



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.
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www.greenwichtma.org

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

VOLUME 67 NUMBER 22 SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 SCRIBE: MARSHALL TOPPO

"Reason and sense remove anxiety, not villas that look out upon the sea."

Horace, Roman Poet, 1st Century BC

A well-groomed **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN**, President, called the boisterous fellows to order at 10:05am. **JIM BUTLER** led the Pledge to the flag and **JERRY** plus **DON CONWAY** led the group in song. A rousing *Grand Old Flag* rang out followed by a sentimental rendition of *Tea for Two* and *Peg O' My Heart*. Our **JIM SANTORO** at the Steinway. **BOB LUCE** brought chuckles delivering a bawdy joke concerning a sexually active rabbi outwitted by a clever old-timer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Returnees: **FRANK SCARPA** from Canada, **JIM SANTORO** from Iceland, **GERRY BOYLE** from Winston Salem, NC.

Attendance: **ED FARRELL** reported 92 members present and three guests. Ed Mastoloni, g/o **KEN PARKER**, Ted Herman g/o **ARNOLD GORDON** and **JAY SCHOUBROW**, Pat Yuen g/o **FRANK SCARPA** and **MIKE RYAN**. Inductee Dave Richards was sponsored by **KEATING HAGMAN** and **ED FARRELL**. Approvingly voted in, **DAVE** became our newest member.

Birthdays: **STEVE MARINO**, 90, **HORST TEBBE**, 79. A huge birthday cake was presented to **STEVE** with resounding cheers from the membership.

This Week's speaker: **HOLLISTER STURGES** reminded us that this week's speaker is Darryl Hawk, international documentary photographer and explorer. His presentation will be *Colombia; Light at the End of the World*.

Next week's speaker; **JACK WEIR** indicated the next week's speaker will be Donna De Verona, Olympic swimming medalist. She will have a conversation with **DAVID WEISBROD** on *Major issues Surrounding the 2020 Tokyo Olympics*.

Amy Montimurro of ABILIS, an organization in Greenwich serving people with special needs since 1950. She is seeking volunteers to assist them in their many vital efforts. A Walk/Run event is scheduled for Oct. 20, 2019. Volunteers will be appreciated.

HOLLISTER STURGES reported the results of a survey regarding the presentations of our last three speakers. See the results of survey attached.

ARNOLD GORDON informed us that the Anti-Defamation League, that has combatted anti-Semitism, hate, and prejudice for many years, is having a special event to support ADL in Connecticut. It will take place on Saturday, Nov 9, 2019, at Klein Memorial Auditorium in Bridgeport. For more info go to <http://connecticut.adl.org>

ARNOLD also added that the Census Bureau is recruiting census workers. The pay is between \$14 and \$22 an hour. If interested go online to <https://2020census.gov/en/jobs>

MICHAEL AMBROSINO mentioned that the RMA banquet is scheduled for Wed, Nov 13, 2019, at noon. The cost is \$60, first come, first served. So far, we have eight table hosts. Chicken, salmon, beef, and veggies will be served.

MIKE also added that Covenant House needs coats and socks, any donations will be appreciated.

COMMITTEES

ROS CURTIS reported volunteer hours for Sept 25, 2019. Outside hours 290 by 43 members and inside hours 169 by 30 members. **MIKE RYAN** and **JAMES DEAN** each had 24 hours.

Special events: **MAURICE KROHN** reminded us of the Wave Hill Garden trip. See below for details.

LET THE GAMES BEGIN

Bridge: **PETER STERN** reported that on Sep 18, 2019 there were 8 players. 1st **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** 3300, 2ND **RON FRIEDMAN** 3040 and 3RD **RALPH VIGGIANO** 2030.

Indoor tennis: **BILL FAKUNDINY** indicated that; opening round, **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** and **ANDY HOLMES** advanced on court 1. **GEOFFREY BURGE** and **RALPH NEWITTER** advanced on court 2. Final winners: court 1, **GEOFFREY BURGE** and **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK**. Court 2, consolation winners: **ROB GRAYSON** and **BILL FAKUNDINY**. Captain for September 27 is **RANDY MOTLAND**.

Pickleball /Outdoor tennis: **ANDY HOLMES** said on Monday, September 23 there were 8 players. Pickleball is normally played on Thurs 9-11 at Loughlin Ave courts in Cos Cob but for the next Monday tennis begins at 8:30 and ends at 10:00.

Hearts: **JOHN KNIGHT** reported that on September 18 there were three tables, 12 players and 8 games completed. Winners were **PETER STERN (2) TOM MORONEY, GRANT PERKINS (2) ED FARRELL, JOHN STANKUNAS,** and **JACK WEIR**. Moonshots: **PETER BERG, TOM MORONEY, GRANT PERKINS (2) JACK SWEGER** and **ED FARRELL**. Next week's captain is **MIKE AMBROSINO**.

Golf: **MIKE RYAN** reported on Tuesday, September 24, there were 22 golfers. Closest to pin on #7, **RON MURRAY**, closest to pin on #15, **RALPH VIGGIANO**. Longest drive on #17, **RALPH VIGGIANO**. Seven players broke 100. Lowest scorer was **RALPH VIGGIANO** with an 88.

Tai Chi: **WILL MORRISON** announced classes continue Mondays and Wednesdays.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all members, spouses, candidates and guests. Checks should be made to the RMA and must be received within two weeks of the reservation(s) or the reservation(s) will be canceled. Buses depart from the St. Catherine Church parking lot on Riverside Avenue opposite the Church. Contact persons are listed with each event.

WAVE HILL GARDENS, RIVERDALE, N.Y.: October 10, 2019. A two-hour guided tour, from 9 to 11am; free gift and 10% discount on any purchase. See www.wavehill.org. Lunch at *The Lobster House*, on City Island, cost \$110 per person, bus departs at 8am, status: places available until September 18, 2019. Contact **MAURICE KROHN**.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Daryl Hawk, photographer and world traveler, offered us a thrilling array of photos from his last tour of Colombia, South America. With a sharp eye on capturing not only the beauty of the people he found but also the architecture of the places he visited, we never lost interest in his travels. His camera sought out not only the urban places but also the rural less populated landscapes.

It is obvious he enjoys the roads less traveled. So much so that he initiated his own tour company. *Unconventional Travelers*, that offers trips off the beaten path "to see the world in a new way by experiencing other cultures and lifestyles firsthand". We were most impressed by his skill as a photographer and his understanding of the people and their environments.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Donna De Verona, Olympic swimming medalist. She will have a conversation with **DAVID WEISBROD** on *Major issues Surrounding the 2020 Tokyo Olympics*.

RMA Program Presentation Survey Results September 2019

1. Generally, there is strong support for what the Program Committee is doing in delivering speakers. All three presenters from the last three weeks (not today's on Shakespeare) got favorable readings. (Rangappa, Haynes and Albertson) all got solid positive votes. Rangappa edged out Albertson but Haynes, with the Merritt Parkway program, also earned good feedback.

Participants were asked to rate the last three week's speakers in term of how they liked them generally. #1 was a strong positive followed by #2 above average and #3... okay but not terrific.

The raw results follow:

Voting #	Rangappa	Haynes	Albertson	% Rangappa	Haynes	Albertson
#1	43	34	39	61%	48%	56%
#2	23	31	22	33	44	31
#3	4	6	9	6	8	13
	<hr/> 70	<hr/> 71	<hr/> 70	<hr/> 100	<hr/> 100	<hr/> 100

2. Just taking the #1 votes (really liked) and comparing them with the #2 and #3 votes, you can see the Committee is delivering really well liked speakers. Even if a respondent did not a vote #1 from someone, there is a solid set of #2 votes.

3. If you look at these results with colored glasses, you will see that while the speakers touched on general history (Parkway), political history and an historic Russian figure (Albertson), RMAers did not shy away from the Stalin topic. And, most importantly, we demonstrated that our members can tolerate...and have interest in... current controversial topics...like tampering with the internet and American politics, (Rangappa).

Note: While not studied, my guess is that today's speaker on Shakespeare would have scored just as well as the three surveyed above.

4. As a personal note, Uhry is most interested in the favorable acceptance of what Rangappa said since it suggests that when we talk about "Challenges in Education - separating fact from fiction in a digital age" on October 16, we can almost talk about the threat and harm of "fake news" without specifically saying it for RMA political reasons.

The high quality of speakers that the Program Committee is finding certainly was reflected with the good feedback we got today. Hollister deserves a special round of applause.

RMA 2019 Calendar

Weekly Repetitive Activities			
Date	Time	Activity	Location
Mondays	9:00am to 11:00am	Summer Tennis or Pickleball	Loughlin Ave. Courts
Mondays	3:00 to 4:00	Tai Chi Beginner	Greenwich Sr. Center
Tuesdays April through September	Various 8:00am to 11:00am Tee Times	Golf	Harris Griffith Golf Course
Wednesdays	10:00am to 11:00am	RMA Weekly Meeting	First Presbyterian Church, One West Putnam Ave., Greenwich CT
Wednesdays	1:00 to 3:00pm	Hearts	Greenwich Civic Ctr. 90 Harding Road, Old Greenwich
Wednesdays	3:00 to 4:00	Tai Chi Advanced	Greenwich Sr. Center
Wednesdays	1:00 to 3:00pm	Bridge	Greenwich YMCA
Thursdays	9:00am to 11:00am	Pickleball	Loughlin Ave. Courts
Thursdays	9:00 AM	RMA Walking	Various TBD
Fridays	1:30pm to 3:00pm	Indoor Tennis	Old Greenwich Tennis Academy
RMA Special Events			
October 10, 2019	9:00 to 11:00am	Wave Hill Tour	Riverdale, NY
November 13, 2019	12:00 Noon	ANNUAL RMA BANQUET	Tamarack Country Club

