

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, 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*

President BOB PHILLIPS called the meeting to order promptly at 10:00 AM sharp and introduced DON CONWAY to lead us in The Pledge. With GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE at the keyboard, BOB MORGAN led us in singing, The *Marine Corps Hymn*, and two springtime favorites: *Red, Red Robin* and *April Showers*. HARRY TWITCHELL told of the adventures of three clergymen (priest, minister and rabbi), who set out to convert a bear and found the experience very trying – especially the rabbi, who had thought suggesting circumcision was a good approach.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: BOB PHILLIPS reminded all that annual RMA dues of \$70 need to be paid no later than May 31, 2015. Checks should be made payable to RMA and given to HORST TEBBE. **Please note your current email address and phone number on your check** to help HORST prepare an accurate up-to-date membership list. JOHN DECSEPEL announced that the Greenwich Players of the Greenwich Symphony have two upcoming performances of works by Saint-Saens, Beethoven and DuBois: Sunday, April 12 at 4:00 PM at the Round Hill Community Church; Monday, April 13 at 7:30 PM at The Bruce Museum.

RETURNEES: This week's returnees are: JIM SANTORA (Barcelona and Madrid); BOB PHILLIPS (Austria and Germany); WAYNE DEVRIES (China, Hong Kong, Australia).

COMMITTEE REPORTS: **Visiting:** CHUCK STANDARD reported that RICH LIMBACHER has had surgery and is likely to be absent from meetings for several months. CHUCK welcomed back RON KLINGNER.

Program: JOHN DECSEPEL announced that today's speaker will be Dr. Susan Bissell, Chief of Child Protection at UNICEF. JOHN also announced that next week's speaker will be Ambassador April Foley, former U.S. ambassador to Hungary, who will address the RMA on Russia, The Ukraine and the Political Situation in Europe.

Membership: HORST TEBBE reported 97 members present along with 2 candidates (Gerry Gibian, Rick Hulz), and 1 guest (Don MacKenzie). This week's **Birthday Boys:** SANDY BUCHSBAUM (88) and MARTIN WAINE (81).

Special Events: GERRY LESSUK announced that three trips are currently scheduled. See details below. **Volunteers:** GRANT PERKINS reported that, for the week ending April 8, 2015, 46 men reported 603 volunteer hours on behalf of outside agencies and 30 men reported 107 volunteer hours on behalf of RMA. The most hours (76) were reported by BILL SALTSMAN.

FUN AND GAMES: **Bridge:** KURT SCHAFFIR reported that the April 1, 2015, game drew 11 players. DICK CASE was high scorer with 3670 followed by RON FRIEDMAN with 2650 and GRANT PERKINS with 2540.

Tennis: BERNARD SCHNEIDER reported he and RON FRIEDMAN were winners on Court 1 and that there was no activity on Court 2.

Golf: MIKE RYAN noted that the weather promises to be good for the entire season and that sign-up sheets have been posted for the next three weeks. MIKE is still in need of hosts for several weeks during the season and would welcome volunteers. He reminded players to remit their \$15 annual dues ASAP. Make checks payable to RMA.

TODAY'S SPEAKER: Dr. Susan Bissell, Chief of Child Protection at UNICEF, spoke to us on the issue of Protecting Children from Violence: The Globalization Challenge. Dr. Bissell, who has served UNICEF in various countries during her career, explained the role of her organization within the framework of the UN, and its key current focus on protecting the interests of children in war torn countries. She explained that, with limited resources in terms of people and money, and within the limitations of what she described as three streams of law, her organization is leading the way in negotiating the return of upwards of 10,000 children soldiers (children under age 18 recruited to serve in various armies) to their homes. Dr. Bissell's very enlightening presentation will soon be available on the RMA website: www.greenwichrma.org.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Open to all Members, Guests, Candidates and spouses. Checks should be made out to RMA.

Goodspeed Opera House: "Guys and Dolls" -Thursday, May 28. Lunch at Gelston House. \$115 per person. Status: Wait List.

Belmont Raceway: Thursday, June 18, lunch in Belmont Room (Dress code: Men jackets and ties; women dress or pants suit). \$75 per person. Status: 10 places available.

Tanglewood: Boston Symphony Orchestra, Sunday August 9, lunch at Apple Tree Inn. \$125 per person. Status: Open - places available.

For more details and to sign-up, contact GERRY LESSUK (gerrless@att.net, 203-698-9451)

NEXT WEEK

Next week the RMA will welcome **Ambassador April Foley**

Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org.

Respectfully Submitted: **Ed Farrell**

