



## CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.  
[www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org)

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**This Bulletin is brought to you each week by these volunteers.**

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**Volume 66 Number 22 October 3, 2018 Scribe: ARNOLD J. GORDON**

***"These are the times that try men's souls."* Thomas Paine**

Fresh from the just completed RMA Board meeting, **President TAD LARRABEE** rang the bell at 10:05am. **GRAN BURGESS** stepped in for the assigned but otherwise occupied **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** to lead us in the pledge. **DON CONWAY** conducted the group in the *Star Spangled Banner*, *Bye Bye Blackbird*, and a rousing *Take Me Out to the Ballgame* as he hoped for a Yankee win that evening. **BOB MORGAN's** usual elegant piano accompaniment added to the enjoyment. Corresponding Secretary **BOB LUCE** related a solemn tale about a man who bemoaned the fact that he married his young sweetheart instead of going to jail after being caught by her father while as teenagers he was violating her. **ARNOLD GORDON**, head of the Corresponding Secretaries, then introduced **JERRY FOX** so he could tell a short riddle he has been anxious to share before he leaves for Florida. What is the difference between a regular bank deposit and a sperm bank deposit? You figure it out or ask **ARNOLD** at the next meeting.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TAD** welcomed back the returnees: **PETER STERN** from London, Paris and Normandy; **PETER UHRY** from Berlin, Dresden, Prague and Vienna; and **BOB MORGAN** from Quebec City, Canada. What a peripatetic group!

**ARNOLD GORDON** offered an RMA public service reminder that voting is an important civic duty and that everyone eligible should vote on November 6<sup>th</sup>. To make sure you are registered and know your polling station, go to the League of Women Voters web

site, <http://lwvg.org/VoterRegistration2018.html> , or to <https://iwillvote.com>. You can also register online in CT: <https://voterregistration.ct.gov/OLVR/welcome.do> . If you want to change your party affiliation so you can vote your wishes in future primary elections, do that at the same time. You are also urged to remind your children and grandchildren to register and vote. CT residents may request a registration form which must be returned postmarked to the Registrar by October 30, 2018 to participate in the November 6, 2018 election. On-line registration deadline is 11:59 pm on October 30th. For registration in person at Town Hall the hours are between 9 am and 5 pm. The deadline is October 30, 2018 at 8 pm. For details call Town Hall at 203-622-7700.

The RMA would like to make voting easier for members who need help getting to the polls. You could make use of Call-a-Ride (203-661-6633). If not, RMA volunteers will help if you need a ride. Add your name to the sign-up sheet on the Membership Table and we will find someone to bring you to the polls and home. If you **would like to offer a ride to a fellow RMA member, please inform ARNOLD** at [ajgordo@verizon.net](mailto:ajgordo@verizon.net) or 203-340-9336.

**Dr. JOEL BLUMBERG** reminded us that flu season will soon be upon us and that the disease hits those over 65 particularly hard. Over 90% of all flu-related deaths in 2017 were in that age group. He urged everyone to have the high dose flu shot now. Medicare will pay for it. It is available at CVS and Walgreen stores. The Town also offers the shot as follows: Town Hall, October 15, 3-5 pm; Eastern Civic Center, October 11, 9am–1pm; Western Civic Center, October 16, 3-5pm. **JOEL** also recommended the pneumonia vaccine, but not at the same time. It will be offered at the same places as listed above.

**GRAN BURGESS** invited all to a reading of his new play, *My Love Affair with Maine*, at the Theater Artists Workshop, 5 Gregory Boulevard, Norwalk, CT at 2pm on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Admission is free.

**JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** reminded members that the Annual RMA Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 am until 2:30 pm. The fee is \$60 per person. Table hosts will be inviting members to sit at their tables. Five more hosts are needed to fill tables. To volunteer, contact **JERRY** at 203-622-9205 or [jerryschwendeman@yahoo.com](mailto:jerryschwendeman@yahoo.com).

**MIKE RYAN** reminded the golfers that their annual lunch will be held on October 10<sup>th</sup> at noon at the Field Club. Jackets required but tie is optional. He asked people to bring an interesting item for the raffle; it need not be golf related.

**MIKE AMBROSINO** asked members to participate in a food drive for Covenant House's new center in Stamford. Please bring non-perishable goods to the RMA meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup>; **MIKE** will collect and deliver them. If any questions, write to **MIKE** at [brooklynoil@yahoo.com](mailto:brooklynoil@yahoo.com).

**GENE SCHWARTZ** proudly announced that his book, *Three Religions, One God*, has been published (see <https://tinyurl.com/y7znp7te>); he offered it at half price (\$15) at the end of the meeting. (Signed by the author, of course.)

**HORST TEBBE** mentioned that the local community TV channels are no longer showing the RMA speaker videos; discussions will be held in an attempt to have the service reinstated.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**VISITING:** There was no report.

**MEMBERSHIP:** **HORST TEBBE** informed us that the member database is being updated with the help of **PETER STERN**. The current list has only one phone number for each member; if you would like one or more other numbers added, see **HORST** or **PETER**. There were 107 members in attendance. Those celebrating birthdays this past week were **GARY MILLER** 80, **BILL HORN** 85, **GERRY MAYFIELD** 83, and **ANDY HOLMES** 62.

**PROGRAM:** **STEPHEN MYERS** invited us to stay for a talk by Dr. Michael Puma, Director of the Center for Climate Systems Research at Columbia University's Earth Institute, on *Impact of Climate Change on Critical Food Sources*. This is the third in a series of talks on climate change. Details below. **TAD LARRABEE** stood in for **GEORGE UBOGY** to tell us that next week we will hear from Audrey Levitin, Director of Development & External Affairs, Innocence Project, New York on *The Innocence Project – 25 Years of Freeing the Innocent*.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:** **MIKE FERRARESE** brought us up to date on one pending event. Details below.

**VOLUNTEER HOURS:** **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** provided the statistics: 252 outside hours by 35 men and 129 RMA hours by 19 men; champ for the week was **RICH BISK** with 35 hours.

## FUN AND GAMES

**BRIDGE:** **BRUNO SCHRAGE** dealt the details. There were 7 players. First was **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** with 3320 points, followed by **GRAN PERKINS**(3200) and **TONY COCCHI** (2490).

**TENNIS:** **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** said the winners were **GEOFFREY BURGE** and **RON FRIEDMAN** on Court One with **TOM HEALY** and **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** on Court Two. **BILL FAKUNDINY** is captain next week.

**PICKLEBALL:** **JOE DOWLING** told us that last Thursday (9-11am) at Loughlin Courts there were 8 of us rotating in teams and between courts. Six of the hardest then played on at the Eastern Civic Center (11:30am-2pm).

**HEARTS:** There were 12 players at three tables. Winners: At Table 1, **JACK SWEGER** and **ED FARRELL**; Table 2 **LOU TROVATO** and **JOHN KNIGHT**; Table 3 **TOM HEALY** twice and **PETER BERG**. Moon Shots were launched by **TOM HEALY**, **ED FARRELL**, and **JOHN KNIGHT**. Next week's captain is **PETER BERG**.

**GOLF: JACK WEIR** said that 22 players showed up to slog through the soggy course. Three players shot in the 90s. Closest to the pin on 7 were **RALPH VIGGIANO** and **GEOFFREY BURGE** in a tie. Apparently, no one landed on the green at pin 15. **GEOFFREY BURGE** hit the longest drive. Most exciting moment: **TONY COCCHI** chasing his runaway cart on the 11<sup>th</sup> hole only to return up the hill to miss his putt.

### **TODAY'S SPEAKER**

**Dr. STEPHEN MYERS** introduced **Dr. Michael Puma** who holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering and Water Resources and a Master of International Affairs in Environmental Policy Studies both from Columbia University, and a Doctorate in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Princeton University. Dr. Puma's talk focused on his research efforts on global food security, especially the exploration of just how susceptible food systems are and will be to a wide range of possible disturbances. Such influences include those that arise from natural causes such as mega droughts, volcanic eruptions, other natural disasters, and those that are manmade, such as wars, trade restrictions, and the role of man-induced climate change. One of the key factors affecting agriculture and animal husbandry, sources of most of our food stuffs, is the pressure on water systems for irrigation. Shortages of the usual above ground sources caused by droughts throughout the world have led to the use and depletion of critical groundwater sources. Currently 124 million people in 51 countries live with serious food insecurity (e.g., the Sudan, Yemen). By 2050, the world population is expected to be around 9 billion and there is serious concern whether there will be sufficient irrigation to produce enough food to prevent mass starvation and famine in many places. Add to that are the problems in transporting food by ship, train and truck wherever and whenever it is needed; natural phenomena as well as manmade conflicts can and will interfere with the movement of food. Agricultural production of two-thirds of our food supply is highly dependent on climate cycles (sun, rain, storms, etc.); great concern and uncertainty exist on just how climate change will affect those cycles in different parts of the world as they pertain to the production of food. As sea levels rise, access to sea ports and even their very existence is threatened which could have a major effect on the ability to deliver large quantities of food to the most vulnerable places.

Research and modeling are ongoing to assess the effects of all these forces. However, the challenge will be to agree on strategies to minimize food shortages in the face of the typical tensions between human need and moral imperative on the one hand and the legal, political, institutional, and economic forces that can create impediments. Dr. Puma suggests that identifying the threats to the food system and minimizing them will necessitate working with agribusiness, farmers, economists and policy makers. Among his many projects, Dr. Puma is building collaborations with the World Food Program and USAID through a new *Columbia World Project* on climate and food systems. He recently started a research project funded by the U.S. Department of Defense that will help anticipate where people will move in response to future environmental crises.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Open to all members, guests, candidates and spouses. Checks should 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)

**October 25, 2018, the Goodspeed Opera House, featuring *The Drowsy Chaperone*.** The bus will be leaving St. Catherine's Church at 9:15am. Lunch will be at the Gelston House. The cost is \$125 pp, and there are 5 openings remaining.

## **NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER**

**Audrey Levitin**, Director of Development & External Affairs, Innocence Project, New York: *The Innocence Project – 25 Years of Freeing the Innocent*.