



# 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:** Walker Collins, Chet Risio.

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Volume 64, No. 20

September 14, 2016

President PETER UHRY rang and rang and rang the opening bell at 10:02 AM and finally corralled the strays so that JOHN CRAINE could lead us in the Pledge. Our Irish tenor extraordinaire, TOM HEALY, accompanied by JIM SANTORA on the piano, led us in the singing of America the Beautiful, Dark Town Strutter's Ball, and Deep in the Heart of Texas (Yeeha).

Corresponding Secretary BOB CAREY announced that the Government plans to save Medicare and Medicaid money by deporting all seniors; that was followed by some ethnic groaners.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. PETER UHRY introduced Kate Petrov, Public Relations Officer for Greenwich Library, who described the history and operation of the annual Greenwich Reads Together Program, a community-wide reading experience organized by several town institutions. This year's book to be read by all participants is "Station Eleven" by Emily St. John Mandel, a dark novel about art, fame and ambition in the eerie days of civilization's collapse. For more details, see [www.greenwichreadstogether.org](http://www.greenwichreadstogether.org).
2. CHET RISIO thanked WALKER COLLINS for volunteering to duplicate and distribute the print version of the CBB. He also made a pitch for more volunteers to join the illustrious group of scribes.
3. JERRY SCHWENDEMAN, impresario of the picnic on September 8<sup>th</sup>, reported that it was a resounding success, and gave effusive thanks to the many RMA stalwarts and spouses who pitched in to make it all happen. The 50-50 cash drawing and sale of raffle tickets raised \$300 and \$1100, respectively, for the RMA. Total value of raffle prizes from 35 businesses and individuals was just over \$3,000. JERRY urged members to patronize the prize donors and mention the RMA while giving thanks. The complete list is found on the RMA website under Activities.
4. President PETER told us that DON CONWAY is organizing this year's annual "dinner" (okay, it's really lunch) in November and needs help in identifying and locating

any widows of deceased RMA members so they can be invited. Please contact DON: 203-869-3448 or spiderduck4@gmail.com

5. The Prez welcomed back WAYNE DeVRIES from Maine.

6. HORST TEBBE made us aware of two very interesting programs. The Bruce Museum will have a lecture by a NASA scientist on new findings about Neptune and Uranus on Sunday, September 18 at 3:30pm. On Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at the Ferguson Library in Stamford from 6 to 8pm, there will be a free screening and discussion of the PBS Frontline documentary "Being Mortal." It is based on the book of the same name by Atul Gawande, a highly lauded book and a best seller that addresses terminal illness and its effect on us all. See the fifth item here: <http://fergusonlibrary.org/upcoming-adult-events/>

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**VISITING:** CHUCK STANDARD told us that JOE MALARA is stable and trying to be upbeat; he relishes phone calls from members: 203-594-5389. TED SPOOL continues to receive outpatient treatment several times a week at Cornell Hospital in New York City.

**PROGRAM:** JOHN DeCSEPEL announced that today's speaker is Professor **Phil McKnight** of Williams College, who will discuss the evolution of election law in the United States ("The History of America's Democratic Institutions"). STEPHEN MYERS encouraged all to attend next week's talk by **Rob Klee**, the Commissioner of Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, who will tell us "How Connecticut is Addressing the Challenges of Climate Change." PETER UHRY mentioned that the new handout schedule of talks for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter is available; copies were provided to members.

**MEMBERSHIP:** HORST TEBBE reported 120 members present along with 4 candidates and one guest, Gerald Friedman, guest of PETER COLEMAN. Two candidates were presented for induction. Donald Breismeister from Old Greenwich was introduced by his sponsors WAYNE DeVRIES and HAROLD FROST; Donald was an urban planner and had his own architectural firm. He enjoys tennis and sailing. Tom Nacinovich from Cos Cob was presented by sponsors TOM CAHILL and TOM HEALY (a trio of Tom's). Our newest Tom was an IT and audit specialist for several large companies. Welcome to the fold, DONALD and TOM. Birthdays this week were ED PARKER 71, JIM SANTORA 75, JOHN TONER 70, STEVEN LEIFER 78, and PETER ORBANOWSKI 72.

**VOLUNTEERS:** DOUG FRANCEFORT reported that, for the week ending September 14, 2016, 49 men volunteered 545 hours (many accumulated from previous weeks) on behalf of outside agencies and 27 men volunteered 241 hours on behalf of the RMA.

## FUN AND GAMES

**BRIDGE:** KURT SCHAFFIR said that the September 9<sup>th</sup> game drew 16 players. High scorers were: GRANT PERKINS 5280, JOE ROE 4910, and RALPH VIGGIANO 4540.

**GOLF:** PETER TUNLEY noted that on September 13<sup>th</sup> there were 16 players on a beautiful day. Four men shot in the 90s and four in the 80s. Low scorer was RICHARD BARTHOLOMEW (85). RICHARD also was closest to the pin on 7 and KIP SCHULZE on 15. PETER TUNLEY had the longest drive.

**TENNIS:** MIKE AMBROSINO gave the results for the first indoor tennis match of the season. On Court 1, PETER STREICH and MIKE himself, and on Court 2, JACK WEIR and RON FRIEDMAN were the winners. Next week's captain is RALPH VIGGIANO. MIKE reminded everyone that outdoor tennis at the Loughlin Avenue courts in Cos Cob is still the place to be every Monday and Thursday mornings from 9 to 10:30.

## **TODAY'S SPEAKER**

Phillip R. McKnight is a trial and appellate attorney who also specializes in American legal history. His talk was an abbreviated version of a 10 hour course he will be giving at Williams College on how America, unlike many other countries, has dealt with major crises during and since it's founding through the law rather than military might. He focused on several periods in our history when especially talented men were responsible for solutions to some of our most difficult challenges. James Madison was the architect of our Articles of Confederation that established a bicameral legislature, but also through compromise, to win the vote of the south, allowed that slaves could be counted as three-fifths of a person for legislative representation. During John Adams' presidency, Chief Justice John Marshall reconstituted a basically ineffective and ill-staffed Supreme Court and established the basic doctrine that only that Court can determine the legitimacy and validity of Federal legislation. President Andrew Jackson prevented South Carolina from seceding from the Union. Abraham Lincoln convinced the Supreme Court that the writ of Habeus Corpus could be suspended during war time. Teddy Roosevelt used the courts to break up many monopolies, especially those involving railroads controlled by only a handful of the wealthiest men in America. Finally, during the early days of WWII, following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the State of California feared an invasion of the west coast by the Japanese and appealed to FDR for help. This led to the interment of US citizens of Japanese extraction, something considered with disdain today by most people, but seemed to be necessary at the time. There was the usual lively Q and A session at the end of the talk.

**Arnold J. Gordon - Your Ink-Stained Kvetch**

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Open to all Members, Spouses, Candidates and Guests. Checks made payable to the RMA.  
Contact MIKE FERRARESE 203 554-0678, myagentmike@yahoo.com or ABBEY SMOLER 203 531-0236, abbeysmoler@gmail.com

**September 22: SAGAMORE HILL: Teddy Roosevelt Home and Museum, Lunch:** Canterbury Oyster Bar. Cost: \$75.00 per person. Bus leaves St. Catherine's at 8:30 am. Status: Wait listed.

October 27: GOODSPEED OPERA HOUSE: "Chasing Rainbows, the Judy Garland Story". Lunch at the Gelston House. \$115.00 per person. Bus departs St Catherine's at 10AM. Status: 25 places available.

**NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER**

**Rob Klee:** "How Connecticut is Addressing the Challenges of Climate Change."

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