

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA CHRONICLE

If you or someone you know would like to be a speaker at our monthly dinner, please contact Nancy O'Neil at NancyOneil@aol.com. The dinner is held the third Saturday of the month at the Three Door Restaurant in Bridgeport.

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SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER

Wednesday, November 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, November 16, 7:00

Monthly dinner, Three Door Restaurant

1775 Madison Ave., BRIDGEPORT.

Karl Decker of Monroe will speak on his creative work as a documentary photographer. Karl has studied photography as a fine art with a grant funded in part by the National Endowment of the Humanities, taken professional-level courses at the Maine Photographic Workshops, and participated in the Doubletake Magazine Documentary Studies Program at Hampshire College. For the past four years he has been working on a documentary photo project in Vermont, portions of which will be exhibited and published next summer. He will bring some of this work to the meeting. His most recent published work appears in the Autumn 2002 issue of Vermont Life. You may see his work on his website at www.karldecker.com.

Socializing starts at 7:00, followed by dinner at approximately 8:00. (Directions are available at www.threedoor.com.directions.htm.) Please call Nancy O'Neil at nancyoneil@aol.com or 203-791-1668 for information and reservations. Dinner is \$10.00 and includes everything but the cash bar. Dress is casual and guests are welcome.

Saturday, November 23, 8:15

Theater Event: Any body for Murder

at the Clockwork Repertory Theatre, 133 Main St., Oakville, CT 06779. A comedy-thriller by Brian Clemens and Dennis Spooner, writers for the Avengers TV series. Tickets are \$14. For info or reservations, please call Jim Mizera at (203) 522-1959 or e-mail Jmizera@hotmail.com. Try to call by Mon., 11/18 to assure seats.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

Saturday, December 7, 8:00

Theater Event: The Diary of Anne Frank

performed by the Renaissance Theater Company's Actors Ensemble at Tabor Lutheran Church Hall, 45 Tabor Dr., Branford, CT. (www.actorsensemble.com). Tickets are \$12 (\$10 srs/students). For info or reservations, please call Jim Mizera at (203) 332-2548 or e-mail Jmizera@hotmail.com.

Wednesday, December 11, 7:00

Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner.

See above listing for details.

Saturday, December 21, 7:00

Monthly dinner, Three Door Restaurant

1775 Madison Ave., BRIDGEPORT.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR JANUARY

Saturday, January 18, 7:00

FREE Monthly dinner, Three Door Restaurant

1775 Madison Ave., BRIDGEPORT. Australian Mensan Leigh St. John, a noted speaker, writer, trainer, and founder of About Achievement Pty Ltd., will be our guest. We especially invite New Mensans to come hear this dynamic presentation. Make it your New Year's Resolution to attend this dinner.

Admitted in CT, NY & OR

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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

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!) - Beth Collins, CT & W. Mass Calendar Editor

NOVEMBER

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 (Please call first to make sure this is happening today).

15 Friday 6:00 - 8:00 PM

"Diner Dinner"

Third Friday of the month, at Olympia Diner, Rte 5, Newington, just north of the Berlin town line and North East Utilities. Meet at 6 PM or thereabouts. Diner Dinner ranges from toasted cheese sandwich to steak and fish dinners. Basic bar menu available, no happy hour prices, but the food is good and very reasonable. Please contact Nicole Michaud at (860) 434-7329 or email nirimi@snet.net, subject "diner dinner."day).

22 Friday 5:00 PM

Fourth Friday Happy Hour (ME)

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.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

November 22 - 24

Region 1 RG: Pilgrimage 2002 The Palindrome Year

Danvers, Mass. Sheraton Ferncroft Resort, 50 Ferncroft Rd., Danvers, MA 01923; 800/325-3535 or 978/777-2500. SR/DR \$85; TR \$97; QR \$112 + tax. Room rates guaranteed to 11/6 5:00 PM. Checks payable to Boston Mensa. S CD 5 & 21 H RP to 11/8 DT CP H/AS \$33 one way. Registrar Susan Mozzicato, 19 Chesley Rd., Newton Centre, MA 02459; 617/244-4560.

August 2006 AG

Greater New York Mensa, April 2003

Orlando - In Zagreb, the International Board of Directors awarded the 2006 60th Anniversary Celebration to our Orlando bid. The IBD meeting will be held in mid August in conjunction with our AG. David Shulman, who organized the 50th anniversary events in London, expects we'll get 1000 foreign attendees.

Have you checked out the web site at Us.Mensa.Org? I love the conundrums! Speaking of web sites (yes, that was a sly way of segueing into this topic); Jerry Riley is no longer Region 1 webmaster. In fact, Jerry is enjoying life in California. Region 1 REALLY needs a webmaster. Any volunteers, PLEASE?

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

First of all, I'd like to thank Lee Steuber for the many years that she served as our President. As a result of her outstanding leadership, we are the successful chapter that we are today. Under Lee's watch we've grown to more than 230 members strong and we're the 50th largest chapter in the United States.

This brings me to my next point. At our October Meeting, we had only 15 members in attendance. I'd like to reach out to those of you who haven't attended a meeting in a while and invite you to our next meeting. Our meetings consist of an amusing cocktail hour, an enjoyable dinner, and an interesting presentation. It's definitely one of the major benefits of membership in Mensa.

Hope to see you there.

Rick D'Amico

Southern CT Mensa President

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

Regional Vice-Chairman Betsy Burke

My thanks to those members of Region 1 and 2 who attended the first Leadership Development Workshop held in this region in 5 years. Those Region 1 groups represented included GNYM, Boston, MOST, MONY, Central New York Mensa, Northern New Jersey and Mid-Hudson Mensa. I'd like to thank Mary Jo Kellerher for coordinating everything for us and taking care of the hospitality room, Don Pendley for his presentation, and Kevin Johnson for informing us of his plan for encouraging gifted children in local groups. Thanks to all of those who took the time to attend. I'd also like to go on record for publicly thanking Wendy Birchmire for planning an LDW in the Boston area at a previous time. Unfortunately, due to some problems on my part, this event did not occur.



OCTOBER DINNER - A RAINBOW IN THE SKY

There have been many proposals for a building that would replace the World Trade Center and memorialize the victims of 9/11, but none of them is as ambitious as the one offered by Dan Dumelle, our October dinner speaker. Dan presented his idea for a skyscraper that would not only scrape the sky but would also span the Hudson River to New Jersey, a bridge across the Manhattan skyline. As Mensans pondered, he drew his vision of a mighty white arch towering above the city, framing the Statue of Liberty - a gateway to the financial center of America and the world, and a magnificent tribute to those whose lives were taken.

As Dan explained, his building would be like a city within the city that would house offices, museums, shops, and theaters, and a commuter rail connection between Manhattan and New Jersey. Pre-fabricated rectangular blocks would form the structure, covered by the façade of the arch. This colossus would be the largest skyscraper ever built, 254 stories and a kilometer in height, and one-mile across the Hudson, far surpassing the 110-story, 1,368 foot World Trade Center. At its peak, the arch would provide a magnificent view of the metropolis and the river. Lit by soft white lights, the new Center would be a peaceful beacon for New Yorkers and for visitors coming to these shores.

Dan called for each base of the arch to stand as a memorial to the victims of 9/11. He said that both sides would have a Memorial Garden, a Museum, and a Meditation Park for silent contemplation, like that spontaneously set up by mourners after the tragedy. The New York parks would commemorate the World Trade Center victims, while the New Jersey grounds would be dedicated to those who perished in Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. 3000 trees, one to memorialize each person who died in the attack, would grace the parks. Roses would bloom year-round in the conservatories, and an eternal flame would light the Meditation Parks. The parks would be a sanctuary but also a place for holiday festivals, when the arch could be brightly lit and color the sky for aerial displays.

Some in the audience applauded Dan's boldness and imagination, while others skeptically questioned his design. But there is no question that if this grand dream became reality, it would be the wonder of the world. (You can read about Dan's plan at www.geocities.com/dandumelle.)

PUZZLES & QUESTIONS*(Answers will be in next month's Chronicle)*

1. What courses should comprise a Liberal Arts education?
2. What are the seven biggest time wasters?
3. Who proved the Pythagorean Theorem?
4. Who influenced history more, the Greeks or the Romans?

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

1. A man tosses 3 coins in the air. Does he have a better chance of getting 2 heads and a tail than getting only 1 head?

A. No, he has the same chance. The number of different possibilities when you toss 3 coins is the product of the possibilities on each toss - $2 \times 2 \times 2 = 8$. Of these 8 possibilities, 3 consist of exactly 2 heads and a tail: HHT, HTH, and THH. So the odds of getting exactly 2 heads is $3/8$. The chances of getting 1 head is the equivalent of getting 2 tails: HTT, THT, TTH. The odds of this happening are also $3/8$.

2002 MENSANS SELECT SEAL WINNING GAMES

One hundred and fifty Mensans gathered in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, April 1, to play and rate 54 of the year's newest board games. This year's award winning games were:

Curses, by Play All Day Games - A game of wacky rules" that players give each other. Make slip-ups and lose the game.
www.worldwiseimports.com.

Muggins! by Muggins Math - Use math skills to build runs or block opponents. Then add a few bluffs and a little luck to win this game of analytical aerobics for the mind.
www.mugginsmath.com

Legend of Landlock, by Gamewright - The mythical map strategy game. Place tiles next to each other and try to make a continuous path or stream around the landlock.
www.gamewright.com.

Dvonn, by Rio Grande Games - In Dvonn, the players try to control as many pieces as possible by building stacks, often by jumping on their opponent's pieces.
www.riograndgames.com

Smart Mouth, by Binary Arts Corp. - The quick thinking word game, played individually or in teams. Play can be modified for all vocabulary skill levels.
www.puzzles.com.

NEW FROM WING AND A PRAYER PRESS

Southern Connecticut Mensa member Jerry Brooker has recently had his new book of poems called "A Quiet Conversation," published by Wing and a Prayer Press.

Faith Vicinanza, publisher Hanover Press, 2002: "He uses everything: humor, politics, love, history ... to render a poetic adventure that is playful, erotic, and gentle."

Sandra Bishop Ebner, author of *The Space Between*: "The poet's intimate conversations with the self with an originality of language that deserves notice."

Erik Zork Alan, author *Stolen Snapshots*: "He paints lush, linguistic landscapes and makes me marvel at life's mysteries. He understands the sinner and the saint."

The book can be purchased (\$10) on the Internet at www.Amazon.com Advantage (Literature and Fiction/Poetry/Gerard Brooker).

About the Author

Mr. Brooker has had over 250 poems and articles published, most of them about inequities on this earth. He has lived and traveled widely and has been recognized for his humanitarian work, most recently with two honorary degrees, and was inducted into the National Teachers' Hall of Fame in 1998.

NOTED AND QUOTED

We drive into the future using only our rearview mirror.

- Marshall McLuhan, *Canadian author and media expert (1911 - 1980)*

Be true to your work, your word, and your friend.

- Henry David Thoreau, (1817-1862)

Man is an animal that makes bargains: no other animal does this - no dog exchanges bones with another.

- Adam Smith, *Scottish economist/philosopher, (1723-1790)*

The art of living is more like wrestling than dancing.

- Marcus Aurelius, *Roman Stoic philosopher and ruler, (121-180)*

Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment.

- Buddha, (563? B.C. -483? B.C.)

Life is a cement trampoline.

- Howard Nordberg

I think I've discovered the secret of life - you just hang around until you get used to it.

- Charles Schulz, *Peanuts cartoonist, (1922-2000)*

I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day.

- E(lwyn) B(rooks) White, *American author, (1899-1985)*

Any excuse will serve a tyrant.

- Aesop, (620? - 560? B.C.)

Order is not a pressure imposed upon society from without, but an equilibrium which is set up from within.

- Jose Ortega y Gasset, *Spanish philosopher, (1883 - 1955)*

Poetry is as exact a science as geometry.

- French realist novelist Gustave Flaubert, (1821-1880)

Nothing is so corrupting as a great idea whose time is past.

- Dero Saunders, (1914 - 2002) *Forbes Thoughts editor*

Everything written with vitality expresses that vitality; there are no dull subjects, only dull minds.

- Raymond Chandler, *The Atlantic, The Simple Art of Murder, (1888-1959)*

Life may have no meaning. Or even worse, it may have a meaning of which I disapprove.

- Ashleigh Brilliant, *UC Berkeley 'street' philosopher*

If one synchronised swimmer drowns, do all the rest have to drown too?

- Steven Wright, *Canadian comedian, (1955 -)*

The more I want to get something done, the less I call it work.

- Richard Bach, *American author, (1936 -)*



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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.

Change of Address
Please allow four weeks for the change in MENSA 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 MENSA Bulletin.)

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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:
Isawin@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/

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.

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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