

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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April 20, 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 rang the opening bell promptly at 10:00 AM and called on ARNOLD GORDON to lead us in The Pledge. DON CONWAY, accompanied by PETER RYAN at the piano, led us in singing *God Bless America* and *Peg O' My Heart*. DON then invited CHUCK STANDARD to accompany him in leading the members in a rousing rendition of *Take Me Out to the Ballgame*. ARNOLD GORDON drew somewhat muted laughter for his story about a police officer, who failed to check the gender of a motorcyclist in need of assistance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President RALPH VIGGIANO had several announcements:

- He reminded us that there will be a presentation on the effects and treatment of prostate cancer scheduled for May 2, 2016, at 7:00 PM in the Noble Conference Center at Greenwich Hospital.
- RALPH also reminded us that a memorial service will be held for DENNIS LUKAS on April 23, 2016, at 1:00 PM at the Riverside Yacht Club.
- RALPH asked that there be no private discussions carried on during the meeting or that such discussions be taken outside of the meeting room.
- He also asked that members wear the RMA lapel pin in public to foster awareness of our organization.
- RALPH noted that PETER UHRY is the person to see to purchase hats and shirts bearing the RMA logo.
- **RETURNEES:** RALPH welcomed back JOHN VECCHIONE from Los Angeles, GERRY BOYLE from Florida and WAYNE DEVRIES from Florida.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

DON CONWAY announced that Call-a-Ride drivers are invited to an appreciation event at Queen Ann's Cottage at Greenwich Point from 3-6:00 PM on April 24, 2016.

JOHN FEBLES asked members be faithful in reporting volunteer hours on a weekly basis. JOHN noted that the new quarterly list of volunteer hour recorders can be found on the meeting bulletin board.

TAD LARRABEE announced that the Greenwich Choral Society will present a concert featuring Mendelssohn's Saint Paul on May 7, 2016, at 4:30 PM at the O'Byrne Chapel, Manhattanville College.

SERGE GABRIEL noted that today France celebrates the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of American pilots, The Lafayette Escadrille, into the French Air Force (Service Aeronautique) in the early days of World War I.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VISITING: CHUCK STANDARD told us that DICK RADCLIFFE may be leaving the hospital today, and that JOE MALARA is doing well in re-hab and is currently walking short distances..

PROGRAM: GERRY GIBIAN announced that today's speaker will be **Sean Pica**, who will speak of his life experience and the work of the Hudson Link for Higher Education, an education program for incarcerated individuals.

GEORGE UBOGY noted that next week's presenter will be **Ann Gilhooly**, a former teacher at Greenwich High School and current adult education teacher at the school, who will discuss the life and work of the French essayist Michel de Montaigne.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE reported 118 members present along with one candidate and 4 guests: Walker Collins g/o WAYNE WRIGHT; Mark Mittler g/o WAYNE WRIGHT; Wally Beneville g/o BOB ALDEN; Bill O'Donnell g/o PETER STERN. RUSS HARDEN and KEATING HAGMAN recommended Jack Weir for membership in the RMA, and Jack was accepted by acclimation.

This week's birthday boys are: GERRY LESSUK (90), REID MCINTYRE (84), JOE DEVITA (86), BRIAN MAHER (75), AV RIVEL (80), BILL DYNAN (93) and BOB ROBINS (78).

SPECIAL EVENTS: GERRY LESSUK announced that three trips are currently scheduled. See details below.

VOLUNTEERS: ED BLOOM reported that, for the week ending April 20, 2016, 47 men reported 700 volunteer hours on behalf of outside agencies and 33 men reported 199 volunteer hours on behalf of the RMA. The most hours (56) were reported by R. CURTIS.

FUN AND GAMES

BRIDGE: KURT SCHAFFIR reported that the April 12, 2016, game drew 11 players. High scorers were: GRANT PERKINS (3990), FRANK LEE (3360) and MARTIN WAINE (3160).

GOLF: JOHN AWDZIEWICZ reported that last week's leading scorer was PETER RYAN (83), and that PETER and KIP SCHULZE were closest to the pin on holes 7 and 15 respectively. TOM HEALY had the longest drive on the 17th hole

TENNIS: Last week's winners were: Court 1: RON FRIEDMAN and PETER STREICH; Court 2: PETER ORBANOWSKY and JOHN KNIGHT. TED SPOOL announced that summer tennis will begin next Monday, April 25, 2016, and will be scheduled for Mondays and Thursdays thereafter at the Cos Cob courts on Laughlin Avenue.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Sean Pica, Director of Hudson Link for Higher Education, shared with members his personal experience in obtaining a college degree while incarcerated at Sing Sing prison in New York, and how he translated that experience into his current life's work in promoting college education programs for others in the prison system in New York, as well as in other states. Graduates of the Hudson Link program number 451 to-date, and many have built successful careers. Several have attained master degrees and at least one holds a PhD. Sean, himself, is a social worker, who serves as an advisor to many college and government agencies.

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.

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.netgerrless@att.net, 203-698-9451) or ABBEY SMOLER (abbeysmoler@gmail.comabbeysmoler@gmail.com, 203-531-0236)

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Next week the RMA will welcome: **Ann Gilhooly**. Subject: Life and Work of Michel de Montaigne.

This week's official note taker: **Ed Farrell**

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