



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 22, 2017

"I've had a few setbacks in my life, but I never gave up" - (Harry Truman)

President **DON CONWAY** rang us to order at 10:02 am. **BOB BISHOP** led the Pledge of Allegiance. Song leader **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** directed in singing three patriotic songs, *My Country Tis of Thee*, *America the Beautiful* and *You're a Grand Old Flag*, skillfully accompanied by **PETER RYAN**. As joketeller of the day, **BOB CAREY** recounted a long tale about why Socrates was such a great philosopher.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) **JOHN FEBLES** announced **a change in our Salvation Army bell-ringing this year**. Starting the weekend of 12-2 and 12-3, through each weekend in December until the weekend of 12-23 and 12-24, those brave souls who volunteer to ring the bell will do so in front of the Starbucks Coffee shop on Greenwich Ave. You should email alisonbrush@greenwich.ct.gov or phone her at 203-622-3715 to volunteer for either a one-hour stint, or two-hour duty. Those not willing to ring the bell should make their checks payable to **JOHN FEBLES**, who will endorse them over to Salvation Army.
- 2) Prexy **DON** read us a letter of thanks from Mrs. Kurt Jander of the Womans Club of Greenwich.
- 3) **MARTIN WAINE** asked for volunteers to train to **help prepare tax returns in April**. **WAINE DEVRIES** said **Call-a-Ride needs more volunteers** or substitutes.
- 5) **ARNOLD GORDON** advised us what the program will be for the RMA meeting 12-27. He said 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 members, and might even be inspirational, serious or light-hearted, involving family, friends or co-workers. They may use slides, videos or other objects. Members wishing 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** ajgordon@verizon.net will choose 3 or 4 of these. Proposals must be submitted to all 3 judges by email no later than 12-6.

6) Pres. **DON** asked for **someone to resurrect the ROMEO lunch program** and lead it. He announced **RETURNEES**: **MAURICE KROHN** from the Hudson Valley; **DOUG FRANCEFORT** from Vermont; **PETER TUNLEY** from Florida; **GERRY GIBIAN** from New Zealand and Australia.

BOB PHILLIPS presented a MEMORIAL for **BEN BENSON**, born 1932. He graduated Manhattan College, served in the U.S. Marine Corps in Okinawa, His career was in sales and marketing. At the RMA, **BEN** helped out with weekly refreshments, and was remembered as a real gentleman.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1) **HOLLISTER STURGES** reported that today's speaker is Foreign Correspondent **Kevin Peraino** and next week's speaker will be **Adam Frankel**, presidential speechwriter.

2) MEMBERSHIP: **HORST TEBBE** told us we had 90 members attending, 2 candidates and 2 guests: Bob Grayson, g/o **GERRY GIBIAN** and Skip Auch, g/o **JACK WEIR**. We sang **happy birthday** to **ARNOLD STANCELL**, 81, **DAVE NOBLE**, 83, **ROBER PISANI** 82, and **GERRY FOX**, 83.

GAMES

BRIDGE; **KURT SCHAFFIR** told that **JOHN FEBLES** scored 3920; **GRANT PERKINS** 3180 and **WAYNE DEVRIES** 2890.

TENNIS: Court 1: **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** and **PETER TUNLEY**; Court 2 **MIKE SMITH** and **RANDALL MOTLAND**.

HEARTS: **JOHN KNIGHT** advised us that on table 1, **TOM HEALY** won game 1 and game 2; on table 2 game 1 was won by **JACK SWEGER**; on table 3 **ED FARRELL** won game 1, **PETER TUNLEY** game 2.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Kevin Peraino, veteran foreign correspondent, spoke about his new book "A Force So Swift: Mao, Truman and the Birth of Modern China, 1949". Americans who were in China in 1949 tell us that they have been recalling it vividly, and that there are no good solutions to our relationship toward China even today. At that time, Truman decided it was much more urgent to rescue Japan from its destruction, and rebuild it, than it would have been to rebuild China--- and to rebuild Germany. Both nations are firm allies and supporters of U.S. policy today.

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

Adam Frankel - "Presidential Speechwriting in the Age of Trump and Twitter"

Your scribe – **GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE**

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