



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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



www.greenwichrma.org

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Archivist: Tad Larrabee Format: Jack Cuff, Andrzej Mazurek. Print/Dist: Joe Mancinelli

VOLUME 67 NUMBER 43 MARCH 4, 2020 SCRIBE: TIM BROOKS

"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime." – Mark Twain

By beginning his bell-ringing well before the appointed hour **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** was able to get the rowdy membership to order at 10:00 am. **JEFF JUNKER** led the pledge of allegiance and **DON CONWAY** (after declaring to no one in particular "The Cleveland Indians will win!") served as song leader for an eclectic potpourri of melodies--"The Star Spangled Banner," "I've Been Working on the Railroad," and "On the Sunny Side of the Street." "Professor" **GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE** provided piano accompaniment.

Corresponding Secretary **WAYNE DE VRIES** then regaled us with two stories, one about an applicant for a government job and the other about two statues that were miraculously given the opportunity to copulate. As this is a family publication, we shall say no more.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PETER BERG previewed the day's speaker, Amy Siebert, Commissioner of the Greenwich Department of Public Works, with a reference to television's most famous sewer worker, Ed Norton of the *Honeymooners* (played by Art Carney, who lived for many years in Connecticut). **GERRY GIBIAN** then followed with advance notice of next week's presentation, by Donna Spellman, who will speak on the subject of "Dementia Friends."

According to the prez returnees this week were **GERRY GIBIAN** from Dubai and the Seychelles, **RANDY MOTLAND** from the Dominican Republic, **JIM BUTLER** from St. Petersburg, Florida, **GEORGE DEY** from Aguadilla, P.R., and **SAM MARASSO** from Boca Grande, Florida.

GERRY GIBIAN (introduced by **CHET RISIO**) later embellished this report with a glowing review of Dubai, the “miracle in the desert,” with its gleaming capital city and the panoramic view from the 148th floor of the Burj Khalifa Hotel, the tallest structure in the world. For those who prefer to shop, the giant Dubai Mall was attractive as well. Hope that oil keeps flowing.



Birthdays as reported by **PETER STERN** were **RALPH NEWITTER**, 76; **DON ROTZIEN**, 78; **PETER BERG**, 72; **ED MASTOLONI**, 83; **PETE JUNIUS**, 81; **CHET RISIO**, 92, and **DAVID WEISBROD**, 73. **PETER BERG** received special mention since, having been born on February 29th, he is actually celebrating his 18th birthday. A rousing round of “Happy Birthday to You” followed for all. No visiting notices this week, but **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** urged members who know of any member who is hospitalized and/or ill to notify him at BrooklynOil@yahoo.com.

A total of 102 were reported present this week, including one guest and one inductee. The guest was Mike Healy (guest of **TOM MCGUIRE**), and the inductee **HERNANDO MADERO**. As this was Hernando’s third meeting he was nominated for membership by **BILL FEATHERSTON**, seconded by **ED MASTOLONI**, and approved by the members present by acclamation. Born in Oklahoma, Hernando was educated in Colombia, and worked for Standard Oil, NASA, Bancomer bank in Mexico, and ultimately Booz Allen Hamilton, where he spent 35 years in management consulting. Along the way he gained incredible experience in foods and wines of the world and became a dedicated wine collector. He lives with his wife of 47 years and has four children and three grandchildren.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MAURICE KROHN and **DON CONWAY** began the presentation of special events with a plea for anyone organizing group excursions outside of the RMA to please coordinate with them, to avoid conflicts in dates.

GERRY LESSUK followed with a reminder of the upcoming March 12th trip to an open rehearsal of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, to hear works by Stravinsky and Rachmaninov. This is now wait-listed. For further information, contact **GERRY** at 203-698-9451. Closer to home, **TAD LARRABEE** encouraged all to attend the March 14th at 4:00 pm concert of the Greenwich Choral Society at the Performing Arts Center at Greenwich High School. It is an all-Beethoven concert honoring the 250th anniversary of the deaf, wild-haired composer.

MAURICE KROHN reminded everyone that there would be a full day excursion to the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, CT, on May 21st for a performance of *South Pacific*. Transportation will leave from St. Catherine's Church at 8:00 a.m. and there will be a luncheon at Gelston House in East Haddam. Cost is \$130. Not to be outdone, **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** reminded all that there would be an excursion to the Basketball Hall of Fame on July 26 for its 2020 induction ceremony. One or two volunteers to help with the planning would be appreciated. Contact Michael for more details.

ALAN GUNZBURG volunteered that there were 286 outside hours performed by 36 members in the past week, and 103 inside hours by 24 members. The V-trophy goes to **BOB BISHOP** with 23 hours.

SCOREBOARD

Bridge: **RON MURRAY** dealt the bridge numbers: **ANDRE MAZUREK** with 2140, **ED MASTOLONI** with 2000 and **RON MURRAY** with 1910.

Tennis numbers were served up by **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**. On Court #1, winners were **ANDRE MAZUREK** and **DON BREISMEISTER**, and on Court #2, **RALPH NEWITTER** and **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**. **ANDY HOLMES** added that even though it is only March, we were preparing for the fall indoor tennis season which will commence on September 11 and run through May 7. Play will be on Friday afternoons and the cost will be like the past year, approximately \$500 to play for the full season or \$250 for a half season. He asked those interested in playing next season to contact him.

The Hearts scoreboard, according to **JACK SWEGER**, reflected 2 tables with 8 players. The winners were **JACK WEIR, JIM DEAN, TOM HEALY** with 3 games each, and **GRANT PERKINS**

with 2 , **JOHN STANKUNAS, JOHN KNIGHT** with four. Moon shots were by **TOM HEALY/JIM DEAN/JACK WEIR, GRANT PERKINS (2), JIM STANKUNAS (1) and JOHN KNIGHT (1)**. Next week's captain is **JACK SWEGER**.

Tai Chi with **WILL MORRISON** continues at 3:00pm on Monday and Wednesday. Contact Will for details.

President **SCHWENDEMAN** closed the meeting, right on time at 10:30 am.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Today's speaker was Amy Siebert, Commissioner of the Greenwich Department of Public Works, who gave a detailed and well-illustrated presentation on the many activities of and challenges facing the DPW, from leaf pickup to flood abatement and rising sea level. Her talk was followed by numerous questions from the audience, regarding food scrap recycling, the effect of winter road treatment on animals, budget optimization, coordination between Greenwich and surrounding towns, and many other subjects.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Next week's speaker will be Donna Spellman, Executive Director of the River House Adult Day Care Center, on "Dementia Friends," a program dedicated to helping family, friends, and society to better understand dementia.

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RMA 2020 Calendar

Weekly Repetitive Activities			
Date	Time	Activity	Location
Mondays	3:00 to 4:00	Tai Chi Beginner	Greenwich Sr. Center
Tuesdays	10:00 am	Platform Tennis	Loughlin Ave. Courts, Cos Cob
Wednesdays	10:00am to 11:00 am	RMA Weekly Meeting	First Presbyterian Church, One West Putnam Ave., Greenwich CT
Wednesdays	1:00 to 3:00 pm	Hearts	Greenwich Civic Ctr. 90 Harding Road, Old Greenwich
Wednesdays	3:00 to 4:00	Tai Chi Advanced	Greenwich Sr. Center
Wednesdays	1:00 to 3:00 pm	Bridge	Greenwich YMCA
Thursdays	9:00 AM	RMA Walking	Various TBD
Fridays	1:30pm to 3:00 pm	Indoor Tennis	Old Greenwich Tennis Academy
RMA Special Events			
March 12	8:00 am	Open Rehearsal NY Philharmonic	Lincoln Center, NYC
May 21	8:00 am	South Pacific	Goodspeed Opera House
July 26	To Be Announced	Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Trip	Cooperstown, NY
June 11	To Be Announced	Day at The Races	Belmont Park, Elmont NY
December 7	To Be Announced	West Point vs. Air Force	West Point, NY