

Southern Connecticut mensa

SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS FOR JUNE

Sunday, June 11, 5 pm-midnight, Blues Bash Benefit event for WPKN at the Blues Café, 71 Whitney Ave., New Haven (203-499-BLUE). FROM Janine Bujalski, Jazz SIG leader: This is not an official JazzSig outing, but an FYI about an upcoming Blues event. Featured bands will be: Smokin' Opey Blues Band, Garry & the Moodswingers, Ryan Hartt & the Blue Hearts, and Triple Thread Blues Band. This year all the bands are electric blues (rather than acoustic) and they are among the best of the local blues bands. The music will be very, very good, but it will be LOUD. The Blues Cafe is a nice place. Casual. (Jeans are acceptable attire.) On street parking nearby. This particular evening a pub/late night menu (sandwiches, salads, from &4.99-8.99) will be available. And there is Guinness on tap.

Admission is \$10 at the door. There is no reserved seating, but if a few people commit to meeting there at about 5 pm we can probably save some seats. I've helped to organized this event and may have to do some coordinating over the course of the evening, so I don't know how much time I'll have to socialize.

The Blues Cafe is two blocks from the New Haven Green, a block and a half off of exit 3 on I-91. Any questions, send an email, give a call to Janine at 72764.2451@compuserve.com, phone: (203) 624-3701

Wednesday, June 14, 7:00. Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner. This regular dinner is now being held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Old Sorrento Restaurant, Newtown Road, Danbury, CT. Interested Mensans should contact Ward Mazzucco at (203) 744-1929, ext. 25, wjm@danburylaw.com, or Rev. Bill Loring at (203) 794-1389.

Saturday, June `17, 7:00. Monthly dinner, Three Door Restaurant, 1775 Madison Ave., Bridgeport. Jack Lander will discuss the pitfalls and benefits of "Angel Financing" for entrepreneurs and inventors. No, it isn't money from heaven though it may seem like it at times. Jack Lander is president of the United Inventors Association, VP of the Yankee Expo, VP and founder of the Innovator's Guild of Danbury. Last month, Bob Berry discussed patenting your invention; this discussion will focus on the all-important financing of it. Jack is a longtime Mensan as well as being considered an "angel" by many inventors for his practical business and engineering advice.

Please call Lee Steuber at 203-730-1634 for information and reservations. Dinner is \$10.00 and includes everything but the cash bar. Dress is casual and guests are welcome.

Saturday, June 24, 4:00 p.m. THEATRE EVENT: *Man of La Mancha*, at the Goodspeed Opera House, 133 Main St., East Haddam, CT., 06779 (www.goodspeed.org). Mezzanine tickets are \$22. Please call or e-mail Jim Mizera at (203) 332-2548, Jmizera@hotmail.com for information or reservations. To assure tickets, reservations should be made by Sunday, June 18.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS FOR JULY

Wednesday, July 12, 7:00. Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner. See above listing for details.

Saturday, July 15, 7:00. Monthly dinner, Three Door Restaurant, 1775 Madison Ave., Bridgeport.

Saturday, July 22, 8:30 p.m. THEATRE EVENT: 1776 - *The Musical*, at the Ivoryton Playhouse, Main St., Ivoryton section of Essex, CT., 06442 (www.riverrep.com) Tickets are \$24. Please call or e-mail Jim Mizera at (203) 332-2548, Jmizera@hotmail.com for information or reservations. To assure tickets, reservations should be made by Sunday, July 16.

Sunday, July 23, 4:00 pm. Annual Mensa/Intertel Potluck Party at Lee Steuber's in Danbury. This is the summer party that draws people from Mensa and Intertel from all over the region – join us for good conversation and good food. Contact Lee Steuber at 203-730-1634 for directions and to coordinate food.

U.S. Shoots Self in the Foot Once Again
By Gerard Brooker

It is unfortunate that periodically our government embarrasses itself by the way it handles a crisis. See Kent State, Waco, and the 1968 Chicago Democratic convention, to name a few. At the state level, see Attica, for example.

Our leaders seem to have too little patience in a crisis, and when they do exercise patience, as President Carter and his government did in the Iranian hostage deadlock, they are considered weak.

In recent days we have experienced another government crisis snafu as it wrestled Elian Gonzalez from his Cuban-American custodians in Miami. Certainly, they had the legal right to break and enter to get the boy. It was not what they did but how they did it that is causing consternation. Trashing the house, obscene language, deadly threats. Although most of this was unnecessary, it is understandable, though not excusable.

However, it is the photo image of the edgy, perhaps frightened, marshall accosting the Gonzalez boy and the protective man holding him, that has damaged the voice of our leaders once again. Indeed, a picture speaks a thousand words. And in this case, the echo of previous overkills. And the echo was heard around the world.

The photograph, sad to say, is becoming another icon of American over-reaction. The marshall is seen telling the boy and man something, and his body language appears threatening. He has a powerful 9 mm sub-machine gun pointing in the general direction of the obviously frightened pair. It is a modern high-tech weapon confronting a child. It was explained later by the Attorney General that this was standard operating procedure, as if that justified the action.

Couple the image of a life-threatening weapon with a middle of the night raid, and the photograph has quickly drawn comparisons to the shameful tactics used by tyrannical and fascist governments of the past and present. The taut, fear-filled face of Elian Gonzalez adds to the shocking nature of the image.

It is ironic that the Clinton administration which has secured its continuity by manipulating words and deeds, and which has based many of its decisions on the results of opinion polls, would fail to instruct those who implemented the plan to seize the Gonzalez boy to use a modest and appropriate approach. It was never lost on the American public that although the boy is a pawn in a forty year struggle between Fidel Castro and the United States, he is in the end just a boy. Thus, to be handled without unnecessary threats.

It was ill-timed too that this week marked the first anniversary of the shootings at Columbine High School. In the wake of that tragedy, and other school shootings of the past several years, experts of every kind of credential have tried to fathom the cause or causes behind the shootings. Television, which on average depicts 20,000 murders

to each American by the time he or she reaches the age of twenty, has been blamed. So have violent films and computer games that teach the techniques of expert gun use such as quick kills to the head.

Parenting has taken more than its fair share of hits, as well as the schools. What the experts have failed to notice is that the government officials who make the decisions for authorized agents to pull the triggers are not very good models for the responsible use of guns. Sometimes when the law is broken or resisted without overt force, the government thinks it has the right to use force beyond reasonable bounds. It does not have that right, especially when the non-compliance is not itself a physical threat.

Our national leaders are our teachers, at least implicitly. If they have the authority to uphold the law, they also have the responsibility to back it in a manner equal to the offense. However, the style used to re-unite Elian Gonzalez with his father was fraught with fear and excess. I don't suppose that the infamous machine gun picture teaches the responsible use of guns. To excuse the use of a heavy weapon by saying it was on safety lock, or by saying the marshall's finger was not on the trigger, or that the weapon was pointed off to the right, as the Attorney General has said, speaks little for the skills of the agent who could have used the weapon to wound or to kill in a nano-second. Pistols and face-spray would have taught a less compelling lesson, yet a more reasonable one.

Ultimately, the drama of the past weeks has not been about a little boy from Cuba. It has been about US-Cuban relations of the past forty years. And it has been about the anger of the Cuban-American community towards Fidel Castro, and his need to have a little vengeance against America for the anachronistic embargo of his island.

Right or wrong, we expect much of those we love. In this regard, let us hope that our nation which was founded because its people valued life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, continues to expect its citizens to obey the law. But, when they do not, let us also hope that our government responds only in kind. Responsible use of weapons would be one important way for the government to show its love for its boss, the people.

If you wish to submit material, please write or e-mail Jim Mizera at PMB #181, 7365 Main St., Stratford, CT. 06614-1300, Jmizera@hotmail.com. E-mail submissions are preferred. Please include your name, address, and telephone number. Anonymous material will be rejected, although names will be withheld on request. Items will be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Currently, the deadline for postal submissions is the 15th of the month preceding publication, and the 20th of the month for e-mail submissions.

NOTED AND QUOTED

If we keep on doin' what we always done, we'll keep on getting' what we always got.

Barbara Lyons

It doesn't take talent to be on time.

Pete Reiser

An expert is somebody who is more than 50 miles from home, has no responsibility for implementing the advice he gives, and shows slides.

Edwin Meese

The nice thing about being a celebrity is that when you bore people, they think it's their fault.

Henry Kissinger

A legend is an old man with a cane known for what he used to do. I'm still doing it.

Miles Davis

The final test of fame is to have a crazy person imagine he is you.

Anonymous

The chains of habit are too weak to be felt until they are too strong to be broken.

Samuel Johnson

Without the aid of prejudice and custom I should not be able to find my way across the room.

William Hazlitt

We think according to nature. We speak according to rules. We act according to custom.

Francis Bacon (1561 - 1626)

I am firm. You are obstinate. He is a pig-headed fool.

Katherine Whitehorn

Marshall McLuhan said the printed word is "obsolete." To prove it he wrote fifteen books.
Anonymous

When a man opens the car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife.
Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

Life is short; live it up.
Nikita Kruschev

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CHRONICLE

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