

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. 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.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: If you have an annual Mensa membership, your membership will be expiring at the end of April. You should have received a renewal notice in the mail in January. You can return that form or visit www.us.mensa.org to renew.

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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

SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS - MARCH

Friday, March 9, 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, March 17, 6:30
Monthly Dinner

Speaker to be announced. Guests are welcome. Dress is casual. Contact Jim Mizera, jmizera@hotmail.com, 203-522-1959, for information and reservations. If you make reservations and can't attend, PLEASE call and cancel.

Directions FROM STAMFORD: Take I-95. Merge onto US-7 Connector NORTH via EXIT 15 toward NORWALK. Take US-7 Connector to MAIN AVE / US-7. Continue to follow US-7 North about 2 miles. Turn LEFT onto US-7 / CT-33 / WESTPORT RD & continue to follow US-7 about 5.5 miles. Turn RIGHT onto SCHOOL ST / CT-107 / CT-57. Follow CT-107 about 1.5 miles. Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto REDDING RD / CT-107. Follow REDDING RD. 5.7 miles. REDDING RD becomes CT-53. Go about 3 miles to the Restaurant, on the left

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at 41 Grassy Plain St. Bethel, CT 06801-2001, US Map FROM BRIDGEPORT: Take CT-15 SOUTH / MERRITT PKWY Exit 44 toward CT-58 / FAIRFIELD / REDDING. Turn LEFT onto CONGRESS ST. Turn RIGHT onto BLACK ROCK TURNPIKE / CT-58. Follow CT-58 about 15 miles. Turn LEFT onto CT-302 / MILWAUKEE AVE. Turn LEFT onto GREENWOOD AVE / CT-302 and go about 1.5 miles. Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto GRASSY PLAIN ST / CT-53. <0.1 miles Map Go about .1 miles to the Restaurant, at 41 Grassy Plain St. FROM HARTFORD & I-84: Take I-84, EXIT 8 toward NEWTOWN RD / BETHEL. Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto US-6 W. 0.1 miles Turn SLIGHT LEFT onto NEWTOWN RD. 1.2 miles Turn LEFT onto OLD SHELTER ROCK RD. 0.5 miles Turn SLIGHT LEFT onto CROSS ST. 0.1 miles Turn LEFT onto SHELTER ROCK RD. < 0.1 miles Stay STRAIGHT to go onto SHELTER ROCK LN. 0.4 miles 13: Turn RIGHT onto GREAT PASTURE RD. 0.2 mi. 14: Turn LEFT onto SOUTH ST / CT-53 / LOWER SOUTH ST. Continue to follow CT-53. 0.7 mi.

Saturday , March 24, 8:00

Theater Event: Born Yesterday

at the Westport Community Theatre, Town Hall Building, 110 Myrtle Ave., Westport, CT. 06880, www.westportcommunitytheatre.com/. Tickets are \$14 and \$16. Contact Jim Mizera at (203) 522-1959, jmizera@hotmail.com, for info or reservations.

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 , March 30, 8:00 - 10:00

Music Event

Milford Eastbound Theatre, 40 Railroad Avenue South, Milford, CT 06460 (at a Railroad Station building), www.milfordarts.org/theatre/. The American and Celtic folk duo Cece Borjeson & Ruth George will perform. Tickets are \$10 but please reserve early as these events sell out quickly. Contact Jim Mizera at (203) 522-1959, jmizera@hotmail.com, for info or reservations.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR APRIL

Friday, April 13, 7:00.

Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner

See above listing for details.

Saturday, April 21, 6:30.

Monthly Dinner

See above listing for details.

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. 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.

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 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 for our calendar updates.

MARCH

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Thursdays 7:00 pm

Scrabble

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

2 Friday 5:30 pm

Happy Hour

in Wallingford (ME, 1st Fridays) Ann Polanski (contact her at 203-269-4565 or 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.

3 Saturday 2:00 pm

Book Discussion: The Axemaker's Gift

We'll be dissecting 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-

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5977756?ie=UTF8&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.

12 Monday 7:30 pm

Theater Event: The Tempest

by William Shakespeare Fine Arts Center, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Come and join us for an exciting evening at the UMass Fine Arts Center. Email Ian Fraser (ianfraser@usa.net) if you're interested. Hope to see you there! From the flyer: Live and virtual actors mingle in a mind-blowing production of Shakespeare's The Tempest. A tale of betrayal and revenge, yet ultimately of reconciliation and forgiveness, the is evocative production magically integrates new technologies that have cast a spell over audiences around the globe. Perfect sorcery indeed, as physical and virtual boundaries intertwine and dissolve. No late seating. Performed in French with English subtitles. More information is available at the UMass Fine Arts Center website (www.fineartscenter.com).

14 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!

16 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
26 Friday 5:00 pm

22 Thursday 6:30 pm

Pioneer Valley Dinner

(ME, floats) We will be meeting tonight at Roberto's on Pleasant Street in Northampton MA. Join us. Conversations, friendship, solve the world's problems, drink and eat. Questions? MargotZalkind@aol.com

23 Friday 5:00 pm

Happy Hour (ME, 4th Friday) Colonial Tymes, 2389 Dixwell Ave, Hamden. Located about 1/2 mile north of Exit 60, Wilbur Cross Parkway. We 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.

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.

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28 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.

Looking Ahead

Book Discussions

April 28, at 2 pm, 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
Pam Guinan will host us once again.



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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.

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

Jill Beckham, Foundation Director
American Mensa Ltd.

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WHAT'S COOKING IN REGION 1

Marghretta McBean

Winter's sting is back: as I write this it is 11 degrees F with a minus 8 F wind- chill. The second queen bee froze, and hopefully the other bees will be able to survive the frigid temperatures. The groundhog was wrong, very wrong this year.

The January American Mensa Committee (AMC - Mensa's national board of directors, of which I am one) meeting in Birmingham Alabama was lively, with a great deal of attention paid to the Local Group Charter Committee's proposal. As Chair, the committee and I have received input, often conflicting, from lawyers, auditors, and our members. The decision to postpone a vote until a simplified, understandable document is created was taken by the committee as a strong signal that sometimes less can indeed be more. What had started out as a one page "clarification of the relationship between American Mensa and its local groups" blossomed into a twelve-page affair full of legalese. Legal opinions should be respected, but often they are overkill. I feel confident that the next AMC meeting in Chicago will see a kinder, gentler Local Group Charter.

The city of Birmingham has lots of steep hills, which makes for energetic running. I was able to visit the Civil Rights Museum which offered a moving historical perspective on segregation and the civil rights movement which moved into national awareness during the 1954 Birmingham bus strike initiated by Rosa Parks. If you are planning to attend the Annual Gathering, this would be an excellent place to visit, along with the Birmingham Museum of Art, which has one of the best collections of Wedgwood in the world.

As a twenty-two year volunteer reader for Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, I am happy to report that this worthy organisation will be the national Make-A-Difference Day (27 October) project for American Mensa, as approved at the AMC meeting. There are studios in many parts of the country, and five in Region 1: New Haven, CT; Lenox, Williamstown, and Cambridge, MA; and New York City. I would urge all of you to consider volunteering!

If you haven't done so already, please renew your membership by March 31! Besides enjoying another year (or better yet, *years* - consider a multi-year or life membership) of Mensa, it will guarantee that you will be eligible to vote in the upcoming national elections this spring. As many of you know, I am running for Chair, so I do have a personal stake in voter turnout.

"Irish" and "potatoes" are almost synonymous, so Boxy is a great addition to your St. Patrick's Day menu. These pancakes are similar to the latkes served at Hannukah.

BOXY (IRISH POTATO PANCAKES)

1 lb. (450 g.) potatoes, peeled and grated
 6 oz. (170 g.) flour
 1/2 tsp. (2 g.) baking powder
 3/4 tsp. (3 g.) salt
 1 egg, beaten
 4 oz. (125 ml.) milk

1. Sift together the flour, salt and baking powder. Mix with potatoes.
2. Add the egg and enough milk to make a thick batter.
3. Drop tablespoonfuls of batter into a hot greased frying pan. Cook each side 3-4 minutes or until brown.
4. Serve hot with butter and, if you like, condiments: sauteed onions, chutney, etc.

To see this and past articles visit
<http://region1.us.mensa.org/cooking.shtml>



CAMPAIGN LETTERS

Hi! I've met many of you at RGs and at the Leadership Workshop, etc., but many more of you are as yet un-met Friends I can only reach via print. Our Region has about 6,500 members, so you can see it is not easy to meet each of you, at least in a short period of time. Who am I and what am I doing here? I'm a motivated, dedicated, competent 27-year member, active on many levels during the past 16 years, hosting many events and dinners, as well as serving as co-Chair for several RGs. (By the time you read this, many of you will know I can produce a large, fun, RG.)

Behind the scenes, I solve short and long term problems without delay, to help all sides gain fruitful resolution. I have written numerous published articles, bringing humor and (common?) sense to often prickly subjects. Personally I am a widower (but promise not to disappear if I meet 'the one'), and have been a self employed businessman since age 11, founding a bookstore that has been at the same location in Portsmouth, NH for the past 34 years, dealing with individuals, professionals, and institutions in America and abroad. I share Elvis' motto of "TCB" - "Taking Care of Business" (For decades, he wore a necklace with "TCB"). I often travel 500-1,000 miles monthly for Mensa, and expect more travel if I am elected as your representative in RVC1. I have reliable transportation, which I have provided to others. I am attentive and even-tempered. It is easy to reach me day or night, and I have a MENSА DEDICATED TOLL-FREE PHONE, (877) 436-7250.

I promise to bring insight, philosophy, and a humane approach to all conduct and writings. And last, but not least, I promise NO recipes or sports. Please consider me for your VOTE in the April election (ballot and envelope scheduled to be in the April "Mensa Bulletin").

With Care,
Walter S. Wakefield

Dear Fellow Mensans:

I am a candidate for Regional Vice Chairman (RVC) for Region 1. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you I have not yet met. My husband, Ron, and I live in Rhode Island. We have also lived in Troy, NY, and as we both have traveled around the region and enjoyed events and RGs hosted by many of the local chapters, we have already met members from many local groups.

I joined Mensa in order to meet people and make new friends and I can honestly say that Mensa has exceeded my expectations. Not only have I made many friends throughout the region, but I also met my husband at a regional gathering in 1998. We enjoy participating in Mensa events, locally, regionally, nationally and, occasionally, internationally.

I have been an active member of Mensa since I joined in 1990. I have served in many capacities with Rhode Island Mensa including LocSec, Membership Officer, Proctor Coordinator, proctor and acting editor. I have participated in judging scholarship essays and have served as the Chairman of the By-Laws Committee. In 2000, I temporarily relocated to the Albany, New York area and served as proctor and Proctor Coordinator for Mensa of Northeastern New York. Mensa has been a wonderful influence on my life. I am running for RVC to give something back to Mensa. I believe that both my educational background (food service management, managerial technology and a law degree) and work experiences (currently I am a lawyer) will serve me well in the position of RVC. I think that I can do the job well. I believe that the most important issues facing both Region 1 and the AMC now and into the future deal with membership: 1) retaining our existing members by meeting their needs; 2) recruiting new members, especially "young blood"; and 3) improving public perception of Mensa.

I hope to become your representative to the AMC and would appreciate your vote in the upcoming election. Please feel free to e-mail or telephone me to discuss any issues or concerns you may have.

Lori J. Norris
294 Parkside Drive
Warwick, RI
401-781-3247
lorijnorris@hotmail.com

THE FEBRUARY DINNER

A Trip to Iran

In February, we heard from another interesting speaker in our monthly dinner series, local Mensan Gerard Brooker. Last fall, Dr. Brooker did something few Americans have done or would venture to do - he visited Iran. He came back with some insights to share on the people, culture, and politics of this Arabian power.

Jerry is no stranger to Mensans. A veteran of the Southern CT chapter, he has spoken before our dinner groups about his travels to Singapore, his published poetry, and his emergency efforts with the Red Cross to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. His two poetry books, *A Quiet Conversation* (2002), and *Even Whispers Can Be Heard* (2005) are available at www.amazon.com. He has a new novel, *A Gathering of Doves*, a political-psychological thriller about international conflict, which was released February 20th. This book is also available at Amazon.

The United States has a trade embargo against Iran and the State Department has issued warnings on travel to Iran, so it is not surprising that Jerry was one of only about 200 Americans who visited Iran last year. He went for two weeks as part of a citizen diplomacy group that toured several Iranian cities, starting and ending in Tehran. In his introduction, he stated that he had several reasons for going to Iran. First, he wanted to estimate the true state of Iran, to find out what was the reality behind the various claims made about the country by commentators and U.S. officials. Secondly, he wanted make a statement, to exercise his freedom to travel and to speak, and to ask why the leaders of the U.S. and Iran couldn't sit down and conduct diplomatic talks to ease the tensions between the two nations. Third, he wanted to pursue his special interest in visiting totalitarian and authoritarian countries to try to judge the limits tolerated by such regimes. Lastly, he had a personal mission, as he sought to help a friend and neighbor of his daughter's pass along words to her parents in Iran.

Jerry had some success in his pursuit of his goals but it was not an easy task. He has visited all the inhabited continents and 65 - 70 countries, but he frankly stated, "Iran was the most difficult to read - even more so than Cuba" (which he visited two

years ago). Although he found the people friendly and generous to a fault, and nearly all of the citizens in big cities spoke English, it was tricky determining how far he could go in his conversations with them. "You really had to know whom you were talking to in order to know what subjects you could discuss", he told us. The situation was complicated by the fact that Jerry's group arrived shortly after an American activist group had overstepped Iran's limits on free speech by handing out newsletters. Hence the authorities were somewhat stricter than usual with tourists, and after Jerry unwittingly crossed the line, they advised the group that he would have to exercise more restraint.

One of the things Jerry was interested in was the status of women in Iran. Women there are restricted by both law and custom, although he found that these limitations varied by area. Women have to sit at the back of buses. In public, they must cover everything but their face, hands, and feet. Some wear the chador, the long black cloth draped over the entire body save for the face. But women can wear Western clothing in the privacy of their homes, and even on the streets young ladies cut corners, especially in Tehran, which is not only the seat of government but also the fashion capital of Iran. Iranian women, like the population as a whole, are educated and have a high literacy rate. Jerry had conversations with many college students and found that female students pursued advanced degrees in fields such as physics even though there was not a lot of work waiting for them. He surmised that they did so out of their pure love of learning and their hope for a more free future.

Iran's legal system is also noted for its harsh penalties such as the executions for deserting Islam and the amputation of the hands of thieves. The laws are strict but the penalties actually meted out can vary arbitrarily according to the whims of authorities. For example, alcohol is banned but the penalty is anywhere from 20 to 70 lashes. Guilty parties must confess to their crime in writing. Many Iranians, however, hold "subterranean" parties serving alcohol and retain their sense of humor about the system. Jerry recounted a funny story that illustrated the perplexing state of justice in Iran. A man confessed to drinking alcohol but then retracted his statement the next day because he said he made it while drunk. We all got a laugh out of that tale

and the peculiarities of the system.

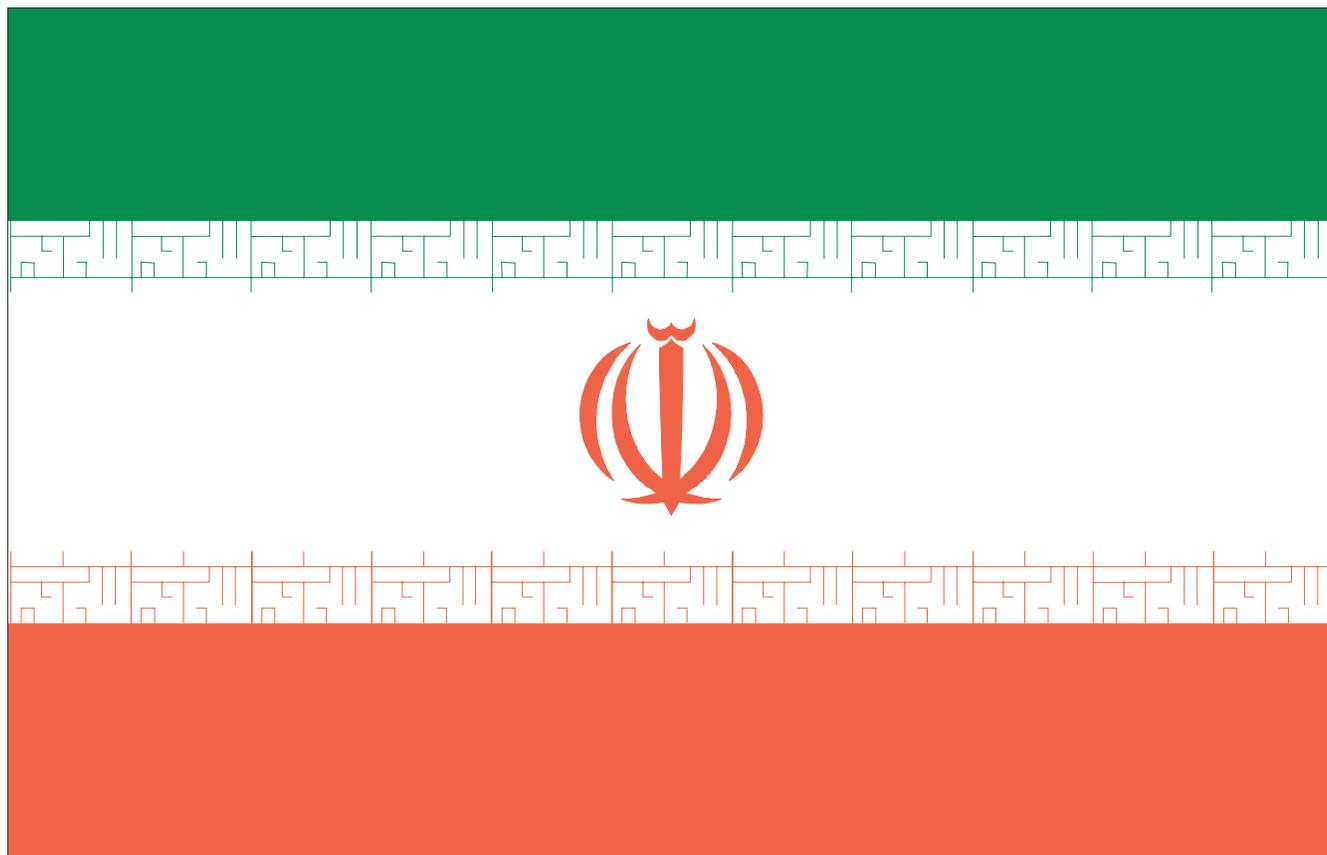
Another confusing area is the structure of the Iranian government. Jerry stated, "It's hard to figure who's calling the shots." He said that while Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is the president, the Grand Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is the Supreme Leader really running the country. The Assembly of Experts, a group of 86 clerics elected for eight years, elects the Supreme Leader. The general population votes for the President, who serves a term of four years.

Despite its restrictions, "Iran is not a Third World country," Dr. Brooker emphasized. They carry on Western-style commerce in their own way. For instance, they do not honor international agreements on intellectual property rights, which produces some mild culture shock for tourists. The group was amused to see not-so-subtle Iranian copies of McDonald's and Starbucks ("Starcup"). They also saw luxurious and modern high-class stores in the cities and visited a resort for the rich and famous north of Iran. But they explored the more traditional Iranian markets as well, visiting the bazaars and marketplaces, where they enjoyed the time-honored hustling, bustling, and haggling.

Iran is a modern country in most ways but it has an ancient and rich culture that draws on both its Persian and Islamic heritages. Jerry's group traveled to several cities, each with its own magnificence. Among their stops were Shiraz - the city of wine and poetry, Isfahan - the city of bridges, and Natanz - a city of beautiful mosques. They also took in a jewelry museum, a carpet museum, and art museums, archaeological museums, palaces of the shahs, royal tombs, monuments, historic mosques, and beautiful gardens - a world of treasures.

One moment in particular on the trip stood out for Jerry. Having a few free hours one day, he asked if he could go to the rooftop of building. There as he looked out over the city and surrounding area, he heard the call to prayer. "It was a gorgeous, beautiful moment," he recalled, a sublime, almost timeless moment in an extraordinary land.

Jerry had a chance to talk with students, veterans, and even Grand Ayatollahs on his visit. A guide took the group to meet with some victims of the chemical warfare used by the Iraqis in the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s. They spoke with sol-



diers from that conflict, and visited a hospital serving the wounded. "700,000 Iranians died in the war," Jerry told us, and he said that the country's veterans of the war are treated as heroes, with many photos honoring them prominently displayed.

Another conflict from modern times that is etched in Iranians' memories is the taking of the U.S. embassy in 1979. They celebrate the day, November 4th, as Student's Day, a national holiday. Students have the day off from school but are required to march in parades that denounce Israel and the U.S. Jerry and his travels companions encountered such a parade in Chiraz, but noted that the students didn't seem to have their heart in the slogans, as they were very friendly towards the tour group. In general, Jerry found many young Iranians were eager to speak with Americans, and he took advantage of such opportunities.

The ayatollahs the group met with weren't as affable. Their answers to questions were often enigmatic or evasive. Jerry even appeared on a television show with one and made some forthright statements, but they were distorted by the state newspaper.

At the end of the trip, Jerry fulfilled the personal mission of meeting the parents of his daughter's neighbor. He was overwhelmed with the gifts they gave him, another characteristic outpouring of Iranian generosity. They had a pleasant conversation over a meal at a restaurant, as they shared a neighborliness that extended across continents.

Jerry finished with a short CD slide show of the scenes he saw in Iran, which we viewed on a notebook PC with dual-monitors. The photos brought out the vivid images he had evoked in his talk.

"What of Iran's future?" one Mensan asked. While claiming no special foresight, Jerry pointed out that 70% of the Iranian population is under 30 years old, and this large cohort of young, well-educated citizens may be bubbling underneath, restless at the repression of the elderly

ruling mullahs. Economically, Iran has enough natural gas for 200 years, and the high school students seemed advanced in science and mathematics in comparison to Americans, so the country has the talent to produce, given the opportunity.

Our speaker left Iran with some fond memories. "I think extremely highly of the Iranian people. - They don't hate Americans." He still gets e-mails from some of the natives he met and is grateful that he had the chance to talk with them and learn about their culture. Reflecting on the country's treasures from antiquity, its beautiful mosques, grand palaces, exquisite jewelry, glorious Persian poetry, bustling bazaars and marketplaces, and the serene calls to prayer heard daily, Jerry wished for a day when hostilities between our two countries will fade and more Americans will enjoy this splendor.

Jerry plans to continue his travels and looks forward to visiting Iwo Jima and the Far East. If you have questions or would like to share your thoughts with him, you can contact him at teacher_jerry@hotmail.com.

Next month we will be meeting at Tonelli's again for the March dinner.

If you have suggestions for other places we can meet or how we can run our dinners better, please contact chapter President Rick D'Amico at usamarbiol@aol.com.

You can rate the restaurants we have attended at various web sites such as www.restaurantratingz.com, www.dine.com, www.menutopia.com,

BOOK REVIEW by Rick D'Amico



A BRIEF HISTORY OF TIME: FROM THE BIG BANG TO BLACK HOLES

By Stephen W. Hawking

This is not a new book. I read the original edition from 1988; it was updated in 1996. However, it was given to me as a Christmas present by a co-worker, and I'm glad that I read it again.

Stephen Hawking is an amazing individual. He is one of the top theoretical physicists of all time, often considered second only to Albert Einstein. He recently celebrated his 65th birthday, which is truly remarkable when one considers that he was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) at age 21, and has been confined to a wheelchair since the 1960s.

One thing that makes this book so enjoyable is the author's ability to use illustrative descriptions to make a point. Heeding an editor's warning that every equation would have his readership, Hawking uses only one equation in the book, Einstein's $E=MC^2$ yet doesn't cheat the reader.

As might be inferred from the title of the book, one of Dr. Hawking's topics is the beginning of time. He explores the questions of whether or not time has a beginning or end. He also examines if the universe is infinite, and gives a reason why it would appear that either time or the universe is finite.

Hawking also analyzes the "Big Bang." Not only does he discuss the physical aspects of it, but he also delves into the philosophical side, including theology.

Another question he probes is whether a complete unified theory is likely to be discovered. He acknowledges that discovery of a unified theory might not affect our lifestyle at all, but that it would satisfy humanity's age-old curiosity about connections between different events in the universe. Our desire for knowledge justifies continuing the search for a unified theory.

In reading this book, I was amazed at how deftly Hawking explains complicated subjects such as black holes and the Uncertainty Principle in a way that can not only be understood but also enjoyed. I recommend it to all, but I will offer the caution that despite Hawking's clear explanations, the book is not without its challenges, and should not be assumed to be light reading.

RUMINATIONS

From First and Last

Hillaire Belloc, (1870 - 1953)

A COUPLE of generations ago there was a sort of man going mournfully about who complained of the spread of education. He had an ill-ease in his mind. He feared that book learning would bring us no good, and he was called a fool for his pains. Not undeservedly - for his thoughts were muddled, and if his heart was good it was far better than his head. He argued badly or he merely affirmed, but he had strong allies (Ruskin was one of them), and, like every man who is sincere, there was something in what he said; like every type which is numerous, there was a human feeling behind him: and he was very numerous.

Now that he is pretty well extinct we are beginning to understand what he meant and what there was to be said for him. The greatest of the French Revolutionists was right - "After bread, the most crying need of the populace is knowledge." But what knowledge?

The truth is that secondary impressions, impressions gathered from books and from maps, are valuable as adjuncts to primary impressions (that is, impressions gathered through the channel of our senses), or, what is always almost as good and sometimes better, the interpreting voice of the living man. For you must allow me the paradox that in some mysterious way the voice and gesture of a living witness always convey something of the real impression he has had, and sometimes convey more than we should have received ourselves from our own sight and hearing of the thing related.

Well, I say, these secondary impressions are valuable as adjuncts to primary impressions. But when they stand absolute and have hardly any reference to primary impressions, then they may deceive. When they stand not only absolute but clothed with authority, and when they pretend to convince us even against our own experience, they are positively undoing the work which education was meant to do. When we receive them merely as an enlargement of what we know and make of the unseen things of which we read,

things in the image of the seen, then they quite distort our appreciation of the world.

Consider so simple a thing as a river. A child learns its map and knows, or thinks it knows, that such and such rivers characterize such and such nations and their territories. Paris stands upon the River Seine, Rome upon the River Tiber, New Orleans on the Mississippi, Toledo upon the River Tagus, and so forth. That child will know one river, the river near his home. And he will think of all those other rivers in its image. He will think of the Tagus and the Tiber and the Seine and the Mississippi - and they will all be the river near his home. Then let him travel, and what will he come across? The Seine, if he is from these islands, may not disappoint him or astonish him with a sense of novelty and of ignorance. It will indeed look grander and more majestic, seen from the enormous forest heights above its lower course, than what, perhaps, he had thought possible in a river, but still it will be a river of water out of which a man can drink, with clear-cut banks and with bridges over it, and with boats that ply up and down. But let him see the Tagus at Toledo, and what he finds is brown rolling mud, pouring solid after the rains, or sluggish and hardly a river after long drought. Let him go down the Tiber, down the Valley of the Tiber, on foot, and he will retain until the last miles an impression of nothing but a turbid mountain torrent, mixed with the friable soil in its bed. Let him approach the Mississippi in the most part of its long course and the novelty will be more striking still. It will not seem to him a river at all (if he be from Northern Europe); it will seem a chance flood. He will come to it through marshes and through swamps, crossing a deserted backwater, finding firm land beyond, then coming to further shallow patches of wet, out of which the tree-stumps stand, and beyond which again mud-heaps and banks and groups of reeds leave undetermined, for one hundred yards after another, the limits of the vast stream. At last, if he has a boat with him, he may make some place where he has a clear view right across to low trees, tiny from their distance, similarly half swamped upon a further shore, and behind them a low escarpment of bare earth. That is the Mississippi nine times out of ten, and to an Englishman who had expected to find from his early reading or his maps a larger Thames it seems for all the world like a stretch of East

Anglian flood, save that it is so much more desolate.

The maps are coloured to express the claims of Governments. What do they tell you of the social truth? Go on foot or bicycling through the more populated upland belt of Algiers and discover the curious mixture of security and war which no map can tell you of and which none of the geographies make you understand. The excellent roads, trodden by men that cannot make a road; the walls as ready loopholed for fighting; the Christian church and the mosque in one town; the necessity for and the hatred of the European; the indescribable difference of the sun, which here, even in winter, has something malignant about it, and strikes as well as warms; the mountains odd, unlike our mountains; the forests, which stand as it were by hardihood, and seem at war against the influence of dryness and the desert winds, with their trees far apart, and between them no grass, but bare earth alone.

So it is with the reality of arms and with the reality of the sea. Too much reading of battles has ever unfitted men for war; too much talk of the sea is a poison in these great town populations of ours which know nothing of the sea. Who that knows anything of the sea will claim certitude in connexion with it? And yet there is a school which has by this time turned its mechanical system almost into a commonplace upon our lips, and talks of that most perilous thing, the fortunes of a fleet, as though it were a merely numerical and calculable thing! The greatest of Armadas may set out and not return.

There is one experience of travel and of the physical realities of the world which has been so widely repeated, and which men have so constantly verified, that I could mention it as a last example of my thesis without fear of misunderstanding. I mean the quality of a great mountain.

To one that has never seen a mountain it may seem a full and a fine piece of knowledge to be acquainted with its height in feet exactly, its situation; nay, many would think themselves learned if they know no more than its conventional name. But the thing itself! The curious sense of its isolation from the common world, of its being the habitation of awe, perhaps the brooding-place of a god!

I had seen many mountains, I had travelled in many places, and I had read many particular details in the books - and so well noted them upon the maps that I could have re-drawn the maps - concerning the Cerdagne. None the less the sight of that wall of the Cerdagne, when first it struck me, coming down the pass from Tourcarol, was as novel as though all my life had been spent upon empty plains. By the map it was 9000 feet. It might have been 90,000! The wonderment as to what lay beyond, the sense that it was a limit to known things, its savage intangibility, its sheer silence! Nothing but the eye seeing could give one all those things.

The old complain that the young will not take advice. But the wisest will tell them that, save blindly and upon authority, the young cannot take it. For most of human and social experience is words to the young, and the reality can come only with years. The wise complain of the jingo in every country; and properly, for he upsets the plans of statesmen, miscalculates the value of national forces, and may, if he is powerful enough, destroy the true spirit of armies. But the wise would be wiser still if, while they blamed the extravagance of this sort of man, they would recognize that it came from that half-knowledge of mere names and lists which excludes reality. It is maps and newspapers that turn an honest fool into a jingo.

It is so again with distance, and it is so with time. Men will not grasp distance unless they have traversed it, or unless it be represented to them vividly by the comparison of great landscapes. Men will not grasp historical time unless the historian shall be at the pains to give them what historians so rarely give, the measure of a period in terms of a human life. It is from secondary impressions divorced from reality that a contempt for the past arises, and that the fatal illusion of some gradual process of betterment of "progress" vulgarizes the minds of men and wastes their effort. It is from secondary impressions divorced from reality that a society imagines itself diseased when it is healthy, or healthy when it is diseased. And it is from secondary impressions divorced from reality that springs the amazing power of the little second-rate public man in those modern machines that think themselves democracies. This last is a power

which, luckily, cannot be greatly abused, for the men upon whom it is thrust are not capable even of abuse upon a great scale. It is none the less marvellous in its falsehood.

Now you will say at the end of this, Since you blame so much the power for distortion and for ill residing in our great towns, in our system of primary education and in our papers and in our books, what remedy can you propose? Why, none, either immediate or mechanical. The best and the greatest remedy is a true philosophy, which shall lead men always to ask themselves what they really know and in what order of certitude they know it; where authority actually resides and where it is usurped. But, apart from the advent, or rather the recapture, of a true philosophy by a European society, two forces are at work which will always bring reality back, though less swiftly and less whole. The first is the poet, and the second is Time.

Sooner or later Time brings the empty phrase and the false conclusion up against what is; the empty imaginary looks reality in the face and the truth at once conquers. In war a nation learns whether it is strong or no, and how it is strong and how weak; it learns it as well in defeat as in victory. In the long processes of human lives, in the succession of generations, the real necessities and nature of a human society destroy any false formula upon which it was attempted to conduct it. Time must always ultimately teach.

The poet, in some way it is difficult to understand (unless we admit that he is a seer), is also very powerful as the ally of such an influence. He brings out the inner part of things and presents them to men in such a way that they cannot refuse but must accept it. But how the mere choice and rhythm of words should produce so magical an effect no one has yet been able to comprehend, and least of all the poets themselves.

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



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

This month's column is devoted again to comfort food and to fending off the cold days of winter. The combination of the Crock-Pot and the wine and food of France provide the right prescription. Coq Au Vin (Chicken braised in wine) is one of the many rich peasant stews that have come from France. And, while it may be considered simple country fare, it is a dish fit for a King.

This dish can be rather forgiving as far as wine pairings go. If you prefer a white, I would suggest a Sauvignon Blanc from New Zealand or Bordeaux. My preference, though, is a red from the last refuge of affordable French wine, the South of France. This wine is the 2004 Chapelle-St.-Arnoux from the Cotes Du Ventoux region in the Rhone Valley. It has a rich fruity nose and an intense black raspberry taste that matches well with this hearty dish. Recently, it has been marketed in the U.S.A. for \$8 to \$10 a bottle.

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

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

COQ AU VIN

(adapted from the Crock-Pot Cook Book that came with the first slow cooker we bought in the early 1970's)

Ingredients:

2 1/2 lb broiler-fryer cut up (or 3 chicken breasts, halved or 3 drumsticks and 3 thighs)
 6 bacon slices, diced
 2/3 cup sliced green onions
 8 small white onions, peeled
 1 lb whole mushrooms
 1 clove garlic, peeled and crushed
 1 tsp salt
 1/4 tsp pepper
 1/2 tsp dried thyme leaves
 8 small new potatoes, scrubbed (or quarter larger potatoes)
 1 cup chicken broth
 chopped flat leaf parsley
 1 cup red wine.

In a large skillet sauté diced bacon and green onions, until bacon is crisp. Remove and drain on a paper towel. Add chicken pieces to skillet and brown well on all sides. Remove the chicken when it has browned and set aside. Put peeled onions, mushrooms and garlic in 4 or 5 quart Crock-Pot. Add browned chicken pieces, bacon and green onions, salt, pepper, thyme, potatoes and chicken broth. Cover and set on low for 8 to 10 hours. (High: 3 to 4 hours) During last hour, add red wine and cook on high.

Just a note on cooking with wine - Rule number one: NEVER, EVER buy the so-called cooking wine found in the grocery store. It is basically salt and almost vinegar.

Most of the Food Network chefs will tell you that you should only cook with wine that you would drink. Rule number two: My philosophy is that you should only cook with wines that you would ALMOST drink. Enter Ernest and Julio Gallo jug wines. You can buy a 1.5 liter bottle of Livingston Cellars merlot for \$6.99. Cook with that; and, then you can drink the good stuff yourself.

PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. What percentage of immigrants to the United States are refugees?
2. How many conversations digress?
3. How many personal computers are there in the world?
4. Compare tea and coffee.
5. What percentage of Quebec's citizens are bilingual?
6. Make some arguments against destiny.
7. Name some cities that have lost population.
8. How long are the minute hands on the Big Ben clock in London?
9. What houses have stayed unsold on the market the longest?
10. What is the difference between impatience and impulsiveness?
11. Rank these characters by their scariness: Frankenstein, Dracula, the Werewolf, the Headless Horseman, the Vampire, the Ghoul, Godzilla, Casper the Friendly Ghost.
12. How many Quakers are there?

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

2. Who wrote the song "Danny Boy?"

A: "Danny Boy" was not written by an Irishman, but by Frederick Weatherly, an English lawyer, in 1910. He wrote the lyrics that year and then set them to the tune of "Londonerry Air" in 1913. It was first recorded by Ernestine Schumann-Heink in 1915. The singer Elsie Griffin made it popular.

The song is more popular outside Ireland, particularly among the Irish in North America, than in Ireland, although Northern Ireland does use the song as its anthem at the Commonwealth Games.

4. Who coined the phrase "the Cold War?"

A: Either George Orwell, Bernard Baruch, or Bayard Swope, a speechwriter for Baruch deserves the credit. Bernard Baruch, the American financier, said "Let us not be deceived: we are today in the midst of a cold war" in a speech in South Carolina on April 16, 1947. But the phrase was suggested to Baruch by his speechwriter, Herbert Bayard Swope, who had been using it privately since 1940. The columnist Walter Lippmann used this term frequently and helped popularize it.

George Orwell in used the phrase in his articles "Tribune" (October 19, 1945), and in "The Observer" (March 10, 1946), when discussing Russia's undeclared war on Britain.

6. What is the driest desert on earth?

A: The Atacama Desert in northern Chile is the world's driest desert. In some parts of the desert, no rainfall has ever been recorded.

8. Where is the geographic center of Connecticut? Where is the center of population?

A: The center of population of Connecticut is in Cheshire. The geographic center is in East Berlin (Hartford County).

NOTED AND QUOTED

One morning the wind turns, and there is a thaw. And so I still have hope.

- Vincent van Gogh, (1854 - 1890)

No man thinks there is much ado about nothing when the ado is about himself.

- Anthony Trollope, (1815 - 1882)

Every man is his own ancestor, and every man is his own heir. He devises his own future, and he inherits his own past.

- Frederick Henry Hedge, (1805 - 1890), U.S. clergyman

Never interrupt your enemy when he is making a mistake.

- Napoleon Bonaparte, (1769 - 1821)

Kindness is the golden chain by which society is bound together.

- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, (1749 - 1832)

Vanity, like murder, will out.

- Hannah Parkhouse Cowley, (1743 - 1809), English dramatist and poet, "The Belle's Stratagem", (Act I, Sc. 4)

One will rarely err if extreme actions be ascribed to vanity, ordinary actions to habit, and mean actions to fear.

- Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche, (1844 - 1900)

Taking risks gives me energy.

- Jay Chiat, (1931 - 2002), U.S. advertising designer

Only entropy comes easy.

- Lewis Mumford, (1895 - 1990), U.S. urban planner, sociologist.

People ought to listen more slowly!

- Jean Sparks Ducey, U.S. freelance writer and librarian

If something cannot go on forever, it will stop.

- Herbert Stein, (1916 - 1999), U.S. economist

There is nothing so useless as doing efficiently that which should not be done at all.

- Peter Ferdinand Drucker, (1909 - 2005)

A bore is a person who deprives you of solitude without providing you with company.

- John MacDonald, (1916 - 1986), U.S. detective novelist, "The Turquoise Lament"

Dreams do not vanish, so long as people do not abandon them.

-Phantom F. Harlock

Explanations comfort us by giving the impression that there is an order in things.

- Mason Cooley, (1927 - 2002), U.S. aphorist

Art is a marriage of the conscious and the unconscious.

- Jean Cocteau, (1889 - 1963), French dramatist, director.

To most men, experience is like the stern lights of a ship, which illumine only the track it has passed.

- Samuel Coleridge, (1772 - 1834)

A novel is never anything but a philosophy put into images.

- Albert Camus, (1913 - 1969)

He has more speed than any slugger and more slug than any speedster.

- Casey Stengel, (1890 - 1975), said of Mickey Mantle

Everybody, soon or late, sits down to a banquet of consequences.

- Robert Louis Stevenson, (1850 - 1894)

Humility does not mean thinking less of yourself. It means thinking of yourself less.

- C.S. Lewis, (1898 - 1963)

The glory of the past is an illusion. So is the glory of the present.

- Edward Johnston

The memories of men are too frail a thread to hang history from.

- John Still, *The Jungle Tide*, (1930)

History is the sum total of the things that could have been avoided.

- Konrad Adenauer, (1876 - 1967), Chancellor of W. Germany, (1949 - 1963)

The world wants to be deceived, so let it be deceived.

- Latin proverb

You either control your attitude, or it controls YOU.

- Anonymous

POETRY CORNER**The Prarie Battlements
(To Edgar Lee Masters, with great respect)**

Vachel Lindsay (1879 - 1931)

THERE upon the prarie
Is our ancestral hall.
Agate is the dome,
Cornelian the wall.
Ghouls are in the cellar,
But fays upon the stairs.
And here lived old King Silver Dreams,
Always at his prayers.

Here lived gray Queen Silver Dreams,
Always signing psalms,
And haughty Grandma Silver Dreams,
Throned with folded palms.
Here played cousin Alice.
Her soul was best of all.
And every fairy loved her,
In our ancestral hall.

Alice has a prarie grave.
The King and Queen lie low,
And aged Grandma Silver Dreams,
Four toombstones in a row.
But still in snow and sunshine
Stands our ancestral hall.

Agate is the dome,
Cornelian the wall.
And legends walk about,
And proverbs, with proud airs.
Ghouls are in the cellar,
But fays upon the stairs.

A PrayerFrom Flame and Shadow
Sara Teasdale (1884 - 1933)

WHEN I am dying, let me know
That I loved the blowing snow
Although it stung like whips;
That I loved all lovely things
And I tried to take their stings
With gay unembittered lips;
That I loved with all my strength,
To my soul's full depth and length,
Careless if my heart must break,
That I sang as children sing
Fitting tunes to everything,
Loving life for its own sake.

LAST SONNET

John Keats (1795-1821)

RIGHT Star, would I were steadfast as thou art -
Not in lone splendour hung aloft the night,
And watching, with eternal lids apart,
Like Nature's patient sleepless Eremite,
The moving waters at their priest-like task
Of pure ablution round earth's human shores,
Or gazing on the new soft-fallen mask
Of snow upon the mountains and the moors--
No--yet still steadfast, still unchangeable,
Pillow'd upon my fair love's ripening breast,
To feel for ever its soft fall and swell,
Awake for ever in a sweet unrest,
Still, still to hear her tender-taken breath,
And so live ever--or else swoon to death.

LIGHT-WINGED SMOKE

Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)

LIGHT-WINGED Smoke, Icarian bird,
Melting thy pinions in thy upward flight,
Lark without song, and the messenger of dawn,
Circling above the hamlets as thy nest;
Or else, departing dream, and shadowy form
Of midnight vision, gathering up thy skirts;
By night star-veiling, and by day
Darkening the light and blotting out the sun;
Go thou my incense upward from this hearth,
And ask the gods to pardon this clear flame

MENSA 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.

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

MENSA MIND GAMES 2006 RESULTS

One hundred ninety-eight Mensans gathered in Portland this weekend for Mind Games 2006. During the three-day event, members played and rated 62 board and card games. The top five games have earned Mensa Select distinction and may use the Mensa Select seal on their games.

THE WINNERS ARE:

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Hive by Smart Zone
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Keesdrow by Pywacket
(www.pywacketgames.com)

Pentago by Pentago
(www.pentago.com)

Wits & Wagers by North Star Games
(www.northstargames.com)

Mind Games 2007 will be held April 20-22 in Pittsburgh, PA. To register, visit www.mindgames.us.mensa.org.

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THE READING EDGE - WHAT'S YOUR READING SPEED?

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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

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

Change of Address

Please allow four weeks for the change in MENSA Bulletin (the National Magazine) delivery, and eight weeks for the Chronicle. Remember to give your membership number to facilitate this process (This number appears on your membership card and labels affixed to the Chronicle and MENSA Bulletin.)

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Our March 2006 dinner speaker, **Carolyn Finch, M.S. Speech Language Pathology**, is a professional speaker, corporate consultant, speech coach, workshop leader, and educator. You can visit her website at www.electrific.com to learn more about her services. Her Electrific Learning Center is located at the White House at 499 Federal Road, Suite 12, Brookfield, CT. You can contact her office at (203) 775-0290.

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