

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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*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; Martin Grayson, Emeritus; **Format and Layout:** Gene Schwartz, Paul Levine and Jack Cuff; **Archivist:** Harold Frost; **Printing:** Chet Risio, Larry Schmitz*

“Nothing is so much to be feared as fear.” Henry David Thoreau

President RALPH VIGGIANO opened the meeting. He brought TONY DI ROLLO to the podium to lead us in The Pledge of Allegiance. Song leader GERRY SCHWENDEMAN, accompanied on piano by BOB MORGAN, led us in singing *It's a Grand Old Flag, Mame* and *Bye Bye Blackbird*. Joke teller BILL DYNAN recounted a tale about an itchy golfer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: President RALPH advised that tonight in the children's wing of Perrot Library there will be a talk about how animals think and feel. Also, on Feb. 2 from 6 to 7pm at Greenwich Hospital an orthopedic specialist will lecture on knee pain.

BOB PHILLIPS followed up on his announcement of last week concerning nominations. He said that since JIM SANTORA had stepped down from our nominating committee, BOB was nominating HORST TEBBE to replace JIM. The membership voted in the affirmative.

RALPH announced **RETURNEES:** SAM MARASSO from London and DICK BARTHOLOMEW from Florida.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

VISITING: CHUCK STANDARD reported that RON KLINGNER is in rehab at Edgehill; JOE MALARA unfortunately is in bad shape after his stroke, and is not accepting phone calls or visitors, and that BOB WHITBY is now back home recuperating.

TODAY'S SPEAKER: STEVE MARINO piqued our interest in Prof. Elizabeth Burleson's presentation today.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER: It was STEVE MYERS who advised us that next week **Alan Clair** will speak on how guns are designed and made right here in Connecticut.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE counted 98 members, one candidate, Larry Chiamonte, and three guests: James Chung, guest of GRANT PERKINS; Harold Kuplesky, g/o ARTO SZABO; and Albert Lilienfeld, guest of HORST. **Birthdays:** BILL MERKLE, 89, and JOHN AWDZIEWICZ, 84.

SPECIAL EVENTS: GERRY LESSUK lamented that not enough members and guests had signed up to cover even the minimum lunch guarantee at the Field Club. He urged others to sign up today. Details below.

VOLUNTEERS: WALT HOWE said there were 424 hours reported by 55 RMA members for outside activities, and 128 hours reported by 28 members. DON CONWAY logged in 35 hours.

GAMES: KURT SCHAFFIR advised us there were 11 bridge players, with DICK CASE first with 4740, MARTIN WAINE with 3550, and GRANT PERKINS with 3460. PETER UHRY related that in tennis, PETER ORBANOWSKI and BILL FAKUNDINY won on Court 1, while ERF PORTER and RALPH VIGGIANO were victors on Court 2.

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Professor Elizabeth Burleson, daughter of DAVID BURLESON, reported on her two-week attendance as one of the U.S. delegation to the recent Climate Change Conference in Paris. Delegations from 196 nations – developed (e.g. U.S., China, Europe), developing (e.g. India) and small island nations (e.g. Marshall Islands) conferenced together. They were all concerned with the issue of the climate, which is undoubtedly changing, and how to mitigate the change, which is affecting places like New York, Miami, Shanghai, etc. with increasingly high tidal surges. The nations agreed on a goal of a 5.2% decrease in Co2 back to the level it was in 1990. There was no deadline set, however. They agreed that they need to come up with the right incentives to attract private investors to develop new technologies. They agreed on the urgency of preserving forests, marshes, mangroves, etc. all of which absorb Co2. The delegations met in a different configuration each 30 minutes each day of the two-week meeting, so that the delegates were exposed to each of the other 195 delegations. They shared their concerns, and suggested ways the climate change could be slowed. All these agreements were strictly voluntary; there was no mention of “top-down” governmental enforcement. Instead the purpose of the Conference was to elicit “bottom-up” consensus, and then to move on to ways to hold one another accountable to frequent reporting on their progress toward these goals. These reports should be transparent. Smaller conferences will be held among developed, developing and small island nations several times a year. A spirited question and answer period followed.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to members. Spouses, candidates and guests. Checks should be made payable to RMA.

Thursday, Feb. 11: Bruce Museum: Docent-led tour of two exhibits: “The Secrets of Fossil Lake”, a prehistoric site in Wyoming, and an exhibit of American and European paintings from 19th and 20th century American and European painters. No

charge, Lunch at the Field Club, \$38. Provide your own transportation. Places are still available,

Contact GERRY LESSUK at 203-698-9751 gerrless@att.net, or ABBEY SMOLER 203-531-0236 abbeysmoler@gmail.com

NEXT WEEK

Col. Alan Clair, "How Artistic Shotguns Are Designed and Made" right here in CT.

Scribe: **George Stockbridge**

Visit the RMA website at <http://www.greenwichtma.org/>