

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.

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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 - JANUARY

Saturday, January 17, 6:30

Monthly Dinner - New Member Dinner

New and returning members will meet at our January dinner. If you are a new member or haven't attended for a while, come to our kick-off dinner for 2009 and enjoy what's sure to be a great evening.

TONELLI'S RESTAURANT, 41 Grassy Plain St., Bethel, CT 06801. Local Mensan, poet, and novelist Jerry Brooker will talk about his recent trip to North Korea, a citizen diplomacy trip gone awry. Jerry will discuss his visits to the cities of Pyongyang, and Nam Pho, official museums, the Arirang Mass Games, and other sites, as well as the Juche philosophy that informs the nation, the strict controls, and the difficulties he experienced. 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

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have suggestions for other places we can meet or how we can run our dinners better, please contact chapter President Rick D'Amico at usamarbiol@aol.com.

FROM STAMFORD:

1. Take I-95. Merge onto US-7 Connector NORTH via EXIT 15 toward NORWALK. 2. Take US-7 Connector to MAIN AVE / US-7. Continue to follow US-7 North about 2 miles. 3. Turn LEFT onto US-7 / CT-33 / WESTPORT RD & continue to follow US-7 about 5.5 miles. 4. Turn RIGHT onto SCHOOL ST / CT-107 / CT-57. Follow CT-107 about 1.5 miles. 5. Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto REDDING RD / CT-107. Follow REDDING RD. 5.7 miles. REDDING RD becomes CT-53. Go about 3 miles to the Restaurant, on the left at 41 Grassy Plain St. Bethel, CT 06801-2001

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

Thursday, January 22, 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. On Cue Billiards Web Site: <http://www.oncuebilliardsandmusic.com> Google Maps link: <http://tinyurl.com/2tfunq>. Questions? Contact Tom O'Neill, doctec2@gmail.com.

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, 860-888-9867, email: lilith@beadylittleskies.com.

JANUARY

2 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.

7, 14, 21, 28 Wednesdays Noon

West Hartford Lunch

(WE) Wednesday lunch will be held at the Hometown Buffet in the Shaw's shopping plaza off Prospect St. West Hartford. All you can eat, cheap, and the service time is as fast as you can pick up your food!

From 84 West: take exit #44 (Prospect). Cross through the light right into the plaza.

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From 84 East: take exit #44 (Prospect). Take left at the light then a left at the next light (you will have crossed over Rte 84) and then a right into the plaza. There is a large selection of food for a modest cost. We will be seated at the front of the restaurant (away from the food counters). Contact: John Bentley, 860-644-043

9 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

10 Saturday 1:00 pm

Opera: Live telecasts from the Metropolitan Opera House at Buckland Theatre in Manchester

Puccini's LA RONDINE, a new production by Nicolas Joel, starring Angela Gheorghiu and Robert Alagna. Marco Armiliato conducts. Tickets are \$20 seniors, \$22 regular. We usually meet in the lobby at least 45 minutes before the performance. So do let Barb know if you are coming, so the group can be looking for you: contact Barb Holstein at 860-632-7873 or BarbCPA@att.net

14 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!

15 Thursday 6:30 pm

Pioneer Valley Dinner

(ME, 3rd Thursday)) at Mama Iguana's, on Main Street in Northampton, MA. Questions? Ian Fraser ianfraser@usa.net

18 Sunday 10:30 am

Sunday Brunch

at the South Station Restaurant at the Trolley Barn - 170 South Main Street, Rutland, Vermont. South Main Street is also Routes 4 and 7. Join us to meet other Vermont Mensans, guests and prospective members. Bring a friend!! They have their famous salad bar filled with fresh fruits, a juice & pastry bar, fresh made to order omelets, fresh made to order Belgian waffles, 2 hand-carved roasts, and 10-12 hot entrees that include all types of specialty breakfast foods along with pasta, seafood, fish, poultry, vegetable, and meat dishes. Save room because there are at least 20 dessert selections to decide from which are created in house by Chef Michael.

Directions: South Station is on Rte. 7 next to the Ben and Jerry's.... if coming from Ludlow, MA, it's just past the MacDonalds on the right as you come up Rte. 7 - past fairgrounds on left/ Macd's on right then Ben and Jerry's on right - easy to find. Go to www.southstationrestaurant.com for more info and more official directions.

Please RSVP to Susan Misnick
smisnick@sover.net or 802-365-7891

23 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

23 Friday 6:30 pm

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Subject: Diner Dinner

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Gluck's ORFEO ED EURIDICE, starring Stephanie Blythe and Danielle de Neise. James Levine conducts. Tickets are \$20 seniors, \$22 regular. We usually meet in the lobby at least 45 minutes before the performance. So do let Barb know if you are coming, so the group can be looking for you. Contact Barb Holstein at 860-632-7873 or BarbCPA@att.net

26 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.

31 Saturday 12 Noon

Let's Do Lunch

at Sake's Japanese Restaurant in Wethersfield, CT . Contact Pamela Guinan at (860) 563-5761 or email Pamela.cwm@hotmail.com so we can estimate headcount for the restaurant.

January 31 2:00 pm

Book Discussion Group

will be meeting at Pam Guinan's in Wethersfield to discuss *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace . . . One School at a Time* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin (nonfiction) ??? On a 1993 expedition to climb K2 in honor of his sister Christa, who had died of epilepsy at 23, Mortenson stumbled upon a remote mountain village in Pakistan. Out of gratitude for the villagers' assistance when he was lost and near death, he vowed to build a school for the children who were scratching lessons in the dirt. Raised by his missionary parents in Tanzania, Mortenson was used to dealing with exotic cultures and developing nations. Still, he faced daunting challenges of raising funds, death threats from enraged mullahs, separation from his family, and a kidnapping to eventually build 55 schools in Taliban territory. Award-winning journalist Relin recounts the slow and arduous task Mortenson set for himself, a one-man mission aimed particularly at bringing education to young girls in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Readers interested in a fresh perspective on the cultures and development efforts of Central Asia will love this incredible story of a humanitarian endeavor.

REGIONAL GATHERINGS

NEW HAMPSHIRE Mensa RG 2009

February 13th - 15th

Great Crockpot cook-off returns! Magical Ice Cream Sodas! Witch's Brew! Sweetheart Chocolate Feast! Pete, the Bartender! And much more!

LOCATION: Radisson Nashua (formerly the Sheraton Tara)
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Single/Double (adults) \$99.00 Triple/Quad (adults) \$109.00

Make your hotel reservations early (you can always cancel if necessary.) The hotel has

a busy weekend, with another group in that same weekend. Without a reservation you may be locked out of our special rate, or may not be able to get a room at all!

For more info call Deb Stone @ (603) 856-7055 or Holly Green @ (603) 428-7267

NAME(s) _____
 ADDRESS _____
 TELEPHONE _____
 E-MAIL _____

Registrar:
 Deb Stone
 6 Fox Meadow Drive
 Bow, NH 03304, (603) 856-7055,
 nhrg@stonesrealm.com

REGISTRATION:
 \$60 until 11/15/2008, \$65 until 01/15/2009, \$75 thereafter and at the door

8-17 years old, \$15 less than standard adult rate, 18-20 years old \$10 less than standard adult rate. Children under 8, free. Day rates available (please contact registrar.)

of registrations: Adult _____ 18-20 yrs _____
 8-17 yrs _____ <8 yrs _____

Make checks payable to NH Mensa - RG.
 Or MC/Visa # _____
 Exp Date _____

FROM THE REGIONAL VICE CHAIRMAN

LORI NORRIS

RVCHAT

Happy New Year! As I write this column, I am looking out at the first snowfall of the year; flurries don't count. The joy of self-employment - I get to choose to work from home on those days when it's just too cold to go anywhere. I'm going to enjoy it whenever I can.

The past year was eventful, both personally and with Mensa. The upcoming year looks like it might be just as exciting. A breath of fresh air has infiltrated Vermont Mensa and they have planned a couple of brunches and an ice-fishing expedition. I've never been ice-fishing, but it sounds like fun. Visitors are welcome - check out their website. I fully expect Maine Mensa to become a local group in a few months as they become independent of New Hampshire Mensa. It's been a long time coming, but by April 1, Maine Mensa will be alive again. Maine Mensans - NOTE - ballots are due by January 30, 2009.

It's time to make reservations for the New Hampshire Regional Gathering. I understand that Friday night might be the 2nd Annual Crock-Pot Cook-off. What shall I make? Every year I look forward to this RG, it's always a good time. Will I see you on Friday the 13th? No black cats please, I'm allergic. Check out the New Hampshire website for details. And it's not

too early to make reservations for the 2009 Annual Gathering (AG) to be held in Pittsburgh, PA from July 1 - 5, 2009 at the Omni William Penn. Pittsburgh is close enough to drive from most of Region 1. I know that because I was born and raised slightly northwest of Pittsburgh and have made that drive many times over the past thirty years. January 24th will bring a Mensa trifecta to our house. My husband and I will host the R.I. book club meeting (On Chesil Beach by Ian McEwan) followed by a potluck dinner and then games night. If anyone is going to be in the area that day, you're welcome to join us. Ron and I will be spending the holidays in Mexico. We always try and usually manage to get away for vacation during school vacation. Right now, all we know is that we're flying into the Cancun airport. From there, we'll take a bus and try to explore some of the countryside that we haven't seen yet. It's always an adventure and we get some great stories from our travels. Palm trees for Christmas, but there are as many Christmas lights on display as there are here at home. And I might be getting old, but I do seem to prefer white sand over snow. I wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

Lori

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.

	K	E	
		R	
J	U		
	G	O	D

Letter pool: INSIGHTS

Answer on page 14

FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

RICK D'AMICO

Back in November, we e-mailed a survey to all members who had e-mail addresses listed with us. The purpose of the survey was to see what, if anything, we could do to improve attendance at our monthly meetings. We received thirty-three responses, and I'd like to thank those people.

I'm going to briefly summarize the survey results and see what, if anything, we can draw from them.

The first question was: Over the years, Southern Connecticut Mensa has met on the third Saturday of every month. Would you prefer another meeting day? Of the 32 responses, 26 preferred meeting on Saturday nights, while six favored another day or time. The second question asked: If your answer to the previous question was "yes," when would you prefer meetings to be held? There wasn't a pattern to the responses, with two recommending Friday, two preferring mid-week, and one choosing Sunday as the best day of for meetings.

Based on the responses to the first two questions, it appears that Saturday night continues to be the preferred time and place for meetings.

Question three asked: Would you prefer that meetings consist of dinner and a presentation, dinner alone, or a presentation alone? Twenty-three preferred our current format, dinner and a presentation. Four responded that they'd prefer just the dinner, and two favored the presentation alone. In addition, one person commented that they'd like to have hors d'oeuvres, appetizers, and a presentation.

From the responses that we received to this question, it seems that we'd be best off retaining the present format for meetings.

The fourth question was: Is/are there any topic(s) that you'd like to see presented at the meetings? If so, what topic(s) would you like? We received ten responses. There really wasn't a pattern, although the suggestions will be helpful.

Question five was: I don't attend meetings because: Below is a table that shows the responses. Note that one respondent could give multiple responses.

Most of the "other" responses were personal reasons, such as a busy schedule, or conflicting activities.

One-third of the responses indicated that the meeting location was inconvenient. The question is, if we changed the meeting location, would it be inconvenient for other attendees? If we did, there could very well be a trade-off. Other than that, I don't believe there is a conclusion that can be drawn from the responses.

The final question was: Would you prefer that the office of Chapter President (LocSec) have distinct term limits (e.g., two years/terms)? Sixteen (50%) of the respondents indicated that they weren't sure. Nine (28.1%) said yes, while seven (21.9%) chose no. This can be interpreted a couple of ways. One is that approximately three-fourths of the group do not feel a clear need for term limits for the Chapter President. On the other hand, over three-fourths of the

Reason	Response %	Responses
The date and/or time is unacceptable	16.7	5
The location is inconvenient	33.3	10
The meeting room isn't conducive to the meeting	13.3	4
The dinner is too expensive	10	3
The meetings run too long	3	1
The presentations aren't interesting	13.3	4
I do regularly attend meetings.	13.3	4
Other	40	12

group do not clearly disapprove of term limits, either. Nonetheless, with one-half of the group unsure, there really isn't a definitive conclusion to be drawn.

This does, however, provide a lead-in for my next subject. After much thought, I've decided that the time has come for me to resign as LocSec for our chapter. It's not a decision that I take lightly. I've enjoyed being Chapter President for the past six-plus years, but I think it's time.

The reasons I've decided to step down are:

- It's not good for an organization to have the same leader for long periods of time. Institutional memory is a two-edged sword, and while we may benefit from a leader's experience, we need new ideas and perhaps a different way of running things.
- After six years, I'll admit that I no longer have the energy and drive that I had back in 2002.

The chapter would be better served by someone with greater enthusiasm.

- The chapter is relatively stable. We have a well-established meeting place, and the recent member survey indicates that we're generally on the right track. This would be an opportune time for a smooth transition.

For these reasons, I've decided that our January 2009 meeting will be my final one as Loc Sec. I want to thank everybody for the support that they've given me over this time. I'll still attend most meetings, but someone else will have a chance to run them.

One person I'd especially like to thank is Jim Mizera, who's been our Vice-President during this time. Jim does a fantastic job with everything he does for the chapter, including producing a stellar newsletter.

Sincerely,
Rick

GOOD WINE CHEAP

(and good food to go with it)

This month's wine is from the state of Washington State. On the West Coast, Washington and Oregon often provide the best values in white wines - while California has fine wines, they come at a price.

Hogue Cellars' 2006 Fume Blanc is a wonderful example of a good wine at a reasonable price. Fume Blanc is synonymous with Sauvignon Blanc. I expect a certain complexity and herbaceous quality with this designation, and Hogue does not disappoint. This Sauvignon Blanc delivers all the qualities of that variety such as subtle gooseberry and grass, but with layers of lemon and herbs that raise this to an excellent wine. We find this wine locally for between \$9 and \$10 a bottle.

John Grover is a member of Mensa of Northeastern New York. He lives with his wife Sharon in the Hudson Valley of New York. He hopes that you will contact him with your comments and favorite wines at grover@berk.com.

LEMON TARRAGON ROAST CORNISH GAME HENS

Ingredients:

- 2 (1-1/4 to 1-1/2 lb.) Cornish Game Hens
- 1/2 stick softened butter
- 2 tbs chopped shallot
- 1 tbs. grated lemon zest
- 1 tbs. chopped fresh tarragon
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper.

Preheat oven to 450 degrees; Rinse hens and pat dry; place skin side up in a 1 inch deep baking pan; stir together butter, shallot, zest, tarragon, 1/4 tsp. salt and 1/8 tsp. pepper in a small bowl. Loosen skin from meat all over hens including legs and thighs, being careful not to tear skin. Rub half of butter under skin and remaining half on top. Sprinkle hens with rest of salt and pepper. Roast hens in oven until cooked through and skin is golden brown, 25 to 30 minutes. The Boss served this with a seasoned blend of wild and long grain rice available from Carolina Rice. The drippings make a nice gravy that is definitely "politically incorrect".

COMMENTARY

BY GERARD BROOKER

Going on military-historical tours with retired warriors of the Army and Marines, some of who have fought in the battle sites explored, has been a series of extraordinary experiences for me. Being with those who have lived to tell the stories is a privilege and an opportunity to say thank you.

I remember, for example, the time I visited Omaha Beach, staying up 'til the wee hours of the morning listening to the horror stories of the men who fought there. One man told me how he turned to acknowledge a lieutenant's order to move his butt onto the beach and in that instant the officer was decapitated by a shell. His body continued to stand in the water for what seemed like a long time, that is, for a man to be standing without a head.

And I remember being on Iwo Jima beneath Mt. Suribachi as an 86-year old retired Marine (one is always a Marine, never a former Marine) showed me where he had dragged eleven wounded men, one at a time, through a mine field to the safety of the beach and recovery ships. I think it would have been easier to wrest away his M-1 than to get him to admit that he had won the Bronze Star for the deed, which I learned about later.



Tarawa from the air

The stories are numerous, yet I have never been moved more by the heroism of men at war than I was recently on a trip I took with Marines, active and retired, to a small atoll in the Gilbert Islands, about 2000 miles SW of Hawaii. It is called Tarawa, today a part of the Republic of Kiribati. The battle is known as "Bloody Tarawa."

The weather on the day we arrived was much the same as it was on the morning of November 20, 1943, when the Marines tried to land on Red Beaches 1-2-3. The sky was a clear blue and the coral reef that rings the many islets of the atoll was as dry as baked leather. Low tide will do that.

What I saw from the air as we circled this spit of earth preparing to touch down was the inky blue of the deep sea, followed by a greenish blue, then the cloudy pink of the reef before the tan of hard-rock beach coral pounded by the surf into grains of sand.

There is a touch of beauty about it from the air that belies what happened there during battle, and what it looks like now close-up.

Imagine looking from the south, the atoll an upside-down bird, its head on the left. Better still, think of a 19th-century flintlock pistol, its handle on the left facing away from you, upside-down. It was the head of the bird, or the handle of the pistol, where most of the action took place. This western islet is called Betio.

The Japanese were so dug in on Betio with mortar, artillery, machine gun and small arms firepower in positions designed to turn from offense to defense that five thousand Japanese soldiers and one thousand U.S. Marines died there. These are not exact numbers, but I hesitate to say "give or take" as if the difference is not important. For the "given" or the "taken" it was the difference between life and death. For their families, it marked the starkness that separates tragedy from good fortune.

After settling in at the Otintaai Hotel, we went west to see Red Beach 3, where there once was a thin pier that stretched about 900 yards from the shore to the coral reef. It was a place of relative safety for some of the men whose small boats could not pass over the reef, high then in

a low tide that was miscalculated by intelligence. Hundreds of men were forced to abandon their craft, and wade, chest high, into shore, about 600 yards away. Tetrahedron obstacles and barbed wire set into the water impeded their way to safety. Those who did make it into shore could only hide behind coconut log walls, their bodies savaged, sometimes from six feet away, by enemy soldiers when they tried to climb over the wall.

Within hours, they gained a small foothold on the beaches, mainly through bold rushes from the log walls and pier. With small arms fire, hand grenades and flamethrowers, the Marines swept the short distance to the ocean side of the lagoon. Imagine an enemy so well hidden, so dug in and armed - now here's the "kicker" - in an area only half the size of Central Park, that it took a little more than three days to complete the job! It was a few yards at a time, and sometimes hand-to-hand combat to destroy an enemy who fought to his death.

The deep shame of it all today is that the landing beaches on Tarawa are now dumps, for rubbish and human waste. The smell, as you can image, is sometimes overpowering. After walking the beaches for three days, I left two pairs of sneakers for the lady who cleaned my room. She seemed grateful. Of the 1000 Marines who lost their lives in the battle, 200 are still listed as "missing." Chances are that some of these bodies, brutalized by the cannons of war, are buried beneath the garbage. It is a scandal, a shame, a sacrilege.

In one of the ironies of life, because Tarawa Atoll is fast being deluged by the rising tide of global warming, these men will one day soon,



Tarawa beach

as the long years go, be given a fitting burial, softly inundated by another of their mothers, Nature.

I think of their brother Marines wading into the maws of death on that first morning, many of them not much older than the young men I taught for many years in high school. Hundreds died in the water before being swept out to sea by the rising tides, victims of machine gun bullets fired by other men no older than themselves. And I wonder when mankind will mature, and if there ever will be peace on earth.

Jerry Brooker will be the speaker at our next dinner on Saturday, January 17, at our usual location, Tonelli's Restaurant, Bethel, CT. He will talk about his trip to North Korea, and show slides of the country

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.

PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. How many gypsies are there in the world?
2. Name some vicious circles.
3. How long is a nautical mile?
4. Which philanthropist has benefited Connecticut the most?
5. What is the difference between liquidity and solvency?
6. What are the most overlooked qualities in computer purchases?

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

2. How many gallons are in a barrel of oil?

A: 42. Slightly over 23 gallons of gasoline can be refined from a barrel of oil. The rest is used for jet fuel, lubricants, and other products. There are 55 gallons of oil in a drum.

4. What percentage of English words have more than one syllable?

A: About 80%.

6. How much does the average U.S. adult male weigh?

A: According to a 2002 report by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the average adult male in the U.S. is 5 feet, 9 1/2 inches tall and weighs 191 pounds. In 1960, the average height was 5 feet, 8 inches and the average weight was 166 pounds.

8. What U.S. metropolitan areas have the most and the least freeway miles per capita?

A: According to a 1999 Texas Transportation Institute study, the cities with the most freeway lane miles per 1,000 population are: 1) Kansas City, Missouri-Kansas, 1.241; 2) Fort Worth, .894; 3) Dallas, .885; 4) St. Louis, Missouri-Illinois, .883; 5) San Antonio, .867; 6) Atlanta, .799; 7) Columbus, Ohio, .795; 8) Houston, .783; 9) Cincinnati, Ohio-Kentucky, .758; 10) Indianapolis, .714.

The city with the fewest freeway lane miles is Las Vegas, with .317 miles per 1,000 people. It is followed by Chicago, .329; Miami, .357; Phoenix, .373; New Orleans, .376; Philadelphia, .377; New York, .401; Los Angeles, .419; Boston, .432; Detroit, .449.

The metropolitan average is .613 miles/1,000 people.

WORD CHECK

English has borrowed many words and phrases from Latin. Check your vocabulary knowledge by giving the definition of each Latin word or phrase listed. Answers are below.

1. a fortiori (ah for tee OH ree)
2. alma mater (AHL muh MAH ter)
3. amicus curiae (a MY kes KU reh ee)
4. a posteriori (ay po steer ee AWR ahy)
5. a priori (ay prah AWR ahy)
6. corpus delecti (KOR pes di LIK ty)
7. de novo (dee NO vo)
8. ex libris (eks LEE bris)
9. ibidem (I BY dem, IB e dem)
10. inter alia (IN ter AH li ah)
11. mirabile dictu (mee RAH bi le DIK too)
12. ne plus ultra (NEE plus UL tra)
13. obiter dictum (OB i ter DIK tum)
14. pari passu (PAH ree PAHS soo)
15. passim (PAS im)
16. per se (per SAY)
17. prima facie (PRI ma FA she)
18. rara avis (REER e AY vis)
19. semper fidelis (SEM per fi DEH lis)
20. sui generis (SOO eh JEN er is)

1. a fortiori - with stronger reason; even more certain; all the more.
2. alma mater - dear mother; a school which one graduated from.
3. amicus curiae - a friend of the court.
4. a posteriori - from particular instances to a general law; after; from effect to cause; empirical.
5. a priori - in the mind independently of existence; from cause to effect.
6. corpus delecti - the body of a crime; the facts connected with a crime.
7. de novo - from the beginning.
8. ex libris - from the books of.
9. ibidem - in the same place (in a book).
10. inter alia - among other things.
11. mirabile dictu - strange to say; marvelous to relate.
12. ne plus ultra - no more beyond; the ultimate, perfection.
13. obiter dictum - a passing remarking; an incidental opinion.
14. pari passu - with equal pace; side by side; without partiality; fairly.
15. passim - everywhere, throughout; in all parts of the book or chapter.
16. per se - by itself.
17. prima facie - at first sight or consideration.
18. rara avis - a rare bird; an unusual thing.
19. semper fidelis - ever faithful.
20. sui generis - of its own kind; in a class by itself, unique.

ANSWERS

NOTED & QUOTED

The world doesn't lack for good stories. The world lacks for good storytellers.

- Malcolm Gladwell, (1963 -), British-born Canadian journalist and author

There are books in which the footnotes, or the comments scrawled by some reader's hand in the margin, are more interesting than the text. The world is one of those books.

- George Santayana, (1863 - 1952)

No two persons ever read the same book.

- Edmund Wilson, (1895 - 1972), critic

For years a secret shame destroyed my peace - I'd not read Eliot, Auden or MacNiece. But now I think a thought that brings me hope: Neither had Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, Pope.

- Justin Richardson

I don't understand you. You don't understand me. What else do we have in common?

- Ashleigh Brilliant, (1933 -), U.S. writer and epigrammist

Without darkness there are no dreams.

- Karla Kuban, U.S. novelist

I'm a pessimist because of intelligence, but an optimist because of will.

- Antonio Gramsci, (1891 - 1937), Italian philosopher, writer, political theorist

Perfect clarity would profit the intellect but damage the will.

- Blaise Pascal, (1623 - 1662)

The basic difference between an ordinary person and a warrior is that a warrior takes everything as a challenge while an ordinary person takes everything as either a blessing or a curse.

- Carlos Castaneda, (1931 -), Brazilian-American anthropologist, writer, interviewed in "The Awakened Warrior", by Rick Fields, 1994

Telling us to obey instinct is like telling us to obey 'people.' People say different things: so do instincts. Our instincts are at war. Each instinct, if you listen to it, will claim to be gratified at the expense of the rest.

- C. S. Lewis, (1898 - 1963), English novelist, essayist, literary critic

If man could be crossed with the cat, it would improve man but deteriorate the cat.

- Mark Twain, (1835 - 1910)

When the mouse laughs at the cat, there is a hole nearby.

- Nigerian proverb

Perfect guest: one who makes his host feel at home.

- Anonymous

Take time to come home to yourself everyday.

- Robin Casarjean, counselor, Founder and Director of the Lionheart Foundation

The most perfect technique is that which is not noticed at all.

- Pablo Casals, (1876 - 1973), cellist, conductor, and composer

History is philosophy teaching by example.

- Lord Bolingbroke, (1678 - 1751), English Tory politician and philosopher

It is in the places where history was made that history is most sorely felt.

- Jeffrey Jacobs

The future is already here, it's just unevenly distributed.

- William Gibson, (1948 -), Canadian-American science fiction

The future is purchased by the present.

- Samuel Johnson, (1709 - 1784)

Today is yesterday's effect and tomorrow's cause.

- Phillip Gribble

Yesterday is ashes, tomorrow wood. Only today does the fire burn brightly.

- Old Eskimo saying

We don't choose our friends. Our friends do.

- Jacques Delille, (1738 - 1813), French poet, translator

Never ask anyone what he does, follow him around and see what he does.

- Albert Einstein, (1879 - 1955)

Only dogs should quarrel - they are more forgiving than people.

- Fred Allen, (1894 - 1956), U.S. radio comedian, vaudeville juggler.

NOTED & QUOTED

Life is the only real counselor; wisdom unfiltered through personal experience does not become a part of the moral tissue.

- Edith Wharton, (1862 - 1937), U.S. novelist

To live is so startling, it leaves little time for anything else. - Emily Dickinson, (1830 - 1886)

And Lucy, dear child, mind your arithmetic ...
What would life be without arithmetic, but
a scene of horrors?

- Sydney Smith, (1771 - 1845), English clergyman and wit

I never came across one of Laplace's "Thus it plainly appears" without feeling sure that I had hours of hard work before me to fill up the chasm and find out how it plainly appears.

- Nathaniel Bowditch, (1773 - 1838), U.S. mathematician, author on navigation

He who serves two masters has to lie to one.

- Portuguese Proverb

The perplexity of life arises from there being too many interesting things in it for us to be interested properly in any of them.

- G. K. Chesterton, (), 1909

Every life has its actual blanks, which the ideal must fill up, or which else remain bare and profitless forever. - Julia Ward Howe, (1819 - 1910)

Nobody can be exactly like me. Sometimes even I have trouble doing it.

- Tallulah Bankhead, (1903 - 1968), U.S. actress

There's only one me, and I'm stuck with him.

- Robert L. Stanfield, (1914 - 2003), Canadian politician

We have first raised a dust and then complain we cannot see.

- Bishop Berkeley, (1685 - 1753), English philosopher

Life's too short for chess. - H.J. Byron

There are too many people, and too few human beings. - Robert Zend, (1929 - 1985), Hungarian-Canadian poet, philosopher

The tendency to believe that things never change, the inertia of daily existence, is a staple of living. It has always been a delusion.

- Donald A. Wollheim, (1914 - 1990), science fiction writer, editor, publisher and fan

Time does not relinquish its rights, either over human beings or over mountains.

- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, (1749 - 1832), German poet, novelist, and dramatist

A memory is a beautiful thing, it's almost a desire that you miss.

- Gustave Flaubert, (1821 - 1880), French realist novelist

Poison is poison though it comes in a golden cup. - English Proverb

Pride is concerned with who is right. Humility is concerned with what is right. - Ezra Taft Benson,

(1899 - 1944), U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, 1953 - 1960

Nothing is built on stone; all is built on sand, but we must build as if the sand were stone.

- Jorge Luis Borges, (1899 - 1986), Argentine novelist, poet, essayist, and short-story writer

Sudokogram answer

I	K	E	H
G	N	R	I
J	U	T	S
S	G	O	D

Letter Pool: I N S I G H T S

Across: HIKE, RING, JUTS, DOGS

Down: JIGS, GUNK, TORE, DISH

Boxes: KING, HIRE, JUGS, DOTS

Note: Other anagrams like JUST are okay

Do not believe that it is very much of an advance to do the unnecessary three times as fast. -Peter Drucker, (1909 - 2005), U.S. economist and management sociologist

The best way to get to knowing any bunch of people is to go and listen to their music. - Woody Guthrie, (1912 - 1967), U.S. folk musician, singer, and songwriter

Reality is made up of circles, but we see in straight lines. - Peter Senge, (1947 -), director of the Center for Organizational Learning at the MIT Sloan School of Management, "The Fifth Discipline" (1990)

All fantasy should have a solid base in reality. - Max Beerbohm, (1872 - 1956), English caricaturist and author

Attachment is the great fabricator of illusions; reality can be attained only by someone who is detached. - Simone Weil, (1909 - 1943), French writer, philosopher

To others we are not ourselves but a performer in their lives cast for a part we do not even know that we are playing. - Princess Elizabeth Bibesco, (1897 - 1945), English novelist and poet

Every man I meet is in some way my superior. - Ralph Waldo Emerson, (1803 - 1882)

There are no passengers on spaceship earth. We are all crew. - Marshall McLuhan, (1911 - 1980)

I am I plus my surroundings, and if I do not preserve my surroundings, I do not preserve myself. - Jose Ortega Y Gasset, (1883 - 1955), Spanish philosopher and politician

Hollywood held this double lure for me, tremendous sums of money for work that required no more effort than a game of pinochle. - Ben Hecht, (1893 - 1964), U.S. journalist, playwright

Can a donkey be tragic? To perish beneath a load that one can neither bear nor throw off? This is the case of the Philosopher. - Friedrich Nietzsche, (1844 - 1900)

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