



# 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](http://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 27, 2016**

*"Tis better to appear a fool, than to open your mouth and remove all doubt."*  
Anonymous

Special Note: see a new feature, **Member Profile**, at the end of this CBB which will appear as new profiles are submitted!

PETER UHRY opened the meeting promptly at 10 a.m. JOHN CARON led the Pledge of Allegiance; song leader TOM HEALY led us ably in singing "America the Beautiful", "In the Good Old Summertime", and "On the Sunny Side of the Street", with JIM SANTORA presiding magnificently at the Steinway. CHUCK STANDARD was the joke teller –something about avocados and about cellphones. (You had to be there.)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**PETER** held up a hat that had been left, also some prescription sunglasses and regular glasses, and a money clip containing many dollar bills. They were claimed.

He also advised us to look on the bulletin board for the **obituary of BILL DYNAN** who died July 23. His calling hours will be July 28 at Gallagher's Funeral Home from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. A mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at St. Catherine's Church on July 29. ARNOLD GORDON said that BOB WYLIE will have a memorial for BILL, and asked that anyone who knew **MARTIN GRAYSON** well should step up to give a memorial to him at a later meeting. PETER had announced MARTIN's death in last week's CBB. PETER told us that a "Good Samaritan" ad hoc group had assembled today before the meeting to discuss protocols for handling emergency situations such as what occurred last week with **the fall of GENE SCHWARTZ**.: Someone must call out loudly for a doctor; someone must **call 911**; all of us must not crowd around the victim.

**RETURNEES:** PETER announced that DOUG TAYLOR had returned from a trip to Indiana.

JOHN CRAINE touted the **raft-up sheet** on the bulletin board **for the harbor cruise**. It's date is August 18. Members, spouses and guests are invited.

JERRY SCHWENDEMAN pointed out a bulletin board announcement about the **Sept. 8th RMA annual picnic**. He needs volunteers to help with various assignments.

Citing an advisory sent by JIM BUTLER, PETER advised Windows 7 and 8 users that if they want an **upgrade to Windows 10**, they must do so by July 29.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**VISITING:** CHUCK STANDARD advised us that there was no change from his report last week.

**MEMBERSHIP:** HORST TEBBE said there are still 14 men who have not paid their 2016 dues. He reported attendance of a sparse 98 members, plus 1 candidate and 3 guests: Lou Rothman, g/o JERRY GIBIAN; Bob Kurzman, g/o JERRY GIBIAN, and Jim Boardman, g/o JOHN DE CSEPEL. There were many celebrating birthdays: WALTER ANDERES, 98; CHARLES R. MARSHALL, 86; KURT SCHAFFIR, 91; ARTO SZABO 81; ANTHONY J. RIGGI, 84; EDWARD LARAJA, 89; SAL DE ANGELO, 93; CHUCK STANDARD, 97, SAMUEL YORK, 87 and JOHN B. RIIS, 92. JERRY GIBIAN challenged each of us to bring in one new member this summer.

**VOLUNTEERS:** ARNOLD GORDON announced only 274 volunteer hours for outside activities by 48 men (only half of us here!) and 165 hours by 34 men. Most hours were reported by TAD LARRABEE with 35.

### GAMES:

MIKE AMBROSINO solicited sign-ups for **fall tennis**. The sheet is on the bulletin board. KURT SCHAFFIR gave the **bridge** scores: SANJAY SANTHAMAN 3580; JAMES CHUNG 3510, FRANK LEE 3510. JIM SANTORA swung into the **golf** report: 17 players 3 of whom played 9 holes, the rest played 18. Five golfers were in the 90's— TOM HEALY at 94, RALPH VIGGIANO 90. Player of the day, PETER TUNLEY, scored 86. Nearest on 7 BILL HOWLAND; longest on 17 RALPH VIGGIANO. Next Tuesday we go at 10:38, with JIM SANTORA host.

### TODAY'S SPEAKER

**TODAY'S SPEAKER** was our own **Dr. George Ubogy** giving us a fascinating lesson on "Music Appreciation." As a middle school student, he studied at the prep school of

Julliard. He explained that music notes each have their own frequency, e.g. 440 for the “A” above middle “C”, 880 for the “A” an octave higher, 1760 for the “A” an octave above that, etc. He used the term “sympathetic vibrations” that occur on the piano strings half or double the frequency of one key being played while pressing the right pedal of the piano. He said that a minor key depends on the third note up the scale. Written instructions are written in Italian, e.g. prestissimo for very fast, pianissimo for very soft. He explained whole notes, quarter notes, eighth and sixteenth notes; also time signatures like 3/4, 4/4, and 6/8. He demonstrated moods from sad to ecstatic to farcical with excerpts from works of Schubert, Wagner, Rossini, Brahms, and John Cage.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

*Special events are open to all members, guests, candidates and significant others; checks payable to RMA. For more information or to sign up call MIKE at 203-554-0678.*

GERRY LESSUK touted the musical “Bye-Bye Birdie” at Goodspeed Opera House on Thursday, August 11. Cost \$115 p/p includes bus (10 a.m. from St. Catherine’s) and lunch at Gelston House. Status: Many seats available by calling him at 203-698-9451.

MIKE FERRARESE told us the September 22 trip would be to Teddy Roosevelt’s museum/home on Long Island. Cost is \$75 p/p for bus, visit and lunch at Canterbury Grill. Status: wait listed.

He said the October trip would be the “Chasing Rainbows; the Judy Garland Story” musical at Goodspeed Opera House, costing \$115 p/p for bus from St. Catherine’s at 10 a.m., show and lunch at Gelston House. Status: 40 seats are available.

### **NEXT WEEK’S SPEAKER:**

**Jonathan Chanis:** “Economics & Fossil Fuels”.

Your scribe of the day is **George Stockbridge**

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### **MEMBER PROFILE**

**This is the third in a series of Member Profiles intended to allow members to get to know one another beyond a face and a name tag. Members are invited to write their own profiles**

**and submit them for publication in the CBB. Send to Chet Risio at [chetris@optonline.net](mailto:chetris@optonline.net).**

**RALPH VIGGIANO** gained his early education on the streets of New York City. He was born in the Bronx and spent his teenage years in City Island. He attended Community College for two years, but most of his education came as he served in the US Navy for four years and during his 35 years as an electrician. A short list of studies covered OSHA safety, job management, blue print reading, estimating and all phases of electrical installation.

Ralph served in Vietnam 1966-1968 as a third class petty officer in the machine room aboard the USS Intrepid, which is now docked in New York as a museum.

He and Kathleen have been happily married for 42 years. They have no children and he wonders if that's why they are happy.

Starting in the early seventies, Ralph began a life-long study in the Martial Arts. He quickly ascended up the ranks making black belt when his second career really took off. He became the Chief Referee for many of the top tournaments in the NY area. His travels brought him to London, England where he gave a demonstration of his art form. Besides the numerous awards of recognition, Ralph was featured in a two page spread in the "New York SportsScene" in 2006 titled, "The Combat Karate King". His Samurai and Platinum Life Achievement Awards are highlights along with his many International Hall of Fame appearances. Sensei Viggiano is also a holder of the coveted Red Belt. He appears in a compendium of the "World's Leading Martial Arts Grandmasters".

Ralph joined the RMA upon retiring in 2008. He served as President of the RMA from May of 2015 until May of 2016. He was on the Board of Directors as Recording Secretary and Vice-President for six years. Since his first day as an RMA member, he took advantage of the many committees and volunteer opportunities. He joined all the RMA clubs and became a "Cigar Box Bulletin" scribe. Ralph has been the RMA's "Official Greeter" since 2011. He also served four years as Tennis Chairman. Besides all these activities, Ralph created our current RMA Brochure and revised the "President's Book". In 2014, Ralph was awarded the RMA's "Outstanding Service Award".