

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- 1 Schedule of Southern Connecticut Mensa Events for June**
- 3 Schedule of Connecticut and Western Mass. Mensa Events for June  
- Jazz SIG, Happy Hours & Get Together's**
- 8 From the Regional Vice Chairman - Lori Norris**
- 9 The May Dinner**
- 12 Commentary by Jerry Brooker**
- 14 Good Wine Cheap (and good food to go with it)**
- 15 Puzzles and Questions**
- 16 Mensa Mind Games 2009 Results**
- 17 Word Check**
- 18 Sudokograms**
- 19 Noted and Quoted**
- 22 Regional Gatherings**
- 25 Member Advertisements**
- 26 Publication Notice / Change of Address Form**
- 25 List of Officers**

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:** If you have an annual Mensa membership, your membership expired 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](http://www.us.mensa.org) to renew.

**ARCHIVED COPIES OF THE CHRONICLE** going back to 2000 are available on the Internet at our new web address <http://scm66.org>. 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.

**ATTENTION SOUTHERN CT MENSANS:** The Southern CT Mensa Executive Committee needs two members to assume the open positions of President 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 FOR JUNE:**

**INTERESTED IN CHESS?** Several Mensans have signed up for the chess club. Visit the Mensan chess website <http://scm66.org/cgi-bin/scmchess.cgi> to get involved.

**June ?, BASEBALL.** The Bridgeport Bluefish, [www.BridgeportBluefish.com](http://www.BridgeportBluefish.com), who play at Harbor Yard Stadium, Bridgeport, CT, have 15 home games in June, including the All Star Game on Tuesday, June 23. Check out the schedule and contact Jim Mizera at [jmizera@hotmail.com](mailto:jmizera@hotmail.com), (203) 522-1959, to let us know what games you are interested in attending.

**June ?, MUSIC. SONO CAFFEINE, 133 Washington St., South Norwalk, CT 06854,** [www.sonocaffeine.com](http://www.sonocaffeine.com), is running 10 musical evenings in June. Check out the schedule and contact Jim Mizera at [jmizera@hotmail.com](mailto:jmizera@hotmail.com), (203) 522-1959, to let us know what shows you are interested in attending.

**June ?, OTHER EVENTS of INTEREST.** Contact Jim Mizera at [jmizera@hotmail.com](mailto:jmizera@hotmail.com), (203) 522-1959, to notify us of events you think fellow Mensan might like to attend.

**FRIDAY, June 5, 8:00 p.m. 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](mailto:jmizera@hotmail.com) or (203) 522-1959 for info or reservations.

**Friday, June 12, 7:00 pm.** Danbury Dinner - Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner at a new venue, The Pasta Garden, 174 Federal Rd, Brookfield CT 06804 (restaurant phone: (203) 775-0426). Interested M's should contact Ward Mazzucco at 203-744-1929, ext 25, [wjm@danburylaw.com](mailto:wjm@danburylaw.com) or Rev. Bill Loring at 203-794-1389, [fr.bill@comcast.net](mailto:fr.bill@comcast.net) for more info on location and/or reservations.

**Saturday, June 20, 6:30 p.m. - MONTHLY DINNER.** (Tentative – call to confirm.) Speaker to be announced. TONELLI'S RESTAURANT, 41 Grassy Plain St., Bethel, CT 06801. CT and Western Mass. Check our website [www.scm66.org](http://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. There are plenty of seats. Contact Jim Mizera, [jmizera@hotmail.com](mailto:jmizera@hotmail.com), 203-522-1959, for information and reservations. Reservations encouraged but not required.

### **DIRECTIONS FROM STAMFORD:**

Take I-95. Merge onto US-7 Connector NORTH via EXIT 15 toward NORWALK. Take US-7 Connector to MAIN AVE / US-7. 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

G 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, US Map

### **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. <0.1 miles Map

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, JUNE 18, 7:30pm. Southern CT Mensa BILLIARDS.** 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: <http://www.uncuebilliardsandmusic.com>

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

Questions? Contact Tom O'Neill, [doctec2@gmail.com](mailto:doctec2@gmail.com).

**Saturday, June 27, 7:30 p.m. THEATRE:** Shakespeare's A Midsummer's Night Dream, performed by Shakespeare on the Sound ([www.shakespeareonthesound.org](http://www.shakespeareonthesound.org)), Pinkney Park, Rowayton (Norwalk), CT. Suggested donation \$10 - \$20. This is an outdoor theater in the park on the banks of the Five Mile River. Please arrive early and bring a chair. Contact Jim Mizera at [jmizera@hotline.com](mailto:jmizera@hotline.com) or (203) 522-1959.

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**CONNECTICUT AND WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS MENSA CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS.**

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

**Mensans on the Radio:**

C&WM Mensan Janine Bujalski is on the airwaves every 1st & 3rd Friday 6-10 a.m. on 89.5FM, WPKN in Bridgeport, CT. There is a limited internet broadcast - about 25 can listen simultaneously at [www.wpkn.org](http://www.wpkn.org). From 6-9 AM there's jazz, blues & music from Brazil and from 9-10 AM the music is from Louisiana, mostly Cajun & zydeco.

Vice LocSec Will Mackey is hosting Friday evening Classics from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. weekly on 91.3 FM, WWUH, in West Hartford. The name of the program is "What You Will" and its focus is modern chamber music.

*For event listings in the Media, leave a message for me by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the previous month at 860-872-3106 or email [lilith@beadylittleskies.com](mailto:lilith@beadylittleskies.com) Subject: Calendar*

*There's also the [CWM-Announce] upcoming events reminder email list, which I send out \*approximately\* weekly. Subscribe and unsubscribe options are located at <http://lists.us.mensa.org/mailman/listinfo/cwm-announce> for your convenience. And any Mensan who wants to notify their fellow Ms about any late-breaking event s/he wants to share with our delightful chapter, please email me ASAP with the details and I'll get it out to the list. You may also check the website [www.cwm.us.mensa.org](http://www.cwm.us.mensa.org) for our calendar updates.*

## Legend

**(WE)** Weekly Event, details given in first listing

**(ME)** Monthly Event, periodicity stated

**(YE)** Yearly Event

**JUNE CALENDAR****4, 11, 18, 25****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).

**5****Friday****5:30 pm**

Happy Hour in Wallingford (ME, 1<sup>st</sup> Fridays) Ann Polanski (contact her at 203-269-4565 or [ann.polanski@comcast.net](mailto:ann.polanski@comcast.net)) hosts us upstairs at Alina's Ristorante (used to be George's II Restaurant), 950 Yale Avenue, Wallingford, CT 06492 Phone: 203-269-1059

**Directions:** Exit 66 off Wilbur Cross Parkway. Turn left (south) onto Rte 5. Take first left that's not a highway entrance onto Yale Avenue. Alina's is in the Yale Plaza on the right.

**6****Saturday****5:00pm & 7:00pm**

Saturday Double Play! Join Lori and Ron Norris at their home in Warwick, RI for a Cook-out at 5:00 and Games starting at 7:00. We'll fire up the grill for some burgers, you bring an appetizer, dessert or side dish. After dinner we'll open up some new games and dust off the old favorites. Bring a game or just trust us. Come for both or part. Please RSVP for directions and to coordinate dinner. Leave message at (401)781-3247 or [menaRon@gmail.com](mailto:menaRon@gmail.com)

7

Sunday

7:30 pm

Cappella Cantorum Men's Chorus will present a concert of Fantabulous Favorites from Five Years at Saint Paul Lutheran Church, 56 Great Hammock Road, Old Saybrook, CT. The 33 voice male chorus is conducted by Barry Asch and accompanied by Susan Sweeney. Featured selections include: Alexander's Ragtime Band, Men of Harlech, Rhythm of Life, Hallelujah, Amen. Tickets: \$15, advance tickets: \$12, call 860-434-9135 or pick them up in Homeworks, Old Saybrook, CT Ann Fitzgerald invites all to come and enjoy.

10

Wednesday

5:30 pm

Happy Hour in Branford (ME, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday) at The Donovan's Reef [www.donovans-reef.com](http://www.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 where you will enter the 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. Shoreline Foods faces Ivy. The lounge is on the left inside. I usually have a table reservation and will likely have an "M" sign visible. We start around 5:30. There are free daily bar goodie along with any items that you may want to order from the comprehensive menu. Donovan's phone number is 203-488-5573. We have a great time talking about anything and everything. Hope to see you there! Questions? Contact Joe Wonoski at 203-457-9770.

11

Thursday

6:35 pm

Mensa Goes to a Ballgame at New Britain Stadium. Meet Tom Thomas and the gang in general admission section 213, about four rows from the top, for a minor league baseball game between the New Britain Rock Cats (Minnesota Twins Double-A team) and the Altoona Curve (Pittsburgh Pirates.) Parking:\$3, General Admission tickets are \$5.

12

Friday

6:30 pm

Diner Dinner (semimonthly, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:howiebren@aol.com)

13

Saturday

12:30 pm

Let's Do Lunch at Sake's Japanese Restaurant at 1105 Silas Deane Hwy, Wethersfield, CT. Contact Pamela Guinan at (860) 563-5761 or email [Pamela.cwm@hotmail.com](mailto:Pamela.cwm@hotmail.com) so we can estimate headcount for the restaurant.



20

Saturday

11:30 am

Vermont Mensa Meeting Lunch at the Cafe at King Arthur Flour's Baker's Store  
135 Route 5 South  
Norwich, VT 05055  
Phone: 802-649-3361  
[www.kingarthurfLOUR.com/ourstore](http://www.kingarthurfLOUR.com/ourstore)

King Arthur Flour's campus in Norwich contains a Baker's Store, Cafe, Bakery, and School. We'll meet at the Cafe at 11:30 a.m. and enjoy their fine sandwiches, pizzas, soups, cakes, pies, and pastries. If the weather is nice, we can take our selections out to the picnic tables overlooking their pond and enjoy our lunch al fresco.

Afterwards, those who wish to can enjoy shopping in the Baker's Store, which has everything your inner chef needs, "from hard-to-find ingredients, innovative gadgets, and top-quality pans, to easy mixes and a huge selection of baking basics" (according to their website, which alone is worth a visit). In the store's kitchen, you can watch their bakers and enjoy free samples.

For those without an interest in all things culinary, the town of Hanover, New Hampshire is just 4 miles away. You could stroll through its shops and visit the Dartmouth campus. (Commencement will have already passed; I was sure to check.) Dartmouth's Hood Museum of Art has several special exhibits on display at this time, including caricatures by Honori Daumier.

RSVP to Claire Natola at [mensabear@gmail.com](mailto:mensabear@gmail.com) or 603-279-9986 by 8pm the night before, so we can be sure to keep an eye out for you at King Arthur Flour's cafe. Don't hesitate to call or write with questions you may have, or simply for encouragement to join us!

**Directions:**

**From the south**, take I-91 North to exit 13. Go straight down the offramp.

At the traffic light, take a left and go under the highway.

At the next light, take another left onto Route 5 South.

On Route 5 South, look for King Arthur Flour's gray building with red trim on the left-hand side, just past the car dealership and less than ½ mile from the traffic lights.

**From the north**, take I-89 South until it meets I-91 in White River Junction, Vermont.

Take I-91 North to exit 13 and follow all remaining directions "from the south" above.

20

Saturday

5:00 pm

C&WM Summer Solstice Potluck Picnic: All members welcome. At the Essex Corinthian Yacht Club, Essex, CT. [www.essexcorinthianyc.org](http://www.essexcorinthianyc.org) Last year's event was a blast, so come make this one just as memorable! Family friendly pot luck, like last year. C&WM will provide burgers & chicken, condiments & beverages. Members are asked to bring either an appetizer ( A-H), side or salad (I-R) or dessert or fruit (S-Z). RSVP to LocSec Ann Fitzgerald, 860-388-1893 or [annelly@comcast.net](mailto:annelly@comcast.net)

26

Friday

5:00 pm

Happy Hour, (ME, 4<sup>th</sup> Friday) The 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 203-877-4472 or [Gail.Trowbridge@att.net](mailto:Gail.Trowbridge@att.net) .

26

Friday

6:00 pm NEW!!!

Open Mike (ME, 4<sup>th</sup> 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. More info, contact Fran Devevo at 860-738-8488 weekends and 9-10pm or email [menafran@yahoo.com](mailto:menafran@yahoo.com) Peace and Happy Spring!!!

26

Friday

6:30 pm

Diner Dinner (semimonthly, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:BarbCPA@att.net), Subject: Diner Dinner

### Looking Ahead:

The MENSA ANNUAL GATHERING is being held in Pittsburgh and it begins on Wednesday, JULY 3rd. Our RVC and C&WM Chairperson Lori Norris is planning a dinner gathering for C&WM members on Wednesday evening. If you are interested in joining her for dinner, please e-mail her ([lorijnorris@hotmail.com](mailto:lorijnorris@hotmail.com)) and she'll give you all the details. This is a great way to start the AG experience.

**FROM THE REGIONAL VICE CHAIRMAN****Lori Norris  
RVChat**

The Mensa Mind Games® were held in April and while I did not attend, I recently played Dominion, one of the Mensa Select winners. I liked it so much that I just had to buy it for my personal game collection. It's a very enjoyable game and I look forward to perfecting my skill at it.

If you haven't registered yet for the Pittsburgh PA Annual Gathering, now is the time. While the main hotel is sold out, there still are rooms available at the backup hotel, which I understand is within a 10-minute walking distance. Tours, dining plans and the schedule of speakers are listed on the web site. Check it out. There will be tournaments, games, game tutorials, and speakers ranging from A (Antarctica Touristica) to Z (Zen Meditation). Visit the Mensa Marketplace and Meet & Greets (Region 1's Meet & Greet will be on Saturday at 4:30 p.m.). There will be music, hospitality and lots of other Mensans to talk and play games with. There should be something for everyone. Some of the Region 1 local groups are planning on taking extra advantage of the AG. One local group, CT&WM Mensa, is planning a dinner get-together the first night of the AG. Another, Mid-Hudson Mensa, is planning on holding a camping trip in Cook Forest State Park, PA on the way to the AG. Contact Bibi Sandstrom (bibis@juno.com) for further details and to make your reservation. Perhaps you would like to organize something for your fellow local group members. There should be a bulletin board near registration or in another prominent location and you'll be able to schedule a meeting time at the AG.

Graduation season is upon us. One of my nieces is graduating from college with a teaching degree and another from high school. Times may be tough but it is exciting for them with their whole lives in front of them. I remember that feeling upon graduation from high school, college and, more recently, law school. Now, I feel that way when taking on a new project or when planning a trip, such as to Ottawa this summer (including the Canadian AG).

I participate in several Yahoo! groups hosted by local groups in our region. Topics discussed range from Mensa events to political/economic issues to music. If your group hosts a chat group, join and see what other folks think about your pet interest. The chat groups are also a great tool for creating spontaneous events. Some groups have set up FaceBook groups to keep in touch and remind each other of upcoming events.

Lori

**THE MAY DINNER****AN OVERVIEW OF NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY**

The world will need vast new sources of energy in the future. With the formerly impoverished economies of China and India growing rapidly, the demand for energy seems sure to multiply. Where can we get secure, clean, and affordable energy to meet the growing demand? Can alternative energies like solar, wind, and geothermal fill the bill? These are some of the questions Mensans met to discuss at our May dinner. Our speaker was CT and Western Massachusetts Mensa member Manny Ratafia, an engineer, angel investor, entrepreneur, and management consultant who is deeply involved in energy technology. Manny illuminated the progress and potential of several alternative energy sources, including some not discussed much in the popular press. The audience had a lot of questions for him but Manny also had several thought-provoking questions for the audience, making it a great evening for exploring the leading edge of energy research.

**NUCLEAR FUSION**

Given the worry about energy supplies and prices, one question Manny posed seemed wildly speculative. “What if we had a cheap, limitless source of energy?” he asked. Hopelessly wishful? Maybe not. Some scientists think nuclear fusion holds this promise. Of course, there is good reason to be skeptical. As Manny reminded us, for the past fifty years, “nuclear fusion has been the energy of the future – and it always will be.” But scientists at Lawrence Livermore Labs, he said, are working out on a new approach that may overcome the perennial problems. Livermore’s reactor focuses the beams of powerful lasers onto a hydrogen capsule to fuse it into helium, which releases enormous energy. The neutrons from the fusion reaction will be used to split nuclear waste taken from nuclear fission plants, generating heat.

If fusion gave us limitless energy that cost next to nothing, we could freely produce electricity, the most fungible source of energy. We would use electricity almost everywhere, even on other planets. Not only would it be cheap and plentiful, it would also immensely reduce pollution. The potential is staggering – if it can be made to work.

Several Mensans had questions about a different type of nuclear fusion - cold fusion. Twenty years ago, University of Utah scientists Stanley Pons and Martin Fleischmann excited scientists and the public when they claimed they had produced nuclear fusion at room temperature. However, other scientists who repeated the experiment did not get the heat and neutrons Pons and Fleischmann claimed. Enthusiasm turned to skepticism, but research on cold fusion continued on a modest scale. Recent apparent successes have raised glimmers of hope again but we don't know if these results from these experiments are accurate, and if they are, whether the heat generated actually comes from fusion. Whatever the truth may be, Manny cautioned, cold fusion is not going to revolutionize the world.

**SUN, WIND, AND WAVE**

Shifting from the future to the present, our speaker asked, “What is the most dominant clean form of energy?” With all the publicity recently about solar and wind power, many people might be quick to answer with one of these energy alternatives. But as Manny and a few people in our audience pointed out, the answer actually is hydropower. Water produces 50% of the world's clean energy. More surprisingly, perhaps, was the answer to his next question: “What form of home energy has the quickest payback?” The answer again is hydropower – backyard hydropower systems, which have a 2-year payback period.

**Before you try this in your own backyard, Manny advised, look into regulations in your town – legal difficulties have thwarted some home hydropower enthusiasts.**

**Many engineers are working to make solar competitive with hydropower and established energy sources. They still have quite a way to go. “Photovoltaic is the most popular form of alternative energy, but it is about three times more expensive than conventional sources now,” Manny stated. The two main ways of using solar energy in the home are: 1) the use of photovoltaic cells which convert sunlight falling onto the cells into electricity; or 2) the use of solar thermal collectors in which sunlight warms water, which then transfers the heat throughout the house. “With photovoltaic systems, the main cost is photovoltaic cells,” Manny told us. They are still too expensive to interest most homeowners, although their cost has been declining and their efficiency improving, But, Manny explained, there is a third way of using solar energy in the home that combines the two main types of solar systems to improve efficiency. Combined systems use solar to heat water, which then cools the photovoltaic cells before circulating to heat the rooms.**

**When we think of wind energy, we think of giant turbines with enormous blades dotting the western landscape. But just as the sun doesn’t shine all the time, the wind doesn’t blow everyday. Even in the best locations, it produces electricity at a cost of about .09/kwh., unsubsidized. It requires special tax credits, to meet the market price of power. But a French professor has come up with a way to tap the energy of the wind much more efficiently than grounded wind turbines do. He’s using kites that capture the higher-speed and steadier winds that blow at higher altitudes. Right now, he has several working models that can produce electricity at .02/kwh! Not content to stop there, he is working on a new design that produces power at .01/kwh. The natural question is, “How does he get electricity down from the kites?” There are two ways, Manny explained. One way is to put batteries up in the kites to harness electricity. A second method is to run wires from kites down to the ground. To navigate the kites, you can put little propellers on them. If deployed in groups, the kites can generate enough energy to supply entire communities.**

## **CARS AND THE SMART GRID**

**No discussion about alternative energy would be complete without talking about electric and hybrid cars. How would electric cars fit into our electric grid? Improvements will be necessary. To work efficiently, Manny said, we must have an electric grid smart enough so that electric cars can not only charge themselves but also give electricity back to the grid when they are not in use, such as when they are in the parking lot at work. Ideally, the cars would recharge at night when energy use is low, and return electricity back to the grid during the day, when energy use is high. “Peak energy is very expensive,” Manny emphasized. The extra capacity in our electric power grids is not used most of the time but is needed for those times of peak use, such as on hot summer days. It would just take a little electricity from each car to help meet the need during these key periods.**

**There are not many electric cars now, but there are many cars using the bio-fuel ethanol. Ethanol really isn’t very cheap, however, and it has taken away cropland, decreased food supplies, and increased prices. “Ethanol,” Manny said, sharing the sentiments of many others, “is a misguided idea.” He had some good news on this front, though. Science Magazine recently reported on a new technique that, instead of converting corn to ethanol for internal-combustion engines, burns corn or switchgrass to produce bioelectricity to power electric cars. How efficient is it? Recent tests showed that a car running on switchgrass can go 14,000 miles when a car running on ethanol has only traveled 9,000 miles. This dramatic improvement, Manny projected, “will lead a big push to hybrid or fully electric vehicles.”**

## HOME, EFFICIENT HOME

There has been a tremendous amount of talk about making our homes more energy efficient, but something has been overlooked. As Manny pointed out, “Building a house is most of the lifetime cost of a house. Yet, almost no thought is being given to the cost of building. This is the place where you can save the most money.” Construction machinery and materials use costly energy, and home building generates tons of debris and waste. Researchers at MIT are studying how to use different materials and pre-fabricated systems to save energy and cut the costs of homes. One of their important projects is to come up with resins that will enable wood to change day and night with the temperature. The researchers have experimented with impregnating the wood or using genetic engineering to improve its insulation. The MIT team is working on many other ways to make homes that are quicker to build, more durable, easier to adapt, and less expensive to heat and cool.

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There are many other interesting ways to produce energy, and Manny touched on some of these special technologies, such as geothermal energy and ocean tidal power. Geothermal has high capital costs and low operating costs, but it has proven itself to be economical, reliable, and clean source of heat in countries such as Iceland. Tapping ocean tidal power also requires huge capital investments. Engineers are improving the efficiency of the giant ocean turbines so that they can switch to face in or out depending on the tide. This would provide hydropower on a grand scale.

There is a low-tech competitor to all the new technologies – conservation. Manny noted, “The quickest way to deal with high energy use is conservation.”

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Mensans enjoyed the evening and definitely came away better informed about energy. Although the energy future remains unclear, it is sure to be exciting. Manny will continue his work in the this field, looking at venture capital proposals from new companies, consulting, and running Lyon-Ratafia, a technology startup based in Milford, CT. We look forward to hearing from him again and learning more about the technological frontier.

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**COMMENTARY**

by Gerard Brooker

There is a tiny atoll in the Gilbert Islands that is called Tarawa. It is located about 3000 miles southeast of mainland Japan, and is the scene of a little known yet iconic battle of WW II. If we ever need to have a reason to observe Memorial Day, a day according to the law, "to honor the nation's armed forces personnel killed in wartime," let us simply remember what happened at Tarawa over three days in 1943.

The weather on the day I arrived there recently was much the same as it was on the morning of November 20, 1943 when U.S. Marines landed on a strip of beaches that lay on the inside loop of the lagoon at the islet called Betio. It is one of eight islets that compose Tarawa, now a part of the Republic of Kiribati. Five thousand Japanese soldiers were dug in to protect an expanding airfield that could control much of the central Pacific. The island, half the size of Central Park, was fortified with heavy and light machine guns, mortars, artillery, pillboxes, cement bunkers, barbed wire and coastal defense guns.

It is to be noted that Tarawa is a beautiful place. What I saw from the air as we circled this spit in the sea was a progression of inky ocean, followed by light green water, then cloudy pink reefs, a crystal blue lagoon. Betio is rimmed by hard-rock beach coral that has been pounded by the surf into tiny grains of pinkish tan sand. The scene reminds one of the sunny beaches in the Caribbean.

On the morning of the invasion, Higgins boats were to take the Marines into shore from about a mile out at sea. Because of a miscalculation of the tides, the boats got hung up on coral reefs that were as dry as baked leather. Hundreds of men were forced to abandon the boats and wade chest high into shore while burdened by heavy backpacks, grenades, and weapons. Tetrahedron obstacles and barbed wire set into the water impeded their way to safety. For two consecutive mornings the boats failed to cross the reefs. And for two consecutive mornings, our men were mangled in the sea.

Here is the hard reality of those days: pools of young men's blood red-speckled the glassy waters of Tarawa, dead bodies rocked in the ebb and flow of the tide, and corpses floated miles out into the pitch-black waters of the Pacific. These are the images of war that beckon us to remember.

Ferociously, the Marines swept the short distance to the ocean side of the lagoon. It took a little over three days to complete the job, a few yards at a time, and sometimes in hand-to-hand combat, to destroy an enemy who was taught to fight to his death. In the end, five thousand Japanese soldiers and one thousand U.S. Marines died.

It is not consoling to describe the details of their deaths, yet it is the way to a heart-felt observance of what the men and women in our Armed Services have sacrificed for this country. In the many wars since the beginning of WW I, approximately 637,000 military personnel have died protecting our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Until 1971 when the National Holiday Act mandated that Memorial Day was to be observed on the last Monday of May in order to ensure a three-day holiday, the 30th of May had always marked the day. Making it a part of a weekend holiday that has come to mean the beginning of summer has somewhat weakened its observance as a special day when American flags are flown at half-staff, wreaths laid on the tomb stones of veterans, parades held in cities and towns, a moment of national observance at 3 p.m., Eastern Time. It is now more of a day for picnics, the beach, and racecars.

Unfortunately, several school systems in the U.S. do not observe the day as a federal holiday, in some cases so the children can get out of school earlier in June. True, sending our children to school on

**Memorial Day is a sign of the freedom purchased by the blood of those we honor on that day. It is also a sign of disrespect.**

**The 637,000 military personnel mentioned above are true American heroes. They are not the ones we are asked by the media to honor for throwing a ball into a hoop, or for running through others with a pigskin tucked under their arms. Neither are they rock stars whose artificial lamentations express an angst hardly earned. They are not movie celebrities whose fragile glitz will surely fade against the glare of the morning sun. Rather, they are the men and women who have answered the call to duty, and in the response gave their lives. No greater love hath any man.**

## **Good Wine Cheap (and good food to go with it)**

**By John Grover**

**This month we will focus on a wine (and food) for summer. There are a number of wines that seem to be just made for an idyllic picnic or for sitting on the lawn at Tanglewood while listening to the classical music and contemplating the stars above. This month's selection, Vinho Verde, is perfect for such warm summer evenings.**

**Vinho Verde is produced in the Minho province of Portugal. Its name means "green wine", but this doesn't refer to the wine's color. It's actually a white wine but the name tells us we should drink it while its fresh and young. It's slightly effervescent so it should be served well chilled. The high acidity gives it a crisp taste and makes it a good with chicken and seafood, either grilled or in salads. This is a very sensible wine for those hot days ahead because it is relatively low in alcohol (around 8.5 to 10%).**

**Some of the good and affordable labels for Vinho Verde include Casal Garcia, Alianca and Aveleda. These brands can be found for about \$6.99 to \$8.99 a 750 ml. bottle.**

**This month's recipe is devoted to the summer barbecue. Let me suggest that while you cook that chicken or seafood, add some vegetables for the grill. Not only will you provide something healthy to your family and guests, it is so good that you will think a plague of locusts attacked the serving platter.**

### **Marinated roasted vegetables**

**Summer squash, zucchini squash, red and green peppers, tomatoes, eggplant and Vadalia onions**

**Slice vegetables into large enough pieces so they don't fall through the barbecue grate, marinade (at least an hour) and cook for about 5 minutes a side.**

**Marinade recipe (actually the "Classic French Dressing" from the original Fannie Farmer Cookbook,)**

**Ingredients: 1/2 cup olive oil, 2 tbsp red wine vinegar, 1 tsp salt, 1/2 tsp. garlic powder and 1/2 tsp fresh ground pepper**

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I hope that you will contact me with your comments and favorite wines at [jgrover@berk.com](mailto:jgrover@berk.com). I will be happy to share them with the broader Mensa group.

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

**PUZZLES & QUESTIONS**

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

1. Give some examples of utilitarian luxury.
2. What was the greatest number of authors ever listed on a scientific paper?
3. What do you think are the best unused buildings in Connecticut?
4. What percentage of the earth's land is covered by forests?
5. What are Google's most promising and least promising projects?
6. At what annual rate is the United States of America's population growing?
7. Give some good examples of reverse engineering.
8. List some advantages of specialization.

**ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:**

1. What percentage of U.S. adults drink coffee?

**A: According to a 2006 survey by the National Coffee Association, 54% of U.S. adults drink coffee Daily and 25% drink it occasionally. The average coffee drinker has 3.1 cups daily, about 60% of it for breakfast.**

5. What is the longest one-syllable word in the English language?

**A: "Screeched" is the longest one-syllable English word.**

7. What percentage of the earth's surface is covered by rainforests?

**A: Rainforests cover only 3% of the earth's land, but it's estimated that they contain over half the world's plant and animal species.**

**MENSA MIND GAMES 2009 RESULTS**

Mensa members came together April 24 – 26 in Kentucky for the annual Mensa Mind Games(R). For 48 hours straight, they played and rated new board and card games. At the end, they voted for the five games that will bear the Mensa Select(R) seal. To learn about past winners, visit [www.mindgames.us.mensa.org](http://www.mindgames.us.mensa.org).

The 2009 winners are as follows:

**Cornerstone** - This is a 3-D strategy game requiring a steady hand and clever mind in order to build, climb and race to the top before it all comes tumbling down. [www.goodcompanygames.com](http://www.goodcompanygames.com)

**Dominion** - Players compete to create the best deck of cards by buying action (10 of 25 possible each game), treasure, and victory cards. The deck with the most victory points wins! Order phone: (505) 771-8813

**Marrakech** - Each player takes the role of a salesperson who tries to outwit the others. Roll the dice, move Assam, and determine whether you must make a payment to lay a rug. [www.fundexgames.com](http://www.fundexgames.com)

**Stratum** - Following the layering laws each player tries to cover up their opponent's pieces. The player with most exposed pieces wins! [www.familygamesamerica.com](http://www.familygamesamerica.com)

**Tic-Tac-Ku** - An exciting twist on the age old favorite, Tic-Tac-Toe. The game has nine playing areas. Each player determines in which playing area his opponent may play. Object: win the most playing areas. [www.colorku.com](http://www.colorku.com)

**Congratulations to the winners, and a big thank you to all of our Mensan judges!**

**WORD CHECK**

See if you can define these words English has borrowed from the German language. Answers are below.

1. bildungsroman (BIL doongz roh mahn)
2. doppelganger (DOP uhl gang er)
3. dreck -
4. ersatz (ER sahts, er-SAHTS)
5. gestalt (ge SHTAWLT, ge STAWLT)
6. kriegspiel (KREEG speel, KREEG spheel)
7. leitmotiv (LYT mo teef, LYT mo teef)
8. schadenfreude (SHAHD en froi duh)
9. weltanschauung (VELT ahn shou oong)
10. weltenschmerz (VELT shmerts)

**ANSWERS:**

1. bildungsroman - a novel that focuses on the maturation of, and the intellectual, psychological, or spiritual development of the main character, usually a youthful one.
2. doppelganger – (Doppelgänger) "double goer" - a ghostly double, look-alike, or clone of a person, and who is often a haunting figure.
3. dreck - "dirt, filth" - in English, worthless trash, rubbish (from Yiddish/German)
4. ersatz - a replacement or substitute, usually implying inferiority to the original, such as "ersatz coffee".
5. gestalt - "shape, pattern" – a unified whole; a pattern or structure that has properties that cannot be derived from summing its parts;
6. kriegspiel – (sometimes Kriegsspiel) "war game" – a game for teaching military tactics with small figures representing troops, tanks, etc. moved about on a large map.
7. leitmotiv – “leading theme” – a motif or theme associated throughout a musical drama with a particular person, situation, or idea; a dominant and recurring theme in music, drama, or literature.
8. schadenfreude - enjoyment over someone's misfortune.
9. weltanschauung - "world view" - a philosophy or conception of the world, universe, and human life.
10. weltenschmerz - "world pain" - sadness over the evils of the world; sorrow that one feels and accepts as one's necessary portion in life; sentimental pessimism.

**SUDOKUGRAMS by 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.

Puzzle 12

			L
	X		E
		A	
H		M	S

Letter Pool: **R E A S O N I N G**

Solution to Puzzle 12

Puzzle 12

N	A	I	L
O	X	N	E
R	S	A	G
H	E	M	S

Letter Pool: **R E A S O N I N G**

- Across:** NAIL, OXEN, RAGS, HEMS  
**Down:** HORN, AXES, MAIN, LEGS  
**Boxes:** AXON, LINE, HERS, GAMS  
**Note:** Other anagrams like LAIN are okay

**NOTED AND QUOTED**

**Nothing ages so quickly as yesterday's vision of the future.**

- Richard Corliss, (1943 - ), Time magazine film columnist

**A leader is best when people barely know he exists.**

- Lao-Tzu. (c. 600 B.C.E.), Chinese philosopher, founder of Taoism

**Self-deceit, this fatal weakness of mankind, is the source of half the disorders in human life.**

- Adam Smith, (1723 – 1790)

**Appreciation is a wonderful thing: it makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well.**

- Voltaire, (1694 – 1778)

**Life improves slowly and goes wrong fast, and only catastrophe is clearly visible.**

- Edward Teller, (1908 - 2003) , Hungarian-American theoretical physicist

**The future is inevitable and precise, but it may not occur.**

- Jorge Luis Borges, (1899 - 1986)

**Whatever you can do, or dream you can do, Begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it. Begin it now.**

- Johanne Von Goethe, (1749 – 1832)

**Dream in a pragmatic way.**

- Aldous Huxley, (1894 – 1963)

**Remember your dreams.**

- Maryanne Radmacher-Herhey

**Few cowards always know the full extent of their fear.**

- Baron Duc de La Rochefoucauld, (1613 - 1680), French epigrammatist

**A hundred drunkards are better than one gambler.**

- Moroccan Proverb

**No one is ever old enough to know better.**

- Holbrook Jackson, (1874 – 1948), English bibliophile and literary historian

**You can delegate authority, but not responsibility.**

- Stephen W. Comiskey

**Nothing can keep an argument going like two persons who aren't sure what they're arguing about.**

--O. A. Battista, (1917 - ), Canadian-born author-scientist

**I like people who refuse to speak until they are ready to speak.**

- Lillian Hellman, (1905 – 1984), U.S. playwright

**To do nothing is in every man's power.**

- Samuel Johnson, (1709 - 1784)

**Genius is talent set on fire by courage.**

- Henry Van Dyke, (1852 – 1933), U.S. clergyman and poet

**The by-product is sometimes more valuable than the product.**

- Havelock Ellis, (1859 – 1939), English psychologist and author, Littel Essays of Love and Virtue

**An executive is a man who can make quick decisions and is sometimes right.**

- Elbert Hubbard, (1859 - 1915), U.S. writer and publisher

**A jazz musician is a juggler who uses harmonies instead of oranges.**  
- Benny Green, (1927 – 1998), British jazz saxophonist

**Music is an outburst of the soul.** - Frederick Delius, (1862 – 1934), English composer

**Paranoia is reality seen on a finer scale.** - Philo Gant, Strange Days

**You arrive at truth through poetry; I arrive at poetry through truth.**  
- Joseph Joubert, (1754 – 1824), French essayist and moralist

**The aim of good prose words is to mean what they say. The aim of good poetical words is to mean what they do not say.** - G.K. Chesterton, (1874 - 1936), Daily News

**A good film script should be able to do completely without dialogue.**  
- David Mamet, (1947 - ), U.S. playwright, screenwriter, essayist

**It is not the oath that makes us believe the man, but the man the oath.**  
- Aeschylus, (525 – 456 B.C.E.), Greek dramatist

**There is no disputing about tastes, says the old saw. In my experience there is little else.**  
- Robertson Davies, (1913 - 1995), Samuel Marchbanks' almanack, 1967

**My country has no history, only a past.**  
- Alden Nowlan, (1933 - 1983), Canadian (New Brunswick) poet, novelist, journalist, and playwright

**A committee is an animal with four back legs.** - John Le Carre, (1931 - ), English spy novelist

**You'll find in no park or city A monument to a committee.** - Victoria Pasternak, ()

**Fate, then, is a name for facts not yet passed under the fire of thought; for causes which are unpenetrated.** - Ralph Waldo Emerson, (1803 -1882)

**Great art picks up where nature ends.** - Marc Chagall, (1887 - 1985), Russian-French painter

**Architecture is the learned game, correct and magnificent, of forms assembled in the light.**  
- Le Corbusier, (1887 - 1965), Swiss-Franco architect

**A quiet city is a contradiction in terms. It is a thing uncanny, spectral.**  
- Max Beerbohm, (1872 – 1956), English caricaturist and author

**A good title should be like a good metaphor; it should intrigue without being too baffling or too obvious.**  
- Walker Percy, (1916 - 1990), U.S. Southern novelist

**If you ever worked with Phil Rizzuto you'd know my motivation. How would you like to work 18 years with a guy who still doesn't know your first name?** - Bill White, (1934 - ), baseball player, National League commissioner, 1989 - 1994

**The only reason I didn't kill myself after I read the reviews of my first book was because we have two rivers in New York and I couldn't decide which one to jump into.**  
- Wilfrid Sheed, (1930 - ), British-American novelist and essayist

**Too much noise deafens us; too much light dazzles us; too much distance or too much proximity impedes vision; too much length or too much brevity of discourse obscures it ...**  
- Blaise Pascal, (1623 - 1662)

**A wonder is often expressed that the greatest criminals look like other men. The reason is that they are like other men in many respects.**

**- William Hazlitt, (1778 - 1830), English critic, essayist, On the Knowledge of Character, 1822**

**Anxiety and conscience are a powerful pair of dynamos. Between them, they have ensured that I shall work hard, but they cannot ensure that one shall work at anything worthwhile.**

**- Arnold Toynbee, (1889 - 1975), British historian**

**REGIONAL GATHERINGS**

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**MENSA NATIONAL ANNUAL GATHERING, Wed. - Sun. JULY 1 - 5,  
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>**

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**Mensa Canada  
AGM  
Ottawa,  
Ontario  
July 10-12,  
2009**



*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. Check out the links on the AG website and you'll see we have world class museums. My favourite links are [www.ottawatourism.ca](http://www.ottawatourism.ca) and [www.ottawa.ca](http://www.ottawa.ca)*
- 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 a :*

[www.mensa-ottawa.org](http://www.mensa-ottawa.org)

**9/11/09 – 9/13/09. Please join us at the Banff Regional Gathering (September 11 through 13, 2009) 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.**

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"The Illustrator," by Southern CT Mensan Gerard Brooker. A historical fiction set in the Polish town of Oswiecim, next to Auschwitz. It is a tale of a gifted artist, his love, and the inhumanity they face. Based on Jerry's personal visits and research, this novel is wrought with evil and hope, slavery and freedom, loss and love.

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