

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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May 4, 2016

*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*

In his debut as new President, PETER UHRY not only rang a mean bell at 10:01am, but shouted out to the back of the auditorium to corral the stragglers. He described two historical events of some significance from many moons ago on today's date, May 4th: Pope Alexander 11th divided America between Portugal and Spain, and Rhode Island declared its independence from Great Britain.

LOU CHIAPPETTA then led us in a robust Pledge of Allegiance followed by our singing three songs under the note-able voice of ERF PORTER: *God Bless America, Margie,* and *On the Sunny Side of the Street.*

Corresponding Secretary of the day, GERRY SCHWENDEMAN, drew a hearty response to a tail (er, tale) about how smart the blond farmer's wife was in helping the artificial cow inseminator nail it. And that's no bull!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President UHRY returned to remind us that \$80 Annual Dues are due. Pay up please.

He mentioned three community programs of importance and interest:

1. Community Gardens for the handicapped have been established near the Montgomery Pinetum.
2. On the morning of May 14th the Friends of Calf Island are holding a Spring Clean-up; get details from Lucy Guillet (203-637-4064) and join the mile-offshore boat trip with or without your kids/grandkids.
3. From 8am until 1pm on May 7th, Greenwich Green and Clean is sponsoring a Household Hazardous Waste Day at Island Beach Parking Lot on Arch Street; call Town Hall (203-622-7838 or 203-869-6910) for details.

PETER reported that ARTO SZABO, our long-time excellent RMA photographer will be moving to Florida "soon" and asked for volunteers to assume the role; picture yourself in that position – and make it snappy.

TED EWING was our only returnee, from Santa Barbara, CA.

RALPH VIGGIANO already missed being up front and announced that Dr. John Rowe from Columbia University will be giving a lecture on The Challenges and Opportunities of an Aging Society on May 19th, 7pm, at Cole Auditorium, Greenwich Library

(www.eventseries.org); there is no charge to attend but registration is suggested (203-532-0500).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VISITING: CHUCK STANDARD told us that DICK RADCLIFFE who had a stroke is still struggling; JOE MALARA is still on the mend; and JACK BAUSMAN is in Stamford Hospital after a 9 hour operation for aorta repair.

PROGRAM: GEORGE UBOGY previewed today's talk by **Dr. Earnest Fleishman**; details below. He also announced that next week, **Caroline Kohl**, a "corrective exercise trainer," will tell us how to avoid falls and fractures, and maintain proper posture and balance, in case we get old.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE reported 113 members and two guests: Bill O'Donnell g/o PETER STERN and Don Breismeister g/o WAYNE DEVRIES. Also attending were four candidates, Walker Collins, Wally Beneville, Michael Finlay and Harold Kuplesky. Mike and Harold helped the RMA ranks to grow today with their inductions.

- MICHAEL FINLAY was introduced for membership by GEORGE STOCKBRIDGE and ERF PORTER; among his many skills, Mike is an active chorister and plays the ukulele.
- DICK BERGSTRESSER and ARTO SZABO introduced HAROLD KUPLESKY, a former Brooklynite who was involved in public housing development and management in NYC.

Welcome gents!

Horst mentioned that although we now have 247 members, over 100 have yet to pay their dues; be warned that failure to do so will excommunicate you.

This week's birthday lads are MARIO BONAPARTE 91, DONALD HERMANN 82, and CHARLES SHIBETTI 81.

VOLUNTEERS: GERRY MAYFIELD told us that 418 hours were reported by 49 men for outside agencies and 146 hours by 31 men for RMA activities. The most hours, 38, were reported by BOB CAREY.

FUN AND GAMES

BRIDGE: DICK CASE reported that on April 27th, 12 player's shuffled partners. High scorers were GRANT PERKINS (4980), JAMES CHUNG (4380) and DICK CASE (3730).

GOLF: MIKE RYAN apologized for the rain that led to a cancellation.

TENNIS: RON FRIEDMAN lobbied the results for April 29th: SAM MARASSO and MIKE AMBROSINO on Court 1, and RON FRIEDMAN and BILL FAKUNDINY on Court 2. The indoor tennis stalwarts will hold a lunch in the Fairways Restaurant at the Griffith Harris Golf Course on Wednesday, May 11th at 12:45pm; the cost will be about \$15 per

person. Contact MIKE AMBROSINO (203-629-1897 or brooklynoil@yahoo.com). TED SPOOL would like everyone to know that summer tennis has begun on the usual Mondays and Thursdays from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM at Town tennis courts off Loughlin Avenue in Cos Cob.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Dr. Earnest Fleishman, Superintendent of Greenwich Schools from 1976 – 1989, and now a Senior VP at Scholastic Books, spoke to us about “Key Strategies for Improving America’s Schools,” drawing on his 45 years of experience in public education. Interestingly, the greatest influence on his career was his work with an Upward Bound Program in Pittsburgh just after finishing graduate school, where he recognized the variables affecting learning and possibly how to influence them. In his view, the purpose of education is to impart skills and knowledge sufficient for creating employable and good citizens, who also have the capacity to improve the lives of others.

While learning inequality is still a major problem in this country, due mainly to individual and community income/wealth inequality, he feels strongly that every student should have a “fair shot” at a higher education. He outlined the importance of focusing on how and what students learn (learning as the “bottom line”) rather than on policy and standardized testing, which he regards as “out of control” over the past few years. Among his prescriptions for improvement: teach students how to ask good questions, e.g., on the why and how, rather than regurgitation of facts.

It is important to teach students how to be independent learners on the one hand, while acquiring team-working skills on the other. Studies have shown that the greatest influence on effective learning is effective teaching; we as a society must do much more to attract, train and honor good teachers by inspiring young people to consider a teaching career.

Family engagement is also critical; parents in homes where books, reading, and conversation are lacking must be supported by school and community programs to help them help their children. Finally, using technology for teaching must only be an adjunct to the all-important personal encounter between the pupil and teacher. His talk was covered by the Greenwich Time:

<http://www.greenwichtime.com/printpromotion/article/Ex-schools-chief-talks-education-to-RMA-7394085.php>

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

We will be fortunate to have GERRY LESSUK (203-698-9451) as a sign-up contact until June 17, 2016, when he will relinquish his leadership to ABBEY SMOLER (abbeysmoler@gmail.com, 203-531-0236) and MIKE FERRARESE (203-554-0678, myagentmike@yahoo.com). See below for upcoming event details.

Goodspeed Opera House. The musical “Anything Goes.” Thursday, May 26, 2016. Lunch at Gelston House. Cost: \$105.00 per person. Bus leaves St. Catherine’s at 10:00 AM. Status: Waiting list

Belmont Racetrack. Thursday, June 16, 2016. Buffet lunch in Belmont Room. Cost: \$75.00 per person. Bus leaves St. Catherine’s at 10:30 AM. Status: Open – 16 places available.

For more details and to sign-up, contact GERRY LESSUK (gerrless@att.net, 203-698-9451) or ABBEY SMOLER (abbeysmoler@gmail.com, 203-531-0236)

NEXT WEEK’S SPEAKER

RMA will welcome **Ms Carolyn Kohl**, who will explain how to keep our old bodies healthy and in shape.

Your humble Scribbler: Arnold J. Gordon

Visit our website at www.greenwichrma.org

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