

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Volume 63, No. 46

March 23, 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*

President RALPH VIGGIANO rang the opening bell promptly at 10:00 AM and called on KURT SCHAFFIR to lead us in The Pledge. TOM HEALY, accompanied by PETER RYAN at the keyboard, led us in singing Easter Parade, America the Beautiful and Oh, You Beautiful Doll. JERRY SCHWENDEMAN drew lots of laughs with his story of Mildred and Marge's surprise at seeing Roscoe the rooster eating popcorn from an unusual position.

EULOGIES: RALPH noted that in the last two weeks the RMA has lost three notable members.

JIM FAHY read a moving tribute to FRANK ALBRIZIO, who passed away March 13, 2016.

PETER SCHIEFERDECKER movingly recalled his friendship with and the accomplishments of DENNIS LUKAS, who passed away on March 10, 2016. A memorial service for DENNIS will be held at the Riverside Yacht Club on April 23, 2016, at 1:00 pm.

JOHN CARON offered a very personal remembrance of PETER MCSPADDEN, who passed away March 13, 2016. JOHN recalled his long friendship with PETER and, in particular, their many bicycling safaris together. A memorial service for PETER is scheduled for the First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich on April 4, 2016, at 11:00 am.

RETURNEES: RALPH welcomed back MARIO BONAPARTE from North Carolina and Florida, and LYN KAUFMAN from Park City, Utah.

NOMINATIONS: AL KNIGHT announced candidates for RMA positions for 2016-17. Election will be held on March 30, 2016.

President/Director – PETER UHRY
1ST Vice President/Director – DON CONWAY
2nd Vice President/Director – TAD LARRABEE
3rd Vice President/Director – JERRY SCHWENDEMAN
Director-at-large – KLAUS JANDER
Director-at-large – RUSS HARDEN
Secretary – JIM SANTORA
Treasurer – STEVE BOIES

Program Committee Chairmen – JIM FISHBEIN, HOLLISTER STURGES

Membership Committee Chairman – HORST TEBBE
Special Events Committee Chairman – ABBEY SMOLER (Chairman), MIKE FERRARESE (Vice Chairman)
Publicity Committee Chairman – JACK CUFF
Non-Director Standing Committee Chairmen:
CBB Committee – CHET RISIO
Volunteer Committee – JOHN FEBLES
Audit Committee – DICK BARTHOLOMEW
Nominating Council New Member (3 year term starting May 1, 2016)
BOB BISHOP
Next year's Nominating Council: RALPH VIGGIANO (Chairman), AL KNIGHT, HORST TEBBE, BOB BISHOP, BOB PHILLIPS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Visiting: CHUCK STANDARD brought us up-to-date on three members currently on the mend: JOE MALARA, HAVEN KNIGHT, JOHN HARRIS and CHARLIE JENSEN.

Program: BOB WYLIE announced that today's speaker will be Senator Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut, who will address some of the key issues currently confronting Congress. JOHN DECSEPEL noted that next week's presenters will be the proprietors of Greenwich's Black Forest Bakery, who will discuss facets of retail operations.

Membership: HORST TEBBE reported 115 members present along with three candidates and 1 guest (Cal Burnes) a guest of MIKE SMITH. HORST also said that CHARLIE JENSEN is celebrating his 82nd birthday.

Special Events: GERRY LESSUK announced that three trips are currently scheduled. See details below.

Volunteers: TOM WOOLEY reported that, for the week ending March 23, 2016, 46 men reported 443 volunteer hours on behalf of outside agencies and 32 men reported 115 volunteer hours on behalf of the RMA. The most hours (37) were reported by HORST TEBBE.

FUN AND GAMES:

Bridge: KURT SCHAFFIR reported that the March 16, 2016 game drew 12 players. High scorers were: JAMES CHUNG (4180); DICK CASE (3360); GRANT PERKINS (3230).

Tennis: Last week's winners were: Court 1 PETER ORBANOWSKY and BILL FAKUNDINY; Court 2 ERF PORTER and JOHN KNIGHT. Next week's captain will be BILL FAKUNDINY.

TODAY'S SPEAKER: Senator **Richard Blumenthal** suggested that the success of our country's international relations will depend on a strong military (Air Force, Special Operations, training allies) and smart diplomacy. He suggested that a strong military will require an investment in such things as Virginia class submarines, which offer a stealthy force to project strength, and the F35 fighter. He also remarked that less than 1% of our nation's GDP is spent on infrastructure management and he recommended the development of a public/private infrastructure bank to fund the restructuring of the

nation's transportation needs (bridges, rails, roads, etc.). He noted that student debt stands at 1.2 trillion dollars, and that a way needs to be found to reduce college costs, and, finding a way to allow refinancing of student loans.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all Members, Guests, Candidates and spouses. Checks should be made out to RMA.

Metropolitan Museum of Art (Guided Tour of the American Wing). Thursday, April 21, 2016. Lunch at Petrie Court Café. Cost: \$95.00 per person. Bus leaves St. Catherine's at 8:30 AM. Status: Open – 12 places available.

Goodspeed Opera House. The musical Anything Goes. Thursday, May 26, 2016. Lunch at Gelston House. Cost: \$105.00 per person. Bus leaves St. Catherine's at 10:00 AM.

Status: Waiting list

Belmont Racetrack. Thursday, June 16, 2016. Buffet lunch in Belmont Room. Cost: \$75.00 per person. Bus leaves St. Catherine's at 10:30 AM. Status: Open – 16 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

Next week the RMA will welcome:
Black Forest Bakery Proprietors

Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org.

Respectfully Submitted: **Ed Farrell**