



# CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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

[www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org)

This Bulletin is brought to you each week by these volunteers.  
Scribes: **Av Rivel, Kurt Schaffir, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell, Gerry Lessuk, George Stockbridge, Dan Fredland, Joe Mancinelli, Frank Scarpa, Marshall Toppo.** On leave: **Steve Elliott,** Archivist: **Harold Frost.** Format: **Jack Cuff, Andrzej Mazurek, Gene Schwartz.** Print/Dist: **Chet Risio.**

"Walking with a friend in the dark is better than walking alone in the light."  
Helen Keller

**Volume 66 Number 9 June 27, 2018 Scribe: ED FARRELL**

President TAD LARRABEE called the meeting to order, and introduced TOM HEALY to lead us in the pledge. With BOB MORGAN at the piano, TOM then led us in singing *The Star Spangled Banner, Take Me Out to the Ballgame* and *The RMA Anthem.*

ARNOLD GORDON then drew big laughs with a story about three nuns, one of whom gained entrance to heaven by responding to St. Peter's inquiry about Eve's first words to Adam: "that's a hard one." ARNOLD told a second story about a priest who entered an ass in a horse race and ultimately caused himself, a nun and a bishop significant grief from the local newspaper's reporting of the ass's performance.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. TAD LARRABEE announced that
  - a. Long-time RMA member BOB ALDEN passed away on June 25, 2018.
  - b. There will be no meeting next week, because of the July 4th holiday which lands on Wednesday.**
  - c. On behalf of the absent DON CONWAY, TAD noted that the parking passes that allow RMA members to park free of charge at **metered parking spots** in the Lafayette parking lot and on Lafayette Place are good only from 9:00am to 12:30pm on Wednesdays. Cars parked in non-

metered spots (e.g. on grass or in driveway adjacent to the parking lot) are subject to ticketing even if a parking pass is displayed.

2. RALPH VIGGIANO suggested that anyone interested in learning about cancer diagnosis and treatment should attend Greenwich Hospital's program on *Updates in Genetic Cancer Testing* to be held at the hospital on July 11 at 12:00pm.
3. GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE announced that the Shakespeare Group will next meet at 1:30pm on July 17 at the home of KEITH SMITH, 37 Jones Park Drive. A color DVD presentation of Macbeth will be featured. All interested in attending should call GEORGE at 203-698-0710.
4. PETER UHRY said that those who ordered RMA hats could pick them up at the break, and that a few extras are available at a cost of \$12.00.
5. SERGE GABRIEL urged members to attend the Raise the Flag ceremony at Town Hall at 9:00am on July 4<sup>th</sup>.
6. JOHN CRAINE sought participants for the annual RMA Raftup on July 26. Rendezvous will be at noon at Great Captains Island.
7. RETURNEES: TAD LARRABEE announced returnees PETER UHRY (Maine), and BOB PHILLIPS (San Francisco).

## COMMITTEES

**MEMBERSHIP:** HORST TEBBE reported 107 members present at today's meeting. HORST recognized two birthday boys, TOM NACINOVICH (78) and PETER UHRY (79), and two guests, Art Wernicke, guest of ARNOLD GORDON, and Bob Frishman, guest of MIKE WARNER. FRED BROOKS and DON HELLER introduced Norman Masri for membership in the RMA, and he was unanimously accepted.

**VOLUNTEER HOURS:** MICHAEL AMBROSINO reported 32 men donated 337 hours to outside agencies, and 21 men reported 102 volunteer hours for the RMA. MIKE AMOROSO had the most accumulated hours (85) and RICHARD BISK had most hours for the week (35).

**PROGRAM:** BOB PHILLIPS announced today's speaker will be Larry Kantor, an economist, who will discuss prospects for the economy in light of recent changes to tax and trade policies.

GEORGE UBOGY noted that, at our next meeting on July 11, there will be a panel of physicians, who will address medical questions they are frequently asked, as well as questions raised by the audience. In addition to moderator Dr. Ubogy, the panel will consist of: Dr. Spike Lipschutz, physician in chief at Greenwich Hospital; Dr. John Crowe, retired general orthopedist; Dr. Frank Scarpa, retired general and vascular surgeon.

JOEL BLUMBERG said that our July 18<sup>th</sup> speaker will be Dennis Corcoran, a baseball enthusiast and author of the book, *Induction Day at the Hall of Fame*.

## FUN AND GAMES

**BRIDGE:** ANDRZEJ MAZUREK announced the winners on June 20 were ANDRZEJ MAZUREK (3680), KURT SCHAFFIR (3620) and JOHN FEBLES (2830).

**GOLF:** ERF PORTER reported that six players broke 100 and low scorers were MIKE SMITH (88), TONY COCCHI (84) and KIP SCHULZE (45 for nine holes). PETER STERN was closest to the pin on hole 5 and had the longest drive on hole 17. JAY SCHONDORF was closest to the pin on hole 15. MIKE RYAN announced that in the future players will play in threesomes rather than foursomes in an effort to speed-up play.

**SUMMER TENNIS** JOHN KNIGHT announced that, for the foreseeable future, tennis will be played at the usual time at Greenwich High School rather than at Loughlin Street.

**PICKLEBALL** TONY COCCHI reported that last week's games were rained-out. He noted that, because two additional Pickleball courts are being constructed at Loughlin Street, Pickleball will be played from 9-11:00am for the next two weeks on the Platform tennis courts at that location.

**HEARTS:** TOM HEALY reported that 8 players participated in last week's games. Winners at table #1 were TAD LARRABEE and JACK SWEGER. Winners at table #2 were JOHN STANKUNAS, MICHAEL AMBROSINO and TOM HEALY. JOHN STANKUNAS shot the moon twice, and JACK SWEGER, MICHAEL AMBROSINO and TOM HEALY each shot the moon once.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all members, guests, candidates and spouses. Checks to be made out to RMA, and must be received within two weeks or the reservation will be cancelled. Contact MIKE FERRARESE ([myagentmike@yahoo.com](mailto:myagentmike@yahoo.com) / 203-554-0678) or ABBEY SMOLER ([abbeysmoler@gmail.com](mailto:abbeysmoler@gmail.com) / 203-531-0235)

**Sound Water Cruise:** August 30, 2-4 p.m. Snacks served aboard. Cost \$35 Self-drive. Status: open.

## TODAY'S SPEAKER

Dr. Laurence Kantor, PhD, addressed members on the prospects for the economy and markets in light of recent changes in tax, trade and immigration policies. With respect to the recently passed tax bill, Dr. Kantor indicated that, with near-term 2.5% to 3% GDP growth projected, the economy needs "no juice," and the tax plan will adversely impact on our national debt and put pressure on social programs, because there is no way the plan will pay for itself. He suggested that we are at the tail-end of an unusually long recovery from the 2008 recession and that the stimulation effect from that recovery is waning. This will likely lead to a new recession as early as 2020. With respect to

current trade policy, Dr. Kantor seemed to indicate that we are in danger of embarking on an all-out trade war from which no country will gain economically. He suggested that it is too late to fight globalism and that the jobs already lost to other countries will not return, largely because we have ceded some industries to others, but also because ours is increasingly a service economy and technology is replacing human labor. Dr. Kantor suggested that it is a bad time to be “down on immigration.” He seemed to indicate that, with retirements high and our national birth rate down, we should be welcoming skilled laborers, who will pay taxes and contribute to economic growth.

### **NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER**

On the next meeting, July 11, the RMA will welcome a panel of local physicians, who will address Medical issues of interest to RMA members

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

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich Inc. ·

37 Lafayette Place Greenwich CT 06830 · USA