



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, Gerry Lessuk, George Stockbridge, Emeritus. **Archivist:** Harold Frost. **Format and Layout:** Gene Schwartz and Jack Cuff. **Reproduction/Distribution:** Walker Collins, Chet Risio.

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'Twas the Wednesday before Christmas and the RMA meeting channeled a TV Holiday special.



Happy Holidays!

The festivities started with the beloved-ever-popular Melody Men. Conductor TOM HEALY explained that this performance boasted a first, for the first time, the words to their songs would be projected on the wall as an aid to members whose hearing was less than 20-20. The MM sang Christmas songs old and new, inviting the audience to join them in singing the carols. The secular songs, except the finale, "*We Wish You a Merry Christmas*" were performance only. Ably accompanied by pianist PETER RYAN the group earned their hearty applause from the audience.

For the educational part of the program ARNOLD GORDON explained the background to the Jewish Festival of Lights, Hanukkah, which, this year, starts on Christmas Eve. It commemorates the victory of the small band of fighters, The Macabees, that defeated the occupying Greek Army under the Syrian King Antiochus in the 2nd century BCE and the rededication of the holy Temple in Jerusalem.

Justin Honigstein a young singer/song writer/guitar player from Chicago, known professionally as Honeystone **and** ARNOLD's grandson, sang two modern holiday songs. "*Light One Candle*" written by Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary and Leonard Cohen's "*Hallelujah*". His musicianship was excellent and the assembled showed their appreciation. You should be proud, ARNOLD!

NOW FOR THE REGULAR NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (Which were delivered just before the start of the musical program) Only president PETER UHRY got to make announcements and he limited his to three: 1) In keeping with the holiday spirit: for the first time in the history of the RMA women were welcomed to the 10 o'clock meeting. 2) DOUG FRANCEFORT was presented with a certificate of achievement for his 870 volunteer hours this year. 3) He reminded all that the first annual *Outlandish Holiday Tie* contest would be held next week, December 28.

There were no reports delivered at the meeting, they were submitted in writing for inclusion in the CBB.

RETURNEES: For the second week in a row, there were no returnees (but I gotta report on it anyway)

VOLUNTEER HOURS: ED BLOOM reported 467 hours by 48 men outside, and 155 RMA hours by 29 men. High scorers were DON CONWAY and MARTIN WAINE with 27 each.

BRIDGE SCORES: As dealt by KURT SCHAFFIR: 12 players, top score WALKER COLLINS 4450, second GRANT PERKINS 3650, third PETER STERN (score not recorded)

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKERS: Mike and Sally Harris have traveled around the U.S. and abroad photographing people as they go about their daily lives. Next week they will describe their long relationship with a Mennonite family in southwest Pennsylvania and their visits to four Hutterite communities. Their photographs attempt to illustrate their way of life– the simplicity and their emphasis on family and the traditions.

THIS WEEK'S SPEAKER: David Shafer is a man of many talents and interests; photography, lens design, opera and others, which he shares as a teacher and popular speaker. His talk at this meeting was a Humorous Guide to Taking Better Photographs. The talk was humorous, but the content was serious and useful. Paraphrasing him, “cameras don’t take pictures, people do.” In his talk he illustrated about a dozen tips for taking photographs you can be proud of. His examples were often humorous, but illustrated the points he was making about image composition. A friendly Q & A followed.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to members, spouses, candidates and guests. For reservations contact Trip Coordinators ABBY SMOLER (203-531-0236) and MIKE FERRARESE (203-554-0678). Checks should be made out to RMA. 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 Listed.
- **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 – 12 openings.
- **MARCH 30, 2017: Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory.** Cost p/p \$60. Lunch at Lamont. Bus leaves St. Catherine’s 9a.m. Spaces available: 19 openings.

Your not so humble scribe: AV RIVEL

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