

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA CHRONICLE

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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.

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

SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS - JULY

Friday, July 9, 7:00 pm

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, July 12, 7:00 pm

POST ROAD Dinner

Kiraku Japanese & Asian Grill, 1795 Post Rd., Fairfield, CT 06824. Contact Jim Mizera at jmizera@hotmail.com or (203) 522-1959 for reservations or info.

Saturday, July 23, 8:00 pm

Theater Event

Connecticut Free Shakespeare presents "The Three Musketeers" at Beardsley Park Zoo, 1875 Noble Ave., Bridgeport, CT. Donation to CT Free Shakespeare suggested. Please arrive early and bring a chair. Contact Jim Mizera at jmizera@hotmail.com or (203) 522-1959.

MULTI-CHAPTER EVENTS

Sunday, JULY 10 9 a.m. til sunset

Skydiving

Pepperell Skydive Center, Massachusetts. Come out for the day or just a couple of hours of watching (or perhaps even participating in) skydiving with your fellow Mensans. Bring your family, friends, and kids, your picnic basket (food is available there), lawn chairs, camera,

sunglasses, and suntan lotion.

Skydiving will go on all days (hundreds of jumps) from 9 a.m. until sunset. Are you brave enough to make a tandem skydive yourself? (No experience necessary.) Contact the Pepperell Skydive Center as early as possible at 1-800-SKY-JUMP (759-5867), www.skyjump.com, to make arrangements. Tell them you are with the Mensa group.

Free admission. Free registration. Free parking. Questions? Email Ed Meyer at MensaMeyer@aol.com or call me at (508) 829-6700.

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.

JULY

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 Quinipiac Street, Wallingford, CT 06492, 203-949-8022, www.theolddublin.com From Route 15: Take exit 64 toward Wallingford/ Downtown, Sharp right at Quinipiac Street, At 0.3 miles turn left to stay on Quinipiac 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 Quinipiac Street (Wallingford center, just before the gazebo). The Old Dublin will be on your right within about two blocks.

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 5:30 pm (Postponed from June)

Cinema a la Carte, Film discussion

First selection: Dr. Strangelove or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb, a 1964 black comedy which satirizes the nuclear scare. Produced and directed by Stanley Kubrick, stars Peter Sellers, George C. Scott and Sterling Hayden. The Library of Congress deemed the film "culturally significant" and added it to the National Film Registry. It rates #3 on the American Film Institute's 100 Years... 100 Laughs. "Cerebral . . . witty."

Event sequence 1) meet, greet, eat 2) set up multiplex (!) theater seating for two screens and view the film 3) discuss it and select the next one.

Hosted by Margaret M. at her home in Hamden, CT (one mile +/- north of New Haven line). BYOB and a dish to share. \$1 kitty. Ample off-street parking; park anywhere. RSVP Margaret M. at maramaunder@juno.com.

9 Saturday Time 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 www.us.mensa.org/testingvoucher.

13 Wednesday 5:30 pm

Happy Hour in Branford

(ME, 2nd Wednesday) at Donovan's Reef 1212 Main Street, Branford CT. www.donovans-reef.com has a small map, and here are some directions with distances - from I-95 take exit 54/Cedar Street. Go south on Cedar Street crossing Rt. 1/Boston Post Road for about 0.5 mi. to Rose Street. Take a left on Rose 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. Drive part way through the lot and look for Donovan's Reef on the left. Locals can also enter Lockworks Square from the Ivy Street side just off of Main Street. The lounge is on the left inside. I usually have a table reservation and will likely have an "M" sign visible. We start around 5:30. There are free daily bar goodies along with a comprehensive menu. Donovan's: 203-488-5573. We have a great time talking about anything and everything. Hope to see you there! Questions? Contact Mike Wilson at 203-481-2858 or MahoutMike@aol.com

19 Tuesday 6:35 pm

Baseball

Come see the New Britain Rock Cats host the Richmond Flying Squirrels, a S.F. Giants farm club, in New Britain Stadium. Buy a general admission ticket (\$5), climb up to section 213, about four rows from the top, and join other Mensans for live baseball, jokes, and adult beverages. More info? www.rockcats.com or contact Tom T. Tom.thomas@the-spa.com

22 Friday 5:00 pm

Fourth Friday Happy Hour

Hamden, CT We're moving the happy hour back to the Playwright in Hamden - better happy hour snacks. 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

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

REGIONAL GATHERINGS

MENZA ANNUAL GATHERING A Great Journey West!

Portland, Oregon - June 30-July 4, 2011

Facebook: Mensa2011AG
www.ag.us.mensa.org
Twitter: #Mensa2011AG

Register online at www.ag.us.mensa.org

For the first time, American Mensa's national convention, the Annual Gathering, will be held in the Pacific Northwest June 30-July 4. Around 2,000 Mensans from all over the world will converge on Portland, Ore., to enjoy workshops and presentations, tours, tournaments, special events, the best of the local food and drink ó and each other's company.

AG 2011: "AGreat Journey West" will feature:

- * Bill Stainton, Mensa member, multiple Emmy Award-winning TV producer/writer/performer and internationally recognized Beatles expert, who will present "The 5 Best Decisions the Beatles Ever Made... and Why You Should Make Them Too!"
- * Jean M. Auel, internationally acclaimed author of the "Earth's Children" book series
- * William Paul Young, author of "The Shack," one of the top 100 best-selling books of all time
- * Paulann Petersen, Oregon's poet laureate
- * Programs on everything from stupid criminals to earthquakes to cheese
- * A revamped lineup of programming and activities for Young Mensans
- * "Beervana"

Register online at www.ag.us.mensa.org!

Saturday, OCTOBER 1 11 am - 5 pm

A Day At The Races!

Location: 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 Surprisingly Gentle Mike Yost, sit on a grass hillside watching a variety of sports cars negotiate Lime Rocks twisty, challenging circuit. Last year we had a great turnout, and a fun time was had by all. Feast on whatever you bring (and what you might care to buy from the not-too-overpriced 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 (track rules, not ours). Admission is reasonable, 15 dollars at the gate, 10 dollars advance purchase from the track's website, Children under 12 Free. (Yes, this is a Family Friendly Event.)

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:

www.limerock.com or you can call them at 1-800-RACE-LRP.

For details about this event, or to RSVP, email mike@mikeyost.com, or call his mobile 917-603-0410, or find me on facebook.

FROM THE REGIONAL VICE CHAIRMAN**ANDREW HEFFERNAN****RVC CHAT**

Hello! My name is Andrew Heffernan and I am your new Regional Vice Chair for Region 1 (RVC1). My local group is Mensa of Northeastern New York (MoNNY) as I live just outside of Albany, NY. I have been a Mensa member for 4 years and have loved every minute of it! Mensans have come to feel like my extended family, especially those in Region 1.

As I write this, preparations for the Annual Gathering (AG) in Portland, Oregon are underway and I look forward to attending my third AG. As you read this, I will have returned from my first American Mensa Committee (AMC) meeting as a member of American Mensa's board of directors. While I take the job very seriously, I'm sure that the long and plentiful committee meetings will not get in the way of me having a wonderful time with my friends and Mensa family in Portland.

I have had the privilege of meeting many of you over the past few years. I look forward to meeting many more of you in the coming year. It's always exciting to hear about the Mensa experiences of others and to learn about how each group is doing its best to grow its membership and improve member involvement. If you want

to come out to meet me, I will do my best to let the local groups know when I'll be in town. Otherwise, you can find me at most MoNNY events and I can certainly be found at MoNNY's upcoming End of Summer RechaRGe (nymensa.org/rg). Of course, you're welcome to email me anytime.

For the fantastic support I received while running for RVC1, thank you! A special thanks to Deb Stone, Lori Norris and Claire Natola for their amazing support! I hope to see all of you very soon!

Andrew Heffernan
rvc1@us.mensa.org

THE APRIL DINNER "THOSE DARN LAWYERS"

Connecticut and Western Massachusetts Mensan Margaret Maunder spoke at our April dinner about her new book *Those Darn Lawyers A Law Client's Bottom Up Report on the U.S. Civil Justice System*. The book analyzes the many problems in the civil courts, showing how the rules and legal tactics serve lawyers well but not the general public.

Margaret didn't set out to write a book critical of lawyers. She had two uncles who were lawyers and grew up believing that we had the best legal system in the world. But her experience with the civil courts led her to realize some of the problems with the system. Researching further, she found she was not the only one experiencing difficulties.

Ms. Maunder's career prepared her very well for researching the law. She was a reporter for two St. Louis daily newspapers, covered events as a stringer in Europe and the Soviet Union, and dealt with legal problems as a homeowner and business owner - very directly.

TAKING TO THE COURTS

Margaret is not a lawyer but she has dealt with legal problems firsthand because she served as her own attorney several times - a practice known as *pro se* legal representation. She described how she became involved in a landmark *pro se* case in 1972. At the time, she owned an ad agency and bought a copy machine from A-Copy for \$500. The machine never worked. Despite repeated efforts to get the problem resolved with A-Copy, she was left with a lemon. Frustrated, she decided to bring a lawsuit and act as her own attorney. Digging deeper, she found out the copier was a used machine - it had been used for two years before the company sold it to her. Margaret took A-Copy to court but they tried to get the case dismissed under the UPL statute - Unauthorized Practice of Law, saying that Margaret by representing herself was practicing law without a license. But Margaret persisted, winning the right to act as her own attorney and the case against A-Copy as well. This decision set a

precedent that has helped other small business people defend their rights in court. The judge commended Ms. Maunder's legal efforts, and one legal commentator called her "the best non-lawyer in the state of Connecticut."

Her struggle against A-Copy was not the only interesting *pro se* case Ms. Maunder was involved in. She recounted how she represented herself again, this time before the state Appellate Court, to sue a law firm for breach of contract after they dropped her during a lawsuit. She also defended her rights as a homeowner, when she exposed the town of Hamden's faulty installation of a sewer for her property.

Ms. Maunder criticized as monopolistic practices the laws lawyers' associations use to prevent *pro se* fight and other low-cost legal aids the public try to use. As she told us, neither the bar nor our civil justice system makes it easy to defend your rights yourself: "The legal system is run for lawyers. The rest of us don't have a say." She isn't the only non-lawyer who has been attacked legally for trying to represent herself in court or trying to help others with legal problems. She recounted the case of the Connecticut estate planner Norman Dacey, who wrote the best-selling 1966 book *How to Avoid Probate*. Probate is the legal process of administering the estate of a deceased person by resolving all claims and distributing the deceased person's property under a will. A probate court interprets the will, decides the executor of the estate, and adjudicates the claims of heirs and creditors. Mr. Dacey criticized the lengthy and costly probate procedures that drained money from the estate to pay attorney fees. He advised people to use trusts to pass on property without getting lawyers involved. Both the Connecticut Bar and the New York County Lawyer's Association sued Dacey for the unauthorized practice of law. Mr. Dacey won the suit on appeal, but was never able to collect.

Another example Margaret brought up was the case of Rosemary Furman, owner of a Florida legal secretarial service, who simply provided legal documents or filled out legal forms for poor, often illiterate people who couldn't afford to pay lawyers. In 1977, the Florida Supreme Court charged her with the unauthorized practice of law, She was ruled in contempt of court

and forced out of business. In Florida, as in many other states, merely advising a customer how to complete a legal form became a crime.

HELPING YOURSELF

Despite the obstacles to pro se Ms. Maunder brought out, she said that many Americans represent themselves in family, probate, and housing courts. She noted that many prisoners have also ably represented themselves in court, drawing on the legal research they have done in prison libraries.

Mensans had several questions about ways to get more bang for your legal buck either by doing some of the work yourself or seeking legal help from non-lawyers. One asked if there is a dollar cutoff limit for small claims court. Yes, Margaret said, but it differs from state to state. She noted, "If the parties to the lawsuit are from different states, they may have different laws and different limits - this makes it complicated."

Another good question came up: Can you write up a contract and pay a lawyer simply to review it, thereby saving money by using only a half-hour of the lawyer's time instead of perhaps 50 hours? "Absolutely," Margaret said. "Some lawyers are now willing to work with pro se clients." That wasn't very true back when she was serving as her own attorney in court. "When I was defending myself in court, I used the Yale Law Library but I couldn't ask an attorney legal questions without hiring him. Back then, a lawyer could be disbarred for helping a layman go pro se - lawyers either had to take a case or not take it." They couldn't simply help a non-lawyer represent himself in court.

What about legal clinics? Are they an inexpensive way for layman to get good legal advice or help? Yes, Margaret said, law students do most of work in clinics but they are supervised by lawyers. Actually, a member of the audience added, this is not much different from what happens in law firms. Much of the legwork is not done by lawyers but by paralegals, who gather legal records.

LEGAL ABUSES

Legal billing has always been a mystery to many people, including many economists, and this was another part of Ms. Maunder's critique. She told us one thing that makes hiring a lawyer so expensive is that lawyers can bill clients for research and the clients have no way to know if the lawyers did it. She cited one lawyer who wrote that lawyers can get away with anything in charging for research even if they just use arguments from previous cases.

Hiring a lawyer to represent you is indeed expensive. Margaret estimated that you often have to pay a retainer of \$5,000 to \$10,000 just to get started. Divorce lawyers charge \$500 an hour. On the other hand, if you decide to go pro se, you must spend a tremendous amount of time and effort because of the complexity of the law. Most employed people cannot devote weeks or months to preparing a case, so one must have great fortitude to go pro se.

Mensans had several questions for Ms. Maunder about other dubious legal practices. One person asked about the way the discovery system in the courts is manipulated. Discovery is the pre-trial phase in a lawsuit in which each party can obtain evidence from the opposing party or outside parties by requesting documents, admissions and depositions, or using subpoenas. Opposing lawyers in a civil suit often pester each other to produce hundreds of documents that have little to do with the case. Margaret agreed that this is a definite headache, as the courts don't much restrict what lawyers can ask for in discovery.

"A related game lawyers play," she added, "is going up on discovery motions - asking the court to order the other party to produce documents or information. The problem is, Margaret said, "that there is an almost unlimited number of motions lawyers in a suit can put up for any reason." Under the rules, each side is supposed to respond within two weeks. But, although lawyers file frivolous motions, she noted, the courts generally don't enforce penalties even if one side doesn't respond for months. It amounts to a game in which one or both sides try to wear out the other.

WHEN YOU NEED A LAWYER

As Ms. Maunder made quite clear, she is not against lawyers, she is simply against legal abuses. Indeed, Chapter 5 in her book is entitled Yes, Get A Lawyer. There she discusses situations where it is wise to hire a lawyer. For example, she told us, you need lawyers for real estate transactions. She said, "Back in 1971, I outsmarted myself by not getting a lawyer." She explained that she bought a Hamden lot of four acres. Four years later, she wanted to divide it and sell portions, but she found out the lot was only 3.67 acres -the misrepresentation had cost her the chance to sell another lot. She ruefully noted, "I should have acted on it promptly - it's difficult to prove damages later because the value of the property has appreciated, making it hard to show how you lost." This was definitely a case where a lawyer could have checked out the property title and saved her a lot of regret.

During her career in journalism, an article she wrote was stolen from her, plagiarized by another reporter. She did nothing to defend her rights. In hindsight, she told us, she should have con-

sulted a lawyer. "I should have paid a lawyer for just one hour," she said. One letter could have won her compensation for this clear theft of her work.

April's dinner was the first one in almost five years that featured a legal topic. Unfortunately, few people turned out for the dinner. This has been a problem for the chapter for several years, as most members have never attended an event. Attendance has been particularly poor in 2011. Those who didn't attend the April dinner missed the interesting legal discussion, but they can still get a complete copy of Margaret's e-book by going to Pay Pal and sending \$5 to her at maramaunder@juno.com. The book is also available in hard copy or soft cover. See the order form below for details.

Southern CT Mensa will not be running the monthly dinners during the summer, But we will resume the dinner in September. We hope to break out of our protracted slump in attendance and get better turnouts in the fall.

THE APRIL DINNER - THOSE DARN LAWYERS

A Law Client's Bottom-Up Report on the U.S. Civil Justice System

authored by CT & Western Massachusetts member Margaret Maunder.

ORDER

For an email copy of the complete e-book THOSE DARN LAWYERS go to PayPal and send \$5 to maramaunder@juno.com.

Your copy will be emailed promptly. (The hard copy list price is \$32.99, soft cover \$23.99 plus shipping.)

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No thanks, but let me know when you launch the THOSE DARN LAWYERS website.

GOOD WINE CHEAP**(AND GOOD FOOD TO GO WITH IT)***by John Grover*

During the two weeks that we were in Northern Italy, I can honestly say that we never had a bad meal. The food was fantastic. One of the secrets to this culinary success is great ingredients. Parmigiano-Reggiano is one of the great cheeses of Italy and is made exclusively in the Parma Region. "There is no such thing as Parmesan Cheese!" our tour guide would say most emphatically. After that it was only referenced to as the "P word" in hushed tones among our group. Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese helps to make the recipe below one of our new favorites.

This month we recommend a red wine from the Piedmont (Piemonte) region of Italy - the 2007 Albera Barbera produced by Araldica Vini wine-makers. Barbera is one of the most widely planted red grapes in Italy. The Asti area within the Piedmont prides itself as being the finest growing area for Barbera grapes. Our chosen wine is denoted as Barbera D'Asti DOC, reflecting its official origins. Its aroma permeates the senses with plum, black cherry and just a hint of oak. A medium bodied wine, it softly fills the palate with tastes of blackberry, plum and a bit of spice. This wine is a real deal for between \$10 and \$13 a bottle.

PENNE WITH ASPARAGUS AND PROSCIUTTO

(from Thirty Minute Pasta by Guiliano Hazan, published by Stewart, Tabori & Chang/ HNA Books, 2009 and available at Amazon.com.)

Ingredients:

3/4 asparagus
 1/2 medium yellow onion
 3 tbsp butter
 4 oz prosciutto ham, sliced 1/8 " thick
 Salt
 Freshly ground black pepper
 2/3 cup heavy cream
 1/3 cup freshly grated Parmigiano-Reggiano*
 1 lb penne pasta (short fusilli or egg fettuccine are also good)

1. Fill a pot for the pasta with about 6 quarts of water, place over high heat, and bring to a boil.
2. Fill a 10-inch skillet (or asparagus cooker) with water, place over high heat, and bring to a boil.
3. Cut off the white, woody bottom part of the asparagus spears, then peel the remaining bottom third. Add 1 teaspoon salt to the boiling water, then gently slide in the asparagus. Cook until the asparagus is tender, 5 to 6 minutes, then lift it out and set aside. Save 1/2 cup of the water the asparagus cooked in.
4. While the asparagus is cooking, peel and finely chop the onion. Put the butter in a 12-inch skillet, add the chopped onion, and place over medium-high heat. SautÉ until the onion has turned a rich golden color, about 5 minutes.
5. Cut the prosciutto slices into strips about 1/8 inch wide and 1 inch long. When the onion is ready, add the prosciutto and saute until it loses its raw color, 1 to 2 minutes.
6. Cut the asparagus into 1-inch lengths and add them to the pan. Continue sautÉing until the asparagus becomes lightly colored, 2 to 3 minutes. Add the saved asparagus water and continue cooking until the liquid has evaporated completely, loosening any browned bits on the bottom of the skillet.
7. Add about 2 tablespoons salt to the boiling pasta water, add the penne, and stir well. Cook until al dente.
8. While the pasta is cooking, add the cream to the asparagus and cook until the cream has thickened, 1 to 2 minutes. Remove the pan from the heat.
9. When the pasta is done, drain well, toss with the sauce and the freshly grated Parmigiano-Reggiano, and serve at once. Cooking note: While Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese is fantastic. More affordable (but still high quality) substitutes are available. These are Grana Padano from Italy and American Grana, a wonderful aged cheese from BelGioioso, an American producer.

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

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

PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. Compare meteorology with climatology.
2. How tall are giraffes? How much do they weigh?
3. Name some cowards who became heroes and some heroes who became cowards.
4. What percentage of the earth does the Pacific Ocean cover?
5. Which sport has the most drama?
6. Who was the first baseball pitcher to make 50 relief appearances in a season?
7. What impending disasters or crises do you foresee?
8. How many psychiatrists are there in the United States?
9. Who was the most scathing drama critic?
10. What is the smallest bird in the world?
11. What arts have benefited the most from new technology in the last 20 years? Which have suffered from new tech?
12. About how many cities in mainland China have more than a million people?
13. How could English spelling be simplified and made consistent?
14. Name the countries which Yugoslavia has been broken up into.

PUZZLES & QUESTIONS ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

2. What is the highest waterfall in the world?
 A: Angel Salto in Bolivar, Venezuela, is the tallest waterfall in the world at 3,212 feet. Waihilau Falls in Hawaii ranks second at 2,600 feet.
4. How much of its oil does the United States import from Middle Eastern countries?
 A: The U.S. imports about 22% of its oil from the Middle East. 23% comes from Canada, 10% from Venezuela, 10.4% from Saudi Arabia, 9.2% from Mexico, and 8.3% from Nigeria.
6. What is the biggest bay in the world?
 A: The bay with the largest area is the Bay of Bengal, which is in the northeastern Indian Ocean and borders eastern India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Burma (now called Myanmar), and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which are part of India. The Bay of Bengal's area is 2,172,000 sq. km (2,090 km. long x 1,610 km. wide or 1,300 mil long x 1,000 mi. wide). Its deepest point is 5,258 meters below sea level.
 Hudson Bay, in northeast Canada, is the world's longest bay (12,268 km. or 5,258 mi.) and is the second largest bay by area (1,230,000 sq. km or 470,000 sq. miles). A bay is an inlet or recess in a shore, an area of water mostly surrounded by land. A large bay is sometimes called a sea, a sound, or a gulf. A cove is a circular coastal inlet with a narrow entrance. Some coves are called bays.
8. How many Shakespearian acting companies are there in the U.S.?
 A: According to Jim Volz, a theatre professor at Calif. St. Univ., Fullerton, and editor of Quarto, the magazine of the Shakespeare Theatre Association, there are 215 active Shakespeare companies operating in this country. About 400 Shakespeare festivals are staged each year.

continued on next page

10. How many people live in New England?

A: New England comprises six states: Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont. It's population in the 2006 - 2008 American Community Survey was estimated to be 14,265,000, about 75% of which lives in the three biggest states, Massachusetts (approx. 6,540, 000), Connecticut (3.5 million), and Rhode Island (1,050,000).

12. How many children were born in the U.S. in 2010?

A Slightly more than 4 million.

WORD CHECK

Define these words. Check your answers at right.

- 1. joggle -
- 2. Jonah -
- 3. Junker -
- 4. ulna -
- 5. untoward -
- 6. usufruct -
- 7. lacuna -
- 8. lagniappe -
- 9. lee -
- 10. yakow -
- 11. yarborough -
- 12. yeasty -

- 12. yeasty - frothy; light.
- 11. yarborough - a hand of cards containing no card above nine.
- 10. yakow - an animal crossbred from a male yak and a domestic cow.
- 9. lee - shelter; the side of a ship away from the wind.
- 8. lagniappe - a tip
- 7. lacuna - a gap.
- 6. usufruct - the right of enjoying things belonging to another.
- 5. untoward - unfavorable, troublesome.
- 4. ulna - the large bone of the forearm.
- 3. Junker - a member of the German aristocratic class.
- 2. Jonah - one reputed to bring bad luck.
- 1. joggle - to jiggle

ANSWERS:

NOTED & QUOTED

He who deliberates fully before taking a step will spend his entire life on one foot.

- Chinese proverb

Ponder and deliberate before you make a move.

- Sun Tzu, (544? 535? - 496? B.C.E.), *The Art of War*

We have reached rock bottom, but we continue to dig.

- Balkan proverb

A satirist is a man who discovers unpleasant things about himself and then says them about other people.

- Peter McArthur

One man can be a crucial ingredient on a team, but one man cannot make a team.

- Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, (1947 -), U.S. Hall of Fame basketball star

It is easier to stay out then to get out.

- Mark Twain, (1835 - 1910), *Following the Equator*,

It is human nature that rules the world, not governments and regimes.

- Svetlana Alliluyeva, (1926 -), Russian-American, daughter of Joseph Stalin

The conventional army loses if it does not win.

The guerilla wins if they do not lose.

- Henry Kissinger, (1923 -)

Planning without action is futile, action without planning is fatal.

- Anonymous

Our favorite holding period is forever.

- Warren Buffet, (1930 -),

If a person loves only one other person and is indifferent to all others, his love is not love but a symbiotic attachment, or an enlarged egotism.

- Erich Fromm, (1900 - 1980), German-American psychologist and author

Myths are public dreams, dreams are private myths.

- Joseph Campbell, (1904 - 1987), U.S. mythologist, writer

Exasperation is the mind's way of spinning its wheels until patience restores traction.

- George L. Griggs, U.S. theatrical composer and lyricist

We always weaken everything we exaggerate.

- Frederic-Cesar La Harpe, (1754 - 1838), Swiss political leader

Efficiency is doing things right. Effectiveness is doing the right thing.

- Zig Ziglar, (1936 -), U.S. author, salesman, and motivational speaker

It is not enough to just do your best or work hard. You must know what to work on.

- W. Edwards Deming, (1900 - 1993), U.S. statistician, quality control expert

No eyes that have seen beauty ever lose their sight.

- Jean Toomer, (1894 - 1967), U.S. Harlem Renaissance author

Eloquence is the poetry of prose.

- William Cullen Bryant, (1794 - 1878), U.S. poet

Music is the medicine of the mind.

- John A. Logan, (1926 - 1986), U.S. Union army general, congressman, Senator

Writing does not cause misery, it is born of misery

- Michel Eyquem de Montaigne, (1533 - 1592), French philosopher and essayist

Not all those who own a musical instrument are musicians. (Non omnes qui habent citharam sunt citharoedi)

- Marcus Terentius Varro, (116 - 27 B.C.E.),

Tomorrow's life is too late. Live today.

- Martial, (40 ? - 102 ?), Roman poet, aphorist

Suspect each moment, for it is a thief, tiptoeing away with more than it brings.

- John Updike, (1932 -), U.S. novelist, *A Month of Sundays* (1975)

It is best to act with confidence, no matter how little right you have to it.

- Lillian Hellman, (1905 - 1984), U.S. playwright

One cannot weep for the entire world, it is beyond human strength. One must choose.

- Jean Anouilh, (1910 - 1987), French novelist, playwright, screenwriter

Life is a dream for the wise, a game for the fool,
a comedy for the rich, a tragedy for the poor.
- *Sholom Aleichem, (1857 - 1916), Russian-Jewish author of Yiddish literature*

Life is a series of relapses and recoveries.
- *George Ade, (1866 - 1944), U.S. humorist, newspaper columnist, playwright*

America is therefore the land of the future,
where, in the ages that lie before us, the burden
of the World's History shall reveal itself.
- *Georg W. Hegel, (1770-1831), German philosopher*

It's hard enough to write a good drama, it's
much harder to write a good comedy, and it's
hardest of all to write a drama with comedy.
Which is what life is
- *Jack Lemmon, (1925 - 2001), U.S. actor, musician*

Every morning when I wake up, I experience an
exquisite joy - the joy of being Salvador Dali
and I ask myself in rapture: What wonderful
things is this Salvador Dali is going to accom-
plish today?
- *Salvador Dali, (1904 - 1989), Spanish surrealist painter*

I have always been a huge admirer of my own
work. I'm one of the funniest and most enter-
taining writers I know.
- *Mel Brooks, (1926 -), U.S. film director and comedian*

To men and women who want to do things,
there is nothing quite so driving as the force of
an imprisoned ego. . . . All genius comes from
this class.
- *Mary Rinehart, (1876 - 1958), U.S. mystery writer*

What will the world be quite overturned when
you die? - *Epictetus, (50 - 138), Greek Stoic philosopher*

Egotism is the glue with which you get stuck in
yourself. - *Dan Post*

Sensitiveness is closely allied to egotism.
Indeed, excessive sensitiveness is only another
name for morbid self-consciousness. The cure
for it is to make more of our objects, and less of
ourselves.
- *Christian Bovee, (1820 - 1904), U.S. lawyer, editor, author*

One may understand the cosmos, but never the
ego; the self is more distant than any star.
- *Gilbert Chesterton, (1874 - 1936), English essayist and poet*

If egotism means a terrific interest in one's self,
egotism is absolutely essential to efficient living.
- *Arnold Bennett, (1867 - 1931), English novelist*

If there is an enemy, it is the ego. If there is a
devil, it is the ego. Every obstacle is created by
the ego, for the ego. Every obstacle. The ego
can be overcome, and in so doing are you made
free. That is the way.
- *Stefan Nadzo, U.S. mystic, author*

An inflated consciousness is always egocentric
and conscious of nothing but its own existence.
It is incapable of learning from the past, inca-
pable of understanding contemporary events,
and incapable of drawing right conclusions
about the future. It is hypnotized by itself and
therefore cannot be argued with. It inevitably
dooms itself to calamities that must strike it
dead. - *Carl Gustav Jung, (1875 - 1961)*

MIND GAMES® 2011

I just returned from Mensa's 2011 Mind Games®. For anyone who may not be aware, Mind Games® is an annual event during which Mensans get together to play and rate recently released board and card games. Game manufacturers enter their newest products with the hopes of being awarded the (may I say coveted) Mensa Select® seal.

Mind Games® started in 1990. For the first 6 years it was held in New York and open to only select invitees. It was then decided that the event should be moved to various locations around the US. Attendance is now also open to all Mensans. Since 1996, Mind Games® has been held in many different locations including Atlanta, Chicago, Phoenix, Seattle, Houston, Tampa, Portland, Pittsburgh, near Cincinnati, and last year, San Diego.

The 2011 Mind Games® were held in Albany, New York. By the time of the official kick off at 4:00 on Friday, April 15th, most of the ~300 registered participants had arrived in the large games room set up at the Best Western Sovereign Hotel.

Long tables were piled high with stacks of 5 or more copies of each of the approximately 60 new games in contention. Each judge was given a ballot listing about 30 randomly assigned games. The objective is to play each game at least once – no small task as some games can take an hour or more to play – and then submit a ballot ranking their votes for the top games prior to 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning.

At least some of the attendees (myself included) try to play all of the games. Often throughout the weekend, someone starting a new game would need additional players and announce the game and the number of players needed into a microphone located near the game boxes. This meant there were plenty of opportunities to play.

New games included some fast favorites: Lexigo (a hexagon tile word game); Solitaire Chess (a set of logic puzzles); Sumoku (a sort of numerical Bananagrams); Gold Mine (build a maze of tunnels and go for the gold); Prolix (another word game); City Square Off (a race to fit the most tetris-like pieces on your board); and a few that my kids have already played many times: Skippity, Eleminis, and Yamy.

At 2:00 a.m. Saturday night there were still about 100 serious gamers still in action. By 10 am Sunday, all of the votes had been tabulated, and the following games had been deemed the best for 2011:

InStructures – A construction game

Pirate versus Pirate – Eliminate enemy pirates and capture the gold

Uncle Chesnut's Table Gype – Move and jump across a board of changing pieces.

Stomple – Stomp opponents' marbles

Pastiche -- Score colors to win paintings.

A full list of winners by year is available on the Mind Games® website.

Overall, the environment, the people, and of course the games made it a very enjoyable weekend.

Next year's games will be held in Herndon, VA near Washington DC. I've already registered and perhaps I will see you there!

- Debra Jennings

MENSA MIND GAMES 2011 RESULTS

This year's winners are:

InStructures

(4 or more players, ages 8 and up; designed by Jane's Games, published by Jane's Games)

Pastiche

(2 to 4 players, ages 10 and up; designed by Sean D. MacDonald, published by Gryphon Games)

Pirate Versus Pirate

(2 to 3 players, ages 8 and up; designed by Max Winter Osterhaus, published by Out of the Box Publishing)

Stomple

(for 2 to 6 players, ages 8 and up; designed by Greg Zima, published by Spin Master)

Uncle Chestnut's Table Gype

(for 2 to 4 players, ages 10 and up; designed by Paul E. Nowak and Christopher Nowak, published by Eternal Revolution)

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Fiscal Year: April 1 - March 31

Opening balance at 4/1/10 \$9530.71

INCOME

American Mensa	
Local Group Support Funds:	\$2,591.72
Chronicle Advertising Income	<u>126.00</u>
Total Income	\$2,717.72

EXPENSES

Chronicle Expenses:	\$1,427.54
Events Expenses:	493.88
Advertising/PR/Marketing:	<u>142.10</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$10,162.66

BANK BALANCE on 3/31/11:	\$10,684.98
Less outstanding checks	<u>522.32</u>
Adjusted cash 3/31/11	10,162.66

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M Travel Companions Wanted

If you've never travelled with Mensans, you've never really travelled at all. And this trip is a winner! 17 days including (are you ready?) Copenhagen, Stockholm, Helsinki, St. Petersburg, Novgorod, Tver, Moscow, Minsk, Warsaw & Berlin. The tour is called Cossack Explorer and is with Trafalgar, a superior tour group. The hotels and tours are all outstanding, one night is spent on a ship.

Dates: 9/9 to 9/25, although August is also a possibility if more people opt for it. You can review the itinerary here: www.trafalgar.com/cossack-explorer-2011?tab=1

Approximate cost with airfare: \$4,400 but we can get substantial discounts for a group. If interested contact Barb Holstein at BarbCPA@att.net or (860) 632-7873 or Bruce Allen at pataphysical@aol.com

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