

History Discussion Club

History story telling by Jim Ellenberger

The History Club meets the 4th Wednesday of the month and is open to everyone in the community. If you haven't been to one of the meetings, you have been missing one of the great amenities of Ocean Ridge. History Club contact is Mike Dailey.

The Plantation Club was packed on February 22nd with history lovers to hear Jim Ellenberger present a little known individual that had a large impact on unions in and outside of the United States -- Jay Lovestone. u would like to present a topic at one of the meetings.

An immigrant from Lithuania to the US, at Ellis island in 1907, Jay was at various times a member of the Socialist



Party of America, a leader of the Communist Party USA, leader of a small oppositionist party, an anti-Communist and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) helper, and foreign policy advisor to the leadership of the AFL-CIO and various unions within. By age 25, Jay

became editor of the Communist Party newspaper, *The Communist*, and sat on the editorial board of the *The Liberator*, the arts and letters publication of the Workers Party of America. Jay, however, did not agree with all the policies of the Communists when it came to American unions and, after a falling out with Stalin in 1928, he was expelled from the communist's party and detained in Moscow. With friends in key positions, Jay was able to use a fake passport and return to US. He soon emerged as one of the most effective anti-communists in the world and had his own network of

people working to counter the interests of the Soviet Union in Post-WWII Europe and throughout the developing world. Lovestone directed the international operations of the AFL-CIO for decades and used funds provided to him for that purpose by the CIA. One of his best friends was the legendary director of counterintelligence at the CIA, James Angleton. The FBI file on Lovestone is reported to be 5,700 pages long. Jay Lovestone has been described as "one of the five most important men in the hidden power structure of America." He has said of himself that he was such a good anti-communist because we were once good communists.

Some have said that Jay's life is one of the great-untold stories of the twentieth century but, through another great History Club presentation, Jim Ellenberger has now told that story to the Ocean Ridge community.



Jay Lovestone with David Dubinsky 
speaking at a union rally in the 1930s

LitWits "Meet the Author" Jim Ellenberger



Lovers of political thrillers filled the Plantation Club on March 16th to hear about a debut novel “*High Hand*” written by a pseudonym for three collaborators — Curtis Harris, James Rosen and James Ellenberger (Jim). An international spy thriller, this book is an exciting read about the culture of the U.S. spy community. Synopsis: Poker buddies discover why they are being targeted for assassination and find a surprising ally to learn the truth.

Jim, a Vietnam veteran, resides at Ocean Ridge Plantation. He intrigued the minds leading the discussion about how the book came to be written. “Each writer brought different strengths to the table: Curt in science, Jim Rosen in journalism and Russian affairs, and me in international intrigue and politics. I have either worked or been in close association with numerous trade union leaders who have gone on, usually at great personal risk, to distinguished political careers in their own countries” ([Book Pleasures](#)).

[Pleasures](#)).

The LitWits contact is Joyce Erickson.

Resources about the book: [Star News](#), [Spy Museum](#), and [Connection Newspapers](#)



[CLICK HERE](#) to find out more about the authors and the book