

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.

SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS - FEBRUARY

Friday, February 8, 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@com-cast.net for info on location and/or reservations.

Tuesday, February 12, 6:30 pm

Post Road Dinner

Panera Bread, 596 Westport Ave. (Post Road East), Norwalk, CT, 06851. Contact Jim Mizera at jimizera@hotmail.com or (203) 522-1959 for reservations or info.

Saturday, February 16, 6:15 pm

Monthly Dinner

TOPIC: "Outer and Inner Space: Early TV Science-Fiction and Fantasy". Rick D'Amico will talk about the classic British sci-fi and spy drama series The Prisoner and then ask the audience their thoughts on other 1950s and 1960s science fiction and imaginative series such as The Outer Limits, The Twilight Zone, Lost in Space, and Star Trek.

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.

Dress is casual. Before the presentation, we will enjoy dinner. There is parking in the rear of

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.

Admitted in CT, NY & OR

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the restaurant and in the nearby Old Railroad Station lot. Contact Jim Mizera at jimizera@hotmail.com or (203) 522-1959 for reservations or info. Reservations strongly encouraged but not required. You can bring a donation of money or food to benefit the Connecticut Food Bank. In case of storm, please call, text, or e-mail to inquire if the dinner is going on as scheduled.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, March 16, 6:15 pm

Monthly Dinner

TOPIC: "Copyright and Permissions: What Every Smart Person Should Know." Southern CT Mensan Elsa Peterson, author of a new book and e-book (publ. by Editorial Freelancers Association) on the topic, will be our speaker.

CONNECTICUT AND WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER EVENTS

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

FEBRUARY

7, 14, 21, 28 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

8 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.

13 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 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

21 Thursday 6:30 pm

Pioneer Valley Dinner, Northampton, MA

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

22 Friday 5:30 pm

Fourth Friday Happy Hour

Olympia Diner, 3413 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT 06111, 860-666-9948, just north of the Berlin town line and North East Utilities. 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. Even months we'll be at 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.

RVC CHAT

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

Hot news in Mensa!!

- Renew Renew Renew!! (I know because I just got my reminder in the mail... wish I had cash for a life membership)
- New Hampshire Regional Gathering (RG) in February! I will be there!
- 5 more days for Scholarship entries!
- She said yes in November! I am getting married to a lovely M.
- Elections are coming up.
- Join Region 1 Mensa on Facebook! We have lots of Fun!!

Andrew Heffernan
518-788-0019
rvc1@us.mensa.org

FROM THE LOCSEC

I like to take advantage of being inside during the cold weather by trying to address some items on my to-do list that I might not address during the summer. I read a few postings recently on Mensa's national website about 'cleaning out and letting go'. For me, that has entailed getting rid of many things that I really don't need. I've given away or donated at least a thousand books, as well as DVDs and kids' toys. I believe that stuff takes time, and not having it can mean more time is available.

On the topic of using time to try something new, I've just completed a law course and am in the midst of a metal sculpture course. Both have been great fun. I have spoken with a few people in our chapter who are going back to school for a degree or to learn something new - which I always find interesting.

February also really kicks off RG season in Region 1. The first, 'Party Like It's 2013' in New Hampshire, takes place Feb. 15-17th (nh.us.mensa.org/rg2013.shtm). It's a bit of a drive, but it's worth it. Last year we combined it with a ski trip and had a great time!

Next on the schedule this year is Snowball XXXIX, from March 1-3rd (cnj.us.mensa.org/snowball.html). It's the longest running Mensa Regional Gathering in the U.S., and this RG is attended by hundreds. If you've never tried one before, Snowball is a good place to start. It features speakers, 24-hour hospitality, and a large game room. As with other RGs, some attendees come just for Saturday's events.

Finally, during our next ExComm meeting we will finalize some plans and priorities for our chapter for 2013. Some of the items near the top of my list include setting up a local games group and using technology to better access what Mensa has to offer. Please feel free to contact me with any ideas you might have (locsec@rocketmail.com).

Cheers.
Deb Jennings

In the Groove - GENE PITNEY**BY PAUL BEZANKER (PBEZANKER@AOL.COM)**

(The following text is an excerpt from the book titled "Connecticut Rocks! The History of Connecticut Rock 'N' Roll©" by Paul Bezanker. Updated text has been added. Please contact Paul Bezanker via email at PBezanker@

aol.com for further information about his book, "Connecticut Rocks! The History of Connecticut Rock 'N' Roll©" and Paul's upcoming book, "Supplement to Connecticut Rocks!"© The entire text is copyright Paul Bezanker 1989, 1995, and 1998. No portion may be reprinted without the written permission of the copyright owner.)

INTRODUCTION

The State of Connecticut is wealthy in its musical heritage, past and present. Performers, composers and musicians from Connecticut in all genres of music have entertained fans and collectors for many, many years. My book acknowledges and gives deserved credit to many creative and talented artists from Connecticut! My book's scope is post-war recordings by Connecticut natives in the fields of rhythm & blues and rock 'n' roll and associated categories, and record labels and companies based in Connecticut of the same period.

GENE PITNEY

From: Rockville; later from Somers, CT

Discography: [The following discography is greatly condensed from the original text. Gene Pitney's discography in my book takes up seven full pages!] [A note on format: Records listed under "Singles" will be assumed to be in 7" 45 rpm format, unless specified otherwise. When known, the information included is in the following format: Song title (master number)/song title (master number), released on RECORD LABEL [and] record number. Additional information will be included when known regarding recording dates, recording studios used, engineers, producers, arrangers, backup musicians, availability of picture sleeves, and release dates.]

Singles:**As: JAMIE AND JANE:
(Duets with Ginny Arnell)**

- Strolling (Thru The Park) (106,556)/Snuggle Up Baby (106,555), released on DECCA Records #9-30862 in early 1959. Ginny (Arnell) Mazzaro co-wrote "Strolling."
- Faithful Our Love (107,527)/Classical Rock And Roll (107,528), released on DECCA Records #9-30934. #107,527 is co-written by Ginny Mazzaro, Gene Pitney and Martin Kugell. #107,528 is written by Gene Pitney.

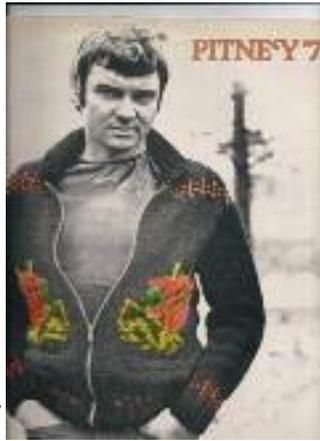
As: BILLY BRYAN

- Going Back To My Love (B-080)/Cradle of My Arms (B-082), released on BLAZE Records #45-351 in 1960.

As: GENE PITNEY

- I'll Find You (912-FRC-1605)/Please Come Back (912-FRC-1606, released on FESTIVAL Records #45-25002.
- (I Wanna) Love My Life Away (ZTSP66004-A)/Laughed So Hard I Cried (ZTSP-66003-C), released with a picture sleeve on MUSICOR Records #1002 in January 1961.
- Louisiana Mama (ZTSP66012-1A)/Take Me Tonight (ZTSP66011A), released with a picture sleeve on MUSICOR Records #1006 in early 1961.
- Town Without Pity (ZYTSP66017)/Air Mail Special Delivery (ZTSP66018), released on MUSICOR Records #1009 in March 1961.
- Every Breath I Take (ZTSP66021)/Mr. Moon, Mr. Cupid And I (ZTSP66022), released with a picture sleeve on MUSICOR Records #1011 in August 1961. Backup on #ZTSP66021 is by The Halos. Record was co-produced at Bell Sound Studios, NY, by Phil Spector using a full orchestra. o (The Man Who Shot) Liberty Valance (ZTSP66039-1A)/Take It Like A Man (ZTSP66040-1C), released on MUSICOR

Records #1020 in April 1962. A-side written by Bacharach & David; B-side written by Leiber & Stoller.



- NOTE: Gene Pitney recorded and released 56 or more singles on Musicor, at least two on Epic, and one or more on his own label, Pitfield. He also released singles on non-U.S. labels, including Attic (Canada) and Parlophone (U.K.), during his long successful career.

Albums:

- "The Many Sides Of Gene Pitney," released on MUSICOR #2001 (in mono) and #3001 (in stereo) in 1961.
- "Only Love Can Break A Heart," released on MUSICOR #2003 (in mono) and #3003 (in stereo).
- Gene sings with Hartford's vocal group, The Embers (q.v.), on the compilation album "Unreleased Gems Of The Hartford, Connecticut Groups" released on RELIC Records #5085. By Gene Pitney & The Embers: Darkness, Victory, So Tired, Runaway Lover.
- NOTE: Gene Pitney recorded and released 38 additional albums on Musicor. He also released albums on the following labels: Design, Columbia, Teller House, Trip, Musicdisc, Springboard, Buckboard, Bronze, Attic, Rhino, 51 West, and Bear Family.

Gene Francis Alan Pitney was born in Hartford, CT on February 17, 1941, and died on April 5, 2006. Inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall Of Fame in 2002 as a "Performer," Pitney was a talented singer, songwriter, pianist, guitarist, and drummer.

Gene Pitney began his recording career in early 1959 when he sang rock'n'roll/top 40-ish duets with Ginny Arnell, then a 16-year-old high school senior, (as "Jamie and Jane") for Decca Records (see discography). Jamie and Jane made many

singing appearances to promote their records. Gene graduated high school in 1958, and was undecided in pursuing electronics or music. After one year attending the Ward School of Electronics in Hartford, he quit and bet on music. In a 1962 interview, Gene continued: "I was frightened in the beginning...I had given up something (electronics) I really wanted...I knocked on doors for two years and they didn't open. I was fed up. I came home and for three months I wrote and wrote and wrote and taped songs. Then I went back to New York and walked into the office of my present manager (Aaron Schroeder) like I was God himself. I sat down and played those 16 or 17 songs right down the line. Before I had always been nervous and unprepared'. But I'd found out nobody was going to do it for me. If I wanted to make it, I had to do it myself."

Following is an interview by the author with Gene Pitney on September 17, 1991. All italicized portions are by the author.

[Reviewing your performing, singing and song-writing achievements, how did you first "open doors" at Musicor Records?](#)

There are several steps leading to my opening doors at Musicor. Back in high school, I had a group known as The Genials. We played at record hops. One place we played was owned by Forrest Hull, a Rockville policeman, who had owned the movie theater where I had been an usher. He told us he had a relative who lived in Branford (CT) and owned a club there, and that we could play at a record hop there. That was the farthest away from home that we had played, so we were excited at the opportunity. Marty Kugell [former manager and producer for The Five Satins!] was in the audience. He liked our music, said the magic words, "How would you like to make a record?" and then took me to New York City. He arranged for me to sing duets with Ginny Arnell as Jamie and Jane. After the two singles on Decca, Ginny's dad wanted her to perform solo, and I wasn't really sad about that. I didn't want to continue singing boy-girl pop duets, I really felt like singing songs with more rhythm, like the songs I enjoyed listening to by black vocal groups.

Marty arranged for me to record for Blaze

Records which was owned by Herb Abramson, one of the founders of Atlantic Records. I recorded the one single as Billy Bryan.

Then I started knocking on doors. I knocked on Aaron Schroeder's door. He was a music publisher. Al Kooper was a staff songwriter for Schroeder at that time. Schroeder saw my songwriting abilities as well as my singing talents. I found out later that during my initial meeting, Kooper saw the 'look' from Schroeder which meant, 'don't get excited or say anything to Gene that he's great.' Schroeder was a very sharp businessman and he didn't want me to think I was great so he would have to pay me more! So I signed on as a songwriter with Schroeder.

Schroeder heard my demos, and he knew I was recordable. He took me to meet Art Talmadge, president of United Artists Records. I played live on the piano. Schroeder and Talmadge then discussed my future. They told me that they didn't want to have me record for United Artists because my records would become lost among all the other records on the label. But what they really meant was that they wanted to have me as the mainstay of a new label, Musicor. Schroeder and Talmadge became partners in running Musicor.

My first single and most of my first album were already recorded as demos. There are only a few cuts on the album that were not demos.

[Did you ever release any records under any name other than Gene Pitney, Jamie and Jane, or Billy Bryan?](#)

Yes, "She's A Heartbreaker" was released by Musicor under the name "P.G." in three markets. It was more of a soul record, but anyone could recognize that it was me singing. When the record started taking off in those three markets, Schroeder and Talmadge decided reissue it under my name. When Musicor did that, the record didn't sell well in those three markets, and I believe it wasn't as big a hit as it should have been.

[Did you write certain songs for particular artists to record? For example, did you write "Tomorrow Is A-Comin'" specifically for Clyde](#)

[McPhatter?](#)

No, I didn't. Only in the case of "He's A Rebel" did I write it for the Crystals. Also, with "Rubber Ball," with the sound of Buddy Holly in mind, and Bobby Vee was the right singer to record that. The first time I heard "Hello Mary Lou" sung by Ricky Nelson, I was really surprised. He recorded the song almost identically to the way I did my demo.

[Did you work with Phil Spector at any other time than when he produced "Every Breath I Take"?](#)

Yes, I worked with him again, but not as a producer. He was looking for a song for the Crystals to record. When he heard "He's A Rebel" for the first time, his face lit up. He knew immediately that "He's A Rebel" was right.

[When did your recordings with Hartford's Embers take place?](#)

About the same time as the pre-Musicor recordings. They were recorded in a small studio on the third floor of a building in Hartford. [Chime Recording Studio - Editor]

[How do you feel about collectors or others wanting to release previously unreleased recordings? Freddie Parris has said that he doesn't want any incomplete or unfinished recordings released, because they weren't meant to be released.](#)

I don't mind having previously unreleased records released, as long as there are no mistakes on the recordings, like bad production.

[With your own label Pitfield and your own studio, do you have any plans to record artists other than yourself?](#)

That's a good question. Not at the present time. I'm expanding the studios and that might happen in the future.

Thank you for the time and answers!

Gene Pitney won several awards during his stellar music career including the following:

- Academy Award nomination for "Town Without Pity"

- Golden Globe Awards winner for "Town Without Pity"
- BMI songwriting for Crystals' "He's A Rebel" and Rick Nelson's "Hello Mary Lou"
- #1 Vocalist in Italy, 1964, 1965
- #2 Vocalist in England, 1964
- #1 World Male Singer (Poll by British magazine Disc Weekly)
- and many more.

Values:

Values stated are for records in near mint condition. "She's A Heartbreaker" by "P.G." [see article] is easily worth \$100. "Town Without Pity" on the grey label is worth \$50. The Jamie & Jane singles and the Billy Bryan single, in near mint condition, are each worth approximately \$20 to \$25. The Musicor albums, either in mono or stereo, are each worth about \$25. (Images are from the collection of Paul Bezanker.)

Next month: THE PLAYMATES!

THE JANUARY DINNER MANAGING YOUR TIME

Southern Connecticut Mensans started off the new year with their annual January New Members Dinner. Members who joined in the past year enjoyed a free dinner and the company of their fellow Mensans, and then we engaged in an interesting discussion of time management, reflecting on priorities, procrastination, multitasking, organizing, and technology.

THE PROBLEM IN PERSPECTIVE

How many people mismanage their time? "Everyone", answered one Mensan. Others were more optimistic, estimating that anywhere from 25% to 80% of students and half of workers have problems managing their time. A business owner said that there are people who seem to mismanage their time regardless of the task assigned. In a sobering but sad sociological commentary, another business owner said that he sees many adults who seem to be able to handle a regular, clearly-defined task such as picking up their children from school on time, but are utterly adrift when left to decide their priorities for the rest of the day.

PRIORITIES

Early on, we asked whether it is even necessary to manage your time. The unanimous answer: we don't have a choice - we either do it con-

sciously or we do it unconsciously. Since there are innumerable things we could do but our time is finite, there's no way around it. Even doing nothing is a decision about spending time.

So how can people manage their time?

Everyone agreed that setting priorities is essential. Several people mentioned that they keep to-do lists. But one person emphasized, "It's not just setting priorities, it's reviewing and resetting your priorities that's key. Don't be reluctant to throw out tasks that have lost importance." This evoked murmurs of agreement, as listeners seemed to recall hours and days that vanished because they had kept doing what was no longer worth doing.

Having a don't-do list is important too. As one participant in our discussion stated firmly, "To manage your time well, you have to learn to say no." Several people echoed that sentiment, mentioning that while you can add to your task list, you probably can't add to your time. To agree to too many requests means promising some people things you can't possibly deliver on time.

THE PITFALL OF PROCRASTINATION

Procrastination may be the biggest thief of time. Of course, taking a break is not procrastination. Neither is planning. If you can't find time to relax, take lunch, or plan, you're either grossly mismanaging your time or you're in the wrong line of work. Procrastination is self-defeating

delay. It's a subject that psychologists have done hundreds of studies on. Before discussing procrastination, we reviewed three types of procrastinators that the studies have identified: those who wait until the last minute because they "need" the pressure to get them going, those who fear failure, and those who are chronically indecisive.

Psychologists categorize wait-until-the-last-minute procrastinators as "thrill seekers" and say they are deluded. Our group concurred. A few current and former teachers on hand said they could see the tell-tale sloppiness and errors in tests and term papers of procrastinators, and when they reviewed grades with such students, their suspicions were almost always confirmed. Study after study has found that crash programs aren't as good as spaced learning and pacing yourself. The people at our dinner confirmed this. One summed it up: "If you space out your studies, you remember more and you remember longer. You give yourself time to reinforce what you know and to identify what you don't know. You also give yourself time to sleep, which solidifies your memory. "

Mensans also had advice for procrastinators who fear failure: mistakes aren't failure. The sooner you make your mistakes, the sooner you can correct them. Procrastinators don't progress; we can learn from tangible failures, we can't learn from imagined fears. "It's better to start doing something and then take a walk," someone said. "The initial effort may frustrate you, but taking a walk afterwards will clear your head and give you ideas." This was a good point for procrastinators, who seem to forget that you can revise.

Indecision may be the most difficult form of procrastination to overcome. Indecisive procrastinators seem overwhelmed by complexity and choices and mired in confusion. A veteran of the workplace offered this advice to people who are intimidated by the size and complications of a task: "Just get started on some small tasks related to the main task." That's a good principle because it gives you some momentum, some experience, some ideas - and some relief. It will also help you eliminate some of the options, making your choices more manageable.

The discussion turned to the arts when someone pointed out that writers have their own special form of procrastination - writer's block. But he suggested a familiar remedy: "You can overcome writer's block by just putting something down on paper- garbage is better than nothing; you can salvage garbage but you can't revise what isn't written."

Writer's block may be more of a failure of the imagination than of the will. But when it comes from crippling depression, as it did in the case of one famous writer we discussed, it may be unfair to call it procrastination. None of us had experienced a block that severe, so no one ventured a solution to this deep problem.

MULTITASKING

A contrast to doing nothing is trying to do multiple things at once. Today, multitasking may rival procrastination as a time-waster, and several Mensans commented on this pervasive practice. A computer professional asked a good question: "If it's efficient for computers to multitask, why can't humans benefit from it?" Another Mensan blanched at this, answering, "No, it doesn't work. Psychological studies have shown that multitaskers are definitely less efficient." The dinner group generally shared his skepticism. "Stay focused. You'll accomplish more and feel less stressed at the end of the day," someone stated, and no one offered any contrary experience. "You can multitask at simple things," another person elaborated, "but not on complex tasks. You're just fragmenting your mind and wasting your time."

Indeed, a recently published study found that many multitaskers aren't even trying to become more productive, they are just easily distracted. In the study, psychologists asked about 275 undergrads for self-evaluations and then tested their performance on various tasks. The researchers found that acknowledged multitaskers, are worse than other people at juggling tasks. Said David Sanbonmatsu, a psychologist at the University of Utah and one of the study's co-authors, "Ö it's a little alarming that the people who report using a cell phone while driving the most are the persons who are the worst at multitasking." The findings support the maxim that multitasking doesn't make you multi-talented.

ORGANIZING YOUR WORK AND YOUR TIME

Although we can avoid multitasking, we probably can't avoid multiple responsibilities. One thing our group insisted on was that the more responsibilities you have, the more important being organized becomes. It's hard to even imagine a disorganized person who manages time well. One finance professional said that her skill at organizing her work has kept her productive despite layoffs that increased her workload. Being organized, she added, saves her the time of looking for things, helps her assess her priorities, and helps her to get the things co-workers and customers need.

A professor in our group brought out a related point, an important one for teams - leaders who are organized can have a multiplier effect. He told us that he makes sure the materials he hands out to students are well-organized and clear because he knows from his long experience in classes and offices that it can save students time in understanding things. He said, "I make it a special point to tell students how they can save time because I'm not just teaching them my subject, I'm teaching them about life." Hopefully, his students appreciate this and will carry this lesson into their professional lives to help their colleagues save time.

TIME AND TECHNOLOGY

Today, technology gives us plenty of tools to organize our schedules but it also brings many distractions. E-mails can be both a big time saver and a big time waster. Harking back to the problems of multitasking, a teacher said that if you are constantly checking your e-mail, you are constantly interrupting yourself. The result: lower productivity, stress, and burnout. An entrepreneur in our group recommended setting aside a few blocks of time during the day to attend to e-mail, saying that this gives her time to deal with her big projects and also gives her a better perspective on which e-mails are more important. She added that she has tailored her e-mail system to highlight her priorities, which reminded us of the value of organizing.

A Mensan who is both a teacher and entrepreneur mentioned another problem with e-mails: without direct human contact, both senders and

receivers lose time because of misunderstood messages. He said that when you don't see another person's expression or hear their voice, you often miss the tone and the emphasis of what they are saying. Sometimes, he suggested, a brief phone call or face-to-face can prevent a world of misunderstanding. If that is not practical, he recommended adding emoticons, highlights, or graphics to e-mails to clarify messages that could use some gestures.

A few people singled out YouTube as a tempting distraction for computer users but differed on how to deal with it. When someone suggested that people should allow themselves a YouTube break at the end of each hour as a reward for hard work, another person responded that this would just exacerbate a bad habit rather than mitigate it. One Mensan decried the inane links to such websites that they received in e-mails. Perhaps web surfers should ask themselves at the end of each day whether they really got any entertainment out of YouTube.

Everyone attending felt that it was a good discussion, and each table had plenty to say. Attendance was lower than at any previous January dinner, so the new year did not bring more members out, but next month there will be another discussion on a different topic, so Southern CT Mensans will have another chance to meet and talk with their fellow members.

NEXT MONTH'S DINNER: *Saturday, February 16. "Outer and Inner Space: Early TV Science-Fiction and Fantasy". Rick D'Amico will talk about the classic British sci-fi and spy drama series *The Prisoner* and then ask the audience their thoughts on other 1950s and 1960s science fiction and imaginative series such as *The Outer Limits*, *The Twilight Zone*, *Lost in Space*, and *Star Trek*.*

THE MARCH DINNER: *Saturday, March 16. "Copyright and Permissions: What Every Smart Person Should Know"*

WORD CHECK

See if you can define these geographical words.

1. albedo -
2. alluvium -
3. arete -
4. chaparral -
5. conurbation -
6. cryosphere -
7. deciduous -
8. escarpment -
9. loess -
10. monadnock -
11. orography -
12. ravine -
13. taiga -
14. tephra -
15. vale -

SYNONYM SENSE

See if you can come up with at least three synonyms or near synonyms for each word. Then see if you can give some antonyms.

1. bother -
2. cancel -
3. deceive -
4. flexible -
5. intelligent -
6. investigate -
7. marvelous -
8. praise -

ANSWERS ON NEXT PAGE

WORD CHECK ANSWERS:

1. albedo - 1. the ratio of the light reflected by a surface or an atmosphere to that received by it. 2. the white, inner rind of a citrus fruit.
2. alluvium - a deposit of sand, mud, silt, gravel, or similar material by flowing water.
3. arete - a sharp, narrow mountain ridge. a sharp rugged mountain ridge.
4. chaparral - a dense, impenetrable thicket of shrubs or dwarf trees.
5. conurbation - an extensive urban area formed from the growth and coalescing of individual towns or cities.
6. cryosphere - the ice and snow on the Earth's surface, such as glaciers; sea, lake, and river ice; snow; and permafrost.
7. deciduous - shedding the leaves annually, as of trees.
8. escarpment - 1. a long cliff or continuous steep face of a ridge or plateau, formed by erosion, faulting, or fracturing. 2. a steep artificial slope immediately in front of the rampart of a fortified place
9. loess - a soil made up of small, light-colored, fine-grained clay and silt particles that have been deposited by the wind.
10. monadnock - an isolated hill or mountain of resistant rock rising above an eroded lowland.
11. orography - 1. the branch of physical geography dealing with mountains. 2. the study or mapping of relief, especially of mountains.
12. ravine - a deep, narrow, steep-sided valley, especially one formed by the running water
13. taiga - a moist, subarctic coniferous forest that begins where the tundra ends and is dominated by spruces and firs.
14. tephra - solid material of all sizes explosively ejected from a volcano during eruption.
15. vale - a valley

SYNONYM SENSE ANSWERS:

1. bother - annoy, irritate, irk, nettle, trouble. Antonyms: please, bless, delight, comfort.
2. cancel - annul, negate, nullify, revoke, rescind, withdraw Antonyms: fulfill, honor, confirm, complete, carry through.
3. deceive - lie, prevaricate, hoodwink, bamboozle, defraud, cozen. Antonyms: help, benefit, honor, assist.
4. flexible - adaptable, versatile, pliant, lithe, limber, Antonyms: rigid, unbending, firm, stiff, stubborn, unmoving, immovable, intransigent.
5. intelligent - bright, brainy, smart, sharp, acute, perceptive, perspicacious. Antonyms: unintelligent, dumb, dull, dim.
6. investigate - probe, examine, check, inspect, sleuth, inquire, search. Antonyms: overlook, ignore, dismiss.
7. marvelous - wondrous, astounding, brilliant, Antonyms: ordinary, mundane, dull.
8. praise - commend, acclaim, applaud, laud, lionize, eulogize, Antonyms: disparage, belittle, insult, criticize, malign, vilify, defame.

PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. What are the differences between action and adventure?
2. What was the first U.S. university to award a PhD degree?
3. Which concert halls have the best acoustics?
4. The five biggest U.S. states in population are California, Texas, New York, Florida, and Illinois. What were their respective populations in 1900?
5. Name some small countries that had large empires.
6. What is the area of the state of Texas, the second largest U.S. state, compared to Alaska, the largest state, in percentage terms?
7. Which companies have the best computer programmers?
8. Solve the following problem from the Rhind (also known as the Ahmes) Papyrus, an Egyptian Papyrus written about 1650 B.C.E.: Divide 100 loaves among five men so that the shares are in arithmetic progression (have a constant difference between them) and so that one seventh of the sum of the three largest shares is equal to the sum of the two smallest.
9. What are the busiest hours of the week for your local supermarkets?
10. Who were the six wives of Henry VIII?
11. What are the most common mistakes new, fast-growing companies make?
12. When was the sociological acronym "WASP" introduced?
13. What are the most healthy herbs and spices to use?
14. What four categories are used in the formula to calculate the passer rating for quarterbacks in the NFL (National Football League) and the CFL (Canadian Football League)?
15. Name some classic novels that could have used a lot of editing.
16. Which NHL (National Hockey League) goalie made the most saves in a game?

PUZZLES & QUESTIONS ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

2. When did these Connecticut institutions open? -Yale University; Beardsley Zoo, Bridgeport,CT; P.T. Barnum Museum, Bridgeport, CT; the Klein Memorial Auditorium, Bridgeport; Goodspeed Opera House; Gillette Castle; Mystic Seaport Museum; Westport Country Playhouse.
- A: Yale University was founded in 1701 as the "Collegiate School" In 1718, the College was renamed "Yale College" to honor a gift from Elihu Yale, a governor of the British East India Company.

James Beardsley, a wealthy cattle dealer, donated the land for Beardsley Park in 1878.

Frederick Law Olmsted, designer of New York City's Central Park, created the plan for Beardsley Park in 1884, and in 1922, Beardsley Park Zoo opened in the park.

The P.T. Barnum Museum opened in 1893 as The Barnum Institute of Science and History, a resource library and a lecture hall for the work of the Bridgeport Scientific Society and the Fairfield County Historical Society. In 1933, the City of Bridgeport took over the building and, in 1936, opened it as the Barnum Museum. From 1946 to 1965, it was used mostly as a city hall annex, but it re-opened as the Barnum Museum in 1968.

The Klein Memorial Auditorium opened in 1940. It was named after Bridgeport resident Jacob Klein, who willed funds to build it to the City of Bridgeport.

The Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, was built by William Goodspeed, a local merchant and banker, in 1877 as a theater - it never served an opera house. After William Goodspeed's death, the building fell into disrepair, but a group of citizens restored the theater and re-opened it in 1963.

Gillette Castle, which is on the border of East Haddam and Lyme, was built in 1914 as the home of actor William Gillette. In 1943, the home and the land became Gillette Castle State Park. Mystic Seaport opened in 1929 as The Museum of America and the Sea. The Westport Country Playhouse, originally built as a tannery in 1835, was founded in 1931 by New York theater producer Lawrence Langner.

4. What is the average elevation of the United States?

A: The average elevation of the U.S. is about 2,500 feet. The highest point is Mt. McKinley, Alaska, at 20,320 feet. The lowest point is in Death Valley, California, at 282 feet below sea level.

6. What is the difference in hours between the time in Puerto Rico and the time in Hawaii?

A: Six hours. When it is 3:00 p.m. in Puerto Rico, it is only 9:00 a.m. in Hawaii.

8. When did the Old Farmer's Almanac and the Farmer's Almanac begin publishing?

A: The Farmers' Almanac has been published annually since 1818. Almanac Publishing Company's website: www.FarmersAlmanac.com. The Old Farmer's Almanac (www.almanac.com) has been published annually since 1792, making it North America's oldest periodical. Yankee, Inc. (now Yankee Publishing, Inc.), which started Yankee magazine in 1935, acquired The Old Farmer's Almanac in 1939.

10. Who holds the Guinness Book of Records' record for the most Guinness World Records held at the same time by a person?

A: Ashrita Furman of New York City has the official record for "The most current Guinness World Records held at the same time by an individual." He has set more than 400 Guinness records since 1979 and currently holds 151 Guinness records.

12. What percentage of the points scored this past National Football League (NFL) season (2012 - 2013) came through field goals?

A: Almost 22% of NFL points in the 2012 season came through field goals.

14. What is the difference between shape and form?

A: Philosophically speaking, shape is a complete quantifiable description of the physical properties of something, while form is the essential nature of a thing - what it is.

NOTED & QUOTED

Poetry is the clear expression of mixed feelings.
- W.H. (Wystan Hugh) Auden, (1907 - 1973), British-American poet

There is a time for departure even when there's no certain place to go.
- Tennessee Williams, (1911 - 1983), U.S. playwright, *Camino Real*

No one rises to low expectations.
- Jesse Jackson, (1941 -), U.S. civil rights leader

I should like to be famous and unknown.
- Edgar Degas, (1834 - 1917), French painter, sculptor

Life is our dictionary.
- Ralph Waldo Emerson, (1803 - 1882), 'The American Scholar', Phi Beta Kappa address (1837)

Life is an eternal now shrouded in dreams of tomorrow and memories of yesterday.
- Rein Nomm, professor, economic analyst, photographer, aphorist

Each moment, as it passes, is the meeting place of two eternities.
- Anne Sophie Swetchine (1782 - 1857), Russian-Franco intellectual

Not till we have lost the world do we begin to find ourselves. - Henry David Thoreau, (1817 - 1862)

The Irish do not want anyone to wish them well; they want everyone to wish their enemies ill.
- Sir Harold George Nicolson, (1886 - 1968), English diplomat, politician, author, and diarist

Save me from my friends.
- Voltaire, (1694 - 1778)

Do not wait to strike till the iron is hot; but make it hot by striking. - William Butler Yeats, (1865 - 1939), Irish poet and dramatist

I am here to live out loud.
- Emile Zola, (1840 - 1902), French novelist, journalist

The only paradise is paradise lost.
- Marcel Proust, (1871 - 1922), French novelist

Fear has its use but cowardice has none.
- Mahatma Gandhi, (1869 - 1948)

Civilization begins with order, grows with liberty, and dies with chaos.
- Will Durant, (1885 - 1981), U.S. historian

Stoicism is the wisdom of madness and cynicism the madness of wisdom.
- Bergen Evans, (1904 - 1978), U.S. lexicographer

All educators are well-intentioned, but few of them reflect upon their intentions.
- Mark Van Doren, (1894 - 1972). U.S. poet, literary critic

There is time enough for everything in the course of the day if you do but one thing at once; but there is not time enough in the year if you will do two things at a time. - Lord Chesterfield, (1694 - 1773), English politician, 4th Earl of Chesterfield

As soon as fashion is universal, it is out of date.
- Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach, (1830 - 1916), Austrian novelist

That's the thing about people who think they hate computers. What they really hate is lousy programmers.
- Larry Niven, (1938 -) and Jerry Pournelle, (1933 -), U.S. science fiction authors

A rumor is about as hard to unspread as butter.
- *Changing Times* magazine

Life is a voyage.
- Victor Hugo, (1802 - 1885)

What's the use of happiness? It can't buy you money. - Henry Youngman, (1906 - 1998), U.S. comedian

There will always be the same number of movie-stars. - David Mamet, (1947 -), U.S. playwright, screenwriter, essayist

The plot has been called the body of a play and the theme has been called its soul.
- Edward Wright

Technique is so important that it sometimes happens that technique is mistaken for art.
- Alexandre Dumas (fils), (1824 - 1895), French novelist and playwright

You can't wake a person who is pretending to be asleep. - Navajo Proverb

But to understand all is not to forgive all.

- Joachim Remak, (1920 - 2001), German-American professor of history, *The Origins of World War I* 1871 - 1914, (1967)

Let us not look back in anger, nor forward in fear,
but around in awareness.

- James Thurber, (1894 - 1961), U.S. humorist, cartoonist

Why does no one confess his sins? Because he is yet in them. It is for a man who has awoke from sleep to tell his dreams.

- Lucius Annaeus Seneca, (B.C.E 3 - 65 C.E.), Roman writer and philosopher

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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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:	<u>\$1,328.86</u>
Total Income	\$1,328.86

EXPENSES	
Chronicle Printing Expenses:	\$456.24
Chronicle Postage & Supplies:	288.05
Chronicle Postage & Supplies:	<u>365.06</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$1,109.35

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

"Bridgeport - Tales from the Park City" by Eric Lehman, is available at www.history-press.net or www.amazon.com. Paperback.

The Illustrator

by Southern CT Mensan Gerard Brooker. A historical fiction set in the Polish town of Oswiecim, next to Auschwitz. It is a tale of a gifted artist, his love, and the inhumanity they face. Based on Jerry's personal visits and research, this novel is wrought with evil and hope, slavery and freedom, loss and love. Paperback. Available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Borders, and Target

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

Ben Behind His Voices

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.

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