



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, Ed Farrell, Chet Risio, Gerry Lessuk, Steve Elliot, George Stockbridge, Emeritus. (On leave: Gran Burgess, Jim Butler, and Arnold Gordon). **Archivist:** Harold Frost. **Format and Layout:** Gene Schwartz, Jack Cuff, and Andre Mazurek. **Reproduction/Distribution:** Walker Collins, and Chet Risio.

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February 8, 2017

"They create devastation and then call it peace" -Tacitus, Roman historian.

Precisely at 10:AM President PETER UHRY called the meeting to order. JOHN CARON led all in the pledge. CHUCK STANDARD, the song leader, advised all veterans to salute while singing "The Star Spangled Banner". He followed up with "God Bless America" and "It's a Grand Old Flag". JIM SANTORA played the piano during the songfest and prior to the meeting. The Corresponding Secretary, HARRY TWITCHELL, told an amusing story of five surgeons comparing ideal patients based on their occupations. Politicians won because their bodies were devoid of certain vital organs and two parts of their anatomy were interchangeable.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

From PETER UHRY:

The Nursery School adjacent to the parking lot has issues with members who use handicap stickers. See PETER about this.

He reminded members to, in the event of questionable weather, listen to WGCH or go to gradeschool.org to see if the schools are closed. If so, there is no meeting.

MIKE RYAN gives backstage tours at the Met Opera. If you wish to join a tour, call MIKE **203 698-0441**.

CHET RISIO encouraged members to write their profiles for the CBB Member Profile series. This program started last June and runs the first of the month. There have been nine profiles published, three more are vetted and ready for the CBB and three more are in the works.

PETER also urged members to promote the RMA by asking local merchants to display the RMA decal sticker. See RUSS HARDEN.

There were no Memorials or returnees.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VISITING: CHUCK STANDARD said PHILIP SMITH has prostate cancer and is now in hospice. ED BLOOM is now in Nathaniel Witherell. BILL SALTSMAN is still at home with strep throat.

Today's Speaker: JIM FISHBEIN spoke of **Frank Prial's** restoration of Grand Central Station as setting a pattern for restoration projects world wide.

Next week's Speaker: AL KNIGHT urged all to hear **Jeffrey Paige**, a fellow at Harvard's Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, speak on modern day Indian uprisings in the Andes mountains. Mr. Paige's four books delve into the changing social structures of various countries that ultimately lead to radical transformation.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE announced that there were 99 members in attendance plus three candidates and four guests. The candidates are Jason Paik, Bruce Pantano and John Stankunas.

The guests; Dave Crystal, g/o RUSS HARDEN, Robert Bloom, g/o HAROLD KUPLESKY, Alan Gunzburg, g/o PAUL SETTELMAYER and Lloyd Bankson, g/o RALPH VIGGIANO.

A delightful musical interlude was performed by JIM SANTORA in the style of Fats Waller.

JIM played "Honeysuckle Rose" and "Ain't Misbehavin".

Cumulative hours were reported by a member who wishes to remain anonymous.

SPECIAL EVENTS: MIKE FERRARESE regretted that the trip to Mark Twain's house, slated for Feb 23rd, may have to be canceled. Mold has been discovered at the house. Efforts to remove the mold are in the process. A go or no go announcement will be made at the next meeting. More details below.

FUN and GAMES

BRIDGE: KURT SCHAFFIR gave the scores for Feb. 1st. There were 14 players. ANDRZEJ MAZUREK was first with 3830. BRUNO SCHRAGE second with 3560 and, tied for third were JAMES CHUNG & SANJAY SANTHANAM with 3530 each.

TENNIS: JOHN KNIGHT gave the scores for Feb 3rd. Winners on court 1: PETER ORBANOWSKI and BILL FAKUNDINY. On court 2: JOE MANCINELLI and MIKE SMITH. This week's captain will be JOE MANCINELLI.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

JIM FISHBEIN introduced **Frank Prial, Jr.** AIA in a presentation titled, "Grand Central Terminal: Restoring the Gateway to NYC". Mr. Prial, an Associate Partner at the architectural firm of Beyer Blinder Belle, spoke of the challenges in preserving the integrity of a noted landmark building while making the changes necessary to prepare it for the future. GCT, which sits on the site of former terminals, is the product of

electricity. It shaped the configuration yet every effort was made to allow in natural light. The removal of the famous Kodak mural and the restoration of the East staircase embraced that concept. The loss of Penn Station galvanized the movement to preserve historic buildings. GCT is the prime example and inspiration world wide.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Events are open to all members, spouses, guests and candidates. For reservations contact Trip Coordinators MIKE FERRARESE (203) 554-0678 or ABBEY SMOLER (203) 531-0230. Checks made out to the RMA must be received within two weeks following the making of the reservation or it will be cancelled.

Mark Twain Museum, February 23, 2017, box lunch, cost is \$76.00pp. Bus departs St. Catherine's at 9:00AM. Status: 8 places available.

Lamont Earth Observatory, March 30, 2017, lunch at Lamont, cost \$60.00 pp. Bus departs St. Catherine's at 9:00AM. Status: 2 places available.

Culinary Institute and FDR Museum, April 30, 2017, Lunch at the Caterina De Medici restaurant. Cost \$96.00pp. Bus departs ST. Catherine's at 9:30AM. Places available.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Jeffrey Paige, a scholar from Harvard University, has written four books that delve into the modern changing social structures of various countries that ultimately lead to radical, and at times, violent transformation.

CHET RISIO, Scribe of the Week

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