

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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November 11, 2015

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

“This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave.”—Elmer Davis

Presiding Prexy RALPH VIGGIANO called the meeting to order wishing the assembled faithful a Happy Veterans Day. DICK BERGSTRESSER led the pledge followed by the musical maestros TOM HEALY and PETER RYAN leading a Veterans Day Medley of *Our National Anthem, The Caissons Song, Anchors Aweigh, the Marine Hymn and The Air Force Song*. It was no surprise that so many of us knew the songs. Today's Corresponding Secretary (c'mon folks he's the comic of the day) BOB LUCE gave a lecture on medical linguistics.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Guest Announcer, Catherine Sidor of the Greenwich Economic Advisory Committee announced a panel discussion to be held on November 15th at 5:00 PM at the Cole Auditorium on the subject “Taxing Away Connecticut's Future” featuring radio celebrities, representatives of government and think tank braniacs.

RALPH VIGGIANO: Memorial Service for BILL EUSTICE will be held on November 14 at Christ Church at 11 A.M.

GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE: The Hudson Valley Jazz Ensemble will perform at the United Methodist Church on November 15th at 4 P.M. The concert is free but there will be a free will offering.

BOB ROBINS announced the winner of the World Series pool conducted by ROMEO aficionados; it was PHILIP SMITH, the only guy smart enough to pick the Royals.

BOB also called for members of yacht and country clubs to come forward to act as ROMEO sponsors.

PETER UHRY: Thanked all who helped and participated for making the annual Luncheon-called-Dinner a success. He also announced that he was assembling talented writers, performers and others to put together a joyous holiday presentation on December 16. All interested parties to contact PETER.

KLAUS JANDER: Is looking for parking lot volunteers for the Woman's Club on November 14th and 15th.

MEMORIAL: JOHN DECSEPEL delivered a moving memorial for his friend and RMAer ROBERT KAVEE. BOB, a long time Greenwich resident was a pioneer in Information Technology and Operations Research. He served in many areas of Greenwich government and was an invited guest lecturer at several institutions. He leaves a wife of 59 years, Donna, three children and five grandchildren.

VOLUNTEER KUDOS: GERRY MAYFIELD recalled that at the Luncheon-called-Dinner the top three volunteers of 2015 were recognized. Today he handed out certificates to the seven members who rounded out the top-ten. In the interest of completeness we humbly publish the full ten names and the number of volunteer hours reported.

1. TAD LARRABEE	1,698	6. DICK CASE	1,013
2. BILL SALTSMAN	1,228	7. BOB RIMMER	965
3. DON CONWAY	1,149	8. GERRY LESSUK	719
4. DOUG FRANCEFORT	1,104	9. STEVE BOIES	690
5. MIKE AMOROSO	1,081	10. BOB BISHOP	684

COMMITTEE REPORTS: PROGRAMS: BOB WYLIE gave a heads-up on today's speaker, details below and JOHN CARON announced that next week, **Chris Winters**, the Headmaster of Greenwich High School would continue our series on education. He has been asked to address three troubling situations: A. American kids typically score lower on standardized math and literacy tests than students in other countries B. Academic achievement is tied to family income and C. Too many high school graduates are not ready for college. **VOLUNTEERS:** ED BLOOM Reported 399 hours by 35 men for outside agencies and 112 hours by 20 men for RMA hours, high man for the week, BILL SALTSMAN at 38 hours. **SPECIAL EVENTS:** GERRY LESSUK reported that the New York Philharmonic rehearsal was fully subscribed, but suggested interested folks should get on the waiting list as there will undoubtedly be cancellations.

SCORE BOARD: BRIDGE: KURT SCHAFFIR dealt the bridge scores for OCT. 28: There were 16 players with JOHN FEBLES scoring 3520 points, FRANK LEE 3380 and RON FRIEDMAN 3050. **GOLF:** RALPH VIGGIANO reported that at the last round of golf for the season five players broke 90: TED EWING 80, RALPH VIGGIANO 83, PETER RYAN 85, DICK BARTHOLOMEW 88 and REID MCINTYRE 88. At the golf luncheon the RMA golfers presented, for the first time, a lifetime achievement award to JOE MALARA – way to go JOE ! **TENNIS:** RALPH double-faulted to report tennis as well: Nov 30 - Court 1 –RON FRIEDMAN AND RALPH VIGGIANO Court 2 SAM MARASSO and BRUNO SCHRAGE – NOV 6 –Court 1 MIKE SMITH and RALPH VIGGIANO Court 2 RON FRIEDMAN and GEORGE DAVIS. Next Week's captain- MIKE AMBROSINO.

M.I.A. : For reasons many and sundry, certain usual meeting events did not occur this week. They are RETURNNEES, VISITING and MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE reports. It is fervently hoped that they will appear next week.

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Today's speaker was **Douglas Elmendorf** , former Chair of the Congressional Budget Office and soon to be Dean of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He is also the son-in-law of our own BILL DYNAN. His talk was titled "Fiscal Policy to Spur Economic Growth." Dr. Elmendorf presented five paths to growth and in a party-neutral manner expanded on each. His main talking points were 1. Maintain Investment; particularly in infra-structure, education and R & D 2. Reform the tax code to reduce distortions. 3. Encourage innovation, support STEM education, private research, improve the patent system and the immigration of highly skilled personnel. 4. Reduce the federal debt, but slowly 5. Reduce uncertainty in federal tax policy, give business the ability to plan with a higher level of certainty. A spirited RMA Q&A followed.

Av Rivel, ink stained wretch

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

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

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

NEXT WEEK

Chris Winters, Headmaster Greenwich High School : "Whither Public Education in Greenwich"

Visit the RMA website at www.greenwichrma.org