

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.

AMERICAN MENSA LTD. NEEDS YOUR HELP to correct a technical inconsistency in its Certificate of Incorporation. The Board of Directors of AML wants to change the Articles of Incorporation to permit elections and referenda to be conducted by mail. In order to do so, they need your proxy vote. So please take time NOW to give your proxy by visiting <http://proxy.us.mensa.org>.

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 JANUARY

Friday, January 9, 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, January 17, 7:00

Monthly Dinner

John's Best Restaurant, 85 New Canaan Ave. (Rte. 123, just off Rte. 7), NORWALK, 06850, (203) 847-7414. COME TRY OUR NEW MEETING PLACE! 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. Dress is casual. Please contact Nancy O'Neil, Nancyoneil@aol.com, 203-791-1668, for information and reservations.

Saturday, Jan. 31, 8:00 THEATRE EVENT:

Godspell at the Westport Community Theatre. Town Hall Building, 110 Myrtle Ave., Westport, CT. 06880. Tickets are \$14. Contact Jim Mizera at (203) 522-1959, jmizera@hotmail.com, for info or reservations.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY

Friday, January 9, 7:00

Southern CT and CT/Western Mass. Joint Dinner
See above listing for details.

Saturday, February 17, 7:00

Monthly Dinner Place to be announced.

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?

JANUARY

2 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!

8, 15, 22, 29 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).

Admitted in CT, NY & OR

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16 Friday 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM or so
Happy Hour, (ME, 4th 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.

28 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 need-
 ed.



REGIONAL GATHERINGS

MENSA MIND GAMES APRIL 16 - 18, 2004

Do you love games? Then mark your calendar
 for Mensa Mind Games™ 2004!

Members of Mensa are invited to be judges at
 the 2004 Mensa Mind Games competition. The
 event will take place April 16 - 18 in Chicago, IL.
 Judges will spend three days playing and
 rating the newest board games on the market.
 Judges will play a large quota of games,
 maybe around the clock. At the end of the com-
 petition, each judge will rank his or her
 favorite games. The top-scoring games earn
 Mensa Selectr distinction and may use the
 Mensa Selectr seal on their packaging and adver-
 tising.

Mind Games™ 2004 will be held April 16-18 at
 the Radisson Hotel O'Hare, 6810 N.
 Mannheim Road, Rosemont, 2 1/2 miles from
 near Chicago's O'Hare airport. A free shuttle
 is available 24 hours a day and there is free park-
 ing for Mind Games participants. Make your
 reservation directly with the hotel at 800-333-
 3333 and ask for the Mind Games rate (\$89
 S/D/T/Q).

There will be a HUGE game room - over 7500
 square feet - and a restaurant, sports bar and
 lounge on-site.

Registration is \$60 before November 9, 2003; \$65
 though March 31, 2004. On-site
 registration may not be available.

Registration fees include dinner Friday, lunch
 Saturday, and renowned Chicago hospitality
 'round the clock.

<http://mindgames.us.mensa.org/participant/register.php>

FROM THE VICE CHAIR

Marghretta McBean

As I write this, snow flurries whirl about outside and New York City is enrobed in a beautiful white coat. Yesterday evening I went ice-skating in a Central Park that looked like a fairy tale setting. What a winter wonderland!

Two weeks ago I spent a fantastic weekend at Boston Mensa's Pilgrimage RG. Kudos to all for a well-run, fun and interesting gathering! Special mention should be given to Rick Kovalcik, who orchestrated Hospitality to Olympian heights, and Lisa Maxwell, Registrar Extraordinaire. (See some photos at Region 1's website: <http://region1.us.mensa.org/boston2003.html>). I learned why galaxies form a spiral shape from Dr. Harry Ringermacher, who used Einstein's relativity equations to posit galaxy formation. "Doc Harry" is the 2003 winner of Mensa's Copper Black Award, given to Mensans (he's from Mensa of Northeast New York) who have accomplished significant scientific achievements.

THE LDW IS COMING!

Are you executive material? Looking for a mentor? Would you like to learn how to prepare yourself for holding office in (and outside of) Mensa? A Leadership Development Workshop will be held 2-4 April 2004, hosted by Connecticut & Western Massachusetts Mensa. I would like at least two members from each group to attend this important event. RVC funds can be made available for those with limited finances. More info next month.

Getting There is (Not) Half the Fun

I have traveled to about a half dozen Mensa gatherings this year, with varying degrees of ease. I do not drive. Public transportation is how I get from here to there. I rely on the travel instructions included (or not) in the event announcement. This has proven to be frustrating (locations that were nowhere near public transportation) and dangerous (inaccurate directions had me crossing a 6-lane highway at night). When you plan an event, you should try to include the widest possible audience. Offer several methods of travel; don't assume every-

one knows the area. Ask hotel staff and locals for routes, and then have someone actually follow them. If a location is accessible only by car, then think about including car-pooling in the event invitation. The easier it is to get somewhere, the more people will go. Attendance numbers will increase! New faces will appear!

Proxy Talk

If you haven't yet voted, please do so. There is a postcard insert in the December Bulletin, and you can vote online at <http://proxy.us.mensa.org>.

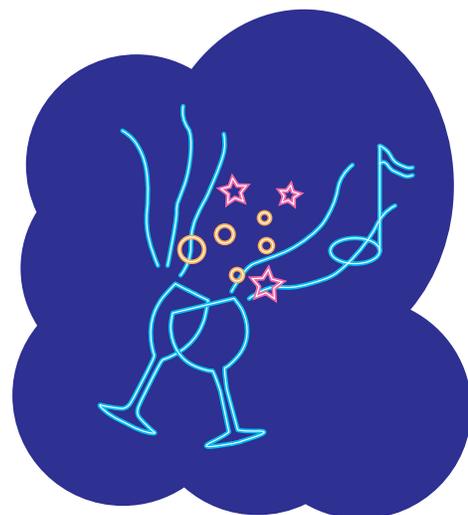
In chronological order: Happy Hanukkah, Good Yule, Merry Christmas, Auld Lang Syne and best wishes for 2004! Here's a Swedish answer to cold weather:

GLÖGG

1 1 / 2 cups red wine
 1 1 / 2 cups port
 1 1 / 2 cups vodka
 6 pods green cardamom
 4 cloves
 Orange peel (from 1 orange)
 1-2 sticks cinnamon

Combine in a non-reactive pot. Gently warm, without boiling, over low heat. Allow glögg to simmer at least 20 minutes (the longer the better). Serve with a few shaved almonds and brown raisins.

Marghretta McBean
 Region 1 Vice Chair
<http://region1.us.mensa.org/>
 American Mensa Ltd.



ON THE 20TH CENTURY

DEMOCIDE

The gravest horror of the 20th century was democide, the intentional murder of a segment of the population by a nation. According to cautious estimates, governments murdered at least 170 million of their own citizens in the 20th century, more than 5,300 worldwide per day. This number does not include the approximately 42 million people killed in wars, although many of those were victims of wars of aggression launched by democidal nations.

Democide is a broader term than the more familiar word genocide. Genocide is the mass killing of people based on their ethnic, racial, or religious identity. Democide encompasses genocide but also "politicide", the deliberate killing of unarmed people for political or ideological reasons, as well as any other mass murders by government.

R.J. Rummel, a political scientist at the University of Hawaii, has done the most work to enumerate the toll from democide in the 20th century. Here is his estimate of the most murderous regimes:

(1) USSR	62 million	1917-1987
(2) People's Republic of China,	35 million	1949-1987
(3) Nazi Germany	21 million	1933-1945
(4) Nationalist China	10 million	1928-1949
(5) Japan	6 million	1936-1945
(6) Pre-1949 Chinese communists	3.5 million	1923-1949
(7) Cambodia (Pol Pot)	2 million	1975-1979
(8) Turkey (Armenian genocide)	1.9 million	1909-1918
(9) Vietnam	1.7 million	1945-1987
(10) Poland	1.6 million	1945-1948
(11) Pakistan	1.5 million	1958-1987
(12) Yugoslavia	1.1 million	1944-1987

Rummel also lists some other governments that probably murdered at least 1 million people, although these numbers are more uncertain. Numerous other states killed hundreds of thousands victims.

North Korea	1.7 million	1948-1987
Mexico	1.4 million	1900-1920
Czarist Russia	1.1 million	1900-1917

(Source: P.J. Rummel, article in the Encyclopedia of Genocide, 1999):

The 20th century did not invent democide or genocide, of course. Ancient and medieval tyrants often killed surprisingly large numbers. For example, Genghis Khan is believed to have slaughtered more than 10 million victims from 1190 - 1227. But in absolute numbers, the 20th century had the highest democide totals and one of the highest percentage figures. Gerald Scully, a professor of economics at the University of Texas, compiled estimates of democidal killings by governments in previous centuries (See Table 2). Until the 20th century, the numbers, while shockingly high, seemed to be declining.

CENTURY	% KILLED
13th	8.9
17th	4.7
19th	3.7
20th	7.3

* Source: Gerald W. Scully, "Murder by the State", National Center for Policy Analysis, no. 211, 9/97, p.7.
<http://www.ncpa.org/studies/s211/s211.html>

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DEMOCIDE cont.

Historians and other scholars have offered several reasons for the 20th century's brutal outburst of democide. Some looking at the violence of previous centuries, point out that the will to exterminate has always been there, but that earlier tyrannies lacked the organization, communication, and sheer technological firepower that modern totalitarian regimes wield. It is clear that the mass murderers of the past century used railroads, airplanes, and new weaponry to slaughter opposition more swiftly than previous despots ever could. They also used the airwaves as weapons of mass distortion to propagate hatred against enemies. Together, these tools made murder more viciously efficient than ever before.

Many students of democide believe that the mass murders of the 20th century grew out of ideas and events of the 18th and 19th centuries. In particular, they point to the French Revolution as the advent of ideological war, which they believe possesses more fury than mere territorial ambition. The new ideologically motivated power seekers were dictators rather than monarchs. More was at stake for them because they wanted not just to rule but to remake and control society. Revolutionaries of this mindset saw themselves and their cause as embodiments of the national will and opponents not just as adversaries, but as enemies of the people who must be exterminated. Hence, they sought total obedience and continued to kill even after all opposition had been crushed. They constantly sought to purge deviation and killed even their fellow revolutionaries who were suspected of not being revolutionary enough. Thus just as Robespierre and many of the original French Revolutionaries were sent to the guillotine, more than half of the 1800 delegates to the Soviet Communist Party Congress of 1934 were

killed or exiled by 1939.

Still other historians blame the growth of nationalism in the 19th century for the power and passion that was to motivate genocide. At the beginning of the 19th century, Germany and Italy were just collections of principalities. By the end of the 19th century, they were powerful nations with imperial ambitions. Varieties of nationalistic zeal motivated terror in Europe, China, Japan, Mexico, and Turkey in the 20th century.

Numerous political scientists believe that the rules of civilized warfare that limited the means used by political combatants collapsed in the 20th century. The revolutionary ideologies that grew up in the 19th century did not see any distinction between soldiers and civilians, nor between citizens and state. Instead of palace intrigue, political struggles became conflicts between mass political parties, manned by zealots who carried their conflicts into the streets and the homes of the population. The enemy was everywhere and must be totally destroyed.

Whatever interpretation one accepts for the roots of modern democide, the 20th century was a brutal century for political conflict. Perhaps Prof. Rummel stated it best when he said, "Power kills, and absolute Power kills absolutely."

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.

WORD ORIGINS

An eponym is a word derived from the name of a real or fictional person. Many common or colorful words in the English language are eponyms. Here is a selection of them, along with the person behind the word.

Algorithm - a set of steps for solving a problem, typically a computing problem. From al-Khwarizmi (c.800-850), an Arab mathematician.

Asphalt - Leopold von Asphalt (1802-80), Bavarian landowner.

Assassin - Assassins, a secret fanatical sect of Muslims in 11th century Persia.

Axel - a figure skating jump that is begun from the outer forward edge of one skate, followed by 1-1 / 2 midair turns and a return to the out-backward edge of the other skate. Axel Paulsen (1856-1938), Norwegian figure skater.

Bartlett pear - Enoch Bartlett (1779-1860), American merchant.

Beef Stroganoff - Count Pavel Alexandrovich Stroganoff (1772-1817), Russian diplomat.

Begonia - Michel Bégon (1638-1710), French patron saint of science.

Blimp - Colonel Blimp, cartoon character by Sir David Low (1891-1963), New Zealand cartoonist.

Bloody Mary - Queen Mary I of England (1516-58).

Bobby - Sir Robert Peel (1788-1850), British statesman and founder of London police force.

Boycott - Charles C. Boycott (1832-1897), Irish land agent.

Braggadocio - Braggadocchio, character in the poem *The Faerie Queene* by Edmund Spenser (c.1552-99), English poet.

Braille - Louis Braille (1809-99), French teacher, writer and musician.

Caesar salad - Caesar Cardini, 1920's Tijuana, Mexican restaurateur.

Cardigan - James Thomas Brudnell, 7th Earl of Cardigan (1797-1868), British cavalry officer.

Chauvinism - Nicolas Chauvin, French soldier in Napoleon's army.

Daguerrotype - Louis Jaques Mandé Daguerre (1789-1851), French painter and pioneering photographer.

Dahlia - Anders Dahl (1751-1789), Swedish botanist.

Decibel - Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922), Scottish-born American scientist.

To be continued....



MENTAL MATTERS**BRAINSTORMING**

Every organization needs to think "outside the box" sometimes. When they're looking for inspiration for creative thinking, many of them turn to brainstorming, a method in which several people get together to try to freely generate ideas. Brainstorming is the brainchild of Alex Osborn, an advertising executive and founder of the BBD&O agency. He coined the term in 1939 and developed the art during the 1940s and 50s at his firm. Osborn wrote down his ideas in his book *Applied Imagination*, published in 1953, and founded the Creative Education Foundation in 1954 to promote creativity and innovation.

Organizations may brainstorm in different ways but most follow the five principles originally laid out by Osborn:

1. Gather a group of people together in a room to come up with ideas to solve a specific problem. Have easels or a whiteboard to write down ideas on.
2. Encourage members of the group to suggest any idea, no matter how crazy, to solve the problem. Don't state any constraints or restrict the brainstorming to "practical" ideas. If ideas not related to the problem at hand come up, write them down somewhere else so that they can be used in another brainstorming meeting.
3. Try to generate as many ideas as possible in a fixed time. Quantity is more important than quality.
4. Don't try to evaluate the ideas during the brainstorming session. Use creative thinking not critical thinking.
5. Tell participants that they can "hitchhike" or build on each other's ideas. Encourage people to combine ideas.

Many companies have used Osborn's principles successfully, and their creative thinkers have suggested various refinements. For instance, some insist that brainstorming should be limited to 5 - 7 people while others think 10 - 12 people is optimal. Regardless of how many brainstormers they recommend, however, practitioners make sure that everyone can participate without being shouted down or interrupted by others. To encourage this, they may go around the room and ask each person in turn for ideas. Since this is too formal for some, an alternative is to have people write down ideas and then to collect them and read them aloud. An additional technique is to begin by having each person briefly share whatever information they have on the problem. This practice spreads knowledge throughout the group and puts people in a cooperative spirit, spurring them to new ideas once the actual discussion begins.

Brainstorming begins with the statement of a problem and almost all creative brainstormers agree that the problem to be discussed should not be vague or abstract. It's best to state it as a "Why?", "How?" or "What?" question, as this stimulates curiosity and the desire to solve a puzzle.

veterans make sure that their groups meet in a neutral room, a room that does not belong to any of the members and is not usually used by any of them. The room should be large enough to move freely about in but small enough not to dwarf people. Often, companies and clubs try to meet in different departments and even at sites outside the office or headquarters, such as a hotel or conference center.

Wherever the meeting is held, brainstormers try to make it as relaxing as possible. They provide

BRAINSTORMING cont.

refreshments but avoid administrative announcements and protocol; the meeting is not to be business as usual. Anything that makes the get-together fun will stimulate people to throw out ideas.

In order to encourage everyone to contribute, many brainstormers try to set up their meetings so that everyone feels equal and lower ranking members aren't inhibited in giving ideas. While brainstorming sessions have a leader or moderator, the leader merely starts the session and does not control it. Some groups insist that bosses or managers should not be leaders and perhaps not even participants. Still others take it a step further and say that the moderator should be someone from outside the company.

Companies can make everyone feel welcome by seating people in a circle or, for larger groups, at a U-shaped table. If the group is too large for either arrangement, slanted theatre-type seating is best. To focus people thoughts, an object symbolizing the problem should be placed in the middle. This tends to keep people from looking at others for approval or disapproval.

During the discussion, all ideas should be recorded. The moderator should write down all ideas quickly on an easel. If they cannot, they should have a designated recorder to ensure that no ideas are lost. If the group is small, it may run out of ideas before the period is up. When this happens, the moderator should ask for a few minutes of silence so that people can reflect and come up with new insights.

Some modern-day brainstormers use special techniques to keep the sparks flying after the brainstorming is over. To keep the ideas fresh and clear in people's minds, at the end of the session, they restate every idea generated and make sure everyone in the room understands each point. They write up the notes of the meeting and distribute them as soon as possible. They may even hold another brainstorming session a few days later, after the original ideas have had time to incubate.

A few sociologists believe that brainstorming groups do not work much better than committees in general do. They point to several studies

that seem to show that individual brainstormers produce more ideas than group brainstormers. Drawing on this research, some organizers break the brainstorming teams into groups of two. Still others have individuals brainstorm on their own and then meet with the other brainstormers to list ideas. Although this method is sure to generate many duplicate ideas, proponents state that this is the best way to ensure the free flow of ideas and overcome the inhibiting effect of groupthink.

Several groups have brought brainstorming into the computer age with electronic brainstorming. They set up a website where participants anonymously type in their ideas. The messages get passed on so that everyone can read them. One advantage of this is that people cannot get interrupted; everyone can brainstorm at the same time and no one is likely to be discouraged by a dirty look.

While evaluating ideas during brainstorming is verboten, the ultimate goal of brainstorming is to generate ideas that an organization can put into action. So most groups eventually have a meeting to refine and judge their brainstormers. Typically, they start off by grouping the ideas by concepts to get a better picture of where ideas can be applied. Then they consider which ideas can be put into practice. It often turns out that wild and "impractical" ideas may turn out to be quite practical with a little tinkering. As Alex Osborn said, "It is easier to tone down a wild idea than to think up a new one." Refining the brainstormers usually produces several good ideas that the group can rank by priority and start working on.

The promise of brainstorming is to free the mind from the blind alleys of habit, to unleash brainpower so that sparks fly in all directions, to multiply imagination, to make two heads not simply better than one but more ingenious as well. When it helps people see new possibilities, it is creative teamwork at its best. The victory of brainstorming is the defeat of brain lock.

POETRY CORNER

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening (1923)

by Robert Frost (1874 - 1963)

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep...

**Written for a Musician**

by Vachel Lindsay (1879 - 1931)

HUNGRY for music with a desperate hunger
I prowled abroad, I threaded through the town;
The evening crowd was clamoring and drinking,
Vulgar and pitiful--my heart bowed down--
Till I remembered duller hours made noble
By strangers clad in some suprising grace.
Wait, wait my soul, your music comes ere midnight
Appearing in some unexpected place
With quivering lips, and gleaming, moonlit face.

Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892-1950)

Sorrow (1914)

Sorrow like a ceaseless rain
Beats upon my heart.
People twist and scream in pain, --
Dawn will find them still again;
This has neither wax nor wane,
Neither stop nor start.

People dress and go to town;
I sit in my chair.
All my thoughts are slow and brown:
Standing up or sitting down
Little matters, or what gown
Or what shoes I wear.

Feast (1923)

I drank at every vine.
The last was like the first.
I came upon no wine
So wonderful as thirst.

I gnawed at every root.
I ate of every plant.
I came upon no fruit
So wonderful as want.

Feed the grape and bean
To the vintner and monger;
I will lie down lean
With my thirst and my hunger.

NOTED AND QUOTED

I had ambition not only to go farther than any man had ever been before, but as far as it was possible for a man to go.

- James R. Cook, (1728 - 1779), English captain & explorer

A good scapegoat is hard to find. - Anonymous

Whatever you may be sure of, be sure of this - that you are dreadfully like other people.

- James Russell Lowell, (1819 - 1891), US poet

The penalty of success is to be bored by the people who used to snub you.

- Lady Astor, (1879 - 1964), British member of Parliament

The world will be a better place when the Found ads in the newspapers begin to outnumber the Lost ads.

- Lisa Kirk, U.S. actress

Have no fear of change as such and, on the other hand, no liking for it merely for its own sake.

- Robert Moses, (1888 - 1981), U.S. city planner, administrator

The Swiss are the only nation to make the Germans appear inefficient, the French undiplomatic and the Texans poor.

- Paul Bilton, *The Xenophobe's Guide to the Swiss*

The best way to succeed in life is to act on the advice we give to others. -Anonymous

Everyone has a photographic memory, but some of us don't have film. - Anonymous

If you're too busy to go fishin', you're too busy.

- Jed Clampett

A cat is more intelligent than people believe, and can be taught any crime.

- Mark Twain, (1835 - 1910)

Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem.

- Phil Donahue, (1935 -)

It is always your next move.

- Napoleon Hill, (1883 - 1970), U.S. motivational author

Once you learn to quit, it becomes a habit.

- Vince Lombardi, (1913 - 1970), football coach

The devil is an optimist if he thinks he can make people worse than they are.

- Karl Kraus, (1874 - 1936), Austrian journalist, critic, playwright, poet

We are the people our parents warned us against.

- Nicholas von Hoffman, U.S. columnist

The frustrated follow a leader less because of their faith that he is leading them to a promised land than because of their immediate feeling that he is leading them away from their unwanted selves. Surrender to a leader is not a means to an end but a fulfillment. Whither they are led is of secondary importance.

- Eric Hoffer, (1902 - 1983), U.S. longshoreman & philosopher

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

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

By John Grover

This month's wine and recipe come from the northern Italy. Our gourmet group focused upon the region of Lombardy this past month. We were rewarded by a wealth of recipes available both over the Internet and from several excellent cookbooks.

The wine is a 2001 Pinot Grigio from the winery Tenute Aleandri, located in the Veneto region just to the East of Lombardy. It can be a challenge finding a fine bottle Pinot Grigio that remains within our price range of \$10 or less. At \$10 - \$12, the Aleandri Pinot Grigio is right on the edge of this limit, but it has qualities that I have found only in Pinot Grigio's costing around twice as much. It's an absolutely luscious wine with a layering of lemon and other citrus in combination with a silky crispness across the tongue. This is a perfect match with fish or chicken in light wine or cream sauces. It's also goes well as an aperitif when served with our appetizer for this month (see below).

PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. Where is the Suwannee River?
2. How many striking coincidences can you recall from last year? Were they actually improbable or merely surprising?
3. What are the chances of a golfer getting a hole-in-one?
4. What do you think will be the top qualifying speed at the Indianapolis 500 auto race in 2050?
5. What are the oldest existing cities in the world?
6. If property values in Bridgeport drop by 10% and the property tax rate increases by 10%, by how large a percentage will property tax revenues change assuming no incentive effects (i.e., static scoring)?

Gorgonzola and Goat Cheese Crostini

(from the Italian Farmhouse Cookbook" by Susan Herman Loomis).

Ingredients: 2 oz. Gorgonzola cheese; 6 oz. soft goat cheese; 1 / 3 cup of heavy (whipping) cream; plenty of thinly sliced crusty bread, toasted; 1 small bunch of fresh chives, for garnish (optional-but I recommend); and course ground pepper, also for garnish (optional).

Using a wooden spoon, blend the cheeses with the cream in a small bowl to obtain a smooth, relatively homogeneous mixture. Thickly spread the mixture on the toasts and arrange attractively on a platter. Mince the chives if using. Serve the toasts plain or sprinkled with chives and pepper. This appetizer was a real hit at the party.

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.

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

1. Estimate the probability of throwing at least one double six when you throw a pair of dice 25 times.

A: The probability is a little better than even. There are 36 possibilities when you throw two dice. The probability of throwing double six on one roll is 1/36 and the probability of NOT throwing a double six is 35/36.

The probability of NOT throwing a double six on 25 rolls is $(35/36)^{25}$. So the probability of throwing a double six in 25 rolls is 1 minus this number:

$$\text{Prob. Double six in 25 rolls} = 1 - (35/36)^{25} = 1 - .4945 = .5055 \text{ or } 50.55\%$$

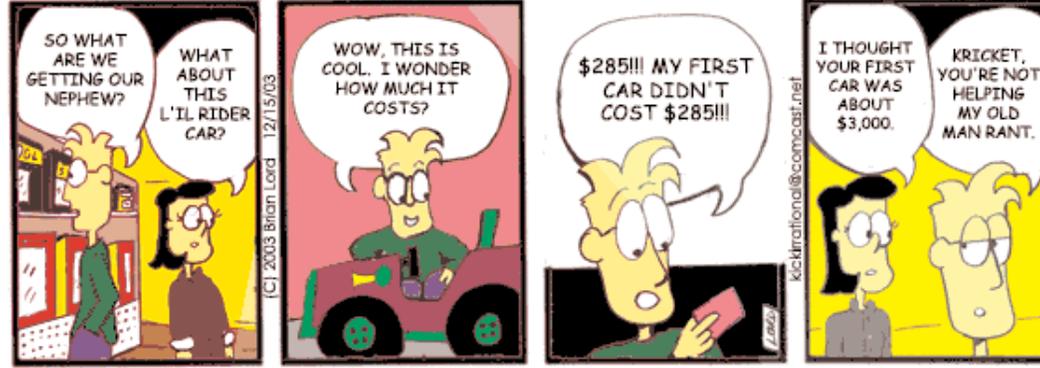
KICK IRRATIONAL by Brian Lord

www.KickComics.com



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CHARACTERS



KICK IRRATIONAL is the likeable Mr. Average who can never seem to get ahead, but can never give up trying. In fact, the only visible sign of success in his life is his wife...



KRICKET IRRATIONAL. She is highly organized and highly motivated. She's also easily angered and excited, to the great fear and joy of Kick, but she loves being with him. In fact, she's the only person who spends more time with Kick than...



TOLK. Kick's best friend, Tolk is a rich, irreverent bachelor and super-athlete who could make a living putting down Kick's sheepish ways if he needed to. If he were the devil sitting on Kick's shoulder, the angel would be...



LEWIS. A brilliant inventor and church goer, he always tries to encourage Kick. His genius is off-set by a lack of common sense, and he's deep in the midst of a losing battle against sweet tea, barbecue, and food in general. If Kick can't find an answer from Lewis, he can always turn to...



DR. WILLIAMS. A mentor to Kick and the others, he's not afraid to dole out some advice and tough love, whether it's asked for or not. The senior member of the group, he's a far cry from the youngest,



JOSIE. An earthy and ditzzy girl, she's like the little sister Kricket never had. She loves trees, animals, and anything made of soy. She never tires of trying to get Kricket to try the newest workout fad. From her name, to her look and personality, Josie came about completely from reader suggestions.

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

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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