

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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*****HAPPY HOLIDAYS and A GREAT 2015 TO ALL*****

It was a beautiful day, thank you CHUCK, and for the last RMA meeting of 2014 president BOB PHILLIPS rang the opening bell at exactly 10.00 hrs. JOE MALARA dedicated the pledge to a buddy who died at the Battle of the Bulge 70 years ago. The dynamic duo of ERF PORTER and PETER RYAN (he was the one with the Santa hat) led the assembled brethren in singing *America the Beautiful*, *Joy to the World* and *Auld Lang Syne*. CHUCK STANDARD, this week's jokester, related a story about the entrance exam into heaven.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: BOB PHILLIPS, produced a lost and then found hat which no one claimed, reminded all that: THERE WILL BE NO MEETING ON 12/24 or 12/31, NEXT MEETING is Jan 7, 2015. Program Committee meeting will be 1/7 and Board Meeting 1/14. And lastly welcomed back **returnees:** HORST TEBBE from California and LEN SAARI from Florida. Sue Ryan advised coffee lovers that they could buy Solude gourmet coffee at www.soludecoffee.com/ymf and support the Young Mariners at the same time, sounds delicious. Former prexy MIKE SMITH pitched volunteer opportunities at River House, the Adult Day Care Facility in Cos Cob. Call MIKE at 203-869-4454 to get more info or to sign up. JOHN FEBLES congratulated very successful bell ringers. He still has a couple of slots open, sign up before somebody else fills them. JOHN also asked for help on the Volunteer Hours committee, a great opportunity for new members. Last but by no means last TIM NOLAN drolly reminded all of the ROMEO luncheon, January 21 at the Field Club, \$40 and jacket and tie required.

MEMORIAL: BILL DYNAN memorialized DR. MICHAEL LANGAN who died on November 22, age 92. He served as a physician in WW II and the Korean War, later settling in Greenwich and setting up a private OB/GYN practice with privileges at Greenwich Hospital. He was an active RMA member since 1995. Services were held at Christ Church on December 6. BILL also announced the passing of BOB ROSENBERG on December 12.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: **Visiting:** CHUCK STANDARD lugging many calendars reported that JIM DANIEL is due home Thursday, MANNY BONVENUTO is still in rehab and offered a big "Welcome Back" to MARIO BONAPARTE. **Program** STEVE MARINO gave a heads up on today's program, details below, and HORST TEBBE previewed January 7th's Speaker Joseph Gianquinto, a 38 year veteran of the TV broadcast Industry, working for several networks in senior roles. HORST promised

interesting stories and insights into the industry. **Membership:** JIM FAHY did the numbers, 121 members, 2 candidates and 3 guests, total 126. **Candidates** were Rick Holz and Phil Smith, **guests** , Jack Keat g/o ROGER PISANI, Hans Krackow g/o RALPH VIGGIANO and Peter Ordanowski g/o MIKE SMITH. Celebrating candles were ARNOLD GORDON 77, GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE 83 and BEN BENSON 83.

Volunteers: WALT HOWE reported 495 hours for outside activities by 54 men, and 96 hours for RMA activities by 26 men. Boasting most hours -35- DON HELLER. **Special Events:** JERRY LESSUK ably reported the information listed below.

GAMES: KURT SCHAFFIR dealt us the Bridge report – 12 Players, #1 DICK CASE 4330, #2 BOB UNDERWOOD 4190 and #3 WAYNE DEVRIES. The other sportsmen were on winter hiatus.

VERY SPECIAL: After the regular meeting and before the break PETER UHRY, JOHN CRAINE and BOB PHILLIPS honored long-time member **BOB OPPENHEIMER** who will celebrate his 100th. Birthday on December 31. The three recalled personal and RMA remembrances of BOB and presented him with a special present. In honor of the event all RMA members present enjoyed a piece of a personalized birthday cake.

This week's Speaker: Dr. Elizabeth Pisani, daughter of RMA member ROGER PISANI. Dr. Pisani's special topic is corruption. Her talk about this elusive subject centered on Indonesia, contender for the "most corrupt country" award. She approached the question of why corruption is apparently more widespread in some countries than in others? Is it always harmful? Dr. Pisani's primary conclusions are perhaps surprising: in highly diverse democracies, "corruption" can be a force for integration and stability. She argues for more nuanced analysis of the difference between "good" and "bad" corruption. Needless to say a spirited Q&A followed.

Ho-Ho-Ho, **Av Rivel** did it this week.

NEXT SPEAKER –January 7, 2015 : **Joseph Gianquinto**, veteran of the TV industry. Tales of the Tube.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special events are open to members, spouses, candidates and guests. Contact Richard Limbacher 203-531-9515 or Gerry Lessuk 203-698-9451.

Thurs. January 22, 2015: **Metropolitan Opera backstage tour**. \$80/per person, lunch at Le Rivage 46th St- Wait List

Thurs.Feb. 5: **Lincoln Center- NY Philharmonic rehearsal**, \$98/pp, Atlantic Grill. St. Catherine's 8am., Wait List.

Thurs. March 19: **La Mont-Doherty Earth Science/Columbia University**; \$50p/p, lunch there, 24 seats remaining.

Today's talk can be viewed on Channel 79 for the next two weeks, and on www.vimeo.com for many years to come. Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org.