



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, George Stockbridge, Tony Cocchi, and Joe Mancinelli. 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.

Volume 65, No. 41

February 14, 2018

Scribe: DAN FREDLAND

President DON CONWAY rang the opening bell at 10:00am. MIKE AMBROSINO lead us in the Pledge. JACK SWEGER, accompanied by PETER RYAN, led the song singing. The patriotic song was *God Bless America*, followed by a Valentine's Day medley of *The Bells are Ringing*, *Heart of my Heart*, and *Oh You Beautiful Doll*. TOM HEALY then amused us with a story about Father Ryan polling pub patrons about going to heaven, and one about the Dublin furniture store owner and a beautiful young woman in Paris.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. PETER UHRY, in calling for volunteers, told us that WAYNE WRIGHT has stepped forward to handle **Visiting**, taking the place of CHUCK STANDARD; WAYNE will be assisted by RICH BISK, who is a candidate for membership (see below). Anyone who knows any member who is sick and would appreciate visiting can call WAYNE at 203-637-9507 or RICH at 203-329-1670.
2. BOB LOCKHART told us about the good work Pacific House does for homeless young adults, and their "Close to Home" celebration with desserts and music. It takes place Friday, February 23, 7:00-10:00 P. M. at the Hyatt Regency. Tickets at <https://pacifichouse.org/CloseToHome>.
3. Returnees today are PETER STERN from Aspen, DOUG TAYLOR from Bermuda, and PETER TUNLEY from Palm Beach Gardens.
4. Birthdays this week: GRANVILLE BURGESS, 71, DAVID CRYSTAL, 80, HAROLD FROST, 84, CHARLIE MOSHER, 87, and WAYNE DeVRIES, 75.
5. Mentors this week are JOHN HOEY, RUSS HARDEN, KLAUS JANDER, GEORGE GRADY, JOHN TONER and candidate Rich Bisk.

COMMITTEES

VISITING: ANDREW HOLMES broke his wrist playing tennis. He is doing okay.

PROGRAM: HOLLISTER STURGES announced that our speaker today is **Stephen Roach**, of Yale University, talking about "A World Tuned Inside Out: Pitfalls of a New Globalization". Dr. Roach was formerly Chairman of Morgan Stanley Asia and the firms' Chief Economist.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE announced that 92 members attended, along with 3 guests, for a total of 95.

Richard (Rich) Bisk was presented as a candidate for membership by JOE MANCINELLI and MICHAEL AMBROSINO. He was inducted by acclaim. RICH had a long career in IBM in marketing and management. He is an active volunteer in the community and now in RMA (see above).

VOLUNTEER HOURS: RUSS HARDEN announced 389 outside hours by 39 members, and 146 hours by 22 members. The top hours were 37 by CRO MARTIN.

FUN AND GAMES

HEARTS: JACK SWEGER gave the results from two tables. At Table 1 two games were both won by JOHN STANKUNAS. JOHN KNIGHT made 2 moonshots, and JONH STANKUNAS made 1. Table 2 had 3 games won by GEORGE DIPPY, TOM HEALY and MIKE AMBROSINO. MIKE made 3 moonshots, and TOM made 1. Captain next week is ED FARRELL.

BRIDGE: PETER STERN reported there were 6 players on February 7. GRANT PERKINS was 1st with 4040 points, RALPH VIGGIANO 2nd with 2650, and ANDRE MAZUREK 3rd with 2530.

TENNIS; On February 9, On Court 1, MIKE SMITH and TOM HEALY won, and on Court 2, PETER UHRYS and MIKE AMBROSINO. Captain next week, MIKE SMITH.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

JERRY POLLACK introduced **Stephen Roach** of Yale's Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, describing his extensive background in the financial world and academic teaching and research.

Dr. Roach began by debunking the traditional view that the \$ 80 trillion world economy is stable. In the period 1990-2017 there have been huge drops in the percentage shares of that economy in the EU, US and Japan, and a rise in China's share. China went from the smallest share to the largest in that period.

Presidents Xi Jinping and Trump both voice nationalistic visions. The vision of Xi is to restore China to its rightful place in the world which was lost in the colonial era from mid 1800's to mid-1900's, while Trump's is to restore the US to the status of post WW II. Both countries present contradictions. In China, it is unbalanced or inadequate development versus the need of the people for a better life. They are rebalancing from export to consumption.

In the US, the contradiction is the government deficit versus inadequate savings in the country. Savings have declined from over 6 % in decades from 1970 to 2000, to 2.3 % of GDP in 2017, 3rd quarter. The recent tax law and Congressional spending plan for the next two years add to the fire.

The protectionist policy favored by the present US Administration will not help with loss of factory jobs. Dr. Roach showed a chart illustrating the steady drop in manufacturing as a percentage of employment in the US from 1953 to 2017, from 32.4% to 8.5%. NAFTA and entry of China into the WTO in 1994 and 2001, respectively, had no visible effect on the trend. He also discussed the state of the stock market, with a P/E ratio that is now at its second highest peak in the period 1881 to 2018.

During the Q and A, Dr. Roach answered questions about Chinese debt and savings, theft of intellectual property, advances in high technology by China, the likelihood of political unrest in China and the economic effect of very low interest rates in the US in recent years. He favors a policy that gives incentives here for more savings, and government budget discipline.

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: Wait listed

Bruce Museum, March 22, 2018, Lunch at the Millbrook Club, \$95. Transportation: Self. Arrive at Bruce Museum at 9:45 a.m. Status: 14 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

JOEL BLUMBERG announced that next week's speaker is **Ann Meyerson**, talking about "An American Odyssey: The Jewish Experience in Greenwich". Dr. Meyerson is the guest curator or the exhibit of the same name at the Greenwich Historical Society (on view through April 15).

Visit us at www.greenwichrma.org

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Member Profile of SERGE GABRIEL

This the twenty-first in a series of Member Profiles intended to allow Member's to get to know one another beyond a face and a name tag.

SERGE GEORGE LEON GABRIEL was born May 10, 1929 , in a large Cavalry town, Luneville (Lorraine) sitting on the former (1870) border of Alsace-Lorraine (resulting from Napoleon's loss at Waterloo(Belgium)). The border changed again following France's defeat by Hitler in 1940 who immediately made it again the border with Germany. Serge lived 4 years under the odious German occupation until September 19, 1944 when liberated by General Patton's Third Army.



The 50th anniversary of the liberation of Luneville, (Lorraine), France, Sept. 17, 1994. General Loiseau is on the left and Col. Serge Gabriel on the right. The man in the middle is the commanding officer of the French force that liberated Luneville in 1944.

Being the son of two teachers, Pierre Gabriel and Georgette Keller, both deceased, Serge taught school first in France in 1948 upon receiving his *Baccalaureate* degree, then in 1954 when running an Education Center with the US military in Korea and again after being discharged, as a substitute French teacher at Greenwich HS 1960-1965. and with the military in Korea.

Very eager to serve, following pre-military airborne training as a civilian, Serge, at age 20, was drafted in the French Army for further airborne training at Pau, France. After attending Officer Candidate School at Saumur he was assigned to a Tank Destroyer Regiment in Mainz, Germany (French Occupation Zone) as part of the forces facing the Soviet Cold War threat.

With the assistance of his elder brother, Jean-Pierre, (assigned to the French Embassy in DC from Marrakesh, Morocco in 1943), Serge emigrated to America on the "Mauretania" in October, 1951. He dealt with the French Embassy as an Aviation-electronics salesman at James S. Spivey, an Aviation-Electronics surplus Export firm. When Gamal Nasser of Egypt seized the Suez Canal a conflict loomed. French Navy planes were outfitted with new M-9 Bombsights (of Atomic Bomb fame) that Serge tracked down in Chicago at the Victor Adding Machine Company (one of several manufacturers.) Fortunately, a truce promoted by the US and Russia suspended all operations.



Serge at 22 years old in Washington, DC at his first job, October 1951

On August, 1952 Serge was drafted into the US Army and reported for Basic Training at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Ordnance School in Maryland. He applied for and received a waiver on his lack of citizenship to attend Infantry OCS at Ft. Benning, Georgia. As a French citizen, he graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant, Ordnance Corps, August, 1953. Weeks later, in a mass swearing in ceremony in Baltimore, Serge

became a US citizen. After Armament Officer training he was assigned to Korea and based at Incheon in February, 1954. His duties were multiple: Executive Officer, Payroll Officer, Education Center officer, Base Security with Sentry Dog Detachment, Fire Marshall for the Incheon-Kimpo pipeline, Battalion Troop Information and Education Officer and Officer in Charge of the Base PX. At Ft. Myers, Virginia, on May 10, 1985, Serge was retired from the Army reserve after 30 years of service at USAR schools in Tokyo, Paris, Vincenza, Italy, White Plains and West Point.

In March 1957, he was employed by the IBM World Trade Corporation as Manager of Orders and Shipping for Data Processing. He was subsequently assigned for 5 years as the MP&R manager at the Tokyo HQ. In addition, Serge guided the planning process for South East Asian companies while working out of Hong Kong.

During that time Serge married Irene Brofos, a Norwegian-American, who had also survived the Nazi occupation of Norway. They had three daughters, Claudette, Suzette and Maud. Due to her mother's (Irene) Laotian-Norwegian heritage, Suzette is active in bomb removal in Laos. In July, 1976, was assigned to the European HQ in Paris as Planning Manager for Germany, Italy, the UK and France. After twenty-two years of marriage, his wife, Irene, suffered from multiple myeloma and died on June 7, 1979. He was then reassigned to the IBM Lab at La Gaude, near Nice in the south of France. In December 1980 he returned to the IBM Americas Far East Corporation in Port Chester. He retired in December, 1988. A year later Serge graduated from Yale Divinity School with a Master of Art in religion.

In 1982 Serge married Marilyn Parker, an art teacher in Greenwich, in the Baptist Church. A widow, Marilyn's two children, Douglas and Jeanne, augmented their total family. Serge's strong interest in Franco-America relations during the American revolution prompted him, in 1996, to memorialize the Washington-Rochambeau march from Newport, RI to the ultimate victory over the British in Yorktown, VA. In 1781.

In 2005-2006, with a large team of volunteers, Serge installed twelve interpretive panels marking the 1781 route across Connecticut. Speaking at Peekskill, NY, June 17, 2017, Serge, wearing a Revolutionary Era French white uniform, said, "*Comte Donatien de Vimeur with comte de Rochambeau's forces* under his command, supported Washington's colonial forces at Yorktown, VA. They totaled 44,000 men with 24 ships-of-the-line under Admiral de Grasse and 8,500 ground forces.

The army of 5,000 marched from Newport, and an additional 3,500 came from Haiti under his son, Donatien's, command. The combined French/American force defeated Gen. Cornwallis at Yorktown, VA on September 19, 1781 and led to American Independence". Two permanent markers commemorating that victory were installed that day in Peekskill.

He also inaugurated a permanent exhibit in the New England Air Museum at Bradley airport, CT. The thirty six panels commemorate the "Lafayette Escadrille" and the 269 volunteer American pilots who fought for France in WWI.



**Serge carrying the French flag in the annual commemorative parade at Yorktown,
October 19, 2017**

Over several years he taught, in French, the "Walk-Thru-The -Bible" ("Marche a Travers le Bible") ministry in Quebec, in France and in several French speaking countries in West Africa. He became an Evangelical Christian...in 1982. Serge retired in 1989 as a Colonel in the US Army Reserve and now serves as acting chaplain to the Western Connecticut Retired Officers Association.

In addition to his "Walk Thru the Bible" seminars and acting chaplain, Serge is a member of "The Souvenir Francais (USA) and of the French Cavalry "Saumur" and the OCS *Infantry* (Ft. Benning) Associations. He is also active in perpetuating France's contribution to American independence. He recently attended the 236 Anniversary Celebration of the Battle of Yorktown

He joined the RMA in the early 1990s when they were proudly meeting in the basement of the YMCA and has attended their weekly meetings ever since!