

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, Jim Butler, Arnold Gordon, Ed Farrell; **Martin Grayson, Emeritus;** **Format and Layout:** Gene Schwartz, Paul Levine; **Archivist:** Harold Frost; **Printing:** Chet Risio, Larry Schmitz

Looking more like a talk-show host, Prexy RALPH prowled the front of the stage, mic in hand, as we gathered. LARRY SCHMITZ led us in the pledge, and then Ralph handed out the kudos to JERRY SCHWENDEMAN, PETE UHRY, PAUL SETTELMAYER, FRANK SAVATTARO, and JOHN TONER for their service to the RMA.

CHUCK STANDARD did his standard patriotic song leadership with “God Bless America,” “Grand Old Flag,” and “Yankee Doodle Dandy,” JIM SANTORA tinkling away-heh! ARNOLD GORDON provided the science lesson of the day, asking how many pounds of air pressure was in our meeting room. The answer—over 13,000—depleted the supply as members sucked in air in shock. Arnold then told us how a priest managed to get a hair dryer past customs by not lying about an instrument that satisfied a lot of women.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: A slate full brought to mind a new name for our Prexy—“Rapid Ralph”—as he marshaled us through the following: 1) August 26 is the last day to sign up for tennis; 2) the Health and Wellness Expo needs 2 men to man a table and talk to people—you can add 3 hours to your volunteer totals; 3) a 3-mile Walk to End Alzheimer’s on October 4 from 9am-4 pm (when did I say that was again?); 4) our annual dinner-cum-luncheon on November 4. BOB ROBINS extolled the virtues of the ROMEO luncheon on September 16 as a great way to meet fellow RMAers. There will be a wine raffle, a cash raffle, and entry into a World Series pool. Cost: \$45. JIM FISHBEIN put out the call for a Publicity Chairman to be the voice of the RMA to the community, someone to help the video team record and edit our programs, and someone to help with the electronic distribution of flyers. Clearly the volunteer part of our logo could use some enhancement, so... HELP! PETER UHRY said today was the last day to order shirts or hats, so if you’re reading this, you’re too late! He also made a heartfelt plea for someone to help format the CBB, since we have lost one of our volunteers who served for 7 years. It’s all of 15 minutes every other week. Computer-savvy. You may call Pete at 203-637-9482. As was said ,.... HELP! GERRY MAYFIELD invited us to a party on September 4 from 4:30-6:30 at St. Catherine’s, 4 Riverside Avenue, including Social Seniors at St. Cat’s, At Home in Greenwich, and the RMA. He promised a large consumption of alcohol, cheese, and crackers—and, oh yes, a chance to meet other local social people. JOHN CRAINE tried to make many of us feel bad by detailing the wonderful success of the Raft-Up this year, including a “dozen barmaids” on host TONY PARISI’s boat. You have a year to buy a boat or make friends

with someone who has one. We hope to learn more about those barmaids at future meetings, but he may have said “mermaids.” We’d like to hear more about them, too. Finally, JERRY SCHWENDEMAN told us about the 375th Anniversary of Greenwich and the parade beginning at 2 pm at Town Hall on September 27. Marching bands, floats, antique autos, and a giant 50’ x 100’ US flag. We want 25-30 RMAers there, possibly in our hats and shirts, celebrating the birthday of our wonderful town, carrying placards and singing the RMA song. Plans are underway, so sign up on the bull board.

RETURNEES: GEORGE UBOGY from Norwegian fjords, FRANK LEE from Berlin and Lugano, and YHS from Kiawah Island, SC.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: VISITING: CHUCK STANDARD reported that ED BURNS is home but his wife says no visits or calls, please. HOLLISTER STURGES leaves tomorrow for rehab but he doesn’t yet know where. **PROGRAM:** GEORGE UBOGY prepped us for today’s speaker, Dr. Jack Hughes, Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine at Yale, who would speak about the Affordable Care Act. JIM FISHBEIN promoted next week’s speaker, Marina Neary, who will speak about the Irish Revolution of 1916. **MEMBERSHIP:** HORST TEBBE reported 123 members, 1 candidate, Robert Whitby, and 1 guest, Jim Waterman, g/o JOHN DECSEPEL. The **Birthday Boys** are: RICHARD BARTHOLOMEW (78), GRANT PERKINS (72), GENE SCHWARTZ (82), ED BLOOM (85), DENNIS ARROUET (78), BILL MARKLE (86), VIN MASI (88), JIM BUTLER (73), BOB MEYER (88), and TIM NOLAN (90). Alas, Tim wasn’t with us so no cake, but hopefully soon. **VOLUNTEERS:** JOHN FEBLES tallied 700 hours by 61 members to outside agencies and 179 hours for RMA activities by 30 members. LLOYD HULL had 194 hours over several months.

INDUCTEE: TAD LARRABEE and GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE spoke highly of Dave Burleson, widely-traveled (60 countries), an emeritus UNESCO advisor, poet, writer, and author of a book about Mianus Pond. After an extremely close vote, Dave was elected to membership and will hereafter be known in these pages as DAVE BURLESON. **SPECIAL EVENTS:** GERRY LESSUK pitched “Backwards in High Heels” at the Westchester Broadway Theatre on September 17, Cost \$85, Wait List and “A Wonderful Life” on October 22 at Goodspeed, cost \$115, 10 places available.

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY: BRIDGE: KURT SCHAFFIR reported that 12 players cut the cards with LEN SAARI not sorry at all with 4360 points, followed by GRANT PERKINS (4150) and JOE ROE, rhyming his way to 2950 points. There WILL be bridge next week. **GOLF:** JIM SANTORA reported 15 survived the blistering heat and humidity to record some good rounds on the aerated and temporary greens at the Griff. Three men shot in the 80’s, with KIP SCHULZE at 89, RICHARD BARTHOLOMEW at 81, and TOM “HIT ‘EM” HEALY shooting a torrid 80. Bart was closest on 15 and longest on 17 and JOHN AWDZIEWICZ closest on 7.

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Dr. Jack Hughes gave a thorough overview of the history of the Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare), beginning with the startling statistics of our being 30th out of 34 advanced-economy nations in infant mortality and 22nd (male) and 25th(female) in life expectancy, despite the fact that we spend vastly more money on health care than these other nations. He called it the paradox of Excess and Deprivation. Before Obamacare, fully 15% of our citizens had no health insurance, a figure that is now down to 11% and maybe less. One reason it is still so high: almost half of those who might be covered don't even know about the ACA. The administration has done a terrible marketing job. It wasn't helped, however, by the attempts to sabotage the ACA, including quite frightening ads intended to dissuade young people from signing up. John Roberts' deciding vote last June may have saved the ACA for now, but the results of the next presidential election might permit another opportunity to dismantle it. Stay tuned!

Gran Burgess, Your Humble Scribe (YHS)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all members, spouses, candidates, and guests. Checks made out to RMA.

September 17: Westchester Broadway Theatre, "Backwards and in High Heels," \$85; wait list.

October 22: Goodspeed Opera House, "A Wonderful Life," \$115, 10 places available.

NEXT WEEK

Actress **Marina Neary** on the Irish Revolution of 1916.

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