

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*

"Inequality of mind and body are so established by God Almighty in the constitution of human nature that no art or policy can ever plane them down to a level" John Adams, 1813, to Thomas Jefferson.

President RALPH VIGGIANO promptly rang the bell to call us to order at 10 a.m. STEVE MARINO led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

Then song leader CHUCK STANDARD waved his arms, accompanied on piano by PETER RYAN, in "God Bless America", followed by "Jingle Bells", "Joy to the World" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas". Corresponding Secretary-of-the day TOM HEALY recounted a story of a boy walking a little girl through a deep mud-puddle, and his surprising revelation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **RALPH VIGGIANO** revealed to us that our beloved member JEFF PARKER passed away suddenly yesterday. He had just been playing tennis a week or so ago with the RMA Team. Sad news. No details yet.
2. **RALPH** read a thank-you letter from Deborah Jander and Nancy York for the RMA's help in giving parking assistance to the visitors to Woman's Club holiday boutique.
3. He then read the list of RETURNEES: ARTO SZABO from Sarasota, FL; DOUG TAYLOR from Vail, CO; HORST TEBBE from San Diego, CA and GEORGE CHELWICK from Southern California.
4. **JOHN DESCEPEL** invited us to come to his home for free fireplace wood he has split himself.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VISITING: CHUCK STANDARD happily reported that, for the fifth consecutive week, he knows of no RMA member either in hospital or in nursing homes. He admonished each of us to "Stay healthy and be happy".

TODAY'S SPEAKER: PETER UHRY advised us that Eric Jenkins-Sahlin would speak to us of his great-grandmother who was active in stumping for women's right to vote and in a pioneering woman's role as a civil engineer. See many other details on an excellent and entertaining talk, below.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER, JOHN DESCEPEL previewed next week's speaker **Jack Trout**, president of Trout and Partners, a prestigious marketing firm headquartered in Old Greenwich. See more detail below.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE told us we were only 77 members, no guests and no candidates. He announced and we sang "Happy Birthday" to NORM COLLINS, 87; STEVE BOIES, 74; and JIM FAHY, 78.

SPECIAL EVENTS: GERRY LESSUK said that the January 14, 2016 trip to New York Philharmonic's dress rehearsal and lunch at Atlantic Grill is sold out, but encouraged us to get on the waiting list. After that will be February 11th to Bruce Museum for a tour and lunch at the Field Club, 276 Lake Avenue, cost \$38 per person. See also below.

VOLUNTEERS: ARNOLD GORDON announced that for the week ending today, 46 RMA members volunteered 393 hours to outside agencies; 27 RMA members volunteered 119 hours. BILL SALTSMAN reported the most hours ---28. He proudly announced that the RMA Melody Men had volunteered in the fall of 2015 a total of 794 hours. Congratulations to each 17 of you!

FUN AND GAMES

BRIDGE: KURT SCHAFFIR boasted the high score on Dec. 16, with 5310; BRUNO SCHRAGE was second with 3650, and DICK CASE was third with 3550.

TENNIS: MIKE SMITH reported that winners on court #1 were MIKE himself and RANDY MOTLAND; on court #2 winners were RALPH VIGGIANO and BILL FAKUNDINY.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Eric Jenkins-Sahlin, resident of Forest Avenue, Old Greenwich was a 2009 Greenwich High School graduate and earned his B.A. at Boston University. Then he was awarded the coveted Fulbright scholarship to study in China in 2014-15, where he had lived for a total of four years studying Chinese language, culture, and the history involving his great-grandmother, Nora Stanton Blatch and her Cornell University classmate Hu Donghao.

As one of her early jobs, Nora designed the aqueduct from the Croton Reservoir in upstate New York down to Manhattan's Central Park. Hu later invited Nora to join him in China where he was designing the first railroad system in that country following the 1911 collapse of the Qing Dynasty. In 1953 at age 74, Nora regretted that she had not accepted his invitation. Instead, she became very active as a leading advocate for granting women voting rights, in the tradition of her antecedents Elizabeth Cody Stanton and Harriet Stanton. Nora became a well-known housing developer and designed several Greenwich houses. Eric is writing a book about the saga of Nora and Hu Donghao. We will await with anticipation his tome.

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

January 14, 2016: New York Philharmonic Open Rehearsal, \$98; lunch at Atlantic Grill. Wait list.

February 11, 2016: Bruce Museum docent-led tour; lunch at the Field Club, total only \$38.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Jack Trout, on his new approaches to marketing positioning in an era of competition and crisis.

Respectfully submitted, **GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE**, Scribe

Visit the RMA website at www.greenwichrma.org