

# 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.

**SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS - DECEMBER**

Tuesday, December 11, 6:30 pm

**Post Road Dinner**

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

Friday, December 14, 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](mailto:wjm@danburylaw.com) or Rev. Bill Loring at 203-794-1389, [fr.bill@comcast.net](mailto:fr.bill@comcast.net) for info on location and/or reservations.

**CONNECTICUT AND WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

**DECEMBER**

6, 13, 20, 27 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

7 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 Quinnipiac 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 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

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(Wallingford center, just before the gazebo). The Old Dublin will be on your right within about two blocks.

12 Wednesday 5:30 pm

**Shoreline Happy Hour**

(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

The Southern CT Mensa Executive Committee has an opening for the position of Secretary. We also need Proctors, who administer admissions tests to local candidates for Mensa.

In addition, the newsletter publisher could use help folding, labeling, etc. (the arthritis is getting to be a problem).

This is your chance to put ideas that can help our local chapter into action. Please notify one of the current board members to volunteer for these positions.

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

20 Thursday 6:30 pm

**Pioneer Valley Dinner**

Beat the winter blues at Mama Iguana's, located at 274 Main Street in downtown Northampton. They are best known for their molé sauces, but their menu also includes such Mexican favorites as tamales, fajitas, burritos, and chimichangas! They are also home to the largest selection of tequilas & mescals in New England, and if that is not to your taste, then their fully-stocked bar is sure to come up with something else to please your palate. As always in Northampton, there is plenty of convenient, inexpensive parking available in the downtown municipal parking garage. Email Ian Fraser at ianfraser@usa.net, or call him at (413) 586-2031 this month to RSVP (very much appreciated but not required). This is a perfect opportunity to see what a Mensa get-together is like if you've never been to one. New members and guests

Hannah R. Beck, 66, of Ridgefield, wife of Christian A. Beck died on Saturday, November 3, 2012 at Danbury Hospital. Mrs. Beck was a longtime member of Southern Connecticut MENSA.

Contributions in her memory may be made to NORD (National Organization for Rare Disorders) 55 Kenosia Ave., Danbury, CT 06811."

are encouraged to attend this always friendly and interesting event. We hope to see you there!

21 Friday 5:30 pm

**Fourth Friday Happy Hour**

The Old Gate Tavern & Steakhouse, 290 Old Gate Lane, Milford. Come on down and join us this month, we'd love to see ya. Questions? Contact Gail Trowbridge 203-877-4472 or gail\_trowbridge@yahoo.com. Odd months we'll be at Olympia Diner, 3413 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT 06111, 860-666-9948, just north of the Berlin town line and North East Utilities.

**WORD CHECK**

See if you can define these m-n-o-words.

- 1. micawber -
- 2. mithridatism (MITH- ri- day- tiz- uhm)
- 3. modiste (moh- DEEST) -
- 4. moue (moo) -
- 5. nefarious -
- 6. nepenthe (ne- PEN- thee) -
- 7. nonesuch -
- 8. odonym -
- 9. oleaginous -
- 10. ordnance -

- 1. micawber - an eternal optimist.
- 2. mithridatism - the developing of immunity to a poison by taking gradually increasing doses of it.
- 3. modiste - a female maker or dealer in fashionable attire.
- 4. moue - a pouting grimace.
- 5. nefarious - extremely wicked or villainous.
- 6. nepenthe - anything that induces forgetfulness of pain or sorrow or trouble.
- 7. nonesuch - a person or thing that has no equal.
- 8. odonym - an identifying name given to a street.
- 9. oleaginous - 1. oily. 2. unctuous; fawning; smarmy.
- 10. ordnance - 1. heavy artillery; mounted firearms. 2. weapons of all kinds, ammunition.

ANSWERS:



## REGIONAL VICE CHAIR CHAT

*Andrew Heffernan*  
*Regional Vice-Chairman*  
*U.S. Mensa, Region 1*

In early November Boston Mensa had a wonderful Regional Gathering. I presented a talk on my homeland of Nova Scotia and also held a session where members could learn about Mensa and ask the Regional Vice-Chairman (RVC) questions about the National Organization. Special thanks to Rob Salkin, the Assistant RVC for preparing the latter presentation. I am looking forward to the next Regional Gathering in the area next February in New Hampshire. See you there!!

On October 30, the American Mensa Committee (AMC) held a teleconference to vote on a dues increase. This motion was postponed from the September meeting due to an expected increase in the International Component American Mensa must pay Mensa International. This component increased from 4% of dues collected to 6%. The AMC approved increasing the dues rate from \$63 to \$70. I was one of the five AMC members who voted against this increase. We anticipate spending our increased revenue on technology enhancements, marketing and branding, direct member benefits, supporting local groups, and restoring equity. This rate will go into effect on January 1.

As of 10/31/12,

- Membership is 52,346 -- that's only 69 below last October!
- We had 329 new members and 172 reinstating members this month -- both increases over last October.
- Year-to-date new membership is up 35%!!!!
- Retention is sitting at just under 86% (also slightly [.5%] ahead of last year.)
- October was Mensa Mind Challenge Month with promotional efforts focused on social media, local group partnerships, testing and web-based advertising.

- For October we had 434 take the Admissions Test (Up 11 % from last October.)
- 60% of the people testing were prospects from American Mensa's database, 40% were generated by local group, word of mouth or media efforts.
- The number of local groups formally participating was 83, with 177 different testing sites.
- We expect tests to continue to come in through the next few weeks increasing those numbers.
- We'd had media hits as a result of several local group generated stories including Memphis testing the morning show for a local radio station and interviews with the Washingtonian, a Boston Magazine, and at least 40 placements from our PR Web story.

Other things going on:

- We've hired a new Communications Manager, Charles Brown.
- Updated our strategic plan with input from the September meeting.
- Prepared plan for upcoming renewal season, including messaging, value, and timing.
- We see continued challenge in finding new technology staff to handle our diverse needs.
- The Bracket Challenge [Best Toys] voting this year is open to the public and we're getting a significant increase in voters each week.
- The Mensa Academy video game will soon be on store shelves! Up until now, it has been available for download in various platforms but we've signed off on final steps (I hope) for Wii and Nintendo DS. The iPad and iPhone versions will be out later this week. I'm excited about seeing the boxes on shelves for the holidays!

Andrew Heffernan  
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## THE NOVEMBER DINNER

### RAISING INTELLIGENCE

At Southern CT Mensa's November dinner, a few Mensans discussed the topic of raising intelligence. A lot has been written about the subject in the last few years, both pro and con, so it was a good time to consider the matter.

Before opening up the topic for discussion, we looked at more than a dozen slides reviewing concepts and questions in intelligence, intelligence testing, and intelligence training. We started out considering some definitions of intelligence and some of the history of testing, and then examined the strong correlations between IQs in relatives, the trends in IQ scores, and the various ways investigators have tried to raise intelligence and some of their successes and problems.

#### THE RISING CURVE

A prime reason some psychologists believe that we can raise intelligence is that even without any specific effort to raise IQ scores, they have been rising for a century. This trend is called the Flynn Effect, after New Zealand political scientist James Flynn, who has made it better known through his writings. The Flynn Effect is surprising to most people because the scoring of IQ tests have obscured the pattern - the tests are periodically re-normed to keep the average score at 100. Absent this recentering, we would have seen a 3-point per decade rise in IQ scores - roughly 15 points in 50 years. The rise has been consistent and widespread, having been documented in over 30 countries.

One curious aspect of the Flynn Effect is that the rise in IQ scores has been concentrated in the visual and abstract reasoning parts of IQ tests. There have been only slight increases in the general knowledge, verbal, and arithmetic portions of the tests, which is odd given that more people have been attending school for longer periods throughout the past century. Because of the nature of the rise, some psychologists doubt that general intelligence has really increased much, while others think that the increase is significant and explain it by citing better nutrition, technology, smaller families, more analytical thinking, or just increased familiarity with intelligence tests.

James Flynn believes IQ's have risen because modern life has made us more used to the type of analytical thinking demanded by IQ tests. How might we take an active hand in this and enable people struggling with the intellectual demands of modern life to raise their intelligence?

Researchers in various fields have proposed at least four general ways - through better nutrition, through physical exercise, through computerized cognitive training emphasizing improving working memory, and through cognitive therapy concentrating on getting students to reflect on their reading and reasoning.

#### INTELLIGENCE, DIET, AND EXERCISE

Even the strongest defender of heredity's role in intelligence would not deny that the lack of essential minerals can limit intelligence. Insufficient iodine, for instance, stunts both physical and mental growth, increases the chances of retardation. Even moderate deficiencies may depress IQ by 10 - 15 points. Groups like the Micronutrient Initiative and the Gates Foundation have helped to improve this situation over the past twenty years, lifting the percentage of the world's population getting the minimum daily requirement of iodine (roughly half a teaspoon) from one-third to two-thirds. The effect of other nutritional factors is smaller and less certain. Many investigators think that breastfeeding boosts IQ by 3 - 8 points and that a junk food diet may decrease IQ by 2 - 3 points, but others don't think the evidence is clear.

Some researchers believe that physical exercise can boost or maintain intelligence by triggering the creation of new neurons or by preventing neurons from dying off. They have investigated the effects of exercise on the young and old and estimate that exercise can make a difference of at least 2 or 3 points on IQ.

#### COGNITIVE TRAINING: COMPUTERS AND GAMES

Cognitive psychologists have been investigating the ability of games and computer exercises to build students' working memory, an essential part of fluid intelligence, which is the ability to solve novel problems. Without working memory, we

simply cannot solve complex multiple-step problems. But working memory is not just retaining information but manipulating it - adding to it, subtracting from it, reversing, separating it, and sorting it. It is active just as intelligence is.

The goal of the intelligence trainers is to improve students' minds in ways that will carry over to activities beyond the task tested. They use exercises like the N-back game, an exercises that challenges players to remember the location, sound, or color of something that was 1, 2, 3, or N screens back, and Quirkle, a game where one aligns tiles on grid to match shapes and colors. Most of the games used train children on working memory tasks that grow progressively more difficult. Several of the psychologists running the experiments make the case in published papers that they have raised children's performance on IQ tests such as the Ravens Matrices. Some experimenters have sometimes gotten similar results but others have not, so the debate and experimentation goes on.

#### COGNITIVE THERAPY: COMPREHENSION AND PROBLEM SOLVING

Other psychologists have taken a more academic approach. They try to raise students' intelligence by getting them to reflect on their thinking and analyze problems more patiently and thoroughly. Psychologists like Dr. Arthur Whimbey believe that thinking is a skill just as tennis and golf are and that people can be trained in this skill. But he emphasizes that thinking, unlike golf and tennis, is not visible, so thinking habits and mistakes are not as easy to detect as mistakes in physical activities. In his work with poor learners, he finds that they have many bad thinking habits. Usually they don't seek complete understanding of what they read but instead speed through reading passages without noticing what they have missed. Similarly, in problem solving, they often overlook much of the information presented and simply guess at the answers and if they don't succeed on their first try, just give up. They take a passive approach and don't categorize, compare, or contrast alternatives. Dr. Whimbey tries to improve his subjects' reading comprehension and problem solving by getting them to reflect - to think about their thinking, to audit it to see

what information they have missed and to ask themselves what they don't understand. He uses verbal analogies and pictorial and numerical patterns like those on standardized tests and talks with students about the step-by-step, trial and error method of finding answers. This training has helped them to change their thinking habits and improve their grades and standardized test scores.

#### THE WORD GAP - A BIG OBSTACLE

Dr. Whimbey believes that many of the poor habits students from lower income homes exhibit come from problems in their environment. He argues that there is much evidence that children from lower income families cannot conceptualize as well because their homes are often more disorganized and they are not asked to inquire and analyze very much. Furthermore, they use a limited vocabulary in their daily lives and are not exposed to nearly as many new words as more affluent youngsters are. This problem was substantiated by research of the late Betty Hart and her colleague Todd Risley in the late 1980s. The two Kansas psychologists went into homes and studied the words heard by young children in different socioeconomic groups. They found striking differences between the groups in how parents talked to their kids. Their three-year study of children from ages 0 to 4 years old found that children in welfare families heard an average of 616 words per hour, while youngsters in working-class households heard 1,251 words an hour and those in professional families heard 2,153 words per hour. The cumulative difference before the children entered school would be millions of words. Not only that, the tone and quality of conversation between parents and children differed enormously between the different classes. Professional parents spoke in more varied sentences of greater complexity and used bigger words and a far more positive tone than the parents in the lower economic groups. Hart and Risley estimated that the pre-school children in professional families would have 560,000 more positive than negative verbal exchanges with their parents while those in the welfare homes would hear a net 100,000 negative comments. It's not surprising that teachers and cognitive psychologists working with low-income kids find them lacking in vocabulary, comprehension, and

motivation.

## DISCUSSING THE QUESTIONS

Everyone in our discussion appreciated the problems analysts face in trying to sort out the meaning of trends in IQ scores and studies of IQ correlations. A few commented on the difficulty in disentangling the effects of heredity and the environment, even in studies of identical twins. However, the assembled Mensans seemed to agree on one thing - intelligence can be depressed by bad parenting or a bad environment. Indeed, just about everyone thought it was easier to depress intelligence than to raise it. Some drew on personal experience in arguing this, while others leaned on the study showing the word gap that lower income groups face. Many psychologists concur with this view and argue that the effect of heredity is much weaker among the poor because the negative environment overwhelms genetic effects.

A few Mensans said that they doubted that intelligence was unitary or that it could be reduced to a single score. They thought that the big differences in the improvement rates for different sections of IQ tests over the years suggests that intelligence is multifaceted. Nonetheless, they felt that people should try to improve all facets of their intelligence, even if nature or early influences made it easier for them to succeed in certain areas.

As for helping children improve, one person said that it would probably be much easier for a

parent to stimulate their children in reading than in math if math was not a strong suit for the parent. But someone else mentioned that there are ample opportunities for parents to expose their kids to arithmetic in the supermarket and in managing household affairs.

The Mensans on hand were interested in the experiments being done to improve intelligence but thought that much more had to be done to demonstrate the effectiveness of the methods being used. Many researchers are continuing cognitive training experiments, so undoubtedly we will hear more about the topic in the coming years. In the meantime, everyone can devote some thought to the subject and look for ways to help the effort.

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*There will be no monthly dinner in Bethel during December, as we take a month off for the holidays. If you would like to run a Mensa event or invite Mensans to an event, contact one of the local officers.*

## LOOKING AT GAMES

### Recommended Two-Player Games

I pick up some good ideas for new games at Mensa Regional Gatherings (RGs). In fact, all of the games listed below I either played at the recent CT & Western Massachusetts RG a few weeks ago, or will be bringing to the Boston RG in early November (Fri. - Sun., NOVEMBER 2 - 4, 2012, Dedham, Mass. Check the Regional Gatherings Section in the Schedule of Mensa Events. Hope to see you there!)

I enjoy playing with a group, but sometimes it's nice to have a few reliable games for two on hand. Below I've selected three games that I recommend that are easy to learn, require minimal set up, involve strategic thinking, normally play in less than half an hour, and use well-made components.

TAYU is named after Tayu, a legendary Chinese hero who saved his country from flooding by creating a system of waterways. It's played on an 18 x 18 point gridded game board. Players take turns placing 1 x 3 tiles containing various water channel paths on the grid. The goal is to connect more channels from North to South than your opponent can connect from East to West. The balance between offense and defense is important, as you build channels while at the same time trying to divert the opponent's channels.

Lost Cities is yet another game designed by mathematician and prolific game designer Reiner Knizia. It's a card game played with the deck provided (loosely based on a standard deck of cards). The game is designed around expeditions - although in my mind that is just a framework for the underlying clever game mechanics.

Basically, each player builds expeditions in up to 5 of the available colors, using from 1 to 3 of the possible resource cards in the respective color. Points are then added to the expeditions in ascending order only. Each expedition has a fixed cost and you can only gain points if you accumulate more points than the cost of the expedition.

The element of luck comes into play with the cards players receive throughout the game and the order they come in. Players have to weigh strategies. Should they start an expedition with one resource card or wait for more, which multiplies the point value but carries a risk - if a player waits too long, they can run out of time to play the point. Which expeditions should they build and which should they discard and leave to their opponent - who may be able to exploit them. Should they play a larger point or wait for a smaller point first. The highest point total accumulated by the end of a predetermined number of rounds wins.

Zertz has been on the shelf for months. I finally pulled it down and I was surprised at how easy it was to learn. It's become a fast favorite and a regular in the rotation. It is played on a hex-shaped board. Players jump and capture pieces but the twist is that both players use the same pieces. In the meantime, the board shrinks as segments are removed throughout play. Players can win by having 3 playing pieces in each of the three colors, or 4, 5 or 6 of one particular color. This means that game strategy can change during play as conditions change and opportunities emerge. Zertz is a classic.

- Deb Jennings

## PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. Name some people who died in the 1950s.
2. What is the most common street name in the U.S? In Canada? In the United Kingdom?
3. How much money did you spend this year?
4. What are the top five oil-producing states in the U.S?
5. What types of advice do fortune cookies give?
6. When was the Roman Colosseum completed? The Leaning Tower of Pisa?
7. What are the 10 best financial ratios to use in judging a company?
8. What are the differences between crows, ravens, and blackbirds?
9. How well do people shop online?
10. What percentage of passes did NFL teams complete last seasons?

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

2. How many towns are there in California? How many of them have more than 100,000 people?

A: There are 482 towns and cities in California (Connecticut has 169) and 58 counties. As of the 2010 Census, 66 had 100,000 or more people. There were three other cities with more than 99,000 people, and 13 with more than 90,000. The smallest city by population in California is Vernon, which has only 112 people.

4. When was Roget's Thesaurus first published?

A: It was first published in 1852 by Peter Mark Roget (1779 - 1869), a British physician, natural theologian, and lexicographer. He started compiling the words for his thesaurus in 1805 as a hobby.

6. How long is a day on earth?

A: The average length of a solar day, the time of a single rotation of the Earth with respect to the sun, is 24 hours or 86,400 seconds. This is an average because the Earth does not orbit in a perfect circle around the sun and hence it goes slightly faster at some points in

its orbit. The earth's rotational period also slows down or speeds up slightly because of tides. A leap second is sometimes added or subtracted on June 30 or December 31 to keep the civil clock day aligned with the solar day.

A stellar day, the time it takes Earth to make one rotation with respect to a distant star, is about 23 hours and 56 minutes. There is one more stellar day than solar day in an Earth year.

8. What is the ratio of men to women in the world?

A: The ratio is about 1.01 man for every 1 woman.

10. What are the main differences between alligators and crocodiles?

A: Alligators and crocodiles have much in common but they differ in several ways. Most types of crocodiles have long, narrow, while alligators typically have wide, V-shaped snouts. Because of its wide snout, the alligators can crush bigger prey like turtles in its mouth, while crocodiles settle for fish.

Alligators also have an upper jaw that overlaps their lower jaw, hiding the lower teeth from view. By contrast, you can see a crocodiles' upper and lower teeth even when its mouth is shut because upper and lower jaw are the same width and the teeth meet evenly in an interlocking pattern.

Another difference is that crocodiles have salivary glands on their tongue that secrete excess salt from the crocodile, allowing them to tolerate salt water well enough to spend days or weeks in it. Alligators don't have glands that can secrete salt so they stick mostly to fresh water.

Both crocodiles and alligators have on their heads scales with black spots that serve as sensing organs. These organs enable the creatures to detect pressure changes in the water. However, crocodiles have these organs on all the scales of their body while alligators just have them on their heads. Another body difference is that alligators are grayish black in color, whereas crocodiles have a light tan color.

Crocodiles live in many more places than alligators, which live only in the southeastern United States and in some parts of China. Alligators in the wild are also much more likely to run away, while crocodiles will not and may even eat humans.

12. In the U.S., what is the most common blood type?

A: The most common blood type in the U.S. is type O+, which 37% of the population has. The next most common type is A+, with 34% of the population. B+ is 10% of the U.S. population, A- is 6%, O- is also 6%, AB+ is 4%, B- is 2%, and AB- is 1%.

14. What is the record for most fumbles in a National Football League (NFL) game by one team? By one player? By both teams?

A: The most fumbles in an NFL game by a single team is 10; a record shared by the Philadelphia-Pittsburgh Eagles in their game against the New York Giants, October 9, 1943; the Detroit Lions in a game against the Minnesota Vikings, November 12, 1967; the Kansas City Chiefs in a game against the Houston Oilers, October 12, 1969; and the San Francisco 49ers against the Detroit Lions, December 17, 1978.

Hall of Fame quarterback Len Dawson of the Kansas City Chiefs holds the record for the most fumbles in a game by a player, 7 in a game against the San Diego Chargers on November 15, 1964.

The most fumbles in a game for both teams is 14, a record shared by the following pairs of teams: Washington Redskins (8) vs. Pittsburgh Steelers (6), November 14, 1937; Chicago Bears (7) vs. Cleveland Browns (7), November 24, 1940; St. Louis Cardinals (8) vs. New York Giants (6), September 17, 1961; Kansas City Chiefs vs. Houston Oilers, October 12, 1969.

## NOTED &amp; QUOTED

The irresponsible life is not worth living.

- Thomas Szasz, (1920 - 2012), U.S. psychiatrist, writer

There is no shortage of good days. It is good lives that are hard to come by.

- Annie Dillard, (1945 - ), U.S. poet, novelist

Praise and criticism are both frauds. - Anonymous

I claim not to have controlled events, but confess plainly that events have controlled me.

- Abraham Lincoln, (1809 - 1865)

Genius is talent exercised with courage. - Ludwig Wittgenstein, (1889 - 1951), Austrian-British philosopher.

Wishes cost nothing unless you want them to come true. - Frank Tyger, (1929 - 2011), U.S. humorist, cartoonist, newspaper columnist

Trying to reason with an addict was like trying to blow out a light bulb.

- Anne Lamott, (1954 - ), U.S. novelist, writing teacher

Music can change the world.

- Ludwig van Beethoven, (1770 - 1828)

In order to understand a place's culture, you have to listen to the music that they make. Music can tell you everything about a place.

- Confucius, (551 - 479 B.C.E.)

Thank God men cannot as yet fly and lay waste the sky as well as the earth!

- Henry David Thoreau, (1817 - 1862)

'You are wise.' 'No, that is the great fallacy; the wisdom of old men. They do not grow wise. They grow careful.'

- Ernest Hemingway, (1899 - 1961), *A Farewell to Arms* (1929)

A real samurai does not think of victory or defeat. He plunges recklessly towards an irrational death.

- Japanese proverb

We sometimes congratulate ourselves at the moment of waking from a troubled dream; it may be so the moment after death.

- Nathaniel Hawthorne, (1804 - 1864), U.S. novelist

If what I say resonates with you, it is merely because we are both branches on the same tree.

- W. B. Yeats, (1865 - 1939), Irish poet and dramatist

Before I write down one word, I have to have the character in my mind through and through. I must penetrate into the last wrinkle of his soul.

- Henrik Ibsen, (1828 - 1906), Norwegian playwright

As regards plot I find real life no help at all. Real life seems to have no plots. And as I think a plot desirable and almost necessary, I have this extra grudge against life.

- Ivy Compton-Burnett, (1892 - 1969), English novelist

The cave you fear to enter holds the treasure you seek.

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

Immature man is like a frightened child, alone in a darkening room, not seeing the nearby light switch.

- Vernon Howard, (1918 - 1992), U.S. writer, spiritual teacher

We need not only a purpose in life to give meaning to our existence but also something to give meaning to our suffering. - Eric Hoffer, (1902 - 1983), U.S. philosopher and longshoreman

You look at where you're going and where you are and it never makes sense, but then you look back at where you've been and a pattern seems to emerge. - Robert Pirsig, (1928 - ), U.S. novelist, philosopher

Dead men tell no tales.

- John Dryden, (1631 - 1700), English poet and dramatist

The past is really almost as much a work of the imagination as the future.

- Jessamyn West, (1902 - 1984 ), U.S. novelist.

Although of course you end up becoming yourself. - David Foster Wallace, (1962 - 2008), U.S. novelist, short story writer, essayist,

A great deal of talent is lost in this world for want of a little courage. - Adam Smith, (1723 - 1790)

There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humor.

- Charles Dickens, (1812 - 1870)

My philological studies have satisfied me that a gifted person ought to learn English (barring spelling and pronouncing) in thirty hours, French in thirty days, and German in thirty years.

- Mark Twain, (1835 - 1910)

**MENSA MIND GAMES 2012 RESULTS**

The 2013 Mensa Mind Games will be held April 19-21 at the St. Louis Airport Marriott in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Award-Winning Games for 2012 are:

**Iota** - A card game in which players take turns to find common or differing characteristics on the cards. Build your score by putting together lines of cards that have the same number of common features.

**Snake Oil** - A creative and unusual game in which players sell two-word products to strange customers. Invent products and then convince the buyers to buy them.

**Mine Shift** - A two player game in which you compete to see who can make it out of the mine first. Shift walls, place gems, and out think the other miner.

**Coerceo** - A game of wit and strategy with just a few simple rules. You must capture your opponents' pieces, but be careful – the board shrinks as you play.

**Tetris Link** - A multi-player, and non-electronic version of Tetris! Drop Tetriminoes into the grid to linking up your colored shapes to score points and block opponents' moves. But don't leave gaps in the tower grid, because points will be deducted. The game ends when the tower is full.

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The Chronicle is THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA #066. The subscription rate for members is \$3.50 and is included as part of yearly dues. Others may subscribe at a rate of \$10.00 per year. (Monthly)

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**SOUTHERN CT MENSA TREASURY**

**Fiscal Year:**  
**April 1, 2012 - March 31, 2013**

**Opening balance at 4/1/12**      \$10,949.27

**INCOME**

American Mensa  
Local Group Support Funds:      \$1,328.86  
Total Income      **\$1,328.86**

**EXPENSES**

Chronicle Printing Expenses:      \$456.24  
Chronicle Postage & Supplies:      288.05  
Chronicle Postage & Supplies:      365.06  
TOTAL EXPENSES:      **\$1,109.35**

2nd Quarter Balance 9-30-12      **\$11,168.78**

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One Family's Journey from the Chaos of Schizophrenia to Hope by Randye Kaye The gripping story of one family's experience when its firstborn, a brilliant young man named Ben, is gradually struck down by schizophrenia – and the lessons that help the family participate lovingly in Ben's eventual steps to recovery. Rowman & Littlefield, Publishers. <http://books.randyekaye.com/writing.php> or [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

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