



# 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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"When in doubt, cut it out." Surgeon's aphorism for the treatment of tumors.

President JERRY SCHWENDEMAN gathered us together for the recitation of the pledge, led by MIKE FERRARESE while STEVE MARINO wrestled with the audio visual apparatus. TOM HEALY led the singing of "Battle Hymn of the Republic", "Amazing Grace" and "Heart of My Heart" accompanied by GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE on the piano.

Corresponding Secretary TOM HEALY amused us with the story of a bagpiper late for a burial ceremony who unwittingly finds himself serenading a septic system.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Returns:** TOM HEALY has returned from the Mediterranean.
2. **Visiting:** MIKE AMBROSINO reported that JOHN KNIGHT had returned to Greenwich Hospital for treatment of a post op infection while recovering from a hip replacement. BOB GRAYSON is also hospitalized at Greenwich Hospital.

3. **MIKE AMBROSINO** thanked the members in advance for the food and clothing drive to benefit Covenant House in Stamford. He has already received some helpful donations.
4. **PETER UHRY** commented that next week's speaker, Dr. Ernest Fleischman, will be speaking on separating fact and fiction in the digital age, and will be tying his talk to the Greenwich Reads Together book choice *Fahrenheit 451* by also conducting a panel discussion at Greenwich Library at 2:30 the same day.
5. **RUSS HARDEN** reminded us of the Annual Banquet, to be held at Tamarack Country Club on November 13. More table hosts would be appreciated.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**MEMBERSHIP:** 98 members, 3 guests and one inductee were in attendance. Tim Brooks, guest of AV RIVEL. Len Carusi, guest of CARL WHITE and JACK CUFF and Brian Mahoney, guest of JIM FISHBEIN and PETER UHRY.

**BIRTHDAYS:** The birthday boys of the week are ANDY HOLMES, 63, ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN, 84; and ED FARRELL, 81. They were duly serenaded by the membership.

**INDUCTEE:** ED MILLER, sponsored by FRANK SCARPA and GEORGE UBOGY.

ED MILLER is a native of Rochester, New York. He received his A.B. from Ohio Wesleyan University and his M.D. from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry.

Pursuing a career in anesthesiology, he served his residency at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston. He then spent 11 years at the University of Virginia Medical School on the anesthesiology faculty. Columbia University then recruited him to serve as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology. In 1994, he was named Professor and Director of the Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine at Johns Hopkins. In 1997, he was named Chief Executive Officer of Johns Hopkins Medicine and Vice President for Medicine of The Johns Hopkins University. Recently retired, ED and his wife Lynne are living in Greenwich. They are the parents of four adult children. ED remains a fan of both the Orioles and the Ravens. He is a history buff, who enjoys reading, walking and golf. ED was welcomed into the RMA by acclaim.

**VOLUNTEER HOURS:** RON MURRAY reported 396 outside hours by 34 members and 269 inside hours by 28 members. Honors for 30 hours each go to JEFF JUNKER and HORST TEBBE.

**HUMAN INTEREST SERIES:** CHET RISIO introduced SAL DeANGELO, who honored us with an abbreviated story of his WWII experience. The son of Italian immigrants, SAL was drafted into the U.S. Army at age 18 in 1943. He served in the 96th Signal Corps Battalion destined for Calcutta. Serving under General Joseph Stilwell, SAL's group supplied communications for the assault on the Japanese, working closely with Merrill's Marauders and an Indian Gurkha division. During this time, SAL met Colonel Gordon Seagraves, renowned missionary and "Burma Surgeon". In Burma, SAL was briefly hospitalized with malaria. While in the hospital, he had a chance meeting with a military doctor, Colonel Craighill, who happened to be a Greenwich native and the wife of SAL's home-town doctor. At the war's end, SAL was fortunate to get back home on Christmas Day of 1945. He subsequently enjoyed life in Greenwich as an automobile salesman with his wife, Anne. They have three children and three grandchildren, all graduates of either Bucknell or Harvard.

## FUN AND GAMES

**TENNIS:** MIKE AMBROSINO reported final round winners; ANDRZEJ MAZUREK and D. BREISMEISTER on one court and JOE MANCINELLI and GEOFFREY BURGE on the other.

**BRIDGE:** Reported by JOHN FEBLES; First place was shared by RON FRIEDMAN and FRANK LEE, with 1600 points. Second place went to JOHN FEBLES and JOHN HOFFMAN, with 1000.

**HEARTS:** Reported by; Six games were completed, with the stars being DON CONWAY and RALPH VIGGIANO, with two wins each. DON CONWAY and JACK SWEGER each shot the moon once.

**GOLF:** JIM SANTORA reported on 12 players, 9 of whom completed 18 holes. Five of the 9 broke 100. Low score was posted by JIM BOARDMAN at 91. Closest to the pin on hole #7 was MIKE AMBROSINO; and, on hole #15, it was MIKE SMITH. longest drive was recorded by JOE MANCINELLI. We were reminded that the Golf Luncheon is to be held at the Field Club three Wednesdays hence. Next week's host is JOHN CRAINE.

**PICKLEBALL:** Still going strong on Monday and Thursday mornings.

**TAI CHI:** WILL MORRISON announced that JIM DEAN is hosting next Monday's session at his home on Carpenters' Brook Road.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

DON CONWAY is heading up a January trip to the Westchester Dinner Theater for a performance of "Five Guys Named Moe".

GRANVILLE BURGESS gave us a heads up on the Greenwich Theater Company's production of "7 Easy Pieces"--7 new one-act plays to be performed on November 1. Those interested in joining the RMA group need to buy tickets on their own by October 19 at [Greenwichtheatercompany.org](http://Greenwichtheatercompany.org) or 203 629 5744. (There will be opportunity to talk with the playwright after the performance.)

## TODAY'S

### SPEAKER

**Connecticut Attorney General William Tong** gave a two-part presentation on "Enforcement Actions Against Generic Drug Manufacturers and the Opioid Crisis." With the "Big Tobacco" case as a template, these actions have required a multi-state effort.

Approximately 90% of all prescriptions filled in the U.S. are generics. Paradoxically, prices have risen over the past decade by up to 1000%. Attorney General Tong (who appeared on "60 Minutes on 5/12/19) pointed out the pervasive price-fixing (which is almost always illegal) in this industry. Fortunately, subpoenas have disclosed extensive documentation of what is "the largest cartel in history". AG Tong provided examples of what he describes as "brazen price-fixing and market allocation" and an "endemic breaking of the law".

The annual opioid-related death rate in Connecticut alone is greater than 1000. It is no cliché to describe this problem as ubiquitous. Mr. Tong pointed out that, although the opioid manufacturers bear a great burden of responsibility, the "biggest fish" are the distributors, such as McKesson and Cardinal. Some "bad apples" in the medical profession have contributed to this problem as well.

The various States Attorneys General are striving to protect their citizens from further unfair and deceptive practices.

### NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

**Ernest Fleishman**, Ed.D will moderate a panel of two teachers and a student,

"Today's Educational Challenge: Separating Fact From Fiction in a Digital Age".

### RMA 2019 Calendar

Date	Time	Activity	Location
Mondays	9:00am to 11:00am	Summer Tennis or Pickleball	Loughlin Ave. Courts

Mondays	3:00 to 4:00	Tai Chi Beginner	Greenwich Sr. Center
Tuesdays April through September	Various 8:00am to 11:00am Tee Times	Golf	Harris Griffith Golf Course
Wednesdays	10:00am to 11:00am	RMA Weekly Meeting	First Presbyterian Church, One West Putnam Ave., Greenwich CT
Wednesdays	1:00 to 3:00pm	Hearts	Greenwich Civic Ctr.  90 Harding Road, Old Greenwich
Wednesdays	3:00 to 4:00	Tai Chi Advanced	Greenwich Sr. Center
Wednesdays	1:00 to 3:00pm	Bridge	Greenwich YMCA
Thursdays	9:00am to 11:00am	Pickleball	Loughlin Ave. Courts
Thursdays	9:00 AM	RMA Walking	Various TBD
Fridays	1:30pm to 3:00pm	Indoor Tennis	Old Greenwich Tennis Academy
<b>RMA Special Events</b>			
September 12, 2019	10:30am	ANNUAL RMA PICNIC	Greenwich Point Park
September 19, 2019	10:00am	PepsiCo Kendal Sculpture Gardens	Purchase, NY
October 10, 2019	9:00 to 11:00am	Wave Hill Tour	Riverdale, NY
November 13, 2019	12:00 Noon	ANNUAL RMA BANQUET	Tamarack Country Club