



# The Old Guardian

Month 3 of our 59<sup>th</sup> year

April 2024

## “Good morning Old Guard”

Gentlemen,  
Here what's in the Newsletter:

- The President's Corner
- Committee updates
- Storyteller schedule for March
- Guest Speaker schedule for March
- List of Officers and Committee Chairs

### **The President's Corner - Ed Turbert**

This evening, I watched on television the UConn men's basketball team win a NCAA tournament game. It was played in Boston. As the camera drew back from the two lines of players and coaches crossing to show good will, I saw standing behind the team's seats William Tong, the CT Attorney General we just had visit us as our guest speaker.

His smile was as broad and genuine right then as it was the morning we heard and saw him last Tuesday.

Maybe it was because he still had tucked in his coat pocket our own Old Guard pin that we tendered to him for being a fighter for the mature citizens of Connecticut who get tricked by telephone phishers and online trolls. Could it be in that moment he thought of us and others who are digitally buncoed. We roared in acclamation to make him an honorary Old Guard member for his service to combat the 21<sup>st</sup> century telephone and online highwaymen who fooled even his own mother.

I am grateful for the speakers and Storytellers that produce such enlivening meetings. I suspect you do as well. The attendance can reach or go beyond one hundred attendees when the guest is well known or has a vital topic. But I noticed there are times when the Old Guard Guest Speaker Volatility Index falls as low as 80 or so. That can happen and produce

great responsiveness and enjoyment anyway, despite the sparser numbers. If you missed Stephanie Datellas of the Ballet Theatre Company and the pair of tutus circulated among the Old Guard audience that day, let's just say it was very engaging, and you did miss something you don't see every day.

We may have presented an Old Guard membership pin to the Attorney General that means he can tell his mother about. Or perhaps Attorney General Tong carries it with him as a tangible connection to us all. As staunch and shrewd a bunch as we are, he knows he needs to wield his legal sword and shield to make us less vulnerable.

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### **YMCA - John Keleher**

Annual campaign continues please consider a donation

West Hartford Y activities now include self-defense classes for kids as well as youth basketball.

Programs including Legos and reading being offered at West Hartford library

Summer Camp registration is ongoing.

### **Historian - Tew DuBois**

There were no reported obituaries for the month of March, this year.

Noah Webster House - Following a two+ year renovation at the Noah Webster House, the archived Presidents' Notebooks were retrieved from temporary storage and placed on new shelving in the basement of the Noah Webster House. As requested by the Noah Webster House, we had to significantly winnow the 58 Notebooks. With the help of Russ Jones, he and I selectively reduced the Notebook numbers to 20+/- . We identified and retained the specific Notebook years specified in prior Board meetings. In the future, as we add each new year's Notebook to the archives, we will eliminate the one that is five years old.

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### **Foodshare - Jeff Lee**

April brings us showers and flowers and the opportunity to volunteer at Foodshare in Bloomfield on April 5th from 8:30 to 11:30... it's good work helping those in need and we have fun doing it! Join us...

(This link is conveniently included)

[Quick Link to CT Foodshare](#)  
[Sign up or Sign in](#)

**West Hartford Youth Food Program** - Our non-perishable Food Collection Day is on April 16, please bring a bag or two to help support The West Hartford Youth Food Program.

Thanks so much for your ongoing support and generosity! Jeff

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### **Habitat for Humanity - Ron Robinson**

Here's an update from our Restore volunteer day in March. The weather was warm so we were able to work outdoors. All the jobs we do help Habitat sell donated products. In the photos below you'll see us re-palletizing a large order of door jambs, then we worked indoors getting some storm doors ready for sale.



Our next monthly ReStore event is the second Wednesday of April, 4/10, from 9:00 to 12:00 at 500 Cottage Grove Road in Bloomfield. The money raised from the items sold by ReStore helps to support their building projects. (And there are many great buys in construction materials, furniture and more.) Last month we packaged new doors and frames but who knows what this month will bring. Please consider joining us and reaching out to others who might also be interested in this very enjoyable and rewarding activity – Old Guard membership is not required. To register, please go to the bottom of the Civic Activity section on our website, ctoldguard.org. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you. Ron

(This link is conveniently included)

[Quick Link to Habitat](#)  
[Sign-up or Sign-in](#)

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## **Food Bank - Lou Aiello & Mike Feehan**

Update for Donations Through March Total donations are \$25,982 includes: CT. Foodshare \$12,827 Loaves & Fishes \$600, West Hartford Foodbank \$100, House of Bread \$6,000, and monetary value of \$6,455 to support West Hartford Youth program. Total value including 5-time food value, matching gifts and resent matching gift is **\$92,180**

All totals include \$910 March's donations for West Hartford Youth program.

Donations are tax deductible.

When you donate mention Old Guard.

Your generous donations are a blessing.

For information on how to donate, reach out to either Lou Aiello or Mike Feehan. Need help and to report your donations, Simply email or call.

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## **UCONN Hospital Volunteers – Bill OConnor**

The Old Guard has a longstanding history of volunteer service to the community. Set your plans for 2024 and consider volunteering your service at the University of Connecticut Hospital in Farmington. Patients at the University Muscular Skeleton Institute frequently need assistance with directions to their appointments sometimes requiring the need of a wheelchair. Volunteers serve a 4-hour shift 8 to noon or noon to 4 Monday, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Some training is required. See Bill OConnor for details.

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## **Golf News – Chuck Hasbrouck**

With Spring comes good things golf.

West Hartford's Rockledge Golf Course, celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> year, is open for the season.



Old Guard & Friends golf begins in just a few weeks.

- Mondays – starting on April 15, informal golf begins. Just show up at the 10<sup>th</sup> tee at 8AM for nine-holes of golf with friends.
  - Thursdays – beginning on April 18, league play gets underway (also nine holes of golf). OG&F had 28 golfers playing each week, with substitute golfers ready to fill in as needed. Though we have a full slate of regular golfers, interested golfers can sign on as a sub. To sign up to sub, contact me via email at [oldguardgolf@gmail.com](mailto:oldguardgolf@gmail.com).
  - Tuesday, May 21 – The Old Guard fundraising golf tournament – Kilwins West Hartford *Swing for the Kids* Golf Tournament. (Proceeds go to the West Hartford YMCA Camp Scholarship Fund, enabling children with financial need to benefit from Y camps.)
    - Play nine holes of golf in the morning (at Stanley Golf Course),
    - Enjoy a buffet dinner in the afternoon (at The Back Nine Tavern).
- ❖ Note: This event is not limited to golfers. All Old Guard members are encouraged to sign up for the delicious dinner. In addition to good food and company, you can bid on some amazing silent auction items, and have chances at some great raffle items.
- ❖ Event registration forms now are available at Old Guard meetings. As well, send me an email and I can send you a pdf version. The golf committee would like to have the challenge of a full slate of golfers and a full house at dinner! Be a part of something special.



Special Events – A Docent Tour of the Bushnell, by Frank Virnelli  
On Thursday, March 21 forty Old Guard members and their wives took a tour of The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts. Due of the large turnout,  
We split into three groups, one of which was led by the newest Bushnell Volunteer of the Year.



The tour included both the larger Mortensen Hall and the Belding Theater as well as the Autorino Great Hall to view the Chihuly sculpture "Ode to Joy."

We were led onto the stage of both halls.



In the Mortensen we visited the Star's Dressing Room that has a cut out on one wall so there is room for the headdresses of The Lion King as well as the Head Electrician's room.



Note: over the years various stars have signed the wall (with the Head Electrician's permission).

Check the image to see just a few - how many can you make out???



We were taken above the balcony of the Mortensen to the private viewing area of The Bushnell's benefactor Dotha Bushnell Hillyer and the adjacent Projection Room where the spotlights are located. We were shown the paintings on the ceiling of both venues and the seal of the city of Hartford on the floor of the front lobby of the Mortensen. The tour included the history of The Bushnell starting with the life of Horace Bushnell and his daughter Dotha's desire to create a performing arts hall in his honor. As both the tour itself and parking were free, we more than got our money's worth.

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**April - Storytellers and their stories.**

**04/02 - John Keleher - My Athletic Education; Part 2**



**04/09 – John Mitman - "Sometimes You Just Have to Laugh."**

**04/16 – Bernie Weiss - "Take My Story. Please!"**

**04-23 – Dale Richter - "A Story to Remember"**

**4/30 – Bob Henricks – "My Twisted Tale."**

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## **April Speakers**

**4/2 - Ruth Mittman, PhD,  
Subject - "Ageism"**



Founder, and president of The Mitman Group, is a 50-plus market advisor with over 30 years of experience studying the mature market. A Ph.D. graduate in Gerontology, Transportation and Education from Michigan State University, Ruth has a diverse professional background in striving to improve the quality of life for the older population.

Dr. Mitman was a Corporate Gerontologist at The Hartford Financial Services Group, has served on the faculty of the College of Lifelong Learning at Michigan State University and was a consultant for AARP.

Ruth lives in West Hartford with her husband, The Rev. John Mitman. They have two children and four grandchildren.

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**4/9 - Lori Reilly, Sportswriter, Hartford Courant  
Subject - "Women Sportswriters"**



Lori Riley has been a sportswriter at the Courant for 25 years, covering everything from high school sports to UConn women's basketball. She went to Rutgers University, and cut her teeth working at the Daily Targum. She also worked at the Times of Trenton and the Asbury Park Press, covering high school, college, the Yankees, Mets, and Giants.

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**4/16 - Col. Frank Tantillo, CT Army National Guard  
Subject - "CT Guard Status and Activities"**



Colonel Frank A. Tantillo is Distance learning student at the United States Army War College, serves in the Connecticut Army National Guard and works as an Attorney for Travelers Ins. Hartford, CT. He received his commission as an Engineer Officer from Valley Forge Military Academy and College, Early Commissioning Program in 2000. He is a graduate of the Engineer Officer Basic and Infantry Officer Advanced Course, Airborne School, Mountain School, Sapper School, Command and General Staff College, the Advanced Operation Course, and the United States Army War College Defense Strategy Course and Defense Planners Course.

He holds a Juris Doctorate Degree from Quinnipiac University School of Law, Hamden Connecticut and a B.A. from Georgetown University, Washington D.C. His awards and decorations include the Defense Superior

Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal with 1 OLC, the Meritorious Service Medal with 1 OLC, the Army Commendation Medal with 3 OLC, Navy Commendation, Army, and Air Force Achievement medals the OEF Campaign Medal, the GWOT Expeditionary medal the Parachutist Badge, Ram's head (MTN School), the Combat Infantryman and Combat Action Badges, and the Sapper Tab.

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**4/23 Dr. Anthony Alessi, Radio Personality & Associate Clinical Professor of Neurology and Orthopedics. Director, UConn NeuroSport Program. Adjunct Professor of Kinesiology, UConn Musculoskeletal Institute.**



### **Subject – “Concussions”**

Dr. Anthony Alessi graduated from the University of Rome in Rome, Italy, and completed his residency and neuromuscular fellowship at the University of Michigan. He has been in solo private practice in Norwich, specializing in neurology, electrodiagnostic medicine, and sports neurology. He is board-certified in neurology and electrodiagnostic medicine. Dr. Alessi received his master's degree in Medical Management from the Heinz School of Public Policy and Management at Carnegie Mellon University in 2001.

Dr. Alessi is chief executive officer and chairman of Colonial Cooperative Care, Inc., a medical management company in Norwich, Conn. He also serves as a neurologic consultant to many athletic organizations including the UConn Athletic Department, New York Yankees Player Development,

The NFL Players Association, Connecticut State Boxing Commission, and Norwich Free Academy. He chaired the Sports Neurology section of the American Academy of Neurology. He is currently an associate clinical professor of neurology and orthopedic surgery at UConn where he serves as medical director of the NeuroSport program.

He served as medical director of the Backus Hospital Stroke Center for six years.

He writes a bi-weekly column, "Healthy Sports," for the Norwich Bulletin that is syndicated through GateHouse Media.

He is host of "Healthy Rounds" on WTIC 1080, the Hartford CBS affiliate, and currently serves as an on-air contributor for ESPN.

Dr. Alessi's book, *Healthy Sports: A Doctor's Lessons for a Winning Lifestyle*, is a compilation of instructive columns. His most recent book, *Lift Up Your Hearts: Healing Haiti, Land of Hardship*, recounts the work of Dr. Alessi and other medical volunteers after the earthquake in Haiti.

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**4//30 Howard Greenblatt, Author**  
**Subject - Hartford Basketball – "Oh What a Move 2!!"**



This is the captivating story of some of the great players from Hartford, Connecticut that have kept the city's love affair with the game of basketball alive and thriving. The tradition of basketball excellence runs deep in Hartford, Connecticut. Follow the exciting careers of exceptional players like Troy McKoy, Michael Williams, Marcus Camby, Kendrick Moore, Charles Easterling, and Aaron Jackson as they progressed through high school, college, and, in some cases, the professional ranks. The heart-beat continues, with a new generation of local players, like Jaqhawn Walters, EJ

Crawford, KeAndre Fair, Cairo McCrory, Kazell Stewart, ushering in a new era of basketball excitement. Oh What a Move 2 is a rare glimpse into the careers of some of Hartford's greatest players and the city they called home.

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### **Your officers for 2023-2024**

Ed Turbert, President  
John Keleher, Vice-President  
Arthur Greene, Secretary  
Stephen Schneeberger, Asst. Secretary  
Kevin Slane, Corresponding Sec.  
Stephen Guest, Treasurer  
Paul Dean, Asst. Treasurer  
Tew DuBois, Historian  
John Mitman – Chaplain

### **Committee Chairs 2023-2024**

Don Kauke, Communications  
Bernie Weiss and Jim Doran, Storytellers  
Gary Banks, Information & Technology  
Bernie Weiss, Senior Job Bank  
Paul Dean & Ray Bliss, Special Events  
David Mangs, Music  
Parker Simonds, Hospitality  
Clem Sayers, Membership  
Dan Tracy, Audit  
Jeff Lee, Foodshare  
Lou Aiello and Mike Feehan, Foodbank  
Ron Robinson, Habitat for Humanity  
Dale Richter, Meals on Wheels  
Mike Cabrey, Salvation Army  
Bill O'Connor, UCONN Health Center  
Tom Goodrum, Bowling  
Chuck Hasbrouck, Golf

**Please reach out to any of these Committee Chairs if you would care to help!**