

CIGAR BOX BULLETIN

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September 16, 2015

*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*

President RALPH VIGGIANO called the meeting to order promptly at 10:00 AM. BOB ROBINS led and dedicated the Pledge to Lt. JG Francis L. Toner IV who was awarded the Silver Star posthumously after being killed while bravely protecting fellow soldiers from an attack by an Afghan jihadi at Camp Shaheen, Afghanistan in March 2009. With GEORGE UBOGY at the keyboard, TOM HEALY led us in robustly singing *Battle Hymn of the Republic, Oklahoma, and Oh, What a Beautiful Morning*. JOHN HARRIS was Corresponding Secretary with a story about a shared McMuffin, some coffee and one set of false teeth!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President RALPH had several announcements:

1. A nice thank you note was received from Ann Burns, widow of recently departed member TED BURNS, for RMA's expression of sympathy to her and the family;
2. He reminded everyone about membership rules dictated by the Policy and Procedure Manual, namely, that active membership requires dues payment (there are no honorary members);
3. An appeal was made again for someone to volunteer for the important Publicity Chairman position, vacated by the passing of BERNARD SCHNEIDER;
4. Since the CBB is the official record of RMA activities, it is important that all game scores be presented;
5. RALPH showed a copy of the current RMA brochure used for prospective members and mentioned that a new version is in preparation;
6. In spite of the rain, a successful picnic was held indoors at the Eastern Civic Center on Thursday, September 10th; special thanks were given to picnic volunteers BOB BISHOP, DON CONWAY, JIM FAHY, ARNOLD GORDON, ROGER PISANI, DON SARGEANT, JAY SCHONDORF, PAUL SETTELMAYER, and PETER UHRY.
7. Member LOU MILANI (203-625-0700; lou.milani@gmail.com) who lives in back country Greenwich would appreciate a ride to weekly RMA meetings.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

TOM HEALY reminded everyone about the new free parking rules that went into effect on July 16, 2015 for the lot behind the church: you must park only in metered locations and display the RMA parking permit on top of the dashboard near the windshield. Otherwise, be prepared to get a \$75 fine.

PETER UHRY announced that the community-wide Greenwich Reads Together event will take place on October 28th with the book *Americanah – A Novel*, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (see www.greenwichreadstogether.org); copies of the book are available at the library.

He also reminded us about the annual lunch/dinner on November 4th and that all Table Hosts should obtain their sign-up sheets from him, but in his absence for the next two weeks, give completed forms with full payment (\$50 per person) to ARNOLD GORDON.

BOB PHILLIPS asked for driver volunteers for Meals-on-Wheels (contact Lynne Stewart at 203-869-1312 or online greenwichmow@optonline.net), which now delivers 110 meals on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and 85-90 on Tuesday and Thursday; weekend meals are delivered on Fridays.

JERRY SCHWENDEMAN reported that 18 members have signed up to walk or ride at the Town's 375th Anniversary Parade on Sunday, September 27th; it will begin at 2pm from Town Hall. Four vehicles will be available for those who have trouble walking. More members are needed for this important event.

RALPH VIGGIANO mentioned the Health and Wellness Expo will take place on October 1st at the Eastern Civic Center; for information and offers to man the RMA table, see or call DON CONWAY (203-869-3448).

Returnees according to RALPH were STEVE MYERS from Germany and TED EWING from Maine.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VISITING: CHUCK STANDARD reported that for the second week in a row, no one was in the hospital or rehab. Hurray!

PROGRAM: JOHN deCSEPEL urged members to stay for today's speaker, Dr. Maryan Ainsworth, Curator of European Paintings at the Metropolitan Museum in NYC. She is an Old Greenwich resident who has a BA from Oberlin and a PhD from Yale, and specializes in northern European renaissance paintings. Details below. JOHN CARON reported that next week's speaker will be Ajit Huthseesing from Mumbai, India. He has

family connections to some of that country's most prominent leaders (Nehru, Ghandi) and will provide an insider's look at that the country and its surging economy.

MEMBERSHIP: HORST TEBBE reported that 119 members and one 1 candidate (Peter Tunley) were in attendance, out of the full paid membership of 234. **Birthday boys** were JAMES SANTORA (74), JOHN TONER (69), NAOKI ACHIWA (70), and HARRY TWITCHELL (94). DOUG and Eleanor FRANCEFORT celebrated their 65th anniversary today – nice work DOUG!

HORST mentioned that some members were hitting the Unsubscribe, or Update Your Preferences choices on the Mail Chimp deliveries of the CBB or speaker announcement. Thou shalt not do that anymore!

SPECIAL EVENTS: ABBY SMOLER announced that the next trip will be to Westchester Broadway Theater on September 17th. On Thursday, October 22nd, the musical "A Wonderful Life" will be the treat at Goodspeed Opera House. See below for more details.

VOLUNTEERS: GERRY MAYFIELD reported that for the week ending June 15, 2015, 55 men reported a very respectable 570 volunteer hours on behalf of outside agencies and 38 men reported 214 volunteer hours on behalf of RMA. BOB RIMMER reported the most hours with 58.

FUN AND GAMES

BRIDGE: KURT SCHAFFIR reported that the September 9, 2015 game drew 16 players. LEN SAARI led with 3790 followed by FRANK LEE 3750, and BOB UNDERWOOD 3350 points.

GOLF: MIKE RYAN gave the results for the 14 players on September 15th; 11 completed 18 holes. Closest to the pin on 7 and 15 were, respectively, JOHN AWAZ and TED EWING; TED also had the longest drive on 17. Notable scores: NICKY ACHIWA 95, REID McINTYRE 91, and the champ TED EWING with an enviable 77. MIKE RYAN is host next week.

TENNIS: RALPH VIGGIANO told us that RON FRIEDMAN and PETER STREICHER prevailed on Court 1, while RALPH and BRUNO SCHRAGE won on Court 2. MIKE SMITH is captain next week.

TODAY'S SPEAKER

Maryan Ainsworth described the history of the Metropolitan Museum and how its collections and structures have evolved since its founding in 1870 as the largest art museum in the United States and among the most visited art museums in the

world. She explained with colorful slides her specialty as curator of the collection of 16th century masterpieces mostly from Netherlands and Germany, the most important collection in the U.S. Most came from private collections, including from J. P. Morgan. The acquisition of important paintings from individuals or institutions for loan or purchase was described as a complex, lengthy and often difficult process. She mentioned that should one of the rare Albrecht Durer paintings come up for sale, it would command a price of at least \$50 million, a rarity for old masters. She urged the very large audience, with many women in attendance, to visit her galleries to appreciate the beauty and workmanship of the displays.

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

Westchester Broadway Theater: Thursday, September 17, includes lunch. \$85 per person.

Goodspeed Opera House: Thursday, October 22nd, lunch at Gelston House. \$115 per person. Status: 30 signed up; spots still available; number must be finalized at next week's meeting so get your money in if you wish to attend.

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

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

The RMA will welcome **Ajit Huthseesing** who will provide an insider's view of India. He has family connections to some of that country's most prominent leaders (Nehru, Ghandi) and will provide an insider's look at that the country and its surging economy.

Visit our website at www.greenwichtma.org

Respectfully Submitted: Arnold J. Gordon