

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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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 - NOVEMBER

Friday, November 12, 7:00

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

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

Tuesday, November 16, 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, November 19, 8:00 pm

Theater Event: Mousetrap

Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap" performed at the Stratford Square One Theatre, 2422 Main St., Stratford, CT, near the I-95 overpass. Standard tickets are \$20. Contact Jim Mizera at jmizera@hotmail.com or (203) 522-1959 if you are interested in this show.

Saturday, November 20, 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: "Concentration, Mindfulness, and Multitasking." 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.

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.

NOVEMBER

5 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.

5 Friday 7:00-9:00 pm

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 puttanesca over spanish rice. Pasta assortment of styles, sauces & ingredients. Various desserts. Unlimited wine tastings. Contact Mel Hathorn melhathorn@gmail.com www.authorsden.com/mel

6 Saturday 11:30 am

C&WM Mensa Annual Meeting & Awards Lunch

(YE) at the Baci Grill, 134 Berlin road, Cromwell, CT. Doors open at 11:30am, Meeting and awards at 12Noon, lunch will be served at 1pm.

Members who do not wish to stay for lunch may attend the meeting free, no reservation required if you are not staying for lunch. Meal reservations were due by 10/28/2010, but check with Joe Lynch if you have last minute enquiries josephlynch@comcast.net

7 Sunday 2:30 pm

Book Discussion

Join us at Pamela Guinan's home, 323 Griswold Road, Wethersfield, CT, for a discussion of *Catching Fire: How Cooking Made Us Human* by Richard Wrangham. Contrary to the dogmas of raw-foods enthusiasts, cooked cuisine was central to the biological and social evolution of humanity, argues this fascinating study. Harvard biological anthropologist Wrangham (Demonic Males) dates the breakthrough in human evolution to a moment 1.8 million years ago, when, he conjectures, our forebears tamed fire and began cooking. Starting with Homo erectus who should perhaps be renamed Homo gastronomicus these innovations drove anatomical and physiological changes that make us adapted to eating cooked food the way cows are adapted to eating grass. By making food more digestible and easier to extract energy from, Wrangham reasons, cooking enabled hominids' jaws, teeth and guts to shrink, freeing up calories to fuel their expanding brains. It also gave rise to pair bonding and table manners, and liberated mankind from the drudgery of chewing (while chaining womankind to the stove). Wrangham's lucid, accessible treatise ranges across nutritional science, paleontology and studies of ape behavior and hunter-gatherer societies; the result is a tour de force of natural history and a profound analysis of cooking's role in daily life. More than that, Wrangham offers a provocative take on evolution suggesting that, rather than humans creating civilized technology, civilized technology created us. RSVP to Pam Guinan 860-563-5761 or Pamela.cwm@hotmail.com

10 Wednesday 5:30 pm

Shoreline Happy Hour

(ME, 2nd Wednesday) in Branford at The Donovan's Reef www.donovans-reef.com web site has a small map, and here are some directions with distances - from I-95 take exit

54/Cedar Street. Proceed south on Cedar Street, crossing Route 1 (North Main Street) for about 0.5 mi. to Rose Street. Take a left on Rose, pass the Post Office on your right and go 0.25 mi. to a driveway on the right where you will enter the parking lot for a number of businesses in a complex known as Lockworks Square. Donovan's Reef is partway through on the left. Locals can also enter Lockworks Square from the Ivy Street side just off of Main Street. Shoreline Foods faces Ivy. The lounge is on the left inside. We usually reserve the round table in the corner (with potential to annex adjacent ones) and will likely have an "M" sign visible. We start around 5:30. There are free daily bar munchies and numerous tasty items in the comprehensive and modestly priced menu. Hope to see you there! Questions? Contact Mike Wilson at 203-481-2858 or MahoutMike@aol.com

12 Friday 6:30 pm

Diner Dinner

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

13 Saturday 11:00 am

Lunch & Art Gallery or Shopping

at The Little Rooster, Route 7A South & Hillvale Drive, Manchester Center, VT. We'll gather in Manchester for an early lunch (11:00) at The Little Rooster, a charming eatery, which is described as an eclectic European styled cafe. They offer creative luncheon specialties freshly made with local produce, baguette sandwiches, waffles, omelets, cafe au lait & cappuccino. Afterward, you can pay a visit to the Southern Vermont Art Center <http://www.svac.org> for the Fall Art Show; visit the Taylor Farm in Londonderry, makers of a variety of delicious cheeses <http://www.taylorfarmvermont.com>; visit the multiple shops and outlets in Manchester (a wonderful kitchen supply store across the street, the renowned Northshire Bookstore, the Manchester Woodshop for old-fashioned Christmas tree ornaments) or take a

short Ω hour drive to Weston for the Vermont Country Store (a real treat if you've never been there). For other nearby attractions go to <http://www.discoverourtown.com/VT/Manchester> and click on 'Attractions'. The Little Rooster is a small place on Route 7A just before Hillvale Drive. Since there are so few seats, an RSVP is helpful. Being there as close to 11 as possible is important, as the seats fill up quickly and we won't be able to hold them. RSVP to Charlie Kilian (female) at dckilian@comcast.net or call Blakeney for information 802-333-3683. The Little Rooster is near the Battenkill Plaza Shopping Center. Manchester is compact-designed for walking and sightseeing, so you can park anywhere and easily walk around.

13 Saturday 12 noon

Second Saturday Lunch

Salt Hill Pub, 2 West Park Street, Lebanon, NH 03766 Our new Second Saturday Lunch event moves to the Salt Hill Pub in Lebanon this month www.salthillpub.com. Salt Hill offers sandwiches, burgers, salads, and entrees such as fish and chips, bangers and mash, and shepherd's pie. "Honest food, perfect pints, and good humor." RSVP to Claire Natola at mensabear@gmail.com or 603-279-9986 by November 11, so that I may make reservations. Directions: From I-89, take Exit 18. Take Route 120 south for one mile until you reach Lebanon Green. Park anywhere around the Green; Salt Hill Pub is on the northwest corner of the Green.

13 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.

13 Saturday 2:00 pm

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. RSVP to Gail Trowbridge gail_trowbridge@yahoo.com

13 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

14 Sunday 12:30 pm

Indian Lunch

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

26 Friday 5:00 pm

Happy Hour

(ME, 4th Friday) at The Playwright in Hamden, <http://www.playwrightirishpub.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

26 Friday 6:30 pm

Diner Dinner

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

LOOKING AHEAD

December 4 Saturday 2:30 pm

Book Discussion

Join us at Pamela Guinan's home, 323 Griswold Road, Wethersfield, CT, for a discussion of *The Checklist Manifesto: How to Get Things Right* by Atul Gawande. Gawande is a gorgeous writer and storyteller, and the aims of this book are ambitious. Gawande thinks that the modern world requires us to revisit what we mean by expertise: that experts need help, and that progress depends on experts having the humility to concede that they need help. That humblest of quality-control devices, the checklist, is the key to taming a high-tech economy, argues this stimulating manifesto. Harvard Medical School prof and New Yorker scribe Gawande (*Complications*) notes that the high-pressure complexities of modern professional occupations overwhelm even their best-trained practitioners; he argues that a disciplined adherence to essential procedures—by ticking them off a list—can prevent potentially fatal mistakes and corner cutting. He examines checklists in aviation, construction, and investing, but focuses on medicine, where checklists mandating simple measures like hand washing have dramatically reduced hospital-caused infections and other complications. Gawande gets slightly intoxicated over checklists, celebrating their most banal manifestations as promethean breakthroughs (First there was the recipe, the most basic checklist of all, he intones in a restaurant kitchen). He's at his best delivering his usual rich, insightful reportage on medical practice, where checklists have the subversive effect of puncturing the cult of physician infallibility and fostering communication and teamwork. (After writing a checklist for his specialty, surgery, he is chastened when it catches his own disastrous lapses.) Gawande gives a vivid, punchy exposition of an intriguing idea: that by-the-book routine trumps individual prowess. RSVP to Pam Guinan 860-563-5761 or Pamela.cwm@hotmail.com

December 17 Friday 6:30-10:00 pm

C&WM Mensa Holiday Party

(YE) at the Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield Street, Wethersfield, CT 06109 (860)

721-2950 <http://wethersfieldct.com/rec/directions.html#pitkin> Free food and fun for all Mensans and their guests. Helpers welcome, too, for decorations, shopping, setup, cleanup, etc., so RSVP to Pam Guinan 860-563-5761 or cwm12.7.2010@hotmail.com to get with the program. ;)

REGIONAL GATHERINGS

February 18 – 20, 2011

MENSA COLLOQUIM: "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 societal 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 educational 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 controversial) topics.

February 18 – 20, 2011

New Hampshire RG 2011

"Mediterranean on the Atlantic"

Location: Best Western Wynwood Hotel & Suites
580 US Route 1, Portsmouth, NH

PLEASE CALL THE HOTEL DIRECTLY
FOR DISCOUNT ROOM RATE (603) 436-7600

Ask for "NH Mensa Regional Gathering"
Single/Double (adults) \$79.95 + tax (\$5.00 each
add'l adult per room)

Make your hotel reservations early (you can
always cancel if necessary). Without a reservation
you may be locked out of our special rate,
or may not be able to get a room at all!

For more info: contact Deb Stone @ (603) 856-
7055 or nhr@stonesrealm.com or Holly Green
@ (603) 724-8630 or RGChair@nh.us.mensa.org

Registrar: Deb Stone, 6 Fox Meadow Drive, Bow,
NH 03304, (603) 856-7055,
nhr@stonesrealm.com
Registration: \$65 until 01/15/2011, \$75 thereafter
and at the door (All meals included)
8-17 years old, \$15 less than standard adult rate,
18-20 years old \$10 less than standard adult
rate. Children under 8, free. Day rates available
(please contact registrar.)

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!

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RG WEBSITE: www.anewyorkstateofmind.org
GNYM IS BACK AND BETTER THAN EVER!
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ERS, ROUND-THE CLOCK HOSPITALITY, AN
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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**

In September, Ron and I attended Vermont Mensa's lunch, and afterward we joined in a fruit picking trip. I had never seen white raspberries before, but they are wonderful and I have several pints in the freezer. We also picked apples and brought home a bushel and a half. Froze some, ate many and turned the rest into many apple crisps and baked apples. I am married to a teacher so I wonder why students are supposed to bring an apple for the teacher - can someone tell me? Following our afternoon in Vermont, we headed to Albany and enjoyed MoNNY's games night. We stayed up much too late and then headed for home in the morning, but first a stop at C&WM's New Member's Picnic.

October was the host month for Mensa Testing Day (MTD) so there was some good publicity all over the place. Did everyone see USA Today on October 11th? Andrew Heffernan's picture was included. [I made the front page of the Providence (RI) Journal.] Andrew is running for my current position - RVC1 - in next year's Mensa elections, as I have decided that after 4 years you have all probably had your fill of me. Seriously, I have always said that I would serve as RVC until a great replacement stepped forward, and I think that Andrew is that. He is currently the President/LocSec of MoNNY (Northeastern NY), and I am impressed with his energy and dedication to Mensa. I have decided to seek 'higher office' and am running for 2nd Vice Chair.

If you are looking to get involved in national Mensa now is the time to think about it. There are many committees that are looking for members (for one year terms that expire June 30th). What are your interests? Is there something that you could sink your teeth into? Talk to me (e-mail is preferable). Maybe your skills are exactly what we've been looking for. If you're more interested in Mensa International, this may be your chance. The Leadership Development Committee is seeking three Leaders of Tomorrow to participate in the Leadership Exchange Program (LEP) during American Mensa's AG and at the European Mensas' Annual Gathering. The best candidates will be confident and outgoing and have a proven track record in leadership and be eager to learn from others. If you are interested, please either contact me or submit your name to LDW@us.mensa.org. Deadline is November 11, 2011 - sorry for the short notice.

I am looking forward to Maine Mensa's "Shop ME" in Freeport, Maine the weekend of November 5-7. I understand that this is near L.L. Bean's first and largest store, which is open 24 hours a day. So when the games room starts quieting down in the wee hours, I'll have something to do. I am desperately in need of new slippers. There are many outlet stores nearby. Mensans, games, hospitality and bargains to boot (or slipper).

- Lori

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COMMENTARY*by Jerry Brooker****Clowning Around in Vietnam***

I recently went to Ho Chi Minh City with the Patch Adams Clowns, wondering all the while if I would have anything to offer at the hospitals and orphanages we planned to visit. Although there is the clown in me, as probably there is in everyone, I have no experience in the practice. I found this out on the afternoon of the second day when the excitement of the previous day in losing my clown virginity had faded.

"Fungus," I said to our lead clown, "there's nothing in me today. I'm not a clown, I'm a serious guy who writes serious books. I mostly just watched this morning, and I think I'm letting the group down."

"Well," he said with that impish clown face of his, big red nose, fuzzy hair whose colors matched his baggy pants and huge shoes, "there are funny clowns, and there are sad clowns, and then there are quiet clowns. Maybe you're a quiet clown. I find that kids at orphanages sometimes just like standing next to a clown who isn't doing anything. They just like to be near someone who's come to be with them."

And then he said the thing I needed to hear. "Even if you'd just like to stay in the van today and think about things, or maybe just hold a baby, it'll be OK with the group. You've already brought a lot to us by being here. There isn't any right way to be a clown." Yeah, he hit the nail on the clown's head. I was expected too much of myself. I knew that Fungus Mungus was a great clown. He could light up a room, even a ward, or an entire orphanage. Children's eyes sparkled with the light of life when he was near. Yet I didn't know until then how wise he is.

I felt relieved, unburdened, that I could just be myself, pretty much there in Vietnam or anywhere else

"No, I want to clown today," I told him, lighter now. "My wife has made me some pretty great costumes, and I'm going to use them."

As we entered Tu Du Hospital for young genetic victims of Agent Orange, the toxic defoliant used during the Vietnam War, I was grateful that I was now feeling upbeat, as I would need to deal. A young boy with Crouzen syndrome, eyes bugging out of his head, reached for me. Another with skin like leather shook my hand. A boy of 14 whose name I found out later is Khanh, was lying in a bed staring straight ahead, probably without recognition. He is one of the ones the doctors at the hospital call "Big Heads," ironically a term of respect and affection among the doctors for those born with hydrocephalus. One of the malformed babies began to bang his head against the side of his crib. When I brought this to a nurse's attention, she said it was a way to relieve the pain in his head.

Agent Orange is a dioxin-laced defoliant. 20 million gallons of this herbicide were dropped on Vietnam, mostly in the central highlands, during the war. Some of it still lives in the soil and waters of Vietnam, and generation later is still causing terrible birth defects among the offspring of both American soldiers who served there and, of course, Vietnamese. Deformities, core organ defects, seizures caused by fluid buildup in the brain, a variety of cancers.

Like most Americans, I am protected from the sights, sounds and scourges of war. Like most Americans, too, I hate war and am sometimes depressed that mankind continues to be retarded and brilliant about the issues of war, so quick to kill and maim, so unable to find other ways to halt the forces that endanger peace and freedom. I wish it was different. Even when it is necessary, which I didn't and don't think it was in Vietnam, I wish it was different. Especially in Vietnam, I wish it was different, though many of my current fiends served. I do not find it difficult to honor them. I do, though, I find it difficult always to honor our government which is some-

times too quick on the drawer, and the consequences are generational.

These are the things I mostly remember from clowning around in Vietnam. I think we Band of Eight brought laughter and lightness to lots of sick and abandoned kids, to parents, doctors and nurses in hospitals and orphanages. My colleagues have inspired me with their goodness, and the laughter of children who in their circumstances face the darker side of life ñ well, who could say enough for that! Whenever I begin to feel sorry for myself, I think of them. Self-pity, thy sting has become weak.

WORD CHECK

Define these words. Check your answers at right.

- 1. aleatory -
- 2. casuistry -
- 3. contumacious -
- 4. emolument -
- 5. feckless -
- 6. historicism -
- 7. immanent -
- 8. ineluctable -
- 9. splenetic -
- 10. quantophrenia -

- 1. aleatory ñ 1. depending on a contingent event. 2. by luck, chance, or accident. 3. in music, using chance in choosing tones, pauses, rhythms, or other elements.
- 2. casuistry - adroitly false or misleading argument or reasoning (especially in morals); sophistry.
- 3. contumacious - arrogantly rude; resisting authority; stubbornly perverse or rebellious; willfully and obstinately disobedient.
- 4. emolument - a salary, fee, or compensation for services or employment; a gain.
- 5. feckless ñ 1. ineffective; incompetent; futile. 2. having no sense of responsibility; indifferent; lazy.
- 6. historicism ñ the concept that history is determined by immutable natural laws and not by human will.
- 7. immanent ñ 1. remaining within; inherent. 2. indwelling the universe and time; non-transcendent.
- 8. ineluctable ñ irresistible, unavoidable, inevitable, inescapable.
- 9. splenetic ñ spiteful, irritable, peevish.
- 10. quantophrenia ñ obsessive reliance on statistics and mathematical methods or results, especially in the social sciences.

ANSWERS:

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

Well, it is starting to get colder here in the North East. Naturally, the mind of every country boy wanders off to where? Warm comfort food, of course. This month we offer a quick and simple recipe that matches well with several Pinot Gris (Pinot Grigio) wines.

The Pinot Gris grape produces wine in different styles around the world. In Alsace, France it is generally medium bodied with a floral bouquet and a bit of spice and fruit. In Germany, its local name is Rulander and tends to be a bit sweeter and more full-bodied. And, of course from Italy, most of what we Americans see is lighter, crisp and more acidic. Location, climate, soil, and the various traditions and styles of winemaking make for the differences.

The Pinot Gris produced in the U.S., or more particularly Oregon and New York's Finger Lakes, is more in the Alsatian style. The 2008 Pinot Gris from Hunt Country Vineyards of Keuka Lake is an elegant wine with a floral nose. You can taste its pronounced fruit in the mouth of white table grapes and pears. It is well balanced and you can barely notice any acidity. Expect to pay about \$16 a bottle at the winery. Other Finger Lakes producers making fine Pinot Gris include the Lakewood and Dr. Konstantin Frank wineries. More broadly available are the excellent Pinot Gris wines from Oregon, which include varieties from Willamette Valley Vineyards, King Estate and A to Z wineries.

The second wine we're highlighting is the 2009 Kris Pinot Grigio from the Della Venezie region of Northern Italy. While many of the less expensive Pinot Grigio's from Italy can be called at best "nondescript", this wine has a distinctive citrus nose with a rich taste of lime, melon, and perhaps a hint of honey. It is distinctly acid, creating a rich pucker of tartness that dances around your mouth. Kris Pinot Grigio sells for between \$11 to \$13 a bottle. Other Italian producers making excellent but reasonably affordable Pinot Grigio include Peter Zemmer and Alois Lageder.

***TORTELLINI AND SPINACH
IN PARMESAN BROTH***

(found on the Epicurious website and originally published in Gourmet magazine, April, 2006)

Ingredients:

- 1 (1/3 pound) piece Parmigiano-Reggiano with rind
- 6 cups chicken stock
- 4 large garlic cloves, thinly sliced
- 4 sprigs fresh parsley, tied together
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 cup tortellini (24 to 36)
- 4 cups loosely packed baby spinach leaves (3 ounces), cut into 1/2-inch-wide strips

Cut rind off cheese. Combine rind, stock, garlic, parsley, and oil in a 3-quart pot, then simmer gently, partially covered, 30 minutes. Discard parsley and rind and season broth with salt. Add tortellini and simmer, partially covered, until al dente, about 10 minutes. Add spinach and simmer, uncovered, 1 minute. Divide among 4 soup plates, then shave cheese over soup to taste. I would suggest serving this soup with a nice crusty peasant bread.

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 can people eat just the right amount at meals?
2. Estimate the population of these Australian cities: Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Brisbane, Canberra.
3. Compare coffee and tea.
4. How fast does the average person talk (words per minute)? How many words per minute can the average American read? How fast does the average person write?

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

2. How much do elephants weigh?

A: The largest elephants, male African elephants, generally peak at 13 feet tall and 15,400 pounds. The heaviest elephant ever found, weighing 24,000 pounds, was shot in Angola in 1956. It was 13 feet tall. Female

African elephants are about 9 feet tall and weigh about 7,900 lbs. Male Asian (Indian) elephants grow up to 11 feet tall and weigh about 11,000 lbs. Female Asian elephants can weigh 9,000 lbs.

Elephants typically live 50 to 70 years, but one was recorded as living for 82 years. They drink 30-50 gallons of water a day and eat 150 - 250 lbs. of hay a day.

4. In the U.S., what city has the greatest percentage of its state's population?

A: New York City. In the 2009 census estimate, New York City's 8,392,000 people were 42.9 percent of New York state's population. Next is Anchorage (pop. 286,000), which had almost 41 percent of Alaska's population. Honolulu (approx pop. 375,000) had nearly 29 percent of Hawaii's population. Albuquerque (over 529,000 people) had more than 26% of New Mexico's population, and Omaha (pop. 455,000) had more than 25 percent of Nebraska's population.

6. How many letters are in the sequence of playing card names: ace, two, three, four, Ö queen, king?

A: 52.

NOTED & QUOTED

My closest relation is myself.

- Terence, (c. 185 - 159 B.C.E.), Roman comic dramatist

Did anyone ever have a boring dream?

- Ralph Hodgson, (1871 - 1962), English poet

Art is nothing more than the shadow of humanity. - Henry James, (1843 - 1916)

There is only one man, and his name is Mankind.

- Carl Sandburg, (1878 - 1967)

It is the best of all trades to make songs, and the second best to sing them.

- Hillaire Belloc, (1870 - 1953), English writer, poet

Beethoven can write music, thank God - but he can do nothing else on earth.

- Ludwig van Beethoven, (1770 - 1828)

I paint from the top down. First the sky, then the mountains, then the hills, then the houses, then the castle, and then the people.

- Grandma Moses, (1860 - 1961)

One cloud is enough to eclipse all the sun.

- Thomas Fuller, (1608 - 1661).

English clergymen and historian What is to give light must endure burning.

- Viktor Frankl, (1905 - 1997), Austrian psychiatrist, author, concentration camp survivor

Poetry is not a profession, it's a destiny.

- Mikhail Dudan

The eyes believe themselves; the ears believe other people.

- German proverb

True genius doesn't fulfill expectations, it shatters them.

- Arlene Croce, (1934 -), dance critic

In the world of mules there are no rules.

- Ogden Nash, (1902 - 1971), U.S. poet

Life is not the subject of fiction.

- William Gass, (1924 -), U.S. novelist, short story writer, essayist, and critic, 'The Concept of Character in Fiction', *New American Review* 7

I dislike feeling at home when I am abroad.

- George Bernard Shaw, (1856 - 1950)

The value of a sentiment is the amount of sacrifice you are prepared to make for it.

- John Galsworthy, (1867 - 1933), British novelist

No one gossips about other people's secret virtues. - Bertrand Russell, (1872 - 1970), English philosopher and mathematician

What is told in the ear of a man is often heard 100 miles away. - Chinese saying

I have only read one book in my life and that is "White Fang." It's so frightfully good I've never bothered to read another.

- Nancy Mitford, (1904 - 1973), English writer

We shouldn't teach great books; we should teach a love of reading.

- B.F. Skinner, (1904 - 1990)

Imagination is a poor substitute for experience.

- Havelock Ellis, (1859 - 1939), English psychologist and author

One's will becomes a slave of hallucinations, responds only to shadowy impulses, waits on imagination alone.

- Joseph Conrad, (1857 - 1924), Polish-born English novelist

'For example' is not proof.

- Jewish proverb

Oh, what quenchless feud is this, that Time has with the sons of men.

- Herman Melville, (1819 - 1891)

You always pass failure on the way to success.

- Mickey Rooney, (1920 -), U.S. film actor

You can't rely on the acting to tell the story.

- David Mamet, (1947 -), *On Directing Film* (1990)

A little caution outflanks a large cavalry.

- Otto von Bismarck, (1815 - 1890), German chancellor 1870 - 1890, leader of Prussian empire

To tolerate everything is to teach nothing.

- Dr. F.J. (Frederick Joseph) Kinsman, (1868 - 1944), U.S. clergyman, professor

We call first truths those we discover after all the others.

- Albert Camus, (1913 - 1969), French Existentialist philosopher, essayist, and novelist

We cannot escape history.

- Abraham Lincoln, (1809 - 1865), Annual Message to Congress, Dec. 1, 1862

A generation which ignores history has no past - and no future

- Robert Heinlein, (1907 - 1988), U.S. science fiction novelist

It is impossible to write ancient history because we do not have enough sources, and impossible to write modern history because we have far too many.

- Charles Pierre Peguy, (1873 - 1914), French writer"

Life is not simple, and therefore history, which is past life, is not simple.

- David Shannon

Melancholy is the pleasure of being sad.

- Victor Hugo, (1802 - 1885)

Talent is always conscious of its own abundance, and does not object to sharing.

- Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, (1918 - 2008)

We must reject that most dismal and fatuous notion that education is a preparation for life.

- Northrop Frye, (1912 - 1991), Canadian literary critic and theorist

Summer ends, and Autumn comes, and he who would have it otherwise would have high tide always and a full moon every night.

- Hal Borland, (1900 - 1978), U.S. novelist, journalist

I conclude that there are two ways of constructing a software design: One way is to make it so simple that there are obviously no deficiencies and the other way is to make it so complicated that there are no obvious deficiencies.

- C.A.R. (Charles Anthony Richard) Hoare, (1934 -), British computer scientist

The bureaucracy is a circle from which one cannot escape. Its hierarchy is a hierarchy of knowledge. The top entrusts the understanding of detail to the lower levels, whilst the lower levels credit the top with understanding of the general, and so all are mutually deceived.

-Karl Marx, (1818 - 1883)



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

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EXPENSES

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Chronicle Postage/Supplies:	\$322.96
Speakers Dinners:	\$142.55
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