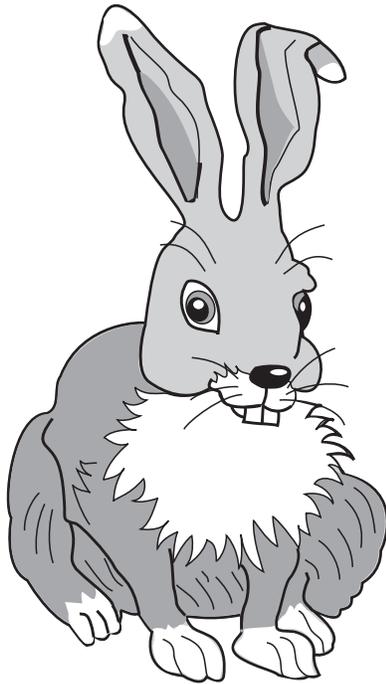


# **SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA CHRONICLE**

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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](mailto:Jmizera@hotmail.com). The dinner is held the third Saturday of the month.

## **ARCHIVED COPIES OF THE CHRONICLE**

going back to 2000 are available on the Internet at <http://scm66.org> (Note: this is a new URL). You can download the latest e-mail version of the Chronicle there, as well as previous issues. All issues are in read-only Adobe Acrobat format so there is no chance of viruses accompanying the files.



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## **SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS - APRIL**

Tuesday, April 10, 6:30 pm

### **POST ROAD Dinner**

King and I restaurant, 260 Post Rd., Fairfield, CT 06820. Contact Jim Mizera at jmizera@hotmail.com or (203) 522-1959 for reservations or info.

Friday, April 13 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.

Saturday, April 21, 6:15 pm

### **Monthly Dinner**

TOPIC: Randy Kaye will talk about her recently published book, Ben Behind His Voices: One Family's Journey from the Chaos of Schizophrenia to Hope. Randy has talked about her book at RJ Julia and Barnes and Noble bookstores and on Fox News, garnering positive reviews. Visit [www.randyekaye.com](http://www.randyekaye.com) for info about the author and her book.

WHERE: The PUTNAM HOUSE Restaurant, 12 Depot Place, Bethel, CT 06801 (downtown - across from old railroad station), ([www.theputnamhouse.com](http://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](mailto:jmizera@hotmail.com) or (203) 522-1959 for reservations or info. Reservations strongly encouraged but not required.

Thursday, April 26, 6:30 pm

### **Southern Corner Dinner**

Telluride, 245 Bedford St., Stamford, CT. Seafood, Southwestern food. Contact Jim Mizera at [jmizera@hotmail.com](mailto:jmizera@hotmail.com) or (203) 522-1959 for reservations or info.

## **CONNECTICUT AND WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS**

This is not a complete listing WE - Weekly Event, ME - Monthly Event, YE - Yearly Event

### **APRIL**

5, 12, 19, 26 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

6 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](mailto:ann.polanski@comcast.net)) at The Old Dublin, 171 Quinipiac Street, Wallingford, CT 06492, 203-949-8022, [www.theolddublin.com](http://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.

11 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](http://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](mailto:MahoutMike@aol.com)

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13 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](mailto:howiebren@aol.com) Subject: Diner Dinnercontact Lois Cappellano 413-567-4702

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14 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](mailto: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 pro-

vide an email address. You can also save time at the site by paying for your testing session online at [www.us.mensa.org/testingvoucher](http://www.us.mensa.org/testingvoucher).

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19 Saturday 7:00 pm

**Book Discussion: Mrs. Warren's Profession**

by George Bernard Shaw. We will meet for our discussion and pot luck at the home of Genevieve Goff at [gengoff@gmail.com](mailto:gengoff@gmail.com).

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21 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](mailto:Testing@CWM.US.Mensa.org) for more details, including directions.

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22 Sunday 1:35 pm

**Mensa Goes to a Ball Game**

Meet in New Britain Stadium, section 213, about four rows from the top, to watch the New Britain Rock Cats, Double-A Twins, host the New Hampshire Fisher Cats, a minor league team for the Toronto Blue Jays. For more information, contact Tom T at [Tom.thomas@the-spa.com](mailto:Tom.thomas@the-spa.com). or go to <http://www.rockcats.com>.

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27 Friday 5:00 pm

**Fourth Friday Happy Hour**

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](mailto:gail_trowbridge@yahoo.com)

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27 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](mailto:howiebren@aol.com) Subject: Diner Dinner

***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.

***REGIONAL GATHERINGS***

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

***Mensa Mind Games 2012***

This event is now waiting-list only.

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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](mailto:mensatesting@gis.net)).

***THE MARCH DINNER******How to Get Your Website to the Top of Google***

Do you have a website that you want to get noticed? Well, good luck. Even if you have an attractive site, there are over 200 million other websites in the world vying for attention. How can you possibly get people to notice yours? You will definitely have to get listed by web search engines: about 85% of all new visitors to a website come through a search engine - Google, Yahoo, or Microsoft's Bing being the major ones. But web searches usually produce thousands of choices and 70% of all searchers on the web just go the site listed first. Rarely will people even look at page two. Are you out of luck? No, not if you know how to catch the eye of Google and the other search engines. How do you do it? This is where people like Ed Weinberg come in. Ed is National Sales director of ThinkBIGsites, a company that helps organizations optimize their websites. He spoke at our March dinner on "Search Engine Optimization - How Do You Get Your Website to the Top of Google?" and gave us a great outline of how we can do just that.

Ed, a member of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts Mensa and a certified electrical engineer, knows what he is talking about. His company bases its work on five years of research on web searches and has helped both mom-and-pop businesses and larger firms and charities get to the top of Google search lists. "We get 90% of clients to the top of Google within 90 days for the search terms they want," Ed said.

As Ed put it, "The Golden ring is to be number one on a Google search list." But, he cautioned, that's not enough. "You don't just want to get visitors to your website, you want to get the right visitors - those who might be interested in your product or message. And you have to keep them coming - the web is always changing, your competitors are changing, and Google is changing." If you don't update your site and keep it interesting, people will go elsewhere.

"We have a three-pronged strategy," Ed explained. The first key, he said, is figuring out what kind of key words to use for your site. The second is putting in a good explanation of what your site is all about so that search engines will find it. The third vital point is getting many relevant high quality sites to link to yours.

To give us an idea how ThinkBIGsites' strategies have worked, Ed demonstrated a search for the word 'candy' and, not surprisingly, 687 million results came up. He told us, "A guy paid \$3 million for www.candy.com and he still wasn't getting noticed. Then he came to our company and now his site comes up number one." The successful strategy can be boiled down to keywords, contents, and links. Ed's company worked diligently to refine these strategic elements for the company and it paid off.

## KEYWORDS

How do you use keywords to improve your site in Google's search list? You may think that with keywords, the more the merrier, but that isn't so. "You don't want more than three or four keywords per page because it will just confuse Google," Ed cautioned. Search engine optimizers analyze which keyword phrases will bring the best rankings for each of the pages on your website and make sure they are used liberally but judiciously. If you try to stuff too many keywords into your pages, search engines will notice this and discount your site. Instead, ThinkBIGsites analyzes Google results to find the optimal frequency of keywords. If your site is a business, firms like Ed's can analyze search results to see what words are most likely to get people to place orders.

It's best to have your best keywords in your website's web address - its URL (www.\_\_\_). They should be in the title and the page descriptions. You should have keywords that apply to your whole site and ones that highlight your various pages.

Ed stressed that your keywords must be consistent with the content of the web page. Google's search engine tries to determine the purpose of your page and compare it to the phrase being searched for. If your keywords don't match the material on your web page, you are sending a

mixed message and Google will rank your page lower.

Ed talked about another factor in search rankings - the meta-elements of a web page. These items are invisible to web surfers but are read by search engines to help determine the purpose of a page. Meta-elements include the title, the heading tags, and the meta-description, things created and coded by the web designer. Again, Ed pointed out the need for consistency, saying, "Google wants to see title, meta-data, and content all aligned."

"What if someone searching on the web misspells keywords? Can you prepare for that?" one Mensan asked. "Sure, we can use fuzzy logic to make a website friendly even for searchers who are poor spellers," Ed wryly answered. It's all in a day's work for SEO's, as they analyze the fine points of web traffic. "We can look at visitors to your site by any by keyword variation, by geography, by time of day, and many other factors," Ed emphasized.

## CONTENT

A website is nothing without content. It should be mostly text, Ed advised, because Google can only read words; it ignores pictures and Flash animation in its searches. You should also have more than a few lines; otherwise, Google won't have much to go on. "Look at your web pages in text-only mode to see them as Google sees them," Ed urged. If you examine it this way and look for completeness and keywords, you can make it more Google-friendly.

Ed emphasized that it's also important to make your web pages' content original and fresh. You don't want to duplicate what is on another site and you don't to virtually copy pages on your own site. You should be adding new material to your site to keep the search engines scanning it. If Google notices your site hasn't changed lately, it won't update it in its index, and your ranking may well suffer.

All material, old or new, should always be pertinent to your site's main topics. Once again, Ed reminded us that Google is smart in looking at web pages. It and other search engines analyze the text on your page to see how relevant it is to

your subject; eye-catching but irrelevant text will count against you in the rankings, he warned. To maintain your site's relevance and popularity, you also have to make sure it keeps up with trends. Ed told us, "Know the questions your customers are asking and make sure you answer them on your site. This will make your site authoritative."

Another thing Ed stressed is that your website should be easy to navigate - this will make it more popular with both search engines and visitors. His good advice: "If your site is a commercial website, your visitors should be able to make a purchase within three clicks from the main page."

## LINKS

Make sure your links go somewhere, Ed stressed. Google will penalize your site in its rankings if links on your pages are broken - that is, if they refer to pages that no longer exist. But what's even more important are links to your site. The main thing you need, Ed explained, are "good inbound one-way links - links to your site from highly rated, authoritative websites in your field." Cross-linking won't help much; otherwise, websites could just trade endorsements with other sites. Google keeps up with tricks like this and no longer ranks two-way links very highly.

Ed noted that some sites are especially prized as linkers. If the State of Connecticut or the U.S. government links to you, it carries more authority, and it will get you a higher rank on Google.

While you want links to your site, Ed emphasized, "You don't want a lot of links on your site going out of your site. You want to keep visitors on your site." People coming and quickly leaving aren't good for either commercial or non-profit sites. Hence, websites should have internal links that direct visitors back to the main page or to other important pages on the site. Ed said his firm uses another technique: no-follow links on his clients' outgoing links. This prevents web-indexers from Google and other search engines from leaving his sites quickly, helping strengthening the search rankings for his customers. Google and other search engines calculate the ratio of links coming into a website versus the number leaving the site, and a higher ratio will

garner your site a higher rank.

Blogs are a big part of the World Wide Web and you can get free publicity for your site from them. If a lot of blogs are writing about your website every month, your site will almost certainly get a higher ranking from Google. Ed said that you can get on blogs related to your website by going to them and posting comments. But his company takes it a step further. They own or manage many key blogs and websites that they can link to your site, boosting your Google rank. They also place keywords on these sites that will steer people to your web pages.

Even using all the best methods, it takes time to increase the number of visitors to a website. "You can't do this overnight. It's a marathon, not a sprint," Ed said. As he told us at the start, his firm aims to get people to the top in 90 days. It takes that long for a website to establish its reputation. He explained that older websites have a little bit of an advantage in Google searches because Google factors in the date the site was founded and weighs that more heavily in its rankings. But even established, well-regarded sites still do not find it easy to stay in the top rankings. Fifteen minutes at the top won't do you much good. As Ed reminded, "You have to get it to page 1 and you have to keep it there." That requires a well-rounded strategy of updating keywords, content, and links.

## PAY PER CLICK

There's another way web surfers come to web sites and that's by clicking on paid ads on the web. Advertisers pay the owner of the website where their ads are placed when someone clicks on the sponsored ad, sending them to the advertiser's site. This is called pay per click (PPC). ThinkBIGsites.com, along with most other search engine optimizers, helps customers who want to use this sales device. Ed explained the workings of this end of the business a little, pointing out that ads, while only one-fifth as likely to be clicked as regular "organic" links, must apply the same attention to keywords that web pages in general do. Advertisers who want to place ads on search engines like Google have to bid on keyword phrases relevant to their market. Their ads display only when searches look for those phrases. Advertisers who want their ads on regular (non-search engine) websites

must pay a fixed price for each click on their ad. Their ads, however, will only show up on a site when it is displaying content related to the ad. So knowledge of keywords is important in designing ads, no less than in designing websites.

#### TOOLS YOU CAN USE

Ed recommended several tools to use to analyze and improve your website's performance in web searches. One free tool he mentioned was [www.seobook.com](http://www.seobook.com), which is a toolbar add-on for the Firefox web surfer. It will show you the page rank for sites and the page ranks for pages within the site.

Ed also suggested the search optimization software at [www.semrrush.com](http://www.semrrush.com) to help you analyze web traffic. It shows how key words ranked in searches and how your site and your competitors' sites do in Google search rankings and with ad words. The free version shows you the top 10 results for up to 10 phrases a day. Ed demonstrated for us the paid version, which is used by most professionals, and it showed much more - the first 408 key words for a web page and the site's rank on each of them.

Probably the most popular free search analysis and optimization tool is Google's own Google Analytics. It can track visitors to a website from search engines, display advertising, pay-per-click networks, and other sources, and give detailed statistical breakdowns in many categories.

If you want to look at archives of websites, Ed advised using the Wayback machine, a website dedicated to searching archives. He showed us it in action, and while it cannot retrieve everything, it can yield useful information about the history of many websites.

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Ed's company also deals with social media and some of the questions zeroed in on this. "Do you get involved with Facebook?" a Mensan asked. Yes, Ed answered. Since people on Facebook can share pages with friends, it can build traffic for websites. "What about YouTube?" someone asked. "It's rare that someone asks us to do that," Ed replied, "because Google owns YouTube now." Google's search engine does not search videos but on the Google menu, YouTube is only a click away.

Ed answered several other questions from the audience and gave us a helpful handout "21 Free Tips to Improve Web Traffic", which is available at ThinkBIGsites website, <http://www.thinkbigsites.com>. You can also find a lot of other good advice there. You can check out Ed Weinberg's page by visiting <http://www.thinkbigsites.com/eweinberg.html>.

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*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](http://www.randyekaye.com). 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](http://www.randyekaye.com) for info about the author and her book.*

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

I will start to plant my lettuce in early spring, about six varieties in fact. It is time to think of the ways to turn all this produce into wonderful meals. Dinner salads are a staple in our house. We recently tried the recipe below and were very pleased with it.

The wine this month is the 2009 Claret from the Francis Coppola Diamond Collection and is produced in Geyserville, California. Yes, this is the same Francis Coppola of Hollywood fame. His "Claret" is a Bordeaux blend of primarily Cabernet Sauvignon and smaller percentages of Malbec, Petite Verdot, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. This deep red wine has the taste of lush red fruits, leaning toward dark cherry on the palate. It is aged in oak, but is not at all overpowered by that fact. The result is an elegant and smooth wine reminiscent of long evening dinners spent on the sidewalk cafes of Paris. This is a great value for between \$13 and \$17 a bottle.

*"I hope that you will contact me with your comments and favorite wines at [jgrover@berk.com](mailto: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.*

**RARE ROAST BEEF****WITH FRESH HERBS AND BASIL OIL**

(recipe adapted from version printed on [www.foodandwine.com](http://www.foodandwine.com); original recipe from Salad as a Meal by Patricia Wells, a true cooking diva; this cookbook is available at Amazon.com)

**Ingredients:**

1-1/2 pound, beef eye of round roast  
1 / 2-cup mix of finely chopped rosemary, mint and tarragon  
2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil  
salt and freshly ground pepper.

**For the basil oil:**

2 cups fresh basil leaves  
1 / 2 cup of extra virgin olive oil (prepared basil oil is also available in many stores).

Preheat the oven to 475°. Generously coat the roast with half of the chopped herb mixture and season with salt and pepper.

In a large ovenproof skillet, heat 2 tablespoon olive oil over moderately high heat. Add the roast and lightly brown it on all sides, about 3 minutes. Remove any excess fat from skillet, return the meat to it and roast in the oven until an instant-read thermometer inserted in the center registers 110°, about 25 minutes. Transfer the roast to a cutting board and season again with salt and pepper. Cover loosely with foil and let rest for 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, bring a large saucepan of salted water to a boil and fill a bowl with ice water. Blanch the basil in the saucepan for 15 seconds. Transfer the basil to the ice water; drain well and squeeze out all of the excess water. Transfer the basil to a blender. Add the 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil and a pinch of salt and blend thoroughly.

Thinly slice the roast and drizzle each portion with 1/2 to 1 tablespoon basil oil. Sprinkle with the remaining 1/4 cup chopped herbs and serve. We served this beef over plates of a spring mix of lettuce tossed with the basil oil and seasoned with salt and fresh ground pepper.

**PUZZLES & QUESTIONS**

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

1. How many -ologies are there?
2. Which country has the highest divorce rate?
3. Which artistic profession has the most drudgery?
4. How many nuclear weapons are there in the world?
5. What were Shakespeare's literary weaknesses?
6. When were the three Punic Wars fought?
7. Give some situations where people often go from the frying pan into the fire.
8. What is the distance from the southeastern tip of Florida to the northwestern tip of Oregon?
9. Give some words that have dozens of synonyms and some that have few synonyms.
10. Who was the longest reigning monarch in the last 2012 years?
11. Name some examples of technologies that combine excellent engineering with fine aesthetics.
12. How many major league baseball teams have domed stadiums? How many National Football League teams (NFL) have domed stadiums?
13. Compare Italian culture with French culture.
14. How long is the U.S. - Mexican border?

**PUZZLES & QUESTIONS ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:**

2. In how many states were U.S. Civil War battles fought (present day states of the Union)?

A: Civil War battles were fought in 20 states of the period, the District of Columbia, and several territories. 25 of today's states and D.C. were the place of Civil War battles. Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Oklahoma were territories at the time. West Virginia broke off from Virginia and joined the Union side in 1863.

The most battles were fought in Virginia - 123, followed by Tennessee (38), Georgia (31), Missouri (27), and Louisiana (23). There were 11 states in the Confederacy and 23 in the Union (25 counting West Virginia and Nevada, new states that joined during the war).

4. What percentage of Canadians speak French?

A: About 17% of Canadians speak French, almost all of them living in the eastern half of the country.

6. When did the Boeing 747 jumbo jet take its first flight? How many have been sold?

A: The Boeing 747's first commercial flight was on Jan. 22, 1970, on Pan Am's New York to London route. The 747 was the first wide-body aircraft ever produced, and was two and a half times larger than its predecessor, the Boeing 707.

Pan Am was the first airline to order a 747, ordering 25 planes in June, 1966. Boeing received orders from 26 airlines for the plane. It built a new assembly plant for the 747 because the company did not have a plant big enough to assemble the airliner. The new plant, adjacent to a military base in Everett, Washington, 30 miles north of Seattle, is the largest volume building ever built, and has been expanded several times.

The first 747 came out of the assembly plant on Sept. 30, 1968. The first test aircraft flight took place on Feb. 9, 1969, and after several months of modifications, the aircraft was

certified in December, 1969. Boeing expected to produce only about 400 747's because it thought supersonic aircraft would supersede it. (The 747 has a high speed of about 570 mph (920 km./hr). But by the end of 2011, the company had produced 1,427 of the craft, with almost another 100 on order.

The most passengers on a 747 was in 1991, when the plane carried 1,087 passengers on an airlift as part of Operation Solomon, a project to bring Ethiopian Jews to Israel. Boeing 747's have been hijacked 31 times.

Willie Mays's batting average against Sandy Koufax was .278 on 27 hits in 97 at bats with 5 home runs and 20 strikeouts. Mays batted only .196 vs. Gibson in 92 at bats, striking out 30 times, with 3 home runs and 9 runs batted in. Hank Aaron hit Koufax well, batting .372, with 42 hits in 113 at bats, including 7 home runs, 16 runs batted in, and a .664 slugging percentage.

8. What is the largest forest in the United States?

A: The Tongass National Forest in southeastern Alaska is the largest forest in the United States at 17 million acres (69,000 km).

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?

A: Koufax and Marichal only faced off three times, with Koufax winning the first two, and Marichal winning the last one, the 1965 game with the conflict between Marichal and Dodger catcher John Roseboro.

Koufax pitched against Bob Gibson five times between 1961 and 1966, his last year, winning four of the matchups. Gibson pitched against Marichal 7 times from 1960 - 1968, winning five of those decisions.

12. What is the length of the earth's equator?

A: The Equator is about 24,901 miles (40,075 km.) long. This is about 0.16% longer than a meridian (a great circle passing through the two poles).

14. What is the average annual temperature at the equator?

A: The average annual temperature at the Equator is about 86°F (30°C) during the day and 73°F (23°C) at night. There is little difference between summer, winter, autumn, or spring except in the equatorial mountains of South America and Africa. The equatorial regions get about from 2,500 to 3,500 mm of rain per year, with about 200 days of rainfall.

**WORD CHECK**

See if you can define these 'r' words.

- 1. raffish -
- 2. rampart -
- 3. rancid -
- 4. raucous -
- 5. ravine -
- 6. rawboned -
- 7. rhombus -
- 8. rialto -
- 9 rickets -
- 10. riparian -
- 11. riven -
- 12. rodomontade -
- 13. roister -
- 14. rubella -
- 15. russet -

- 1. raffish - 1. careless or unconventional in dress, manners; rakish. 2. tawdry; flashy; vulgar
- 2. rampart - 1. a broad elevation or mound of earth raised as a fortification around a place and usually capped with a stone or earth parapet. 2. anything serving as a bulwark or defense.
- 3. rancid - 1. having a rank, unpleasant, stale smell or taste, as from decomposing (especially of fats or oils.) 2. offensive or nasty; disagreeable.
- 4. raucous - 1. boisterous and disorderly. 2. (of voices, cries, etc) harshly or hoarsely loud.
- 5. ravine - a deep narrow, steep-sided valley, especially one formed by running water
- 6. rawboned - having a lean, gaunt frame with prominent bones.
- 7. rhombus - a parallelogram whose sides are equal and which has no right angle.
- 8. rialto - 1. an exchange or mart. 2. a theatrical district 3. a commercial center in Venice, Italy, consisting of an island and the surrounding district.
- 9 rickets - a disease mainly of children characterized by softness of developing bones, bow legs, malnutrition, and enlargement of the liver and spleen. Caused by a deficiency of vitamin D
- 10. riparian - 1. of or on the bank of a river 2. denoting or relating to the legal rights of the owner of land on a river bank, such as fishing or irrigation
- 11. riven - split, torn apart.
- 12. rodomontade - vainglorious boasting; pretentious, blustering talk.
- 13. roister - 1. to swagger or bully. 2. to revel noisily or without restraint.
- 14. rubella - a usually mild contagious viral disease characterized by fever, mild upper respiratory congestion, and a fine red rash lasting a few days.
- 15. russet - a reddish-brown color

ANSWERS:

## NOTED &amp; QUOTED

Blood cannot be washed out with blood.

- Afghan proverb

He who makes a beast out of himself gets rid of the pain of being a man.

- Theodor Seuss Geisel (*Dr. Seuss*), (1904 - 1991), U.S. children's writer, humorist, cartoonist

Be glad. Be good. Be brave. - Eleanor H. Porter, (1868 - 1920), U.S. novelist, short story writer

One of the advantages of being disorderly is that one is constantly making exciting discoveries.

- A. Milne, (1882 - 1956), English children's writer, author of *Winnie the Pooh*

If you're naturally kind you attract a lot of people you don't like.

- William Feather, (1889 - 1981), U.S. author, publisher

If imagination is not set to the task of building a creative life, it busies itself with weaving a web of inner fears and doubts, blame and excuse.

- Laurence G. Boldt, (1954 - ), U.S. career consultant, author on Zen

A great man's book is a compromise between himself and the reader.

- Eugène Delacroix, (1798 - 1863), French Romantic painter, letter to Balzac

A civilization can die. Civilization doesn't die.

- Lucien Febvre, (1878 - 1956), French historian

He who laughs last laughs best.

- Jean-Pierre Claris de Florian, (1755 - 1794), French poet, romance writer,

Dreams are simply the realities of life.

- Xavier Forneret, (1809 - 1884), French poet, playwright, and journalist

A dream is half of a reality. - Joseph Joubert, (1754 - 1824), French essayist and moralist, *Pensées* (1838)

A dream will always triumph over reality, once it is given the chance.

- Stanislaw Lec, (1909 - 1966), Polish writer, aphorist

The world is made of stars and men.

- ...mile Verhaeren, (1855 - 1916), Belgian poet

All of our passions reflect the stars.

- Victor Hugo, (1802 - 1885)

They teach us to live when life is past.

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

We tell ourselves stories in order to live.

- Joan Didion, (1934 - ), U.S. journalist, novelist, *The White Album* (1979)

The purpose of writing is both to keep up with life and to run ahead of it.

- William Saroyan, (1908 - 1981), U.S. novelist, playwright, *My Heart's in the Highlands* (1939)

The universe is sensitive to the merest touch and therefore it is possible to set wheels in motion that shall outrun the world.

- John Wanamaker, (1838 - 1922), U.S. merchant, banker, philanthropist

Resolve to be always beginning - to be a beginner!

- Rainer Maria Rilke, (1875 - 1926), German poet

Argument does not teach children or the immature. Only time and experience does that.

- Doris Lessing, (1919 - ), British novelist, science fiction writer

The food that you get in art museums is institutional revenge for the art that you get in restaurants. - Anonymous

If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague. - Anonymous

Morocco as it is is a very fine place spoiled by civilization. - Richard H Davis, (1864 - 1916), U.S. journalist, novelist, playwright

There are only three sports: bullfighting, motor racing, and mountaineering; all the rest are merely games.

- E. Hemingway, (1899 - 1961)

It is unworthy of excellent men to lose hours, like slaves, in the labors of calculation.

- Gottfried Wilhelm Leibnitz. (1646-1716), German mathematician and philosopher

A generous heart repairs a slanderous tongue.

- Homer, (8th - 7th century B.C.E.), *The Odyssey*, Book VII

Music is a moral law - it gives wings to the mind, a soul to the universe, flight to the imagination, a charm to sadness, a life to everything.  
- Plato, (428 - 347 B.C.E.)

In America everybody is of the opinion that he has no social superiors, since all men are equal, but he does not admit that he has no social inferiors.  
- Bertrand Russell, (1872 - 1970), *Unpopular Essays* (1950)

Very few things happen at the right time, and the rest do not happen at all. The conscientious historian will correct these defects.  
- Herodotus, (484 - 424 B.C.E. ), *Greek historian*

Jogging is solemn. Poker is serious. Once you grasp that distinction, you are on your way to enlightenment.  
- Russell Baker, (1925 - ), *U.S. columnist, author*

Journalism allows its readers to witness history. Fiction gives its readers an opportunity to live it.  
- John Hersey, (1914 - 1993), *U.S. journalist, novelist*

Tranquillity is found also in dungeons; but is that enough to make them desirable places to live in?  
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau, (1712 - 1778), *Franco-Swiss philosopher*

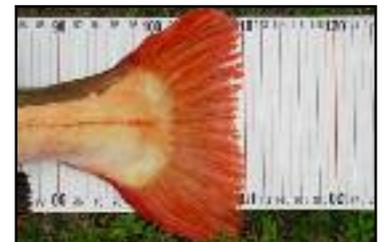
Our revolution has made me feel the full force of the axiom that history is fiction and I am convinced that chance and intrigue have produced more heroes than genius and virtue.  
- Maximilien Robespierre, (1758 - 1794), *French lawyer, politician , revolutionary*

## 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)

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## SOUTHERN CT MENSA TREASURY

**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	<u>126.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2008.59</b>

### EXPENSES

Chronicle Printing Expenses:	\$578.76
Chronicle Postage & Supplies:	264.00
Speaker Dinners:	160.86
Event Expenses:	<u>629.93</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$1633.55</b>

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

## ADVERTISEMENTS

**Advertising Rates** Short classified ads free to Mensa members and subscribers, \$2.00 per month and \$20.00 per year for others Send copy to the editor Display ads: Full page, \$50; half page, \$30; quarter page or business card, \$15 Discounts: 10% for three issues, 20% for six issues, 30% for 12 issues All ads must be paid in advance, checks payable to Southern Connecticut Mensa.

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### [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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