



# 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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September 13, 2017

President DON CONWAY rang the school bell at 10:04am. Pledge leader was MIKE AMBROSINO. Then JACK SWEGER conducted us in Grand Old Flag, That's Amore, and It Had to Be You, with JIM SANTORA'S lively keyboard accompaniment.

Corresponding Secretary of the day, BOB LUCE, related the story about the wayward pastor who snuck away from his Sabbath duties for a day of golf, had a hole-in-one, and could not tell a soul about it.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

President DON mentioned that returnees were WAINE DeVRIES from Maine and BILL O'DONNELL just off a Scandinavian Cruise. The DON also reminded everyone that Call-a-Ride needs drivers (for info, speak to JIM FAHY and other involved RMA members). He also gave a sales pitch on behalf of PETER UHRY, who has two RMA hats and one XXL shirt. Get 'em while they are rare; call or write PETER ([203-536-8294](tel:203-536-8294); [uhry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uhry@sbcglobal.net)).

RUSS HARDEN reminded the crowd that our annual picnic is on the morrow (Thursday, September 14). ARNOLD GORDON, introduced as the "rafflemaster," whetted everyone's appetite for prizes by inviting members to buy lots of raffle and 50-50 drawing tickets; prizes totaling more than \$2000 in value will be at play. This year, the 50-50 money will be split as follows: 25% to each of two attendees with the rest for the RMA treasury. In addition, a beautiful seascape painting by member DON GRIMSICH will be auctioned.

CHET RISIO did a show-and-tell with his new four page fold out CBB designed to accommodate Member Profiles; copies were made available at the meeting.

JIM SANTORA made a plea for volunteers to participate in the Safe Rides program for teenagers on Friday and Saturday nights. It is run by the Transportation Association of Greenwich, a non-profit organization serving disabled elderly and others in need, of all ages (see <https://www.ridetag.org/>). If interested, call Debbie at [203-637-4345](tel:203-637-4345).

Though not announced at the meeting, we should note that one of our members, DON HERMANN, has published a new book with the whimsical title “What Is the Meaning of Life? And 92 Other Things I Don’t Have Answers To.” It will be available for sale mid-October; see <http://tinyurl.com/yajvpmdn>.

## COMMITTEES

**VISITING:** A replacement for our dear departed member CHUCK STANDARD is still needed to manage this important responsibility. Give it some thought and contact our President (that’s DON, not Donald). Sad news was reported by DON that VIN MASI has suffered a stroke and is at Nathaniel Witherell.

**PROGRAM:** HOLLISTER STURGES urged us to stay for a presentation by **Nina Willner** (“Forty Autumns, a Tale of Family, the Iron Curtain, and Spycraft” ), based on her book “Forty Autumns” about her family’s trials and tribulations throughout the Cold War and beyond. He also told us that next week **Deirdre McDonald** will speak about “Lobbying in Today’s Washington: Navigating the Shifting Sands.” She is the daughter of RMA member MILES McDONALD. The speaker originally scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup>, Fay Vincent, former Commissioner of Baseball, cannot make it; in his place John Blankley, a Brit, former CFO for BP, and more recently active in CT politics will provide his perspective on the state of our State. Details will be in next week’s CBB.

**MEMBERSHIP:** While HORST TEBBE was shepherding today’s speaker, ED FARRELL stepped in to tell us that 118 members, one candidate and four guests were in the house. Guests were Bill Burke (FRANK SCARPA), Andy Holmes (JAY SCHONDORF), Lou Trovato (PETER STERN) and Nick Sheppard (JOHN FEBLES). JACK WEIR nominated candidate David Weisbrod for membership, with a strong second by DON CONWAY. DAVID was heartily approved by the membership. He was with JP Morgan for 39 years and is now actively involved with the Greenwich Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals. We all sang happy birthday to youngsters ED PARKER (72), JIM SANTORA (76) and JOHN TONER (73).

**SPECIAL EVENTS:** ABBY SMOLER announced the final trip for 2017; see the details below. The first trip for 2018 will be a visit to the always popular New York Philharmonic. Stay tuned (ha, ha) for the details.

**VOLUNTEERS:** ANDRZEJ MAZUREK reported that for the week ending September 13, 39 men served 284 hours for outside agencies, and 26 members reported 127 hours for RMA activities. The member with the greatest number for the week was CHET RISIO, with 26 hours. However, reliable witnesses told me that he was away all week at a resort and did not do a damn thing of a volunteer nature.

Editor’s note: CHET RISIO regrets that his volunteer hours are a sham. He admits that ARNOLD spotted him basking poolside at the Don’t Tell Motel resort. CHET is particularly
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resentful that he was not introduced to the young, beautiful, curvaceous blonde that ARNOLD was escorting.

## GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

**BRIDGE:** ANDREJ MAZUREK reported that 9 members played last week: BRUNO SCHRAGE was first with 3350 points followed by JOHN FEBLES 3260, and RON FRIEDMAN 2810.

**HEARTS:** JACK SWEGER gave the results for 8 players at two tables last Wednesday. Each player completed three games. DON CONWAY and JACK won all three games in their respective groups. (I think the fix was in!) Moon Shots were landed by SWEGER (2), MIKE AMBROSINO (1) and TOM HEALY (1). If interested in joining the fun, call JACK (203-869-4028).

**INDOOR TENNIS:** MIKE AMBROSINO served up the exciting results: RALPH VIGGIANO and MICHAEL SMITH winners on Court One, MIKE and JOE MANCINELLI on Court Two.

**GOLF:** JIM SANTORA told us that 17 played last week, 14 for 18 holes. Three shot in the nineties with JAY SCHONDORF beating the pack with a 94. Closest to the pin at hole 7 was PETER UHRY and at hole 15 JOE MANCINELLI. ANDRZEJ MAZUREK whacked the longest drive at hole 17. Next week's host is JACK WEIR.

## TODAY'S SPEAKER

HORST TEBBE introduced **Nina Willner**, author and former U.S. Army Intelligence officer who related a complicated story of what happened to her family during the Cold War. Based on her book, "Forty Autumns," which was cited as one of the fifteen non-fiction must-read books of 2016, she wove her family's personal story with the history of a divided Germany. In the east, where she and her family lived, were eighteen million people trapped under a brutal dictatorship. She covered the four decade clash of communism and democracy, the Soviet-American superpower fight for dominance in the space race, the nuclear arms race, and battles around the globe that brought the world to the brink of nuclear war. At the age of 20, her mother made a risky escape leaving behind her parents and 7 siblings to settle in Heidelberg in West Germany where she worked for the US Embassy. She met and married a US Army Intelligence officer, a Jew who was at Auschwitz and other concentration camps, but he eventually escaped. They emigrated to the US, where Ms Willner and her 5 siblings were born. There were too many more details and stories for her 50 minute presentation, but they are covered in her book. However, she did relate some of her exciting and dangerous exploits as an Army intelligence officer serving in Berlin during the Cold War. As usual, you can watch her talk on Vimeo from the RMA website.

## 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](tel:203-554-0678)) and ABBEY SMOLER ([203-531-0236](tel:203-531-0236)).

**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 J. GORDON, Scribe of the Week**

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