

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 and Jack Cuff; **Archivist:** Harold Frost; **Printing:** Chet Risio, Larry Schmitz

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven” -King Solomon

In the absence of our president and first VP, second VP DON CONWAY opened the meeting at 10am. WALTER KIRKMAN led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. With PETER RYAN on the 88's, CHUCK STANDARD led the singing of *God Bless America, You're a Grand Old Flag, and I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy*. DON repeated his plea for someone to step up and volunteer to do RMA publicity. He also reiterated that tomorrow, October first, at the Eastern Civic Center, will be the Senior Health and Wellness Fair from 9am to 1pm. HARRY TWITCHELL regaled us with a story about a drunken husband's attempt to sneak upstairs to his bedroom, and the reception he got from his wife next morning.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: ARNOLD GORDON talked about the annual dinner November 4th, and the need for table hosts to turn in to him their fully completed forms and money to PETER UHRY. DON CONWAY reported on the 375th Greenwich Anniversary parade, where about 25 RMA members participated. The RMA song written by BOB MORGAN was piped out through loudspeakers in one of the convertibles some were riding in, to those members who were marching behind. It was a resounding success. He then advised us of three debates being held under the auspices of the League of Women Voters: Tax Collector debate at Town Hall October 8; Selectmen debate at Town Hall October 15, and the Board of Education debate at Central Middle School October 20. DON proudly revealed that TONY PARISI had been highly honored Monday at the Design Management Institute meeting in Boston. DON went on to announce that there will be a coat drive Oct. 2, 3 and 4, when warm coats can be left at Greenwich fire stations and police stations; and that more Red Baron volunteers are needed at Greenwich Hospital. STEVE MYERS told us about a lecture being given December 15 at Bruce Museum, "Design in Murals, Pottery, Architecture and Gold of early Farmers (5000 to 6000 BC) by Dr. William Ryan, oceanographer at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University. He advises us to reserve early since this will be a popular talk. RSVP 203-413-6757. GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE announced that there are three "Live in HD from the Met" productions Saturday afternoons Oct. 3 ("Il Trovatore"), October 17 ("Otello") and October 31 ("Tannhauser"). Tickets are about \$25 at venues in Fairfield, Ridgefield, White Plains, New Rochelle.

DON CONWAY hailed **returnees** PETER RYAN from Nantucket; PAUL SETTELMAYER from Switzerland, and RANDY MOTLAND from China. [We are envious.]

COMMITTEE REPORTS: *Visiting:* CHUCK STANDARD revealed that MANNY BONVENUTO has moved out of the area, and will probably not be attending meetings. *Program:* HORST TEBBE announced today's speaker, Martin Mushkin. See details below. HORST went on with the *Membership* report: There were 124 in attendance; 121 members, 2 candidates, Peter Tunley and Rick Holz, and one guest Bill Campunizzo, g/o HORST. Those celebrating **birthdays** were DAVID DEWEY, 83; HORST TEBBE; 75; BILL HORN, 82; and GARY MILLER, 77. JIM FISHBEIN advised that *next week's speaker* will be CT Attorney General, George Jepsen. For *Volunteer hours*, WALT HOWE reported for the week ending 9-30 there were 483 hours reported for outside agencies by 54 RMA members, and 148 hours for RMA activities by 30 members. Reporting the most hours was KEATING HAGMANN with 41 hours. *Special Events:* GERRY LESSUK told us of two events (see below).

GAMES: KURT SCHAFFIR dealt the 9-23 scores for **bridge**: 4270 for GRANT PERKINS; 3230 for JOE ROE; 2890 for JOHN FEBLES and 2780 by BOB UNDERWOOD. MIKE SMITH gave the 9-29 **golf** results: there were six threesomes, including six 9-hole players. REID McINTYRE scored 87, and there were 3 players in the 90's. Closest to #7 was MIKE SMITH; to #15 NICKY ACHIWA, and the longest drive was by PETER RYAN. The captain next week is PETER RYAN. He advised that the **golf luncheon** will be Oct. 28 at the Field Club--\$35, choice of chicken marsala or cobb salad; cash bar—signup on board. RON FRIEDMAN reported on *tennis*: Court #1 MIKE SMITH and MIKE AMBROSINO; Court 32 PETER STREICH and JOHN KNIGHT. TED SPOOL told us that *summer tennis* continues at Cos Cob on Monday and Thursday mornings FROM 9 TO 11. TAD LARRABEE said that the *walking group* will leave tomorrow, Oct. 1 from Eastern Civic Center at 10am.

TODAY'S SPEAKER: Martin Mushkin is from New York's Mushkin Law, concentrating on corporate finance, business regulation and litigation. He spoke to us about the new phenomenon "The **Bitcoin** --- What They Are and How They Are Used". It is a digital currency, based on cryptographic proof instead of trust, allowing any two willing parties to transact directly without the need for a trusted middle man. It is fraught with risk, since none of the 50 states have yet legalized the Bitcoin. There is thus no government regulation or guarantee similar to what banks have with FDIC insurance. Bitcoins are highly volatile in value. He said that the Bitcoin must evolve substantially before it will be accepted as readily as the US Dollar, the Euro or the Swiss Franc. A spirited Q and A followed.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

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

Goodspeed Opera House “It’s a Wonderful Life” Thursday October 22nd, lunch at Gelston House, \$115 per person. Bus departs St. Catherine’s at 10am. Status – Wait List.

New York Philharmonic open rehearsal Thursday, January 14, 2016. Price still TBA. All places open. Contact GERRY LESSUK at gerrless @att.net or ABBEY SMOLER at abbeysmoler@gmail.com.

NEXT WEEK’S SPEAKER:

CT Attorney General **George Jepsen** “Legal Issues Facing Connecticut”.

Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org

Respectfully submitted,

George Stockbridge, Scribe