

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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October 21, 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, Larry Schmitz*

President RALPH VIGGIANO called the RMA assembly to order at 10:00 AM sharp and called on CHUCK STANDARD to lead us in The Pledge. With GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE tinkling the ivories, DON CONWAY led us in singing *God Bless America, Hello Dolly* and *Hey Look Me Over*. ARNOLD GORDON told us two tender tales of a desperate man who could not open a hotel window to accommodate his wife, and an Irishman who died a happy death in a vat of Guinness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

RALPH announced that the **wake for RICHARD LIMBACHER** will be tomorrow, Thursday, from 4 to 8 pm at Gallagher's Funeral Home on Arch Street, Greenwich. A Mass of Christian Burial is scheduled Friday, October 23 at St. Paul's RC Church on King Street at 10 am. A eulogy for RICHARD will be presented at the meeting next week. BRUCE WINNINGHAM, urged members, especially World War II and Vietnam veterans, to participate in the Community Walk to Honor Veterans on Wednesday, November 11, starting at 9:30 am at Amogerone Crossway. PETER UHRY reminded us of the up-coming **annual RMA Dinner at Burning Tree Country Club** on November 4. PETER urged all to sign-up and remit the \$50.00 fee per person as soon as possible. JOHN FEBLES announced a program to sponsor approximately 60 needy **Western Middle School students on a class trip to Washington, DC**, next spring. The cost per student will be \$954.00. Members, who would like to contribute any amount toward sponsoring these students should contact Suzanne Coyn at 203-531-5700. TAD LARRABEE announced that tomorrow, October 22, the RMA walkers will meet at the Eastern Civic Center at 10:00 AM to be shuttled by car to **Mead Point** to engage in a two hour walk of that picturesque area.

RETURNEES: RALPH VIGGIANO welcomed returnees ARNOLD GORDON (Punta Gorda, FL), WAYNE DEVRIES (Maine), and MARTIN WAINE (South Dartmouth, MA).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Visiting: CHUCK STANDARD reported that BILL EUSTIS has returned to the hospital, as he continues to fight pneumonia. No calls or visits, please.

Program: GEORGE UBOGY announced that today's speaker will be New York Times reporter and 2013 Pulitzer Prize winner, John Markoff, who will speak on the history of robotics and the emergence of robots that will facilitate human work and, in some cases, replace humans in the workplace. PETER UHRY announced that **next week's speaker** will be Alex Earles, Development Manager at the International Rescue Committee (IRC), who will discuss the work of the IRC in helping immigrants to the United States integrate into our society. **Membership:** HORST TEBBE reported 136

members present along with 1 candidate (Rick Holz), and 3 guests (Jake Galvin, guest of DAVID MCKEE; Michael Ferrarese, guest of GERALD GIBIAN; Bill Fakundiny, guest of JEFF PARKER). HORST announced that this week's **birthday boys** are: GEORGE SHADDOCK (86), JERRY BERRAFATI (86), MANNY BONVENUTO (94), and BOB STONE (78). **Special Events:** GERRY LESSUK announced that one trip is currently scheduled. See details below. **Volunteers:** TOM WOOLEY reported that, for the week ending October 21, 2015, 54 men reported 520 volunteer hours on behalf of outside agencies and 34 men reported 122 volunteer hours on behalf of RMA. The most hours (44) were reported by MIKE AMBROSINO.

FUN AND GAMES:

Bridge: GRANT PERKINS reported that the October 14, 2015, game drew 16 players. LEN SAARI was high with 4150 followed by BRUNO SCHRAGE, 3890, and JOHN FEBLES, 2650. **Tennis:** SAM MARASSO reported the following winners on October 16, 2015: Court 1: RALPH VIGGIANO and PETER STREICH; Court 2: SAM MARASSO and JOHN KNIGHT. Next week's captain will be RANDY MOTLAND. **Golf:** MIKE RYAN reported that only 10 players participated in yesterday's outing, and 9 finished 18 holes. Closest to the pin: JAY SCHONDORF on 7; MIKE RYAN on 15. Longest drive: guest Howard Krause. Low scorers: RALPH VIGGIANO (95) and JAY SCHONDORF (97). Next week will conclude the RMA season. JAY SCHONDORF will be host.

TODAY'S SPEAKER:

John Markoff, Pulitzer Prize winning reporter for the New York Times and author of the book, *Machines of Loving Grace - Between Humans and Robots*, discussed the evolution and impact of robotics over that last half-century, as the application of artificial intelligence allowed the development of machines that could replace many human activities, such as assembly line production. Markoff noted that, out of the emergence of robotics, the idea of a driverless automobile arose and that, several organizations are racing to perfect such a car. Markoff suggested that robotics will have an impact on society that will be greater than the impact of the personal computer and the internet.

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

New York Philharmonic open rehearsal: Thursday, January 14, 2016, lunch at The Atlantic Grill. \$98 per person. Status: 3 places available.

For more details and to sign-up, contact GERRY LESSUK (gerrless@att.net, 203-698-9451) or ABBEY SMOLER (abbeysmoler@gmail.com, 203-531-0236)

NEXT WEEK: the RMA will welcome **Alex Earles**, Development Manager, International Rescue Committee

Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org.

Respectfully Submitted: **Ed Farrell**