



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 (tempy acting Editor), Ed Farrell, George Stockbridge, Emeritus. **Archivist:** Harold Frost. **Format and Layout:** Gene Schwartz and Jack Cuff. **Reproduction/Distribution:** Walker Collins, Chet Risio.

Volume 64, No. 29

November 23, 2016

Our intrepid president PETER UHRY brought the group to order in the sanctuary, and introduced pledge leader KURT SCHAFFIR. Song leader DON CONWAY, with JIM SANTORA on the keyboard, led us in a patriotic rendition of "America the Beautiful," assured us that "It's a Grand Night for Singing," and invited us to "Hey Look Me Over."

Corresponding Secretary TOM HEALY reminded us about the story of the boy who painted the Porsche instead of the porch.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prez UHRY invited all members to get their RMA car sticker (free for the vinyl stick-on, or \$1.00 for the magnetic version). We also learned from him that a music program is being organized for the December 21, 2016, pre-Christmas meeting.

Returnees were DOUG FRANCEFORT from Manchester, VT, and RICHARD BARTHOLOMEW from Baltimore, MD.

JOHN FEBLES made his annual spirited appeal for volunteers for the Salvation Army bell ringers. Call him at 203-869-5343 or e-mail jfebles13@gmail.com.

BOB LUCE invited us to buy tickets for the Greenwich Choral Society's seasonal programs.

MIKE FERRARESE told the group that from now on, when registering for special events, payment by check must be made within two meetings or your registration will be cancelled; too many people have not paid in time.

COMMITTEES

VISITING: CHUCK STANDARD reported that HARRY LEIGH will remain permanently at Greenwich Woods but sounds good, and RON KLINGNER will be back next week.

PROGRAM: JOHN deCSEPEL told us that former Assistant Secretary of Defense **Evelyn Farkas** would be today's speaker. Next week two of our members, STEPHEN MYERS and MARTIN WAINE, will be our speakers on the topic of "Proving Einstein Right."

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE welcomed two candidates: Joel Blumberg and Anthony Cocchi. There were three guests, Les Chaikin, guest of HORST TEBBE, and David Shreff and Mike Warner, both guests of PETER UHRY. The birthday boys were DAVID NOBLE, 82; ROGER PISANI, 81; GERALD FOX, 82, and DAVID DOWNS, 87. Anthony Cocchi, sponsored by TED SPOOL, was proposed by HORST TEBBE and, in TED's absence, MIKE AMBROSINO. Anthony was duly approved for membership. A native of New York City and a graduate of Pratt Institute, he and his wife Nina have lived in Riverside for 18 years. He spent 37 years with IBM, then taught computer science and was named a Distinguished Lecturer at Lehman College.

VOLUNTEERS: ROS CURTIS reported that 47 men reported 500 hours for outside agencies, and 25 members reported 170 hours for RMA activities. The greatest number reported by an individual member was 49 hours, by DOUG FRANCEFORT.

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

BRIDGE: KURT SCHAFFIR reported that there were 13 players. GRANT PERKINS was first with 3200, KURT SCHAFFIR second with 3080, and FRANK LEE third with 2990.

TENNIS: MIKE AMBROSINO reported results for November 18, 2016: Winners on Court 1 were MIKE SMITH and JOE MANCINELLI. Winners on Court 2 were RON FRIEDMAN and BILL FAKUNDINY.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Ms. Evelyn Farkas, former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia/Ukraine, provided us with a comprehensive picture of Russia's political, economic and military posture in the world today. Among President Putin's key objectives are maintaining internal order, keeping the existing political and economic system in place, and enhancing Russia's geographic control in relation to bordering states. To support these objectives, Russia is modernizing its military and cyber-warfare capabilities. In the course of an extended question and answer session Ms. Farkas commented on a broad range of issues regarding the Ukraine, the Baltic countries, the Middle East, and the Philippines.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to members, spouses, candidates and guests. For reservations contact Trip Coordinators Abbey Smoler (203-531-0236) and Mike Ferrarese (203-554-0678). **Checks to be made out to RMA. In the future, checks must be received within two weeks or reservation will be cancelled.**

January 26, 2016: New York Philharmonic Rehearsal. Cost \$100.00 per person. Bus transportation – early departure from St. Catherine's at 8:00 a.m. Lunch at Atlantic Grill. Wait List.

February 23, 2017: [Mark Twain Museum in Hartford, CT](#). Cost \$76 per person. Box Lunch. Bus transportation - departure from St. Catherine's at 9:00 a.m. Status – 28 reservations.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKERS

Our very own **STEPHEN MYERS** and **MARTIN WAINE**: Proving Einstein Right on Gravity Waves and Relativity Theory

Kurt Schaffir, Scribe of the Week

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