



# CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc.

37 Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT 06830

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

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The only way to get rid of a temptation is to yield to it." Oscar Wilde

**Volume 66    Number 30    December 5, 2018    Scribe: ARNOLD J. GORDON**

Staggering in from the just completed Board meeting, President TAD LARRABEE rang the bell at 10:04am.

GRAN BURGESS stepped in for the assigned but missing PETER BERG to lead us in the pledge. Without moving, he then conducted the group in the *Star-Spangled Banner*, *Everybody Loves Somebody Sometime*, and *Yes Sir, That's My Baby*. BOB MORGAN's usual elegant piano accompaniment inspired us all.

AV RIVEL as Corresponding Secretary told a brief groaner (not worth repeating), and then a story about something familiar to us all, memory loss by a married couple. She asked him to bring ice cream; he brought scrambled eggs and she said he forgot the toast. *Write everything down everyone! Write it down!*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. TAD welcomed back GEORGE DIPPY from Vail and Boulder, Colorado.

## COMMITTEES.

**MEMBERSHIP:** HORST TEBBE informed us that there were 92 members in attendance and one guest: Peter Tunious (g/o PETER BERG). Those celebrating birthdays this past week were CARL VAN AIKEN 96, BARRY MONTGOMERY 79, HAROLD KUPLESKY 86, and TOM MORRISON 85. Through the grapevine, we

learned that former member Robert Oppenheimer just turned 104; he is still living in California.

**Inductee;** ARTHUR STAMPLEMAN was introduced by JIM FISHBEIN and HOLLISTER STURGES. Arthur was born in Montreal, Canada but is now a U.S. citizen living in Rye Brook with his wife, Cynthia MacKay. He graduated from McGill University (BA) and Harvard Business School (MBA). He had a long career with Citibank/Citigroup in finance, mainly the credit side of the business, before his recent retirement. Arthur has traveled extensively, does lots of volunteering, and enjoys music, art and history. Welcome to the fold, ARTHUR!

**VOLUNTEER HOURS** JOHN FEBLES provided the statistics for the week ending December 5th: 437 outside hours by 37 men and 91 RMA hours by 24 men; hardest worker for the week was PETER STERN with 34 hours.

**PROGRAM:** ARNOLD GORDON (for temporarily absent HOLLISTER STURGES) told the group to stay for today's talk by Dr. Jason Oliver Chang (UCONN) on "Stages of U.S. Immigration History: From Colony to Empire." ARNOLD also told us about next week's speaker, Terri Ann Loewenthal, a nationally recognized expert on the U.S. Census, who will explain its history and importance, and the major challenges facing the country for the next one: "The 2020 Census: Counting Through Adversity,"

**VISITING:** WAYNE WRIGHT gave us some good news for a change: BILL HOWLAND is home and up and about after his knee operation. JOE MANCINELLI is resting at home and doing well after his successful open-heart surgery. He thanks RMA members for their calls and messages of support. JIM MACKAY wants everyone to know that he is alive and well at 96 but uses a walker and cannot get around very well. He would like to come to a meeting once in a while but could use a ride. He lives in Stamford at 64 Canfield Road (off Westover), 203-869-8044, [mackay1921@gmail.com](mailto:mackay1921@gmail.com). A memorial mass in memory of Nancy Conway (DON'S late wife) will be held at St. Agnes Church at 247 Stanwich Road on Saturday, December 8 at 10am.

#### FUN AND GAMES

**BRIDGE:** TONY COCCHI dealt the details for November 28th. There were 7 players. First was ANDRZEJ MAZUREK with 3850 points, followed by KURT SCHAFFIR (3680) and RALPH VIGGIANO (3330).

**TENNIS:** GERRY GIBIAN said the winners were PETER ORBANOWSKI and ANDY HOLMES on Court One with MIKE SMITH and DAVID KANE on Court Two. RON FRIEDMAN is captain next week.

**HEARTS:** MIKE AMBROSINO told us there were 16 players at four tables. Winners: At Table 1, MIKE himself, then JACK WEIR, and ED FARRELL; Table 2, LOU TROVATO, twice; Table 3, ANDY HOLMES and PETER BERG; Table 4, PETER STERN and JOHN STANKUNAS. Moon Shots were launched by TOM HEALY (twice), MIKE AMBROSINO, ED FARRELL, LOU TROVATO and JACK WEIR.

**WALKERS:** DON HERMANN described last Thursday's adventure down Greenwich Avenue continuing to the end of Steamboat Road and then back via an off the beaten path along the water. DON mentioned that the walking tour of the extensive art and sculpture collection at the Mallin estate in north Greenwich has been scheduled for

Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. All 30 slots have been reserved, but you can put your name on a waiting list: 203-531-0400, [staff@unbeatables.com](mailto:staff@unbeatables.com).

### 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 Feb 14, 2019, to see \*Ain't Misbehavin'\*](#). Cost is \$95 and includes lunch at the theater. Seven seats are 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 Jan 10, 2019](#). Tickets are \$115.00 with lunch at the Atlantic Grill. Bus departs from St. Catherine's at 9:00am. Call GERRY AT 203-698-9451. Two places remain open.

### TODAY'S SPEAKER

HOLLISTER STURGES introduced Dr. Jason Oliver Chang, Associate Professor of History and Asian American Studies at UCONN Storrs.

Dr. Chang remarked that he would try to cover 100 years of immigration history in about 30 minutes. He somewhat provocatively dispelled some of the mythology surrounding the image of the US as an open society that welcomed strangers to a land where anyone can succeed. This notion has been challenged many times, including over the past 25 years, by actions consistent with a history of restricting immigration of various peoples (Chinese, Jews, Muslims, others). In the early days of the US as a colony, workers were imported and exploited, now regarded as a subordination of other racial classes ("white man's country vs a diverse population"), most strongly epitomized by the slave trade. That history partly helped to shape our Republic with its use of imported workers for commercial and financial advantage. Between 1820 and 2016, the number of legal permanent residents from abroad has varied extensively depending on many different circumstances: anti-Chinese sentiment late 1800s ("taking our jobs"); US becoming an industrial and economic power (1890-1950) with a great wave of people trying to escape persecution, yet the 1924 Johnson-Reed Act limited entry only to northern Europeans, while Japanese already within the US were interred during WWII; from 1950-1990 featured a more open policy tailored to political purposes by allowing in Soviet dissidents and asylum seekers, with Mexicans and Asians welcomed as laborers; but from 1990-2016 a backlash arose with anti-immigration sentiments growing, especially among conservatives, aggravated by the 911 crisis, which led to accelerated deportations and fears concerning the granting of citizenship to the estimated 12 million

undocumented immigrants in our country. It is unknown what our future immigration policies will look like.

It remains a highly complex and daunting problem involving multiple factors: cultural, racial, religious, economic, security, and even the effects of climate change on habitability of certain areas. Comments and questions from the audience, and tentative answers by the speaker, reinforced the difficulties our Government is facing in trying to tackle this challenge.

### **NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER**

**Terri Ann Loewenthal**, nationally recognized expert on the census who consults for government, business and other stakeholders on census policy and operational issues: "The 2020 Census: Counting Under Adversity".

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