



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.
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www.greenwichrma.org

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Archivist: **Harold Frost.** Format: **Jack Cuff, Andrzej Mazurek, Gene Schwartz.** Print/Dist: **Chet Risio**

Volume 66 Number 39 February 6, 2019 Scribe: Chet Risio

*"The meaning of life is to find your gift
The purpose of life is to give it away"*
William Shakespeare

At 10:03am President **TAD LARRABEE** summoned members to the meeting. **TAD**, in the absence of the assigned Pledge Leader, led all in reciting the Pledge. **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN**, following the first of the month custom, led the singing of *The Star Spangled Banner*, followed by *Deep in the Heart of Texas* and the RMA anthem, *We Are The RMA*. **JERRY** did a fine job leading the group despite the lack of projected lyrics. **BOB MORGAN** handled the ivories.

TOM HEALY, standing in for **BOB LUCE**, amused all with a joke about Adam and Eve and the value of Adam's rib.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TAD informed us that The Greenwich Choral Society will perform selections from Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* and Verdi's *Aida* on Saturday, Feb. 9 and Sunday, Feb 10, at the Palace Theater in Stamford with the Stamford Symphony Orchestra.

Returnees: **PETER STERN** from Aspen.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MIKE AMBROSINO read a gracious and heart felt letter from **RALPH VIGGIANO** who is battling cancer. **RALPH** thanked all RMA'ers for their emails of encouragement and was grateful for the RMA's bonding of its members. He said this was just another battle he will win and soon he will be back.

BOB RIMMER said Today's Speakers will be members of the Greenwich Board of Education discussing *How School is Different in the 21st Century*.

HOLLISTER STURGES told us Next Week's Speaker will be Moritz Von Stuelpnagle who will be presenting *The Road to Broadway: How Hit Shows Come to Life*.

Membership: **ED FARRELL** announced a meeting attendance of 77 members and two guests: Tom West, g/o **SAM MARASSO** and Keith Roe, g/o **RUSS HARDEN** and **ROGER CLARKE**. The birthday boys were **JACK SWEGER** 88 and **JOERG BLASER** 73.

Volunteer Hours: **HAROLD KUPLESKY** recorded volunteer hours for Feb 6, as 383 outside hours by 36 members and 124 by 20 members. Top RMA member was **JEFF JUNKER** with 33 hours. Volunteer Committee Chairman **RICH BISK** made an impassioned plea to members to increase volunteer hours. He gave a brief history of RMA volunteer hours noting that there has been a decrease in the number of hours. **RICH** said that volunteering is one of the mainstays of the RMA and urged members to find a worthy cause and diligently record their hours.

Special Events: **ABBEY SMOLER** mentioned three upcoming events. See details below.

GAMES OF THE RMA

Hearts: **JOHN KNIGHT** said there were 8 players for the January 30 games. The winner on Table #1, game 1 was **JOHN KNIGHT** and game 2 was **GRANT PERKINS**. At table #2, game 1, the winner was **TONY GRAHAM** and game 2, the winner was **JOHN STANKUNAS**. Shooting the moon once were **TONY GRAHAM, JOHN KNIGHT, GRANT PERKINS**, and doing it twice was **JOHN STANKUNAS**.

Tennis: **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** gave the scores for February 1. In the preliminary round **ANDY HOLMES** and **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** won on court #1. **BOB GRAYSON** and **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** won on court #2. In the finals **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** and **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** were the winners on court #1 and **GEOFFREY BURGE** and **DONALD BREISMEISTER** won on court #2. Next week's captain is **GEOFFREY BURGE**.

Bridge: **GRANT PERKINS** informed us that **MARTIN WAINE** came in first with 5980, second was **KURT SCHAFFIR** with 2780, and **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** third with 2630.

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** conducts classes on Mondays and Wednesdays. Contact **WILL** at wdmorrison@gmail.com or 203-912-8695.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special events are open to all members, guests, candidates and spouses. Checks should be made out to RMA and must be received within two weeks of making the reservation or it will be canceled. The contact person is listed for each event.

Elmsford Dinner Theater, "Ain't Misbehavin, Feb. 14, 2019, lunch at the theater \$95pp. Bus departs St. Catherine's at 10:00am. Status: wait listed. Contact **ABBEY SMOLER** 203-531-0236.

Bush Holly House Museum, Thursday, March 28. Buffet with wine \$25.00pp. 10:00am self-drive. Status: 11 openings. Contact **HOLLISTER STURGES** 203-861-2279.

The Cloisters, May 2, lunch at the New Leaf Café, \$105pp. Bus departs St. Catherine's at 9:00am. Status: 9 openings. Contact **HOLLISTER STURGES** 203-861-2279.

TODAY'S SPEAKERS

BOB RIMMER introduced **Peter Bernstein**, Chairman of the Greenwich Board of Education, and **Ralph Mayo**, Interim Superintendent of Greenwich Public Schools, who both addressed *How School is Different in the 21st Century*.

Mr. Bernstein spoke of the complexities in running a school system that has 9,000 students who come from backgrounds that speak 87 languages. To meet a changing world, he stressed, schools must change.

Mr. Mayo, who attended Greenwich schools, told of the strategic planning that weaves academics and personal planning with interpersonal studies.

Mr. Bernstein then introduced the following three school principals.

Marc D'Amico, Glenville School, told of the school's five day approach to learning using a four point system: Problem Solving, Goal Setting, Lesson Sequence and Making Learning Personal. He stressed Glenville's student centered learning environment and its new Design Lab for STEM teaching.

Jill Flood, North Street School, emphasized the school's personalized learning and critical thinking where students set their own goals. New innovative tools are employed such as Vision Boards where students share their goals, flexible seating, a stationary bike to get rid of excess energy, stand up desks and tilt brush animation with 3-D goggles.

Jason Goldstein, Eastern Middle School, spoke of the use of modern personal devices that allow teachers to assess students' responses instantly and remedy problems individually. Students engage in a game called *Kahouti* on their devices that gauge their answers. The teacher can see what is working and what is not working.

Mr. Bernstein wrapped up the presentation with glowing statistics that show the Greenwich School System is No 1 in Connecticut!

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Moritz von Stuelpnagel, a Tony nominated Broadway theater director, discussing *The Road to Broadway: How Hit Shows Come to Life*.