

# CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.  
37 Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT 06830

[www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org)

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Print/Dist: **Chet Risio.**

**Volume 66, No. 21, September 26, 2018 SCRIBE: DAN FREDLAND**

President **TAD LARRABEE** rang the opening bell at 10:00 am. **TAD** then led us in the pledge to the flag. Song leader **DON CONWAY** led us in *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, *Five Foot Two* and *Side by Side*. The piano accompanist was **GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE**. The mentor for this meeting was **TAD LARRABEE**, filling in for **GEORGE UBOGY** who could not be present. **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** amused us with the story of two pals fishing in a rented boat in a Louisiana bayou.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**RETURNEE: JOHN FEBLES** has returned from Miami Beach.

**MIKE RYAN** is looking for a driver to help a 62-year-old paraplegic man from Stamford who needs assistance in getting around town. He will pay \$25 per hour. See **MIKE** for further details.

**MIKE** also announced that the golf luncheon is in two weeks on October 10th.

**JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** reminded us that **the RMA Annual Dinner is on November 14th, at the Tamarack Country Club**. Contact **JERRY** at 203-622-9205 or at [jerrychwendeman@Yahoo.com](mailto:jerrychwendeman@Yahoo.com) to be a volunteer or table host.

President **TAD** announced that the League of Women Voters is presenting a discussion on *Fixing Connecticut's Finances* on Tuesday, October 2nd, 7:00 to 8:30 pm at the Greenwich Library's Cole Auditorium.

## COMMITTEES

**VISITING:** **DOUG FRANCEFORT** is home after a long stay in Nathaniel Witherell Nursing Home recuperating from a serious fall. He would welcome calls and visitors. **CRO MARTIN** has been recovering from a heart attack for almost seven months. Last week his doctors gave him approval to drive. We can expect to see him at future meetings.

**PRESENTATIONS:** **BOB RIMMER** announced today's speaker, **Associate Justice Andrew MacDonald of the Connecticut Supreme Court**. He will provide a presentation entitled *Judicial Independence*.

**STEVE MYERS** announced that next week's speaker will be **Michael Pima, Research Scientist at the Columbia University Center for Climate and Life**. His topic of discussion is *Impact of Climate Change on Critical Food Sources*.

**SERGE GABRIEL**, referring to last week's speaker who discussed Saudi Arabia, commented on his time working and living in Saudi Arabia in 1980 for IBM. In his opinion, the whole Middle East is a hot spot. He thinks the U. S. should get out of that area of the world.

**MEMBERSHIP:** **HORST TEBBE** reported that today's attendance included 93 members plus one candidate and two visitors. The guests were Arn Welles, guest of **JACK WEIR**, and Paul Campion, guest of **TONY RIGGI** and **MIKE RYAN**. There were two birthdays for the week: **STEPHEN MARINO** 89, and **HORST TEBBE** 78.

Today's inductee was Ronald J. Murray who was sponsored by **RUSSELL HARDEN** and **PETER TUNLEY**. Ron was born in Glen Cove, NY, in 1934. He now lives with his wife, Judy, in Stamford. He is a CPA and had a long career with Cooper & Lybrand. He has traveled widely. His interests are golf, music, theater, bridge, and travel. He was approved for membership by a hearty voice vote.

**VOLUNTEER HOURS:** **JOHN FEBLES** presented the volunteer hours for the week ending September 26, 2018. There were 284 outside hours by 31 members, and 130 inside hours by 20 members, for a total of 414 hours. The top volunteer was **PETER BERG** with 41 hours.

## GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

**HEARTS:** **ED FARRELL** reported that table 1 played 3 games. Games 1 and 3 were won by **ED FARRELL**. Game 2 was won by **JACK SWEGER**. There were two games played on table 2. **TOM HEALY** swept both games. The only moon shot belonged to **JACK SWEGER** on table 1.

**PICKLEBALL:** For September 20<sup>th</sup>, there were nine players on two courts during the 9:00 to 11:00 am time slot. That was followed by five members playing at the Eastern Civic Center from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm.

**TENNIS:** **DON BREISMEISTER** summarized the tennis activities for September 21<sup>st</sup>. The winners of the preliminary round were **PETER ORBANOWSKI** and **TOM HEALY** on Court 1, and **BILL FAKUNDINY** and **DON BREISMEISTER** on Court 2. The final round was won by **PETER ORBANOWSKI** and **DON BREISMEISTER** on Court 1, and **BOB GRAYSON** and **PETER TUNLEY** on Court 2.

### TODAY'S SPEAKER

**HOLLISTER STURGES** introduced today's speaker, **Associate Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court, Andrew MacDonald**, who addressed *Judicial Independence*. Justice MacDonald was nominated and approved by the legislature as an Associate Justice in January 2013. He was a State Senator from 1991 to 2011 and General Counsel to the Office of the Governor from 2011 to 2013. In private law practice from 1991 to 2011, he received, with honors, his J.D. from the UConn School of Law in 1991. While there he was Managing Editor of the Connecticut Journal of International Law.

Justice MacDonald strongly asserted that judicial independence is integral to our structure of government. Courts have authority based on the confidence of the people. This confidence in turn depends on the courts' independence from political pressure or campaign contributions.

Due to unpopular judicial decisions, he sees a dark new dawn coming in the form of political retaliation in several states, including Connecticut. This will interfere with fair, impartial, and objective decisions and the primacy of the rule of law.

Connecticut has a merit-based system that is used to create a panel of qualified individuals from which the governor makes a nomination. The nominees for judgeships must then be approved by both houses of the legislature. Appointments are for eight years, but they can be renewed. There is an age limit of 70, after which a judge can serve in somewhat limited capacity with approval needed on an annual basis.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

*RMA special events are open to all members, guests, candidates and spouses. Checks are to be made out to the RMA and must be received within two weeks following your reservation or the reservation will be cancelled. Contact **MIKE FERRARESE** (myagentmike@yahoo.com / 203-554-0678) or **ABBEY SMOLER** (abbeysmoler@gmail.com / 203-531-0236.) The upcoming events are listed below.*

- **October 25, 2018, the Goodspeed Opera House, featuring *The Drowsy Chaperone*.** The bus will be leaving St. Catherine's Church at 9:15 am, with lunch at the Gelston House. The cost is \$125 pp, and there are six openings remaining.
- **January 10, 2019, the N Y Philharmonic Orchestra rehearsal** with dinner. Details to follow.
- **February 14, 2019, West Chester Dinner Theater.** Details to follow.

### NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

**Michael Pima, Research Scientist at the Columbia University Center for Climate and Life,** will be discussing *Impact of Climate Change on Critical Food Sources*.