

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA CHRONICLE

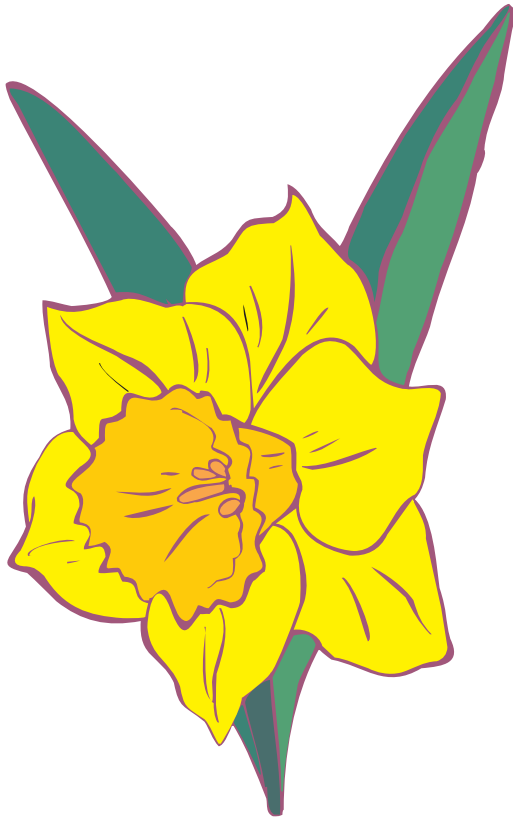


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If you or someone you know would like to be a speaker at our monthly dinner, please contact Jim Mizera at 203-522-1959 or Jmizera@hotmail.com. The dinner is held the third Saturday of the month.

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.



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SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS - MARCH

Friday, March 9, 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, March 13, 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, March 17, afternoon

Stamford Museum & Nature Center

Centuries Of Progress: American World's Fairs 1853 ñ 1982 exhibit. 39 Scofieldtown Road, Stamford, CT 06903. The museum is open from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. www.stamfordmuseum.org What do the telephone, the Ferris Wheel, a 28,000-pound typewriter, and nylon stockings have in common? They were just a few of the thousands of products, curiosities, and inventions that made their debut at one of 17 World's Fairs that took place on America soil between 1853 and 1982. Contact Jim Mizera at jmizera@hotmail.com or (203) 522-1959.

Saturday, March 24, 6:15 pm

Monthly Dinner

Come anytime after 6:15.

TOPIC: Mensan Ed Weinberg will speak on Search Engine Optimization - How do you get your website to the top of Google? You've put up a website but when buyers search for your line of business, your site shows up on PAGE 10??? Don't give up. Ed Weinberg's company ThinkBigSites.com has gotten competitive keyword phrases such as "motorcycle battery", "discount tools" and "candy" to the top of page one on Google searches. Come hear about the techniques and tools they use to get websites highly ranked, and learn something about pay per click and social media marketing.

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, March 27, 6:30 pm

Southern Corner Dinner

Kona Grill - 230 Tresser Blvd., Stamford, CT 06901. Contact Jim Mizera at jmizera@hotmail.com or (203) 522-1959 for reservations or info.

TBD

March 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.

UPCOMING:

APRIL 21 MONTHLY DINNER

Mensa member, radio broadcaster, and author Randy 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

MARCH

1, 8, 15, 22 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

2 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.

9 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 contact Lois Cappellano 413-567-4702

10 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.

15 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

17 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.

17 Saturday 7:00 pm

Book Discussion: "A Wrinkle in Time"

by Madeleine L'Engle. There are lots of copies in public libraries and there are also lots of copies of unabridged audio-recordings in public libraries. The book discussion will be preceded by a pot luck lunch starting at 12 noon. Contact Manny at manny@ratafias.com or (203) 387-7348.

For those who want to plan ahead, following "A Wrinkle in Time," we will read the play "Mrs. Warren's Profession" by George Bernard Shaw. and we will meet for our discussion and pot luck on Thursday, April 19, 5:30PM to 7:30PM at Genevieve's in Branford.

23 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

23 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.

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.

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).

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

Spring has sprung, and testing activity is ramping up again. One of the challenges we have heard from proctors across the country is securing testing spaces. Most of us have approached our local libraries, but they are feeling the economic pinch and may not be open when we would like to schedule our testing sessions.

Alternative ideas to look into:

Malls - A number of malls have community rooms, and the only staff required to run it is the person who unlocks the doors for you. Plus, you know they are definitely open on the weekends.

Colleges and Universities - Lots of rooms geared toward test taking with a target market that already values intelligence; it's perfect! Plus, what a great partner to build a relationship with when it comes time for special promotions and other opportunities we provide to prospects and the community.

Out-of-the-Box Locations - Although she did have an "in," Sandy Halby, proctor for Plains and Peaks Mensa, was able to host her testing session at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs! Other non-profits that want to forge relationships in the community (and have dedicated buildings) may be amenable to providing their facilities. The North Texas Chapter partnered with the Reading and Radio Resource in Dallas to test monthly at their offices.

Ask around in your group. Someone may know a potential test location host that you may have never considered. If you know of a great testing site, contact your Loc Sec or Testing Coordinator today. And volunteer to be a proctor. It only takes a small amount of training, and you can be the first smiling Mensa face for a new prospect.

(As seen in the April issue of Mensa Marketing Sparks)

Watch a Youtube video of a young Mensan.:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55BbRET4NiY>
 (To watch this video, you need the latest version of Flash.)

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THE FEBRUARY DINNER

Lateral Thinking and Creativity

There was no speaker at the February dinner. Instead we had an intense discussion on the topic of creativity and lateral thinking. Sixteen Mensans came to the dinner and examined a dozen or more questions on the subject, reflecting on it from many angles and hearing many views.

Lateral thinking is a term coined by Dr. Edward de Bono in 1967 in his British book *The Use of Lateral Thinking* (titled *New Think* in its U.S. version published by Basic Books). Lateral thinking, sometimes called divergent thinking, is often used as a synonym for creative thinking. De Bono in non-technical definitions described it as a) thinking by changing direction rather than by thinking more deeply in the same direction or b) changing the assumed concepts and boundaries in thinking about a problem. He contrasted it with standard "vertical thinking", which he characterized as analytical, careful and precise, and using defined methods to find logical solutions. Dr. de Bono has written dozens of books on creativity and problem solving and continues to run seminars teaching lateral thinking.

We used Dr. de Bono's contention that creativity can be taught as a starting point for discussion, but we did not limit ourselves to de Bono's ideas. We ranged far and wide, talking about the nature, sources, and characteristics of creativity, and considering examples from art, business, science, and technology.

WHAT IS CREATIVITY?

The first question we discussed was whether creativity can be defined. One person said it is difficult to define because it is abstract. Nonetheless, he and a few others brought in dictionary definitions that characterized it as the generation of a new or partly new idea or object that has value or is appropriate. But the definitions left many people dissatisfied. The questions were many. Value? Appropriate? Isn't that very subjective? How does an artist's work 'work'? There were no firm answers.

One person in our group thought that creativity was the wrong word for human ingenuity. After all, he reasoned, we create nothing *ex nihilo*, we just combine things. Looking at the artistic side, another Mensan agreed, saying, "There are only eight or ten different plots and about ten different basic jokes." This was difficult to argue with, but taking poetic license, we continued to use the term creativity in our discussion.

What about the related term 'imagination'? Creativity and imagination are often used synonymously but they are actually two different things. To imagine is to form mental images or ideas, while to create is to give life to them. But someone questioned this distinction. He asked. "Do we always give imagination physical form? Don't creative writers simply imagine?" Several voices responded that writers imagine and then, by putting their ideas on paper or screen, create. The hand is an extension of the mind, they implied. The writer, like other craftsmen, thinks with his hands.

Is creativity, be it abstract or applied, learned or is it genetic? Is creativity a skill or a trait? Surprisingly, almost everyone was skeptical that creativity could be taught. Somebody said that he had read the popular book on creativity *A Whack on the Side of the Head* and liked it, but



he wasn't sure if he had helped him over the long run of his career. Still, he was a little bit troubled by the idea of innate creativity. "If creativity is a general trait," he puzzled, "why can't a writer like Steven King become an inventor? Creativity seems to be localized, not generalized." Then, as if to counter himself, he replied, "But there have been Renaissance men, people of diverse talents who succeeded creatively in several fields." He had two good points, which brought a quick reply from a former teacher in our group: "You need the knowledge before you can create; you must be grounded in the principles of a field. You can succeed in diverse areas if you have diverse knowledge. The liberal arts provide the best background." Several people murmured in agreement. "You have to be able to think inside the box before you can think outside the box," someone added. Knowledge is power, they were saying, and imagination expands that power.

Knowledge can be tested, but none of the Mensans on hand at our dinner thought creativity could be measured or tested, certainly not the way knowledge or intelligence are. There are psychological tests that aim to measure creativity, but no one believed they actually do so. "How can you measure something so subjective?" one gentleman wondered. "Maybe the only test is the marketplace," another speculated. That idea triggered some quick objections, as several people argued that true creativity is often overlooked by the masses, the elite, or both and only recognized by posterity.

While local Mensans doubted that creativity could be taught or measured, one educator in our group said he was sure that creativity could be blunted or killed. He said that he had seen teachers undermine students' creativity by forcing rigid standards on them. While he felt that creativity was natural, he emphasized that it did not naturally blossom - it needs encouragement. Several others echoed this sentiment, and another educator lambasted the No Child Left Behind Act's heavy testing for discouraging creativity.

Mensans also acknowledged that creativity, like memory, can be mysteriously lost. Sometimes the loss is temporary, as with writer's block.

"Writer's block can last a lifetime," one Mensan quipped. "Some writers never get started." Many times, the creative juices dry up with age, although there are also senior citizens who reawaken their imaginations and reinvigorate their lives by taking up the parts.

Creativity - difficult to define, impossible to measure, dubious to teach, easy to discourage, and to boot, erratic - a troubling pattern was emerging. A newer member wondered aloud, "Is creativity overrated?" He went on, "Perhaps creativity is not as important as Americans think it is. Look at Japan. Americans consider it a rote-learning society. But the Japanese excel at many things. While they have their innovative entrepreneurs, what really makes them successful is having millions of people who can understand the inventions and build and support them. This is what produces quality." It was a point that no one disagreed with. Perhaps individual creativity is overemphasized, even glamorized, in America while group competence is neglected. It brought up the question of cultural differences in creativity, one we didn't pursue but which psychologists and sociologists have explored.

ARTISTS AND INVENTORS

The U.S., Japan, and all modern societies have creative artists and inventors. But does the creativity of their artists differ from that of their inventors? Is there a difference between creativity and inventiveness? From one corner came a reply, "Wasn't Steve Jobs an artist?" From another: "Inventors are different. Tom Edison failed 1000 times before inventing the lightbulb. He had to throw out so much." The quick retort: "Painters do too, we just don't see it. DaVinci painted over his mistakes."

The late Steve Jobs' name came up several times during the evening. Someone used him as a prime example of a modern innovator. But not everyone thinks his talents were creative. Best-selling writer on social psychology Malcolm Gladwell believes that Jobs was a master "tweaker", not an inventor. Another writer stated that Steve Jobs was not an innovator but a superior judge and critic. His engineers invented and he critiqued - imploring them to scrap that, add this, and reshape that. "No," a Mensan

engineer objected, "Jobs was an innovator. It was his vision that was innovative. He saw the big picture and he saw it early. He anticipated markets and changed again and again to meet them." This was a convincing argument: Job's vision was creative. Even if he never built a product, his foresight made and rebuilt a company and several industries.

Discussing Jobs' foresight prompted one person to propose a difference between artists and visionary inventors: the long-range dream. He said that successful founders of companies think several projects and stages ahead. They see a big picture, not just of new products but of new ventures and new markets.

GROUP CREATIVITY

Companies like creative teams and some practice 'brainstorming' - a word coined by Alex Osborn in his 1953 book *Applied Imagination*. In brainstorming, a group tries to solve a specific problem by gathering ideas thrown out by its members. Osborn argued that groups using brainstorming could generate better ideas than people working on their own provided that groups followed certain principles: 1) focus on quantity of ideas; 2) withhold judgment of the ideas; 3) invite unusual, even wild, ideas by removing assumptions, changing perspectives, and having novices participate; and 4) combine and improve ideas.

Does brainstorming work? Is group creativity superior? At first, no one in our discussion had a kind word for "creativity by committee." Nobody could recall any brilliant ideas produced by the task forces they had served on. "Egos get in the way," someone lamented. "Creativity is produced by individual minds," an innovator in our audience stated flatly. But, he added, there is a proven way you can get many minds working on and solving problems: "Look at the X-prizes." He had a strong point, as these million-dollar prizes, which have been offered for several tech feats such as building a space vehicle, have produced innovation and winners - always small teams of bright engineers. This led to another question: "What about large Internet groups that have produced excellent open-source code programs? Aren't these examples of electronic brainstorming that have produced sparks? If two

heads are better than one, why not 2,000 heads or two-million heads?" Yes, these groups have succeeded because they have flat hierarchies, someone responded. Another Mensan demurred, "True, but these projects all have capable administrators who referee and set standards and many people who do uncreative tasks like testing and maintenance." That really was no objection to group creativity, however. After all, who ever said creativity doesn't have to be refined? Refinement doesn't mean micro-management, however, someone emphasized, saying "the open source teams had standards that were basic principles, not detailed nitpicking." Others concurred that, yes, under the right conditions, groups with guidelines can produce creative solutions. The consensus had changed - we now agreed that group work did not necessarily mean groupthink.

AGONY AND CREATIVITY

Many people think that creativity arises out of the blue, like a bolt of lightning. Is creativity sudden illumination - flashes of insight - or is it hard spade work? "It's both," someone argued. "Illumination comes after incubation," he continued, "but it is a delayed effect. It comes suddenly, but only after ideas have been mulled over." Others, reflecting on personal or historic insights that came only after much mental digging, delving, and dredging, concurred on this point.

If hard work can spark creativity, how about stress? Can you be creative under pressure or does creativity require patient contemplation? Crunch time is creative time, one person speaking from experience said. "A deadline can spur creativity. It's the only thing that prodded me to finish homework sometimes." Some murmured in agreement but others wondered, "Creative procrastination?" Someone inquired pointedly, "Was the work you did creative work? How the work error-free?" A Mensan with an interest in literature suggested, "Maybe pressure can produce creativity in the short term but not prolific creativity." She cited examples of novelists whose habits may have burned out their creative flames. Psychological experiments seem to give some credence to both those who trust and those who distrust pressure as a muse - it's probably not a matter of pressure but how much

pressure. Experiments show that mild pressure, a combination of stress and relaxation, produces the most creative and effective solutions. Getting this right balance may be an art in itself.

Pressure seemed an obstacle for some and a stimulus for others. This led to a more general question: what are the main barriers to creativity - mental clutter, routine habits, disorganization, or something else entirely? "Disorganization doesn't hurt, it helps creativity," a somewhat contrarian voice averred. "Creativity comes from new perceptions, and when we're disorganized, we're more exposed to random influences that trigger new ideas." Creativity sometimes comes from serendipity, almost everyone agreed. But one person cited psychological research that suggests that creative artists need some clear physical and mental space and some structure to their life. In this view, chaos breeds confusion not creativity. Again, there was a difference of opinion and something for the audience to wonder about.

The discussion went on for more than an hour, with scarcely a minute's pause. Perhaps we should have taken a break or two along the way to gather our thoughts because the rapid-fire dialogue seemed to have drained energy from many. At least one Mensan admitted that he couldn't reach any conclusion from the discussion, sighing that he was suffering from "conclusion block." Other participants summed up their thoughts on the evening in different ways. A veteran Mensan returned to his original point that there really is no creativity - our innovations, however brilliant and inspiring, he said, are all derivative. Another person said that he was surprised by the diversity of opinions offered on creativity. Regardless, he concluded, we should celebrate creativity. "Only societies that do so can succeed," he offered. In closing,

one Mensan used a metaphor that captured the diverse views: "Creativity is a jigsaw puzzle," she said, 'with many different pieces, some missing, and some we don't know how to fit together.' It was a fitting image to summarize the discussion and to leave with.

UPCOMING DINNERS: March 24. Because we cannot use the restaurant on St. Patrick's Day and no one would come anyways, we are holding our March dinner on the fourth Saturday instead of the customary third. Our speaker will be CT & Western Mass. Mensan Ed Weinberg, who will talk on.

In MARCH: Mensan Ed Weinberg will speak on Search Engine Optimization - How do you get your website to the top of Google? You've put up a website but when buyers search for your line of business, your site shows up on PAGE 10??? Don't give up. Ed Weinberg's company ThinkBigSites.com has gotten competitive keyword phrases such as "motorcycle battery", "discount tools" and "candy" to the top of page one on Google searches. Come hear about the techniques and tools they use to get websites highly ranked, and learn something about pay per click and social media marketing.

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*

Real men do eat quiche. This month's recipe entails bacon, eggs, cheese, onions and green peppers. What else could make a more manly snack during the intermission of your favorite basketball or hockey game. Also, if you want to break away briefly from the Molson's, we have a wine that should complement the dish very nicely.

The wine this month is the 2009 Morgon from Les Vins Georges Deboeuf and is produced in Beaujolais region of Burgundy, France. Morgon is one of ten villages that have the Beaujolais Cru designation and a well-deserved reputation for very good wines. This red wine has a fruit laden nose followed by a rich taste of cherry, plum and a hint of black pepper. There is an earthy quality to this wine, which ends with a very smooth finish. When you taste it, try leaving a little on your tongue while breathing in through your mouth for the full effect. This is a wonderful wine for between \$11 and \$14 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.

BACON AND GREEN CHILI QUICHE

(from June 1996 Bon Appetit magazine)

Ingredients:

1 refrigerated pie crust (room temperature)
 8 strips bacon
 a 4-ounce can of diced green chilies, drained
 4 green onions, chopped
 1 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese (about 4 ounces)
 1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
 1 1/4 cups half and half
 4 eggs
 1/2 tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 425°F. Unfold crust. Using wet fingertips, press together any tears. Press crust into 9-inch deep dish pie plate. Press foil over crust to hold shape. Bake 5 minutes. Remove from oven; remove foil. Reduce temperature to 400°F.

Cook bacon in heavy skillet over a medium high heat until crisp and brown. Transfer to paper towel and drain. Crumble bacon. Sprinkle bacon, chilies and green onion over crust. Combine the cheeses and sprinkle over crust. Beat half and half, eggs and salt in a bowl to blend; and add this mixture into crust.

Bake quiche until knife inserted in center comes out clean, about 45 minutes. Let quiche stand 5 minutes. Cut the quiche into wedges and serve. Serves 6 as a main course or 12 as an appetizer.

WORD CHECK

See if you can define these grammatical and lexical words.

1. arable -

2. bemuse -

3. culvert -

4. cumber -

5. feral-

6. fugue -

7. monograph -

8. prescript -

8. prescript - a rule.

7. monograph - a treatise on a single subject.

6. fugue - a musical composition in which the theme is reintroduced by various parts.

5. feral- wild, untamed, savage.

4. cumber - to overload, hamper, impede.

3. culvert - a conduit under a road; a drain or channel crossing under a road or sidewalk.

2. bemuse - to bewilder or confuse.

1. arable - capable of producing crops; fit for farming, plowing, or tillage.

ANSWERS:



PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. Who are the most innovative companies in the world?
2. In how many states were U.S. Civil War battles fought (present day states of the Union)?
3. Is there a cure for baldness?
4. What percentage of Canadians speak French?
5. Name some writers who were misunderstood.
6. When did the Boeing 747 jumbo jet take its first flight? How many have been sold?
7. What things encourage procrastination?
8. What is the largest forest in the United States?
9. How should a professor spend a year on sabbatical?
10. How many times did Sandy Koufax pitch against Juan Marichal? Against Bob Gibson? How did Willie Mays do batting against Koufax? How did Hank Aaron do?
11. Should writers and directors read reviews?
12. What is the length of the earth's equator?
13. Who has the best penmanship?
14. What is the average annual temperature at the equator?

PUZZLES & QUESTIONS ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

2. Name the Ivy League colleges.
A: The Ivy League schools are: Brown University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Dartmouth College, Harvard University, Princeton University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Yale University.

Seven of the eight Ivy League colleges were founded before the American Revolution. Cornell, the newest Ivy, began in 1865. The first use of the term "ivy colleges" to refer to a group of colleges was by sportswriter Stanley Woodward (1895-1965) in the New York Tribune on Oct. 14, 1933. Woodward borrowed the description from his co-worker sportswriter Caswell Adams, who the previous day in conversation disparaged the Princeton and Columbia football teams as "only Ivy League." The first use of "Ivy League" in print was in the Christian Science Monitor on Feb. 7, 1935. Ivy League is the name of the athletic conference comprising the eight schools listed above. It officially formed in 1954.
4. Which TV game show host exceeded the most different game show programs?
A: Bill Cullen hosted the most game show programs during a career - 23. Wink Martindale is second with 15.
6. What percentage of Americans admit to having fallen asleep while driving?
A: In a national poll conducted by the National Sleep Foundation, 54% of adult drivers said they had driven while drowsy during the past year. 28% admitted they had fallen asleep while driving. The NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) estimates that drowsy driving causes 100,000 accidents and 1,550 deaths annually.
8. What is the average score of a National Hockey League game?
A: In 2010 - 2011, NHL games averaged 5.55 goals. Forwards (centers, right wings, and left wings) scored 85.5 percent of the goals, and defensemen 14.5 percent. There were 1.669 assists awarded for every goal. There were 30.41 shots per game. Shooters scored goals on 8.93 percent of their shots.

NOTED & QUOTED

Life is something that should not have happened.

- Arthur Schopenhauer, (1788 - 1860)

Should you ever be drowned or hung, be sure to make a note of your sensations.

- Edgar Allan Poe, (1809 - 1849)

Man develops, perfects, or depraves, but he creates nothing.

- Antoine Fabre D'Olivet, French author, poet, and composer, (1767 - 1825), *The Golden Verses of Pythagoras*

One shouldn't imitate what one wants to create.

- Georges Braque, (1882 - 1963), French Cubist painter and sculptor, *The Day and the Night* (1968)

America is a self-created society. - David Mamet, (1947 -), U.S. playwright, screenwriter, essayist

If we want people to behave in a certain manner, we must set the stage and give them a cue. This is true also when it is ourselves we want to induce.

- Eric Hoffer, (1902 - 1983), U.S. philosopher and longshoreman, *The Passionate State of Mind* (1955)

Much unhappiness has come into the world because of bewilderment and things left unsaid.

- Fyodor Dostoevsky, (1821 - 1881)

Dreams are like rainbows, always in sight, but not always within reach. - Anonymous

And, especially, let the wind carry my words!

- Charles Cros, (1842 - 1888), French inventor and poet, *The Sandalwood Box* (1873)

Even when the bird walks one senses that he has wings. - Antoine-Marie Lemaître, (1733 - 1793), French dramatist and poet

The world needs dreamers and the world needs doers. But above all, the world needs dreamers who do.

- Sarah Ban Breathnach, (1948 -), U.S. author

What's the use of a fine house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?

- Henry David Thoreau, (1817 - 1862)

A true gastronome should always be ready to eat, just as a soldier should always be ready to fight.

- Charles Monselet, (1825 - 1888), French journalist, novelist, poet and playwright

Thank God for tea. What would the world do without tea?

- Rev. Sydney Smith, (1771 - 1845), English writer and clergyman, *Lady Holland's A Memoir of the Reverend Sydney Smith*, (1855)

The powers of a man's mind are directly proportional to the quantity of coffee he drinks.

- Sir James MacKintosh, (1765-1862), Scottish jurist, journalist, professor, philosopher, politician, and historian

The wide world is all about you; you can fence yourselves in, but you cannot forever fence it out.

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

The whole world, as we experience it visually, comes to us through the mystic realm of color.

- Hans Hofmann, (1880 - 1966), German-American abstract expressionist painter

Old age is like learning a new profession. And not one of your own choosing. - Jacques Barzun, (1907 -), Franco-American critic, educator, and historian

The other arts persuade us, but music takes us by surprise. - Eduard Hanslick, (1825 - 1904), Bohemian-Austrian music critic

The novelist's job is to see and say clearly what people are.

- John Masters, (1914 - 1983), English Army officer, novelist

The theme of art is the theme of life itself.

- Lawrence Sanders, (1912 - 1990), British novelist and poet

Artists are no better than filing clerks.

- Robert Rauschenberg, (1925 - 2008), U.S. pop art painter and sculptor

The beginning is always today.

- Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, (1797 - 1851), English novelist

Spies are of no use nowadays. The newspapers do their work instead.

- Oscar Wilde, (1856 - 1900)

The essential question is not whether people can take risks but rather how certain people can discern when a particular risk is worth taking.

- William Damon, professor of Education, Stanford University

In the end the idealistic point of view is not the optimistic, but the hopeless point of view, because disillusionment always follows baseless hopes. - Rev. Samuel Shoemaker, (1893 - 1963), U.S. Anglican clergyman

Beauty always promises, but never gives anything. - Simone Weil, (1909-1943), French philosopher

It is not necessary for the public to know whether I am joking or whether I am serious, just as it is not necessary for me to know it myself. - Salvador Dali, (1904 - 1989), Diary of a Genius (1964)

Eccentricity is far more often a mark of weakness than a mark of strength. Weakness wishes, as a rule, to attract attention by trifling distinctions, and strength wishes to avoid it. - James Fitzjames Stephen, (1829 - 1894), English lawyer, judge, and writer, Liberty, Equality, Fraternity (1873)

Every generation has underestimated the potential for finding new recipes and ideas. We consistently fail to grasp how many ideas remain to be discovered. Possibilities do not add up; they multiply. - Paul Romer, (1955 -), U.S. economist, entrepreneur, activist



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>.

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)

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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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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[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 (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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["Bridgeport - Tales from the Park City"](#) by Eric Lehman, is available at www.historypress.net or www.amazon.com. Paperback.

[Holistic Kidney](#)

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

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