

***RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)
invites you to attend its meeting, on Wednesday, May 20, 2015.
First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT.***

STUART GIBSON

***THE HERMITAGE MUSEUM. 250 YEARS IN THE SHADOWS OF
HISTORY***



This past December the State Hermitage Museum (St. Petersburg, Russia) celebrated its 250th anniversary. Founded in 1764 by Catherine the Great, the Hermitage is today Russia's flagship museum with over three million objects. Located in the Winter Palace, the private residence to the Romanov dynasty until the Bolshevik Revolution, the Hermitage houses an impressive world-renowned and encyclopedic collection encompassing archaeological objects from prehistoric, Egyptian, Greek, Roman, and Islamic times as well as Oriental, European, and Modern art, decorative art, and photography. Stuart Gibson will offer an illustrated talk on the history of the museum and its collections, the Winter Palace's role in Russian history, the challenges the museum has faced and overcome since the collapse of the Soviet Union, and its emergence as one of the premiere museums in the world today.

Stuart Gibson is an international museum and cultural policy expert with over 20 years' experience working with cultural organizations and governments undergoing economic and political transition and post-conflict development. Gibson has worked extensively in the former Soviet Union, Eastern and Central Europe, Central Asia, and the Middle East promoting the museum, archaeology, and tourism sectors. He was the Director of the Hermitage Museum UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Development Project for ten years and is a founding member and presently Secretary of the Hermitage Museum International Advisory Board. Gibson is currently a UNESCO advisor to the Uzbekistan Ministry of Culture and Sport on the development of museums and tourism and is developing museum and archaeology policies for the Kurdish Regional Government (Northern Iraq). Mr. Gibson has organized numerous international conferences on cultural issues affecting countries in transition. A Weston resident, he is native of North Carolina and attended New York University, Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussees (Paris), and London University.

RMA Meetings are free and open to the public; no reservations are required. Please plan to arrive around 10:45 for our social break (coffee and cake), followed by our speaker at 11:00. Meetings are held at the First Presbyterian Church in Greenwich. For additional information, call Bernard Schneider, 203-698-2558; bgsesq@gmail.com.