

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.

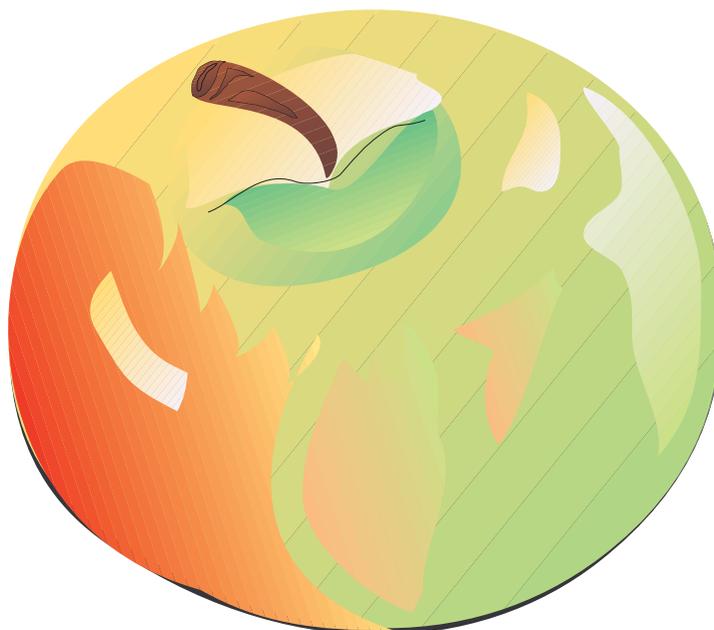


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going back to 2000 are available on the Internet at <http://scm66.org> (Note: this is a new URL). You can download the latest e-mail version of the Chronicle there, as well as previous issues. All issues are in read-only Adobe Acrobat format so there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

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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 - SEPTEMBER

Friday, September 12, 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.

Thursday, September 18, 7:30

Southern CT Mensa Billiards Event

Come and join So. CT Mensa billiard enthusiasts for an evening of billiards, conversation and food. The "Pool Party" event this month will be held at ON CUE BILLIARDS, 50 W. Washington St., SOUTH NORWALK, CT. The pool hall is in the basement at the far inner corner of the 50 Washington Street office building. Easy access via either I-95 (Exit 15) or the Merritt (via the Route 7 Extension). The parking lot costs \$2 to park in, through 10:30pm - then the rate goes to \$5. There is nearby street parking if you don't mind walking a bit.

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On Cue Billiards Web Site:

<http://www.oncuebilliardsandmusic.com>

Google Maps link: <http://tinyurl.com/2tfunq>.

Questions? Contact Tom O'Neill, doctec2@gmail.com.



Saturday, September 20, 6:30

Monthly Dinner

"Emotional Intelligence" – a lecture and discussion. 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>. 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.

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.

- Continue to follow US-7 North about 2 miles.
- Turn LEFT onto US-7 / CT-33 / WESTPORT RD & continue to follow US-7 about 5.5 miles.
 - Turn RIGHT onto SCHOOL ST / CT-107 / CT-57. Follow CT-107 about 1.5 miles.
 - Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto REDDING RD / CT-107. Follow REDDING RD. 5.7 miles. REDDING RD becomes CT-53. Go about 3 miles to the Restaurant, on the left at 41 Grassy Plain St. Bethel, CT 06801-2001

FROM BRIDGEPORT:

- Take CT-15 SOUTH / MERRITT PKWY Exit 44 toward CT-58 / FAIRFIELD / REDDING.
- Turn LEFT onto CONGRESS ST.
- Turn RIGHT onto BLACK ROCK TURNPIKE / CT-58. Follow CT-58 about 15 miles.
- Turn LEFT onto CT-302 / MILWAUKEE AVE.
- Turn LEFT onto GREENWOOD AVE / CT-302 and go about 1.5 miles.
- Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto GRASSY PLAIN ST / CT-53. Go about .1 miles to the Restaurant, at 41 Grassy Plain St.

FROM HARTFORD & I-84:

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

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR OCTOBER

Friday, October 10, 7:00

Southern CT and Western MA Joint Dinner

See above for details

Saturday, October 18, 6:30

Monthly Dinner

See above for details

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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.

SEPTEMBER

4, 11, 18, 25 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.)

5 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 Ave. George's II is in the Yale Plaza on the right.

5 Friday 6:30 pm

First Friday Confluence

in Sturbridge, MA (ME, 1st Friday) Come join other members of our chapter, along with members of Boston Mensa, as we meet for an evening of casual dining and conversation at Rom's Italian Restaurant at 179 Main St. (Rte. 131), Sturbridge, MA. Close to northeastern Connecticut, just minutes from the Rte. 84/Mass Pike/Rte. 20 interchange, Rom's offers either a sumptuous buffet or a menu that includes numerous choices of pasta, seafood, and other dinner selections. But more importantly, it's an opportunity to get together with old friends and meet new ones. For more information contact Tom Tracey via email at cttracey@comcast.net or phone 413-267-5750 (Disregard any goofy answering machine greeting.)

Directions: Rte. 20 west from Exit 3 off Rte. 84 for about 1/2 mile and turn left at the 1st light onto Rte. 131. Rom's is about 2 miles south on the right across from the Shaw's shopping mall. Look for a table displaying a large "M".

10 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!

10 Friday 6:30-9:00 pm

Open Mike Night - NEW!

(alternate Fridays) M Fran Devevo invites everyone to come to Southwick, MA circle jam at Red Riding Hood's Basket on the road to the lake making a turn at the gas station across from Big Y in Southwick, then go down I think 168 for 1 mile, it's on the left, or call me. Peace. Fran Devevo 860-413-3741 (no calls after 9pm, please) (psst - Tonight's Fran's birthday too!)

12 Friday 6:30 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

9 Saturday 9:00 am

Breakfast

(ME, 2nd Saturday) Gridlock Grille on Colman St., New London, CT. From both directions on I-95, take Frontage Road exit, turn off at Colman St. ramp, go left at end of ramp. Call Marge Cohen, 860-887-1297 for details.

24 Wednesday 12 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.

24 Wednesday 6:30-9:00 pm

Open Mike Night - NEW!

Open Mike night (alternate Wednesdays) at Peaberry's coffee shop in Simsbury. This is a regular musician event, and Mensans are welcome as I am a Mensan and am welcoming anyone that wants to come. There are plenty of tables, good munchies and the music is great. I play too. Also anyone wanting to "Jam" please call me to set up something, guitar, hand drum, etc. thanks. I look forward to meeting you in person at a future M gathering. Fran Devevo 860-413-3741 (no calls after 9pm, please)
Directions: Peaberry's is on rte 10 in Simsbury next to the CVS and Fitzgerald's grocery.

26 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

26 Friday 6:30 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 Saturday 3:00 pm

Musicians Jam

for past players and future ones, so basically anyone that is a musician is welcome to come. 3pm - 9pm at 1st Church in Winsted, CT. Questions? Call Fran Devevo 860-413-3741

REGIONAL GATHERINGS

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, Foundation Director

jillb@americanmensa.org

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*

Hello from Wyoming. Traveling from the eastern to the western part of the country is awesome. The scale out here is so big. You can see mountains in the distance and then spend the better part of the day driving towards them. We have watched storms from 60-80 miles away. It has been quite the experience. We are now heading east and by the time you read this we will be back in Rhode Island.

We have seen many amazing natural wonders, but just as impressive, if not more so, have been some of the engineering marvels - the Golden Gate Bridge, the mile long tunnel through a mountain in Zion National Park (completed in the 1920's, I believe), and the roads. We've crossed deserts and traveled through mountain passes and along winding coastal highways. It boggles the mind to imagine the first person to propose some of these roads; who would have ever believed that it could be done. Without those forward-thinking folks many of our travels would not be possible. Of course, I'd have preferred that the repairs and road construction waited until the fall, but in many places where we've traveled, snow starts falling in September. And when a rockslide swallows a section of highway, the road does need to be repaired or a detour designed rather quickly.

We've also taken the opportunity to try some new foods. For the first time, I've had freshly picked apricots and pluots (plum/apricot); both were slightly tart but wonderful. After trying two Mexican dishes with cactus, I've decided that since I have cactus growing in my front yard I need to learn how to cook them. It seems like a great way to keep the plants under control. Also tried some new kinds of meat, including buffalo salami and elk roast.

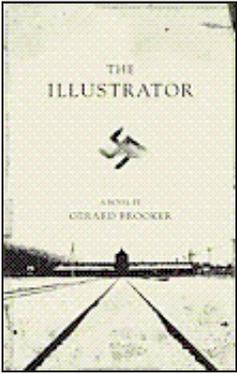
September begins the fall Regional Gathering (RG) season. Unfortunately, Mid-Hudson Mensa is taking a hiatus from hosting their ever-popular camping RG this month. Hopefully, it will return next year. Connecticut and Western Massachusetts Mensa will be holding MensAutumn in October and Boston Mensa will be hosting Pilgrimage in November. Now is the time to make plans to attend either, or both, of these gatherings. Check out the local group websites for more information and to register. I am looking forward to both weekends and hope to see you there or at some other upcoming event.

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.

BOOK REVIEW

Rick D'Amico

***The Illustrator***
by Gerard Brooker

Gerard Brooker is an educator who was inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame in 1998. He has also written several books, including the novel *A Gathering of Doves*, and two poetry collections, *Even Whispers Can Be Heard* and *A Quiet Conversation*. A member of Southern Connecticut Mensa, he has been a regular speaker at chapter meetings. I am proud to call Jerry a friend, and was thrilled when he handed me a copy of this book prior to its release and asked me to review it for the Chronicle.

As the saying goes, "Don't judge a book by its cover." When I first viewed the book's cover, I felt discomfort at the picture of the prison camp and the swastika. However, by the end of the book, I came to realize how appropriate the cover truly was.

The setting for this tale of historical fiction is a village in Poland called Oswiceim during the latter portion of WWII. Oswiceim was located approximately 300 yards from the entrance to Auschwitz, the largest and most infamous of Nazi Germany's prison camps.

There are four principal characters in the story. Tyszka, a young man from Oswiceim, who has a gift (or curse, depending on the reader's interpretation) for illustrating people in a way that captures their personality and character. Cecylia is Tyszka's childhood sweetheart, a Polish Jew who is caught smuggling food to the prisoners in Auschwitz and imprisoned at nearby Birkenau. Kryztof, a dentist, is a friend of Tyszka and Cecylia, and a fellow prisoner. The camp Commandant, Rudolf Hoss, is clearly the villain in the story. (In real life, Rudolf Hoss was the Commandant of Auschwitz until late 1943.)

The pathologically egotistical Hoss wants an illustration that will depict him as a great and strong leader. He envisions that when Germany wins WWII, this picture will be emblazoned in future textbooks. Feeling that no photograph can do him justice, Hoss chooses Tyszka to illustrate him, based on his artistic reputation. Realizing that Cecylia is precious to Tyszka, Hoss leverages an emotional advantage. Tyszka finds himself in a dilemma: he must choose between drawing a flattering portrait of Hoss, thereby compromising his artistic and moral integrity, or drawing the truth and risking Cecylia's life.

Tyszka's quandary is the only thing about the book that I find somewhat unrealistic. He is in Auschwitz and his Jewish girlfriend is a prisoner. He can save her by drawing a portrait that will satisfy the Commandant. His personal debate on whether or not to compromise his artistic integrity, to me, was a no-brainer. However, I realize that I might be too left-hemispherical to understand an artistic mind.

There are a number of sub-plots, including chess matches between Kryztof and Hoss, and a prison underground waiting to rebel and escape. There are also many stories showing the cruelty and barbarism of Hoss and the Auschwitz staff.

This is not a book for pleasure reading. It is a story to remind us of a lesson that we must never forget. It is well written and I recommend it highly.

Publisher: Tate Publishing & Enterprises, L.L.C.
Pub. Date: August 2008 ISBN-13: 9781606040300
Paperback 280pp

THE JULY DINNER

THE PHILIPPINES IN WORLD WAR II

Some of the most momentous battles of World War II took place in the Philippines. Last January, Jerry Brooker, a writer and member of our chapter, visited the country to take in some of that history. He and 14 other travelers went with Military Historical Tours to see the important battle places of the war in the Philippines and learn more about the history of the fierce struggle in the islands. At our monthly dinner in July, he gave us a colorful presentation of his trip and reflected on the legacy that Filipinos and Americans share.

Jerry, as he admits, travels quite a lot. He's been to every continent and about 85 countries. Often he goes on special citizen-diplomacy trips with various organizations, and this has helped him see many countries in far-off or hostile lands. His trip to the Philippines continued his life-long quest to explore the world's countries, cultures, and history.

One thing Dr. Brooker appreciated about the Philippines is its multicultural heritage. It is a country with Spanish, Asian, and American influences, seen in its people, architecture, and way of life. The nation lost many of the historic Spanish colonial buildings in major cities to the bombings of World War II. However, it has pre-



served the battle sites of that war and built many monuments to commemorate the victims and soldiers.

LUZON, MANILA

The Philippines has 7000 islands and the first stop for Jerry's tour group was Luzon, the northernmost and biggest island group, which was where most of the major battles of the war took place. The Luzon region is the governmental, economic, and historical center of the nation. General Douglas MacArthur, leader of the Allied forces in the Pacific, had his headquarters in Manila, the capital, before the Japanese took the island. Jerry and the group visited the general's office, sat at his desk, and contemplated the dire situation MacArthur and his American and Filipino forces faced at the beginning of the war, as the Japanese offensive threatened to overwhelm the entire region.

The group went on to visit the Intramuros, the historic walled district of Manila. The Japanese invaders carried out notorious killings here. When they conquered the city in January, 1942, they rounded up the city's leading citizens and imprisoned them in the ground-level cells around the river. They then let the river flow into the cells and drown the prisoners. Jerry showed us photos of the cells and it was mortifying to look at the walls and consider the hopeless plight of those trapped within.

THE BATAAN PENINSULA AND CORREGIDOR

The story Jerry told of the early part of the war was not a hopeful one, despite the heroic efforts of the Americans and Filipinos. The Japanese army overran Manila in the first month of the war, forcing Philippine President Manuel Quezon and Gen. MacArthur to flee to Corregidor. Most of the U.S.-Philippine army retreated to defend the Bataan Peninsula and Corregidor. But in April, 1942, the Japanese overcame the U.S. and Filipino forces in Bataan, forcing Gen. MacArthur to flee again.

On April 9, 1942, Gen. Edward King surrendered Bataan to the Japanese army under General Masaharu Homma. General Homma cruelly ordered the prisoners to be marched 90 miles to trains scheduled to take them to prison camps.

This was the infamous Bataan Death March. Homma had 5,000 soldiers to guard the captives, but he had expected only 20,000 prisoners, not the 75,000 soldiers (15,000 American and 60,000 Filipino) who surrendered at Bataan. Hence, the Japanese did not have the food to feed the captives. They rationed food and deprived the marchers of basic necessities and almost all common decency.

Jerry and some of the group members traveled part of the trail, and he reflected, "It was quite an experience walking along it." The grim details of the march reminded him once again of man's inhumanity to man: prisoners were marched in blazing heat over broken roads to the trains; guards killed men wantonly, shooting those who merely stopped to get water and also Filipino civilians who came to their aid. Japanese soldiers rode by in trucks and randomly slit the throats of prisoners and bayoneted the marchers who faltered. About a quarter of the American men died en route to the prison camps.

On the second day of the tour, the group took a ferry ride to Corregidor, the island from where the U.S. and Philippines defended the entrance to Manila Bay. The island fell to Japan a month after Bataan. "Corregidor," Jerry said, "was like a living museum, left as it was in 1945." The U.S. and Japanese guns are still there as monuments to the titanic struggle. Among the weapons left behind were the Hearn Battery, the famous big guns the Japanese soldiers triumphantly posed on in 1942. MacArthur beat his final retreat from the Philippines at Corregidor, escaping to Australia before the Japanese wrested control of the island. There is a tall bronze statue of MacArthur at his departure point. He set up new headquarters in Australia, where he made his famous vow to return.

Although MacArthur is remembered as a great hero of World War II, many soldiers had a different opinion of him, Jerry said. They had no complaints when "Dugout Doug" left, because the great general had managed the troops from a distance, and held Generals King and Wainwright in great contempt for their respective surrenders of Bataan and Corregidor. He also overestimated the ability of his forces in Luzon, and hence ignored the pre-war plan to



Philippines Bridge

concentrate on supplying Bataan and Corregidor for a defensive war. He belatedly went back to the original plan after realizing his mistake. But MacArthur returned in 1944, and the Filipinos honor him highly, building a 70-ft bronze statue to the commander, which Jerry displayed in a slide (see below).

Another photo showed the Malinta Tunnel in Corregidor, where MacArthur, Gen. Wainwright, and thousand of U.S. soldiers held out. Jerry's group took a guided tour of the main tunnel and its many side-tunnels, which served as shelters and storehouses for the Allies. Although Wainwright and his troops could not hold off the Japanese, surrendering in May, 1942, Jerry said that the U.S. and Filipinos' resistance there delayed the Japanese two months and this may have prevented them from taking Australia. In late 1944, U.S. troops parachuted in and regained Corregidor after two weeks of intense combat, setting the stage for triumph in the Philippines.

Jerry's most scenic shot was of the sunset over Corregidor, a tranquil sight for an island that saw so much bloodshed.

THE GREAT RAID AND KAMIKAZES

From April, 1942 to late 1944, the Japanese held prisoners in the Philippine prison camps. Jerry showed us pictures of a boxcar from a prison camp train and a bombed prison hut where American captives were held.

Some of the U.S. prisoners who survived the Bataan Death March were held at Camp Cabanatuan on Luzon Island. Jerry's tour visited the camp, whose liberation was the subject of the critically-acclaimed film "The Great Raid" (2005). In early 1944, as the Japanese were meeting defeat after defeat, they still held 500 U.S. prisoners at Cabanatuan.

The U.S. feared that Japan would kill these remaining captives to conceal war crimes. Hence they devised a plan to free the prisoners. Col. Henry Mucci, a native of Bridgeport, planned the commando raid and trained a team of Army Rangers to liberate Cabanatuan. The plan worked brilliantly, as 128 commandos, with the expert help of Filipino guerillas, killed 1,000 Japanese soldiers, took the camp, and carried the prisoners to safety. Jerry showed us a picture of the restored Cabu Creek Bridge (see photo), where Filipino fighters ambushed Japanese soldiers rushing to the camp. Connecticut honored Col. Mucci by naming the Route 25 highway from Bridgeport to Newtown the Col. Henry Mucci Highway.

Late in the war, as the Japanese grew increasingly desperate, they resorted to a war tactic unfathomable to most Americans - the kamikaze bombings. Their military trained and ordered pilots to carry out suicide missions to dive their planes right into U.S. warships. Historians debate, Jerry said, whether this tactic benefited the Japanese war effort at all. The kamikazes

undoubtedly sank dozens of U.S. ships and may have killed as many as 5,000 U.S. sailors. Of course they paid a heavy price; it's estimated that 40% of the Japanese pilots died, and most of them were very young men.

PEACE AND FORGIVENESS

"The most enjoyable part of the trip was talking to the Filipino people," Jerry said. "They are a joyful people." He found that the little kids loved Americans. He visited a school, sang with the schoolchildren, and sent letters to them when he returned.

The most surprising thing Jerry found in the Filipinos was their forgiveness of the Japanese. "They have an extremely conciliatory attitude toward the Japanese," he said. They have monuments to both sides in the war, and ordinary Philippine civic groups constructed many of the Japanese monuments. They even built a monument, complete with Japanese lettering, where the Japanese set up their first kamikaze base (see photo).

What's next for Jerry? He plans to visit two Asian lands very much in the news recently - North Korea and Tibet. He will head for Tibet and Nepal next April, and will spend part of his stay in a cabin at an altitude of 17,000 feet. He's prepared for it physically and mentally, and we look forward to hearing from him again.



*Philippines
Japan
Memorial*

PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. What are the populations of the biggest Chinatowns in the U.S?
2. What were the biggest computer breakdowns ever?
3. What percentage of workers who are eligible for 401k plans participate in them?
4. Give some examples of vague advice.

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

1. Name the seven seas.
 3. How many persons does the average U.S. household have?
- A: There are over 100 bodies of waters known as seas. The "Seven Seas" has meant different things in different eras and in different lands, but the Seven Seas spoken of in classical Greece and Rome and in Medieval Europe were the Black Sea, the Caspian Sea, the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea, the Mediterranean Sea (including the Adriatic Sea and the Aegean Sea), and the Indian Ocean (including the Arabian Sea).
- A: According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the average U.S. household now has 2.6 people. When the population was at 100 million in 1915, the average household size was 4.5. In 1967, when the population reached 200 million, the average household size had 3.0 people.

SUDOKUGRAMS

by official American Mensa Puzzle Book authors Alan Stillson and Frank Longo
 Logic and Language Linked! A sudoku variation that truly combines logic and wordplay.

The rules of Sudokugrams (see <http://sudokugrams.com> for more details and sample puzzles) in a nutshell:

1. Fill in the empty squares with the letters in the Letter Pool, using each letter only once.
2. Make sure there are no repeating letters in any of the rows, columns, or heavily outlined 2 x 2 boxes.
3. Form twelve different sets of four letters in the rows, columns, and 2 x 2 boxes so that each set can be anagrammed (unscrambled) into a common, clean, non-capitalized word.

	N	I	E
M	E		I
C		P	

Letter pool:
SHARP WIT

Answer on page 12

GOOD WINE CHEAP

(and good food to go with it)

This column will return to the joys of our recent Italian experience. While no modern nation state can claim to have invented cooking, Italy is certainly among the leaders in the competition to perfect it. One of the stops in our sojourn to Florence was the Cordon Bleu Cooking School (Scuola di Arte Culinaria Cordon Bleu). The school is run by several charming young ladies, who helped our fellow tour participants prepare dinner for the evening. As continuing proof that the simplest foods can be the best, we will focus on the basic bread appetizer, the crostini (called fettunta in Tuscany) and its many forms.

This month's wine is the 2007 Palazzone Orvieto from Azienda Agricola Palazzone, located in the province of Umbria. This fruity white wine offers several layers of flavor including pear, apple and peach with a bit of lingering nut. It is refreshing and crisp across the palate, perfect as an aperitif or with seafood and lighter dishes. It blends the juice of five different grapes traditional to Orvieto wine, including Procanico, Grechetto, Verdello, Drupeggio and Malvasia. A high quality and complex wine like this is a real bargain for around \$10 a bottle.

Sudokogram answer

P	N	I	E
A	W	T	R
M	E	S	I
C	I	P	H

Letter Pool: S H A R P W I T

Across: PINE, WART, SEMI, CHIP
 Down: CAMP, WINE, PITS, HIRE
 Boxes: PAWN, TIRE, MICE, SHIP
 Note: Other anagrams like HEIR are okay

BELL PEPPER CROSTINI

(adapted from "Mediterranean Cooking" by Gabriella Mari, Christina Blasi, Carla Bardi, Rosalba Gioffre, Marta Busquets Net and McRae Books Srl, published by Readers Digest Association, 2005)

First, lets start with a basic Crostini or Fettunta. Take **eight pieces of Tuscan or peasant bread** and toast it on your grill or in your oven until golden brown. Rub each slice of toast all over using a large peeled garlic clove (two cloves should be sufficient). Arrange the toast-ed bread on a serving plate. Season with salt and pepper, and drizzle with extra virgin olive oil. Already you have produced a most pleasing appetizer. But let's take this a step further with the wonderful bell pepper recipe.

Ingredients:

- 1 red bell pepper
- 1 yellow bell pepper
- 1 garlic clove finely chopped
- 4 basil leaves torn
- 2 tbsp. pitted black olives coarsely chopped
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil, salt and freshly ground pepper.

The writer recommend firm textured bread, such as a French baguette or Italian ciabatta, sliced and toasted.

Grill or roast the bell peppers whole in the oven, until the skins are blackened, turning as needed. After roasting, wrap them in a paper bag and let them cool for 5 minutes; then remove the skins and seeds. Slice the bell peppers into small thin strips and place into a bowl. Add the garlic, basil, olives, olive oil, salt and pepper and marinate in the refrigerator for 4 hours. Spread the bell pepper mixture on the freshly toasted bread and serve. (For my truly lazy (or efficient) bachelor friends, you can buy roasted peppers in a jar.)

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

NOTED & QUOTED

The ultimate cynicism is to suspend judgment so that you are not judged.

- *Marya Mannes, (1904 -), U.S. journalist, essayist*

'Realistic people' who pursue 'practical aims' are rarely as realistic or practical, in the long run of life as the dreamers who pursue their dreams. - *Hans Selye, (1907 - 1982), Hungarian-Canadian endocrinologist*

Anthropology is the science which tells us that people are the same the whole world over - except when they are different.

- *Nancy Banks Smith, British television critic*

Fantasy is the impossible made probable. Science fiction is the improbable made possible.

- *Rod Serling, (1924 - 1975), U.S. screenwriter, producer*

Who, then, is sane?

- *Horace, (65 - 8 B.C.E.), Roman lyric poet*

All the gods are dead except the god of war.

- *Eldridge Cleaver, (1935 - 1998), African-American activist, author*

Success didn't spoil me; I've always been insufferable. - *Fran Lebowitz, (1951 -), U.S. writer, humorist*

Games are for people who can neither read nor think. - *George Bernard Shaw, (1856 - 1950), British dramatist and critic*

Luck's always to blame. - *Jean de la Fontaine, (1621 - 1695), French poet, author of fables*

Literature flourishes best when it is half a trade and half an art.

- *William Ralph Inge, (1860 - 1954), English theologian*

Men must live and create. Live to the point of tears. - *Albert Camus, (1913 - 1969), French Existentialist philosopher, essayist, and novelist*

All bad precedents began as justifiable measures. - *Julius Caesar, (102? - 44 B.C.E.)*

The Irish are a fair people; they never speak well of one another. - *Samuel Johnson, (1709 - 1784), English lexicographer and author*

Nothing is inevitable until it happens.

- *A.J.P. Taylor, (1906 -), British historian*

Inevitability is an integral part of tragedy, but for it to overwhelm us, we mustn't see it coming. - *Charles Taylor, columnist for the Newark Star-Ledger and Bloomberg News*

I respect those who resist me; but I cannot tolerate them. - *General Charles De Gaulle, (1890 - 1970), French general and president*

An imaginary ailment is worse than a disease.

- *Yiddish proverb*

There is no sorrow above / The loss of a native land. - *Euripides, (480 - 406 B.C.E.), Greek tragic dramatist*

History is the ship carrying living memories into the future. - *Stephen Spender, (1909 -), English poet*

Some people are molded by their admirations, others by their hostilities.

- *Elizabeth Bowen, (1899 - 1973), British novelist*

Decisiveness is often the art of timely cruelty.

- *Henry Becque, (1837 - 1899), French playwright*

I was so long writing my review that I never got around to reading the book.

- *Groucho Marx, (1890 - 1977)*

A Constitution should be short and obscure.

- *Napoleon I, (1769 - 1821)*

The dog barks, but the caravan moves on.

- *Arabic proverb*

Parents learn a lot from their children about coping with life. - *Muriel Spark, (1918 -), Scottish novelist*

I don't even know what street Canada is on.

- *Al Capone, (1899 - 1947)*

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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