

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Volume 63, No. 24

October 14, 2015

*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; Chet Risio, Martin Grayson, Emeritus; **Format and Layout:** Gene Schwartz, Paul Levine and Jack Cuff; **Archivist:** Harold Frost; **Printing:** Chet Risio and Larry Schmitz.*

“Give me the luxuries of life and I will gladly do without the necessities” - Frank Lloyd Wright

Promptly at 10:00 A.M., PREZ RALPH VIGGIANO called the meeting to order and had WALT KIRKMAN lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Song leader TOM HEALY led us in singing *God Bless America*, *Shine on Harvest Moon* and *Side by Side*. (Lyrics projected on the screen had no relation to the songs being sung). However, PETER RYAN ably provided piano accompaniment plus a delightful prelude to the meeting. TOM HEALY, again at the mike, entertained us with, not one, but two jokes. One of which was the opening of an Old Geezer Mental Clinic and how it brought to heel a nagging naysayer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: PREZ VIGGIANO said that the RMA was so named on Oct. 13, 1954 and is now celebrating its 61st anniversary. He also announced that the Senior Center on Greenwich Ave. has a senior health insurance counselor organized by The Commission on Aging. In addition BOB ROBINS would like to host a R.O.M.E.O. lunch at either the Greenwich CC, Innis Arden CC or Round Hill CC and needs someone to make that contact. PETER UHRY announced that paper shredding day will be Sat. Nov. 7th at Island Beach parking lot 9:30am to 12:30pm. PETER also thanked all those who stepped forward to serve as table hosts for the RMA Annual Dinner on Nov. 4th. He urged anyone not signed up to contact him at uhry@sbcglobal.net. Currently there are slightly more than 200 people signed for the RMA Annual Dinner at Burning Tree CC.

RETURNEES: SAM MARASSO was hailed on his return from a cruise on the Rhine River.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: VISITING: CHUCK STANDARD had many calendars for the taking and said BILL EUSTIS was at Nathaniel Witherell recovering from pneumonia. CHUCK was about to announce his absence when it was discovered that HOLLISTER STURGES was in the meeting room, hale and hearty. **PROGRAMS:** GEORGE UBOGY gave a brief intro of today's speaker, **Evie Salomon**, and her program “Mass Shootings and the Mentally Ill”. JIM FISHBEIN said next week's program will feature NY Times science writer John Markoff who will speak on robots and their effect on humans.

MEMBERSHIP: JIM FAHY announced that there were 105 members in attendance plus two candidates and one guest. The candidates were Peter Tunley and Rick Holz. Bill

Caporizzo was the guest of BOB BISHOP. [The birthday boys were](#) ED FARRELL, 77, BOB BARNUM, 94 and FRED GETTLER, 94. **VOLUNTEERS:** GRANT PERKINS reported on volunteer hours for the week ending Oct.14. Reported were 310 hours for outside agencies by 48 RMA members and 122 hours by 31 members. Reporting the most hours was BILL SALTSMAN with 26 hours. GRANT also urged members to volunteer at Greenwich Hospital. [There are a variety of jobs at the pharmacy or for helping patients.](#) Hours are flexible. Contact GRANT grant.perkins@siriuscom.com or the volunteer office at Greenwich Hospital. **SPECIAL EVENTS:** GERRY LESSUK reported on the next two events, The Goodspeed Opera House and the New York Philharmonic.

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY: BRIDGE: KURT SCHAFFIR gave the bridge scores for Oct. 7: There were 16 players with JOHN FEBLES scoring 4,080 points, BERT KLEBANOW at 3,700 and RON FRIEDMAN at 3,120. **GOLF:** In his third time at bat (ok, tee) TOM HEALY reported the results of RMA golf on Oct. 13th. On a beautiful day at the Griff there were 19 players, 4 of whom played 9 holes. Six players shot in the 90's and 2 were in the 80's. TOM HEALY, humble golf host for the week, shot an 89 and REID MC INTYRE reported an 89. Closest to the pin on the 7th hole was RICHARD BARTHOLOMEW and closest to the pin on the 15th hole was RALPH VIGGGIANO who also made the longest drive on hole 17. Reminder: the golf luncheon will be held at the Field Club on Wed. Oct. 28th. The cost is \$35 with a choice of Chicken Marsala or Cobb salad. **TENNIS:** Tennis scores for Oct. 9th were reported by ERF PORTER. Winners on Court 1 were JOHN KNIGHT and RALPH VIGGGIANO even though RALPH had set a new RMA record for unforced errors on a winning team. And on Court 2 PETER UHRY and ERF PORTER held sway with UHRY playing superbly to bring his team back from the brink of defeat. ERF reported that PETER wrote this last piece. Captain for the Friday, Oct. 16th matches will be SAM MARASSO.

It was announced that bagels left over from the picnic raffle would be available in addition to cake and cookies. Thank you, Bart!

TODAY'S PROGRAM: GEORGE UBOGY introduced today's speaker, Evie Salomon, a journalist for "60 Minutes" and a recent and also youngest Emmy Award winner, who spoke on "Mass Shootings and the Mentally ILL". Before giving her address Ms. Salomon spoke fondly of our late RMA member, BERNARD SCHNEIDER, a relative she sorely missed. She said his blazing intellect sparked any conversation. She dedicated her talk to him, and as he preferred to be called, BERNIE. As a student majoring in investigative journalism she interned at CBS with Steve Kroft on 60 Minutes. At that time the mass shooting at the Aurora movie theater occurred. Kroft asked her to look into it and any other similar shootings like Columbine and Gaby Giffords and find any similarity. In each case and in the other mass killings that followed there had been a diagnosis of mental instability that was rarely followed up. Then the slaughter at Sandy

Hook happened. The mother of Adam Lanza, the Sandy Hook shooter, and the mother of Holmes, the Aurora shooter, both stated, prior to the shootings, that their sons needed help. But that never came. A year after Sandy Hook 60 Minutes featured a segment that posed the question, "What is wrong with the system?" Schizophrenia is the major cause. Even if it is diagnosed it is rarely followed up. Half of the seven million people in the US with schizophrenia are not being treated. More than a half century ago institutions housing the mentally unstable were shut down and a half million people were released because of a lack of funding. Ms. Salomon illustrated her talk with several disturbing videos of inmates and those outside confinement screaming at the turbulent voices in their heads. In the Q & A that followed this interesting fact came up: "The majority of schizophrenics will not do violence. Those that do are a small subset." Thus the true culprit is a failed mental health system.

Chet Risio - Scribe of the Week

SPECIAL EVENTS

October 22, 2015: Goodspeed Opera House "It's a Wonderful Life", lunch at Gelston House, Bus departs St. Catherin's at 10:00 A.M. \$115 per person. 2 places are available.

January 14, 2016: NY Philharmonic Orchestra, open rehearsal, Stravinsky's "The Rites of Spring". Bus departs St. Catherin's at 8:00 A.M. \$98 per person. 11 places are available.

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

Contact GERRY LESSUK at gerrless@att.net or ABBEY SMOLER at abbeysmoler@gmail.com.

NEXT WEEK

John Markoff, *NY Times Science Writer* will speak on the increasing development and dependence on robots.

Visit the RMA website at www.greenwichrma.org