

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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*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*

“Spring is nature’s way of saying “Let’s Party” - Robin Williams

It was the day after **St. Paddy’s Day** and after ringing the bell at the usual time president **BOB PHILLIPS** gave a shout-out to the loyal sons of Erin (and other places) who were “wearin’ of the green.” **KURT SCHAFFIR** led the pledge. Closely following, **TOM HEALY** and **BOB MORGAN** led the assembled in singing *A Grand Old Flag* (patriotic) and in the spirit of the day before, *Toora-loora-loora* and *When Irish Eyes Are Smiling* (timely). **TOM HEALY** stayed at the podium, donned his Corresponding Secretary hat and told a story about a heavenly entrance exam.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: President **PHILLIPS** reminded members that elections for 2015-2016 officers and chairs would be held on March 24. The slate presented by the Nominating Council can be found on the home page of the RMA website: greenwichrma.org. Before the vote, nominations from the floor will be accepted. **JIM SANTORA** read a letter from Neighbor to Neighbor thanking the RMA for our generosity in donating food and funds.

RETURNEES: **FRANK ZAVATTARO** from Sea Bank Island SC and **STEVE BOIES** from Portland OR.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: **VISITING:** Unfettered by calendars **CHUCK STANDARD** noted that no one was in the hospital and no new additions to the rehab roster happened in the past week. He promised “lots of calendars” next week. **PROGRAM:** **BERNARD SCHNEIDER** heads upped this week’s speakers, Debra Ponzek and Rich Addonizio speaking on “Behind the Scenes at Aux Delices - more below.. **JIM FISHBEIN** previewed next week’s speaker, Ambassador Donald P. Gregg who will enlighten us on “North Korea: The Perpetual Outsider”. Ambassador Gregg has credentials galore to give his talk substance. Stay tuned. **MEMBERSHIP:** **HORST TEBBE** read the attendance numbers: 102 members, 2 candidates and no guests. **CANDLE BLOWERS** serenaded were: **BILL DEGRUCHY** 78, **LOU CHIAPPETTA** 92, **TAD LARRABEE** 74, **ART ROSENBERG** 81, **TOM DUFFY** 81 and **PETER MAHER** 76. Felicitations Fellows !! **VOLUNTEER:** **HARRY TWITCHELL** reported 389 outside hours by 52 men and 86 RMA hours by 24 men. **TAD LARRABEE** was top scorer with 33 accumulated hours. **SPECIAL EVENTS:** **GERRY LESSUK** did the honors and they are listed below. President **BOB** urged regular special events goers to volunteer to help. **GERRY** and **RICH LIMBACHER** provide this very popular feature of our program.

GAMES RMA MEN PLAY: BRIDGE: KURT SHAFFIR finessed last week's numbers: 9 players, #1 BRUNO SCHRAGE 4520, #2 RON FRIEDMAN 4420 and #3 MARTIN WAINE 3940. **GOLF:** MIKE RYAN reminded all that in just 20 days, April 2, the RMA golf season would start. **TENNIS:** RALPH VIGGIANO filled in for an absent colleague and reported that winners on court 1 were FRED BAKER and BRUNO SCHRAGE. Ralph had no information on court 2. Next week's host is RANDY MOTLAND.

TODAY'S SPEAKERS: BERNARD SCHNEIDER introduced his wife Frances who introduced today's speakers Debra Ponzek and Greg Addonizio, founders and proprietors of Aux Delices (it's French, it means "The Delights") a mini chain of gourmet take-out shops in Greenwich, Riverside, Darien and Westport. The couple met while studying at the Culinary Institute (the other CIA). Before starting their business they both achieved success as prize-winning chefs at well-regarded restaurants. They tandem related the story of starting and building their business. Debra's role was in the kitchen, developing products, menus and a loyal following. Greg was the "business" person handling the "front" and the "way back" of financing and expansion. Their growth and success was a true joint effort coupled with policy of "listening to their customers" a high regard for quality and keeping the product mix as fresh as the food they served. It was a delicious presentation.

Scribed this week by: **Av Rivel**

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all Members, guests, candidates and spouses. Checks are made out to the RMA.

LAMONT DOHERTY EARTH OBSERVATORY: Thursday, March 19: lunch is in house. Cost is \$104 per person. **Wait list.** Departs from St. Catherine's Church at 9:00am.

GUYS AND DOLLS, GOODSPEED OPERA HOUSE: Thursday, May 28; lunch at Gelston House. Cost is \$115 per person. **Wait list.** Departs by bus from St. Catherine's Church at 10:00 am.

BELMONT RACE TRACK: Thursday, June 18. Cost is \$75 (plus all you care to lose betting) Bus departs at 10:30 AM. **Open all places.**

TANGLEWOOD, LENOX MA: Sunday, August 9. Cost is \$125 per person; lunch at Apple Tree Inn. Departure by bus from Eastern Civic Center at 9:30 AM. **Open all places.**

For more details contact **GERRY LESSUK** (gerrless@att.net, 203-698-9451) or **RICH LIMBACHER** (limbacher29@Verizon.net, 203-532-9515).

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Ambassador **Donald P Gregg** – North Korea: The Perpetual Outsider

Visit the RMA's website at greenwichrma.org.