

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 APRIL

Saturday, April 3, 8:00

Theater Event: South Pacific

at the Kweskin/Curtain Call Theatre, 1349 Newfield Ave., (Norht) Stamford, CT., 06905 Tickets are \$20. Contact Jim Mizera at (203) 522-1959, jmizera@hotmail.com, for info or reservations.

Friday, April 16, 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, April 20, 17, 7:00

Monthly Dinner

John's Best Restaurant, 85 New Canaan Ave. (Rte. 123, just off Rte. 7), NORWALK, 06850, (203) 847-7414. 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.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR MAY

Saturday, May 1, 8:00.

THEATRE EVENT: The Beauty Queen of Leenane

performed by Theatreworks, 5 Brookside Ave., New Milford (www.theatreworks.usa). A darkly comic tale set in the Irish town of Connemara. Tickets are \$15. For info or reservations, please call Jim Mizera at (203) 332-2548 or e-mail jmizera@hotmail.com. To ensure seats, call a week early.

Saturday, May 22, 8:00.

THEATRE EVENT: The Complete Works of W**Shakespeare (Abridged),**

performed by the Branford Renaissance Theater Company Actor's Ensemble at Fellowship Hall, 45 Tabor Drive, Branford, CT www.actorsensemble.com. A hilarious, non-stop comedy extravaganza that romps through all of Shakespeare's plays in two hours. Tickets are \$12.00. Contact Jim Mizera at (203) 522-1959, jmizera@hotmail.com, for info or reservations.

Friday, May 14, 7:00

Southern CT and CT/Western Mass.Joint Dinner

See above listing for details.

Saturday, May 15, 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.

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and ready for the weekend?

APRIL

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Friday 5:30-8:00 pm

Scrabble (WE) Ann Polanski, 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 5:30-8:00 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!

2 Friday 5pm through Sunday 1pm

Leadership Development Workshop

Registration begins 5 PM, first seminar is at 8 PM, followed at 9:15 PM by the Mixer (see next listing). For more details, see the website at www.cwm.us.mensa.org or call Will Mackey at 860-646-1619 or mackeyw@att.net.

2 Friday 9:15 PM

Chapter wide Mixer

Just because you may not be attending the LDW doesn't mean you have to miss out on the fun! Mix and mingle with the LDW attendees from all over Region 1, and show off your best C&WM Mensa cheer!

2 Friday TBA

Happy Hour (ME, 1st Friday)

at the Ramada Inn, Meriden. Suspended temporarily as the Ramada undergoes renovation. Alternative venue to be announced via email and the website when one is obtained.

11 Sunday 1:35 PM

Mensa Goes to the Ballgame

Watch the New Britain Rock Cats, Double-A farm

team of the Minnesota Twins, host the New Hampshire Fisher Cats, a Toronto Blue Jays franchise. Buy a \$5 general admission ticket, wander down the third base side to section 213, climb to near the top of the section and join Tom Thomas and other Mensans for a day at the ballpark. More information from tom.thomas@the-spa.com or www.rockcats.com.

16 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

17 Saturday 2 PM

Games Afternoon

Can't get to Chicago for Mind Games 2004 this weekend? Bill Vincent will host a games gathering at his place, much closer by. For those who like to get home early and those who "love" games, he'll be ready for players starting at 2 pm. Many games will be provided, or bring your favorites to share. Call 860-646-3007 or email wpvincent@aol.com for details/directions.

23 Friday 5:00 PM

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.

24 Saturday 1 PM

The Connecticut Butterfly Association's Spring Indoor Meeting

at the Connecticut Agricultural Station's Jones

Auditorium in New Haven. Wade and Sharon Wander present "Butterflies of Connecticut and Their Host Plants". Free and open to the public. There may be some plants for sale. Directions: I-91 to Willow St., exit 6. Right onto Willow St., to end. Right onto Whitney Ave. Third left onto Huntington St. 1-1/2 blocks to Ag. Station on right. For more info, please contact Diane Adams (860) 526-1993 or ButterflyPR@comcast.net, who will be there with something yellow in her hair...

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 needed.



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 competition, 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 advertising.

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 parking 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>

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.

FROM THE VICE CHAIR

Marghretta McBean

In Mensa-land, March is the last month of the year. Our fiscal and membership years begin on 1 April. Now is the time to renew your membership and for me to settle my RVC accounts. Each RVC gets a budget based on the number of members and number of groups in her/his region. Budgeted monies must be spent by March 31, or they are forfeited. In the next few weeks I will be looking at local groups to see if there are any small projects that could benefit from my remaining funds.

Vermont Mensa has been getting a lot of attention from me lately. Its acting Chair stepped down as of March 1 and under Mensa's Bylaws, I have assumed temporary administration, pending appointment of a pro tem Chair and eventual elections. While small, the Vermont group has some very vibrant and involved members, and I am hoping that soon the chapter will be in good health.

I spent a really wonderful day with Northern New Jersey Mensa at their Mid-Winter Blahs Party. They had originally planned a mini-RG, and when that proved unfeasible, made it a day-long free party. Speakers, a Google marathon, and plenty of refreshments kept everyone in high spirits.

Northern New Jersey Mensa is also the second in our region to "go digital" using the Post Office as both printer and mailer for their newsletter IMprint. After they assemble their articles and pictures, they upload a digital file to a secure US Postal Service (USPS) website, along with a member file. It is printed and mailed within 24 hours. No more "Fold Spindle and Mutilate" monthly gatherings! Northern New Jersey joins Rhode Island Mensa (newsletter M'Ocean) in Region 1's digital USPS revolution.

By the time most of you read this, I will be at (or back from) the American Mensa Committee meeting in Charlottesville, Virginia. Items on the agenda include adoption of a new budget, using outside arbitrators at hearings, and appointment of a Nominating Committee, which will be selecting candidates for next year's elections.

Here's a bit of green for St. Patrick's Day and/or the spring equinox. The word 'colcannon' is from the Gaelic *cál ceannann* which literally means 'white-headed cabbage'. However, the 'cannon' part of the name might be a derivative of the old Irish *cainnenn*, translated variously as garlic, onion, or leek. It can be suggested that in its earliest form colcannon may have been a simple mixture of some brassica [cabbage, kale, collard greens, etc.] and allium [onions, garlic, leeks, shallots, etc.]

COLCANNON

4 pounds new gold potatoes [these mash very nicely], cut into small cubes - do **not** peel!
 1 pound chopped mustard greens [or try kale, collard or turnip greens]; frozen will do nicely
 8 large scallions
 about 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
 white pepper
 kosher salt

- 1) Chop the green parts of the scallions into small pieces. place in large mixing bowl with the oil and about 1 teaspoon white pepper.
- 2) Steam the potatoes with about 1 teaspoon salt.
- 3) Remove the potatoes from the steam pot and use the potato water to steam the greens. Frozen greens will take about 5 minutes to steam.
- 4) Adding about 2 cups at a time, mash the hot potatoes in the olive oil mixture. add a little more oil if potatoes don't look fluffy.
- 5) When potatoes are all mashed, stir in the greens.
- 6) Pack colcannon into a large glass, stainless steel or non-stick pan which has been greased with olive oil. Cover top with plastic wrap and let stand at room temperature overnight for flavors to develop.

You can eat colcannon at room temperature or you can eat it hot. You can also pan fry your cold leftovers.

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

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

ON THE 20TH CENTURY

Science won many victories against disease in the 20th century but perhaps none were greater than those against infectious diseases. Discoveries in medicine and improvements in public health helped protect mankind from plagues that had ravaged populations throughout history. The triumph is not complete, however, because of the persistence of old diseases in the Third World and the emergence of new infectious diseases all over the world.

At the beginning of the century, the leading causes of death in the United States were tuberculosis, pneumonia, and diarrhea and enteritis. These diseases accounted for nearly one-third of all deaths, and about half of the victims were children. But by 1997, the three leading infectious diseases were responsible for only 4.5% of deaths. Tuberculosis, polio, typhoid, whooping cough, and pneumonia together claimed 797 lives per 100,000 population in 1900. By the end of the century, deaths from these causes plummeted to less than 40 per 100,000. In 1900, 30.4% of all deaths occurred to children less than five years old; in 1997, that percentage was only 1.4%. Other developed countries made similar progress and passed on their knowledge to the developing countries, increasing life spans worldwide.

Many of the 20th century's successes against infectious diseases built on discoveries from the previous century. For instance, vaccines for smallpox, rabies, typhoid, cholera, and plague were developed between 1798 and 1887 but didn't become widely used until the 20th century. Now childhood vaccinations are nearly universal for these and many other diseases. (See Table 1.) Because of new vaccines, smallpox, which had claimed many more lives than war, was eradicated in 1977, polio was virtually eradicated, and diphtheria, typhoid fever, tuberculosis and whooping cough were dramatically reduced.

Vaccines were not the only weapons against infectious diseases. Improved sanitation, water, nutrition, and hygiene curtailed the spread of these ills. The discovery of antibiotics, beginning with an antibiotic for penicillin in 1927, cut mortality rates for several diseases by over 90%. Antiseptic surgery tools minimized risks of contagion within hospitals. Chlorination inexpensively

Table 1 VACCINE DISCOVERIES

Disease	Year Vaccine Discovered
1. Smallpox	1798
2. Rabies	1885
3. Typhoid	1886
4. Cholera	1886
5. Plague	1887
6. Diphtheria	1923
7. Pertussis	1926
8. Tetanus	1927
9. Tuberculosis	1927
10. Influenza	1945
11. Yellow fever	1953
12. Poliomyelitis	1955
13. Measles	1963
14. Mumps	1967
15. Rubella	1969
16. Anthrax	1970
17. Meningitis	1975
18. Pneumonia	1977
19. Adenovirus	1980
20. Hepatitis B	1981
21. Hemophilus influenza B	1985
22. Japanese encephalitis	1992
23. Hepatitis A	1995
24. Varicella	1995
25. Lyme disease	1998
26. Rotavirus	1998

reduced the spread of water-borne diseases. Pesticides helped kill rodents and mosquitoes, major carriers of infections. Finally, the advent of large controlled trials in the 1940's helped scientists better judge the effectiveness of drugs. After the successful test of streptomycin against tuberculosis, systematic clinical research studies became a standard part of public health, giving greater assurance to scientists fighting contagious diseases.

Despite the great victories of medicine and public health in the first three-quarters of the 20th century, many hazards remain and many new dangers have emerged. An estimated 20% of Third World children still do not receive important immunizations, leaving them vulnerable to the diseases that the developed world has all but eliminated. In some cases, progress has been reversed. Mankind had almost won the war against malaria in the 1960s. DDT, which Dr. Hermann Muller's won the Nobel Prize for in 1948, reduced the number of malaria cases in Sri Lanka

from three million in 1946 to only 29 in 1964. Similarly success in other sub-tropical climates probably saved over 100 million lives worldwide. But the ban on DDT in 1972 reopened the door for malaria, and it now stands as the fifth most deadly infectious disease. New strains of other virulent killers, such as cholera, tuberculosis, and meningitis, have also complicated the struggle against disease in Africa and Asia.

Scientists are not only battling familiar infectious killers, but also a host of newer threats. In just the past 30 years, they have discovered more than 35 new infectious diseases. Some demographers and public health investigators believe that several conditions are heightening the risk. The biggest problem may be increased travel, migration, and commerce that can carry diseases quickly across the globe. Mass migration into cities in the Third World is bringing many more people into contact in unsanitary areas. Across the world, people are building in many former animal habitats, exposing themselves to disease-carrying ticks, fleas, and rodents. Similarly, dam construction, by disrupting water flows, may be inducing the movements of swarms of mosquitoes that infect humans. Even worse are situations where masses fleeing war crowd into filthy refugee camps, creating slums ripe for contagious diseases. The danger is not just to the Third World, however. Migrants from war-torn or impoverished countries to wealthier nations may be bringing such diseases with them. Even ordinary travelers may carry viruses from one continent to another. All these trends could set the stage for epidemics.

The worst epidemic of the 20th century, the 1918 influenza outbreak, provides a devastating scenario of how a contagious disease could rapidly overwhelm the world. It was a true pandemic, infecting one-fifth of the global population in less than two years and killing at least 20 million people and perhaps as many as 50 million. The virus may have spread from birds to pigs to humans. Regardless of how it originated, however, it moved swiftly from army camps in the U.S. to troops overseas, and a second wave carried it from returning troops to civilian populations. The large congregations of young men registering for the draft, the mass shipment of men overseas, the close contact of soldiers in encampments and battlegrounds, and the gigantic rallies and parades for the war helped disseminate the disease. Half of the American soldiers who died fell victim to influenza. Large immigrant populations in cities often did not observe sanitary practices or did not seek medical treatment for the flu. Hospitals were totally unprepared for the epidemic. Consequently, the virus ran rampant.

The world learned from the great influenza pandemic of 1918 and no flu epidemic since has killed nearly as many as that disaster. Science now has more tools at its disposal to fight epidemics. Today's researchers are much better able to isolate and identify viruses, and medical personnel can now treat secondary infections more swiftly and effectively. In the future, scientists may be able to use genetic engineering to combat the explosion of new infectious diseases.

Everyone alive today lives a safer life thanks to the technological, medical, sanitary, and nutritional achievements of the 20th century. The challenge of the 21st century is to extend these successes and ward off potential new plagues.

**Table 2 INFECTIONS DISEASE DEATHS
WORLDWIDE 1998**

Six diseases cause 90% of infectious disease deaths.

Disease	Millions of Deaths
Acute Respiratory Infections (incl. pneumonia & influenza)	3.5
AIDS	2.3
Diarrhoeal diseases	2.2
Tuberculosis	1.5
Malaria	1.1
Measles	.9

Source: World Health Organization, 1999



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KICK IRRATIONAL by Brian Lord

www.KickComics.com



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www.KickComics.com



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

WORD ORIGINS

PORTMANTEAU WORDS

A portmanteau (port-MAN-toh) is a leather traveling case that opens into two hinged compartments. English adopted the word from the French language (portemanteau, "porter" - to carry, "manteau" - cloak, mantle), where it denoted a flexible round leather case to hold a cloak or other garment. Portmanteau words are blended words - words that combine to form a single word. We can thank Humpty Dumpty for this concept. As Humpty explained the word "slithy" to Alice in Lewis Carroll's "Through the Looking Glass" (1872), "You see it's like a portmanteau -- there are two meanings packed up into one word."

Lewis Carroll (the pseudonym of C.L. Dodgson) had a lot of fun with portmanteau words, creating new words like "chortle" ("chuckle" + "snort"), "gallumph" ("gallop" + "triumph"), and a few that didn't quite catch on such as "mimsy" ("miserable" + "flimsy"), and "frumious" ("fuming" + "furious".) But Carroll was not the first to use blended words. The term "squiggle", for instance, comes from "squirm" + "wriggle", and dates back to about 1816. But Carroll's creativity spawned a late 19th century fashion for creating portmanteau words. New inventions also created a need for new words, which people often filled by blending words.

Most modern blended words simply take the first part of one word plus the last part of another. If a word affixes a prefix or suffix to a complete word, or concatenates two complete words, then it is a compound word, not a portmanteau word. Hence, "megastore", "cyberspace", "keypad", and "townhouse" are not portmanteau words.

Below is a list of some portmanteau words and the words they mixed.

bash (???) = bang + smash
 because = by + cause
 bit = binary + digit
 blurt = blow + spurt
 brunch = breakfast + lunch (1896)
 bumble = bungle + stumble
 camcorder = camera + recorder
 cellophane = cellulose + diaphane
 chocoholic = chocolate + alcoholic

chunnel = channel + tunnel
 clash (???) = clang + crash
 dumbfound = dumb + confound
 electrocute = electricity + execute (1889)
 emoticon = emotion + icon
 flabbergast = flabby + aghast
 flare = flame + glare
 flop = flap + drop
 gainsay = against + say
 glimmer = gleam + shimmer
 glitz = glamour + ritz
 glob = globe + blob
 goodbye = God + be [with] + ye
 goon = gorilla + baboon
 hassle = haggle + tussle
 humongous = huge + monstrous
 intercom = internal + communication
 infomercial = information + commercial
 insinuating = insinuation + innuendo
 jamboree = jam + soiree
 jazzercise = jazz + exercise
 modem = modulator + demodulator
 motel = motor + hotel
 motorcade = motor + cavalcade
 muppet = marionette + puppet
 pang = pain + sting
 paratroops = parachute + troops
 pixel = picture + element
 prissy = prim + sissy
 scuzzy = scummy + lousy
 skyjack = sky + hijack
 slang = slovenly + language
 slosh = slop + slush
 smash = smack + mash
 smog = smoke + fog
 snazzy = snappy + jazzy
 splatter = splash + spatter
 splurge = splash + surge
 squawk = squall + squeak
 stagflation = stagnation + inflation
 swatch = Swiss + watch
 swipe = = wipe + sweep
 telex = teleprinter + exchange
 travelogue = travel + monologue (1903)
 twiddle = twist + fiddle
 waddle = wade + toddle

POETRY CORNER

APRIL

By Sara Teasdale
From *Rivers to the Sea* (1915)

THE roofs are shining from the rain,
The sparrows twitter as they fly,
And with a windy April grace
The little clouds go by.

Yet the back-yards are bare and brown
With only one unchanging tree--
I could not be so sure of Spring
Save that it sings in me.

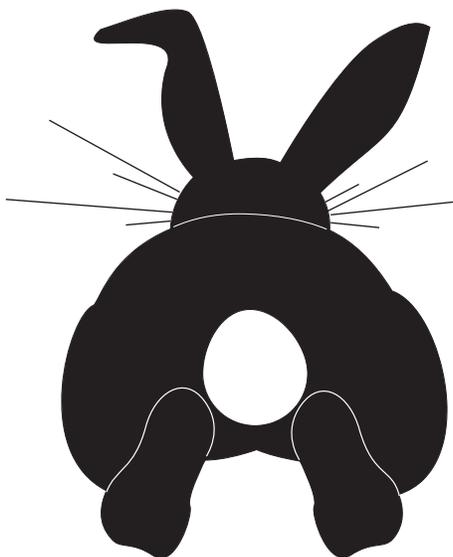
BURNING LEAVES IN SPRING

By Christopher Morley

WHEN withered leaves are lost in flame
Their eddying gossams, a thin blue haze,
Blow through the thickets whence they came
On amberlucent autumn days.

The cool green woodland heart receives
Their dim, dissolving, phantom breath;
In young hereditary leaves
They see their happy life-in-death.

My minutes perish as they glow--
Time burns my crazy bonfire through;
But ghosts of blackened hours still blow,
Eternal Beauty, back to you!



EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY, (1892-1950)

SPRING

from *Second April*, publ. 1921

TO what purpose, April, do you return again?
Beauty is not enough.
You can no longer quiet me with the redness
Of little leaves opening stickily.
I know what I know.
The sun is hot on my neck as I observe
The spikes of the crocus.
The smell of the earth is good.
It is apparent that there is no death.
But what does that signify?
Not only under ground are the brains of men
Eaten by maggots.
Life in itself
Is nothing,
An empty cup, a flight of uncarpeted stairs.
It is not enough that yearly, down this hill,
April
Comes like an idiot, babbling and strewing flow-
ers.

SONG OF A SECOND APRIL

APRIL this year, not otherwise
Than April of a year ago
Is full of whispers, full of sighs,
Dazzling mud and dingy snow;
Hepaticas that pleased you so
Are here again, and butterflies.

There rings a hammering all day,
And shingles lie about the doors;
From orchards near and far away
The gray wood-pecker taps and bores,
And men are merry at their chores,
And children earnest at their play.

The larger streams run still and deep;
Noisy and swift the small brooks run.
Among the mullein stalks the sheep
Go up the hillside in the sun
Pensively; only you are gone,
You that alone I cared to keep.

NOTED AND QUOTED

What makes the universe so hard to comprehend is that there's nothing to compare it with.

- *Anonymous*

Man stands in his own shadow and wonders why it is dark. - *Ancient Zen saying*

You cannot procrastinate - in two days, tomorrow will be yesterday.

- *Kemmons Wilson, (1913 -), founder of Holiday Inn*

Too many of us look upon Americans as dollar chasers. This is a cruel libel, even if it is reiterated thoughtlessly by the Americans themselves.

- *Albert Einstein, (1879 - 1955)*

Americans love junk. It's not the junk that bothers me, it's the love.

- *George Santayana, (1863 - 1952), philosopher*

We are indeed much more than what we eat, but what we eat can nevertheless help us to be much more than what we are.

- *Adelle Davis, (1904-1974), US nutritionist, author*

It is the space inside that gives the drum its sound. - *Anonymous*

Men make their own history, but they do not make it just as they please. . . . The tradition of all the dead generations weighs like a nightmare on the brain of the living. - *Karl Marx, (1818 - 1883)*

People always seemed to know half of history, and to get it confused with the other half.

- *Jane Haddam, (1951 -), American mystery writer*

In brightest day, in blackest night no evil shall escape my sight. Let those who worship evil's might beware my power, Green Lantern's light!

- *Green Lantern*

I love power. But I love it as an artist. I love it as a musician loves his violin, to draw on its sounds and chords and harmonies. - *Napoleon, (1769 - 1821)*

If our mission is an endless search, how can we fail? - *Daniel Boorstin, (1915 - 2004), historian*

Hope is ice thick enough for somebody else to walk on. - *Anonymous*

I hate quotations. Tell me what you know.

- *Ralph Waldo Emerson, (1803 - 1882)*

The fellow who says he'll meet you halfway usually thinks he's standing on the dividing line.

- *O.A. Battista, (1917 -), Canadian-born author-scientist*

Start slow and taper off.

- *Walt Stack, (1908 - 1995), marathon runner*

When people say, "She's got everything," I've got one answer: I haven't had tomorrow.

- *Liz Taylor, (1932 -), actress, professional celebrity*

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RUMINATIONS

LUXURY

by Oliver Goldsmith

from *The Citizen of the World*, (1760 - 1761)

From such a picture of Nature in primeval simplicity, tell me, my much-respected friend, are you in love with fatigue and solitude? Do you sigh for the severe frugality of the wandering Tartar, or regret being born amidst the luxury and dissimulation of the polite? Rather tell me, has not every kind of life vices peculiarly its own? Is it not a truth, that refined countries have more vices, but those not so terrible, barbarous nations few, and they of the most hideous complexion? Perfidy and fraud are the vices of civilized nations, credulity and violence those of the inhabitants of the desert. Does the luxury of the one produce half the evils of the inhumanity of the other? Certainly those philosophers, who declaim against luxury, have but little understood its benefits; they seem insensible, that to luxury we owe not only the greatest part of our knowledge, but even of our virtues.

It may sound fine in the mouth of a declaimer when he talks of subduing our appetites, of teaching every sense to be content with a bare sufficiency, and of supplying only the wants of Nature; but is there not more satisfaction in indulging those appetites, if with innocence and safety, than in restraining them? Am not I better pleased in enjoyment than in the sullen satisfaction of thinking that I can live without enjoyment? The more various our artificial necessities, the wider is our circle of pleasure; fall all pleasure consists in obviating necessities as they rise; luxury, therefore, as it increases our wants, increases our capacity for happiness.

Examine the history of any country remarkable for opulence and wisdom, you will find they would never have been wise had they not been first luxurious; you will find poets, philosophers, and even patriots, marching in Luxury's train. The reason is obvious; we then only are curious after knowledge when we find it connected with sensual happiness. The senses ever point out the way, and reflection comments upon the discovery. Inform a native of the desert of Kobi, of the exact measure of the parallax of the moon, he

finds no satisfaction at all in the information; he wonders how any could take such pains, and lay out such treasures in order to solve so useless a difficulty; but connect it with his happiness, by showing that it improves navigation, that by such an investigation he may have a warmer coat, a better gun, or a finer knife, and he is instantly in raptures at so great an improvement. In short, we only desire to know what we desire to possess; and whatever we may talk against it, luxury adds the spur to curiosity, and gives us a desire of becoming wise.

But not our knowledge only, but our virtues are improved by luxury. Observe the brown savage of Tibet, to whom the fruits of the spreading pomegranate supply food, and its branches a habitation. Such a character has few vices I grant, but those he has are of the most hideous nature, rapine and cruelty are scarce crimes in his eye, neither pity nor tenderness, which enoble every virtue, has any place in his heart; he hates his enemies, and kills those he subdues. On the other hand, the polite Chinese and civilized European seem even to love their enemies. I have just now seen an instance where the English have succored those enemies whom their own countrymen actually refused to relieve.

The greater the luxuries of every country, the more closely, politically speaking, is that country united. Luxury is the child of society alone, the luxurious man stands in need of a thousand different artists to furnish out his happiness; it is more likely, therefore, that he should be a good citizen who is connected by motives of self-interest with so many, than the abstemious who is united to none.

In whatsoever light therefore we consider luxury, whether as employing a number of hands naturally too feeble for more laborious employment, as finding a variety of occupation for others who might be totally idle, or as furnishing out new inlets to happiness, without encroaching on mutual property, in whatever light we regard it, we shall have reason to stand up in its defense, and the sentiment of Confucius still remains unshaken: that we should enjoy as many of the luxuries of life as are consistent with our own safety, and the prosperity of others, and that he who finds out a new pleasure is one of the most useful members of society.

PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. CRYPTOGRAM: Here is a cryptogram prepared by Rick Magnus. See if you can translate it. If you need some clues, look below in the Answers section.

Rc bxtotxat Ftdoz zo st hdcs jr, st fpor zftdu
cpx Vtxrjqjvzrt cq Jdvcxabcxzcjcd. Xtrpxd ecpx
bxcne rcuze!

- 2. What percentage of what the average person files is never looked at again?
- 3. Name the counties of Connecticut.
- 4. When did the Renaissance begin and when did it end? When was the term "Renaissance" first used to describe this period?
- 5. What do you consider the long term?

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

- 1. How many active volcanoes are there in the world?
 - A. There are estimated to be a little over 1,500 active volcanoes in the world, with about 500 in the United States. At least 380 erupted in the 20th century. Usually more than 50 erupt a year and 15 active volcanoes have been in virtually constant eruption in recent years. There is no count of the number of inactive volcanoes.
- 3. List the fine arts.
 - A. The fine arts are usually defined as art, music, and theater, i.e., painting, sculpture, and the performing arts - music, dance, film and the theater.

Clues to this month's Cryptogram above: 1) The solution contains neither H nor L; and 2) P is the code for U.

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CHAPTER NOTES

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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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