



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/Chairman:** Chet Risio. **Scribes:** Av Rivel, Gran Burgess, Kurt Schaffir, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell, Gerry Lessuk, Steve Elliot, and George Stockbridge, **Archivist:** Harold Frost. **Format:** Gene Schwartz, Jack Cuff, and Andrzej Mazurek. **Graphics:** Av Rivel, **Print/Distribution:** Chet Risio.

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Said cynically of a politician: "He'll double-cross that bridge when he comes to it." Oscar Levant

President **DON CONWAY** rang and rang and rang the school bell at 10am sharp struggling to corral the troops. Pledge leader was **JACK SWEGER** and he continued with a jaunty song leadership, with **JIM SANTORA** doing the keyboard honors. In honor of today's speaker, Col. Chuck Risio, the first song was the *Marine Hymn*. **JACK** reminded us that the RMA celebrates its 63rd anniversary this month and thanked **BOB MORGAN** for the great song he wrote on the occasion of the 60th anniversary, *The RMA Marching Song*, which, of course, we sang. With dulcet tones, we then sang *Shine on Harvest Moon*.

Corresponding Secretary of the day, **TOM HEALY**, told a shocking story about a cab driver kissing a nun, who was anything but. He continued with a tale of a tax cheat who would have to ante up his church donation after being outed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President **DON** mentioned that next week's meeting will be in the sanctuary. He also related that the Greenwich Board of Education candidates' debate, held October 17th, will be shown on Channels 79 (Cablevision) and 24 (FIOS) beginning Sunday, October 22nd. He welcomed back jetlagged yet fresh **PETER UHRY** from his sojourn to Spain. **DON** made a plea for more volunteers to help Call-A-Ride.

MIKE RYAN urged members to attend a memorial service for deceased member **LEON FREEMAN** at the First Congregational Church in Old Greenwich at 11am on Saturday, October 21st, to be followed by a lunch reception at Innis Arden Golf Club.

TAD LARRABEE reminded everyone about the Annual Lunch/Dinner on November 8th at the Tamarack Country Club; doors open at 10:30am. All members, guests and candidates, along with significant others, are welcome to attend. The deadline for reservations and meal selections is October 25th. For information and reservations, contact TAD: tadlarra@optonline.net or [203-637-4023](tel:203-637-4023).

PETER UHRY and **JOHN FEBLES** came to the mic to introduce Kate Petrov from the Greenwich library, who described this year's Greenwich Reads Together program (now in its 8th year) featuring the novel "News of the World" by Paulette Jiles, a tale about spreading the news in the wilds of Texas, with some unusual twists and turns. Various

events surrounding the program, including a talk by **JOHN FEBLES'S** son-in-law, Jim Bell, at Greenwich Library at 7pm on October 25th, can be found at www.greenwichreadstogether.org. **PETER UHRY** took the opportunity to tell us about next week's speaker, **Lincoln Milstein** from the Hearst Corporation, who will tell us what has happened to the newspaper business over the past 25 years, especially in view of the inroads of digital media.

Pickle Ball anyone? **ARNOLD GORDON** campaigned to recruit members to play pickle ball, all the rage among the senior set. For background see: <https://www.usapa.org/what-is-pickleball/>. For questions and help in learning the game, contact Betsy Underhill, Greenwich Ambassador to the USA Pickle Ball Association: [203-536-0517](tel:203-536-0517) or betsy.underhill@gmail.com. Indoor courts open to the public around Greenwich include: Western Civic Center, Tuesday 10am-noon (for beginners), Wednesday 7-9pm, and Friday 10am-noon; Eastern Civic Center Monday 11:30am-2pm, Tuesday 5:30-8pm, and Thursday 11:30am-2pm; YWCA Tuesday 6:15-8pm, Thursday 6:15-8pm, and Friday 10am-noon. Court lines have been drawn on the Loughlin Avenue tennis courts for outdoor play.

KLAUS JANDER submitted a written request for volunteers to help direct parking for the annual Woman's Club Holiday Boutique on Friday and Saturday, November 10 and 11. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board at the next meeting. You can also call Deborah Jander: [203-629-8198](tel:203-629-8198) or [203-661-3232](tel:203-661-3232).

COMMITTEES

VISITING: The RMA still needs someone to take over this important function. Please consider taking up the role that was so admirably and diligently handled for many years by Chuck Standard, who kept us informed about fellow members who were ill or indisposed.

PROGRAM: **HOLLISTER STURGES** previewed today's speaker, **Marine Colonel Chuck Risio**, who will describe "The Current State of the Marine Corps." He also reiterated **PETER UHRY'S** announcement of next week's speaker, **Lincoln Millstein**.

MEMBERSHIP: **HORST TEBBE** reported attendance by 112 members and two guests: Bill Grep (g/o **JACK WEIR**) and Howard Richman (g/o **PETER UHRY**). Birthday congrats were sung to **JERRY BERRAFATI** (89), **JOEL BLUMBERG** (77), **DON HELLER** (89) and **MANNY BENVENUTO** (95).

SPECIAL EVENTS: **ABBY SMOLER** reported that there are only 8 places left and going fast for the January trip to a rehearsal of the New York Philharmonic; see details below.

VOLUNTEERS: **HAROLD KUPLESKY** reported that for the week ending October 18, 45 men served 347 hours for outside agencies, and 30 members reported 133 hours for RMA activities. The member with the greatest number was **AV RIVEL**, with a multi-week total of 38.

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

BRIDGE: **TONY COCCHI** reported that 9 members played on October 11th. Top three scorers were **ANDRZEJ MAJUREK** 3170, **KURT SCHAFFIR** 2880 and **GRANT PERKINS** 2710.

GOLF: **MIKE RYAN** told us that 17 men braved the 40 degree weather last week but only three broke 100. Closest to the pin at hole 7 was **TONY COCCHI** and to hole 15

RICHARD BARTHOLEMEW. RICH also slammed the longest drive at hole 17 and ended up with a trifecta with the lowest score, 89. **MIKE** also reminded the duffers that the RMA Annual Golf Luncheon will be held on Thursday, October 26 at the Field Club at noon. Jackets required, but tie optional. Pay by check made out to RMA or cash; deliver the moolah to **MIKE**. He requested that attendees bring an item for the raffle (e.g., a bottle of wine, a golf club, maybe the car you no longer need, etc.).**TENNIS:** **JOHN KNIGHT** reported that he and **BILL FAKUNDINY** won on Court 1, while **RANDY MOTLAND** and guest Mike Warner took the trophy on Court 2. **JOE MANCINELLI** is Captain next week. **MIKE AMBROSINO** mentioned that the second half of the indoor game season will begin in January; contact him if you would like to sign up.
HEARTS: **JOHN FOWLER** reported 8 players at two tables last Wednesday. The winners were **JACK SWEGER** and **ED FARRELL** at Table 1; **MIKE AMBROSINO** and **RALPH VIGGIANO** held the honors at Table 2. Both **RALPH** and **ED** shot the moon.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

HOLLISTER STURGES described speaker **Colonel Chuck Risio's** extensive and exciting military career in the Marine Corps, including a narrow escape from a downed and burning helicopter off the coast of Somalia, during which he rescued an injured sergeant and kept his crew together, earning him the Navy and Marine Corp Medal for heroism. Introducing Chuck to the audience, however, was his father, our very own **CHET RISIO**, who proudly and with laudable emotion, described how it felt for him and his wife Ginny (in the audience) to have a career military son. The Colonel explained the history of the Marines, created in November 1775 at the Tun House, a tavern in Philadelphia; they were then called the "Soldiers of the Sea." After covering several milestones in the evolution of the Corps, he explained that today they are referred to as "America's 911 Force," an amphibious, expeditionary, air and ground logistics task force. The Marines are part of the Department of the Navy, as a separate entity from the Navy itself, and are funded with 7% of the Department of Defense budget (\$23 billion out of \$495 billion in FY 2015). As Chuck explained, there are three main components responsible for rapid and decisive action around the globe: Operating Forces (those deployed in hot spots), Support Establishment (including Pentagon staff and resources), and the Marine Corps Forces Reserve (source of extra manpower as needed). The Corps maintains an extensive "Security Cooperation" program with allies abroad, including joint training there and here, and the supply of equipment to such allies. The vehicles used by the Marines undergo extensive and continuous maintenance and development under the Ground Program Modernization program. He concluded with a description of the impressive planes, ships, ground vehicles and drones currently at the Corps' disposal. During the Q&A session, he was thanked for his service, to great applause.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Trip coordinators **MIKE FERRARESE** ([203-554-0678](tel:203-554-0678)) and **ABBEY SMOLER** ([203-531-0236](tel:203-531-0236)).

January 11, 2018 – New York Philharmonic. Departure at 7:45am from St. Catherine's Church parking lot. Lunch at the Atlantic Grill. \$110 per person. Eight spaces remaining. Checks made out to RMA within two weeks of signing up.

ARNOLD GORDON, Scribe of the Week
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