



# 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. **Archivist:** Harold Frost. **Format and Layout:** Gene Schwartz, Paul Levine, Jack Cuff. **Reproduction/Distribution:** Walker Collins, Chet Risio.

---

Volume 64, No. 23

October 5, 2016

*I remain just one thing and one thing only and that is a clown. It places me on a far higher plane than any politician".*

*Charlie Chaplin – The Observer 1960*

**President** PETER UHRY called us to order at 10:02 AM and told us that we would be pleased to meet our host, the new Minister of the First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Sean Miller, prior to our special speaker presentation. PAUL BRADY then led us in The Pledge of Allegiance. DON CONWAY, accompanied by GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE, then stepped up to conduct us in the songs, "The Star Spangled Banner," "The Wiffenpoof Song," and "You Are My Sunshine." ARNOLD GORDON followed by remembering the legend of Sister Mary, the bed pan filled with gas and the reaction of the Baptist observers who considered conversion to the Catholic faith.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ARNOLD GORDON announced that RMA members are invited to an Oktoberfest reception on Thursday, October 13th, 6-8 PM at Shreve, Crump & Low, 125 Greenwich Avenue. Free beer and pretzels and a premiere German watch exhibit are available, RSVP 203 622 6205 or [rsvp@shrevecrumpandlow.com](mailto:rsvp@shrevecrumpandlow.com) by October 10th. ARNOLD also reminded us of the new RMA "Clerihew" contest on October 19th, see <http://www.gigglepoetry.com/poetryclassdetail.aspx?LessonPlanID=19https> and <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clerihew> for a description of a Clerihew. To sign up or submit an entry, contact ARNOLD GORDON by October 15th at 203 340 9336 or [ajgordo@verizon.net](mailto:ajgordo@verizon.net).

DON CONWAY then recapped the schedule for the **RMA Annual Dinner** at the Tamarack Country Club on November 9th from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM at a cost of \$60.00 for members and \$30.00 for widows.

STEVE BOIES stepped up to announce the start of the 2016-2017 Concert Players forty fifth season, October 9th, 4:00PM and 7:30PM at the Round Hill Community Church. Adult tickets are \$30.00, information available by calling 203 637 4725.

**President** UHRY returned and advised us that HAROLD KUPLESKY will man the RMA table at Round Hill Community Church on Saturday, October 9th, 9:00AM to 1:00PM, handing out information; helping out would generate new member interest!

**The Garden Education Center** will host author Kerry Mendez on Thursday, October 13th at 10 AM discussing ways to liven up your garden. That same day, **the League of Women Voters** will sponsor a debate at 7 to 9PM at the Town Hall. There will be two debates between Camillo/ Bhargava and Franz/Blankley. On Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> for \$35.00 a ticket, Greenwich Green and Clean will sponsor a town wide cleanup, a fine idea. Go to [www.greenwichgreenclean.org](http://www.greenwichgreenclean.org) for details.

On October 26th at 7PM, **Greenwich Reads Together** sponsors a presentation by **Emily St. John Mandel, author of "Station Eleven,"** at 7PM at the Cole Auditorium.

GEORGE UBOGY came forward to advise us all that flu shots would be available at the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center on Thursday, October 20th from 3:30 to 6:30 PM and on Thursday, October 27 at the Bendheim Western Civic Center from 3:30 to 5:30 PM. Verification can be obtained by calling 203 622-3774. Immunizations can also be obtained through CVS and Walgreens drug stores which offer a choice between a 3 strain or 4 strain immunization; one should check with one's doctor as to the preferable type. It takes up to two weeks for the immunizations to become effective.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**PROGRAM:** ED PARKER presented the new Minister of the First Presbyterian Church who welcomed us for our present and future meetings.

He was followed by **PRESIDENT** UHRY'S fine introduction of **Randall Atcheson**, the admired and well known concert pianist.

Next week's speaker will be **Lauren Elliot**, Greenwich Tax Assessor, who will address "Hard Points About Assessment Taxes in Greenwich".

**MEMBERSHIP:** HORST TEBBE reported that there were 124 attendees including one candidate; Tony Cocchi, one guest: Joel Blumberg, guest of ARNOLD GORDON and two **inductees:** JOE DOWLING, sponsored by WAYNE WRIGHT and BILL HOWLAND, and STEPHEN ELLIOT, sponsored by GERRY FOX and AV RIVEL. Both were elected unanimously. **Happy Birthday** was then wished to: GARY MILLER, 88, GERALD L. MAYFIELD, 81, PETER McSPADDEN, 86 and ALBERT SLOAN, 90.

**RETURNEES:** PETER STERN had returned from Israel.

**VOLUNTEERS:** MIKE AMBROSINO advised us that 357 hours were reported by 37 men for outside agencies and 129 hours by 26 men for RMA activities. **BOB LUCE** had the most individual hours, 41.

### **SPORTS & GAMES:**

**BRIDGE:** KURT SCHAFFIR told us that 14 players had attended the September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. KURT was first with 5350, GRANT PERKINS was second with 3490 and WALKER COLLINS placed third with 3480.

**GOLF:** MIKE RYAN stated that 13 players had taken part; the lowest score was a sparkling 83 by PETER RYAN with three players scoring in the 90s. PETER, host over the next 2 weeks, scored closest to the pin on #17; ROS CURTIS was closest on #15. He had a long bunker shot in the process. RALPH VIGGIANO powered the longest drive on hole #17. Finally, the **Annual RMA Golf Luncheon** is in 3 weeks on October 6th at The Field Club.

### **TODAY'S SPEAKER:**

PETER UHRY gave a warm welcome to Randall Atcheson, the well-known concert pianist whose experience at Julliard School gave him the unusual parallel of equal mastery on the organ and the piano. Randy rewarded us with four works by Chopin, including his bright and powerful performance of the Polonaise in A flat.

The second part of his presentation, including his appropriate comments, brought us all back to fond remembrance of Cole Porter songs and the themes of our national services. His concert at Carnegie Hall on November 16th at 7:00PM will offer a fine opportunity to appreciate his excellent art once again.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

*Open to all members, spouses, candidates and guests. Checks are to be made out to RMA. Trip coordinators: MIKE FERRARESE 203 554 0678 & ABBY SMOLER 203 531 0236.*

**Goodspeed Opera House, October 27, 2016 "Chasing Rainbows".** The story of Judy Garland. Departure by bus from St. Catherine's at 10:00 AM. Lunch at Gelston House Restaurant. Cost; \$115.00 per person. Waiting Listed.

### **NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER**

Next week's speaker will be **Lauren Elliot**, Greenwich Tax Assessor, who will address "Hard Points About Assessment Taxes in Greenwich".

**Scribe of the week:** JIM BUTLER

## MEMBER PROFILE – NAOKI ACHIWA

I, NAOKI (Nicky) ACHIWA, was born in September, 1944, near Toyota City, now birthplace of Toyota cars, and brought up in a local town, Nishio City. The middle and high school period turned out to be very meaningful for building myself in English, World History and Music. These are subjects indispensable to live in the world outside Japan.

After being through routine academic career in Japan, Okazaki High School, prefectural public high school and Hitotsubashi University, national university for social science, I joined Mitsui & Co, world renowned general trading company. One of those which led Japan into international arena in all the segments of rebuilding industries almost all destroyed through the war. Personally I was in the area of pharmaceutical and agricultural chemicals. The company was versatile and extended activities more overseas, including investment and development of natural resources, non-existent in Japan. They include the bitter experience of Iranian Petrochemical complex. It was disastrous as the Iran-Iraq war erupted and the Shah's regime fell. Eventually the complex site was bombed repeatedly by Iraq forces. Mitsui had to give up the project though almost 80% was complete. On the other hand, I was happily involved in successful acquisition of a part of Monsanto's feed supplement business. The business is still in good shape.

When I worked for Mitsui I was back and forth in US and Japan and lived in four states in US.\*

After 38 years, I retired from Mitsui and moved back to US. Since 2005, I've been enjoying retirement life here in Greenwich. Now it has become 24th year being in the US.

My family is made up of my wife Reiko, a graduate of Tsuda College, founded by Ume Tsuda, one of five daughters of Samurai sent to US in 1870. Two boys, Ryo and Tak, and one girl, Keiko. Luckily enough I got three grandchildren in US and one in Tokyo where my second son

lives.

One of my hobbies is singing. It has brought me to so many good excitements.

I'm a member of Greenwich Choral Society and a church choir of Round Hill Community Church. Prior to them I did have great opportunities of singing as a member of May Festival Chorus (Cincinnati, OH), Riverside Choral Society (NY, NY) and Melody Men. I met the late Win Adkins, who was so kind to get me introduced to RMA (now 5 years or more) which has made my retirement life full of schedules and better organized through playing golf and tennis besides singing, and above all, so many wonderful friends.

As for RMA, no word is enough to express my thanks. On top of the aforementioned, lectures and speeches have been always eye-opening and informative to know more about the US.

My love affair with US may come to an end sometime in the future, as my wife wants to be back to Japan. So hope to enjoy the life with the great guys of RMA as long as possible.

I may come back to RMA meetings as it's always likely to be back here even after returning to Japan.

Wherever I may live, I'd like to live my life with the two words "Over & Next", leaving the past behind every night and welcoming fresh world every morning .

Guest Speaker, **Janice Nimura**, spoke on this subject at the July 13, 2016 meeting.

NICKY and Reiko return to Japan in November. The RMA wishes them well.