

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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

www.greenwichrma.org

Chair/Editor: **Joe Mancinelli** Graphics: **Av Rivel**

Scribes: **Av Rivel, Kurt Schaffir, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell, Gerry Lessuk, George Stockbridge, Joe Mancinelli, Chet Risio.** On leave; **Frank Scarpa, Marshall Toppo**

Archivist: **Harold Frost.** Format: **Jack Cuff, Andrzej Mazurek, Gene Schwartz.** Print/Dist: **Chet Risio**

Volume 66 Number 32 Dec.19, 2018 Scribe: **GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE**

President **TAD LARRABEE**, late at 10:10a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of Christ Church, led us the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag. He thanked several members for arranging this Annual Christmas meeting of the RMA. Then, **ARNOLD GORDON conducted an "ugly tie" contest.** He joked that at some future date we might want to have an "ugly man" contest. The wives of **TAD LARRABEE** and **JOE DOWLING** acted as official judges. They had a hard time choosing from the 9 men who lined up! **BILL HORN** was the proud winner, and the runner-up was **JOE HAVRANEK.**

The joke tellers of the day then lined up on stage. **BOB CAREY** told a tale about an elderly man who entered a room and then forgot what he came in there for. He was very frustrated that nothing he had planned that day got done. How many of the RMA membership resonate with that? He was followed by **AV RIVEL** telling a couple of forgettable jokes. **RICH BISK** related a funny story about Santa Claus, and **JERRY SCWENDEMAN** followed also with a story about Santa. **ARNOLD GORDON** regaled us with a tale about helicopters, and **BOB LUCE** a critique on wives. Next was **TOM HEALY** who gave us an account of a child's bedtime prayers, and another tale about an elaborate funeral.

President **TAD** then introduced **MIKE AMBROSINO** who entertained us by lip syncing an Italian Christmas song about Santa Claus. **TAD** reclaimed the mike to announce a coffee break. Delicious pastries, macaroons, and cannoli were among the festive table laid out for our members and their guests.

Then, the notorious so-called "Melody Men" featured painful renditions of Christmas and Santa Claus. They warbled (wobbled?) a veritable pastiche of holiday songs dating back many years. **Distinguished conductor TOM HEALY waved his arms in vain** trying to keep them singing the same words at the same time. He created a program of works bringing loud shrieks from the large audience. They must have felt the music very "moving", as in moving out and going home! The concert began with a playful rendition of "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town". It was followed by (must they?) "Winter

Wonderland". **Ever-nimble JERRY SCHWENDEMAN tap danced to the music.** Pianist **BOB MORGAN** played it in 4/4 time but the guys sang it in "what time is it now?" Next came "Rudolph, the Red Nosed Reindeer" who really needed to show the Melody Men the way. They followed with the traditional carol "Joy To The World" relating the birth of Jesus Christ. Then they mutilated Bing Crosby's 1942 hit "I'm Dreaming Of A White Christmas". Then the traditional carol "O Come All Ye Faithful" was sung (surprise!) in a stunning rendition. It was followed by the audience joining the Melody Men in singing "We Wish You A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year".

The customary business meeting was not held and will resume January, 2019.