



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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

www.greenwichrma.org

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*"It is not the strongest of the species that survives nor the most intelligent,
but the one most responsive to change"*

Charles Darwin

President **TAD LARRABEE** summoned all, especially stragglers, to the meeting at 10:03am. **RICK HOLZ** led the assembly in the Pledge. **TOM HEALY**, with **JIM SANTORA** at the piano, conducted the members in singing *You're a Grand Old Flag*, *Manhattan*, and *Cabaret*. **TAD** asked for a volunteer to take on the Visiting position to keep track of ailing RMA members. See **TAD** or **DON CONWAY**. The mentor of the day was **JACK WEIR**. Several funny stories were told by **RICH BISK**. The funniest involved a newlywed groom being outsmarted by his bride as to who gets to wear the pants in the family.

Treasurer **WAYNE DEVRIES** made a plea for members to pay for their coffee and cookies. Receipts and the number of members in attendance have not matched recently.

TAD stated that **BOB MORGAN** is looking for another piano player for the meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PETER UHRY said he had many RMA caps for sale. They are \$12 each. He also announced that two of our members won at the Connecticut Pickleball Open. **GEOFFREY BURGE** won a bronze medal for singles, third place, plus he and **ANDY**

HOLMES won a bronze in men's doubles, third place. **PETER** presented each with a jar of Three Cheers pickles.

The sole returnee was **HAROLD KUPLESKY** from Boca Grande, Florida.

JIM MARINO urged all to contribute to the Boys and Girls Club of Greenwich by donating to their Toiletries Drive. They need toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, bar soap, etc. Bring items to the meeting next week or contact Camryn Ferrara, cferrara@bgcg.org or Ashley Culver, aculver@bgcg.org.

WILL MORRISON conducts Tai Chi Walk classes every Monday and Wednesday afternoon at 3:00pm at the Greenwich Senior Center. Call **WILL** for further information at 203-912-8695.

MIKE AMBROSINO noted that **JOE MANCINELLI** is recovering nicely from open heart surgery. **RALPH VIGGIANO** will start chemotherapy Thursday at Greenwich Hospital to treat prostate cancer. He requests emails, not phone calls, if you wish to contact him. **MIKE HAYDEN** was hospitalized with a back injury. Full recovery is expected.

Longtime RMA member, **Dr. JOHN VECCHIONE**, passed away on January 14, 2019. **Dr. VECCHIONE** practiced pulmonary medicine and wrote many peer-reviewed articles on its treatment. A wake will be held at Leo Gallagher's Funeral Home, 4 to 7pm on Friday, January 18. A funeral mass will be held at St. Catherine's of Siena on Saturday at 11:00am with a reception to follow.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program: **HOLLISTER STURGES** said today's speaker is **Bill Baker**, Ph.D. An American Network broadcaster and former president of WNET in NYC who will speak on *The Future of Public Media*.

HOLLISTER also said next week's speaker will be Betsy McCaughey, Ph.D., and former Lt. Governor of NY State, her topic of discussion will be *Beware of Health Policies that Will Shorten Your Life*.

Membership: **HORST TEBBE** gave the meeting attendance: 90 members, 1 guest and 1 candidate for a total of 92. He introduced Dwight Chapin, g/o **PETER STERN**. The **birthday boys** were **JAN MEYER** 83, **BILL FAKUNDINY** 84, **MIKE HAYDEN** 84, **JACK POOLE** 75, **ARNOLD WELLES** 71, **JERRY POLLACK** 90 and **DOUG TAYLOR** 92. **PETER BERG** introduced Peter Junius as a candidate for membership. Peter is a retired mail carrier recently from Chicago, now living in Old Greenwich. Both Peters are members of an early dawn walking group. **PETER JUNIUS** was heartily approved for membership and looks forward to participating in many RMA activities.

Volunteer Hours: **DON HERMANN** gave the hours for the week; 373 outside hours by 33 members and 118 inside hours by 26 members. Top RMA member was **MIKE AMOROSO** with 40 hours.

DON is planning a tour of Mallin's Contemporary Art in Pound Ridge, NY for Sunday, April 28, 9:30 to 12:30. The cost is \$10.00pp. Transportation will be by carpool or bus likewise lunch may be included, all options will ultimately be determined by the

participants. A notice is posted on the bulletin board for interested parties to indicate their interest.

ABBAY SMOLER gave details, see below, on upcoming Special Events.

GAMES MEMBERS PLAY

Bridge; **RON FRIEDMAN** said there were four players on Jan 9. **KURT SCHAFFIR** came in first with 3,800, second was **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** with 3,230 and **RON FRIEDMAN** with 2,350.

Hearts; 12 players in all. **JACK SWEGER** won both games at table one. **JOHN PANKUNAS** won game 1 at table two and **MIKE AMBROSINO** won game 2. Table three had **PETER BERG** winning games 1 and 3 and **LOU TROVATO** taking game 2. Moon shot once; **TOM HEALY, JACK SWEGER, JACK WEIR, JOHN PANKUNAS,** and **MIKE AMBROSINO**. Moon shots twice; **GRANT PERKINS, LOU TROVATO, PETER BERG**. Next week's captain is **PETER BERG**.

Tennis; Finals round. On court #1 **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** and **PETER ORBANOWSKI**. On court #2, **BOB GRAYSON** and **BILL FAKUNDINY**. Next week's captain is **MIKE SMITH**.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all members, guests, candidates, and spouses. Checks should be made out to RMA and must be received within two weeks or the reservation will be canceled. The contact person is listed for each event.

Elmsford Dinner Theater, Ain't Misbehavin, Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019. Lunch at the theater, \$95pp. Bus departs St. Catherine's at (TBD) Status; 3 openings. Contact **ABBAY SMOLER** 203-531-0236.

Bush Holly House Museum, Thursday, March, 28. Buffet with wine, \$25pp. 10:00am, self-drive. Status; 35 openings. Contact **HOLLISTER STURGES** 203 861-2279.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

STEVE MYERS introduced Dr. William Baker, Ph.D. who spoke on *The Future of Public Media*. Dr. Baker is well qualified to give perspective on the array of competing programming facing public television and radio. Apart from his visionary efforts in commercial television, Dr. Baker's extraordinary leadership brought WNET/ Channel 13 to the forefront of television viewing when it competed with the three major channels.

But the world has changed bringing with it devices and other methods of viewing, such as streaming content. Viewers are cutting cable viewing, and public media content is automatically dropped. Streaming stations are now commanding the viewer's attention and fees. Netflix viewing is now up to 39% which is well above any other TV offering.

Public television is also faced with reduced government funding. Unlike Switzerland, which contributes \$175 per person, the US contributes about \$1. Despite generous contributions from foundations, the largest portion still comes from individuals. The reach and influence of public television is best illustrated by the following story. "A

toothless and homeless man told Dr. Baker that he watches public TV in a homeless shelter.” The man thanked him and gave Dr. Baker five dollars.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Betsy McCaughey, Ph.D. an outspoken critic of the Affordable Care Act, will make a presentation entitled: *Beware of Health Policies that will Shorten your Life.*