



CIGAR BOX BULLETIN



Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

60 Years of Fellowship and Community Service

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Here are the volunteers who publish this Bulletin each week for your enjoyment. **Editor:** Chet Risio, Chair. **Scribes:** Gran Burgess, Av Rivel, Kurt Schaffir, Jim Butler, Arnold Gordon (tempy Editor), Ed Farrell, George Stockbridge, Emeritus. **Archivist:** Harold Frost. **Format and Layout:** Gene Schwartz and Jack Cuff. **Reproduction/Distribution:** Walker Collins, Chet Risio.

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November 30, 2016

At 10am sharp, PETER UHRY rang the bell vigorously and finally brought the group to order. Our pledge leader was BOB BISHOP. Song leader ERF PORTER, with PETER RYAN on the keyboard, led us in both stanzas of "My Country T'is of Thee," (and he made us do it twice), followed by "On the Sunny Side of the Street" and "Oh, You Beautiful Doll."

Corresponding Secretary CHUCK STANDARD was in rare form with a "dumb blonde" story involving a locked car and a tale about a lonely man invited to a wild party – only for two.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Prez PETER reminded everyone that PETER TUNLEY still had lots of RMA decals and that he would be handing them out in the back of the room. He welcomed back returnees RALPH VIGGIANO from the "golf capital of the world," Pinehurst, NC, GERRY BOYLE from southern CA, and RANDY MOTLAND from Bodega Bay, CA.
2. ERF PORTER urged members to attend our local participation in the National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day ceremony by the Greenwich Veterans Council on December 7th at 4pm at the WWII, Korean and Vietnam War Memorial on Greenwich Avenue at the Havemeyer Building. Our own CHUCK STANDARD will be speaking about his experiences in the Navy during WWII. ERF introduced his guest for the day, Peter LeBeau, Commander of Post #29, who reiterated the importance of the occasion and invited all to attend.
3. STEPHEN MYERS
 - a. Gave an advanced announcement for a March 30th trip to Columbia University's premiere research site, the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in Palisades, NY. Like a previous, successful trip there last year, the agenda will involve tours of the labs, talk by a scientist, interaction with the staff, and lunch.
 - b. While at the mic, he told everyone to stay for today's talk, lo and behold, by him and another physicist RMA member, MARTIN WAINE. Who could refuse? Details below.
4. Then BOB ROBINS promoted next week's speaker, Ambassador Donald Gregg, who as a CIA insider will tell us about The Trump Administration Foreign Policy Challenges.

5. BOB LUCE and TAD LARRABEE voiced their opinion that you should attend the holiday concert at Christ Church on Greenwich Avenue by the Greenwich Choral Society that will feature a brass ensemble instead of the usual strings. Performances will be on Saturday, December 3rd at 4pm and Sunday, December 5th at 2:30pm and 5pm. Order online at www.greenwichchoralsociety.org or call 203-622-5136.

6. Mr. Salvation Army, JOHN FEBLES, gladdened our hearts by reporting that over the past weekend the kettles brought forth \$1189. He still urged people to sign up for time slots to man the kettle at the Riverside Shopping Center, but as a substitute he is happy to receive your checks. ED FARRELL will be Captain for the weekend of December 3rd and welcomes your call or e-mail to sign up: 203-637-5712 or ejf1038@aol.com.

COMMITTEES

VISITING: CHUCK STANDARD reported that HARRY LEIGH is now at Greenwich Green for the foreseeable future, but wants to go home. ROGER PIERCE is at Nathaniel Witherall but seems to be incognito; attempts to reach him were in vain. Everyone welcomed back RON KLINGNER.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE gave us the numbers: 120 members, 1 candidate (Les Chaikin), and 2 guests, Bruce Pantano g/o GERRY MAYFIELD and Bob Connachie g/o ERF PORTER. We sang **Happy Birthday** to ROBERT WHITBY (76), GEORGE CHELWICK (91), NEVILLE SARGEANT (81), FRED BROOKS (82), and TED SPOOL (86).

VOLUNTEERS: JOHN FEBLES said that for the week ending November 30th, 39 men reported 376 outside hours, while 21 reported 137 inside hours. TAD LARRABEE, over a two week period, logged 48 hours.

THE SCOREBOARD

BRIDGE: KURT SCHAFFIR reported that on November 23rd, there were 9 players. GRANT PERKINS led the pack with 5950 followed by DICK CASE with a close 5490, and JOHN FEBLES 3610.

TENNIS: ERF PORTER bemoaned the absence of a full set of players, but did tell us that the doubles winners were BRUNO SCHRAGE and PETER UHRY, while the singles champ was RON FRIEDMAN.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

STEPHEN MYERS and MARTIN WAINE bravely took on the challenge of explaining in layman's terms Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, his prediction 100 years ago of the presence of gravitational waves throughout the cosmos, and the phenomenal recent achievement of their measurement after more than 40 years of preparation by collaboration of over 1000 scientists from the US, UK, Australia, Italy and other countries. MARTIN explained the background theory behind the concept and the experiments, pointing out that gravitational waves are extremely difficult to detect and required laser interferometry to measure the smallest distances in the history of science. Gravitational waves travel at the speed of light and can penetrate regions of space that electromagnetic waves cannot. They are able to allow the observation of the merger of black holes and possibly other exotic objects in the distant universe. STEPHEN described the intricate and technologically challenging experiments conducted at sites in Washington state and Louisiana, 3000

miles apart, at the same time, which indeed confirmed the presence of gravitational waves, in excellent agreement with theoretical calculations based on Einstein's predictions. Their discovery is regarded as one of the most important in science history and will enable improved exploration and better understanding of the history of the universe and how it functions.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to members, spouses, candidates and guests. For reservations contact Trip Coordinators ABBY SMOLER (203-531-0236) and MIKE FERRARESE (203-554-0678). Checks should be made out to RMA. In the future, checks must be received within two weeks or reservation will be cancelled.

January 26, 2016: New York Philharmonic Rehearsal. Cost \$100.00 per person. Bus transportation – early departure from St. Catherine's at 8:00 a.m. Lunch at Atlantic Grill. Wait Listed.

February 23, 2017: Mark Twain Museum in Hartford, CT. Cost \$76 per person. Box Lunch. Bus transportation - departure from St. Catherine's at 9:00 a.m. Status – 22 openings.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Former Ambassador to Korea, member of the CIA and the National Security Council, **David Gregg** will provide his insight on "The New Administration's Major Foreign Policy Challenges."

Arnold J. Gordon, Scribbler of the Week

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