

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Volume 63, No. 45

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"The older I grow, the more I distrust the familiar doctrine that age brings wisdom." H.L. Mencken

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

T'was the day before St.Paddy's Day, green shirts were as common as daffodil sprouts on the lawn and speaking with his best brogue President RALPH O'VIGGIANO rang the bell to convene the gathered lads. ART SZABO (his O is at the end) led the pledge. He was followed by the musical mavens, TOM HEALY and JIM SANTORA, who led the singing; *You're a Grand Old Flag* and two songs honoring the Auld Sod and its children; *Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-Ra* (That's An Irish Lullaby) and *When Irish Eyes Are Smiling*.

Breaking with tradition, President RALPH VIGGIANO, announced that the next item of business would be the induction of RICK HOLZ, sponsored by DON CONWAY and JOHN TONER. RICK, a long-time Greenwich Resident dropped out of the corporate world to start his own successful vending machine business, from which he retired in 2013. He is an active volunteer in town and is an avocational chef and motorcyclist. His acceptance to membership was unanimous.

Getting back to the regular format, BILL DYNAN shared an Irish story about the uses and abuses of votive candles. Hearty laughs were heard.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President RALPH had several announcements:

1. Noted with sadness the passing of three RMA members this past week; FRANK ALBRIZIO, DENNIS LUKAS and PETER McSPADDEN. Eulogies are in preparation.
2. Repeated his request for the name of a member of Tamarack CC
3. Announced that the Town Of Greenwich St. Patrick's Day Parade would be held, Sunday, March 20th, and he was recruiting RMA'ers to march as a group wearing RMA hats, shirts and pins.
4. Requested that all Candidate Sponsors announce inductions to the President and Membership chair at least one week in advance.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

TAD LARRABEE strode to the mike to announce that he was tweaking the Walking Group's business model. Henceforth the time and meeting place would be e-mailed to interested members each week. If you are interested, contact TAD at

tadlarra@optonline.net with your e-mail address. He also announced the info for this week's walk that will occur before the CBB goes to press.

RUS HARDEN proudly announced that the Greenwich Rotary Club will honor our own JOHN DeCSEPEL and wife Lennie for their contributions of their time and energy to causes throughout the town. They will be recognized at Rotary's annual dinner on May 26, at the Round Hill Club. For information and reservations contact RUSS at 203-554-5842.

RETURNEES: There were five returnees this week: SAM MARASSO from Puerto Rico, REID McINTYRE from Singer Island FL, PETER RYAN from Palm Desert CA, VIN MASI from Naples FL and BOB CAREY from London. Welcome home guys!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VISITING: CHUCK STANDARD, calendar-less, reported that JOHN HARRIS was doing rehab and hoped to be home on Friday; HAVEN KNIGHT was still in the hospital and also hoped to home soon; and JOE MALARA was in Waveny for rehab and would love to receive phone calls to 203-594-5389.

PROGRAM-This week: STEVE MYERS gave a heads-up on today's speaker, Dr. Daniel Ksepka, details below.

PROGRAM-Next week: HOLLISTER STURGES reported that next week we would be addressed by our own **Senator Richard Blumenthal**. He will discuss the situation wherein the US Senate continues to be gridlocked between its obligation to govern and Republican opposition to the programs of the Executive Branch.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE reported 104 men present, 99 RMA members, 3 candidates and 2 guests, Cro Martin g/o JOHN CARON and Mike Finlay g/o GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE. **Birthday** celebrants were LOU CHIAPPETTA 96, DON MININI 82, CHET RISIO 88, PETER MAHER 77. ***RALPH and Katherine VIGGIANO are celebrating 42 years of marriage today, and GEORGE and Elisabeth PATTERSON will mark 60 years on March 17 !***

SPECIAL EVENTS: GERRY LESSUK updated the calendar per the listing below.

VOLUNTEERS: WALT HOWE volunteered the information that this past week 48 men worked 497 hours for outside agencies and 29 did 121 hours for the RMA. High scorer was JOHN TONER with 60 accumulated hours.

FUN AND GAMES

BRIDGE: KURT SCHAFFIR dealt the data that there were 13 players last week. High scores were HIMSELF 3470, BRUNO SCHRAGE 3070 and MARTIN WAINE 3060.

TENNIS: PETER STREICH gamely served the scores from last week's games. "Winners" PETER ORBANOWSKI and TOM HEALY.

“Loser Winners” RON FRIEDMAN and JOHN KNIGHT. Next week’s captain was not revealed.

GOLF: Is back! MIKE RYAN tee’d off the season by announcing that sign-up sheets for 4/5 and 4/12 were on the bulletin board. Next week he will take names and money. Stand by !

TODAY’S SPEAKER

Dr. Daniel Ksepka, Curator of Science at the Bruce Museum and an expert on fossil birds gave a fascinating talk on the Pelagornithids, a species of birds that flew 25 million years ago. It had a wingspan of 20-24 feet; larger than any living bird. He explained how bird paleontologists discovered fossilized bones and, from the bones, recreated the outside form and flight patterns, using knowledge of extinct large birds. He also described and explained the current exhibit at the Bruce, “Secrets of Fossil Lake” A spirited RMA Q&A followed.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all members, spouses, candidates, and guests. Checks made out to RMA.

Thurs. April 21, Metropolitan Museum of Art - \$ 95 - Places available

Thurs. May 26 – Goodspeed Opera House – Anything Goes. \$105 Places available

Thurs. June16 – Belmont Race Track - \$ 75 – Places available.

For more details and to sign-up, contact GERRY LESSUK (gerrless@att.net, 203-698-9451) or ABBEY SMOLER (abbeysmoler@gmail.com, 203-531-0236)

NEXT WEEK’S SPEAKER

Senator Richard Blumenthal – Current Issues Facing the Senate

Respectfully reported by **Av Rivel**

Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org