

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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June 8, 2016

*Here are the volunteers who publish this Bulletin each week for your enjoyment: **Editor:** Chester Risio, Chairman; **Scribes:** Gran Burgess, Av Rivel, Kurt Schaffir, Jim Butler, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell; George Stockbridge, Emeritus; Martin Grayson, Emeritus; **Format and Layout:** Gene Schwartz, Paul Levine and Jack Cuff; **Archivist:** Harold Frost; **Printing:** Chet Risio, Larry Schmitz*

“The cruelest of temptations is a mediocre talent” **Oscar Wilde**

President PETERUHRY rang the opening bell at 10:02am and summoned all to the meeting. JERRY SCHWENDEMEN led us in The Pledge. GRAN BURGESS conducted the songfest with “God Bless America, Side By Side and Mame”. PETER RYAN ably accompanied on the piano.

ARNOLD GORDON reminded all that the limerick contest will be held at the next meeting, June 15th and, of the 14 promised participants, only six have submitted their limericks. ARNOLD then told the tale of a Pharmacist, having a hard day, told a client what she could do with a rectal thermometer.

PETER introduced Debbie Brennan and Richard Moman of the National Executive Service Corporation, a volunteer group that offers assistance in Management Consulting. This nonprofit group offers various organizations volunteer consultants specific to their problems. Call 201 359-3221 for information.

PETER then recited this quote from the Koran. “Ask for him who voluntarily performeth a good work, verily God is grateful and knowing”.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. PETER UHRY PETER noted that STEVE BOIES was back on the job as Treasurer.
2. BILL DYNAN said that in the past year 20 RMA members have passed away. He read their names in the order of their passing from June 4, 2015 to March 13, 2016. They are:

ROBERT JOHNSON, JAMES DANIEL, MICHAEL GALELLA, GRAHAM WHITEHEAD, BERNARD SCHNEIDER, STEPHEN PEARSON, WILLIAM CORDNER, FREDERICK GETTLER, Jr, WINTHROP ADKINS, JOHN CALIMAFDE, EDWARD BURNS, DONALD O’KEEFE, RICHARD LIMBACHER, ROBERT KAVEE, TRUMAN BILL EUSTIS, ALBERT M. HARTIG, DENNIS LUCAS, CHRISTOPHER JEFF PARKER, FRANK ALBRIZIO, and PETER McSPADDEN.

3. RALPH VIGGIANO said The Woman's Club of Greenwich will hold its annual fund raiser on Sat. June 25th. They again request help from the RMA in directing parking. Hours: 10AM to 12PM and 12PM to 2PM. One of the rare opportunities for men to tell women where to go. Please call Deborah Jander at 203 629-8198.
4. GRANT PERKINS is in the process of creating new name tags for members. Direct any questions to him at <grantperk@gmail.com>.
5. CHET RISIO mentioned **The Upbeats**, a singing group of "Women of a Certain Age", will perform at the Byram-Schubert library on Thursday, June 16 at 7:00PM. This is a free performance of popular melodies. The group especially welcomes the Melody Men.
6. MIKE FERRARESE announced that the Greenwich Film Festival, featuring 50 films, will be held from June 9-12 at the Bow Tie Cinemas. For information and locations call 201340-9105 or <<http://www.greenwichfilms.org>>.
7. PETER UHRY and BOB PHILLIPS met with Greenwich parking authorities and hopefully will come up with increased parking spaces for the RMA. They cautioned members to not block areas adjacent to the parking lot on Lafayette Street.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VISITING: CHUCK STANDARD welcomed back JIM BUTLER and ART ROBERTSON. CHUCK also mentioned that JACK BAUSMAN is now in hospice and JOE MALARA is recovering slowly.

PROGRAM: HOLLISTER STURGES urged all to stay and listen to AL KNIGHT speak on recent Spanish history and the political change wrought by Spain's civil war. See details of his talk below.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER: BOB PHILLIPS told us that **Larry Kantor**, an Advanced Leadership Fellow at Harvard and an expert on international trade, will give an interesting perspective on world economics.

MEMBERSHIP: Doug Taylor reported that 130 members were in attendance with one candidate and one guest. The candidate is Bill O'Donnell and WAYNE WRIGHT had Deryck Duncalm as a guest. The **birthday boys were:** PETER COLEMAN, 71, PETER UHRY, 77, GEORGE DIPPY, 72, ROBERT MORGAN, 70, BILL SALTSMAN, 90 and TONY PARISI, 84.

VOLUNTEERS: ROS CURTIS announced that, for the week of June 8, 2016, there were 570 hours reported by 56 members for outside activities and 130 hours by 28 members for RMA activities. Reporting the most hours was FRANK SCARPA with 68.

UPCOMING EVENTS: ABBEY SMOLER spoke of upcoming events. For details, see below.

FUN AND GAMES

BRIDGE: KURT SCHAFFIR gave the results for June I, 2016. There were 16 players. Top scorer was MARTIN WAINE with 5,540, Sanjay Santhanamhad 4,150 and JAMES CHUNG scored 3,490.

GOLF: TONY RIGGI gave the golf scores. Of the 15 players three hit in the 90's and one in the 80's. Closest to the hole on the 7th was PETER UHRY and on the 15th was NICKY ACHIWA. The longest drive was made by GRAN BURGESS.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

HOLLISTER STURGES brought to the podium RMA member **AL KNIGHT** to speak on "From Political Disagreement to Civil War: Spain's 1930's Tragedy". AL, a corporate lawyer with degrees from Harvard, Columbia and NYU, did international transactions and lived a while in Spain. He opened the program with a music background of guitars and castenets. AL, portraying Don Quixote, and DON CONWAY as Sancho Panza, sang a duet from "Man of La Mancha".

This set the stage for AL's talk on the tumultuous events that wrenched Spain from a country that was perhaps 50% illiterate and had 3 hour siestas into one where the clash of ideas and customs could seemingly only be resolved by armed conflict. During this upheaval, leading to its civil war, a new Republic saw to it that 200,000 peasants were given free land taken from wealthy land owners, the Catholic church lost its subsidy, women got the right to vote and divorce became legal.

The civil war was brutal. The Nationalists killed 150,000 civilians. The Loyalists, supporting the Republic, killed 55,000, including 4,000 priests. In all, 2% of the Spanish population died in the war. Air raids by dive bombers devastated cities and towns like Guernica. The Spanish Civil War became a testing ground for the harshness of World War II.

SPECIAL EVENTS

GOODSPEED OPERA HOUSE. The musical "Bye Bye Birdie", Thurs, Aug. 11th. Lunch at the Gelston House. Cost: \$115pp. Bus departs St. Catherine's at 10:00AM. Trip coordinators are ABBEY SMOLER 203 531-0236 abbeysmoler@gmail.com abbeysmoler@gmail.com> and MIKE FERRARESE 203 554-0676 myagentmike@yahoo.com myagentmike@yahoo.com. Status: 17 places available

BELMONT RACETRACK. Belmont Race Track, Thurs. June 16, 2016. Buffet lunch in the Belmont Room. Cost: \$75pp. TOM HEALY is the trip coordinator (203 661-2954 or sachem@optonline.net>). Bus departs St. Catherine's at 10:30AM. Status: wait list.

SOUNDWATER CRUISE. Thurs. July 14, 2016. Snacks and wine on board. Cost: \$65pp. Boat departs 3:30PM. Directions to dock available at June 15th meeting. Transportation by personal car. MIKE FERRARESE is the trip coordinator. Status: wait list.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Larry Kantor will speak on "The Global Economic and Market Outlook"

CHET RISIO, Scribe of the Week

Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org

Retired Men's Association of Greenwich, Inc. · 37 Lafayette Place · Greenwich, CT
06830 ·