

Southern Connecticut Mensa Chronicle

REMINDER!

Mensa yearly memberships expire in APRIL. You should have received your Mensa Membership Renewal Notices mailed out in early January 2002. However you may renew online at www.us.mensa.org or by calling (817) 607-0060, ext. 199 using your MasterCard or Visa.

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SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY

Wednesday, February 13, 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, frbill@mags.net.

Saturday, February 16, 7:00. Monthly dinner, Three Door Restaurant, 1775 Madison Ave., BRIDGEPORT. NEW MEMBERS DINNER. Southern CT Mensa invites all members to its first dinner of the year. If you are a new member or just haven't had the chance to attend recently, come to our February dinner and meet some of the other new and returning members.

Our speaker will be storyteller Carol Mon, who will read some of the classic tales of Poe and the Brothers Grimm. Join in on a discussion of the violence portrayed in the stories. Is it appropriate or excessive? Should the stories be modified to be more politically acceptable for today's audience?

Socializing starts at 7:00, followed by dinner at approximately 8:00. (Directions are available at www.threedoor.com.directions.htm.)

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, February 23, 8:00, THEATRE EVENT: Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*, performed by the New Canaan Town Players (www.tpnc.org) at Waveny Park, Powerhouse Performing Arts Center, 681 South Ave, NEW CANAAN, CT. 06840 Tickets are \$12. For info or reservations, please call Jim Mizera at (203) 522-1959 or e-mail Jmizera@hotmail.com.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS FOR MARCH

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

Saturday, March 16, 7:00. Monthly dinner, Three Door Restaurant, 1775 Madison Ave., BRIDGEPORT.

Saturday, March 30, 8:00, THEATRE EVENT: Shakespeare's comedy *Measure for Measure* performed by the Westport Community Theatre, Westport Town Hall, 110 Myrtle Ave., Westport, CT 06880. Values in Vienna have slid into decadence, so the Duke appoints Angelo, the most virtuous man in town, to enforce the laws. Tickets are \$14. For info or reservations, please call Jim Mizera at (203) 522-1959 or e-mail Jmizera@hotmail.com. Try to call before Mon., 3/25 to assure seats.

Admitted in CT, NY & OH

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NEED TO RENT A ROOM WEEK OF MARCH 27 TO APRIL 3, 2002. Grandmother-to-be will be in this area during this week and if you have an available room, nearby bathroom and not too many stairs for rent for this time period, please contact this MENSA member. I would prefer to be within a 45 minute radius of Greenwich. References will be supplied. Please contact ViliaHere@aol.com as soon as you can. Thank you.

CONNECTICUT AND WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS MENSA CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Side note – There is a Floating Jazz SIG that Janine Bujalski is developing. If you'd like to be on her email list, please let her know at JanineB_CPA@compuserve.com (that's Underscore_CPA!) We had a delightful night with 12 of us at Szchwan Tokyo in West Hartford on Dec. 27th. - Beth Collins, CT & W. Mass Calendar Editor

FEBRUARY

1 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, Nov. 2 we had 30! We warmly welcome newcomers, and it's 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!

7, 14, 21, 28 Thursday 7:00 PM

Scrabble (WE) at Emmanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford. **Ellen Leonard**, (860) 667-1966

15 Friday 5:00 – 8:00 PM

Third Friday Night Get Together at Jane's, 759 Maple St. in Wethersfield. BYOB and \$1.00 for the kitty to cover munchies. Call **Jane Sjoman** at (860) 563-0369 for directions and info on parking. (Reminder – Cats in residence)

16 Saturday 7:00 – 11:00 PM

Happy Hearts Party in Wallingford. This is **Beth and Charlie's** 7th annual celebration of being alive! This year it will be open to non-Mensans, too, so please **RSVP early**. We'll need to limit to 30 people due for this indoor party. Reserve by email, preferably (player.piano@juno.com), or by phone (203-294-1994). We'll have some drinks and snacks, bring some, too!

22 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.

27 Wednesday Noon

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

THE ANCIENT OLYMPICS

This February, the Winter Olympics come to Salt Lake City. The Winter Olympics began in 1924, a complement to the Summer Olympics, which are now more than a century old. But the contemporary Games are inspired by a much older tradition, the legacy of the Ancient Olympics in classical Greece. These first Olympics continued for more than a thousand years and gave us the original events of our modern Olympics. It was these Greek games that gave us the ideals of peaceful athletic competition, sportsmanship, and fair play. However, for those dismayed by current lapses from these athletic ideals, a comparison with the history and practices of the original Olympics may be reassuring.

The ancient Olympics began in 776 B.C. at the sacred site of Olympia, which was in the custody of the city-state Elis in southwestern Greece. There were certainly athletic festivals in Greece before this date, perhaps as far back as 1300 B.C., when the area was the site of religious festivals. These festivals, however, were only local. The games held in 776 B.C. were the first official Olympics, the first identified by Greek historians as an Olympiad. History has it that Iphitus, the king of Elis, asked the Oracle at Delphi for advice on how to end the war with the neighboring state of Pisa. The priestess advised the king to revive the Games at Olympia and invite Pisa to participate as a sign of goodwill. King Iphitus convinced King Cleosthenes of Pisa to accept a truce after many years of battle, a truce that was guaranteed by Lycurgus, the famed lawgiver of Sparta. The Eleans adopted a policy of perpetual neutrality for the next 350 years, and it became customary to regard all travelers to Olympia for the festival as protected by a sacred Olympian truce.

What we know of the Ancient Olympics comes from archaeological remains and fragments from classical Greek writers, or later translations of writings. Several noted Greek philosophers and historians chronicled the Games. The writer Hippias of Elis compiled a list of Olympic victors at the end 5th century B.C., and Aristotle revised this list a century later. Neither of these documents survived, however, and they are known only through references by other writers. Documents recounting Olympic winners have been recovered, one by the Roman chronicler Sextus Julius Africanus. A valuable source of information is the writings of the Roman traveler and geographer Pausanias, who visited Olympia in the 2nd century A.D. We also have pictures of the athletes and games preserved on vases, cups, and bowls that were awarded as prizes.

The ancient Olympics, unlike the modern version, were held in one location, Olympia, part of a valley near the western coast of the Peloponesian peninsula of Greece, a land kept perpetually green by rains. The contests took place in a meadow beside the river Alpheus (known today as the Ruphia River) at the foot of Mount Olympus. Mount Olympus was the most sacred site in ancient Greece because its peak was believed to be the home of the gods. Indeed, the site had been a place of religious temples and altars long before the Olympics began. The Olympiad was set up as a religious festival for all Greeks to honor Zeus, King of the Greek gods. Sacrifices, sacred fires, and religious ceremonies were all part of the festival. Triumphant athletes gave public thanks to Zeus and other deities, and the competing city-states tried to outdo each other by presenting the largest and most magnificent sacrifices and gifts. They proffered their offerings before the hundreds of temples and altars on the Olympic grounds, including the Temple of Zeus. This shrine, constructed during 470-456 B.C., contained one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, the 40-foot ivory and gold statue of Zeus on his throne. The Greeks believed Zeus protected all travelers to the festival, and punished any who violated the Olympic Truce.

The Olympic athletic complex comprised three major buildings: 1) the stadium which measured over 200 meters long and 30 meters wide, and was bounded by four sloping grass banks. It could accommodate 45,000 to 50,000 spectators; 2) the hippodrome, a long, oval track of about 500 meters used for horse and chariot races; and 3) the giant gymnasium which contained a huge indoor arena, a practice running track, baths, many smaller buildings, altars, and temples, many of ancient vintage.

The first Olympiad in 776 B.C. was a simple one-day festival with only one event, the stade race, a foot race where the runners ran the length of the stadium, approximately 200 meters. Originally, only the Doric

city-states from the Peloponnesian region of Greece participated. Coroebus, a young cook from Elis, was the first Olympic victor. From then on, the games were repeated every four years. The home city dominated the early games, with athletes from Elis winning the foot race at the first thirteen Olympiads. With time, the winners became more diverse as more games and city-states were added to the festivities. First, other mainland Greek tribes joined, then Greek islands such as Crete and Rhodes, and later, colonies such as Sicily, Egypt, and Asia Minor followed. In the 14th Olympiad, the double stade race was added, and four years later, a longer race of approximately 2.5 miles, twelve times around the stadium, was added. In 708 B.C., the pentathlon became an event. By 688 B.C., boxing was part of the Olympics, and over the next four decades, chariot and horse races enlivened the competition. By this time, the Olympics had become a five-day Pan-Hellenic festival, a great source of national unity. So important was the festival to the Greeks that they dated their history by the Olympiads.

Besides being an elaborate religious and athletic celebration, the Olympics were also a festival filled with artistic contests, cultural gatherings, trade, and diplomacy. The games took place in summer and began with a two-day procession starting in a part of Elis about 34 miles from Olympia. The parade was led by the Hellanodicae, the purple-robed judges for the events. It moved slowly along the mountains of the western Peloponessus and the curving coastline of the Ionian Sea. Judges, athletes, and trainers were not the only ones who traveled to Olympia. Both the famous and the not so famous came from all parts of the Greek world, with spectators spending a month coming to, watching, and returning from the Games. Statesmen and merchant princes came all the way from Italy and Sicily, Marseilles, Black Sea, and as far away as North Africa. Poets, philosophers, princes, politicians, historians, soldiers, and artists all descended on Olympia. From Athens, the delegations included Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and the great orator Demosthenes. The poets Pindar, Bacchylides, and Simonides attended and celebrated the games in verses recited to the throngs. Historians such as Thucydides and Herodotus recorded events and captured the crowds with stories of Greek heritage. Meanwhile, leading merchants and diplomats pursued agreements. All of these distinguished guests stayed in special accommodations. Most in the Olympic crowd, however, were just ordinary people who slept out in the open. These included horse traders, vendors who hawked wines and fruits and wares, farmers who had already gathered the early grain harvest, and workers who put down their tools for a while to enjoy the great event.

Athletes trained in the gymnasium at Elis for ten months before the competition, and they were tested by the Hellanodicae, who decided who would be allowed to compete. The rules and regimen under their supervision could be very strict, and athletes who broke the rules received a beating. The diets followed could be very austere, and strange as well. At one stage in the early Olympics, the training table diet for athletes was only fresh cheese and water at all meals.

The regulations of the ancient Olympics required all athletes to be amateurs and freeborn Greek citizens, and for the first few centuries, the games remained strictly amateur. Not only were the athletes unpaid, but the winners were required to pay for their victory banquet on the 5th and closing-day celebration. The winners did not receive gold medals, but starting with the 7th Olympiad, they were adorned with wreaths from the sacred wild olive trees of Olympia.

The requirement of amateurism tended to limit the Games to the sons of aristocratic families, who were the only ones who could afford to take time off for the lengthy and laborious training. The chariot and horse races were particularly aristocratic. Spartan noblemen, proud of their skill as horse breeders and racers, often excelled in these events. Even kings would participate. In 504 B.C., King Demaratus of Sparta handled the reins and won. In 356 B.C. King Philip II of Macedonia rode his favorite stallion to victory. His son, Alexander the Great, was a great horseman as well, but refused to compete in the Games because not all of his opponents would be kings.

Greek civilization idolized excellence above all, and athletics was no exception. Consequently, over time the Olympic sports became more professional, and athletic competition became a way for men of humble origin to amass wealth and rise in society. Prizes and money became more common. In sixth century Athens, the

legendary lawmaker Solon instituted rewards of more than \$300,000 for Olympic victors. Winners were often honored by their homelands with statues, exemptions from taxation, and even large homes. Whether they gave luxurious prizes or not, however, all Greek city-states took great national pride in their champions. Some winners celebrated themselves as well. Milo of Croton, who won the Olympic wrestling title six times, carried his own heavy statue into the sacred grove at Olympia. He so intimidated other wrestlers that at one Olympiad, no one opposed him. Athletic champions like him were immortalized in verse by the classic poets, and revered in death.

While Olympic victory certainly brought glory, losers also faced the agony of defeat. The Spartans, for one, refused to participate in boxing because they hated the fact that the rules allowed surrender, something alien to them. There was no prize for second place, and defeated athletes did not congratulate the victor, for Greek pride took defeat very seriously. In the years from about 500 - 480 B.C., Theagenes of Thasos won boxing and pankration events at the Olympics and many other festivals and left many of his adversaries demoralized. Statues of him were set up all around Thasos. After he died, one of his defeated opponents began to flog a statue of Theagenes that stood in the city square. The statue toppled over and crushed him to death. Incredibly, the statue was charged with murder, put on trial, found guilty, and was thrown into sea as punishment. Afterward, drought, hunger, and death plagued Thasos. The desperate people of Thasos consulted the Oracle, who told them to restore statue. According to Greek legend, fisherman dredged up the statue, restored it, and the drought ended.

While many decry the cheating with drugs and the biased judging that sometimes plagues the modern Olympics, the Ancient Olympics had their own problems, despite their strict code of honor. Greek athletes did not take drug tests, but they had to swear a solemn oath that they had observed all the rules of training for ten months and would use no unfair means to win. Judges swore to take no bribes, and to judge fairly. Before the chariot races, a herald called out the owners names, and asked if anybody had charges against any. Still, the rules sometimes overlooked things. In 372 B.C, Troilus of Elis, who was one of judges, won the chariot races. A new rule that forbade judges to compete in the chariot or horse races was immediately adopted.

The Olympic rules in ancient times had many other quirks. One rule that might please modern spectators banned hats worn by spectators because they blocked the view of others. So the Greeks enjoyed the Olympiad in the sweltering sun. The rules dealing with some of the games themselves seem quite peculiar. In the chariot races, for instance, contestants could have more than one entry. In 416 B.C., Alcibiades, the brilliant naval commander from Athens, entered seven chariots in the race and won 1st, 2nd, and 4th place. The interpretations of the rules could be even stranger. In the 67th Olympiad in 512 B.C, one of the horses threw its owner, Phidolas of Corinth, at the beginning of the race, but the horse continued without a rider and won. His owner accepted the victor's wreath unchallenged by man or mare.

For those who find the profusion of new sports like synchronized swimming in the modern Olympics annoying, the ancient Olympics might seem simpler. The Greeks did not have team sports, or aquatic events, or even a marathon. But they did introduce contests that were strange or even frivolous. The Greek preoccupation with military prowess during the time of the Persian wars produced one such oddity, the hoplite race, for which there is thankfully no modern counterpart. In this event inaugurated in 520 B.C., runners raced in armor 400 meters, twice the length of the stadium. An even more farcical event was the mule race introduced in 500 B.C. at the 70th Olympiad. In this contest, four mules pulled a chariot around the track. This glorious competition, however, never became popular and was soon abandoned.

As the patriotic and personal desire for victory grew, bribery began to plague the classical Games. In 392 B.C., Dicon from the community of Caulonia, near Syracuse, won the boys' foot race. The ruler of Syracuse tried to bribe his father to proclaim him a native of Syracuse, but the father refused. But by 384 B.C., Caulonia was destroyed so Dicon ran as Syracusan. Bribery to switch allegiances became more and more frequent.

Penalties against corruption often seemed to have little success. In 388 B.C., the boxer Eupolus of Thessaly was discovered to have bribed his opponents to let him win. The Olympic officials at Elis decided to

start imposing fines for bribery. These penalty payments were used to build statues along the walk to the stadium admonishing the athletes against violating the code of honor. In spite of these reminders, corruption continued. In the 99th Olympiad in 384 B.C., Sotades from Crete won the long-distance race. Four years later he returned and entered the race under the banner of the city-state Ephesus. He won again. The angry citizens of Crete accused him of accepting a bribe to change his citizenship, and banished him from Crete. By 332 B.C., when Callipus of Athens was found guilty of bribing opponents in the pentathlon, the number of statues built from fines had accumulated so that they made a long line along the walk to the stadium

The Ancient Olympics could not only be dishonest, they could be brutal, although there were some restrictions. Upright wrestling, which was both a separate event and a part of the pentathlon, was the most civilized fighting sport. Because it emphasized style over strength, the Spartans looked down on this type of wrestling. Three clean falls were required for victory, but tripping was considered "clean". The sport did ban fighting on the ground, and the twisting of fingers, toes, arms or legs. Not so gentle was the pankration event, a combination of boxing and wrestling. In this sport, hitting, kicking, dislocating fingers or arms, low punches, and strangling were all allowed, and the struggle continued until one of the contestants acknowledged defeat. The terror of these bouts was very real. In the 201st Olympiad in A.D. 25, Sarapion of Alexandria ran away before his match because of fear of his opponent.

Boxing was also part of the classical Greek Olympics, but it did not follow the Marquis of Queensbury's rules. Boxers were not classed according to weight and there was no boxing ring, no rounds, no rest periods, and no rule against hitting an opponent when he was down. The fight had to go on until one of boxers was knocked out or surrendered. Because the combatants had to guard against trick blows, they often fought very cautiously. In such cases, the judges could liven things up and order a finish by having the fighters exchange blows one at a time without any defense until one of them quit. Over the years, the clashes became more bloody and brutal. At first, the pugilists used leather gloves, but later began using hard, ox-hide gloves, and then added rings and sharp edges to them. The boxers broke teeth, smashed noses, and battered each other's eyes and ears. There was one consolation, however: if one of the boxers was killed, he was immediately awarded the victor's crown.

The martial events were not the only ones where the contestants lived dangerously. The chariot race was often full of accidents, as the drivers bumped each other for twelve laps, or about six miles, around the hippodrome. In one Olympiad, of the forty chariots that started, only one finished. Everyone else was injured or killed.

Many believe that although the Greeks may not have competed humanely, they at least competed peacefully because of the truce. However, contrary to popular belief, the truce did not halt warfare during the Games. As best as historians can judge, it merely protected athletes and pilgrims from harm. Legal disputes were to cease during the festivities, and competitors from warring states would refrain from hostilities. But outside enemies like the Persians, the Romans, and assorted barbarians did not recognize any truce. Even within Greece, political rivalries usually hung over the festivities, and eventually shattered the peace. Before the 90th Olympiad in 420 B.C., Athens and her allies accused Sparta of violating the Olympic truce. The Eleans, who had long maintained their honorable neutrality, allied themselves against Sparta. A military force was set up to protect the Olympic festival from invasion, and the Spartans were banned from the Games. But Lichas, a member of the royal family of Sparta, entered the chariot race disguised as a Boeotian. He won and leapt onto the track to claim his crown. The spectators recognized him and beat him. In revenge, the Spartans attacked and crushed the army of Elis and restored Lichas's name as winner.

War entered the Olympic grounds themselves in 364 B.C., when the Eleans battled the Arcadians and Pisatans inside the sacred grove of Olympia. The Arcadians took and held control of Olympia from 364-362 B.C. This was not the last invasion of Olympia. The Macedonians attacked in 312 B.C. and plundered and pillaged the treasury buildings. This put an end to the wars between the Greek city-states, but also changed the character of the Games as well. Now, instead of depending on local talent, Greek city-states hired prized foreign athletes and gave them Greek citizenship so they could compete for them.

The Golden Age of Greece, the 5th century B.C., was also the Golden Age of the Ancient Olympics. But as Greece's power and prestige faded, the Olympics lost their religious and patriotic spirit and splendor. Greece became part of a Roman province in 146 B.C. The Games went on without interruption with Roman aristocrats and athletes coming across the seas to compete. But the Olympiad became mere entertainment, like a decadent circus or carnival, with battles between animals, between man and animals, and combat-to-the-death between gladiators. What once has been the preserve of noble Greeks became a spectacle where slaves fought for their freedom. In 85 B.C. the Roman emperor Sulla robbed the Olympian treasuries and used the plunder to hold the 175th Olympiad at Rome. The Games subsequently returned to their home, and the Pax Romana in the first century B.C. helped Olympia recover some of its stature, but the Olympic spirit was flickering.

The low point in Olympic history was probably reached with that epitome of decadence, Nero, in the 211th Olympic Festival. Nero wanted badly to participate in the Games in 65 A.D. but he could not make it, so he simply postponed the Games until 67 A.D. Then he decided to add contests for tragedians and singers to the competition, and entered himself in both events. He was the only person in the events and was awarded the olive crowns, with his retinue of 5000 lackeys applauding him. But he did not stop there. He also entered the chariot race with a team of ten horses. Early in the race, Nero was thrown to the ground. All the competing chariots stopped and waited while Nero remounted. The emperor handed the reins to another driver, who won the race. Nero was declared the winner and was crowned again. A year after this travesty, Nero died, and the 211th Olympiad was declared invalid. Emperor Vespasian recalled the gifts showered on Greeks. re-imposed the taxes that Nero had forgiven, and tightened the Roman rule relaxed by Nero.

In the next century, a new Roman interest in Greek culture sparked another revival in the Olympic spirit. As the Games became Romanized, they became more internationalized. In the 2nd century A.D., Roman citizenship was extended to everyone within the Roman Empire, adding to the number of competitors from outside of Greece.

The Stadium at Olympia was rebuilt in 174 A.D. for what was to be the last time. But the Eleans had to be on constant guard against barbarians, so they demolished some of the sanctuary buildings to build a fortification wall. The Games continued, but the aging structures decayed despite renovation and repair.

The last Olympiad, the 293rd, was probably held in 393 A.D., ending a history of 1,168 years. The last recorded victor was Varasdates, an Armenian prince who won the boxing championship. The festivities were abolished by decree of the Emperor Theodosius I of Rome, who banned pagan worship. Over the next two centuries, Olympia and its temples were pillaged by barbarian invaders, devastated by earthquakes, and flooded by the Alpheus River. It was not until the 19th century that archaeological excavations uncovered the remains of the Olympiad site.

The ancient Olympics gave us modern Olympian events such as the foot races, wrestling, boxing, the discus and javelin throws, and the pentathlon. They also inspired the Olympic principles of international goodwill, sportsmanship, and the pursuit of athletic excellence. Even though the Greeks often betrayed these ideals, they passed on something valuable nonetheless. Their sports were sometimes barbarous, their quarrels fractious, and their ethics dubious, but they left us a model for international athletic competition and glory that the modern Olympics have expanded to include the entire world.

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.

CHAPTER NOTES

Southern Connecticut Mensa has an e-mail server list on Topica where members can discuss topics with other Mensans on the list. To subscribe, just send a blank e-mail to: MensaSCT- subscribe@topica.com

BETHEL CINEMA FILM GROUP. The Bethel Cinema is an independent art house movie theater in the town of Bethel, CT, just outside Danbury. The Cinema will be running a Freudian Flicks psychological-film discussion group from now until May or June. Meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month at 11:00 am. (Bethel Cinema 778-2100). If you are interested in participating in a Mensa group to see films in this series or any of the films on the theater's regular schedule, please contact Nancy O'Neil at Nancyoneil@aol.com.

If you would like to organize or sponsor a Mensa event, please contact Jim Mizera at Jmizera@hotmail.com. The event can be posted in the Chronicle and announced at monthly dinners. It can also be listed in the newsletter of the Connecticut and Western Massachusetts Mensa chapter, the Media, if enough lead-time is available.

NOTED AND QUOTED

Gossip is the art of saying nothing in a way that leaves practically nothing unsaid.
- Walter Winchell

Everybody thinks of changing humanity, and nobody thinks of changing himself.
- Leo Tolstoy

Vices are their own punishment. - Aesop

All the thoughts of a turtle are turtle. - Ralph Waldo Emerson

It is never too late to give up our prejudices. - Henry David Thoreau

The dreamer can know no truth, not even about his dream, except by waking out of it.
- George Santayana

I base most of my fashion taste on what doesn't itch. - Gilda Radner

Hope is the pillar that holds up the world. Hope is the dream of a waking man.
- Pliny the Elder

The best way to get a good idea is to get a lot of ideas. - Linus Pauling

You can't look at a sleeping cat and be tense. - Jane Pauley

Historians begin by looking backward. They often end by thinking backward.
- Friedrich Nietzsche

They couldn't find the artist so they hung the picture. - Anonymous

A man's home is his hassle. - Paul D. Arnold

Vanity made the revolution; liberty was only a pretext. - Napoleon Bonaparte

Time make heroes but dissolves celebrities. - Daniel J. Boorstin

By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest. Second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest. - Confucius

We all learn by experience but some of us have to go to summer school. - Peter de Vries

I can take any amount of criticism, so long as it is unqualified praise. - Noel Coward

If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you. - Anonymous

Without art, the crudeness of reality would make the world unbearable.
- George Bernard Shaw

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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

In Don't Forget to Write!, The 6' Ferret Writers' Group shares more than ten years' experience on how to start a local writers' group, add members, and avoid common problems. Also included are writing exercises, events, recommended reading, and stories from a few exercises. Order through your favorite on-line or local bookstore. ISBN 0-7388-3698-2

Visit our website, too! http://pages.cthome.net/6ft_ferrets/

NEED TO RENT A ROOM WEEK OF MARCH 27 TO APRIL 3, 2002. Grandmother-to-be will be in this area during this week and if you have an available room, nearby bathroom and not too many stairs for rent for this time period, please contact this MENSA member. I would prefer to be within a 45 minute radius of Greenwich. References will be supplied. Please contact ViliaHere@aol.com as soon as you can. Thank you.

Advertising Rates. Short classified ads free to Mensa members and subscribers, \$2.00 per month and \$20.00 per year for others. Send copy to the editor. Display ads: Full page, \$50; half page, \$30; quarter page or business card, \$15. Discounts: 10% for three issues, 20% for six issues, 30% for 12 issues. All ads must be paid in advance, checks payable to Southern Connecticut Mensa.

MENSA REGIONAL GATHERINGS**February 15 - 17, 2002
NEW HAMPSHIRE'S GRANITE GATHERING !**

Join us at the Radisson in Merrimack, N.H. Room rates are \$75 per night, S/D/T/Q. We will have plenty of food and drinks, lots of chocolate, and lots of new and old friends. There will be interesting speakers, games, and fun. Come and join the party!

Registration is \$45 until 11/15/2001, \$50 until 12/31/2001, \$55 until 2/14/2002, or \$60 at the door. Do not mail after 02/08/2002. Children 8 - 17, \$10 less than the regular rate in effect at registration, under 8 free. Saturday only, \$10 less than the regular rate in effect at registration. Mail registration to Registrar, N.H. Mensa, P.O. Box 7998, Nashua, NH 03060-7998, or email to debstone@aol.com.

Help us have a great time, along with the Pool Party, Chocolate Orgy, Movies, and great Speakers! Last year's explosives expert is willing to come again and expand our knowledge (!). Come hear about stars and then get a closer look that very night (weather permitting). Wear your best genes to learn about DNA and the law. Savor our homemade Friday night supper!

Saturday Evening Buffet: Chicken Dijonnaise, New England Baked Schrod, Salads, Veggies, Desserts, \$25. **Children's Menu (with buffet desserts):** \$10.

Sunday Brunch Buffet: Juices, fruit & berries, meats, scrambled eggs, potatoes, muffins, fruit breads, coffee, tea, & milk, \$13.

Hotel: Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, 4 Executive Park Dr, Merrimack, NH 03054, Phone (603) 424-8000. Room rates guaranteed until Jan 24, 2002, register early! If you have any reservation difficulties please let us know at (603) 664-2180.

Name: _____ Name on Badge: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Meals: Dinner Buffet __@\$25, Children's Plate __@\$10, Brunch Buffet __@\$13

T-Shirts: ___ M, ___ L, ___ XL @ \$12, ___ XXL @ \$14, ___ XXXL @ \$16

Amount enclosed: _____ (make checks payable to NH Mensa-RG)

or MC/Visa # _____ Expires: ___ Name on Card: _____

Mind Games 2002 April 19 - 21 Minneapolis, Minnesota

American Mensa's 13th annual Mind Games competition will showcase some of the newest and best board and card games designed by game manufacturers and inventors this year. The Games will be held Friday - Sunday, April 19-21 in Brooklyn Park, Minn. The event attracts between 125 and 165 Mensans, who play and judge as many as 60 games during the weekend.

Through this event, our members - some of the country's most avid game players - judge new games on the U.S. market. The new games are judged on five criteria, and the top five point-getting games receive the Mensa Select® seal. This coveted designation has been granted to only 60 games in American Mensa's history. Past winners include Taboo™, Scattergories®, Trivial Pursuit (Genus edition), Magic-The Gathering™, Rush Hour™, Apples to Apples™, Clue/the Great Museum Caper, Inklings, thepollgame, and Brainstrain.

"This is one of the most enjoyable weekends a Mensan can have," said Don Pendley, AML development officer. "The weekend combines the best elements of being a Mensan -- mind-challenging games, food (especially chocolate), and the opportunity to use our brain power."

Registration for the event is \$55. To get registration info, check out the Mensa web site at www.us.mensa.org.

Get Ready For Snowball XXVIII!!!
The Regional Gathering of Central New Jersey Mensa
March 15 - 17, 2002

CNJM will be the host group for the first quarter AMC meeting March 15 - 17. We've got a Snowball Chairman! We've got a hotel! We've got a weekend! We've got the AMC coming to Snowball!

Our new, exciting theme for Snowball XXVII is "That's Showbiz." It revolves around plays, movies and other forms of entertainment. In addition to the scheduled AMC quarterly meeting, there will be an AMC rap session. You'll be able to find out what's new in Mensa at the national level, express your concerns, and perhaps get a few questions answered.

Paul McKeon (last year's Hospitality Co-Chairman) will be leading the festivities for Snowball XXVIII. Most of the other committee members are the same folks who made Snowball XXVII so much fun. But there's plenty of room for you to volunteer. Drop Paul an email at paulmckeon@worldnet.att.net and let him know what you'd like to help out with.

Where? The Four Points Barcelo Sheraton Hotel in Piscataway, just off River Road and Route 287 exit 9, where we've been the past two years.

We expect a record number of Snowball attendees. The hotel is holding a block of rooms for us at the bargain rate of \$79 until February 23, or until they are used up, whichever comes first. Reserve your room early! You can visit their web site at <http://www.starwood.com/fourpoints>, but you will need to make your reservation directly with the hotel in order to get our reduced rate.

Registration rates are \$50 until 2/23/02 and \$55 thereafter. Partial weekend rates are available.

Please send your check or money order - payable to Snowball - to:

Andrea Gallini Giarnieri
 632 Salem Avenue Apt. 102
 Elizabeth, NJ 07208
 908-351-1583
andrebgg@aol.com

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Local group _____

Name as you'd like it on your name tag _____

Title, Mensa office or other info _____

I'd like to help in:

Hospitality _____ Registration _____ Present a program _____

2001 MENSA SELECT SEAL WINNING GAMES**Brainstrain** by Chuckle Games Company

A unique game where players make up the words! You've got 60 seconds to ask questions fast to determine who, what, or where you are. Can't guess? We'll clue you!

Price: \$29.95

Web site: www.chucklegames.com

DAO by playdao.com

The game consists of only one simple rule and four ways to win... an engaging game of strategy, yet fun for the whole family! A real challenge for players of all ages that requires an ever-changing strategy and precise balance of movement.

Price: \$39.95

Web site: www.playdao.com

Metro (Paris, 1898) by Queen/Funagain Games

Engineer the most extensive network of track in the Paris underground while attempting to cut off your opponents' tracks. Play with 2 players for a brain-busting tactical duel, 3-4 players for a balanced strategic challenge, or with 5-6 players for chaotic fun!

Price: \$29.95

Web site: www.funagain.com

Shapes Up! By Educational Insights

A game of strategy and speed! Players fit shapes together, like a tangram, to cover their boards and form multicolored squares. The player whose board is filled first and yells "Shapes Up!" is the winner.

Price: \$19.95

Web site: www.educationalinsights.com

thepolicegame by thepollgame, LLC

Choose from 750 "Yes" or "No" questions or create one. The object is to guess how many players will answer "Yes" to the question. Surprising answers and revealing stories will entertain for hours.

Price: \$34.95

Web site: www.thepollgame.com

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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.)

Member Number: _____

Name: _____

Old Address: _____

New Address: _____

Telephone Number: (____) _____

Please send form to: American Mensa, Ltd.
Membership Department
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Arlington, TX 76006-6103

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