

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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"Even the poorest today owe their relative well-being to the results of past inequality" -D'Souza

Standing in for the absent president, BOB PHILLIPS, the First VP RALPH VIGGIANO dutifully rang the bell at the stroke of 10 a.m. to call the meeting to order. BILL DYNAN led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Song Leader, JERRY SCHWENDEMAN, led the assemblage in "The Star Spangled Banner", "Once in Love With Amy" and "Mame", accompanied very ably on the Steinway by PETER RYAN. Corresponding Secretary, BILL DYNAN, recounted a droll tale about a Brit, a Scot and an Irishman trying to outdo one another in boasting about their favorite pub.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Patricia Trioana of the Greenwich Department of Parks and Recreation /informed us about the new game of "pickleball" being demonstrated at Eastern Civic Center Saturday, March 14, from 3p.m. to 9p.m. She invites also new players.
2. JIM SANTORA thanked those who contributed foodstuffs to the box he hosted at the entrance to the hall this morning, and invited the rest of us to consider contributing a check at the break.
3. RALPH VIGGIANO announced that he needs those interested in playing tennis starting in September to see him.

VISITING: CHUCK STANDARD shared the good news that HORST TEBBE has been released from hospital and is back home now. He intends to be here next week. **THIS WEEK'S SPEAKER:** Today's speaker was announced by STEVE MYERS. See details below.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER: The speaker next week, said BOB WYLIE, will be James Lee, C.O.O. of Lawrence Hospital, Bronxville, NY, concerning the increasing trend of hospital mergers across the nation.

MEMBERSHIP: JIM FAHY's count of the sparse crowd (challenged by ice and snow) was only 77 members, one candidate and two guests. **INDUCTION:** Sponsors MIKE SMITH and JOHN CRAINE proposed PETER ORBANOWSKI, an avid sailor, tennis player, Dartmouth graduate and naturalized citizen. A unanimous vote of "aye" ushered PETER into RMA membership.

SPECIAL EVENTS: In the absence of RICHARD LIMBACHER and GERRY LESSUK, we had no new report on special events. Refer to last week's info below.

VOLUNTEERS: WALT HOWE told us there were 382 hours reported by 39 members for outside activities, and 39 hours for RMA activities.

GAMES: **Bridge:** KURT SCHAFFIR announced the three winners. There were 9 players. KURT SCHAFFIR was high scorer with 5690, GRANT PERKINS was next with 4340, and FRANK LEE was third with 3650. **Tennis:** TED SPOOL reminded us that summer tennis will begin, when the weather warms up, on Monday and Thursday mornings. While awaiting the arrival of our speaker of the day, RALPH VIGGIANO entertained us with the history of "The Ides of March" dating from the year 44 B.C. and quickly moved on to "Eat Drink and Be Merry".

TODAY'S SPEAKER was Maureen Raymo, Ph.D., professor of Earth and Ocean History at LaMont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University. An advocate of the current theory of global warming, she had prepared a number of graphs showing the cycles of warming and cooling over the past several million years. These data were taken from Antarctic ice cores, rock samples and fossil records. Recent history from 1880 to 2011 were graphed also, from weather station readings, from weather balloons and weather stations around the globe. She pointed out that, except for the period 1934 to 1980, there was a steady increase in global temperatures. No one is quite sure of the reason for the anomaly. She described the fluctuations of increasing and decreasing ice caps in the Antarctic and the Arctic. It's been decreasing in the Arctic and greatly increasing in 98% of Antarctica, although advocates like Professor Raymo talk only about the 2% that is melting away on the peninsula there. From the year 1970 until 2011, her graphs showed the notorious hockey-stick-increase from 315 to 400 parts per million of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere recorded from 1960 to 2010. Also interesting was her explanation that glaciers attract sea levels, so that the level of the sea in Greenland may be as much as 10 meters higher than at the same time in Spain. So whether the seas are rising "globally" is not established science yet, although she gave anecdotal evidence of street flooding in Venice, Miami Beach, and on Long Island during superstorm Sandy. Then she projected that an abrupt change is possible over the rest of the 21st century causing the carbon dioxide level to increase from the current 400 ppm to 550, and perhaps as high as 1000 ppm. What this will do to global temperatures and sea levels is at best a guess at this point, but the possibilities cited are stark and disturbing. However, science is ever evolving, never static. As the current National Geographic Magazine warns, "dogma is always wilting away in the hot glare of new research and evidence. Everyone must keep questioning it".

GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE, Scribe of the day

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory March 19. \$50 per person, includes lunch at the Observatory. Bus leaves St. Catherine's at 9 a.m. Status: Currently wait listed.

Goodspeed Theater May 28. "Guys and Dolls". \$115 per person, including lunch at Gelston House. Bus leaves St. Catherine's 10 a.m. Status: Wait listed.

Tanglewood/Boston Symphony Sunday, August 9. Cost, not yet determined, will include lunch at Apple Tree Inn. Status: Open. Bus will leave the Eastern Civic Center at 9 a.m.

For more details and to sign up, contact GERRY LESSUK gerrless@att.net; 203-698-9541 or RICHARD LIMBACHER limbacher29@verizon.net; 203 531-9515.

Visit the RMA's website at www.greenwichrma.org