



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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June 14, 2017

Happy Flag Day! Duly summoned by El Presidente DON CONWAY, RICK HOLZ led us in the pledge.

JERRY SCHWENDEMAN led us in singing "Grand Ol' Flag," with GEORGE UBOGY tinkling. We followed with the Army Song, "The Caissons Go Rolling Along," and, displaying the high-tech skills of STEVE MARINO, sang along to "Oh, How I Hate To Get Up In The Morning." Dr. U often comes up with different ideas for our songs, and we appreciate it!

Thence followed something I had never witnessed in all my RMA years: no Corresponding Secretary and thus no joke. No joke? Yes, and that's no joke. That, combined with the impossible situation in Kurdistan (see below), may have left a few of us a bit low despite the marvelous weather, but hopefully all have recovered by the time this CBB hits their computer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. RETURNES: GEORGE CHELWICK returned from Cape Cod. JOHN AWDZIEWICZ returned from an 8-day river cruise up the Seine, also visiting several battlefields.
2. MEMORIAL: ARNOLD GORDON asked that if anyone wishes to give a memorial about recently-deceased RMA member WALTER KIRKMAN, please contact Arnold at 203-340-9336/ajgordo@verizon.net.

Burma Shave Competition

ARNOLD GORDON and PETE UHRY soon led us through the competition for Burma Shave "poetry." Some ten-plus members submitted rhymes ending with "RMA."

The judges were MIKE SMITH, BOB CAREY, and GERRY MAYFIELD, who refused to pledge that bribery had nothing to do with their decisions, so take these results with a grain of whatever condiment you choose:

HOLLISTER STURGES won first place, which should have been a shave at the Village Barbershop except they don't offer shaves anymore, so he'll have to settle for a \$25 haircut; second and third place was a tie between JERRY SCHWENDEMAN and FRANK SCARPA, who were supposed to receive Burma Shave cream but they don't make it any more, so they got Barbasol. What is this world coming to? The winning entries:

When called upon to make a query
Some rattle on 'til all are bleary.
Not for them to ask or seek
They would rather speak and speak.
RMA (Sturges)

Greenwich is cheering!
For our volunteering!
We're second to none!
For fellowship and fun!!
RMA (Schwendeman)

Don't be a loner
Or an old grouch.
Make some new friends
And get up off the couch.
RMA (Scarpa)

COMMITTEES

VISITING: CHUCK "It's A Beautiful Day" STANDARD reported that JOE COLEMAN is going to Nathaniel Witherell and will be back home soon, and we welcomed back JIM FAHY!

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE reported 108 members and 3 guests: Alex Gospopinoff (g/o BILL WIGGIN); Fred Goostein (g/o FRANK SCARPA); and Paul Keeler (g/o BOB MORGAN).

BIRTHDAY BOYS: MICHAEL AMBROSINO (72), ANTHONY PARISI (85), PAUL SETTELMAYER (72), DICK FORD (89), and DAN BARNETT (83). Happy Birthday, fellas!

Nancy and GEORGE CHELWICK celebrated 68 years of wedded bliss this week! Congratulations!

VOLUNTEERS: ED BLOOM reported: 359 outside hours by 46 men and 141 RMA hours by 26 men, with STEVE BOIES leading the way with 39 hours. The Melody Men booked 455 hours for the Spring! PETER STERN is asking for volunteers to record and report the volunteer hours in July, August, and September for just 1 meeting! An easy way to help the RMA!

PROGRAMS: STEVE MARINO prepped us for the talk of **Stuart Gibson** about Kurdistan Independence (see below) and HOLLISTER STURGES primed us for **Peter Sutton**, Executive Director of the Brue Museum, who next week will speak about the Bruce and its collection.

SPECIAL EVENTS: TOM HEALY, on the occasion of our trip to Belmont Race Track, reported that there were now seven spots available, due to members who had signed up, but not paid, and now weren't going. He recommended that in future the Special Events team remove people from the list if they haven't paid in 2 weeks: in other words, gang, if you sign up, pay up, or take your name off the list. ABBEY SMOLER said the July 20 trip to the Mark Twain house has 1 spot left at \$76, box lunch, and the Sound Waters Cruise on August 31 is a steal at only \$35. ABBEY SMOLER: 203-531-0236.

GAMES RMA MEN PLAY

HEARTS: MIKE AMBROSINO, calling our President a "sandbagger," reported that he claimed he didn't know how to play and then won the table #1. JACK SWEGER won table #2.

BRIDGE: According to BRUNO SCHRAGE, KURT SHAFFIR came in first with 3120, FRANK LEE was second with 2840, and DICK CASE was third with 2560. There were 12 players.

TENNIS: TONY COCCHI said the summer tennis will now be played from 8-10:30 am on Mondays only.

GOLF: On an extremely hot day, 23 golfers teed it up and all lived to three putt again. TED EWING survived the Griff by posting an 85. KIP SCHULZE was closest to the pin on #7, MIKE SMITH closest on #15, and RICHARD BARTHOLOMEW was longest on #17. YHS is next week's captain: 203-253-1825.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Using a series of detailed maps, **Stuart Gibson**, an international consultant with over 20 years of experience working with cultural organizations and governments, spoke about Kurdistan and its quest for nationhood, which was promised to the Kurdish people after WWI, but never delivered. We learned the Kurdish capital, Irbil, is the oldest continuously-inhabited city in the world, dating to 6000 BCE; that the Kurds are a tribal society of over 1000 tribes stretching across Iraq, Iran, Turkey, and Syria; and that Iraqi Kurdistan is divided between two parties, who are actually the governing force, each

with its own army. The Kurds may vote for independence next fall but don't count on Iraq letting them have it. Since it's spring and we know where hope springeth, perhaps someday the Kurds will have a chance to truly celebrate their own flag day.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Events are 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 for payment are to be made out to the RMA, and must be received within two (2) weeks following the making of the reservations or the reservations will be cancelled.

- [New York Botanical Gardens- May 25, 2017](#)- Bus transportation – departure from St. Catherine's at 8:30 a.m. Lunch at Mario's Italian Restaurant -- \$98 per person. Two spots are available.
- [Mark Twain House/Museum, July 20](#), \$76/pp, bus from St. Catherine's at 8:45am, box lunch: 5 places available.
- [Sound Waters Cruise, August 31](#), \$35/pp, car to the ship. Still many places left.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER -Peter C. Sutton: "The Bruce, Present and Future"

Gran Burgess, Your Humble Scribe (YHS)

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MEMBER PROFILE

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

ROBERT EDWARD "BOB" MORGAN was born in Buffalo, NY in 1936. Parents from western Ontario, Canada. Attended Amherst, NY public schools. Started piano lessons at age 6. Played drums & trumpet in school bands. Summered in a cottage on the Canadian shore of Lake Erie. Moved to Larchmont, NY when father transferred to NYC in 1950. Learned to sail. Attended Mamaroneck High. Played piano & vibraphone with bands in Westchester and the Bronx.

Graduated from Yale College in 1958 with a BA in History. Composed score for Yale Dramat 1956 spring musical adaptation of "The Great Gatsby". At Yale played string bass with Eli's Chosen Six Dixieland jazz band which made an LP for Columbia Records. Appeared with Eli's Chosen Six in the film "Jazz On A Summer's Day" shot at the Newport Jazz Festival in 1958.

Joined Columbia Records as a trainee in fall of '58 and entered the Artists & Repertoire division in '59 editing tapes as an assistant to Mitch Miller. Had first big hit in 1960 with "Greenfields" by The Brothers Four and got my wings as a staff Producer. In 1962 began producing a string of gold records with Bobby Vinton: "Roses Are Red", "Blue Velvet", & "Mr. Lonely". Also made records with Tony Orlando, Jerry Vale, Lionel Hampton, Tony Bennett, and many others. In 1963 became Director of Epic Records A&R and in 1964 signed UK artists Dave Clark Five & Yardbirds to Epic. Became Director of A&R for MGM Records in 1967 producing Connie Francis and the Broadway original cast LP "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" which was nominated for a Grammy.

Moved to Los Angeles joining Bobby Vinton in 1974 as musical director/conductor and produced the #1 hit record "My Melody of Love" and was musical director for The Bobby Vinton TV Show from 1975 to 1978. In 1976 produced gold record winning musical collections with Bobby Vinton and Don Ho for TV direct marketing.

Relocated back to Greenwich in 1980. Co-founded Good Music Record Co. in 1982 marketing music and memories to a senior audience through print media. Some gold record collections created were "Instrumental Gold", "Stage Door Canteen", "The White Cliffs Of Dover", "Mairzy Doats", "Remembering The Fifties" and "Homecoming 1945". Our website was called Yestermusic.com. We opened a similar company, Music & Memories, in London in 1992 with nostalgia products tailored for a Brit audience.

I am completing a 3 year term as my Class of 1958 Delegate to the Association of Yale Alumni and continue on the Class Council. I am on the board of The American Heart/Stroke Association for Fairfield County. I remain a voting Life Member of The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. (Grammy Awards).

I have been a member of the Belle Haven Club since 1982 serving as Commodore in 1992. I am a member of the Yale Golf Course and the Griff Harris Golf Men's Club and participate in RMA golf. I belong to the Horseneck, First Friday and Dinosaurs men's luncheon clubs. I enjoy fishing for striped bass and bluefish in Long Island Sound.

Married Cecilia (Ceci) in 1973. I have 3 sons, 2 step-children and 6 grandsons. Ceci and I take great pleasure in travel and visited Cuba last year. Aside from the U.S. and Canada we have also been to Italy, France, Poland, Spain, Ireland, Wales and many trips to Bermuda.

In retirement I play piano for the RMA and sing with the Melody Men and am active in local musical events. I composed a song for the RMA 60th anniversary titled "We Are The RMA (The RMA Marching Song)"