

# 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](mailto: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.*

### **SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS - DECEMBER**

Friday, December 10, 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, December 14, 7:00 pm

#### **Post Road Dinner**

Sakura Japanese Restaurant, 680 Post Rd. East, Westport, CT 06880. Contact Jim Mizera at jimizera@hotmail.com or (203) 522-1959 for reservations or info.

Saturday, December 18, 8:00 pm

#### **Theater Event**

"Miracle on 34th St." performed by the Center Stage Theatre, 405 Bridgeport Ave., Shelton, CT. Contact Jim Mizera at jimizera@hotmail.com or (203) 522-1959 if you are interested in this show.

### **JANUARY PREVIEW**

Saturday, January 15, 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: Jerry Brooker will speak about his recent trip to the Himalayas, where he visited Bhutan, Tibet, Nepal and its capital Kathmandu, and Mt. Everest. Contact Jim Mizera at jimizera@hotmail.com or (203) 522-1959 for reservations or info. Please try to make reservations by lunchtime on Friday, January 14 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 jimizera@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.

### **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

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7 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 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 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](mailto:nhr@stonesrealm.com) or Holly Green  
@ (603) 724-8630 or [RGChair@nh.us.mensa.org](mailto:RGChair@nh.us.mensa.org)

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Registrar: Deb Stone, 6 Fox Meadow Drive, Bow,  
NH 03304, (603) 856-7055,

[nhr@stonesrealm.com](mailto: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.)

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April 1 - 3, 2011

**GREATER NEW YORK MENSA  
REGIONAL GATHERING**

A NEW YORK STATE OF MIND - LET'S GATHER  
IN THE VALLEY!

CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL - WHITE PLAINS, NY

RG WEBSITE: [www.anewyorkstateofmind.org](http://www.anewyorkstateofmind.org) A

WEEKEND OF GREAT SPEAKERS, ROUND-THE  
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HOTEL RESERVATIONS: \$109/night S/D/T/Q

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[www.crowneplaza.com/whiteplainsny](http://www.crowneplaza.com/whiteplainsny)

Use hotel registration code M12

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

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

It would seem that we are hurtling very quickly toward another holiday season. Of course, one of life's great challenges is "What to serve?" at holiday parties. This month we have a quick and tasty appetizer served to us recently by one of the cooking Diva's of the Hudson Valley, our friend Mandy. We will recommend a complimentary wine that is perfect for the wide range of tastes at your family get-togethers.

The wine this month is the 2008 Pinotage from Nederburg Wines of the Paarl region of South Africa. Pinotage is a viticultural cross between the Pinot Noir and Cinsault grape vines. We chose Pinot Noir for its rich flavor and Cinsault for its ability to flourish in hot dry climates such as South Africa. This particular red wine is very easy to drink. It starts with a fruity bouquet and produces rich cherry and raspberry tastes. Its low acidity and smoothness make it a perfect introduction to red wines. It makes for an attractive aperitif while still having enough character and body to accompany a hearty stew or a good steak. This wine is broadly marketed for \$9 - \$11 a bottle.

*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.*

**SWISS AND BACON DIP**

(courtesy of Rachael Ray and published on the Food Network website)

**Ingredients:**

8 slices center cut bacon, chopped  
 8 ounces softened cream cheese  
 1/2 cup mayonnaise;  
 2 rounded tsps prepared Dijon style mustard  
 1 1/2 cups shredded Swiss cheese, available in dairy aisle  
 3 scallions, chopped  
 1/2 cup smoked almonds, coarsely chopped (or sliced)  
 Baby carrots  
 A selection of spiced flat breads, cocktail sized pumpernickel or rye breads, or sliced whole grain baguettes, for dipping

**Directions:**

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Brown the bacon in nonstick skillet over medium high heat. Drain crisp bacon bits on paper towels. In a mixing bowl, combine cream cheese, mayonnaise, Dijon, Swiss and scallions with the cooked bacon.

Transfer to a shallow small casserole or baking dish and bake until golden and bubbly at edges, 15 to 18 minutes. Top with chopped smoked almonds. Place dip dish on a platter and surround warm casserole with breads and carrots for dipping.

Variation: Swiss and Bacon Dip with Horseradish - Stir in 2 rounded teaspoons prepared horseradish when combining cheese and bacon.

## PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. Can ideas be stolen?
2. How much did Henry David Thoreau spend to build his house on Walden Pond ?
3. What fields have prodigies?
4. What is the driest continent on earth?
5. What was the best baseball stadium ever?
6. How many bridges are there in Connecticut?
7. How much time do novelists spend on editing their works compared to writing them?
8. Which cities have the best architecture?
9. How many Europeans are there?
10. What are the best ways to improve a room's acoustics?

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### ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

2. Estimate the population of these Australian cities: Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Brisbane, Canberra.
- A: Sydney, 4.12 million. Melbourne, 3.59 million. Perth, 1.45 million. Brisbane, 1.76 million. Canberra, 320,000.
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?
- A: The average person speaks about 135 words per minute. People can understand speech at up to 300 words per minute. Auctioneers speak at up to 250 words per minute. The fastest talker ever recorded spoke at more than 600 words a minute.

American adults read on average about 275 words per minute. Proofreaders read about 200 words per minute.

The average person writes about 30 words per minute. If they are copying text, they write only about 22 words a minute. Stenographers using shorthand have written at over 280 words a minute. Computer users transcribe speech at 33 words per minute and compose at 19 words a minute.

Professional typists type 50 - 70 words a minute. The record for the fastest typing speed ever was 216 words per minute, set in 1946 by Stella Pajunas-Garnand of Chicago.

## NOTED &amp; QUOTED

I am only human, although I regret it.

- Mark Twain, (1835 - 1910)

Life is made up of marble and mud.

- Nathaniel Hawthorne, (1804 - 1864)

A strong foe is better than a weak friend.

- Edward Dahlberg, (1900 - 1977), U.S. novelist, essayist

Many people love in themselves what they hate in others.

- Ernst F. Schumacher, (1911 - 1977), German-British economist, writer

Honesty's praised then left to freeze.

- Juvenal, (40 - 125), Roman poet

Creative memory is the historian's most subtle opponent.

- Mason Cooley, (1927 - 2002), U.S. aphorist

Memory is the crux of humanity and enables us to endure hardship.

- Erica Jong, (1942 - )

The art of civilization is the act of drawing lines.

- Oliver Wendell Holmes, (1841 - 1935), U.S. Supreme Court Justice

Few men of action have been able to make a graceful exit at the appropriate time.

- Malcolm Muggeridge, (1903 - 1990), English journalist and author

You are what you do, not what you say you'll do.

- Carl Gustav Jung, (1875 - 1961), Swiss psychiatrist

Living well is the best revenge.

- George Herbert, (1593 - 1633), English clergyman

Half of us are blind, few of us feel, and we are all deaf.

- Sir William Osler, (1849 - 1919), Canadian physician

Other sins only speak, murder shrieks out.

- John Webster, (1580 - 1634), English Jacobean dramatist

Opportunity is often inconvenient.

- Kare Anderson, U.S. author, speaker, web publisher

At the feast of ego, everyone leaves hungry.

-sign at House of Coffee and Tea, Tucson, Arizona

Try a thing you haven't done three times. Once, to get over the fear of doing it. Twice, to learn how to do it. And a third time to figure out whether you like it or not.

- Virgil Thomson, (1896 - 1989), U.S. composer, music critic

Never invest your money in anything that eats or needs painting.

- Billy Rose, (1899 - 1966), U.S. songwriter, theatrical producer, nightclub owner

There is nothing that cannot be made natural. There is nothing natural that cannot be lost.

- Blaise Pascal, (1623 - 1662), Pensees

You must realize that the computer has it in for you. The irrefutable proof of this is that the computer always does what you tell it to do.

- Anonymous

Give me a museum and I'll fill it.

- Pablo Picasso, (1881 - 1973)

Art is the concrete representation of our most subtle feelings.

- Agnes Martin, (1912 - 2004), Canadian-American painter

Good writing is like a windowpane.

- George Orwell, (1903 - 1950)

You mean you left my building out in the rain?

- Frank Lloyd Wright, (1869 - 1959)

The only way to get rid of my fears is to make films about them.

- Alfred Hitchcock, (1899 - 1980)

London is a roost for every bird.

- Benjamin Disraeli, (1804 - 1881)

To eat well in England you should have breakfast three times a day.

- Somerset Maugham, (1874 - 1965), English novelist

The Romans would never have had the time to conquer the world if they had been obliged to learn Latin first of all.

- Heinrich Heine, (1797 - 1856), German poet, journalist, essayist, and critic

Architecture is the will of an epoch translated into space.

- Mies van der Rohe, (1886 - 1969), German-American architect

Any organized social group is always a stratified social body. There has not been and does not exist any permanent social group which is "flat" and in which all members are equal.

- Pitirim Sorokin, (1889 - 1968), Russian-American sociologist, *Social Mobility* (1927)

The most miserable outcast hugs some memory or some illusion.

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

The attempt to justify an evil deed has perhaps more pernicious consequences than the evil deed itself. The justification of a past crime is the planting and cultivation of future crimes.

- Eric Hoffer, (1902 - 1983), U.S. philosopher and longshoremen

Experience has two things to teach: The first is that we must correct a great deal; the second that we must not correct too much.

- Eugene Delacroix, (1798 - 1863), French Romantic painter

## WORD CHECK

Define these words. Check your answers at right.

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. adsorption -                | 10. wizened -withered, dried up, or shriveled.   |
| 2. cozen (KUZ- en) -           | 9. subjunctive - a grammatical mood that expresses doubts, wishes, and possibilities.  |
| 3. distrait -                  | 8. prodigy - 1. a person, especially a child, with marvelous talent. 2. a wonder or marvel.  |
| 4. dysbiosis -                 | 7. objurgate - scold; rebuke angrily.  |
| 5. fustian (FUS- chen)-        | 6. incarnadine - stain crimson or blood-color.   |
| 6. incarnadine -               | 5. fustian - 1. pompous, bombastic, or pretentious in speech or writing. 2. a coarse cotton fabric.  |
| 7. objurgate (OB- jer- gayt )- | 4. dysbiosis - a medical condition caused by a microbial imbalance in the body in which harmful bacteria and yeasts exceed their beneficial counterparts and cause inflammation and degenerative diseases. |
| 8. prodigy -                   | 3. distrait - absent-minded, inattentive, slightly distracted.   |
| 9. subjunctive -               | 2. cozen - cheat, defraud, hoodwink, swindle.  |
| 10. wizened (WIZ- nd) -        | 1. adsorption - the condensation of a gas on the surface of a solid.   |

ANSWERS:



**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](http://www.anomiapress.com))

**Dizios** (MindWare, [www.mindware.com](http://www.mindware.com))

**Forbidden Island** (Gamewright, [www.gamewright.com](http://www.gamewright.com))

**Word on the Street** (Out of the Box Publishing, [www.otb-games.com](http://www.otb-games.com))

**Yikerz!** (Wiggles 3D Incorporated, [www.yikerzgame.com](http://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](http://www.mindgames.us.mensa.org)

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The Chronicle is THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA #066.

The subscription rate for members is \$3.50 and is included as part of yearly dues. Others may subscribe at a rate of \$10.00 per year. (Monthly)

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**Change of Address**

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

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Please send form to:  
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 Arlington, TX 76006-6103

**SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA  
 TREASURY**

**Fiscal Year: April 1 - March 31**

**Opening balance at 4/1/10 \$9530.71**

**INCOME**

American Mensa	
Local Group Support Funds:	\$1254.08
Chronicle Advertising Income	\$126.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1380.08</b>

**EXPENSES**

Chronicle Printing Expenses:	\$424.00
Chronicle Postage/Supplies:	\$322.96
Speakers Dinners:	\$142.55
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$889.51</b>

**2ND Q BALANCE on 9/30/10: \$10,021.28**

## 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.

### It doesn't take a genius to generate sales - it takes The Voice

The Voice, a collective of emerging talent, develops fresh and cost-effective advertising, design, web and marketing solutions for clients of all sizes. The Voice is a training environment where apprentices are supervised and mentored by senior management. Matthew Hallock, creative director, is a Mensa member. Call (203) 334-0718 or visit [TheVoiceTheVoice.com](http://TheVoiceTheVoice.com).

**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. Available now from AuthorHouse [www.authorhouse.com](http://www.authorhouse.com) (888) 280 - 7715. Order this title through your local book-seller or preferred on-line retailer. 978-1-4389-0897-7 (SCISBN)

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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](http://www.historypress.net) or [www.amazon.com](http://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

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