



# CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

## Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

60 Years of Fellowship and Community Service  
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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 9, 2017

As usual, El Presidente DON CONWAY rang the bell and half the membership kept on talking. YHS (Your Humble Scribe) then urgently rang the bell throughout the hall and—presto!—members sat in their seats. It may be that a moving bell-ringer is the best way to get the meeting started on time.

After JERRY SCHWENDEMAN led us in the pledge, it was revealed why YHS rang with such urgency: he was the song leader and couldn't wait to sing! So, we did: "God Bless America," "There's No Business Like Show Business," and "Hey, Look Me Over," with JIM "TWINKLE DIGITS" SANTORA on the 88's.

TOM HEALY then regaled us with the one about the disguised Catholic priests who didn't recognize one of their nuns on the beach because she was disguised as well.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. We will be in the chapel next week so do not dress like disguised Catholic priests.
2. MIKE AMBROSINO served up the information about indoor fall-winter tennis: the season is September-May on Fridays at the Old Greenwich Tennis Academy from 1-3:30 and the cost is \$505, \$252.50 for half-season. See or write Mike to sign up ([brooklynoil@yahoo.com](mailto:brooklynoil@yahoo.com)).
3. RETURNEES: TAD LARRABEE came back from Bulgaria, Greece, Germany, and Holland. Welcome home!

### MEMORIAL

HOLLISTER STURGES reminded us what a remarkable life JOHN DECSEPEL led and of all the ways he will be missed. Do visit our website (click on Speaker Videos) to see John's talk about living as a Jew in Hungary during the Nazi occupation, his escape, and his life in America. That life was principally about service to others, especially including his work at the RMA on the Program Committee. John had a wonderful sense of adventure, an exciting curiosity, and a deep love for his wife, family, and friends. We no doubt will feel his presence in our meetings for a long time to come.

## COMMITTEES

**VISITING:** CHUCK "It's A Beautiful Day" STANDARD wants to step down! One can hardly contemplate our meetings without the weekly update on calendar availability, mixed in with reports about our members' various ailments and progress in overcoming them. As reported by WAYNE WRIGHT, Chuck himself was not feeling well and missed the meeting. So, we need someone to volunteer to take over the Visiting Committee, some brave person not afraid of the very large shoes to be filled.

**PROGRAM:** ARNOLD GORDON urged us to stay for a gem of a talk by the brothers Brian and Bradford Walker (see below). PETER UHRY told us that Reserve Rear Admiral John Weigold will be here next week to tell us about the Pacific Fleet, unless war with North Korea breaks out, in which case Peter will have to talk to us. Is that what we call adding insult to injury?

**MEMBERSHIP:** HORST TEBBE reported 96 members and 4 guests: Marshall Toppo (g/o CHET RISIO); Larry Spann (g/o CHARLIE JENSEN); Andy Holmes (g/o JAY SCHONDORF); and Ron Cantwell (g/o RUSS HARDEN). Incredibly, there were no birthdays last week, so Happy UnBirthday to All Of Us!

**VOLUNTEERS:** ROS CURTIS told us that for the week ending August 9th there were 568 hours by 42 men for outside activities and 173 RMA hours by 29 men. DOUG FRANCEFORT led the pack with 29 hours.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:** ABBEY SMOLER said the Sound Waters Cruise on August 31 is has a couple of spots left and signees need to pay the \$35 by the next meeting at the latest. "Oklahoma" at Goodspeed on September 21 is waitlisted. ABBEY SMOLER: 203-531-0236. Details below.

## THE SCOREBOARD

**BRIDGE:** According to RON FRIEDMAN, KURT SHAFFIR came in first with 5170, FRANK CROCKER was second with 2900, and RON was third with 2640. There were 7 players.

**GOLF:** 19 golfers teed it up and enjoyed a cloudy and therefore not-so-hot day. The results of the contests were not-so-hot either, since the winners were not recorded before the signs were turned into the Griff. Closest to the pin on #7 may or may not have been PETER UHRY, closest on #15 was reported to be MIKE SMITH, but subsequent talk revealed that he was some 40-feet away and the sign was definitely closer than that. Longest drive was TONY COCCHI, and YHS was playing with him and can attest to that fact. We believe that when there is a question as to the winner, the \$5 automatically goes to the CBB scribe that week, but someone should probably check that ruling. KIP SCHULZE is next week's captain.

**HEARTS:** JACK SWEGER reported numerous moon shots in the hotly-contested

games. 8 players dueled, with MIKE AMBROSINO moon-shooting to victory at Table #1 and JOHN KNIGHT winning the second game in a tough battle. At Table #2, PETER BERG shot the moon, but was surpassed by RALPH VIGGIANO's moon-shot winner. Ralph shot the moon again in the second game, but JACK SWEGER blocked him from victory. The many successful moon-shots are reportedly because the moon's orbit was closer to the earth last week.

## TODAY'S SPEAKERS

**Brad Walker**, manager of the Shreve, Crump & Low jewelry store on Greenwich Avenue, along with his brother Brian from their Boston store, explained that their company dates back to the end of the 18th century and is the longest continuously operating jewelry company in America. They gave an illuminating talk about sapphires, rubies, and emeralds—so-called precious stones-- complete with slides of some of the amazing gems.

Sapphires and rubies are made from the same mineral and are very hard stones, a 9 on the moh (hardness) scale (a diamond is 10). Sapphires come in many colors but Cornflower Blue is prized. They are found mostly in Sri Lanka (Ceylon), Burma (Myanmar), and Kashmir, whose hard-to-mine veins in the Himalayas help it produce the best of the best. Burma is where the best rubies are found, especially the prized and highly valued "pigeon-blood red" color. Since red is the color of power, royalty is fond of rubies. Emeralds were first found in Egypt around 1500 BC, but now most are now found in Colombia.

They showed us the ruby given Liz Taylor by Richard Burton and the diamond and sapphire ring given Jackie O when JFK proposed. A very informative and entertaining talk. Noting the large number of women who attended, one wonders if there were any pressure-to-purchase talks in some Greenwich homes last Wednesday.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

The Events are open to all members, spouses, candidates and guests. For reservations contact trip coordinators ABBEY SMOLER (203-531-0236) and MIKE FERRARESE (203-554-0678). Checks for payment are to be made out to the RMA, and must be received within two (2) weeks following the making of the reservations or the reservations will be cancelled.

- **SOUND WATERS CRUISE. August 31, 2017.** Drive your own car. \$35.00 p/p. Lunch: snacks and water. Meet at dock at 1:30 pm and schooner sails at 2pm: Status 3 spaces still open.
- **GOODSPEED OPERA HOUSE. The musical, "Oklahoma", September 21, 2017.** Lunch; Gelston House Cost; \$120p/p. Bus departs St. Catherine's 9:45 am. Status: Wait listed.

## **NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER**

**Rear Admiral John Weigold** "What's Happening in the Pacific Theater?"

Gran Burgess, Your Humble Scribe (YHS)

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