

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Volume 63, No. 3

May 20, 2015

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

President RALPH VIGGIANO called the meeting to order almost promptly at 10:01 AM and introduced LARRY SCHMITZ to lead us in the Pledge. With PETER RYAN at the keyboard, DON CONWAY led us in singing *America the Beautiful, For Me and My Gal, and Hello Dolly*. Your Corresponding Secretary par excellence, ARNOLD GORDON, advised a daily pinch of gun powder in your porridge, but do not be cremated; he also extolled the amazing skills of an Australian Aborigine tracker who fell off the wagon! RALPH VIGGIANO asked the owner of a Toyota SUV to move it from its illegal spot in the lot, blocking passage; he reminded members that free parking is always in jeopardy if we do not respect the rules.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In his inimitable fashion, RALPH VIGGIANO publicly thanked several members for their faithful service to the RMA; today he gave special recognition to DON SARGEANT, TED SPOOL, DON CONWAY, HORST TEBBE, ED PARKER, and JOE MALARA. He then reminded everyone that dues must be paid by the end of this month; to date, only three-fourths of members have done so. He also asked members to consider volunteering to aid in parking-direction at the Woman's Club of Greenwich for their event on June 6th; a sign-up sheet was on the Bulletin Board. PETER UHRY told us that last year about 130 RMA hats were purchased and wondered if there were interest in also having a polo shirt with the RMA logo; he modeled a blue one made of Pima cotton that would cost about \$30. Quite a few members raised their hands. There were also requests for hats, which can be reordered. PETER asked that all those interested in a shirt or hat should see him. STEVE BOIES told us about the 2015-2016 Greenwich Symphony season starting in the fall (Greenwichsymphony.org or 203-869-2664). Performances are expected to take place in the new High School Auditorium. Regular ticket prices will \$35 but \$30 for RMA members. A full subscription reduces the price even further to \$26 per concert for RMA members. Brochures will be available at future meetings. He also invited members to attend the Sunday, June 14th Spring Musicale fund raiser for the Greenwich Symphony Chamber Players to be held at the Audubon Center starting at 5pm. The \$100 admission covers food, drinks including wine, and great music. Call 203-637-4725 for information and reservations. The Players will also be performing a free concert at the Arts Council in the Greenwich Senior Center on Wednesday, June 22nd; advance reservations are required, however (call 203-862-6750). See STEVE for further details. TOM HEALY announced that the Melody Men

will be giving a concert at Nathaniel Witherell tomorrow (May 21st), their next to last one this season; their finale will be at the RMA meeting later this month. He also proudly mentioned that the Melody Men have been asked to sing the National Anthem at Citi Field again, this time at 7pm, prior to a Mets-Padres game on Wednesday night, July 29th; the group ticket rate will be about \$50 with about \$20 for bus transportation. If interested, call TOM at 203-661-2954 ASAP. BERNARD SCHNEIDER tried to rally the troops to march with an RMA contingent at the Annual Old Greenwich Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 25th; wear your RMA hat and meet at 9:30am at the corner of Sound Beach Avenue and Lincoln Avenue. Let BERNARD know if you will participate by calling him at 203-698-2558; you are welcome to bring along guests and family members. HORST TEBBE informed the members of a free concert by the Pomona College Glee Club to be held at the Fish Church in Stamford (1101 Bedford Street) at 7:30pm on Thursday, May 28th. BILL DYNAN explained that from now on, there will be an annual reading of the names of members who have deceased during the past year (a necrology report); it will be made at the meeting just before Memorial Day. A moment of silence was held for those who passed away this past year: HERBERT SCHWARTZ (7/15/14), ROWLAND HARRIS (7/25/14), CLYDE MOONIE (8/14/14), NICK ROBERTO (8/16/14), BILL OSGOOD (9/4/14), MICHAEL J. PALFE (9/24/14), ERIC KNUTSEN (10/1/14), JOHN PAUL (10/9/14), LOUIS N. MURANO (10/24/14), WILLIAM J. BURKE (11/18/14), EDGAR MORRILL (11/11/14), MICHAEL LANGAN (11/22/14), ROBERT ROSENBERG (12/13/14), GEORGE R. MANNING (1/22/15), and JOHN MORRISON (2/18/15).

RETURNEES

RALPH VIGGIANO welcomed back HORST TEBBE from Claremont, CA.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VISITING: CHUCK STANDARD told us that he visited Nathaniel Witherell to spend some time with RICHARD LIMBACHER (still recovering from a knee-joint infection), JIM DANIEL (in hospice), GRAHAM WHITEHEAD (who fell at home and sustained a face injury), and DICK RADCLIFFE. Everyone welcomed back RON KLINGNER from convalescence.

PROGRAM: STEVE MARINO gave us a preview of today's speaker, Stuart Gibson, who spoke about the Russian State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg; see details below. HORST TEBBE announced that next week's speaker will be Gary Ashley, General Manager of Riverside Yacht Club, who will share stories about managing private yacht clubs in Greenwich.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST remained at the mic to tell us that there were 107 members in attendance, including 2 candidates (Tom Harden and Rick Holz) and 3 guests (Bo Jarnstedt/CHUCK STANDARD, Peter Kearney/FRED BROOKS, and Keating Harmann/RUSS HARDEN). **Birthday boys were:** JAY SCHONDORF 78, THOMAS

WOOLEY 88, MAURICE KROHN 66, DON TOWNSEND 90, JIM FISHBEIN 69, KLAUS JANDER 75, and KARL SCHULZE 76. A special tribute was given to DOUG TAYLOR and his wife Lois on their 65th wedding anniversary today.

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

VOLUNTEERS: HOLLISTER STURGES reported that for the week ending May 20, 2015, 67 men reported 637 volunteer hours on behalf of outside agencies and 39 men reported 137 volunteer hours on behalf of RMA. The most hours (45) were reported by ROSWELL CURTIS.

FUN AND GAMES

Bridge: KURT SCHAFFIR reported that the May 13, 2015 game drew 9 players. RON FRIEDMAN was high scorer with 3510 followed by BERT KLEBANOW with 2730 and MARTIN WAINE with 2680.

Tennis: TED SPOOL invited all interested racketeers to join him on Mondays and Thursdays at the Bruce Park courts from 9-11am; note the new court location. New rules require that names and tennis pass numbers must be submitted to the Town; call TED for details (203-698-2915).

Golf: TOM HEALY swooped like an eagle to the mic to report the results for May 19th. Scoring under 100 were JIM SANTORA, MIKE SMITH, TOM HEALY, REID McINTYRE, GRAN BURGESS and JAY SCHONDORF. PETER RYAN turned in an 82 and TED EWING a 79. Closest to the pin on 7 TED EWING, on 15 PETER RYAN, who also had the longest drive on 17. BOB MORGAN is next week's captain with a starting time of 10:46am. In June, RMA golfers will tee off first; each foursome's captain will enforce speed of play.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Stuart Gibson is an international museum and cultural policy expert with close ties to the Hermitage, Russia's flagship museum that was founded in 1764 by Catherine the Great and which just celebrated its 250th anniversary. He was Director of UNESCO's Hermitage Museum Development Project for 10 years and is a founding member and currently Secretary of the Hermitage Museum International Advisory Board. With slides, he traced the history of St. Petersburg (the "Venice of the North"), built on swampland in the 18th century, and the structures and holdings of the Hermitage, which consist of over 3 million items, only 6% of which are on museum display at any time. He whetted everyone's appetite for a visit by showing and describing the magnificent structures and artwork, including some of the largest collections of many artists' works (e.g., Matisse, Rembrandt) as well as some of the most valuable pieces of art and sculpture in the world. It was one of the longer and more impressive presentations by RMA speakers,

and could have gone longer; it held everyone's rapt attention. In addition to the 107 men present at the business meeting, there were 24 walk-ins for his talk. Mr. Gibson's excellent talk will soon be available on Vimeo via the RMA website:

www.greenwichrma.org.

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 per person. Status: Wait List. Bus departure from St. Catherine's at 10am sharp.

Belmont Raceway: Thursday, June 18, lunch in Belmont Room (Dress code: Men, jacket and tie; women, dress or pants suit). \$75 per person. Status: Wait List. Departure 10:30am from St. Catherine's.

Tanglewood: Boston Symphony Orchestra, Sunday August 9, lunch at Apple Tree Inn. \$125 per person. Status: Open – 12 places available. Departure 9:30am from Eastern Civic Center.

For more details and to sign-up, contact GERRY LESSUK (gerrless@att.net, 203-698-9451)

NEXT WEEK

Next week the RMA will welcome Gary Ashley, General Manager of Riverside Yacht Club

Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org

Respectfully Submitted: Arnold J. Gordon