



# CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

## Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

60 Years of Fellowship and Community  
Service

Visit us on the web at [www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org)



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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May 31, 2017

President DON CONWAY got activities started in the customary manner by introducing pledge leader CHUCK STANDARD. He gave appropriate recognition to our treasurer, LES CHAIKEN and the week's mentor, GERRY GIBIAN. Song leader ERF PORTER, with GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE on the keyboard, led us in spirited renditions of "God Bless America," "Summer Time," and something about a "Red, Red Robin". CHUCK STANDARD in his other role of Corresponding Secretary amused us with a story about a careless barber.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcomed the week's returnees: DOUG FRANCEFORT from Manchester, VT; JOE ROE from Tampa, FL; ANDY DOMMERICH from The Villages, FL; and GERRY GIBIAN from Bordeaux, France.

BILL WIGGIN delivered a eulogy for RAYMOND LeBLANC, who passed at the age of 99. He served in marine aviation in World War I, lived some 50 years in Greenwich with his family, was an avid sailor, and had an active part in the restoration of Bush- Holley House.

GERRY GIVIAN told us about today's speaker, **Alan Mathis** (see below). HOLLISTER STURGES said that next week we will welcome Carol Platt Liebau, President of the Yankee Institute for Public Policy, a Hartford-based think tank, who will speak about Connecticut's serious current financial concerns.

ARNOLD GORDON invited us to participate in a Burma Shave rhyming contest. Your 4 or 5-line entry must rhyme and must be on a topic relating to the RMA (and clean enough to be read in public). The name RMA cannot be part of the rhyme, but the rhyme must end with "RMA." Entries must be submitted by e-mail by June 9<sup>th</sup> to either PETER UHRY ([uhry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uhry@sbcglobal.net)) or ARNOLD GORDON ([ajgordon@verizon.net](mailto:ajgordon@verizon.net)). You must be present on June 14 to read your entry. A panel

of unqualified experts will be named to select the top three rhymers. The winning rhymes will be submitted to the CBB for publication.

## COMMITTEES

**MEMBERSHIP:** HORST TEBBE reported 111 attendees, including one candidate: Bob Bloom, and one guest: Hal Doshan, guest of STEVE MYERS .

The birthday boys celebrated this week were RICHARD BERGSTRESSER, 83; AL KNIGHT, 75; JOSEPH COLEMAN, 81; JOHN DeCSEPEL, 81; JOHN HARRIS, 83; DOUG CAMPBELL, 88; RALPH VIGGIANO, 69; and HARRY LEIGH, 85. TOM WOOLEY'S 90<sup>th</sup> was celebrated with the traditional birthday cake.

**VOLUNTEERS:** TONY COCCHI reported that 40 men had served 322 volunteer hours for outside agencies, and 29 members reported 148 hours for RMA activities. The greatest number for the week reported by an individual member was 37 hours, by DOUG FRANCEFORT.

## GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

**BRIDGE:** FRANK LEE reported that five members played last week: ANDRZEJ MAZUREK was first with 5380 points, DICK CASE was second with 4780, and RON FRIEDMAN was third with 3860. HEARTS: JACK SWEGER reported four players. The winners were JACK SWEGER and RALPH VIGGIANO. TENNIS: Summer tennis will be played from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. GOLF: 12 members participated. JAY SCHONDORF was closest to the pin on No. 7, and FRANK SCARPA on No. 15. BOB MORGAN hit the longest drive. No one scored under 100. The cool weather notwithstanding, everybody enjoyed the game.

## TODAY'S SPEAKER

GERRY GIBIAN introduced **Mr. Alan Mathis**, President and CEO of Liberation Programs, a non-profit organization providing drug addiction, prevention, education and treatment services for Fairfield County. The organization has had a representative at Greenwich High School for 12 years.

In the treatment of anxiety, depression and pain, the United States consumes a greatly disproportionate amount of alcohol and drugs. Public policy with respect to treatment vs. incarceration of users has been late and misguided. What is needed is a cultural shift – comparable to what has occurred for smoking. Public policy needs to be based on facts – not feelings – with greater regard for equity. Young people need to feel healthy and loved to raise their self esteem and to develop greater resiliency in managing life's problems.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Open to members, spouses, candidates and guests. Checks made out to RMA and must be received within two weeks following the reservation or the reservation will be cancelled. Trip coordinators MIKE FERRARESE (203-554-0678) and ABBEY SMOLER (203-531-0236)

Last week -- New York Botanical Gardens. Despite pouring rain, everybody had a good time and enjoyed the lunch at Mario's Italian Restaurant.

**June 15, 2017: Belmont Race Track**. Bus transportation – departure from St. Catherine's at 10:30 a.m. Members' Lunch Club -- Sumptuous buffet lunch -- \$80 per person. *Jacket and tie required.*

**July 20, 2017: Mark Twain Museum** in Hartford. Bus transportation at 8:15 from St. Catherine's. Box Lunch; \$76 per person. Status: one opening.

**August 31, 2017 – Soundwaters boating trip**. Drive your own car. Meet at dock at 1:30 p.m. Depart at 2:00. Snacks and water. \$35 per person.

Kurt Schaffir, Scribe of the Week

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