

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Volume 63, No. 47

March 30, 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, 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 opened the meeting commenting how spring was springing and March was virtually over. STEVE MARINO led us in The Pledge. Then JERRY SCHWENDEMAN, guided by PETER RYAN at the keyboard, led us in singing God Bless America, Hello Dolly and Heart of My Heart. HARRY TWITCHELL got the microphone figured out and generated laughter with a story of two young people crossing a stream without getting their clothing wet.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President RALPH had several announcements:

- He welcomed back FRANK ZAVATTARO from Sea Brooke Island, SC --- PETE UHRY from Spain and Portugal --- SAM MARASSO from Naperville, IL --- BOB MORGAN from Havana, Cuba ---and GRANVILLE BURGESS from Sarasota, FL.
- He also noted that the memorial for PETER MCSPADDEN would be held on April 16th at 11AM at the First Presbyterian Church where RMA meets regularly.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEVE BOIES noted that The Chamber Players would hold a concert on April 10 and April 11 featuring Wayne DuMaine on trumpet. The program is titled "Sound the Trumpet." (call 203-637-4725 or contact their website.)

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS: BOB PHILLIPS announced candidates for RMA leadership positions for 2016-17. The slate, as noted below was approved unanimously. The new assignments take effect on May 1, 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, and BOB PHILLIPS.

BOB PHILLIPS also recognized and thanked GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE (CBB Committee Chair), ARNOLD GORDON (Director at Large), PETER SCHEIFERDECKER (Nominating Council) and GERRY LESSUK (Special Events Chairman) for their contributions to RMA as they now leave their positions of leadership.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VISITING: CHUCK STANDARD brought us up-to-date on five members currently on the mend: JOE MALARA, DICK RADCLIFFE, JOHN HARRIS, PETER DIXON and CHARLIE JENSEN.

PROGRAM: JOHN DECSEPEL announced that today's speaker would be Herb Mueller, the proprietor of Greenwich's Black Forest Bakery.

Next week, the speaker will be Frederick Chiu, a concert pianist who will discuss his feelings about the integration of various art forms in a presentation entitled: My Evolution as an Artist.

MEMBERSHIP: JIM FAHY reported 115 members present including three candidates and 1 guest Mike Finlay a guest of GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE. JIM also noted that those celebrating birthdays this week included: TED EWING (80), ROBERT RIMMER (78), PETER RYAN (80), JOHN HARKINS (74) and JOHN MINOR (79).

SPECIAL EVENTS: GERRY LESSUK announced that three trips are currently scheduled. He also detailed how low participation can affect our fixed costs for outings. See details below for future trips planned.

VOLUNTEERS: GRANT PERKINS reported that, for the week ending March 30, 2016, 45 men reported 400 volunteer hours on behalf of outside agencies and 27 men reported 108 volunteer hours on behalf of the RMA. DON CONWAY reported the most hours (17).

FUN AND GAMES: BRIDGE: KURT SCHAFFIR reported that the March 23, 2016 game drew 13 players. High scorers were: DICK CASE (3030), DAVID DOWNS (2700) and BRUNO SCHRAGE (2510).

GOLF: Mike Ryan asks that if you want to play RMA golf that you see him and pay \$15 to participate this season. He also announced that projected bad weather is prompting the cancellation of next Tuesday's play.

TENNIS: BILL FAKUNDINY reported last week's winners: Court 1 RANDY MOTLAND and SAM MARASSO; Court 2 RON FRIEDMAN and BRUNO SCHRAGE. Next week's captain will be SAM MARASSO.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Herb Mueller brought members and guests the story of how his parents moved to Greenwich in 1980 and opened Black Forest Pastry Shop Inc. Herb grew up in the business and took over from his folks in 1995. As the story unfolded, we learned how the emphasis on breads declined, how specialty cakes and gelato, coffee and other products became part of the business mix. As Herb pointed out, flexibility to address market changes, including shortages of ingredients and needs to replace equipment to keep up with consumer trends is his ongoing challenge. Overall, it was an interesting look at how a specialty store operates.

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 – 13 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 – 11 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

Frederic Chiu, an internationally renowned classical concert pianist, will talk about his evolution as an artist, with musical interludes.

This week's official note taker: **Peter Uhry**

Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org