



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

37 Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT 06830

www.greenwichrma.org

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Archivist: **Harold Frost**. Format: **Jack Cuff, Andrzej Mazurek, Gene Schwartz**. Print/Dist: **Chet Risio**

VOLUME 67 NUMBER 13 JULY 24, 2019 SCRIBE: FRANK SCARPA

"Seize from every moment its unique novelty, and do not prepare your joys."

Andre Gide, 1897

President **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** opened the meeting with his bell ringing and introduced **TOM HEALY**, who led the pledge. **MIKE HAYDEN** led the singing of *God Bless America, Sentimental Journey* and *Bye, Bye Blackbird*. **BOB MORGAN** provided the piano accompaniment.

Corresponding Secretary **BOB LUCE** provided us with an anecdote about a surprised but seemingly accommodating armed robber.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MICHAEL AMBROSINO gave recognition to the 60th Wedding Anniversary of **JOHN** and **MARY CRAINE**.

VISITING: **MICHAEL** also brought us up to date on **DON CONWAY**, who is convalescing at home after surgery.

BILL HOLLAND is preparing himself for coronary bypass surgery soon and **RALPH VIGGIANO** has completed his course of chemotherapy and is in good spirits. A card or a call to any of these men would be well received.

RETURNEES: **TONY RIGGI** has returned from Moscow; **GEORGE DEY** from Southport, Maine; **JEFF JUNKER** from Denver; and **MIKE SMITH** from Oakridge, Oregon.

HORST TEBBE noted the attendance of 103 men, including 2 candidates.

BIRTHDAYS: This week boasted a bumper crop: **ANDRE MAZUREK** turned 62, **JOHN KAVANAGH** reached 73, **BOB FRISHMAN** is 79, **TONY RIGGI** is 87, **CHARLIE MARSHALL** turns 89, and **WALT ANDERES** celebrates 89 years. As is the custom, the assembly regaled them with a birthday song.

INDUCTEES

ARNOLD GORDON and **JOEL BLUMBERG** sponsored Bill London for membership. Originally from New York City, Bill is actually a high school classmate of **JOEL**. Bill attended the University of Vermont and received his law degree from Fordham. He practiced marital and family law in White Plains, and only recently retired from full-time practice. He is an avid golfer and a NY Rangers "fanatic". Classical music, opera and Frank Sinatra are his listening favorites. Bill and his wife travel to Europe annually. There are 5 children and 5 grandchildren in their orbit.

RUSS HARDEN and **GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE** sponsored Bob Simms, Jr. for membership. Bob was born in Beaver, PA but moved early to Darien, Ct, where his dad was in training for the NY Giants. **BOB** attended Deerfield Academy and Princeton, where he earned a degree in mechanical and aerospace engineering. He subsequently was employed at IBM as a systems engineer. After obtaining an MBA at Penn's Wharton School, he settled in Greenwich, working with a financial services company. Pursuing further learning in the field of education, Bob studied at both Fairfield University and Sacred Heart, paving his way to serve as a substitute teacher in the Greenwich Public Schools. He is one of the Commissioners for Greenwich Public Housing. He is an avid reader and hiker and opera lover.

Both **BILL LONDON** and **BOB SIMMS** were welcomed into membership of the RMA by unanimous votes.

PROGRAM: **GEORGE UBOGY** gave us a preview of today's speaker, Veronica Bilenkin, Consumer Health Librarian at Greenwich Hospital. Her topic will be the *Greenwich Community Health Library*.

PETER UHRY provided a fitting and glowing forecast of next week's program: *The Creative Genius of Oscar Hammerstein* as illustrated by **GEORGE UBOGY**, who will use Hammerstein's own written notes as examples.

SPECIAL EVENTS: **JIM FISHBEIN** noted that the popular appeal of the September 19 PepsiCo Tour is now in the "Wait List" stage. This may open the possibility of a similar event in October. Stay tuned. **MAURICE KROHN** reminds us emphatically that the date of the trip to Wave Hill Gardens is OCTOBER 10.

RMA RAFTUP UPDATE: **JOHN CRAINE** (203 698 0118) All boaters, former boaters, non-boaters, and wannabe boaters (and their spouses and guests) are invited, subject to current boater's capacity limitations. Rendezvous is the anchorage off Great Captains Island at noon on Thursday, August 15. (Bring refreshments.) The event should conclude at 2:30 or so.

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE: **RICH BISK** will be moving away, and he makes a plea for people to help fill his shoes. Chairman **BISK** modestly proclaims that doing so would not be a difficult job, but he provided a reassuring job description and he is eager to help to initiate his successor. He urges any interested parties to contact him.

VOLUNTEER HOURS: **ARNOLD GORDON** reports a total of 300 outside hours by 39 Member's and 148 inside hours by 28 members. The top RMA member, with 40 hours, wishes to remain anonymous.

FUN AND GAMES

BRIDGE: **PETER STERN** reported 5 players. The top score was posted by **RON MURRAY**, with 1,890-followed by **PETER STERN** with 1,750.

GOLF: **MIKE RYAN** reported that Tuesday's deluge kept away even the most intrepid golfers.

TENNIS: **JOHN KNIGHT** reported that, despite the beautiful summer day, only 3 players turned up.

PICKLEBALL: **JOHN KNIGHT** also noted that pickleball had been rained out.

Scheduled for Thursdays from 9:00am to 11:00 am, additional time may be available on Mondays as well. (Check with him or **TONY COCCHI**)

INDOOR TENNIS: **MIKE AMBROSINO** noted that the fee for indoor tennis is \$485. Please contact him if interested.

HEARTS: **GEORGE DIPPY** reported on 5 tables: Table#1: Winners were **GEORGE DIPPY** and **TOM HEALY**. Moon shooters were **TOM HEALY**, **GEORGE DIPPY** and **C. GRAVES**. Table #2: **LOU TROVATO** had two wins and one moon shot. Table #3: **LEN SARLI** had two wins and one moon shot. **GRANT PERKINS** posted two wins, and **ANDY HOLMES** had a moon shot. Table #4: **RALPH VIGGIANO** had one win and **JOHN KAVANAGH** had two. **JOHN KNIGHT** had one moon shot. Table #5: **GRANT PERKINS** had one win and two moonshots. **LOU TROVATO** had one win.

(There will be a short quiz for all CBB readers after completion of this section.)

TAI CHI: Meets at the Greenwich Senior Center at 3 - Mondays for beginners and Wednesdays for advanced practitioners.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Veronica Bilenkin, Consumer Health Librarian of Greenwich Hospital, discussed the services that she provides to the public on specific health issues. Two anonymous donors have endowed a "Greenwich Community Health Library" in honor of Dr. Steven Mickley.

Dr. Mickley himself spoke to us about this gift, made 5 years ago, with the purpose of providing an ongoing benefit to the public. This service is "free and open" to the public in all our surrounding communities in order to allow patients and their families to make informed decisions about health care. The Library, housed in GHA's Medical Library, is staffed full-time and is unique in Connecticut.

Ms. Bilenkin provided an overview of her mission: to allow individuals to make informed health care decisions. Located on the first floor of the Watson Pavilion, the facility is open from Monday to Friday from 9 am to 4 pm. but is also accessible by email. Two additional staff members assist the Librarian. The aim is to provide "health literacy" to the large proportion of our population who need assistance in this area. (Health literacy has been shown to be deficient in non-English speakers and in adults over 60 years of age.)

Simply relying on internet searches is fraught with pitfalls, misinformation and scams.

Ms. Bilenkin emphasized the value of searches on MedlinePlus - no ads, sponsored by the National Library of Medicine, thoroughly researched and fact-checked. The Greenwich Hospital Medical Library provides one on one consultation, a comfortable reading area, a reference collection, computers, printers and wireless access. Ms. Bilenkin may be reached at veronica.bilenkin@greenwichhospitals.org.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

The Creative Genius of Oscar Hammerstein
as illustrated by **GEORGE UBOGY**,

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