



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

60 Years of Fellowship and Community Service
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Here are the volunteers who publish this Bulletin each week for your enjoyment. **Editor/Chairman:** Chet Risio. **Scribes:** Av Rivel, Kurt Schaffir, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell, Gerry Lessuk, Steve Elliot, Marshall Toppo, Dan Fredland, 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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"Happy he who forgets about what he can't do anything about"

A bit of Viennese philosophy: the opening line of Johann Strauss' operetta "*Die Fledermaus*:"

President **DON CONWAY** proceeded to wrap up the year with the help of **PETER UHRY**, who led us in the pledge, and song leader **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** who invited us to the "Dark Town Strutters' Ball" to dance the "Beer Barrel Polka." Corresponding Secretary **ARNOLD GORDON** delivered an unrepeatable joke, and then told us about the three members who would constitute today's program (see below).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President **CONWAY** wished everybody a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. He took the occasion to remind us to let him know about sick members.

COMMITTEES

MEMBERSHIP: **JAMES FAHY** reported attendance of 73 members and two GUESTS – Kev Kolb and Dick Franck. The **birthday boys** were **JOHN STANKUNAS**, 77; **LYNTON KAUFMAN**, 91; **STEVE BOIES**, 76, **JOHN CRAINE**, 81 and **JIM FAHY** himself, 80. We had an **induction:** **GERRY GIBIAN** proposed Bob Grayson. A native of Indiana, BOB joined the Limited – a \$13 billion retailer headquartered in Columbus -- and rose to become CEO of its two largest divisions. As a consequence of medical problems – his wife's and his own- he retired, but soon became once again deeply involved in retail management and consulting. He has travelled all over the country and all over the world. Bob looks forward to focusing more on his leisure activities which include tennis and golf. He continues to be actively involved with non-profit organizations. He was a member of the board of trustees of Greenwich Country School, and served as a member of the RTM and as a volunteer at Family Centers.

VOLUNTEER HOURS: **ALAN GUNZBURG** reported 238 outside hours by 21 members and 90 inside hours by 16 members. **ROS CURTIS** topped the week with 29 hours.

THE SCOREBOARD

TENNIS: **MIKE AMBROSINO** reported **GERRY GIBIAN** and **MIKE SMITH** were the winners on court 1; **RANDY MOTLAND** won on court 2.

HEARTS: Two tables and eight players. Winners were **JAY SCHONDORF**, **PETER STERN**, and **ANDY HOLMES**. Moon shooters were **TOM HEALY**, **JAY SCHONDORF**, and **JOHN STANKUNAS**.

TODAY'S SPEAKERS

ARNOLD GORDON explained that we are trying a new format. Each of three RMA members would talk about a significant event in his life, followed by a question and answer session.

TAD LARRABEE was living in Baltimore in 1968, at the time of racial unrest following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. A curfew was imposed and the police proceeded with mass arrests of blacks. TAD, together with another young lawyer, responded to radio requests for volunteers with a legal background to assist. They went to the central police station to do what they could. The place was so disorganized that nothing useful could be done. They were then volunteered to the central court building, but the situation there was equally dismal. Judges pronounced arbitrary sentences with no regard for proper procedure, and without regard to the hardship these imposed. The press was not in evidence. There was a total breakdown of the legal process.

BOB ROBINS joined the CIA in 1963 after receiving his doctorate in political science. It was the time of the Vietnam war and conflict with the Soviet Union. He was assigned to the Office of Current Intelligence and Analysis, which is responsible for preparing the President's Daily Brief. BOB shared the South Asia Unit with four other analysts. Much of the information was distilled from national newspapers with foreign correspondents and radio but also from highly classified sources. It was not always clear that the Daily Brief reached the President, or that he read it. Rather he generally relied on staff members to pass the information on to him. BOB left the CIA in 1965, preferring an academic life, though he continued to consult with the Agency.

CHET RISIO's story is about building his own house. He was born in Port Chester, and still lives there. He and his family started out in difficult circumstances. All along he nurtured the dream that he and his family would own and live in their own house. He won a scholarship to the School of Design in Manhattan which he attended for three years. During the Korean war he was drafted into military service. Later he worked as a magazine illustrator. To get started on his house he found a 50 by 100 foot lot. Over a number of years the family accumulated the funds to have an architect design the house, hire an excavator, and put down the foundation. He got help from friends of his father who worked in the building trades. Brick by brick and board by board the house took shape. Much of it involved hard manual labor. The house was later expanded to accommodate CHET's parents and his wife and child. They sold the house in 1967, after living in it for 16 years.

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 / 203-531-0236)

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 list.

Elmsford Dinner Theater, "A Chorus Line," February 22, 2018, Lunch at the theater. \$95. Status: Wait List.

Bruce Museum, March 22, 2018. Lunch at the Millbrook Club, \$95. Transportation – Self. Arrive at the Bruce Museum at 9:45 a.m. Status: Open

West Point, April 19, 2018, Lunch at Thayer Hotel. \$85. Bus departs St. Catherine's at 8:45. Bring proof of identity. Status: A few places open.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

BOB ROBINS will introduce **Arthur Gottlieb**, a historian and popular speaker on subjects of military and political history. He is a former Technical Director of the Intrepid See-Air-Space Museum. He will speak on **the subject: "Was Dropping the Atomic Bomb on Japan Justified"**.

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Happy New Year