

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.

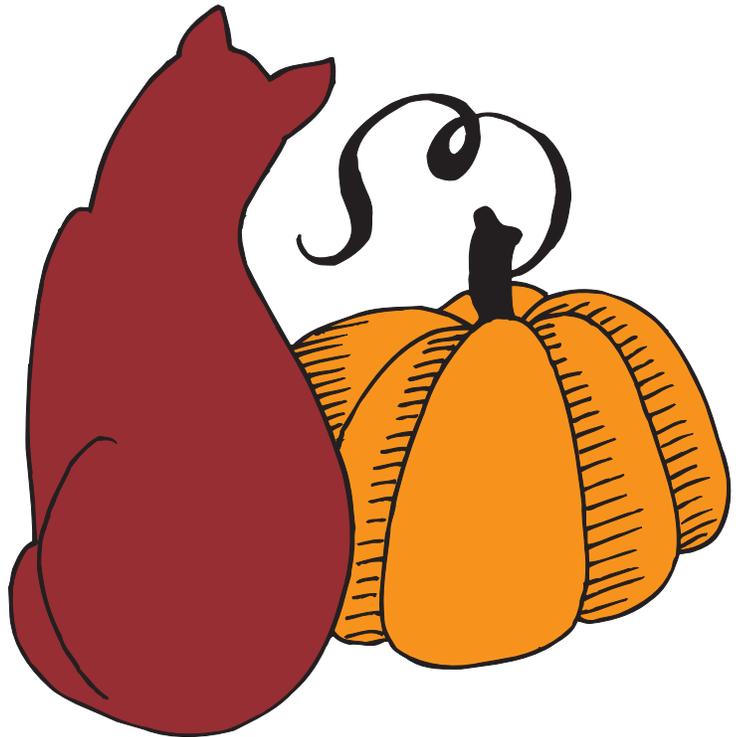


ARCHIVED COPIES OF THE CHRONICLE

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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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.

Admitted in CT, NY & OR

Sharon Oberst DeFala, Esq.
GENERAL PRACTICE OF LAW

Law Offices
Gary Oberst
A Professional Corporation
111 East Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06851

Office (203) 866-4646
Home (203) 852-9571
Fax (203) 852-1574
sharon@oberstlaw.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 organising and publicizing your events.

SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS - OCTOBER

Friday, October 8, 7:00

Danbury Dinner - Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner

at a new venue, The Pasta Garden, 174 Federal Rd, Brookfield CT 06804 (restaurant phone: (203) 775-0426). Interested M's should contact Ward Mazzucco at 203-744-1929, ext 25, wjm@danburylaw.com or Rev. Bill Loring at 203-794-1389, fr.bill@comcast.net for more info on location and/or reservations.

Tuesday, October 23, 7:00 pm

Post Road Dinner

The Bridge House Restaurant (www.milford-bridgehouse.com), 49 Bridgeport Ave. (Post Rd.), Milford, CT (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.

Friday, October 22 8:00 pm

Theater Event

"A Night in the Theatre" performed by the Phoenix Stage Company, 686 Rubber Ave. (storefront), Naugatuck, CT, (203)632-8456. Two couples attend a performance of "Hamlet" as a monthly "culture outing" that ends with a bitter-sweet twist. The play consists of their incessant and hilarious chatter about themselves, their children, a dead friend and even occasionally Shakespeare's play. Secrets emerge and friendships unravel amid the audience's laughter. You may even recognize these rude playgoers as the obnoxious people who sometimes sit behind you. Tickets are \$22. Contact Jim Mizera at jmizera@hotmail.com or (203) 522-1959 for info or reservations.

Saturday, October 23, 6:15 pm

Monthly Dinner

The Putnam House Restaurant, The Seelye Room, 12 Depot Place, Bethel (downtown - across from old railroad station), CT 06801 (www.theputnamhouse.com - Dinner Menu 1 - a vegetarian option is on the menu.).

TOPIC: "The ART of SONGWRITING." Bill Pere, President and Executive Director of the Connecticut Songwriters Association will discuss with us the many elements of songwriting - how to tell a story in song, how to select words, metaphors, and imagery, how to revise your work, how to blend lyrics with melody, and how to work with musicians. Bill will also talk about different approaches to writing a song and how he became a songwriter who was named one of the Top 50 Guiding Lights of the Music Industry by Music Connection Magazine.

Besides directing CSA, Bill is Founder and Executive Director of LUNCH (Local United Network to Combat Hunger), Independent Music Conference (IMC) Indie Artist of the Year, an

Official Connecticut State Troubadour since 1995, Director of the CT Songwriting Academy, and author of the Songcrafters' Coloring Book: The Essential Guide to Effective and Successful Songwriting.

Check out his websites to learn more about Bill's activities: <http://www.billpere.com>, www.lunchensemble.com, www.ctsongs.com, www.ctsongwriting.com, www.songcrafterscoloringbook.com

Don't miss the chance to meet with one of music's top writers. Contact Jim Mizera at jmizera@hotmail.com or (203) 522-1959 for reservations or info. Please try to make reservations by lunchtime on Friday, October 22 so we can give the restaurant an estimate of how many people will be attending the dinner. None of the dinners have sold out yet and latecomers will be gladly accepted, but we would like to make life a little easier for organizers and the restaurant staff. Contact Jim Mizera at jmizera@hotmail.com or (203) 522-1959 for reservations or info.

Sunday, October 24, 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.

Thursday, October 23, 7:00 pm

Book Discussion

Borders bookstore coffee shop, 1499 Post Rd., Fairfield, 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.

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.

OCTOBER

1 Friday 5:30 pm

Happy Hour in Wallingford

(ME, 1st Fridays) Ann Polanski (contact her at 203-269-4565 or cell 860-817-9910 or ann.polanski@comcast.net) at The Old Dublin, 171 Quinnipiac Street, Wallingford, CT 06492, 203-949-8022, <http://www.theolddublin.com> From Route 15: Take exit 64 toward Wallingford/Downtown, Sharp right at Quinnipiac Street, At 0.3 miles turn left to stay on Quinnipiac Street The Old Dublin will be on the left about 0.3 miles from where you turned left From I-91: Take I-91 to exit 13 Turn right at end of exit onto South Colony Road At about 0.2 miles, turn left onto Quinnipiac Street (Wallingford center, just before the gazebo). The Old Dublin will be on your right within about two blocks.

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 917-603-0410

2 Saturday 1:00 pm

Mensa Admissions Testing

at St. Michael's College, Colchester, Vermont, Room 102 of St. Edmund's Hall. Parking will be available by the Ross Sports Center. Contact Claire Natola at mensabear@gmail.com or 603-279-9986. Directions: Bear right off I-89's exit 15, then get into the left lane. At the first set of lights, take a left into the parking lot. Ross Sports Center is on the left at the back of the parking lot. Visitor parking is marked in this lot (stay straight as you enter, and look to your left). Allow yourself several minutes to walk from Ross Sports Center to St. Edmund's Hall.

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

Open Mike Night

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

7, 14, 21, 28 Thursdays 6:30 pm

Scrabble

(WE) at the Fellowship Housing clubhouse, 24 Starkel Road, West Hartford (it's the small building right where the road bends). For more info contact Lois Cappellano 413-567-4702

8 Friday 6:30 pm

Diner Dinner

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

9 Saturday TBA

Mensa Admissions Testing

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 <http://www.us.mensa.org/directtesting> and provide an email address. You can also save time at the site by paying for your testing session online at <http://www.us.mensa.org/testing> voucher.

9 Saturday 2:30 pm

Book Discussion

Join us at Pamela Guinan's home, 323 Griswold Road, Wethersfield, CT, for a discussion of On Wings of Eagles (nonfiction) Number-one best-selling author Ken Follett tells the inspiring, true story of the Middle East hostage crisis that began in 1979, and of the unconventional means Ross Perot used to save his countrymen. RSVP to Pam Guinan 860-563-5761 or Pamela.cwm@hotmail.com

9 Saturday evening

Steam Vent Concert/Open Mike

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

10 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

12 Tuesday 6:00 pm

Quiet Dinner Corner

(ME, 2nd Tuesday) at J.D. Cooper's in Putnam, CT. Easy access from I-395 exit 95 near Putnam Ford. It's a nice cozy, congenial place with a full menu and a reputation for great food. Join us for a full meal, a sandwich, or just dessert and

come away gastronomically satisfied in addition to a nice time with some of the area M's.

The address is 146 Park Road, Putnam, Conn. 06260 and the phone there is 860-928-0501. Visit www.jdcoopers.net for menus and other info. I'll probably have an M sign on the table. If possible, please call 860-974-0814 or email Joe Wonoski at n1knb@aol.com if you plan to attend. Hope to see you there!

13 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

15-17 All Weekend

Connecticut & Western Massachusetts Mensa

MENSAUTUMN 2010

at the Super 8 Hotel & Convention Center in Manchester CT. C&WM's annual weekend get together. This year's theme is "Ever the Twain: exploring the life and humor of a great American author". Come enjoy the speakers, the food, and most especially, the Mensans!! Stay the weekend or come for a day, enjoy your chapter to the fullest. Online registration form and more info under Regional Gathering link at <http://www.cwm.us.mensa.org/> Questions? Contact Ann Polanski, our registrar at ann.polanski@comcast.net

21 Thursday 6:30 pm

Pioneer Valley Dinner

(ME, 3rd Thursday) at the delightful Tavern on the Hill perched on the shoulder of Mount Tom, conveniently located on Route 141 between Easthampton and Holyoke. In order to fully appreciate the view and the sunset, we will be meeting there a half-hour earlier than usual, at 6:00 pm. Of course, if you want to come earlier and enjoy the view of the valley, or the view of the well-stocked bar, you'll probably find company! All are welcome, please email Ian Fraser ianfraser@usa.net for more information or directions.

22 Friday 5:00 pm ***Happy Hour***

(ME, 4th Friday) at Harry's Sports Grill in The Holiday Inn in North Haven, web site www.harrysportsgrill.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

22 Friday 6:30 pm

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

24 Sunday noon to 5:00 pm

Oktoberfest at the Alderman's

(YE) This is the 4th Oktoberfest at our condo in Hebron. Continue the enjoyment started at the RG. Bring a dish to share for lunch. Call 860-228-2678 for menu coordination. We prefer not to have shoes in the house, so bring slippers or house socks. Directions from Hartford: Route 2 East to exit 13 (Rt 66 (get your kicks)). Turn left onto 66 for about 6 miles. Go straight through 2 traffic lights and the commercial district. Take the first left onto Loveland Rd., and then the second left onto Buttonwood. We are the first house on the right, number 83. Park on the street or across the street at the clubhouse

LOOKING AHEAD

November 5 Friday 7pm ? 9pm

Fall Wine Fest at Baci Grill in Cromwell

Cost is \$37 and includes the following: Wine samples and tastings, hor d' oeuvres: fruits and cheeses, candied pistachio & cranberry bruschetta, feta & spinach stuffed fried fish bites, butternut squash & crab fritters. Dining selections: apple & walnut stuffed pork loin, house-made pumpkin ravioli with lamb, marscapone cheese stuffing laced with sage & lamb au jus, chicken & chorizo sausage putanesca over spanish rice. Pasta assortment of styles, sauces & ingredients. Various desserts. Unlimited wine tastings. Let Mel Hathorn know by October 12th so we can reserve enough seats. melhathorn@gmail.com www.authors-den.com/mel

November 6 Saturday Save the date!

C&WM Mensa Annual Meeting & Awards

(YE) at the Baci Grill in Cromwell, CT. More details & reservation form in display ad.

November 13 Saturday 2:00pm

Note change in date!!!

MC Escher Exhibit

Come to a docent-led tour of the MC Escher exhibit at the New Britain Museum of Modern Art. We need at least 8 people and if we go over 15, we will probably get a second docent. The museum requests a single form of payment, so please have your \$12 per person ready. The museum foresees quite a crowd that day, the day before the exhibit closes, but the afternoon is usually a bit quieter. Contact Gail Trowbridge gail_trowbridge@yahoo.com by November 1 to reserve a spot on the tour.
www.nbmaa.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=32&Itemid=56

REGIONAL GATHERINGS

October 15-17, 2010

**Connecticut & Western Massachusetts Mensa
MENSAAUTUMN 2010**Sponsored by Connecticut & Western
Massachusetts Mensa

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

October 29-31, 2010

BOSTON MENSA REGIONAL GATHERING

Register online or download a flyer at:
www.bostonmensa.org/rg/registerinfo.aspx
Join us for a weekend-long party at Boston
Mensa's new "Wicked Good! RG", October 29-
31, 2010. Costumes encouraged but not required
for the Saturday Night Grand Halloween
Costume Party. As always we will have great
speakers, games, and plentiful hospitality.

February 18 – 20, 2011

**MENSA COLLOQUIUM: "Electronic Gaming and Its
Impact on Society"**

Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark in Austin,
Texas. Visit <http://www.colloquium.us.mensa.org>
for all the details and to register.

Instead of focusing on the "whats" of individual
games, this Colloquium will consider our socie-
tal obsession with electronic gaming, how we
got to this point, and what the future could
bring -- the "hows" and "whys," if you will. And
the rock-bottom registration rate is only \$169
through next Saturday, July 31!

Sponsored by the Mensa Foundation as an edu-
cational outreach program, the weekend-long
Colloquium event historically provides Mensans
and the public alike the opportunity to gather
with industry experts and researchers to dig
deeper into socially relevant (and often contro-
versial) topics.

APRIL 1 - 3, 2011

**GREATER NEW YORK MENSA
REGIONAL GATHERING**

GREATER NEW YORK MENSA PRESENTS:
A NEW YORK STATE OF MIND - LET'S GATHER
IN THE VALLEY!

CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL - WHITE PLAINS, NY
RG WEBSITE: www.anewyorkstateofmind.org

GNYM IS BACK AND BETTER THAN EVER!
JOIN US A FOR A WEEKEND OF GREAT SPEAK-
ERS, ROUND-THE CLOCK HOSPITALITY, AN
AMAZING GAMES ROOM, CONTESTS, TRIVIA,
SATURDAY NIGHT DJ, WINE TASTING, HUD-
SON VALLEY SIGHTSEEING, AND SO MUCH
MORE!

REGISTRATION

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

\$30 through 7/15/2010; \$40 through 12/31/2010
\$109/night S/D/T/Q

\$55 onsite for entire weekend

Call 1-800-227-6963 or 1-914-682-0050

\$50 through 3/31/2011

or reserve online -

www.crowneplaza.com/whiteplainsny

\$40 Saturday 4/2/2011 only

Use hotel registration code M12

Rates guaranteed through 3/11/2011

Saturday Dinner \$40 (inc. tax + tip)

Sunday Breakfast \$20 (inc. tax + tip)

Questions? Call RG Chair Vicki Goldberger (516)
935-1613 or vgoldberger@gmail.com.

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

Ron and I have finally returned home from our extended vacations. A total of eight countries (USA, Canada, Italy, Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Spain and Denmark) and two Mensa annual gatherings - North American and European. I thought I would take this opportunity to compare and contrast American AGs, Mensa Canada AGs and EMAG. So far, I have attended 5 American AGs, 2 Canadian AGs and now 1 EMAG; I have enjoyed them all.

Attendance numbers: The US AG's attendance is hovering around the 2,000 mark (American Mensa began holding AGs in 1963), Canadian AG's attendance is in the low to mid 100's, and this year EMAG (this was the third EMAG) had approximately 430 attendees (from 26 countries).

Locations: The US AG is generally in one main hotel, with overflow hotels used as necessary; events are typically held in the main hotel. The first Canadian AG I attended was held in a large hotel with all events at that hotel; the second on a college campus. This year's EMAG was held at a convention center, with attendees booking hotel or hostel rooms around the city (including floor space at the Mensa grammar school), with larger sessions/dinners held at other locations.

Hospitality: As many of us know, the US AG offers almost excessive amounts of food and drink. At the Canadian AG, meals were served (at the 2009 gathering held at a college campus, we had access to the cafeteria and the food was good) with snacks and beverages (including beer and wine) provided in hospitality during the evenings. EMAG provided minimal hospitality; coffee, tea and water (with interesting flavorings) were available all day, beer, soda and other drinks were available for a nominal charge, and some meals were available (Gala dinner, Farewell

lunch). But for the remaining meals, we would just head out with a group of folks and find local fare - we had some great meals. The Gala dinner was phenomenal - and put our US AG banquet to shame.

Speakers: Obviously, with significantly more people attending, the US AG has many more speaker tracks than either the Canadian AG or EMAG. But the biggest difference is that attendees at the Canadian AG and EMAG attend the sessions in great numbers while at the US AG many attendees spend the majority of their time in hospitality or the games room.

Games: The US AG has numerous tournaments and a huge dedicated games room, and the games room (and the puzzle room) are major draws. Games at the Canadian AGs and EMAG would just occur randomly in the hospitality room. But we play the same or similar games. SET seems to be a hit at all gatherings.

The biggest similarities: Whenever you walk into any of the gathering rooms, Mensans are talking animatedly about almost any topic under the sun. Many discussions revolve around similar topics, such as the similarities and differences of our education systems, medical coverage, etc. And acceptance - as I've always said, wherever you go, you have instant friends.

Try one or more of Region 1's upcoming Regional Gatherings (RGs): October 15-17 - Connecticut & Western Massachusetts Mensa's "Ever the Twain" in Manchester, CT; October 29-31 - Boston Mensa's "Wicked Good RG" in Dedham, MA; November 5-7 - Maine Mensa's "Shop ME" in Freeport, Maine.

- Lori

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THE SEPTEMBER DINNER

HELPING HAITI

On January 12th, 2010, an earthquake registering 7.0 on the Richter scale struck Haiti. Centered about 15 miles west of Port-au-Prince, the capital, the quake devastated the area, killing over 200,000 people, injuring 300,000, destroying 250,000 homes and 30,000 businesses, and leaving one-million citizens homeless. Almost all radio stations were knocked out of service, as was the landline phone system, a good deal of the cellular phone network, and the regional airport and air traffic control tower.

The world responded to the emergency with \$2 billion in charitable aid. Medical teams, rescue groups, and construction workers rushed to Haiti to clear debris and rebuild homes, hospitals, roads, and phone lines. The effort, however, was a logistical nightmare because of the masses of dead bodies, crushed buildings, destroyed roads, and the tens of thousands of refugees. These were just the immediate problems. The long-term setbacks to health and education were yet to be dealt with.

Southern Connecticut Mensan Jerry Brooker, our speaker at the September dinner, was one of the world's citizens who responded to the crisis. Dr. Brooker has been involved in many humanitarian organizations, including Haiti Light for Tomorrow (Haiti Lumiere de Demain or HLD), a charity dedicated to bringing books to Haiti and providing education, scholarships, and training. Jerry traveled to Haiti with HLD in 2005. This summer, in the wake of the disaster, he returned with the



Debris

group to try to help the country's students, teachers, and schools recover from their losses.

A PERSONAL VIEW

Jerry went with Louis Eneus, Founder and President of Light for Tomorrow. They traveled first to the island of La Gonave, where HLD does much of its work. Then they took a 2-hour ferry ride from the island to the mainland of Haiti, where they visited Port-au-Prince. In both places, Jerry took a wide variety of photos. At our dinner, he shared a computer slide show about two-dozen of the pictures he took on his trip.

Jerry admired many qualities of Haitians, describing them as "such a beautiful people. Very resilient, enthusiastic." He found the children especially enthusiastic. "We were like Pied Pipers for the kids," Jerry said, as he showed us some photos of children following him around. Light for Tomorrow gave out 2000 textbooks, working to give these youngsters something to build on, something to restore the hope of a nation that lost many schools and libraries to the calamitous quake.

Restoring hope is a difficult mission. Jerry made it very clear that the island has barely begun to recover from the earthquake. "There wasn't a lot going on in Haiti when we went there," he reported. "We saw lots of blue tents," pointing to a



Collapsed home



More Debris

crowded picture in his slide show. These were temporary homes for the thousands still without a place to live. Before the tremors struck, many of the homes in the country were little more than, as Jerry described them, "a few cinder blocks and wire." They collapsed quickly, burying residents. The remains of these shanties have not been removed. Even sounder structures and landmark buildings such as the Presidential Palace, the National Assembly building, the Port-au-Prince Cathedral, jails, and the headquarters of international aid groups, are still showing the damage they sustained.

Jerry repeated some disturbing reports that we have heard from some other international observers: warehouses are full of donated goods but these are not getting out to the people because of graft and corruption in government and the roadblocks that confront relief organizations. He saw many other signs that the nation is still staggering from the catastrophe. Many areas don't have water, making it hard to work in the 95% heat. Food prices remain high - \$8.50 for a hamburger, evidence that farmers are finding it hard to get goods to market. Public works seem lacking, as lights go out early and garbage pick-up is very spotty.

EDUCATION IN HAITI

Jerry visited schools in Haiti and he gave us his opinions on the educational philosophy, telling us that "Haitians love their kids but they are very disciplined towards them in schools - overly disciplined." He said that the schools seem to emphasize rote education, and he felt that the

kids were apprehensive in school, though not outside. He had a chance to speak to a class in Haiti, and he told stories, which the children enjoyed very much. In its after-school programs, Haiti Light for Tomorrow supplements the structured approach Haitian schoolchildren receive with lessons that offer new ways of thinking

HAITI IN PICTURES

Many of Jerry's photos showed the destruction and havoc in the capital - an exodus of villagers traveling north of Port au Prince, a boy desperately searching for his mother in the ruins of his neighborhood five months after the quake, a lone man walking alongside the rubble of a collapsed home, some garbage burning in the streets, and the battered cathedral and Presidential Palace. It was a portrait of wreckage, rubble, and ruins. But this was not the full picture. Amidst the despair, there was light - and hope: a photo of kids listening intently to stories; Jerry holding up a young child - "the future of Haiti"; a little girl smiling for the camera, students shaking Jerry's hands, grateful for Light for Tomorrow's donation of books. Burdened by a bleak history of tyranny and tragedy, Haiti is suffering and struggling, but its children are thankful and hopeful and they can light a candle.



House Remains

Jerry will appear on a T.V. show about on Haiti that will be on Channel 23, Comcast Cable. It will be taped on Nov. 16, but the date it will be telecast has not been set yet, so check your local listings for the schedule. He will also continue



his traveling, going to Vietnam in early October on a charitable mission with the organization Patches for Clowns.

When he gets back from Vietnam, Jerry will be one of the speakers at the big Connecticut and Western Massachusetts MensAutumn convention, which runs Friday Oct. 15 to Sunday, Oct. 17 at the Manchester Super 8 Hotel and Conference Center, 20 Taylor St., Manchester, CT 06040. Last year over 100 Mensans and friends from several chapters attended the Gathering. The Connecticut and Western Massachusetts Mensa chapter is sponsoring the convention and you can join Jerry and fellow Mensans for the celebration. MensAutumn will offer supper on Friday, lunch and dinner on Saturday, a continental breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, and hospitality, games, and tournaments all weekend. You can register for the convention at the CTWM website, <http://www.cwm.us.mensa.org/>. (You can also check out the list of speakers and events.) The registration price is \$40 for Saturday and \$55 for the entire weekend.

NEXT DINNER: Musicians and music lovers - come to the October dinner and hear Connecticut songwriter extraordinaire Bill Pere talk about the art of songwriting. Bill is President and Executive Director of the CT Songwriters Association, Founder and Executive Director of LUNCH (Local United Network to Combat Hunger), Independent Music Conference (IMC) Indie Artist of the Year, an Official Connecticut State Troubadour since 1995, and Director of the CT Songwriting Academy. The dinner will be held the fourth Saturday, Oct. 23, rather than the customary third so that members can attend the CT and Western Massachusetts Regional Gathering the weekend of Oct. 15 - 17.

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

Various family obligations, concerns and celebrations over the past few months have found us traveling frequently along the NYS Thruway to Western New York. The most recent trip gave us the opportunity to make a quick side trip down the west side of Cayuga Lake. There we discovered not only delightful wines but another example of the extraordinary cuisine that the Finger Lakes region is becoming known for.

The Finger Lakes has received worldwide recognition for its Rieslings. This month we compare three distinctly different wines made from that same grape. Somehow I would like to say each one is better than the next. (Wow! Is that even logically possible?) The first is the 2008 Dry Riesling from Swedish Hill Vineyard. This wine has the nice floral nose and rich fruit of melon and pear common to the Riesling grape. But, it is placed into a class of its own by the steely dry minerals and long finish reminiscent of the great white food wines of France and Germany. This wine is available for \$16 a bottle at the winery. An additional 15% is taken off for buying a case. The second wine is the 2009 Dry Riesling from Hosmer Winery. This wine is one of our long time favorites exhibiting brilliant tastes of apple, peach and citrus. It is made distinct and more complex by the clear spice and floral notes in the taste and nose. This wine is fine as an aperitif or with Indian or Asian cuisines. You can get it for \$13 a bottle at the winery. It becomes a super deal when you take off the 15% discount on a case.

The third wine is the 2008 Riesling from Sheldrake Point Vineyard. This sweeter version of a Riesling (3.6% residual sugar) offers absolutely luscious tastes of honey, peaches, pears and tropical fruit. I describe this wine as complex, rich, full and round; but I like the term "luxurious" best. It sells for \$15 a bottle at the winery. The 20% discount for purchasing 12 bottles supports Grover's Law of Acquisition - "Buy by the Case".

CLASSIC PATE

(contributed by Chef Samantha Izzo-Buyskes of the Simply Red Bistro at Sheldrake Point Vineyard and Latourelle Resort and Spa. A visit to this restaurant is in itself worth the trip.)

Ingredients:
 2 tbsp butter
 2 tbsp oil
 2oz slab bacon cut into chunks
 3 large Shallots peeled and sliced
 8oz chicken livers
 1 tsp each salt and pepper
 1/ 4-cup heavy cream
 1/ 4-cup currants
 1/ 4-cup pitted dates
 1/ 2-cup melted butter

In a medium sized pan over medium heat melt the butter and oil. Add in the bacon and shallots and caramelize. Add in the chicken livers and sauté 5 minutes. Add in the salt and pepper, currants and dates. Sauté 5 more minutes. The liver should still be pink. Remove the pan and allow to cool. In a food processor, blend mixture with the heavy cream until smooth. Spread into a dish, top with melted butter and allow it to setup in the fridge. Serve with pickled onions, hard-boiled egg, whole grain mustard and baguette.

I hope that you will contact me with your comments and favorite wines at grover@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. How is a biography like a novel?
- 2. How much do elephants weigh?
- 3. Name as many different types of stagehand jobs as you can.
- 4. In the U.S., what city has the greatest percentage of its state's population? In the world, which city has the greatest percentage of its country's population?
- 5. How do baseball outfielders track fly balls hit over their heads?
- 6. How many letters are in the sequence of playing card names: ace, two, three, four, ... queen, king?

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

- 2. What was the longest boxing match ever?
A: The longest professional boxing match was April 6, 1893, when Andy Bowen and Jack Burke fought 110 rounds. The bout lasted 7 hours and 19 minutes and ended in a draw when neither fighter was able to continue. The prize for the match was set at \$2,500.
- 4. What percentage of U.S. citizens live in the state they were born in?
A: About 61%.

WORD CHECK

Define these words. Check your answers at right.

- 1. bollix -
- 2. callow -
- 3. eristic (e- RIS- tik) -
- 4. hypomania -
- 5. nefarious (ni- FAIR- ee- uhs) -
- 6. sachem -
- 7. traduce -
- 8. votary -

- 1. bollix - to do something badly; bungler.
- 2. callow - immature or inexperienced.
- 3. eristic - 1. controversial. 2. a person who engages in disputes. 3. the art of disputing.
- 4. hypomania - a mild mania with great optimism, activity, and often reckless spending.
- 5. nefarious - extremely wicked.
- 6. sachem - 1. a North American Indian chief. 2. a high official, especially a political party leader.
- 7. traduce - to defame, slander.
- 8. votary - 1. one bound by a vow, as a monk or nun. 2. an adherent of a religion or pursuit. 3. a devotee or admirer.

ANSWERS:

NOTED & QUOTED

The only emperor is the emperor of ice cream.
- Wallace Stevens, (1879 - 1955), U.S. poet

Cream rises to the top. So does fat. - Kelvin
Throop III, pseudonym for Analog science fiction writers

Reading to save one's life is almost always private. - Cynthia Ozick, (1928 -), Jewish-American novelist,
Art and Ardor (1983), Foreword

It is easy to become a publisher but difficult to remain one. - Michael Joseph, British publisher

Death always comes out of season.
- Pawnee Proverb

The dog is a lion in his own house.
- Persian Proverb

An actor should be able to create the universe in the palm of his hand.
- Laurence Sterne, (1713-1768), English novelist

To see him act is like reading Shakespeare by flashes of lightning.
- Samuel Coleridge, (1772 - 1834), on Edmund Kean, *Table Talk* (1835), April 27, 1823

It's not the actor's job to be emotional - it is the actor's job to be direct. - David Mamet, (1947 -), U.S. playwright, screenwriter, essayist, *On Directing Film* (1990)

I do nothing, granted. But I see the hours pass - which is better than trying to fill them.
- Emil M. Cioran, (1911 - 1995), Romanian-born French philosopher, *The Guardian*, May 11, 1993

Hope is a delusion; no hand can grasp a wave or a shadow. - Victor Hugo, (1802 - 1885)

The historian must be a judge, and a hanging judge at that, to right the wrongs of history.
- Lord Acton, (1834 - 1902), English historian

To look back upon history is inevitably to distort it. - Norman Pearson

The dignity of man lies in his ability to face reality in all its meaninglessness.
- Vachel Lindsay, (1879 - 1931), U.S. poet

If you dig it, do it. If you dig it a lot, do it twice.
- Jim Croce, (1943 - 1973), U.S. singer, songwriter

I walk firmer and more secure up hill than down.
- Michel De Montaigne, (1533 - 1592), French philosopher and essayist

Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.
- Lou Holtz, (1937 -), U.S. retired college football coach, commentator

Always take a job that is too big for you.
- Harry Emerson Fosdick, (1878 - 1969), U.S. clergyman

The tide always comes back in.
- Norman Vincent Peale, (1898 - 1993)

At twenty years of age, the will reigns; at thirty, the wit; and at forty, the judgment.
- Benjamin Franklin, (1706 - 1790), *Poor Richard's Almanac*

No player ever made it to the Baseball Hall of Fame for his distinguished bunting record.
- John Rogers, (1958 -), founder and CEO of Ariel Capital, *Forbes* columnist, "The Patient Investor" column, 5/25/09

The great social adventure of America is no longer the conquest of the wilderness but the absorption of fifty different peoples.
- Walter Lippmann, (1889 - 1974), U.S. journalist and author

A high civilization is a pyramid: it can stand only on a broad base; its primary prerequisite is a strong and soundly consolidated mediocrity.
- Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche, (1844 - 1900)

You need to have the ability to gracefully navigate the world. - Malcolm Gladwell, (1963 -)

Why waste money on psychotherapy when you can listen to the B Minor Mass? - Michael Torke, (1961 -), U.S. jazz and minimalist composer

Time the devourer of all things.
- Ovid, (43 B.C.E. - 18 A.D.), Roman poet, *Metamorphoses*

The sky is the daily bread of the eyes.
- Ralph Waldo Emerson, (1803 - 1882)

I don't like authority. At least I don't like other people's authority. - *Arthur Christopher Benson, (1862 - 1925), English poet and essayist*

Old people shouldn't eat health foods. They need all the preservatives they can get. - *Robert Orben, (1927 -), English poet and essayist*

Our culture runs on coffee and gasoline, the first often tasting like the second. - *Edward Abbey, (1927 - 1989), U.S. novelist and essayist*

It is only when they go wrong that machines remind you how powerful they are. - *Clive James, (1939 -), Australian born British poet, commentator, critic, and talk-show host*

Do not behave as high as a mountain; although a mountain is high, it can be climbed by animals. - *Genghis Khan, (1167 c. -), The Yasa*

No man is equal to his book. All the best products of his mental activity go into his book, where they come separated from the mass of inferior products with which they are mingled in his daily talk. - *Herbert Spencer, (1820 - 1903), English philosopher*

It is not an individual act, architecture. You have to consider your client. Only out of that can you produce great architecture. You can't work in the abstract. - *I.M. (Ieoh Ming) Pei, (1917 -), Chinese-American architect*

I must be right. Never an aspirin. Never injured a day in my life. The whole country, the whole world, should be doing my exercises. They'd be happier. - *Joseph Hubertus Pilates, (1883 - 1967), 1965*

He felt as though he were wandering in the forests of the sea bottom, lost in a monstrous world where he himself was the monster. He was alone. The past was dead, the future was unimaginable. What certainty had he that a single human creature now living was on his side? - *George Orwell, (1903 - 1950), 1984*

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:

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April 1, 2009 - March 31, 2010

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INCOME

American Mensa Local Group Support Funds:	\$635.05
Chronicle Advertising Income	<u>\$126.00</u>
Total Income	\$761.05

EXPENSES

Chronicle Printing Expenses:	\$214.12
Chronicle Postage/Supplies:	<u>\$146.96</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$361.08

1ST Q BALANCE on 6/30/10: \$9930.68

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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.

Holistic Kidney

Check out the Holistic Kidney website online. <http://www.holistic-kidney.com/articles.html> My first article is an interview with the author of How I Avoided Dialysis and You Can Too! Dr. Jenna Henderson Holistic Kidney A Safe, Natural Approach for all stages of Kidney Disease

BUSINESS OFFICE AMERICAN MENSA, LTD.
1229 Corporate Drive West
Arlington, TX 76006-6103

Phone: 817-607-0060
Fax: 817-649-5232
E-mail: AmericanMensa@mensa.org
Website: www.us.mensa.org

LIST OF SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA OFFICERS

President	Debra Jennings		locsec@rocketmail.com
Vice-President	Jim Mizera	203-522-1959	Jmizera@hotmail.com PMB #181, 7365 Main St. Stratford, CT 06614-1300
Treasurer	Elizabeth Marks Cortright	203-655-9791	reemmm@optonline.net 11 Scout Trail Darien, CT 06820-4323
Secretary	vacant		
Editor	Jim Mizera	203-522-1959	Jmizera@hotmail.com PMB #181, 7365 Main St. Stratford, CT 06614-1300
Publisher	Amy Harold	203-261-6517	amyharold@earthlink.net 110 Bart Road Monroe, CT 06468-1117
Web Master	Thomas O'Neill	203-336-5254	doctec2@gmail.com 68 Pierce Ave. Bridgeport, CT 06604-1607
Ombudsman	Gary Oberst	203-853-1810	gary@oberstlaw.com 111 East Ave. Norwalk, CT 06851-5014
Membership Officer	Jim Mizera	203-522-1959	Jmizera@hotmail.com
Reg Vice Chairman	Lori J. Norris	401-781-3247	lorijnorris@hotmail.com http://region1.us.mensa.org