



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

www.greenwichrma.org

Chair/Editor: **Chet Risio**. Graphics: **Av Rivel**

This Bulletin is brought to you each week by these volunteers:

Scribes: **Av Rivel, Kurt Schaffir, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell, Gerry Lessuk, George Stockbridge, Dan Fredland, Joe Mancinelli, Frank Scarpa, Marshall Toppo**. On leave: **Steve Elliott**, Archivist: **Harold Frost**. Format: **Jack Cuff, Andrzej Mazurek, Gene Schwartz**. Print/Dist: **Chet Risio**.

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Scribe: **JOE MANCINELLI**

“Neither a wise man nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him.” ...*Dwight D. Eisenhower*

TAD LARRABEE opened the meeting at 10:00 am. **JOHN CRAINE** led us in the Pledge. **DON CONWAY** directed us in a patriotic chorus of God Bless America with piano accompaniment by **BOB MORGAN** followed up by The Tennessee Waltz and The Too Fat Polka. TAD welcomed back returnee **STEVE MYERS** from Maine. **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** provided us with two colorful tales. The first one regarding a dedicated nurse and her “Bedside Manners”. The second one was about special pills hidden in potatoes during a unique restaurant dinner.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GEORGE UBOGY delivered the sad news that **ARTO SZABO** suffered a massive stroke and passed away. As related through his wife, Dee:

ARTO went from one Paradise to the next one on July, 23rd, his 83rd birthday. “We decided to remove his medical tubes allowing him to pass away two hours later. He went peacefully. We played classical music and

Hungarian dances for him and finally on the last note of Amazing Grace, he took his last breath.”

SAM MARASSO memorialized **ROBERT ALDEN**. He passed away on June 25, 2018. **BOB** lived in Riverside with his family for over 50 years and developed the many close friendships that remained a cornerstone of his life. He is survived by his wife, Persis Caroline Fuller Alden, his sister, Elizabeth Parker, three children and eight grandchildren. After graduating from Dartmouth College, **BOB** enlisted in the Army and proudly served his country. Following his military service, he embarked on a successful 45-year career as Director of Sales Development for WOR Radio in New York. **BOB** was an avid skier, and a long-standing member of both the Riverside Yacht Club and the Retired Men’s Association. He served as a deacon, trustee, and Stephen Minister at the First Congregation Church in Old Greenwich. There will be a service celebrating **BOB’S** life at the First Congregational Church in Old Greenwich on Saturday, September 8th at 2:00 PM. A moment of silence was observed for **ROBERT ALDEN**.

JIM SANTORA memorialized **DOM DIMAIO**. **DOM** passed away at his home in Cos Cob, CT, on July 14th at the age of 93. He was a member of the RMA for many years, but illness kept him away for the past ten years. **DOM** was a big man with a warm engaging smile. He received his law degree from St. John’s University in 1959. A veteran of World War II, **DOM** served as an infantryman in the United States Army. **DOM** and his wife Loretta, of 47 years, moved to Greenwich in 1976. He leaves behind three children and two grandchildren. He was an avid golfer and member of the Innis Arden Golf Club in Old Greenwich. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated at this long-time parish St. Catherine of Siena on Friday, July 20, 2018. A moment of silence was observed for **DOM DIMAIO**.

TAD LARRABEE asked for opinions regarding a future demonstration of the RMA website to learn how to get on and how to use the various features of the site. The answer from the attendees was a resounding “Yeah.”

ARNOLD GORDON announced the second RMA limerick contest, being sponsored by himself and **PETER UHRY**. The first one was held on June 15, 2016. This time it will be held on September 5th, so you have plenty of time to start crafting a clever, original, standard 5-line limerick for recitation. Prizes will be given to the best ones as judged by a distinguished three-member panel and the members present. Please let **ARNOLD** know if you intend to participate. Contact **ARNOLD** via email at ajgordo@verizon.net.

1. It can cover any subject of your choosing.
2. While limericks are most often humorous, yours can be serious if you wish.
3. Limericks traditionally have obscene content. However, given our venue and the possible publication of some entries in the CBB, careful judgment should be used. Off-color or controversial content are permissible within reason.
4. All entries must be submitted to **ARNOLD** (and not to any of your fellow authors) on or before August 29th. He and **PETER UHRY** will screen them for an appropriate

level of “cleanliness.” If too off-color, you will be asked to amend it. There were 12 entries in the 2016 event and, hopefully, a similar number of participants this year.

TOM MORONEY reminded the group about the Greenwich Reads Together (GRT) program which is featuring the book “*Code Girls*” by Liza Mundy. This book tells the story of how more than ten thousand young women were recruited by the U.S. Army and Navy from small towns and elite colleges to serve as codebreakers during World War II. Their efforts shortened the war, saved countless lives, and gave them access to careers previously denied to them. Due to secrecy, this effort was nearly erased from history. Now it comes to life in this riveting and vital story. The book can be obtained through the Greenwich Library, where the author, Liza Mundy, will be present on Wednesday, November 7th at 7:00 PM. Likewise, the RMA will feature “*Code Girls*” and the GRT on Guest Speaker program on October 24th.

JOEL BLUMBERG informed us of work he is doing for the RMA Health and Safety Committee. He is planning to start an Emergency Action Committee. It will focus on several key points. 1.) 911 phone call, 2.) Crowd Control, 3.) Certified CPR Volunteers, 4.) Guidance for the arriving of EMTs, 5.) Availability of emergency equipment, i.e. External Defibrillator.

ARNOLD GORDON also alerted us to the fact that an excellent website with all sorts of information and discounts for seniors can be found at www.theseniorlist.com.

JOHN CRAINE provided an update on the RMA Raft-up. Due to a foul weather forecast for July 26th, the annual RMA Raft-up has been rescheduled to start at noon on Thursday, August 9th. The rendezvous location is the picturesque anchorage off Great Captain’s Island. Plan to bring delectable edibles and frosty beverages and enjoy new and old friends. Boaters, former boaters, non-boating members, spouses, and guests are invited, subject to our current boater’s capacity limitations. The Raft-up should conclude about 2:30 PM. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board or contact **JOHN CRAINE** at 203-698-0118.

JERRY SCHWENDEMAN announced today’s speaker, **Dr. Martin Tran Nguyen** who will present “Islam: Its Faith, Culture and Place in America.” He will explore the following complex and important questions. What is Islam? What do Muslims believe? What is their history in the United States?

GEORGE UBOGY introduced next week’s topic, “Transcendental Meditation” which will be presented by **Kathleen Connor**. Transcendental Meditation is a process of achieving a state of relaxed awareness, which can help to focus and achieve calmness. Kathleen Connor is a certified practitioner and teacher. In addition, she hosts an AM radio program on this topic.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP: **HORST TEBBE** advised that there were 91 members in attendance. Two guests were in attendance, Will Morrison, guest of both **PETER UHRY** and **JOHN CRAINE**, as well as Nick Sorvillo, guest of **FRANK SCARPA**. Those

celebrating birthdays were **WALT ANDERES**, 90, **CHARLIE MARSHALL**, 88, **KURT SCHAFFIR**, 93, and **TONY RIGGI**, 86.

VOLUNTEERS: **GERRY MAYFIELD** advised that there were 165 hours by 25 men for outside activities, and 219 hours by 26 men for RMA activities. The maximum hours reported was by **HOLLISTER STURGES** with 42 hours.

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

Bridge: **TONY COCCHI** reported there were 7 players on July 18th. The 3 highest were **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** with 3800, **BERT KLEBANOW** with 2650, and **JOHN FEBLES** with 2340.

Pickleball: **TONY COCCHI** announced that there were 11 players on July 19th who played on the platform tennis courts. The new shed that will contain the pickleball nets has been installed. However, the pickleball nets have not been delivered yet. Furthermore, he is still investigating the possibility of Winter RMA Pickleball. Don't forget, Pickleball Thursday 9-11 at Loughlin Courts and Tennis Mondays 9-11 at Loughlin Courts.

Hearts: **JOHN KNIGHT** announced that there were eight players. Each table completed two games. **JACK WEIR** won both games at Table #1. **GRANT PERKINS** and **CHARLES GRAVES** each won a game at Table 2. Successful Moon Shots were made by **TOM HEALY**, **GRANT PERKINS**, and **CHARLES GRAVES**. **LOU TROVATO** is next week's Captain.

Golf: **MIKE RYAN** announced that there were 23 golfers for July 24th. Closest to the pin on #7 was **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK**. Closest to the pin on #15 was **TONY COCCHI**. Longest drive on #17 was **RICK WOLFF**. Six players broke 100 with the lowest score of 92 belonging to **MIKE SMITH**. **JIM SANTORA** will be our golf host for the next two Tuesdays. **MIKE** is also looking for volunteer golf hosts for August, September, and October.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all members, guests, candidates and spouses. Checks to be made out to RMA and must be received within two weeks or the reservation will be canceled.

Contact **MIKE FERRARESE** myagentmike@yahoo.com

203 554-0678 or **ABBEY SMOLER** abbeysmoler@gmail.com 203 531-0236.

Soundwater Cruise, August 30th 2:00-4:00pm, \$35 pp. Meet at the boat at 1:30 PM. Status: 11 places open.

Goodspeed Theater "The Drowsy Chaperone" October 25th. \$125 pp includes lunch at the Gelston House. The bus departs at 9:15 AM at St. Catherine's Church parking lot. Status: Open.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

JERRY SCHWENDEMAN introduced **Dr. Martin Tran Nguyen**, who provided a brief overview of "Islam: Its Faith, Culture, and Place in America." He is an Associate Professor of Islamic Religious Traditions in the Department of Religious Studies at Fairfield University. He is a scholar of the Qur'an, the religious text of Islam, and has studied the traditions of its scriptural interpretations. Professor Nguyen has a Master of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School and an M.A. in history and a Ph.D. in Middle Eastern Studies and History from Harvard University.

Dr. Nguyen explained that the Muslim community consists of 80 to 90 percent Sunnis and 10 to 20% Shias. Likewise, he discussed the fact that while the word Islam means submission or surrender, he prefers the word "commitment" to define the religious connotation of Islam. Sunnis believe in the Qur'an while Shias believe not only in the Qur'an but also in Muhammad the Prophet and the line of Imams. These are the fundamental religious differences between the two groups. However, the true differences also include various geopolitical and economic issues. There are 1.8 billion Muslims in the world or about 24% of the world populations. In the United States, there are 3.45 million Muslims or about 1.1% of the population. However, just as with Christianity, some are Muslim in culture only while others are strict religious Muslims. It is the world's fastest growing religion. Muslims originally migrated to the United States between 1701 and 1810 as part of the transatlantic slave trade. The Qur'an consists of 114 Chapters, but they are not linear, chronological, thematic, or stylized. It represents random conversations with God as transmitted through Muhammad. The presentation was followed by a spirited and interesting question and answer session.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Kathleen Connor: "Transcendental Meditation." A process of achieving a state of relaxed awareness which can help to focus and achieve calmness.