

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Here are the volunteers who publish this Bulletin each week for your enjoyment:

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President Bob rang us to attention for the pledge at 10am sharp, with STEVE MARINO doing the honors. WIN ADKINS surprised us with a video of the Melody Men's singing of the Star Spangled Banner at Citi Field on August 12th before 30,000; the considerably smaller RMA group in attendance sang along. With GEORGE UBOGY'S accompaniment, WIN then led us in *Oh, What a Beautiful Morning and Summertime*. GRAN BURGESS as Corresponding Secretary announced his retirement from the jokesters but told a tale of intrigue involving a sex-changed golfer (Don't Ask).

ANNOUNCEMENTS: BOB PHILIPS told the group that on August 4th proud daddy BILL DYNAN'S daughter, Karen, was sworn in as Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy and Chief Economist, reporting to Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Jacob Lew. RALPH VIGGIANO, with tennis racket in hand swung into an appeal for interested parties to sign up (last chance!) for winter tennis (Fridays, 1:30-3pm, September 12 – May 8) so he can prepare a schedule (E-mail him at bid2clubs@optonline.net). GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE in his best voice announced that the Opera Group has reserved 10 rear orchestra seats for the Saturday, January 10th Met matinee performance of Aida; tickets are \$102.50 each which you can reserve by calling GEORGE at 203-637-1390. GRANT PERKINS, continuing the new series of presentations on volunteer opportunities for RMA members, described the gratifying experience he has at Meals-on-Wheels, which always needs drivers; call 203-869-1312 for more info and to sign up. JIM FAHEY then explained the important role of his Membership Committee of three members, but can use additional help as an example of inside RMA volunteering. Ms. Corinta Kortula, a Board member of the Greenwich Symphony, informed the members that the orchestra's season begins with its October 4th and 5th concerts. She related that the ensemble gives free concerts to some 6000 students in 27 Greenwich schools. As a bonus, she left free copies of a 2012 CD by the orchestra and offered RMA members free tickets to a concert of their choice for the 2014-2015 season if they signed up at the meeting. DON CONWAY reminded the group of the picnic at Tod's Point on September 18th and called for volunteers; Costco and King's supermarket will be generous in providing the vittles. JOHN CRAINE reported on a successful raft-up on Thursday, August 14th. Three "rag haulers" were crewed by 19 mermaids, skippers and midshipmen (and 99 year old BOB OPPENHEIMER) in

Greenwich Cove. Cruisin' and boozin' around Captain Harbor capped the day. Kudos to TONY PARISI for his support. BILL DYNAN read an obituary for Nicholas Roberto, a WW II veteran and an RMA member, who died on August 16th at the age of 90.

RETURNEES: JOHN FEBLES all tanned from St. Maarten, St. John's and Vero Beach, and GARRY BOYLE from that other coast, in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: For **Visiting**, CHUCK STANDARD declared it a beautiful day and noted that JOE MALARA could not attend the meeting due to his recovering from complications following elbow surgery; he expects to return next week. STEVE PIERSON continues to have difficulty but must leave Van Munching rehab facilities for another location. **Program Committee** chair, JOHN DeCSEPEL, urged us to stay and drink in the presentation after the break by Theresa Rogers, wine connoisseur and owner of Horseneck Liquors. STEVE MEYERS told us to look forward to an important talk next week by Juanita James, President and CEO of Fairfield County's Community Foundation, which promotes philanthropy as a means of creating innovative and collaborative solutions to critical community needs, an excellent tie-in to RMA's emphasis on volunteering. **Membership Committee** Chairman JIM FAHEY reported 113 members present along with two candidates (Burt Ehrlich and Don Herman) and a guest of GERRY FOX, Jack Borardus. Burt was inducted by unanimous vote (surprise!) after nominating comments by sponsors BOB ROBINSON and FRED BROOKS. He loves golf and his wife, Francine (not necessarily in that order) and was a bond trader, most recently at his own firm. Get to know him. The usual serenade was offered to the **Birthday Boys**: GRANT PERKINS (a young'un at 71), GENE SCHWARTZ (81), ED BLOOM (84), BILL MERCKLE (85), DON HELLER (85), VIN MASI (87), BOB MEYER (87), TIM NOLAN (89) and JIM BUTLER (72). **Special Events** co-chair GERRY LESSUK reminded everyone about the visit to the 911 Memorial Museum on Thursday, October 2nd and a performance of Holiday Inn at the Goodspeed Opera House on Thursday, October 30th. Details below. **Volunteer** activity for the week ending August 20th was announced by DOUG FRANCEFORT – 635 outside hours by 55 men, 119 RMA hours by 30 men; HORST TEBBE reported the most hours, 34. DOUG commented that when he first joined RMA, volunteer hours were in the 900 range. Let's get back up there, everyone!

FUN AND GAMES: **Bridge** guru KURT SCHAFFIR dealt us the results from 12 players on August 13th. GRANT PERKINS was high with 3210 (good birthday gift?) followed by RALPH VIGGIANO, 2440, and DAVE DOWNS, 2070. **Golf** on August 19th, according to Peter Uhry, was "holey" enjoyable. LEON FRIEDMAN led the pack with a great score of 83. PETER had the longest drive; closest to the pin on #7 was ROS CURTIS and on #15 was LEON FRIEDMAN. PETER is the captain for next week.

TODAY'S SPEAKER: Theresa Rogers was introduced by a friend, Philip Potter, chair of the First Friday Speaker Program at the Field Club, who told us of her upbringing in a small town in upper NY State, where her extended family was heavily involved in the

politics, education and commercial activity within the town. As a wine expert and owner since 1989 of Horseneck Liquors in Greenwich, she gave us an insider's perspective on the wine industry, a highly competitive international business. Prices of very good wines, once reasonable, have been pushed beyond most pocketbooks by collectors, such as the hedge fund crowd and more recently Chinese investors, who are selling and buying great vintages at auction. How about \$20,000 for a case of Lafitte!? She mentioned that China has plans in place to become the biggest exporter of wine in the world by 2050, taking over from the current leader, Italy. Although mark-ups at wine stores relative to shop costs from distributors are in the 25-50% range, in restaurants it is usually 100-200% above consumer retail cost and can go much higher. Some excellent wines are available at relatively low prices from such places as Argentina and Chile. She cited Malbec from Argentina as a favorite. She also suggested that box-wines (with a spout for dispensing) can be very good and are very affordable. She welcomes to her store all those who appreciate expert and honest guidance on good wines for the best value.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all Members, Guests, Candidates and spouses. Checks made out to RMA.

New York: 911 Memorial Museum Thursday, October 2nd \$104 each Lunch at Blue Water Grill No openings; waiting list only. Depart by bus from St. Catherine's Church at 8:45am.

Holiday Inn Goodspeed Opera House, Thursday, October 30th \$112 each Lunch at Gelston House. Twenty-three tickets available. Depart by bus from St. Catherine's at 9:45am

For more details and to sign-up, contact GERRY LESSUK (gerrless@att.net, 203-698-9451) or RICH LIMBACHER (limbacher29@verizon.net, 203-531-9515)

NEXT WEEK

An important talk next week by **Juanita James**, President and CEO of Fairfield County's Community Foundation, which promotes philanthropy as a means of creating innovative and collaborative solutions to critical community needs, an excellent tie-in to RMA's emphasis on volunteering

Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org and at vimeo.com.

Your Virgin Scribe

ARNOLD J. GORDON