



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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April 5, 2017

Tolling 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 TOM HEALY and piano maestro BOB MORGAN, who led robust renditions of the *Star Spangled Banner*, *When The Red, Red Robin Comes Bob, Bob.... and When You Wore A Tulip*. Members were reminded by SERGE GABRIEL that April marked the 100th anniversary of the entry of the United States into World War I--known then as the "Great War" and the "War to End All Wars." ARNOLD GORDON presented the text of the winner in a "coolest tombstone" contest, the basic message being that a man needs four women, each to take care of an important part of his life, but that these four women should "not know each other or you could end up dead like me."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President UHRY welcomed back the following returnees, most of them coming back from Florida: RALPH VIGGIANO, ARNOLD GORDON, SAM MARASSO, TOM HEALY, JOE COLEMAN and PETER UHRY.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VISITING: CHUCK STANDARD welcomed back WAYNE WRIGHT and reported that TED SPOOL's series of radiation and chemotherapy treatments are coming to an end and that he hopes to be back next month.

MEMBERSHIP: JACK SWEGER announced the number attending as 117, plus 1 inductee, DAVE CRYSTAL, and 3 candidates, Alex Ruspodinoff, Michael Ross, and Peter Berg. Sponsored by RUSS HARDEN and JOHN KIERAN, the members approved DAVE for RMA membership.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY was extended to JOHN AWDZIEWICZ, 85, LAWRENCE REBAK, 80, ALLAN DEERING, 83, MICHAEL FERRARESE, 75, and SANFORD BUCHSBAUM, 90.

VOLUNTEER HOURS: ANDRZEJ MAZUREK presented the following hours: 521 outside hours by 4738 members; 163 inside hours by 28 members; top RMA member hours 28 by TAD LARRABEE.

SCOREBOARD

TENNIS: MIKE AMBROSINO said that Court #1 winners were RANDY MOTLAND and RON FRIEDMAN, and Court #2 winners were BILL HOWLAND and GERRY GIBIAN. The captain for April 7 is BILL FAKUNDINY.

SUMMER TENNIS: Summer Tennis begins Monday, May 1 and is held every Monday and Thursday until the end of September at the Loughlan Ave. courts in Cos Cob from 9:00-10:30 AM. There is no cost. Those interested should get in touch with JOHN KNIGHT (johnknight7@gmail.com) or TONY COCCHI: (Anthony.Cocchi@Lehman.cuny.edu).

TENNIS LUNCH: A lunch will be held on Friday, May 19, for all RMA present and future tennis players, summer and winter. Riverside Yacht Club @12:30 PM. Cost for winter players \$15-\$20 and for non-winter players \$35-\$40. Please let MIKE AMBROSINO know if you plan to attend (e-mail: Brooklynoil@yahoo.com; phone 203-629-1897).

GOLF: Sign-up sheets for Tuesday April 11 and April 18 are on the Bulletin Board. Dues of \$20 will be collected at the break.

The **BRIDGE** report was unavailable at press time. It will be published next week.

HOLLISTER STURGES mentioned the **Learn Bridge in a Day program** offered by the Stamford's Seven No-Trump Bridge Club on Saturday, May 6, 10:30 AM-5:30PM. The \$30 fee includes catered lunch and a lesson book; to reserve a spot contact Joe Grill (e-mail: Joseph.Grill@7NTgames.com; phone: 979-218-7428).

HEARTS: JACK SWEGER reported that the one table played two games, both won by JACK. The Club is looking for additional members. Those interested can call JACK at 203-869-4028.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Today's speaker, **Colonel Perry Baltimore III, President and Executive Director of the Marshall Legacy Institute**, was a career Army officer of 27 years before retiring and joining the Institute in 1998. Colonel Baltimore described the activities of the Institute's educational arm, the **Children Against Mines Program**, known as CHAMPS. The goal of

the program is to help children from war-torn countries who are landmine survivors, often with severe injuries. CHAMPS works with organizations and individuals to raise money to sponsor dogs and often comes to Greenwich, where Geoff and Betsy Parkinson have long played a key role in helping to raise funds for dog training. Mrs. Parkinson assisted with the presentation to the RMA. Colonel Baltimore took the audience through the rigorous process by which dogs are trained to find explosives. He showed that trained dogs are better and much faster than humans at locating dangerous explosives.

SPECIAL EVENTS

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 should be made out to RMA and must be received within two weeks following the making of the reservation(s) or they will be cancelled. All bus departures are from St. Catherine's parking lot.

- Culinary Institute/FDR Museum - April 26, 2017, Lunch at Catarina De Medici, cost \$96, departs 9:30 AM. Status: 1 place open.
- Botanical Gardens - May 25, 2017, Lunch at Mario's on Arthur Ave, cost \$98, departs 8:30 AM. Status: 2 places open.
- Belmont Race Track - June 15, 2017, Buffet Lunch, cost \$80, departs 10:45 AM, 40 openings.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

The RMA will welcome **Susan Granger**, speaking about Trends in American Films. An internationally syndicated movie/drama critic, her new book is *150 Timeless Movies* (2017).

CORRECTION: Last week's CBB incorrectly listed HORST TEBBE as a member of next year's Nomination Committee. He will not be a member.

STEVE ELLIOTT, Scribe

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MEMBER PROFILE

This is the eleventh in a series of Member Profiles intended to allow Member's to get to know one another beyond a face and a name tag

AV RIVEL was born and raised in Irvington, New Jersey, a suburb of Newark, he left home to attend Northwestern University to study Industrial Engineering. Not satisfied with being an engineer; upon graduation he entered the Wharton School to earn an MBA.

This lead to a 40-year career in production management in chip cutting and electronics, mostly defense and medical electronics. He worked for some major companies like Johnson & Johnson and Lockheed Martin plus a host of start-ups that disappeared when acquired by giants. This rarely led to juicy stock deals but was a lot of fun. Three start-ups that he worked for were bought out and moved to a distant city by General Electric. In all, in a 40-year work career, he accumulated 18 different business cards, just couldn't keep a job!

Thinking about moving his family to Israel he spent two three year stints living there and working for local defense companies, managing to be in place during the 6-Day war and the Yom Kippur war. While working for Lockheed Martin in Yonkers, he was assigned to Ankara, Turkey for almost a year to set up a facility for producing radar systems for F-16's also being built in Turkey by a Turkish company under license to Lockheed-Martin.

He retired in 2001. After a friend told him about "a group of guys who meet every week and hear some amazing speakers, including the friend's wife", he joined the RMA in December 2004. Soon afterwards he joined the staff of the CBB and today is the person in the masthead with the longest service. His favorite outside volunteer gigs include teaching iPhone at the Greenwich Senior Center, consulting with non-profits with NES (National Executive Service Corps) and his condo association. Back in-the-day he was RMA's official photographer, but he gave that up to younger folks.

He has been divorced once and widowed once. His second wife, Elayne, was a resident of West Lyon Farm when they met and he has lived there since 1998. He is now companioned by Roberta, his partner of 8 years. Roberta, a widow, lives in New York City and has a home on Fire Island; reason enough for Av to spend time away from Greenwich.

He is blessed with four accomplished adult children and thirteen bright, beautiful and talented grandchildren aged 4 to 20, all of whom live within two hours of Greenwich.