

# CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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, Bernard Schneider, Jim Butler, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell; Martin Grayson, Emeritus; **Format and Layout:** Gene Schwartz, Fred Waldron; **Archivist:** Harold Frost; **Printing:** Chet Risio, Larry Schmitz

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**February 18, 2015**

“There is a road from the eye to the heart that does not go through the intellect” -G. K. Chesterton, The Defendant, 1901

At 10:00 am, President BOB PHILLIPS asked the members to gather and join CHUCK STANDARD in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. CHUCK, with PETER RYAN on the piano, then led the group into “God Bless America, “It’s a Grand Old Flag” and “Yankee Doodle Dandy”. BOB LUCE stepped up next to relate the tale of the German Shepherd, the chihuahua and the bar’s complementary drink for owners of seeing-eye dogs.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Megan Pavia, representing The YMCA, spoke of the community services and contributions related to the Y while also announcing that the YMCA Spring Party will occur on March 7, 2015. DICK BERGSTRESSER declared the Round Hill Community Church Art Show opening with the hours of 9:00 am to 5pm, tours are available. PETER UHRY then spoke enthusiastically about the rapid growth of pickleball, a cross between paddleball and badminton, played with a paddle a 3 foot high net and a wiffleball. Games are encouraged every Tuesday and Thursday at Eastern Civic Center in Old Greenwich between 11:00 am and 1:30 pm. PETER ([uhry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uhry@sbcglobal.net)) offered to introduce interested players to the game. **Returnees:** BOB PHILIPS announced the current returnees as DOUG TAYLOR from Big Sky, MT, ART ROBINSON from Akumal, Mexico and ARNOLD STANCELL from Vietnam, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Singapore and Washington D.C. .

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Memorial:** BILL DYNAN informed members that JOHN D. MORRISON had passed away on February 6, 2015. JOHN graduated from Yale University in 1948 and Harvard Law School in 1951. During WWII , he had served with the U.S. Army Air Corp as a Bombardier- Navigator with the B-24 Heavy Bombardment Group. In 1951 , JOHN joined the C.I.A. that year and was later awarded the Intelligence Medal of Merit. Subsequent to his task as Deputy General Counsel in 1974, he ran a private practice of law until retirement in 1994. A loving husband and father, JOHN was an active member

and volunteer with the Unitarian Universalist Church in Arlington, Virginia. He is survived by his wife, his two daughters and three grandchildren.

**Visiting:** CHUCK STANDARD stated that STEVE PIERSON can see visitors and that AL HARTIG had just returned today from his cruise.

**Program:** Jim Cameron ( see below ). For next week, JOHN deCESPEL, announced that ARNOLD STANCELL will present “Energy Issues: Is OPEC Raining On U.S. Oil Independence Parade and Can The U.S. Help Europe With Natural Gas ?”. ARNOLD is Turner Professor of Chemical Engineering, Emeritus at Georgia Tech, has had a 31 year career at Mobil Oil and has 11 patents.

**Membership:** HORST TEBBE came forward to advise us that 100 Members were present along with one candidate for membership, Peter Orbanoski, and four guests : Gerry Gibian, guest of BOB PHILLIPS; Bob Byrnes, guest of PAUL SETTELMAYER; Alan Berk, guest of JIM FAHY and Calvin Burives, guest of HORST TEBBE. The birthday celebrant is G. PETER SCHIEFERDECKER who turned 90 on 2/18/15.

**Volunteer Hours:** DOUG FRANCEFORT stated that for the week ending 2/18/15, there were 404 hours reported for outside agencies by 49 RMA members and 98 hours reported for RMA activities by 27 members. The person reporting the most hours was DICK CASE with 25 hours.

## **TODAY'S PROGRAM**

BERNARD SCHNEIDER introduced Jim Cameron who took the members on historic trips that had occurred on Metro North lines with sad and tragic results. He mentioned the inefficient interaction of the NTSP and the FRA along with the delayed announcement of schedule changes and the occasions of work avoidance. Jim indicated Metro – North previously recognized expense payments were shared 50-50 by New York and Connecticut; 2/3rds of the expenses are now being borne by Connecticut. Present contract renewal has gained some recognition for the need of strong safety measures; small improvement in implementation is possible through an existing committee.

## **FUN AND GAMES**

**Bridge:** KURT SCHAFFIR reported that 8 players were present at last week's bridge game; GRANT PERKINS was first with 5870 points, KURT SCHAFFIR was next with 4110 followed by DICK CASE with 3900. **Tennis:** RALPH VIGGIANO advised members that GEORGE DAVIS and MIKE WARNER were winners on Court #1 and MIKE SMITH and PETER STREICH won on Court 2. Ralph will be the Captain next week.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

*Open to all members, guests, candidates and spouses; checks should be made out to the RMA.*

RICH LIMBACHER announced:

Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory- March 19, 2015. \$ 50.00 per person, including lunch at the Observatory. Bus leaves St. Catherine's at 9:00 am. Status: Currently wait-listed

Goodspeed Theater-May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The musical *Guys and Dolls*. \$ 115 per person, including lunch at Gelston House. Bus leaves St. Catherine's at 10 am. Status: 10 Openings.

For more details and to sign up, contact GERRY LESSUK [gerriess@att.net](mailto:gerriess@att.net) 203 698-9541 or RICH LIMBACHER [limbacher29@verizon.net](mailto:limbacher29@verizon.net) 203 531-9515.

## **NEXT WEEK's SPEAKER**

ARNOLD STANCELL will present "Energy Issues"

*Visit the RMA's website at [www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org).*

*JIM BUTLER, scribe of the week*