



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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

www.greenwichrma.org

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VOLUME 66 NUMBER 45 MARCH 20, 2019 SCRIBE: CHET RISIO

On his approaching death, Thoreau was asked if he had made peace with God.
He replied, "I did not know we had ever quarreled"

President **TAD LARRABEE** called the meeting to order at 10:02am and enlisted **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** to lead us in the Pledge. **JERRY** then led the songfest with *My Country Tis of Thee, Take Me Out to the Ballgame* and *Hey, and Look Me Over*. He did so admirably without access to the lyrics. **BOB MORGAN** was at the piano. The Mentor was **GEORGE DIPPY**. Corresponding Secretary **TOM HEALY** broke everyone up with two great jokes about killing husbands and not getting blankets for them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DON CONWAY along with the other members of the Nominating Council, **PETER UHRY, BOB BISHOP, BOB ROBINS** (**JACK WEIR** was absent) presented the nominees for Officer, Directors, Standing Committee Chairmen and Nominating Council for the coming year. (see the complete list on page five).

TAD noted that the Board has held lengthy discussions to rewrite the RMA By-Laws. There were significant issues with the current version which the Board discussed at length. A copy of the current By-Laws is posted alongside a copy of the revised By-Laws on the bulletin board. A one-page synopsis of the changes is also posted. The synopsis and the proposed revision will be emailed to members later today with a link to the current version which is on the RMA website. A vote by the Membership on the proposed revised By-Laws will be held two weeks from today on April 3rd. A two-thirds

vote is required for passage. If anyone has comments or questions about this proposal, please feel free to contact **TAD** or any member of the Board.

CHET RISIO continued the Incidents Program, stories by members of a particular incident in their lives and introduced **MIKE AMBROSINO** who told a riveting story about a dark night in Vietnam when troops were ordered to, "Fix bayonets! This is not a drill!". **RICH BISK**, Chairman of the Volunteer Committee, is implementing a program to introduce volunteer opportunities on a one-on-one basis to RMA members. His "Mountain To Mohammed Movement" will bring organizations seeking volunteers to come to the RMA and be available for questions about their groups. **RICH** will kick off this initiative with AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) next week. AVID provides mentoring for college-bound students at Greenwich HS. Julie Faryniarz, Executive Director of the Greenwich Alliance for Education, will present the program next week.

MIKE AMOROSO spoke about the YWCA which is celebrating its 100th year in Greenwich. **MIKE** stressed that men are welcome to join. A senior membership is \$65 a month and a senior couple is \$105 a month. There is a newly renovated fitness center, a warm water pool, group exercises, personal training, and outdoor tennis courts. For information, contact Michele Pennino at 203 307-3821 or m.pennino@ywcagreenwich.org.

RALPH VIGGIANO and his wife, Kathleen, celebrated 45 years of marriage on March 16th.

Returnees were: **PETER UHRY** from San Diego, California and Las Vegas, Nevada, **DON HERMANN** from Mill Valley, California and Lake Tahoe, Nevada, **REID McINTYRE** from Singer Island, Florida and **PETER STERN** from Springhill, The Villages, Boynton Beach and Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Florida.

COMMITTEES

Today's Speaker: **BOB PHILLIPS** urged all to stay for **Prof. Kevin Gutzman's** talk on *Thomas Jefferson-Revolutionary: A Radical Struggle to Remake America*.

Next Week's Speaker: **BOB ROBINS** said Mark Pruner, Greenwich Sentinel's columnist on Real Estate, will address *The Greenwich Real Estate Market and the Trends Affecting Prices*.

Membership: **ED FARRELL**, subbing for **HORST TEBBE**, informed us that there were 99 members present and two guests; James Clements, g/o **STEVE BOIES** and Carl White, g/o **JACK CUFF**. Regrettably, there were no birthdays to celebrate.

Volunteer hours: **ROS CURTIS** reported, for the week ending March 20th, 547 outside hours by 45 members and 216 inside hours by 31 members. Top honors went to **JOHN TONER** with 50 hours.

GAMES OF THE RMA

Bridge: **FRANK LEE** gave the highest scores for March 13th; **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** 1800, **KURT SCHAFFIR** 2000 and **FRANK LEE** at 2180. **FRANK** then gave a well deserved tribute to **KURT SCHAFFIR** who will be moving away soon. **KURT'S** many years as steward of the bridge group was appreciated by all.

Hearts: **GEORGE DIPPY** gave the results for March 13th. Winners were **ED FARRELL**, **JACK SWEGER** and **TOM HEALY** who also shot the moon.

Tennis: **RON FRIEDMAN** announced that **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** and **JOHN KNIGHT** won on Court 1 and **MIKE AMBROSINO** and **MIKE SMITH** won Court 2. Next week's captain is **TOM HEALY**.

Golf: **MIKE RYAN** told all golfers that the first outing is April 2nd with the first tee time at 8:30am. The dues are \$20.00 and **MIKE** is looking for golf hosts throughout the season.

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** submitted a NEATLY TYPED, HIGHLY INFORMATIVE, FULLY DETAILED INFORMATION SHEET to the CBB Scribe, (an effort some recalcitrant members should emulate), on Tai Chi walking. **WILL** is looking forward to holding classes outdoors and walking on Saturday mornings using Tai Chi principles. He urged all to register for classes at the Senior Center for the next three month period.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all members, candidates, guests, and spouses. Checks made out to RMA within two weeks of the reservation or it will be canceled. The trip leader is named for each event. **MIKE FERRARESE** announced the following events:

Bush Holly House Museum, March 28, lunch at the Museum, \$25pp. Self drive, 9:45am at the Museum. Status: Wait listed. Contact **HOLLISTER STURGES** at hollistersturges@aol.com or 203 861-2279

The Cloisters, May 2, lunch at New Leaf Café, \$105pp. Bus departs St. Catherine's at 9:00am. Status: Wait listed. Contact **HOLLISTER STURGES** at hollistersturges@aol.com or 203 861-2279

Belmont Race Track, June 15, buffet at Belmont, jackets required, \$85pp. Bus departs St. Catherine's at 10:30am. Status: 32 places open. Contact **TOM HEALY** at 203 661-2954.

Botanical Gardens, a Roberto Marx exhibit, July 11, lunch at Mario's Restaurant, \$115pp. Bus departs St. Catherine's at 8:45am. Status: 35 places open. Contact **MIKE FERRARESE** at 203 554-0678.

Mallin Art Tour; DON HERMANN said the tour will be on Sunday, April 28 and will include lunch at DiNardo's in Pound Ridge. Rain or shine, the cost \$45.13pp. Car pools will gather at 8:45am. (Place to be determined) Checks made out to the RMA and given to **DON** or **BRUCE PANTANO** by April 3rd.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

BOB PHILLIPS introduced Kevin Gutzman, Professor of History at Western Connecticut State University who spoke on the content of his book; *Thomas Jefferson- Revolutionary: A Radical's Struggle to Remake America*. Jefferson, whose design of the University of Virginia established him as one of America's eminent architects, sought to establish states' rights over central government as crucial to a republic. He abolished the feudal land tenure which gave voting rights to only a select few. Prof Gutzman outlined four elements of Jefferson's hope for America.

Federalism: His concept that the Federal Government is a "foreign government" that gives to each state the primacy over a central government. This, in turn, grants ultimate rights to each citizen.

Freedom of Conscience: Colonists viewed Jefferson as a heretic because he felt that true religious freedom could not coexist with the Church of England. Many said, "Hide your bible if Jefferson becomes President".

Colonialism: Initially he thought a biracial society could not exist. He felt all slaves should be returned to Africa but the invention of the cotton gin changed everything. Now slave labor was desperately needed.

Assimilation: At the start of the Revolution there were 2 ½ million colonists and ½ million slaves. Though he was a slave owner he felt a democratic republic could not survive until all inhabitants, including Indians, were assimilated as free citizens.

Education: His view that education is essential to a democracy spurred him to promote secondary education for all citizens. A regional and intermediary education would identify potential leaders.

Professor Gutzman's absorbing presentation consumed the entire hour and left no time for Q&A.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Mark Pruner, Greenwich Sentinel's columnist on Real Estate
The Greenwich Real Estate Market and the Trends Affecting Prices

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Slate of Officers, Standing Committees and Nominating Council

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Publicity Jack Cuff Asst: Andrzej Mazurek & Don Conway

Director at Large Ed Farrell

Director at Large Peter Stern

Cigar Box Bulletin Joe Mancinelli Asst: Chet Risio

Volunteers Rich Bisk Asst: Bob Frishman & Jerry Mayfield

Nominating Council Tony Cocchi, Bob Robins, Jack Weir, Don Conway & Tad Larrabee

Financial Review Steve Boise

SPECIAL NOTICE: The above-named members are to be voted upon by the full membership at our March 27, 2019 meeting of the RMA

2019 -2020 RMA List of Chairmen and Assistants for the various Committees and Activities

Appointed Committees:

Archivist Tad Larrabee

Behind the Scenes Bob Bishop Asst: Don Sargeant & Peter Stern

Name Tags Jerry Berrafati & John Craine Asst: Don Sargeant

Boaters John Craine

Bridge Andrzej Mazurek Asst: Tony Cocchi

Corresponding Sec. Arnold Gordon

Golf Mike Ryan Asst: Jack Weir & Paul Champion

Health & Safety Joel Blumberg Asst: Frank Scarpa & George Ubogy

Hearts Jack Sweger

IT Committee Tad Larrabee, Andrzej Mazurek & Tony Cocchi

Melody Men Tom Healy Asst: Jerry Schwendeman & Bob Morgan

Music Bob Morgan, Jim Santora, George Stockbridge

Memorials Arnold Gordon

Mentors Peter Uhry Asst: Peter Stern & Gerry Gibian

Opera Group OPEN??

Shakespeare Group George Stockbridge

Pickle Ball Tony Cocchi Asst: Geoffrey Burge

R.O.M.E.O. Lunch OPEN??

Refreshments Murice Krohn Asst: Ed Farrell & Bob Bishop

Taxpayer Assistance Martin Waine Asst: Jay Schondorf

Tennis Winter Joe Mancinelli

Tennis Summer John Knight Asst: Andy Holmes

Television Production Don Conway Asst: Ted Spool, Steve Marino, Horst

Tebbe & Steve Myers

Sound Ed Parker Asst: Don Conway

Visiting Wayne Wright & Bob Bishop

Walk & Talk Tad Larrabee Asst: Don Herman & Jim Fishbein

Website Tad Larrabee