



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

60 Years of Fellowship and Community Service
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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, Jack Cuff. **Reproduction/Distribution:** Walker Collins, Chet Risio.

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November 2, 2016

President PETER UHRY rang the opening bell at 10:00 AM and introduced MAURICE KROHN to lead us in the Pledge. Accompanied by BOB MORGAN on the piano, JERRY SCHWENDEMAN then led us in spirited singing of *The Star Spangled Banner*, *Shine On Harvest Moon* and *Take Me Out to the Ballgame*. JERRY then drew laughs with a story of a man, who, while looking for a Barbie doll for his daughter, got a lesson on the cost of divorce.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PETER announced that there will be no meeting next week (Nov. 9) because of the RMA dinner. He also said that this meeting's CBB will feature a profile of MIKE FERRARESE, as part of our recently initiated member profile series (see below). PETER advised that Call-a-Ride is looking for a treasurer and board member, as well as drivers. Anyone interested should see WAYNE De VRIES for information. DON CONWAY provided an update on the upcoming RMA dinner. He suggested anyone not already signed-up, and who wishes to attend, needs to do so by tomorrow (Nov. 3). DON asked anyone who needs directions to the Tamarack Country Club to call him at 203-869-3448. PAUL SETTELMAYER brought to our attention the work of the Lions Club in providing glasses and hearing aids to persons in need at Greenwich and Stamford hospitals, as well as the club's effort to provide hearing tests to Greenwich school children (800 to-date). ARNOLD GORDON advised that the Cos Cob library will host an exhibit of photos by travel photographers Mike and Sally Harris, who are scheduled to speak about their encounters with the Mennonite Community at the December 28 RMA meeting. The exhibit is entitled *Roads Less Taken*, and will run from November 10 through December 10, 2016. ARNOLD also noted that there will be a memorial service on November 12 for BOB BARNUM, who died on October 23, at the First Congregational Church in Old Greenwich. The service will begin at 11:00 AM. PETER SCHIEFERDECKER will offer an RMA memorial for BOB at our November 16 meeting. ERF PORTER announced a community walk to honor veterans and a Veteran's Day ceremony to be held on November 11. The walk and ceremony will commence at 10:30 AM on Greenwich Ave. at Amogerone Crossway. The featured speaker will be retired U.S. Army captain James Dudley, a Vietnam veteran. At 7:00

PM on November 11 the Byram Veterans Association will conduct its annual salute to veterans ceremony at 300 Delavan Ave.

MEMORIAL: BOB WYLIE offered a very personal and moving remembrance of DICK ROBERTS, who BOB described as a successful businessman, but who had many interests outside of business. BOB summarized DICK as a person who was always upbeat in everything he did and who caused everyone who knew him to be upbeat as well.

RETURNEES: PETER UHRY welcomed back himself from Memphis, TN, and BOB CAREY from Virginia.

COMITTEE REPORTS:

Visiting: In the absence of CHUCK STANDARD, who is suffering a bout of bronchitis, PETER told us that HARRY LEIGH remains at Greenwich Woods, but is anxious to leave. PETER also welcomed the return of WAYNE WRIGHT from “medical leave.”

Program: AL KNIGHT noted that today’s speaker will be Michael A. Fitzpatrick, Esq, who will discuss the status of Michael Skakel’s appeal for a new trial following his conviction for the murder of Martha Moxley BOB PHILLIPS told us that our speaker at the November 16 meeting will be Bobby Valentine, who will speak about his career as a major league baseball player and manager, as well as his role as athletic director at Sacred Heart University.

Membership: HORST TEBBE reported 114 members present along with 3 candidates and 3 guests: Les Cheikin, guest of HORST TEBBE; Ron Platt, guest of PAUL BRADY; Ted Thaxter, guest of JOHN VECCHIONE.

This week’s **birthday boys** are: LLOYD HULL (94); JOSEPH NEWBERRY (86); GEORGE PATTERSON (90); PAUL LEVINE (76). For the week, DON CONWAY slept little, having accumulated 53 hours as the most of anyone.

Volunteers: ARNOLD GORDON noted that for the week ending November 2, 55 men reported 533 volunteer hours for outside agencies, and 31 men reported 191 volunteer hours for the RMA. For the week DON CONWAY slept little, having accumulated 53 hours as the most of anyone.

FUN AND GAMES:

Bridge: KURT SCHAFFIR said that the October 26 game drew 14 players. High scorers were: WALKER COLLINS (4810); DAVID DOWNS / KURT SCHAFFIR / JAMES CHUNG (Each 4100); DICK CASE (3980).

Tennis: Winners were JOE MANCINELLI and RON FRIEDMAN on court 1; BILL HOWLAND and BILL FAKUNDINY on court 2.

TODAY’S SPEAKER:

Michael A. Fitzpatrick, Esq., was asked in 2008 by Michael Skakel’s defense lawyers to review court documents relating to Skakel’s conviction for the murder of Martha Moxley 41 years ago to determine if there was a case to be made that Skakel was incompetently defended at his trial. Mr. Fitzpatrick explained how he discovered that, among other failings by the defense attorney, Mickey Sherman, some key witnesses,

who could have supported Skakel's alibi and who could have challenged the statements of other witnesses, were overlooked. These discoveries were brought to the attention of the judge, who decided to issue a writ of habeas corpus, which would result in overturning Skakel's conviction and require a new trial. However, the judge's decision is currently under review by the Connecticut Supreme Court following an appeal by the prosecution. Mr. Fitzpatrick's presentation gave members some deep insights into the workings of the judicial system and was very well received.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all Members, Guests, Candidates and Spouses. Checks should be made out to RMA.

New York Philharmonic, Thursday, January 26, 2017. Lunch: Atlantic Grill. Cost: \$100.00. Bus leaves St. Catherine's at 8:00 AM. Status: 11 openings. Contact MIKE FERRARESE (myagentmike@yahoo.com / 203-554-0678) or ABBEY SMOLER (abbeysmoler@gmail.com / 203-531-0236) for information.

MEMBER PROFILE: MIKE FERRARESE

Michael Louis Ferrarese was born and raised in the Bronx, NY. He graduated from Cardinal Hayes High School and then Fordham University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree. Immediately following graduation he joined the US Army, 42nd Division (Artillery). His basic training was at Fort Dix, NJ and went on to Fort Sill, Oklahoma for advanced training with 105 and 1-55 howitzers. After six months active duty he served six years reserve duty and attended Officer Training at Camp Smith, Peekskill, NY. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. During this time Mike married Carolee Marchi (also from the Bronx) and had their only child, Paul, in 1967. Consequently, he never got to Vietnam. After his discharge he attended Iona College to do graduate work in Business. He was a sales rep for Victor Comptometer which sold computer terminals for small businesses and banks in Westchester and Fairfield. He also held sales positions with Georgia Pacific. In 1970 Mike and his brother opened a stationery store in Carmel, NY, which eventually grew into a chain of 13 stores called "The Papery", one of which was on Greenwich Avenue. In 2006 the stores were sold to a national chain. After a year in retirement Mike joined a local real estate firm, selling homes in the Greenwich area. After seven years he retired in 2007. After living in Greenwich for 32 years Mike and Carolee moved to a condo in Stamford. Their son Paul lives with his wife and two sons in the Milbrook section of Greenwich. Sponsored by **Gerry Gibian**, Mike joined the RMA in 2015 and soon joined the Special Events Committee

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Next week the RMA will welcome **Bobby Valentine**.

Respectfully submitted
Ed Farrell

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