

# CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

37 Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT 06830

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

Chair/Editor: Joe Mancinelli      Graphics: Av Rivel

Scribes: Av Rivel, Kurt Schaffir, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell, Gerry Lessuk,  
George Stockbridge, Joe Mancinelli, Frank Scarpa, Mashall Toppo, Chet Risio.

Archivist: Harold Frost. Format: Jack Cuff, Andrzej Mazurek, Gene Schwartz.

Print/Distribution: Chet Risio

Volume 66    Number 27    November 7, 2018

Scribe: KURT SCHAFFIR

After **STEVE MARINO** led the pledge to the flag, **DON CONWAY**, with **JIM SANTORA** on the keyboard, led the singing of *The Star Spangled Banner*, *Pennies From Heaven*, and *When Irish Eyes Are Smiling*.

Corresponding Secretary **TOM HEALY** regaled us with two stories, one about an Irish drunk who couldn't find Jesus in the baptismal stream and another about a Sergeant Major and an overanxious coed. **TAD LARRABEE** introduced Al Brodbeck, a board member of the Greenwich YMCA who reminisced about RMA contacts with the YMCA over the years, and invited members to take advantage of its programs and facilities. **WAYNE WRIGHT** reported that **BILL SALTSMAN** is in the hospital but requests no calls and no visits. Returnees: **TAD LARRABEE** reported, were **FRANK SCARPA** from Naples, Florida, **REID McINTYRE** from Williamsburg, Virginia, and **SAM MARASSO** from London and Paris.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members were reminded that the **RMA dinner is next week**. There will be **no meeting next week** due to the dinner event.

**GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE** invited Shakespeare lovers to a viewing of *Henry IV, Part 2* at the home of **KEITH SMITH**, 37 Jones Park Drive, Riverside, on Tuesday, November 13th, at 12:45. Advise **GEORGE** at ([grspersonal@aol.com](mailto:grspersonal@aol.com)) if you plan to attend.

**KLAUS JANDER** reiterated last week's request by The Woman's Club of Greenwich for help in giving parking directions on Friday, November 9th and Saturday, November 10th at its Holiday Boutique at 89 Maple Avenue. Volunteers should contact Mrs. Klaus Jander at 203-629-8198.

**JOHN FEBLES** invited members to participate in the Salvation Army Kettle Bell ringing at the Riverside Acme during the Christmas season. The dates are: December 1st – First Lights (contact **MIKE RYAN** at 203-698-0441), December 14th, 15th, 16th and 21st, 22nd and 23rd (contact **JOHN FEBLES** at 203-869-5343). The Salvation Army activities include sending needy kids to summer camp, buying them books and shoes, and providing training for better jobs.

## COMMITTEES

**MEMBERSHIP:** **HORST TEBBE** reported attendance of 103 members. The [birthday boys](#) were **DON CONWAY** 81, **BILL WIGGIN** 91, **JOHN CALABRO** 90, and **BRUCE PANTANO** 79.

**NEW MEMBER:** **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** proposed, and the members approved **JEFF JUNKER** for membership. **JEFF** and his wife Carol have been Greenwich residents for 26 years. He holds degrees from Princeton and New York University, and is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. He has served as the Executive Director for R&D for the Estee Lauder Company for a number of years.

**VOLUNTEER HOURS:** **TONY COCCHI** reported 359 outside hours by 32 members, and 105 inside hours by 22 members. **MIKE AMOROSO** was top volunteer with 25 hours.

**PROGRAM:** **ARNOLD GORDON** announced that next week's speaker will be **Ken Borsuk**, a Greenwich Time reporter, who will explain the decision making process regarding what stories the Time's decides to print. He will also describe dramatic changes which have taken place in the state of modern reporting and news coverage.

## FUN AND GAMES

**BRIDGE:** **JOHN HOFFMAN** reported that there were eight players. **KURT SCHAFFIR** was first with 3100 points, **GRANT PERKINS** second with 2750, and **PETER STERN** was third.

**HEARTS:** Winners were **JACK SWEGER** and **LOU TROVATO** on Table 1 (twice), **JOHN KAVANAGH** and **RICK HOLZ** on Table 2, and **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** and **CHARLIE GRAVES** on Table 3. Shooting the moon were: **JACK SWEGER**, **JOHN KNIGHT**, **JOHN KAVANAGH** (once), **TOM HEALY** (twice), and **LOU TROVATO** (four times). **JOHN STANKUNAS** will be next week's captain.

**WALKERS:** **MICHAEL AMBROSINO** announced that there will be a [walk down Greenwich Avenue honoring veterans on Sunday, November 11th](#). Participants will meet outside *Pasta Vera Restaurant*, and there will be a free lunch at noon.

**WILL MORRISON** reported that 22 members plus spouses have shown interest in signing up for a *Tai Chi Walk* class at the Greenwich Senior Center. The primary class is scheduled for Wednesday afternoon, with Mondays as the backup. Interested members were invited to meet at the coffee table after the meeting.



## 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 cancelled. 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).*

**ABBEY** announced a trip to Westchester Dinner Theater on February 14th, 2019, to see *Ain't Misbehavin'*. Cost is \$95 per person and includes lunch at the theater. Seven places remain open.

**GERRY LESSUK** announced that he will lead a trip to the NY Philharmonic for a rehearsal of Janacek's *The Cunning Little Vixen Suite*, Prokofiev's *Piano Concerto No. 3*, and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* on January 10th, 2019. Tickets are \$115.00 per person with lunch at the Atlantic Grill. Bus departs from St. Catherine's at 8:00 am. Call **GERRY** at 203-698-9451. Ten places remain open.

## TODAY'S SPEAKER

**BOB PHILLIPS** introduced **Ms. Chandra Bozelko, author, poet, and a nationally syndicated columnist with Creators Syndicate.** Being a former prison inmate incarcerated for non-violent crimes, **she spoke from personal experience on the topic *From Princeton to Prison: Lessons in Mass Incarceration.***

By way of background, 25 percent of the world's prisoners are incarcerated in the United States. Most of these are men, but over 200,000 are women, and the numbers are growing worse. Women inmates are targeted by guards as well as by other inmates. Sixty percent have no high school diplomas. Nearly all have histories of sexual abuse. The traditional explanation for the high rate of incarceration is the "school to prison pipeline." Indications are however that the problem starts with sexual abuse even before school. Early abuse leads to addiction to drugs or alcohol, which is criminalized by the war on drugs. Once apprehended, the accused have little effective legal representation, and 95 percent resort to plea agreements.

Ms. Bozelko's own prison experience at a national security facility in Connecticut involved tight quarters, overcrowding, unreasonable difficulties imposed by the requirement that all requests for attention be in written form (difficult for many inmates who are undereducated), and costly telephone charges (unaffordable for inmates who are indigent). Clearly something needs to be done. Ms. Bozelko has pursued her education and is trying to be helpful to other inmates.

## NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM

**Ken Borsuk: Greenwich Time Reporter**

*"The process of reporting the news at the Greenwich Time and **state of modern news reporting.**"*