



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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

www.greenwichrma.org

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Archivist: **Harold Frost.** Format: **Jack Cuff, Andrzej Mazurek, Gene Schwartz.** Print/Dist: **Chet Risio**

VOLUME 66 NUMBER 42, FEBRUARY 27, 2019 SCRIBE: ED FARRELL

President **TAD LARRABEE** opened the meeting at 10:00 AM and called on **STEVE MARINO** to lead us in the pledge. **TOM HEALY**, accompanied by **GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE** on the piano, then led members in singing *You're a Grand Old Flag, Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe, and You Made Me Love You*. **TOM** followed with jokes about under fed, but well lubricated passengers on an Aer Lingus flight and an elderly lady entrepreneur, who took advantage of errant golfers.

Returnees: **TAD** acknowledged returnees **ANDY HOLMES** from Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and the Falkland Islands, and **BOB PHILLIPS** from Lermoos Austria/Zugspitze.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TAD announced that a **new form** has been introduced on which members can record: 1) their return to RMA from travels 2) important personal anniversaries and milestones and 3) the names of members who need moral support due to illness or loss, and those in hospital or in rehab. This form will replace the Returnees Form and will be available weekly on the membership desk.

ALAN GUNZBERG invited all to the Lions Club 59th Annual Pancake Breakfast at 8:00 AM - noon on March 9 at the Eastern Civic Center, 90 Harding Rd. Old

Greenwich. Ticket prices are \$10, \$8, and \$6 depending on age. Free eye exams will be offered to children 6-10 years of age.

RON MURRAY introduced members to the Lifetime Learning Institute (LLI) at Norwalk Community College. LLI offers persons over the age of 50 courses in a wide range of subjects aimed at promoting self-improvement and engagement with others with similar interests. **RON** provided copies of the spring 2019 LLI catalog.

Volunteering: **RICH BISK** introduced **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**, who described volunteer opportunities at Covenant House in Stamford. **MICHAEL** noted that Covenant House serves approximately 220 meals per day, 365 days per year to people in need. He suggested two ways to volunteer: 1) serving meals or 2) pantry assistance. Meals are prepared by area religious organizations who deliver to the Covenant House and are then served by volunteers. The pantry is essentially a grocery store where vetted clients shop monthly under the guidance of volunteers.

RICH also emphasized the need to report volunteer hours and introduced **GERRY MAYFIELD** as the VOLUNTEERING PEST, who will be a visible goad at meetings urging members to report their volunteer hours. **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** offered the following limerick in support of **RICH's** efforts:

There once was a fellow named **BISK**,
Who decided to take a small risk,
He would enhance volunteering,
And for that we are cheering,
As the RMA knows he can't miss.

RICH noted that if they cannot attend a meeting, members can report volunteer hours to him via email: rbisk@optonline.net.

COMMITTEES

Program: **CHARLIE ADAMS** announced today's speaker is **Theresa Kelleher Ph.D.**, whose subject is: *The Silk Road: A Case of Multiculturalism in Pre-modern Times*.

HOLLISTER STURGES noted that next week's speakers will be **Clarinda Higgins and William G. Armstrong, Jr.** Their subject will be: *Against the Current: How Albert Schweitzer Inspired a Young Man's Journey*.

Membership: **HORST TEBBE** reported 90 members and 1 guest present at today's meeting. The guest is James Dean g/o **JIM BOARDMAN**. Today's **birthday boys** are **RICH BISK** 76 and **GERRY FRIEDMAN** 84.

Volunteers: **TONY COCCHI** reported 39 men donated 398 hours to outside agencies, and 26 men reported 113 volunteer hours for the RMA. **TAD LARRABEE** had the most hours for the week with 27.

FUN AND GAMES

Bridge: **PETER STERN** announced the winners last week were: **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** 3,300, **RON FRIEDMAN**, 2790 and **MARTY WAINE** 1,690.

Tennis: **JOHN KNIGHT** reported last week's winners were: Match 1, court #1 **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** and **RON FRIEDMAN**; court #2 **PETER ORBANOWSKI** and **SAM MARASSO**. Match 2, court #1 **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** and **PETER ORBANOWSKI**; court #2 **ANDY HOLMES** and **BILL FAKUNDINY**.

JOHN announced that spring tennis will begin in April and play is currently scheduled for the Loughlin Avenue courts on Mondays 9-11 AM. Pickle ball will be played on the same courts on Thursdays 9-11 AM. **JOHN** noted the venue for tennis and pickle ball may change to either Greenwich High School or Bruce Park. Stay tuned.

Hearts: **JOHN STANKUNAS** reported 12 players played last week. Winners were: **JOHN STANKUNAS, PETER STERN, JOE DOWLING (2), GEORGE DIPPY, TONY GRAHAM (2)**. Moonshoters were: **JACK WEIR, TOM HEALY, TONY GRAHAM,** and **GEORGE DIPPY**.

Tai Chi Walk: **WILL MORRISON** noted that for those interested in improving balance and health while developing a more resilient walk, Tai Chi walkers meet at the Greenwich Senior Center on Mondays and Thursdays at 3:00 PM. Cost to participate is \$5 for three months.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Professor Theresa Kelleher Ph.D. discussed the origin and growth of the ancient trade route known as the Silk Road. She explained how, beginning in about 139 BCE, the Silk Road, which was not a single "road", but a network of many paths, evolved to allow trade to begin and flourish among different communities from northern China through the Middle East into Europe. Professor Kelleher noted the great value of the Silk Road was that it fostered the exchange of ideas among different cultures. The flow of commerce led to the intermingling of religions, arts, technology, etc. Interestingly, although many commodities were traded along the "road," it was the special value of silk, especially in the West, that led to the network of trading routes from China to Europe that ultimately led to what was to be called the "Silk Road." Professor Kelleher provided members with an insightful picture into how international trade was conducted for more than a thousand years.

SPECIAL EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENTS are open to all, Guests, Candidates and Spouses. Checks should be made out to RMA, must be received within two weeks following the reservation or the reservation will be cancelled. Contact **MIKE FERRARESE** at myagentmike@yahoo.com / 203-554-0678 or **ABBEY SMOLER** at abbeysmoler@gmail.com / 203-531-0236 for information.

Bush Holly House Museum: Date: March 28, 2019. Time: 10:00 AM. Cost: \$25 per person.

Transportation: Individual car. Lunch: Bush Holly House. Status: Space available

The Cloisters: Date: May 2, 2019. Cost: \$105 per person. Transportation: Bus leaves St. Catherine's at 9:00 AM. Lunch: New Leaf Café. Status: Wait listed

NOTE: For information regarding the Bush Holly House and/or The Cloisters events please contact Hollister Sturges at hollistersturges@aol.com.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Next week the RMA will welcome

Clarinda Higgins and William G. Armstrong Jr.

Subject: *Against the Current: How Albert Schweitzer Inspired a Young Man's Journey*

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