

# SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA CHRONICLE

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



## **ARCHIVED COPIES OF THE CHRONICLE**

going back to 2000 are available on the Internet at <http://scm66.org> (Note: this is a new URL). 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 expired 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](http://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](mailto:usamarbiol@aol.com)

**SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS - JUNE**

Thursday, June 7, 8:00

**Music (and coffee)**

Singer-songwriter Genevieve (<http://genevieve-music.com/>) will be performing folk, pop, and jazz songs at Sono Caffeine, 133 Washington St., South Norwalk, CT., [www.sonocaffeine.com](http://www.sonocaffeine.com). Contact Jim Mizera, [jmizera@hotmail.com](mailto:jmizera@hotmail.com), 203-522-1959, for information and preservations.

Friday, June 8, 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](mailto:wjm@danburylaw.com), or Rev. Bill Loring at (203) 794-1389, [frbill@mags.net](mailto:frbill@mags.net).



Saturday, June 16, 6:30

**Monthly Dinner at Tonelli's Restaurant**

Jerry Brooker will talk about his recent trip to Iwo Jima, Tinian, Saipan and Guam. Jerry will have plenty of photos on CD to show and his friend John Esposito will recall his experiences

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**Sharon Oberst DeFala, Esq.**  
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Home (203) 852-9571  
Fax (203) 852-1574  
[sharon@oberstlaw.com](mailto:sharon@oberstlaw.com)

fighting on Iwo Jima. Come enjoy our June dinner and talk. Dress is casual. Before the presentation, we will enjoy dinner. Choose what you like from the menu; restaurant adds tip onto the bill. You can bring a donation of money or food to benefit the Connecticut Food Bank. Contact Jim Mizera, [jmizera@hotmail.com](mailto:jmizera@hotmail.com), 203-522-1959, for information and reservations. Guests are welcome.

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. 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.

If you wish to comment on articles or submit material, please write or e-mail Jim Mizera at PMB #181, 7365 Main St., Stratford, CT. 06614-1300, [Jmizera@hotmail.com](mailto:Jmizera@hotmail.com). E-mail submissions are preferred. Please include your name, address, and e-mail address or telephone number. Anonymous material will be rejected, although names will be withheld on request. Items will be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Currently, the deadline for postal submissions is the 15th of the month preceding publication, and the 20th of the month for e-mail submissions.

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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 , June 23, 7:30

**Theater Event: "Comedy of Errors"**

Shakespeare's "The Comedy of Errors" performed by Shakespeare on the Sound ([www.shakespeareonthesound.org](http://www.shakespeareonthesound.org)), Pinkney Park, Rowayton (Norwalk), CT. Suggested donation \$10 - \$20. This is an outdoor theater in the park on the banks of the Five Mile River. Please arrive early and bring a chair. Contact Jim Mizera at [jmizera@hotline.com](mailto:jmizera@hotline.com) or (203) 522-1959.

Saturday , June 30, 7:30

**Theater Event: "Man of La Mancha"**

Ridgefield Theater Barn, 37 Halpin Lane, Ridgefield, CT 06877 (<http://www.theaterbarn.org>) Tickets: Adults \$24; Seniors (62) & Students \$20. Please try to call at least one week in advance (June 23 weekend). Contact Jim Mizera at [jmizera@hotline.com](mailto:jmizera@hotline.com) or (203) 522-1959.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR JULY**

Friday, July 8, 7:00.

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

See above listing for details.

Saturday, July 16, 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](mailto:lilith@snet.net).

**Mensans on the Radio:**

C&WM Mensan Janine Bujalski is on the airwaves every 1st & 3rd Friday 6-10 a.m. on 89.5FM, WPKN in Bridgeport, CT. There is a limited internet broadcast - about 25 can listen simultaneously at [www.wpkn.org](http://www.wpkn.org). From 6-9 AM there's jazz, blues & music from Brazil and from 9-10 AM the music is from Louisiana, mostly Cajun & zydeco.

Vice LocSec Will Mackey is hosting Friday evening Classics from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. weekly on 91.3 FM, WWUH, in West Hartford. The name of the program is "What You Will" and its focus is chamber music.

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

**JUNE**

1 Friday 5:30 pm

**Happy Hour**

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

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3 Sunday 2:00 pm

### Rolling Card Party

The rolling card party's rolling once again - wooops! the spoke's busted, May's card party will be held on May 6th 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).

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7, 14, 21, 28 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).

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13 Wednesday 6:00 pm

### Happy Hour (NEW!)

in Madison (ME, 2nd Wed) New! This one is at the Dolly Madison Inn in south-central CT. The Dolly is located just off Route 1 at 73 West Wharf Road, Madison 06443, phone 203-245-7377. We'll meet around 6 PM. There is free lounge food for patrons, and there are burgers and salads to order if you like.  
Directions: Take I-95 to exit 61 Rt. 79. Go south on Rt. 79 toward Rt. 1 and Madison center for 0.5 mi. Take a right (west) onto Rt. 1 and drive 0.4 mi. to West Wharf Road. Take a left (south) on W. Wharf and drive 0.3 mi. to the Dolly Madison Inn. Parking is available next to the Inn and across the road in the large lot. Questions? Contact Joe Wonowski at 203-785-2998 weekdays, and 203-457-9770 evenings. Hope to see you there!

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15 Friday 6:00-8:00 pm or so

### Diner Dinner

(ME, 3rd Friday) at Olympia Diner, Rte 5, Newington, just north of the Berlin town line and North East Utilities. Menu ranges from toast-ed 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

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16 Saturday 2:00 pm

### Book Discussion: *Wicked* by Gregory Maguire

Book Discussion: *Wicked* by Gregory Maguire (fiction), at Pam Guinan's home in Wethersfield CT For RSVPs & directions call 860-563-5761. BYOB and a small munchie to share. All welcome, there may be an optional restaurant lunch at noon, call Pam for details.

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18 Monday 6:35 pm

### Mensa Goes to a Ballgame

Meet in New Britain Stadium, section 213, about four rows from the top to watch the Rock Cats host the New Hampshire Fisher Cats (Toronto farm club). For more information, www.rock-cats.com or tom.thomas@the-spa.com. The parking lot continues to be a bottle-neck, arrive as early as possible. - Tom Thomas

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22 Friday 5:00 pm

### Happy Hour

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

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Currently, the deadline for postal submissions is the 15th of the month preceding publication, and the 20th of the month for e-mail submissions.

us this month, we'd love to see ya. Contact Gail Trowbridge (203) 877-4472 or Gail.Trowbridge@att.net.

27 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.

28 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

## LOOKING AHEAD:

**The Book Discussion Group** has sketched out the next selections (more details to follow, all welcome to join in, contact Pam Guinan at 860-563-5761):

*The Singularity Is Near: When Humans Transcend Biology* by Ray Kurzweil (scientific speculation), July 28, Tolland MA

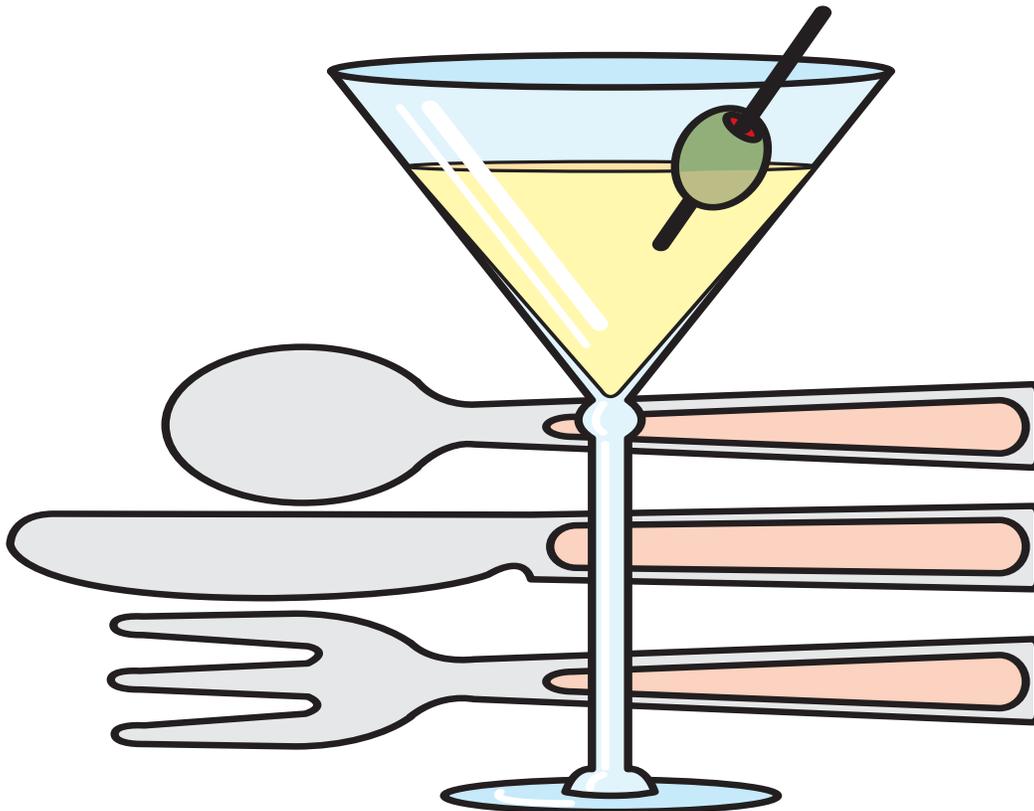
*A Painted House* by John Grisham (fiction) September 29, Wethersfield CT

## REGIONAL GATHERINGS

July 4-8, 2007

### MENSA ANNUAL GATHERING (AG)

Birmingham, Alabama. More than 1,000 Mensans will be on hand to enjoy educational, entertainment, and social events. Registration is only \$70.00 (for adults; less for children) until June 18. Amenities to make your travel easier and your stay more economical include free airport shuttle to and from hotel, free parking, and hotel rooms at a low \$89.25 per day. Register now, then reserve a room at the hotel before it fills. [www.ag2007.org](http://www.ag2007.org)



## WHAT'S COOKING IN REGION 1

Marghretta McBean

Exactly one hundred years ago (May 15, 1907) my maternal grandmother landed in Baltimore after a six-day sea voyage on the S.S. San Miguel sailing from Port Maria in Jamaica BWI. She, like so many other immigrants, was convinced that the grass was greener here and opportunity beckoned at every street corner. That belief, often in the face of adversity, has been a guiding light to me and I think, to all of us who trace our roots back to "the other side." Gifted with high intelligence, we Mensans have a special advantage as we approach life's street corners. Let us always use it wisely.

Of special note: Rhode Island Mensa will be hosting a Leadership Development Workshop in April/May of 2008 (location and date to be determined). Region One members can help choose the workshop topics by visiting RIM's website ([http://www.rhodeisland.us.mensa.org/protect/needs\\_analysis\\_survey.html](http://www.rhodeisland.us.mensa.org/protect/needs_analysis_survey.html)) and completing a Needs Analysis Survey. The more input we get from members, the better we can tailor the program. Leadership Development Workshops provide intensive hands-on instruction in creating, nurturing and managing volunteer-run groups, Mensan or otherwise. Since participants usually come from several groups, you can meet like-minded folks and share ideas. For many, it is the first step in becoming more involved in Mensa: many LDW alums have gone on to run for local or regional office, myself included.

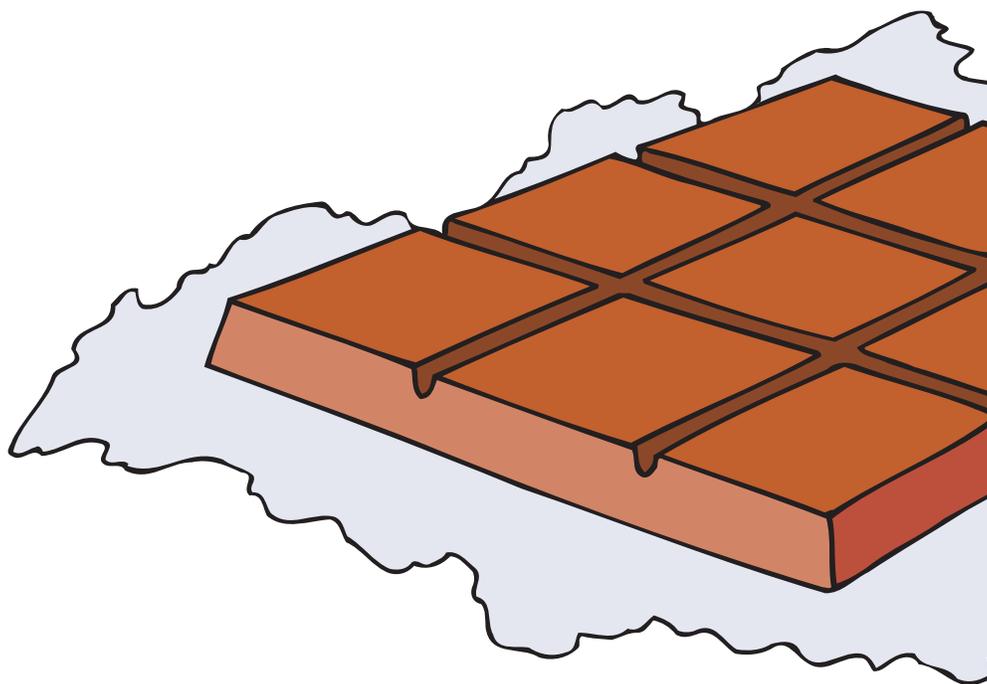
June marks the beginning of those hot, lazy summer days and what better way to spend them than licking the paddles of an ice cream maker? If you don't have one, an electric mixer can substitute. This dessert is a frozen chocolate nirvana.

## BITTER CHOCOLATE SORBET

1 cup milk  
 3/4 cup sugar  
 1/4 cup good cocoa powder  
 5 oz. good bittersweet chocolate (e.g. Callebaut, Valrhona, Scharffen Berger)  
 2 cups water

1. Bring milk and sugar to just under a boil over medium heat, stirring occasionally.
2. Reduce heat to low, and whisk in cocoa until smooth. Cook at gentle simmer for 15 minutes, stirring often.
3. Melt chocolate in double boiler. Slowly whisk in cocoa mixture and water.
4. Remove from heat and set over iced water to chill thoroughly.
5. Transfer to ice cream machine and process. Store in airtight container.
6. If you don't have an ice cream machine, freeze chilled mixture until slushy consistency. Beat with electric mixture until light and smooth. Return to freezer in an airtight container.

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



## THE MAY DINNER

### Cleaning up Windows - Improving your PC's performance

Almost everyone eventually runs into troubles with computers - slowness, spyware, viruses, conflicts between programs, or disorganized folders are all common. Fortunately, there are solutions. At our May 19th dinner, Mensan computer-professional Ilan Woll was on hand to lead us through tried-and-true methods we can take to solve problems with our Windows operating systems and restore efficiency.

Ilan has worked as a computer support person for many years and has helped thousands of corporate and personal computer users with almost every type of computer problem. He knows where the bugs are buried. Drawing on his long experience, he gave us a lucid and concise survey covering six basic areas where we can do the most to revitalize Windows: startup programs, Microsoft updates, fixing network connections, cleaning up Internet Explorer, getting rid of spyware, and removing unnecessary services. Along the way, he threw in some software recommendations, websites where we can get computer tips and tools, and some humorous cartoons looking at computer foibles.

Right from the start, there were a lot of questions for Ilan, and he had answers for every computer question audience members brought up, including queries about storage devices, Windows Vista, reinstalling Windows, and dealing with the registry.

Several people wanted Ilan's advice on software for various tasks. Ilan prefers Mozilla's Firefox to Internet Explorer for traveling the web, but cautioned that Internet Explorer can cause problems even if you set an alternative browser as your default choice. For best results with photo and multimedia work, he advised going with Macs rather than Windows PCs. And for virus and spyware protection, he said that Norton, McAfee, and Virusscan all do a good job as long as you are diligent in using them.

The most perplexing problems, our speaker stated, are those that have multiple causes - wireless problems connecting with a network, for instance. However, he has found solutions to even the most technical bugs by searching on Google, and he recommended it as a goldmine of information.

You can get a summary of Ilan's talk on the Southern CT Mensa website at [http://scm66.org/articles/scm\\_xp\\_01.html](http://scm66.org/articles/scm_xp_01.html). If you have computer questions or would like a Word document of his presentation, you can e-mail him at [ilanwoll@hotmail.com](mailto:ilanwoll@hotmail.com).



## RUMINATIONS

### THE INTERESTING NARRATIVE OF THE LIFE OF OLAUDAH EQUIANO (1745? - 1797), OR GUSTAVUS VASSA, THE AFRICAN, WRITTEN BY HIMSELF (1789)

#### Chapter I

*The author's account of his country, and their manners and customs- Administration of justice -Embrenche -Marriage ceremony, and public entertainments -Mode of living -Dress - Manufactures -Buildings -Commerce -Agriculture -War and religion -Superstition of the natives - Funeral ceremonies of the priests or magicians - Curious mode of discovering poison -Some hints concerning the origin of the author's countrymen, with the opinions of different writers on that subject.*

I believe it is difficult for those who publish their own memoirs to escape the imputation of vanity; nor is this the only disadvantage under which they labour: it is also their misfortune, that what is uncommon is rarely, if ever, believed, and what is obvious we are apt to turn from with disgust, and to charge the writer with impertinence. People generally think those memoirs only worthy to be read or remembered which abound in great or striking events, those, in short, which in a high degree excite either admiration or pity: all others they consign to contempt and oblivion. It is therefore, I confess, not a little hazardous in a private and obscure individual, and a stranger too, thus to solicit the indulgent attention of the public; especially when I own I offer here the history of neither a saint, a hero, nor a tyrant. I believe there are few events in my life, which have not happened to many: it is true the incidents of it are numerous; and, did I consider myself an European, I might say my sufferings were great: but when I compare my lot with that of most of my countrymen, I regard myself as a "particular favourite of Heaven", and acknowledge the mercies of Providence in every occurrence of my life. If then the following narrative does not appear sufficiently interesting to engage general attention, let my motive be some excuse for its publication. I am not so foolishly vain as to expect from it either immortality or literary reputation. If it affords any satisfac-

tion to my numerous friends, at whose request it has been written, or in the smallest degree promotes the interests of humanity, the ends for which it was undertaken will be fully attained, and every wish of my heart gratified. Let it therefore be remembered, that, in wishing to avoid censure, I do not aspire to praise.

That part of Africa, known by the name of Guinea, to which the trade for slaves is carried on, extends along the coast above 3400 miles, from the Senegal to Angola, and includes a variety of kingdoms. Of these the most considerable is the kingdom of Benen, both as to extent and wealth, the richness and cultivation of the soil, the power of its king, and the number and warlike disposition of the inhabitants. It is situated nearly under the line, and extends along the coast about 170 miles, but runs back into the interior part of Africa to a distance hitherto I believe unexplored by any traveller; and seems only terminated at length by the empire of Abyssinia, near 1500 miles from its beginning. This kingdom is divided into many provinces or districts: in one of the most remote and fertile of which, called Eboe, I was born, in the year 1745, in a charming fruitful vale, named Essaka. The distance of this province from the capital of Benin and the sea coast must be very considerable; for I had never heard of white men or Europeans, nor of the sea: and our subjection to the king of Benin was little more than nominal; for every transaction of the government, as far as my slender observation extended, was conducted by the chiefs or elders of the place. The manners and government of a people who have little commerce with other countries are generally very simple; and the history of what passes in one family or village may serve as a specimen of a nation. My father was one of those elders or chiefs I have spoken of, and was styled Embrenche; a term, as I remember, importing the highest distinction, and signifying in our language a "mark" of grandeur. This mark is conferred on the person entitled to it, by cutting the skin across at the top of the forehead, and drawing it down to the eye-brows; and while it is in this situation applying a warm hand, and rubbing it until it shrinks up into a thick "weal" across the lower part of the forehead. Most of the judges and senators were thus marked; my father had long born it: I had seen it conferred on one of my brothers, and I was also "destined"

to receive it by my parents. Those Embrence, or chief men, decided disputes and punished crimes; for which purpose they always assembled together. The proceedings were generally short; and in most cases the law of retaliation prevailed. I remember a man was brought before my father, and the other judges, for kidnapping a boy; and, although he was the son of a chief or senator, he was condemned to make recompense by a man or woman slave. Adultery, however, was sometimes punished with slavery or death; a punishment which I believe is inflicted on it throughout most of the nations of Africa: so sacred among them is the honour of the marriage bed, and so jealous are they of the fidelity of their wives. Of this I recollect an instance:--a woman was convicted before the judges of adultery, and delivered over, as the custom was, to her husband to be punished. Accordingly he determined to put her to

death: but it being found, just before her execution, that she had an infant at her breast; and no woman being prevailed on to perform the part of a nurse, she was spared on account of the child. The men, however, do not preserve the same constancy to their wives, which they expect from them; for they indulge in a plurality, though seldom in more than two. Their mode of marriage is thus:--both parties are usually betrothed when young by their parents, (though I have known the males to betroth themselves). On this occasion a feast is prepared, and the bride and bridegroom stand up in the midst of all their friends, who are assembled for the purpose, while he declares she is thenceforth to be looked upon as his wife, and that no other person is to pay any addresses to her. This is also immediately proclaimed in the vicinity, on which the bride retires from the assembly. Some time after she is brought home to

Brian Lord is an internationally read cartoonist, writer, and member of Middle Tennessee Mensa (Nashville area). His cartoon Kick Irrational is read weekly by people in 192 cities, 46 states and 9 countries via the Internet. His work can be seen at [www.KickComics.com](http://www.KickComics.com)



KICK IRRATIONAL by Brian Lord



her husband, and then another feast is made, to which the relations of both parties are invited: her parents then deliver her to the bridegroom, accompanied with a number of blessings, and at the same time they tie round her waist a cotton string of the thickness of a goose-quill, which none but married women are permitted to wear: she is now considered as completely his wife; and at this time the dowry is given to the new married pair, which generally consists of portions of land, slaves, and cattle, household goods, and implements of husbandry. These are offered by the friends of both parties; besides which the parents of the bridegroom present gifts to those of the bride, whose property she is looked upon before marriage; but after it she is esteemed the sole property of her husband. The ceremony being now ended the festival begins, which is celebrated with bonfires, and loud acclamations of joy, accompanied with music and dancing.

We are almost a nation of dancers, musicians, and poets. Thus every great event, such as a triumphant return from battle, or other cause of public rejoicing is celebrated in public dances, which are accompanied with songs and music suited to the occasion. The assembly is separated into four divisions, which dance either apart or in succession, and each with a character peculiar to itself. The first division contains the married men, who in their dances frequently exhibit feats of arms, and the representation of a battle. To these succeed the married women, who dance in the second division. The young men occupy the third; and the maidens the fourth. Each represents some interesting scene of real life, such as a great achievement, domestic employment, a pathetic story, or some rural sport; and as the subject is generally founded on some recent event, it is therefore ever new. This gives our dances a spirit and variety which I have scarcely seen elsewhere. We have many musical instruments, particularly drums of different kinds, a piece of music which resembles a guitar, and another much like a stickado. These last are chiefly used by betrothed virgins, who play on them on all grand festivals.

As our manners are simple, our luxuries are few. The dress of both sexes is nearly the same. It generally consists of a long piece of callico, or muslin, wrapped loosely round the body, somewhat in the form of a highland plaid. This is usually dyed

blue, which is our favourite colour. It is extracted from a berry, and is brighter and richer than any I have seen in Europe. Besides this, our women of distinction wear golden ornaments; which they dispose with some profusion on their arms and legs. When our women are not employed with the men in tillage, their usual occupation is spinning and weaving cotton, which they afterwards dye, and make it into garments. They also manufacture earthen vessels, of which we have many kinds. Among the rest tobacco pipes, made after the same fashion, and used in the same manner, as those in Turkey.

Our manner of living is entirely plain; for as yet the natives are unacquainted with those refinements in cookery which debauch the taste: bullocks, goats, and poultry, supply the greatest part of their food. These constitute likewise the principal wealth of the country, and the chief articles of its commerce. The flesh is usually stewed in a pan; to make it savoury we sometimes use also pepper, and other spices, and we have salt made of wood ashes. Our vegetables are mostly plantains, eadas, yams, beans, and Indian corn. The head of the family usually eats alone; his wives and slaves have also their separate tables. Before we taste food we always wash our hands: indeed our cleanliness on all occasions is extreme; but on this it is an indispensable ceremony. After washing, libation is made, by pouring out a small portion of the food, in a certain place, for the spirits of departed relations, which the natives suppose to preside over their conduct, and guard them from evil. They are totally unacquainted with strong or spirituous liquours; and their principal beverage is palm wine. This is gotten from a tree of that name by tapping it at the top, and fastening a large gourd to it; and sometimes one tree will yield three or four gallons in a night. When just drawn it is of a most delicious sweetness; but in a few days it acquires a tartish and more spirituous flavour: though I never saw any one intoxicated by it. The same tree also produces nuts and oil. Our principal luxury is in perfumes; one sort of these is an odoriferous wood of delicious fragrance: the other a kind of earth; a small portion of which thrown into the fire diffuses a most powerful odour. We beat this wood into powder, and mix it with palm oil; with which both men and women perfume themselves.

In our buildings we study convenience rather than ornament. Each master of a family has a large square piece of ground, surrounded with a moat or fence, or enclosed with a wall made of red earth tempered; which, when dry, is as hard as brick. Within this are his houses to accommodate his family and slaves; which, if numerous, frequently present the appearance of a village. In the middle stands the principal building, appropriated to the sole use of the master, and consisting of two apartments; in one of which he sits in the day with his family, the other is left apart for the reception of his friends. He has besides these a distinct apartment in which he sleeps, together with his male children. On each side are the apartments of his wives, who have also their separate day and night houses. The habitations of the slaves and their families are distributed throughout the rest of the enclosure. These houses never exceed one story in height: they are always built of wood, or stakes driven into the ground, crossed with wattles, and neatly plastered within, and without. The roof is thatched with reeds. Our day-houses are left open at the sides; but those in which we sleep are always covered, and plastered in the inside, with a composition mixed with cow-dung, to keep off the different insects, which annoy us during the night. The walls and floors also of these are generally covered with mats. Our beds consist of a platform, raised three or four feet from the ground, on which are laid skins, and different parts of a spongy tree called plaintain. Our covering is calico or muslin, the same as our dress. The usual seats are a few logs of wood; but we have benches, which are generally per-

fumed, to accommodate strangers: these compose the greater part of our household furniture. Houses so constructed and furnished require but little skill to erect them. Every man is a sufficient architect for the purpose. The whole neighbourhood afford their unanimous assistance in building them and in return receive, and expect no other recompense than a feast.

As we live in a country where nature is prodigal of her favours, our wants are few and easily supplied; of course we have few manufactures. They consist for the most part of calicoes, earthen ware, ornaments, and instruments of war and husbandry. But these make no part of our commerce, the principal articles of which, as I have observed, are provisions. In such a state money is of little use; however we have some small pieces of coin, if I may call them such. They are made something like an anchor; but I do not remember either their value or denomination. We have also markets, at which I have been frequently with my mother. These are sometimes visited by stout mahogany-coloured men from the south west of us: we call them Oye-Eboe, which term signifies red men living at a distance. They generally bring us fire-arms, gunpowder, hats, beads, and dried fish. The last we esteemed a great rarity, as our waters were only brooks and springs. These articles they barter with us for odoriferous woods and earth, and our salt of wood ashes. They always carry slaves through our land; but the strictest account is exacted of their manner of procuring them before they are suffered to pass.

**PUZZLES & QUESTIONS**

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

1. Which nation is the best example of a melting pot?
2. How many mutual funds are on the U.S. market?
3. Define these words: gusto, grit, and vim.
4. How many miles per gallon did the Model T get?
5. Name as many antioxidants as you can.
6. Estimate the population of these cities: Akron, Ohio; Anaheim, Calif.; Bridgeport, CT; Fairfield, Calif.; Fresno, Calif.; Green Bay, Wisconsin; Honolulu, Hawaii; Little Rock, Arkansas; Norwalk, Calif.; Salt Lake City, Utah.
7. Compare Toyota with Honda.
8. Based on U.S. Census data, what is the biggest Indian tribe in the United States?
9. Which reporters have done the most roving?
10. Give the legal definition of slander.
11. Which foreign language do you think differs the most from English?
12. Which country do you think has a better future, China or India?

**ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:**

2. Estimate the population of these cities: Abilene, Texas; Reno, Nevada; Syracuse, New York; Charleston, South Carolina; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Scranton, Pennsylvania; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Jacksonville, Florida; Duluth, Minnesota; Tulsa, Oklahoma.  
A: Abilene, TX, 115,000; Reno, NV, 194,000; Syracuse, NY, 144,000; Charleston, SC, 101,000; Albuquerque, NM, 472,000; Scranton, PA, 74,000; Harrisburg, PA, 49,000; Jacksonville, FL, 774,000; Duluth, MN, 87,000; Tulsa, OK, 388,000. (Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 2004-2005.)
4. Which number does not belong in this series: 111, 222, 333, 444, 555, 666?  
A: 666 does not belong because it is the only one of the numbers that can not represent a time of day, e.g., 1:11, 2:22.
6. Who was the shortest U.S. president?  
A: James Madison, who was president from 1809 - 1817. He was 5 ft., 4 inches tall, and weighed 100 pounds.
8. Which area of Spain gets the most rain?  
A: The northern coastal regions get about 39 inches (99 cm.) of rain a year, the southern coastal belt receives 16 - 31 in. (41 - 79 cm.), and the interior central plain gets up to 20 in. (50 cm.) annually. The main rainy periods are in spring and fall, while the summers are hot and dry.

**NOTED AND QUOTED**

College isn't the place to go for ideas.  
- *Helen Keller, (1880 - 1968)*

The world is full of weeds. - *Anonymous*

Sins cannot be undone, only forgiven.  
- *Igor Stravinsky, (1882 - 1971), Russian-American composer*

I begin with an idea and then it becomes something else. - *Pablo Picasso, (1881 - 1973)*

We learn to howl in the society of wolves.  
- *Countess du Barry, (1746 - 1793)*

The only substitute for good manners is fast reflexes. - *Anonymous*

Socrates had a student named Plato, Plato had a student named Aristotle, and Aristotle had a student named Alexander the Great.  
- *Tom Morris, philosopher, author, business consultant*

Destiny is always dark.  
- *George Herbert, (1593 - 1633), Welsh poet*

America is so vast that almost everything said about it is likely to be true, and the opposite is probably equally true.  
- *James T. Farrell, (1904 - 1979), U.S. novelist*

America is a mistake, a giant mistake.  
- *Sigmund Freud, (1856 - 1939)*

The world is an eternal seesaw.  
- *Michel de Montaigne, (1533 - 1592)*

Civilization is a perishable commodity.  
- *Helen MacInnes, (1907 - 1985), U.S. novelist*

Self-pity makes people callous.  
- *Mason Cooley, (1927 - 2002), U.S. aphorist*

To know how to free oneself is nothing; the arduous thing is to know what to do with one's freedom.  
- *Andre Gide, (1869 - 1951), French novelist*

Man's passions make him live. His wisdom merely makes him last. - *Nicolas Chamfort, (1741 - 1794)*

If you don't learn from your mistakes, there's no sense in making them. - *Anonymous*

People tend to remember my performances, not me. - *Ellen Barkin, (1955 - ), U.S. actress*

Time, which changes people, does not alter the image we have retained of them.  
- *Marcel Proust, (1871 - 1922), U.S. novelist*

Every man should use his intellect, not as he uses his lamp in the study, only for his own seeing, but as the lighthouse uses its lamp, that those afar off on the sea may see the shining, and learn their way. - *Henry Ward Beecher, (1813 - 1887), U.S. cleric, editor, writer*

What moves men of genius, or rather what inspires their work, is not new ideas, but their obsession with the idea that what has already been said is still not enough.  
- *Eugene Delacroix, (1798 - 1863), French painter*

A good scientist is a person with original ideas. A good engineer is a person who makes a design that works with as few original ideas as possible. There are no prima donnas in engineering.  
- *Freeman Dyson, (1923 - ), Anglo-American physicist, writer*

When my daughter was about seven years old, she asked me one day what I did at work. I told her I worked at the college - that my job was to teach people how to draw. She stared back at me, incredulous, and said, "You mean they forget?" - *Howard Ikemoto, painter, art instructor*



## POETRY CORNER

### A CICADA

Li Shang-yin (813-858)

Pure of heart and therefore hungry,  
All night long you have sung in vain --  
Oh, this final broken indrawn breath  
Among the green indifferent trees!  
Yes, I have gone like a piece of driftwood,  
I have let my garden fill with weeds...  
I bless you for your true advice  
To live as pure a life as yours.

### NATURE'S CALM

Alcman

THE mountain brows, the rocks, the peaks,  
are sleeping,  
Uplands and gorges hush!  
The thousand moorland things are  
stillness keeping;  
The beasts under each bush

Crouch, and the hived bees  
Rest in their honeyed ease;  
In the purple sea fish lie as they were dead,  
And each bird folds his wing over his head.

### THE POET'S DELAY

Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)

IN vain I see the morning rise,  
In vain observe the western blaze,  
Who idly look to other skies,  
Expecting life by other ways.

Amidst such boundless wealth without,  
I only still am poor within,  
The birds have sung their summer out,  
But still my spring does not begin.

Shall I then wait the autumn wind,  
Compelled to seek a milder day,  
And leave no curious nest behind,  
No woods still echoing to my lay?



**MENSA MIND GAMES 2007 RESULTS**

More than 200 Mensans gathered in Pittsburgh in April for Mensa Mind Games 2007. During the three-day event, members played and rated 59 board and card games. The top five games have earned Mensa Select distinction and may use the Mensa Select seal on their games.

**MIND GAMES 2008 will be held April 11-13 in Phoenix.**

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**CHAPTER NOTES**

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

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

BUSINESS OFFICE AMERICAN MENSA, LTD.  
1229 Corporate Drive West  
Arlington, TX 76006-6103

Phone: 817-607-0060  
Fax: 817-649-5232  
E-mail: AmericanMensa@mensa.org  
Website: www.us.mensa.org

## *LIST OF SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA OFFICERS*

President	Rick D'Amico	203-368-2778	usamarbiol@aol.com 1353 Brooklawn Ave. Fairfield, CT 06825
Vice-President	Jim Mizera	203-522-1959	Jmizera@hotmail.com PMB #181, 7365 Main St. Stratford, CT 06614-1300
Treasurer	Paul Passarelli	203-846-1623	paul@solarandthermal.com 44 Ellen St Norwalk, CT 06851-2520
Secretary	Amy Harold	203-261-6517	amyharold@earthlink.net 110 Bart Rd. Monroe, CT 06468-1117
Editor	Jim Mizera	203-522-1959	Jmizera@hotmail.com PMB #181, 7365 Main St. Stratford, CT 06614-1300
Publisher	Amy Harold	203-261-6517	amyharold@earthlink.net
Web Master	Thomas O'Neill	203-336-5254	Doctec@optonline.net 68 Pierce Ave. Bridgeport, CT 06604-1607
Ombudsman	Gary Oberst	203-853-1810	gary@oberstlaw.com 111 East Ave. Norwalk, CT 06851-5014
Membership Officer	Jim Mizera	203-522-1959	Jmizera@hotmail.com
Reg Vice Chairman	Marghretta McBean	845-889-4588	rvc1@us.mensa.org <a href="http://region1.us.mensa.org/">http://region1.us.mensa.org/</a>