



# CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

## Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

60 Years of Fellowship and Community Service  
Visit us on the web at [www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org)



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.

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Scribe: George Stockbridge

*"Lafayette, we are here"* -General Jack Pershing, 1917

President DON CONWAY opened the meeting at 10 a.m., and then JERRY SCHWENDEMAN led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. JERRY then directed us, JIM SANTORA accompanying on the Steinway, in *I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy*, *This Little Light of Mine* and *There's No Business Like Show Business*. DON welcomed back returnee JOHN AWDZIEWICZ. Corresponding Secretary (aka joke teller) AV RIVEL spun us a story about three ladies "of a certain age" boasting about their sons.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) PAUL SETTELMEYER advised that on Saturday, March 10, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Greenwich Civic Center in Old Greenwich, the Greenwich Lions will serve "all you can eat" pancakes hot off the griddle. He has tickets available for sale as do ALAN GUNZBURG and DAVID NOBLE.
- 2) JIM SANTORA announced an RMA Food Drive to benefit Neighbor to Neighbor next Wednesday, Feb. 28. Items most requested are peanut butter, jelly, canned tuna or chicken, canned fruit, black or red kidney beans, cereal, canned soup, rice and pasta. JIM will be at the door next Wednesday taking your contributions. He said checks are also welcome, payable to Neighbor to Neighbor.
- 3) SERGE GABRIEL was celebrating his emigration from France to the U.S. in 1951, and his being sworn in as a U.S. citizen in 1953.
- 4) GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE announced that the RMA Shakespeare Group will meet on Thursday afternoon, March 1, where they will discuss what to expect when they view the comedy "A Midsummer Night's Dream". If any member, candidate or guest is interested in joining this group, please email GEORGE at [grspersonal@aol.com](mailto:grspersonal@aol.com) or phone him at [201-698-0710](tel:201-698-0710).

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

VISITING: WAYNE WRIGHT reported that MANNY BONVENUTO is convalescing in Brookfield, and would welcome our phone calls at [203-740-1054](tel:203-740-1054). MARIO BONAPARTE is at home recovering from a stroke.

PROGRAMS: JOEL BLUMBERG encouraged us to stay for today's speaker, **Dr. Ann Meyerson**, informing us on "The Jewish Experience in Greenwich". TAD LARRABEE informed us that next week's speaker will be **Hugh Price**, talking about growing up when blacks were segregated.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE advised that there were 85 members and 2 guests, Haus Jacobsen g/o HORST and KLAUS JANDER, as well as Joe Havranek g/o JIM FAHY. Those celebrating birthdays were PETER SCHIEFERDECKER, 93 and RANDY MOTLAND, 83.

INDUCTEE: RUSS HARDEN and WAYNE WRIGHT introduced "Cooke" AKA Allan Gibb. An MBA graduate of Harvard Business School, he served as president of the investment bank First Boson Corp. He played tennis and hunted when younger, did karate and tai chi. He is interested in learning about our mentoring program. A rousing vote of "aye" inducted ALLAN into RMA membership.

SPECIAL EVENTS: (see below)

VOLUNTEERS: ROS CURTIS advised that there were 384 hours by 32 men for outside activities, and 141 hours by 26 men for RMA activities.

### GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

Bridge: RALPH VIGGIANO reported there were 5 players. The 3 highest were MARTIN WAYNE with 4030, FRANK LEE with 3920 and KURT SCHAFFIR with 3710.

Tennis: MIKE AMBROSINO told us that winners on court #1 were MIKE McDONALD and JOHN KNIGHT; winners on court #2 were PETER UHRY and RALPH VIGGIANO. Next week's captain is JOHN KNIGHT.

Hearts: ED FARRELL related to us that there were 8 players. At table #1, game #1 was won by RALPH VIGGIANO; game's #2 and 3 by JOHN KNIGHT. At table #2, game #1 was won by JACK SWEGER; game #2 by JIM HEALY. Those shooting the moon were JOHN KNIGHT, RALPH VIGGIANO, ED FARRELL and MIKE AMBROSINO.

### 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 canceled. Contact MIKE FERRARESE [myagentmike@yahoo.com](mailto:myagentmike@yahoo.com) 203 554-0678 or ABBEY SMOLER [abbeysmoler@gmail.com](mailto:abbeysmoler@gmail.com) 203 531-0235

**Elmsford Dinner Theater ("A Chorus Line") 2-22-18.** Cost p/p \$95. Lunch at the theater. Bus leaves St. Catherine's 10a.m. Status: long waiting list.

**Bruce Museum 3-22-18.** Cost p/p \$60. Drive to Museum. Lunch at Milbrook Club. Meet at Museum 9:45a.m. Status: 16 places available.

**West Point Tour 4-19-18.** Cost p/p \$85. Restaurant at the Thayer Hotel. Bus leaves St. Catherine's 8:45a.m. Status: Wait listed.

New York Botanical Gardens 5-24-18. Cost p/p \$105. Lunch at Mario's Restaurant on Arthur Avenue. Bus leaves St. Catherine's 8:45a.m. Status: 35 places available.

#### TODAY'S SPEAKER

After the break, JOEL BLUMBERG introduced the speaker, Ann Meyerson, Ph. D. Her subject was "An American Odyssey: The Jewish Experience in Greenwich". She has an extensive background in Jewish history in America. She grew up on Greenwich Avenue above the Favorite Shoe Store run by a Jewish owner, I.J. Weiss, friend of her family. (it was still there when we first came to Greenwich in 1973). As early as 1738 there were a few Jewish landowners. The mass migration took place between 1880 and 1920 from Eastern Europe, mainly Russia and Poland where pogroms were exterminating Jews. Jewish names in Greenwich were, for example, Levy, Weiss, Silver, Taylor, Falk, Tunick, Steinberg, Cohen, Grossman, Levine, Marks, Bennett and Meyer. They first earned their living by peddling wares out of wagons, or peddling discarded items. Some wealthy Jewish philanthropists were the Havemeyers and the Bendheims. Jews also donated the land on which the Cos Cob Fire Dept. is located. The 1930's and '40's was a period of crass anti-semitism in sale of homes and at clubs like Riverside Yacht Club. Strict zoning laws kept Jews out. The original Temple Sholom was located on East Elm St. in rented property. The current Temple Sholom was built in 1955, enlarged in 1991.

**NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER:** **John Price**, director of the Black Coalition New Haven. "This African-American Life: From Valley Forge to Civil rights"

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