

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA CHRONICLE

You should have received your **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL** form in early January. You can renew by mailing in your form, by renewing online at www.us.mensa.org, or by calling (817) 607-0060, ext. 199 and using your MasterCard or Visa.

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

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going back a year to July 2002 are available on the Internet at <http://www.44ellen.com/mensa>. You can download the latest e-mail version of the Chronicle there, as well as previous issues. All issues are in read-only Adobe Acrobat format so there is no chance of viruses accompanying the files.

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SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 6, 8:00

THEATRE EVENT: *The Haunting of Hill House*,

at the Milford Eastbound Theatre, 40 Railroad Avenue South, Milford, CT 06460. Adapted for the stage from the novel by Shirley Jackson, author of the famous short story *The Lottery*. Tickets are \$12.50. For info or reservations, please call Jim Mizera at (203) 522-1959 or e-mail Jmizera@hotmail.com

Friday, September 12, 7:00

Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner

This is the new date for this monthly dinner 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, September 20, 7:00

Monthly Dinner, Pellicci's Restaurant

96-98 Stillwater Ave., STAMFORD 323-2542
COME TRY OUR NEW MEETING PLACE! Rick D'Amico will speak on scuba diving and demonstrate essential scuba gear. Please contact Nancy O'Neil at nancyoneil@aol.com or 203-791-1668 for information and reservations. Dress is casual and guests are welcome. Directions from I-95 heading south: take exit 7 towards CT-137 N/ Atlantic St. and go .31 miles. Turn right onto Canal St. Take a quick left onto Tresser Blvd./ US-1 and proceed another .6 miles. Turn right onto Stillwater Ave.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR OCTOBER

Friday, October 10, 7:00

Southern CT and CT/Western Mass. Joint Dinner

See above listing for details.

Saturday, October 18, 7:00

Monthly Dinner

See above listing for details.

CONNECTICUT AND WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS MENSA CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS

This is not a complete listing WE - Weekly Event, ME - Monthly Event, YE - Yearly Event
CT & W. Mass Calendar Editor Gisela Rodriguez,

(860) 872-3106, email: lilith@snet.net,

Mensans on the Radio: C&WM Mensan Janine Bujalski is on the airwaves every 2nd & 4th Friday 6-10 AM on 89.5FM, WPKN in Bridgeport, CT. There is a limited internet broadcast — about 25 can listen simultaneously at www.wpkn.org. From 6-9 AM there's jazz, blues & music from Brazil and from 9-10 AM the music is from Louisiana, mostly cajun & zydeco.

Vice LocSec Will Mackey is hosting Friday Evening Classics from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. weekly on 91.3 FM, WWUH, in West Hartford. The name of the program is "What You Will" and its focus is chamber music.

What better company to get out of the week and ready for the weekend?

4, 11, 18, 25 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).

5, Friday 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Happy Hour (ME, first Friday) at the Ramada Inn, Meriden

Ann Polanski, (203) 269-4565 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!

Admitted in CT, NY & OR

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19 Friday 6:00 - 8:00 PM or so

Diner Dinner

(ME) 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 John Bentley at (860) 644-0435 or email BENTLEYJ860@aol.com, subject "diner dinner."

20 Saturday 9 AM

Connecticut Butterfly Association sponsored **Monarch tagging at Meigs Point Nature Center**, Hammonasset State Park in Madison. Rain date: Sunday Sept. 21, 9 AM Bring a net and help capture, tag and release Monarch butterflies to aid in the gathering of data on migration habits and travel routes. Kids are welcome and there will be a few nets available for those who do not have one. Participation is free, but expect a park entrance fee. Contact Diane Adams, ButterflyPR@comcast.net, (860) 526-1993 for more info—I'll wear something yellow in my hair!

24 Wednesday Noon

Middlebury Lunch (ME, last Wednesday)

Good food and good conversation available! Where? At Maggie McFly's in Middlebury, visible on the right from Rte. 63 just south of the Rte 63 and Rte 64 intersection. This intersection is at the end of a long ramp at Exit 17 on Rte 84 west. From this exit, turn left at the 63/64 intersection. If you use Exit 17 on Rte. 84 east (heading toward Hartford), turn left off the exit ramp and see Maggie McFly's on your left. When? On the last Wednesday of any month from 12 noon to about 1:30 p.m. The number of attendees is growing; so, join the fun. Become a McFlyer. Maggie, in goggles and leather helmet, flying a

red biplane, soars over your head. She is either your wingman or she provides ground support as you advance into your lunch! Please call Richard Fogg at 860-274-2370 if you will attend for the first time. This will give him time to scramble for a larger table, or a longer lunch trench, as needed.

26 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.

REGIONAL GATHERINGS

MENSAUTUMN 2003

OCTOBER 17 - 19 Cromwell, CT.

Connecticut & Western Massachusetts Mensa is hosting its 26th annual Regional Gathering. Enjoy food and beverages galore, fascinating speakers, and wonderful conversation. Join us for a great weekend.

Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, 100 Berlin Road, Cromwell, CT 06416. (860) 635-2000. SR/DR \$84. TR/QR \$94 + tax. Room rates guaranteed to 9/24. Hotel is off I-91, south of Hartford, north of New Haven.

Checks payable to C & WM Mensa RG. Contact William Vincent, 70 Weaver Rd., Manchester, CT 06040. (860) 646-3007, wpvincent@aol.com

Chronicle is THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA #066

The subscription rate for members is \$3.50 and is included as part of yearly dues Others may subscribe at a rate of \$10.00 per year (Monthly)

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FROM THE REGIONAL VICE CHAIRMAN - MARGHRETTA McBEAN

The dog days of August are upon us; if it rains anymore, I think the animals will refuse to board the Ark. If inertia has overcome you, then a discussion of the role of an RVC is in order (Captive Audience Principle).

What is a RVC? A Regional Vice Chair is elected by a region to act as a liaison between local groups and the national American Mensa Committee. A RVC also promotes participation in national programs such as Literacy, MERF Scholarships, CultureQuest, etc. RVCs are responsible for carrying out Mensa's policies and programs in their regions. If you or your group has a Mensa-related problem, your RVC is there to help! Where's Region 1? From the rocky coast of Maine, to the Soprano shores of northern New Jersey - in order of admission to the United States: the Garden State (New Jersey, 1787), the Bay State (Massachusetts, 1788), the Live Free(ze) or Die State (New Hampshire, 1788), the Empire State (New York, 1788), the Nutmeg State (Connecticut, 1788), the Ocean State (Rhode Island, 1790), and the Green Mountain State (Vermont, 1791)

Why a RVC? The bylaws of American Mensa Ltd., a not for profit corporation stipulate that a RVC be a Director (voting board member) of the American Mensa Committee.

How long a RVC? Term is two years.

When a RVC? This term commenced 3 July 2003 and ends 1 July 2005 (or whenever the adjournment of the Annual Business Meeting falls).

Who's the RVC? I am, a longtime member of Greater New York Mensa and a resident of New York City. I live in Hell's Kitchen, an area on the west side of Manhattan bounded by Eighth Avenue, 34th Street, 57th Street, and the Hudson River. It's about 5 minutes from the Theatre District and Times Square.

I have a B.A. in Classical Philology (Greek and Latin) with a minor in Mathematics and a M.S. in Management Information Systems. I have my own company, where I work as a computer

consultant. Recently I added a catering division, figuring no matter how bad the economy gets, people have to eat.

I love plants and gardening, and am a long time member of the Green Guerillas, an urban community garden/green space organization and the Indoor Gardening Society of America. I've been a volunteer at Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic for over 18 years; there are also studios in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Jersey (hint!). I love to run, often with the Hash House Harriers, an international social running club. I'm the treasurer of the Finnegan's Wake Society of New York; we meet twice monthly to discuss one of the most captivating books in English literature.

Lastly (and firstly) I'm the mother of Xanthe, my charming daughter who lives in the Inwood section of Manhattan, the northernmost tip. Ironically, she's about 6 blocks away from my old high school. Coincidence? Karma?

It's raining. Again. Here's something to help forget the humidity:

DRUNKEN PEACHES

6 large ripe peaches, rinsed & dried,
then sliced in 1/2-inch wedges
8 tablespoons sugar
2 whole cloves
1 cinnamon stick
1 bottle red wine, preferably Chianti

Place peaches in a large porcelain (or non-reactive) bowl. Sprinkle with sugar. Add spices and cover with wine. Refrigerate overnight. Serve cold.

"Genius is an African who dreams up snow." - Vladimir Nabokov

PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

Well, it’s been a couple of months now since The Three Door Restaurant has been sold, and we’ve been temporarily meeting at Pellicci’s in Stamford. Yes, we’ve had to do some adapting and there have been some changes, but challenges are what make life interesting. I’d like to thank the members who have followed this change with us; actually, our attendance appears to have increased slightly, and your support is appreciated. If you haven’t been to one of our meetings at Pellicci’s, please take the opportunity this month to join us. I think you’ll find it a pleasurable experience.

Finally, I’d like to take this opportunity to thank the Bobowick family for their support over the years at The Three Door. For many of us in the Southern Connecticut Chapter, it was the only meeting place we’d known up until a few months ago.

Rick D’Amico
So. CT Mensa Chapter President

COLLEGE - DROPPING IN, DROPPING OUT, PLUGGING ALONG

Approximately 1.2 million freshmen, about two-thirds of last year’s high school graduates, will enter college this fall. How will they fare? Well if recent trends are any indication, students cannot assume success.

By the end of their freshman year, about 1/3 of students will drop out, according to the U.S. Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Statistics they released earlier this year examine the educational success of students who entered the nations over 3,700 colleges and universities in 1995-1996.

Not all of the students who dropped out, of course, abandoned their education. Many transferred or took a temporary leave of absence. The American Council on Education (ACE) has analyzed the NCES data to assess success rates. The following tables show the graduation and persistence rates they calculated.

% ACE data reveal that 40% of the students who started in 1995-1996 enrolled in another college during the next six years. However, students who stayed with their original school were more successful at finishing their degree. 72% of those who remained with their original college had graduated by 2001-2002 whereas

Original Enrollment by School Type 1995-1996				
Student Status 6 years later	4-yr Public	4-yr Private	2-yr Public	Overall (2001 - 2002)
Earned Degree or Certificate There	51.0%	65.6%	25.1%	43.2%
Transferred and Earned Deg/Certif.	10.7%	10.0%	13.7%	11.1%
Still Pursuing Degree/Certif.	17.1%	9.1%	17.3%	14.3%
SIX-YEAR ATTAINMENT RATES FOR ALL INSTITUTIONS 1995 - 2001				
Earned BA	32.0%			
Earned AA	10.1%			
Earned Certificate	12.3%			
TOTAL Earned Degree/Certif.	54.3%			
Still Enrolled	14.3%			
No Degree, Not Enrolled	31.4%			

only about half of those who transferred could claim that.

Roughly 43% of college students are enrolled at two-year colleges and these students have a tougher time graduating than those pursuing bachelor's degrees. About 42% of them left school before their second year, and only half returned within 5 years. Working students take longer to graduate and have less chance of completing their degrees. 68% of students attending public 4-year colleges who didn't work or worked less than 15 hours a week earned their degrees in six years. But only 39% of freshmen who worked more than 35 hours a week had graduated by then. For older, married, or veteran students, success also comes more slowly and uncertainly. Just 36% of independent students without children and 41% of those with kids earned a degree within six years.

Working, part-time, and older students make up more and more of the college population. About one-half of college students work at least part-time while in school, often in unskilled jobs. The NCES says that about a quarter of full-time college students work more than 20 hours per week. These figures have steadily increased since 1970, when 34% of students were working and 14% of them were working over 20 hours. The proportion of students attending college part-time grew from 32% in 1970 to 43% in 1995. Similarly, the percentage of collegians 25 and older increased from 28% in 1970 to 44% in 1995. These older students make slower progress towards their degrees, although there is evidence that they achieve better grades.

Women also make up an increasing majority of collegians and they do better at completing their degrees. Women were 56% of undergraduates in 1996, compared to 42% in 1970. According to an earlier NCES study of students who started bachelors degree programs in 1989-90, 50% of the women had earned a degree by 1994 while only 41% of the men had.

The odds against graduating are steeper for students who didn't prepare as well in high school. A University of California Higher Education Research Institute study reveals that only 8% of high school students with C averages

graduate from college, versus 54% of A students. Similarly, the NCES says that about 80% of the students who took a rigorous curriculum in high school are still enrolled in their original college three years later. Meanwhile, less than 55% of students who took a basic core curriculum or less in high school are still going. About 1/4 of the freshmen who entered with only a general high school course of study transferred. Of these transfer students, less than 40% were on schedule to earn a bachelors degree in four years.

By one standard, today's college freshmen enter better prepared than those of a generation ago. About half of all high school students complete a "core curriculum" (4 years of English, 3 years of history, science, and math, 2 years of a foreign language), up from only 18% in 1982. But strangely, only 34% of 1997 freshmen spent six or more hours studying per week in high school, compared to 44% in 1987. And the average student spent only 3.8 hours a week studying, significantly lower than the 4.9 hours reported in 1987. Yet 31.6 of high school grades awarded in 1997 were A's, a tremendous increase since 1969, when only 12.5% of grades were A's.

Perhaps as a result of insufficient preparation in high school, at least 29% of first-time freshmen will take at least one remedial college course (approximately 24% will take a remedial math course, 17% remedial writing, and 13% remedial reading). At two-year schools, the percentage taking remedial courses is much higher, 41%, compared to 22% at four-year public colleges and 13% at private four-year colleges.

While roughly three-fourths of remedial students will successfully finish these courses, they will have a harder time graduating. 54% of students who don't take remedial courses graduate with a bachelor's degree, while only 24% of those who have to take three or more remedial courses obtain a degree. Clifford Adelman, a senior analyst at the U.S. Department of Education who has extensively studied remedial college education, points out that students who have to take remedial reading fare the worst because they usually have to take several other remedial courses as well. Of students taking reading and three or more other remedial courses, only 12% earned bachelor's degree.

All told, about 1/3 of the freshman entering in 2003 will get a bachelor's degree within the first decade of this century, one-half will get at least a certificate, 1/3 will drop out, and 1/7 will plug along in school. If they're prepared and unencumbered by employment, they will have a better chance at succeeding. While the statistics

released by the NCES and other organizations show that graduation is far from a shoe-in, they also reveal that it is much better than a long shot.

ON THE 20TH CENTURY LIFE EXPECTANCY

Wherever you live on the planet, you can expect to live much longer than your predecessors could in 1900. According to the best estimates, the average life expectancy of the world's population has increased from about 30 years in 1900 to 46 in 1950 and to 66 in 2000.

The dramatic increase in life expectancy has occurred globally, in both the developed world and the less-developed world. However, lifespans in the poorer countries have increased more and hence the difference between First World and Third World has narrowed, particularly in the 2nd half of the twentieth century. (See figures below.)

Life Expectancy	1900	2000
Industrialized World	45	73
Developing World	25	61

In the most developed countries, life expectancy at birth is about 75 years, 72 years for men and 79 for women. In the poorer regions of the world, life expectancy at birth is 64, 63 years for men, and 66 for women. Here is a breakdown by region:

Region	Life Expectancy (years)
Africa	51
Asia	65
Europe (incl. the new countries of E. Eur.)	72
Latin America and the Caribbean	69
Near (Middle) East	69
North America	76
Oceania	72

People in the Third World are now living longer than even the wealthy did in prior centuries. Mortality records before the 19th century are very meager, but life expectancy in the Roman Empire and in Europe up until 1400 is estimated at 20 - 30 years. This is based on skeletal remains, records of select groups, and demographic models. Infant mortality rates during these ages are even more uncertain. However, beginning in the 1800s, records improve.

In part, the decrease in human mortality in the 20th century is a continuation of the 19th century trend. In England and Sweden, the countries with the best records in 1800, the life expectancy was about 37 years. A century later, it had increased to about 48 years. Similarly, in the United States, the life expectancy in 1901 was 49 years. In all of these countries, it now stands at over 77 years.

For developing countries, life expectancy numbers for the beginning of the 20th century are more uncertain but the improvement has been even greater. However, census estimates for 1901-1911 in India indicate a life span of about 24 years. Chinese surveys of 1930 put life expectancy at approximately 24 years. Life tables for Taiwan in 1920 give an estimate of 27.9 years, and similar tables for Chile in 1909 record a life expectancy of 30.6 years. Life expectancy in Taiwan is now over 75 years, in India, over 60 years, in China, roughly 70 years, and in Chile, 72 years. Hence, the average person in each of these countries is now living 40 - 50 years longer than a century ago.

Human longevity has improved so greatly because of declines in both infant mortality and adult mortality. Again the best records come from British and Swedish civil registration

records. Before 1810, infant mortality rates in Sweden were a more or less constant 200 deaths per 1000 births. Then they declined steadily to about 100 in 1900, 20 in 1950, and then to approximately 5 in 2000. Infant mortality was probably lower in England in 1800, while rates were probably higher elsewhere in Europe. But within a few decades, the same declining trend began throughout Europe. So infant mortality has declined by more than 90% in these countries. Maternal mortality has decreased even more.

Other improvements that have increased life span include better nutrition, drugs, vaccines, sanitation, clothing, housing, and work, and decreases in infectious diseases. Medicine has been the biggest factor in the poorest countries of the Third World since 1950. The net result is that while Infants born in Europe and America in 1900 had about a 40% chance of living till 65,

infants today in the developed world have an 80% chance, and infants in the Third World will have that same chance in a few decades.

It is uncertain that humans can increase their life spans in the 21st century as sharply as they did in the 20th. Since infant mortality has been reduced to single digits in much of the world, further improvement there cannot add many more years. Even improvements in fighting the major diseases might not increase life expectancy that much. Only victories over aging itself may be able to increase life beyond 100 years. But this cannot detract from the 20th century's progress. The bottom line is that 40 - 50% of all Americans wouldn't be alive today if it weren't for declines in mortality since 1900. The story for poor countries is even more dramatic. Saving and prolonging lives may well be the 20th century's greatest achievement.

PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

(Answers may be in next month's Chronicle.)

1. How high in the sky can a balloon rise before bursting?
2. Is history bunk, guesswork, estimation, or science? What about psychology? Which is more accurate or truthful?
3. What was the worst advice you gave last year?
4. What is the biggest intellectual mistake carried over from the 20th century?
5. In a school, the ratio of large classrooms to small classrooms is 3:4. The ratio of moderate size classrooms to small classrooms is 1:8. What is the ratio of large classrooms to moderate size classrooms?

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

4. A man had an old-fashioned clock in his house but had no watch. His clock stopped

because he forgot to wind it. The man left to visit his friend's house and listened to a radio program. He came home and set his clock to the right time. How did he do this without knowing the length of his trip?

A: Before leaving his house, the man started his clock. He did not know what the right time was, so he set it to an arbitrary time, say 12:00, which he made note of. Then he went to his friend's house. When he got there, he noted his arrival time, say 8:30, on his friend's clock. When he left, he noticed his departure time (assume 10:00.) When he got home, he wrote down his arrival time according to his clock, which we'll suppose to be 3:00. He knew, therefore, that he had been away 3 hours (3:00, his time of arrival on his home clock, - 12:00, the time he left according to this clock). He also knew that he had been at his friend's house for 1 1/2 hours (10:00 - 8:30). The remaining time must have been traveling time, 3 - 1.5 hours = 1.5 hours, back and forth. He took 1/2 of this time, .75 hours, and added to the time from which he left his friend's house, 10:00, to get the right time, 10:45, at which to set his home clock..

WORD ORIGINS

Many popular phrases come out of American history, particularly from American's contacts with other cultures, here and abroad. Here are a few examples.

Sold down the river - after Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin in 1793, the South became the cotton producer to the world, and cotton picking became the main work of slaves (60% of them). The Deep South - Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, and Louisiana - had the best soil and climate for growing cotton. Hence slave owners moved there and brought their slaves with them. From 1830 - 1860, more than half a million slaves were forced to move from the upper southern states to the Deep South. But some slave masters, rather than moving, sold their slaves to cotton growers further down the Mississippi River in the Deep South. "To be sold down the river" was one of the greatest fears of the slaves because it often separated families and friends. An estimated one-sixth of Mississippi slaves in 1864-1865, for example, had been forcibly separated from a spouse. After the Civil War, masses of them searched in anguish for their mates and children who had been "sold down the river."

Gung Ho - this expression was brought into the American lexicon by a U.S. military attaché in China in the late 1930s. It is an abbreviation of the Mandarin Chinese phrase "Gongye Hezhoushe", a term for an industrial cooperative, and meant "work together." In

1938, China was under attack from Japan and the Japanese seized many industrial centers. The Chinese tried to set up small industrial cooperatives in rural areas to replace the captured factories. The phrase "gung ho" became a slogan for the campaign to build such cooperatives. U.S. Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel Evans Carlson was a military attaché in the U.S. embassy in China at the time. He was impressed by the Chinese operations and by the Chinese armed resistance. Carlson returned to the U.S. and became commander of a marine battalion during World War II. He chose "gung ho" as the motto of his battalion, and the phrase spread throughout the Marine Corps. Returning veterans made the term an American expression for the spirited attitude they had felt during the war.

In the boondocks - This term is the Americanization of Tagalog word "bundok", meaning "mountain." The American army took over the Phillipines in 1899. Occupying American soldiers adopted the word to mean any remote, rural area. Over the next decade, it became part of military slang. It wasn't until the Vietnam War, however, that it spread into popular use.

Bury the hatchet - This phrase comes from the American Indian custom of burying all weapons out of sight while smoking the peace pipe to mark a peace agreement. The Indians believed that practice was required by the spirits that they worshipped.

THE READING EDGE ^ WHAT'S YOUR READING SPEED?

Do you know what your reading speed is? There is an online test that can give you a quick estimate. The Reading Edge, a Wallingford, CT company, has a test at their website www.the-reading-edge.com. The tests take only a minute and calculate your reading speed instantly. For a more comprehensive test, the company a free demo that you can download that will test not only your speed but also your comprehension. The software can be set for different grade levels to test children as well as adults.

The company reports that the average person reads at a speed of between 200-300 words a minute but that people who enjoy reading can read more than 400 words per minute, and that some people can even read well at more than 800 words a minute.

The Reading Edge also offers books, tapes, tele-classes, and personal lessons to help people read faster and more efficiently. For more information, visit their website at www.the-reading-edge.com or contact them at info@the-reading-edge.com

POETRY CORNER

ROOFS

By Alfred Joyce Kilmer, (1886-1918)

(From "Joyce Kilmer Volume One, Memoir and Poems,"

edited by Robert Cortes Holliday, New York: George H. Doran Company, 1918.)

The road is wide and the stars are out and the breath of the night is sweet,
And this is the time when wanderlust should seize upon my feet.
But I'm glad to turn from the open road and the starlight on my face,
And to leave the splendour of out-of-doors for a human dwelling place.

I never have seen a vagabond who really liked to roam
All up and down the streets of the world and not to have a home:
The tramp who slept in your barn last night and left at break of day
Will wander only until he finds another place to stay.

A gypsy-man will sleep in his cart with canvas overhead;
Or else he'll go into his tent when it is time for bed.
He'll sit on the grass and take his ease so long as the sun is high,
But when it is dark he wants a roof to keep away the sky.

If you call a gypsy a vagabond, I think you do him wrong,
For he never goes a-travelling but he takes his home along.
And the only reason a road is good, as every wanderer knows,
Is just because of the homes, the homes, the homes to which it goes.

They say that life is a highway and its milestones are the years,
And now and then there's a toll-gate where you buy your way with tears.
It's a rough road and a steep road and it stretches broad and far,
But at last it leads to a golden Town where golden Houses are.



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.

GOOD WINE CHEAP (AND GOOD FOOD TO GO WITH IT)

By John Grover

A number of our faithful readers have inquired over the past year, "How do you organize a dining or 'gourmet' club?" The Boss and I have belonged to a gourmet club for probably ten years now. and it's been a wonderful experience. We've tried a wide range of cuisines from around the world and we've made lasting friendships. So here are some of our tips for running a successful group.

1. Over the years, our group's membership has varied between six and seven couples. This is about as many guests as most of our members' can host comfortably for a sit down dinner. There is a similar dining group located in Saratoga, NY with about fifty members. Their gatherings tend to be buffet style and eat where you can. I personally prefer the social dynamic of the smaller group.

2. In September, we have a planning meeting where we decide the themes, host couples, dates and times for the monthly dinners. At the meeting everyone brings a favorite appetizer and that's dinner. We generally meet October through May or June. Usually the last session is men's night. The otherwise culinary-challenged can always barbecue.

3. We generally meet the second Saturday of the month at 6 or 6:30 PM. Over the years we have found that once you pick a series of dates, it is best to stick with it because changing it can really confuse things. We accept that, with this many people, sometimes members will not be able to make it for one reason or another.

4. The themes for the most part feature the cuisine of countries or provinces, although one year we did Cities of the USA (This may mean that you have to expand regionally to find dishes that you all feel good about.).

5. About a week before each dinner night, we have a planning meeting at the host's house. This gives you enough time to hunt around for exotic foods and spices. Hopefully you have Asian, Indian, Hispanic or other import stores in your area.

6. Every couple makes a dish or two. We always have an appetizer, soup, salad, one or two main courses, homemade bread, rice or potatoes (the local starch dish as our dietician member calls it), and dessert. The hosts generally make the main dish (or the one most difficult to transport).

7. I am the proud (and self-proclaimed) chair of the beverage committee. Actually, we make the host responsible for coffee, beer (generally from the theme country or region) and soft drinks. The beverage committee handles the wine selection and the occasional bowl of margaritas or Hurricanes (New Orleans).

I hope that you will contact me with your comments and favorite wines at jgrover@berk.com. I will be happy to share them with the broader Mensa group.

John Grover is a member of Mensa of Northeastern New York. He lives with his wife Sharon in the Hudson Valley of New York.



NOTED AND QUOTED

Things start out as hopes and end up as habits.
- Lillian Hellman, (1905 - 1984), playwright

Folks with good habits also seem to have most of the good luck. - *The Country Parson*

Think and let think.
- H. Ross Perot, (1930 -), U.S. computer entrepreneur

Experience teaches only the teachable.
- Aldous Huxley, (1894 - 1963), Br. novelist/screenwriter

This is the difference between H.G. Wells and me. Wells does not love humanity but thinks he can improve it; I love humanity but I know it is unimprovable. - Joseph Conrad, (1857 - 1924), novelist

It is the loose ends with which men hang themselves. - Zelta Fitzgerald, (1900 - 1948)

I have wandered all my life, and I have traveled; the difference between the two is this - we wander for distraction, but we travel for fulfillment.
- Hilaire Belloc, (1870-1953) English writer, poet

Our contention has always been that Shakespeare is our greatest living author. If he can survive a season on Broadway, he must be.
- Terry Hands

He had delusions of adequacy.
- Walter Kerr, (1913 - 1996), drama critic

A computer does not substitute for judgment any more than a pencil substitutes for literacy. But writing without a pencil is no particular advantage. - Robert McNamara, (1916 -), U.S. businessman and bureaucrat

Seeing is not always believing.
- Rod Serling, (1924 - 1975), producer and screenwriter

You can fool too many of the people too much of the time. - James Thurber, (1894 - 1961)

Flattery corrupts both the receiver and the giver.
- Edmund Burke, (1729 - 1797), English statesman, orator

The meaning of life is not an unquestionable answer; it is an unanswerable question.
- Terri Soft Wind

Life is a handful of short stories, pretending to be a novel. - Anonymous

Opportunity is a bird that never perches.
- Claude McDonald

The world is round, and the place which may seem like the end may also be only the beginning. - Ivy Baker Priest

Know what I hate most? Rhetorical questions.
- Henry N. Camp

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CHAPTER NOTES

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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.

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