

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.



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 www.us.mensa.org to renew.

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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ATTENTION SOUTHERN CT MENSANS: *The Southern CT Mensa Executive Committee needs three members to assume the open positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer. We also need a Proctor, who administers admissions tests to local candidates for Mensa. This is your chance to put ideas that can help our local chapter into action. Please notify one of the current board members to volunteer for these positions.*

SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS - MAY INTERESTED IN CHESS?

A few local Mensans have expressed interest in forming a chess club. Check our website www.scm66.org during the coming month for more info.

Friday, May 8, 7:00 Danbury Dinner - Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner

Interested M's should contact Ward Mazzucco at 203-744-1929, ext 25, wjm@danburylaw.com or Rev. Bill Loring at 203-794-1389, fr.bill@comcast.net for more info on location and/or reservations.

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Saturday, May 9, 6:05 **The Bridgeport Bluefish** play the Long Island Ducks at Harbor Yard Stadium, Bridgeport, CT. Contact Jim Mizera at jmizera@hotmail.com or (203) 522-1959 for info or reservations.

Saturday, May 16, 6:30 **Monthly Dinner** TONELLI'S RESTAURANT, 41 Grassy Plain St., Bethel, CT 06801. Southern CT Mensan Ian Woll will speak on "AN OVERVIEW OF NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY." Check our website www.scm66.org for more details. 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/acorn-online/bestbets/bbets05-04-21.htm>.

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, May 21, 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" 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:

www.oncuebilliardsandmusic.com Google Maps link: <http://tinyurl.com/2tfunq>. Questions? Contact Tom O'Neill, doctec2@gmail.com.

Saturday, May 30, 8:00 pm

THEATRE: Woody Allen's comedy Don't Drink The Water

at the Westport Community Theatre, Town Hall Building, 110 Myrtle Ave., Westport, CT. 06880. Tickets are \$16 - 18. Contact Jim Mizera at jmizera@hotmail.com or (203) 522-1959 for info or reservations.

CONNECTICUT AND WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS

This is not a complete listing WE - Weekly Event, ME - Monthly Event, YE - Yearly Event CT & W.

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Mass Calendar Editor Gisela Rodriguez, 860-888-9867, email: lilith@beadylittleskies.com.

MAY

1 Friday 5:30 pm

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

3 Sunday 1:35 pm

Mensa Goes to a Ballgame

Meet the inimitable Tom Thomas in Section 213, about four rows from the top, in New Britain Stadium to watch the host Rock Cats play the Trenton Thunder, Double-A farm team of the New York Yankees. For more information, contact Tom.thomas@the-spa.com. Other info at www.rockcats.com

7, 14, 21 Thursdays 7:00 pm

Scrabble

(WE) at Emmanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford. Ellen Leonard, 860-667-1966 (Please call first to make sure this is happening today).

8 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
13 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!

21 Thursday 6:30 pm

Pioneer Valley Dinner

(ME, 3rd Thursday)) at Red Fez Bar and Grill, 70 Exchange Street, Chicopee, MA, 413-594-5244
Questions? Ian Fraser ianfraser@usa.net

22 Friday 5:00 pm

Happy Hour (ME, 4th Friday) Colonial Tymes, 2389 Dixwell Ave, Hamden. Located about 1/2 mile north of Exit 60, Wilbur Cross Parkway. We are now reserving the middle tables on the left as you walk in the bar. Dinner is a possibility if enough people are interested. Come on down and join us this month, we'd love to see ya. Contact Gail Trowbridge

22 Friday 6:00 pm

NEW!!! Open Mike

(ME, 4th Friday) at First Church of Winsted, CT. This is a GREAT Church with Awesome Acoustics. Fran will also be taping and putting the whole deal on the local cable channel and probably elsewhere too. Jamming begins at 9 pm, amps will be there so musicians will only have to plug in. Donations in the basket, food and drinks available- very nice people. Sign up is by email to Deb Storrs info@firstchurchofwinsted.org . Other info, contact Fran Devevo at 860-738-8488 weekends and 9-10pm or email mensafran@yahoo.com Peace and Happy Spring!!!

22 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

25 Monday 12:30-5:00 pm

A MEMORIAL DAY PARTY! Celebrate a day off, the unofficial beginning of summer, a profound memory, CT's official Planting Day, or anything else you wish. New Members or Inactive Members are especially welcome at Beth Collins' home in Wallingford. We'll have a cook-out, burgers and dogs and fixings supplied. Please bring a side dish to share, something else to grill if you wish, and your own beverage. Coffee, Tea, Coke and Seltzer will be provided. RSVPs are delightfully accepted, 203-294-1994, or email player.piano@juno.com . Burger flippers will be drafted from the long line of volunteers! Directions are best requested by email, or call and Beth will guide you. Not difficult to find, but approach is unique from every direction. Hope to see you here, we need another party!

REGIONAL GATHERINGS

May 1-3

Metropolitan Washington Mensa's **MATRIX 1: PARTY IN SPACE Regional Gathering** will be held May 1-3, 2009, and we want you to join us! Our RG hotel is the newly renovated Hyatt Dulles in Herndon, Virginia. This beautiful facility is just minutes from Dulles International Airport and the Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum. The Hyatt Dulles is an all-suites hotel. Rooms are comfortable and spacious - and we're able to offer them at the unbelievably low price of only \$89.00 (plus tax) per night. That's a ten dollar nightly saving over last year's room rate! To see the hotel, go to www.Dulles.Hyatt.com. To keep up with plans for our RG, keep checking back with <http://mwmrg.org> - the official Website of the MATRIX 1: PARTY IN SPACE RG. Here you'll find information about our prices, our speakers, our banquet, and our tour of the Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum. Our information will be updated frequently so check back often. We'll see you at the RG!--the most thrilling RG in this - or any other - quadrant of the galaxy

July 1 - 5

MENSA NATIONAL ANNUAL GATHERING
Pittsburgh, PA. Omni William Penn Hotel.

Full registration rates, according to date received by the National Office:

\$85 by March 31, 2009

\$95 by June 26, 2009

\$110 after June 26, 2009

Young Mensan rates, by age:

4 and under: free

Ages 5-12: \$30

Ages 13-20: \$50 Day rates:

Adults: \$30 per calendar day

Young Mensans: \$15

<http://www.ag2009.us.mensa.org//AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home8>

July 10-12

Mensa Canada AGM

NOW is the time to start planning your vacation so that it includes visiting Ottawa in July, and taking in the Mensa Canada Annual Gathering! This is a great opportunity to visit your neighbour to the north!

1. Ottawa is our national capital, full of attractions unique to Canada. It's a beautiful city full of rivers, canals and walking paths. Our Parliament buildings look like a castle and one of the AG events is a private tour given by our own Mensan Cabinet Minister.
2. We are also only one bridge away from the province of Quebec; famous for French culture, French fashion design, and poutine (French fries covered with cheese and gravy). La conférence sera en format bilingue. Veuillez trouver des détails en français au site web.
3. The AG will be held at Carleton University. This will mean it is more casual than conferences staged in hotels, but the residence rates are so low you can bring your family or extend your trip. (It's the same rate before & after the conference!) Plan to stay a couple of weeks and travel around. Incidentally, the Governor General's foot-guard is billeted at the university and you'll have access to free demonstration practices!
4. We are a 12 hour drive from Chicago, 8 hours from New York and conveniently close to Pittsburg if you want to do an AG combination. Of course, Ottawa has an International airport.
5. There are many exciting speakers, tours, and activities all of which can be found on the web site.

Details and registration can be found at:

On peut trouver des détails et inscription at www.mensa-ottawa.org

September 11-13

Please join us at the **Banff Regional Gathering** hosted by Mensa Calgary in one of the most beautiful parts of the world. Combine world-class scenery, a great program, the low Canadian dollar and top minds: the result is a memorable experience. Check out our RG web site at www.mensabanffrg.com for more info.

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

If April showers really bring May flowers, we are going to have an abundance of flowers this year. As I sit here writing this letter, it is pouring outside. But hopefully the sun will come out before Easter weekend and spring break. Since Ron is a teacher and has that week off, we've been planning a trip. Well, I broke my leg (tibia) on January 1st (Happy New Year) and our plans to head out to Nevada and do some hiking in the dessert have been put on hold. I am recovering from the broken leg and can get around pretty well with just a brace most of the time, so we've decided to head down to Washington, DC for a few days. I haven't been there since I was a child. I do remember some of the sights and seeing the Hope Diamond. We plan on spending a few days exploring the Smithsonian and some of the memorials around town.

Congratulations MAINE MENSA! As of April 1st, Maine Mensa became a fully independent local group.

And the exciting news in Mensa is that as of March 31st, the last day of our membership year, total membership reached 57,835 - an all time record. As you all probably know, we always have a significant drop on April 1st as we wait for renewals. Hopefully, most of the lapsed members will renew and our numbers will continue to

increase throughout this year. If you know of any lapsed members encourage them to renew.

I hope everyone caught the CBS Sunday Morning show on March 22nd. Leslie Stahl and a 60 Minutes film crew taped a piece at the Denver Annual Gathering; which, due to other news was never aired on 60 Minutes. CBS Sunday Morning aired that segment in its entirety, about 20 minutes. If you have not had the opportunity to see it, it is available on the CBS News website (<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=4882603n>). The story portrayed Mensa in a favorable light and has generated a significant number of inquiries into membership. Let's see if we, here in Region 1, can use these inquiries to increase our membership. I've also heard from a few long-time members who have used this as an opportunity to become more involved.

Boston's Cape Cod RG is coming up the second weekend of May. The weekend is unstructured and gives you an opportunity to enjoy the Cape before the summer crowds arrive. We'll bring our bicycles and, hopefully, get some cycling in. And with the advent of spring, picnics and other outdoor events are showing up on the calendars.

- Lori

THE VOTE ON AMENDMENTS 8 AND 9 TO AMERICAN MENSA BYLAWS

by Jared Levine, Life Member, Metropolitan Washington Mensa
 boxmaster@alumni.williams.edu

This year's election cycle is important, especially because of the large number of bylaw amendment proposals placed before the membership. While most of the pro and con statements I wrote for the March issue of the Mensa Bulletin should suffice to fully inform your vote on those particular amendments, Amendments #9 and 8 require a bit more. I'm pleased your editor has sufficient space and clearly believes that national issues deserve a place in your newsletter.

Proposed Amendment 9 revamps American Mensa's "justice system." One of the largest drawbacks in the current system is the National Hearings Committee (NHC)'s dependence on the American Mensa Committee (AMC). The people who create the rules (AMC) are the people who judge members for violations, too. Amendment 9 seeks to remove the AMC from the NHC. Instead, wholly independent individuals (local group Ombudsmen) will sit on the NHC.

Generally speaking, Ombudsmen are chosen because they are seen as fair, well reasoned, capable of good judgment, knowledgeable of the rules (or at least where to find them), and able to apply the rules. Clearly, these attributes are essential in bringing two sides of a dispute to compromise. However, this compromise, which a few seem wary of, should be when the parties coming to a mutually agreed upon resolution for ending the situation, not determining the underlying facts. The "offending party" either committed a specified act or didn't, and they acted either within or against the rules. Determining the facts of a local dispute is essential for all Ombudsmen to help guide any possible compromise; the same is needed in a national hearing.

Negotiating well and not alienating anyone from the group is arguably more difficult than merely stating "not guilty" or "guilty" to each "charge," giving a rationale for these votes, and levying appropriate punishment for someone found guilty. After all, an Ombudsman needs to perform the first two functions when he is attempting to mediate a dispute before it escalates. If an Ombudsman can work with two or more parties to a dispute in his local group, he can do the same with other local groups' disputes, if called upon.

Contrary to what some would have you believe, local group Ombudsmen were not polled on this

matter. A casual question was asked on the largely dormant Ombudsman's e-mail server and, as typical, few spoke up at all. There were multiple people on both sides of the issue, as Mensans are wont to be. Also note, at a discussion group preceding the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) of the 2008 AG, which was open to all attendees, several people came forward to volunteer to be their local group Ombudsman specifically because of the proposals being brought to the ABM and their hope to help out.

Finally, while an earlier version of Amendment 9 (which itself had "publicly"-solicited input) was voted down at the 2008 ABM, all the concerns raised at the ABM were incorporated into an updated version, which is Amendment 9, currently up for your vote. Do not be misled - this amendment is NOT the same proposal presented at the ABM. Over 250 grass-roots members nationwide signed the petition to put this new amendment on the ballot. No such concern, courtesy or even implicit request for input was given to the membership on Amendment 8. That amendment was created by the AMC-appointed Hearings Process Review Committee (HPRC) chaired by the NHC chairman (who doesn't exactly have a fresh or independent eye to review how the NHC works) and approved by the AMC for balloting. While the HPRC and the AMC would have you believe Amendment 8's procedures for hearings are independent of the AMC, their arguments are disingenuous at best. Amendment 8 retains strong AMC influence over the hearings, since the AMC appoints the individuals on the review panel and the variable number of people eligible to serve on the NHC.

To cleanly break from AMC influence over national hearings, vote YES on Amendment 9 and NO on 8. Since these two amendments conflict with each other, if both pass with the necessary 2/3 majority vote, the one with the higher percentage vote will be implemented. This is why it is essential to make sure to vote YES on 9 *and* vote NO on 8. For more information on Amendment 9 not addressed here, go to www.amyx.org/mensa/hearings/petitions and look at the FAQ for the second petition. E-mail me with any questions about the amendments.

RETHINKING MENSA: A CHAIRMAN CANDIDATE'S PERSPECTIVE

by *Dave Swanka, Mensa Region 3 Vice-Chairman
Candidate for American Mensa Chairman*

My name is Dave Swanka. I'm currently the Regional Vice-Chairman for Region 3, a member of American Mensa, and one of the candidates for Chairman. Each of us has strengths and weaknesses, virtues and vices, and something to bring to the table.

If any of you reading this is perfectly content with the current status of Mensa and the path it's on, vote for those candidates supporting the status quo. After all, it can be argued that Mensa, which just hit its all-time high membership, is a growing, vigorous, and well-managed organization. Two years ago, even last year, the same could be said of General Motors, AIG, Citigroup, Lehman Brothers, and others. My point is, today's snapshot of does not reliably predict tomorrow's performance. I would like to see Mensa streamlined and made more efficient now, at the time and pace of our choosing, rather than waiting to do it in the grip of a panic. I voted against this year's budget for that very reason. Mensa relies heavily on its dues income, and its budgets assume continuous revenue growth. If this doesn't happen, we will be left with a budget shortfall, and we are not nim-

ble enough to cope well with this. Making ourselves more efficient now possible is our best protection.

The most important thing we all can do is to vote for our chosen candidates. In the last Mensa election, about 8% of the membership voted. That doesn't send a clear message even to the winners, unless that message is "we don't care, do whatever." I don't believe that's true. We do care; otherwise we wouldn't renew our memberships.

I believe in readying Mensa for bad times as well as for good. I believe Mensa can take positive action at its own pace rather than being forced to react. I believe that, even though no plan is perfect, Mensa can plan to handle reasonable risks without sacrificing growth. I believe that, as Chairman, I can prepare Mensa to move forward. I ask you, and thank you, for your support.

Dave Swanka
Candidate for Chairman

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			R
E	Z		
	K		N
D			E

Letter pool: SOLUTION

Answer on page 13

THE APRIL DINNER

Saturday, April 18, 2009. Our monthly dinner topic was "The Best Websites You've Never Heard Of." We had the perfect speaker for the subject, veteran computer support analyst Ilan Woll, a member of our chapter for over a decade. Ilan talked about sites he's used personally and found useful and other ones highly recommended to him by friends and computer pros. He covered everything from computers to politics to reference sites. exhibiting "his superpower to find almost anything online." The audience was more than happy to throw in their own favorites in each of these areas, as well as some less well-known sites covering other topics.

The first web priority for any computer owner may be to know where he can find help for computer problems. Inevitably, you will need security, backups, troubleshooting, efficiency tools, and missing software drivers for your computer. In his work, Ilan has found many excellent Internet sites where you can get these tools. For online backups, he recommended www.Mozy.com and www.Dilbertfiles.com. Both will backup your files offsite, giving you a way you can quickly recover any files you lose. Just as important as regular backups are regular checks for viruses, spyware, and ad cookies that plague web surfers. Here again, there are plenty of tools to help. Ilan likes www.lavasoft.de, which is free and does an excellent job of keeping your machine clean.

Can't find a solution to your computer problem by googling it? Then go to www.bleepingcomputer.com, a site where you can post questions about problems, help others with their problems, or just discuss bugs. As a computer troubleshooter, Ilan has used the site to find fixes for many common and not so common problems.

From troubleshooting, Ilan moved on to bargain hunting, one of the big attractions of the web. Every web surfer knows about Amazon and Ebay, but there are many unconventional or downright odd commercial sites that you haven't heard of. Ilan cited www.woot.com as an example, calling it "one of my favorite web sites." He likes it not for its wide selection - it sells only one product a day - but for its unpre-

dictable merchandise. Each night at 1 a.m., it puts up large quantities of one product for sale and sells it until it's gone. Shirts, wine, plasma TVs - whatever they happened to have in their warehouse, they'll put it up for sale. If you like midnight specials, this is a site for you.

Even if you'd rather stick to more conventional web stores, there are some specialized sites that can help you shop better. One Mensan recommended www.esnipe.com, a site where you can set your maximum bid for items on Ebay. The site will put in your bid just before the auction closes. You may not win, but Esnipe will save you the trouble of watching the bidding closely and help you avoid a bidding war.

Ilan mentioned several other sites where you can find inexpensive goods on the web, but, as one Mensan pointed out, you can also find completely free items. Just check out www.freecycle.com, a place where people who just want to get rid of something post their goods.

Freecycle notwithstanding, shopping requires money and money requires work. Unfortunately, the economic collapse has made it much more difficult to find a full-time job. One possible solution is to work as an independent contractor. Someone recommended www.workaholicsforhire.com as a site to find these temporary assignments. She said that users of the site post a wide range of skills for hire, and that she has had no problem finding a steady stream of contract jobs there.

The Internet is not just business; there's plenty of entertainment, something to suit every taste. Ilan likes to go to www.Jango.com for music because it allows you to customize your playlist. You pick an artist and then Jango will play songs by that artist and other artists who are similar. You get favorites together with variety.

One entertainment site that Ilan didn't show on his slides but which he cited is the television site www.Hulu.com. It offers for free the NBC and Fox shows that aired the day before. "It's really grown in popularity in the last few months," Ilan said. It may be a preview of TV's future.

Need to find phone numbers, directions, weather forecasts, local news, or just check out rumors or words?

The Web has it all. You have plenty of choices in each category. If you don't like www.mapquest.com for directions, check out Ilan's favorite map site, www.Maps.google.com. Want to find out where a word comes from? Go to www.worddetective.com. It will give you all that's known about the etymology of the word.

One reference site that many Connecticut residents overlook is the state website. www.ct.gov. "Because Connecticut is a smaller state that doesn't have a county form of government, you can find all the state's operations here," Ilan said. It offers lots of data, legal info, and official forms, giving you state government in a nutshell.

The evening concluded with a discussion about the future of newspapers and publishing in the Internet Age. Are newspapers doomed or are they just entering a new era? Most newspapers, including the New York Times, are suffering financially because their circulation and ad revenues have dropped steadily. The Seattle Post-Intelligencer recently ended its printed version and went exclusively to the Web, and most observers feel that other newspapers will follow suit. Can news publishers make money and do good reporting online? Ilan said that most papers seem to be bringing their regular features to their websites, and they are attracting ads. "It's too early to say if they can make money this way," he added. They face many competitors on the web. News buffs have many more options - they can turn to millions of blogger-analysts, and assemble their news from many sites, locally and internationally. The global village has never had so many reporters.

Book publishers face much the same threat as newspapers. Many authors feel they no longer need conventional publishers since they can use inexpensive on-demand publishers or do the job themselves. Also, E-books, while not yet mainstream, are becoming more popular, threatening to do away with book printing entirely. The new technologies have opened the doors for almost anyone who wants to write a book. 400,000 titles were published last year, doubling the number of just a few years ago.

Some of the people in our audience complained about the deteriorating quality of publishing, and Ilan agreed - partly. "The best thing about on-demand publishing is that it has lowered barriers to entry. The worst thing about on-demand publishing is that it has lowered barriers to entry."

Ilan's words seemed to sum things up pretty well, not only about book publishing, but also about the web in general. People have more gems and more junk to choose from than ever before. The April dinner gave us the chance to hear from a web-savvy professional and fellow Mensans on how we can sort through it.

NEXT MONTH: Set aside May 16, the third Saturday, to come to our monthly dinner. "AN OVERVIEW OF NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY." CT and Western Mass. Mensa member Manny Ratafia will be the speaker.

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

Spring is in the air, the buds are forming on the apple trees and, most importantly, our Weber grill is ready for a season of outdoor cooking. This month we are blessed with a wine of such character and complexity that it deserves my "the angels wept" comment. I mentioned this to the Boss, and, she just rolled her eyes and gave me one of those looks. But I don't care what she says. It was close to a religious experience. Plus, it goes well with the beefsteak that we cooked on the grill.

The May wine is the 2004 red from Villa Puccini of Tuscany. This Toscana is a blend of 90% Sangiovese and 10% merlot grapes. It starts with a nose that richly projects blackberries. Then, as this smooth full-bodied wine washes over the tongue, you can taste layers of plum, black pepper, and berry. It finishes with an aroma that is vanilla and, I think, a hint of cedar. This is one of the finest wines for the money that I have ever found. It is available for about \$10 to \$13 a bottle.

MARINATED AND GRILLED STEAK

There are numerous marinades for beef available over the Internet, so I'll just describe a couple that we have used over the years. I am suggesting ingredients appropriate for two aging baby boomers. For the meat, pick about 1 lb. of strip steak or filet mignon 1" to 1-1/2" thick (about 1-1/2 lb., if you grill a bone in cut like a T-bone).

Marinade #1 Ingredients:

1/4 cup olive oil
 1/4 cup red wine
 a handful of fresh chopped marjoram (or 1 tbsp dry)
 1/2 tsp kosher or sea salt
 1 tsp coarsely ground pepper.

OR

Marinade #2 Ingredients

1/4 cup olive oil
 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
 a handful of fresh finely chopped rosemary (or 1 tbsp dry)
 1/2 tsp kosher or sea salt
 1 tsp coarsely ground pepper

Instructions: In a tight sealing kitchen bag place meat and marinade ingredients and allow to marinate at least 4 hours, turning over the bag about half way through. If you are using a less expensive cut of meat such as a sirloin, I would suggest using the marinade containing the balsamic vinegar and letting it marinate over night. The natural tenderizing effect of the vinegar will then have a chance to do its work.

Grilling Tips: Hopefully, you have a good quality gas grill. This will produce the best and most consistent results. Allow the grill to heat up on high with the cover down. Place the marinated meat on the grill, turn the grill down to medium, and put the cover back down. If you have a thermometer on the grill, you should be cooking at around 400 degrees. For medium rare, it should take only about 4 minutes a side if the steak is 1" to 1-1/4" thick. I would suggest 5 minutes a side if the steak is a full 1-1/2" thick. You can also use an instant digital meat thermometer. 125 degrees in the center will give you medium rare.

PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. What percentage of U.S. adults drink coffee?
2. Which is greater, the difference between East and West or the difference between North and South?
3. Where does the United States government keep its supplies of silver?
4. What is the best art museum in Connecticut?
5. What is the longest one-syllable word in the English language?
6. What rules do you think jurors violate most often?
7. What percentage of the earth's surface is covered by rainforests?
8. Which region has the most erratic weather?

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

1. Explain the difference between rationalism and empiricism.
A: Rationalism says that all knowledge can be acquired by deducing consequences from self-evident propositions. Empiricism is the idea that all knowledge is derived from the senses.
3. What is a trapezium?
A: A trapezium is any four-sided closed figure in one plane that has no parallel sides.
5. Which is colder and windier: the Artic (the north pole) or the Antarctic (the south pole)?
A: The Antarctic is colder windier, and drier than any continent. During the winter, the sun never rises there, and during the summer, the sun never sets. The winter lows can be as cold as -112 F (80 C) in the interior. The maximum temperature is about 59 F (15 C) near the coast in the summer. About 98% of Antarctica is covered by ice.
7. What desert has the greatest difference between yearly high and low temperatures?
A: The Gobi Desert in Asia has the biggest temperature difference. It gets as hot as 113 degrees Fahrenheit and as cold as -53 F. For two months, it is covered with snow.

WORD CHECK

See if you can define these philosophical terms.
Answers are below.

1. Axiology -
2. Deduction -
3. Epistemology -
4. Induction -
5. Noumenon (NOO -muh -non) -
6. Ontology -
7. Pantheism -
8. Panentheism -
9. Phenomenalism -
10. Solipsism

1. Axiology - the branch of philosophy that studies value - the right and the good in ethics, and the beautiful in aesthetics.
2. Deduction - deriving conclusions from something known or assumed; reasoning from general principles to specifics; reasoning from premises to conclusion.
3. Epistemology - the division of philosophy that studies the nature, origins, and limits of knowledge.
4. Induction - making generalizations based on specific examples.
5. Noumenon - a thing as it actually exist apart from how it may appear to us.
6. Ontology - the study of being or existence.
7. Pantheism - the doctrine that god and the universe are identical.
8. Panentheism - the view that god is everything but also conscious.
9. Phenomenalism - the belief that we can now only appearances and not the ultimate nature of things.
10. Solipsism - the view that only I exist independently and that other persons and objects exist only when I am conscious of them.

ANSWERS:

Sudokogram answer

N	O	I	R
E	Z	S	T
U	K	L	N
D	N	O	E

Letter Pool: SOLUTION

- Across: IRON, ZEST, LUNK, DONE
 Down: DUNE, ZONK, SILO, RENT
 Boxes: ZONE, STIR, DUNK, LONE
 Note: Other anagrams like NODE are okay

NOTED & QUOTED

Anyone can look for fashion in a boutique or history in a museum. The creative explorer looks for history in a hardware store and fashion in an airport.

- Robert Wieder

Why do you hasten to remove anything which hurts your eye, while if something affects your soul you postpone the cure until next year?

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

Know thyself? If I knew myself, I'd run away.

- Johanne Von Goethe, (1749 - 1832)

The king eats last. - Ndebele proverb

Admire a little ship but put your cargo in a big one.

- Hesiod, (c. 800 B.C.E.), Greek poet

In charity there is no excess.

- Francis Bacon, (1561 - 1626), English philosopher, essayist, statesman

You do anything long enough to escape the habit of living until the escape becomes the habit.

- David Ryan

What atonement is there for blood spilt upon the earth?

- Aeschylus, (525 - 456 B.C.E.), Greek dramatist

No man does anything from a single motive.

- Samuel Taylor Coleridge, (1772 - 1834), English critic and poet

Our actions are neither as good nor so evil as our impulses.

- Marquis De Vauvenargues, (1715 - 1747), French soldier and moralist

A lie has speed, but truth has endurance.

- Edgar J. Mohn,

I'll never make the mistake of bein' seventy again.

- Casey Stengel, (1890 - 1975)

The only way to avoid Hollywood is to live there.

- Igor Stravinsky, (1882 - 1971), Russian composer

I restore myself when I'm alone. A career is born in public; talent in privacy.

- Marilyn Monroe, (1926 - 1962)

Give me a child and I'll shape him into anything.

- B.F. Skinner, (1904 - 1990)

When there is no moon, you go by the stars.

- Somali Proverb

My only hope lies in my despair.

- Jean Racine, (1639 - 1699), French playwright

We respond to a drama to that extent to which it corresponds to our dream life.

- David Mamet, (1947 -), U.S. playwright, screenwriter, essayist

They believe that nothing will happen because they have closed their doors.

- Maurice Maeterlinck, (1862 - 1949), Belgian poet and dramatist

Artists have a right to be modest and a duty to be vain.

- Karl Kraus, (1874 - 1936), Austrian journalist, critic, playwright, poet

Until the day of his death, no man can be sure of his courage.

- Jean Anouilh, (1910 - 1987), French novelist, playwright, screenwriter

It is much more comfortable to be mad and know it, than to be sane and have one's doubts.

- George Brown Burgin, (1856 - 1944), British author

The trouble about man is twofold. He cannot learn truths which are too complicated; he forgets truths which are too simple.

- Dame Rebecca West, (1892 - 1983), English journalist and novelist

All of our ideas come from the natural world; trees equal umbrellas.

- Wallace Stevens, (1879 - 1955), U.S. poet

Everything must be taken seriously, nothing tragically.

- Louis Adolphe Thiers, (1797 - 1877), French politician, historian

There is no such thing as absolute value in this world. You can only estimate what a thing is worth to you.

- Charles Dudley Warner, (1829 - 1900), U.S. editor and essayist

I've written some poetry I don't understand myself.

- Carl Sandburg, (1878 - 1967)

It is ridiculous to set a detective story in New York City. New York City is itself a detective story.

- Agatha Christie, (1890 - 1976)

NOTED & QUOTED

Every writer I know has trouble writing.

- Joseph Heller, (1923 - 1999), U.S. novelist

Write hard and clear about what hurts.

- Ernest Hemingway, (1899 - 1961)

Every writer is a frustrated actor who recites his lines in the hidden auditorium of his skull.

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

Musical comedies aren't written, they are re-written.

- Stephen Sondheim, (1930 -)

In music the passions enjoy themselves.

- Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche, (1844 - 1900)

Leadership is getting someone to do what they don't want to do, to achieve what they want to achieve.

- Tom Landry, (1924 - 2000), NFL player, coach

Time and truth are friends, though there are many moments hostile to truth.

- Joseph Joubert, (1754 - 1824), French essayist and moralist

We do not need to be shoemakers to know if our shoes fit, and just as little have we any need to be professionals to acquire knowledge of matters of universal interest.

- Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, (1770 - 1831), German philosopher

It is a mistake to try to look too far ahead. The chain of destiny can only be grasped one link at a time.

- Winston Churchill, (1874 - 1965)

THE 'Iliad' is only great because all life is a battle, the 'Odyssey' because all life is a journey, the Book of Job because all life is a riddle.

- G.K. Chesterton, (1874 - 1936), 'The Defendant'

The historian always oversimplifies, and hastily selects a manageable

minority of facts and faces out of a crowd of souls and events whose multitudinous complexity he can never quite embrace or comprehend.

- Will Durant, (1885 - 1981), U.S. historian

The man who says he will walk the middle of the road has his path determined for him by those who define the ditches, and never then takes a step of his own choosing.

- Benjamin Rogge, (1920 - 1980), economist

A human being should be able to change a diaper, plan an invasion, butcher a hog, conn a ship, design a building, write a sonnet, balance accounts, build a wall, set a bone, comfort the dying, take orders, give orders, cooperate, act alone, solve equations, analyze a new problem, pitch manure, program a computer, cook a tasty meal, fight efficiently, die gallantly. Specialization is for insects.

- Robert Heinlein, (1907 - 1988), Time Enough for Love

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