

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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April 22, 2015

“America, America, God shed His grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea” -Katherine Lee Bates.

Presiding for the next to last time as RMA president, BOB PHILLIPS opened the meeting at 10am by introducing JOE MALARA to lead the pledge. JOE did so in memory of those who died in World War Two, particularly the 6 million Jews executed in The Holocaust. We welcomed GEORGE UBOGY back at the Steinway, as he and WIN ADKINS led us in singing “The Battle Hymn of the Republic”, “Oh What a Beautiful Morning” and “April Showers”. BILL DYNAN recounted a droll account of a “good Samaritan” lady from the IRS saving the life of a choking child at a lunch counter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Miriam Mennin of the Greenwich Tree Conservancy told us about a celebration of its 8th anniversary with a fundraising party to be held on Arbor Day, Friday, April 24, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at McArdle’s Florist&Garden Center on Arch Street. The Conservancy’s goal is to plant 375 trees on public and non-profit lands in Greenwich this year. For further info, e-mail treeconserv@optonline.net. HORST TEBBE sang the praises of the Pomona College Glee Club, who will appear at the First Presbyterian (Fish) Church 1101 Bedford St. Stamford on Thursday, May 28 at 7:30 p.m. The price is right at “free admission”. BOB PHILLIPS reminded us that annual dues should be paid during the month of May. Your check payable to RMA must include in its memo section your neatly printed e-mail address. GRAN BURGESS advised us that he belongs to a performing group called the Theater Arts Workshop, who are presenting this coming weekend “The Man Who Came to Dinner”, with GRAN playing the role of Professor Metz. Location is 5 Gregory Boulevard, Norwalk, CT. Performances are Friday and Saturday at 8pm; Sunday at 3pm. A \$10 voluntary donation is suggested. PETER UHRY informed us of a Binney Park meeting to be held this evening, April 22, at 7:30, Eastern Civic Center. All interested in the future of Binney Park are urged to attend and have your voice heard. **Returnees:** BOB PHILLIPS announced that SAM YORK has returned from Sedona, AZ.

COMMITTEE REPORTS **Visiting:** CHUCK STANDARD announced that RICHARD LIMBACHER is recovering from having one knee replaced, and steeling himself for the other knee replacement. He also reported that RON KLINGNER, MEL MARGULIS and DON O’KEEFE are recovering. **Program:** JOHN DECSEPEL advised us that the speaker scheduled for this morning had called JOHN early today to advise that he was ill and could not appear. See details below. PETE MCSPADDEN told us that next week’s speaker will be **Tom Niles**, who has served 36 years in the United States Foreign Service. Ambassador Niles served as Ambassador to Canada and to the

European Union, and to Greece. **Membership:** HORST TEBBE recounted that there were 111 RMA members, 2 candidates and 2 guests present today. Candidates were Rick Holz and Dick Ford. Guest Don MacKenzie brought by JIM BUTLER, and Charlie Jensen, guest of JIM SANTORA. The **birthdays** we celebrate are JOSEPH DEVITA, 85; PATRICK LINSKEY, 71; REID MCINTYRE, 83; AV RIVEL, 79; BILL DYNAN, 92; BOB ROBINS, 77; JIM SMERIGLIO, 89; GERRY BOYLE, 77; WALT HOWE, 82 and RON WILSON, 73. **INDUCTEE:** WIN ADKINS and LLOYD HULL presented **F. Richards Ford, III** (“Dick”) for membership. A graduate of Hopkins School, Princeton University, and UVA Law School, Dick worked as an attorney and a banker before becoming self-employed. He was Exec. VP of both State National Bank and of CBT. He’s a sportsman, and enjoys acting and music. A unanimous affirmation from the membership ushered DICK FORD into membership. **Special Events:** (see below) Also BOB ROBINS announced the next ROMEO luncheon on May 6 at the Stanwich Club after the RMA meeting. Price \$40. Sign up; make checks payable to the RMA. **VOLUNTEERS:** ED BLOOM reported that 497 hours were clocked by 57 members on outside activities; 30 hours on RMA functions. Most hours were reported (45) by an anonymous member.

GAMES: **Golf:** PETER COLEMAN gave us the figures: 11 players, all under par. **Tennis:** RALPH VIGGIANO served up the report that JIM HIMES and Fred Baker were winners on Court 1; RON FRIEDMAN and SAM MARASSO on Court 1. TONY RIGGI is captain next week. **Bridge:** WAYNE DEVRIES reported that BRUNO SCHRAGE was high man at 3650, TOM MCEVOY at 3410 and RALPH VIGGIANO at 3250. BOB PHILLIPS announced that the Westport retired men are planning a June trip to Yankee Stadium. Sign-up sheet is on bulletin board if you’d like to accompany them.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Checks to be payable to RMA. Open to all members, their guests, candidates and spouses.

GERRY LESSUK reviewed three upcoming events: “**Guys and Dolls**” at Goodspeed on May 28; lunch at Gelston House, \$115; fully booked. Please advise him your food selection. **Belmont Race Track on June 18**, \$75, lunch at track; fully booked. Tanglewood August 9, \$125, 18 places still available.

TODAY’S SPEAKER: The speaker scheduled for today phoned in sick to JOHN DECSEPEL early today. JOHN, always resourceful, procured an excellent alternate, **Ed Haynes**, whose interest is partially in our Revolutionary War. He concentrated on the Danbury Raid and the Battle of Ridgefield in 1777. The outnumbered patriots, despite Gen. Benedict Arnold’s best efforts, were outsmarted and outnumbered by the British troops. He spoke without notes, and illustrated his talk with slides. A lively question and answer period followed.

NEXT WEEK’S SPEAKER: Tom Niles – Ambassador (see above)

Scribe, GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE

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