

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 and did not renew, your membership expired at the end of April. You can 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. 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 organizing and publicizing your events.

SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS - JULY

Friday, July 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, July 17, 8:00 pm

Theater Event: Much Ado About Nothing

The Players at Putney Gardens present Shakespeare's MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, Boothe Memorial Park, (North) Stratford, Connecticut. The play will be performed outside in the Sunken Garden. Free admission, donations accepted. Contact Jim Mizera at (203) 522-1959 for info or reservations.

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sharon@oberstlaw.com

Sunday, July 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, July 22, 7:00 pm

Book Discussion

Borders bookstore coffee shop, 14 Danbury Road (Route 7, near the Norwalk town line), Wilton, CT 06897. How Doctors Think, by Jerome Groopman, M.D, 2007. Contact Jim Mizera at jmizera@hotmail.com or (203) 522-1959 for reservations or info.

LOOKING AHEAD

October 2, 2010, 11:00 - 5:00

A Day At The Races

Lime Rock Park Racetrack, Lime Rock CT. Hosts: Mike Yost (GNYM), Tom Thomas (C&WM) The Bruce Grohe Memorial SIG invites you to the beautiful Lime Rock Park race track to enjoy a day of SCCA Sports Car racing. Join That Nice Tom Thomas and the occasionally polite Mike Yost, sit on a grass hillside watching a variety of sports cars negotiate Lime Rocks twisty, challenging circuit. Feast on whatever you bring (and what you might care to buy from the surprisingly good concession stands) and enjoy autumn in New England. Dress in layers, expect anything from sunny and warm to cool and damp; the races run rain or shine.

Meet us on the Infield Spectator Area overlooking the Esses. Look for yellow balloons.

BYO lawn chairs or blankets, picnic food and drink. No pets and No Glass Bottles. Admission is reasonable, 15 dollars at the gate, 10 dollars advance purchase from the track's website.

Lime Rock is located in northwestern Connecticut, and getting there on the scenic roads of the area is part of the fun. For more information, including directions and how to order tickets visit their website: <http://www.lime-rock.com/> or you can call them at 1-800-RACE-LRP. For details about this event, or to RSVP, email mike@mikeyost.com, or call his mobile 917-603-0410

CONTESTS

Attention! Aspiring Mensa member AUTHORS!

Would you like to see your unpublished manuscript in print? BOOK LOVERS and CREATIVE WRITINGS SIG will like to invite you to submit your unpublished manuscript for Sharp Writ Unpublished Manuscript AWARDS.

The entries will be judged by a Panel of fellow Mensa members from the Book Lovers SIG. The winning entry will be awarded a publishing package by Xlibris including listing on Amazon.com for a year. Nominations are open to most categories in Fiction (except Romance and Western), Autobiography and memoirs, Young Adults and Books for Children.

For more information and to submit your manuscript for consideration, visit Book Lovers SIG's website at www.facebook.com/book.awards. You do NOT need to be a member and/or logged into Facebook in order to view this page.

Eye Cue SIG is organizing the ***Eye Opener Photography and Art Exhibition*** in conjunction with Smart Photographers at the Annual Gathering in Detroit.

There is no entry fee, and entries can be submitted in person, by snail mail or email. The submitter needs to give the SIG permission to offer their work to exhibition attendees in a silent auction, with net proceeds going to Mensa Educational and Research Foundation.

For complete rules and details on how to submit your entry, visit Eye Cue SIG's website at <http://eye-cue-sig.us.mensa.org>.

REGIONAL GATHERINGS

Connecticut & Western Massachusetts Mensa MENSAAUTUMN 2010

Sponsored by Connecticut & Western Massachusetts Mensa

October 15-17, 2010
Super 8 Hotel and Conference Center
Manchester, CT

Register early and spend less \$75 until September 15, 2010 - \$90 thereafter Children under 12 - half price Day rates available - contact registrar Registration Includes Friday - supper, A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Pub Saturday - lunch, speakers, dinner, surprise guest, Ron's Riverboat Bar Saturday and Sunday - continental breakfast All weekend - hospitality, games, tournaments, an interesting group of speakers and more surprises

Hotel
Super 8 Hotel/Conference Center
20 Taylor St., Manchester, CT 06040
Call (860) 643-1864 for reservations.
Mention Mensa and the rate is only \$70 a night

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

Congratulations to four Region 1 Local Groups for receiving nominations from the Publications Recognition Program. Mensa of Northeastern New York received several nominations for their newsletter. Connecticut and Western Massachusetts Mensa, Mid-Hudson Mensa, and New Hampshire Mensa were each nominated based on their web sites. Winners will be announced at the Annual Gathering in July. Good luck.

In conjunction with the AG, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History will be presenting a display of prominent African American Mensans. Sounds intriguing to me. The museum will be discounting admission and gift shop items for us. And, surprising to me, there are many more museums in Detroit than I was aware of. Unless I am mistaken, the AG committee has arranged for a continuous shuttle service to the Ford Museum (which contains more than just transportation materials). If you are going to be at the AG, try to connect with some of our international members (about a dozen countries other than the US and Canada will be represented) - some will be giving talks and they sound interesting. Also at the AG will be the AMC meeting (national board of directors) as well as the Annual Business Meeting - your chance to be heard. If you're interested in getting more involved in Mensa, attend some of the Leadership Development Workshops (LDW).

Following the AG, Ron and I hope to make our annual trek to the Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Ontario. It's about a three-hour drive from the AG, and they have some wonderful shows, and not only Shakespeare plays. We're hoping that some other Mensans may be able to join us. If you'd like any information on Stratford, please contact me.

At the end of July, Ron and I will be heading to the Czech Republic to attend the European Mensas Annual Gathering (EMAG), their third, to be held in Prague. I have never been to Europe and am looking forward to a bit of traveling before the gathering - Rome, Venice, Vienna. I'm excited. After the gathering, we hope to travel around the Czech Republic, Germany and then up to Copenhagen. It is going to be an exciting trip; we'll be visiting some sites that I have always dreamed of. So much to see and so little time, but who needs sleep - that's what sleeper cars on trains are for.

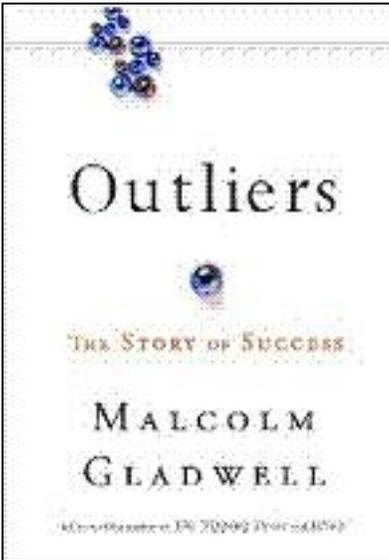
Don't forget there will be a Region 1 lunch at the AG on Wednesday (June 30th), right before the AG starts. Contact me for more details. I'll be involved involved in many of the planned events, but I hope to be able to find time to play games and hang out in hospitality with friends, old and newly met.

- Lori

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BOOK REVIEW

by Rick D'Amico

**OUTLIERS: THE STORY OF SUCCESS**

by Malcolm Gladwell

Malcolm Gladwell, New Yorker magazine essayist and author of best-selling books on decision-making and social psychology, has written another thoughtful book, *Outliers*, which focuses on overlooked factors in personal success. The outliers are the very best performers, and Gladwell probes their stories to account for their success. For example, he gives a very plausible explanation as to why most professional hockey players in Canada were born during the first few months of a calendar year. The sport is a meritocracy - it's the athlete's performance that matters, so there's nothing intentional about the phenomena. (Clue: It has to do with child development and the fact that hockey players start training in at a very young age.)

Unfortunately, some of his other examples seem to have a weaker correlation/causality link. Gladwell maintains that there is an intelligence threshold for achievement, and exceeding the threshold isn't likely to produce greater success. As an example, he cites a case where admission standards at a law school were relaxed for minority students but the minority graduates did just as well in their careers as other grads. However, the minority lawyers were entering a work force that also practiced affirmative action, so there was never really a head-to-head comparison. Therefore, we'll never know if Gladwell's hypothesis is true.

Gladwell also makes some interesting observations linking success with when a person was born, relating achievement to economics and technology. Apparently the time a person enters the workforce plays a part in their fortune.

Having read two other Malcolm Gladwell books, *The Tipping Point*, and *Blink* (see Chronicle Book Reviews, 11/05, 5/2007), and being more impressed by one than the other, I looked forward to reading *Outliers* as a tie-breaker. It's still a tie, as this book ranks somewhere between the other two. Nonetheless, like all other Gladwell books, it is well written and entertaining, so I highly recommend it. Despite some of my objections to his conclusions, I find his work to be interesting and thought provoking.

MENSA MIND GAMES 2010 RESULTS

More than 200 Mensans gathered in San Diego this weekend for Mind Games 2010. During the three-day event, members played and rated 49 board and card games. The top five games have earned Mensa Select distinction and may use the Mensa Select seal on their games.

This year's winners are:

Anomia
(Anomia Press, www.anomiapress.com)

Dizios
(MindWare, www.mindware.com)

Forbidden Island
(Gamewright, www.gamewright.com)

Word on the Street
(Out of the Box Publishing, www.otb-games.com)

Yikerz!
(Wiggles 3D Incorporated, www.yikerzgame.com)

Mind Games 2011 will be held April 15-17 in Albany, NY. Register for just \$55 through April 30, 2010 at www.mindgames.us.mensa.org

Change of Address

Please allow four weeks for the change in MENSA 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 MENSA 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

**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: \$2572.96

EXPENSES

Chronicle Printing Expenses: \$845.88
Chronicle Postage: \$604.90
Speakers' Dinners: \$405.17
Domain name fee (2 yrs) \$200.00

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$2055.95

4TH Q BALANCE on 3/31/10: \$9530.71

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

Part of the joy of travel is discovery. It may be new sights, new sounds, new approaches to living, and definitely new tastes. One of the new tastes that we came across during our recent trip to Spain was the use of almonds in almost every aspect of cooking. This was particularly noticeable in the Southern regions. We found almonds everywhere - in appetizers, soups, salads, desserts, and in main dishes such as the one below.

We have two wines to recommend this month, a red and a white. The first is the 2007 Red Guitar from the Navarra region in the North of Spain. This red wine is a blend of Tempranillo and Granacha grapes. It has the aroma of cherries and tastes of red and black raspberries. Its soft tannins produce a smooth medium bodied wine that matches with a range of dishes. It is widely available for between \$8 to \$10 a bottle.

The second wine is the 2008 Montecillo "Verdemar" Albarino from the Rias Baixas wine region. A white wine made from 100% Albarino grapes, it has crisp and pleasant taste starts out with a nose of tropical fruit and moves to a dry but fruity taste of apple, pineapple and a bit of lime. Its creaminess makes it a good match for this month's recipe. I've found this wine from about \$8 up to \$12 a bottle.

ANDALUSIA STYLE CHICKEN

Ingredients: 8 Chicken thighs (or other parts)
 4 garlic cloves peeled
 1 tomato, peeled and chopped (may use canned)
 1 medium onion, chopped 1 bay leaf
 2 cooked egg yolks
 1/2 cup white wine
 1 cup chicken stock 10 toasted almonds
 6 tbsp. olive oil
 5 Saffron strands
 2 sprigs of parsley
 ground pepper and salt to taste

Wash and dry the chicken. In a large frying pan, heat the oil and fry the peeled garlic cloves until browned. Remove them and set aside. Salt the chicken and fry in the oil until browned. Place in the pot that the stew is to be made. Peel and chop the onion and fry gently in the same oil as used to fry the chicken, until it becomes transparent. Add the chopped tomato and heat for 5 minutes. Add contents of pan to the pot with the chicken and pour in the wine. Pour in the chicken stock, add the bay leaf, cover and cook on low heat for about 20 minutes. While the chicken is cooking, combine the garlic, almonds, saffron, and parsley into a paste using a food processor. Incorporate the egg yolks process again and add paste to the chicken. Stir in paste, add pepper with a few twists of your pepper grinder and cook for a few minutes on a low heat. Serves four.

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

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

PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. Name new weapons that were used in World War I.
2. What percentage of Connecticut's land is forest land?
3. What is the best airport to fly out of?
4. What percentage of criminal suspects waive their Miranda rights?
5. Are there many gray areas in accounting? If so, what are some?
6. How many muscles are there in the human body?

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

2. How many bones are in the human body?
- A: Most anatomists agree that the adult human body has 206 bones. Infants have more, 270 - 350, because some bones in places such as the skull and hip have not yet fused.

In adults, there are 28 bones in the skull, 26 in the vertebra, 30 bones in each arm and leg, 24 in the ribs. Each hand has 27 bones and each foot has 26. The face has 14 and each ear has 3.

6. How many U.S. soldiers fought in the Vietnam War?

A: Approximately 2.71 million soldiers (about 9.7% of that generation) were in Vietnam during the war (1964 - 1973). About 25% were drafted. Estimates of how many were in battle range from 1 - 1.6 million. The peak period was April, 1968, when about 543,000 troops were in Vietnam. 58,000 military personnel died, over 47,300 from enemy fire. 2,338 soldiers are listed as missing in action.

About 8.74 million U.S. soldiers were on active duty over that time.

About 3.4 million (514,000 offshore) U.S. military personnel were in the Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, flight crews based in Thailand and in the South China Sea) during the war.

WORD CHECK

Define these words. Check your answers below.

1. coeval (coh- EE- vuhl) -
2. corvine -
3. dreadnought -
4. etiology -
5. irenic -
6. miasma -
7. mezzanine -
8. oscibant -
9. quotidian -
10. supernal -

1. coeval - of the same age; contemporary, originating in the same period.
2. corvine - pertaining to or resembling a crow.
3. dreadnought - 1. a powerful battleship. 2. a type of battleship armed with heavy-caliber guns in turrets (gun towers that can revolve).
4. etiology - 1. the study of causes. 2. the cause or origin of a disease. 3. the study of the causes of diseases.
5. irenic - tending to promote peace.
6. miasma - 1. a noxious atmosphere or influence. 2. noxious vapor from putrid organic matter.
7. mezzanine - 1. the lowest balcony in a theater or the forward part of such a balcony. 2. a lower story between two higher stories in a building.
8. oscibant - the process of maintaining balance while constantly moving forward at the correct speed in the right direction toward a set goal.
9. quotidian - daily.
10. supernal - 1. lofty. 2. celestial; heavenly. 3. in the sky or high above.

ANSWERS:

NOTED & QUOTED

Instead of noblemen, let us have noble villages of men. - David Thoreau, (1817 - 1862), *Walden* (1854)

Two people can form a community by excluding a third. - Albert Camus, (1913 - 1960)

Everything that exists deserves to perish. - Johanne von Goethe, (1749 - 1832)

Where there is matter, there is geometry. - Johannes Kepler, (1571 - 1630)

I'm not a paranoid deranged millionaire. I'm a billionaire. - Howard Hughes, (1905 - 1976)

If you need a drink to be social, it's not social drinking. -National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) Public Awareness Campaign, 1973 -74

Every guilty person is his own hangman. - Seneca, (4 B.C.E. - 65 A.D.), Roman philosopher, playwright

Marriage is neither heaven nor hell; it is simply purgatory. - Abraham Lincoln, (1809 - 1865)

My parents had only one argument in 45 years. It lasted 43 years. - Cathy Ladman, Jewish-American standup comedienne, TV writer, and actress

So I can't live either without you or with you. - Ovid, (43 B.C.E. - 17 A.D.), *Amores*

The reason dogs have so many friends is because they wag their tails and not their tongues. - Anonymous

The environment is everything that isn't me. - Albert Einstein, (1879 - 1955)

There is no abstract art. You must always start with something. Afterward you can remove all traces of reality. - Pablo Picasso, (1881 - 1973)

Text first, rhythm second, melody third. - Claudio Monteverdi, (1567 - 1643), Italian composer, musician, and singer

Basically, the perfect movie doesn't have any dialogue. So you should always be striving to make a silent movie. - David Mamet, (1947 -), *On Directing Film* (1990)

You can't do a fine thing without having seen fine examples. - William Morris Hunt, (1824 - 1879), U.S. painter

Wit is an intermittent fountain; kindness is a perennial spring. - Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach, (1830 - 1916), Austrian novelist

Of every four words I write, I strike out three. - Nicolas Boileau Despréaux, (1636 - 1711), French poet and critic

My writing is full of lives I might have led. - Joyce Carol Oates, (1938 -), U.S. novelist, essayist

There's never an end to the sea. - Samule Beckett, (1906 - 1989), Irish-French playwright, novelist

If you expect nothing from anybody, you're never disappointed." - Sylvia Plath, (1932 - 1963), U.S. poet, *The Bell Jar* (1963)

Only the shallow know themselves. - Oscar Wilde, (1854 - 1900)

People do things for unfathomable reasons. They are opaque even to themselves. - Gary Wolf, *New York Times Magazine*, 'The Data-Driven Life', 5/2/10

Nothing so conclusively proves a man's ability to lead others as what he does from day to day to lead himself. - Thomas Watson, Jr., (1914 - 1993), President of IBM, 1952 - 1971

If you look for truth, you may find comfort in the end; if you look for comfort you will not get either comfort or truth, only soft soap and wishful thinking to begin, and in the end, despair. - C. S. Lewis , (1898 - 1963)

There is perhaps no psychological skill more fundamental than resisting impulse. - Daniel Goleman, (1946 -), U.S. psychologist, author, and journalist

We all walk in the dark and each of us must learn to turn on his or her own light.

- Earl Nightingale , (1921 - 1989), U.S. motivational speaker

One man has enthusiasm for 30 minutes, another for 30 days, but it is the man who has it for 30 years who makes a success of his life.

- Edward B. Butler, (1853 - 1928), U.S. businessman, retail entrepreneur, painter

Individuality outruns all classification, yet we insist on classifying every one we meet under some generalhead. - William James, (1842 - 1910)

COMMENTARY by Gerard Brooker

HAITI AFTER THE QUAKE

I recently returned from Haiti where I worked with an organization called "Haiti Light of Tomorrow." Actually, if there is light in Haiti it will have to be tomorrow, as there is none today.

Many months and over a billion dollars in contributions after the disaster, not much aid is evident. Port Au Prince is still a potpourri of death and destruction. The skeletons of buildings, large and small, are waiting to collapse. Many buildings are tilted at dangerous angles. Huge mounds of cinder blocks and cement seem to be everywhere. I asked about a teen-age boy I saw at the top of one pile picking at chunks of what once was his home. "He is trying to find his mother," I was told by our Creole translator.

Questions about the aid money are being asked by the people, who also are not sure of the whereabouts of their president. No one seems to be in charge. When the resilience and good humor of the Haitian people are exhausted, I fear what is going to happen.

We gave out over 2000 textbooks to schools, as well as solar flashlights so the students can study after the electricity goes off at about 7 p.m. We even ran what is called "The Donkey Library," with Fred the donkey who carried books in French so that students outside the capital could spend a few hours reading before we and Fred moved on to the next village with the same books to be devoured yet again. The tiny tot who more than once ran to kiss me on the cheek will always live in my heart, as her sweetness and gratitude remind me of a people abandoned.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertising Rates Short classified ads free to Mensa members and subscribers, \$2.00 per month and \$20.00 per year for others Send copy to the editor Display ads: Full page, \$50; half page, \$30; quarter page or business card, \$15 Discounts: 10% for three issues, 20% for six issues, 30% for 12 issues All ads must be paid in advance, checks payable to Southern Connecticut Mensa.

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The Baby Bomber Chronicles

by Bob Liftig. Here are the secrets about the 1960's no one ever told you. This is what happened when the "perfect" Baby Boom generation and the "best country in the world" lost all self control and began to hate each other. Sex! Drugs! Rock and Roll! Hippies and American heroes! What was it like to be an "average" guy or girl caught in the middle of this free for all? You'll laugh the bells off your vintage bell bottoms! Then ask Mom or Dad (or grandpa) what they were doing.

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The Illustrator

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

"Bridgeport - Tales from the Park City"

by Eric Lehman, is available at www.historypress.net or www.amazon.com. Paperback.

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