



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

37 Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT 06830

www.greenwichrma.org

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"If all men were angels, we would not need government"

James Madison

President **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** rang the bell at 10:05am calling the meeting to order. **PETER BERG** led the pledge to the flag. **GRAN BURGESS** prompted the fellows to sing *My country Tis of Thee*, and *Carolina in the Morning* followed by a rousing *We are the RMA*. **BOB MORGAN** was on hand at the piano. **RICH BISK** induced laughter with a Scot explaining Brexit and a German at the French border.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TOM HEALY informed us that **PHIL HAHN** passed away May 23, 2019 after a brief illness. He was a long-time member of the RMA and sang with the Melody Men. **JOEL BLUMBERG** advised us that our guest speaker today would be **GRANVILLE BURGESS**. A multi-talented artist, he will discuss *The Last At-Bat of Shoeless Joe*.

PETER BERG reminded us that next week's Guest Speaker would be Alex Bergstein. However, later in the meeting, **HOLLISTER STURGES** announced that Mr. Bergstein would not appear. He would be replaced by Stephen Meskers, State Representative for the 150th district of Connecticut.

PETER STERN informed us that **WAYNE WRIGHT** has suffered a fall. His wife indicated he was at Greenwich Hospital but not doing well. **JERRY SCHENDEMAN** mentioned that on June 26th, the RMA weekly meeting will be held at the Eastern Civic Center on Harding Road, instead of our usual meeting place.

Returns: **JERRY FOX** from Florida.

COMMITTEES

MEMBERSHIP: **HORST TEBBE** reported today's attendance as 95 members and one guest, John Ferrauto g/o **BOB ROBINS**. Birthday boys; **BILL SALTSMAN**, 93, **GEORGE DIPPY**, 85, **BOB MORGAN**, 83, **TONY PARISI**, 87, **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**, 74, **PAUL KEELER**, 73 and **DICK FORD**, 91.

Volunteer hours: **BOB FRISHMAN** reported, for the week ending June 12 total outside hours were 373 by 38 members. Inside hours 160 by 29 members. Top RMA member was **MIKE AMOROSO** with 65 hours.

GAMES OF THE RMA

Bridge: **JOHN FEBLES** reported there were seven players on June 5. **FRANK LEE** scored 2900, **BRUNO SCHRAGE** scored 2610 and **RON MURRAY** scored 2190.

Tennis: **JOHN KNIGHT** advised us that on June 6th sixteen players appeared but only four played due to rain. Tennis is played every Monday 9 to 11am. Pickleball every Thursday 9 to 11am at Loughlin Courts.

Golf: **PETER STERN** reported that on June 11th there were 13 players. Two played nine holes and 11 played 18 holes. Closest to pin on number 7 was **JOE MANCINELLI**, closest to pin on 15 was **PETER STERN**. Longest drive on 17 was **MICHAEL AMBROSINO**. One player broke 100 and it was **JAY SCHONDORF** with a low score of 97. The two RMA guests were John Farrauto and Billy London. On June 18 the host will be **TONY COCCHI**.

Hearts: **LOU TROVATO** reported that on June 5th there were three tables, twelve players and nine games. Winners were **RALPH VIGGIANO**, 2, **JOHN KNIGHT**, 2, **LOU TROVATO**, 2, **JOHN STANKUNAS**, **GRANT PERKINS** and **JACK WEIR**. Moon shots **RALPH VIGGIANO**, 2, **JOHN KNIGHT**, 2, **CHARLIE GRAVES**, **GRANT PERKINS**, **JIM DEAN**, **JACK WEIR**, **LOU TROVATO**, 2, **JOHN STANKUNAS**. Nest week's captain is **ED FARRELL**.

MIKE FERRARESE again advised us of upcoming events and **JIM FISHBEIN** told us of a new trip to the Pepsi Sculpture Gardens. See below for details.

Human interest story: **CHET RISIO** regaled us with a personal tale of courage mainly driven by machismo and the consumption of too much wine. While on vacation to the Canary Islands **CHET** discovered that he could participate in a mock bull fight. The bull was not full grown, and the horns were blunted to reduce the goring ability. Ushered into the arena by an attendant handler who advised the “bullfighters” to urge the bull to charge by saying “eh, eh!”. The bull charged at **CHET**, but he quickly turned away to escape. **CHET**, with adrenaline flowing, asked the handler for another try. Again, the bull charged but did not turn away. **CHET** valiantly held his ground and the 600lb bull rammed CHET sending him sprawling and causing some bodily harm. Blood was drawn and the crowd cheered.

If you think this is BS think again. **CHET** produced a poster dedicated to him with his bullfighting name “El Celestial”. Ole CHET!

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all members, spouses, candidates and guests. Checks should be made out to RMA and must be received within two weeks following the reservation or it will be canceled. Buses usually depart from St Catherine’s parking lot unless otherwise noted. Contact persons are listed for each event.

Belmont Racetrack: June 13, lunch at the Belmont Room where there is a dress code requiring jackets and ties. Cost \$95. Bus departs at 1:00pm. Status; two places available. Contact **TOM HEALY** at 203 661-2954.

Botanical Gardens: July 11, lunch at Mario’s on Arthur Ave. Bus departs from the Eastern Civic Center at 8:45 am. Status; 20 places available. Contact **MIKE FERRARESE** at 203 554-0678

Kendal Sculpture Gardens at Pepsico in Purchase. NY September 12, 2019. Buffet lunch at Arrowwood Resort nearby. Tour guide is RMA member **ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN**. Full-service buffet \$40. Salad bar only \$35. Tour limited to 25 persons. Self-drive. Contact **JIM FISHBEIN**. 914 939-7886.



RMA day at Belmont Raceway!



Big smiles ... must be big winners???

TODAY'S SPEAKER

JOEL BLUMBERG introduced **GRANVILLE BURGESS**, playwright, director, producer, lyricist, composer, actor, novelist and teacher. Author of the Book, *The Last at Bat of Shoeless Joe* upon which **GRAN** elaborated on the World Series baseball scandal of 1919. **GRAN** gave a vivid depiction of life among the poor cotton mill workers of Greenville, South Carolina. Joe Jackson grew up in abject poverty. He could neither

read nor write but as fortune would have it, the mill sponsored a baseball team. Joe signed up at 13 years old and his natural talent soon became evident.

Joe was signed in 1908 by the Philadelphia Athletics, the Cleveland Nat's in 1911 and the Chicago White Sox in 1915. His brilliant baseball talent was overshadowed by the World Series scandal of 1919. Joe and other players were accused of being paid to throw the series. **GRAN**, in his book, exonerates Jackson who, due to his illiteracy and naivete, was easily manipulated and became a fall guy. Joe returned to Greenville, opened a liquor store and died in 1951. He never recovered from the scandal which tarnished his reputation and forced him to give up major league baseball.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Stephen Meskers, Connecticut State Representative on *Connecticut Crossroads to Growth*.

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