



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, Chet Risio, Gerry Lessuk, Steve Elliot, and George Stockbridge, Emeritus. (On leave: Gran Burgess, and Arnold Gordon). **Archivist:** Harold Frost. **Format and Layout:** Gene Schwartz, Jack Cuff, and Andre Mazurek. **Reproduction/Distribution:** Walker Collins, and Chet Risio.

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February 22 2017

Our jovial President PETER UHRY brought the unruly group to order and introduced pledge leader MIKE AMBROSINO.

Song leader TOM HEALY, with PETER RYAN on the keyboard, led us in spirited renditions of "America the Beautiful," "Hello Dolly," and "Heart of My Heart."

Corresponding Secretary CHUCK STANDARD provided the obligatory joke.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. PETER UHRY:

- a. Reported on the returnees: JOEL BLUMBERG from Israel, RANDY MOTLAND from Naples, FL, and GRANVILLE BURGESS and DICK HOLZ from Florida.
- b. Praised Jessica Schwartz, GENE SCHWARTZ'S 17-year-old granddaughter, for organizing a group of high school students in Pittsburgh that provided a library for an elementary school in Kenya by collecting and shipping them over 1000 used books.

2. RALPH VIGGIANO called our attention to the Prostate Cancer Education Forum to be held on March 6, 2017, from 6:00 to 7:00 pm, at the Greenwich Hospital. Advance registration is recommended. Call [203-863-4277](tel:203-863-4277).

3. GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE is organizing weekly Saturday tours to the Half Full Brewery in Stamford. The plan is to carpool at 1:30 p.m. from the Riverside Shopping Center. Contact GEORGE – grspersonal@aol.com -- for details.

4. AV RIVEL is collecting used musical instruments which will be restored to playing condition and donated to underserved high schools in Yonkers. Contact him at arivel@optonline.net.

5. JACK SWEGER announced that the RMA Hearts players will start weekly games on Wednesday, March 1, 2017 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., at the Old Greenwich Civic Center. Contact JACK for details at sweger15@optonline.net.

6. GRANVILLE BURGESS invited members to attend a reading with songs of "Conrack" – a musical for which he wrote the book -- on February 27, 2017, at the York Theater, 619 Lexington Avenue in New York (www.yorktheater.org); and also a reading of "Common Ground" about

Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, at the Downtown Cabaret in Bridgeport at 8:00 p.m. on March 3, 2017.

COMMITTEES

VISITING: CHUCK STANDARD reported that ED BLOOM is at home, doing rehab. TED SPOOL is doing rehab at Nathaniel Witherell.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE reported 130 attendees, including three candidates: Gerry Friedman, Michael Ross, and Bruce Pantano; and six guests: Bob Brady, guest of BILL HOWLAND; Connie Pappas, guest of GEORGE DIPPY; Sander Mirchandani, guest of PETER UHRY; Tom West, guest of PETER UHRY; Dave Crystal, guest of RUSS HARDEN; and Robert Bloom, guest of HAROLD KUPLESKY.

The **birthday boys** celebrated this week were PETER SCHIEFERDECKER, 92; RANDALL MOTLAND, 82; and RON FRIEDMAN, 82.

VOLUNTEERS: PETER STERN told us that 37 men reported 369 hours for outside agencies, and 29 members reported 203 hours for RMA activities. The greatest number for the week reported by an individual member was 27 hours, by HAROLD FROST. The Volunteer Committee is looking for more recorders so that individuals would only need to be called on once a quarter.

PROGRAMS: HOLLISTER STURGES announced this week's speaker **Jim Himes**.

Next week's speaker, BOB ROBINS told us, will be Michael Baker, whose talk about his career as covert field operations manager with the CIA is sure to fascinate.

THE SCOREBOARD

BRIDGE: JAMES CHUNG reported 10 players: WALKER COLLINS was first with 4210 points, ANDRZEJ MAZUREK was second with 3070, and PETER STERN was third with 2860.

TENNIS: PETER UHRY reported BILL FAKUNDINY and RANDY MOTLAND were the winners on Court 1; and JOE MANCINELLI and PETER UHRY won on Court 2. PETER UHRY will be next week's Captain. PETER then made a few remarks to remind us of George Washington's Birthday.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

HOLLISTER STURGES introduced Congressman **Jim Himes**, who represents Connecticut's 4th District in the House of Representatives and is a member of the House Committee on Financial Services and of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. His presentation was attended by over 200 members and guests.

In his comments, he focused on the state of our politics, on social issues, and on what he sees to be his own role. He noted that recent economic and political changes have affected different population segments differently, and that the resulting different perspectives too often find expression as rage, rather than as ideas for resolution of issues. There are indications of some positive movement in such areas as investment in infrastructure and tax reform. He strongly feels the need to resist false news and threats to foundational citizenship rights, but wants to encourage the exchange of new ideas. He encouraged us to expect more of ourselves. His remarks were well received.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Events are open to all members, spouses, candidates and guests. For reservations contact trip coordinators ABBEY SMOLER (203-531-0236) and MIKE FERRARESE (203-554-0678). Checks for payment are to be made out to the RMA, and must be received within two (2) weeks following the making of the reservations or the reservations will be cancelled.

- [Lamont Earth Observatory - March 30, 2017](#); In House Lunch; Cost \$60 per person; Bus departs from St. Catherine At 9 AM. Two cancellations
- [Culinary Institute & FDR Museum - April 20, 2017](#); Lunch at the Caterina De Medici Restaurant; Cost \$96 per person; Bus departs from St. Catherine 9:30 AM; 9 openings.
- [New York Botanical Gardens- May 25, 2017](#)- Bus transportation – departure from St. Catherine's at 8:30 a.m. Lunch at Mario's Italian Restaurant -- \$98 per person.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Michael Baker - "The Key Global Threats Facing the New US Administration"

Kurt Schaffir, Scribe of the Week

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