

# SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA CHRONICLE

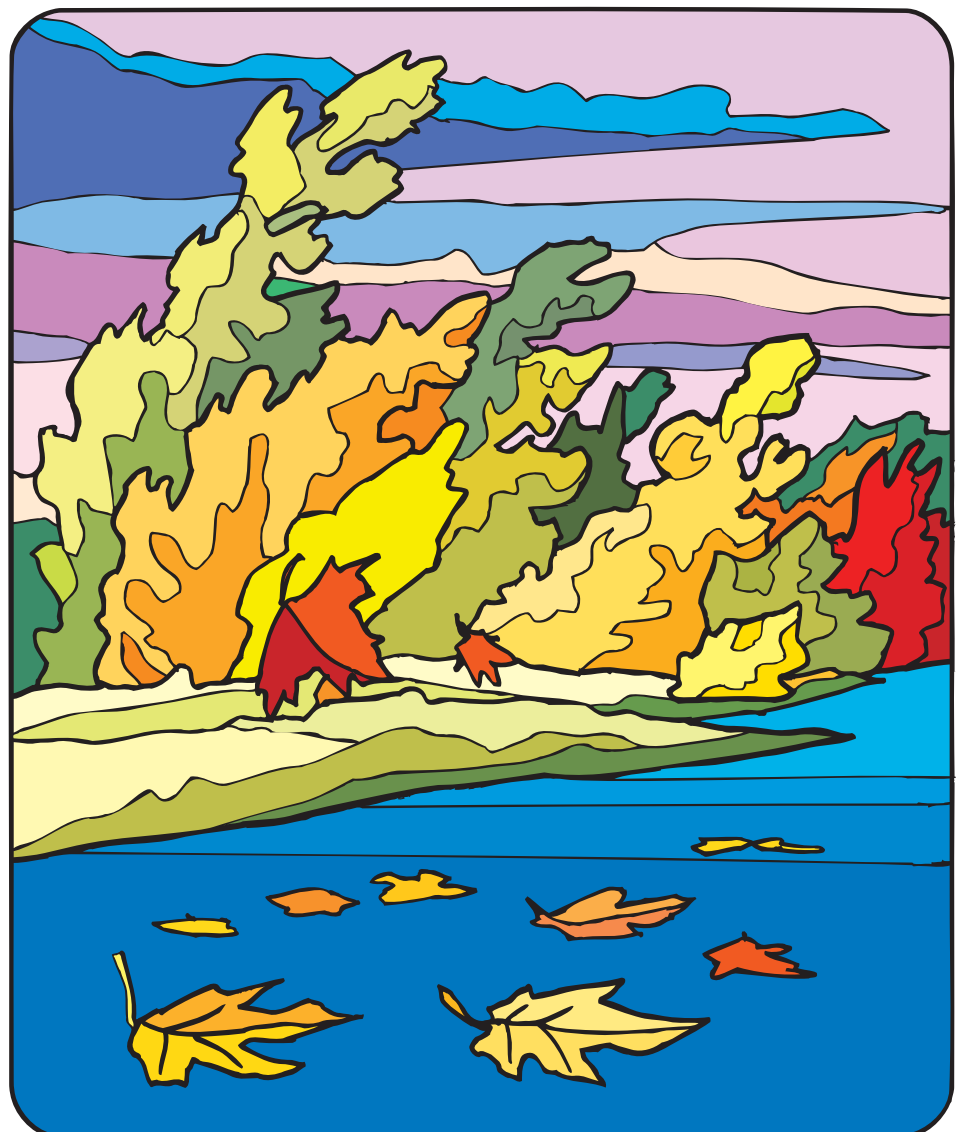
If you or someone you know would like to be a speaker at our monthly dinner, please contact Activities Coordinator Nancy O'Neil at NancyOneil@aol.com or 203-791-1668. The dinner is held the third Saturday of the month.

## 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 OCTOBER**

Friday, October 8, 7:00

**Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner**

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.

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Saturday, October 16, 7:00.

**Monthly Dinner**

Attorney Gary Oberst will speak on "Revisiting the Constitution as an Adult." Come enjoy dinner in our private dining room at the Stony Hill Inn, 46 Stony Hill Road (right off Exit 8 on Rte. 84), Bethel, CT 06801, (203-743-5533). Our September speaker, local author and poet Gerard Brooker, will read some of his published work. Jerry's latest book of poetry, "Even Whispers Can Be Heard", came out in June, and he will have copies available. His first collection of poems, "A Quiet Conversation" (2002, Wing and a Prayer Press) is available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Dress is casual. Please contact Nancy O'Neil, Nancyoneil@aol.com, 203-791-1668, for information and reservations.

Directions from New Haven or Bridgeport: Take Route 25 into Newtown, where it becomes Route 6 West. OR take I-84 and get off at Exit 9 (Route 25 Brookfield). At the end of the ramp take a left. At the first light take a right on to Route 6 West. The hotel is located 2 miles on the right, not far over the Bethel line. From Stamford/Norwalk: Take Route 7 to I-84 and follow the above directions, turning right after exiting I-84.

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Saturday, October 23, 8:00.

**Theater Event: Sleuth**

Anthony Schaffer's thriller, winner of the 1971 Tony Award, is being performed by the Town Players of New Canaan ([www.tpnc.org](http://www.tpnc.org)) at the Powerhouse Performing Arts Center, Waveny Park, 681 South Avenue, New Canaan, CT, 06840. Tickets are \$12. For info or reservations, please call Jim Mizera at (203) 522-1959 or e-mail [Jmizera@hotmail.com](mailto:Jmizera@hotmail.com). To ensure seats, call a week early.

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**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER**

Friday, November 12, 7:00.

**Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner.**

See above listing for details.

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Saturday, November 20, 7:00.

**Monthly Dinner.**

See above listing for details.

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**CONNECTICUT AND WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS MENSA CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS**

This is not a complete listing WE - Weekly Event, ME - Monthly Event, YE - Yearly Event CT & W. Mass Calendar Editor Gisela Rodriguez, (860) 872-3106, email: [lilith@snet.net](mailto:lilith@snet.net),

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**Mensans on the Radio:**

C&WM Mensan Janine Bujalski is on the airwaves every 1st & 3rd Friday 6-10 a.m. on 89.5FM, WPKN in Bridgeport, CT. There is a limited internet broadcast - about 25 can listen simultaneously at [www.wpkn.org](http://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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**OCTOBER**

1 Friday 5:30-7:00 pm

**Happy Hour (ME, 1st Friday)**

**New location!** Ann Polanski (contact her at 203-269-4565 or [ann.polanski@rfsworld.com](mailto:ann.polanski@rfsworld.com)) hosts us at us at George's II Restaurant, 950 Yale Avenue, Wallingford, CT 06492 Phone: 269-1059.

Directions: Exit 66 off Wilbur Cross Parkway. Turn left (south) onto Rte 5. Take first left onto Yale Avenue. George's II is in the Yale Plaza on the right.

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6, 13, 20, 27 Wednesday Noon

**West Hartford Lunch**

(WE) Wednesday lunch will be held at the Home-town Buffet in the Shaw's shopping plaza off Prospect St. West Hartford. Seven dollars buys

all you can eat, and the service time is as fast as you can pick up your food! From 84West: take exit #44 (Prospect). Cross through the light right into the plaza.

From 84East: take exit #44 (Prospect). Take left at the light then a left at the next light (you will have crossed over Rte 84) and then a right into the plaza. There is a large selection of food for a modest cost. We will be seated at the front of the restaurant (away from the food counters). Contact: John Bentley, (860) 644-0435

8, 9, 10 4 PM Fri thru Noon Sunday

**C&WM Mensautumn** (YE) is finally here! Enjoy an RG weekend of fun and "Focus on the Mind." See you there! Walk in registrations for procrastinators are allowed: \$65 pp after October 1st, \$40 pp for Saturday only, children half price. A very few tickets are still available for Saturday night's Banquet, \$30. Marriot Courtyard, 4 Sebethe Drive, Cromwell, CT (off I-91) Hotel Reservations 860-635-1001. Call Bill Vincent at 860-646-3007 or email wpvincent@aol.com for additional details.

10 Sunday (REMINDER only)

**Payment deadline** for tickets to November 14th - 2:00 pm. Thomaston Opera House production of "Ragtime - the Musical." See write-up in September Media or contact Barb Holstein at 860-632-7873 or BarbCPA@att.net or Neal & Dory Alderman at 860-742-5265 or uchcc2@uconnvm.uconn.edu

14, 21, 28 Thursdays 7:00 pm

**Scrabble** (WE) at Emmanuel Synagogue, 160 Mobergan Drive, West Hartford. Ellen Leonard, (860) 667-1966 (Please call first to make sure this is happening today).

15 Friday 6:00-8:00 pm 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

16 Saturday 3:30pm

**TAKE A HIKE**

on forest trails at Rocky Neck State Park in East Lyme / Niantic, ending back at beach area to await sunset. Exit 72, off I-95. Meet at far end of main parking area, near underpass to beach and pavilion. Hike should end 15-20 minutes before sunset; stay to enjoy. Park closes at sunset. No rain date, but may reconsider for Sunday. Contact Nicole Michaud for info: leave message at (860) 434-7329 or email nirimi@snet.net subject "hike."

22 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 .

25 Wednesday 12:00 noon

27 Wednesday Noon

**Middlebury Luncy** (ME, last Wednesday) 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. Please call Richard Fogg at 860-274-2370 if you will attend for the first time.

30 Saturday 7:00 pm

**HW2 (House Warming and Halloween)**

Bob Smith and Gisela Rodriguez are having a party at our new digs! We'll begin at 7:00 with the original radio broadcast of "War of the Worlds" presented by Orson Welles' Mercury Theater. Then the movie will be on if anyone wants to pay attention to it. Costumes are welcome, but not required. Dish to share and BYOB. Call for directions and to coordinate food. (860) 872-3106 or Lilith@snet.net

**REGIONAL GATHERINGS**

**MENSAUTUMN 2004**

October 8, 9, & 10  
 Hosted by C&WM Mensa -

**Join us as we "Focus on the Mind"**

Well, it's Mensautumn time again so get your registration in the mail to Ed Sisson, the RG registrar or register at the door. It will be at the Courtyard by Marriott in Cromwell on October 8, 9 & 10th. The hotel is very easy to find. It is south of Hartford, off I-91. Take exit 21 and, coming from either Hartford or New Haven, when you get to the bottom of the exit ramp, go west on Rte 372 a short distance to Sebeth Dr., which is across from the MacDonald's. The Courtyard by Marriott is a short distance up on the right.

This great weekend event features good food, lots of munchies and an assortment of beverages. We are returning to the traditional theme concept for our RG's. This year we will "Focus on the Mind". Friday evening will feature our own song and dance man, Dick Fogg, with show tunes with which to sing along or just to listen. Following Dick will be Art Swanson hosting the annual RG joke-off. Bring new jokes, even old jokes and share laughs with the gang.

Saturday will feature a number of speakers among them being Chris Burns, one of our young M's discussing "Owls" and plans to include information on the Mensan owl logo. Sharon Geil is a "Color Analyst" who will provide information on how the colors you wear and prefer impact your life and how others perceive you. Jeri Reid is a health and wellness research specialist who focuses on alkalyzing the body's blood and tissues for internal balance. We are currently talking with other potential speakers for the RG to fill out our roster, but you can be assured that we will have an interesting selection. Of course, an RG would not be complete without a session with Marghretta McBean our RVC.

A banquet is planned for Saturday evening with a Keynote speaker and, perhaps a mentalist to amaze and astound you are planned after dinner. The banquet will be buffet style featuring

Roast Beef with madeira sauce, Suffed Filet of Sole, two salads, seasonal vegetables, deserts and the usual rolls, tea, coffee, etc. The entire feast can be yours for a mere \$30 per person. Please send the fee with your check for registration.

**Registration Fees:**

\$55 pp thru October 1st  
 \$65 pp after October 1st  
 \$40 pp for Saturday only  
 Children - 1 / 2 adult rate

**Where:** Courtyard by Marriott 4 Sebeth Drive, Cromwell, CT (Off I-91)

**Room rate:** \$79 per night (S/D) \$89 per night (T/Q) Mensa rate good thru 9/8/04. Call 860-635-1001

The banquet on Saturday evening will be a buffet which will feature Mixed green and Gemelli pasta salads, sliced Roast Beef with Medeira sauce and stuffed filet of Sole, seasonal vegetables, rolls, desert, coffee and tea. Vegetarian dinner available upon request. Entire meal still just \$30.00 per person.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of registrations: .. \_\_\_ @ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ea.

Number of banquets: \_\_\_ @ \$30.00 ea.

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to C&WM Mensa RG and mail to: RG Treasurer: Ed Sisson, 25 Boulder Circle, Glastonbury, CT 06033, 860-633-3387

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**BOSTON MENSA'S PILGRIMAGE RG.**

Join us for great speakers, movies, games, and music. Arts & crafts, karaoke, a full kids track, plus Boston Mensa's signature hospitality: plentiful food, beer & wine, two open-bar events: a "Pajama Jam" and an "Alter-Ego" party, Chocolate Orgy, Shrimp Fest, Irish Coffee, and more. We're back at the Sheraton Braintree. Our room block fills up quickly, so make your reservations early. Rates good until 11/5: \$82 single/double;

\$94 triple; \$106 quad. Mention Boston Mensa to get these rates. Hotel: 781-848-0600.

**Registration:** Adults \$59 until 11/1; \$69 after 11/1/2004. Children under 6 are free. Ages 6-20 are \$2 per year of age.

Saturday Dinner Buffet: Adults \$20/kids menu \$12. Sunday Brunch: Adults \$14/kids 4-12 \$9/under 4 free.

T-shirts: Sizes Small to XXXL \$12.50.

See web or Bulletin for more info. Checks, payable to "Boston Mensa" to: Wendy Birchmire, Registrar, 70 Oak Hill Road, Needham, MA 02492. (P.S. There's a \$5 off coupon at [www.NewEnglandPilgrimage.com/take5](http://www.NewEnglandPilgrimage.com/take5).)

## GRANITE GATHERING 2005

### Phant-M : The Music of the Night

February 18th-20th, 2005

Please join us in New England for NH Mensa's 15th Annual Regional Gathering! We'll have plenty of food, drink and revelry! Meet new and old friends alike on the top floor of the Radisson Hotel, with a lovely view of the city below. We have a great speaker line-up, as well as games, contests, and surprises spread throughout the weekend. It'll be held FEBRUARY 18-20th at the Center of NH, Manchester NH and the theme will be Phant-M : The Music of the Night. Bring a little intrigue and mystery to your weekend and come up to Northern New England for a great time! We'll have all the usual trappings (great beer and wine selection, games, book sale, auction, chocolate, speakers, children's program) as well as the unusual (you'll just have to come to find out, now won't you?). Please check the website at <http://nh.us.mensa.org/rgnews.shtm> for more details or to download a registration form. Hope to see you there!

**FULL SATURDAY NIGHT BBQ BUFFET INCLUDED IN REGISTRATION COST THIS YEAR!!!!**

**Hotel information:** Radisson Hotel Manchester at the Center of NH, 700 Elm Street, Manchester, NH 03101. Single/Double/Triple/Quad \$92. Rates guaranteed until 1/27/04. Call 1-800-333-3333 or 1-603-625-1000 and ask for "NH Mensa" rate.

**Registration:** \$50 until 11/15; \$65 until 1/15; \$75 after 1/15 or at the door. Do not mail registration after 2/1 - please register at the door instead. Children 8-17 \$15 less than the regular rate, children under 8 free. Saturday rate is \$10

less than the regular rate in effect at registration. Make your checks payable to "NH Mensa" and mail your form and fee to: Deb Stone, Registrar 24312 Spartan Street

**Questions?** Contact [rgchair@nh.us.mensa.org](mailto:rgchair@nh.us.mensa.org) Mission Viejo, CA 92691-3921 or Walter (603-436-7250) or Darlene (603-529-4446) e-mail: [debstone@cox.net](mailto:debstone@cox.net)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on badge: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

e:mail: \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt (Hemp fabric with embroidered design)

\$16 Size: S M L XL XXL

Golf shirt (Hemp fabric with embroidered design)

\$20 Size: S M L XL XXL

Quantities VERY limited at RG. Please pre-order!

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

(make checks payable to NH Mensa) or

MC/Visa # \_\_\_\_\_

Expires: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

### The Ski SIG of American Mensa

invites Mensa members worldwide to join us for a half-week or week+ of snow skiing the deep fluffy snow on the Rocky Mountains of Aspen and Snowmass. For details see [Http://lists.us.mensa.org/mailman/listinfo/skisig-announce](http://lists.us.mensa.org/mailman/listinfo/skisig-announce) or contact John Adams, [rip2005@skisig.us.mensa.org](mailto:rip2005@skisig.us.mensa.org), +1 713 666 9277, 8211 Fairhope Place, Houston, TX 77025-3201, USA.

### 2005 Post-AG Cruise

The 2005 Annual Gathering in New Orleans will end with a Mensa cruise to Jamaica, the Cayman Islands and Cozumel. Extra-special pricing until August 5, 2004. Details at <http://www.suitecruising.com/ag2.htm>

**FROM THE VICE CHAIR**

Marghretta McBean

As summer is winding down, New York City is wound up. The Republicans are here. The good news is that there is practically no traffic in midtown and the streets are fairly empty. The bad news is that there is practically no traffic in midtown and the streets are fairly empty. The purported millions that the convention would bring to the Big Apple are just that, purported. So far the marches and demonstrations have been colourful, reminding me of my old college days.

There has been quite a bit going on in our region this summer, besides the elephants' visitation. Leo Kellogg, the historian of Mensa of Northeastern New York (MoNNY), organised the first Mensa event ever held in Plattsburgh, NY. This far north city near the Canadian border was the site of an international dinner: Mensans from Canada as well as other groups attended. Leo and all of the MoNNYers deserve two very big thumbs up for taking on what proved to be a highly successful project!

I traveled northeast, to Providence, Rhode Island, visiting Rhode Island Mensa. Tom Padwa, the president, organised a tri-group (Boston; Connecticut & Western Massachusetts) outing to the absolutely wonderful WaterFire celebration. It is impossible to really describe WaterFire: imagine huge braziers placed at regular intervals in the river, which are lit at sundown. In addition, beautiful music, mimes, fire-eaters, mermaids, dancers, - you name it - perform on the riverbank and adjoining streets. It is totally enchanting and mesmerising. Over two dozen Mensans (including a couple from Florida) enjoyed the festivities. Kudos to Tom and the gracious RIMers for hosting what hopefully will become an annual Mensan event! On a personal culinary note, Tom also makes great waffles-YUM!

From September 16th to the 19th I will be in Portland Oregon attending an AMC (American Mensa Committee) meeting. As your representative to Mensa's national board, I will be voting on items that will affect you and your relationship to Mensa. The continuing question of how SIGs (Special Interest Groups) will be administered; requiring a Hospitality Chair to complete a food safety course prior holding a gathering or

workshop; having two AMC meetings at the national office in Texas; these are just some of the items on the agenda.

It is really gratifying to meet members who actually try out my monthly recipes. If you missed any, you can find them (with pictures) on the Region 1 website: <http://region1.us.mensa.org/>. This month we visit the Balkan area. There are many versions of ajvar, but all taste wonderful. Try to get really good peppers: the small Hungarian ones are especially delicious.

**AJVAR**

12 fresh red chiles\*  
 4 medium eggplants  
 3 / 4 cup olive oil or corn oil  
 1 large onion, minced  
 3 large garlic cloves, chopped  
 2 Tbl. lemon juice  
 2 Tbl. red wine [red wine vinegar can be substituted]  
 Salt/pepper to taste  
 Parsley for garnish

1. Roast the peppers and eggplant over charcoal or gas flame, or bake in a preheated oven at 475 deg. F until the skins are blistered and black.
2. Place the roasted vegetables in a paper bag and let them steam in their own heat for 10 minutes. Peel off and discard the burnt skins along with the stems and seeds. Mash the pepper and eggplant pulp together to form a homogeneous mass, either smooth or slightly chunky, as desired.
3. Heat 3 tablespoons oil in a large skillet and saute the onion until very soft. Add the garlic and cook 2 minutes longer. Remove from heat and stir in the pepper eggplant pulp, mixing well.
4. Slowly drizzle remaining oil into the mixture, stirring constantly to incorporate all the oil. Add lemon juice and wine; salt and pepper to taste.
5. Transfer to a serving bowl and garnish with parsley. Serve as an appetiser spread on thick slices of country style white bread.

\*Hot and/or sweet

## IS THAT RIGHT

Are the following statements facts, fallacies, partial truths, or uncertainties?

### 1. 90% of new restaurants fail in the first year.

This claim is repeated many times, sometimes by famous chefs, but there is no data substantiating it. There are no national statistics kept on restaurant failures, but the assertion is almost certainly false. Several years ago researchers at Cornell University and Michigan State University did a study of restaurants in three local markets over a 10-year period. They found that only 27% of new restaurants failed within the first year. 50% went out of business within 3 years, 60% within 5 years, and 70% within 10 years. But even leaving this data aside, the 90% claim is statistically improbable. If 90% of new restaurants failed in the first year, and 5% of existing restaurants failed each year, the number of restaurants would drop by almost half in 10

years. This hasn't happened. National Restaurant Association figures show there are almost half-a-million restaurants in the United States, and a little over 40,000 new ones start each year.

### 2. Chicago is the windiest city in the United States.

False. Boston is the windiest city in the continental U.S. Boston wind speeds average 12.4 miles per hour. (Winds average 35-mph atop Mount Washington, the highest peak in New England.) Chicago's winds average about 8 mph, leaving it out of the top 10 windiest cities. The National Weather Service says that Dodge City has the windiest reporting station in the country, with an average of 12 miles per hour.

## 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](http://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](http://www.the-reading-edge.com) or contact them at [info@the-reading-edge.com](mailto:info@the-reading-edge.com)

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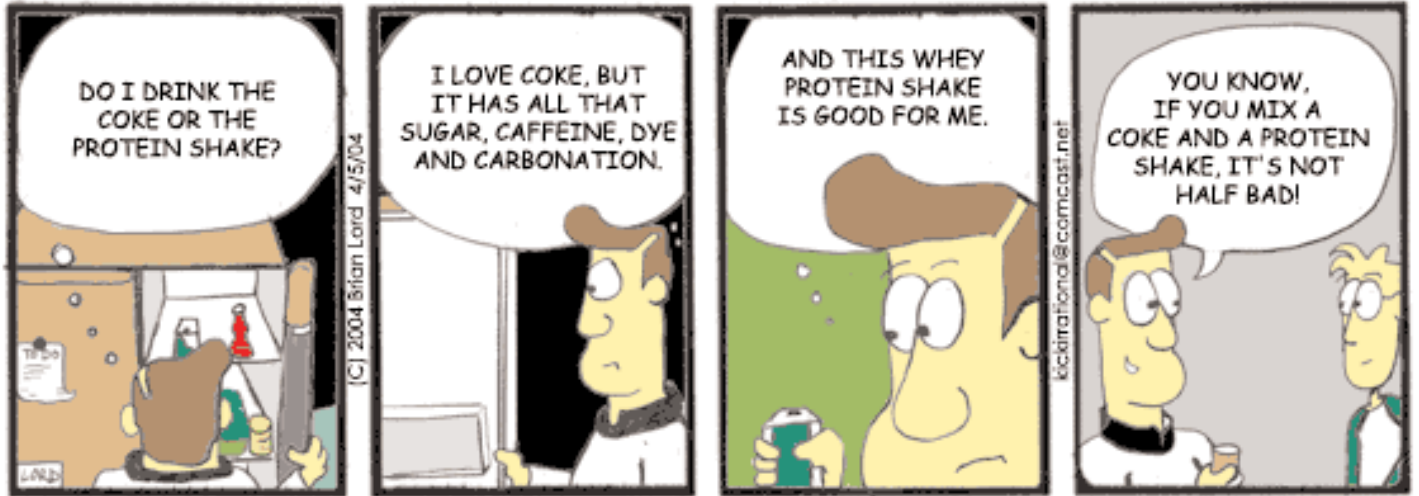
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Brian Lord is a cartoonist and member of Middle Tennessee Mensa (Nashville area). His cartoon Kick Irrational is read weekly by people in 192 cities, 46 states and 9 countries via the Internet. You can see the Kick Irrational comics page at [www.kickirrational.com](http://www.kickirrational.com)

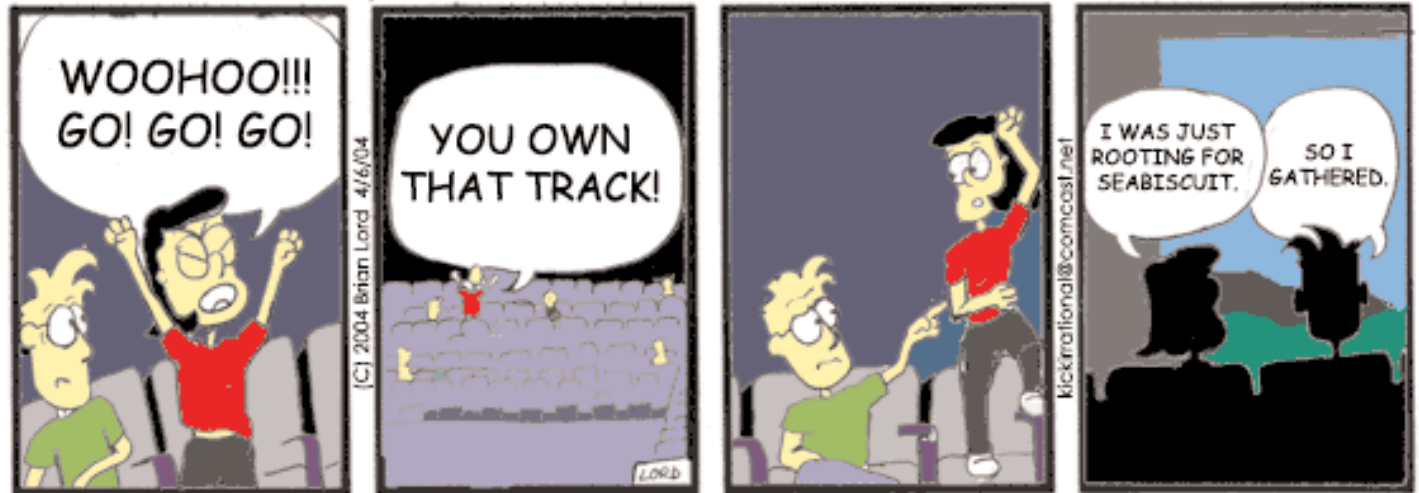
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If you wish to comment on articles or submit material, please write or e-mail Jim Mizera at PMB #181, 7365 Main St., Stratford, CT. 06614-1300, [Jmizera@hotmail.com](mailto:Jmizera@hotmail.com). E-mail submissions are preferred. Please include your 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.



## NOTED AND QUOTED

Life is the game that must be played, this truth at least, good friends, we know; so live and laugh, nor be dismayed as one by one the phantoms go.

- Edward Arlington Robinson, (1869 - 1935), *Ballade by the Fire*

Experience is full of dead spots. Art gives it life.

- Irwin Edman, (1896 - 1954), *U.S. philosopher, Arts and the Man*, 1926

No ethic is as ethical as the work ethic.

- John Kenneth Galbraith, (1908 - )

Someday we'll look back on all this and plow into a parked car. - *Anonymous*

When things are bad, we take comfort in the thought that they could always be worse. And when they are, we find hope in the thought that things are so bad they have to get better.

- Malcolm S. Forbes, (1919 - 1990), *The Sayings of Chairman Malcolm*

To many people virtue consists chiefly in repenting faults, not in avoiding them.

- G.C. Lichtenberg, (1742 - 1799), *German physicist, writer, and critic*

We forgive others when it suits us. - Cesare Pavese, (1908 - 1950), Italian novelist and poet, *The triumph of demagogues is short-lived. But the ruins are eternal.*

- Charles Peguy, (1873 - 1914), *French publisher and poet*

A taste for simplicity cannot endure for long.

- Eugene Delacroix, (1798 - 1863), *Fr. painter*

Reformers are those who educate people to appreciate what they need. - *Elbert Hubbard, (1856 - 1915), American editor, author, and moralist*

Hope has a good memory, gratitude a bad one.

- Baltasar Gracian, (1601 - 1658), *Spanish Jesuit writer and philosopher*

Hope is generally a wrong guide, though it is very good company by the way.

- Lord Halifax, (1633 - 1695)

Luck never gives; it only lends. - *Swedish Proverb*

Motivation is what gets you started. Habit is what keeps you going. - *Jim Ryun*

To err is human, to admit it, superhuman.

- Doug Larson, *United Features Syndicate*

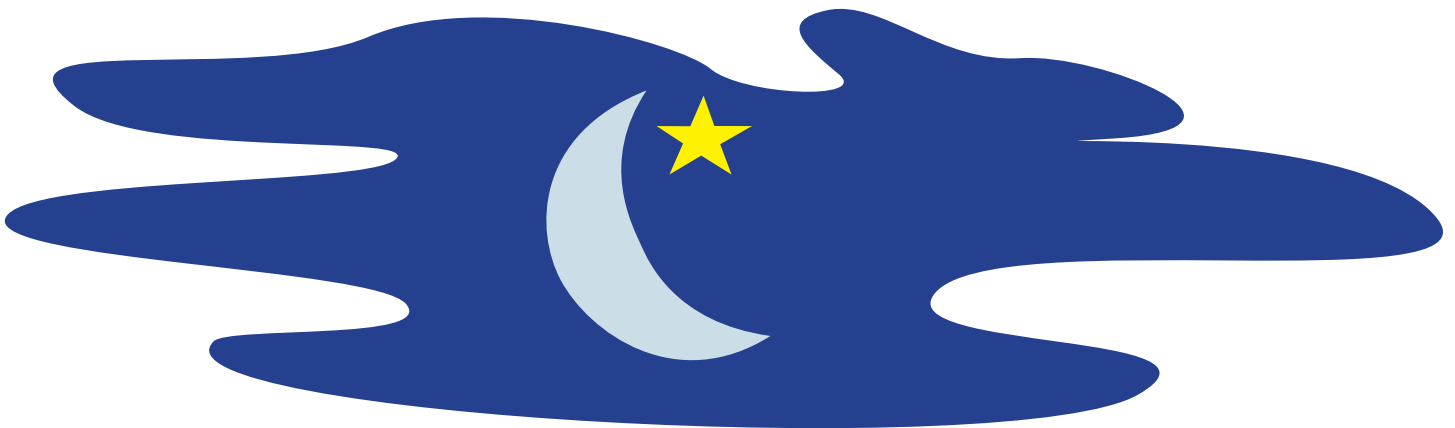
Behind the phony tinsel of Hollywood lies the real tinsel. - *Oscar Levant, (1906 - 1972)*

I don't even butter my bread; I consider that cooking. - *Katherine Cebrian*

The time to relax is when you don't have time for it. - *Sydney J. Harris, (1917 - 1986)*

Poets have been mysteriously silent on the subject of cheese. - *G.K. Chesterton, (1874 - 1936)*

Destiny is but a phrase of the weak human heart - the dark apology for every error. The strong and virtuous admit no destiny. On earth conscience guides; in heaven God watches. And destiny is but the phantom we invoke to silence the one and dethrone the other. - *Edward Bulwer Lytton, (1803 - 1873), English politician and novelist*



## PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. Why is the term 'combination lock' a misnomer?
2. What are the most unbreakable habits?
3. How long does it take a boat to sail from New York City to China?
4. Investigate the difference between drama and melodrama
5. What things do people most frequently overestimate and underestimate?
6. Name some plans that went perfectly.
5. What is the average area of a house in the United States today? What was it in 1960?

### ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

#### August:

1. Where is the of the United States' center of population?

A: According to the 2000 Census, the U.S. center of population is the area around Edgar Springs, Missouri, which is in Phelps County. The center is the place where a flat, weight-

less and rigid map of the United States would balance perfectly if all residents have the same weight. The new center of population is now more than 1,000 miles from the first center in 1790, Chestertown, Maryland.

2. What is the average speed of a housefly?

A: Houseflies average 4.5 miles per hour.

#### September:

2. How many lies does the average person tell in a day?

A: Psychology professor Jerald Jellison attached microphones to a group of 20 people back in the 1970s and estimated that people tell at least 50 lies a day. People admit to telling two lies a day.

4. How many houses does the average realtor sell in a year?

A: The estimate varies, perhaps because some real estate agents work part-time. Most estimates say that the average realtor sells somewhere between 4 to 8 houses a year. A Las Vegas source states that the average realtor sells 7 - 8 houses per year. A Toronto real estate training company states that the average realtor in Metro Toronto sells 12 - 15 houses per year.

## WORD ORIGINS

Some English words or phrases come to us by way of Russia.

Here are a few:

**Balalaika** - This is a Russian triangular-shaped stringed instrument. It came into English about 1788, and it may be derived from the Russian 'balabolit' - to chatter or babble.

**intelligentsia** - This word meaning the "the intellectual class collectively" first appeared in English about 1907. It ultimately derives from Latin.

**mammoth** - This word came to us about 1706, from the Russian 'mamot.' It acquired the adjective form meaning "enormous" about 1802.

**samovar** - This word entered the English language about 1830. In Russian, it means "self-boil-

er." It denotes an urn with a spigot at its base used especially to boil water for tea.

**steppe** - A steppe is an extensive treeless plain. It entered the English language from Russia about 1671.

**troika** - The first known written record of this word in English is from 1842. Literally it means a "carriage drawn by three horses abreast." Its modern meaning of "any group of three administrators" originated at the end of World War II.

**vodka** - Vodka is an unaged colorless liquor that began in Russia and remains especially popular there. Originally, it was distilled from fermented wheat mash but now is also made from a mash of rye, corn, or potatoes. It comes from the word voda, "little water".

## RUMINATIONS

### THE TALKING-OUT OF TARRINGTON

By Saki, (1870 - 1916)

"Heavens!" exclaimed the aunt of Clovis, "here's some one I know bearing down on us. I can't remember his name, but he lunched with us once in Town. Tarrington---yes, that's it. He's heard of the picnic I'm giving for the Princess, and he'll cling to me like a lifebelt till I give him an invitation; then he'll ask if he may bring all his wives and mothers and sisters with him. That's the worst of these small watering-places; one can't escape from anybody."

"I'll fight a rearguard action for you if you like to do a bolt now," volunteered Clovis; "you've a clear ten yards start if you don't lose time."

The aunt of Clovis responded gamely to the suggestion, and churned away like a Nile steamer, with a long brown ripple of Pekingese spaniel trailing in her wake.

"Pretend you don't know him," was her parting advice, tinged with the reckless courage of the non-combatant.

The next moment the overtures of an affably disposed gentleman were being received by Clovis with a "silent-upon-a-peak-in-Darien" stare which denoted an absence of all previous acquaintance with the object scrutinized.

"I expect you don't know me with my moustache," said the new-comer; "I've only grown it during the last two months."

"On the contrary," said Clovis, "the moustache is the only thing about you that seemed familiar to me. I felt certain that I had met it somewhere before."

"My name is Tarrington," resumed the candidate for recognition.

"A very useful kind of name," said Clovis; "with a name of that sort no one would blame you if you did nothing in particular heroic or remarkable, would they? And yet if you were to raise a troop of light horse in a moment of national emergency, 'Tarrington's Light Horse' would sound

quite appropriate and pulse-quickenng; whereas if you were called Sloopin, for instance, the thing would be out of the question. No one, even in a moment of national emergency, could possibly belong to Sloopin's Horse."

The new-comer smiled weakly, as one who is not to be put off by mere flippancy, and began again with patient persistence:

"I think you ought to remember my name---"

"I shall," said Clovis, with an air of immense sincerity. "My aunt was asking me only this morning to suggest names for four young owls she's just had sent her as pets. I shall call them all Tarrington; then if one or two of them die or fly away, or leave us in any of the ways that pet owls are prone to, there will be always one or two left to carry on your name. And my aunt won't let me forget it; she will always be asking 'Have the Tarringtons had their mice?' and questions of that sort. She says if you keep wild creatures in captivity you ought to see after their wants, and of course she's quite right there."

"I met you at luncheon at your aunt's house once---" broke in Mr. Tarrington, pale but still resolute.

"My aunt never lunches," said Clovis; "she belongs to the National Anti-Luncheon League, which is doing quite a lot of good work in a quiet, unobtrusive way. A subscription of half a crown per quarter entitles you to go without ninety-two luncheons."

"This must be something new," exclaimed Tarrington.

"It's the same aunt that I've always had," said Clovis coldly.

"I perfectly well remember meeting you at a luncheon-party given by your aunt," persisted Tarrington, who was beginning to flush an unhealthy shade of mottled pink.

"What was there for lunch?" asked Clovis.

"Oh, well, I don't remember that---"

"How nice of you to remember my aunt when you can no longer recall the names of the things

**TARRYTOWN (continued)**

you ate. Now my memory works quite differently. I can remember a menu long after I've forgotten the hostess that accompanied it. When I was seven years old I recollect being given a peach at a garden-party by some Duchess or other; I can't remember a thing about her, except that I imagine our acquaintance must have been of the slightest, as she called me a 'nice little boy,' but I have unfading memories of that peach. It was one of those exuberant peaches that meet you halfway, so to speak, and are all over you in a moment. It was a beautiful unspoiled product of a hothouse, and yet it managed quite successfully to give itself the airs of a compote. You had to bite it and imbibe it at the same time. To me there has always been something charming and mystic in the thought of that delicate velvet globe of fruit, slowly ripening and warming to perfection through the long summer days and

perfumed nights, and then coming suddenly athwart my life in the supreme moment of its existence. I can never forget it, even if I wished to. And when I had devoured all that was edible of it, there still remained the stone, which a heedless, thoughtless child would doubtless have thrown away; I put it down the neck of a young friend who was wearing a very décolleté sailor suit. I told him it was a scorpion, and from the way he wriggled and screamed he evidently believed it, though where the silly kid imagined I could procure a live scorpion at a garden-party I don't know. Altogether, that peach is for me an unfading and happy memory---

The defeated Tarrington had by this time retreated out of earshot, comforting himself as best he might with the reflection that a picnic which included the presence of Clovis might prove a doubtfully agreeable experience.

---

**GOOD WINE CHEAP  
(and good food to go with it)**

By John Grover

This month's wine comes from the region of Aragon in the heart of Spain. Spain has consistently proven itself to be the best source of affordable wines in a time of rising prices, so we had many good choices. The wine we selected is a non-vintage (not all the wine is from one year) red from Bodegas Aragonases called Don Ramon. It's a blend of 75% Granacha and 25% Tempranillo grapes, aged in oak casks for just three months. You'll enjoy its smooth earthy flavor of ripe red berries and black pepper, as well as its price of about \$7 a bottle

Don Ramon is a good match with burgers and pizza, but our gourmet group tried this excellent red wine with grilled lamb chops prepared in a Mediterranean style marinade. A few in our group, remembering rather grim stew concoctions served by their sainted mothers and grandmothers, were initially put off by lamb. But their trepidation quickly subsided when they tasted this extraordinary grilled meat. The recipe is below.

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

**Mediterranean Grilled Lamb Chops**

(marinade from the "Colorado Collage Cookbook" by the Junior League of Denver).

Marinade Ingredients:

1 tsp crushed garlic  
 1/4 tsp salt  
 2 tbsp Dijon mustard  
 1 tbsp soy sauce  
 2 tbsp fresh lemon juice  
 2 tsp chopped fresh rosemary  
 1 tsp chopped fresh thyme,  
 1/4 cup olive oil.

Combine the marinade ingredients and add to eight 1-1 1/2 inch loin lamb chops. The loin chops look like mini "T" bone steaks and will require at least two per person. Marinade for at least four hours or preferably over night in the refrigerator. These chops are best served medium rare. After preheating your grill, set the heat to medium; and, grill the chops for four to five minutes on a side depending on thickness.

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

## THE SEPTEMBER DINNER

### A POETRY READING

SEPTEMBER'S dinner at the Stony Hill Inn in Bethel was something new to Mensa meetings ^ a poetry reading. Gerard Brooker, local poet and longtime Mensan, read poems from his published collections, "A Quiet Conversation" (2002, Wing and a Prayer Press), and "Even Whispers Can Be Heard" (2004, Goose River Press), his most recent work.

Jerry's travels have taken him all over the world and his poems capture the essence of distant vistas as well as the sights and sounds of our local area. His readings took us along with him to a park bench in Rome, a cemetery in West Virginia, a village in Cambodia, through the farms and roads of Nebraska, and along the woods and rails of Bethel. We heard whispers in the graveyard, squeals in the barnyard, and peepers chirp at dusk. We saw snowmen melt, dreams fade, and roads diverge. Sadness and joy, hope and regret, loneliness and friendship, anger restrained and memories reborn - we felt these and more in the poet's voice.

While many of the verses ventured far and wide, others limned the mundane, the lines, tones, and rough edges of everyday life. The images were just as vivid and the sensations just as true, however - the rings of coffee in a cup, the sounds of a pen rolling off the table, the echoes of long-ago words. Each phrase left an impression.

Jerry's poems inspired many questions and his answers gave us insight into how he became a

writer and how he works. Reflecting on his first published works, he said that although they were very expressive, he knew that he needed to learn more about the craft of poetry. He did just that, polishing and refining his art, and getting nearly 400 of his poems and articles published.

In discussing his methods, Jerry said that he doesn't have to get into the mood; he can write in any place or at any time. He jots down ideas whenever he can, even if walking along. Sometimes he can write a poem in a couple of hours, but other times he rewrites poems twenty times. When he has trouble putting poems to paper, he simply tries to write the poem as a story first, and he finds his muse.

Jerry has recently finished his first novel, and he finds that writing novels is both easier and more pleasurable for him. He turns out at least five pages a day, and has just begun work on his second work of fiction, a meditation on dying.

Can poetry be taught? Jerry thinks it probably can, but he believes that some people have an aptitude for poetry, a talent that they can improve on by listening to and learning from other poets.

Mensans enjoyed the evening of poetry and congratulated Jerry for a job well done. Here are two of his poems from "Even Whispers Can Be Heard":

*CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE*



**First Drink**

I was a boy  
 the holiday  
 my father  
 offered  
 a goblet  
 of wine  
 to me.

It gleamed  
 like a large  
 ruby  
 encased  
 in glass  
 with  
 a hint of  
 honeysuckle  
 that made  
 me  
 giddy,  
 a feeling  
 I mistook  
 for love.

**The Sounds of Goodbye**

When the ship I board  
 this morning  
 leaves for foreign places,  
 a tugboat guides us  
 through shoals  
 to open waters  
 before leaving us  
 on our own

Her crew salutes us  
 with bursts of foghorn,  
 long and separated,  
 awakening memories  
 of loneliness  
 that press on me  
 like the weight of  
 accumulated sadnesses.

Our ship's response,  
 a long and low-timbred  
 plaintive cry,  
 takes me back  
 to the first day  
 I left for school.

*Jerry's latest book of poetry, "Even Whispers Can Be Heard", came out in June. This book and his first collection of poems, "A Quiet Conversation", are both available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).*



## CHAPTER NOTES

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