



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



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. 24

October 12, 2016

After a vigorous bell-ringing by GEORGE UBOGY, PREXY PETE called us to order, introducing JERRY SCHWENDEMAN to lead us in the pledge.

YHS (Your Humble Scribe) followed with song: "The Air Force Song" and "I'll Take Manhattan." Pianist DR. UBOGY cemented us firmly in the 21st Century by having the lyrics projected on the wall.

TOM HEALY then correspondingly told us about a couple's clever use of Vaseline to facilitate coupling, though not in the usual way.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Women's Club is holding a brunch on October 28 at 10:30 am. It is seeking new members, so let anyone you know of the female persuasion about the event.
2. Reminder: The Clerihews will be presented on October 19. ARNOLD GORDON is the man to contact if you would like to participate (ajgordo@verizon.net; 203-340-9336) Here, we'll save you the trouble of looking it up on Wikipedia:

A **clerihew** is a whimsical, four-line biographical poem. The first line is the name of the poem's subject, usually a famous person put in an absurd light, or revealing something unknown and/or spurious about them. The rhyme scheme is AABB, and the rhymes are often forced. The line length and meter are irregular.

Bentley invented the clerihew in school and then popularized it in books. One of his best known is this (1905):

Sir [Christopher Wren](#) Said,
"I am going to dine with some men.
If anyone calls Say I am designing St. Paul's."

3. The RMA lunch/dinner is November 9. Call DON CONWAY if you need a table seat: 203-869-2448. The Dinner is at the Tamarack Country Club, 55 Locust Road, approximately 8 miles from First Presbyterian.
4. On October 13, the League of Women Voters is having a debate at Town Hall with local state representatives.
5. PREXY PETE praised HAROLD KUPLESKY for mentioning the RMA at an event at the Round Hill Community Center and urged members to also plug the RMA, if appropriate, at other functions.
6. **RETURNEES:** JOHN FEBLES came back from Miami Beach, presumably dry. YHS returned from Kiawah Island, also dry.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VISITING: JOE MALARA is home! CHUCK STANDARD reported that, after 8 months, he is under 24/7 care, but he is doing nicely.

PROGRAM: BOB WYLIE talked up today's speaker LAUREN ELLIOTT, our Tax Assessor. Next week's speaker, as reported by STEVE MYERS, is Andy Bramante, a Greenwich High School teacher who has had remarkable success helping his students garner numerous science prizes nationally.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE reported 114 members and four guests: Michael Ross, g/o WALKER COLLINS, Ron Platt, g/o PAUL BRADY, Tony Cocchi, g/o TED SPOOL, and Tom Moriney, g/o STEVE MARINO.

BIRTHDAY BOYS: MILES MCDONALD (85), ED FARRELL (78), and BOB BARNUM (95). Happy birthday, fellas!

VOLUNTEERS: GERRY MAYFIELD reported: 400 outside hours by 44 men and 143 RMA hours by 24 men, with PREXY PETE logging 39 hours. Heck, is that all the time he spends on RMA each week?! Recall! Recall!

FUN AND GAMES

BRIDGE: JAMES CHANE reported 13 players, with WAYNE DEVRIES coming in first place at 5090, JOHN HOFFMAN following at 3870, and DAVID DOWNS and LEN SARRI tied at 3370. Members are still playing at the Baptist church.

GOLF: PETER RYAN reported, via his sub TOM HEALY, that 10 players had a beautiful day for golf. FRANK SCARPA was closest to the pin on #7, PETER RYAN closest on #15, and the same MR. RYAN had the longest drive. PETER RYAN captains next week so he can rig it so he's closest and longest again. NICKY ACHIWA climaxed his last round (for now) as a RMA member by sinking a 15-foot putt on the last hole. We'll miss Nicky's well-timed swing as he moves to Japan, but he promises to return. *Bon Voyage*, or, as we say in Japanese, "Bon Voyage!"

The golf luncheon is October 26 after the RMA meeting at the Field Club. Give your \$40 to MIKE RYAN and tell him Salmon or Chicken Picatta. Also, please bring prizes for the raffle. ALL MEMBERS are invited to this fun event, whether you've ever shanked a ball or three-putted in your life.

TENNIS: As reported by JOHN KNIGHT: Court 1 winners: BILL FAKUNDINY and RALPH VIGGIANO, Court 2 winners: PETER UHRY and GERRY GIBIAN. Next captain is RANDY MOTLAND.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Tax Assessor **Lauren Elliott** led off with some statistics: Greenwich has 46 billion of taxable items (44 billion of it is real estate), compared with 31.4 billion in Stamford and 11.7 in Darien. Car tax makes up only 1.1 billion and if we didn't tax it, it would decrease the rate by only 24 cents. There are 15,231 taxable single homes which are taxed at 70% of fair market value. The assessment office is required by law to re-evaluate properties every 5 years and they use an algorithm to make it equitable. The median sale price of 1.858 million is comparable to what it was in 2005, and real estate values seem to be increasing. Greenwich has the lowest tax rate in the state and it is agreed that to live here, the "initiation costs" are high, but the "annual fees" are low. Many detailed questions were asked about our tax situation and we all left better informed, if not better assuaged about the relative holes in our wallets.

By **Gran Burgess** -YHS

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

MIKE FARARESE said there is only 1 seat left for the October 27 trip to see "Chasing Rainbows" at the Goodspeed. Cost: \$115/pp, lunch at Galston House. Call him at 203-554-0678.

NY Philharmonic in January. Check this space for details in the future.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER: **Andy Bramante** "Teaching High School Students to Excel in Science Research"

Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org

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