

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

With his usual ebullience, President RALPH VIGGIANO opened the meeting at 10:00am.

GRAN BURGESS led the pledge and then, aided by BOB MORGAN tickling the ivories, led the singing of *It's a Grand Old Flag*, *Danny Boy*, and *That's Amore* (without Dean Martin).

ARNOLD GORDON as Corresponding Secretary really did have some correspondence. News about our old centenarian friend and former member Bob Oppenheimer came from his daughters. Bob left CT in June 2015 and now lives comfortably with one of his daughters in Costa Mesa, CA. Write or call him c/o Barbara Horton, 329 Princeton Drive, Costa Mesa, CA (949-929-8689; baybrn19@yahoo.com).

ARNOLD then told us how to distinguish male from female words, and a story about how a good marriage depends on the driving ability of the wife.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **RALPH VIGGIANO** reported that Governor Malloy's talk at the RMA on December 2nd was covered in the Greenwich Sentinel, among other papers, with a featured story. He read a Thank You card from St. Catherine's' Church for the RMA's recent donation.

Help has been requested by the Nathaniel Witherell Home for their Music and Memories Program; volunteers are needed to assist the residents in listening to personalized music, which is something particularly enjoyable and recognizable to dementia patients. Please try to help; call Sally Van Lueeuven at 203-618-4228.

RALPH mentioned that more CBB scribes are needed. Activate your inner writing urge and skills by getting in touch with GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE (203-698-0710; GRSpersonal@aol.com).

2. **GRAN BURGESS** made an appeal for more song leaders (no baton needed) and piano players (piano provided free); voice your willingness to participate at 203-253-1825 or write him at gbprodinc@optonline.net.
3. **JOHN FEBLES** still needs Bell Ringing Volunteers in one or two hour shifts to help raise funds for the Salvation Army. JOHN has been leading this important RMA activity for 5 years and will be retiring from the position in 2016. A new Director is needed and he appealed for someone to step up to the kettle! Contact him at 203-869-5343 or jfebles13@gmail.com.

4. **STEPHEN MARINO** urged everyone to stay for the speaker, Jim Bell, to hear about NBC's experience with the Olympics; details below.
5. **JIM FISHBEIN** reminded everyone that next week, December 16, instead of a speaker we will hold a holiday event with music, skits and some surprises. It is for members only; the community is not invited. He also confirmed that there will be speakers at the December 23rd and December 30th meetings. Be on the lookout for the fliers.
6. **JEFF PARKER** mentioned that the Byram Library is having a Christmas party on December 10th at 7pm; voluntary donations will be welcome.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VISITING: CHUCK STANDARD told us yet again that it was a wonderful day, especially because for the 4th week in a row no one was in the hospital or rehab.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE reported there were 118 members and 3 candidates in attendance – Bill Caporizzo, Bill Fakundiny, and Rick Holz. The two Bills were inducted. BOB BISHOP and BILL SALTSMAN spoke for Mr. Caporizzo; born in Stamford, he has lived in Greenwich for 30 years. He spent an impressive 45 years with the Hilde Corporation rising to the top sales position before retiring. JEFF PARKER endorsed Mr. Fakundiny, born in Czechoslovakia (Czech Republic today), immigrated to the US in the 1950s and became a citizen. He owned a gold and silver business, is an avid tennis player, and sang with the Greenwich Choral Society. Welcome Bill and Bill! [The birthday boys](#) were TOM MORRISON 81 and LANE GRIJNS 78.

VOLUNTEER HOURS: MARIO BONAPARTE reported 483 hours for outside agencies by 113 members and 53 hours for RMA activities by 20 members. TAD LARRABEE and MIKE AMOROSO tied for the most hours – 50.

SPECIAL EVENTS: JERRY LESSUK gave the schedule for the next two events. See below for details.

FUN AND GAMES

BRIDGE: MARTIN WAINE told us that on December 2nd there were 12 bridge players. GRANT PERKINS was first with a record breaking 7380 points, DICK CASE followed with 4680 and KURT SCHAFFIR had 3840.

TENNIS: JEFF PARKER said the winners were MIKE SMITH and BILL FAKUNDINY on Court 1; on Court 2, SAM MARASSO and JERRY GIBIAN. ERF PORTER is captain this week.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

STEVE MARINO introduced **Jim Bell**, Executive Producer of NBC Olympics, and a Greenwich resident. With the upcoming summer Olympics in Rio, he has been involved with 11 summer and winter Olympics, beginning with the first post-cold war event in Barcelona, Spain in 1992. Jim showed several video clips, including two promos for the

2016 summer event in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the final moments of the US hockey defeat of the Soviets in 1980, and Bob Costas speaking from Tiananmen Square the morning after the opening ceremonies in Beijing for the 2008 Olympics. Jim explained the difficulties raised by various political events that have complicated and on occasion damaged the Olympics, such as the Munich Olympics in 1972, the US boycott of the Moscow events in 1980, and more recently in 2014 the Sochi, Russia, Winter Olympics when the Ukrainian crisis arose. In answer to a question, he said that the preparations for the Rio Olympics are on schedule but there is still a problem and some concern about the sanitary condition of the waterways for the boating events; special approaches are planned to handle the problem.

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

NY Philharmonic Orchestra Open Rehearsal on Thursday, January 14, 2016 with lunch at the Atlantic Grill. The cost is \$98.00 pp. Bus departure from St. Catherine's at 8:00am. Status: Wait listed.

Bruce Museum on Thursday, February 11, 2016. Cost and restaurant to be announced. Transportation is personal. Arrival time at the museum is 9:45am. Status: Open. For details and sign up contact GERRY LESSUK (gerrless@att.net 203 698-9451) or ABBEY SMOLER (abbeysmoler@gmail.com 203 531-0236)

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

A home-grown gathering for jollity and fellowship to usher in the holiday season. Come and make merry. **Members Only.**

ARNOLD J. GORDON -Scribe of the Week

Visit the RMA website at www.greenwichrma.org