



# 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, Gran Burgess, Kurt Schaffir, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell, Chet Risio, Gerry Lessuk, Steve Elliot, and George Stockbridge, Emeritus. **Archivist:** Harold Frost. **Format and Layout:** Gene Schwartz, Jack Cuff, and Andrzej Mazurek. **Reproduction/Distribution:** Chet Risio.

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April 19, 2017

President PETER UHRY rang the opening bell at 10:10 AM and introduced STEVE MARINO to lead us in the Pledge. Because of today's special program there was neither the customary song fest nor the usual Corresponding Secretary report.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PETER UHRY announced that KLAUS JANDER has joined the new mentor program. BOB LUCE advised that there will be a Greenwich Choral Society concert featuring works of operas to be held at the Norwalk Concert Hall at a date shortly to be announced. ARNOLD GORDON noted that next week's speaker will be **David Medd**, Manager of Greenwich Treatment Plants and Reservoirs, who will tell us about Greenwich's water supply: where it comes from, how it is treated, whether we have enough and what the future holds for the continued supply of clean water.

This week's returnees are: GEORGE UBOGY (Sarasota, FL); BILL O'DONNELL (Lauderdale by Sea, FL); HAROLD KUPLESKY (Boca Grande, FL).

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Visiting:** CHUCK STANDARD reported that JOE MALARA continues to struggle with various ailments. CHUCK welcomed the return of TED SPOOL after a long absence.

**Program:** In a departure from the normal course of business, PETER UHRY noted we were honored to welcome Marc Wortman, author of the book **1941**. Under the co-sponsorship of the Greenwich Library and the RMA, he is scheduled to discuss his work at the library at 7:00 PM this evening. Mr. Wortman gave a short preview of his talk to members at this meeting. He noted that today we are faced, as a nation, with many of the same concerns that confronted the nation just prior to World War II: economic uncertainty; wars in different parts of the world; America's role in the world; rising authoritarianism; divided politics. Mr. Wortman shared the story of some of his relatives, who escaped Europe through a circuitous route through Russia and Japan,

and were rejected by the United States, but were accepted by Mexico. He spoke of the shadow war conducted by the Roosevelt administration in its effort to support England, even supporting anti-Nazi British intelligence efforts in the U.S. He urged all, who have an interest in this period of history, to join him at the library this evening for the whole story.

**Membership:** HORST TEBBE reported 138 members present along with 2 candidates.

HORST announced that today's birthday boys are: JOSEPH ROE (86); GERRY GIBIAN (79); MARK MITTLER (74); JOSEPH DOWLING (78); BOB WYLIE (92); GERRY LESSUK (91); JOE DEVITA (87); REID MCINTYRE (85); BRIAN MAHER (76); and AV RIVEL (81).

**Volunteers:** ARNOLD GORDON noted that for the week ending April 19, 52 men reported 594 volunteer hours for outside agencies, and 32 men reported 204 volunteer hours for the RMA. MARTIN WAINE had the most hours for the week (60).

### **FUN AND GAMES:**

**Bridge:** KURT SCHAFFIR said that the April 12 game drew 8 players. High scorers were: ANDRZEJ MAZUREK (4830); RON FRIEDMAN (3560); TONY COCCHI (3510).

**Hearts:** JACK SWEGER reported the April 12 games drew 4 players. Two games were completed, and the winners were PETER BERG and JACK SWEGER.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The Hearts games for April 26 have been **cancelled**, because the Civic Center will not be available.

**Golf:** MIKE RYAN reported that 18 men played on April 18. 7 players scored below 100, and RICH BARTHOLOMEW was low scorer (88); RICHARD also had the longest drive on #17 and was closest to the pin on #7. MIKE SMITH was closest to the pin on #15.

### **TODAY'S SPEAKER:**

BOB WYLIE welcomed and introduced Connecticut's U.S. Senator Chris Murphy. The Senator began his remarks by lamenting the loss of faith in democracy by some in our country today. He indicated that this loss of faith is caused in part, at least, by what appears to be a lack of government efficiency, and the feeling that our economy is failing to benefit all Americans, and he noted that the "I alone can fix it" attitude of the President is being challenged by Congress citing the failure of the Republican health care bill and the court's rejection of the President's immigration executive orders. He said that the current administration's approach to foreign policy is "dangerously improvisational," and that Congress must reclaim its constitutional role in this area. The Senator responded to many audience questions on various subjects. He expressed a need for a more equitable Congressional redistricting plan, and indicated he favors the

election of presidents through a direct national election process rather than the Electoral College process. He noted that there is much talk of tax reform, but there is no clear definition of what that term means; however, he offered the thought that if lowering corporate taxes is something we want, then the lost revenue should be compensated-for by taxes on things we don't want, e.g. carbon in the atmosphere. Responding to a question regarding the need for a national minimum wage, the Senator said he favors a stepped approach, i.e. \$10-\$12-\$15 over time. He also noted that automation is replacing low skill jobs, and that we need to find a way to reduce the cost of post high school education so that workers displaced by automation can have a chance to develop new skills. On improving the nation's infrastructure, the Senator said that an infrastructure renovation plan should have been the President's first priority, and that the President will have Congressional cooperation, when (if?) he presents a plan.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Open to all Members, Guests, Candidates and Spouses. Checks should be made out to RMA. Payment must be made within two weeks of making the reservation 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) for information.

**Culinary Institute and FDR Museum, Thursday, April 20, 2017.** Lunch: Catarina DeMedici. Cost: \$96.00. Bus leaves St. Catherine's at 9:30 AM. Status: 8 openings.

**Botanical Gardens, Thursday, May 25, 2017.** Lunch: Mario's. Cost: \$98.00. Bus leaves St. Catherine's at 8:30 AM. Status: 2 openings

**Belmont Racetrack, Thursday, June 15, 2017.** Lunch: Buffet at track. Cost: \$80.00. Bus leaves St. Catherine's at 10:30 AM. Status: 26 openings

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

**David Medd**, Manager of Greenwich Treatment Plants and Reservoir

Respectfully submitted: **Ed Farrell**

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