



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

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November 15, 2017

President DON CONWAY invited ARNOLD GORDON to start the proceedings with the customary recitation of the pledge to the flag. ERF PORTER, with JIM SANTORA at the keys, continued with "It's a Grand Old Flag," followed by "Carolina in the Morning" and "Always." Corresponding Secretary ARNOLD GORDON then rounded out the preliminaries with two funny stories about a bag pipe player and an Italian woman.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RETURNEES: DICK BARTHOLOMEW from Philadelphia; PAUL KELLER from Vero Beach, Florida; REID McINTYRE from Williamsburg, Virginia, and Myrtle Beach, Florida; and GEORGE CHELWICK from California. **VISITING:** DON BREISMEISTER is recovering at home from a back operation and hopes to be up and around shortly. GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE invited interested members to meet him or call him (203-698-0710) if they wish to join the newly formed *Shakespeare Group* which will meet on Thursday afternoon from 2:30 to 4:30 at the home of one of the members, to listen to lectures by a Shakespeare professor or view performances on DVD. PETER UHRY called our attention to a piano concert of classical and gospel music to be given on November 19, 2017, by Randall Atcheson, at the First Presbyterian Church. STEVE MARINO showed us a nice video of clips he had taken of members and their wives and guests at the RMA dinner.

The November 8, 2017 meeting was pre-empted by the RMA's sixty-third annual dinner held at the Tamarack Country Club in Greenwich. A Special Report below by ED FARRELL

PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies TAD LARRABEE welcomed 190 RMA members and guests to the dinner and introduced LOU CHIAPPETTA, who offered an invocation. BOB BISHOP led the assemblage in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The pledge was

followed by the singing of the Star-Spangled Banner led by TOM HEALY. TAD then asked the following past-presidents to step forward to be recognized for their service to the RMA: PETER UHRY; RALPH VIGGIANO; BOB PHILLIPS; TOM HEALY; RICHARD BARTHOLOMEW; MIKE RYAN; JOHN CRAINE; SAM MARASSO. TAD noted that neither former presidents MIKE SMITH nor GEORGE SHADDOCK were able to attend the dinner. PETER UHRY noted that three past-presidents passed away since last year's dinner. They were: LEON FREEMAN, CHUCK STANDARD and JOHN DESCEPEL. RALPH VIGGIANO stated that since 1984 one RMA member has been recognized at this dinner for outstanding volunteer service to the RMA and outside agencies. After reciting his many contributions to many worthy causes, RALPH introduced MIKE RYAN as this year's recipient of the RMA's Outstanding Service Award. PETER STERN reported that during the past year 28,854 hours of volunteer service were contributed by 147 RMA members to numerous agencies, including 5,656 hours contributed to RMA programs. In addition to the Melody Men, who provided 760 hours of entertainment to folks in re-hab, assistant living and retirement facilities in Westchester and Fairfield counties, ten individuals provided significant hours of service to local charitable organizations. Of these three are recipients of this year's "Certificate of Appreciation." They are: MICHAEL AMBROSINO (867 hours); TAD LARRABEE (986 hours); DON CONWAY (1,464 hours). The other major contributors will be honored at the next regular RMA meeting. They are: MIKE FERRARESE (743 hours); DOUG FRANCEFORT (714 hours); PETER UHRY (714 hours); MICHAEL AMBROSINO (658 hours); HOLLISTER STURGES (627 hours); ARNOLD GORDON (624 hours); BOB BISHOP (599 hours); MAURICE KROHN (589 hours); JOHN FEBLES (517 hours); DOUG TAYLOR (501 hours). President DON CONWAY thanked the RMA Board of Directors and others for their support, and introduced the RMA's Melody Men, who, under the direction of TOM HEALY with PETER RYAN at the piano, rendered five of their favorite songs. The dinner concluded with all singing the traditional departure song, "*Till We Meet Again*".

VOLUNTEER HONORS. At the RMA dinner last week, PETER UHRY gave special recognition for outstanding volunteer service to three of our departed members: LEON FREEMAN, CHUCK STANDARD and JOHN DeCSEPEL. After that PETER UHRY and RALPH VIGGIANO presented the RMA's Outstanding Service Award last week to MIKE RYAN. At this week's meeting they continued with a presentation by BOB PHILLIPS to STEPHEN MYERS, in recognition of STEVE's years of volunteer service. PETER STERN, Chairman of the volunteer committee, then reported that during the past year 147 members contributed a total of 28,854 hours to numerous services, including 5656 hours for RMA operations and 760 hours by our 19 Melody Men. PETER then noted that the top numbers of volunteer hours by individual members were contributed last year by DON CONWAY in first place, TED LARRABEE second, and MICHAEL AMBROSINO third. The next ten were MIKE FERRARESE, DOUG FRANCEFORT, PETER UHRY, MIKE AMOROSO, HOLLISTER STURGES, ARNOLD GORDON, BOB BISHOP, MAURICE KOHN, JOHN FEBLES, and DOUG TAYLOR. TONI COCCHI reported that this week 408 outside hours were contributed

by 38 members, and 132 inside hours by 20 members. The most volunteer hours, 99, were reported by TAD LARRABEE.

COMMITTEES

PROGRAM: Today's speaker, Dr. Daniel Ksepka (see below), will speak on the "*March of the Penguins: New Discoveries from the Southern Hemisphere.*" Next week, HOLLISTER STURGES tells us, we will hear a talk by Mr. Kevin Peraino, a veteran foreign correspondent, entitled "*A Force So Swift: Mao, Truman and the Birth of Modern China: 1949.*" He will assess the influences of President Truman and the result of his policies that have reverberated to the present.

For the December 27, 2017, meeting, the Program Committee is taking a novel approach. ARNOLD GORDON explained that, instead of an outside speaker, the meeting will feature presentations by RMA members about individual, personal experiences that influenced their lives. These could relate to overcoming challenges, facing a crisis or adversity, or achievement of successes and honors. They could include a good story that would be of interest to the members, and might even be inspirational. They could be serious or light hearted. They could involve family, friends or coworkers, and may make use of slides, videos, or other objects. Members who wish to participate are asked to submit a brief statement of a proposed talk of 10 to 15 minutes. A panel consisting of HOLLISTER STURGES hollistersturges@aol.com; PETER UHRY uhry@sbcglobal.net; and ARNOLD GORDON ajgordo@verizon.net will choose three or four of these entries. Proposals must be submitted to all three judges by e-mail no later than December 6, 2017.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE announced that three members – BILL WIGGIN, BILL CLEWORTH, and CORY DUNHAM - celebrated their 90th birthday this week, but none of them were there to hear our song of birthday wishes or enjoy their cakes. The other birthday boys were DON CONWAY, 80; JOHN CALABRO, 89; BRUCE PANTANO, 79; STEVE MYERS, 81; PETER ARTURI, 93; CHARLEY LAND, 79; FRANK LEE, 87; and DERYCK DUNCALF, 93. There were 109 members and one guest: Peter Lebeaux. **SPECIAL EVENTS:** MIKE FERRARESE reported on our next excursions (see below).

THE SCOREBOARD

TENNIS: MIKE AMBROSINO advised that RON FRIEDMAN and ANDY HOLMES won on Court 1, and JOHN KNIGHT and MIKE AMBROSINO won on Court 2. There are openings for the second half year. **HEARTS:** The winner on Table 1 was DON CONWAY. On Table 2 the winners were RALPH VIGGIANO, JACK SWEGER, and PETER STERN. Shooting the Moon were DON CONWAY and RALPH VIGGIANO (once) and MIKE AMBROSINO and PETER STERN (twice). **BRIDGE:** On November

1, 2017 there were 10 players. WAYNE DeVRIES was first with 4150, GRANT PERKINS was second with 3570, and FRANK LEE was third with 3420.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

STEPHEN MYERS Introduced Dr. Daniel Ksepka, who earned his PhD in Earth and Environmental Sciences from Columbia University and spent five years at the Museum of Natural History in New York. He is a prolific writer and speaker, and currently natural science curator at the Bruce Museum. His special expertise on penguins is based on his original research. Their fossil records reveal unexpected surprises like giant penguins, under-water flyers, spear-billed species and varieties of multi colored feathers. They currently thrive on four sub-equatorial continents but their population is decreasing and they are endangered by shrinking Antarctic ice shelves. It is a fascinating story.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all members, guests, candidates and spouses. Checks to be made out to RMA, and must be received within two weeks or the reservation will be cancelled. Contact MIKE FERRARESE (myagentmike@yahoo.com / 203-554-0678) or ABBEY SMOLER (abbeysmoler@gmail.com / 203-531-0235)

[New York Philharmonic Rehearsal](#), January 11, 2018. Lunch at the Atlantic Grill, \$110. Bus departs St. Catherine's at 7:45 a.m. Status: Wait Listed

[Elmsford Dinner Theater](#), "A Chorus Line" February 22, 2018, Lunch at the theater \$95, Status: Two Places available

[Bruce Museum](#), March 22, 2018, Lunch at the Milbrook Club, \$95. Transportation: Self. Arrive at Bruce Museum at 9:45 a.m. Status: 30 places available

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Mr. Kevin Peraino, a veteran foreign correspondent: *"A Force So Swift: Mao, Truman and the Birth of Modern China"*, 1949.

Your Scribe – KURT SCHAFFIR
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