



# 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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"I don't make jokes –I just watch the government and report facts."

**Will Rogers**

Just as assuredly leaves fall in Autumn, the bell is rung at the RMA every Wednesday at or about 10 AM, and so it was on October 24th, 2018. The weekly song-fest was led by the dynamic duo of **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** and **JIM SANTORA** who led the choristers in *America the Beautiful*, *Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head*, and *Enjoy Yourself (It's later than you think)*. The CORRESPONDING JOKESTER, **ARNOLD GORDON**, effecting a pretty convincing brogue told two stories; one about early education and one about a unique use of a confessional. **RETURNEES** - There were no returnees this week. **VISITING** - **JOE DOWLING** pinch hit for **WAYNE WRIGHT** our usual visiting reporter to report that **WAYNE**, himself, was in the hospital after a surprise meeting with a large dog. It was also reported that **GRANT PERKINS** will not be having surgery.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Dr)**JOEL BLUMBEG** reminded all to get their flu shots-SOON. He reminded us that people do die from the flu and that people born in the '40s and earlier are particularly vulnerable.

**MIKE AMBROSINO** announced that RMA would be collecting non-perishable food for the Covenant House soup kitchen. There will be a receptacle, in the church hallway on

Wednesday, October 31. Please support this worthy cause. **MIKE** also snuck in the tennis report at that time, results can be found below in the Games section.

**RALPH VIGGIANO** reported that Greenwich Hospital was selling LED light bulbs at serious discounts. It was a one-day sale so by the time you read this it will be too late.

**MIKE MORRISON** reported that there was interest in a Tai Chi group and he was exploring two possible programs for the group. Stay tuned.

### COMMITTEES

**PROGRAM:** **PETER UHRY** gave a heads-up on today's program and **HORST TEBBE** previewed next week's program. Details on both can be found below.

**VOLUNTEER HOURS:** **DON HERMANN** read the numbers: 249 outside hours by 26 men and 104 RMA hours by 22 men. High man for the week was **BOB ROBINS** with 25 hours.

**MEMBERSHIP:** **HORST TEBBE** counted the house attendance and came up with 116 members and two guests: Robert Clarke guest of **GERRY GIBIAN** and Jeff Junker guest of **MIKE AMBROSINO**. Natal day celebrants were **DON HELLER** 89, **TONY DIROLLO** 91, **JOHN KNIGHT** 78, and **RON FRIEDMAN** 84. Happy Birthday guys!!!

### GAMES OF THE RMA

**GOLF:** **JOHN CRAINE** took the mike to report a "perfect day for golf" with 16 participants. Outstanding performances by **JIM BOARDMAN**, nearest the pin on 7, **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** was nearest to the pin on 15 *and* longest drive on 17. Low score went to **BART BARTHOLOMEW** 92. Five other players shot below 100. Next week, October 30th, will be the final outing of the season.

**PICKLEBALL:** It was **TONY COCCHI's** job to report that last week's pickleball was scrubbed due to rain. In addition, he reported that next week's game would be the last of the outdoor season. He thanked all that played this past season and especially **JOHN KNIGHT** who was a great help in running the program.

**BRIDGE:** Once again it was **TONY COCCHI's** task to report that there was no bridge last week due to a lack of players.

**WALKERS:** Per **DON HERMANN** last week's walk was indoors at the Stamford Mall. The highlight was a stop at Williams Sonoma where the happy wanderers were offered fresh-out-of-the-oven pumpkin bread, baked for a demonstration. Next week's walk will be to the Rockefeller Estate, just across the border in New York.

**TENNIS:** **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** provided the following tennis results. Winners on court one were **ANDRZEJ MAZUREK** and **GEOFFREY BURGE**. Winners on court two were **BOB GRAYSON** and **BILL FAKUNDINY**.

**HEARTS:** **RALPH VIGGIANO** explained that to win a game and shoot the moon in the same game was rare, but lightning struck four times at the RMA Hearts group. **PETER BERG** won two games and shot the moon each time. **JOHN KAVANAGH** and **ANDY HOLMES** were the other winners who won and shot the moon. Next week's captain is **RALPH VIGGIANO**.

### TODAY'S SPEAKER

Today's "speaker" was a panel of 6 people who discussed the book *Code Girls* by Liza Munday, and events surrounding the book's milieu and events.

**PETER UHRY** led off by introducing the panelists and giving a brief introduction to the program. **Kate Petrov**, Greenwich Library Public Relations Officer, explained the story behind Greenwich Reads Together. This is the eighth year of the program which invites townspeople to read the same book, whilst the Library presents talks and panels on the topic of the book. There might also be films and other performances and educational programs and activities for young people. The books are chosen by a panel of library staff that also considers suggestions by the public.

**PETER** returned to give a very brief history of intelligence gathering (spying) from 1600 BCE to the present. He also, very briefly explained what cryptography is.

**TOM MORONEY** who served on the Library's Book Selection Committee, gave some insights into what is in the book including: Why intelligence is important, some of the technology involved in code-breaking, and why there were 10,000 women involved (the Code Breakers of the book).

**BOB ROBINS** ex-CIA and **DICK BERGSTRESSER** ex-Army Security Agency talked about their jobs in the intelligence community. Their talks included some interesting "war stories".

**TAD LARRABEE** shared remembrances of **BOB BUTTON**, a deceased RMA member, musician, and TV executive. **BOB** was the first American to be involved in the British Enigma program. During his assignment to US intelligence, he served as a courier between British and American intelligence agencies.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Special events are 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 canceled. Contact **MIKE FERRARESE** ([myagentmike@yahoo.com](mailto:myagentmike@yahoo.com) or 203-554-0678) or **ABBEY SMOLER** ([abbeysmoler@gmail.com](mailto:abbeysmoler@gmail.com) or 203-531-0235).

**October 25th, Goodspeed Opera House, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, lunch at the Gelston House, \$125.00pp.** Bus leaves St. Catherine's at 9:15am. Status; 5 openings.

**January 10th, 2019, The NY Philharmonic. Lunch at the Atlantic Grill, \$115.00pp.** Bus departs St. Catherine's at 8:00am. Status; 15 places. Contact **GERRY LESSUK** at [203-698-9451](tel:203-698-9451)

**February 14, 2019, Westchester Dinner Theater, *Ain't Misbehaven*, Lunch at theater, \$95.00pp.** Status:18 openings. Contact **ABBEY** at [203-531-0236](tel:203-531-0236).

### NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM

**Griffith Mann** – Metropolitan Museum's David Weill Curator in Charge of the Department of Medieval Art and The Cloisters, will be discussing:

*Medieval Matters:*

*Curating the Middle Ages at The Metropolitan Museum of Art*