

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.



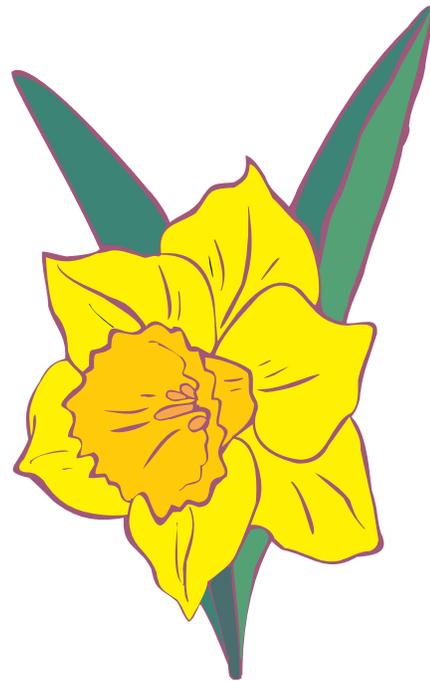
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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: If you have an annual Mensa membership, your membership will be expiring at the end of April. You should have received a renewal notice in the mail in January. You can return that form or visit www.us.mensa.org to renew.

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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 - APRIL

Sunday, April 1, 2:00

Film: *In A Lonely Place*

Fairfield Public Library, 2nd Floor, Rotary Room, 1080 Old Post Road, downtown Fairfield, CT. In a Lonely Place (1950), starring Humphrey Bogart and Gloria Grahame. One of Bogart's favorite roles. A screenwriter with a volatile temper is suspected of murder. He and a neighbor who provides his alibi fall in love. But his explosive temper and dark moodiness lead to questions. 1 hr, 33 min. Contact Jim Mizera, jmizera@hotmail.com, 203-522-1959, for information and preservations.

Friday, April 13, 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.

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Saturday, April 21, 6:30

Monthly Dinner at Tonelli's Restaurant

41 Grassy Plain St , Bethel, CT 06801. Find grammar perplexing? Southern CT Mensan Laura Webber will clear up some of the confusing points of English grammar for us at our April dinner. Laura will also talk about the history of our language and share the insights she has gained from teaching high-school English, tutoring privately, and working in business communications. Come enjoy our first dinner of the spring and hear grammar brought to life. 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 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.

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.

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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.

Friday , April 27, approx. 7:00

Jazz

The Silvermine Tavern, Norwalk, CT. The Rob Silvan Quintet plays standards, original tunes, and Latin music. Contact Jim Mizera, jmizera@hotmail.com, 203-522-1959, for information and preservations.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR MAY

Friday, May 11, 7:00.

Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner

See above listing for details.

Saturday, May 19, 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 inter-

net 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.

APRIL

5 Thursday 5:00 pm

Happy Hour

in Mystic (ME, 1st Thursday) New!! At the Steak Loft Restaurant in the bar area. Olde Mystic Village, Mystic CT 06355, I-95 Exit 90, All welcome. Questions? Call Susan Rowley at (860) 460-1861 or e-mail suzie7rowley@yahoo.com for details. Or just show up!

6 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

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Yale Plaza on the right.

11 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!

12, 19, 26 Thursdays 7:00 pm (cancelled on 5th)
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).

15 Sunday 2:00 pm

Rolling Card Party

April's card party will be held on April 15th at 2:00 pm at the home of Pamela Guinan in Wethersfield (CT). For RSVPs and directions, call 860-563-5761 or email Pamela.Guinan@po.state.ct.us (email is available during business hours only).

19 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

20 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 Sunday 1:35 pm

Mensa Goes to a Ballgame

Meet in Section 213 at New Britain Stadium to see the Rock Cats host the Connecticut Defenders, Double-A farm team of the San Francisco Giants. Parking, \$3, general admission tickets, \$5. For more information, contact tom.thomas@the-spa.com or www.rockcats.com

25 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. 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.

27 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.

28 Saturday 12:00 noon

"Let's Do Lunch" (First of a Series)

Hibachi Anyone? We'll meet for lunch at the Sake Café; Japanese Steak House and Bar" located at 1105 Silas Deanne Highway, Wethersfield, CT (860) 721-1618 where the management offers a good selection of luncheon specials for a reasonable cost. M's will be seated at the hibachi tables in the room to the left as you enter the restaurant. Contact: Pamela Guinan (860) 563-5761 please confirm your intention to attend by 9:00pm on the 26th. Directions: I-91 to Route 3 (toward Wethersfield). Go left onto Silas Deanne Highway (Rte 99). Head south for 0.5 mile and take a right into the plaza where you will eventually find Sake Café.

28 Saturday 2:00 pm

Book Discussion Group

We'll be reading Sex in History by Reay Tannahill and meeting to talk about it at Pamela Guinan's home in Wethersfield. All welcome. For RSVPs & directions call 860-563-5761. BYOB and a small munchie to share.

Looking Ahead

May 6 Sunday 2:00 pm

Rolling Card Party

May's card party will be held at the home of Pamela Guinan in Wethersfield (CT). For RSVPs and directions, call 860-563-5761 or email Pamela.Guinan@po.state.ct.us (email is available during business hours only).

Regional Gatherings

A Whale Of A Good Time

Cape Cod Getaway Weekend

May 11-13, 2007

Join Boston Mensa on beautiful Cape Cod in Dennisport, MA for "A Whale Of A Good Time." Plan on a weekend filled with dining, shopping, swimming (heated indoor pool), socializing, and great hospitality. Optional (on your own) activities on Saturday include trips to nearby Provincetown or Hyannis, whale watching, antiquing, bicycling, or just sit back and enjoy the beauty of the Cape.

Hotel rooms are only \$69.95 until 3/31 and \$74.95 after 4/1. Send your check, made out to "Resort Motels," directly to them at 41 Chase Avenue, Dennisport, MA 02639. Make your reservations early as the Corsair and Crossrip fill up fast. For more hotel information call 800-332-2279.

Please note that the hospitality house and all hotel rooms at the Corsair and Crossrip are non-smoking. Smoking is allowed outside only. Those wishing to smoke in their hotel room should call 800-332-2279 to discuss alternatives.

Adult registration is only \$40 until 4/30 and \$50 at door. Children under 6 are free. Ages 6-20 are \$1 per year of age.

Send your name(s), age(s) of children, and a check, payable to "Boston Mensa," to the registrar: Sean Guerino, 7 Dinsmore Court, Cambridge, MA 02138 or register online at www.caperg.org.

For more information:

Rick Kovalcik (rk@mit.edu) or
Susan Mozzicato (smozz@comcast.net),
617-244-4560, <http://www.caperg.org>.

WHAT'S COOKING IN REGION 1

Marghretta McBean

March was Women's History Month, and I had the pleasure of saluting two women who have contributed much to Region 1. Both are from Northern New Jersey Mensa. Their Regional Service Award Certificates and pins are tokens of the esteem and gratitude with which not only Region 1 but all of Mensa holds them. Congratulations to both!

Dr. Abbie Salny has been one of American Mensa's "movers and shakers" since its founding. As its Supervisory Psychologist, Dr. Salny was the person who officially verified that yes indeed we are truly geniuses. After stepping down from that position, she has kept active nationally and internationally. She is currently the Honorary Chair of Mensa International.

Kathe Oliver has become the Gifted Children spokesperson not only for her group but increasingly for American Mensa. Her monthly column, full of tips for raising gifted children, is read across the country. She sponsors monthly activities that appeal to parents, children and others. She is a true ambassador for the gifted child. Unfortunately for Region 1, Kathe and her family will be moving out to Oregon this spring. We all wish the Olivers the best in their new home.

I grew up in Long Island City in Queens, but right over the Greenpoint Bridge behind my grammar school was Greenpoint, Brooklyn, home then as now to a large Polish community. Easter was a Polish gustatory festival: they kept a very strict Lenten fast which forbade eggs and milk as well as the customary meat, so Easter meant tons of rich, tasty dishes.

Easter babas were prized: only women could prepare them - men were forbidden to enter the kitchen. Doors and windows were kept closed lest a draft would hit the puffy dough. Once the dough was in the oven, everyone tiptoed around in stocking feet to avoid the horror of a collapsed baba. The baked babas were cooled on down comforters so as not to crush them, hence the names "Muslin Baba" or "Feather Baba".

MUSLIN BABA

24 egg yolks
12 oz. sugar
2 oz. yeast
1/2 cup lukewarm milk
1 Tbl. flour 1 tsp. sugar
1 Tbl. ground vanilla bean or 2 tsp. vanilla extract
10 oz. sifted flour, lightly warmed
4 oz. melted butter

1. Place egg yolks and sugar in large enamel or non-reactive bowl. Put this bowl into a larger one with hot water. Beat mixture until thick and light in colour. (Even with an electric mixer this will take about 15 minutes.)
2. Crumble yeast in milk; add the tablespoon of flour and sugar.
3. After mixture bubbles, add to egg yolk/sugar mixture along with vanilla and flour. Beat for 30 minutes (OK, at least 20 if you're using an electric mixer. But the more you beat the fluffier the baba.)
4. Add the butter and beat again for another 30 minutes.
5. When dough doubles in bulk, transfer to a buttered lightly warmed baba pan (a steamed pudding or even a large Bundt pan can substitute) and let rise.
6. When the dough rises to the edges of the pan, place in pre-heated 375 F. degree oven, taking care to avoid any sudden jolts. Bake 60-70 minutes.
7. Having taken the hot baba out of the pan, sprinkle liberally with superfine sugar or cover with icing when cooled.

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

WORDS & CONCEPTS

Match the biochemical or medical term in Column A with its definition in Column B. For those words that don't match any definition, come up with your own definition. The answers are below.

COLUMN A

1. glutathione
2. antioxidant
3. free radical
4. polyphenol
5. nitrate
6. glycine
7. peptide
8. whey protein
9. phytochemical
10. oxidative stress
11. lymphocytes
12. cholesterol
13. atherosclerosis
14. cystic fibrosis

COLUMN B

- a) an uncharged atom or group of atoms with one or more unpaired electrons.
- b) cells of your immune system. White blood cells.
- c) strings of attached amino acids too short to be considered a protein.
- d) an inherited disorder of the exocrine glands that produces abnormally thick mucus, causing respiratory infections and impaired pancreatic function.
- e) an alcohol occurring in many plants that tends to prevent or neutralize the damage of free radicals.
- f) a small protein produced naturally in every cell of our body.
- g) the simplest amino acid found in proteins and the principal amino acid in sugar cane.
- h) condition in which the quantity of free radicals the body has to cope with exceeds the availability of antioxidants.
- i) a white crystalline substance, found in animal tissues and various foods, which is normally synthesized by the liver and is a constituent of cell membranes.
- j) a substance that removes potentially damaging oxidizing agents.
- k) the radical NO₃ or a compound containing it, as a salt or an ester of nitric acid.
- l) protein constituent of milk. Also known as lactalbumin.
- m) a plant-derived chemical that is believed to have beneficial health effects.
- n) the irregular deposition of fats and other substances in the inner wall of arteries.



1. glutathione - F • 2. antioxidant - J • 3. free radical - A • 4. polyphenol - E • 5. nitrate - K • 6. glycine - G • 7. peptide - C • 8. whey protein - L • 9. phytochemical - M • 10. oxidative stress - H • 11. lymphocytes - B • 12. cholesterol - I • 13. atherosclerosis - N • 14. cystic fibrosis - D

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

by John Grover

While contemplating the subject of this month's column, my wife asked me what I would like for dinner. We had not had spaghetti and meatballs in quite a while, so I suggested that. This dish was a real staple when the kids still lived at home. Having it again was like welcoming back an old friend.

There are many wines of course that will match well with spaghetti and meatballs. If there had been a bottle of Chianti in the house, I probably would have gone with that.

We didn't have it, so I chose another nice pairing, the 2004 red Zinfandel from Ravenswood of California (I had a few bottles in the cellar). Ravenswood is well known for its medium and higher priced single vineyard Zinfandels and promotes them with the phrase "no wimpy wines". But this wine is their Vintner's Blend which is available at a very affordable price point. It has all the signature characteristics of red Zinfandel including an attractive cherry nose and an earthy, spicy flavor that exudes red fruit and black pepper. It matches well with BBQ sauces for chicken or ribs and dishes such as below. It usually sells for \$8 to \$11 a bottle.

**SHARON'S MEATBALLS**

(The Boss has done this recipe from memory for over 38 years, so attribution is rather difficult.)

Ingredients:

1 lb. ground beef (90% lean in this case and it still didn't come out dry.)
 4 slices of bread soaked in water and then squeezed out
 3 or 4 tbsp of finely chopped onion
 2 peeled garlic cloves finely chopped
 1 raw egg
 1 tbsp of grated Parmesan Cheese
 a handful of chopped fresh parsley
 1 tsp. of salt
 1/8 to 1/4 tsp. of fresh ground black pepper

Add together ingredients, breaking up the bread into small pieces and mixing thoroughly. By hand shape mixture into meatballs (Recipe should make about 16 meatballs.). Place meatballs into a medium sized baking dish. Cover and cook in the microwave for 15 minutes. Place cooked meatballs into a sauce pan and add your favorite spaghetti sauce. Heat at least until sauce is hot; but, it is better to let it simmer for perhaps a half hour to allow the flavors to meld together. Serve with pasta (I prefer angel hair).

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.

RUMINATIONS

STORIES THAT WORDS TELL US (1918)

Elizabeth O'Neill, M.A.

CHAPTER X.

WORDS FROM THE NAMES OF PLACES.

WE have already seen something of the stories which the names of places, old and new, can tell us. But the names of places themselves often give us new words, and from these, too, we can learn many interesting facts.

Many manufactured things, and especially woven cloths, silks, etc., are called by the name of the place from which they come, or from which they first came. "Cashmere", a favourite smooth woollen material, is called after Cashmir, in India. "Damask", the material of which table linen is generally made, takes its name from Damascus; as does "holland", the light brownish cotton stuff used so much for children's frocks and overalls, from Holland, and the rough woollen material known as "frieze" from Friesland. "Cambric", the fine white material often used for handkerchiefs, takes its name from Cambrai in France, the place where it was first made. The word "cambric", however, came into English from "Kamerijk", the Dutch name for Cambrai. So the other fine material known as "lawn" got its name from Laon, another French town. Another fine material of this kind, "muslin", takes its name from Mussolo, a town in Mesopotamia, from which this kind of material first came.

Another commoner kind of stuff is "fustian", made of cotton, but thick, with a short nap, and generally dyed a dark colour. The word "fustian" has also come to be used figuratively to describe a showy manner of speaking or writing, or anything which tries to appear better than it is. The word comes from Fustat, a suburb of Cairo.

A more substantial material, "tweed", which is largely made in Scotland, really takes its name from people pronouncing "twill" badly; but the form "tweed" spread more quickly because people associated the material with the country beyond the river Tweed.

Another kind of stuff which we generally associate with Scotland is "tartan", because this woollen stuff, with its crossed stripes of different colours, is chiefly used for Scottish plaids and kilts, especially of the Highland regiments. But the word "tartan" does not seem to be a Scottish word, and probably comes from "Tartar", which was formerly used to describe almost any Eastern people. Perhaps the fact that Eastern peoples love bright colours caused this name to be given to these bright materials, though there is nothing at all Eastern in the designs of the Scottish tartans. Another material with an Eastern name is "sarcent", or "sarsenet", a soft, silky stuff now chiefly used for linings.

Often in tales of olden times we read of people hiding behind the "arras." This was a wall covering of tapestry, often hung sufficiently far from the wall to leave room for a person to pass. The word "arras" comes from Arras, a town in France, which was famous for its beautiful tapestries.

We know the word "tabby" chiefly as the name of a kind of striped cat, but this use of the word came from the Old French word "tabis", and described a material with marks which the markings on a "tabby" cat resemble. The French word came from the Arab word "utabi", which perhaps came from the name of a suburb of the famous city of Baghdad.

"Worsted", the name of a certain kind of knitting-wool, comes from the name of the town of Worstead, in Norfolk. The close-fitting woollen garments worn by sailors and often by children are known as "jerseys" - a word which is taken from the name of one of the Channel Islands, Jersey. Sometimes, but not so commonly, they are called "guernseys", from the name of the chief of the other Channel Islands, Guernsey. Another piece of wearing apparel, the Turkish cap known as a "fez", gets its name, perhaps, from Fez, a town in Morocco.

Besides woven stuffs, many other things are called by the names of the places from which they come. "China", the general name for very fine earthenware, is the same name as that of the great Eastern country which is famous for its beautiful pottery. Another kind of ornamented earthenware is the Italian "majolica", and this

probably gets its name from the island of Majorca; while "delf" is the name of the glazed earthenware made at Delft (which in earlier times was called "Delf"), in Holland.

The beautiful leather much used for the bindings of books, "morocco", takes its name from Morocco, where it was first made by tanning goatskins. It is now made in several countries of Europe, but it keeps its old name. Another old kind of leather, but whose name is no longer used, was "cordwain", a Spanish leather for the making of shoes, which took its name from Cordova in Spain. "Cordwainer" was the old name for "shoemaker," and is still kept in the names of shoemakers' guilds and societies.

Many wines are simply called by the names (sometimes altered a little through people mispronouncing them) of the places from which they come. "Champagne" is the wine of Champagne, "Burgundy" of Burgundy, "Sauterne" of Sauterne, "Chablis" of Chablis - all French wines. "Port" takes its name from Oporto, in Portugal; and "sherry", which used to be called "sherris", comes from the name of Xeres, a Spanish town.

Many less well-known wines have merely the name of the place where they are produced printed on the label, and they tend to be called by these names - such as "Capri bianco Vesuvio", etc. "Malmsey", the old wine in which the Duke of Clarence was supposed to have been drowned when his murder was ordered by his brother, and which is also called "malvoisie", got its name from Monemvasia, a town in the peninsula of Morea.

Not only wine but other liquids are sometimes called after the places from which they come. The oil known as "macassar" comes from Maugkasara, the name of a district in the island of Celebes. This oil was at one time very much used as a dressing for the hair, and from this we get the name "antimacassar" for the coverings which used to be (and are sometimes still) thrown over the backs of easy-chairs and couches to prevent their being soiled by such aids to beauty. "Antimacassar" means literally a "protection against macassar oil," "anti" being the Latin word for "against."

The tobacco known as "Latakia" takes its name from the town called by the Turks Latakia, the old town of Laodicea. (Laodicea also gives us another common expression. We describe an indifferent person who has no enthusiasm for anything as "a Laodicean," from the reproach to the Church of the Laodiceans, in the Book of Revelation in the Bible, that they were "neither cold nor hot" in their religion.)

Both the words "bronze" and "copper" come from the names of places. "Bronze" is from "Brundisium", the ancient name of the South Italian town which we now call Brindisi. The Latin name for this metal was "aes Brundisium", or "brass of Brindisi." "Copper" was in Latin "aes Cyprium", or "brass of Cyprus."

Some coins take their names from the names of places. The "florin", or two-shilling piece, takes its name from Florence. "Dollar" is the same word as the German "thaler", the name of a silver coin which was formerly called a "Joachimstaler", from the silver-mine of Joachimstal, or "Joachim's Dale," in Bohemia. The "ducat", a gold coin which was used in nearly all the countries of Europe in the Middle Ages, and which was worth about nine shillings, got its name from the duchy (in Italian, "ducato") of Apulia, where it was first coined in the twelfth century.

It was an Italian town, Milan, which gave us our word "milliner". This came from the fact that many fancy materials and ornaments used in millinery were imported from Milan.

Many old dances take their names from places. We hear a great deal nowadays of the "morris dances" which used to be danced in England in olden times. But "morris" comes from "morys", an old word for "Moorish." In the Middle Ages this word was used, like "Turk" or "Tartar," to describe almost any Eastern people, and the name came, perhaps, from the fact that in these dances people dressed up, and so looked strange and foreign. The name of a very well-known dance, the "polka", really means "Polish woman." "Mazurka", the name of another dance, means "woman of Masovia." The old-fashioned slow dance known as the "polonaise" took its name from Poland, and was really a Polish dance. The well-known Italian dance called the "tarantella"

took its name from the South Italian town Tarento.

The word "canter", which describes another kind of movement, comes from Canterbury. "Canter" is only the short for "Canterbury gallop," an expression which was used to describe the slow jogging pace at which many pilgrims in the Middle Ages rode along the Canterbury road to pray at the famous shrine of St. Thomas Becket in that city.

Several fruits take their names from places. The "damson", which used in the Middle Ages to be called the "damascene," was called in Latin "prunum damascenum", or "plum of Damascus." The name "peach" comes to us from the Late Latin word "pessica", which was a bad way of saying "Persica." "Currants" used to be known as "raisins of Corauntz," or Corinth raisins.

"Parchment" gets its name from Pergamum, a city in Asia Minor. "Pistol" came into English from the Old French word "pistolet", and this came from an Italian word, "pistolese", which meant "made at Pistoja." We do not think of "spaniels" as foreign dogs; but the name means "Spanish," having come into English from the Old French word "espagneul", with that meaning.

A derivation which it would be even harder to guess is that of the word "spruce". We now use this word to describe a kind of leather, a kind of ginger beer, and a variety of the fir tree, and also in the same sense as "spick and span." The word used to be "pruce", and meant "Prussia."

The name of the famous London fish-market, "Billingsgate", has long been used to mean very violent and abusive language supposed to resemble the scoldings of the fishwomen in the market.

Another word describing a certain kind of speaking, and which also comes from the name of a place, is "bunkum". When a person tells a story which we feel sure is not true, or tells a long tale to excuse himself from doing something, we often say it is all "bunkum." This word comes from the name of the American town of Buncombe, in North Carolina, and came into use through the member for Buncombe in the House of Representatives insisting on making a speech just when every one else wanted to proceed with the voting on a bill. He knew that he had nothing of importance to say, but explained that he must

make a speech "for Buncombe" - that is, so that the people of Buncombe, who had elected him, might know that he was doing his duty by them. And so the expression "bunkum" came into use.

Another word which may go with these, because it also begins with the letter "b", is "bedlam". We describe a scene of great noise and confusion, as when a number of children insist on talking all together, as a "perfect bedlam." The word "bedlam" comes from Bethlehem. In the Middle Ages there was a hospital in London kept by monks of the Order of St. Mary of Bethlehem. In time this house came to be known as "Bedlam," and as after a while the hospital came to be an asylum for mad people, this name came to be used for any lunatic asylum. From that it came to have its modern use of any great noise or confusion.

The sport of shooting pheasants is very English, and few people think that the pheasant is a foreign bird, introduced into England, just as in fact the turkey, which seems to belong especially to the English Christmas, came to us from America. The "pheasant" gets its name from the river Phasis, in the Eastern country of Pontus. It may seem peculiar that a bird coming from America should be called a "turkey"; but we saw in an earlier chapter how vague the people of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries were about America. When Columbus reached the shore of that continent, people thought he had sailed round by another way to the "Indies." In nearly all European countries the turkey got names which show that most people thought it came from India, or at least from some part of the "Indies." Even in England it was called for a time "cok off Inde." In Italy it was "gallina d'India" (or "Indian hen"). The modern French words for male and female turkeys come from this mistake. In French the bird was at first known as "pouille d'Inde" (or "Indian fowl"). The name came to be shortened into the one word "dinde", and then, as people thought this must mean the female turkey, they made a new word for the male, "dindon".

But though so many words come from the names of places, and some of these would not seem to do so at first sight, there are other words which seem to come from place-names which do not do so at all. "Brazil" wood is found in large quantities in Brazil, but the wood

is not called after the country. On the contrary, the country is called after the wood. This kind of wood was already used in Europe in the twelfth century, and its name is found in several European languages. When the Portuguese adventurers found such large quantities in this part of South America they gave it the name of "Brazil" from the wood. The island of "Madeira" got its name in the same way, this being the word for "timber," from the Latin word "materia".

Again, guinea-pigs do not come from Guinea, on the west coast of Africa, though guinea-fowls do so. Guinea-pigs really come from Brazil. The name "guinea-pig" was given to these little animals because, when the sailors brought them home, people thought they had come from Africa. But in the seventeenth century a common voyage for ships was to sail from English or other European ports to the west coast of Africa, where bands of poor negroes were seized or bought, and carried over the Atlantic to be sold

as slaves in the American "plantations." The ships naturally did not come home empty, but often people were not very clear as to whether the articles they brought back came from Africa or America.

Again, "India ink" comes, not from India, but from China. "Indian corn" comes from America. "Sedan chairs" had nothing to do with Sedan in France, but probably take their name from the Latin verb "sedere", "to sit."

In these words, as in many others, we can see that it is never safe to "guess" the derivation of words. Many of the old philologists used to do this, and then write down their guesses as facts. This caused a great deal of extra work for modern scholars, who will not, of course, accept any "derivation" for a word until they have clear proof that it is true.

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

KICK IRRATIONAL by Brian Lord



PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. What are the most difficult packages to open?
2. Which of these expressions is grammatically correct: "Woe is me" or "Woe is I"?
3. Compare the North and South Poles.
4. How many teaspoons are in a tablespoon?
5. What do you think are the best monuments in Connecticut?
6. What family of birds does the robin belong to?
7. Which games have the most strategy?
8. Which planets in our solar system have rings?
9. Define the term "drug."
10. Name the Seven Wonders of the ancient world.
11. What is the difference between fear and cowardice?
12. Which can we learn more from, history or philosophy?

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

1. What percentage of immigrants to the United States are refugees?
A: 10%.
3. How many personal computers are there in the world?
A: There are an estimated 900 million personal computers in the world.
5. What percentage of Quebec's citizens are bilingual?
A: French is the first language for 80% of Quebec's 7.5 million citizens, about 25% of Canada's population. About 50% are bilingual, and 20% speak a third language.
7. Name some cities that have lost population.
A: In the last 50 years, about 370 cities world-wide with populations exceeding 100,000 have lost 10% or more of their populations. 25% of them are in the United States. More than half of the 100 most populous U.S. cities in 1950 have lost population. Of the 20

largest cities of 1950, 16 have seen their populations decline. Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit, Washington, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Atlanta, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, New Orleans, Cleveland, Columbus, and Youngstown have all lost population since the 1950s.

About 1 in 6 cities in the world is losing population. In England, for example, the populations of Liverpool and Manchester have fallen more than 50% since the 1930s.

8. How long is the minute hand on the Big Ben clock in London?
A: The hand is 14 feet (4.27 m) long. The bell in the clock tower weighs 3 tons.
10. What is the difference between impatience and impulsiveness?
A: An impatient person doesn't like waiting. An impulsive person feels he must decide or act almost immediately.
12. How many Quakers are there?
A: There are about 350,000 Quakers in the

NOTED AND QUOTED

We get into the habit of living before acquiring the habit of thinking. - *Albert Camus, (1913 - 1969)*

History takes a long time.

- *Neil Postman, (1931 - 2003), Technopoly, 1992*

Creativity depends on a merging of intuition and reason. - *Jonas Salk, (1914 - 1995)*

Architecture comprises two ideas: the mastery of the practical, and the art of the beautiful.

- *Peter Behrens, (1868 - 1940), German architect*

Creativity is a type of learning process where the teacher and pupil are located in the same individual. - *Arthur Koestler, (1905 - 1983)*

Out of sight, out of mind.

- *Barnabe Googe, (1540 - 1594), English poet*

I can never remember things I didn't understand in the first place. - *Amy Tan, (1952 -)*

All science is either physics or stamp collecting.

- *Ernest Rutherford, (1871 - 1937), New Zealand physicist*

Every day your memory grows dimmer / it doesn't haunt me like it did before.

- *Bob Dylan, (1941 -)*

A rolling stone gathers no moss.

- *Publius Syrus, (c. 100 B.C.E.), Roman slave and poet.*

Thought tends to collect in pools.

- *Wallace Stevens, (1879 - 1955), U.S. poet*

His bark is worse than his bite.

- *George Herbert, (1593 - 1633), English poet, orator and priest, The Country Parson (1652)*

When thoughts arise, then do all things arise.
When thoughts vanish, then do all things vanish.

- *Huang Po, (? - 850), Zen Buddhist philosopher*

Art is too serious to be taken seriously.

- *Ad Reinhardt, (1913 - 1967), painter, writer*

Habit is ten times nature.

- *Arthur Wellesley, (1769 - 1852), Duke of Wellington*

There is only one valuable thing in art: the thing you cannot explain.

- *Georges Braque, (1882 - 1963), Cubist painter*

Destiny has two ways of crushing us - by refusing our wishes and by fulfilling them.

- *Henri-Frederic Amiel, (1828 - 1881), Swiss philosopher*

Maturity begins when we're content to feel right about something without feeling the necessity to prove someone else wrong.

- *Sydney J. Harris, (1917 - 1986), U.S. newspaper columnist.*

By the time we've made it, we've had it.

- *Malcolm Forbes, (1919 - 1990)*

What the American public always wants is a tragedy with a happy ending.

- *William Dean Howells, (1837 - 1920), U.S. novelist*

To travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive. - *Robert Louis Stevenson, (1850 - 1894)*

Wise sayings often fall on barren ground, but a kind word is never thrown away.

- *Sir Arthur Helps, (1813 - 1875), English historian, novelist, essayist*

They never fail who die in a great cause.

- *Lord Byron, (1788 - 1824)*

Know ye that no harm can come to a good man in this life or the next.

- *Socrates, (c. 470 - 399 B.C.E.), Plato's Apology*

As I know more of mankind I expect less of them. - *Samuel Johnson, (1709 - 1784)*

Those who have the resolution to sacrifice the present for the future are natural objects of envy to those who have sacrificed the future to the present. The children who have eaten their cake are the natural enemies of the children who have theirs.

- *Jeremy Bentham, (1748 - 1832), English jurist, philosopher*

POETRY CORNER**OVER THE LAND IS APRIL**

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)

OVER the land is April,
 Over my heart a rose;
 Over the high, brown mountain
 The sound of singing goes.
 Say, love, do you hear me,
 Hear my sonnets ring?
 Over the high, brown mountain,
 Love, do you hear me sing?

By highway, love, and byway
 The snows succeed the rose.
 Over the high, brown mountain
 The wind of winter blows.
 Say, love, do you hear me,
 Hear my sonnets ring?
 Over the high, brown mountain
 I sound the song of spring,
 I throw the flowers of spring.
 Do you hear the song of spring?
 Hear you the songs of spring?

SPRING, THE SWEET SPRING

Thomas Nashe (1567-1601)

SPRING, the sweet spring, is the year's pleasant king,
 Then blooms each thing, then maids dance in a ring,
 Cold doth not sting, the pretty birds do sing:
 Cuckoo, jug-jug, pu-we, to-witta-woo!

The palm and may make country houses gay,
 Lambs frisk and play, the shepherds pipe all day,
 And we hear aye birds tune this merry lay:
 Cuckoo, jug-jug, pu-we, to-witta-woo!

The fields breathe sweet, the daisies kiss our feet,
 Young lovers meet, old wives a-sunning sit,
 In every street these tunes our ears do greet:
 Cuckoo, jug-jug, pu-we, to witta-woo!

BLUE SQUILLSFrom Flame and Shadow
Sara Teasdale (1884 - 1933)

How many million Aprils came
 Before I ever knew
 How white a cherry bough could be,
 A bed of squills, how blue!

And many a dancing April
 When life is done with me,
 Will lift the blue flame of the flower
 And the white flame of the tree.

Oh burn me with your beauty, then,
 Oh hurt me, tree and flower,
 Lest in the end death try to take
 Even this glistening hour.

O shaken flowers, O shimmering trees,
 O sunlit white and blue,
 Wound me, that I, through endless sleep,
 May bear the scar of you.

SPRING

Anacreon (c. 572-488 B.C.E.)

SEE the Spring herself discloses,
 And the Graces gather roses;
 See how the becalmed seas
 Now their swelling waves appease;
 How the duck swims, how the crane
 Comes from winter home again;
 See how Titan's cheerful ray
 Chaseth the dark clouds away;
 Now in their new robes of green
 Are the plowman's labors seen:
 Now the lusty teeming Earth
 Springs each hour with a new birth;
 Now the olive blooms: the vine
 Now doth with plump pendants shine;
 And with leaves and blossoms now
 Freshly bourgeons every bough.

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.)

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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.

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Wits & Wagers by North Star Games
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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 usamar-biol@aol.com

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