

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA CHRONICLE



TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	Schedule of Mensa Events
4	Regional Gatherings
5	RVC Chat
6	January Dinner
9	Good Wine Cheap
10	Word Check
11	Puzzles
12	Noted and Quoted
14	Treasury Report
	Chapter Notes
15	Member Advertisements
16	List of Officers

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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SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS - FEBRUARY

Friday, February 10, 7:00 pm

Danbury Dinner - Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner
at 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, February 14, 6:30 pm

POST ROAD Dinner
International House of Pancakes, 520 Post Road East, Westport, CT, 06880. Contact Jim Mizera at jmizera@hotmail.com or (203) 522-1959 for reservations or info.

Saturday, February 18, 6:15 pm

Monthly Dinner - New Members Dinner
New Members Dinner: Members who have joined in the past year or who have not attended a dinner before can enjoy a free dinner. Come anytime after 6:15.

TOPIC: Lateral Thinking: Are There Methods to Creativity?

WHERE: The PUTNAM HOUSE Restaurant, 12 Depot Place, Bethel, CT 06801 (downtown - across from old railroad station), (www.theputnamhouse.com). The dinner will be held on the 2nd Floor. Dinner Menu 1 - a vegetarian option is included on the menu.) Dress is casual. Before the presentation, we will enjoy dinner. There is parking in the rear of the restaurant and in the nearby Old Railroad Station lot.

You can bring a donation of money or food to benefit the Connecticut Food Bank. Contact Jim

Mizera at jmizera@hotmail.com or (203) 522-1959 for reservations or info. Reservations strongly encouraged but not required.

Wednesday, February 22, 6:30 pm

Southern Corner Dinner

Tigin Irish Pub, 175 Bedford Street, Stamford, CT 06901-1907. Contact Jim Mizera at jmizera@hotmail.com or (203) 522-1959 for reservations or info.

Friday, February 24, 8:00 pm

Concert

Milford Coffehouse, 40 Railroad Avenue South (at the south side Milford railroad station), Milford, CT, 06460. Prester John band. Contact Jim Mizera at jmizera@hotmail.com or (203) 522-1959 for reservations or info. Best to call at least one day before to make reservations.

TBD

February Hockey

Bridgeport Sound Tigers or Danbury Whalers. Call or e-mail Jim Mizera at jmizera@hotmail.com if interested. Consult www.soundtigers.com, <http://www.danburyhockey.com/schedulereleased>.

TBD

February Museum/History Center Trip

Fairfield Museum and History Center, 370 Beach Road, Fairfield, CT 06824. Mon. - Fri., 10 - 4, Sat. - Sun., 12 - 4. Bravo! A Century of Theatre in Fairfield County. On View through Sunday, March 18, 2012. Call or e-mail Jim Mizera at jmizera@hotmail.com if interested.

UPCOMING:

APRIL 21 MONTHLY DINNER

Mensa member, radio broadcaster, and author Randye Kaye will talk about her recently published book, *Ben Behind His Voices: One Family's Journey from the Chaos of Schizophrenia to Hope*. Randye has talked about her book at RJ Julia and Barnes and Noble bookstores and on Fox News, garnering positive reviews. Visit www.randyekaye.com for info about the author and her book.

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.

FEBRUARY

2, 9, 16, 23 Thursdays 6:30 pm

Scrabble

The word-loving Mensans (are there any other kind?) and non-Mensans gather to play Scrabble at Panera Bread Restaurant at Bishop's Corner, 2542 Albany Ave., West Hartford. For more info contact Lois Cappellano 413-567-4702

3 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, 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.

8 Wednesday 5:30 pm

Happy Hour in Branford

(ME, 2nd Wednesday) at Donovan's Reef 1212 Main Street, Branford Conn. 06405. 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. 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 any items that you may want to order from the comprehensive menu. Donovan's phone number is 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

10 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 Dinnercontact Lois Cappellano 413-567-4702

11 Saturday 10:00 am

Mensa Admissions Testing - Newington

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.

18 Saturday 10:00 am

Mensa Admissions Testing - New Haven

C&WM Mensa now holds regular testing in New Haven, CT. 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.

24 Friday 5:00 pm

Fourth Friday Happy Hour

Odd months, we'll be at the Playwright Pub and Restaurant, 1232 Whitney Ave., Hamden www.playwrightirishpub.com. [Even months at the Old Gate Tavern & Steakhouse, in Milford.] 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

24 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

Herdon, Virginia, Fri. - Sun., April 20-22, 2012

Mensa Mind Games 2012

This event is now waiting-list only.

Fri., May 11 - Sun., May 13, 2012

CAPE CODE MINI REGIONAL GATHERING

Plan Ahead:

The 2012 Cape Cod Mini-RG will be held in Dennisport, MA

Hotel rooms are \$74.95 for 1-4 people until 3/31, then \$79.95. It is never too early to reserve a room. Our block sold out last year and RG goers had to stay elsewhere. Mail your check, made out to "Corsair", directly to the motel at 41 Chase Avenue, Dennisport, MA 02639.

Registration for this event is already available online at: <http://caperg.org>

Wendy Birchmire and Lori Norris will be co-chairing the event. For information contact Wendy Birchmire (mensatesting@gis.net).

Local boy makes good.

Southern Connecticut Mensa member Donald Bobowick has been issued a United States Patent. The patent is for a vertical axis wind turbine design. Vertical axis wind turbines have some advantages over the horizontal axis style we see most often. A few of those advantages are:

- Vertical axis wind turbines are bird friendly
- Respond to lower wind speeds
- Have the torsional benefits of a long drive shaft
- The generator or pump they are powering can be placed at ground level for easy servicing. The one major disadvantage to vertical axis wind turbines is that they move in the wrong direction (into the wind) for half their rotation. This newly patented design handles that disadvantage. While scalable to large installations, this wind turbine will be ideal for homes, farms and small businesses.

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

Each April my local group participates in CultureQuest. It started as one team, playing in a member's home and has grown to four or five teams annually, including a youth team. In classic MoNNY (Mensa of Northeastern New York) style, it is followed by a BBQ and party at local member Rob's house. I am a member of a team, and answer the occasional question about Canada. My favorite part is to see how diverse the fields of knowledge are amongst my friends. It was quite amazing to learn that my friend Terri knows the official state fish of Mississippi is the *Micropterus salmoides*.

Joyce Lundeen and Becky O'Neal founded CultureQuest^Æ as a competition between Region 6 Local Groups in 1990. After some success at a leadership weekend, and with the support of then-RVC Carol Hilson, the quest grew to the point where almost every group in Region 6 participated during the second year and two teams of AMC members were also invited to join in. In 1992 the competition went "national" and in 1997, teams from Mensa Canada came. CultureQuest^Æ: The Next Generation began supporting youth teams in 1999.

While CultureQuest might be considered a trivia game or competition, its intent has always been to promote and test cultural literacy. It features topics from film to politics, from literature to geography and from music to history. Mensan teams of up to five members gather in their neighborhoods on a single day across the U.S. and Canada and, for 90 minutes, compete for cash prizes and cultural literacy bragging rights.

Contact your local group officers today to learn more about this wonderful team experience taking place on April 29th, 2012. And to sign up for a daily CultureQuest-ion via email head on over to www.us.mensa.org/culturequest/.

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THE JANUARY DINNER

A Land of Dragons and Mummies

As a snowstorm buffeted Connecticut, Southern CT Mensa kicked off the New Year with its annual New Members dinner. The bad weather kept the turnout light but those who made it enjoyed a vicarious visit to a warm and exotic clime, as author and world traveler Jerry Brooker presented a talk and slide-presentation about his trip last year to Western New Guinea, Indonesia.

Jerry has been a member of Southern CT Mensa for many years and has given several talks at our monthly dinners over the last two decades about his travels to countries all over the globe, among them Singapore, Japan, Egypt and Israel, Iran, North Korea, Haiti, and Bhutan and Nepal. A writer, he has authored books of poetry and novels as well as opinion pieces for local newspapers.

Jerry's most recent trip was one of his longest, 17 days, and one of his farthest. Indonesia is about 10,000 miles (16,000 km.) from the U.S., and its northern tip just touches the equator. "I went for two reasons," Jerry said, "to see the Komodo dragons and the Dani Indians." These attractions are off the mainland, however, and since Indonesia is a sprawling archipelago with about 18,000 islands, he had to take long trips by boat and plane to get to his destinations.

LOOKING AT LARGE LIZARDS

Jerry's first stops were the islands of Komodo and Rinca, two of the three islands that comprise the Komodo National Park. The komodo dragons, the most famous inhabitants of these islands, are the world's largest lizards, stretching more than nine feet long and weighing 300 lbs. They may look slow but as Jerry mentioned, you don't want to get into a race with one, as they can sprint. One of Jerry's slides captured a picture of a sleeping komodo dragon, but even slumbering, it looked ominous. The next slide closed in for a view of the creature's large claws, whose strength enables it to dig holes that it sleeps in at night. Jerry told us that komodo dragons hunt during the afternoon, but he was able to get pictures of the beasts and their burrow, because, he said, "They will not approach



you unless you disturb them with loud noise." This is fortunate because their mighty limbs and tail and their acute sense of smell make them dangerous predators. "They are not vegetarians," Jerry said, "They eat little monkeys and deer, and stalk buffalo. They also eat their young." The vulnerable young komodo know how to avoid danger, though; they spend most of their time in trees, climbing their way up using their strong claws.

VILLAGE LIFE

From the Komodo Islands, Jerry traveled on to Sulawesi, one of the four larger Sunda Islands of Indonesia and the eleventh largest island in the world. Sulawesi has four big peninsulas and a mountainous central region that makes boat travel the easiest way to get from one peninsula to another. Although the island has a population of over 14 million and several cities of more than 100,000 people, Jerry's aim was to see the villages on the island.

It took a long boat ride for Jerry to get to Sulawesi, but while sailing over, he snapped a beautiful photo of the sunset at sea. On the island itself, he also found picturesque scenes. A couple of his pictures captured the flora and fauna, including shots displaying the purple and red pageantry of flowers.

Jerry also found the culture and customs of Sulawesi intriguing. He told us, "Status means a great deal in Indonesia." As an example, he showed us pictures of traditional Indonesian homes, which have markers on the apex whose



size signifies the affluence of the resident. Although the wealthy display their affluence, Jerry said, they also seem to have a sense of noblesse oblige. He showed us a photo of a funeral he observed for a "big man" of the village. People from all over gathered to mourn the dead man, and the picture showed them bringing hundreds of pigs and buffalo along. The family of the deceased put on a big feast for the entire village, providing an honorable but festive communal wake.

Although Islam is the dominant religion of both Indonesia and the island of Sulawesi, and Christianity the leading minority religion, the people of the island hold on to some animistic practices. This was evident in Jerry's photos. He showed us a picture of a mosque but followed this with several slides of the Sulawesi burial sites that reflect much older practices. These photos depicted how the people bury their dead in cliffs, accompanied with colorful mannequins of the deceased. Jerry photographed striking pictures of the rows of these figures lined up above the graves, in what looked like a town meeting of the departed gazing over the land. An even stranger practice centers on a large tree our speaker showed us a shot of. When a baby is stillborn, Jerry said, the villagers place the dead body in this tree, believing that the baby grows with the tree.

The Sulawesi look back to their past but they prepare their children for the future. "As a retired teacher, I always like to visit schools in

the countries I tour," Jerry said, so it was natural that he asked his guide to show him around an Indonesian secondary school. In his photograph of one of the school's classrooms, the students looked sharp in their white uniforms, and Jerry said he found them to be "well spoken and very interested in the world." They welcomed him and asked him his views on the economic meltdown in the U.S. and Europe. Though distant from the West, Indonesia's next generation looks outward on the world, one they hope to play a larger role in.

THE DANI INDIAN TRIBE

The next leg of Jerry's trip took him even further from modern civilization, as he ventured on a seven-hour flight to Western New Guinea to visit the Dani Indians, a tribe only discovered by Westerners in the last century. The Dani village Jerry visited was small and remote. He estimated that it had only about 50 to 60 people living in it and that it was about a two-hour walk from the nearest town. Despite its isolation, though, it has become somewhat of a tourist attraction, and Jerry commented that there were perhaps a dozen Western tourists visiting the village while he was there.

The Dani tribe is led by a warrior chieftain and Jerry's guide introduced him to the chief. They exchanged presents and Jerry took a couple of pictures of the chief in his colorful headdress. The Dani chief was a proud fighter, Jerry told us, having been elected by the villagers because he killed six warriors in battle. He and his tribes-



men seemed eager to show their village to outsiders, as the chief showed Jerry their 600-year old mummy, offered him a cooked pig, and even had his men put on a mock-battle for him. Jerry said that he politely declined to eat the meal and participate in the combat, but he showed us a marvelous photo of the Dani in their staged conflict, complete with spears and fighting regalia. He said that one of the leaders told him they fight about every six months over women or land. In his stay, however, Jerry found the villagers friendly to a fault, curious about but not suspicious of foreigners. The chief asked him to tell his American friends back home to come and visit the tribe.

The Dani tribesmen love to hunt. Jerry commented that, while the Danis practice agriculture, growing sweet potatoes, it is the hunt for wild buffalo and pigs that they revel in. They relish preparing their capture for meals. As with their fellow West New Guineans, buffalo and pigs are staples of their diet and figure prominently in their symbolism.

"The Dani tribe is a male-dominated society," Jerry stated. The women seem to do most of the farming, he added, while the men, as they told him, preserve their strength for the hunt. The chief confessed to him that he had five wives. Jerry visited both the men and women of the village and took several photos. He also snapped some pictures of the huts the tribes people live in, relating that the men sleep in long huts in one end of the village and the women sleep alone in similar huts in another end of the village unless called on by their husbands.

It is not surprising that Dani society has not changed in many ways because Westerners did not discover the Dani Indians until the early decades of the twentieth century. Jerry did point out some ways in which village life has changed since the contact with civilization, however, mentioning that the Danis now often trade in

rupees, the Indian currency. He also remarked that everyone seemed to smoke in the village, a habit they picked up from Indonesian society, where cigarettes are the cheapest in the world, at only about \$1 a pack. The Danis do venture into the world outside their village. Jerry said that when he was in town, he saw some Dani tribesmen in the streets and marketplaces. They were easily recognizable because they maintained their tribal wear amidst the more Westernized townspeople.

Jerry said that his tour of Western New Guinea left him with many vivid impressions and they certainly made an impression on the audience - his photos from this land were probably the most exotic we've seen in all of his talks. Jerry's next trip, in July, will be to another remote site, the Gobi Desert in Mongolia. In the meantime, he continues to write. His most recent books are *Dew Drops in Tree Tops: a Book of Haiku* (2009) and the novel *Oh Israel, My Heart Yearns for Thee* (2010). You can check out what he's up to at www.gerardbrooker.com.

FEBRUARY DINNER: LATERAL THINKING: Are There Methods to Creativity?

*UPCOMING IN APRIL: Mensa member, radio broadcaster, and author Randye Kaye will talk about her recently published book, *Ben Behind His Voices: One Family's Journey from the Chaos of Schizophrenia to Hope*. Randye has talked about her book at RJ Julia and Barnes and Noble bookstores and on Fox News, garnering positive reviews. Visit www.randyekaye.com for info about the author and her book.*

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

Well, it is cold, wet and starting to sleet here in Upstate New York. There is no better time to dream of the warm Mediterranean sun, to sip some Italian wine and to make some nice warm comfort food for dinner. This month we have a white wine from Italy, the 2010 Piano Maltese Bianco from the Tenuta Rapitala winery of Sicily. It's a blend of two local grapes, Catarratto and Grillo, with a little bit of Chardonnay. The blend of these three grapes gives us several layers of aromas and tastes, capturing the best characteristics of each variety. It starts with a fruit and nut-like (almond?) bouquet. But there's a lot more: it's full of apple and melon with a good foundation of minerals and a hint of citrus as the wine lingers on the tongue. The little bit of Chardonnay blended reinforces a smooth creamy finish. This wine is wonderful as an aperitif and a good match for chicken and seafood. It pairs nicely with the recipe below and is available for between \$10 and \$12 a bottle.

"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.

CHICKEN AND GNOCCHI SOUP

(from the Allrecipes.com website; originally presented as the recipe of the day on November 9, 2011.)

Ingredients:

1 tbsp olive oil
 1 small onion, diced
 3 stalks celery, diced
 3 cloves garlic, minced
 2 carrots, shredded
 1 pound cooked, cubed chicken breast
 4 cups chicken broth
 1 (16 ounce) package mini potato gnocchi
 1 (6 ounce) bag baby spinach leaves
 1 tbsp cornstarch (optional)
 2 tbsp cold water (optional)
 2 cups half-and-half creamer
 salt and ground black pepper to taste

Directions: Heat olive oil in a large pot over medium heat. Cook onion, celery, garlic, and carrots in the hot oil until onion is translucent, about 5 minutes. Stir in cubed chicken and chicken broth; bring to a simmer. Stir gnocchi into the simmering soup and cook until they begin to float, 3 to 4 minutes. Stir in spinach; cook until wilted, about 3 additional minutes.

Whisk cornstarch into cold water until smooth. Stir cornstarch mixture and half-and-half into simmering soup. Cook until soup thickens slightly, about 5 minutes. Season to taste with salt and black pepper.

The recipe states that the ingredients in these amounts should serve six. But, I don't think that you will satisfy more than 3 or 4 hearty eaters. Fortunately, the Allrecipes.com website has a calculator for automatically adjusting the recipe for a larger group.

WORD CHECK

See if you can define these phobias.

- 1. anadiplosis -
- 2. antagonymn -
- 3. appositive -
- 4. gerund -
- 5. homonym -
- 6. participle -
- 7. predicate -
- 8. subjunctive -
- 9. transitive verb -
- 10. ultima -

ANSWERS:

- 1. anadiplosis - the picking up the last words of a clause at the beginning of the next, which may be either a new sentence or occasionally an appositive--e.g., "What I do know, I know well."
- 2. antagonymn - a word that can mean the opposite of itself.
- 3. appositive - a noun, noun phrase, or noun clause that follows a noun or pronoun and identifies or explains it, or supplements its meaning. Example: "His friend Jack ..."
- 4. gerund - a verb form used as a noun (e.g., walking, running).
- 5. homonym - a word that is pronounced the same as another word but has a different meaning.
- 6. participle - a verb form used as an adjective. Example: "Let sleeping dogs lie." (It is equivalent to "Let the dogs that are sleeping lie.")
- 7. predicate - the action segment of a sentence; the verb and the words used to further describe or clarify what is said of the subject.
- 8. subjunctive - a verb mood that expresses a desire, wish, hope, possibility, doubt, or opinion. Example of future subjunctive: "If I were to own"
- 9. transitive verb - a verb taking a direct object.
- 10. ultima - the last syllable of a word.

PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. What is the most beneficial dietary supplement?
2. Name the Ivy League colleges.
3. Compare the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.
4. Which TV game show host emceed the most different game show programs?
5. What are some of the most common symbols in literature?
6. What percentage of Americans admit to having fallen asleep while driving?
7. Name some situations where cause and effect are unclear.
8. What is the average score of a National Hockey League game?

PUZZLES & QUESTIONS ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

2. Give the 10 largest cities in Germany and their population.

A: According to 2010 statistics, Berlin is the largest city in Germany with 3,471,000 people. It is followed by 2) Hamburg, 1,786,000; 3) Munich, 1,353,000; 4) Cologne, 1,007,000; 5) Frankfurt, 689,000; 6) Stuttgart, 606,000; 7) Dusseldorf, 599,000; 8) Dortmund, 580,000; 9) Essen, 575,000; and 10) Bremen, 547,000.

The city of Dresden is 11th with 523,000 people, followed by 12) Leipzig, 522,800; 13) Hanover, 522,686; 14) Nuremberg, 505,000; 15) Duisburg, 490,000; 16) Bochum, 375,000; 17) Wuppertal, 350,000; 18) Bonn, 325,000; 19) Bielefeld, 323,000; and 20) Mannheim, 313,000.

4. When did these organizations begin: Lloyd's of London; The Associated Press; Reuters; The Red Cross; the Better Business Bureau; the Fresh Air Fund; Standard and Poor; the FBI; the American Cancer Society; Save the Children?

A: Lloyd's, 1774; Associated Press, 1846; Reuters, 1851; The Red Cross, 1863; Better Business Bureau, 1912; Fresh Air Fund, 1877; Standard and Poor's, 1860; FBI, 1908; American Cancer Society, 1913; Save the Children, 1919.

6. Which nations have a AAA credit rating? Which companies have a AAA credit rating?

A: Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Finland, The Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, still have AAA credit ratings from S&P, Moody's, and Fitch. The small nations of Guernsey, Isle of Man, Liechtenstein, and Luxembourg also still have AAA credit ratings. There are four U.S. companies that have AAA credit ratings: Automatic Data Processing (ADP), Exxon Mobil, Johnson & Johnson, and Microsoft.

8. What was Shakespeare's shortest play by word count?

A: Shakespeare's shortest play was The Comedy of Errors, which was 14,369 words long (1,787 lines).

Shakespeare's longest play was Hamlet. It had 29,551 words and was 4.042 lines long.

10. What is the largest gulf in the world?

A: The Gulf of Mexico is the world's largest gulf - 580,000 sq. mi. Its deepest point is 14,383 feet (4,384 m.) below sea level. It is about 1,500 miles wide and has a shoreline of 3100 miles.

12. What is the deepest river in the world (by average depth)?

A: The Congo River (also known as the Zaire River) is the deepest river in the world, about 755 ft. (230 m.).

NOTED & QUOTED

Now he belongs to the ages.

- Edwin M. Stanton, (1814 - 1869), U.S. lawyer, cabinet office, at Lincoln's death, 4/15/1865

Not all who wander are lost.

- J.R. (John Ronald Reuel) Tolkien, (1892 - 1973)

The quickest way to unlock your talent is to take the flute out of the box.

- James Galway, (1939 -), Irish flute player, *Centrepiece*, 2003

When you tear the wings off a butterfly, it is no longer a butterfly.

- Claude Debussy, (1862 - 1918), commenting on those who overanalyze his music

Philosophy is the highest music.

- Plato, (428 - 347 B.C.E.), *Phaedo*

Literature is the orchestration of platitudes.

- Thornton Wilder, (1897 - 1975), U.S. playwright and novelist

If you wouldn't write it and sign it, don't say it.

- Earl Wilson, (1907 - 1987), U.S. syndicated columnist

Time goes, you say? Alas, Time stays, we go.

- Austin Dobson, (1840 - 1921), English poet and essayist, *The Paradox of Time* (1886)

But at my back I always hear Time's winged chariot hurrying near.

- Andrew Marvell, (1621 - 1678), English metaphysical poet, member of Parliament

I count only the hours that are bright.

- Sundial inscription

Suffering passes, but the fact of having suffered never leaves us.

- Leon Bloy, (1846 - 1917), French novelist, essayist, pamphleteer, poet

The reward of suffering is experience.

- Aeschylus, (525 - 456 B.C.E.), Greek dramatist

One cannot always be a hero, but one can always be a man.

- Goethe, (1749 - 1832)

Anyone who has no character is not a man; it's a thing.

- Nicolas Chamfort, (1741 - 1794), French playwright, poet, essayist, and literary critic, *Maxims and Thoughts*

The Americans are our best friends - whether we like it or not.

- Robert Thompson, (1914 - 1997), Canadian politician, chiropractor, and educator

CHAPTER NEWS

Take a look at this monstrous fish. It's a world record size - 109 cm., or slightly over 42 inches - red-tail catfish caught by Southern CT Mensan Michael Ma on June 2, 2011. Mike caught it while fishing in the Ratchaburi Province in central Thailand The International Game Fishing Association (IGFA) verified Ma's record-breaking catch in September.



Mike's photos have appeared in the national Mensa Bulletin sent to members each month and these pics will probably appear in a forthcoming issue. He has been a member of our local Mensa chapter for nearly two years and he often attends the Post Road Dinner and the monthly dinner in Bethel. Stop by one of our dinners and you might get a chance to hear about Mike's world record and his global travels.



You can read an article about Mike's achievement by the Darien Times at <http://www.darientimes.com/news/darien-features/5001587-world-record-fish.html>.

I always suspect an artist who is successful before he is death.

- John Murray Gibbon, (1875 - 1952), Scottish Canadian writer and cultural promoter

Temperament is temper that is too old to spank.

- Charlotte Greenwood, (1890 - 1977), U.S. actress, dancer, comedienne (AP, Internet, 2/18/99)

Endurance is patience concentrated.

- Thomas Carlyle, (1795 - 1881, British historian and essayist

Childhood is a short season.

- Helen Hayes, (1900 - 1993), U.S. movie and stage actress

A story is not finished until it has taken the worst turn.

- Friedrich Dürrenmatt, (1921 - 1990), Swiss author and dramatist, In Elyse Sommer, CurtainUp Reviews, Williamstown Theatre Festival (Summer 2007)

In literature, the first impression is the strongest.

- Eugène Delacroix, (1798 - 1863), French Romantic painter, Journal, Feb. 5, 1847

The critic must pitilessly destroy all useless works: that which is unnecessary is bad.

- René Daumal, (1908 - 1944), French surrealist philosopher, writer, and poet

There is no intelligent vanity.

- Louis-Ferdinand Celine, (1894 - 1961), French writer and physician, Voyage to the End of Night (1934)

One melancholy lesson of advancing years is the realization that you can't make old friends.

- Christopher Hitchens, (1949 - 2011), British-American author, journalist, Harper's magazine, 1999

The least that you can ask of a sculpture is that it not move. - Salvador Dali, (1904 - 1989)

When you dance with a bear, you can't quit just because you're tired. -- Russian Proverb

When you do not know what you are doing, do it neatly. - Anonymous

This road has been paved with the best mistakes I ever made. - Anonymous

I seem to have an awful lot of people inside me.

- Edith Evans, (1888 - 1976), British actress

There are thousands of books on the joy of gardening and cooking. Alas, there are only few on the joy of living.

- Robert Muller, (1923 - 2010), Belgian author, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations

One cloud is enough to eclipse the sun.

- Thomas Fuller, (1608 - 1661), English clergymen and historian

Wealth is the ability to fully experience life.

- David Thoreau, (1817 - 1862)

I really believe there are things nobody would see if I didn't photograph them.

- Diane Arbus, (1923 - 1971). U.S. photographer

He who has a thousand friends has not a friend to spare, And he who has one enemy shall meet him everywhere.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson, (1803 - 1882)

We cause our diseases. We are directly responsible for any illness that happens to us.

- Michael Crichton, (1942 - 2008), U.S. doctor, novelist, and movie director

Some of the papers presented at today's medical meeting tell us what we already know, but in a much more complicated manner.

- Alphonse Raymond Dochez, (1882 - 1964), U.S. physician and disease researcher

A good poet is someone who manages, in a lifetime of standing out in thunderstorms, to be struck by lightning five or six times.

- Randall Jarrell, (1914 - 1965), U.S. poet, novelist, essayist, critic

To be able to write a play ... a man must be sensitive, imaginative, naive, gullible, passionate; he must be something of an imbecile, something of a poet, something of a liar, something of a damn fool.

- Robert E. Sherwood, (1896 - 1955), U.S. playwright, editor, and screenwriter, The Worlds of Robert E Sherwood, 1965

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 4/1/11 \$10,162.66

INCOME

American Mensa

Local Group Support Funds: \$1882.59

Ad income 126.00

Total Income **\$2008.59**

EXPENSES

Chronicle Printing Expenses: \$578.76

Chronicle Postage & Supplies: 264.00

Speaker Dinners: 160.86

Event Expenses: 629.93

TOTAL EXPENSES: **\$1633.55**

3rd Quarter Balance 12-31-11 **\$10,537.70**

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