLINGNER.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PROGRAMS: Today's Speaker, **Dr. Bettina Wohlforth, an audiologist**, was introduced by JOEL BLUMBERG. Dr. Wohlforth's talk is titled, "I Think I Have A Hearing Problem, Now What Do I Do?". She will be discussing the use of hearing tests and hearing aids for the hearing impaired. BOB PHILLIPS advised that next week's speaker, **John B. Donovan**, will talk about Berlin during the Cold War, Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis, and Vietnam during the Vietnam War, and how they connect to today's culture.

MEMBERSHIP: As reported by HORST TEBBE, there were in attendance 86 members, one candidate and two guests for a total of 89.

The guests were Rich Bisk, g/o JOE MANCINELLI, and Reynold Burrowes, g/o CHARLEY LAND.

Happy Birthday was extended to DIETER BLENNEMANN (83) and JACK WEIR (71).

The **Inductee: PETER CARSTENSEN** was introduced by JIM BUTLER, seconded by PAUL BRADY, and approved by acclamation. PETER was born, raised and educated in Germany and has worked as a certified shipbroker. PETER and his British wife Sheila have lived in Greenwich for many years. His son is a West Point graduate and his daughter is a teacher in the Greenwich school system.

VOLUNTEER HOURS: These hours were reported by PETER STERN: There were 307 outside hours by 117 members, and 42 inside hours by 25 members; Top RMA member hours went to CHET RISIO with 21.

SPECIAL EVENTS: Full details on the scheduled Special Events are set forth below. With regard to the West Point trip, MIKE FERRARESE pointed out that all persons making the trip are required to submit to West Point their birth dates and a photo id (passport or drivers license). This information must be given to MIKE so he can make the submission to West Point prior to the trip.

FUN AND GAMES

BRIDGE: Six members played. KURT SCHAFFIR reported that the three highest scorers were FRANK LEE with 3040, RON FRIEDMAN with 2610 and ANDRE MAZUREK with 2280.

HEARTS: Eight players were involved on two tables. RALPH VIGGIANO said that three games were played on Table 1: Game #1 winner was RALPH VIGGIANO; Game #2 and Game #3 winner was TOM HEALY. On Table 2, two games were played; winner on Game #1 was RICK HOLZ and Game #2 winner

was JOHN KNIGHT. Shooting the Moon once was RALPH VIGGIANO, TOM HEALY and JOHN KNIGHT. Shooting the Moon twice was ED FARRELL.

TENNIS: RON FRIEDMAN reported the winners, as follows: On Court #1, MICHAEL McDONACH and RON FRIEDMAN; On Court #2, BILL HOWLAND and BILL FAKUNDINY. Next week's captain is TONY COCCHI.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Dr. Bettina Wohlforth, introduced by JOEL BLUUMBERG, is a **clinical audiologist** with a Clinical Doctorate in Audiology from the Arizona School of Health Science in Mesa, AZ. She has served as the primary clinical audiologist at the Greenwich Hospital and is currently in private practice. She has many years of experience performing diagnostic hearing evaluations and hearing aid prescriptions and fittings. She stated that there are about 48 million people in the United States with some degree of hearing loss, and she discussed the early warning signs of hearing loss. The testing takes place in a sound proof hearing booth with head phones. High and low pitched sounds and words are used to construct an audiogram showing the frequencies where hearing has been impaired. There are six companies producing FDA approved hearing aids which are available in a range of prices. Hearing aids are not covered by Medicare.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all members, spouses, candidates and guests. For reservations contact trip coordinators ABBEY SMOLER (203-531-0236) and MIKE FERRARESE (203-554-0678). Checks should be made out to the RMA and must be received within two weeks following the making of the reservation(s) or they will be cancelled. All buses depart from the St. Catherine Church parking lot.

- **Elmsford Dinner Theater/A Chorus Line, February 22, 2018**, In house lunch, \$95, Bus departs 10 AM, status: one place open.
- **Bruce Museum, March 22, 2018**, lunch at the Milbrook Club, \$60, self transportation, arrive at the Bruce Museum at 9:45 AM, status: 16 places open.
- **West Point, April 19, 2018**, lunch at Thayer Hotel, \$85, bus departs 8:45 AM, status: wait listed.
- **NY Botanical Gardens, May 24, 2018**, lunch at Mario's restaurant, \$105, bus departs 8:45 AM, status: 24 places open.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

John B. Donovan, a retired attorney from a New York law firm that he founded, has a masters degree in foreign affairs, and is a former marine combat infantry man. As a former combat correspondent he **will discuss Berlin, Cuba and Vietnam during the 1960's and draw comparisons with today's culture.**

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