



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

37 Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT 06830

www.greenwichrma.org

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Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go"
(Oscar Wilde)

VOLUME 66 NUMBER 40 FEBRUARY 13, 2019 SCRIBE: GERRY LESSUK

President TAD LARRABEE opened the meeting at the usual hour of 10:00 am and led the group in reciting the *Pledge of Allegiance*. Song Leader BOB MORGAN started with *God Bless America* and concluded with *I've Been Working On The Railroad* and *Side By Side*. JIM SANTORA accompanied on the piano.

Corresponding Secretary JERRY SCHWENDEMAN related the story of two couples who had to abstain from sex for two weeks in order to join a church. The older couple met the test, but the newly married couple could not, even in public, and were barred from both the church and ShopRite.

JERRY SCHWENDEMAN also served as Mentor for the day, and JEFF JUNKER was the Treasurer for the day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **RETURNEES:** TAD reported that JOEL BLUMBERG returned from Delray Beach, Florida; BILL HOWLAND from Vero Beach, Florida; PETER BERG from San Miguel de Allende, Mexico; and STEPHEN MARINO from Dover, Delaware, from Florence, Siena and Rome, Italy.
2. **VISITING:** TAD advises that nobody has stepped forward to fill the Visiting position. TAD has developed a form which will be kept on the membership table in the rear of the room where members can make a note about other RMA'ers who have been hospitalized, are in rehab or are otherwise unable to attend meetings.
3. **ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN** discussed the work of Five Steps to Five, Inc. which operates in Port Chester, New York. They have a mission to empower parents with infants and toddlers in the underserved Hispanic community by coaching parents of children three years old or younger. They prepare them for Headstart schooling and beyond. Classes are conducted by Headstart teachers in Port Chester Headstart school rooms. If any member has an interest in volunteering for the Port Chester program, or to attend the classes to see if the concept can be applied to another community, they are encouraged to see ARTHUR.
4. **HOSPICE CARE:** GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE is a hospice volunteer visitor. GEORGE visits persons who have been diagnosed as terminal and having six months or less to live. These visits take place in nursing homes or the homes of patients. GEORGE was trained by Masonicare, located in Norwalk, over a period of six weekends. Persons interested in volunteering should contact Donna Marx, the volunteer coordinator, at DMarx@masonicare.org.
5. **SHAKESPEARE CLUB:** *King Lear* with Laurence Olivier is the Club's next offering. GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE said the viewing will take place on Wednesday afternoon, February 27, 2019, at the home of CHARLEY LAND, 70 Longmeadow Road, off Sheephill Road in Riverside. Participants should plan to arrive at 12:45PM with viewing to start at 1:00 pm. The DVD runs for 3 hours, 8 minutes.
6. **CALL-A-RIDE:** As reported by **DON CONWAY**, a website is in the process of creation by **TAD LARRABEE**. The website will include information on its members, details of its operations, and opportunities for volunteering.

7. WALKERS: Last week five walkers took part, four men and one woman. **DON HERMANN** listed the walking sites: The Point, on the beach, and down Greenwich Avenue.

COMMITTEES

PROGRAM: This week's speaker, **Moritz von Stuelpnagel**, was introduced by HOLSTER STURGES. Moritz originally hails from Greenwich and as a free lance director he now works and resides in New York City. He has an extensive background as both a director and producer of plays. He has been involved in productions on Broadway, Off Broadway as well as other notable regional productions. BOB PHILLIPS said that next week's speaker will be Congressman Jim Himes whose talk is entitled *Report from D.C.*

VOLUNTEER HOURS: These hours were reported by ALAN GUNZBURG. There were 362 outside hours by 39 members, and 188 inside hours by 30 members. Top RMA member hours went to HOLSTER STURGES with 47 hours.

SPECIAL EVENTS: Full details of the events set forth below were covered by MIKE FERARESE.

MEMBERSHIP: As reported by ED FARRELL, there were in attendance 78 members, and 3 guests - Denis Munson, g/o GERRY GIBIAN and ANDRZEJ MAZUREK; Dwight Chapin, g/o PETER STERN; and Tom West, g/o SAM MARASSO.



Happy birthday was extended to GRAN BURGESS 71, HAROLD FROST 84, DAVE CRYSTAL 81 and WAYNE DEVRIES 75.

FUN AND GAMES

BRIDGE: Five members played. TONY COCCHI said that the three highest scores were FRANK LEE with 3,420, ANDRZEJ MAZUREK with 2,460, and RON FRIEDMAN with 1,970.

HEARTS: Eight players played on two tables. JACK SWEGER said that five games were completed. Winners were JACK WEIR, 3 games and CHARLES GRAVES, 2 games. Six Moon Shots were successfully made by BOB STRONG with two, MICHAEL AMBROSINO, JOHN KNIGHT, JACK SWEGER, and JACK WEIR. Captain for next week is CHARLES GRAVES.

TENNIS: The winners were revealed by GEOFFREY BURGE as follows: On Court #1, TOM HEALY and PETER ORBANOWSKI: on Court #2, RICH BISK and ANDRZEJ MAZUREK. Next week's captain is PETER UHRY.

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

Bush Holly House Museum: Thursday, March, 28. Buffet with wine, \$25pp. 10:00am, self-drive. Status; open. Contact HOLLISTER STURGES 203 861-2279.

The Cloisters: Thursday, May 2, Bus departs St Catherine's 9 AM cost \$105 includes lunch at the new Leaf Café. Status; open. Contact HOLLISTER STURGES 203-861-2279.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Moritz von Stuelpnagel titled his talk *The Road to Broadway: How Hit Shows Come to Life*. Before discussing how shows come to life, he reviewed the four basic Director activities: (1) work with the playwright on the script; (2) hire designers to unify the play's vision; (3) cast actors for the play, and (4) run rehearsals. The classification of a Broadway Play is not location but was worked out with the labor unions: the theater must have 500 or more seats; be in an area bound by 41st street to 54th street, and from 6th avenue to 8th avenue, including Lincoln Center. There are 41 such theaters. The formula for success of a play often rests on the casting of celebrity actors, popular source material, and is acclaimed by reviewers and critics. Getting a play to Broadway is usually accomplished by taking the show on the road and having it acclaimed there, or going off Broadway where it is easier to get skilled New York resident actors, or to have workshops in to get investors interested. Ticket sales are influenced by the Tony Awards. Winning an award will increase the run of the play by 50%. Getting a nomination will increase the run by 30%. More than once it was mentioned that investing in a play is risky business for producers and investors, "you can't make a living, but with a hit show you can make a killing."

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Congressman **Jim Himes'** will present his *Report from D.C.*

Visit us at www.greenwichrma.org

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