

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA CHRONICLE

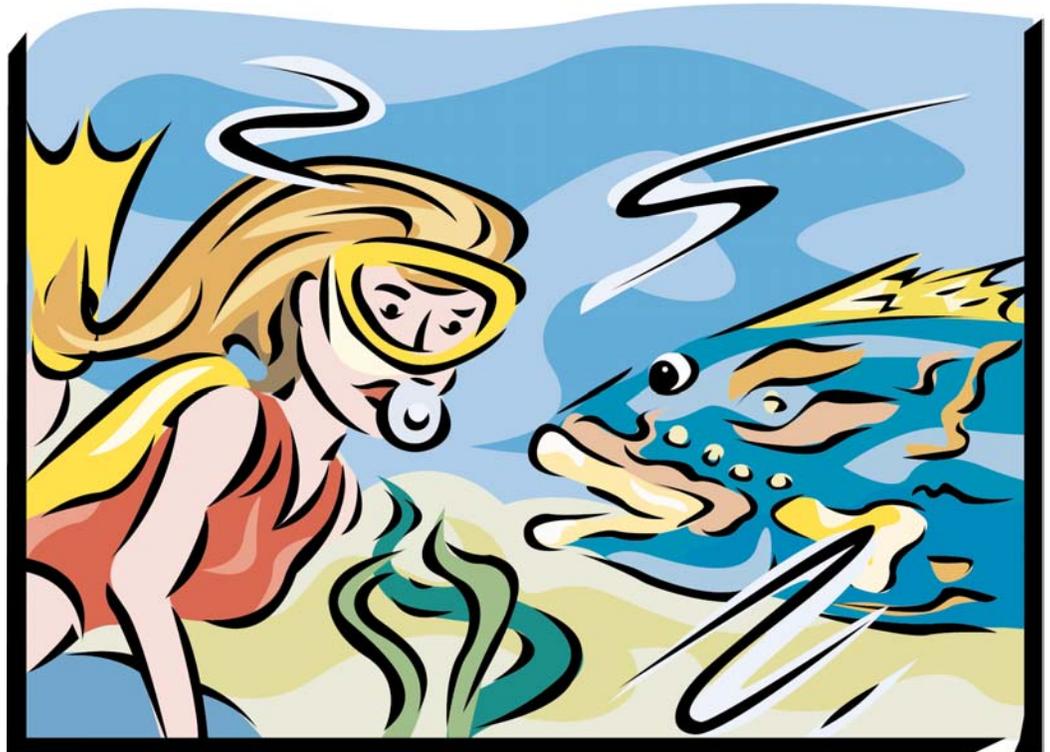
If you or someone you know would like to be a speaker at our monthly dinner, please contact Activities Coordinator Nancy O'Neil at NancyOneil@aol.com or 203-791-1668. The dinner is held the third Saturday of the month.

ARCHIVED COPIES OF THE CHRONICLE

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 NOVEMBER

Friday, November 14, 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, November 15, 7:00

Monthly Dinner, John's Best Restaurant

85 New Canaan Ave. (Rt. 123, just off Rt. 7) Norwalk. **COME TRY A NEW MEETING PLACE!** 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: Merge onto US-7 N via exit number 15 toward NORWALK/ DANBURY. Take the CT-123/ NEW CANAAN AVENUE exit - #2. Turn RIGHT onto CT-123/ NEW CANAAN AVE. (0.30 miles). Turn RIGHT onto CT-123/ NEW CANAAN AVE. (0.09 mi). John's is on the left after Wendy's and the bank. FROM DANBURY: Take US-7 / CT-33/ DANBURY RD down to Norwalk. Turn RIGHT onto GRIST MILL RD/ US-7. Continue to follow GRIST MILL RD. 0.16 miles Turn LEFT onto the US-7 S. highway and go 1.68 miles to Exit 2. Turn RIGHT onto CT-123/New Canaan Ave and follow to John's Best.

Saturday, November 22, 8:15

Theater Event: The Nerd by Larry Shue

at the Clockwork Repertory Theatre, 133 Main St., Oakville, CT. 06779. Willum meets the man who saved his life years ago in Vietnam. But his savior is a hopeless nerd who won't leave him alone. One hilarious episode follows another until Willum has to make a decision. Tickets are \$14. Contact Jim Mizera at (203) 522-1959, jmizera@hotmail.com, for info or reservations. Please try to call at least one week in advance to assure tickets.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

Saturday, Dec. 6, 8:00

THEATRE EVENT: Louisa May Alcott's Little Women

performed by the Renaissance Theater Company Actor's Ensemble at Fellowship Hall, 45 Tabor Drive, Branford, CT (www.actorensemble.com). Tickets are \$12.00. Contact Jim Mizera at (203) 522-1959, jmizera@hotmail.com, for info or reservations.

Friday, December 12, 7:00

Southern CT and CT/Western Mass.Joint Dinner

See above listing for details.

Saturday, December 20, 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?

5 Wednesday 7:30 PM

The Connecticut Butterfly Association

is having a photo contest, open to all. They welcome anyone who has an interesting butterfly or moth photo, or who would simply like to look at the photos and meet people who like lepidoptera! This event is free and open to the public. For more information, please call (203) 488-

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7813 or email jhimmel@comcast.net. For directions and more information about the Connecticut Butterfly Association, please visit www.ctbutterfly.org. M Diane Adams (860-526-1993 ButterflyPR@comcast.net) will definitely be there--with something yellow in her hair!

6, 13, 20, 27 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).

7, 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!

21 Friday 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM or so
Diner Dinner (ME, 3rd Friday)
 at Olympia Diner, Rte 5, Newington, just north of the Berlin town line and North East Utilities. Menu 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

26 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.

28 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.

KICK IRRATIONAL by Brian Lord



Brian Lord is a cartoonist and member of Middle Tennessee Mensa (Nashville area). His cartoon Kick Irrational is read weekly by people in 192 cities, 46 states and 9 countries via the Internet. You can see the Kick Irrational comics page at www.kickirrational.com

THE SEPTEMBER DINNER SCUBA DIVING

by Rick D'Amico

At the September meeting, Rick D'Amico gave an intriguing presentation about the history of scuba diving and the gear that is used by sport divers today. He demonstrated the basic equipment he dives with in a way that entertained and informed both the listeners new to the subject and the experienced divers in the audience.

As Rick explained in his introduction, man has been diving for thousands of years but the earliest divers had no equipment whatsoever - they merely held their breath. The first recorded use of diving equipment is by the Greek soldier Scyllis, who lived about 500 B.C. Scyllis was captured by the invading Persians and taken prisoner aboard one of their boats. He got free, however, taking a knife with him. History has it that he dove below, using a reed as a makeshift snorkel, and cut the mooring lines for the Persian fleet, saving Greece from conquest.

It wasn't until the 16th Century that diving gear became more sophisticated. Divers for the first time began using leather suits, with air supplied from bellows on the surface enabling them to reach depths of 60 feet. In 1530, the first diving bell was invented, advancing the art further.

The word scuba is actually an acronym for Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus. Contrary to what some casual television viewers may believe, it was not invented by Jacques Cousteau but by the Englishman William James back in 1825. The first scuba cylinders contained compressed air at a pressure of 450 pounds per square inch (psi). By contrast, most cylinders used by sport divers today have a service pressure of 3000 psi.

Besides the cylinder, scuba divers need several other types of supporting equipment, all of which Rick ably demonstrated:

- . fins, to propel the diver underwater;
- . a mask, to enable the diver to see underwater;
- . a snorkel, to allow the diver to conserve air while moving along the surface;
- . pressure gauges, so the diver could determine how much air was left in the cylinder, and

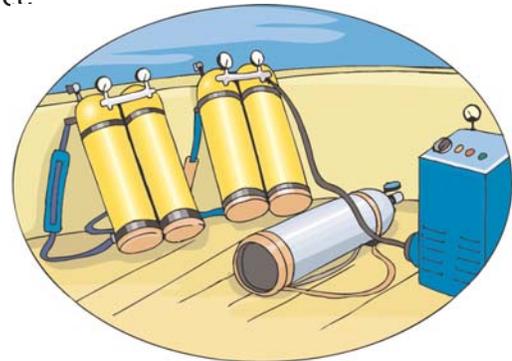
how deep he/she was in the water;

- . a wetsuit, gloves, and hood to keep the diver warm;
- . a weightbelt, to allow the diver to descend into the water while wearing a wetsuit; and,
- . a buoyancy compensator, to make it easier for the diver to ascend and descend, as well as maintain position in the water column.

There are other ancillary, although quite necessary, types of gear, including a timer (a watch, or in many cases, a computer that also tells the diver how long he/she can stay underwater at a given depth), a knife or some cutting device, a light, specialty gear, and the dive flag, which indicates to boaters that there is a diver underwater.

Rick concluded by mentioning some high-tech diving gear that has been developed for deep diving, equipment that only experienced divers with specialized training should use.

Listeners had several questions about diving and diving technology, all of which Rick was happy to answer. All applauded his concise and lucid talk and left more knowledgeable about the subject.



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ON VISITING CUBA

Copyright 2003 Gerard Brooker

I visited Cuba for the first time this past July as part of a group educational tour sponsored by an American company licensed to take U.S. citizens there. By U.S. law, American citizens, if licensed by the Treasury Department, are allowed to spend money in Cuba, up to about \$250.00 per day for expenses, a much smaller amount for personal items such as Cuban cigars and jewelry. Usually, trips are approved for three purposes: humanitarian, journalistic, and educational.

Most of our time was spent in Havana City, and Old Havana, with a two-day side trip to the city of Old Trinidad. Much of the visit was, by any measure, a setup by the Castro government to take us to places and to hear talks that were intended to impress us with the efficacy of their way of life, an agenda probably no different from most other countries hosting official visitors. The Cuban talks, though, were more like old-fashioned lectures, not much give and take, unless forced a bit by the visitors. Whether by design or not, I do not know, as the Cubans seem to favor talking.

Given the highly structured nature of the trip, it was not easy to assess how successful the Cuban Revolution has been. That the criteria for success is relative made it even more difficult. Measuring against the American beliefs in the inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness at least puts some boundaries on the question.

Always lurking in the background to anyone's conclusions is the Cuban Trade Embargo of 1961. No doubt, the embargo, which Cubans call a boycott, has hurt the island nation tremendously over the years, both materially and in the spirit, as any westernized people denied ample goods to meet basic needs eventually will suffer. The embargo's noose will be tightened again, effective January 1, 2004, when all Treasury Department licenses to American tour companies will be terminated as part of Bush's "New Cuban Initiatives" program.

Understanding the political and social imperatives that rule a nation is a lifetime task, so a reading based on one week is less than com-

plete. Yet, my ears work and my eyes read the script of each day's scenes as they unfolded before me. Here, then, are my observations, based on persistent questions to which I could not always get a direct answer.

Relative to life under Batista before the successful 1959 revolution, Cubans are doing well materially. Homeless people are hard to hide, and I never saw one. Each family is allotted a monthly ration of food, as well as 5-10 pounds of sugar, depending on the size of the family. Every person and family has free living accommodations, some better than others. I suspect important and/or powerful people, in the hypocritical distinctions that mark Communist countries, are given the better quarters. Sometimes in the countryside, I saw small run-down shacks, probably leftovers from the quarters of colonial campesinos.

Health care is free. I was impressed with the medical doctors and nurses we spoke with at one of the polyclinics outside Havana, although, as an effect of the embargo, they lack the sophisticated medical equipment we are used to in the States. They told us that high blood pressure and asthma are prevalent, that abortions are legal and their incidence high, that AIDS is under control, probably because of free condom distribution as well as a government campaign, evident to us, to alert citizens about the disease.

Education is free, and a quota system is used for entry to upper degree levels. Although we had access to news stations such as CNN in our hotel, Cubans have only three state-run stations. The literacy rate is an extraordinary 95%. Bookstores are full of old political tomes about the Soviet Union, the Cuban Revolution, Castro and Che Guevara, the Icon of the revolution, whose image seems to be omnipresent. The joke among the Americans who went to see his larger than life mausoleum in the province of Santa Clara was that he remains a hero in Castro's Cuba only because he is dead!

When one of our members inquired how far the freedom to read extended, he was told that it is unlimited. However, I privately presented an imaginary scenario to our guide wherein I would give to him a book that extolled the virtues of American democracy. I asked him how free he

would be to read this book in public. He responded, "Not very".

Those we met at an official level spoke about freedom being available, as in "we are free," yet the evidence was contradictory. Police guards with binoculars and holstered guns were seen at beaches. When asked about this, we were told that it was a measure to prevent the sale of drugs and sexual favors. Perhaps so, yet we knew, too, that Florida is only ninety miles away.

We noticed, also, that when we spoke with Cubans on the street that they were reluctant, perhaps shy, to engage us. Some of the young people told us that the police, whose presence is strong on the streets of Havana, would often ask them, after they spoke with tourists, what it was about and tell them that if they did it too many times they would be brought to a police station for further questioning. We were told that the reason behind the questioning was to protect tourists, once again, against drugs and prostitution.

National sovereignty seems to be the glue that holds patriotism together in Cuba, especially as it relates to the U.S. Elian Gonzales is a national treasure, and there is much talk and signs about the "Cuban Five," a band of Cuban nationals who have been arrested in Florida and charged with attempts at terrorism. Cuba claims they were imbedded in the Miami community to prevent terrorism against the U.S.

We were invited one night to a street gathering of Zona Nueve (Zone Nine) that was being held to acknowledge the newly elected Communist president of that area in Havana City. The rhetoric, both public and private, about the "Cuban Five" was hot, yet we were assured that it had nothing to do with the citizens of the U.S., but with our government.

The Malecon is a high and broad wall of several miles on the coast of Havana that is designed to protect the city from the ravages of the Caribbean Sea. Over the years, it has become a gathering place for Cubans young and old, especially in the evening. Centered along one of its curves is an extra large billboard featuring, in beautiful vivid colors, a frustrated and angry Uncle Sam on the left side and an armed, deri-

sive Cuban on the right, each protected from the other by the sea. In bold lettering it says:

"Senores Imperialistas, Les Tenemos Absolutamente Ningun Miedo!"
(Imperialists, we are absolutely not afraid of you!)

When we asked about the quick execution of the three Cubans who tried unsuccessfully this past summer to hijack a Cuban ferry to Florida, we were told that our own laws make the hijacking of U.S. planes a federal offense punishable by death. When asked why the trial lasted only one day and the execution carried out immediately, we were told that Cuban justice is simply more efficient than ours.

Joint ventures with eastern European countries and Canada are beginning to offset slightly the effects of the U.S. trade embargo. A "creeping capitalism" is permitted by the government. Home restaurants, called "paradores," are allowed, but they can have no more than six tables, and waiters/waitresses/cooks must be family. Privately owned automobiles, many American models from the late 50's and 60's, may be used as taxis, and extra rooms can be rented to tourists. Each of these entrepreneurial adventures is highly taxed by the government.

Castro is quite bright. As tourism is a big source of national income, he has made the American dollar the currency of tourist exchange for all nationalities. And, he has created a two-tier system of buying, one, as expensive as in any city of America, for the tourists, and another for the locals. The "official" exchange rate is twenty-six pesos per American dollar, but it applies only to visitors, as twenty-six Cuban pesos is approximately 10-15 times stronger than it is for tourists who are not allowed to use them anyway. Tourists receive what is called "convertible pesos" when change is needed for dollars used. They are based on the penny/nickel/dime/quarter coins we are used to, yet the convertible ones are worth only the inverse of the Cuban ones.

Perhaps the most talked about concern in Cuba now is what will become of this proud nation when Castro leaves the world. The question

might be mute for a while, as he stopped smoking cigars years ago and seems to be in good health. Yet, the concern is there that, once he is gone, Cuba will become an outpost for American-run gambling, prostitution and corrupt business, much as it was under Batista.

In response to questions about the election process, we were told that it is democratic. That just as in America, candidates are elected by their party to represent them, that the Communist Party has selected Castro to represent them against some five or six candidates in a secret and unsigned ballot. Yet, he gets about 99.9% of the vote.

I would like to say that the shadow of conformity is long in Cuba, yet I sense, too, that an uncertain future without Fidel Castro is a strong imperative to vote for him. His brother, Raul, who, upon Castro's death, will be placed in nomination by the Communist Party, is not held in the same regard as is Fidel, whose fanatical supporters are called "Fidelistas."

On my last evening in Havana, I went for a walk on the Malecon, which came to represent Cuba for me. It was there that I found the aliveness of a beautiful people, as well as the joy of their music. It was there that I could hear old men speak about the politics of yesterday, and see

young lovers trying to find the future in each other's eyes.

I could sense there how delicate is a democracy, and how substantial to the deterioration of liberty is the tweaking of an idea, a suspicion blown into conviction, a fear morphed into fact. And I felt my own fear.

If you wish to comment on articles or 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 e-mail address or 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.

PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. In the Earth's sky, which appears larger, the sun or the moon?
2. How many words per minute do you read?
How many words per minute do you speak?
3. How many miles up do you have to go before you reach outer space?
4. Estimate the ratio of banks to gas stations in your town. Check your estimate using the phone book or a business directory. If you were far off, try to explain why.
5. Distinguish between creativity and imagination.

6. Name some things that go clockwise and some that go counter-clockwise.

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

1. Which would you rather have, a trunk full of nickels or a trunk half full of dimes?
- A: You'd be wealthier with the trunk half-full of dimes because dimes are smaller than nickels. So if a full trunk could hold 6,000 nickels, a half-trunk could hold more than 3,000 dimes. So the value of all the dimes would be greater than the value of all the nickels.

POETRY CORNER**NOVEMBER**

By Thomas Hood (1789-1845)

No sun - no moon!
 No morn - no noon -
 No dawn - no dusk - no proper time of day.
 No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,
 No comfortable feel in any member -
 No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
 No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds! -
 November!

NOVEMBER

by Sarah Teasdale, (1884-1933)

The world is tired, the year is old,
 The fading leaves are glad to die,
 The wind goes shivering with cold
 Where the brown reeds are dry.

Our love is dying like the grass,
 And we who kissed grow coldly kind,
 Half glad to see our old love pass
 Like leaves along the wind.

AUTUMN

by Rainer Maria Rilke, (1875 - 1926)

The leaves are falling, falling as if from far up,
 as if orchards were dying high in space.
 Each leaf falls as if it were motioning "no."

And tonight the heavy earth is falling
 away from all other stars in the loneliness.

We're all falling. This hand here is falling.
 And look at the other one. It's in them all.

And yet there is Someone, whose hands
 infinitely calm, holding up all this falling.

DREAMS

Langston Hughes (1902 - 1967)

Hold fast to dreams
 For if dreams die
 Life is a broken-winged bird
 That cannot fly.
 Hold fast to dreams
 For when dreams go
 Life is a barren field
 Frozen with snow.

DREAM DEFERRED

What happens to a dream deferred?
 Does it dry up
 Like a raisin in the sun?
 Or fester like a sore--
 And then run?
 Does it stink like rotten meat?
 Or crust and sugar over--
 like a syrupy sweet?
 Maybe it just sags
 like a heavy load.
 Or does it explode?

DREAM VARIATIONS

To fling my arms wide
 In some place of the sun,
 To whirl and to dance
 Till the white day is done.
 Then rest at cool evening
 Beneath a tall tree
 While night comes on gently,
 Dark like me-
 That is my dream!

To fling my arms wide
 In the face of the sun,
 Dance! Whirl! Whirl!
 Till the quick day is done.
 Rest at pale evening...
 A tall, slim tree...
 Night coming tenderly
 Black like me.

WORD ORIGINS

Many word and expressions in common use come from the Bible. Here are some samples.

shibboleth - This word means "a pet phrase" or "language that is a criterion for distinguishing members of a group." It comes from a story in Judges 12:5-6, where the men of Gilead defeated the Ephraimites in battle. In order to keep captives from escaping, the Gileadites seized the crossing points of the Jordan River. If anyone sought to cross, they would ask him to say "Shibboleth." The tribe members of Ephraim pronounced the word differently so they gave themselves away when they uttered it.

An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth - Exodus 21:23.

Hewers of wood and drawers of water - Joshua 9:21. This describes the Gibeonites, who became slaves of the Israelites rather than die at their hands in battle.

How the mighty have fallen - "How the mighty are fallen in the midst of battle!" 2 Samuel 1:25. This is part of a song of lament sung by David after hearing of the deaths of King Saul and his sons at the hands of the Philistines.

Hear the half of it - "The half was not told me." - 1 Kings 10:7. These words were spoken by Queen Sheba to King Solomon when she saw his wisdom and wealth.

A still small voice - "After the fire a still small voice." 1 Kings 19:11. This is a description of the persecuted prophet Elijah's hearing of God's voice upon a mountaintop.

Spare the rod, spoil the child - "He that spareth the rod hateth his son." - Proverbs 13:24

The race is not to the swift ... - "The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong." - Ecclesiastes 9:11.

Cast thy bread upon the water - "Cast thy bread upon the water; for thou shalt find it after many days." - Ecclesiastes 11:1. This is the beginning of an admonition to be generous and chari-

table with one's wealth, regardless of anxieties.

A leopard cannot change its spots - "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots." - Jeremiah 13:23. This is part of the prophet Jeremiah's long lament and warning to the people of Jerusalem, who are trapped in their sinful habits.

The salt of the earth - "Ye are the salt of the earth." - Matthew 5:5

Casting pearls before swine - "Neither cast ye your pearls before swine." - Matthew 7:6

A prophet without honor - "A prophet is not without honor, save in his own country and in his own house." - Matthew 13:57. These are the words of Jesus after being rejected on his return to his hometown of Nazareth.

The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak - Matthew 26:41. This is what Jesus said to Peter when he found that the three disciples who had accompanied him to the garden of Gethsemane had all fallen asleep within one hour of beginning their watch.

A house divided against itself cannot stand - Abraham Lincoln used this phrase in the Gettysburg Address. It comes from a parable spoken by Jesus, in which he denied accusations that he was using demonic powers: "If a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand." Mark 3:25.

Physician, heal thyself - Luke 4:23. Jesus cites this proverb to describe what listeners in Nazareth expected of him after they have heard stories of his miracles elsewhere.

It is better to give than to receive. - "It is more blessed to give than to receive." - Acts 20:35.

Faith, hope, and charity - "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." - 1 Corinthians 13:13.

In the twinkling of an eye - "Behold, I shew you a mystery: We shall not all sleep but we shall all be changed, /In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump." - 1 Corinthians 15:51.

Death, where is thy sting - "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory." - 1 Corinthians 15:55.

Money is the root of all evil - 1 Timothy 6:10. This is often quoted as, "The love of money is the root of all evil" but is better translated as, "The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil."

Cover a multitude of sins - "Charity shall cover the multitude of sins." - Peter 4:8.
reaping the whirlwind - "They have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind." - Hosea 8:7.
This is Hosea's report of God's condemnation of Israel for idol worship.

Their teeth are on edge - "The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge." - Ezekiel 18:2. Here the prophet Ezekiel conveys God's displeasure at this proverb of Israel, and goes on to cite God's words that the sins of the fathers will not be visited upon the sons; that each will be judged individually.

NOTED AND QUOTED

Painting, n.: The art of protecting flat surfaces from the weather, and exposing them to the critic. - *Ambrose Bierce, (1842 - 1914?)*

You have to know how to accept rejection and reject acceptance.
- *Ray Bradbury (1920 -), advice to writers*

If you chase two rabbits, both will escape.
- *Anonymous*

Socrates was a Greek. He talked too much. They killed him. - *short essay by seven-year old student*

They say that genius is 99 percent perspiration and 1 percent inspiration. Then again, so is mowing the lawn. - *Tom Sims*

There cannot be a moment in which nothing happens.
- *Elizabeth Bowen, (1899-1973), The Heat of the Day, 1949*

We have been friends together in sunshine and in shade. - *Caroline Sheridan Norton, (1808 - 1877), English writer, poet*

I'm living so far beyond my income that we may almost be said to be living apart.
- *e. e. cummings, (1894-1962), US poet, novelist*

Hate, jealousy and bitterness are like taking poison and hoping the other guy dies. - *Anonymous*

The most lasting and universal consequence of the French revolution is the metric system.
- *Eric Hobsbawm, (1917 -), historian, The Age of Extremes*

We know what we are, but know not what we may be. - *William Shakespeare*

Common sense is the most evenly distributed quantity in the world. Everyone thinks he has enough. - *Descartes, (1596 - 1650)*

We must never forget that everything Hitler did was legal. - *Martin Luther King, (1929 - 1968)*

I don't have an attitude problem - you have a perception problem. - *Rob Coleman*

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. Build anyway.
- *Dr. Karl Menninger, U.S. psychiatrist, (1893 - 1990)*

Life is like a metaphor. - *Anonymous*

I read the newspaper today and was amazed that, in 24 hours, five billion people could accomplish so little. - *Anonymous*

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

By John Grover

This month's wine is from the world famous Bordeaux wineries. The Bordeaux wine we see in this country is often quite expensive, but fortunately there are a few vintners from that area still producing more affordable wines, and we'll sample one of these.

Mouton Cadet is produced by the winery of Baron Philippe De Rothschild. This 1999 red wine is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot grapes. Its finest attribute may be the elegant aroma, which fills the glass. The taste, though, is simpler, with nuances of cherry and blackberry, and a surprisingly light body. At \$7 to \$8 a bottle, it makes for a good everyday wine that goes well with grilled and roasted meats. I would even recommend it with traditional holiday meals of turkey if your guests prefer red wine. This pairing works best if the cook is not shy about using herbs and ground pepper to make a hearty stuffing and gravy.

Our recipe this month is a marvelously rich potato dish from France,

GRATIN DAUPHINOIS

(from Bistro Cooking by Patricia Wells):

Ingredients:

1 garlic clove;
2 lbs. baking potatoes, such as russets, peeled and thinly sliced;
1 cup freshly grated French or Swiss Gruyere cheese;
1 cup heavy cream; and
salt to taste.

Preheat oven to 350 F. Thoroughly rub a shallow 1-1/2 quart gratin dish with garlic; layer half the potatoes in the dish. Sprinkle with half of the cheese and then half of the cream. Sprinkle with salt. Add another layer, using the rest of the ingredients. Bake uncovered until the gratin is crisp and golden on top, from 50 to 60 minutes.

This produces a flavorful dish that serves 4 to 6 persons. You can vary it by adding freshly ground nutmeg and/or pepper.

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.

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 offers 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.

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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.

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