



# CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

## Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

60 Years of Fellowship and Community  
Service

Visit us on the web at [www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org)



Here are the volunteers who publish this Bulletin each week for your enjoyment. **Editor/Chairman:** Chet Risio. **Scribes:** Av Rivel, Gran Burgess, Kurt Schaffir, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell, Chet Risio, Gerry Lessuk, Steve Elliot, and George Stockbridge, Emeritus. **Archivist:** Harold Frost. **Format and Layout:** Gene Schwartz, Jack Cuff, and Andrzej Mazurek. **Reproduction/Distribution:**, Chet Risio.

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June 7, 2017

Fresh from an RMA Board meeting, President DON CONWAY jangled our nerves with his bell at 10:03am. Pledge leader TOM HEALY stayed at the lectern to lead us in the usual first-of-the-month Star Spangled Banner followed by For Me and My Gal and On the Sunny Side of the Street (even though there was no sun outside). PETER RYAN played the Steinway with his usual aplomb (look it up). Impresario HEALY took the opportunity to **urge members to consider joining the Melody Men**, who just completed their 11-concert season with their final performance at Edgehill a week ago. The group can use 5 additional men for the next season starting in September; contact TOM at [sachem@optonline.net](mailto:sachem@optonline.net) or 203-661-2954. President DON mentioned that KURT SCHAFFIR was mentor of the day.

Corresponding Secretary of the day, JERRY SCHWENDEMAN, read some real correspondence for a change: a letter of thanks to the Melody Men from a staff member at Edgehill and a thank you note from Senator Chris Murphy for inviting him to speak at our April 19, 2017 meeting. JERRY then told us about a man who had divine lighting for his nightly trips to what he thought was the loo, not realizing he voided into the fridge (I wonder if it was a Whirlpool model).

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARNOLD GORDON reminded everyone of the **Burma Shave rhyming contest** to be held at next week's meeting. Your 4- or 5-line entry must rhyme and must be on a topic relating to the RMA. See the rules at the end of this CBB. Entries must be submitted by e-mail by June 9th to both PETER UHRY ([uhry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uhry@sbcglobal.net)) and ARNOLD GORDON ([ajgordo@verizon.net](mailto:ajgordo@verizon.net)). You must be present on June 14 to read your entry. A distinguished panel of unqualified experts (JOHN CARON, GERRY MAYFIELD, and MIKE SMITH) will select the top three rhymers. The winning rhymes will appear in that erudite literary publication, the RMA CBB.

PETER UHRY introduced members CHARLIE MARSHALL and PETER ARTURI who recounted their **Honor Flight trip, an annual program in Washington, DC for WWII, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans**. "Wow. Trip of Trips" (CHARLIE, US Air

Force, Korea and Vietnam); “One of the most memorable days of my life” (PETER, US Navy, WWII). They both urged every veteran to apply for the privilege of taking the trip, and to consider supporting the non-profit organization; see <https://www.honorflight.org/>.

GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE recommended the Literacy Volunteers of America highly as an opportunity for members to provide needed help to students in speaking, reading and understanding English. GEORGE has been involved for 15 years. Evening training sessions for volunteers begin on Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. For details call or write Lucia Cook: 203-324-3167 or [lcook@familycenters.org](mailto:lcook@familycenters.org).

The DON welcomed back returnees: GERRY FOX (Florida), JIM SANTORA (Portugal), GERRY MAYFIELD (Santa Barbara, CA), PETER SCHIEFERDECKER (Ireland and Netherlands), and RANDY MOTLAND (San Francisco, CA).

## COMMITTEES

**VISITING:** CHUCK STANDARD noted that JOE COLEMAN has been in Greenwich Hospital since May recovering from shingles, pneumonia and a *staphylococcus* infection. JIM FAHY is also in the hospital with a foot infection. Speedy recovery to both good men!

**PROGRAM:** BOB ROBINS urged everyone to stay to hear Carol Platt Liebau, President of the Yankee Institute for Public Policy, a state-wide think tank in Hartford, who will speak about Connecticut’s fiscal crisis. She graduated from Princeton University and obtained her law degree from Harvard. STEVE MARINO then reported that Stuart Gibson, a repeat RMA speaker, will talk next week on “Kurdistan and its Elusive Quest for Nationhood,” about the autonomous region in northern Iraq and its longstanding aspirations for independence.

**MEMBERSHIP:** HORST TEBBE cautioned that if the 50 or so members who have not paid their dues by next week, they will be placed on the inactive list (will not receive mailings, etc.). He then reported attendance by 111 members and 6 guests: Paul Keeler (g/o BOB MORGAN), Fred Goodstein (FRANK STAUFFER), Kaz Herchold (AL KNIGHT), Hal Doshan (STEVE MYERS), Larry Posner (HAROLD KUPELSKY), and George Dey (TOM NACINOVICH). Birthdays were celebrated for BILL SALTSMAN (91), ERF PORTER (81), PETER UHRY (78), GEORGE DIPPY (73), BOB MORGAN (81), PETER COLEMAN (72), and JOE IMM (89). HORST thanked DOUG TAYLOR and BILL SALTSMAN for always filling in for him and/or JIM FAHY at the membership desk when one or both are absent.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:** MIKE FERRARESE gave us the schedule. See details below.

**VOLUNTEERS:** HAROLD KUPELSKY reported that 48 men served 408 hours for outside agencies, and 29 members reported 111 hours for RMA activities. The member with the greatest number for the week was ARNOLD GORDON, with 26 hours. What a wonderful guy.

## GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

**BRIDGE:** PETER STERN reported that 12 members played last week (without him): GRANT PERKINS was first with 4730 points, BRUNO SCHRAGE was second with 3300, and JOE ROE was third with 2930. **HEARTS:** JACK SWEGER joyfully reported 8 players at two tables last Wednesday. The winners were MIKE AMBROSINO and LES CHEIKIN at Table 1; Table 2 was a learning/practice experience for newcomers.

**SUMMER TENNIS:** JOHN KNIGHT bemoaned the fact that Monday's games were rained out. Members are reminded that all interested should come on Monday and Thursday mornings from 9-10:30 at the Loughlin Avenue courts in Cos Cob.

**GOLF:** JAY SCHONDORF told us there were 20 anxious to tee off, but rain teed **them** off. Two stalwarts hung around and were able to play 9 holes, BOB BOARDMAN and MIKE RYAN.

## TODAY'S SPEAKER

BOB ROBINS introduced **Carol Platt Liebau** who focused her talk on the ongoing fiscal crisis faced by CT. We are taxed heavily yet our roads, many schools, Metro North and other public services are suffering. In her opinion, the single most important factor inhibiting the State's ability to thrive and prosper is the dysfunctional relationship between State employee unions and the Legislature, whereby unions have a disproportionate political influence. On average, total compensation for State employees is 25-46% higher than for comparable positions in the private sector. Wages for CT state employees have risen 13% from 2012-2016 compared to a 3.6% decrease in the private sector. They have a defined benefit pension for which the majority contributes only 2% of salary compared to 6% in other states, and one-quarter pay nothing. CT is one of only 4 states that engage in collective bargaining on wages and benefits and there is no political accountability for the Legislator's action or inaction. Union contracts are not made available through the FOI process. The State's biannual deficit stands at 5 billion dollars, high taxes are driving individuals and business out of CT, and unfunded pension liabilities are now 32 billion dollars. The current union contracts might be extended to 2027, whereas in most states a 3 year period is the norm. The Governor also promised no layoffs for the next 4 years. What can be done to improve the fiscal health of CT? Ms. Liebau and her Institute advocate for the following: use a priority-based budgeting process, impose the spending cap previously approved but never implemented, enact pension reform by introducing 401K's or a hybrid pension/401K program with a 6% employee contribution, establish wage equity with the private sector, reform the estate tax to at least match the Federal system, streamline occupational licensing requirements, create an entry level ("opportunity") wage lower than the minimum wage for young people, and other steps. A very lively Q&A session followed.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

*Open to members, spouses, candidates and guests. Checks made out to RMA and must be received within two weeks following the reservation or the reservation will be cancelled. Trip coordinators MIKE FERRARESE (203-554-0678) and ABBEY SMOLER (203-531-0236)*

**June 15, 2017: Belmont Race Track.** Bus transportation – departure from St. Catherine's at 10:30 a.m. Members' Lunch Club -- Sumptuous buffet lunch -- \$80 per person. Jacket and tie required. Still 4 openings.

**July 20, 2017: Mark Twain Museum in Hartford.** Bus transportation at 8:15 from St. Catherine's. Box Lunch; \$76 per person. Status: one opening.

**August 31, 2017 – Sound Waters cruise.** Drive your own car. Meet at dock at 1:30 p.m. Depart at 2:00. Snacks and water. \$35 per person.

**ARNOLD GORDON**, Scribe of the Week

Visit us at our website @ [www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org).

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

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### **FIRST RMA BURMA SHAVE RHYMING CONTEST**

FOR BACKGROUND ON BURMA SHAVE VERSES AND REAL EXAMPLES FROM LONG AGO: <http://www.backwoodshome.com/feeling-nostalgic-now-youll-rave-heres-the-story-of-burma-shave/> and <http://fiftiesweb.com/pop/burma-shave-1/>

Any member of RMA can participate. What are the rules:

1. Your rhyming 4 or 5 line entry **must be on a topic relating to RMA**...but be "clean enough to be read aloud in mixed company." **ONLY ONE ENTRY PER MEMBER PLEASE.**
2. Your rhyme must end with the initials RMA. Note: RMA cannot be part of your 4-5 line rhyme.
3. How you rhyme your verse is up to you. Note: historically some Burma Shave roadside ads did not rhyme but eventually they all did...so to simplify things....we will have rhymed entries.
4. All entries must be submitted in writing (preferably via e-mail) to both PETER L. UHRY ([uhry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uhry@sbcglobal.net)) and ARNOLD GORDON ([ajgordo@verizon.net](mailto:ajgordo@verizon.net)) by Friday June 9th.
5. To be eligible for the over the top fabulous low cost prizes (what they are we have no idea yet), you must be present on June 14 to read your entry. Fame and glory will be given to the top three entries. The winning rhymes will be posted in the CBB.

6. Like our limerick contest of last year, a panel of inexperienced amateurs will be named to select their top three entries. Then the members will be asked to vote on the three to declare the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place horses (er, rhymers). Two samples:

OVER 60

LIKE TO HEAR

WORRY NOT

YOU VOLUNTEER

JOIN OUR GROUP

DOESN'T MATTER WHERE

AND GAIN A LOT.

POINT IS - YOU CARE.

RMA

RMA