

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.
37 Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT 06830

www.greenwichrma.org

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VOLUME 66 NUMBER 41 FEBRUARY 20, 2019 SCRIBE: AV RIVEL

"Always go to other people's funerals, otherwise they won't come to yours".

(Yogi Berra)

It was not a bell, but a drum roll executed by multi-talented **ERF PORTER** that opened the meeting at 10:00 am. **JOHN CARON** led the group in reciting the *Pledge of Allegiance*. The Wednesday song session was led by **MIKE HAYDEN**, accompanied by **BOB MORGAN** on piano, the aforementioned **ERF PORTER** on drums and HIMSELF, playing harmonica. The theme was marches and included *The Marine Hymn, This Old Man* and *The Yellow Rose of Texas*.

President **TAD LARRABEE** turned the mike over to **Barbara Ormerod-Glynn**, Director of the Greenwich Library to discuss the Library's major renovation plan. After years in planning, the work will begin this summer making the current building lighter and airier with additional public space carved out of the current footprint. A video previewing the new library is available on-line at:

www.greenwichlibrary.org/reimagine

AV RIVEL, doing double-duty as Scribe and Corresponding Secretary dedicated his presentation to baseball. He told a very funny story about baseball lovers in heaven. He then presented an intriguing puzzle to test one's arcane knowledge of the national game.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RETURNEES: **TAD** welcomed back **JOE MANCINELLI** from Orlando FL, **TOM HEALY** from St. Marten, **GERRY BOYLE** from County Clare, Ireland and **HORST TEBBE** from Palm Springs, FL and Oakland CA.

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 RMAers who have been hospitalized, are in rehab or are otherwise unable to attend meetings.

MEMORIAL: **ERF PORTER** presented a moving tribute to **CHARLIE MOSHER** who died earlier this month. **ERF** recalled close to 40 years of friendship with **CHARLIE**, leading the Boy Scouts, fly fishing and enjoying family camaraderie.

COMMITTEES.

PROGRAM: **JERRY POLLACK** gave a heads up for **today's speaker, Congressman Jim Himes, 4th CT Congressional District** which includes most of Fairfield County. As reported by **CHALIE ADAMS**, **next week's speaker will be Theresa Kelleher, Ph.D.**

Dr. Kelleher, a professor of Asian Studies at Manhattanville College, will speak on *The Silk Road: Multi-culturalism in Pre-modern Times*. It promises to be an interesting and enlightening talk.

MEMBERSHIP: **HORST TEBBE** ran the numbers: 80 members, 1 guest - Denis Munson, g/o **GERRY GIBIAN** and **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** and 2 candidates named below. Today's candle blowers, **TOM MCGUIRE 92**, **RICK WOLFF 74**, **PETER SCHIEFERDECKER 94** and **RANDY MOTLAND 84** were serenaded by the assembled voices.

INDUCTIONS -KEITH ROE, sponsored by **RUSS HARDEN** and **ROGER CLARKE**. **KEITH** is a native of Philadelphia but has lived in Greenwich for over 40 years. An MIT trained power generation engineer (fossil fuel and nuclear) he retired as Chairman and CEO of Burns and Roe Enterprises Inc. He has traveled extensively and enjoys tennis, golf and skiing among his many interests. Welcome aboard **KEITH!**

DWIGHT CHAPIN -sponsored by **PETER STERN** and **HORST TEBBE**. **DWIGHT** was born in Wichita, KS, lived in Cos Cob for a while, and returned to Riverside in 2016 to be near his kids and 13 ½ grandkids. In his long professional career, he served in the private sector as a marketing and PR guru with such companies as United Airlines and Success magazine. In the public sector he held several positions in the Nixon administration. He has travelled widely and enjoys walking, reading, and his family. Welcome to the RMA **DWIGHT!**

VOLUNTEER HOURS: These hours were reported by **JOHN CRAINE**. There were 433 outside hours by 40 members, and 146 inside hours by 26 members. Top RMA member hours went to **MARTIN WAINE** with 55 accumulated hours.

SPECIAL EVENTS: Full details of the events set forth below were covered by **ABBEY SMOLER**.

THE SCORE BOARD

BRIDGE: **PETER STERN** dealt the scores. **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** – 3730, **RON MURRAY**-2240, and **FRANK LEE**-1990. The team of **MAZUREK** and **LEE**, bid slam and made all tricks for a total of 1390 points!

HEARTS: As reported by **JOHN STANKUNIS**, winners were, **TAD LARRABEE**, **CHARLIE GRAVES**, **ED FARRELL** (2 games) and **TONY GRAHAM** (2 games) Moon Shooters were: **PETER BERG**, **JOHN KNIGHT**, **ED FARRELL** and **TAD LARRABEE**.

TENNIS: **PETER UHRY** reported by email that in the warm up round, **RANDY MOTLAND** and **DON BREISMEISTER** won on court 1, and **PETER UHRY** and **JOHN KNIGHT** were victorious on court 2. In the final matches it was **DON** and **JOHN** on court 1 and **PETER STREICH** and **MIKE AMBROSINO** on court 2. Next week's captain is **PETER ORBANOWSKI**.

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. 10:00 am, self-drive. Status: Wait Listed. Contact **HOLLISTER STURGES** 203-861-2279.

The Cloisters: Thursday, May 2, Bus departs St Catherine's 9:00 am cost \$105 includes lunch at the new Leaf Café. Status: Wait Listed. Contact **HOLLISTER STURGES** 203-861-2279.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

JERRY POLLACK introduced **Congressman Jim Himes, our six term Representative** who visits the RMA regularly and really needs no introduction. His talk was titled **Report from DC**. He divided his talk to four sections: Domestic, Foreign, The Mueller Investigation, and *Politics in 2019*. **DOMESTIC** - He is mildly optimistic, some small progress has been made. The Judicial and Prison Reform Bill, focus on the Opioid Crisis and Cyber security. The current pentagon budget has benefited General Dynamics and United Technologies in Connecticut. He likes that part of the tax bill that lowered corporate rates but wonders how we will pay for it. He has hope for infrastructure and lowering health costs because the President is for them. **FOREIGN** – While he agrees with much of the administration's foreign policy like Syria, North Korea and NATO spending, he disagrees with our Iran policy. He was strongly against the President's approach to diplomacy, pushing away our allies and embracing autocrats. **MUELLER** – He wisely declined to predict what the outcome would be. **POLITICS in 2019**- He proposed that the polarization of politics did not start with the Trump election but started well before then. He saw two main causes of the polarization and offered no startling solutions.

He attributed the cause to the rise of underclasses in our country, black and brown people, women, LGBTQ people, the death of the American Dream, and the rise of social and economic inequality. The only solution he offered was for all citizens to take a greater part in polite public discourse. The Q & A was spirited but polite.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Dr. Theresa Kelleher on *The Silk Road: Multi-culturism in Pre-modern Times*

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