

# CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Volume 63, No. 41

February 17, 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, Chet Risio, Ed Farrell; Martin Grayson, Emeritus; Format and Layout: Gene Schwartz, Paul Levine and Jack Cuff; Archivist: Harold Frost; Printing: Chet Risio, Larry Schmitz*

*Even a dead tree casts a shadow*—Laura Gilpin

It was 10 AM on a beautiful day (Thank you, Chuck) when president **VIGGIANO** rang the bell and 95 shivering RMAers, candidates and guests, stood for the pledge, ably led by **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN**. **JERRY** then turned the podium over to song leader **TOM HEALY** who with the musically endowed **BOB MORGAN**, led the assembled in singing *God Bless America, Ain't She Sweet* and *Baby Face*. It was enough to warm the heart of my grade school music teacher Mrs. G. Clef. **TOM** stayed at the podium to regale us with a story about gourmet dining.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**RALPH VIGGIANO**- Introduced guest Rachel LeMasters of the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church's (our wonderful host) "Stephen Ministry". The ministry provides peer counseling to members of the community who are in crisis. She offered RMA members the opportunity to join this group providing vital service to the community while reaping psychic rewards. The ministry is open to people of all faiths and affiliations. For more information, contact Rachel at 203-209-5530.

Announced with sorrow the passing of **AL HARTIG**, a long time member on February 12. A service will be held at the Second Congregational Church on February 27 at 11 AM.

Returnees: **BOB PHILLIPS** from Costa Rica, Panama and the Canal, and **GRANT PERKINS** from Florida and a Caribbean Cruise and **GENE SCHWARTZ** from Florida. WELCOME BACK!

**JIM FISHBEIN** – Books displayed during the talk on Newspapers several weeks ago and taken home MUST be returned. They are the property of the Greenwich Library and RMA is responsible for them. See **JIM**.

**BOB LUCE:** The Greenwich Choral Society will be singing Handel's Oratorio, *Judas Maccabeus* on Saturday, March 5 at Christ Church at 4:30 PM. Tickets at 203-622-5136 or [www.GreenwichChoralSociety.org](http://www.GreenwichChoralSociety.org). **BOB's** announcement was followed by a short monologue on Judah Maccabee by **AV RIVEL**

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**VISITING:** **CHUCK STANDARD** reported that **JOE MALARA** was in rehab. Not doing so well but fighting.

**PROGRAM:** **JOHN DECSEPEL** gave a heads-up to the day's speaker **Philip Berns**, details below. **JOHN** prefaced his announcement asking for a show of hands by those who read the weekly speaker announcement. The "ayes" had it. **PETER MCSPADDEN** previewed next week's speaker, Ambassador **Tom Niles**, former Ambassador to Canada, the EU and Greece, who will give us his take on current events.

**MEMBERSHIP:** **JIM FAHY**, filling in for his successor **HORST TEBBE**, read the numbers: 95 total attendees, including 92 members, 1 candidate and 2 guests: Harold Kupesky g.o. **PETER STERN**, and James Chung g.o. **JIM SANTORA**. Celebrating natal days: **WAYNE DEVRIES-73**, **PETER SCHIEFERDECKER-91**, **RANDY MOTLAND-81**, **PAUL MULLER-95!**, **MEL MARGULIS-88** and **TAD LARRABEE-75**. Happy candles guys!

**SPECIAL EVENTS:** **GERRY LESSUK** shared the skinny on upcoming trips. Details below.

**VOLUNTEERS:** Now it was **ROS CURTIS'** turn to read the numbers: 297 hours by 38 members for outside hours and 84 hours by 19 men for RMA hours. High count was by **MIKE RYAN** with 31 reported hours

## SPORTING NEWS:

**BRIDGE** – **KURT SCHAFFIR** dealt the numbers: 11 players, #1 **DICK CASE, 4650**, #2 **HOLLISTER STURGES, 4220** and, #3 **FRANK LEE 3010**.

**TENNIS** – **BILL FAKUNDINY** served up the results of last week's play: on court 1, **GERRY GIBIAN** and **JOHN KNIGHT**; on court 2, **BRUNO SCHRAGE** and **MIKE WARNER**. Next week's captain, **GEORGE DAVIS**.

**TODAY'S PROGRAM:** **Philip Berns**, an immigration attorney from Stamford titled his talk "Myths, Lies and Urban Legends About Immigrants and the American Immigration System" The first part of his talk centered about what we think we know about immigrants, documented and undocumented, and their effect on the economic, cultural and political life of the rest of us. The second half centered on the difficult path to become documented and to "come out of the shadows" for those in the United States without sanction. The usual incisive Q and A followed.

Calling 'em as I sees 'em- **AV RIVEL**

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

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

**April 21, 2016: Metropolitan Museum of Art. Guided tour of American Wing.** Bus transportation – 8:30 a.m. departure from St. Catherine's. Lunch: Petrie Court Café. \$95 per person. Places available.

**May 26, 2016: Goodspeed Opera House. "Anything Goes."** Bus transportation – departure from St. Catherine's at 10:00 a.m. Lunch at Gelston House Restaurant. \$105 per person. Places available.

Trip coordinators **GERRY LESSUK** (203-698-9751) and **ABBY SMOLER** (203-531-0236)

## **NEXT WEEK**

Former ambassador **Tom Niles**, current events as I see them.

*Extensive information about the RMA, including photos, is on our website at <http://www.greenwichrma.org>. Speaker videos can be viewed at <http://www.Vimeo.com>*