

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:** Chet Risio, Larry Schmitz

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The bell was rung, then the always-dangerous STEVE MARINO nearly punctured a few eardrums until he figured out how to turn off the mic he was wearing. He then nimbly led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Next up, DON CONWAY, ably assisted on the 88's by GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE, led us in singing "Grand Old Flag," "O What A Beautiful Morning!" and "Sunny Side of the Street." Don was followed by JOHN HARRIS in his first appearance as a Corresponding Secretary. He passed with flying colors by telling a joke about a little girl and her pompous airplane companion, who didn't know a certain substance from the town they were flying over—Shinola!

ANNOUNCEMENTS: PREXY BOB announced that the organization Pathways needed anyone who might help with their apprenticeships and to see him if interested. The afore-mentioned MARINO then read a list of the men who place 4th-10th in the number of volunteer hours. They are, in order of magnitude—or magnanimitytude: DOUG FRANCEFORT, JOHN deCSEPEL, DAVID DOWNS, WIN ADKINS, FRED BROOKS, DICK CASE, and SAL DeANGELO. While EI PRESIDENTE handed out certificates, our worthy friends were all roundly applauded.

MIKE SMITH detailed all of the wonderful improvements initiated by Dave D'Andrea at the Griff: flowers, tree removal, new and level tees. Unfortunately, Dave is battling cancer and has had to retire from his position of 14 years as head of the Griff. Mike also announced that, on Thanksgiving Day, a fee to play with a guest is only \$26. GRANT PERKINS introduced JIM BUTLER, who told us about volunteer opportunities at Greenwich Hospital, where, as a Red Baron, one can assist in transporting patients to various places. The hours are 7:30-12:30 or 12:30-3:30, five days a week. If interested, contact Stacy or Sue in the Volunteer Department at the hospital. This is also an opportunity to make sure your hands are always well-washed! Speaking of hands, more are needed to ring the Salvation Army bell. See JOHN FEBLES (jfebles13@gmail.com) or sign up on the board. Finally, GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE announced that there is one spot open to join the opera group in their monthly viewing of an opera. They have viewed 23 operas so far, but not all at once! **RETURNEES:** KURT SCHAFFIR from Paris and the Rhone Valley. *Bon retour*, Kurt!

COMMITTEE REPORTS: MEMORIAL: BILL DYNAN told us about LOU MURANO, who passed away last month at the age of 91. Lou was born in Italy, starred in football at Greenwich High, spent his career with Electrolux, and love to play golf. Donations to the Knights of Columbus or Sacred Heart Church. **VISITING:** CHUCK STANDARD reported MANNY BONVENUTO plans to re-join us after Thanksgiving, BILL EUSTIS is still at Nathaniel Witherell, and JIM DANIEL has a bladder operation that has led to pneumonia and is at Witherell as well. **PROGRAM:** JOHN FEBLES prepped us for today's speaker, Christopher King, and ARTO SZABO told us about next week, when Mark Albertson will speak on the clash between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union in WWII. **MEMBERSHIP:** "JAUNTY" JIM FAHY in his jaunty RMA cap detailed the 123 members, 5 candidates, and 3 guests at today's meeting. The guests were: Don Farrell g/o ED FARRELL; Joe

Gianguinto g/o HARRY LEIGH; and Charles Carey g/o RON KINGNER. JIM then announced the birthdays of: JOHN CALABRO(86), FRANK ALBRIZIO(86), BILL CLEWORTH(87), JOHN CALIMAFDE(90), STEVE MYERS(78), PETE ARTURI(88), JACK BAUSMAN(91), FRANK LEE(84), CORY DUNHAM(87), ARNOLD STANCELL(78), DAVE NOBLE(80), DOM DIMAIO(90), and ROGER PISANI(79). Happy Birthday, fellas! **VOLUNTEERS:** ARNOLD GORDON reported 813 hours for two weeks for outside agencies by 66 members and 251 hours for RMA activities by 39 members. BOB CASE had the most hours (46).

SPECIAL EVENTS: All trips are over for 2014 but GERRY LESSUK told us of the plans for next year: Met Opera backstage tour, January 22; N.Y. Philharmonic rehearsal, February 5; and LaMont Doherty Earth Observatory, March 19. Details below.

GAMES PEOPLE PLAY: BRIDGE: KURT SCHAFFIR reported 8 players shuffled and dealt, with Ron Friedman leading the way at 3500, MARTIN WAYNE at 3400, and NEVILLE SARGEANT at 2780. **TENNIS:** RALPH VIGGIANO, after asking whomever took the President's Book to return it, read the tennis results for two weeks: Ron Friedman and Bill Fakundiny on Court 1 and PETE UHRY and TONY RIGGI on Court 2 (11/7) and FRED BAKER and Ron Friedman on Court 1 and BERNARD SCHNEIDER and Bill Fakundiny on Court 2(11/14). UHRY will captain next week.

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Christopher King, who is in the Australian equivalent of our State Department, gave a fascinating talk about the emerging importance of the Indo-Pacific. The Indian Ocean handles two-thirds of the world's shipping and by mid-century will have four of the world's five largest economies. Many facts demonstrate the enormous economic power of China. Just one: the US has 76 leading trade partners and China has 124. China has spent \$40 billion to build two new trade routes that do not include the US, and the South China Sea sits on huge deposits of gas and oil. There are also several flashpoints in the region. All of which means President Obama's pivot to Asia is very necessary, for the dynamics in that region will have great impact on the entire world.

Gran Burgess -Editor

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

January 22: Met Opera backstage tour: Cost: \$80. Departure: 10:15. Restaurant: Le Rivage. Status: 9 places available.

February 5: New York Philharmonic: Cost: \$98. Restaurant: Atlantic Grill. Departure: 8:00. Status: wait list.

March 19: LaMont Doherty Earth Observatory: Cost: TBA Restaurant: In House. Departure: TBA Status: open.

For more information, contact Rich Limbacher 531-9515 or Gerry Lessuk 698-9451

NEXT WEEK's SPEAKER

Mark Albertson on the clash between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union in WWII.

Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org and at vimeo.com.