

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Volume 63, No. 37

January 20, 2016

Here are the volunteers who publish this Bulletin each week for your enjoyment: **Editor:** George Stockbridge, Chair; **Scribes:** Gran Burgess, Av Rivel, Kurt Schaffir, Peter Uhry, Jim Butler, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell; Chet Risio, Martin Grayson, Emeritus; **Format and Layout:** Gene Schwartz, Paul Levine and Jack Cuff; **Archivist:** Harold Frost; **Printing:** Chet Risio and Larry Schmitz.

“It is a good thing to follow the first law of holes; if you are in one, stop digging.”

Denis Healey, English Labor Politician

At the appropriate hour, President RALPH VIGGIANO welcomed us while adding that additional ideas on parking space are welcome. JOHN CRAINE led us all in the Pledge of Allegiance and was followed by ERF PORTER plus PETER RYAN in leading us to join in the ballads of “America the Beautiful”, “For Me and My Gal” and “Heart of My Heart”. TOM HEALY then addressed us with the tales of the barfly, blonde and the bet on the jump from the hotel ledge as well as the fable of the husband, the wife and the window.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE declared that the Opera Club had an opening for another interested participant; the next meeting at a member’s house will focus on “Manon”. GEORGE could be contacted during the intermission. RALPH returned to renew banishment of conversation in the rear of the gathering during the meeting and presentations as well as declaring that a preview of the RMA weekly speaker had been broadcast on WGCH on past Monday mornings at approximately 8:52 AM; we can expect these programs to continue. He also commended HOLLISTER STURGES and the committee of JOHN CUFF, DOUGLAS CAMPBELL and MICHAEL SMITH for announcements of our weekly meetings in the Greenwich Time, Greenwich Sentinel and the Greenwich Post. BOB ROBINS then advised us that the ROMEO luncheon is still scheduled at Innis Arden CC on January 27th. The cost is \$45.00 per person. The wine raffle will be held as well as the pool on the closing quote on the Dow Jones Average as of December 31, 2016. MARTIN WAINE came forward to speak about the want of volunteers to aid the RMA tax aid group in the Greenwich Senior Center. BOB PHILLIPS then advised us that JIM SANTORA, having become an officer of the RMA, has left the five members Nominating Committee, creating a vacant position that will be addressed in our next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: **VISITING:** CHUCK STANDARD told us that BOB WHITBY was on oxygen, but both he and RON KLINGER welcomed visitors; JOE MALARA, cannot see visitors or accept calls at this time. **PROGRAMS:** AL KNIGHT previewed

this week's presentation. **Next week:** STEVE MYERS will introduce Elizabeth Burleson. Her presentation on "Behind the Scenes at the UN Climate Conference in Paris" will also be available on WGCH on the Monday before our next meeting. **MEMBERSHIP:** HORST TEBBE informed us that 108 men were present. Four guests were also present: Larry Chiaramonte, guest of MICHAEL AMBROSIANO, James Chung, guest of GRANT PERKINS, Harold Kuplesky, guest of ARTO SZABO, and Jack Weir, guest of RUSS HARDEN. **BIRTHDAY:** Epochs were celebrated in song for: BERT KLEBANOW at 91, GERRY POLLACK at 87, DOUG TAYLOR at 89, ABBY SMOLER at 85, PETER STREICH at 85, JIM MacKAY at 95 and LEN SAARI at 95. **VOLUNTEERS:** WALT HOWE reported that during the week of January 20th, 55 men worked 539 hours for outside agencies and 26 men labored 156 hours. HORST TEBBE was the individual leader with 40 hours.

THE SCORE BOARD: BRIDGE: KURT SCHAFFIR read the cards reporting that 9 players participated last week: BRUNO SCHRAGE scored 4350, DICK CASE 4050, and GRANT PERKINS 3100. **TENNIS:** GERRY GIBIAN advised us that on January 15, 2016, him and his partner, RANDYMOTLAND won on Court #1, while BRUNO SCHRAGE and PETER UHRY were victorious on Court #2. PETER UHRY will serve as captain next week.

TODAY'S PROGRAM: JIM FISHBEIN opened our second hour series with a reminder that printed schedules for the spring were available at the front table. AL KNIGHT came to the podium and introduced **Themis Klarides**, minority leader of the state House of Representatives. The topic of her presentation was "Connecticut's Business Climate: Challenges and Solutions". Mentioning her appreciation of our large audience, her energetic presentation focused on the existence of a large tax base in Connecticut on one hand, and the reduction of aid to hospitals and the disabled. At the same time, Rep. Klarides confirmed the need for downsizing the bulk of government personnel. Her fulminations were well received with firm applause.

JAMES BUTLER – Scribe of the Week

SPECIAL EVENTS

February 11 at 9:45 AM: Bruce Museum- docent tour of the "The Secrets of Fossil Lake" and a painting exhibit of American artists from the 19th and 20th centuries. Provide your own transportation. Lunch at the Field Club. \$38. Places are still available. Contact GERRY 203-698-9751 gerrles@att.net, or ABBEY SMOLER 203-531-0236 abbeysmoler@gmail.com.

Open to members, spouses, candidates and guests. Checks made payable to the RMA.

NEXT WEEK

***Elizabeth Burleson** will speak about her experience behind the scenes at the recent Climate Conference in Paris.*

Visit the RMA website at www.greenwichrma.org.