



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 and Jack Cuff. **Reproduction/Distribution:** Walker Collins, Chet Risio.

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PREXY PETE called us to order, introducing DICK BERGSTRESSER to lead us in the pledge. JERRY SCHWENDEMAN led the singing with "The Battle Hymn of the Republic, then, in celebration of the once-in-a-lifetime moon, continued with "Shine On, Harvest Moon" and "*By the Light of the Silvery Moon.*"

BOB CAREY regaled us with a new Medicare health care option, Plan G, under which, because there are no places available in nursing homes, each participant receives a gun with one bullet, which he or she can use on one worthless politician. The resultant jail sentence will provide health care and many other benefits, paid for by the same government that couldn't afford the nursing home care.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. PREXY PETE

- Lauded the phenomenal RMA dinner at Tamarack (see report below). (Rosalie Gibian, who collapsed at the dinner, will be leaving the ICU unit soon and is making slow but positive progress.)
- He then presented JERRY SCHWENDEMAN with the first annual Wiener Award in thanks for his leadership guiding the annual picnic to an astounding profit of \$0.57. Since that sum did not permit the purchase of a wiener, Pete generously gave Jerry an old English muffin from his fridge. Jerry humbly stated that he was "underwhelmed," and promised his wife would be very proud. The enticement of receiving this award will no doubt make recruiting a member to head up the picnic committee much easier.
- Finally, PREXY PETE (PP) pointed out that the front page of the Greenwich Time on November 12 in stories about the Veteran's Day commemoration featured 3 members of the RMA, thus again showcasing how involved and recognized many RMAers are.

2. Rolling along with more exciting news, PP displayed two kinds of RMA decals which PETER TUNLEY had researched. Distributed next week will be 100 magnetic decals, at a suggested donation of \$1, and 300 vinyl decals (waterproof). See someone with an RMA decal? Give 'em a wave and a honk!

3. BOB ROBINS made a plea for someone to become the new leader of the Romeo luncheon group. Perks of the job: you get to pick the eating place!

4. JOHN FEBLES Promoted our service as bell-ringers for the Salvation Army. Dates are available from the weekend after Thanksgiving until the weekend before Christmas. Call John at 203-869-5343, or RICHARD BARTHOLOMEW at 203-637-4938 or sign up on the bulletin board. Checks are also welcomed, made out to Salvation Army, Greenwich Service Unit. Ring, ring!

He also announced the top ten volunteers for the last year: DOUG FRANCEFORT (870 hours), MIKE AMOROSO(815), MICHAEL AMBROSINO(756), , MAURICE KROHN(635), PETE UHRY(609), DICK CASE(557), DOUG TAYLOR(505), GEROG STOKBRIDGE(496), JIM SANTORA(470), and GERRY MAYFIELD(450). Congratulations, fellows, and thank you!

5. TAD LARRABEE slipped me a flyer about the Greenwich Choral Society's annual concert at Christ Church December 3 and 4. "Holiday Brass" will feature—you guessed it, brass!—instead of the usual orchestra. More information in the next CBB, or check the bulletin board.

SILLINESS

FIRST ANNUAL BOW TIE COMPETITION: Contestants: SAL DeANGELO, PETER STERN, RUSS HARDEN, LOU CHIAPETTA, and a member who shall remain nameless because he was tagless. Amid complaints of "I need a mirror," all fumbled about until LOU finished first. His reward was the bag of bow ties he had brought with him

MEMORIAL

PETER SCHIEFERDECKER memorialized BOB BARNUM, who passed away four days' shy of his 95th birthday. After attending Dartmouth and serving in the Navy in WWII, Bob founded Ivey, Barnum, and O'Mara, which became Greenwich's largest law firm. He practiced for 68 years. Bob was an exemplary volunteer, serving on numerous boards and commissions, often as President or Chairman. Sailing was a particular passion and he and his wife, Joan, were active cruising sailors of the Riverside Yacht Club. He will be missed.

COMMITTEES

VISITING: After clunking down a pile of calendars, CHUCK STANDARD reported that TED SPOOL, HARRY LEIGH, and RON KLINGNER are holding steady in their various illnesses.

PROGRAM: BOB PHILLIPS talked up today's speaker, **Bobby Valentine**, who played 10 seasons in the majors and then had a successful coaching career, including being the first American to manage in Japan.

Next week's speaker, as reported by JOHN deSCEPEL, will be Dr. Evelyn Farkas, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia/Ukraine/Eurasia. Dr. Farkas is a regular commentator on major television networks.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE reported 112 members, 1 candidate, Tom Moroney, and 2 guests: Les Chaikin, g/o HORST TEBBE and Jim Blake, g/o PETE UHRY.

BIRTHDAY BOYS: DON CONWAY (79), JAMES STARKWEATHER (93), BILL WIGGIN (89), JOHN CALABRO (88), FRANK ALBRIZIO (88), and BILL CLEWORTH (89). Happy birthday, fellas

VOLUNTEERS: GERRY MAYFIELD reported: 697 outside hours by 41 men and 256 RMA hours by 29 men, with MIKE AMOROSO giving up sleep to log in 140 hours

THE SCOREBOARD

BRIDGE: KURT SCHAFFIR was the winner at 3340, JAMES CHUNG and DAVID DOWNS tied at 3230, and JOHN HOFFMAN totaled 2800. There were thirteen players. This was reported to Your Humble Scribe via note, and while an efficient way of doing it, we certainly missed Kurt's charming accent.

TENNIS: As also reported via note from RON FRIEDMAN: Court 1 winners the week of 11/4 were MIKE SMITH and GERRY GIBIAN; Court 2 winners were MIKE AMBROSINO and JOE MANCINELLI. The week of 11/11 had RON FRIEDMAN and RANDY MOTLAND as Court 1 winners and PETE UHRY and GILL FAKUNDINY as Court 2.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Bobby Valentine had an amazing career in baseball, but he emphasized all the luck involved in making it happen. The son of a carpenter from Stamford, he was the #1 draft choice of the Dodgers in 1968. And who picked him up at the airport when he flew to Ogden, Utah to play in the minors? Tommy Lasorda. And what did his hero Mickey Mantle say to him when he finally got to have his picture taken with him? "I hope you have to go through this crap some day, kid." Life in the minors meant never having a day off. Life managing in Japan meant communication foul-ups, like asking his players.

to throw “behind the runner” and having them refuse because they didn’t want to throw at the runner’s behind. Bobby wasn’t too impressed with all the metrics that have taken over baseball, saying they are great at predicting the past. But the RMA was very impressed with his energetic talk about America’s pastime.

SPECIAL EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENTS: ABBY SMOLER reported that [the January 17 rehearsal of the New York Philharmonic is wait-listed](#). Get your checks in or lose your place! Cost is \$100, lunch at the Atlantic Grill.

The next event will be a trip [to Mark Twain’s place in Hartford during February](#). Details later.

NEXT WEEK’S SPEAKER

Evelyn N. Farkas “Thoughts About Russia”

SPECIAL REPORT ON THE RMA DINNER BY PETE UHRY:

Cloudy skies, the threat of rain, and having the election finally over set the stage for this year's annual dinner. In a departure from our usual venue at Burning Tree Country Club, the RMAers gathered at the very attractive Tamarack Country Club for the first time. First VP, DON CONWAY, was our Master of Ceremonies. GRANT PERKINS had once again handled the badge system well and reliable BOB BISHOP saw that our RMA banner and bell were in place near the podium. Dinner began a little after noon in a lovely open room set with white linens and table flowers acquired by 3rd VP JERRY SCHWENDEMAN. Prior to being served, DON introduced LOU CHIAPPETTA for the invocation, BOB BISHOP led the pledge and CHUCK STANDARD guided us in singing God Bless America. After the meal ended with a molten chocolate dessert, the standard program continued with the recognition of outstanding volunteers. Longtime RMAer and former Membership Chairman, JIM FAHY, was given the Outstanding Service Award by Past President, RALPH VIGGIANO. Augmenting that special presentation was the awarding to BILL SALTSMAN, TAD LARRABEE and DON CONWAY of certificates of appreciation for the high number of volunteer hours each had reported for work at outside agencies over the past year. DON FEBLES handed out these awards and will recognize additional winners at the regular November 16th meeting. President PETER UHRY avoided any political comments and focused his remarks on the way RMA carries on long traditions and builds such solid friendships and bonds among a widely diverse group of individuals. He also expressed delight in having the ladies at the gathering. The Melody Men, led by an effervescent TOM HEALY, closed out the gathering with the singing of an array of MM special songs. PETER RYAN assisted on the piano but was silent as CHUCK STANDARD led everyone in the closing singing of "Until We Meet Again."

Gran Burgess, Your Humble Scribe