

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA CHRONICLE

If you or someone you know would like to be a speaker at our monthly dinner, please contact Jim Mizera at 203-522-1959 or Jmizera@hotmail.com. The dinner is held the third Saturday of the month.



ARCHIVED COPIES OF THE CHRONICLE

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

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: If you have an annual Mensa membership, your membership will expire 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.

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.



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 - MARCH

Friday, March 12, 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.

Sunday, March 14, 3:00 pm to ? **BILLARDS**
At U.S.1 Billiards, West Haven CT (just past the Orange/West Haven border, past Best Buy and Target, on Route 1 - easy access off of Exits 41 or 42 of I-95. U.S.1 has a deal where you can play from 3pm to 8pm for a flat \$10 rate. Like On Cue, all the tables are 9 ft Brunswick Gold Crown tables. Contact Tom O'Neill at doctec2@gmail.com for further info.

Saturday, March 20, 6:30 pm

 **MONTHLY DINNER Putnam House Restaurant** The Seelye Room, 12 Depot Place, Bethel (downtown – across from old railroad station), CT 06801 (www.theputnamhouse.com - Dinner Menu 1). TOPIC: "Educating the Gifted". Local Mensan Bob Liftig will talk about the controversy generated over the Mensa Research Journal issue on the topic "Barriers to Educating the Gifted" (Vol. 40, No. 2, Summer 2009). Bob served as Guest Editor of the issue, which received praise and criticism from all sides. Dress is casual. Before the presentation, we will enjoy dinner. We will be ordering from Dinner Menu 1 (check www.theputnamhouse.com). There is parking in the rear of the restaurant and in the nearby Old Railroad Station lot.

Admitted in CT, NY & OR

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Tuesday, March 23, 7:30 **Post Road Dinner**
Shiki Hana Japanese Bistro, 222 Post Rd., Fairfield, CT 06824. Contact Jim Mizera at jmizera@hotmail.com or (203) 522-1959 for reservations or info.

APRIL

Friday, April 9, 7:00 pm
Danbury Dinner
Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner

Saturday, April 17, 6:30 pm
MONTHLY DINNER
Location TBA

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.

MARCH

3, 10, 17, 24, 31 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

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, 1st Fridays) Ann Polanski (contact her at 203-269-4565 or ann.polanski@rfsworld.com or ann.polanski@comcast.net) at Alina's Ristorante, 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.

10 Wednesday 5:30 pm

Shoreline Happy Hour

(ME, 2nd Wednesday) in Branford at The Donovan's Reef 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. Proceed south on Cedar Street, crossing Route 1 (North Main Street) for about 0.5 mi. to Rose Street. Take a left on Rose, pass the Post Office on your right 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. Donovan's Reef is partway through 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. We usually reserve the round table in the corner (with potential to annex adjacent ones) and will likely have an "M" sign visible. We start around 5:30. There are free daily bar munchies and numerous tasty items in the comprehensive and modestly priced menu. Hope to see you there! Questions? Contact Mike Wilson at 203-481-2858 or MahoutMike@aol.com

12 Friday 6:30 pm

Diner Dinner

semimonthly, 2nd and 4th Fridays) at Olympia Diner, Rte 5, Newington, just north of the Berlin town line and North East Utilities. Menu ranges from toasted cheese sandwich to steak and fish dinners. Basic bar menu available, no happy hour prices, but the food is good and very rea-

sonable. Questions? For info, contact Howard Brender at 860-635-5673 or howiebren@aol.com
Subject: Diner Dinner

13 Saturday evening

Steam Vent Concert/Open Mike

returns (ME, 2nd Saturday). Email Deb at info@firstchurchofwinsted for information, or Fran Devevo at mensafran@yahoo.com

13 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 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.

14 Sunday 12:30 pm

Indian Lunch

(ME, 2nd Sunday) Meet us at Haveli India Restaurant for an all you can eat Indian buffet for only \$9.95! The food is fabulous and the restaurant is conveniently located at 1300 South Main St., Rte 17 in South Middletown. Call Barb Holstein for a reservation, 860-632-7873 or BarbCPA@att.net. To read about the restaurant, or get directions, check www.haveliindia.com/

18 Thursday 6:30 pm

Pioneer Valley Dinner

(ME, 3rd Thursday)) at La Piazza Ristorante , 30 Boltwood Walk in Amherst, Mass. Questions? ianfraser@usa.net

19-21 Friday, 5 pm thru Sunday, 4 pm

Region 1 Games Weekend

Hosted by RVC Lori Norris and her husband, Ron, at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Ludlow, MA. Space limited to 50 registrants. Registration required. Mail registration fee (\$25 per person) to Lori Norris, 294 Parkside Drive, Warwick, RI 02888. Reserve hotel room directly with hotel (413-589-9300) and ask for Mensa rate which is good through February 22. Rates are \$87.99 for two queen beds with a \$10 charge for the third and fourth guest. The hotel has a "deluxe continental breakfast" for those staying at the hotel. This event is being limited to adults only, no children. There will be limited hospitality and no alcohol provided by the hosts. You may, and are encouraged, to BYOB; however, no alcohol may be carried in open containers in the hotel (bring a covered, opaque container). Bring your games to share. For further information, please e-mail Lori at lorijnorris@hotmail.com

26 Friday 5:00 pm

Happy Hour

(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 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

26 Friday 6:30 pm

Diner Dinner (semimonthly, 2nd and 4th Fridays) at Olympia Diner, Rte 5, Newington, just north of the Berlin town line and North East Utilities. Menu ranges from toasted cheese sandwich to steak and fish dinners. Basic bar menu available, no happy hour prices, but the food is good and very reasonable. Questions? For info, contact Howard Brender at 860-635-5673 or howiebren@aol.com Subject: Diner Dinner

27 Saturday 11:30 am

NEW - Vermont's Maple Syrup Open House weekend at Trapp Family Lodge Lounge

Stowe, Vermont. Join us for lunch on the Saturday of <http://vermontmaple.org/open-house-weekend.php> We'll meet for lunch at the Trapp Family Lodge lounge www.trappfamily.com and then you can enjoy any of the many activities there or in the surrounding area including cross-country skiing,

snowshoeing, downhill skiing or just window shopping www.gostowe.com. The lodge happens to continue their sugaring with horses and buckets, but there are many other sugarhouses in the area some of which use more modern methods. Please RSVP to Blakeney Bartlett at realestate@cozycap.com or call 802-333-3683.

27 Saturday 2:30 pm

Book Discussion

Join us at Pamela Guinan's home for a discussion of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain. This irresistible tale of the adventures of two friends growing up in frontier America is one of Mark Twain's most popular novels. The farcical, colorful, and poignant escapades of Tom and his friend Huckleberry Finn brilliantly depict the humor and pathos of growing up on the geographic and cultural rim of nineteenth-century America. Originally intended for children, the book transcends genre in its magical depiction of innocence and possibility, and is now regarded as one of Twain's masterpieces. RSVP to Pam Guinan 860-563-5761 or Pamela.cwm@hotmail.com

28 Sunday 2:00 pm

Theater Event: Mensa goes to a matinee

The Windham Theatre Guild is presenting "The Movie Game". "Jack Goldberg loves movies so much that he can't keep a job and still lives with his parents. He agrees to see 'the shrink to the stars' who will have Jack play the leading man in his own romantic comedy". Neal and Dory Alderman will be coordinating the event. The theatre is at 779 Main St. in Romantic Willimantic with plenty of parking behind the theatre. The tickets are \$10 for a group rate. We will need to know by 5 March who would like to accompany us to the play. Also we could meet at the Main St. Pub for lunch. Call us at 860 228 2678.

MENSA MIND GAMES 2010

APRIL 16 - 18, SAN DIEGO, CA.

Mind Games® 2010 will be held April 16-18 at the San Diego Hilton Mission Valley, 901 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego, CA 92108; 800/682-6099. Nestled in the Mission Valley hillside in the heart of San Diego, this recently renovated hotel offers a relaxing and welcoming atmosphere.

To get the special Mensan room rate of \$95, call and mention "2010 Mensa Mind Games" or reserve your room online. Please note: you must be registered for Mind Games to get these great room rates. If you have not registered for Mind Games by the time you check in, the hotel will revert your room rate back to their normal rate.

Don't forget to make your travel reservations at www.us.mensa.org/travel ~ you can get the best deals and still use your frequent-flyer and Mensa discount numbers!

Please note that you may need to book your hotel directly through the hotel in order to receive our special Mensa rate.

The San Diego Hilton Mission Valley is six miles from San Diego International Airport. Typical minimum charge for the Super Shuttle: \$11.50

Typical minimum charge for taxi service: \$17
Driving directions: Take I-5 north to I-8 East; exit Mission Center Road; turn right onto Camino Del Rio South. The hotel is on the left.

REGIONAL GATHERINGS

MENSA 2010 ANNUAL GATHERING. June 30 – July 5, Dearborn, Michigan

50th Anniversary of Mensa in North America. Visit <http://www.ag.us.mensa.org> for more information. As 2009 draws to a close, so does the best registration rate of \$80 for the 2010 Annual Gathering. More than 1,000 Mensans have already registered to attend. Running from Wednesday, June 30, to Monday, July 5, AG10 is taking advantage of the holiday and scheduling a full extra day of fun! Along with Young Mensan programming and leadership development, the AG's program tracks will include:

- Mensa Gold: The celebration of Mensa in North America's 50th continues!
- Diverse Detroit: Explore Detroit as a microcosm of diversity and race relations.
- History in Motion: A Mensan view of the auto industry and its impact on the past century.
- Lions and Tigers and... All Things Sports! This track is for anyone who believes in making it against the odds.
- Motown Motion: How the Detroit Sound and its players influenced generations through music.
- Politics and Borders: From influential labor leaders to international relations, see what makes Detroit politics so intriguing.
- Cadillac's Ponchartrain: Motor through miscellaneous topics in style!

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

WASHINGTON, DC RG

Matrix 2: "Piratical Sabbatical" April 30-May 2, 2010 Metropolitan Washington Mensa Aye, me hearties — Over 30 Programs and Activities in All!

Visit us at mwmg.org. Register and reserve your room online! Registration: \$79 in February, \$85 in March, \$89 in April (till the 28th), \$99 at the door. Holiday Inn Gaithersburg

Gaithersburg, Maryland

Make new friends. Learn to talk like a pirate.

Night pool parties. Witness astounding feats of wonder.

Enjoy 24-hour hospitality and games.

Feast at our Pirate Banquet.

Quaff some ale with yer shipmates (Pirates must be over 21 to quaff ale.)

Visit yer Nation's Capital - at the height of spring!

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

March - and signs of spring should be appearing any day now. February included a wonderful RG in Portsmouth, NH. Now is the time to start looking forward to Boston Mensa's Cape Cod Mini-RG. It is an unstructured weekend on the Cape, still a little chilly for swimming in the ocean, but a great time for walking on the beach and playing tourist.

Don't forget, Ron and I are hosting a regional games event in Springfield, Massachusetts the weekend of March 19 - 21. Space is limited so reserve early. If you are interested, e-mail me at lorijnorris@hotmail.com for more details or check out the Mensa Region 1 Facebook group for info. If you aren't a member, why not? 170 of your friends already belong. March 31st is the registration deadline for Culture Quest® which will be held April 11th. Speaking of games, Mind Games® will be held in San Diego the weekend of April 16-18, 2010. I know some members from Region 1 will be attending this event. Ron and I went several years ago and it is definitely an event to consider. We can't make it this year, but are looking forward to the 2011 event.

The agenda for the March AMC meeting is online now, so if you have any comments on the agenda, please get in touch with me. I'm always happy to have input from other members.

Do you have friends or family members who are interested in testing, but still a little shy? Suggest they try the online version of the Mensa home test available on our website. While it does not qualify them for membership, it is a fairly accurate predictor of performance on the actual membership test.

Warning: March 31 is the end of the membership year. Do you need to renew? You may want to consider a multi-year membership. A one-year renewal is \$59, three years is \$160, five years is \$260. And a life membership may be worthwhile for you. See the life membership calculator on the website. Save a tree (okay a very small tree) and renew online. I've just renewed our memberships so we can continue to enjoy the many benefits of belonging to American Mensa. The benefit that we enjoy most is the many social activities we participate in and the great conversations we have and the friendships we have made. Of course, everyone knows that I met Ron (my husband) at an RG and, in February, we celebrated our 9th anniversary.

- Lori

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THE FEBRUARY DINNER

HYDROGEN FUTURE

At our February dinner, we revisited the subject of alternative energy. Tim Dolan, owner of Enabling Technologies in Trumbull, CT, was on hand to discuss what he sees as a neglected alternative - hydrogen fuel. He presented a lively slide show that explained how he generates hydrogen and how he runs several common appliances on it. The audience peppered Tim with questions every minute, probing the practicality and potential of what Dolan called the "fuel of the future."

Tim has always been trying to hasten the future. Earlier in his career, he did research and development projects in diffractive optics and military aerospace applications. Then he became a partner in a very successful company that made holograms. In this venture, he learned quite a bit about electrochemistry, knowledge that has proved useful in his current business. He sold the hologram company in 2000 and began looking for a new business he could start.

Tim's interest in the global-warming problem and his natural curiosity led him next into the hydrogen business. He was intrigued by the cleanness of hydrogen fuel. Burning it doesn't generate carbon monoxide or carbon dioxide; its main end product is simply water. Investigating further, Dolan asked several knowledgeable people how much they thought hydrogen systems would cost. Their estimates made the projects sound feasible to Tim and his sources told him that the market wasn't being served. He sensed opportunity and soon found a gentleman in Milford who would finance his hydrogen projects. With this help, he founded Enabling Technologies, a company dedicated to renewable hydrogen systems. Tim is confident about his venture, stating, "Sometimes the obvious answers are right in front of us."

HYDROGEN BY ELECTROLYSIS

As Tim explained, hydrogen is a special element in several ways. It is the lightest element and the lightest gas (14 times lighter than air), yet it has the highest energy to weight ratio of any element. Its energy density is three times that of

gasoline. It burns completely and can generate far more power than propane. It does take at least a little energy to get it, however, as on earth, hydrogen is almost always bound to other elements in compounds. One common source is water, H₂O. Dolan prefers getting hydrogen from water rather than from hydrocarbons because water doesn't require fossil fuels to produce. His applications use electrolysis, a system that uses electric current to separate the hydrogen from the water.

Tim showed us slides of an electrolysis system detailing how electricity run through water liberates hydrogen. He described it as "easy to make" and outlined the components, beginning with the electrodes. The system consists of two electrodes - the negatively charged cathode and the positively charged anode. Between the electrodes is an electrolyte, a liquid or solid that conducts electricity. Only 1.3 volts of electricity are needed to break the hydrogen bond in water. This liberates hydrogen at the cathode and oxygen at the anode. "The quantity of hydrogen produced is governed by Faraday's Law of Electrolysis," Tim explained, "meaning that the amount of material disassociated from the solution is proportional to the electricity used." More specifically, he added, the hydrogen produced (H₂) in grams = .0000105 x Time (in sec.) x amps.

Compressing hydrogen, which many hydrogen fuel systems do, uses up 20% - 30% of its energy. Tim avoids this step in his electrolysis system. His machine extracts the hydrogen in an enclosed tank so that it doesn't expand that much. He keeps the pressure at 2000 pounds per square inch (psi.). Although he engineered his system to work at up to 8000 psi., he said that beyond 2000 psi. the costs grow exponentially, making it uneconomical.

To use stored hydrogen to power devices, you need a fuel cell to reverse the electrolysis reaction. Fuel cells combine hydrogen with oxygen from the air to produce a continuous electric current, which can be used to power motors or generators.

USING THE SUN

To make a completely renewable energy system,

Tim has set up a photovoltaic array that harnesses solar power to generate the electricity for electrolysis. The photovoltaic cells generate current for the electrolyzer. The hydrogen produced is stored and used to power a 1-kilowatt (kw.) wind turbine, a device he got from a friend who tries to live off the grid. Tim showed us a picture of the setup, including the big box that holds the electrolytic cells and four cylinders of storage fuel cells.

The solar array has been operating in Fairfield since 2005. It has run for over 32,000 hours and has created well over 250,000 cubic feet of pure hydrogen at 2000 psi. without using a compressor. Tim doesn't use most of the hydrogen, so he sells it off to others.

To give us an idea of how useful the system would be for the home, he told us that 1 kw. yields 7.5 cu. ft./hr. of hydrogen. He estimated that a typical suburban house would use about 1.25 kw. per hour, or about 30 kw/day. The system is very efficient: 3420 BTU's in yields 2250 BTU's out, a 66% conversion efficiency

He said that he knows he is not going to get perfect sunshine every day. "I'm not trying to produce 80 amps (his system's peak) every second," he stated. From several years of working with his array, he's found that's it's wise to give the system "time to relax." "I love rules of thumb," Dolan stated, and this is one of the rules he's found very practical.

USING PRACTICAL HYDROGEN POWER IN THE HOME

What could be more practical for homeowners than a lawnmower that runs on renewable energy? Well, Tim converted an environmentally friendly lawn care company's lawnmower to run on hydrogen. At first, there were problems in running continuously off stored hydrogen. But Tim got help from an electronic engineer to modify the electronics to eliminate the backup problem the mower had. The only non-renewable energy the lawn mower now needs is a battery to power the electronics and some oil for lubrication.

Dolan is always thinking of hydrogen applications. In his house, he has a hydrogen heater. Although it starts very slowly, it works very well.

In the garage, he uses hydrogen power for a torch.

COOKING WITH HYDROGEN

Another clever project Tim showed us was his hydrogen barbecue. He said that he could run this barbecue for three hours using the hydrogen generated by his solar-electrolysis system in one day. He once cooked a dinner for twenty people on the grill using the hydrogen stored in two cylinders.

Tim also converted a natural gas stove to run on hydrogen. This invention proved very useful when the electricity went out in his neighborhood one day. He wryly reported how his kid's dismay turned to pleasure when he was able to use his hydrogen stove to cook dinner.

Tim advises Fairfield University engineering students and he helped them with a similar project to convert a stove to hydrogen. They did this for their senior project and the meal they cooked for the faculty won the minds and stomachs of the judges, gaining the students a prize.

WORKING OUT THE BUGS

Tim is always working to improve his inventions but it's no easy task. He has sunk \$6,000 into building his hydrogen fuel cell and he's not yet satisfied with it. Its complicated electronics require a lot of tinkering and it has a software problem that has defied solution so far. He shares ideas with other hydrogen geeks to try to overcome problems and improve the technology. Right now, he said, he's brainstorming with a Rhode Island inventor who has experienced similar problems with the two fuel cells he's built. Together, they're working to debug the cells and boost their output.

IS HYDROGEN SAFE?

Many people remember the famous Hindenburg dirigible disaster of 1937 and dismiss hydrogen as a fuel too dangerous for everyday use. Not so, says Tim. Most of those who died in the Hindenburg tragedy panicked and jumped from the hydrogen flames. The passengers who stayed on the zeppelin survived. Every fuel has dangers, he argued, including gasoline. Hydrogen, being a light gas, rises quickly and so

doesn't spread out across the landscape. His machines have numerous redundant safety systems, both hardware and software, built in. Precautions are necessary, Tim advised, because while hydrogen doesn't spread outward very much, and its flame is very fast and invisible.

EXPLORING THE LIMITS

Some engineers have plunged into projects to build hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. However, Tim calls hydrogen cars a bad idea. To travel far, he said, the cars would need a lot of hydrogen, which they would have to compress and store or generate as they travel. This would be extremely difficult and costly. Hydrogen autos may be practical though, Tim pointed out, for municipal fleets because these cars don't travel very far. But otherwise, the difficulties of transporting and re-fueling hydrogen make it impractical.

Someone asked Tim if he thinks hydrogen power plants could serve as public utilities. Tim believes they could. How can we store hydrogen for these big projects? Liquifying it would require very low temperatures and then high pressure to keep it in an insulated container. This would waste 30% - 40% of its energy. But Tim sees potential in experimental ways being investigated, such as using balloons or large tents, which he showed some slides of. "We store a lot

things - natural gas, for one," he noted. "The problem is not pressure, it's temperature." Temperature and electrical variations pose difficulties for storing hydrogen. "It's not practical now," he conceded, "but it is possible." One Mensan suggested that hydrogen could be combined with carbon waste from garbage and crops and our speaker said that this is a promising idea that deserves more research.

Tim Dolan's presentation taught us what can be done with hydrogen right now in your backyard, and what hydrogen may be used for in the future. His ingenuity in converting appliances to run on hydrogen sparked a lot of questions and Tim was ready with answers. His success can encourage more energy entrepreneurs to enter the field and help light our future.

NEXT MONTH: Westport Mensan Bob Liftig, who has spoken at two previous dinners, will speak about his editing role on last summer's Mensa Research Journal issue on "Educating Gifted Children." He got a lot of opinions pro and con on whether there should be gifted programs, and he will give us a report on the controversy.

PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. Who was the best major league baseball umpire ever?
2. How many medical schools are there in the United States? Nursing schools? Law schools?
3. How much is computer software improving each year?
4. Which world time zone has the most people in it?
5. What can newspapers do to survive?
6. Who was the speaker who preceded Lincoln at the Gettysburg cemetery dedication, before Lincoln gave his Gettysburg Address?
7. Name the most difficult engineering profession.
8. Name the different types of vegetarians.

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

2. How long do horses live?
A: Horses live for about 19 - 20 years in the wild and 25 - 30 years if domesticated.
4. What percentage of the world's land area is in Russia? In China?
A: Russia occupies about 12% of the world's land area and China about 7.2%.

WORD CHECK

See if you can define these architectural words. Answers are at right.

- 1. baluster
- 2. cornice
- 3. esplanade
- 4. fenestration
- 5. frieze (frieze)
- 6. gable
- 7. keystone
- 8. newel
- 10. parapet
- 11. pilaster
- 12. portico
- 13. sill
- 14. stoop
- 15. transom
- 16. turret
- 17. veranda

- 1. baluster - one of a series of short vertical posts, often ornamental, used to support a railing. A balustrade is a row of balusters topped by a rail.
- 2. cornice - an ornamental molding at the top edge of a wall.
- 3. esplanade - a public ground for walking or riding; a level, open area.
- 4. fenestration - The organization and design of windows in a building; windows, their number and
- 5. frieze (frieze) - an ornamental or sculptured band around a wall.
- 6. gable - the upper portion of an end wall formed by the slope of a roof.
- 7. keystone - the central wedge-shaped member of a masonry arch. It bears the pressure of the other stones in the arch; also used as a decorative element on arches in wood structures.
- 8. newel - the main post at the foot of a stairway or stoop.
- 10. parapet - a low wall that serves as a vertical barrier at the edge of a roof, terrace, bridge, or other raised area; in a exterior wall, the part entirely above the roof.
- 11. pilaster - a rectangular column built partly in a wall.
- 12. portico - a small porch composed of a roof supported by columns, often found in front of a doorway.
- 13. sill - the horizontal foundation at the bottom of a window or door.
- 14. stoop - a small porch and the steps to it.
- 15. transom - a beam above a door separating it from a window. 2. a hinged window or panel above a door. 3. any crossbeam.
- 16. turret - 1. a small tower rising from a larger building. 2. a gun tower on a fort or battleship.
- 17. veranda - an open porch or gallery, usually roofed; a porch that runs along front or side of a building, supported by pillars or columns

ANSWERS:

NOTED & QUOTED

Every mile is two in winter. - *George Herbert, (1593 - 1633), Welsh poet, orator and priest*

Poetry is indispensable, if only I knew for what. - *Jean Cocteau, (1889 - 1963), French dramatist, director*

Music rots when it gets too far from the dance. Poetry atrophies when it gets too far from music. - *Ezra Pound, (1885 - 1972), U.S. poet*

There is melancholy in the wind and sorrow in the grass, and the river weeps. - *Charles Kuralt, (1934 - 1997), 'Place of Sorrows', On the Road with Charles Kuralt, 1985*

No mortal has a right to wag his tongue, much less to wag his pen, without saying something. - *Thomas Carlyle, (1795 - 1881), British historian and essayist*

A consensus means that everyone agrees to say collectively what no one believes individually. - *Abba Eban, (1915 - 2002), Israeli diplomat*

Intelligence is the ability to avoid doing work, yet getting the work done. - *Linus Torvalds, (1969 -), Finnish software entrepreneur, developer of Linux*

A clever woman has millions of born foes - all stupid men. - *Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach, (1830 - 1916), Austrian novelist*

Show me a sane man and I will cure him for you. - *Carl Gustav Jung, (1875 - 1961), Swiss psychiatrist*

One of the definitions of sanity is the ability to tell real from unreal. Soon we'll need a new definition. - *Alvin Toffler, (1928 -), U.S. futurist*

An economist's guess is liable to be as good as anybody else's. - *Will Rogers, (1879 - 1935)*

Never have more children than you have car windows. - *Erma Bombeck, (1927 - 1996)*

An unbiased person is someone who has the same bias as we have. - *Mason City Globe-Gazette*

Despair is criminal. - *Samuel Johnson, (1709 - 1784), English lexicographer and author*

Hope: Mistaking desire for probability. - *Anonymous*

I awoke and yet continued to dream... - *Max Beckmann, (1884 - 1950), German painter, printmaker, sculptor, and writer*

People don't live or die, people just float. - *Bob Dylan, (1941 -), Man in the Long Black Coat*

Order and creativity are complementary. - *Lewis Mumford, (1895 - 1990), U.S. urban planner, sociologist*

The aim of education is the wise use of leisure. - *Aristotle, (384 - 322 B.C.E.)*

An engineer is an unordinary person who can do for one dollar what any ordinary person can do for two dollars. - *Anonymous*

Education isn't play - and it can't be made to look like play. It is hard, hard work. But it can be made interesting work. - *Thomas Edison, (1847 - 1931)*

There are only two things that matter in life - your friends and your art. Everything else is worthless. - *Edgar Whitney, (1894 - 1987), U.S. watercolor painter*

There is nothing more demoralizing than sudden, overwhelming disillusionment - *Dorothy Thompson, (1894 - 1961), U.S. journalist, writer*

Man dies of cold, not darkness. - *Miguel de Unamuno, (1864 - 1936), Spanish philosopher, poet, and novelist*

We would like to live as we once lived, but history will not permit it. - *John Fitzgerald Kennedy, (1917 - 1963)*

Like all people who try to exhaust a subject, he exhausted his listeners. - *Oscar Wilde, (1856 - 1900)*
The human mind is generally far more eager to praise and dispraise than to describe and define. - *C.S. Lewis, (1898 - 1963)*

Literature gives us a memory of lives we did not lead. - *Mason Cooley, (1927 -), U.S. aphorist, City Aphorisms, New York, 1984*

If your experiment needs statistics, you ought to have done a better experiment. - *Ernest Rutherford, (1871-1937), New Zealand physicist*

No mockery in this world ever sounds to me so hollow as that of being told to cultivate happiness. What does such advice mean? Happiness is not a potato, to be planted in mould and tilled with manure. - *Charlotte Bronte, (1816 - 1855)*

Boredom presents itself as a trivial emotion that can trivialize the world. It implies an embracing sense of irritation and unease. It reflects a state of affairs in which the individual is assigned ever more importance and ever less power. - *Patricia Meyer Spacks, (1929 -), U.S. Professor of English, Univ. of Virginia, Boredom: The Literary History of a State of Mind, (1995)*

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