

# MEN'S CLUB NEWS

## The Men's Club: WE'RE BAAAAAAK! Breakfast is Back at Buffy's!



BY HOWARD ARKIN

It had been almost a year-and-a-half since our last club breakfast and you could sense the excitement as the first members began to arrive at Buffy's at 9 am on June 1st. The wit and wisdom of the club would soon be on display for all to see and hear.

Some have compared us to the Algonquin Round Table of bygone days. The main difference is that we have more members and our table has more of a rectangular shape. We had a nice crowd for the first three breakfasts, which included a few new members and some newly arrived Florida expatriates.

As usual, the discussions were very eclectic, ranging from elections (both board and mayoral) to the collapse of the Knicks. The Men's Club was well represented in the board election having three members, Richard Levine, Barry Berman, Henry Greenberg, and Rhonda Schorr, the wife of club member Jason Schorr, running.

It was good to play the Guess the Picture game again. This is a game in which Artie Rose shows us a picture that he has put on his iPhone and we guess the location of the picture. I'm still



Waiting for their oatmeal! Photo by Toby Horowitz

basking in my glory having guessed correctly the Canarsie Pier last year. I've had no success since. Artie, have you taken any pictures of The Statue of Liberty recently?

As many of you might know, the Men's Club breakfast of choice is Buffy's world-renowned oatmeal—in this case, the world extending to the ATM machine in the arcade.

At our first breakfast, something went terribly wrong. Arnold Feldman's and Yale Kessler's oatmeal was too watery, as was mine. They chose not to send theirs back as I did. When my perfect lumpy replacement arrived I offered them a few

tablespoons of mine which they both graciously accepted. All's well that ends well.

During the COVID-19 pandemic we had the misfortune to lose two of our breakfast regulars, Howard Kimmel and Paul Detkin, who were both gentlemen of the highest order and are sorely missed.

The breakfasts are only the first step in the club's return to action. Toby and Jerry are planning the return of bingo, our monthly dinners, the BBQ and some other surprises. To those members who have not attended any of the breakfasts, consider this an invitation. We know how to make the table longer.

**MEN'S CLUB BREAKFAST AT BUFFY'S:  
EVERY TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY  
AT 9AM.**

Please join us for an in-person chance to mingle with some of your fellow members while enjoying breakfast or just a cup of coffee. Come and enjoy comradeship after a long withdrawn period of in-person activities caused by COVID. See ya there, Toby

## Guest Lecturer Richard Knox - Rodgers and Hammerstein

BY HOWARD ARKIN

On June 10, Richard Knox made his second Zoom appearance before the North Shore Towers Men's Club, speaking from all places, Omaha, Nebraska. Richard discussed the careers of musical composers Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein. These enormously talented men were responsible for revolutionizing Broadway musical theater, and their collaboration gave us the shows that ushered in Broadway's Golden Age.

Their first show, and considered by many to be their best, was "Oklahoma," opening on March 31, 1943, to overwhelming reviews. The show ran for five years and in 1955 it reached the silver screen, winning an Academy Award for the musical duo. Their second success, which followed two years later, was "Carousel." Despite having a tragic plot, the songs were very uplifting.

Three of the most well-known are "June is Busting Out All Over," "If I Loved You" and "You'll Never Walk Alone." That same year they gave us the music to "State Fair," this being the only time they wrote a score directly for a film. The film won an Oscar for the song "It Might As Well Be Spring."

Their last great hit of the 1940s was "South Pacific," which opened in April of 1949. The story was based on James Michener's book "Tales of the South Pacific." In one of the show's songs, "You've Got to Be Carefully Taught," they hit on issues of racism and injustice. This would become a theme in some of their later shows as well. One such show was "The King and I," which opened in 1951 and ran for almost four years. Yul Brynner's performance in the show was instrumental in launching his film career. It also helped Gertrude Lawrence revive hers.

In 1957, Rodgers and

Hammerstein did their only collaborative effort for television when "Cinderella" was televised nationally. That same year they wrote the score for "Flower Drum Song." Despite both productions being deemed successful, neither one delivered the blockbuster hit songs as some of their other shows.

But wait, the best was yet to come. One day actress Mary Martin, a personal friend of Rodgers, came to him with an offer of a show on the condition that she was given the leading role. The leading role was that of a governess to an Austrian aristocrat's children during the time of Hitler's rise to power. As we all know, Rodgers accepted the offer and on the evening of November 16, 1959, "The Sound of Music" opened at the Lunt-Fontanne Theater. Six years later, "The Sound of Music" movie followed, becoming the highest grossing film of all time.

"The Sound of Music" was



Rodgers and Hammerstein's last collaboration. The song "Edelweiss," which our moderator played for us, was their last composition together. Oscar Hammerstein passed away at 65 years of age one year after "The Sound of Music" opened. Richard Rodgers died 19 years later at the age of 77.

As usual, after the lecture Toby opened the mike for questions and comments which proved to be interesting as well as insightful. The next morning during breakfast at Buffy's, the men could not have been more complimentary regarding the lecture. The melodies that were heard really resonated with them.

Jerry told us that he will try to get Richard to do another lecture in the future. I'm sure that if that entails him having to fly to Omaha, Jack Sevita would be more than happy to write the check. Ha Ha Ha!