

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.



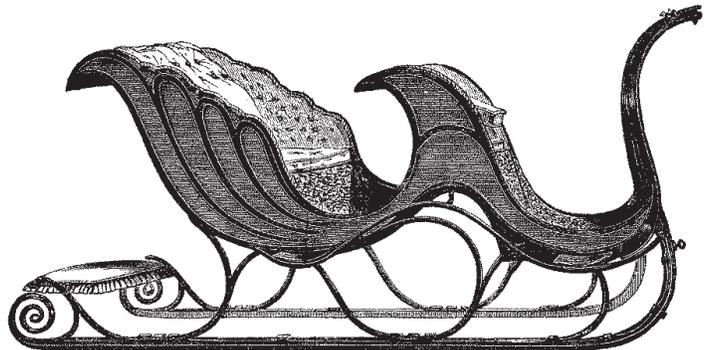
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going back to 2000 are available on the Internet at <http://scm66.org> (Note: this is a new URL). You can download the latest e-mail version of the Chronicle there, as well as previous issues. All issues are in read-only Adobe Acrobat format so there is no chance of viruses accompanying the files.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: If you have an annual Mensa membership, your membership 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 <http://www.us.mensa.org> to renew.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2 Schedule of Southern Connecticut
Mensa Events
Schedule of Connecticut and Western
Mass Mensa Events
Happy Hours & Get Together's
- 4 Regional Gatherings
- 5 From Regional Vice Chair
- 6 January Dinner
- 9 Good Wine Cheap
- 10 Ruminations
- 13 Puzzles & Answers
- 14 Noted and Quoted
- 15 Poetry Corner
- 16 Mensa Mind Games
- 17 Chapter Notes Member
Advertisements
Change of Address Form
- 18 List of Officers



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

SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS - FEBRUARY

Friday, February 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, or Rev. Bill Loring at (203) 794-1389, frbill@mags.net.



Saturday, February 16, 6:30

Monthly Dinner

Southern CT Mensan member and author Jerry Brooker will speak about his recent trip to Egypt and Israel. TONELLI'S RESTAURANT, 41 Grassy Plain St., Bethel, CT 06801. 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, 203-522-1959, for information and reservations. Guests are welcome. Restaurant review: <http://acorn-online.net/acornonline/bestbets/bbets05-04-21.htm> You can rate the restaurants we have attended at

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various web sites such as www.restaurantratingz.com, www.dine.com, www.menutopia.com,

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.

FROM STAMFORD:

1. Take I-95. Merge onto US-7 Connector NORTH via EXIT 15 toward NORWALK.
2. Take US-7 Connector to MAIN AVE / US-7. Continue to follow US-7 North about 2 miles.
3. Turn LEFT onto US-7 / CT-33 / WESTPORT RD & continue to follow US-7 about 5.5 miles.
4. Turn RIGHT onto SCHOOL ST / CT-107 / CT-57. Follow CT-107 about 1.5 miles.
5. 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

FROM BRIDGEPORT:

1. Take CT-15 SOUTH / MERRITT PKWY Exit 44 toward CT-58 / FAIRFIELD / REDDING.
2. Turn LEFT onto CONGRESS ST.
3. Turn RIGHT onto BLACK ROCK TURNPIKE / CT-58. Follow CT-58 about 15 miles.
4. Turn LEFT onto CT-302 / MILWAUKEE AVE.
5. Turn LEFT onto GREENWOOD AVE / CT-302

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.

and go about 1.5 miles.

6. Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto GRASSY PLAIN ST / CT-53. Go about .1 miles to the Restaurant, at 41 Grassy Plain St.

FROM HARTFORD & I-84:

1. Take I-84 to Exit 5, the Route 53 exit.
2. Take Route 53 south about 3.3 miles.
3. Tonelli's Restaurant is on the right, shortly before the light and intersection.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR MARCH

Friday, March 7, 7:00

Southern CT and Western MA Joint Dinner

See above for details

Saturday, March 15, 6:30

Monthly Dinner

See above 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.

C&WM Mensan 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.

FEBRUARY

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) 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.

6 Wednesday 5:30 pm

Happy Hour in Branford

New Venue, New Time!

(ME, 2nd Wed) Donovan's Reef 1212 Main Street, Branford Conn. 06405. The Donovan's Reef <http://donovans-reef.com> web site has a small map, and here are some directions with distances - from I-95 take exit 54/Cedar Street. Go south on Cedar Street crossing Rt. 1/Boston Post Road for about 0.5 mi. to Rose Street. Take a left on Rose and go 0.25 mi. to a driveway on the right which has a low sign that says "1188 - 1238" where you will enter a parking lot for a number of businesses in a complex known as Lockworks Square. Drive part way through the lot and look for Donovan's Reef on the left. Locals can also enter Lockworks Square from

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the Ivy Street side just off of Main Street where Shoreline Foods faces Ivy. The lounge is on the left inside. I'll see about a table reservation and will likely have an "M" sign visible. We start around 6. I'm told there is some sort of daily bar goodie along with any menu items that you may want to order. Donovan's phone number is 203-488-5573. Questions? Contact Joe Wonowski at 203-785-2998 weekdays, and 203-457-9770 evenings. Hope to see you there!

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, canceled on Jewish holidays.)

8 Friday 6:00 pm

Diner Dinner

(semimonthly, 2nd and 4th Fridays) 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. Questions? For info, contact Howard Brender at 860-635-5673 or howiebren@aol.com Subject: Diner Dinner

21 Thursday 6:30 pm

Pioneer Valley Dinner

(ME, 3rd Thursday)) at The Student Prince at 8 Fort Street in Springfield, Mass. We welcome all comers, even those from south of the border. :-). Since I will need to make a reservation at the restaurant, folks will need to RSVP by January 14th to Ian Fraser ianfraser@usa.net

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 us this month, we'd love to see ya. Contact Gail Trowbridge

22 Friday 6:00 pm

Diner Dinner

(semimonthly, 2nd and 4th Fridays) 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. Questions? For info, contact Barb Holstein at 860-632-7873 or 860-793-4410 or email BarbCPA@att.net, Subject: Diner Dinner

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.

REGIONAL GATHERING

FEBRUARY 15 – 17

NEW HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL GATHERING

The perfect gathering for our hectic lives, **Celeb8 '08**. Go through the whole year in one weekend. New Year's champagne toast, Easter Egg hunt, Fourth of July Bar-B-Q, and Halloween costume party, all between Friday February 15th and Sunday February 17th. Of course there will be excellent hospitality, great games tournaments, and excellent speakers. Join us in Nashua NH, and party the year away.

Registration costs \$75 and includes all meals for the weekend. Registrar is Deb Stone (603) 856-7055. Contact RG Chair Walter Wakefield at (877) 436-7250 for prices and hotel information.

*FROM THE REGIONAL VICE CHAIRMAN**LORI NORRIS**RVCHAT*

Happy Leap Year. I still don't see why we can't add the extra day to a summer month. We really don't need an extra day in February, it just seems to make winter a bit longer. I know it's all in my mind, but what can I say. I don't think we need an extra day during the snowiest month. I'm anti-snow this month. Ron is away and it snowed yesterday. I actually had to shovel snow, which I haven't done in years. My son used to do it and now Ron does. And if there's too much snow, I just don't take the car out. It works for me because I live on the bus line.

February is the month of romance. We celebrate Valentine's Day. Of course, Valentine goods have been in some stores since the day after Christmas. Are there any holidays or special days that remain simple? It seems as if one holiday is over and the stores start pushing the next one. Besides celebrating Valentine's Day, Ron and I also celebrate our anniversary in February. Doesn't seem like it has been seven years already.

Ron and I met and dated around Mensa events. While Mensa is not a singles group, I know of many couples that met through the group. Some of them were not even actively seeking a "significant other." Among our personal friends, I can quickly think of at least a couple dozen couples that met through Mensa. It just goes to show that when you're among friends anything can happen. To all you Mensa couples, send me your love story and pictures. If you're willing to share I'll have them put up on the regional website.

February has two wonderful RGs. The NH Granite Gathering "Celebr8 '08" will be held the weekend of February 15 -17, 2008 at the Radisson in Nashua. NH throws a great party. Check out <http://www.nh.us.mensa.org/forms/2008NHRGReg.pdf> for a registration form and additional information. We're going to be celebrating the whole year in one weekend. Central New Jersey Mensa (Region 2) is hosting "Snowball XXXIV" with the theme of "Around the World in Two Days" the weekend of February 29 through March 2. Ron and I will be there. This RG is easily accessible by train. Check out their website for more information, <http://www.cnj.us.mensa.org/>.

Don't forget, the Region 1 LDW hosted by Rhode Island Mensa will be held the first weekend of May. Check out the webpage at <http://www.rhodeisland.us.mensa.org>. Feel free to contact me for more information.

Lori

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*JANUARY DINNER***THE LOYALISTS OF
FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

Southern CT Mensa started off 2008 with a lively talk by member Bob Liftig on a neglected people of U.S. and local history, the Loyalists - the colonists who opposed the American Revolution and remained faithful to the British. Who were the Loyalists? How many were there? What were their motivations? How did their neighbors treat them? What became of them? These were some of the interesting questions Bob explored before an enthralled audience of Mensans from both state chapters

Bob recounted how he became interested in the subject from his travels around New England and the Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. When he and his wife stopped at King's Landing, a restored historical village on the Maine-New Brunswick border, he noticed the amazing similarity of its houses to colonial homes in Fairfield County. He visited one of the saltbox houses and found out that it had been built by Daniel Morehouse, a Connecticut Tory who left the U.S. for Canada after the Revolutionary War. It looked just like Morehead's Fairfield house.

Investigating further, Bob found that King's Landing, as its name hinted, had been a refuge for Loyalists. Many of the residents of the area had the same last names as those that mark Connecticut landmarks and streets. Here was the other side of the family, the "traitors" who had supported England against the sons of liberty in the war. The Canadian Loyalists had a fascinating story and culture, a tale of wrongs suffered, families sundered, and lives disrupted. Bob was hooked. He delved into the subject and wrote articles about it for Westport magazine and the Loyalist Gazette of Canada. He also founded the Loyalist project at Fairfield University to bring more of this history to light.

Who were the Loyalists?

Just how many Americans supported the British cause? We have only estimates, Bob made clear,

but he thinks that about 6% of Fairfield County stood openly with the king and the British Parliament. The numbers varied wildly within the area, however. The main settlements in the County then were Greenwich, Stamford, Norwalk and Fairfield. But within these towns and in smaller towns, there were different peoples of different backgrounds with differing views on the war. About 45% of people of Redding Ridge, a largely Episcopal town, remained loyal to the Crown.

Many historians think that nationally 25% of Americans supported the Crown, 25% backed the Revolution, and 50% stood in the middle. But support shifted depending on the tide of battle, and historians' differ in their judgments on this question. We know, however, that more than 1,000 Connecticut Loyalists left the U.S. and fled to English strongholds in New York, ultimately resettling in other parts of the British Empire. All told, some 70,000 Loyalists left the U.S. after the war.

Who were the Loyalists and who were the rebels? "Which side you took often depended on your place in society, your cultural ties, or your economic interests," Prof. Liftig said. Officials in government who were appointed by the Crown tended to support the Crown. Many affluent residents of Connecticut also had strong ties to Britain. They sent their children to the mother country to be educated and imported goods from England. They feared losing all they had worked to gain to the ravages of war and so they were more likely to side with the mother country. Similarly, members of the Anglican Church, the Church of England, looked to England spiritually and culturally and did not want to leave its embrace.

Support also divided across geographical lines. Large segments of New York were beds of Tory support, which is probably why the state retains the nickname the Empire State. Long Island was heavily Loyalist, but the western part was much more so than the eastern. Eastern Long Island was a New England settlement with Puritan sentiment, while western Long Island was Dutch and British. New York's English heritage is seen in the royal names dot the state map: Queens, Kings College, Kings Point, and Kingston. The British accent even colors the speech of Bronx

residents. "The Bronx 'aks' (ask) that we hear," Bob wryly noted, derives from the King's English even if it lacks the king's eloquence.

Prof. Liftig brought out some of the ironies of the struggle. One was that both slaves and slave owners found reasons to support the crown. Great Britain offered freedom to the slaves who fled their masters or joined the British army. 10,000 slaves took them up on their offer and escaped to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Some went on to England or Sierra Leone. Slave owners, on the other hand, feared that the rebellion in the air would infect their slaves. Their wealth could evaporate overnight. Hence, some of them moved their plantations to the West Indies, particularly the Bahamas.

The Loyalist Case

The Loyalist case was stronger than many Americans concede. Yes, the Crown had levied the Stamp Tax and the Tea Tax on the colonists. But most of those in English government felt perfectly justified in doing so. After all, Great Britain had nearly bankrupted its Treasury defending the American colonies during the French and Indian war, which lasted from 1755 to 1763. The taxes enacted were comparatively light and most were repealed. The colonies were peaceful and prosperous, especially New

England. The Connecticut Valley was particularly fortunate, Bob pointed out. Connecticut had the highest standard of living in the world.

Life, Liberty, and Lawlessness

Many of the apprehensions of the Loyalists were justified. "When war broke out," Bob said, "suddenly the shadow government became the law of the land." Upstanding citizens became enemies of the state. Revolutionary Committees of Public Safety harassed and assaulted suspected British sympathizers. The problem wasn't just vigilantes. One of the first acts of the U.S. Congress was to expropriate the property of Loyalists. Local governments seized homes and auctioned them off. Opportunists often bought the properties at a pittance and sold them for huge profits. The Episcopal Churches were shut down for the duration of the war, silencing pro-British voices in many areas. It's little wonder that one Loyalist judge in Boston protested, "I'd rather be robbed by one man 3000 miles away than by a mob of 3000 1 mile away." Prof. Liftig recommended Peter Oliver's book *Origin & Progress of the American Rebellion: A Tory view* as an eye-opener about the Loyalists cause and the injustices they suffered at the hands of revolutionaries.

The invading British were just as cruel as the

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



patriots. In 1977, they landed at Compo Beach, then a part of Fairfield, marched to Danbury and burned the Continental Army supply stores. Two years later, 20,000 British and Loyalist troops landed on Fairfield Beach and burned much of Fairfield to the ground.

After the Americans finally defeated the British, animosities between revolutionaries and Loyalists remained. Returning Loyalists had to buy back their homes. Dispossessed and resentful, many understandably found the Crown's offer of land and pensions in Canada more attractive and abandoned the United States for the havens of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, or England itself. These families were given the title United Empire (U.E.) Loyalists by Canada.

A Civil War

"Start thinking of the American Revolution as the first American Civil War," Prof. Liftig suggested. Truly it was. "It divided families much more than the American Civil War." While the Civil War only split families that had members in both the North and South, the War for Independence cut right through towns, communities, and households. Bob related both local and national examples. Daniel Morehouse of the prominent Morehouse family of Redding joined the British army. His brother John also supported England but other Morehouses took the side of the new government. When the war ended in 1783, Daniel's property was taken and he left his relatives behind for New Brunswick, Canada. John went to Nova Scotia. The war provoked similar strife throughout the colonies. Even wise heads became inflamed by the passions. Benjamin Franklin ostracized his son William, the Royal Governor of New Jersey. Despite William's pleas for reconciliation, Ben refused to talk to his son for the rest of his life.

The Loyalist Legacy

Although the Loyalist cause is often neglected in U.S. History courses, Bob believes we can learn a lot about it just by exploring the origins of the names that dot our streets and towns. He is often taken aback by "students who never think of where Kings Highway, King St., Orange (named after William of Orange), Georgetown,

Roger Ludlowe High School, and Morehouse Parkway got their names." Consequently, "many colorful chars are lost in class." Bob makes it a point to get students in his class to investigate the history behind local names. He recounted how one of his students who lived right near the Morehouse home plunged into researching the family and its descendants. She found both Canadian and local descendants who had no idea of their lineage. Her genealogical revelations led to a big family reunion.

Professor Liftig now devotes some time in his Early American Literature class to readings from the Loyalist point of view, particularly local Loyalists. This has both balanced and enriched his students' education. He also spends time at the Fairfield Historical Society investigating the lives of Loyalists, helping residents learn about this forgotten chapter in local history.

Bob's research piqued the interest of Connecticut Mensans and they peppered him with questions and observations. It was an enlightening evening that everyone enjoyed, and set a high standard for our 2008 year.

NEXT MONTH: At our Saturday, February 16th dinner, Jerry Brooker will talk about his fall trip to Egypt and Israel. Contact Jim Mizera at jmizera@hotmail.com or (203) 522-1959 for information or reservations.



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

This month's column is again inspired by our recent trip to Russia. River cruises in Europe are a wonderful way to travel for an aging baby-boomer. And, beginning every day with a Mimosa at breakfast is a delightful bit of decadence.

The Russian and German culinary staff on the ship produced some excellent meals. A notable highlight of each meal was the soup - meat, vegetable or fish. Borscht is probably the most recognizable and traditional of Russian soups, with as many recipes as there are Russian Grandmothers. Our friend Mandy cooked the recipe below to rave reviews at our last gourmet club.

This month's wine is flavorful red recommended by our friend Tina - the 2005 Windmill Estate Old Vines Zinfandel bottled by Michael-David Vineyards of Lodi, California. It starts out with a striking nose that makes you expect a big fruity wine, but it has a smooth, almost mild flavor more like a good Merlot, except with a tad more fruit. The taste is a subtle berry with a hint of vanilla and a bit of pepper at the finish. It goes well with the hearty soup below. I've found this wine in several stores for between \$8 and \$11 a bottle.

RUSSIAN BEET SOUP (BORSCHT)

(adapted from the recipegoldmine.com website)

Ingredients:

6 cups water
 1/2 cup dried navy beans
 1 pound beef boneless chuck, tip or round, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
 1 smoked pork hock
 1 (10 1/2 ounce) can condensed beef broth
 2 1/2 teaspoons salt; 1/4 teaspoon pepper
 6 medium beets, cooked
 2 medium onions, sliced
 2 cloves garlic, chopped
 2 medium potatoes, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
 3 cups shredded cabbage
 2 teaspoons dill seed or 1 sprig dill weed
 1 tablespoon pickling spice
 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
 1 cup dairy sour cream

Heat water and beans to boiling in Dutch oven (a soup pot about 4 to 6 qts.); boil 2 minutes. Remove from heat; cover and let stand 1 hour. Add beef, pork, beef broth, salt and pepper to beans. Heat to boiling; reduce heat. Cover and simmer until beef is tender 1 to 1 1/2 hours. Shred beets or cut into 1/4-inch strips.

Remove pork from Dutch oven; cool slightly. Remove pork from bone and trim fat; cut into bite-size pieces. Add pork, beets, onions, garlic, potatoes and cabbage to beef mixture. Tie dill seed and pickling spice in cheesecloth bag or place in tea ball; add to beef mixture. Cover and simmer 2 hours. Stir in vinegar; simmer 10 minutes.

Remove spice bag. Serve with sour cream; sprinkle with minced dill weed, if desired. Yields 6 servings.

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

IDLE HOPE

Samuel Johnson
from *The Rambler*
No. 69., 1753

Men willingly believe what they wish to be true.

TULLY has long ago observed, that no man, however weakened by long life, is so conscious of his own decrepitude, as not to imagine that he may yet hold his station in the world for another year.

Of the truth of this remark every day furnishes new confirmation: there is no time of life, in which men for the most part seem less to expect the stroke of death, than when every other eye sees it impending; or are more busy in providing for another year, than when it is plain to all but themselves, that at another year they cannot arrive. Though every funeral that passes before their eyes evinces the deceitfulness of such expectations, since every man who is born to the grave thought himself equally certain of living at least to the next year; the survivor still continues to flatter himself, and is never at a loss for some reason why his life should be protracted, and the voracity of death continue to be pacified with some other prey.

But this is only one of the innumerable artifices practised in the universal conspiracy of mankind against themselves: every age and every condition indulges some darling fallacy; every man amuses himself with projects which he knows to be improbable, and which, therefore, he resolves to pursue without daring to examine them. Whatever any man ardently desires, he very readily believes that he shall some time attain: he whose intemperance has overwhelmed him with diseases, while he languishes in the spring, expects vigour and recovery from the summer sun; and while he melts away in the summer, transfers his hopes to the frosts of winter: he that gazes upon elegance or pleasure, which want of money hinders him from imitating or partaking, comforts himself that the time of distress will soon be at an end, and that every day brings him nearer to a state of happiness; though he knows it has passed not only without acquisition of advantage, but perhaps

without endeavours after it, in the formation of schemes that cannot be executed, and in the contemplation of prospects which cannot be approached.

Such is the general dream in which we all slumber out our time: every man thinks the day coming, in which he shall be gratified with all his wishes, in which he shall leave all those competitors behind, who are now rejoicing like himself in the expectation of victory; the day is always coming to the servile in which they shall be powerful, to the obscure in which they shall be eminent, and to the deformed in which they shall be beautiful.

If any of my readers has looked with so little attention on the world about him, as to imagine this representation exaggerated beyond probability, let him reflect a little upon his own life; let him consider what were his hopes and prospects ten years ago, and what additions he then expected to be made by ten years to his happiness; those years are now elapsed; have they made good the promise that was extorted from them? have they advanced his fortune, enlarged his knowledge, or reformed his conduct, to the degree that was once expected? I am afraid, every man that recollects his hopes must confess his disappointment; and own that day has glided unprofitably after day, and that he is still at the same distance from the point of happiness.

With what consolations can those, who have thus miscarried in their chief design, elude the memory of their ill success? with what amusements can they pacify their discontent, after the loss of so large a portion of life? they can give themselves up again to the same delusions, they can form new schemes of airy gratifications, and fix another period of felicity; they can again resolve to trust the promise which they know will be broken, they can walk in a circle with their eyes shut, and persuade themselves to think that they go forward.

Of every great and complicated event, part depends upon causes out of our power, and part must be effected by vigour and perseverance. With regard to that which is styled in common language the work of chance, men will always find reasons for confidence or distrust, accord-

ing to their different tempers or inclinations; and he that has been long accustomed to please himself with possibilities of fortuitous happiness, will not easily or willingly be reclaimed from his mistake. But the effects of human industry and skill are more easily subjected to calculation: whatever can be completed in a year, is divisible into parts, of which each may be performed in the compass of a day; he, therefore, that has passed the day without attention to the task assigned him, may be certain, that the lapse of life has brought him no nearer to his object; for whatever idleness may expect from time, its produce will be only in proportion to the diligence with which it has been used. He that floats lazily down the stream, in pursuit of something borne along by the same current, will find himself indeed move forward; but unless he lays his hand to the oar, and increases his speed by his own labour, must be always at the same distance from that which he is following.

There have happened in every age some contingencies of unexpected and undeserved success, by which those who are determined to believe whatever favours their inclinations, have been encouraged to delight themselves with future advantages; they support confidence by considerations, of which the only proper use is to chase away despair: it is equally absurd to sit down in idleness because some have been enriched without labour, as to leap a precipice because some have fallen and escaped with life, or to put to sea in a storm because some have been driven from a wreck upon the coast to which they are bound.

We are all ready to confess, that belief ought to be proportioned to evidence or probability: let any man, therefore, compare the number of those who have been thus favoured by fortune, and of those who have failed of their expectations, and he will easily determine, with what justness he has registered himself in the lucky catalogue.

But there is no need on these occasions for deep inquiries or laborious calculations; there is a far easier method of distinguishing the hopes of folly from those of reason, of finding the difference between prospects that exist before the eyes, and those that are only painted on a fond imagination. Tom Drowsy had accustomed himself to compute the profit of a darling project till

he had no longer any doubt of its success; it was at last matured by close consideration, all the measures were accurately adjusted, and he wanted only five hundred pounds to become master of a fortune that might be envied by a director of a trading company. Tom was generous and grateful, and was resolved to recompense this small assistance with an ample fortune; he, therefore, deliberated for a time, to whom amongst his friends he should declare his necessities; not that he suspected a refusal, but because he could not suddenly determine which of them would make the best use of riches, and was, therefore, most worthy of his favour. At last his choice was settled; and knowing that in order to borrow he must shew the probability of repayment, he prepared for a minute and copious explanation of his project. But here the golden dream was at an end: he soon discovered the impossibility of imposing upon others the notions by which he had so long imposed upon himself; which way soever he turned his thoughts, impossibility and absurdity arose in opposition on every side; even credulity and prejudice were at last forced to give way, and he grew ashamed of crediting himself what shame would not suffer him to communicate to another.

To this test let every man bring his imaginations, before they have been too long predominant in his mind. Whatever is true will bear to be related, whatever is rational will endure to be explained; but when we delight to brood in secret over future happiness, and silently to employ our meditations upon schemes of which we are conscious that the bare mention would expose us to derision and contempt; we should then remember, that we are cheating ourselves by voluntary delusions; and giving up to the unreal mockeries of fancy, those hours in which solid advantages might be attained by sober thought and rational assiduity.

There is, indeed, so little certainty in human affairs, that the most cautious and severe examiner may be allowed to indulge some hopes which he cannot prove to be much favoured by probability; since, after his utmost endeavours to ascertain events, he must often leave the issue in the hands of chance. And so scanty is our present allowance of happiness, that in many situations life could scarcely be supported, if hope were not allowed to relieve the present hour by

pleasures borrowed from futurity; and reanimate the languor of dejection to new efforts, by pointing to distant regions of felicity, which yet no resolution or perseverance shall ever reach.

But these, like all other cordials, though they may invigorate in a small quantity, intoxicate in a greater; these pleasures, like the rest, are lawful only in certain circumstances, and to certain degrees; they may be useful in a due subserviency to nobler purposes, but become dangerous and destructive when once they gain the ascendant in the heart: to soothe the mind to tranquillity by hope, even when that hope is likely to deceive us, may be sometimes useful; but to lull our faculties in a lethargy is poor and despicable.

Vices and errors are differently modified, according to the state of the minds to which they are incident; to indulge hope beyond the warrant of reason, is the failure alike of mean and elevated understandings; but its foundation and its effects are totally different: the man of high courage and great abilities is apt to place

too much confidence in himself, and to expect, from a vigorous exertion of his powers, more than spirit or diligence can attain: between him and his wish he sees obstacles indeed, but he expects to overleap or break them; his mistaken ardour hurries him forward; and though, perhaps, he misses his end, he nevertheless obtains some collateral good, and performs something useful to mankind, and honourable to himself.

The drone of timidity presumes likewise to hope, but without ground and without consequence; the bliss with which he solaces his hours he always expects from others, though very often he knows not from whom: he folds his arms about him, and sits in expectation of some revolution in the state that shall raise him to greatness, or some golden shower that shall load him with wealth; he dozes away the day in musing upon the morrow; and at the end of life is roused from his dream only to discover that the time of action is past, and that he can now shew his wisdom only by repentance.

PLEASE NOTE:

In order to address privacy concerns regarding members' personal information appearing in the Chronicle, which is currently available to the general public through the Newsletter archive on the Southern Connecticut Mensa website (<http://scm66.org>), we are about to implement a "Members Only" area. When this feature of the website is activated, the Newsletter Archive will no longer be available to the general public - it will only be available to current SCM members.

During the next few weeks, SCM members who receive the Chronicle via email will receive an email message from Tom O'Neill, the SCM Webmaster. This will include instructions for accessing the "Members Only" area.

If you receive our newsletter via regular mail, we do not have your email address (or were asked not to use it). To gain access to the Members Only area of the site, you will need to contact Tom through the "SCM66 Webmaster" contact link on the homepage of the site.

Once the "Members Only" portion of the website is in place, there are plans to create an online hub, through which SCM members can communicate and exchange ideas and information with one another. Because this area of the site will not be available to the general public, members' privacy will be secured.

PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. Estimate the population of these places:
Podunk, Michigan; Peoria, Illinois; Kalamazoo, Michigan; Battle Creek, Michigan; Pasadena, California; Sheboygan, Wisconsin; Hell, Michigan; Tombstone, Arizona; Amarillo, Texas; Topeka, Kansas; Branson, Missouri; Plains, Georgia; Hope, Arkansas; Kennebunkport, Maine; Cape Cod, Massachusetts.
2. List the different kinds of memory.
3. How many particle physicists are there in the world?
4. What company in the United States do you think is the most efficiently run?
5. What was the last letter added to the English alphabet?
6. At what age do you think most singers peak?
7. What is the difference between law and legislation?
8. List the advantages and disadvantages of each of these energy sources: solar, oil, coal, water, wind, electricity, and geothermal.
9. What percentage of United States residents have the following last names: Smith, Johnson, Jones, Brown, Allen, Garcia, Martinez, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Lee ?
10. Name some common symbols used in literature.

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

1. How much does smoking shorten one's lifespan?
A: The Surgeon General estimates that smoking shortens one's life expectancy by almost 8 years. However, smokers who have refrained from smoking for 10 years have about the same life expectancy as people who never smoked.
3. How many airline flights are there in the U.S. every day?
A: About 10,000. About 1,800 are international flights.

NOTED AND QUOTED

Science is organized knowledge. Wisdom is organized life. - *Immanuel Kant, (1724 -1804)*

Words are cheap. The biggest thing you can say is 'elephant'. - *Charlie Chaplin, (1889 -1977)*

Life is not life unless you make mistakes. - *Joan Collins, (1933 -), English-American actress*

The devil is an optimist if he thinks he can make people meaner. - *Anonymous*

Working with Julie Andrews is like getting hit over the head with a valentine. - *Christopher Plummer, (1927 -), Canadian actor*

All the things one has forgotten scream for help in dreams. - *Elias Canetti (1905 - 1994), Bulgarian-born writer*

I have seen the future and it doesn't work. - *Robert Fulford, (1932 -), Canadian journalist, essayist, and editor*

Either you run the day, or the day runs you. - *Jim Rohn, U.S. businessman, author, speaker, philosopher*

Quite often we change jobs, friends and spouses instead of ourselves. - *Akbarali H. Jetha, Indian author*

We live in a fantasy world, a world of illusion. The great task in life is to find reality. - *Iris Murdoch, (1919 -1999), Irish novelist, philosopher*

In general we are least aware of what our minds do best. - *Marvin Minsky, (1927 -), U.S. computer scientist, cognitive scientist, and author*

Once a newspaper touches a story, the facts are lost forever, even to the protagonists. - *Norman Mailer, (1923 -2007)*

I am not a glutton - I am an explorer of food. - *Erma Bombeck, (1927 - 1996), U.S. journalist, author, humorist*

His mind resembled the vast amphitheatre, the Colisæum at Rome. In the centre stood his judgement, which, like a mighty gladiator, combated those apprehensions that, like the wild beasts of the Arena, were all around the cells, ready to be let out upon him. After a conflict, he

drove them back into their dens; but not killing them, they were still assailing him. - *James Boswell, (1740 -1795), Scottish author, biographer, Life of Johnson (1769)*

Hope is the pillar that holds up the world. - *Pliny the Elder, (23 -79 A.D.), Roman naturalist*

You can be invincible, if you never enter on a contest where victory is not in your power. - *Epicetus, (50 -138 A.D.), Greek Stoic philosopher*

A kitten is chiefly remarkable for rushing about like mad at nothing whatever, and generally stopping before it gets there. - *Agnes Repplier, (1858 -1950), U.S. writer and social critic*

One has to face fear or forever run from it - *Absarokee (Crow) Proverb*

To dare is to lose one's footing momentarily. Not to dare is to lose oneself. - *Soren Kierkegaard, (1813 -1855), Danish philosopher and theologian*

Humor is perhaps a sense of intellectual perspective: an awareness that some things are really important, others not; and that the two kinds are most oddly jumbled in everyday affairs. - *Christopher Morley, (1890 -1957), U.S. author and journalist.*

A character is a jerk with personality. - *Anonymous*

Rainbows apologize for angry skies. - *Sylvia Voirol*

The trouble with weather forecasting is that it's right too often for us to ignore it and wrong too often for us to rely on it. - *Patrick Young*

It is absurd to divide people into good and bad. People are either charming or tedious. - *Oscar Wilde (1854 - 1900)*

Only those who attempt the absurd will achieve the impossible. I think it's in my basement.... let me go upstairs and check. - *M. C. Escher, (1898 - 1972), Dutch graphic artist*

History teaches everything including the future. - *Lamartine , (1790 -1869), French novelist, poet, and politician*

POETRY CORNER**LOOK AT THE GRASS**

John Masefield (1878-1967)

Look at the grass, sucked by the seed from dust,
 Whose blood is the spring rain, whose food the
 sun,
 Whose life the scythe takes ere the sorrels rust,
 Whose stalk is chaff before the winter's done.
 Even the grass its happy moment has
 In May, when glistening buttercups make gold;
 The exulting millions of the meadow-grass
 Give out a green thanksgiving from the mould.
 Even the blade that has not even a blossom
 Creates a mind, its joy's persistent soul
 Is a warm spirit on the old earth's bosom
 When April's fire has dwindled to a coal;
 The spirit of the grasses' joy makes fair
 The winter fields when even the wind goes bare.

CONTEMPLATION

Charles Baudelaire (1879-1931)

THOU, O my Grief, be wise and tranquil still,
 The eve is thine which even now drops down,
 To carry peace or care to human will,
 And in a misty veil enfolds the town.

While the vile mortals of the multitude,
 By pleasure, cruel tormentor, goaded on,
 Gather remorseful blossoms in light mood--
 Grief, place thy hand in mine, let us be gone

Far from them. Lo, see how the vanished years,
 In robes outworn lean over heaven's rim;
 And from the water, smiling through her tears,

Remorse arises, and the sun grows dim;
 And in the east, her long shroud trailing light,
 List, O my grief, the gentle steps of Night.

**A RHYME ABOUT AN
ELECTRICAL ADVERTISING SIGN**

Vachel Lindsay

I LOOK on the specious electrical light
 Blatant, mechanical, crawling and white,
 Wickedly red or malignantly green
 Like the beads of a young Senegambian queen.
 Showing, while millions of souls hurry on,
 The virtues of collars, from sunset till dawn,
 By dart or by tumble of whirl within whirl,
 Starting new fads for the shame-weary girl,
 By maggotry motions in sickening line
 Proclaiming a hat or a soup or a wine,
 While there far above the steep cliffs of the street

The stars sing a message elusive and sweet.
 Now man cannot rest in his pleasure and toil
 His clumsy contraptions of coil upon coil
 Till the thing he invents, in its use and its range,
 Leads on to the marvelous CHANGE BEYOND

CHANGE

Some day this old Broadway shall climb to the skies,
 As a ribbon of cloud on a soul-wind shall rise.
 And we shall be lifted, rejoicing by night,
 Till we join with the planets who choir their delight.
 The signs in the street and the signs in the skies
 Shall make me a Zodiac, guiding and wise,
 And Broadway make one with that marvelous stair
 That is climbed by the rainbow-clad spirits of prayer.

**LINES COMPOSED IN A WOOD ON A WINDY DAY
(1848)**

Anne Bronte (1820-1849)

MY soul is awakened, my spirit is soaring
 And carried aloft on the wings of the breeze;
 For above and around me the wild wind is roaring,
 Arousing to rapture the earth and the seas.

The long withered grass in the sunshine is glancing,
 The bare trees are tossing their branches on high;
 The dead leaves beneath them are merrily dancing,
 The white clouds are scudding across the blue sky

I wish I could see how the ocean is lashing
 The foam of its billows to whirlwinds of spray;
 I wish I could see how its proud waves are dashing,
 And hear the wild roar of their thunder to-day!

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.

To register, visit
<http://www.mindgames.us.mensa.org> FAX 1-603-286-2093 PHONE 1-800-MENSA4U
www.mensaboutique.com
zanca@mensaboutique.com

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

THE WINNERS ARE:

Gemlock Pywacket
www.pywacketgames.com

Gheos Z-Man Games
www.zmangames.com

Hit or Miss Gamewright
www.gamewright.com

Qwinkle Mindware
www.mindwareonline.com

Skullduggery Outset Media Games
www.outsetmedia.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

ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertising Rates Short classified ads free to Mensa members and subscribers, \$2.00 per month and \$20.00 per year for others Send copy to the editor Display ads: Full page, \$50; half page, \$30; quarter page or business card, \$15 Discounts: 10% for three issues, 20% for six issues, 30% for 12 issues All ads must be paid in advance, checks payable to Southern Connecticut Mensa.

It doesn't take a genius to generate sales - it takes The Voice. The Voice, a collective of emerging talent, develops fresh and cost-effective advertising, design, web and marketing solutions for clients of all sizes. The Voice is a training environment where apprentices are supervised and mentored by senior management. Matthew Hallock, creative director, is a Mensa member. Call (203) 334-0718 or visit www.TheVoiceTheVoice.com.

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.

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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