



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:** Chet Risio, Chair. **Scribes:** Gran Burgess, Av Rivel, Kurt Schaffir, Jim Butler, Arnold Gordon (tempy Editor), 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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December 7, 2016

On the 75th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, President **PETER UHRY** opened the meeting at 10:03 AM asking **DON CONWAY** to leads us in The Pledge while we viewed U.S. flags of 50 and 48 stars. **PETER** then introduced **ED BLOOM** (94 years old) who sang the song "Let's Remember Pearl Harbor" and recounted stories of that era. **GRAN BURGESS** continued our song fest with "It's a Grand Old Flag" and "Red River Valley". **BOB LUCE** followed by relating a tale of an accident. The passenger in the damaged cab learning that it was the cab driver's first day; his previous 25 years of experience were in driving a hearse.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WAYNE DEVRIES came forward to tell us that Call-A-Ride was progressing well but needs a volunteer to step in as Treasurer. The time spent would be approximately eight hours a month. The effort would be greatly appreciated.

JOHN FEBLES then reported to us that the Salvation Army bell ringing program aided by RMA volunteers raised \$534.00 last weekend in Riverside and \$583.00 in Old Greenwich; more volunteers are needed to assist this weekend; calls should be made to **JOHN** at 203-869-5343 or his cell phone 203-550 5049.

President **UHRY** returned to speak highly of **BOB BISHOP'S** dedication on appearing at 8:30 AM every Wednesday for setting up the all necessary materials for each meeting and putting them away at meeting's end. Three additional persons would be of great aid once a month from 8:30 to 12:15PM; please see BOB if you can help.

PETER also announced that an Outrageous Tie Contest would take place at the December 28th meeting; so be sure to wear your worst holiday tie then and be judged by a three-member panel for a possible prize. **PETER** also reminded everyone about the annual holiday meeting on December 21 when after an abbreviated business meeting, a songfest led by the Melody Men will be held and a guitar playing songster will also perform. Look for special refreshments as well.

NICK MECCA was then requested by our President to show us his paintings of a WWII Navy carrier fighter as well as a painting of a dive bomber; our experienced **CHUCK STANDARD** clarified the pictures for us.

ERF PORTER then stepped up to remind us of the December 7th Memorial Event taking place at the statues near the Board of Education Office on Greenwich Avenue at 4:00 PM today.

Our President then told us that **PETER TUNLEY** still had RMA decals and he would be glad to distribute them at the back of the room. He then welcomed back **HOWARD KUPLESKY** from Boca Grande, Florida.

COMMITTEES

VISITING: **CHUCK STANDARD** advised us that **HARRY LEIGH** continues residing at Greenwich Green and **ROGER PIERCE** is at Nathaniel Witherell.

MEMBERSHIP: **HORST TEBBE** announced that our membership attendance number had reached a recent high at 141 with 3 candidates: Les Chaikin, Mike Ross and Tom Moroney. There were three guests, Bruce Patano g/o **GERRY MAYFIELD**, Bob Connochie g/o **DON SARGEANT** and Andre Mazurek g/o **ED FARRELL**. Next, **PETER** asked Mentor, **ARNOLD GORDON** and Sponsor, **GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE** to approach and introduce inductee Dr. Joel Blumberg. After their interesting and very positive presentations, **DR. BLUMBERG** was accepted unanimously. We then joined our voices in celebrating the birthdays of **THOMAS MORRISON**, 85 and **CARL VAN AIKEN**, 94.

VOLUNTEERING: **PETER STERN** reported the week ending December 7th saw 466 volunteer hours outside and 116 inside. The highest number of hours was logged by **TAD LARRABEE** with 35.

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

BRIDGE: **KURT SCHAFFIR** reported that on November 30th, 15 players attended. **JOHN FEBLES** was first with 3680, **RON FRIEDMAN** gathered 2970 points for 2nd followed by **DICK CASE** with 2810.

TENNIS: The winners on Friday, December 2nd were **RON FRIEDMAN** and **BILL HOWLAND** on Court One. **RALPH VIGGIANO** and **BILL FAKUNDINY** on Court Two.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

HOLLISTER STURGES brought us together at 11:00 AM to welcome guests and reminded us of the sound and safety features appropriate for the forthcoming presentation. **HOLLISTER** was followed by **BOB ROBINS** who introduced our popular speaker, **Ambassador Donald Gregg**. As well as having served 30 years in the CIA,

Ambassador Gregg had spent two years in North Korea, time in Japan and years as security advisor in the White House. His views on future policy included his belief that the existing treaty with Iran was preferable to attempting new negotiations. Similar to our interactions with North Korea, we should work to maintaining a sustainable relationship remembering that we also should be aware of China's reaction to our efforts. John Kerry's dedicated travels and negotiations have been spirited, forthright and dedicated. But we need to encourage the younger generation to consider a career in diplomacy that is committed to common sense and practical approaches, not the "stale bread" that has too often been an impediment to more progress and better policies in our foreign affairs. He was also hopeful that by choosing some Wall Street insiders for his cabinet and as advisers, Trump would be able to introduce some needed reforms.

SPECIAL EVENTS

*Open to all Members, Guests, Candidates and Spouses. For reservations contact Trip Coordinators **ABBY SMOLER** (203-531-0236) and **MIKE FERRARESE** (203-554-0678)
Checks are payable to the RMA. In the future, checks must be received within two weeks or reservations will be cancelled.*

January 26, 2017, New York Philharmonic Rehearsal. Cost is \$ 100.00 per person. Bus transportation is by early departure from St. Catherin's at 8:00 a.m. Lunch is at the Atlantic Grill. Wait Listed.

February 23rd 2017: Mark Twain Museum in Hartford, CT. Cost is \$ 76.00 per person. Box Lunch. Bus transportation by departure from St. Catherine's at 9:00 a.m. Status is 20 openings.

NEXT WEEKS SPEAKER

Next week RMA will welcome **Peter Malkin, Debra Mecky** and **David Parker** who will speak on "The Reimagining of the Greenwich Historical Society"

Scribe : JIM BUTLER

Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org

MEMBER PROFILE: GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE

This is the seventh in a series of Member Profiles designed to allow members to know one another beyond a face and a name tag.

GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE was born and brought up in Natick, Massachusetts, a small manufacturing town near Boston, known for producing baseball bats and shoes. He is a graduate of Boston University, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and French, and a Master of Arts in Latin American studies. Awarded the all-expense paid Rotary Foundation Fellowship to do more graduate study in Sao Paulo, Brazil, he lived with a Brazilian family and made lifelong friends with his fellow classmates at a unit of the University of Sao Paulo. During his college years he played solo piano in a cocktail lounge on Cape Cod.

GEORGE was drafted in the U.S. Army in the years between the Korean and the Vietnam wars. Most of his hitch was in Fort Tilden, New York City, at a guided missile base. He then joined a unit of the chemical firm W.R. Grace in Cambridge, MA. They asked him to spend a year working out of their Paris office ---not too tough to take! He came home to marry the former Carol Beadle, his childhood sweetheart; they have just completed their 56th year of wedded bliss. He and Carol have two grown daughters, and two grandchildren. He volunteers driving for Transportation Association of Greenwich, at a community garden that donates its produce to Neighbor to Neighbor, and is a volunteer tutor in Stamford for Literacy Volunteers of American. GEORGE also is a substitute teacher at Greenwich's high school and middle schools, and volunteers as a hospice visitor for Masonicare.

GEORGE joined the RMA in 2008. He organized and recruited piano players like himself and did the monthly scheduling. He formed a grand opera group, which he still heads. They have viewed 43 operas in members' homes. He has served briefly on the RMA Board, and then agreed to take on the chairmanship of the Cigar Box Bulletin. He has relinquished that position but continues as a scribe. In spare time GEORGE studies Japanese for fun.