

# 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](mailto:Jmizera@hotmail.com). The dinner is held the third Saturday of the month.



## ARCHIVED COPIES OF THE CHRONICLE

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



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**TEEN MENSANS** – Interested in forming a Teen Mensa group in CT Mensa? If you'd like to get together and meet with other young Mensans to discuss interests and plan activities, this is your chance. Contact Quinn Gruver at [ConnecticutLady@aol.com](mailto:ConnecticutLady@aol.com).

**ATTENTION SOUTHERN CT MENSANS:** *The Southern CT Mensa Executive Committee needs a member to assume the open position of Secretary. We also need Proctors, who administer 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 - JANUARY**

Friday, January 8, 7:00

**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 or Rev. Bill Loring at 203-794-1389, fr.bill@comcast.net for more info on location and/or reservations.

Saturday, January 9, 7:30

**THEATER: Picnic by William Inge** performed by the Darien Players, DAC

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Weatherstone Studio, rear of Darien Town Hall, Post Road and Renshaw Road. Tickets \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors, \$5 for children under 12. Contact Jim Mizera at [jmizera@hotmail.com](mailto:jmizera@hotmail.com) or (203) 522-1959.

Saturday, January 16, 6:30 pm

**MONTHLY DINNER - NEW MEMBERS DINNER TONELLI'S RESTAURANT** 41 Grassy Plain St., Bethel, CT 06801. Eric Lehman, author of "BRIDGEPORT - TALES FROM THE PARK CITY (2009)", will talk about his book, which narrates the city's rich history of invention, beautiful parks, and eccentric characters. P.T. Barnum, Tom Thumb, Elias Howe, Abraham Lincoln, Joseph Frisbie, James Beardsley, Igor Sikorsky, Gustav Whitehead, Henry Mucci, Al Capp, - they're all part of Bridgeport's story. Eric has taught literature and creative writing at the University of Bridgeport for over a decade, and is president of the Bridgeport chapter of Phi Kappa Phi. He has published essays, reviews, and stories in dozens of journals and magazines.

New members - come enjoy our 2010 kickoff dinner and meet members from all over the area. Dress is casual. Speaker to be announced. Before the presentation, we will enjoy dinner. Choose what you like from the menu. 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.

Tuesday, January 19, 7:30

**Post Road Dinner**

Shiki Hana Japanese Bistro, 222 Post Rd., Fairfield, CT 06824. Contact Jim Mizera at [jmizera@hotmail.com](mailto:jmizera@hotmail.com) or (203) 522-1959 for reservations or info.

Friday, January 29, 8:00 pm

### **JAZZ**

Milford Performance Coffeehouse, 40 Railroad Avenue South, Milford, CT (at Railroad Station in downtown Milford), Connecticut musician Chris Coogan ([www.cooganmusic.com](http://www.cooganmusic.com)) will be performing. Chris is a multi-talented entertainer who, as a composer, performer, teacher, choir director and producer, is rooted in the jazz and gospel traditions. Coogan performs original and traditional music as a pianist and singer. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online or by calling the box office at (203) 878-6647. Contact Jim Mizera at [jmizera@hotmail.com](mailto:jmizera@hotmail.com), (203) 522-1959 for information.

Sunday, January 31, 3:00 pm

### **Hockey**

The Bridgeport Sound Tigers ([www.soundtigers.com](http://www.soundtigers.com)) play the Norfolk Admirals at Harbor Yard Stadium, Bridgeport, CT (I-95, Exit 27, near downtown Bridgeport). Contact Jim Mizera at [jmizera@hotmail.com](mailto:jmizera@hotmail.com) or (203) 522-1959 a few days in advance for reservations or info.

## **FEBRUARY**

Friday, February 12, 7:00 pm

### **Danbury Dinner**

Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner

Saturday, February 20, 6:30 pm

### **MONTHLY DINNER**

TONELLI'S RESTAURANT, 41 Grassy Plain St., Bethel, CT 06801

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## **CONNECTICUT AND WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS**

This is not a complete listing WE - Weekly Event, ME - Monthly Event, YE - Yearly Event CT & W. Mass Calendar Editor Gisela Rodriguez, 860-888-9867, email: [lilith@beadylittleskies.com](mailto:lilith@beadylittleskies.com).

## **JANUARY**

1 Friday 11am-3pm

### **New Years Day Brunch**

(YE) at LocSec Ann Fitzgerald's home, 1 Essex Road in Old Saybrook, CT 06475. Finger food contributions welcome. The chapter will provide beverages, including a virgin fruit punch and a potent eggnog. We can all start on resolutions Jan. 2. Contact [annelly@comcast.net](mailto:annelly@comcast.net)

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](mailto: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.

6, 13, 20, 27 Wednesdays 6:30 - 9:00 pm

### **Open Mike Night**

(WE) at Peaberry's Coffee Shop on Rte 10 in between Fitzgeralds Market and CVS, Simsbury, CT. This is a regular musician event. If you want to see MensaFran make a fool out of herself, this is the place. Great munchies, coffee, tea, freeziedrinks and stuff. No alcohol. Fun people. Fran Devevo 860-738-8488 leave a message, calls returned about 9 pm or weekends or email [mensafran@yahoo.com](mailto:mensafran@yahoo.com)

7, 14, 21, 28 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

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9 Saturday TBA

***Mensa Admissions Testing***

(ME, 2nd Saturday): C&WM Mensa now holds regular testing in Newington, CT on the second Saturday of every month. Please preregister to attend by contacting the testing Proctor Coordinator, David B. Collier at Testing@CWM.US.Mensa.org for more details, including directions. In addition to the regular testing, additional tests will be made available around the region as candidate interest requires. To register for testing updates, go to [www.us.mensa.org/directtesting](http://www.us.mensa.org/directtesting) and provide an email address. You can also save time at the site by paying for your testing session online at [www.us.mensa.org/testingvoucher](http://www.us.mensa.org/testingvoucher).

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9 Saturday various times

***Musical Performance***

by Cece Borjeson and Ruth George at the Boars Head Festival at First Church in Winsted (shows at 4 and 7pm) and Sun. Jan 10 (4pm show). "I am not sure how much tickets are but this is a most spectacular and well done show. For those that don't know what it is, it's the three Kings coming and finding baby Jesus and it's extremely well done. Info is at [info@firstchurchofwinsted.org](mailto:info@firstchurchofwinsted.org) or call me, Fran Devevo at 860-738-8488 or [mensafran@yahoo.com](mailto:mensafran@yahoo.com)"

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10 Sunday 12:30 pm

***Indian Lunch***

Meet us at Haveli's Indian Restaurant for a \$9.95 all you can eat Buffet. Haveli's is in South Middletown (1300 So. Main St. - Rte 17). You can view a sample of the menu here [http://www.haveliindia.com/haveli\\_photos.htm](http://www.haveliindia.com/haveli_photos.htm) Please RSVP to Barb at [BarbCPA@att.net](mailto:BarbCPA@att.net) or 860-632-7873 so she can reserve with the restaurant.

10 Sunday TBA

***RG Team Meeting***

Mensautumn 2009 was a smashing success, so come help plan and implement an even better Mensautumn for 2010. Join the team that brought us such a fabulous event: For meeting location and time, contact Nick Errede 860-229-2179 or [NickErrede@aol.com](mailto:NickErrede@aol.com)

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13 Wednesday 5:30 pm

***Shoreline Happy Hour***

(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 Mike Wilson at 203-481-2858 or [MahoutMike@aol.com](mailto:MahoutMike@aol.com)

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16 Saturday 2:30 pm

***Book Discussion***

'Tis the season for self improvement resolutions, so in keeping with this modern obsession, join us at Pamela Guinan's home, 323 Griswold Road, Wethersfield, CT, for a discussion of Good Calories, Bad Calories: Fats, Carbs, and the Controversial Science of Diet and Health by Gary Taubes. In 2002, science journalist Gary Taubes published an article entitled "What if It's All Been a Big Fat Lie?" He argued that reputable scientists were coming around to the idea, advanced by diet gurus like Dr. Robert Atkins, that carbohydrates, not fat, are the ultimate dietary villain. If so, he wrote, "the ongoing epidemic of obesity in America and elsewhere is not, as we are constantly told, due sim-

ply to a collective lack of will power and a failure to exercise. Rather it occurred . . . because the public health authorities told us unwittingly, but with the best of intentions, to eat precisely those foods that would make us fat, and we did."

Taubes, a writer for Science magazine, begins by showing how public health data has been misinterpreted to mark dietary fat and cholesterol as the primary causes of coronary heart disease. Deeper examination, he says, shows that heart disease and other diseases of civilization appear to result from increased consumption of refined carbohydrates: sugar, white flour and white rice. When researcher John Yudkin announced these results in the 1950s, however, he was drowned out by the [then new] conventional wisdom. Taubes cites clinical evidence showing that elevated triglyceride levels, rather than high total cholesterol, are associated with increased risk of heart disease - but measuring triglycerides is more difficult than measuring cholesterol. Taubes says that the current U.S. obesity epidemic actually consists of a very small increase in the average body mass index. Taube's arguments are lucid and well supported by lengthy notes and bibliography. RSVP to Pam Guinan 860-563-5761 or Pamela.cwm@hotmail.com

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16 Saturday 3:15-4:45 pm

***CWM and RI Lady Mensans - NEW***

Meeting at The Recovery Room Restaurant, 445 Ocean Avenue, New London, CT 860-443-2619. Contact person: Mindy Hoffer 860-447-2408

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21 Thursday 6:30 pm

***Pioneer Valley Dinner***

(ME, 3rd Thursday) ) at the Sierra Grill on Strong Avenue in Northampton, Mass. Questions? Ian Fraser ianfraser@usa.net

27 Friday 5:00 pm

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22 Friday 5:00 pm

***Happy Hour - New Year, New Venue!!***

(ME, 4th Friday) at The Holiday Inn in North Haven, web site [www.holidayinn.com/h/d/hi/1/en/hotel/nohct?rpb=hotel&crUrl=/h/d/hi/1/en/hotelsearchresults](http://www.holidayinn.com/h/d/hi/1/en/hotel/nohct?rpb=hotel&crUrl=/h/d/hi/1/en/hotelsearchresults) 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

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

***LOOKING AHEAD***

February 20 Saturday 2:30 pm

***Book Discussion***

Join us at Pamela Guinan's home, 323 Griswold Road, Wethersfield, CT, for a discussion of *Spy Dust: Two Masters of Disguise Reveal the Tools and Operations That Helped Win the Cold War* by Antonio Mendez, Jonna Mendez, Bruce Henderson (nonfiction)

"Spy dust" is a chemical marking compound developed by the KGB (Soviet secret police) to help track targeted individuals. It is just one of the tools and techniques discussed by the authors, who headed up the Disguise and Documents Division of the CIA's Office of Technical Service and are now consultants for the CBS TV drama series *The Agency*. The authors met in the mid-1980s while helping to rebuild U.S. intelligence operations in the USSR, which had been severely crippled by American traitors selling secret information to the Soviets. Included here are fascinating tales of clandestine meetings, narrow escapes, missed clues, ingenious equipment, and various successes and failures, and the reader soon comes to realize that a lot of professional brain power goes into planning and carrying out this deadly game with the highest stakes imaginable. RSVP to Pam Guinan 860-563-5761 or Pamela.cwm@hotmail.com

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

Happy New Year to all!!

I've always been a bit time-challenged. Time sometimes seems really disjointed to me. I'm writing this at the end of November/beginning of December and you'll be reading it in January. So should I talk about the happenings of November, what I hope we will be enjoying in December or looking even further ahead into January? I hope to get a mix and hopefully won't turn into a time traveler.

In November, Ron and I were at Pilgrimage hosted by Boston Mensa. And now we're looking forward to NH's gathering in February. During the December holiday season (which includes almost the entire month), we'll be attending holiday celebrations with three different local groups (RI, C&WM, and Mid-Hudson) and perhaps hosting an impromptu gathering of our own. We really do consider Mensans among our good friends and enjoy celebrating life in their midst.

I recently started a discussion about Mensans without transportation, primarily college students. I've learned that we enjoy the company of Mensans of all stripes, including those without cars. While I would like our society to have more public transportation available, we may all grow old waiting for that to happen and we would like to enjoy the company of transportation-challenged Mensans now. So what have I learned: 1) call the host of an event you would like to attend and ask the host if anyone is coming from your area that might be willing to give you a ride; 2) ask someone on the ExComm if they have any suggestions for you; 3) use your local group's

Facebook group, yahoo group or other electronic means of communication to seek out rides. Once you've connected with someone who will offer a ride, remember a couple of simple rules: be appreciative; maybe buy your driver dessert or offer gas money; be ready when they arrive to pick you up; agree upon a time to leave the event; if necessary, discuss smoking in the vehicle; and, most importantly, let them know that you appreciate what they are doing for you. I would also like to see us doing more carpooling to events. OR you could host an event at your home or nearby.

Every so often I hear from members that all we do is sit around, eat, drink, talk, etc. Most of Region 1s local groups do some outdoor activity either occasionally or on a semi-regular basis. What kinds of events would tempt you? Would you be willing to invite other Mensas to join you in your favorite outdoor activity? If you're going to be hiking, camping, biking, canoeing or whatevering; why not invite some friends to join you? Share your ideas with me. If the weather is good, I may even show up (depending on when and where).

Mensa Region 1 Facebook group is up to 135 members - have you considered joining?

- Lori

**GOOD WINE CHEAP (AND GOOD FOOD TO GO WITH IT)****BY JOHN GROVER**

This month we will consider one of the most versatile and popular grapes in the world, Merlot. We'll combine it with a wonderful dish for entertaining from Morocco. As you might expect, the recipe involves beef and grilling.

Merlot is famous as a blending grape. It is combined with other varieties, such as Cabernet Franc, to soften the more severe edges of the Cabernet Sauvignon grape. From these marriages come the classic Bordeaux blends. But the New World wine growers of Australia, California and Chile have brought out Merlot as a fruity and smooth varietal wine on its own. And, most importantly, this style has been embraced by the affluent North American market.

The wine this month is the 2007 "Reserve" Merlot from Santa Ema vineyards of Chile. This is one of those wines that genuinely improve when you allow them to breathe before serving. Decanting it about an hour before should suffice. It greets you with a nose that conveys rich berry fruit and a hint of coffee (The Boss gave me one of those looks when I mentioned the latter.). But then, it becomes round and full bodied in the mouth. As you roll the wine across the tongue the tastes of plum, blackberry and spice clearly come through. This complex but smooth and well-balanced wine is an equal match to the spices found in the marinade below. I've bought the 2007 Reserve Merlot for between \$9 and \$12 a bottle.

*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.*

**KEBAB KOUTBANE**

Appetizer Kebabs in a Moorish Marinade  
This typically Moroccan dish is an excellent hors d'oeuvre to serve at any time. It is amazing how the small cubes of suet (beef fat) improve the flavor of the kebab after some of the fat has burned off. The use of suet is particularly effective when cooking kebabs over a charcoal fire. If no one has a dietary restriction, you can substitute bacon for the suet.

Cut 1 lb. FILLET OF BEEF OR STEAK into 3/4-inch cubes (approximately 32 cubes).

Cut 1/2 lb. BEEF SUET (it's really just fat guys) into 1/2-inch cubes.

In an 8 x 10-inch shallow baking dish, prepare the Moorish Marinade:

Combine: 1/4 cup ONION, finely chopped and 2 Tbs. PARSLEY, finely chopped.

Blend: 1/2 cup OLIVE OIL; 1 tsp. SALT; 1/4 tsp. PEPPER (always fresh ground); 1/4 tsp. GARLIC POWDER; 1 tsp. GROUND CORIANDER; 1/2 tsp. GROUND CUMIN

Blend the beef and suet cubes with the marinade and allow the mixture to marinate for several hours (over night is the best).

Thread pieces of beef alternately with pieces of suet (start and end with beef) on a 6-inch metal or bamboo skewers.

Yield: 8 6-inch kebabs

Grill or Broil using a hot fire, basting occasionally with the marinade. This should cook in five to eight minutes. The fat from the suet and oil from the marinade will help to flame the fire and sear the outside of the meat while still rare to medium inside. This dish has been a hit when we have served it (a hungry pack of wolves comes to mind).

## PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. What percentage of kids are bullies?
2. How much has the U.S. money supply increased since 1971?
3. Compare Microsoft and Google.
4. What percentage of babies in the U.S. are given a first name based on a close relative's name?
5. Compare France and Germany.
6. On average, how many houses do home shoppers look at before buying one?
7. What tasks do people procrastinate at most?
8. How fast do escalators move?
9. What is moderate drinking?
10. During which decade since 1790 did the U.S. population increase by the greatest percentage?
11. What is the best way to break in a rookie quarterback in the NFL?
12. What are the benefits of free radicals?

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### ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

2. What major league baseball pitcher gave up the most home runs during his career?  
 A: Hall of Famer Robin Roberts gave up the most home runs, 505 (over 4688 innings pitched). He pitched in the majors from 1948 to 1966, first with the Philadelphia Phillies (1948 - 1961), then with the Baltimore Orioles (1962 - 1965), Houston Astros (1965 - 1966), and Chicago Cubs (1966). He finished his career in the minor leagues with the Reading Phillies in 1967. For Philadelphia, he won 20 or more games every year from (1950 - 1955), with his high coming in 1952, when he went 28 - 7. For his career, he won 286 games and lost 245 and had an earned run average of 3.41.  
 Roberts gave up 418 of his home runs in the National League. Hall of Famer Warren Spahn holds the National League record for most home runs allowed, 434, and Frank Tanana holds the American League record, 422.  
 Roberts held the single season record for most home runs allowed, 46 in 1956, until Bert Blyleven gave up 50 in 1986 for the Minnesota Twins. Blyleven won 287 games in his career.
4. What is the average percentage of medical bills that U.S. citizens pay out of pocket?  
 A: 12%.
6. Estimate the populations of these towns: Beverly Hills, California; Niagara Falls, New York; Canton, Ohio; Cooperstown, NY; Cape Cod area, Mass.  
 A: Beverly Hills, 34,980 (2006); Niagara Falls, 55,593 (2000); Canton, 78,362 (2008); Cooperstown, 2,032 (2000); Cape Cod (15 towns), 230,000.
8. Approximately what percentage of United States citizens worked for the military during World War II?  
 A: About 12%. 16 million Americans served in the military in World War II. There were 10.1 million men drafted, and about 5.7 male volunteers and 200,000 female volunteers. About 56% of the men eligible for service were in the military.
10. What was the first hedge fund and when did it debut?  
 A: Alfred Jones launched the first hedge fund in 1949. It was the first fund to try to minimize the risk of stocks by short selling other stocks. It also employed leverage. In 1952, Jones converted the fund from a general

partnership to a limited partnership with several partners and instituted a 20% of profits fee for the managing partner, both of which are common features of modern hedge funds. There are an estimated 8350 active hedge funds in the world today.

Jones graduated from Harvard in 1923 and served as a U.S. diplomat in Berlin the early 1930s. He earned a PhD in sociology from Columbia University and joined the editorial staff at Fortune magazine in the early 1940s. He started his fund with \$40,000 of his own money and \$60,000 he raised from investors.

14. What is the deepest gorge in the world?

A: A gorge is defined as an area of land scoured or carved out by rivers or wind, creating deep gouges in the earth. They are often called canyons. There is no generally agreed answer about what is the deepest gorge because the definition of deepness varies. Deepness can be measured by average depth or maximum depth. People also argue over whether mountain canyons or

only canyons cut through relatively flat areas.

If you consider depth as the difference between river elevation and adjacent peaks, the Kali Gandaki Gorge (a.k.a., Andha Galchi) in the Himalayas in Nepal is the deepest gorge. It is the gorge of the Kali Gandaki River, which is 5,500 - 6,800 meters lower than the nearby peaks.

Many people consider the Yarlung Zangbo Grand Canyon (or Tsangpo Canyon), along the Yarlung Tsangpo River in Tibet, as the deepest valley in the world. The Yarlung Zangbo River runs through this, and averages about 5,000 m. (16,400 ft.) below the river and 5,504 m. (17,657 ft.) at its deepest.

Another candidate is the Dasu-Patan Gorge in the Kohistan district of Northern Pakistan, in the Great Himalayas. It is over 6,500 m. deep (21,325 ft. or 4 mi.). The average mountain in the Himalayas, at about 6,000 meters, would fit in the gorge. The Grand Canyon, by comparison, has an average depth of about 1 mile.

16. What are the chances that a tax filer will be audited by the I.R.S?

A: 0.6%, or less than 1 in 150. If you earn more than \$200,000, your chance of an audit increases to 3% and if you earned over \$1 million your chance of an audit is 5%.

According to surveys, the average taxpayer overestimates the probability of getting audited, estimating it at 1 in 7, with over 80% overestimating. Taxpayers with the least income judged their chances as more than 25%, while those with the highest incomes estimated their chances as 15%.

18. What is the biggest statue in the world?

A: The Mother Motherland (a.k.a. The Motherland Calls, The Mamayev) statue in Volgograd, Russia, is the tallest statue in the world if you include only the sculptures and not pedestals. It stands 279 feet (85 meters) tall - the female figure is 170+ ft. and her sword is 108+ ft. It commemorates the World War II battle of Stalingrad. The statue was completed in 1967, and the model who posed for Mother Motherland, Valentina Izotova, a native of the Volgograd, is still living.

**SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA  
TREASURY**

**Fiscal Year:**  
**April 1, 2009 - March 31, 2010**

**Opening balance** at 4/1/09  
\$9013.70

**INCOME**

American Mensa Local Group Support  
Funds: \$1261.38

**TOTAL INCOME:** \$1261.38

**EXPENSES**

Chronicle Printing Expenses: \$426.12  
Chronicle Postage: \$318.88  
Speakers' Dinners: \$73.37

**TOTAL EXPENSES:** \$818.37

**WORD CHECK**

See if you can define these difficult 's' words.

Answers are below.

1. sacerdotal (SAS- er- doht- el)
2. salient (SAY- le- yent)
3. salvo
4. sate
5. satrap (SAY- trap)
6. scarify (SKEER- uh- fy) ('fy)
7. scion (SY- en)
8. semantic
9. semaphore
10. senescent (se- NES- uhnt)
11. sententious
12. sentient (SEN- shent)
13. sibilant (SIB- uh- luhnt)
14. sidereal (sy- DEER- ee- uhl)
15. sinecure (sy-'- ne- KYUR)

1. sacerdotal (SAS- er- doht- el) - pertaining to a priest or priestly functions.
2. salient (SAY- le- yent) - prominent; projecting beyond a line; conspicuous.
3. salvo - 1. a simultaneous or successive discharge of artillery; 2. a forceful verbal or written assault.
4. sate - satisfy, fill.
5. satrap (SAY- trap) - 1. a governor of a province in ancient Persia. 2. a subordinate but despotic ruler.
6. scarify (SKEER- uh- fy) - 1. to scratch, make shallow cuts in (as in a incision). 2. to verbally lacerate.
7. scion (SY- en) - 1. a descendant. 2. a shoot or twig used for grafting.
8. semantic - pertaining to meaning in language.
9. semaphore - a signaling device or method.
10. senescent (se- NES- uhnt) - growing old.
11. sententious - 1. abounding in pithy maxims. 2. given to self-righteous or pompous moralizing.
12. sentient (SEN- shent) - having the power of feeling or perception; conscious.
13. sibilant (SIB- uh- luhnt) - having a hissing sound.
14. sidereal (sy- DEER- ee- uhl) - 1. pertaining to the stars. 2. measured or determined by the daily motion of the stars.
15. sinecure (sy-'- ne- KYUR) - a well-paid position with little responsibility.

ANSWERS:

## NOTED & QUOTED

We rarely confide in those who are better than we are. - *Albert Camus, (1913 - 1969), French Existentialist philosopher, essayist, and novelist*

Friends are often chosen for similitude of manners, and therefore each palliate the other's failings because they are his own. - *Samuel Johnson, (1709 - 1784), English lexicographer and author*

The social networking sites sign up everyone not because everyone wants to befriend everyone else, but because almost everyone wants to join some tight community of compatible, like-minded people. - *Peter Huber, engineer, lawyer, technology columnist, Forbes, 9/29/08*

By your friends I gauge your wealth; by your enemies, your greatness. - *Judah Lazerov*

It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to our enemies, but just as much to stand up to our friends.  
- *J. K. Rowling, (1965 - ), British novelist*

We have to distrust each other. It's our only defense against betrayal.  
- *Tennessee Williams, (1911 - 1983), U.S. playwright*

Genuine poetry can communicate before it is understood. - *T.S. Eliot, (1888 - 1965)*

The sound must seem an echo to the sense.  
- *Alexander Pope, (1688 - 1744), English poet and critic*

Don't play the notes. Play the meaning of the notes. - *Pablo Casals, (1876 - 1973), Spanish cellist, composer, and conductor*

Music is moonlight in the gloomy night of life.  
- *Jean Paul Richter, (1763 - 1825), German author*

A camera is a tool for teaching the eye to see without a camera.  
- *Dorothea Lange, (1895 - 1965), U.S. photographer*

Mankind have always had classics. They always will. That is only another way of saying they have always set up ideals.  
- *Calvin Coolidge, (1872 - 1933), The Classics for America*

A great work always leaves us in a state of musing. - *Isaac D'Israeli, (1766 - 1848), English litterateur, Literary Character, Ch. 12*

An author who speaks about his own books is almost as bad as a mother who talks about her own children.  
- *Benjamin Disraeli, (1804 - 1881), 1st Earl of Beaconsfield, English statesman and man of letters*

The demand that I make of my reader is that he should devote his whole life to reading my works. - *James Joyce, (1882 - 1941), Irish novelist, short-story writer, and poet*

I am not a historian. I am a writer obsessed with remembering, with remembering the past...  
- *Eduardo Galeano, (1940 - ), Uruguayan journalist, writer, and novelist*

Philosophy is the art of living.  
- *Plutarch, (46 - 120), Greek biographer and moralist*

Life is for each man a solitary cell whose walls are mirrors.  
- *Eugene O'Neill, (1888 - 1953), U.S. playwright*

Better a noble death than a wretched life.  
- *Yiddish proverb*

Life is partly what we make it, and partly what it is made by the friends whom we choose.  
- *Hsieh Tehyi, (1884 - 1972), Chinese educator, writer, diplomat*

An aged man is but a paltry thing, A tattered coat upon a stick. - *William Butler (W.B.) Yeats, (1865 - 1939), Irish poet and dramatist*

The past is frozen, the future is vapor, the moment is liquid. - *Anonymous*

All procrastination is delay, but not all delay is procrastination. - *Dr. Timothy A. Pynchyl, Assoc. Professor of Psychology, Carleton University, Ottawa*

If you view your problem closely enough you will recognize yourself as part of the problem.  
- *Ducharme's Axiom*

Hindsight is an exact science. - *Anonymous*

Events can move from the impossible to the inevitable without ever stopping at the probable.

- David Einhorn, (1968 - ), *Greenlight Capital hedge fund manager, Speech at Value Investing Congress, 10/19/2009*

It's obvious that we don't know one millionth of one percent about anything.

- Thomas Edison, (1847 - 1931)

In a land of immigrants, one was not an alien but simply the latest arrival.

- Rudolf Arnheim, (1904 - 2007), *German-American art and film theorist, perceptual psychologist*

There are no foreign lands. It is the traveler only who is foreign. - Robert Louis Stevenson, (1850 - 1894), *Scottish novelist, poet, essayist, and travel writer*

I am a slow walker, but I never walk back.

- Abraham Lincoln, (1809 - 1865)

How one carries on in the face of unavoidable catastrophe is a matter of temperament. - Ludwig von Mises, (1881 - 1973), *Austrian-American economist*

We are made for cooperation, like the hands, like the feet. - Marcus Aurelius, (121 - 180), *Roman Stoic philosopher, author, and Emperor*

It is impossible for man of himself to escape. It must be that someone stretch forth a hand and draw him out. - Seneca, (4 or 5 B.C.E. - 65 A.D. ?), *Roman dramatist, poet, philosopher, and statesman.*

We are limited by our brains and our bodies, and if we break out, we cease to be ourselves, and, perhaps to be anything. - G.K. Chesterton, (1874 - 1936), *Gabriel Gale in 'The Yellow Bird', 1929*

I would sooner fail than not be among the greatest. - John Keats (1795 - 1821), *English Romantic Poet*

All spirits are enslaved which serve things evil. - Percy Bysshe Shelley, (1792 - 1822), *English Romantic poet*

Nothing produces such odd results as trying to get even.

- Franklin P. Jones, (1853 - 1935), *U.S. humorist*

But cards are war, in disguise of a sport.

- Charles Lamb, (1775 - 1834), *English essayist and critic*

I like to play blackjack. I'm not addicted to gambling, I'm addicted to sitting in a semicircle.

- Mitch Hedberg, (1968 - 2005), *U.S. comedian*

We get what we celebrate.

- Dean Kamen, (1951 - ), *U.S. entrepreneur, inventor*

The employee must work within the system, but it is the manager's job to work on the system.

- W. Edwards Deming, (1900 - 1993), *U.S. statistician, quality control expert*

Perhaps the most important role the CEO plays is that he thinks about the organization. He assesses its strengths and weaknesses, he analyzes its successes and failure, he embodies its past and envisions its future.

- Thomas R. Horton, 'The adolescence of management: Can business survive it?', *Management Review, 12/84*

The really great visual experience today is to fly over a huge city and look down into the night. It's like a tremendous jubilant Christmas tree. You just feel life is worth living - when you come down you may have some doubts.

- Gyorgy Kepes, (1906 - 2001), *Hungarian-American painter, designer, educator*

IT is said that the world is in a state of bankruptcy, that the world owes the world more than the world can pay, and ought to go into chancery, and be sold. I do not think this general insolvency, which involves in some sort all the population, to be the reason of the difficulty experienced at Christmas and New Year, and other times, in bestowing gifts; since it is always so pleasant to be generous, though very vexatious to pay debts.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson, (1803 - 1882), *Gifts*

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- Still to come: day tours, the AG three-meal plan including the anniversary gala, and more! Don't miss it! Visit <http://www.ag.us.mensa.org> for more information. We hope to see you there!
- Maria Sawczuk, AG 2010 Chair

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## ***LIST OF SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA OFFICERS***

President	Debra Jennings		
Vice-President	Jim Mizera	203-522-1959	Jmizera@hotmail.com PMB #181, 7365 Main St. Stratford, CT 06614-1300
Treasurer	Elizabeth Marks Cortright	203-655-9791	reemmm@optonline.net 11 Scout Trail Darien, CT 06820-4323
Secretary	vacant		
Editor	Jim Mizera	203-522-1959	Jmizera@hotmail.com PMB #181, 7365 Main St. Stratford, CT 06614-1300
Publisher	Amy Harold	203-261-6517	amyharold@earthlink.net 110 Bart Road Monroe, CT 06468-1117
Web Master	Thomas O'Neill	203-336-5254	doctec2@gmail.com 68 Pierce Ave. Bridgeport, CT 06604-1607
Ombudsman	Gary Oberst	203-853-1810	gary@oberstlaw.com 111 East Ave. Norwalk, CT 06851-5014
Membership Officer	Jim Mizera	203-522-1959	Jmizera@hotmail.com
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