

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Volume 63, No. 43 March 2, 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

Enjoy Life ----It Has an Expiration Date” (Anonymous)

President RALPH VIGGIANO opened the meeting at 10 a.m. BOB BISHOP led us in The Pledge of Allegiance. JERRY SCHWENDEMAN, song leader, conducted us in singing *The Star Spangled Banner, Battle Hymn of the Republic, and That’s Amore*, accompanied by pianist BOB MORGAN. The joke of the day was about a farmer and his wife, related by BOB LUCE.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: BOB LUCE invited us to read the bulletin board where a poster announces the March 5 concert by the Greenwich Choral Society of the Handel oratorio “Judas Maccabeus” at 4:30 p.m. in Christ Church. Tickets, at \$28 and \$38, are available by going to “GreenwichChoralSociety.org, or by calling their office at 203-622-6136.

STEVE MARINO conducted a sound check to optimize the loudspeakers.

RALPH VIGGIANO notified us of a lecture by Dr. Ashwatha Marayana about prostate cancer radiation therapy at Greenwich Hospital next Monday, March 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Noble Auditorium. He said that March 10 marks the 64th anniversary of the founding of the RMA; also passing on a communication that GRAN BURGESS, hibernating in Florida, needs additional song leaders. Please volunteer!

STEVE BOIES posed an open question: Has anyone of us had hands-on experience with the software “Quick Books”? If so, please notify him, as he is exploring adopting it, as Treasurer, for the RMA.

RETURNEES: RALPH VIGGIANO reported on the returnees: JOHN AWDZIEWICZ from 3 weeks in Tortola; STEVE MYERS from 9 days in Sarasota, FL; HORST TEBBE from Palm Springs, San Diego and Oakland, CA; JIM BUTLER from Milan and Florence, Italy; and BOB CAREY from Sanibel Island and Sarasota, FL. Finally, RALPH held up a black wool scarf which was left last week. If it’s yours, notify him.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

VISITING: CHUCK STANDARD invited us to call JOE MALARA, who would welcome our calls at 203-394-5389. He mentioned that HAVEN KNIGHT and ROBERT WHITBY are recuperating and that JOHN HARRIS has suffered a stroke and is in hospital. Finally, CHUCK welcomed back WAYNE WRIGHT, after an incredible absence of ten years.

PROGRAMS: JIM FISHBEIN announced today's speaker, **Robert Rubin**, civil rights attorney. Details are below.

TED SPOOL told us that next week's speaker will be **Dan Marcy**, regarding the new Tappan Zee Bridge.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE gave us the attendance figures: 101 members, one candidate Harold Kuplesky, and two guests: Peter Stern, guest of JIM SANTORA and Jack Weir, g/o RUSS HARDEN. Those celebrating birthdays are GEORGE DAVIS, 88; MARTIN GRAYSON, 88 and RON KLINGNER, 91. We are thankful.

VOLUNTEERS: TED SPOOL reported 386 hours by 44 men for outside agencies and 123 hours by 29 members for RMA activities. HORST TEBBE had the most outside hours at 25.

SPECIAL EVENTS: JERRY LESSUK listed upcoming Special Events (see below for details)

FUN AND GAMES:

BRIDGE: KURT SCHAFFIR related the bridge scores: There were 8 players on Feb.24. Top score was 3000 by DICK CASE; next was 2320 by BOB UNDERWOOD and 2000 by KURT SCHAFFIR.

TENNIS: MIKE ABROSINO said that PETER UHRY and RANDY MOTLAND won on Court 1; SAM MARASSO and ERF PORTER on Court 2. Next week's captain will be JOHN KNIGHT.

TODAYS PROGRAM: Our speaker today was Robert Rubin, on "Our Precious Right to Vote: Riddled by Fraud or Targeted for Suppression?" He flew in from the west coast to speak to us from a position that was obviously progressive in political outlook, and early on issued a disclaimer about its being "a fair and balanced" speech. First, he advised us that 43% of U.S. citizens failed to vote in the last presidential election. Each state has its own voting laws. Many of these laws were influenced greatly by the Civil War,

World War One and World War Two. He railed about the voting record of the late Supreme Court Justice Anthony Scalia, because Scalia held that the Court was instituted to decide based on the intent of the original writers of the Constitution. He deplored that 51 million citizens are not registered to vote, many because they have no ID proof of who they are, and concluded that we are still a racist nation.

George Stockbridge - Scribe of the Week

SPECIAL EVENTS

April 21: Metropolitan Museum of Art, Thursday. A guided tour of the American Wing with lunch in the Petrie Court café; cost \$95 per person, 20 spaces available.

May 26: Goodspeed Opera House for Cole Porter's "Anything Goes" with lunch at Gelston House. Cost \$105 p/p. 13 spaces available.

June 16: Belmont Race Track with buffet lunch at the Track. Cost is \$75 p/p.

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

For questions, call GERRY LESSUK (203-698-9451) gerrless@att.net, or ABBEY SMOLER (203- 531-0236) abbeysmoler@gmail.com.

NEXT WEEK

Dan Marcy will report on "Building the new NY Bridge over the Tappan Zee".

Visit the RMA website at WWW.Greenwichrma.org