



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.

Here are the volunteers who publish this Bulletin each week for your enjoyment. **Editor:** Chet Risio, Chair. **Scribes:** Gran Burgess, Av Rivel, Kurt Schaffir, Jim Butler, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell, George Stockbridge, Emeritus, Martin Grayson, Emeritus. **Archivist:** Harold Frost. **Format and Layout:** Gene Schwartz, Paul Levine, Jack Cuff. **Reproduction/ Distribution:** Chet Risio, Larry Schmitz.

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July 13, 2016

Our very punctual President, PETER UHRY, rang the opening bell at 10:00 AM and, after a short pause to allow our usual loquacious members (you know who you are) to end private discussions and find seats, PETER introduced KURT SCHAFFIR to lead us in the Pledge.

Accompanied by GEORGE UBOGY on the piano, TONY PARISI then led us in spirited singing of *America the Beautiful* and *Standing on the Corner*. Our third song of the day was a rather mournful rendition of *Summertime*.

BOB CAREY drew laughs with a story about a man on his deathbed dividing his paper route empire among family members and a second story of a naïve fellow taken in by a "close" friend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. PETER announced:
 - a. The man to see for parking permits is (at least for the time being) RICH BARTHOLOMEW;
 - b. That anyone, who is not receiving a weekly digital CBB and would like to get on the digital CBB mailing list to see HORST TEBBE;
 - c. RMA surveys are still available for those, who have not yet completed one.
2. PETER welcomed back SAM MARASSO (Cape Cod) and PETER STERN (Utah and Nevada).
3. JOHN CRAINE called all boaters to a raft-up on August 18 at Great Captains Island. Boater and non-boaters, as well as spouses and guests are invited to participate.
4. JOHN DECSEPEL invited all to an evening of song at Villa Italia restaurant in Stamford on July 20 at 7:30 pm.

5. GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE urged opera fans to consider joining RMA colleagues in monthly gatherings to see/hear a range of some of the world's best operas. See GEORGE for details.
6. SERGE GABRIEL noted that Bastille Day will be celebrated at Town Hall by the raising of the French flag on July 14 at 8:00 am.
7. BOB BISHOP moved that the 2016-17 budget adopted by the RMA Board of Directors be approved by the membership. BOB CAREY seconded the motion, and the budget was overwhelmingly approved by the membership.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VISITING: CHUCK STANDARD told us that BILL DYNAN is recovering and is scheduled to return home from the hospital today. JOE MALARA was hospitalized, but has returned to Waveny re-hap. ABBEY SMOLER is recovering from hip surgery.

PROGRAM: Today's speaker will be **Janice P. Nimura**, who will address the historical role of women in Japan and the world.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER: Next week, our speaker will be Jean-Paul Desrosiers, who will discuss his participation in the *Marathon des Sables*, a trip across the Sahara desert.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE reported 106 members present along with four candidates and 1 guest, Lou Rothman, guest of GERRY GIBIAN. MICHAEL AMBROSINO and WAYNE WRIGHT presented Joseph Mancinelli for membership in the RMA. JOSEPH was unanimously welcomed as a member.

This week's birthday boys are: TOM CAHILL (85), MIKE BALINT (88); JACK RILEY (95); DAN GRIMSICH (85); BOB LUCE (79); BOB BISHOP (82).

VOLUNTEERS: STEVE MARINO noted that, for the week ending June 13, 2016, 53 men volunteered 482 hours on behalf of outside agencies and 33 men volunteered 188 hours on behalf of the RMA. BOB CAREY lead the RMA this week with 56 volunteer hours.

UPCOMING EVENTS: ABBEY SMOLER spoke of upcoming events. For details, see below.

FUN AND GAMES

BRIDGE: KURT SCHAFFIR said that the July 6 game drew 14 players. High scorers were: JOHN FEBLES (4340); JOHN HOFFMAN (3550); GRANT PERKINS (3420).

GOLF: On July 12, 18 players "came to play." The three lowest scorers were: JOY SCHONDORF (90); RICH BARTHOLOMEW (91); REID MCINTYRE (92). RICH

BARTHOLOMEW was closest to the pin on 7 and ROS CURTIS was closest on 15. JOHN AWDZIEWICZ had the longest drive on 17. TOM HEALY will be captain on July 19.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Janice Nimura provided members with a very interesting look at the opening of Japan to Western trade and culture in the late 1800s after approximately three centuries of isolation. She related how, following a civil war in Japan, a new government chose to learn more about Western culture and how, in pursuit of that goal, five young girls were dispatched to the United States for a period of 10 years to learn Western culture and return to Japan to share what they learned. Mrs. Nimura explained how the girls were welcomed in America, became "Americanized" and not very enthusiastically received by Japan on their return.

SPECIAL EVENTS

GOODSPEED OPERA HOUSE. The musical "Bye Bye Birdie", Thurs, Aug. 11th. Lunch at the Gelston House. Cost: \$115pp. Bus departs St. Catherine's at 10:00AM. Trip coordinators are ABBEY SMOLER 203 531-0236 abbeysmoler@gmail.com <mailto:abbeysmoler@gmail.com> and MIKE FERRARESE 203 554-0676 myagentmike@yahoo.com <mailto:myagentmike@yahoo.com>. Status: 17 places available

SAGAMORE HILL (T. Roosevelt home), Thursday, September 22, 2016. Lunch: Canterbury Oyster Bar. Cost: \$75.00 per person. Status: 6 places available. Bus leaves St. Catherine's at 8:30 am. Contact ABBEY SMOLER (abbeysmoler@gmail.com / 203-531-0236) for information.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Next week the RMA will welcome: **Jean-Paul Desrosiers.**
Subject: Participation in the *Marathon des Sables*, a trip across the Sahara Desert.

Respectfully Submitted: **Ed Farrell** -Scribe
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EDITOR'S NOTE

President Peter Uhry interjected some humor at this meeting. Below are these excerpts.

A MESSAGE FROM THE QUEEN

To the citizens of the United States of America from Her Sovereign Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. In light of your failure to nominate competent candidates for President of the USA and thus to govern yourselves, we hereby give notice of the revocation of your independence, effective immediately. (You should look up 'revocation' in the Oxford English Dictionary.)

Her Sovereign Majesty **Queen Elizabeth II** will resume monarchical duties over all states, commonwealths, and territories (except North Dakota, which she does not fancy). Your **new Prime Minister**, David Cameron, will appoint a Governor for America without the need for further elections. Congress and the Senate will be disbanded.

A questionnaire may be circulated next year to determine whether any of you noticed.

To aid in the transition to a British Crown dependency, the following rules are introduced with immediate effect:

1. The letter 'U' will be reinstated in words such as 'colour,' 'favour,' 'labour' and 'neighbour.' Likewise, you will learn to spell 'doughnut' without skipping half the letters, and the suffix '-ize' will be replaced by the suffix '-ise.'

Generally, you will be expected to raise your vocabulary to acceptable levels. (look up 'vocabulary').

2. Using the same twenty-seven words interspersed with filler noises such as "like" and "you know" is an unacceptable and inefficient form of communication. There is no such thing as U.S. English. We will let Microsoft know on your behalf. The Microsoft spell-checker will be adjusted to take into account the reinstated letter 'u' and the elimination of '-ize.'

3. July 4th will no longer be celebrated as a holiday.

4. You will learn to resolve personal issues without using guns, lawyers, or therapists. The fact that you need so many lawyers and therapists shows that you're not quite ready to be independent. Guns should only be used for shooting grouse. If you can't sort things out without suing someone or speaking to a therapist, then you're not ready to shoot grouse.

5. Therefore, you will no longer be allowed to own or carry anything more dangerous than a vegetable peeler. Although a permit will be required if you wish to carry a vegetable peeler in public.

6. All intersections will be replaced with roundabouts, and you will start driving on the left side with immediate effect. At the same time, you will go metric with immediate effect and without the benefit of conversion tables. Both roundabouts and metrication will help you understand the British sense of humour.

7. The former USA will adopt UK prices on petrol (which you have been calling gasoline) of roughly \$10/US gallon. Get used to it.

8. You will learn to make real chips. Those things you call French fries are not real chips, and those things you insist on calling potato chips are properly called crisps. Real chips are thick cut, fried in animal fat, and dressed not with catsup but with vinegar.

9. The cold, tasteless stuff you insist on calling beer is not actually beer at all. Henceforth, only proper British Bitter will be referred to as beer, and European brews of known and accepted provenance will be referred to as Lager. South African beer is also acceptable, as they are pound for pound the greatest sporting nation on earth and it can only be due to the beer. They are also part of the British Commonwealth - see what it did for them. American brands will be referred to as Near-Frozen Gnat's Urine, so that all can be sold without risk of further confusion.

10. Hollywood will be required occasionally to cast English actors as good guys. Hollywood will also be required to cast English actors to play English characters. Watching Andie Macdowell attempt English dialect in *Four Weddings and a Funeral* was an experience akin to having one's ears removed with a cheese grater.

11. You will cease playing American football. There is only one kind of proper football; you call it soccer. Those of you brave enough will, in time, be allowed to play rugby (which has some similarities to American football, but does not involve stopping for a rest every twenty seconds or wearing full kevlar body armour like a bunch of nancies).

12. Further, you will stop playing baseball. It is not reasonable to host an event called the World Series for a game which is not played outside of America. Since only 2.1% of you are aware there is a world beyond your borders, your error is understandable. You will learn cricket, and we will let you face the South Africans first to take the sting out of their deliveries.

13. You must tell us who killed JFK. It's been driving us mad.

14. An internal revenue agent (i.e. tax collector) from Her Majesty's Government will be with you shortly to ensure the acquisition of all monies due (backdated to 1776).

15. Daily Tea Time begins promptly at 4 p.m. with proper cups, with saucers, and never mugs, with high quality biscuits (cookies) and cakes; plus strawberries (with cream) when in season.

God Save the Queen!