



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

60 Years of Fellowship and Community Service
Visit us on the web at www.greenwichrma.org



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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"Blow, blow, thou winter wind, thou art not so unkind as man's ingratitude" Shakespeare

Hewing to tradition president **DON CONWAY** rang us to order at 10:00 am exactly. **BOB BISHOP**, filling in for a member who missed his bus, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Accompanied by pianist, songwriter **BOB MORGAN**. Song leader **JACK SWEGER** waved his arms to the music as he led the group in rousing rounds of *God Bless America*, *We Are the RMA* (penned by the same **BOB MORGAN**, and *Side by Side*. Stand-up of the week **TOM HEALY** told a story about an interesting shopping experience at the Bass Pro Shop.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARNOLD GORDON reminded us of the program 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. He cited some of the very intriguing topics of a few submissions already received.

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.

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 Greenwich Salvation Army and give them to **JOHN**.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PROGRAM: **JOHN CARON** reported that today's speaker is **former Obama speechwriter Adam Frankel**. **STEVE MYERS** gave a head's-up on next week's speaker, **Lisbeth Gronlund**, Ph.D. Dr. Gronlund is a senior scientist and co-director of The Union of Concerned Scientists. Her timely topic will be "The Trump Administration and Nuclear Weapons".

MEMBERSHIP: **HORST TEBBE** led off reporting that membership is up over 10% since the first of the year, we are now 222 strong. He additionally reported that 109 members and 1 guest were in attendance. The guest being Ken Kolb hosted by **PETER UHRY**.

Those celebrating natal days included **GERRY FOX 83, ROBERT WHITBY 77, GIG CHELWICK 91, FRED BROOKS 83 and TED SPOOL 87**.

TODAY'S INITIATES: Peter Lebeau, sponsored by **ERF PORTER**. Peter has retired from corporate finance/aircraft leasing and is active in veterans' affairs and his church. Howard Richman, sponsored by **PETER UHRY**. Howard's career involved media sales and magazine publishing. He was recently elected to the post of Tax Collector for the Town of Greenwich.

SPECIAL EVENTS: **MIKE FERRARESE** brought us up to date on all the swell events coming up. Details below.

VOLUNTEER HOURS: **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** read out the numbers for the week. 306 outside hours by 90 men; 42 RMA hours by 21 men and High Man for the week was **BOB RIMMER -24**.

FUN and GAMES

BRIDGE: **WAYNE DEVRIES** dealt the scores: **MARTIN WAINE, 4,000** (Which included a very rare "Grand Slam") **KURT SCHAFFIR, 3750**, and **TONY COCCHI, 3240**.

TENNIS: **RON FRIEDMAN** served the numbers; Court 1: **RON FRIEDMAN & GERRY GIBIAN**, Court 2: **BILL HOWLAND & TONY COCCHI**. Next week's captain –**MIKE SMITH**

HEARTS: Prexy **DON CONWAY** dealt out the Hearts winners.

Table 1: **JOE DOWLING & TOM HEALY**, Table 2: **LOU TROVATO** won both games, Table 3: only one game, won by **JACK SWEGER**. Moon shooters were **TOM HEALY & LOU TROVATO** – 2 times each.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Adam Frankel was a senior speechwriter for President Obama, during his election campaigns and while in office. He also worked in the Clinton White House. His talk concerned, what he called “the coarsening of public discourse”. How it happened, what it means, why it’s important and how to avoid it or at least lessen its impact. The not-so-magic bullets he cited were; to maintain your values; speak clearly and simply; respect the other side; and vet your facts. He interspersed his talks with quotes from previous presidents and speechwriters, particularly his mentor Ted Sorenson. A spirited RMA Q&A followed.

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: Wait Listed

[Bruce Museum, March 22, 2018](#), Lunch at the Millbrook Club, \$95. Transportation: Self. Arrive at Bruce Museum at 9:45 a.m. Status: 26 places available

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Lisbeth Gronlund, Ph.D. “The Trump Administration and Nuclear Weapons”

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