

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*

With his trademark tennis racket in hand, and with new vigor, President RALPH VIGGIANO started the meeting at the appointed hour of 10:00. LOU CHIAPPETTA led off with the recital of the pledge to the flag, followed by GRAN BURGESS, with JIM SANTORA at the keyboard, leading the singing with *America the Beautiful*. TOM HEALY provided the obligatory humor – something about a dying man’s last wishes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President VIGGIANO expressed appreciation for the work done in preparation for each meeting by SAL DeANGELO, JOHN CALABRO, JERRY BERRAFATI, TOM WOOLEY and HENRY BAKER. He reminded us that membership dues of \$70, payable by check to the RMA, were due on May 1, 2015. Returnees are JOHN FEBLES from Miami Beach, ARTO SZABO from Sarasota, JOHN CRAINE and PAUL LEVINE from Longboat Key, and AV RIVEL from Rome, Venice and Florence. HORST TEBBE called attention to a *Pomona College Glee Club* free performance at 1101 Bedford Street in Stamford on May 28 at 7:30 pm. PETER UHRY told us about the *Greenwich Green and Clean* event at local fire houses on May 9. BERNARD SCHNEIDER told us that *The Friends of Fairfield County Historic Cemeteries* will start a cemetery clean-up project this week. If interested in participating, contact mellillo.andrew13@gmail.com. He further reported that RMA members are invited to march on May 25 in the *Greenwich Memorial Day Parade*, which will start at Sound Beach Avenue and Shore Acre Drive and finish at Binney Park. Note: To be sure announcements are properly reported in the CBB, members should give the CBB scribe a note with their name and the name, time and place of the event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Visiting: CHUCK STANDARD reported that RICH LIMBACHER is at Nathaniel Witherell and getting better; RON KLINGNER is out of the hospital, also now at Nathaniel Witherell, and DAVID DOWNS hopes to be at the meeting next week. (He was spotted at the bridge group in the afternoon.) **Membership:** HORST TEBBE reported attendance of 129, including three candidates and three guests. (Another 20 showed up later to hear our speaker – see below.) Guests were Peter Kearney, guest of FRED BROOKS; Keating Hagmann, guest of RUSS HARDEN; and Bill Banbrick, guest of JIM FAHY. The **birthday** boys were JOHN HINISHIAN, 95; MARIO BONAPARTE, 90; and CHARLES SHIBETTI, 80. GERRY MAYFIELD reported 802 **volunteer** hours for outside

agencies by 60 members, and 112 hours for RMA activities by 28 members. ERF PORTER told us that the *Melody Men* will be among up-coming *Veteran's Day* events. JOHN DeCSEPEL reported on **next week's speaker**, Commander Paul Henry Nargolet, who will tell us about his experiences as deep sea diver exploring the wreck of the Titanic, which he has visited over 30 times.

FUN AND GAMES

BRIDGE: KURT SCHAFFIR reported 9 players. RALPH VIGGIANO was first with 3370 points; TOM McEVOY second with 3870; and LEN SAARI third with 2780. **TENNIS:** ERF PORTER reported that TONY RIGGI and ERF PORTER were the winners on Court 1; and SAM MARASSO and PETER STREICH on Court 2. RON FRIEDMAN is the captain for the final week of the season. **SUMMER TENNIS:** TED SPOOL reminded us that members can play Monday and Thursday from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Cos Cob tennis courts on Loughlin Avenue. **GOLF:** PETER UHRY reported warm and cloudy conditions. With eleven players, RALPH VIGGIANO produced a 94, KIP SCHULZE a 96, and JIM MacKAY a bit over 100. PETER UHRY will continue as the host next week. Players are reminded of the importance to keep up speed, to avoid continued complaints by other players.

SPECIAL EVENTS

These are open to all members, guests, candidates and spouses. Contact GERRY LESSUK for information and reservations. Members are reminded that fees and meal selections are due at the time reservations are made. Delays are unfair to other members on waiting lists.

Goodspeed Theater – May 28, 2015, \$115 per person, including lunch at Gelston House. Bus leaves St. Catherine at 10:00

Belmont Race Track – June 18, 2015, \$75 per person, including lunch (dress code). Bus leaves St. Catherine at 10:30.

Tanglewood / Boston Symphony – August 9, 2015, \$125 per person including lunch at Appletree Inn. Bus leaves St. Catherine at 9:30. 14 places available.

TODAY'S PROGRAM

Our speaker, Congressman **Jim Himes**, is serving his fourth term in Connecticut's 4th District and is a member of the U.S. House Permanent Committee on Intelligence. He has, accordingly, unique insight on events in the Middle East, particularly ISIS and Iran, and he gave us a comprehensive and highly informative presentation.

He explained that the roots of the difficulties in the Middle East lie in the fact that we try to associate with countries who share our values, but these are not easily identified, and competing groups are not always identified with a country. We should be skeptical in general about claims for our support. He suggested that we adhere to two non-negotiable priorities: no tolerance of global terrorism, and support of Israel.

He views Iran as a “real” country with a long history of civilization. Regarding our current negotiations, the nuclear “framework” is OK if the issue of verification can be resolved. Lifting of sanctions is very risky.

Mr. Himes was introduced by his father with stories about hazardous early childhood experiences. A number of our members commended him for his lucid presentation.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Commander **Paul Henry Nargolet**

Kurt Schaffir, Scribe of the Week