



# 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, 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 28, 2018

SCRIBE: TONI COCCHI

President DON CONWAY opened the meeting at 10 a.m., and then TAD LARRABEE led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. ERF PORTER then directed us, GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE accompanying on the Steinway *in God Bless America, Ain't she sweet, & Always*. DON welcomed back returnees: BOB PHILLIPS from Austria and Germany, ANDY HOLMES from Israel and Jordan, and GERRY GIBIAN from Florida. Corresponding Secretary (aka joke teller) JERRY SCHWENDEMAN spun us a story about a man from Scotland learning about the terms of baseball especially the condition for a "Walk".

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) PETER UHRY advised that on Tuesday, March 6, at 7 p.m. at the Greenwich Library there will be a talk about "The future of Leadership in a rapidly changing world" by Marian Salzman.
- 2) RUSS HARDEN announced a Flower Show at Christ Church Friday from 10 to 7 and Saturday from 10 to 4.
- 3) CHET RISIO told about an event at the Elmsford theater last week. BRUCE PANTANO found a Sports bag left behind in the Men's room. BRUCE took the bag to the theater box office and they made an announcement about it. The bag belonged to one of our members, who was located and saved from considerable trouble.

### MEMORIAL

PETER UHRY reminded us of the character of **CHARLIE SHIBETTI** who passed away on February 20 at the age of 82. Peter told us stories about Charlie's friendliness and sense of humor... and about his aversion to wearing his hearing aids. Charlie was also loved to volunteer and give back to the community and was a member of the Knights of Columbus, the VFW (he served in Korea). He helped on a number of RMA picnics using his truck to pick up tables and

chairs from a nearby yacht club. His obituary in the Greenwich Times read "in lieu of flowers please live your life as he did and share kindness and love with others". As Peter said "I like that and that was Charlie".

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**VISITING:** WAYNE WRIGHT reported that CRO MARTIN has been hospitalized as a result of a stroke.

**PROGRAMS:** JOEL BLUMBERG encouraged us to stay for today's speaker, Hugh Price, Former of the National Urban League. "This African-American Life; From Valley Forge to Civil Rights." JOEL BLUMBERG informed us that next week's speaker will be **Page Knox**, Art Historian, "Thomas Coles Journey: Atlantic Crossings"

**MEMBERSHIP:** HORST TEBBE advised that there were 86 members in attendance and that total membership has reached 227, the highest during his tenure. Those celebrating birthdays were GERRY FRIEDMAN, 83 and PETER BERG 70.

**INDUCTEE:** KLAUS JANDER and HORST TEBBE introduced Hans Jacobson. Hans is a graduate of Stevens Institute of Technology (BS) and NYU (MBA) and a past President of the Geos Corporation. His profession is in Factory Management. He has interests in sailing, swimming and walking and has traveled thru most of Western Europe. A rousing vote of "aye" inducted HANS into RMA membership.

**SPECIAL EVENTS** (see below)

**VOLUNTEERS:** JOE MANCINELLI advised that there were 349 hours by 40 men for outside activities, and 97 hours by 18 men for RMA activities. The maximum reported was by HOLLISTER STURGES with 36 hours.

### GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

**Bridge:** KURT SCHAFFIR reported there were 4 players. The 3 highest were KURT SCHAFFIR with 5620, TONY COCCHI with 4010, and JOHN FEBLES with 3700.

**Tennis:** JOHN KNIGHT reported the winners on court #1 were JOHN KNIGHT and PETER ORBANOWSKI; winners on court #2 were BILL HOWLAND and RALPH VIGGIANO. Next week's captain is RON FRIEDMAN.

**Hearts:** JACK SWEGER related to us that there were 8 players. Table #1 played 3 games, 2 were won by JOHN STANKUNAS and 1 by MICHAEL AMBROSINO. Game #1 was won by RALPH VIGGIANO; games #2 and 3 by JOHN KNIGHT. Table #2, played 2 games. Game #1 was won by RALPH VIGGIANO; game #2 by JAY SCHONDORF. Those shooting the moon were ED FARRELL, JOHN STANKUNAS and TOM HEALY.

### 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

**Bruce Museum 3-22-18**. Cost p/p \$60. Drive to Museum. Lunch at Milbrook Club. Meet at Museum 9:45a.m. Status: 12 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: 19 places available.

### **TODAY'S SPEAKER**

After the break, TAD LARRABEE introduced the **speaker, Hugh Price**. Hugh has been **a lawyer for the Black Coalition**, become an editorial writer for the New York Times, a VP for the Rockefeller Foundation, and President and CEO for the National Urban League. He focus of his talk was **his new book "This African American Life; From Valley Forge to Civil Rights"**. He traced his family's history leading to his career. Beginning with slavery, his ancestors fought in the American Civil War, and performed other deeds to obtain and/or purchase their freedom. One of his ancestors worked with Edison to perfect the light bulb. Hugh's own history involved creating the Campaign for African-American Achievement, working with government and civil organizations to combat police racial profiling, and defending affirmative action. He is currently serving on the National Commission on Social, Emotional, and Academic Development.

### **NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER**

**Page Knox, Art Historian, will speak on American artist, Thomas Cole**. His talk is titled "Thomas Cole's Journey; Atlantic crossings".

### **THE NEEDED BUT UNHERALDED**

A Special Report by **Doug Taylor-**

Maurice Krohn hits Gruenbaum's Bronx Bakery around 7:15am every Wednesday morning to gather the choice delicacies we feed upon at coffee break. He proceeds to our meeting room, a vast space populated by a busy Julio setting up the caffeinated stimulants necessary to maintaining a cognitive awareness among our tottering members. Don Sargeant or Jim Fahy also arrive quite early bearing the Danish pastries picked up from the St. Moritz and taken to the kitchen where they are cut up with the assistance from other early

arrivals, most notably Bob Bishop. This gent is Chairman of the (Bulletin) Board, responsible for rescuing from storage and setting up the paraphernalia necessary to the meeting: flag, banner, bulletin board and notices, audio-visual support, song books and membership suitcase files.

Other important early birds include Ed Farrell who sets up the Membership desk preparatory to logging in guests and candidates, adding requested informative notes to the birthday list, and a page for entries by recent returnees.

The foregoing are ably assisted by Sal DeAngelo at the dining table, Membership Committee stalwarts John Craine, Henry Baker, Gerry Berrafati and Tom Wooley. Peter Stern heads the Volunteer Committee, a covey of numbers men taking turns at the desk recording volunteers. Acting as utility men, Peter Stern, Don Sargeant, Jim Fahy and Doug Taylor fill in as needed, such as collecting name tags and counting the house.

Some unobtrusive specialists deserve mention: Ed Parker for basic utilities like lights and sound, Tom Moroney ably stepping in for an aiding Ted Spool at video recording, and Steve Marino ensuring the speaker of the day is properly sound enhanced.

Don't forget that the aforementioned not only set up but also clear up and put away all the stuff, so they have to arrive early and leave late. The name tag gents not only greet with a smile, but keep their eye on the door to be early with the tags. Bob Bishop is also the go to guy for answers and handles the mike for questions addressed to the day's speaker.

They also serve who mayhap bitch and moan.