

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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March 9, 2014

*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, Chet Risio, Ed Farrell; Martin Grayson, Emeritus; **Format and Layout:** Gene Schwartz, Paul Levine and Jack Cuff; **Archivist:** Harold Frost; **Printing:** Chet Risio, Larry Schmitz*

*“The quiet Irishman is about as harmless as a powder magazine built over a match factory”
(James Dunne)*

RALPH VIGGIANO opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. **BILL DYNAN** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. **DON CONWAY** then guided us in the melodic songs of *The Star Spangled Banner*, *Side by Side* and *Standing on the Corner* accompanied by pianist **GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE**. The joke of the day will be carried over until our next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RALPH VIGGIANO advised us that Senior Speed Dating was available to interested RMA members between the ages of 70 & 90 on March 11th. There is still room for those calling 203-977-5151 for inclusion on March 11th at 1:30pm. Check In, plus a mere \$10.00 is due at The Waters Edge – Giovanni’s in Darien. **RALPH** then told us that today was a special day ! RMA was created 62 years ago in 1954. He then reminded us that one book, Belle Haven 2: The End Of An Era, was still missing; it should be located and returned ASAP. Finally, at **MANNY BONVENUTO’S** request, **RALPH** reminded us of the thoughtful background and history within the summaries of past RMA Presidents in The Presidents Book available on the RMA’s website. Next, **PAUL SETTELMAYER** , President of the Greenwich Lions Club, (contact # 203 629 2616) considerably told us of the Lions Club Annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday March 12th from 8:00am to 1:00pm at the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center; advance tickets: \$7.00, at the door: \$8.00. Lions will be conducting pediatric eye screening; grandchildren and great grandchildren, ages 3-10, can make use of the pediatric screening. At the same time, used eye glasses and used hearing aids (in plastic bags) can be placed in a collection box in the back of the room. **STEVE MARINO** then advised us that tests had been run for the meeting sound system on March 8th in order to successfully balance volume and clarity in announcements and presentations. **TOM HEALY** followed to inform us that the RMA choral group, The Melody Men, have seen their group membership diminish due to travel and health changes. **TOM** encouraged RMA members with singing experience to consider joining Melody Men to aid in full group presentations. Three **returnees** were then announced: **LOUIS CHIAPETTA** from Fort Myers, Florida, **WAYNE DEVRIES** from

South Africa & Zimbabwe and **GRANT PERKINS** from the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Visiting: **CHUCK STANDARD** reported that **JOE MALARA** can be called at 203-394-5389 and **JOHN HARRIS** is located at the Greenwich Hospital. **ROBERT WHITBY** has returned from recuperation and **CHUCK** welcomed back **TIM NOLAN** as well as **DAVID DOWNS**.

Membership: **HORST TEBBE** then followed advising us that 105 members were present along with candidates Rick Holz, Andrew Kuplesky, Peter Stern and James Chung. The guests were: Cro Martin, guest of **JOHN CARON** and Bill Grep, guest of **JACK POOLE**. With enthusiastic words, **KURT SCHAFFIR** and **HOLLISTER STURGES** then stepped forward to propose and sponsor James Chung for membership. Mr. Chung was accepted by a universal affirmation and inducted by President **RALPH VIGGIANO**. Those celebrating **birthdays** are **THOMAS DUFF**, 82; **DEMETRIO PELICANO**, 93; **MICHAEL A. RYAN** 78; **ROSWELL M. CURTIS**, 92; **FRANK A ZAVATTARO**, 85; **WILLIAM C. HOWLAND**, 75; and **JOHN FEBLES**, 72.

Today's Speaker: **TED SPOOL** announced that today's speaker would be Dan Marcy on "Building the New NY Bridge Over the Tappan Zee" (see below for details).

Next Week's Speaker: **STEVE MYERS** followed with the statement that the speaker for next week will be Dr. Daniel Ksepka on "The Largest Known Flying Animal". Popular speaker and writer, he is Curator of Science at the Bruce Museum.

STEPHEN MARINO delivered the **VOLUNTEERS** REPORT: stating that during last week, 522 hours were reported for outside agencies by 42 members; 136 hours were reported for RMA activities by 25 members. **MIKE RYAN** put in 50 hours

GAMES

Bridge: **KURT SCHAFFIR** related that 12 players were present for RMA bridge. Top score was 3710 by **DICK CASE** followed by **BRUNO SCHRAGE** at 3050 and **JAMES CHUNG** at 2500. **Tennis:** **MICHAEL AMOROSO**, the new Chairman of the Tennis Committee, reported that **MIKE SMITH** and **PETER ORBANOWSKI** won in court #1 while **RON FRIEDMAN** and **BRUNO SCHRAGE** were victors on Court #2. Next week's Captain is **PETER STREICH**. **MICHAEL** also stated that tennis on the Cos Cob courts will open soon; members can sign up for the season which includes a \$100.00 fee.

Golf: **MIKE RYAN** reported that the golf season opens on Tuesday, April 5th. Tee times begin at 8:30am on April 5th and 12th but at 10:15am on April 19th and 26th. Sign up sheets will be available next week. New golfers are more than welcome.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

TED SPOOL introduced **Dan Marcy**, a member of the New NY Bridge Project's outreach team who caught our attention with his presentation of "Building a New Bridge Over the Tappan Zee". Mr. Marcy reviewed past efforts to build the bridge over the Hudson River adding that Governor Cuomo had set the project in motion with unions and financial sources in 2012. Two bridges with four lanes each will be built for a total cost of \$3.98 billion. Pedestrian and bicycle paths will also be provided with full completion expected in 2018. A combined slide and video presentation was very effective in viewing the progress of the construction and hearing workers' enthusiastic comments.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Metropolitan Museum of Art, Thursday, April 21. This guided tour of the American Wing and lunch in the Petrie Court Café costs \$95.00 per person. The bus departs from St. Catherine's at 8:30am.

Goodspeed Opera House, May 26th, for Cole Porter's "Anything Goes". Lunch at Gelston House. Cost is \$105.00 per person. The bus departs St. Catherine's at 10:00am.

Belmont Race Track on Thursday, June 16th. Lunch is in the Belmont Room buffet. The cost is \$75.00 per person. The bus departs St. Catherine's at 10:30 am.

*Events are open to members, spouses, candidates and guests. Checks are payable to RMA . For questions call **GERRY LESSUK** (203 698 9541) (gerrless@att.net) or **ABBEY SMOLER**(293 5310236) abbeysmoler@gmail.com.*

NEXT WEEK

Dr. Daniel Ksepka will address us on "The Largest Known Flying Animal", Popular speaker and writer, he is the Curator of Science at that Bruce Museum.

Scribe : **JIM BUTLER**

Visit the RMA website at www.greenwichrma.org