



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.

Volume 65, No. 32

December 13, 2017

PLEASE NOTE: THE RMA HOLIDAY MEETING TAKES PLACE NEXT WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH IN THE PARISH HALL OF CHRIST CHURCH, WHICH IS LOCATED OPPOSITE THE YWCA ON THE POST ROAD. WIVES AND OTHER GUESTES ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE ENTIRE EVENT, WHICH WILL START AS USUAL AT 10AM. ALONG WITH ENTERTAINMENT BY THE MELODY MEN, LOTS OF JOKES AND TWO SURPRISE PERFORMERS, SPECIAL REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

NOTE: NONE OF THE USUAL REPORTS (MEMBERSHIP, GAMES, SPECIAL EVENTS.....WILL BE ANNOUNCED BUT MUJST BE GIVEN, IN WRITING, TO THE SCRIBE, GERRY LESSUK, FOR POSTING IN THE CBB.

"Always borrow from a pessimist...he wont expect it back" - Unknown

President DON CONWAY summoned all to assemble at 10:02am and called on TOM HEALY to lead us in the Pledge. TOM continued at the podium to conduct us in singing *America the Beautiful*, *Ain't She Sweet* and *Hey, Look Me Over* while BOB MORGAN gave piano vibrancy to the on and off key chorale group. Corresponding Secretary BOB LUCE told an increasingly funny story of a senior woman driver sporting a "Honk if you love Jesus" license plate and expressed surprise at how much that love was shared while she kept ignoring the go signal at a traffic light.

ANOUNCEMENTS

DON told us of the Annual Christmas Party on December 20th. (See above announcement). He also offered his two tickets to the Rob Mathes concert at Suny Purchase College this Saturday.

DON, in a later email, said there is an exhibit of the Greenwich Library Oral History Project featuring World War II veteran Lloyd Hull now running at the Greenwich Library. Mr. Hull, 95, served aboard the USS Laffey during the Battle of Okinawa.

Returnees: ED PARKER from San Antonio, TX and HAROLD KUPLESKY from Boca Grande, FL.

There were no memorials.

COMMITTEES

TODAY'S SPEAKER: PETER UHRY urged all to hear today's speaker, Thomas Schwartz, president of Suny Purchase College, and his colleague, Dennis Craig.

MEMBERSHIP: ED FARRELL, subbing for HORST TEBBE, gave the attendance as 84 members and 3 guests. The guests were Bob Grayson g/o JACK WEIR and GERRY GIBIAN, Mike McDonagh g/o KEATON HAGMANN and Ken Kolb, g/o PETER UHRY.

The **birthday boys** were PETER STERN 73, DAVID BURLESON 86, GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE, 86 and ARNOLD GORDON, 80.

INDUCTEE: Skip Auch was presented for membership by JACK WEIR and MICHAEL AMBROSINO. With a rousing "aye" of affirmation SKIP became an RMA member.

SPECIAL EVENTS: ABBEY SMOLER gave us details on upcoming trips. See below.

VOLUNTEER HOURS: For the week of Dec. 13, 2017, MIKE AMBROSINO said 312 outside hours by 37 members and 199 inside hours by 24 members. Top RMA hours were registered HOLLISTER STURGES.

VISITING: That program is inactive as no one has stepped forward to run it.

GAMES MEMBERS PLAY

BRIDGE: As reported by PETER STERN, the scores for Dec. 6th were 4,200 by RON FRIEDMAN, 3,510 by FRANK LEE and 3,230 by JOHN FEBLES. There was a total of 13 players.

HEARTS: 8 players participated. At table one JACK SWEGER won game #1 and JOHN STANKUNAS won game #2. At table two RALPH VIGGIANO won game #1 and LOU TROVATO won game #2. JACK SWEGER shot the moon once and LOU TROVATO twice.

TENNIS: On Dec 8, winners on court 1 were SAM MARASSO and Michael McDonagh. On court 2 they were RON FRIEDMAN and PETER UHRY.

TODAY'S SPEAKERS

PETER UHRY introduced today's principal speaker, Thomas L. Schwarz, President of SUNY Purchase College, and Dennis Craig, Vice President of Student Affairs.

Their talk centered on "Major Challenges Facing Higher Education Today." Mr. Schwarz has a BA degree in economics from Hamilton College and a law degree *cum laude* from Fordham University. He has also served as Mayor of the Village of Ocean Beach in Suffolk County.

He regretted that higher education in the US is being constantly defunded and that our educational standing is now 17th among the world's leading countries. In addition lawmakers now want to tax tuition assistance. He also lamented that Liberal arts studies are ebbing because there is a greater emphasis on career training. He indicated studies that show students with a liberal arts degree will earn more in a life time than those with a defined education.

Mr. Schwarz observed that previously foreign students studying here returned to their native countries and became good will ambassadors for the US. That trend is changing as foreign students find being educated in the US is less attractive than other countries.

Dennis Craig, Sr. VP of Student Affairs of SUNY, said that student borrowing to pay for education is increasing. Student debt has increased 37% and is now 1.2 trillion dollars which exceeds all credit card debt in the US.

In the Q & A session, Mr. Schwarz noted that Guidance Counselors tend to help students that show the most promise. Thus, those that need the help are not getting it while those who don't need it are getting it.

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 (myagenmike@yahoo.com) or [203 554-0678](tel:2035540678) or ABBEY SMOLER (abbeysmoler@gmail.com) or [203 531-0235](tel:2035310235).

NY Philharmonic Rehearsal, Jan. 11, 2018, lunch at the Atlantic Grill. \$110pp. Bus leaves St. Catherine's at 7:45am. Status: Wait listed.

Elmsford Dinner Theater, "A Chorus Line", Feb. 22, 2018, lunch at the theater, \$95pp. Bus leaves St. Catherine's at 10:00am. Status: Wait listed.

Bruce Museum, two exhibits, Mar. 22, 2018. Lunch at the Milbrook Club. \$60pp. Self transportation, meet at the Museum 9:45am. Status: 26 places open.

West Point Tour, April 19, 2018, Lunch at the Thayer Hotel, \$85pp. Bus leaves St. Catherine's at 8:45am. Status: 8 places open.

NEXT WEEK

The **RMA Holiday Meeting will be held at Christ Church in the Parish Hall**. All are invited.

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, inc. 37 Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT
06830