

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA CHRONICLE

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



ARCHIVED COPIES OF THE CHRONICLE

going back to 2000 are available on the Internet at <http://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.

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

SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS - MARCH

Thursday, March 6, 7:30

BILLIARDS

Come and join So. Conn Mensa billiard enthusiasts for an evening of billiards, conversation, food, and drink. The first of two Pool Party events this month will be held at ON CUE BILLIARDS, a pool hall in the basement at the far inner corner of the big 50 W. Washington Street office building in SOUTH NORWALK.

Easy access via either I-95 (Exit 15) or the Merritt (via the Route 7 Extension).

We'll have to park in the paid parking lot, unless you are able to find street parking nearby and don't mind walking a bit. Keep in mind that the parking lot rates increases to \$5 at 10pm, so it's advisable to wrap up pool shooting and leave the pool hall before 10.

POOL HALL LINK:

<http://www.uncuebilliardsandmusic.com>.

GOOGLE MAPS LINK: <http://tinyurl.com/2tfunq>.

QUESTIONS? Contact Tom O'Neill at

doctec2@gmail.com.

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Friday, March 14, 7:00

Southern CT and Western MA Joint Dinner

Monthly dinner at the Old Sorrento Restaurant, Newtown Road, DANBURY, CT. Interested Mensans should contact Ward Mazzucco at (203) 744-1929, ext. 25, wjm@danburylaw.com, or Rev. Bill Loring at (203) 794-1389, frbill@mags.net.



Saturday, March 15, 6:30

Monthly Dinner

The selection of speaker has not been finalized yet. 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 various web sites such as www.restaurantratingz.com, www.dine.com, www.menuptopia.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

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.

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 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.

Tuesday, March 18, 7:30

BILLIARDS

Come and join So. Conn Mensa billiard enthusiasts for an evening of billiards, conversation, food, and drink. The second of two Pool Party events this month will be held at THE CORNER POCKET, 501 Boston Post Road in ORANGE. The pool hall is in the corner of a strip mall, accessible via I-95 (or the Merritt via the Milford Pkwy/I-95 connector, Exit 54).

DIRECTIONS -

I-95 Coming from Bridgeport:
Take I-95 to Exit 39B (Route 1 heading North/East) - stay to the right as you drive the ramp to Route 1. You will drive past the Connecticut Post Mall on the right, and keep going straight thru a number of lights

for a little over two miles. You're getting close to the pool hall when you see a Bertucci's restaurant on the right; shortly after that light you'll see a Bob's Furniture store on the left, followed by the 501 Boston Post Rd plaza, where the pool hall is located.

I-95 Coming from New Haven:
Take I-95 to Exit 41 - Marsh Hill Rd. (where the Showcase Cinemas are). At end of ramp, turn right. Stay on Marsh Hill until you get to the Route 1 intersection, then turn left onto Route 1 (Post Rd). The 501 Boston Post Road plaza is approx. 2/3 mile ahead on the right-hand side.

Either direction via the MERRITT:
Take Milford Parkway connector exit (54) to I-95 North entrance, then follow directions above for I-95 coming from Bridgeport. (You will encounter I-95 Exits 39A/B almost immediately after getting onto I-95 North from the Milford Parkway connector.)

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR APRIL

Friday, April 11, 7:00

Southern CT and Western MA Joint Dinner

See above for details

Saturday, April 19, 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 air-waves every 1st & 3rd Friday 6-10 a.m. on 89.5FM, WPKN in Bridgeport, CT. There is a lim-

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ited 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.

MARCH

1 Saturday 7:30 pm

M Barbara Shaw's bluegrass group ShoreGrass at Unitarian Church, 60 Huntington Street, New London, CT. Info: Eben (860) 464-0040. \$12. ShoreGrass (with special guests Matt Nozzolio on Dobro and Rick Brodsky on bass) and Second Circle will present an evening of bluegrass (including songs from their newest CD "Going Home") - a return engagement - at the All Souls Unitarian Church of New London, CT. Concert will go from 7:30-10, \$12 at the door, \$10 in advance. Last time ShoreGrass played there it was STANDING ROOM ONLY and people were turned away at the door, so get there early for this fun show! www.shoregrass.com

6, 13, 27 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.)

7 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.

9 Sunday 10:00 am

ShoreGrass bluegrass gospel

at Hilltop Covenant Church service, 82 Hicksville Road, Cromwell, CT, 10:00 am. Special guest Jonathan Shaw on bass! www.shoregrass.com

12 Wednesday 5:30 pm

Happy Hour in Branford

(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 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!

14 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

20 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

26 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 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

28 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

LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday, April 5, 2008

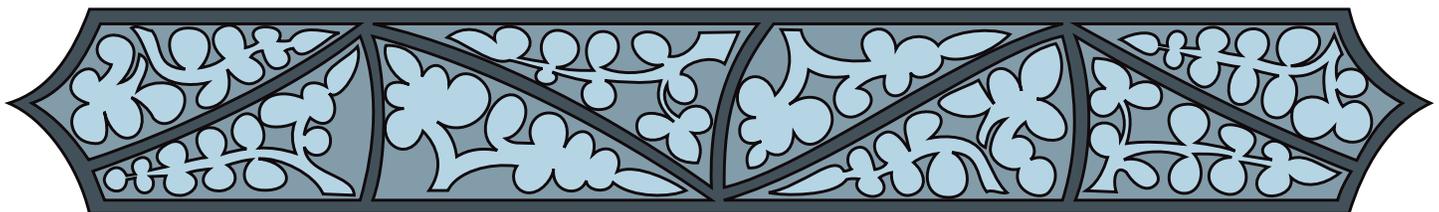
ShoreGrass at North Haven Congregational Church

, 28 Church Street, North Haven, CT, 7:00 pm, \$10. ShoreGrass returns for an evening of old and new bluegrass, folk, country and original music as part of the Pierpont Concert Series of the North Haven Congregational Church, beginning at 7:00 pm. Program will include songs from the Civil War Era as well as from the newest ShoreGrass CD "Going Home." Special guest Stacy Phillips.

Saturday, April 26, 2008, 3:00 pm,

ShoreGrass at the NEFFA Festival

Middle School room 105/106 in Mansfield, MA. SHORTGrass (The Shaws) will do a program of "Bluegrass Duets Old and New" accompanied by banjo and guitar. Plus a little help from their friends, Paul Pozzi on mando and Dave Vickery on bass! More info at NEFFA.org. More information can be found at the band websites: www.shoregrass.com



REGIONAL GATHERINGS

May 9-11, 2008

Cape Cod Getaway Weekend.**A Whale of a Good Time**

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 "Corsair," 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.

We'll provide Friday night's meal, snacks and beverage throughout the weekend, as well as breakfast Saturday and Sunday mornings.

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 the hotel 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: Claire Natola, 21 Hillrise Ln. Meredith, NH 03253 or register online at www.caperg.org

For more information:
Sean Guerino (imightbegiant@email.com)
617-354-5350 <http://www.caperg.org>

SEPT. 12-14

**COLLOQUIUM 2008,
TRACKING GRANNY'S GRANNY:
THE GENEALOGY QUEST**

will take place SEPT. 12-14 in Salt Lake City. Spend a weekend in this world-renowned center of genealogical research, where you'll find millions of historical records at your fingertips. Attend sessions given by specialists in the field, covering the methodology and accuracy of your research, solving problems related to evidence and dead-end leads, and using the Internet to your best advantage. Join your fellow Mensans to discover new techniques, share your stories, and learn how to pursue your own unique family history. Here is a list of Colloquium speakers confirmed to date:

Christine Rose will present Problem Solving: Strategies for Success Colleen Fitzpatrick will present two program, A Different Kind of DNA Talk and You Will Never Look at Your Old Photos the Same Way Again!

James W. Warren will present If Your Ancestors Had Email featuring stories of the weird and wonderful discoveries genealogists make and what can be learned from them.

Sharon Carmack will present He Lived, He Married, He Died...But I Want More!

Colloquium 2008 will be held at the Hilton Salt Lake City Center. Mensan registration is \$170 through April 30. To learn more about the program and to register, visit www.colloquium.us.mensa.org.

Jill Beckham
jillb@americanmensa.org
Foundation Director
817-607-0060 x 5509
American Mensa Ltd. www.us.mensa.org

Register at www.colloquium.us.mensa.org

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

Four years ago, in April of 2004, I was out of work recovering from minor foot surgery and in the midst of a major case of cabin fever. No RGs to be found, but Connecticut & Western Massachusetts Mensa was hosting a Leadership Development Workshop ("LDW"). At first the prospect of attending a leadership seminar left me cold. I had been active in Mensa for 14 years and was a former LocSec, Membership Officer, Proctor, etc. While in school for various degrees and at work for a former employer I had taken several seminars on leadership and change. Blah, blah, blah. Ron, who had previously attended a LOTS, talked me into it. (I think he said that if I didn't like it, everyone would understand if I retreated to our room to take a nap, after all I was temporarily wheelchair-bound from the surgery.)

Much to my surprise I had a great time and made some good friends. Socializing was fun, as it usually is at Mensa events, and the sessions were interesting and enjoyable. They were led by Mensans and National Office staff members but they were discussion groups rather than mere lectures. All the attendees participated and offered advice and suggestions. I met then-chair Jean Becker and she encouraged me to become more involved. I did. I was appointed as a member of AMC's Risk Management Committee and eventually I ran for RVC. The rest is history. Several Mensans from the 2004 LDW also became more active at either the local or national level. Others gained a new appreciation of Mensa.

Now, in case you haven't heard, Region 1 is having an LDW the first weekend of May, hosted by Rhode Island Mensa. Do you want to become more active in Mensa? Do you want to get the most from your membership? Are you a volunteer who wants to learn the "tricks" to make your job easier? Do you want to volunteer but want to know more before jumping in? Who should attend? Anyone, everyone, YOU! For more information and to register go to: <http://www.rhodeisland.us.mensa.org>. More on the LDW next month, including a brief outline of the scheduled sessions.

On a different note, everyone has heard that the most important benefit Mensa offers to me are the friends I've made, including my husband. You gain "instant friends" wherever you may be. Ron recently spent about two months at his parents' home in New Jersey dealing with his father's recent illness (the prognosis is good). After an e-mail to the local group, Ron was quickly invited to local events. I think that this socialization helped him through the tough times. Many thanks to the members of Central New Jersey Mensa for being there for us. While you are a member of your local group, you are always a member of American Mensa and will usually be very welcome at another group's events.

Lori

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.

THE FEBRUARY DINNER

JERRY BROOKER ON EGYPT AND ISRAEL

The Middle East - a land of history, beauty, culture, and conflict. Mensans and author Jerry Brooker found all this and more in his recent trip to Israel and Egypt, and he shared his photos, memories, and insights with us at our February dinner.

As local Mensans know, Jerry is a globetrotter, having visited over 70 countries throughout the world. We've heard memorable presentations about some of his trips - Singapore, New Orleans after Katrina, Iran, and Japan - at previous Southern CT Mensa dinners. But two places Jerry hadn't visited but always wanted to go to were Israel and Egypt. Last fall he finally got his chance and it was well worth it for both him and us. Jerry soaked up the landmarks, holy places, architecture, natural splendor, metropolitan life, and markets of both countries, and he brought back many slides of his tour, helping us vicariously explore the heritage and splendor of these ancient lands.

Israel

Jerry stepped right onto historic trails on his second day in Israel. "All of the religious sites from the three faiths are right on top of each other," he noted, so it was easy for his group to take in many Jewish, Christian, and Islamic holy

places just walking around Jerusalem. They started out seeing the Mount of Olives, place of the largest Jewish cemetery in the world. At its base is the Garden of Gethsemane, a place where Jesus preached and where he spent his final night of freedom. Nearby is the Temple Mount, where Solomon built the Holy Temple in the 10th century B.C.E. Since the 7th century, the Dome of the Rock, a shrine that is the oldest Muslim building in the world, has stood at its center. At the southeast corner of the Temple Mount is the Al-Aqsa mosque, which Muslims venerate as the place where Muhammad ascended to Heaven with the angel Gabriel. All this was captured vividly and beautifully in Jerry's photos.

Below the Dome of the Rock is the Wailing Wall, where Jews come to mourn the destruction of the Holy Temple of ancient Israel. The Babylonians destroyed the Temple in 586 B.C.E. The Hebrews rebuilt the temple but the Romans destroyed the Second Temple in 70 C.E. The Wall survived the Roman conquest. Jordan controlled the area after occupying Old Jerusalem in 1948, but the Israelis retook it during the Six Day War of 1967. Once again Jews could visit the site and they revived a practice of placing slips of paper containing prayers into the cracks of the Wall. Jerry inserted his own prayer for peace.

A natural landmark of Israel is the Dead Sea, which is one of the saltiest bodies of water on



Masada



Wailing Wall

earth. This makes it very easy to float in, as one of the photos we viewed showed. Unfortunately, Jerry told us, the Dead Sea is drying up because water flowing into it has been diverted.

Nearby is Qumran, the scene of the 20th century's greatest archaeological discovery, the Dead Sea Scrolls, which were found in 1947. The parchments found in these caves contained the oldest copies of the Old Testament writings. Looking at the caves in Jerry's photographs, you could imagine the excitement of the archaeologists uncovering these lost treasures.

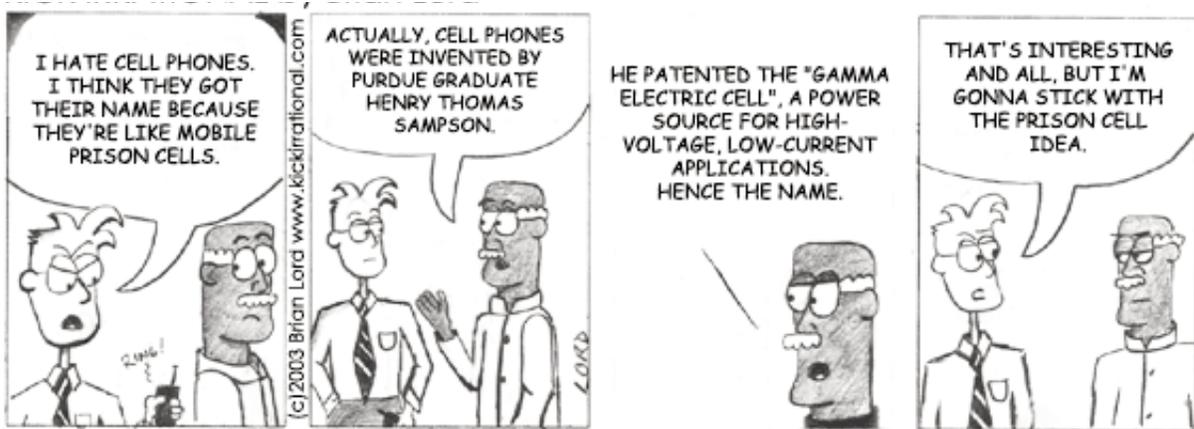
Another photo showed the historic site of Masada, which stands high above the Dead Sea. Here is the fortress where Jewish rebels held out against besieging Roman legions before committing mass suicide in 73 C.E. Masada at

its peak is almost 1,300 feet high, and takes two hours to walk up. Many of the original buildings have been restored - the ramp that troops climbed, the synagogue, houses, supply warehouses, and the wall and barracks that the Romans built encircling Masada.

The tour also visited a scene of modern war, Ramallah, a West Bank Palestinian city, where the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli Defense forces have clashed many times. Jerry photographed the military wall there, an area of many security checkpoints.

"I have a deep respect for the pioneers of the modern state of Israel," Jerry said. An important part of the generation that made the desert bloom were the founders of the kibbutzim, communal farms and communities that pro-

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



duced many of Israel's leaders and intellectuals. It was a special pleasure for Jerry to tour an Israeli kibbutz, one of about 110 still running. He took a photo of a typical kibbutz home and some of its residents. Although the kibbutzim are less agricultural and communal than they once were, new volunteers and immigrants still join every year.

The most emotional moment of the tour for Jerry was the visit to Yad Vashem, the national museum in Jerusalem commemorating the 1.5 million Jewish children killed in the Holocaust. He found its architecture "simple but powerful." But the story inside was even more so. "Of all the museums I have been in, this was the most touching experience I have ever had," Dr. Brooker said. He recounted the darkness in the museum, followed by one hundred lights, and then the voice reading the names of the children murdered in Nazi death camps. It takes three months, reading every minute day and night, to read the entire roll. "Your heart will break. You cannot step lightly away from it," Jerry reflected.

There were many other sites Jerry and his group took in during their week in Israel, including Tel Aviv, Nazareth, Bethlehem, and the Sea of Galilee. Past and present, history and headlines converged in a beautiful panorama. Then it was on to Egypt, a country that has been linked to Israel throughout history.

Touring Egypt

The only one of the seven ancient wonders of the world still standing is the Great Pyramid of Giza. The wonder remains and Jerry was clearly

awed. "Immense - staggering," is how he described it. The Pyramid is not isolated in the desert, but as Jerry showed us in a photo, right outside the city of Cairo (see below). Probably built as a tomb for the pharaoh Cheops (Khufu), the Great Pyramid is the largest of three pyramids of the pharaohs.

Many people don't realize, Jerry pointed out, that Cheops had smaller pyramids built for three of his wives. Jerry's tour group visited these tombs in the Valley of the Queens, and he commented that there were not many tourists there.

What greatly impressed Jerry about the architectural monuments of ancient Egypt was the incredible detail and definition in the carvings and construction, and how well preserved they were. The monument to pharaoh Ramses II looks "like it was done yesterday," he told us. "The temples to the gods Horus and Isis are still high definition after thousands of years." He went inside the tomb of Ramses II, climbing the steep staircase to see the wonderful drawings in the hieroglyphics, encased in glass.

No trip to Egypt would be complete without witnessing the legendary Nile River. Jerry took a beautiful shot of the Nile at dawn, and also pictures of children playing near the Nile. The river is very wide at some points and very narrow at others, he noted. Just as in ancient times, much of the Egyptian population lives along the Nile and gets its living from the Nile.

The group also spent time seeing modern Egypt. They attended a show at an Egyptian theater, and then visited a reminder of the Cold





The Nile

War, the towering Friendship Monument at Lake Nasser, which the Soviet Union built in the 1950s when they helped Egypt renovate the Aswan Dam.

Someone asked Jerry how secular Egyptian life was. "It was a potpourri of everything," he said, particularly in Cairo, which he toured for two days. He said that dress varied with the age of the people, with younger citizens wearing more Westernized apparel. He did not get to talk at length with Egyptians about modernization or political and religious issues; some expressed opinions but didn't go into depth on their lives and feelings.

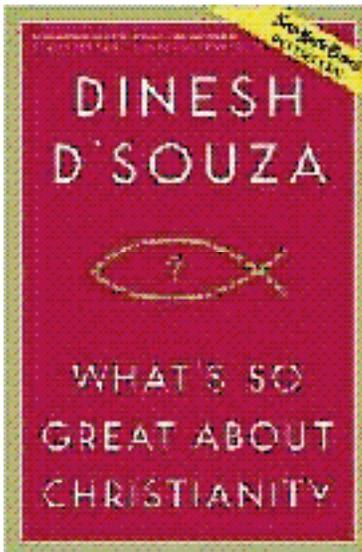
In both Israel and Egypt, security was tight at all the historic places and in major public areas. All Israeli citizens, including women, must serve two tours of duty in the armed forces, and anyone traveling through cities will see soldiers in their familiar garb. Jerry talked to one female soldier, who told him that most Israeli women in the military worked in administrative jobs. But he noted that she carried a machine gun and was well trained in how to use it in case of an attack. In Egypt, soldiers kept watch at every historic site, such as the Pyramids, guarding against terrorist attacks like one that occurred several years ago.

What personal impact did the trip have on Jerry? "I was awed by the beauty and wonder," he said, but he left with a profound pessimism. "I have a greater understanding of why each side personally thinks it is right in the conflict. But the problems seem intractable." The Middle East, the cradle of civilization, remains the center of crisis.

Jerry's new novel, *The Illustrator*, draws on his sojourn in the Holy Land and will be out in May or June. You can pick up his previous novel, *A Gathering of Doves* (2007), and his two poetry books, *A Quiet Conversation* (2002) and *Even Whispers Can Be Heard* (2005) at www.amazon.com.

BOOK REVIEW

Rick D'Amico



WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT CHRISTIANITY
by Dinesh D'Souza

Dinesh D'Souza is an author and public speaker currently serving as the Robert and Karen Rishwain Fellow at Stanford University. A well-known conservative speaker, he has written several New York Times best-selling books, and several essays defending Christianity. Having read and enjoyed two of his previous books (*Letters to a Young Conservative* and *What's So Great About America*), I was anxious to read his latest effort.

D'Souza poses an important question. Times change, and we all change with them. Does the increasing secularization of society make Christianity obsolete, as some have proposed? No, D'Souza contends, Christianity is as relevant today as it has ever been, and he makes many points to validate his argument.

The book's 26 chapters neatly lay out each of D'Souza's contentions regarding Christianity. Each chapter effectively sets the stage for the next.

In the first chapter, he gives an enlightening view of the growth of Christianity. He shows that it is the fastest-growing religion in the world, surpassing even Islam. However, unlike Islam, it has grown by winning converts rather than from a high birth rate. Most of these new members come from the developing nations

and they have changed the geographic face of Christianity. Today, two out of three Christians live in Asia, Africa and South America.

Often religion, particularly Christianity, is viewed as the cause of war and killing. However, D'Souza points out that atheist regimes (Hitler, Mao, Stalin) have killed far more people than religious governments have. Even the infamous Spanish Inquisition averaged approximately twenty executions per year (admittedly, still too many, but minor in comparison with other regimes).

I liked this book tremendously. Nonetheless, I'll be the first to admit, that as a practicing Roman Catholic and member of the Knights of Columbus, my favorable review of this book should come as a surprise to no one. On the other hand, one of the more interesting commentaries on this book was made by Mike Shermer, publisher of *Skeptic* magazine and a devout atheist, who had this to say: "Now he [D'Souza] adds Christianity to his formula for a good society, and although non-Christians and non-theists may disagree with some of his arguments, we ignore him at our peril. D'Souza's book takes the debate to a new level. Read it." I second that.

GOOD WINE CHEAP

(and good food to go with it)

One of the great things about retirement is all the time you can devote to planning your next trip. After several forays in a row to Europe, perhaps it's about time to consider a vacation in the U.S.A.. One of our favorite American cities was pre-Katrina New Orleans. That city has been on the ropes for several years now. Maybe we should be doing more to support its recovery. This month's recipe is dedicated to New Orleans and our plans to visit in 2008.

This month's wine is a crisp white that pairs well with our March recipe, shown below. I selected the 2006 Seyval from the Hosmer Winery on Cayuga Lake in New York's Finger Lakes region. It's made from the French-American hybrid grape, Seyval Blanc. While these hybrids have rarely been viewed as the source of truly fine wines, I beg to differ. A number of New York and other Northeastern U.S. producers make very good wine with this grape. Hosmer has made a light, clean and fruity wine, with a distinct citrus nose and tart apple taste. They've achieved a near perfect balance of acidity that races across the palate. The price is around \$10 a bottle. If you cannot find Hosmer locally, I would suggest a couple good second choices for Seyval Blanc that are distributed more widely: Glenora (Seneca Lake) at about \$12 a bottle and Clinton Vineyards (Hudson Valley) for about \$17.

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.

SHRIMP & WHITE BEAN STEW

(adapted from the fine "whatscookingamerica" website)

Ingredients:

2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
 1 medium onion, finely chopped
 3 cloves garlic minced
 2 (15-oz) cans cannelloni beans, drained and rinsed
 1 (14-oz) can Italian plum tomatoes, crushed
 1 tsp salt
 1/2 tsp dried rosemary
 1/2 tsp freshly ground pepper
 1 cup hot water
 1 fish-flavored bouillon cube
 2 (8-oz) bottles clam juice
 1/2 cup dry white wine
 hot pepper sauce to taste
 1 lb medium shrimp peeled and deveined
 1/4 cup finely chopped Italian parsley

In a large heavy soup pot over medium heat, heat olive oil. Add onion and garlic; sauté until soft but not browned. Stir in cannelloni beans, tomatoes, rosemary, pepper and salt. (Note: Only put in about half or less of the salt to start with; and, taste the mixture toward the end of cooking before adding any more.)

In a small bowl, combine the hot water and the bouillon cube; stir until well combined and then pour into soup mixture. Add clam juice, white wine, and hot pepper sauce to taste (be careful - remember you can always add more hot pepper sauce, but you can't take it out). Bring soup just to a boil, reduce heat to low and simmer approximately 30 minutes or until slightly thickened. (Note: We could not find fish flavored bouillon, so we substituted a cup of vegetable broth for the bouillon and water mixture.) Just before serving time, add the shrimp; simmer approximately 2 to 3 minutes or until shrimp are opaque in center (cut to test). Stir in parsley. Remove from heat and serve in soup bowls. Makes 4 servings. This dish goes well with rice or crusty peasant bread.

RUMINATIONS**THE PURPOSE OF READING**

John Macy

from *The Pocket University, Volume XXIII
The Guide to Reading (1924)*
Edited by Dr. Lyman Abbott, Asa Don Dickinson,
et. al.

Why do we read books is one of those vast questions that need no answer. As well ask, Why ought we to be good? or, Why do we believe in a God? The whole universe of wisdom answers. To attempt an answer in a single article would be like turning a spyglass for a moment toward the stars. We take the great simple things for granted, like the air we breathe. In a country that holds popular education to be the foundation of all its liberties and fortunes, we do not find many people who need to be argued into the belief that the reading of books is good for us; even people who do not read much acknowledge vaguely that they ought to read more.

There are, to be sure, men of rough worldly wisdom, even endowed with spiritual insight, who distrust "book learning" and fall back on the obvious truth that experience of life is the great teacher. Such persons are in a measure justified in their conviction by the number of unwise human beings who have read much but to no purpose.

The bookful blockhead, ignorantly read, With loads of learned lumber in his head

is a living argument against mere reading. But we can meet such argument by pointing out that the blockhead who cannot learn from books cannot learn much from life, either. That sometimes useful citizen whom it is fashionable to call a Philistine, and who calls himself a "practical man," often has under him a beginner fresh from the schools, who is glib and confident in repeating bookish theories, but is not yet skillful in applying them. If the practical man is thoughtless, he sniffs at theory and points to his clumsy assistant as proof of the uselessness of what is to be got from books. If he is wise, the practical man realizes how much better off he would be, how much farther his hard work and experience

might have carried him, if he had had the advantage of bookish training.

Moreover, the hard-headed skeptic, self-made and self-secure, who will not traffic with the literature that touches his life work, is seldom so confined to his own little shop that he will not, for recreation, take holiday tours into the literature of other men's lives and labors. The man who does not like to read any books is, I am confident, seldom found, and at the risk of slandering a patriot, I will express the doubt whether he is a good citizen. Honest he may be, but certainly not wise. The human race for thousands of years has been writing its experiences, telling how it has met our everlasting problems, how it has struggled with darkness and rejoiced in light. What fools we should be to try to live our lives without the guidance and inspiration of the generations that have gone before, without the joy, encouragement, and sympathy that the best imaginations of our generation are distilling into words. For literature is simply life selected and condensed into books. In a few hours we can follow all that is recorded of the life of Jesus - the best that He did in years of teaching and suffering all ours for a day of reading, and the more deeply ours for a lifetime of reading and meditation!

If the expression of life in words is strong and beautiful and true it outlives empires, like the oldest books of the Old Testament. If it is weak or trivial or untrue, it is forgotten like most of the "stories" in yesterday's newspaper, like most of the novels of last year. The expression of truth, the transmission of knowledge and emotions between man and man from generation to generation, these are the purposes of literature. Not to read books is like being shut up in a dungeon while life rushes by outside.

I happen to be writing in Christmas week, and I have read for the tenth time "A Christmas Carol," by Dickens, that amazing allegory in which the hard, bitter facts of life are involved in a beautiful myth, that wizard's caldron in which humor bubbles and from which rise phantom figures of religion and poetry. Can any one doubt that if this story were read by every man, woman, and child in the world, Christmas would be a happier time and the feelings of the race elevated and strengthened? The story has power

enough to defeat armies, to make revolutions in the faith of men, and turn the cold markets of the world into festival scenes of charity. If you know any mean person you may be sure that he has not read "A Christmas Carol," or that he read it long ago and has forgotten it. I know there are persons who pretend that the sentimentality of Dickens destroys their interest in him. I once took a course with an over-refined, imperfectly educated professor of literature, who advised me that in time I should outgrow my liking for Dickens. It was only his way of recommending to me a kind of fiction that I had not learned to like. In time I did learn to like it, but I did not outgrow Dickens. A person who can read "A Christmas Carol" aloud to the end and keep his voice steady is, I suspect, not a safe person to trust with one's purse or one's honor.

It is not necessary to argue about the value of literature or even to define it. One way of bringing ourselves to realize vividly what literature can do for us is to enter the libraries of great men and see what books have done for the acknowledged leaders of our race.

You will recall John Stuart Mill's experience in reading Wordsworth. Mill was a man of letters as well as a scientific economist and philosopher, and we expect to find that men of letters have been nourished on literature; reading must necessarily have been a large part of their professional preparation. The examples of men of action who have been molded and inspired by books will perhaps be more helpful to remember; for most of us are not to be writers or to engage in purely intellectual work; our ambitions point to a thousand different careers in the world of action.

Lincoln was not primarily a man of letters, although he wrote noble prose on occasion, and the art of expression was important, perhaps indispensable, in his political success. He read deeply in the law and in books on public questions. For general literature he had little time, either during his early struggles or after his public life began, and his autobiographical memorandum contains the significant words: "Education defective." But these more significant words are found in a letter which he wrote to Hackett, the player: "Some of Shakespeare's plays I have never read, while others I have gone

over perhaps as frequently as any unprofessional reader. Among the latter are 'Lear,' 'Richard III,' 'Henry VIII,' 'Hamlet,' and, especially, 'Macbeth.'"

If he had not read these masterpieces, no doubt he would have become President just the same and guided the country through its terrible difficulties; but we may be fairly sure that the high philosophy by which he lifted the political differences of his day above partisan quarrels, the command of words which gives his letters and speeches literary permanence apart from their biographical interest, the poetic exaltation of the Gettysburg Address, these higher qualities of genius, beyond the endowment of any native wit, came to Lincoln in some part from the reading of books. It is important to note that he followed Franklin's advice to read much but not too many books; the list of books mentioned in the biographical records of Lincoln is not long. But he went over those half dozen plays "frequently." We should remember, too, that he based his ideals upon the Bible and his style upon the King James Version. His writings abound in Biblical phrases.

We are accustomed to regard Lincoln as a thinker. His right arm in the saddest duty of his life, General Grant, was a man of deeds; as Lincoln said of him, he was a "copious worker and fighter, but a very meager writer and telegrapher." In his "Memoirs," Grant makes a modest confession about his reading:

"There is a fine library connected with the Academy [West Point] from which cadets can get books to read in their quarters. I devoted more time to these than to books relating to the course of studies. Much of the time, I am sorry to say, was devoted to novels, but not those of a trashy sort. I read all of Bulwer's then published, Cooper's, Marryat's, Scott's, Washington Irving's works, Lever's, and many others that I do not now remember."

Grant was not a shining light in his school days, nor indeed in his life until the Civil War, and at first sight he is not a striking example of a great man influenced by books. Yet who can deny that the fruit of that early reading is to be found in his "Memoirs," in which a man of action, unused to writing, and called upon to narrate great events, discovers an easy adequate style? There is a dan-

gerous kind of conjecture in which many biographers indulge when they try to relate logically the scattered events of a man's life. A conjectured relation is set down as a proved or unquestioned relation. I have said something about this in [Footnote: See John Macy's Guide to Reading, Chapter VIII.] writing on biography, and I do not wish to violate my own teachings. But we may, without harm, hazard the suggestion, which is only a suggestion, that some of the chivalry of Scott's heroes wove itself into Grant's instincts and inspired this businesslike, modern general, in the days when politeness has lost some of its flourish, to be the great gentleman he was at Appomattox when he quietly wrote into the terms of the surrender that the Confederate officers should keep their side arms. Stevenson's account of the episode in his essay on "Gentlemen" is heightened, though not above the dignity of the facts, certainly not to a degree that is untrue to the facts, as they are to be read in Grant's simple narrative. Since I have agreed not to say "ought to read," I will only express the hope that the quotation from Stevenson will lead you to the essay and to the

volume that contains it.

"On the day of the capitulation, Lee wore his presentation sword; it was the first thing that Grant observed, and from that moment he had but one thought: how to avoid taking it. A man, who should perhaps have had the nature of an angel, but assuredly not the special virtues of a gentleman, might have received the sword, and no more words about it; he would have done well in a plain way. One who wished to be a gentleman, and knew not how, might have received and returned it: he would have done infamously ill, he would have proved himself a cad; taking the stage for himself, leaving to his adversary confusion of countenance and the ungraceful posture of a man condemned to offer thanks. Grant without a word said, added to the terms this article: 'All officers to retain their side arms'; and the problem was solved and Lee kept his sword, and Grant went down to posterity, not perhaps a fine gentleman, but a great one."

Napoleon, who of all men of mighty deeds after Julius Caesar had the greatest intellect, was a

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.

tireless reader, and since he needed only four or five hours' sleep in twenty-four he found time to read in the midst of his prodigious activities. Nowadays those of us who are preparing to conquer the world are taught to strengthen ourselves for the task by getting plenty of sleep. Napoleon's devouring eyes read far into the night; when he was in the field his secretaries forwarded a stream of books to his headquarters; and if he was left without a new volume to begin, some underling had to bear his imperial displeasure. No wonder that his brain contained so many ideas that, as the sharp-tongued poet, Heine, said, one of his lesser thoughts would keep all the scholars and professors in Germany busy all their lives making commentaries on it.

In Franklin's "Autobiography" we have an unusually clear statement of the debt of a man of affairs to literature: "From a child I was fond of reading, and all the little money that came into my hands was ever laid out in books. Pleased with the 'Pilgrim's Progress,' my first collection was of John Bunyan's works in separate little volumes.... My father's little library consisted chiefly of books on polemic divinity, most of which I read, and have since often regretted that, at a time when I had such a thirst for knowledge, more proper books had not fallen in my way, since it was now resolved that I should not be a clergyman. 'Plutarch's Lives' there was in which I read abundantly, and I still think that time spent to great advantage. There was also a book of De Foe's, called an 'Essay on Projects,' and another of Dr. Mather's, called 'Essays to do Good,' which perhaps gave me a turn of thinking that had an influence on some of the principal future events of my life."

It is not surprising to find that the most versatile of versatile Americans read De Foe's "Essay on Projects," which contains practical suggestions on a score of subjects, from banking and insurance to national academics. In Cotton Mather's "Essays to do Good" is the germ perhaps of the sensible morality of Franklin's "Poor Richard." The story of how Franklin gave his nights to the study of Addison and by imitating the Spectator papers taught himself to write, is the best of lessons in self-cultivation in English. The "Autobiography" is proof of how well he learned, not Addison's style, which was suited to Joseph Addison and not to Benjamin

Franklin, but a clear, firm manner of writing. In Franklin's case we can see not only what he owed to books, but how one side of his fine, responsive mind was starved because, as he put it, more proper books did not fall in his way. The blind side of Franklin's great intellect was his lack of religious imagination. This defect may be accounted for by the forbidding nature of the religious books in his father's library. Repelled by the dull discourses, the young man missed the religious exaltation and poetic mysticism which the New England divines concealed in their polemic argument. Franklin's liking for Bunyan and his confession that his father's discouragement kept him from being a poet - "most probably," he says, "a very bad one" - show that he would have responded to the right kind of religious literature, and not have remained all his life such a complacent rationalist.

If it is clear that the purpose of reading is to put ourselves in communication with the best minds of our race, we need go no farther for a definition of "good reading." Whatever human beings have said well is literature, whether it be the Declaration of Independence or a love story. Reading consists in nothing more than in taking one of the volumes in which somebody has said something well, opening it on one's knee, and beginning.

We take it for granted, then, that we know why we read. We may ask one further question: How shall we read? One answer is that we should read with as much of ourselves as a book warrants, with the part of ourselves that a book demands. Mrs. Browning says:

We get no good
By being ungenerous, even to a book,
And calculating profits - so much help
By so much reading. It is rather when
We gloriously forget ourselves, and plunge
Soul-forward, headlong, into a book's
 profound,
Impassioned for its beauty, and salt of truth -
'Tis then we get the right good from a book.

We sometimes know exactly what we wish to get from a book, especially if it is a volume of information on a definite subject. But the great book is full of treasures that one does not delib-

erately seek, and which indeed one may miss altogether on the first journey through. It is almost nonsensical to say: Read Macaulay for clearness, Carlyle for power, Thackeray for ease. Literary excellence is not separated and bottled up in any such drug-shop array. If Macaulay is a master of clearness it is because he is much else besides. Unless we read a man for all there is in him, we get very little; we meet, not a living human being, not a vital book, but something dead, dismembered, disorganized. We do not read Thackeray for ease; we read him for Thackeray and enjoy his ease by the way.

We must read a book for all there is in it or we shall get little or nothing. To be masters of books we must have learned to let books master us. This is true of books that we are required to read, such as text-books, and of those we read voluntarily and at leisure. The law of reading is to give a book its due and a little more. The art of reading is to know how to apply this law. For there is an art of reading, for each of us to learn for himself, a private way of making the acquaintance of books.

Macaulay, whose mind was never hurried or confused, learned to read very rapidly, to absorb a page at a glance. A distinguished professor, who has spent his life in the most minutely technical scholarship, surprised us one day by commending to his classes the fine art of "skipping." Many good books, including some most meritorious "three-decker" novels, have their profitless pages, and it is useful to know by a kind of practised instinct where to pause and reread and where to run lightly and rapidly over the page. It is a useful accomplishment not only in the reading of fiction, but in the business of life, to the man of affairs who must get the gist of a mass of written matter, and to the student of any special subject.

Usually, of course, a book that is worth reading at all is worth reading carefully. Thoroughness of reading is the first thing to preach and to practise, and it is perhaps dangerous to suggest to a beginner that any book should be skimmed. The suggestion will serve its purpose if it indicates that there are ways to read, that practice in reading is like practice in anything else; the more one does, and the more intelligently one does it, the farther and more easily one can go. In the best reading - that is, the most thoughtful reading of the most thoughtful books - attention is necessary. It is even necessary that we should read some works, some passages, so often and with such close application that we commit them to memory. It is said that the habit of learning pieces by heart is not so prevalent as it used to be. I hope that this is not so. What! have you no poems by heart, no great songs, no verses from the Bible, no speeches from Shakespeare? Then you have not begun to read, you have not learned how to read.

We have said enough, perhaps, of the theories of reading. The one lesson that seems most obvious is that we must come close to literature.

PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. How many cells are there in the human body?
2. How strong is the placebo effect?
3. How is Body Mass Index (BMI) calculated?
4. What Connecticut town do you think has the most interesting history?
5. What is the population of Jerusalem? Tel Aviv? Cairo?
6. What is the difference between discouragement and disappointment?
7. Give a concise summary of each amendment in the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights.
8. Name some famous novels that have similar plots.
9. When did the last soldier in the U.S. Civil War die?
10. How much small change does the average person carry around? How has this changed over the last 25 years?
11. What is the average credit score of people in the United States?
12. What is the difference between intentions and resolutions?

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

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.
A: Peoria, MI, 112,936; Kalamazoo, MI, 72,161; Battle Creek, MI, 53,364; Pasadena, CA, 133,936; Sheboygan, WI, 50,292; Hell, MI, 266; Tombstone, AZ, 1,569; Amarillo, TX, 183,021; Topeka, KS, 122,113; Branson, MO, 6,050; Plains, GA, 637; Hope, AR, 10,467; Kennebunkport, ME, 3,720; Cape Cod (Barnstable County), MA, 230,000.
3. How many particle physicists are there in the world?
A: About 13,000.
5. What was the last letter added to the English alphabet?
A: The invention of movable type precipitated the invention of the final three letters added to the English alphabet. In the 16th century, "w" replaced the "u u" (double 'u') or "v v" combination that previously represented its sound. The letter "j" split off from the letter "i" about 1700. The letter "u" also became distinct from the letter "v" about that time.
9. What percentage of United States residents have the following last names: Smith, Johnson, Jones, Brown, Allen, Garcia, Martinez, Rodriguez, Hernandez, Lee ?
A: Smith, 2,376,000, .88%; Johnson, 1,857,000, .68%; Jones, 1,363,000, .50%, Brown, 1,380,000, .51%; Allen, 463,000, .17%; Garcia, 858,000, .32%; Martinez, 775,000, .28%; Rodriguez, 804,000, .30%; Hernandez, 706,000, .26%; Lee, 606,000, .22%.

NOTED AND QUOTED

Dullness is a misdemeanor. - *Ethel Wilson, (1888 - 1980), Canadian novelist and short story writer*

Life is a great bundle of little things. - *Oliver Wendell Holmes, (1809 - 1894), U.S. writer, physician*

Music is enough for a lifetime, but a lifetime is not enough for music. - *Sergei Rachmaninov, (1873 - 1943), Russian composer, pianist, and conductor*

To act from pure benevolence is not possible for finite beings. Human benevolence is mingled with vanity, interest, or some other motive. - *James Boswell, (1740 - 1795), English biographer, author, and lawyer*

Anger is a short madness. - *Horace, (65 - 8 B.C.E.), Roman lyric poet*

Do not allow idleness to deceive you; for while you give him today he steals tomorrow from you. - *Alfred Crowquill (Charles Robert Forrester), (1803 - 1850), English writer*

We swallow greedily any lie that flatters us, but we sip only little by little at a truth we find bitter. - *Denis Diderot, (1713 - 1784), French philosopher and writer*

A friend is a person who tells you all the nice things you always knew about yourself. - *Anonymous*

It is not enough for a man to know how to ride, he must also know how to fall. - *Puerto Rican Proverb*

Dreams are like rainbows. Only idiots chase them. - *Dr. Lawrence Kersten, U.S. sociologist, author, and founder of Despair Inc.*

Art is not imitation, but illusion. - *Charles Reade, (1814 - 1884), English novelist and dramatist*

One should forgive one's enemies, but not before they are hanged. - *Heinrich Heine, (1797 - 1856), German poet, author and critic*

Things start out as hopes and end up as habits. - *Lillian Hellman, (1905 - 1987), American playwright*

Our aspirations are our possibilities. - *Samuel Johnson, (1709 - 1784)*

Nobody realizes that some people expend tremendous energy merely to be normal. - *Albert Camus, (1913 - 1960), French Existentialist philosopher, essayist, and novelist*

Pessimists have only pleasant surprises. - *Rex Stout, (1886 - 1975), U.S. mystery writer, author of detective Nero Wolfe mystery series*

Think Small. Work Hard. Get Good. - *John Wooden, (1910 -), retired UCLA basketball coach*

No misery can long be kept secret. - *Welsh Proverb*

The art of reading between the lines is as old as manipulated information. - *Serge Schmemmann, (1945 -), editor, reporter, NY Times, 11/10/85*

History is merely a list of surprises. It can only prepare us to be surprised yet again. - *Kurt Vonnegut, (1922 - 2007), U.S. novelist*

We should be taught not to wait for inspiration to start a thing. Action always generates inspiration. Inspiration seldom generates action. - *Frank Tibolt, (1897 - 1989), motivational writer, trainer*

Success is living up to your potential. That's all. - *Joe Kapp, (1938 -), Canadian and NFL quarterback, coach, and general manager*

To God I speak Spanish, to women Italian, to men French, and to my horse - German. - *Emperor Charles V, (1500 - 1558), ruler of Holy Roman Empire*

We do not know what we want and yet we are responsible for what we are - that is the fact. - *Jean-Paul Sartre, (1905 - 1980), French author and existentialist philosopher*

Our love of what is beautiful does not lead to extravagance; our love of the things of the mind does not make us soft. - *Pericles, (c. 495 - 429 B.C.E.), Athenian general, statesman, and orator*

POETRY CORNER**THE STRANGER**

Walter de la Mare (1873 - 1956)

HALF-HIDDEN in a graveyard,
In the blackness of a yew,
Where never living creature stirs,
Nor sunbeam pierces through,

Is a tomb, lichened and crooked--
Its faded legend gone--
With but one rain-worn cherub's head
Of mouldering stone.

There, when the dusk is falling,
Silence broods so deep
It seems that every wind that breathes
Blows from the fields of sleep.

Day breaks in heedless beauty,
Kindling each drop of dew,
But unforsaking shadow dwells
Beneath this lonely yew.

And, all else lost and faded,
Only this listening head
Keeps with a strange unanswering smile
Its secret with the dead.

AFTER THE RAIN

Thomas Bailey Aldrich (1836-1906)

THE rain has ceased, and in my room
The sunshine pours an airy flood;
And on the church's dizzy vane
The ancient cross is bathed in blood.
From out the dripping ivy leaves,
Antiquely carven, gray and high,
A dormer, facing westward, looks
Upon the village like an eye.
And now it glimmers in the sun,
A globe of gold, a disk, a speck;
And in the belfry sits a dove
With purple ripples on her neck.

SONNET FOUND IN A DESERTED MAD HOUSE

Anonymous

AH that my soul a marrow-bone might seize!
For the old egg of my desire is broken,
Spilled is the pearly white and spilled the yolk, and
As the mild melancholy contents grease
My path the shorn lamb baas like bumblebees.
Time's trashy purse is as a taken token
Or like a thrilling recitation, spoken
By mournful mouths filled full of mirth and cheese.

And yet, why should I clasp the earthful urn?
Or find the frittered fig that felt the fast?
Or choose to chase the cheese around the churn?
Or swallow any pill from out the past?
Ah, no Love, not while your hot kisses burn
Like a potato riding on the blast.

DIFFERENCE (1918)

Stephen Vincent Benét (1898 - 1943)

MY MIND'S a map. A mad sea-captain drew it
Under a flowing moon until he knew it;
Winds with brass trumpets, puffy-cheeked as jugs,
And states bright-patterned like Arabian rugs.
"Here there by tygers." "Here we buried Jim."
Here is the strait where eyeless fishes swim
About their buried idol, drowned so cold
He weeps away his eyes in salt and gold.
A country like the dark side of the moon,
A cider-apple country, harsh and boon,
A country savage as a chestnut-rind,
A land of hungry sorcerers.

Your mind?

- Your mind is water through an April night,
A cherry-branch, plume feathery with its white,
A lavender as fragrant as your words,
A room where Peace and Honor talk like birds,
Sewing bright coins upon the tragic cloth
Of heavy Fate, and Mockery, like a moth,
Flutters and beats about those lovely things.
You are the soul, enchanted with its wings,
The single voice that raises up the dead
To shake the pride of angels.

I have said.

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
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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

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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. 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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