

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

*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:** Nick Mecca, Larry Schmitz*

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After a slightly tardy opening bell by President **BOB PHILLIPS** at 10:03 due to resisting rowdy renegades, **JOHN CRAINE** reminded us of the 9/11 and Benghazi attack anniversaries before leading the Pledge. **JIM SANTORA** at the ivories and **CHUCK STANDARD** at the microphone guided us through rousing renditions of *God Bless America*, *It's a Grand Old Flag*, and *Yankee Doodle Dandy*. Corresponding Secretary **BILL DYNAN** explained how Texas real estate wealth depends on where and not on how big!

ANNOUNCEMENTS: **BOB PHILLIPS** reported that **BILL OSGOOD**, longtime and loyal RMA member, died this week; a memorial tribute will be given at next week's meeting. **GRANT PERKINS** introduced Jim Weil from PATHWAYS (www.pathways-greenwich.org), who described the wonderful work the 30-year old Greenwich organization does on behalf of adults who suffer from serious and prolonged mental illness. Safe and affordable housing, case management, and rehabilitation services are provided. Volunteers in a variety of areas are always needed. For more details, call Flo Griffin, Executive Director, at 203-869-5656 (fgriffin@pways.org). The always RMA-busy **RALPH VIGGIANO** encouraged members to consult the CBB and Bulletin Board regularly to keep up to date with scheduled activities. He announced that the Annual "Dinner-Lunch," the 60th, will take place on November 12th at the Burning Tree Country Club. Doors (and the bar) will open at 10:30 with food served at noon. The cost is the same as last year, \$50 per person. Table hosts are needed to help fill tables and ensure collection of money. Volume 3 of the RMA Presidents Book whose completion was shepherded by **RALPH** is on display for viewing at the meeting. Finally, he alerted us to the October 2nd Senior Health Fair, 9am – 1pm, at the Old Greenwich (Eastern) Civic Center, where the RMA will have a table. One more person is needed to help man the table (call **RALPH** at 203-344-1188 or write him at bid2clubs@optonline.net). **PETER UHRY** and **DON CONWAY** updated us on the September 18 picnic at Tod's Point

beginning at 11 AM. Lots of prizes and auction items, including premium wines and a Seiko watch, will be available. Reminder: if you or your guests do not have a Beach Pass or parking sticker, let **PETER** or **DON** know so they can enable your passage into the Point. Members are asked to let the vendors who have contributed so generously for the picnic know how much they are appreciated. Certificates of acknowledgment prepared by **BERNARD SCHNEIDER** will be posted in the vendors' windows. **PETER UHRY** mentioned that on October 15th at 7PM on the 2nd floor of Greenwich Arts Council (299 Greenwich Avenue), the Community-wide Greenwich Reads Together program by Greenwich Library will show some film footage and discuss the book *The Boys in the Boat*. It addresses the use of film as propaganda in 1930s Nazi Germany. **JOHN FEBLES** told the group that another interesting session in the same program is scheduled for October 20th at 7PM in the Cole Auditorium at the Library; the subject is Politics and the Olympics, led by Jim Bell, Executive Producer of NBC Olympics. **TIM NOLAN** asked the members wherefore art thou with reservations and \$37 for the ROMEO luncheon at the Millbrook Club, to be held immediately following the RMA meeting on September 24th. Business casual is the dress code, but a jacket is suggested; your choice of filet of beef or sole almondine. **JOHN CRAINE** floated up to the mic to tell us that a second RMA raft-up is to be held on Thursday, September 25th at noon; rendezvous at the anchorage just off Great Captain's Island. Sign up at the Bulletin Board or call **JOHN** (203-698-0118). RMA member **DENNIS LUKAS**, on behalf of the Greenwich branch of the CT League of Women Voters, invited everyone to learn the fundamentals about CT's budget process on Wednesday, October 1st at 7:30pm in the Cone Room at Town Hall. Last but not least, President **BOB** reminded us that our special 60th anniversary meeting will be held on October 8th. Important – cake will be served!

RETURNEE: WIN ADKINS from Cape Cod.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: **Visiting:** **CHUCK STANDARD** noted that **STEVE PIERSON** is still in re-hab at Nathaniel Witherell but doing poorly. **BILL EUSTIS** is also in rehab, for pneumonia, along with his wife who had hip surgery. **ROGER PIERCE** is now at King Street Nursing Home but welcomes visitors. **Program Committee:** **JOHN CARON** gave a brief bio of Nathaniel Witherell, a great Greenwich philanthropist, in announcing the speaker for the day, Alan Brown, Executive Director of the nursing and rehab home. **JOHN deCSEPEL** mentioned that next week's speaker will be Professor Philip McKnight of Williams College, who will talk on the US reluctance to become involved with foreign affairs. **Membership:** Committee Chairman **JIM FAHY** reported attendance as 116 members, 3 candidates (Rick Holz, Bob James and Don Hermann) and 2 guests (John Brady of **JOHN TONER** and Ted Ewing of **MIKE SMITH**). **Birthday Boys:** **JERRY SCHWENDEMAN** 75, **MAURY LINDEN** 88, **LOU MILANI** 82, **ED PARKER** 69. **Special Events:** **RICHARD LIMBACHER** mentioned the 9/11 trip, October 20th; Holiday Inn musical at Goodspeed Opera House, October 30th, and Lincoln Center, February 5th. Details below. **Volunteer Hours:** **STEVE MARINO** reported that, for the week ending September 10th: 558 outside hours by 60 men, 123 RMA hours by 35 men.

FUN AND GAMES: **KURT SCHAFFIR** said the **Bridge** games on September 3rd had 16 players. Top three scores – **HOLLISTER STURGES** 3760, **RALPH VIGGIANO** 2830, **DAVID DOWNS** 2580.

Golf: **PETER COLEMAN**: best score Ted Ewing 88; closest to pin on #7 and longest drive on #17 **NICKY ACHIWA**, closest to pin on #15 **TOM HEALY**. Summer **tennis:** **TED SPOOL** advised that it continues at Loughlin Avenue courts in Cos Cob, Mondays and Thursdays from 9:00 to 11:00 AM.

TODAY'S SPEAKER: For a while, it looked like our speaker was a no-show and **JOHN CARON** "volunteered" to fill in the waiting time with a discussion of the curriculum and new teaching approaches at Notre Dame (where he is on the Board of Trustees). He introduced Alan Brown at about 11:15, who described the ambitious newly completed renovation project at Nathaniel Witherell, which enjoys a 5-star Medicare rating, the highest level. The new rehab facility now has 42 beds, almost all private rooms. Physical, occupational and speech therapy space are now separated in a total 4000 square foot area. There will be a public open house on October 14th from 5-7PM; all are welcome. He closed with advice to members to plan in advance what nursing home they would like to enter should they need ever one.

ARNOLD J. GORDON -Editor

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all Members, guests , candidates and spouses.

Checks are made out to the RMA.

New York 9/11 Memorial Museum: Thursday, October 2nd, Lunch at Blue Water Grill, Fully booked, waiting list only. Depart from St. Catherine's Church at 8:30am.

Holiday Inn , Goodspeed Opera House, Thursday, October 30th; \$ 112.00 each, lunch at Gelston House; 12 tickets still available. Depart by bus from St. Catherine's Church at 9:45am.

NY Philharmonic at Lincoln Center: Thursday, February 5, 2015. Rehearsal, featuring Rachmaninoff's 2nd Symphony. Lunch at Atlantic Grill. \$98 per person. Departure 8am.

For more details contact **GERRY LESSUK** (gerrless@att.net, 203-698-9451) or **RICH LIMBACHER** (limbacher29@Verizon.net) 203-532-9515

NEXT WEEK's SPEAKER

Law Professor **Philip McKnight** of Williams College, who will talk on the US reluctance to become involved with foreign affairs.

Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org and see videos of our speakers at <http://vimeo.com/user9053619/videos>