

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.solarandthermal.com/mensa>. You can download the latest e-mail version of the Chronicle there, as well as previous issues. All issues are in read-only Adobe Acrobat format so there is no chance of viruses accompanying the files.

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SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER

Friday, November 12, 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.

Saturday, November 20, 7:00.

Monthly Dinner

Mensan Joe Lynders will speak on "How I Overcame Terminal Cancer." Come and hear him and 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). Dress is casual. Contact Nancy O'Neil, Nancyoneil@aol.com, 203-791-1668, for information and reservations. You MUST call and MAKE RESERVATIONS by Friday, November 19 so we can assure that the restaurant can provide seating. If you make reservations and can't attend, PLEASE call and cancel. 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.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

Friday, December 10, 7:00.

Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner.

See above listing for details.

Saturday, December 18, 7:00.

Monthly Dinner.

See above listing for details.

CONNECTICUT AND WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS MENSA CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Mensans on the Radio:

C&WM Mensan Janine Bujalski is on the airwaves every 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. 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.

NOVEMBER

4, 11, 18 Thursdays 7:00 pm

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

5 Friday 5:30-7:00 pm

Happy Hour in Wallingford (ME, 1st Fridays) Ann Polanski (contact her at 203-269-4565 or ann.polanski@rfsworld.com) hosts 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.

6 Saturday

M Barbara Shaw is in the **bluegrass band Shore-Grass**, <http://pages.cthome.net/the.shaws/shore-grass.htm> which is playing at the NOMAD (Northeast Music and Dance) Festival, Wilbur Cross High School, New Haven, CT All Weekend (schedule T.B.A.) Info: www.nomadfest.org/ ShoreGrass is doing something BRAND NEW! They'll do a workshop of "Gospel in Black & Blue" with the Gospel Messengers, Rich Gallagher and others, plus a program of "Old-Time Bluegrass" on their own.

9 Tuesday 7:30 pm

Connecticut Butterfly Association Fall Meeting at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station Jones Auditorium, 123 Huntington St., New Haven. Dick Walton presents "Ode Adventures" This talk, illustrated with digital video, will provide

an introduction to the natural history of dragonflies (odonata) as well as covering all of Connecticut's major groups and tips on identification. For more info/directions, please contact Diane Adams (ButterflyPR@comcast.net/ 860-526-1993) or visit the CBA website www.ctbutterfly.org. Diane plans to be there with a yellow scrunchie in her hair.

19 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

LOOKING AHEAD

December 17 Friday evening
C&WM Mensa Holiday Party and Annual Meeting
 at the Solomon Welles House, 220 Hartford Avenue, Wethersfield CT. http://www.wethersfield-ct.com/rec/solomon_welles.html Come feast and mingle with old and new friends, and maybe give your 2% at the Chapter Annual Meeting, too. Everybody welcome! Details TBA, contact LocSec Bob Smith at 860-872-3106 or BoboRobDOS@snet.net if you have questions.

REGIONAL GATHERINGS

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.)

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



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 Mission Viejo, CA 92691-3921 or Walter (603-436-7250) or Darlene (603-529-4446) e-mail: deb-stone@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, +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>

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

September started off on a glorious note as I journeyed up to the scenic foothills of the Catskills, joining Mid-Hudson Mensa's 17th "Autumn in New York" Regional Gathering. The weather was wonderful late summer: azure blue skies, cool nights, and not too many mosquitoes. The RG featured games of all types, from a 3-D puzzle of Notre Dame and a Yahtzee/Cosmic Wimpout/Quiddler triathlon, to a Saturday night game show that combined elements of the TV shows 'Survivor' and the original 'Match Game' from the 1960s. Competition was merciless - the winner voted her own husband off! We ate gourmet quality food from a Culinary Institute of America-trained chef. Meal choices for carnivores included steak and grilled pastrami sandwiches, while the veggie folk supped on ginger marinated tempeh and stuffed portobello mushrooms. If that weren't enough, we got to see the SUNY New Paltz swim team and I can personally testify that the guys were in really great shape.... This RG is an all round winner: mark your calendars now for September 9 - 11 2005.

The next weekend saw me in Portland Oregon, for a quarterly AMC (American Mensa Committee - Mensa's board of directors) meeting. I flew in a day early to do a little sightseeing and was totally enchanted. Portland has HUGE trees (imagine a city full of pines and spruces the size of the Rockefeller Centre Christmas tree). It is an excellent example of good urban planning: streets and transit choices are clearly marked; traveling is easy via public transportation (free in the city centre) or bicycle - it is the most "bike friendly" city in the U.S. The Rose Garden is not to be missed, and of course for the bibliophile, there's Powell's City of Books. Words cannot do it justice. I wisely limited myself to cash purchases, knowing that if I took out a credit card, the frenzy would not be controllable.

Friday was spent in a planning session, which to the surprise of many, was quite productive. We tackled many issues, including "Slimming down" the Mensa administration and structure and revising RVC and group funding.

Some items that were approved at Saturday's AMC meeting were:

- 🍏 Voted for a new 401(k) plan administrator (Mensa was sponsoring its own), which will save money and eliminate liability.
- 🍏 Decided to continue publishing INTERLOC, with The Joyce ('TJ') Lundeen as editor.
- 🍏 Simplified the Gatherings processes. As some of you know, groups no longer have to fill in paper RG Approval forms and send them to their RVC for approval, and then have them mail copies to the Membership Officer and Bulletin Editor. An RG Approval & Gatherings Listing Request form is now available online. I volunteered to act as the RVC representative to the ongoing form design and process.
- 🍏 Starting July 1, 2005, the Hospitality Chair of any Annual Gathering (AG), Regional Gathering (RG), Leadership Development Workshop (LDW), or Colloquium must have completed a governmental or Mensa food safety course. Mensa will be purchasing food safety textbooks to accompany its food safety course. The certification does not require that the Hospitality Chair must prepare all of the food at an event; it is merely to ensure that the sponsoring group has furnished food under the supervision of a person (or persons) trained in food safety. Groups are encouraged to have as many members who are interested get certified to avoid relying on one person.
- 🍏 Limited SIGs to American Mensa members, whose member status will be verified by American Mensa. SIG Coordinators may elect to allow members of international Mensas and non-Mensans to participate as guests.

The Mensa Foundation will consider changing its requirement that applicants for Mensa scholarships live in an area where the local group is participating in the yearly scholarship essay contest. Since about 40% of local groups do not participate, individuals are penalized. I have long spoken out about this unfairness, which, I think, can give a poor image of Mensa to the public. The main issues are who will read these 'unaffiliated' essays and how much more money will eventually have to be disbursed.

continued on next page

New York has some of the best apples in the world. The Dutch were its first settlers. As an autumnal/Hallowe'en treat, here are:

CHOCOLADE APPELTJES (LITTLE CHOCOLATE APPLES)

12 Lady (or 6 Liberty) apples

2 cups sugar

1 / 2 cup corn syrup

1 cup milk

3 oz. unsweetened chocolate

2 oz. (1 / 2 stick) butter

1 tsp. vanilla

optional:

1 / 4 tsp. cinnamon and/or 1/8 tsp. mace

1. Insert wooden skewer (pointy chopsticks work well) into stem end of each apple.
2. Combine remaining ingredients, except vanilla [and spice(s)], in medium-sized heavy saucepan. Cook until a hard ball forms when a small amount of mixture is dropped in cold water (246 degrees F. on your candy thermometer).
3. Remove from heat and add vanilla [and spice(s)].
4. Place on sheet of waxed or parchment paper to cool.
5. For overkill, roll in coconut, chopped nuts, chocolate sprinkles, etc. before cooling. Eet smakelijk!



IS THAT RIGHT

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

1. Japanese industry is more efficient than American and European industry.

This is false for the most part. The leading Japanese export industries, automobiles, electronics, and computer hardware, are about 20% more productive than the global standard but they make up only about 10% of Japan's economy. Analysts estimate that Japanese industries and services are 10 - 20% less efficient than their European counterparts and about 40% less productive than American companies.

2. Breast cancer rates are rising.

Breast cancer incidence rates appear to have remained steady in recent years while breast cancer mortality rates appear to be falling. According to National Cancer Institute statistics used by the American Cancer Society, the mortality rate for breast cancer dropped from 30.6 per 100,000 in 1995 to 26.7 in 2000. It has been falling about 2% annually since 1989. Breast cancer incidence rates are thought to have increased by about 1% a year between 1979 and 1982, and 4% a year between 1982 and 1987, before stabilizing. But many researchers think the earlier increases were due to better screening, in particular, more mammograms.

Thus, it may have been breast cancer detection and not incidence that was increasing. The National Cancer Institute (NCI) came up with a different estimate in 2002 when they reanalyzed late reporting from earlier studies. Their revision estimated that breast-cancer incidence rates actually rose 0.6% a year after 1987.

Chronicle is THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA #066

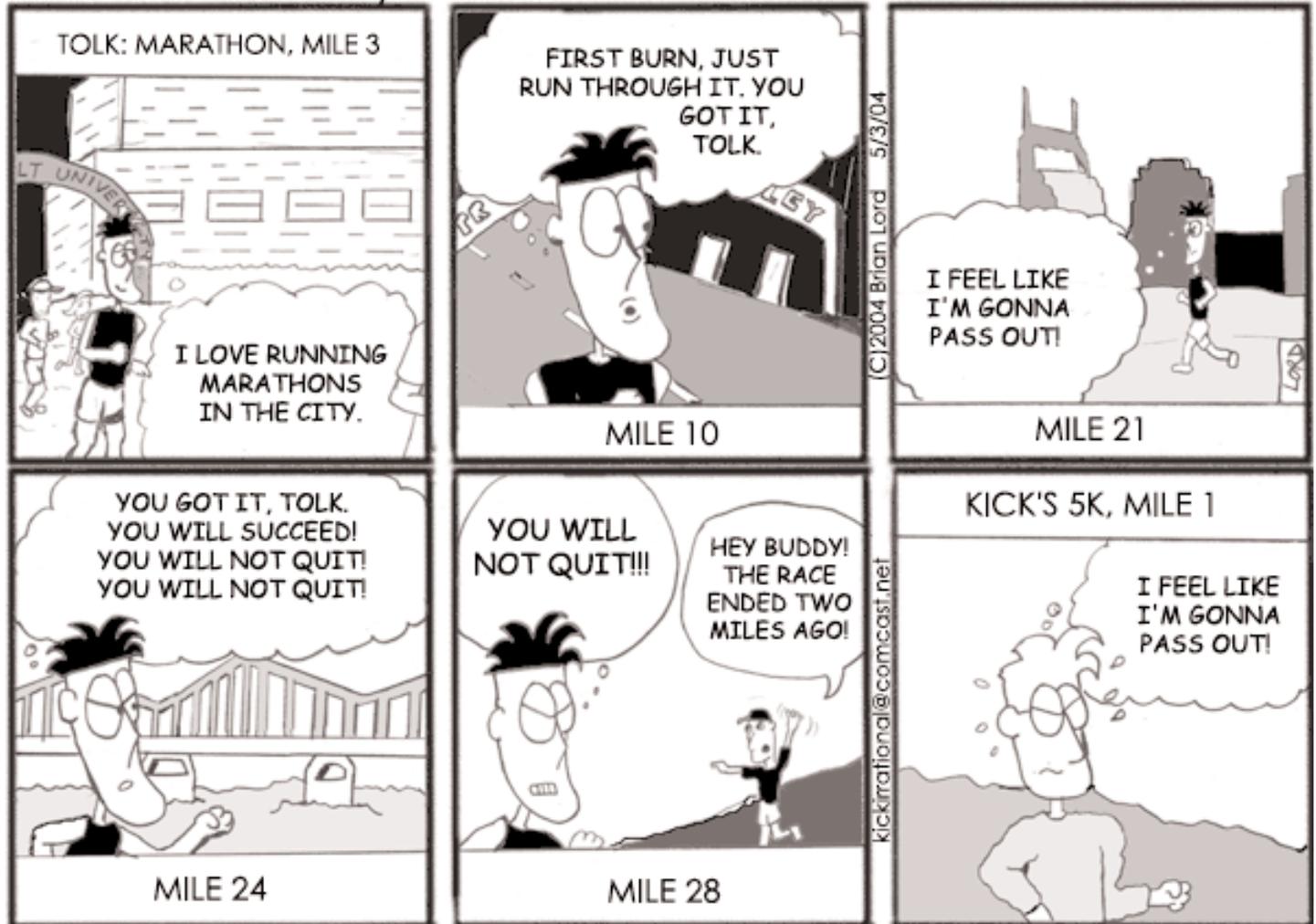
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Brian Lord is a cartoonist and member of Middle Tennessee Mensa (Nashville area). His cartoon Kick Irrational is read weekly by people in 192 cities, 46 states and 9 countries via the Internet. You can see the Kick Irrational comics page at www.kickirrational.com

KICK IRRATIONAL by Brian Lord

www.KickComics.com



PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. Define the word "peruse."
2. What is the tallest tree in your district or town?
3. How can one increase one's attention span?
4. How slow is molasses?
5. What is the difference between a concept and an idea?
6. What is the root of all evil? Double-check your answer.
7. What is the best software you use?

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

1. Why is the term 'combination lock' a misnomer?
 A: Combination locks should be called permutation locks because combinations are arrangements of things in which order DOESN'T matter whereas permutations are arrangements where order DOES matter. There are more permutations than combinations. If a lock is opened by the number sequence 10-20-30, it will not be opened by 30-20-10. Order is important, so it is a permutation, not a combination.

NOTED AND QUOTED

Life is what you make of living.

- Anonymous

I don't know what my path is yet. I'm just walking on it. - *Olivia Newton-John, (1948 -)*

There aren't enough secrets to go round anymore. Some spies are having to invent secrets in order to earn a living.

- *Shelagh Delaney, (1939 -), English playwright*

Start by doing what's necessary, then what's possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.

- *Saint Francis, (1181? - 1226), founder of Franciscan order*

A slave is one who waits for someone to come and free him. - *Ezra Pound, (1885 - 1972)*

Reality is frequently inaccurate.

- *Douglas Adams, (1952 - 2001), British Sci-fi author*

You don't even live once.

- *Karl Kraus, (1874 - 1936), Austrian writer/journalist*

Men should stop fighting among themselves and start fighting insects.

- *Luther Burbank, (1849 - 1926), U.S. horticulturist*

Morality knows nothing of geographical boundaries or distinctions of race.

- *Herbert Spencer, (1820 - 1903), *The Evanescence of Evil**

The difference between Art and Life is that Art is more bearable. - *Charles Bukowski, (1920 - 1994), German-American author and poet*

Our pleasures are shallow, our sorrows are deep.

- *Cheyenne Proverb*

Efficiency is intelligent laziness. - *The Country Parson*

Wonders will never cease.

- *Sir Henry Bate Dudley, (1745 - 1824)*

People advance technology. Great technology returns the favor.

- *John A. Edwardson, Chairman and CEO, CDW Corp.*

It is my ambition to say in ten sentences what others say in a whole book.

- *Friedrich Nietzsche, (1844 - 1900)*

Contrary to general belief, I do not believe that friends are necessarily the people you like best, they are merely the people who got there first.

- *Peter Ustinov, (1921 - 2004)*

A reputation once broken may possibly be repaired, but the world will always keep their eyes on the spot where the crack was.

- *Joseph Hall*

Wit is a sword; it is meant to make people feel the point as well as see it.

- *G.K. Chesterton, (1874 - 1936)*



WORD ORIGINS

Dozens of English words or phrases come from Arabic. Here are a few:

admiral - The Arabic title "amir-ar-rahl" meant 'chief of the transport', The Arab word "amir" means 'leader, lord, or commander'

albatross - This probably comes from the Arabic "al" (the) and "ghattas" (white-tailed sea eagle.) The Latin "albus" (white) is contained in the word. Early sailors were awed by the bird because its enormous wingspan allowed it to soar great distances without flapping its wings. They thought it was tempting fate or at least bad luck to kill this bird.

alcohol - From the Arabic "al-kuhul" - the "kohl," the fine metallic powder used to darken the eyelids. In the seventeenth century, the English word broadened to mean any sublimated substance. "Alcohol" in the modern sense of an intoxicating ingredient in liquor came into the language in the 18th century.

coffee - This word came to English from the Italian word *caffè*, which derives from the Arabic word "qahwah", a drink made from berries.

cotton - This word came to English from the Old French "coton", but traces back further to the Arabic "qutn", which may have been imported from Egypt.

drub - This word meaning 'to beat' may have entered English in the 17th century. It probably comes from the Arabic "darb" - a beating, and the verb form "daraba" - 'he beat up.'

garble - The Arabic word "gharbala" - 'to sift and select spices', related to "ghirbal" - "a sieve", came into English, French, and Italian about the 15th century.

sofa - This comes from the Turkish word of the same spelling, and ultimately from the Arabic "suffah" - 'bench.'

syrup - This traces back to the Arabic words "sharab" - 'beverage, wine, or something drunk' and "shariba" - 'he drank.' *tabby* - *Attabiy*, named for prince *Attab*, was a neighborhood of Baghdad where striped watered silk cloth was first made. The term 'tabby cat' appeared about 1695.

tariff - This word comes to us from Arabic by way of Italy. The Arabic "ta'rif" meant 'information, notification, inventory of fees to be paid,' and stems from the verb "arafa" - 'to make known.'

zenith - This came into Old French as a poor transliteration of the Arabic "samt" - road, path, in "samt ar-ras" - 'the way over the head.'

nadir - This entered English in the 14th century from the Arabic "nazir" - 'opposite to', as in "nazir as-samt" - 'opposite of the zenith'.

RUMINATIONS

THE GLORY OF GREY

By G.K. Chesterton

I suppose that, taking this summer as a whole, people will not call it an appropriate time for praising the English climate. But for my part I will praise the English climate till I die - even if I die of the English climate. There is no weather so good as English weather. Nay, in a real sense there is no weather at all anywhere but in England. In France you have much sun and some rain; in Italy you have hot winds and cold winds; in Scotland and Ireland you have rain, either thick or thin; in America you have hells of heat and cold, and in the Tropics you have sunstrokes varied by thunderbolts. But all these you have on a broad and brutal scale, and you settle down

into contentment or despair. Only in our own romantic country do you have the strictly romantic thing called Weather; beautiful and changing as a woman. The great English landscape painters (neglected now like everything that is English) have this salient distinction: that the Weather is not the atmosphere of their pictures; it is the subject of their pictures. They paint portraits of the Weather. The Weather sat to Constable. The Weather posed for Turner, and a deuce of a pose it was. This cannot truly be said of the greatest of their continental models or rivals. Poussin and Claude painted objects, ancient cities or perfect Arcadian shepherds through a clear medium of the climate. But in the English painters Weather is the hero; with Turner an Adelpi hero, taunting, flashing and fighting, melodramatic but really magnificent. The English climate, a tall and terrible protagonist, robed in rain and thunder

THE GLORY OF GREY CONTINUED

and snow and sunlight, fills the whole canvas and the whole foreground. I admit the superiority of many other French things besides French art. But I will not yield an inch on the superiority of English weather and weather-painting. Why, the French have not even got a word for Weather: and you must ask for the weather in French as if you were asking for the time in English.

Then, again, variety of climate should always go with stability of abode. The weather in the desert is monotonous; and as a natural consequence the Arabs wander about, hoping it may be different somewhere. But an Englishman's house is not only his castle; it is his fairy castle. Clouds and colours of every varied dawn and eve are perpetually touching and turning it from clay to gold, or from gold to ivory. There is a line of woodland beyond a corner of my garden which is literally different on every one of the three hundred and sixty-five days. Sometimes it seems as near as a hedge, and sometimes as far as a faint and fiery evening cloud. The same principle (by the way) applies to the difficult problem of wives. Variability is one of the virtues of a woman. It avoids the crude requirement of polygamy. So long as you have one good wife you are sure to have a spiritual harem.

Now, among the heresies that are spoken in this matter is the habit of calling a grey day a "colourless" day. Grey is a colour, and can be a very powerful and pleasing colour. There is also an insulting style of speech about "one grey day just like another." You might as well talk about one green tree just like another. A grey clouded sky is indeed a canopy between us and the sun; so is a green tree, if it comes to that. But the grey umbrellas differ as much as the green in their style and shape, in their tint and tilt. One day may be grey like steel, and another grey like dove's plumage. One may seem grey like the deathly frost, and another grey like the smoke of substantial kitchens. No things could seem further apart than the doubt of grey and the decision of scarlet. Yet grey and red can mingle, as they do in the morning clouds: and also in a sort of warm smoky stone of which they build the little towns in the west country. In those towns even the houses that are wholly grey have a glow in them; as if their secret firesides were such furnaces of hospitality as faintly to transfuse the walls like walls of

cloud. And wandering in those westland parts I did once really find a sign-post pointing up a steep crooked path to a town that was called Clouds. I did not climb up to it; I feared that either the town would not be good enough for the name, or I should not be good enough for the town. Anyhow, the little hamlets of the warm grey stone have a geniality which is not achieved by all the artistic scarlet of the suburbs; as if it were better to warm one's hands at the ashes of Glastonbury than at the painted flames of Croydon.

Again, the enemies of grey (those astute, daring and evil-minded men) are fond of bringing forward the argument that colours suffer in grey weather, and that strong sunlight is necessary to all the hues of heaven and earth. Here again there are two words to be said; and it is essential to distinguish. It is true that sun is needed to burnish and bring into bloom the tertiary and dubious colours; the colour of peat, pea-soup, Impressionist sketches, brown velvet coats, olives, grey and blue slates, the complexions of vegetarians, the tints of volcanic rock, chocolate, cocoa, mud, soot, slime, old boots; the delicate shades of these do need the sunlight to bring out the faint beauty that often clings to them. But if you have a healthy negro taste in colour, if you choke your garden with poppies and geraniums, if you paint your house sky-blue and scarlet, if you wear, let us say, a golden top-hat and a crimson frock-coat, you will not only be visible on the greyest day, but you will notice that your costume and environment produce a certain singular effect. You will find, I mean, that rich colours actually look more luminous on a grey day, because they are seen against a sombre background and seem to be burning with a lustre of their own. Against a dark sky all flowers look like fireworks. There is something strange about them, at once vivid and secret, like flowers traced in fire in the phantasmal garden of a witch. A bright blue sky is necessarily the high light of the picture; and its brightness kills all the bright blue flowers. But on a grey day the larkspur looks like fallen heaven; the red daisies are really the red lost eyes of day; and the sunflower is the vice-regent of the sun.

Lastly, there is this value about the colour that men call colourless; that it suggests in some way the mixed and troubled average of existence, especially in its quality of strife and expectation and

THE GLORY OF GREY CONTINUED

promise. Grey is a colour that always seems on the eve of changing to some other colour; of brightening into blue or blanching into white or bursting into green and gold. So we may be perpetually reminded of the indefinite hope that is in doubt itself; and when there is grey weather in our hills or grey hairs in our heads, perhaps they may still remind us of the morning.

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

By John Grover

Matching wine with food is always a challenge. This month's recipe could make it ever more so because it uses "GARLIC!" This classic Spanish dish really asks you to stand up and take notice (and may be the new cure for the common cold). But, riding to the rescue is the world's most dependable food wine, Sauvignon Blanc.

Our wine comes from the Rapel River Valley in the heart of Chile's winemaking regions. Chile has long produced both affordable and high-priced wines. The Casa Lapostelle winery combines the best of both with their 2003 Sauvignon Blanc. It's a refined and intense wine at a reasonable price. It starts off with a classic smell of gooseberries but adds a clear melon and citrus taste. Sauvignon Blanc's finish is well-balanced, with just enough acidity to clear the palate. This wine matches well with chicken, scallops, or the fish recipe below. At \$9 to \$11 a bottle, it's a fine value.

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

.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.

BROILED GROUPER WITH ROMESCO SAUCE

(The recipe is from Gourmet Magazine and is also available with many other excellent recipes at Epicurious.com)

Sauce Ingredients:

1/3 cup blanched and toasted almonds
 1 slice white sandwich bread, crust discarded and bread torn into shreds
 2 large garlic cloves
 1 / 2 tsp hot red pepperflakes
 1 / 2 cup chopped and drained bottled roasted red peppers
 2 tbsp red wine vinegar
 1 / 2 tsp salt, or to taste
 1 / 4 cup olive oil.

Rest of Ingredients

4 (6 oz) grouper fillets
 1 or 2 tbsp of olive oil
 black pepper to taste.

Prepare sauce: Finely grind almonds, bread, garlic and red pepper flakes in food processor. Add roasted peppers, vinegar, and salt, then puree, adding oil in a slow stream. Season with black pepper to taste. (The Boss recommends starting out with a little less salt, adding the balance only after you have tasted the sauce.)

Pre-heat broiler. Put fish on a lightly oiled shallow baking pan, skin side down. Brush fish with oil and season with salt and pepper. Broil 3 inches from heat, without turning, until just cooked, about 7 minutes. (We found that since our grouper fillet was very thick, that we had to flip it and cook it for a few minutes more.)

Epicurious suggested that this could be served with boiled potatoes and grilled vegetables and that lemon sole or red snapper could serve as the fish. We served it with grilled asparagus and penne pasta (with a bit of the sauce on the pasta) with excellent results. The left over sauce was also excellent on grilled bread the next day (again per Epicurious's suggestion)

THE OCTOBER DINNER

REVISITING THE CONSTITUTION

In October, Mensans and friends met once again for our monthly dinner at the friendly Stony Hill Inn, conveniently located right off I-84 in Bethel. Our speaker was Norwalk attorney and longtime Mensan Gary Oberst, who talked on "Revisiting the Constitution as an Adult." With his concise presentation and a dialogue with the audience, Gary brought home the importance of interpretation in determining the law of the land.

Gary provided each of the assembled with a copy of the Constitution and started off by asking everyone to read the first few amendments in the Bill of Rights. His questions about the meaning of each amendment and the exceptions to it sparked varied comments from listeners. All this underscored our speaker's point that the Constitution's meaning depends on interpretation. Citing some Supreme Court cases from the last fifty years, our speaker focused on the Court's central role in interpreting the Constitution. What the Constitution means depends on how the Court reads it, and, as he noted, this sometimes comes down to a single vote.

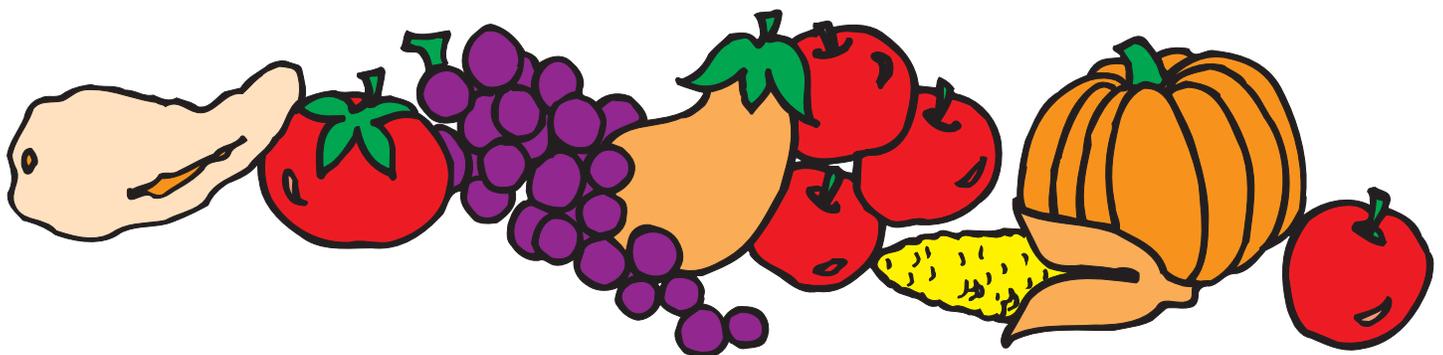
How can one change the Constitution? The discussion brought out two answers - by amending it, a laborious process, or by changing the interpretation, which usually means changing justices. The Supreme Court, through judicial review, can change the law's meaning much more quickly than an amendment campaign can.

Whence comes the Supreme Court's power of judicial review? It may surprise some that it is nowhere stated in the Constitution itself. Although Alexander Hamilton had supported judi-

cial review in the Federalist Papers, the principle remained uncertain throughout the country's first decade. In an interesting historical discussion, Attorney Oberst illuminated the 1803 Marbury vs. Madison case that established the Supreme Court's power to judge the constitutionality of laws. Before this time, the Supreme Court occupied an ambiguous place in our government, and a very humble place in the Capitol - the basement! It heard few cases and some of its positions went unfilled. No one, including Chief Justice John Marshall, who was appointed in 1801, knew if the Court was truly supreme in deciding the law. In his examination of the Marbury case, Gary brought out the conflict between the Federalists and the Jeffersonians and how this influenced the decision. In 1800, Jefferson won the Presidency and his party, the Democratic-Republicans, won Congress. The Federalist party, however, dominated the judicial branch. Although Marshall, a staunch Federalist, could have plausibly decided Marbury either way, he sided with the Jeffersonians because he foresaw that only a decision that appeared impartial could stick and establish the principle of judicial review for the long haul. Marshall proved correct, and the Supreme Court became the institution that the other branches of government and the citizens of the new republic looked to for the final word on the Constitution.

With his analysis of the words and history of our Constitution, Gary Oberst gave Mensans insights into this document and how the Supreme Court became the ultimate authority on it. We look forward to hearing from him again.

Gary Oberst practices law in Norwalk. You can reach him at 111 East Avenue, Norwalk, CT, 06851.



CHAPTER NOTES

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