

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.*

HIKING IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY (Non-Mensa event)

A few members have mentioned an interest in hiking locally recently. One group that sponsors regular local hikes of varying lengths and includes a number of Mensans as members is the Central Fairfield County Hikers (<http://hiking.meetup.com/392/>). This group uses meetup.com (a great site, in case you're not familiar with it) to coordinate its hikes. There is a detailed description of each hike. To participate in a hike, please sign up through meetup.com. If you have any questions about the hiking group, please feel free to contact Deb Jennings locsec@rocketmail.com, (President, Southern CT Mensa). In addition, if you are interested in organising a hike or trying to get in contact with other Mensa hikers, we can include information in this monthly letter and help you with organising and publicizing your events.

SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS - APRIL

Friday, April 9, 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, April 10, 8:00 pm

THEATER: "Hound of the Baskervilles"

at the Westport Community Theatre, Town Hall Building, 110 Myrtle Ave., Westport, CT. 06880. From the novel by Arthur Conan Doyle. Can Sherlock Holmes stop the beast behind the curse that has killed all heirs of the Baskerville

Admitted in CT, NY & OR

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sharon@oberstlaw.com

family fortune? Tickets are \$16 - 18. Contact Jim Mizera at jmizera@hotmail.com or (203) 522-1959 for info or reservations.



Saturday, April 17, 6:15 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: "Naturopathy: The Botanical Prescription". Local Mensan Jenna Dr. Henderson, ND, will talk about naturopathy and herbal remedies. 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. You can bring a donation of money or food to benefit the Connecticut Food Bank. Contact Jim Mizera, jmizera@hotmail.com, 203-522-1959, for information and reservations. In case of severe weather, please call. Reservations encouraged.

Sunday, April 18, 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.

Tuesday, April 20, 7:30

Post Road Dinner

The Bridge House Restaurant, 49 Bridgeport Ave. (Post Rd.), Milford, CT ([2](http://www.milfordbridge-</p>
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house.com)(Just over the Stratord-Milford bridge.) This restaurant closes at 9:00 on Tuesdays. Contact Jim Mizera at jmizera@hotmail.com or (203) 522-1959 for reservations or info.

MAY

Friday, May 14, 7:00 pm

Danbury Dinner

Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner

Saturday, May 22, 6:30 pm

MONTHLY DINNER

Putnam House Restaurant

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.

APRIL

2 Friday 5:30 pm

Happy Hour in Wallingford

(ME, 1st Fridays) Ann Polanski (contact her at 203-269-4565 or ann.polanski@rfsworld.com 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.

3 Saturday 6:30 pm

Neon John Revisited

Join us once again at the Funky Monkey Café in Cheshire for another riveting performance by our own John DiLeo. John is an award-winning composer heard on ABC television, and will perform his unique blend of thought-provoking originals and high energy classics. This event has become a Chapter hit and keeps growing and growing!! The Funky Monkey is located at the Watch Factory Shoppes, 130 Elm St,

Cheshire, CT. You can see pictures at <http://www.thfunkymonkeycafe.com>. This month contact Beth Collins at 203-294-1994 or player.piano@juno.com for reservations or information. Note: You must arrive by 6:30 to get a seat.

7, 14, 21, 28 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

9 Friday 6:30 pm

Diner Dinner

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

10 Saturday 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.

10 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

11 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

14 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

15 Thursday 6:30 pm

Pioneer Valley Dinner

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

23 Friday 5:00 pm

Happy Hour

(ME, 4th Friday) at Harry's Sports Grill in The Holiday Inn in North Haven, web site www.harryssportsgrill.com. Come on down and join us this month, we'd love to see ya. Contact Gail Trowbridge 203-877-4472 or gail_trowbridge@yahoo.com

23 Friday 6:30 pm

Diner Dinner

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

25 Sunday 1:35 pm

Mensa Goes to a Baseball Game

Meet in section 213, about four rows from the top, for a 1:35 start, and watch the New Britain Rock Cats (Double-A Twins) host the Harrisburg Senators, farm team for the Washington Nationals. Beer, jokes, commentary, and insights along with a preview of the upcoming Kentucky Derby at no extra charge. For info, contact tom.thomas@the-spa.com or www.rockcats.com

25 Sunday 5:15 pm

Theater Event:

Michael Hollinger's An Empty Place

in the Café Du Grand Boeuf. Also directed by Howard Hirsch. Join other Chapter members for the Sunday Performances at the Repertory Theatre of New Britain, 23 Norden St . 860-223-3147. You can read about the performances, and download a season brochure at www.nbrep.org. We usually meet for a late lunch / early dinner before the shows, and have found some interesting restaurants. Please do join us! The theatre is small enough that we do not have to sit together, but do let me know if you decide to sign up Barb Holstein BarbCPA@att.net.

LOOKING AHEAD

1 Sunday 2:30 pm

Book Discussion

Join us at Pamela Guinan's home, 323 Griswold Road, Wethersfield, CT, for a discussion of *The Other Brain: From Dementia to Schizophrenia, How New Discoveries about the Brain Are Revolutionizing Medicine and Science* by R. Douglas Fields (nonfiction). "Virtually every educated person knows that brain function is the result of brain cells called neurons. Wrong! Neurons comprise only 10% of brain cells. The majority of other cells in the brain are collectively known as glia" Research over the past 30 years has shown that these cells are equal partners in cognitive information processing, and may be more important than neurons. In fact, they may actually be directing the networks of neurons that have been considered the basis of intelligence, memory formation and consciousness for over a century. RSVP to Pam Guinan 860-563-5761 or Pamela.cwm@hotmail.com

9 Sunday 1:35 pm

Mensa Goes to a Baseball Game

Meet in section 213, about four rows from the top, for a 1:35 start, and watch the New Britain Rock Cats (Double-A Twins) host the Portland Sea Dogs, farm team for the Boston Red Sox. Beer, jokes, commentary, and insights along with a preview of the upcoming Preakness at no extra charge. For info, contact tom.thomas@the-spa.com or www.rockcats.com

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 miscel-

laneous 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 mwmrg.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!

Cape Cod Mini-RG

**A Whale Of A Good Time
May 7-9, 2010**

Join us on beautiful Cape Cod for a relaxing, unstructured weekend of socializing and hospitality with old friends and new. Visit Provincetown, enjoy great seafood, go whale watching, antiquing, bicycling, or just sit back and listen to the ocean. A great RG for first-timers!

Hotel rooms are \$74.95 for 1-4 people until 3/31, then \$79.95. Mail your check, made out to "Corsair", directly to them at: 41 Chase Avenue, Dennisport, MA 02639. Make your reservations early as the Corsair and Crossrip fill up fast. Hotel information / reservations: 800-345-5140.

Friday dinner and Saturday and Sunday breakfasts are included in registration (served in Hospitality). You're on your own for Saturday lunch and dinner. Most folks go day-tripping Saturday and then out to local restaurants in groups in the evening.

Adult registration is \$45 until 4/30, \$55 after. Day rates available on website. Children under 6 are free. Ages 6-20 are \$1 per year of age.

Visit the RG website at www.CapeRG.org for more information and updates. You can register and pay online, so what are you waiting for?



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

April showers - I've had more than enough in February and March, so hopefully it will be an early spring. The past couple of days have been spring-like here in Rhode Island and I am beginning to think about spring yardwork and my garden. I always have such grandiose plans and then when it is time to actually do the work, I think less is better. Since we are going to be doing some traveling this summer, I'm really going to have to scale back on the vegetable garden. So come fall time, if you have any extra - think of me.

April events: register for Boston Mensa's Cape Cod Mini-RG; Mind Games® in San Diego the weekend of April 16-18; Culture Quest® which will be held April 11th (registration deadline is/was March 31); March 31 was also membership renewal time - but it is not too late to renew.

The spring AMC meeting was held the first weekend of March, so Ron had to go to Snowball (Central NJ Mensa) without me. I had never been to San Diego before so I did a little bit of sightseeing, very little. Spent about five hours at the zoo - and enjoyed it immensely. The elephant exhibit was wonderful. But, the Toronto Zoo remains my favorite zoo. And, despite what the song says, it does rain in Southern California. After much dis-

cussion on the AMC e-list, the proposed budget as previously posted on the AML website was adjusted and then passed. A Governance Task Force was formed to review the governance structure of American Mensa. Boston Mensa will be holding a membership retreat in April, so if you are a member of Boston Mensa and are interested in attending, please contact me. Foundation news: Nominations for awards are being sought. A colloquium on electronic gaming has been approved and will be held in February 2011. See the Foundation's website for more info: www.mensa-foundation.org. mensaforkids.org has a great feature this month discussing time zones. Last month's topic was chocolate. The website isn't just for kids - browse it once in a while. All of the topics include additional sites for further research. I've been thinking a lot about different kinds of events to hold for my local group. Some suggestions have included billiards, speaker meetings, bike rides and hiking. So, in April, we're going to go ahead and schedule a night at the local pool hall. (They are so different than when I was in college.) I have been practicing and now, sometimes, I can even pocket some of my balls before Ron wins the game - I'll keep on practicing.

- Lori

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THE MARCH DINNER

DISCUSSING GIFTED EDUCATION

At our March dinner, Mensans were pleased to have Bob Liftig, one of our favorite speakers, return to give a talk about his role as Guest Editor of last summer's Mensa Research Journal special issue on Gifted Education. Bob has been a member of our chapter for several years and he gave two well-received talks before our group, the first, in November 2005, about acting in local community theater, and the second, in January 2008, about the Loyalists in the American Revolution, a topic on which he wrote an article in Fairfield County Magazine (See http://www.fairfield.edu/publications/fn_sum07morehouse.html for an article about Bob's research on the Loyalists).

Bob comes to the topic of gifted education with some good experience. He taught many Advanced Placement (A.P.) English high school courses during his three-decade career as a high school English teacher in Westchester, NY, and he wrote the best-selling A.P. English test preparation book. He is now an adjunct professor at three Connecticut universities.

Prof. Liftig got his opportunity to edit the Mensa Research Journal when he saw an ad a few years ago in the publication asking for a guest editor for a special issue on the topic "Barriers to Educating the Gifted. (Vol. 40, No. 2, Summer, 2009. See www.mensafoundation.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Past_issue_index&Template=/customsource/merf/MRJ_BackIssues_Detail_idxonly.cfm&iid=75). He applied for the position and was accepted on the strength of his experience teaching the gifted and his writing credentials.

THE PLAN

Bob looked forward to the assignment because he thought that there were many interesting questions to explore about gifted education, and he felt he could look fairly on the many sides in the controversies. He had some opinions on the issue, but he did not think the questions on giftedness were anywhere near settled. Emphasizing the uncertainties involved, he stated flatly, "Educational research is an oxymoron.

Education is an art, not a science." So he anticipated hearty debate, with all sides weighing in.

He started putting together a list of questions about gifted ed that had been running through his mind for many years. He wanted the articles to examine these topics. Among the questions he laid out were:

- Is gifted and talented education un-American?
- Are the gifted and talented best helped by parents or by schools?
- Which is better for gifted education: private or public schools?
- Did the British have the right idea about gifted education in the 1950s and abandon it?
- Is IQ the best measure or test of giftedness?

The issue would cover a mix of views and include psychological, philosophical, and personal articles, and pieces discussing artistic and scientific education. Bob wanted to make his own contribution, so he interviewed a Fairfield County psychiatrist for an article, "The 96-Year-Old Psychiatrist Tells All."

EDITING AND WRESTLING

It was a well thought out plan, one that could spark the reasoned debate the topics deserved. But Bob began to have second thoughts about his editorship when he started talking to the Journal staff about his plans and some of the articles he wanted included in the issue. He got immediate objections from a staff member who disliked articles that didn't define giftedness as broadly as she would have liked. The first problem was with Dr. Robert Weissberg's article "The Stealthy War on Smart Kids." Weissberg argued that schools were making giftedness meaningless, watering down their programs by creating special categories of giftedness in response to parents' complaints. In his view, administrators mollified parents by designating their kids as gifted when they really did not qualify.

Dr. Weissberg's arguments resonated with Bob. In his teaching career, he said that he had seen many examples of the behavior that Weissberg

said was undermining gifted ed. He remembered the numerous times when suburban parents applied pressure to get their kids into A.P. English classes when the student's record didn't merit it and they couldn't handle advanced work. As a result, Bob's high school ended up scheduling three classes in A.P. English where he felt only one was justified. But regardless of whether Weissberg's argument was ultimately right or wrong, it was a reasoned opinion, one that belonged in the issue. It raised the interesting question, "Should schools have standardized tests or individualized tests for giftedness?" Bob had selected other articles that represented contrasting views and wanted to let readers judge for themselves.

The Mensa Research Journal staff didn't see things the same way. In Bob's opinion, they weren't letting him exercise his discretion as Guest Editor. He put his foot down and said he wanted no interference in his selections. He wanted people to weigh in on different sides of the issues without restraint and he was unwilling to do the job under any other conditions. "I set my own rules and stood my ground," he told us. The staff relented and Bob got authority to select the articles as he saw fit.

"I wanted people to communicate," Bob said. "I thought I would give a lot of controversial questions a good airing." Given an assurance of freedom to pursue the issues, he told the authors he wanted them to "push the limits." But when the writers submitted their articles, the Mensa Research Journal staff requested what Bob characterized as "too many nitpicking" objections. He found the authors, including Dr. Weissberg, "too compliant" with these requests. They bent over backwards to make changes when they had no reason to do so. What had looked like a golden opportunity to discuss hard questions was becoming frustrating.

A COPY, PLEASE

After the articles had been selected and edited for clarity, several authors requested Adobe Acrobat pdf files to make final checks before publication, a customary practice with any professional journal. In a twist that seemed bizarre to the authors, to Bob, and to everyone in our

audience, the Mensa Research Journal said they didn't provide such files. One naturally wonders, "How difficult could it be to e-mail copies to the authors?" But despite pleas by the writers, the MRJ reiterated its refusal, inexplicable though it might be. This upset Bob and all the writers, and one professor was simply outraged.

When the issue went out to print, Bob ran into another befuddling rule. It's customary in the business for each author in a journal to get a free copy of the issue, but the Mensa Research Journal said it didn't do this - again, as a matter of policy. They said they were only set up to print a certain number of copies, all of which would go for sale. Bob was embarrassed at this violation of common courtesy and he offered to pay for free copies for the authors. But the Journal adamantly told him no, he couldn't even do that. Mortified that the psychiatrist he had interviewed for his article would not get a complimentary issue, he ended up giving away his copy to her.

No one in our audience could understand how a journal could run this way. One person quipped, "Even the employees at McDonald's get to eat free meals there." How could a journal that aspires to respectability refuse to provide electronic and print copies to the authors who had contributed?

Unfortunately, there was more bitterness in this story. After publication, the Mensa Research Journal stated that it was banning all the authors who had written in the issue from ever writing for the Journal again.

CONCLUSIONS

Despite the wrangling and pettiness, Bob was satisfied with the results he got. The issue's articles discussed the questions on gifted education that he wanted to probe. "I had a good time," he said. "I did get things published. I got no complaint from the readers." On the interference he had to deal with, he mused, "One of the unfortunate lessons I learned was: - never volunteer. I assumed in the marketplace of ideas, people could handle debate. My only reservation was that people so feared being controver-

sial, they practiced self-censorship" - not because readers were offended, but because some staffers thought readers might be offended.

QUESTIONS

After the presentation, some people had questions or comments on intelligence and achievement. One person stated that drive and motivation, not innate gifts, are the biggest factors in academic success, and some people seconded that argument. Another said that IQ is a good gauge of intelligence and that it correlates very well with measures of success. Bob said that the 96-year-old psychiatrist he interviewed for his article agreed with that view, adding that she believed, based on her work, that IQ was largely inherited. One interesting thought she had was that gifted kids can help other kids to learn.

Bob will probably not be editing another Mensa Research Journal but he will remain busy teaching and writing. He had on hand several copies of the book he self-published last year "The Baby Bomber Chronicles" (see advertisements section at the end of this issue.), and several people picked up a copy. You can hear him give a talk on Mark Twain at the Mark Twain Library in Redding, Connecticut on June 4, in honor of the 100th anniversary of Twain's death.

NEXT MONTH: On Saturday, April 17, Southern CT Mensan Jenna Henderson, ND, will talk on "Naturopathy - the Botanical Prescription". Come over to the Putnam House Restaurant in Bethel, CT, to hear this intriguing presentation.

Change of Address

Please allow four weeks for the change in MENSА Bulletin (the National Magazine) delivery, and eight weeks for the Chronicle Remember to give your membership number to facilitate this process (This number appears on your membership card and labels affixed to the Chronicle and MENSА Bulletin.) Member Number:

Name:

Old Address:

New Address:

Telephone Number:

Please send form to:

American Mensa, Ltd.
Membership Dept
1229 Corporate Dr West
Arlington, TX 76006-6103

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

This month's column is dedicated to French food, Spanish wine and the "Crock-Pot". About a month ago, we dined upon the recipe found below. In spite of having developed a real appreciation for seafood over the years, I am still secretly wary of fish dishes. I think that this ingrained fear is based upon the periodic culinary tragedies of my childhood (Sorry Mom.). Once again the Boss proved these fears baseless. The Bouillabaisse that came out of the slow cooker that night was an absolute delight.

The wine this month is a white from the Navarra Region of Northern Spain. The 2008 Vega Sindoa is a well balanced blend of 75% Viura and 25% Chardonnay grapes. It's nose hints of flowers and fruit, followed by a fresh green apple and citrus flavor. Like so many Spanish white wines, it seems to be made for seafood. I paid \$8 a bottle for this wine as part of a case.

Bouillabaisse "FISHERMAN'S STEW" (from an old Rival "Crock-Pot" cookbook published in the 1970's)

First Ingredients:

1/2-cup olive oil
 1/2-cup chopped onion
 1 tbsp chopped garlic
 1/2-cup chopped celery
 1 can (1 lb.) tomatoes
 1 8-oz. can tomato sauce
 2 tsp. salt
 1 tbsp paprika
 1/2-cup dry sherry or white wine
 pinch of dry basil.

Seafood:

1 1/2- lbs. medium or large shrimp
 3 sea bass or halibut steaks cut in 1 inch pieces
 1 lb. crabmeat
 4 medium lobster tails (optional or substitutes: 1 lb. clams or scallops)

Put all the ingredients except the seafood into the slow cooker. Cover and cook on high for 2 to 4 hours. Then add all seafood. Cover and cook 1 to 3 hours on high. You can vary the amounts and types of seafood to your taste and to what you have in the freezer. We happened to have had tilapia on hand that night instead of other fish. I would recommend serving this dish with a crusty French bread. A good cooking hint from the Boss is to add only half of the salt called for at the beginning; then add to taste later.



PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. Analyze how your investment style differs from Warren Buffet's.
2. How many registered motorcycles are there in the United States? How many new motorcycles are sold per year?
3. Name the provinces of Canada.
4. Which famous novelist used the most complicated plots?
5. What is the best way to organize items in the refrigerator? What is the most common way?
6. Estimate the population of these Middle Eastern countries: Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Kuwait, Qatar, Dubai.
7. What are the best ways to teach kids how to save?
8. About how many miles does a National Basketball Association (NBA) referee run during a game?
9. Compare the health benefits of beer and wine.

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

2. How many medical schools are there in the United States? Nursing schools? Law schools?

A: There are 158 medical schools in the U.S. 130 award M.D. degrees and 28 award D.O. (Doctor of Osteopathy) degrees. 15 schools are developing medical schools but have not taken any applicants or received accreditation yet. There are 5 schools of Naturopathic Medicine in the U.S. and 2 in Canada.

There are 200 accredited (A.B.A. - American Bar Association) law schools in the U.S. 11 schools have proposed law schools that are not active yet. Alaska is currently the only state without a law school.

There are approximately 500 nursing schools in the U.S.
4. Which world time zone has the most people in it?

A: UTC+8, the Beijing/Shanghai/Philippines/Malaysia time zone, is the most populous. It has about 1.375 billion people, about 22.5% of the world's population. Mainland China, however, only observes one time for the whole country. Before 1949, it observed five.
6. Who was the speaker who preceded Lincoln at the Gettysburg cemetery dedication, before Lincoln gave his Gettysburg Address?

A: Edward Everett, who had served as Secretary of State, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, Governor of Massachusetts, president of Harvard University, and Vice Presidential candidate, preceded Lincoln and was the main speaker. Everett, a famous orator, spoke for about two hours. Lincoln spoke for two minutes.

The ceremony took place on Nov. 19, 1863, about four and a half months after the Battle of Gettysburg. An estimated 15,000 people attended.
8. Name the different types of vegetarians.

A: Vegans - strict vegetarians - don't eat any animal products - no meat, fish, poultry, eggs, or dairy products. Lacto-vegetarians - eat no meat, fish, poultry or eggs but eat dairy products. Lacto-ovo-vegetarians - eat no meat, fish, or poultry but eat eggs and dairy products. Fruitarians - eat only fruits (because fruits don't need to be planted).

WORD CHECK

Define these varied words. Answers are at right.

1. abjure
2. adjure
3. congeries (kon- JEER- eez, KON- juh- reez)
4. cortege (kor- TAZH)
5. coruscate
6. dross
7. hirsute (HUR- soot, hur- SOOT)
8. prophylactic
9. temporize
10. vertiginous

1. abjure - to renounce, repudiate; recant, retract, or forswear.
2. adjure - 1. to command, charge, or bind earnestly and solemnly, often under oath or subject to penalty. 2. to entreat or request earnestly.
3. congeries - a collection, an aggregation, a heap.
4. cortege - 1. a procession, especially a ceremonial one. 2. a retinue.
5. coruscate - to emit vivid flashes of light; sparkle, scintillate, gleam.
6. dross - 1. the waste matter from molten metal. 2. any refuse. 3. worthless, ordinary, or trivial matter(s).
7. hirsute - covered with hair or bristles, hairy, shaggy, woolly.
8. prophylactic - 1. used to prevent disease. 2. preventive.
9. temporize - 1. to defer acting or deciding in order to gain time or delay. 2. to yield to prevailing opinion or circumstances. 3. to effect a compromise.
10. vertiginous - 1. whirling, spinning. 2. giddy, dizzy or causing dizziness.

ANSWERS:

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:	\$1906.48
TOTAL INCOME:	\$1906.48
EXPENSES	
Chronicle Printing Expenses:	\$636.00
Chronicle Postage:	\$453.08
Speakers' Dinners:	\$198.37
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$1287.45
3RD Q BALANCE on 12/31/09:	\$9,632.73

NOTED & QUOTED

Almost every novel is a mystery novel.

- Susanna Moore, (1945 -), U.S. novelist, lecturer

I have found that a story leaves a deeper impression when it is impossible to tell which side the author is on. - Leo Tolstoy, (1828 - 1910)

No matter how badly I feel, I always feel better after I teach. - Bob Miller, retired Prof. Of Mathematics, City College, City University of NY

You don't have to think too hard when you talk to teachers.

- J. D. (Jerome David) Salinger, (1919 - 2010)

John von Neumann was the only student I was ever afraid of.

- George Polya, (1887 - 1985), Hungarian mathematician

If my curve ball is breaking and I'm throwing it where I want, then the batter is irrelevant.

- Steve Stone, (1947 -), major league baseball pitcher (1971 - 1981), broadcaster

An honest man is one who knows that he can't consume more than he has produced.

- Ayn Rand, (1905 - 1982),

Pleasure is everything. - Diana Vreeland, (1903 - 1989), U.S. fashion columnist, editor

Every fire is the same size when it starts.

- Seneca Indian proverb

Only two relationships are possible - to be a friend or to be an enemy. - Cree Indian proverb

Intuition (n): an uncanny sixth sense which tells people that they are right, whether they are or not. - Anonymous

Pity is easy, but it is difficult to care. - Raymond Douglas Davies, (1944 -), English rock musician

I don't want to be a genius, I have enough problems just trying to be a man.

- Albert Camus, (1913 - 1969),

Real obstacles don't take you in circles. They can be overcome. Invented ones are like a maze.

- Barbara Sher, U.S. speaker, author, and career coach.

How dare we speak of the laws of chance? Is not chance the antithesis of all law?

- Bertrand Russell, (1872 - 1970)

The riddle does not exist. If a question can be put at all, then it can also be answered.

- Ludwig Wittgenstein, (1889 - 1951), Austrian philosopher

Sociology is the science with the greatest number of methods and the least results.

- Henri Poincare, (1854 - 1912), French mathematician, physicist, and philosopher of science

Money was invented so we could know exactly how much we owe. - Cullen Hightower, (1923 -), U.S. salesman and sales trainer

I loathe people who keep dogs. They are cowards who haven't got the guts to bite people themselves. - August Strindberg, (1849 - 1912), Swedish playwright, poet, novelist, *Madman's Defense*

Whoever says "Nothing is impossible" has never tried to slam a revolving door. - Willy Walker

There is no similarity between golf and putting; they are two different games one played in the air, and the other on the ground.

- Ben Hogan, (1912 - 1997), U.S. golfer

The sad thing about this age is not what it doesn't achieve but what it doesn't attempt.

- Ludwig Marcuse, (1894 - 1971), German philosopher

Each has his past shut in him like the leaves of a book known to him by heart and his friends can only read the title.

- Virginia Woolf, (1882 - 1941), English novelist and critic

Do not anxiously hope for what is not yet to come; do not vainly regret what is already past.

- Chinese proverb

Peace is its own reward.

- Mohandas Gandhi, (1869 - 1948)

Wars teach us not to love our enemies, but to hate our allies. - W. L. (Walter Lionel) George, (1882 - 1926), English novelist

Organized crime in America takes in over forty billion dollars a year and spends very little on office supplies. - *Woody Allen, (1935 -),*

To be interested in the changing seasons is a happier state of mind than to be hopelessly in love with spring. - *George Santayana, (1863 - 1952)*

Days are scrolls; write on them only what you want remembered. - *Bachya ibn Pakuda, (11th century), Jewish philosopher and rabbi*

It was not . . . that she was unaware of the frayed and ragged edges of life. She would merely iron them out with a firm hand and neatly hem them down. - *P.D. (Phyllis Dorothy.) James, (1920 -), British mystery novelist*

What do we live for, if not to make the world less difficult for each other?
- *George Eliot, (1819 - 1890), English novelist*

Life is a wonderful thing to talk about, or to read about in history books - but it is terrible when one has to live it.
- *Jean Anouilh, (1910 - 1987), French novelist, playwright, screenwriter*

It is a most mortifying reflection for a man to consider what he has done, compared to what he might have done. - *Samuel Johnson, (1709 - 1784), Boswell's Life of Johnson, (1770)*

Justice consists in doing no injury to men; decency in giving them no offence.
- *Cicero, (106 - 43 B.C.E.), Roman statesman, orator, author, De Officiis, Book 1, Ch. 28, section 99*

Have courage for the great sorrows of life and patience for the small ones; and when you have laboriously accomplished your daily task, go to sleep in peace. God is awake.
- *Victor Hugo, (1802 - 1885),*

Middle age is when you've met so many people that every new person you meet reminds you of someone else. - *Ogden Nash, (1902 - 1971), U.S. poet*

Let him who would enjoy a good future waste none of his present.
- *Roger Babson, (1875 - 1967), investor, entrepreneur, author, founder of Babson College*

If written directions alone would suffice, libraries

wouldn't need to have the rest of the universities attached. - *Judith Martin, (1938 -), "Miss Manners" columnist and author*

All art constantly aspires towards the condition of music.
- *Knut Hamsun, (1859 - 1952), Norwegian novelist*

The universe without music would be madness.
- *Friedrich Nietzsche, (1844 - 1900)*

A novel is balanced between a few true impressions and a multitude of false ones that make up most of what we call life.
- *Saul Bellow, (1915 - 2005), Canadian-born U.S. novelist, Nobel Prize Lecture, 12/12/76*

It is time I stepped aside for a less experienced and less able man. - *Scott Elledge, (1915 - 1998), Professor of Literature on his retirement from Cornell*

In our appetite for gossip, we tend to gobble down everything before us, only to find, too late, that it is our ideals we have consumed, and we have not been enlarged by the feasts but only diminished.
- *Pico Iyer, (1957 -), British-born essayist and novelist*

If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the sea.
- *Antoine de Saint-Exupery, (1900 - 1944), French author and aviator*

It is often said that one has but one life to live, but that is nonsense. For one who reads, there is no limit to the number of lives that may be lived, for fiction, biography, and history offer an inexhaustible number of lives in all periods of time.
- *Louis L'Amour, (1908 - 1988), U.S. western novelist*

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