

# SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA CHRONICLE

If you or someone you know would like to be a speaker at our monthly dinner, please contact Jim Mizera at 203-522-1959 or [Jmizera@hotmail.com](mailto:Jmizera@hotmail.com). The dinner is held the third Saturday of the month.

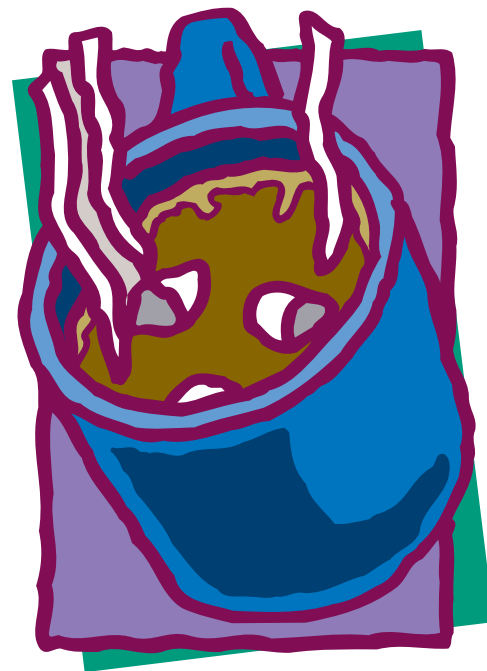


## *ARCHIVED COPIES OF THE CHRONICLE*

going back to 2000 are available on the Internet at <http://www.doctechical.com/scm>. 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.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2 Schedule of Southern Connecticut Mensa Events
  - Schedule of Connecticut and
  - Western Mass Mensa Events
  - Happy Hours & Get Together's
- 5 Regional Gatherings
- 6 From the Vice Chair
- 7 Kick Irrational
- 8 Book Review
- 9 Good Wine Cheap
- 10 Puzzles & Answers
- 12 Noted and Quoted
- 13 Ruminations
- 16 Poetry Corner
- 17 Mensa Mind Games
- 18 Chapter Notes
  - Member Advertisements
  - Change of Address Form
- 19 List of Officers



Southern CT Mensa is looking for an Activities Coordinator. If you would like to fill this position, please contact President Rick D'Amico at [usamarbiol@aol.com](mailto:usamarbiol@aol.com)

**SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS - JANUARY**

Friday, January 12, 7:00

**Southern CT and Western MA 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, January 20, 6:30

**Monthly Dinner**

New Members Dinner. So. CT Mensan Scott Silvestri will lecture on "Anti-Oxidants vs. Aging." If you have joined Southern CT Mensa in the last year, make it a point to be at our kickoff dinner for 2007. New members and old members will join to welcome the new year in Mensa. Contact Jim Mizera at jmizera@hotmail.com, (203) 522-1959. Before the presentation, we will enjoy dinner in our private dining room at the Stony Hill Inn, You can bring a donation of money or food to benefit the Connecticut Food Bank. Dress is casual. Contact Jim Mizera, jmizera@hotmail.com, 203-522-1959, for information and preservations. Please TRY to make reserva-

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tions by Friday, January 19 so we can assure that the restaurant can provide seating in the main area for everyone. Guests are welcome. If you make reservations and can't attend, PLEASE call and cancel.

Directions from New Haven/Bridgeport: Take Route 25-8 all the way past Brookfield into Bethel, 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 if heading west or a right if heading east. 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.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY**

Saturday, February 3, 6:30.

**Theater Event: *Spinning into Butter***

by Rebecca Gilman, at the Westport Community Theatre, Town Hall Building, 110 Myrtle Ave., Westport, CT. 06880. An extraordinarily fresh, eloquent and candid new play about deep racial conflicts. A searing and funny contemporary expose of political correctness at a small Vermont college. By a writer of surprising gifts – to amuse and move audiences. Tickets are \$16 - \$20. Contact Jim Mizera at (203) 522-1959, jmizera@hotmail.com, for info or reservations.

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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. 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.

Friday, February 9, 7:00.

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

See above listing for details.

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Saturday, February 17, 6:30.

**Monthly Dinner**

Longtime Mensan Gerard Brooker will talk about his trip to Iran.

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**CONNECTICUT AND WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS  
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](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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For event listings in the Media, leave a message for me by the 10th of the previous month at (860) 872-3106 or email [Lilith@snet.net](mailto:Lilith@snet.net) Subject: Calendar There's also the [CWM-Announce] upcoming events reminder email list, which I send out \*approximately\* weekly. Subscribe and unsubscribe options are located at <http://lists.us.mensa.org/mailman/listinfo/cwm-announce> for your convenience. And any Mensan who wants to notify their fellow Ms about any late-breaking event s/he wants to share with our delightful chapter, please email me ASAP with the details and I'll get it out to the list. You may also check the website [www.cwm.us.mensa.org](http://www.cwm.us.mensa.org) for our cal-

endar updates.

**JANUARY**

4, 11, 18, 25 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).

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5 Friday 5:30 pm

**Happy Hour**

in Wallingford (ME, 1st Fridays) Ann Polanski (contact her at 203-269-4565 or [ann.polanski@rfsworld.com](mailto:ann.polanski@rfsworld.com)) hosts us upstairs at George's II Restaurant, 950 Yale Avenue, Wallingford, CT 06492 Phone: 203-269-1059. Directions: Exit 66 off Wilbur Cross Parkway. Turn left (south) onto Rte 5. Take first left that's not a highway entrance onto Yale Avenue. George's II is in the Yale Plaza on the right.

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10 Wednesday 6:00 pm

**Happy Hour (NEW!)**

in Madison (ME, 2nd Wed) New! This one is at the Dolly Madison Inn in south-central CT. The Dolly is located just off Route 1 at 73 West Wharf Road, Madison 06443, phone 203-245-7377. We'll meet around 6 PM. There is free lounge food for patrons, and there are burgers and salads to order if you like.

Directions: Take I-95 to exit 61 Rt. 79. Go south on Rt. 79 toward Rt. 1 and Madison center for 0.5 mi. Take a right (west) onto Rt. 1 and drive 0.4 mi. to West Wharf Road. Take a left (south) on W. Wharf and drive 0.3 mi. to the Dolly Madison Inn. Parking is available next to the Inn and across the road in the large lot. Questions? Contact Joe Wonowski at 203-785-2998 weekdays, and 203-457-9770 evenings. Hope to see you there!

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13 Saturday 9:30 am

**Mensa Admissions Testing**

at the VFW in Manchester. Have your brainy & potentially Mensan friends contact Gisela Rodriguez ([Lilith@snet.net](mailto:Lilith@snet.net)) for info and sign-up.

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13 Saturday 2:00 pm

**Book Discussion**

Join us this time for a rollicking discussion of *Secret Societies of America's Elite: From the Knights Templar to Skull and Bones* by Steven Sora. (Non-fiction?)

[http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/product-description/0892819596/ref=dp\\_proddesc\\_0/102-4909898-5977756?ie=UTF8&n=283155&s=books](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/product-description/0892819596/ref=dp_proddesc_0/102-4909898-5977756?ie=UTF8&n=283155&s=books)  
We'll meet at Pamela Guinan's home in Wethersfield. For RSVPs & directions call 860-563-5761. BYOB and a small munchie to share.

18 Thursday 6:30 pm

**Pioneer Valley Dinner**

(ME, floats) at the Hunan Gourmet Restaurant, King Street, Northampton MA. Join us. Conversations, friendship, solve the world's problems, drink and eat. Once we grow in numbers, we'll explore other places to meet and consider other Western MA activities. Questions? MargotZalkind@aol.com

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](mailto:nirimi@snet.net), Subject: Diner Dinner

26 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 are now reserving the middle tables on the left as you walk in the bar. Dinner is a possibility if enough people are interested. Come on down and join us this month, we'd love to see ya. Contact Gail Trowbridge (203) 877-4472 or [Gail.Trowbridge@att.net](mailto:Gail.Trowbridge@att.net).

31 Wednesday 12:00 noon

**Middlebury Lunch**

(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. Contact Richard Fogg at 860-274-2370 for more info.

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.

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## Looking Ahead

### Book Discussions

From Literary Classics to historical dish, our book group's inquiring minds run the gamut of interests. We decided to go for a some nonfiction pieces in our next few meetings. All welcome!

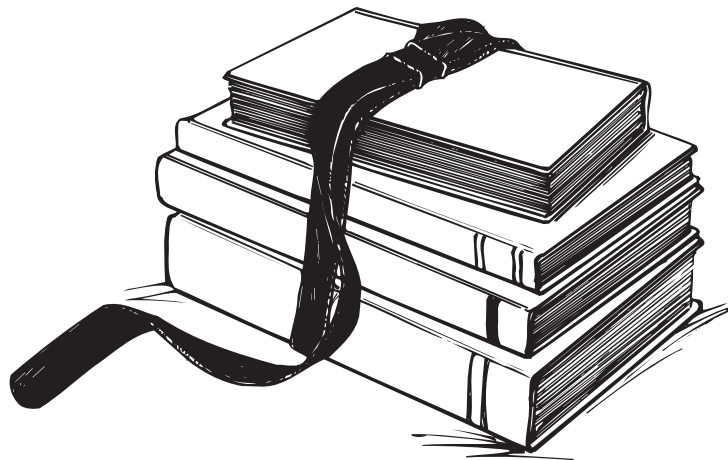
#### March 03 Saturday 2 pm

Next we'll be enjoying

#### The Axemaker's Gift: A Double Edged History Of Human Culture

by James Burke and Robert Ornstein, asking the question (more or less) "if we humans are so smart, why are we always in so much trouble?"  
[http://www.amazon.com/Axemakers-Gift-Robert-Ornstein/dp/0874778565/sr=8-1/qid=1163376477/ref=pd\\_bbs\\_sr\\_1/102-4909898-5977756?ie=UTF8&s=books](http://www.amazon.com/Axemakers-Gift-Robert-Ornstein/dp/0874778565/sr=8-1/qid=1163376477/ref=pd_bbs_sr_1/102-4909898-5977756?ie=UTF8&s=books)  
 Pam hosts us again for this one.

And in **April**, (date and place not settled yet) we'll be tackling a rather large but extremely well received book: **Sex In History** by Reay Tannahill.  
[http://www.amazon.com/Axemakers-Gift-Robert-Ornstein/dp/0874778565/sr=8-1/qid=1163376477/ref=pd\\_bbs\\_sr\\_1/102-4909898-5977756?ie=UTF8&s=books](http://www.amazon.com/Axemakers-Gift-Robert-Ornstein/dp/0874778565/sr=8-1/qid=1163376477/ref=pd_bbs_sr_1/102-4909898-5977756?ie=UTF8&s=books)



## Regional Gatherings

### COLLOQUIUM 2007 Aspects of Humor: The Art and Science of Laughter

March 23-25, 2007, Chicago, Illinois.

Bring both your scholar and comedian. Your scholarly persona will learn about the physiology of humor and how it influences our self-image and world view. Your comic persona will learn the mechanics of writing, improv, and more to practice.

#### Program

John Vorhaus: The Comic Toolbox  
 Dr. Rod Martin: Jest for the Health of It - Is Laughter Really the Best Medicine?  
 Dr. Gary Alan Fine: Joking Cultures, How Groups-Even Mensa - Can Develop a Humor Identity

Watch for the surprise keynote speaker!

#### Hotel

Colloquium 2007 will be held at the Doubletree Hotel Chicago - Oak Brook, 1909 Spring Road, Oak Brook, IL 60523. The room rate is \$99 until March 2, 2007, or until our room quota is filled. Reserve online or call 800.222.TREE and mention Mensa Colloquium. After March 2, reservations will be accepted based on rate and room availability.

#### Registration

Register by February 14 and pay \$220 (Mensans) or \$270 (non-Mensans) for the weekend and three meals. After February 14, the cost goes up to \$270 and \$320. Enrollment is limited, so sign up now online or send your registration form to Colloquium 2007, American Mensa, Ltd., 1229 Corporate Dr. West, Arlington TX 76006.

For a registration form, details, and contacts, visit [www.colloquium2007.us.mensa.org](http://www.colloquium2007.us.mensa.org).

You won't be laughing if you miss this event!

Jill Beckham  
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## WHAT'S COOKING IN REGION 1

Marghretta McBean

2007 will probably be ushered in by the time many of you read this. 2006 certainly had its share of bad news for me: several friends died and others suffered serious illnesses. In the positive column though, Region 1 furnished me with many opportunities to see warm-hearted volunteerism at its best, from Mid-Hudson Mensa's book drive to Mensa of Northeastern New York's Colloquium production, to Rhode Island Mensa's AMC Meeting. Each group in our region that hosted a Regional Gathering (RG) - Northern New Jersey, Connecticut & Western Massachusetts, Boston and New Hampshire/ Maine - is testimony to the spirit of positive teamwork. May even more interested folks step forward in every Region 1 group and lend a hand to help keep their groups vital and growing.

In the Answered Prayers Department, Jeane Thompson, The VerMonter's editor, finally has her son Josh back home from twice extended military service in Iraq.

Congratulations are in order to Greater New York Mensa, which tested more people during Mensa Testing Day than any other group in its Group of the Year Award (GOTYA) category. In these days of fewer (or no) test proctors for many groups, this is a great tribute to the hard work that Linda Spadafina, GNYM's Testing Coordinator, and her crew do to recruit and test potential members. I met Linda when she attended a GNYM RG after having just taken her Mensa test. She said she felt "right at home" with us and has continued to give to her new family.

Boston Mensa's Pilgrimage RG was once again a fun-filled weekend. The caliber of volunteers who put this event together is the highest. Two of them deserve special note: Registrar Al Beecy, who designed an online registration form that could be a model for Mensa gatherings; and Rick Kovalcik, Hospitality Meister Extraordinaire, whom I've never seen sit down in all the years I have attended Boston's RGs - he and his crew work nonstop. Any rumours you may have heard about me and my posse doing a Diana Ross & The Supremes imitation during the Karaoke Party are to be ignored .....

In a bow to my Scottish McBean side, I have at times celebrated Hogmanay (Gaelic oge maidne = "new morning" or Anglo-Saxon haleg monath = "holy month"), which is celebrated in Scotland on New Year's Eve. Traditions include First Footings and fire ceremonies: torch light processions, fireball swinging, and the lighting of New Year fires.

First Footing lore says that your new year will be prosperous if at the stroke of midnight, a "tall, dark stranger" appears at your door with either a lump of coal for the fire, or a cake or a coin. In exchange, you must offer him food and either wine, a 'wee dram' of whisky, or the traditional Het Pint, a combination of ale, nutmeg and whisky.

Sweet Haggis is a dish that originated in the Ayrshire town of Kilmarnock. This hot steaming pudding is just the ticket on a cold winter's night. A Happy New Year to All!

### SWEET HAGGIS

12 oz. (350 g) oatmeal (old fashioned or steel-cut [Scots or Irish])  
 4 oz. (125 g) flour  
 12 oz. (350 g) suet, finely chopped\*  
 4 oz. (125 g) brown sugar  
 4 oz. (125 g) currants  
 4 oz. (125 g) raisins  
 Salt, pepper, cinnamon and nutmeg to taste  
 Water to mix

1. Put dry ingredients in a bowl and add enough water to make a thick moist dough. Add fruits and seasonings; mix thoroughly.
2. Put into a greased pudding bowl (a heavy earthenware mixing bowl will do), cover with greased wax paper and steam for 3-4 hours. (Place bowl inside a larger pot on top of a trivet. Add simmering water, cover and keep water at a simmer. If you insert a metal knife, it should come out clean when done.)
3. Serve hot or warm, sliced.
4. The remainder can later be cut in thick slices and fried or wrapped in foil and reheated in the oven.

*continued on next page*

\*Suet is the hard fat from around the kidneys of cows and sheep. Its high melting point works well in puddings and pie crusts, leaving thousands of tiny air pockets that make for a light and smooth texture. Additionally, it does not have a meaty taste, imparting a rich flavour. The substitution of butter, especially in a steamed pudding, simply creates a dish that is heavy and greasy.

If you can't bear the thought of using suet, you can certainly substitute solid vegetable shortening - which also has a relatively high melting point - for suet and few people will notice. Yes, it is high in cholesterol, but the oatmeal balances it.

KICK IRRATIONAL by Brian Lord

www.KickComics.com



Brian Lord is an internationally read cartoonist, writer, 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. His work can be seen at [www.KickComics.com](http://www.KickComics.com)

**BOOK REVIEW** by Rick D'Amico**WHY ORWELL MATTERS***By Christopher Hitchens*

Back in 2002, while waiting in an airport, I began reading this book, and found it fascinating. In fact, I recently re-read it, just to see if I'd get more from it a second time around. I did.

If one had to describe Christopher Hitchens in two words, "iconoclast" and "enigma" would come to mind. An author of numerous books and a frequent contributor to leading magazines, as well as a regular guest on talk shows, Hitchens has taken a number of public figures and institutions to task. However, one would have a difficult time labeling him as either a liberal or a conservative based on the targets of his criticisms. Thus, who better to write of an enigmatic figure such as George Orwell than Christopher Hitchens?

In this book, Hitchens sets out to clear up what he considers to be a number of myths about George Orwell. Orwell himself was a contradiction — a Socialist who despised Communism. He thought dimly of supplanting one dictator (Hitler) for another (Stalin). In separate chapters, Hitchens defends Orwell from critics on the left and on the right. He also discusses Orwell's prejudices against Jews, women, homosexuals and vegetarians, and his personal struggles to deal with these shortcomings.

Orwell was anti-colonialist yet he had a distinct dislike for the people in Burma, a British colony when he lived there. Nonetheless, he realized that it was easier for the aristocratic society to be ruthless when they were different from the people whom they subjugated (e.g., Normans over Saxons, Germans over Slavs, English over Irish, etc.).

Like Hitchens, Orwell cannot be classified either as a conservative or a liberal. Hitchens uses a phrase from Lenin, "the heart on fire and the brain on ice" to describe Orwell as a mixture of passion and generosity, along with detachment and reserve.

Interestingly, in the concluding chapter of the book, Hitchens likens objectivity to infinity — both useful concepts, but impossible to attain. I suspect that Hitchens is saying that he can not fully be objective about Orwell. It is clear that he truly admires Orwell; in some ways, even though they never met, Orwell could have been Hitchens' mentor.

Remarkably, over twenty years after 1984, the title of Orwell's most noted novel, he remains relevant. I recommend this book as an intellectually stimulating experience.



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

This month we go back to one of those wonderful comfort foods that we relished as children. When our grown children come to visit, they still ask the Boss to make her macaroni and cheese. As "She who must be obeyed" would say, the key to any successful dish is good quality ingredients. So don't try to cut any corners around the recipe below, especially the cheese, dry mustard and whole milk.

Red wine is a classic match for Cheddar cheese. The wine suggested for this month's dish is the 2003 Blackstone Merlot from California. It has a fruity plum and blackberry flavor. When you hold a little sip on your tongue, the wine's soft tannins help to create a creamy almost vanilla finish. It can be widely found for \$7 to \$10 a bottle.

**BAKED MACARONI AND CHEESE**

(adapted from the McCall's Cook Book, 1963)

Ingredients:

1pkg (8 oz) elbow macaroni  
 2 cups sharp grated Cheddar cheese (1/2 lb)  
 1/4 cup margarine or butter  
 1/4 cup un-sifted all purpose flour  
 2 cups milk  
 1 tsp salt  
 1/8 tsp pepper  
 1/2 tsp Coleman's English Dry Mustard

Preheat oven to 375F. Cook macaroni as package label directs; drain. In a 1-1/2 quart shallow baking dish, alternate macaroni (in 2 layers) with 1-1/2 cups of cheese (in 2 layers); set aside.

Meanwhile prepare sauce: Melt butter in medium sauce pan; remove from heat. Blend in flour; gradually stir in milk, then seasonings. Bring to boiling, stirring; boil 1 minute.

Pour sauce over macaroni and cheese in casserole. Top with remaining cheese. Bake 15 to 20 minutes or until cheese is melted and browned. Serves 4 to 6. A note from the Boss: The cheese should always be sharp or extra sharp; and the pepper should be fresh ground.

*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.*

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

## PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. How much money did Americans spend at restaurants in 2005? How much was spent at fast-food restaurants? How much was spent at supermarkets and food markets?
2. Describe some of the differences between North Dakota and South Dakota.
3. Who is credited with inventing the street-corner mailbox?
4. In what ways are a football game and a chess match alike and different?
5. Explain the reasons for daylight savings time.
6. How much do street names differ from town to town?
7. How long is the Great Wall of China?
8. Describe some things that you have optimized.
9. What was Ebenezer Scrooge's profession?
10. Name as many World War II generals as you can.

### ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

1. What is the difference between a symposium and a colloquium?

A: They are similar. A symposium is a conference held to discuss a particular subject, especially an academic subject, or a collection of essays by different writers on a single topic. It derives from the Greek work "symposion", a drinking-party with intellectual discussion. A colloquium is an academic meeting at which specialists deliver addresses on related topics and then answer questions, or a collection of opinions on a subject; especially one published by a periodical. It is derived from the Latin word "colloquy."

3. How many active cell phones are there in the world?

A: In 2005, there were an estimated 2.1 billion cell phone subscribers in the world. Luxembourg has the highest cell phone ownership rate in the world, at 164% of the population. In Hong Kong, the rate is 117%. About 80% of the world's population now has mobile phone coverage. There are estimated to be 200 million active cell phones in the United States and 70% of children own mobile phones.

It is sometimes said that half the world has never made a phone call, but this is probably not true. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) reports that there were about 689 million landlines in 1995 and more than 1 billion by 2001. In China, for example, the number of landlines increased from 41 million to 179 million. Worldwide cell phone ownership went from 91 million to 946 million during that span, with the number of subscribers multiplying a hundred-fold in 64 countries. Based on conservative estimates, probably 2/3 of the world's population has made a phone call by now, and that number is steadily increasing.

5. What percentage of people who are struck by lightning are killed?

A: About 20%. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), lightning injures about 300 people and kills about 75 people in the U.S. each year.

*continued on next page*

7. What portion of the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) comes from international trade?
- A: 13% of U.S. GDP comes from imports and 12% from exports. U.S. international trade has been growing 2 to 3 times faster than GDP.
9. What is the average occupancy rate for U.S. hotels?
- A: 61%.
11. When was the first newspaper published?
- A: According to the World Association of Newspapers, the first printed newspaper was the "Collection of all distinguished and commemorateable news", published in 1605 by Johann Carolus in Strasbourg, a free city in the Holy Roman Empire. Strasbourg is today part of France.

Some people say the Acta Diurna (Daily Acts or Daily Public Records), published in Rome in 59 B.C., was the first newspaper. Emperor Julius Caesar ordered state appointed reporters to report the major legal, political, and social events of the day to his citizenry. They were carved on stone or metal and posted in public places. Acta Diurna ceased publication when the capital moved to Constantinople.

Others credit the "Mixed News in Kaiyuan", published in 713 A.D. in China, with the honor of being the first newspaper. It was not printed, however, but hand-written on a newsheet

The world's oldest newspaper still in circulation, the Post-och Inrikes Tidningar, Sweden, began publishing in 1645.

The first newspaper appearing in the United States was in 1690, the Publick Occurrences, published in Boston. The first native-American newspaper, the Cherokee Phoenix, was printed in Georgia in 1828.

13. What is wrong with this sentence: "Looking at the 12-month period as a whole, the overall bond market, as measured by the Lehman Brothers U.S. Aggregate Index, returned 1.46%."
- A: It has a dangling modifier. Who is doing the looking in this sentence? Presumably it's the investor, but he or she is absent in the sentence. Instead, the opening phrase immediately precedes what is being looked at – the bond market.



**NOTED AND QUOTED**

The World! - it is a wilderness where tears are hung on every tree. - *Thomas Hood, (1799 - 1845), English poet, Ode to Melancholy*

Life is like an analogy. - *Anonymous*

In war, there are no unwounded soldiers. - *Jose Narosky, (1931 - ), Argentine writer.*

An alibi is a reason with a bad reputation. - *Doug Larson, United Media columnist.*

Each morning puts a man on trial and each evening passes judgment. - *Roy Smith*

It ain't what you got, it's what you know and do with what you got ... The difference between a cook and a chef is understanding what's going on. - *Alton Brown, (1962 - ), U.S., host of T.V. show Good Eats*

Live out of your imagination, not your history. - *Stephen R. Covey, (1932 - )*

Imagination and fiction make up more than three quarters of our real life. - *Simone Weil, (1909 - 1943), French writer*

If your messenger is slow, go to meet him. - *Anonymous*

Ignorance is preferable to the illusion of knowledge. - *Thomas Sowell, (1930 - ), U.S. economist, author.*

One must choose in life between boredom and torment. - *(Baronne) Anne Louise Germaine de Stael, (1766 - 1817), French woman of letters*

Perhaps no emotion cools sooner than that of gratitude... - *Benjamin Harrison, (1833 - 1901), U.S. President, (1889 - 1893), Annual Message to Congress, 1892*

I don't dig nature at all. I think nature is very unnatural. I think the truly natural things are dreams, which nature can't touch with decay. - *Bob Dylan, (1941 - )*

If a man is prodigal he cannot be truly generous. - *James Boswell, (1740 - 1795)*

People who think they are generous to a fault usually think that's their only fault. - *Sydney J. Harris, (1917 - 1986),*

If we can't turn the world around we can at least bolster the victims. - *Liz Carpenter, (1920 - ), U.S. writer, reporter*

It is a bad plan that admits of no modification. - *Publius Syrus, (c. 100 B.C.E), Roman slave and poet.*

A man is not honest simply because he never had a chance to steal. - *Yiddish proverb*

One dull pencil is worth two sharp minds. - *Anonymous*

Quantity is no substitute for quality, but it's the only one we've got. - *Anonymous*

Trust, but look for the exits. - *Mason Cooley, (1927-2002), U.S. aphorist.*

Efficiency is doing better what is already being done. - *Peter F. Drucker, (1909 - 2005), U.S. economist and management sociologist*

There is nothing so easy to learn as experience and nothing so hard to apply. - *Josh Billings, (1818 - 1865), American humorist, Josh Billings, His Works Complete*

Our sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest thoughts. - *Percy Shelley, (1792 - 1822)*

The artist selects and classifies what nature mingles in a hideous confusion and in doing so he is, in one of his many ways, adapting the universe to our minds by presenting it in an order which our emotions can follow. - *Joseph Wood Krutch, (1893 - 1970)*

Wait a minute, there's a snag somewhere; something disagreeable. Why, now, should it be disagreeable? ... Ah, I see; it's life without a break. - *Jean Paul Sartre, (1905 - 1980)*

## RUMINATIONS

### TRUTHFULNESS

Charles Dudley Warner, (1829 – 1900)

Truthfulness is as essential in literature as it is in conduct, in fiction as it is in the report of an actual occurrence. Falsehood vitiates a poem, a painting, exactly as it does a life. Truthfulness is a quality like simplicity. Simplicity in literature is mainly a matter of clear vision and lucid expression, however complex the subject-matter may be; exactly as in life, simplicity does not so much depend upon external conditions as upon the spirit in which one lives. It may be more difficult to maintain simplicity of living with a great fortune than in poverty, but simplicity of spirit--that is, superiority of soul to circumstance--is possible in any condition. Unfortunately the common expression that a certain person has wealth is not so true as it would be to say that wealth has him. The life of one with great possessions and corresponding responsibilities may be full of complexity; the subject of literary art may be exceedingly complex; but we do not set complexity over against simplicity. For simplicity is a quality essential to true life as it is to literature of the first class; it is opposed to parade, to artificiality, to obscurity.

The quality of truthfulness is not so easily defined. It also is a matter of spirit and intuition. We have no difficulty in applying the rules of common morality to certain functions of writers for the public, for instance, the duties of the newspaper reporter, or the newspaper correspondent, or the narrator of any event in life the relation of which owes its value to its being absolutely true. The same may be said of hoaxes, literary or scientific, however clear they may be. The person indulging in them not only discredits his office in the eyes of the public, but he injures his own moral fibre, and he contracts such a habit of untruthfulness that he never can hope for genuine literary success. For there never was yet any genuine success in letters without integrity. The clever hoax is no better than the trick of imitation, that is, conscious imitation of another, which has untruthfulness to one's self at the bottom of it. Burlesque is not the highest order of intellectual performance, but it is legitimate, and if cleverly done it may be both useful and amusing, but it is not to be confounded with forgery, that is, with a composition which the author attempts to pass

off as the production of somebody else. The forgery may be amazingly smart, and be even popular, and get the author, when he is discovered, notoriety, but it is pretty certain that with his ingrained lack of integrity he will never accomplish any original work of value, and he will be always personally suspected. There is nothing so dangerous to a young writer as to begin with hoaxing; or to begin with the invention, either as reporter or correspondent, of statements put forward as facts, which are untrue. This sort of facility and smartness may get a writer employment, unfortunately for him and the public, but there is no satisfaction in it to one who desires an honorable career. It is easy to recall the names of brilliant men whose fine talents have been eaten away by this habit of untruthfulness. This habit is the greatest danger of the newspaper press of the United States.

It is easy to define this sort of untruthfulness, and to study the moral deterioration it works in personal character, and in the quality of literary work. It was illustrated in the forgeries of the marvelous boy Chatterton. The talent he expended in deception might have made him an enviable reputation,--the deception vitiating whatever good there was in his work. Fraud in literature is no better than fraud in archaeology - Chatterton deserves no more credit than Shapiro who forged the Moabite pottery with its inscriptions. The reporter who invents an incident, or heightens the horror of a calamity by fictions is in the case of Shapiro. The habit of this sort of invention is certain to destroy the writer's quality, and if he attempts a legitimate work of the imagination, he will carry the same untruthfulness into that. The quality of truthfulness cannot be juggled with. Akin to this is the trick which has put under proper suspicion some very clever writers of our day, and cost them all public confidence in whatever they do,--the trick of posing for what they are not. We do not mean only that the reader does not believe their stories of personal adventure, and regards them personally as "frauds," but that this quality of deception vitiates all their work, as seen from a literary point of view. We mean that the writer who hoaxes the public, by inventions which he publishes as facts, or in regard to his own personality, not only will lose the confidence of the public but he will lose the power of doing genuine work, even in the field of fiction. Good work is always characterized by integrity.

These illustrations help us to understand what is meant by literary integrity. For the deception in the case of the correspondent who invents "news" is of the same quality as the lack of sincerity in a poem or in a prose fiction; there is a moral and probably a mental defect in both. The story of Robinson Crusoe is a very good illustration of veracity in fiction. It is effective because it has the simple air of truth; it is an illusion that satisfies; it is possible; it is good art: but it has no moral deception in it. In fact, looked at as literature, we can see that it is sincere and wholesome.

What is this quality of truthfulness which we all recognize when it exists in fiction? There is much fiction, and some of it, for various reasons, that we like and find interesting which is nevertheless insincere if not artificial. We see that the writer has not been honest with himself or with us in his views of human life. There may be just as much lying in novels as anywhere else. The novelist who offers us what he declares to be a figment of his own brain may be just as untrue as the reporter who sets forth a figment of his own brain which he declares to be a real occurrence. That is, just as much faithfulness to life is required of the novelist as of the reporter, and in a much higher degree. The novelist must not only tell the truth about life as he sees it, material and spiritual, but he must be faithful to his own conceptions. If fortunately he has genius enough to create a character that has reality to himself and to others, he must be faithful to that character. He must have conscience about it, and not misrepresent it, any more than he would misrepresent the sayings and doings of a person in real life. Of course if his own conception is not clear, he will be as unjust as in writing about a person in real life whose character he knew only by rumor. The novelist may be mistaken about his own creations and in his views of life, but if he have truthfulness in himself, sincerity will show in his work.

Truthfulness is a quality that needs to be as strongly insisted on in literature as simplicity. But when we carry the matter a step further, we see that there cannot be truthfulness about life without knowledge. The world is full of novels, and their number daily increases, written without any sense of responsibility, and with very little experience, which are full of false views of human nature and of society. We can almost always tell

in a fiction when the writer passes the boundary of his own experience and observation--he becomes unreal, which is another name for untruthful. And there is an absence of sincerity in such work. There seems to be a prevailing impression that any one can write a story. But it scarcely need be said that literature is an art, like painting and music, and that one may have knowledge of life and perfect sincerity, and yet be unable to produce a good, truthful piece of literature, or to compose a piece of music, or to paint a picture.

Truthfulness is in no way opposed to invention or to the exercise of the imagination. When we say that the writer needs experience, we do not mean to intimate that his invention of character or plot should be literally limited to a person he has known, or to an incident that has occurred, but that they should be true to his experience. The writer may create an ideally perfect character, or an ideally bad character, and he may try him by a set of circumstances and events never before combined, and this creation may be so romantic as to go beyond the experience of any reader, that is to say, wholly imaginary (like a composed landscape which has no counterpart in any one view of a natural landscape), and yet it may be so consistent in itself, so true to an idea or an aspiration or a hope, that it will have the element of truthfulness and subserve a very high purpose. It may actually be truer to our sense of verity to life than an array of undeniable, naked facts set down without art and without imagination.

The difficulty of telling the truth in literature is about as great as it is in real life. We know how nearly impossible it is for one person to convey to another a correct impression of a third person. He may describe the features, the manner, mention certain traits and sayings, all literally true, but absolutely misleading as to the total impression. And this is the reason why extreme, unrelieved realism is apt to give a false impression of persons and scenes. One can hardly help having a whimsical notion occasionally, seeing the miscarriages even in our own attempts at truthfulness, that it absolutely exists only in the imagination.

In a piece of fiction, especially romantic fiction, an author is absolutely free to be truthful, and he will be if he has personal and literary integrity. He moves freely amid his own creations and conceptions, and is not subject to the peril of the writer

who admittedly uses facts, but uses them so clumsily or with so little conscience, so out of their real relations, as to convey a false impression and an untrue view of life. This quality of truthfulness is equally evident in "The Three Guardsmen" and in "Midsummer Night's Dream." Dumas is as conscientious about his world of adventure as Shakespeare is in his semi-supernatural region. If Shakespeare did not respect the laws of his imaginary country, and the creatures of his fancy, if Dumas were not true to the characters he conceived, and the achievements possible to them, such works would fall into confusion. A recent story called "The Refugees" set out with a certain promise of veracity, although the reader understood of course that it was to be a purely romantic invention. But very soon the author recklessly violated his own conception, and when he got his "real" characters upon an iceberg, the fantastic position became ludicrous without being funny, and the performances of the same characters in the wilderness of the New World showed such lack of knowledge in the writer that the story became an insult to the intelligence of the reader. Whereas such a romance as that of "The MS. Found in a Copper Cylinder," although it is humanly impossible and visibly a figment of the imagination, is satisfactory to the reader because the author is true to his conception, and it is interesting as a curious allegorical and humorous illustration of the ruinous character in human affairs of extreme unselfishness. There is the same sort of truthfulness in Hawthorne's allegory of "The Celestial Railway," in Froude's "On a Siding at a Railway Station," and in Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress."

The habit of lying carried into fiction vitiates the best work, and perhaps it is easier to avoid it in pure romance than in the so-called novels of "every-day life." And this is probably the reason why so many of the novels of "real life" are so much more offensively untruthful to us than the wildest romances. In the former the author could perhaps "prove" every incident he narrates, and produce living every character he has attempted to describe. But the effect is that of a lie, either because he is not a master of his art, or because he has no literary conscience. He is like an artist who is more anxious to produce a meretricious effect than he is to be true to himself or to nature. An author who creates a character assumes a great responsibility, and if he has not integrity or knowledge enough to respect his own creation, no one else will respect it, and, worse than this, he will tell a falsehood to hosts of indiscriminating readers.

**POETRY CORNER****TO SLEEP**

John Keats, (1795-1821)

SOFT embalmer of the still midnight!  
 Shutting with careful fingers and benign  
 Our gloom-pleasèd eyes, embower'd from the  
 light,  
 Enshaded in forgetfulness divine;  
 O soothest Sleep! if so it please thee, close,  
 In midst of this thine hymn, my willing eyes,  
 Or wait the amen, ere thy poppy throws  
 Around my bed its lulling charities;  
 Then save me, or the passèd day will shine  
 Upon my pillow, breeding many woes;  
 Save me from curious conscience, that still lords  
 Its strength for darkness, burrowing like a mole;  
 Turn the key deftly in the oilèd wards,  
 And seal the hushèd casket of my soul.

**IDENTITY**

Thomas Bailey Aldrich, (1836 -1907)

SOMEWHERE - in desolate wind-swept space -  
 In Twilight-land - in No-man's land -  
 Two hurrying Shapes met face to face,  
 And bade each other stand.

"And who are you?" cried one a-gape,  
 Shuddering in the gloaming light.  
 "I know not," said the second Shape,  
 "I only died last night!"

**SHAKESPEARE**

Matthew Arnold (1822-1888)

OTHERS abide our question. Thou art free,  
 We ask and ask: Thou smilest and art still,  
 Out-topping knowledge. For the loftiest hill  
 That to the stars uncrowns his majesty,  
 Planting his steadfast footsteps in the sea,  
 Making the heaven of heavens his dwelling-place,  
 Spares but the cloudy border of his base  
 To the foil'd searching of mortality;  
 And thou, who didst the stars and sunbeams know,  
 Self-school'd, self-scann'd, self-honour'd, self-secure,  
 Didst walk on earth unguess'd at. Better so!  
 All pains the immortal spirit must endure,  
 All weakness that impairs, all griefs that bow,  
 Find their sole voice in that victorious brow.

**MEMORY, (1891)**

Thomas Bailey Aldrich, (1836-1907)

MY mind lets go a thousand things,  
 Like dates of wars and deaths of kings,  
 And yet recalls the very hour--  
 'T was noon by yonder village tower,  
 And on the last blue noon in May--  
 The wind came briskly up this way,  
 Crisping the brook beside the road;  
 Then, pausing here, set down its load  
 Of pine-scents, and shook listlessly  
 Two petals from that wild-rose tree.



## MENZA MIND GAMES 2007

will be held April 20-22 at the Holiday Inn Pittsburgh Airport, 8256 University Blvd., Moon Township, PA 15108; 412/262-3600. Mention Mensa to get the special hotel rate of \$75 per night (plus tax). The cutoff date for getting this room rate is March 31, 2007. Friday dinner and Saturday lunch will be catered by the hotel. Register before Oct. 31 to receive the early registration rate of \$60. (Registration will be \$70 starting Nov. 1.)

Mind Games® is an intense weekend of play. Mensans judge and critique games released in the past year and award the coveted Mensa Select® seal to the top five. Past winners include Scattergories™, Trivial Pursuit™ and Taboo™.

Mind GamesÆ begins on Friday afternoon and ends Sunday morning. Participants, called "Judges," tend to play around the clock, breaking only for food, drink and sleep. Hospitality is open 24 hours, but it is intended for quick refreshment between games.

For more information about Mind Games, or to register for the event, visit [www.mindgames.us.mensa.org](http://www.mindgames.us.mensa.org).

Registration is \$60 through Oct. 31, 2006. On-site registration may not be available.

## MENZA MIND GAMES 2006 RESULTS

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Mind Games 2007 will be held April 20-22 in Pittsburgh, PA. To register, visit [www.mindgames.us.mensa.org](http://www.mindgames.us.mensa.org).

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**CHAPTER NOTES**

Southern CT Mensa is looking for an **Activities Coordinator**. If you would like to fill this position, please contact **President Rick D'Amico** at [usamarbiol@aol.com](mailto:usamarbiol@aol.com)

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