



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

www.greenwichrma.org

This Bulletin is brought to you each week by these volunteers
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**"Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow."
Helen Keller**

President TAD LARRABEE opened the meeting at 10 a.m. at which time MICHAEL AMBROSINO led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

DON CONWAY directed us in a patriotic chorus of God Bless America with piano accompaniment by JIM SANTORA. This was appropriately followed up with two old favorites, Heart and On a Slow Boat to China.

TOM HEALY, Corresponding Secretary (aka joke teller), provided us with two humorous stories. The first about an Irishman desperately asking God to find him a parking space. The second involved a wife who cleverly packed for her husband's three-day fishing trip.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Returnees: TAD welcomed back HOLLISTER STURGES from Crystal Lake, Michigan. TAD also discussed the fact that with the start of the new school year, at the First Presbyterian church, we should be aware that when the RMA is using the lobby area for coffee there may be school children and parents passing

through the area, therefore we should be accommodating. In addition, we will be limited to only three handicap parking spaces in the front parking lot with the beginning of the new school year.

2. ARNOLD reminded everyone that there is still time to enter the RMA Limerick Contest that will be held at the Sept. 5th meeting, next week. The deadline for entries is Friday, August 31st. Thus far, 8 men have entered, but more are welcome. Send your entry to Arnold at ajgordo@verizon.net.

3. PETER UHRY 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 October 24th.

4. BOB ROBINS announced today's RMA speaker, Missy Wolfe, who will be presenting "The Hidden History of Colonial Greenwich." Missy Wolfe is a Greenwich native and she is a lifelong student of history, particularly Connecticut in the 1600's. This will mark her third visit to the RMA.

5. HOLLISTER STURGES introduced next week's RMA topic, "Thomas Cole's Journey" which will be presented by Dr. Page Knox who teaches Art Humanities and classes on American Art at Columbia University. Thomas Cole is recognized as the father of American landscape painting. In 1829 Cole set off on a three year journey across the Atlantic to encounter the great works of the past and the artists of the present.

6. ARNOLD GORDON delivered a memorial for WALLACE L. BENEVILLE:

WALLACE BENEVILLE, 87, a resident of Edgehill, passed away peacefully on August 14, 2018 in Greenwich. He was born on July 26, 1931 in Union City, New Jersey. Wally graduated from Tenafly High School in 1948 and Rutgers University in 1952. He was a gifted athlete and was a first team all-American lacrosse player at Rutgers and was named the Student Council Athlete of the Year in 1952. He served for two years in the United States Air Force in New Mexico and Arizona before going back to New York and starting a long and successful career in the insurance industry. He was a lifelong member of the New York Athletic Club and served as president from 1988-1990. His family had a home in Chatham, Massachusetts on Cape Cod, built nearly 50 years ago. He was also an excellent golfer and longtime member of the Knickerbocker Country Club in Tenafly, New Jersey. He was inducted into the RMA in May 2016 and was a paying member even through this year. WALLY was predeceased by his

wife of 59 years, whom he had met in grade school; Arlene Beneville died in 2012. He is survived by his two sons, Thomas Beneville and his wife Holly of Greenwich, CT, and Jeffery Beneville and his wife Anne of Jamestown, RI, as well as three grandchildren. From obit in Greenwich Time, Aug. 19 to Aug. 20, 2018

COMMITTEES

MEMBERSHIP: MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE advised that there were 90 members in attendance. Three guests were also in attendance, Tom McGuire guest of CHET RISIO and HORST TEBBE, Will Morrison guest of PETER UHRY and HORST TEBBE, as well as John Kavanagh guest of JACK WIER and ARNOLD GORDON. Those celebrating birthdays were RUSS HARDEN, 76, and MIKE SMITH, 79. JIM SANTORA led us in the singing of Happy Birthday

VOLUNTEER HOURS TONY COCCHI advised that there were 245 hours by 31 men for outside activities, and 135 hours by 23 men for RMA activities. The maximum number of hours reported was by CHET RISIO with 26 hours.

FUN AND GAMES

BRIDGE: FRANK LEE reported there were 8 players on August 22nd. The 3 highest scores were ANDRZEJ MAZUREK with 2990, RALPH VIGGIANO with 2950, and JOHN HOFFMAN with 2720.

GOLF: BOB PHILLIPS reported that it was scorching weather in the middle of the day therefore the heat and humidity were at full intensity on Tuesday. They started out with 12 men planning to play eighteen holes and 5 men planning to play nine holes. In the end all the nine holers made it through however, only five of the eighteen holers completed the full round. The lowest score of the day was MICHAEL AMBROSINO with a 98. The closest to the pin of #7 was TONY RIGGI. Closest to the green on #15 was not declared since no #17 ended up being the shortest, longest drive which was captured by JIM SANTORA.

OUTDOOR TENNIS: JOHN KNIGHT announced that there were four players that showed up on Monday at the Loughlin Field Courts.

INDOOR TENNIS: JOE MANCINELLI reported that the Indoor Tennis season will begin next Friday, September 7th. There is a total of twenty-one players with several new players. The new schedule and roster were distributed to everyone via email, however he has hard copies for anyone who needs them.

PICKLEBALL: TONY COCCHI announced that there were 12 players on July 19th who played on three of the four courts. He also reported that Winter Pickleball will begin on September 20th. The schedule is Monday from 11:30 to 2:00, Tuesday from 5:30 to 8:00 and Thursday from 11:30 to 2:00. The rate for Greenwich Seniors is \$33.00, with a registration deadline of September 1st.

HEARTS: DON CONWAY announced that there were eight players. On Table 1 the winners were GRANT PERKINS for Game #1, TOM HEALY for Game #2 and TOM HEALY for Game #3. On Table 2 the winners were TAD LARRABEE for

Game #1, LOU TROVATO for Game #2 and JACK SWEGER for Game #3. Successful Moon Shots were made by GRANT PERKINS and JACK SWEGER once, by LOU TROVATO twice and by TOM HEALY three times.

WALKERS: This week's walk has been cancelled due to the heat and the earlier sail time for the Soundwater Cruise.

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 cancelled. Contact MIKE FERRARESE (myagentmike@yahoo.com / 203-554-0678) or ABBEY SMOLER (abbeysmoler@gmail.com / 203-531-0235)

Goodspeed Opera House, "The Drowsy Chaperone" Oct. 25. Lunch at the Gelston House, \$125pp Bus leaves St Catherine's at 9:15am Status: 12 openings.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Following the break, HOLLISTER STURGES introduced today's speaker, Missy Wolfe, who presented an overview of her latest book, *The Hidden History of Colonial Greenwich*. She explained how she has spent many long hours researching various records and archives. The town of Greenwich has a large amount of records that they maintain in a walk-in vault. While the records are mostly in good condition, they were very disorganized because of the Revolutionary War they were scattered and disrupted. Ultimately, they were all bound together in a very random fashion. However, with today's technology she was able to create a bibliography using verbal transcription through dictation.

In the 17th Century, the town was known as the Greenwich Plantation. It was very agricultural in nature and it originally included Rye, Bedford, Armonk and parts of Stamford. The major dividing line between Greenwich and Stamford originally went twenty miles north from Tatomack Creek up to Pound Ridge. The area where the current Boys & Girls Club is located was the epicenter of colonial Greenwich, where it was sheltered from storms, near water and therefore conducive for livestock. The colony was designed with six great fields. With the novel use of land lotteries, property was transitioned from Native Americans, to colonies, then to towns and finally to individual owners. This was a dramatic change from the tradition in England where large tracts of land were granted to entitled noblemen.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Dr. Page Knox: "Thomas Cole's Journey" discussing Cole's three-year journey across the Atlantic to encounter the great works of the past and the artists of the present.

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