



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

37 Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT 06830

www.greenwichrma.org

Chair/Editor: **Joe Mancinelli** Graphics: **Av Rivel**

Scribes: **Av Rivel, Kurt Schaffir, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell, Gerry Lessuk, George Stockbridge, Joe Mancinelli, Frank Scarpa, Marshall Toppo, Chet Risio.**

Archivist: **Harold Frost.** Format: **Jack Cuff, Andrzej Mazurek, Gene Schwartz.**
Print/Dist: **Chet Risio**

"The difference between stupidity and genius is that genius has its limits."

Albert Einstein

VOLUME 66 NUMBER 47 APRIL 3, 2019 SCRIBE: ED FARRELL

President **TAD LARRABEE** opened the meeting at 10:00 am and called on **BILL WIGGIN** to lead us in the pledge.

MIKE HAYDEN, accompanied by **JIM SANTORA** on the piano, then led members in singing *America the Beautiful*, *Take Me Out to the Ballgame*, and *When the Red, Red Robin Comes Bobbing Along*.

TOM HEALY followed with jokes about four old guys sharing 10 cent drinks and a poor guy caught in an embarrassing moment by a thief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Returnees: TAD acknowledged returnees: **ARNOLD GORDON** from Punta Gorda, Florida, **GRANT PERKINS** from Charlotte, North Carolina, **GERRY GIBIAN** from WW2

Pacific battlefields: Pearl Harbor, Guam, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima, JIM BOARDMAN from Japan, and DICK FRANCK from Salzburg, Vienna, Athens and Crete.

2. GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE announced a showing of Shakespeare's *King Lear* starring Laurence Olivier this afternoon at 1:30 pm at the home of Reynold Burrow.
3. DON HERMANN reminded members of the Mallin Art Tour scheduled for April 28, 2019. Checks in the amount of \$43.13 made out to the order of RMA must be given to either DON or BRUCE PANTANO by April 10.
4. WILL MORRISON asked, "How much does your head weigh?" He noted that looking down while walking subconsciously anticipates falling, and it is better to stand erect (eyes forward) which promotes better balance.
5. DON CONWAY asked for volunteer drivers for the May 4 MGM May Gardeners Market. Drivers will take and return visitors from Montgomery Lane parking area to GBC from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Drivers are asked to commit to a two-hour shift.
6. TAD LARRABEE announced a performance of the Greenwich Choral Society at 4:00 pm on April 6 at the Performing Arts Center at Greenwich HS. The program will feature works by Johannes Brahms, Ralph Vaugh-Williams and Felix Mendelssohn.
7. As part of the Human Interest Series he introduced a short while ago, CHET RISIO introduced ANDRZEJ MAZUREK, who recalled his life in Poland under Soviet control and the costs and hardships he experienced in finding his way to the United States in 1979. He strongly expressed his gratitude for how the U.S. welcomed him and allowed him to have a successful career and experience the "American Dream."

COMMITTEES.

PROGRAM: HOLLISTER STURGES noted that today's speaker will be Ambassador Tom Niles, who will offer his perspective on *Foreign Affairs Today*. ARNOLD GORDON announced that next week's speaker will be Julie Jason, financial expert and columnist, who will discuss *Managing Retirement Wealth in Good Times and Bad*.

VOLUNTEER HOURS: RICH BISK noted 2019 monthly volunteer hours compare favorably with last year's performance YTD. He recognized 10 outstanding YTD contributors: BOB BISHOP, HORST TEBBE, PETER UHRY, BOB PHILLIPS, HOLLISTER STURGES, MARTY WAINE, ED PARKER, JIM SANTORA, MIKE RYAN, and STEVE BOIES. RICK HOLZ announced that for the week ending April 3, 2019, 48 members reported 575 volunteer hours for outside agencies and 32 members reported 155 volunteer hours for the RMA. ARNOLD GORDON reported the most hours with 98.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE reported 102 members, one guest and one candidate present at today's meeting. Ralph Newitter was guest off BOB GRAYSON. Candidate

CARL WHITE was introduced by JACK CUFF and unanimously admitted to membership in the RMA. Today's **birthday boys** are: JOHN HARKINS 77, JACK MINOR 82, SKIP AUCH 73, JOHN AWDZIEWICZ 87, and ALLAN DEERING 84.

FUN AND GAMES

BRIDGE: PETER STERN announced the winners last week were: RON MURRAY with 3,600, ANDRZEJ MAZUREK with 3,440 and TONY COCCHI with 3,430.

HEARTS: MICHAEL AMBROSINO reported 12 players played last week. Winners were: Table #1 ED FARRELL and MICHAEL AMBROSINO: Table #2 JACK WEIR with two wins: Table #3 DON CONWAY and JACK SWEGER. Moon Shooters were: JACK SWEGER, GEORGE DIPPY, and MICHAEL AMBROSINO.

TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL: JOHN KNIGHT and TONY COCCHI announced that spring tennis is played from 9-11 am every Monday at Loughlin Field. Pickle ball is played on the same courts on Thursdays 9-11 am. JOHN noted that the courts will accommodate 16 pickle ball players. However, everyone is welcome and the more players the better.

SPECIAL EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENTS are open to all, Guests, Candidates and Spouses. Checks should be made out to RMA, must be received within two weeks following the reservation or the reservation will be cancelled. Contact **MIKE FERRARESE** at **myagentmike@yahoo.com / 203-554-0678** or **ABBEY SMOLER** at **abbeysmoler@gmail.com / 203-531-0236** for information.

The Cloisters: Date: May 2, 2019. Cost: \$105 per person. Transportation: Bus leaves St. Catherine's at 9:00 am. Lunch: New Leaf Café. Status: Wait listed

Belmont Park Race Track: Date: Thursday, June 13, 2019. Cost: \$85 per person. STRICT DRESS CODE for the Belmont Room. Jackets and ties are required. Transportation: Bus leaves St. Catherine's at 10:30 AM. Lunch: at Belmont. Status: 10 openings.

Bronx Botanical Gardens: Date: July 11, 2019. Cost: \$115 per person. Transportation: Bus leaves St. Catherine's at 8:45 AM. Lunch: Mario's. Status: 30 openings.

NOTE: For information regarding the Cloisters event please contact HOLLISTER STURGES at hollistersturges@aol.com

TODAY'S SPEAKER

During a 36-year career in government service, Ambassador Tom Niles served as U.S. ambassador to Canada and Greece, as well as Assistant Secretary of State for Europe

and Canada. In today's talk, Ambassador Niles offered his opinion and perspective on foreign affairs today. He suggested that the consistency and orderliness in foreign (particularly European) relations that has generally prevailed since the implementation of the Marshall Plan has been severely undermined by the impulsive and ill-informed decision making of the Trump administration.

Because so many key positions in the State Department, as well as important ambassador positions, are unfilled or filled by inexperienced people, foreign governments are increasingly loathed to trust the United States. He noted the unpredictable policy decisions being made by Washington (e.g. movement of our embassy in Israel to Jerusalem; recognition of Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights) is causing confusion among our allies and loss of respect from our adversaries.

Ambassador Niles believes that, by weakening our relationships with allies, the United States is abandoning its self-interest, and that adhering to an "America First" policy will ultimately result in America alone. Among other topics he addressed, Ambassador Niles suggested that Brexit could result in the dissolution of traditional British political alliances; that rapprochement with North Korea is possible, but not likely during the current administration; that abandonment of the Iran agreement was a mistake that adversely impacted relations with the co-signers of that agreement. Overall, Ambassador Niles offered a comprehensive, but less-than-positive assessment of our current foreign policy.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Julie Jason

Subject: Managing Retirement Wealth in Good Times and Bad

Visit us at www.greenwichrma.org

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich Inc. ·

37 Lafayette Place Greenwich CT 06830 · USA