

# 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

1. **El Presidente VIGIANNIO** rang us in and we were herded to our seats.
2. **ARNOLD GORDON**—or, as he is sometimes known, Gordon Arnold—led us in the pledge.
3. **GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE** played the big, black instrument with the ivory keys while
4. **BOB MORGAN** led us in “America,” a version of “*You Musta Been a Beautiful Baby*” where that description came into question, and a beautiful “*You’ll Never Walk Alone.*”
5. **BOB “Get The Hook” CAREY** brought several sheets of paper to the podium, which should have been a warning to El P, and then told us 3 jokes, the last of which involved someone who may or may not have needed a screw at Home Depot.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**MIKE RYAN** put out the call for more bell ringers for the Salvation Army bucket, and several members were later seen filling in some gaps in the schedule.

**RETURNEES:** **ARTO SZABO** returned from Florida where he and his wife, Dee are buying a house. Welcome back—and we’ll be sad to lose you!

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**VISITING:** For the 4th time in a row, **CHUCK STANDARD** reported no one in rehab or in the hospital. Finally, his urging us to “Stay well and be happy” is beginning to pay off!

**MEMBERSHIP:** **HORST TEBBE** reported 111 members. The **Birthday Boys** are: **ARNOLD GORDON** (78) and **GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE** (84). On his cue to play “Happy Birthday,” George was reading something, and when **YHS** shouted at him, “George, happy birthday!” he merely said “Thank you.” When he finally realized it was time for him to play “Happy Birthday,” he did so with great flair and he and Arnold both got their due.

**VOLUNTEERS:** **RUSS HARDEN** added up 582 hours by 76 members for outside work, 89 hours by 21 members for RMA work and 39 hours for **AV RIVEL** for the most volunteer hours.

**PROGRAM:** **JIM FISHBEIN** prepped us for our first-ever Holiday Program. **PETE UHRY** told us about next week’s speaker: Eric Jenkins-Sahlin, whose great grandmother, the first woman to graduate Cornell as a civil engineer, corresponded with Hu Dongchao, who built some of China’s earliest railroads.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:** According to GERRY LESSUK: The rehearsal at the N.Y. Philharmonic on January 14 with food at the Atlantic Grill has a wait list and costs \$98. A trip to the Bruce Museum on February 11 has a cost TBA and other details to follow.

### **GAMES PEOPLE PLAY:**

**BRIDGE:** KURT SCHAFFIR reported that 11 players bid made contracts with GRANT PERKINS amassing 3970, DAVE MCGEE totaling 3720 and MARTIN WANE 2760. Kurt read us a nice letter of thanks from the YMCA, where they play bridge and to whom they donate funds from their modest dues.

**TENNIS:** RUSS HARDEN reported RANDY MOTLAND and MIKE AMBROSINO as winners on Court #1 and RON FRIEDMAN and BRUNO SCHRAGE as winners on Court #2.

### **TODAY'S PROGRAM:**

PETE UHRY mc'ed a most delightful half-hour of fun which, depending on your point of view, was a blessed relief from speakers or should be the impetus for even more speakers. It all began with sweepers MAURICE KHRON, ED FARRELL, and DON CONWAY and dusters TOM HEALY, JIM SANTORA, and YHS cleaning their way down the aisles in order to rack-up more volunteer hours. Then AL KNIGHT and BOB LUCE, accompanied by JIM SANTORA on the dust-free keys, sang of the joys of being "Busy Doing Nothing" to a membership who nodded in agreement.

PETER SHIEFERDECKER regaled us with the story of how Santa Claus came to be, starting with Saint Nicholas in Turkey, then explaining how he was "translated" into Sinter Klaas by the Dutch, whom, Peter reminded us, were the original settlers of Greenwich, and finally showing us with unforgettable pictures how the genius of American marketing created the Santa Claus we know today, including his more curvaceous female sidekicks. JIM FISHBEIN supplied slides for Peter's presentation, which amply demonstrated the usual Schieferdecker humor.

TAD LARRABEE and GERRY SCHWENDEMAN led us in a few carols, including one celebrating Chanukah, which amply demonstrated how confusing it can be to a group of retired men to have to sing a line of song after you've just sung it to them.

Fortunately, ARNOLD GORDON saved the ecumenical nature of our celebration with a fun talk explaining Chanukah, complete with a plastic dreidel with which he bopped our Master of Ceremonies on the head.

DAVE ROBERTS enthralled us all by playing "Somewhere Over The Rainbow" on.... a SAW! Ah, the talent in this group! The whole slam-bang event finished with a loud singing of "We Wish You A Merry Christmas"—which we do! As well as a Happy Holiday and all good wishes for joy, song, and laughter however you celebrate this special time of year.

**Gran Burgess, Your Humble Scribe (YHS)**

## SPECIAL EVENTS

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

**January 14, 2016: New York Philharmonic rehearsal**, \$98, lunch at Atlantic Grill. Wait list.

**February 11, 2016: Bruce Museum**, lunch at the Field Club, cost and details to follow.

## NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

**Eric Jenkins-Sahlin** will discuss how a railroad built in China around 1911 by a friend of his great grandmother influenced America and China today, as well as talking about the architectural work his great grandmother did in Greenwich.

Visit our website at <http://www.greenwchrma.org/>.