

# CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

Volume 61, No. 41 March 5, 2014

Second Vice-President RALPH VIGGIANO, substituting for PREXY MIKE, opened the meeting on time, setting the bar high for his upcoming administration. BILL DYNAN led us in the pledge. While JIM SANTORA tinkled, YHS\* led the singing of the National Anthem, "Always," and "Blue Skies." Then, with lightning speed, YHS switched from songster to jokester. His joke about a little old lady's recipe for staying healthy employing a prophylactic in water received a large laugh, revealing our membership has a deep knowledge of little old ladies or something else.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** PREXY-SUB RALPH asked for greeter volunteers to perform the difficult but do-able task of welcoming our guests and our speakers. Knowledge of English required. "BARITONE BOB" LUCE sang the praises of the Choral Society's concert this Saturday, March 8, at 4:30 at Christ Church. The program features Rossini's Petite Messe Solonnelle, plus opera choruses by Verdi, Mascagni, and Rossini in a dazzling celebration of the transformative power of great music. In a deft display of organizational expertise, Baritone Bob was followed by another announcement about opera, this time by GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE, who announced a cornucopia of "opera-tunities": the Opera Group meeting on March 11 at 1:30 at KEITH SMITH'S home to listen to La Fille du Regiment (there are extra spaces for those who aren't formally in the group); the Live/HD Met broadcast of Massenet's Werther on March 15; and the Bow Tie Cinema showing of Mozart's Don Giovanni on April 2 at 7 pm. Easily switching from sub to shill, "Racquet" Ralph plugged the next tennis season: sign-up deadline is March 26. JOHN DESCEPEL asked members to put up some of BERNARD SCHNEIDER's fabulous flyers on bulletin boards and others spots that might attract new members. See John for flyers.

**RETURNEES:** JIM SANTORA- Key West; JOHN AWKZIEWICZ – British Virgin Islands; SAM MARASSO – Sarasota; RICHARD BARTHOLOMEW – Jupiter, FL; WIN ADKINS – Barbados; HORST TEBBE – Cincinnati; and YHS – Sarasota.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** **Memorial** – BILL DYNAN spoke of the life of DR. ROBERT STARR, JR, who passed away February 14. Bob sang with the Melody Men and was an ardent gardener, sailor, hiker, and skier. CHUCK STANDARD mentioned that he'd skied Bob's last run when he was 80... and Chuck was 88! Donations: Friends of Greenwich Point or First Congregational Church. **Visiting** – MARTIN GRAYSON is still recovering; DICK RADCLIFFE will be home from rehab soon; DON TOWNSEND is not doing too well, sometimes being confused; and STEVE PIERSON will be leaving Nathaniel Wetherell soon. **Program:** PETER MCSPADDEN prepped us for Deb Sawch (see below) and PETE UHRY plugged next week's speaker, Virginia Gwynn, who will talk about the Greenwich Land Trust. **Membership** – JIM FAHY expressed no faith in the count of 156 members, but reported it anyway, along with 3 candidates. **Induction** – RUSS HARDEN and JAN MEYER spoke on behalf on candidate Tom Duffy, who has many things to recommend him, chief of which may be his membership at Winged Foot (full disclosure: YHS loves golf). Tom spent his career(Franklin Templeton) in Asia and W. Africa and would love to share war stories with members who've spent time there. He also looks forward to volunteering for us. Welcome, Tom! **The Birthday Boys** – There were 8(!) birthday boys this week, which shows you how happy people have always been when June rolls around: MARTIN GRAYSON(86); RON KLINGNER(89); SOHIER MARKS(83); MIKE RYAN(76); CHET RISIO(86); ROS CURTIS(90); FRANK SAVATTARO(83), and TONY PELLICANO(91). **Volunteer** – WALTER HOWE reported 664 hours for Outside Agencies by 61 members and 112 hours for RMA by 24 members., with ERF PORTER reporting a total of 110 hours for 3 months. **Special Events:** Alas, RICH LIMBACHER reported that not enough members signed up, so the trip to

the New York Simulation Center had to be cancelled. Checks will be deposited in Rich's account—or, if you insist, returned to you. Ten spots left for Norman Rockwell Museum on April 17(\$80); Godspeed and Damn Yankees is waiting list (May 22).

**GAMES PEOPLE PLAY:** **Bridge** – KURT SCHAFFIR reported 8 players, with GRANT PERKINS topping the list at 4640, STURGES HOLLISTER at 3800, and RALPH THE V at 3740. **Tennis** – MIKE WARNER and BERNARD SCHNEIDER won on Court #1 and JIM HIMES and RANDY MOTLAND on Court #2. TONY RIGGI captains next week. **Golf** – First play date is April 8. See roster on board: cross out name if not playing and put OK if are, plus make sure your info is correct. Newcomers sign up! **RMA Walkers** - Stride on Thursday as usual.

**TODAY'S SPEAKER:** Deb Sawch brought us up to date on Global Education. Sobering fact #1: kindergartners have the most total ideas on how to use a paper clip, they become less and less creative as they mature, and the reason seems to be an educational system that dries up their imagination. Sobering fact #2: only 8% of low-income students will graduate college. Sobering fact #3: 55% of African-Americans and 57% of Hispanics do not have access to the Internet. There are many problems with our educational system—getting parents to care seems to be #1—but there are also people like Ms. Sawch, co-head of Teach For America in Connecticut, who are dedicated to solving them. She did appreciate the fact that 163 people stayed for her talk. Obviously, we care, too.

**Gran Burgess** -Editor)

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

**April 17: Norman Rockwell Museum;** room for 10 (\$80)

**May 22: Goodspeed/Damn Yankees:** wait list.

### **NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER**

**Virginia Gwynn**, Executive Director, Greenwich Land Trust

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