



## 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/Chairman:** Chet Risio. **Scribes:** Av Rivel, Gran Burgess, Kurt Schaffir, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell, 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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August 2, 2017

After conducting a long RMA Board meeting, President DON CONWAY rang the school bell at 10:07am. Pledge leader was MIKE AMBROSINO. Then BOB MORGAN conducted the Star Spangled Banner, I Don't Know Why (But I Do) and Side by Side with GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE providing his usual jaunty keyboard accompaniment.

Corresponding Secretary of the day, BOB CAREY, then told a shaggy King Arthur knight story which foolishly ended in giving women the right to make decisions about their own lives. But Sir Lancelot lucked out with marriage to an old hag who turned into a raving beauty.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

President DON told everyone that JERRY SCHWENDEMAN was Mentor for the day. On a very sad note, he reported that our friend and member JOHN De CSEPEL had died on Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. A wake was scheduled for today from 4 to 7pm at Gallagher's Funeral Home and a funeral service at St. Catherine's Church on Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10am, followed by a reception at the Riverside Yacht Club. A memorial tribute to JOHN will be held at our next meeting, August 9<sup>th</sup>. His obituary can be found at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/greenwichtime/obituary.aspx?n=john-de-csepel&pid=186237403>. In a 2010 talk to the members, JOHN related the story of his challenging and frightening young life under Nazi rule in Hungary, the loss of his family fortune, and how he made it to the US and a successful career on Wall Street. You can view the video at <https://vimeo.com/227666376>.

MIKE AMBROSINO issued a recruitment call for winter tennis which is played at the Old Greenwich Tennis Academy on Fridays, 1-3:30pm, from September through May. A commitment from players is needed soon; the estimated cost for the season is \$500 per player. Contact MIKE at [brooklynol@yahoo.com](mailto:brooklynol@yahoo.com).

The DON welcomed back returnees: KURT SCHAFFIR from Bethany Beach, Delaware; KIP SCHULZE from Ireland and Poland (and he did not even bring any shamrock or kielbasa to share with members); LEN SAARI from St. Andrews, Scotland; TOM HEALY from Jackson Hole, Wyoming; and STEPHEN MYERS from his boat on the seas.

The DON also made us feel proud when he showed us a proclamation by the Town of Greenwich announcing that October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 will be RMA Day.

### COMMITTEES

VISITING: President DON told us that CHUCK STANDARD was nursing a mild case of pneumonia at his home in Edgehill and there was therefore no detailed Visiting report as a result. Give CHUCK a call to cheer him up: 203-525-8743 or 203-637-9894.

PROGRAM: BOB PHILLIPS gave us a preview of today's speaker, Tom Molito, author of "Mickey Mantle: Inside and Outside the Lines," about the exploits of one of baseball's most famous legends. See details below. ARNOLD GORDON informed the group that next week, August 9<sup>th</sup>, two brothers, Brad and Brian Walker from Shreve, Crump & Low on Greenwich Avenue will describe the world of gemology and the allure, value and mystery of precious gemstones. Bring your wives and girlfriends (but better leave your check books home).

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE reported attendance by 98 members, 2 candidates and 3 guests: Larry Spann (g/o CHARLIE JENSEN), John Martellino (g/o RUSS HARDEN) and Abbot Jones (g/o BOB PHILLIPS). Candidate Fred Goodstein, a retired periodontist, was introduced for membership by PETER UHRY in the absence of FRANK SCARPA, Fred's sponsor. TOM NANCINOVICH and JOHN CRAIN presented George Dey, a retired banker, for membership. Both FRED and GEORGE were warmly welcomed to the fold. We all sang happy birthday (twice; don't ask) to PETER CRUMBINE for his 79<sup>th</sup> birthday.

SPECIAL EVENTS: MIKE FERRARESE gave us the schedule. See details below.

VOLUNTEERS: JOHN FEBLES reported that for the week of July 26th 32 men served 262 hours for outside agencies, and 25 members reported 122 hours for RMA activities. The member with the greatest number for the week was MIKE AMBROSINO, with 43 hours. JOHN reminded us that it is important for everyone to report their volunteer hours as they enter the meeting room.

### GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

BRIDGE: TONY COCCHI reported that 11 members played last week: GRANT PERKINS was first with a very high 5800 points, followed by WAYNE DeVRIES 3540, and RON FRIEDMAN 3440. HEARTS: MIKE AMBROSINO reported 8 players at two tables last Wednesday. The winners were JOHN KNIGHT and JACK SWEGER at Table 1; TOM MORONEY and PETER BERG held the honors at Table 2. PETER BERG shot the moon once but JOHN KNIGHT did it twice. (Why would anyone want to shoot at the moon?) SUMMER TENNIS: Members are reminded that all interested should come on Monday mornings from 9-10:30 at the Loughlin Avenue courts in Cos Cob. GOLF: MIKE RYAN told us that 5 foursomes played last week. Closest to the pin at hole 7 was RUSS HARDEN and to hole 15 JAY SCHONDORF. RUSS slammed the longest drive, at hole 17. Seven shot under 100 with RICH BARTHOLOMEW at 88, PETER TUNLEY 87 and the winner RUSS HARDEN 84. MIKE said that according to the Griff management, the RMA players were moving too slowly and have to speed up their play in the future.

## TODAY'S SPEAKER

BOB PHILLIPS introduced Tom Molito who in turn asked a friend in the audience, Jeffery Orlando, to explain how he (Jeffery) influenced Tom, who idolized Mantle as a boy, to write his book about Mickey Mantle. Based on Tom's many years of professional and social association with the great Yankee centerfielder, he was able to share many anecdotes about Mantle's life, both the highs and the lows, including his problems with alcohol which eventually killed him; he died on August 13, 1995. Mickey joined the Yankees in 1951 and became one of the greatest American sports heroes during the 1950s and 1960s; his uniform No. 7 was retired, one of only three other Yankees including Joe Dimaggio who shared that honor. Tom Molito explained that Mickey was very powerful from both sides of the plate and hit some of the longest home runs in history, even in the old Yankee Stadium with its very deep outfields, over 400 feet. Many of his long outs would have been homers in most other ballparks. Mickey loved country music, especially Roy Clark, whom he asked to sing at his funeral (which he did). Tom was very proud of having helped Mickey write his farewell remarks which were delivered at the Yankees Old Timers Day in 1993 via video from his sick bed. In spite of his fame and the adulation he received, Tom explained that Mantle was a very humble man who wanted to be known as someone "Good for the Team!"

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to members, spouses, candidates and guests. Checks made out to RMA and must be received within two weeks following the reservation or the reservation will be cancelled. Trip coordinators MIKE FERRARESE (203-554-0678) and ABBEY SMOLER (203-531

[SOUNDWATERS CRUISE, August 31, 2017](#). \$35.00 per person. Drive your own car. Meet at dock at 1:30 p.m. Depart at 2:00. Snacks and water. Status: 3 places open.

[GOODSPEED OPERA HOUSE, the musical "Oklahoma", September 21, 2017](#), \$120.00 per person. Lunch at the Gelston House. Departure by bus at 9:45am from St. Catherine's. Status: Wait-listed.

### **ARNOLD GORDON**, Scribe of the Week

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## CORRECTION

Last week's CBB misstated information about the Reading Partner's program. Here is the correction:

GENE SCHWARTZ introduced Marilyn Agatstein, head of the Reading Partners program organized by the United Jewish Federation of Stamford. She's looking for RMA volunteers to help kids in grades kindergarten through 3rd grade in Stamford elementary schools to read more proficiently and with greater comprehension. GENE and GERRY BOYLE have been helping these kids for many years and have found the activity very satisfying - contributing significantly to these kids future success in life.

Many come from non-English speaking families. Marilyn's phone number is 203-321-1373 x115.

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### MEMBER PROFILE

This is the fifteenth in a series of Member Profiles intended to allow Member's to get to know one another beyond a face and a name tag.

**GERALD Z. GIBIAN** was born on the West side of Manhattan April 12, 1938. He attended elementary and junior high school in that neighborhood and went to Stuyvesant High School in the lower East side. He attended New York University undergraduate school and obtained his law and graduate degree in tax law from NYU Law School. Gerry met his wife, Rosalie, who grew up in Brooklyn, at NYU where she sat next to him. They were engaged within six weeks and married one year later on November 5, 1960. They have two children and two grandchildren. Rosalie passed away on December 8, 2016.

Gerry served in the US Army as an infantry 1st Lieutenant in Fort Benning, GA and Fort Dix, NJ 1963-1964. Fortunately, this was after the Cuban missile crisis and before Vietnam heated up. The family lived in Manhattan from 1965 to 1972 and then moved to Larchmont. Seeking a bigger house, more land and better schools while retaining a reasonable commute to NYC, they moved to Greenwich in 1984. They then downsized and moved to Palmer Hill in Stamford (where a number of RMA members live) in 2014.

He was a junior tax attorney at CBS 1966-1972. He then became the head of the corporate tax department of Colgate-Palmolive and assumed additional responsibilities for real estate. He left Colgate in 1990 and joined the Estee Lauder Companies. Gerry was the head of the tax, real estate and customs duty departments as well as doing special projects outside the realm of marketing and manufacturing. "The most interesting experience from my Estee Lauder days (other than my very interesting job) was being one of the point persons when Estee Lauder went public in an IPO in 1994. I also had global responsibility for Y2K at the turn of the century." Gerry retired from Estee Lauder in 2010 and for the next 4 years was a commercial corporate real estate broker with Newmark Knight Frank in NYC.

An avid tennis player, he has played continuously since he was on the varsity tennis team at NYU. He now plays at the Milbrook Club and with the RMA group and GOBS (Good Old Boys), a group that plays tennis all summer and includes some RMA members). He has traveled extensively both in the US and around the world. Subscriptions to the Met Opera, the American Ballet Theatre and the Great Performers series at Lincoln Center are fulfilling.

He volunteers for Meals on Wheels and is on the Finance Committee of the Palmer Hill Condominium Association. "I joined the RMA about two years ago and am very active on the Program Committee."

Ed. Note: Gerry is also a successful RMA recruiter for new members.