
Southern Connecticut mensa Chronicle

SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS FOR MAY

Saturday May 5, 8:00. THEATRE EVENT: *Seven Keys to Baldpate*, performed by the Town Players of New Canaan at the Powerhouse Theatre, Waveny Park, South Ave., New Canaan. Writer Kenneth Magee has bet that he can finish a story at rural resort Baldpate Inn, now closed for the winter. The owner has given him the "only" key to the front door. But there are six other keys, and peculiar characters, some of them up to no good, keep turning up as the mystery deepens. This play is based on the first novel of Earl Derr Biggers, creator of the Charlie Chan books, and was first brought to the stage by George M. Cohan. Tickets are \$12. For info or reservations, please call Jim Mizera at (203) 332-2548 or e-mail Jmizera@hotmail.com.

Wednesday, May 9, 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, May 19, 7:00. Monthly dinner, Three Door Restaurant, 1775 Madison Ave., Bridgeport. Isn't it interesting that engineers, who are known for their discipline and problem-solving logic, don't apply that same discipline in writing documents? The proof lies in proposals that don't sell and reports that fail to persuade. This month's speaker, Dr. Alice N. Stitelman, will tell us how we can overcome problems in technical writing in her presentation "What Every Engineer Should Know About Writing." Dr. Stitelman, a business writer and editor and head of her own communications consulting firm, will provide guidelines and concrete steps you can use right away to improve your writing.

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.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS FOR JUNE

Wednesday, June 13, 7:00. Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner. See above listing for details.

Saturday, June 16, 7:00. Monthly dinner, Three Door Restaurant, 1775 Madison Ave., Bridgeport.

Saturday, June 23, 8:00 , THEATRE EVENT: *Laura* - a murder mystery by Vara Caspary & George Sklar, performed at the Eastbound Theatre, 40 Railroad Ave. South, Milford Railroad Station, Milford, CT. Tickets are \$10. For info or reservations, please call Jim Mizera at (203) 332-2548 or e-mail Jmizera@hotmail.com

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CONNECTICUT AND WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS MENSA CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS

This is not a complete listing. WE - Weekly Event , ME - Monthly Event, YE - Yearly Event

May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 THURSDAY 7:00 PM
Scrabble (WE) at Emmanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford. Ellen Leonard, (860) 667-1966

May 4 FRIDAY 5:30 - 7:00 PM
Happy Hour (ME, first Friday) at the Ramada Inn, Meriden. Ann Polanski, (203) 269-4565. This monthly reunion usually draws 10-20 people, warmly welcomes newcomers, and is less than a mile from the I-91 and I-691 interchange.
DIRECTIONS: From I-91 north or south, or Route 15 north or south, take East Main St. (Meriden) exit, head east (away from Meriden Center). After the I-91 interchanges, take a right at the next light. There is a small Ramada sign at the corner. After you pass the Meriden Cinema Complex and the road curves to the left, take a right into the Ramada parking lot. Inside Silver City Grill, ask the host/hostess for the Mensa table - they know us well!

May 5 SATURDAY 5:00 PM
BOWLING at T-Bowl Lanes, Rte 5 in Wallingford. This is for the physically challenged, as Charlie and I have difficulty breaking a hundred (in my case, it takes 3 games!) Please call Beth Collins, (203) 294-0503 (note different number) or email Player.Piano@Juno.Com to reserve your place. We'll plan to bowl 3 strings, cost of \$3.25 each, shoe rental is \$2.00. Afterward, there's a grand place for pizza plus close-by. PS - this is great for my tennis elbow as the 8-pound ball stretches out my arm! Please note - the lanes can be a little bit smokey.

May 12 SATURDAY 11:30am; rain date 5/19/01, same time. Rated 4.
TAKE A HIKE to Green Fall Pond in Pachaug State Forest in Voluntown. From the Hartford / Manchester area, Rte 2 to I-395 north, exit 85, travel east and get to the junction of CT 49, CT 138, and CT 165 in Voluntown. From there, drive south on CT 49 for 4 miles, then turn left on Sand Hill Road. In about a mile, turn right onto Wheeler Road; go 0.5 mile, where you will see the blue blazes for the Narragansett Trail. If coming from I-95, take exit 92 (double-check with map), left on CT Rte 2 for approx. 1 mile, right on CT 184 for approx. 1 mile. Turn left on CT 49 and drive north for approx. 7 miles and turn right on Sand Hill Road, right again on Wheeler. The sign for Wheeler Road may be missing; just take the first right off of Sand Hill. Hiking distance is 5.7 miles with a total vertical rise of 540 feet, some steep slopes, 3 _ to 4 _ hours. Bring water and snacks. Contact Nicole Michaud for info; leave message at (860) 434-7329 or email nirimi@snet.net, subject "hike."

May 18 FRIDAY 7:30 PM
C&WM Meeting (ME, 3rd Friday) at the Solomon Welles House, Wethersfield. \$2 kitty. An Evening of Poetry and Prose with Elizabeth Kincaid Ehlers, Jim Marks, and Art Swanson presenting readings of their original works of poetry and prose. In this hour you will hear a variety of readings from the humorous to the more serious. Come and enjoy.
DIRECTIONS: I-91 to exit 26. Follow the signs to the Dept. of Motor Vehicles. Pass DMV to next intersection. House is on right. Park in back.

May 25 FRIDAY 5:00 PM
Fourth Friday Happy Hour, (ME, fourth Friday) Colonial Tymes, 2389 Dixwell Ave Hamden. Located about 1/2 mile north of Exit 60, Wilbur Cross Parkway. We have been able to sit at a nice big table and enjoy the good free food for a few months now. Come on down and join us. We also seem to be going out to dinner after, so if you plan to come and want dinner, too, let us know so we can reserve. Gail Trowbridge (203)877-4472 or Gail.Trowbridge@att.com. I send out an e-mail reminder every month. Let me know if you'd like to be on the list.

May 30 WEDNESDAY Noon
Waterbury Last Wednesday of the Month Lunch (ME) at Maggie McFly's, Rt. 63, Middlebury, Dick Fogg, (860) 274-2370.

Preview:

June 10 Sunday 2:00 PM
HamSIG meets at Beth and Charlie's, in Wallingford to read Jim Mark's Play for the RG. Come join the fun, maybe even launch your acting /directing / producing career! Please RSVP to Beth at 203-294-1994.

PARETO AND PARETO'S LAW

Everyone has heard some version of the 80-20 rule - the rule that takes the form "20% of the _____ 80% of the _____." In business, the law is often stated as "20% of the customers provide 80% of the sales", or in a pessimistic formulation, "20% of the customers cause 80% of the problems." Though everyone quotes this law, few people know its author. The law's proper name is actually "Pareto's Law", and it was first stated in 1896 by the Italian economist and sociologist, Vilfredo Pareto (1848 - 1923). Pareto trained as an engineer at the University of Turin, and this influenced his later work in the social sciences. While serving as an engineer and later director of an Italian railway, Pareto studied philosophy and politics and began applying his engineering knowledge to economics, becoming one of the first to analyze economic problems mathematically. He wrote many articles for periodicals, and in 1893 succeeded the famous economist Leon Walras in the chair of political economy at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland. In his first work, *Cours d'Économie Politique* (1896-97), Pareto stated his law as a pattern of income distribution. But he expressed his law most generally as "In any series of elements to be controlled, a selected small fraction, in terms of numbers of elements, always accounts for a large fraction in terms of effect." Naturally, Pareto did not insist that this small portion would always be 20%. It could be 10% or 25%, but the principle is the same.

There are many applications of Pareto's Law, some simply humorous and others deadly serious. In computer programming, many estimate that 20% of the code has 80% of the bugs. On committees, often 20% of the people will do 80% of the work. In automobile insurance, they like to say that 20% of the drivers cause 80% of the accidents. Probably the most common use of the principle is in time management, where strivers for efficiency incorporate the idea in setting "ABC" priorities. In this sense, Pareto's Law is simply a more extreme statement of the Law of Diminishing Returns.

Although Pareto's Law is Vilfredo Pareto's contribution best known to the general public, it is not his most significant achievement in economics. That claim rests with his Optimality Criterion. This states that an allocation of resources is "optimal" if there is no way to rearrange things that makes somebody better off without making at least one other person worse off. If something is optimal in this sense, economists say that the situation satisfies the Pareto Criterion and it is Pareto optimal or Pareto efficient. The concept is used in game theory to analyze strategies. There may be many possible Pareto optimal allocations in a game. Some of them may seem trivial, as in a two-person game where one person has everything and a second person has nothing. The second person can be made better only by taking something from the first person, however small that taking might be. The situation is more interesting in games of more than two players where people can trade resources that they value differently. Although important in static situations where we allocate fixed resources, Pareto's Criterion is difficult to apply to real life, where people are not simply allocators or traders of known resources, but discoverers and creators of new resources and new uses for resources. Nonetheless, Pareto Optimality remains useful as a starting point in analyzing problems.

Pareto also wrote extensively in sociology, developing theories of individual and social rationality. However, he will probably always be best known for the mathematical economic principles that bear his name, Pareto's Law and Pareto Optimality.

NOTED AND QUOTED

- Think like a man of action and act like a man of thought. - Henri Bergson
- To think is easy. To act is hard. But the hardest thing in the world is to act in accordance with your thinking. - Goethe
- A great many people think they are thinking when they are merely rearranging their prejudices. - William James
- Changing your mind does not involve a transplant. - Robert Half
- A moment's thought would have shown him. But a moment is a long time, and thought is a painful process. - A.E. Housman
- You are not thinking. You are merely being logical. - Neils Bohr
- Most thinkers and theoreticians build castles and mansions and live in a hut beside them - Soren Kierkegaard
- You can pretend to be serious, but you can't pretend to be witty. - Sacha Guitry
- Time was invented by God to give ideas a chance. - Nicholas Murray Butler
- If you can't write your idea on the back of my calling card, then you don't have a clear idea. - David Belasco
- A man's mind, stretched by a new idea, can never go back to its original dimension. - Oliver Wendell Holmes
- Ignorance is not bliss - it is oblivion. Determined ignorance is the hastiest kind of oblivion. - Philip Wylie
- Adventure is just a romantic name for trouble. - Louis L'Amour
- The most important thing in acting is honesty. Once you've learned to fake that, you're in. - Samuel Goldwyn
- It's easy to direct while acting - there's one less person to argue with. - Roman Polanski
- An actor entering through the door, you've got nothing. But if he enters through the window, you've got a situation. - Billy Wilder
- Just say the lines and don't trip over the furniture. - Noel Coward
- There are no small parts. Only small actors. - Ginger Rogers

ADVERTISEMENTS

Wanted: Child who loves science as much as Willy! Our son Willy, 7 years old, loves science. There's lots of it he understands on a college level. We're looking for other kids with similar interests/abilities to hang out and pretend they're subatomic particles or invent new viruses (not the computer kind!). You can reach Willy's parents (Lisa and Steve) at: lsawin@optonline.net or (203)335-4389

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FALL 2001 NOTICE The Connecticut Association for the Gifted needs people who are willing to teach youngsters in grades K-8 for their Minds in Motion classes tentatively planned for October, 2001, at Danbury High School. The CAG, a non-profit organization, sponsors classes in subjects such as rocketry, chess, math, drama, dance, the environment, art, and foreign languages. If you are interested or want more information, please call Susan Chapman at 778-0194 or Chris Cuhsnick at 778-0002.

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MENSA REGIONAL GATHERINGS

Boston Mensa Cape Cod Getaway Weekend, May 11-13. Come to Dennisport, Mass., for dining, shopping, swimming, socializing, and great hospitality. Organize your own activities or join others going on day trips to Provincetown or Hyannis, whale watching, antiquing or whatever suits you.

Registration is only \$35 per person (\$40.00 after May 1st). Send check payable to "Boston Mensa", to the Chairperson/Registrar: Wendy A. Birchmire, 70 Oak Hill Road, Needham, MA (781) 444-8213 (wab@birchmire.com). Room rates \$49.95/night before 4/1/01 and \$54.95 afterwards. Each additional person is \$5.00 per night extra. Send a check, made out to "Resort Motels", directly to the motels at: 41 Chase Avenue, Dennisport, MA 02639 (1-800-332-2279).

2001: The Annual Gathering. Tue., July 3 - Sun., July 8, Dallas, TX. Registration \$65 until 4/30, 75\$ to 6/30, \$85 after. Hotel Intercontinental, 15201 Dallas Pkwy, Dallas, TX, 75248, (972) 386-6000. Registrar: Debbie Kittenbacher, 1504 Auburn Drive, Richardson, TX 75081, (972) 669-8436. Checks payable to: AG 2001. Send registrations to: American Mensa Ltd., 1229 Corporate Drive West, Arlington, TX 76006-6103. Web Site: www.ag.us.mensa.org.



Son of Asilomar 2001

Back to the Year One

**August 31 – September 3, 2001
The Cliffs at Shell Beach, California**

Mensa’s oldest RG moves to a world-class oceanside resort setting for its 37th annual event. Exciting program, top-flight catering. Very special prices include reg., rooms, and meal package: 2 days, \$399–\$525 pp/do. Other options, daytripper rates available.

To register: name, addr., phone, e-mail, Mensa #, single/dbl room pref., roommate name (if any), and \$150/person deposit (pay to Son of Asilomar).to Peg Jennings, 396 Sunpark Pl., San Jose, CA 95136. 408-972-4352. sonofasilomar@yahoo.com.

www.MensaAsilomar.org

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(Monthly)

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Change of Address

Please allow four weeks for the change in MENSА Bulletin (the National Magazine) delivery, and eight weeks for the Chronicle. Remember to give your membership number to facilitate this process. (This number appears on your membership card and labels affixed to the Chronicle and MENSА Bulletin.)

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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.

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