



# CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

[www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org)

This Bulletin is brought to you each week by these volunteers  
Scribes: **Av Rivel, Kurt Schaffir, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell, Gerry Lessuk, George Stockbridge, Dan Fredland, Tony Cocchi, Joe Mancinelli.** On leave: **Steve Elliott, Marshall Toppo.** Archivist: **Harold Frost.** Format: **Jack Cuff, Andrzej Mazurek, Gene Schwartz.** Print/Dist: **Chet Risio.**

**Volume 65**

**Number 47**

**April 11, 2018**

**Scribe: DAN FREDLAND**

President **DON CONWAY** rang the opening bell at 10:00am. **ED PARKER** lead the pledge. **JACK SWEGER**, accompanied by **BOB MORGAN** on piano, lead us in "God Bless America", April Showers" and "You Made me Love You" (channeling Kate Smith and Al Jolson). Recording Secretary **BOB CAREY** told the stories of a lie detecting robot at the family dinner table, and priests on vacation when they encountered Sister Kathleen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**DON** also warned of telephone scams connected to the new Medicare cards which will be coming in the mail. Any phone calls asking for information, or to confirm receipt of the cards, are a **scam**. Hang up and do not respond to them. When your card comes, with a new number (not your Social Security number), just put it your pocket.

**DOM** also reminded us to be careful where we park in the Volunteer Lane lot. Not on the grass, and do not block anyone in.

**JOHN TONER** announced that Greenwich is trying to become age friendly. There is a town survey for this purpose. Those who want to take the survey online can copy and paste the following into their search engine address line:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/agefriendlygreenwich>

(Scribe's note: I took the survey - takes about 20-30 minutes.)

You can also take it on paper. Copies are available at all Greenwich libraries, Town Hall, Senior Center, Bruce Museum, and Nathaniel Witherell.

**TONY COCCHI** announced that pickleball lessons will be given:

At YWCA in Greenwich April 12; At Loughlin field April 16 and 19. All lessons start at 9:00 am.

**JOHN KNIGHT** says that the tennis season will start on April 23. Tennis will be on Mondays, and pickleball on Thursdays.

**SERGE GABRIEL** talked about the dedication of the Martin Luther King Memorial in D.C. Turnout was extremely low, not in keeping with MLK's historic importance. He also spoke of an impressive exhibit on Vietnam through the end of April, at the N. Y. Historical Society.

**WAYNE WRIGHT** gave a memorial to **NICK MECCA**, who died on April 4. After retiring as the meat manager at Grand Central Market, **NICK** distributed our weekly CBB, volunteered at Greenwich Hospital and was a crossing guard for Riverside School for 8 years. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, and two sons, among others.

## COMMITTEES

VISITING: No announcements.

PROGRAM: **HOLLISTER STURGES** announced that our speaker today is **Bea Blahing**, spokesperson for the indigenous people of Mindanao, Philippines.

President **DON** announced that next week we will meet in the Sanctuary. There is something else scheduled for the social hall.

MEMBERSHIP: **HORST TEBBE** announced that attendance was 99, including 97 members, one guest, and one inductee. The guest was John Denne, guest of **BOB LUCE** and **HORST TEBBE**.

Birthday boys this week are: **GEORGE UBOGY, 80; MARTIN WAINE, 85, HENRY BAKER, 87, and JOE ROE, 87.**

INDUCTEES: Our inductee was **JOE HAVRANEK**, sponsored by **JIM FAHY** and **BILL WIGGIN**.

He was accepted into membership by unanimous acclaim.

VOLUNTEER HOURS: **RICH BISK** announced 396 outside volunteer hours by 41 men, and 195 inside hours by 29 men. **HOLLISTER STURGES** had the top number with 37 hours.

## GAMES RMAers Play

HEARTS: **JACK SWEGER** reported that there were 8 players on April 4. Table #1 played two games, both won by **PETER BERG**. Table 2 played 3 games, two won by **TOM HEALY**, and the third by **RALPH VIGGIANO** with a record low for the year of 7 points. (Low score wins. Who knew?) Moon shots: **PETER BERG** and **TOM HEALY** twice each, and **ED FARRELL, RALPH VIGGIANO** and **JACK SWEGER** once.

BRIDGE: **TONY COCCHI** reported 8 players on April 8. Top score won by **RON FRIEDMAN**, 2470, second **GRANT PERKINS**, 1890, and third **FRANK LI**, 1810.

TENNIS: **MIKE AMBROSINO** reported, for last Friday, winners on court 1, **PETER ORBANOWSKI** and **ANDRE MAZUREK**; on court 2, **MIKE AMBROSINO** and **RON FRIEDMAN**.

**GOLF: MIKE RYAN** reported that due to unfriendly weather there was no golf this Tuesday. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board. He is still looking for golf hosts.

### TODAY'S SPEAKER

Terry Gallagher, filling in for her husband, Charles Adams, who was in the hospital, introduced Bea Blahing, to talk about the survival of indigenous people. Bea Blahing is in Lake Sebu, of Mindanao. Philippines. She describes herself as an 11,000 year old woman. That is, the wisdom and knowledge of her 11,000 year old "great mother" is within her.

Indigenous peoples such as her tribe, one of many on Mindanao, are living examples of different values from those of the modern world - such as sharing freely, caring for and supporting members of the community, communal property, and taking care of the forest with its unique species. These differences are what make them valuable to the modern world. Survival of her people is under severe pressure from colonizers from other parts of the Philippines, with their greed and oppression. She is a member of the corps of community organizers, Earthwalkers, which is working for the survival and the legal rights of her people.

### 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 cancelled.

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

**West Point. April 19. Lunch at Thayer Hotel.** Leave St. Catherine's by bus at 8:45. **MIKE FERRARESE**, 203-554-0678. \$85. Status: Wait Listed.

**N.Y. Botanical Gardens, May 24. Lunch at Mario's Restaurant.** Bus leaves St. Catherine's at 8:45. \$105. Status: 19 places remaining.

**Belmont Race Track, June 14. Buffet Lunch in Belmont Room.** Bus leaves St. Catherine's at 10:30. \$85. Status: 5 places remaining.

### NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

**Katie DeLuca**, Director of Planning for Greenwich. She will discuss the Town's Plan for Conservation and Development, which is undergoing its 10-year update. Member input will be solicited.