



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

Volume 64, No. 43

March 1, 2017

President PETER UHRY rang the opening bell at 10:00 AM and introduced JERRY SCHWENDEMAN to lead us in the Pledge. Accompanied by BOB MORGAN on the piano, ERF PORTER led us in spirited singing of *The Star Spangled Banner*, *Oh, What a Beautiful Morning* and *You Made Me Love You*. JERRY SCHWENDEMAN then drew laughs with a story about a man who shared an airplane seat with a woman on her way to a nymphomania convention in Chicago to speak on the myths of sex. Those who heard Gerry will recognize the name Tonto Goldstein.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PETER UHRY made the following announcements:

1. The RMA Board of Directors has affirmed the RMA policy that the weekly business meeting is open to men only.
2. Annual dues of \$90 are to be paid by check made out to "RMA" by May 1, 2017. Checks are to be submitted to HORST TEBBE, Membership Chairman.
3. The Hearts card playing group starts today at 1:00 PM.
4. Members need to be aware of, and sensitive to, the privacy of the children in the church nursery program which is in session at the same time as our weekly meeting.
5. There is to be no soliciting of business or other interests by anyone prior to or during RMA meetings.

PETER read a note from Nicky Achiwa, former member, who seems to be enjoying life in a home on the side of a volcanic mountain in his native Japan.

MICHAEL AMBROSINO noted that an \$800 deposit will soon be due to secure tennis courts for the 2017/18 winter tennis season. MICHAEL asks those who have been regular participants in this program, as well as newcomers who plan to play next winter, to contribute \$100 dollars

toward this deposit.

PAUL SETTELMEYER told members that the Greenwich Lions Club is sponsoring a pancake breakfast at the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center on Saturday, March 11, from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Tickets are \$7 in advance, \$8 at the door. PAUL noted that there will be free pediatric eye screening at the time of this event at the ShopRite Eye Screening Center.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

VISITING: CHUCK STANDARD told us that MED BLOOM remains at Nathaniel Witherell, but should be returning home in a day or two. TED SPOOL is continuing Chemotherapy at home and is feeling much better. BILL SALTSMAN continues on the path to recovery and expects to rejoin RMA in a month or two.

PROGRAM: BOB ROBINS announced today's speaker will be **Michael Baker**, who is a former CIA operative and who will discuss the key global threats facing the new administration. STEVE MEYER said next week's speaker will be **Andy Poniros**, who will speak to members about recent discoveries in our solar system.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE reported 94 members present along with 2 candidates and 4 guests: Peter LeBeau, guest of ERF PORTER; Dave Crystal, guest of RUSS HARDEN; Bob Bloom, guest of HAROLD KUPLESKY; and Henry Marunger, guest of DON HELLER. BRUCE PANTANO was nominated for RMA membership by sponsors GERRY MAYFIELD and TOM CAHILL and was unanimously elected to membership. HORST announced that today's birthday boys are: TOM DUFFY (82), MIKE RYAN (78) and ROS CURTIS (92)

VOLUNTEERS: MICHAEL AMBROSINO noted that for the week ending March 1, 38 men reported 298 volunteer hours for outside agencies, and 18 men reported 67 volunteer hours for the RMA. DON CONWAY had the most hours for the week (26).

FUN AND GAMES:

Bridge: KURT SCHAFFIR said that the February 22 game drew 11 players. High scorers were: JAMES CHUNG (4910); ANDRZEJ MAZUREK (4070); FRANK LEE (2960).

Tennis: JOHN KNIGHT announced last week's winners were RALPH VIGGIANO and DON BREISMEISTER on court 1; JOHN KNIGHT and SAM MARASSO on court 2.

TODAY'S SPEAKER:

BOB ROBINS introduced **Michael Baker**, who spent over fifteen years as a covert field operations officer for the CIA. Mr. Baker shared his thoughts on the key global threats facing the new administration. His presentation included serious and sometimes humorous accounts of his personal service in the CIA and the intelligence challenges facing our nation today. He said that the top three challenges during the past several decades come from Russia, China and Iran, in particular, but also from North Korea. Russia, he noted, has been trying to influence American public opinion since 1940, when it was allied with Nazi Germany, and tried to keep our country from entering WWII. He is not surprised that they tried to influence our 2016 elections. China, he said, leads the world in cyber and economic espionage, but faces a big problem trying to control its population, as its economy slows. Iran, Mr. Baker suggested, presents very difficult problems for our intelligence community, and we are heavily dependent on Jordan and Israel in developing intelligence. He noted Iran now has more influence in Iraq and much of the mid-east than does the U.S. He thinks that, despite American efforts, it is probable that the Taliban will regain control of Afghanistan. Mr. Baker thinks North Korea is close to achieving its military objectives, and that it may be wishful thinking to rely on China to control North Korea.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Events are open to all Members, Guests, Candidates and Spouses. Checks should be made out to RMA. . Contact MIKE FERRARESE (myagentmike@yahoo.com / 203-554-0678) or ABBEY SMOLER (abbeymoler@gmail.com / 203-531-0236) for information.

Lamont Earth Observatory, Thursday, March 30, 2017. Lunch: At Lamont. Cost: \$60.00. Bus leaves St. Catherine's at 9:00 AM. Status: 7 openings.

Culinary Institute and FDR Museum, Thursday, April 20, 2017. Lunch: Catarina DeMedici Cost: \$96.00. Bus leaves St. Catherine's at 8:00 AM. Status: 8 openings.

Botanical Gardens, Thursday May 25, 2017. Lunch: Mario's. Cost: \$98.00. Bus leaves St. Catherine's at 8:30 AM.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER:

The RMA will welcome **Andy Poniros**. Subject: recent discoveries about our solar system.

Respectfully submitted: Ed Farrell

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