



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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March 8, 2017

Shaking the bell to summon members to their seats President PETER UHRY convened the meeting at 10 AM. CHUCK STANDARD led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by song leader DON CONWAY who led the singing with *America the Beautiful* and two Irish ballads, *Peg O' My Heart* and *Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-Ral*, and was ably assisted at the piano by JIM SANTORA. Corresponding Secretary BOB CAREY related a story involving a discussion the two recent candidates for POTUS had with G-D regarding seating arrangements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President UHRY welcomed back the following **returnees**: TOM HEALY from St. Maarten in the Antilles, GRANT PERKINS from a Mediterranean Cruise, RON FRIEDMAN from West Palm Beach, Florida and JOHN AWDZIEWICZ from Tortola, in the British Virgin Islands. PETER mentioned that an heirloom scarf had been lost last week and if picked up, return it to him or the coat rack; also that RALPH VIGGIANO had been successful in having businesses in Old Greenwich, Riverside and Byram post RMA Decals.

BOB LUCE and TED LARRABEE mentioned that the Greenwich Choral Society (GCS) has two upcoming events: On March 11 at 6PM at the Cole Auditorium a select group of GCS singers will present a free lecture/demonstration on the Art of Choral Singing and Musical Style, and on March 29, at 6:30 PM, GCS will hold a benefit at Richards of Greenwich to support their Scholarship program. Music, wine and hors d'oeuvres will be provided.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VISITING: CHUCK STANDARD reported (1) that REID McINTYRE, upon arriving in Florida, was hospitalized there due to an irregular heart beat, (2) that ED BLOOM's recovery is almost complete, and (3) that BILL SALTSMAN's health issues require identifying appropriate medications.

PROGRAMS: JIM FISHBEIN gave some background on today's speaker, **Andy Poniros**, a 20 year NASA volunteer in educating the public in the fields of Astronomy and Space exploration. HOLLISTER STURGES advised that next week's speaker will be **Catherine Onyemulukwe** who has written, taught and lectured about her 24 years in Nigeria.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE counted the number attending at 95 members and two candidates, John Stankunps and Alan Sunzberg. **Happy Birthday** was extended to CHET RISIO, 89, MICHAEL A. RYAN, 79, ROSWELL M. CURTIS, 93, FRANK A. ZAVATTARO, 86, and DONALD BREISMEISTER, 75. HORST commented that the video of the speech made by today's speaker will be the 250th and all are available for viewing on the RMA website, a remarkable achievement.

VOLUNTEER HOURS: GERRY MAYFIELD presented the following hours: 512 outside hours by 38 members; 123 inside hours by 21 members; top RMA member hours 46 by JIM SANTORA.

SPECIAL EVENTS: Full details of the Events are listed below. ABBEY SMOLER reported that payment for some of the reserved places for the March 30th trip to the Lamont Earth Observatory still has not been made and should be taken care of by next week's meeting.

SCOREBOARD

TENNIS: MIKE AMBROSINO said that Court #1 winners were RALPH VIGGIANO and MIKE SMITH, and Court #2 winners were Ron Friedman and MICHAEL AMBROSINO. SAM MARASSO is next week's captain.

BRIDGE: ANDRZEJ MAZUREK reported that seven members played with the following three having the highest scores - MARTIN WAINE 4,370 points; KURT SCHAFFIR 4,030 points; and ANDRZEJ 2,980 points.

HEARTS: The first RMA Hearts Club tournament was held March 1st at Old Greenwich's Civic Center. JACK SWEGER noted that the three winners were MICHAEL AMBROSINO, JOHN KNIGHT and RALPH VIGGIANO. The Club is looking for additional members. Interested members can call Jack at 203-869-4028.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Andy Poniros is NASA's Ambassador to the Solar System. With the aid of photographs sent back from NASA missions he presented views of three different solar systems: the inner solar system which includes Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars; the Asteroid Belt containing millions of objects and separating the inner and the third solar system which includes Pluto with its mountains of ice, and Saturn with its structure of

rings and sixty two moons. Andy mentors and encourages students to pursue careers in astronomy, space exploration and engineering.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all members, spouses, candidates and guests. Checks should be made out to the RMA.

Contact ABBEY SMOLER abbeysmoler@gmail.com /203-531-0236) or MIKE FERRARESE (myagentmike@yahoo.com /203-554-0678).

Lamont Earth Observatory - March 30, 2017, Lunch at Lamont, cost \$60, departs 9 AM. Status: 4 places open.

Culinary Inst. & FDR Museum - April 20, 2017, Lunch at Catarina DeMedici, cost \$96, departs 9:30 AM. Status: 2 places open.

Botanical Gardens - May 25, 2017, Lunch at Mario's on Arthur Ave, cost \$98, departs 8:30 AM Status: 2 places open.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Catherine Onyemelukwe, author, teacher and lecturer will discuss issues of the developing world, especially Africa.

GERRY LESSUK, Scribe

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