

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 .*

“Intelligence is quickness in seeing things the way they are”

George Santayana

Ringing the opening bell, our Outgoing RMA President BOB PHILLIPS advised us that we would conduct the Annual Business Meeting after the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by HENRY BAKER.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DON CONWAY, 3rd VP, 2nd VP PETER UHRY and RALPH VIGGIANO , 1st VP & incoming President presented their annual reports(details will be posted on CBB online, <http://greenwichrma.org.org>). Jim Fahey was given a standing ovation for strong service to the Membership Committee and as a Medal of Honor recipient while serving in the Greenwich Police Department. Returning to our weekly meeting, JERRY SCHWENDEMEMEN, accompanied by JIM SANTORA, led us to enjoyed singing “God Bless America”, “Always” and “Blue Skies”. BOB LUCE kept us on the edge of our seats with the narrative of the drastic town fire, the late appearance of the elderly Norwegian firefighters and the brakes on the ancient fire truck. BOB ROBINS then stepped up to remind us of the ROMEO lunch and cash bar at the Stanwich Club on May 6th after the RMA meeting; the \$40.00 fee is due from all attendees.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: **VISITING:** CHUCK STANDARD greeted us all with optimal view of the weather, made two 2016 calendars available and reported that RICH LIMBACHER continues to recover slowly, DAVID DOWNS is getting better. Sadly, JIM DANIELS is not recovering. **MEMBERSHIP:** HORST TEBBE announced that 122 members, two guests and one candidate were present. Candidate Rick Holz is proposed by CHRIS SALVO and Seconded by ED PARKER. Don MacKenzie was brought by JIM BUTLER and Charlie Jensen was the guest of JIM SANTORA. The birthdays celebrated were ANDY DOMERICH, 75: AL HARTIG, 94; BILL STEIN, 77; RICH COHN, 89. HORST reminded us that the RMA annual fee of \$70.00 is due; so far 100 of the total 265 membership have paid. **TODAY'S SPEAKER:** PETE MCSPADDEN

previewed the presentation of Tom Niles, a former Ambassador to Canada, the European Union and Greece during his 36 years in the United States Foreign Service. **NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER:** BERNARD SCHNEIDER followed with the announcement that Congressman Jim Himes will address us on May 6th on "Challenges in the Middle East: Iran, ISIS, Israel". **VOLUNTEERS:** ARNOLD GORDON advised us that 529 hours were reported for OUTSIDE AGENCIES by 61 RMA members and 117 hours reported for RMA activities by 30 RMA members. The person reporting the most hours was BOB CAREY with 31 hours. **RETURNEES:** were: JOHN CALABRO, Florida; JOHN AWDZIEWICZ, Poland; GERRY MAYFIELD, Burgundy, France; TOM Healy, Charleston & Murrells Inlet, South Carolina. **SPECIAL EVENTS:** GERRY LESSUK reviewed 3 special events (see below) and asked that participants make sure that related fees be paid prior to attendance; kindly also try to avoid last minute cancelations; members on the waiting list need to be advised for their plans

GAMES

BRIDGE: KURT SCHAFFIR reported there were 9 players with the top three 1. WAYNE DEVRIES with 4180; RALPH VIGGIANO with 4170, and BRUNO SCHRAGE with 3530.

TENNIS: TONY RIGGi reported SAM MARASSO and PETER UHRY won on Court #1 while ERF PORTER & Mike Warner won on Court #2. Captain next week is ERF PORTER. TED SPOOL announced that Summer Tennis is available on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:00am to 11:00am at Town Tennis Courts off Loughlin Avenue in Cos Cob.

GOLF: PETER COLEMAN stated that in good weather, 4 of 7 players scored under 100. Due to the small number of players, the longest drive and the shot closest to the pin were not recorded. Next week, the start will be at 10:30am.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

PETE MCSPADDEN introduced Tom Niles, former United States Ambassador to Canada, the European Union and Greece. Ambassador Niles directed his comments to touch two areas, the Euro Union and the Middle East. He started off with the somewhat unusual election in June in the U.K., unusual due to the new and growing Scots National Party and the U.K. Independence Party that are luring voters from the existing Conservative and Labor Parties. Greece is running out of money and having difficulty raising an approaching Euro Union Loan repayment. Hopefully they will not leave the Euro Union thereby causing extreme disruption in Europe. Russia continues to cause concern even as sanctions exist, some information indicates future Russian meddling in Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia. Treaty borders in the Middle East after WWI have caused rivalries between religious and political entities that had a healthier existence under previous empires or governments. The new Israel coalition government has a difficult time ahead. Regarding Iran/U.S agreement, it is possible. If Congress rejects it, we may lose many allies.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all members, Guests, Candidates and Spouses. Checks should be made out to RMA

Goodspeed Opera House: “Guys and Dolls” Thursday, May 28, lunch at Gelston House. \$115.00 per person. Status: Wait List. PLEASE advise Gerry of your food selection ASAP.

Belmont Raceway: Thursday, June 18, lunch in Belmont Room (Dress code: Men jackets and ties; women dress or pants suit). \$75.00 per person. Status: Wait List

Tanglewood Boston Symphony Orchestra, Sunday, August 9, lunch at Apple Tree Inn. \$125 per person, Status – Open Places

For more details and to sign up, contact GERRY LESSUK (gerrless@att.net) 203 698 0451

NEXT WEEKS SPEAKER

Congressman **Jim Himes**

Scribe: Jim Butler

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