

# *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.

**SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS - MARCH**

Friday, March 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, March 12, 6:30 pm

**Post Road Dinner**

American Steakhouse, 595 Connecticut Ave.. (Post Road), Norwalk, CT, 06854. Contact Jim Mizera at jimizera@hotmail.com or (203) 522-1959 for reservations or info.

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. There will be a quiz and the winner will receive a free copy of Elsa's book. Elsa will have copies of her book on hand, and will autograph them for people who would like to purchase a print edition for a discounted price of \$10. The e-book will be available on Lulu for \$8.99.

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 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.

Admitted in CT, NY &amp; OR

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**CONNECTICUT AND WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER EVENTS**

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

**MARCH**

3 Sunday 12:00 pm

**Lunch in Middletown**

The food is enticing, the staff is friendly, and the company is the best to be had anywhere! Join us at Haveli India Restaurant for an all-you-can-eat \$9.95 buffet. The restaurant is conveniently located at 1300 South Main St., Rte 17 in South Middletown. RSVP required. Call or email Barb Holstein at BarbCPA@att.net or 860-632-7873 for a reservation. Also contact me if you need directions.

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.

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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](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)

21 Thursday 6:30 pm

***Pioneer Valley Dinner, Hadley, MA***

Pioneer Valley Dinner (ME, 3rd Thursday) will try a new (for us) venue: Zoe's Fish House, located at 195 Russell Street (Route 9), in Hadley, Mass. They have been voted "Best Seafood Restaurant" in the Pioneer Valley nine times by the Valley Advocate, and Chef Jim Sands and his family continue his tradition of fine cuisine. With a menu that includes fresh New England lobster, scallops, oysters, salmon and scrod, Zoe's satisfies their guests with the freshest and widest variety of fish and shellfish in the Valley. Beef, chicken, pork, and pasta round out the menu to satisfy all palates. Email Ian Fraser at [ianfraser@usa.net](mailto:ianfraser@usa.net), or call him at (413) 586-2031 this month to RSVP (very much appreciated but not required). As always, new members and guests are very welcome at this always friendly and interesting event. We hope to see you there!

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22 Friday 5:30 pm

***Fourth Friday Happy Hour***

Happy Hour (ME, 4th Friday) at The Playwright in Hamden, <http://www.playwrightirishpub.com> 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)

## FROM THE LOCSEC

A few weeks ago, over 20,000 trade visitors from almost 100 countries came to New York to preview 150,000 innovative toys and games. The American International Toy Fair is the largest toy tradeshow in the Western hemisphere. Following is a bit more about 3 of the many game inventors in attendance.



### Susan McKinley Ross

Susan is the inventor of Quirkle, Skippity and other games. As a frequent Quirkle and QuirkleCubes player myself, I asked her how she came up with the idea. "The basic idea actually came to me in a dream." She and her husband were long-time hosts of a monthly games night at their home in Southern California. As she watched a game of Scrabble, she liked the way words crossed and letters could be included in two words at once. A few days later, she had a dream about the shapes, colors and grid that became the foundation of the game as it is now. When she woke up, she started working on the game that morning, and it went on to become a Mind Games winner!

### Marsha Jean Falco

SET is another game that is frequently present in Mensa Regional Gathering games rooms across the country. Marsha didn't set out with the intention of inventing initially. "I was working in England, in Cambridge, as a geneticist. I tried to come up with a simplified way of representing the 'sets' of gene data on cards. Someone looked over my shoulder, and said it looked like a game." It occurred to her that it



actually could be a game, so she worked on it with family and friends and developed the game now known as SET. That was back in 1974. It was 17 years before her kids, who then also enjoyed playing, convinced her to produce a version for sale. The result is another Mind Games winner!

Marsha has also designed other well-known games, including Five Crowns, Quiddler, and Xactika. More recently she has adapted these games for kids as young as 3 for fun and intellectual challenge.



### Mark Fuchs

Wisconsin-based Mark Fuchs is a member of Mensa and has been a judge at Mind Games. He is also the mind behind all of the games that his company, Maranda Enterprises, has released (in a relatively short period of time!).

Mark has clearly given a lot of thought not only to the games themselves, but also to Maranda's strategy. "Games ought to be fun and easy to learn." Depth of strategy should evolve from the players' creativity rather than a set of complex rules or elements of chance. He also said that other games can end in a tie or draw, but he favors games that have a clear winner.

Mark's games, including Pathagon, Trappex, Eternas, and Hexover, have all been designed with substantial and quality components that enhance the pleasure of playing each game. He, too, designed some of the board games about 15 years prior to making them available commercially. His games can now be found at many of the independent game stores located within our area.

It was a sincere pleasure to meet each of these inventors. I did notice that all are regular game players themselves. Each saw a game through from conception to a final, successfully released game and seemed to really enjoy the process rather than just having a focus on the outcome. All were represented at Mensa's Mind Games, and their games are played regularly by many Mensa members.

Have a good month!

Deb Jennings

## WORD CHECK

See if you can define these medical words.

1. angina -
2. carotid -
3. febrile -
4. gangrene -
5. histology -
6. ischaemia or ischemia -
7. meningitis -
8. phlebitis -
9. sternum -
10. thrombosis -

## 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. poor -
2. fast (adj.) -
3. plentiful -
4. watch (v.) -
5. begin (v.) -
6. ostentatious - -
7. liberate -
8. farsighted -

ANSWERS ON NEXT PAGE

**WORD CHECK ANSWERS:**

1. angina - cardiac pain due to poor blood supply to the heart.
2. carotid - the large artery beside the larynx.
3. febrile - feverish.
4. gangrene - the rotting away of body tissue due to lack of nourishment.
5. histology - the science that treats of organic tissues.
6. ischaemia or ischemia - lack of blood supply to an area of the body.
7. meningitis - inflammation of the meninges, a collection of three protective membranes surrounding the brain.
8. phlebitis - inflammation of a vein.
9. sternum - the middle chest bone where ribs from each side of the body meet.
10. thrombosis - a clotting of the blood in any part of the circulatory system.

**SYNONYM SENSE ANSWERS:**

1. poor - indigent, impoverished, penniless, needy, destitute, impecunious, penurious.  
  
Antonyms: affluent, wealthy, rich, moneyed, well-heeled.
2. fast - quick, speedy, fleet, rapid, instantaneous  
  
Antonyms: slow, glacial,
3. plentiful - abundant,  
Antonyms: scarce, dear, rare.
4. watch - observe, look, view, follow, track, examine, scrutinize, oversee, survey, oversee.  
  
Antonyms: neglect, miss, overlook
5. begin - start, commence, introduce, open, launch, arise, inaugurate, debut, enter, move, originate.  
  
Antonyms: end, finish, stop, halt, terminate, conclude, close, exit.
6. ostentatious - showy, flashy, conspicuous, pompous, pretentious, garish, gaudy, flaunting, theatrical.  
  
Antonyms: subtle, modest, understated, circumspect, unpretentious, unassuming, unobtrusive, reserved, restrained, demure.
7. liberate - free, emancipate, release, unchain, unleash, unshackle, unbind, manumit.  
  
Antonyms: enslave, imprison, chain, bind, control, conquer, dominate.
8. farsighted - provident, prescient, visionary. Antonyms: nearsighted, shortsighted, myopic.

## PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

- Which team sports have the most cheating? Which individual sports?
- How many words are in the Gettysburg Address?
- Which movies are better - fictional or non-fictional?
- How many feet are in a nautical mile?
- How can speakers become eloquent?
- This question is taken from the 1912 Eighth-Grade Exam for Bullitt County, Kentucky schools.
- What is the biggest shadow you have ever cast?
- What percentage of the area of the U.S. is water area (lakes, rivers, etc.)? Which state in the U.S. has the highest percentage of area that is water area? Which state has the lowest percentage?
- How do city dwellers adjust when they move to the suburbs?
- What was the greatest amount of snow recorded as falling in a U.S. location over 24 hours?
- How well do people manage space?
- How many baseball teams have spring training in Florida, and how many conduct spring training in Arizona or other states?

The cost of painting the walls of a room are 12.5 cents per square yard. The room is 20 ft. long, 16 ft. wide, and 9 ft. high, but you don't need to paint the door, which is 8 ft. by 4 ft., 6 in., nor the two windows, which are 5 ft. by 3 ft., 6 in. each. What is the cost of painting the room?

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

- What was the first U.S. university to award a PhD degree?  
A: In 1861, Yale University and its Graduate School of Arts and Sciences became the first U.S. institution to award the PhD.
- The five biggest U.S. states in population are California, Texas, New York, Florida, and Illinois. What were their respective populations in 1900?  
A: According to the 1900 U.S. Census, California had only 1,485,000 people in 1900, Texas had 3,048,000, New York had 7,269,000, Florida had 529,000, and Illinois had 4,822,000. The total population of the U.S. in 1900 was 76 million. The smallest state in population was Nevada, which had only 42,000 people.
- What is the area of the state of Texas, the second largest U.S. state, compared to Alaska, the largest state, in percentage terms?  
A: Texas' area is only about 40.5% of Alaska's. California, the third largest state, is only about 24.7% the size of Alaska.
- 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.

A: The five shares are  $1\frac{2}{3}$  loaves,  $10\frac{5}{6}$  loaves, 20 loaves,  $29\frac{1}{6}$  loaves, and  $38\frac{1}{3}$  loaves. To solve this problem, you must set up two equations with two variables or unknowns - the initial share and the increment (the constant difference) between the shares. Then you can eliminate a variable to solve.

Call the least share  $x$ . Let  $a$  equal the constant increment between each share. The five shares collectively equal 100, thus  $x + (x + a) + (x + 2a) + (x + 3a) + (x + 4a) = 100$ . So the first equation is  $5x + 10a = 100$ .

Now according to the second clue, one-seventh of the three biggest shares equal the sum of the two smallest shares, so  $(x + 2a) + (x + 3a) + (x + 4a) / 7 = x + (x + a)$ . Collecting the like terms,  $(3x + 9a) / 7 = 2x + a$ , which becomes  $3x + 9a = 14x + 7a$ , and then  $2a = 11x$ , or simply  $a = 11/2 x = 5.5x$ .

Substitute  $a = 5.5x$  into the first equation  $5x + 10a = 100$  and it becomes  $5x + 10(5.5x) = 100$  or  $60x = 100$ . So  $x$ , the least share, is  $100/60$ , or  $5/3 = 1\frac{2}{3}$ . Then you can solve for  $a$ :  $a = (11/2) x (5/3) = 55/6 = 9\frac{1}{6}$ , which is the increment between each share. So the second share is  $1\frac{2}{3} + 9\frac{1}{6} = 10\frac{5}{6}$ , the third is 20, the fourth is  $29\frac{1}{6}$ , and the largest share is  $38\frac{1}{3}$ . The Egyptians did not solve this problem accurately. They guessed the increment.

10. Who were the six wives of Henry VIII?

A: Henry VIII (1491 - 1547) was first married to Catherine of Aragon (1485 - 1536), daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain. Catherine was the widow of Henry's older brother, who died in 1502 at age 15, just four months after his wedding to Catherine. Henry married Catherine seven weeks after he assumed the throne in 1509. Catherine gave birth to six children but five died in infancy and the sixth was a female, Mary, who eventually became Queen, ruling from 1553 to 1558.

Henry had his marriage to Catherine annulled in 1533 and married his second wife, Anne Boleyn (1500 - 1536), a maid of honor to

Catherine. Anne gave birth in 1533 to Elizabeth, who went on to become Queen Elizabeth I, ruling from 1558 - 1603. Then Anne had three stillborn infants. Henry had his aide draw up false charges against Anne, annulled their marriage, and had her executed on May 19, 1536.

Ten days later, Henry married his third wife, Jane Seymour (1507 - 1537), a lady-in-waiting to both queens Catherine and Anne. Jane gave birth to a son Henry in 1537 but died that same year. Henry eventually succeeded his father in 1547 but died in 1553.

In January of 1540, Henry VIII took his fourth wife, Anne of Cleves (1515 - 1557), a German princess. Henry annulled this marriage just seven months later. Shortly after, Henry married his fifth wife, the young Catherine Howard (1525 - 1542), a cousin of Anne Boleyn. After allegations of adultery against her, Henry had her executed. In 1543, Henry married his sixth and final wife, the twice-widowed Catherine Parr (1512 - 1548), who had been attracted to Jane Seymour's brother Thomas. King Henry VIII died in 1547. Catherine married Thomas Seymour, had a daughter, and then died in 1548.

12. When was the sociological acronym "WASP" introduced?

A: It's uncertain when the word was coined or who invented it. E. Digby Baltzell popularized the term with his 1964 book *The Protestant Establishment: Aristocracy and Caste in America*.

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)?

A: Passer rating is calculated using these four statistics: completion percentage, passing yardage, touchdowns, and interceptions. The NFL and the CFL combine these four stats in a complex formula, while college football uses a simpler version of the formula.

A perfect passer rating in the NFL is 158.3. To achieve this score, a quarterback would have to complete at least 77.5% of his passes, gain at least 12.5 yards per attempt, pass for a touchdown on at least 11.875% of attempts, and throw no interceptions. A perfect passing efficiency in college football is 1261.6.

16. Which NHL (National Hockey League) goalie made the most saves in a game?

A: 24-year old rookie goalie Sam LoPresti of the Chicago Blackhawks set an NHL record by stopping 80 shots against the Boston Bruins on March 4, 1941. The Bruins did score 3 goals, however, and won the game 3 - 2.

Dominik Hasek of the Buffalo Sabres holds the record for most saves in a game without giving up a goal. He made 70 saves in a 4-overtime shutout on April 27, 1994, beating the New Jersey Devils 1-0.

## OBITUARIES

### Daria Lewis

Daria Troubetzkoy Lewis of Marstons Mills, Massachusetts passed away on February 18 after a long illness. She was a long time member of Southern Connecticut Mensa (SCM), and instrumental in it's founding, serving as its first Editor. She was born in New York City on December 15, 1944, the daughter of Prince Serge and Dorothy Ulrich Troubetzkoy. She spent her early years in Hartford, CT before her family moved to Richmond, VA, where she attended Collegiate School. Afterward, she continued her studies in Paris, France. She lived for many years in New York City, where she worked for the City University of New York (CUNY). She then lived in Fairfield, CT, where she was one of the original members of Southern CT Mensa, before moving to Cape Cod. She is survived by her husband Gordon "Ted" Woods (former president, SCM); her daughter Sorrell Lewis MacKay, a brother Sergei Troubetzkoy of Bedford, VA; a sister Vilna "Holly" Troubetzkoy of The Netherlands, and six grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Pequot Library, 720 Pequot Ave., Southport (in Fairfield) 06890, Connecticut on Sunday, March 10 at 10:00 AM. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Keene Chamber Orchestra, [www.keenechamberorchestra.org](http://www.keenechamberorchestra.org).

### Hannah Beck

Longtime Mensan Hannah R. Beck, 66, of Ridgefield, wife of Christian A. Beck died on Saturday, November 3, 2012 at Danbury Hospital. Mrs. Beck was born in Boston, MA, March 10, 1946, a daughter of the late Max and Margaret (Falwell) Kramer. She attended Boston schools, graduated cum laude from Northeastern University, and graduated from the New England Baptist Hospital School of Medical Technology. She was an assistant chief of Medical Technology at Norwalk Hospital and also served at the Danbury Hospital. She later worked as a GRE certified Real Estate Agent for Century 21. She loved gardening and became a certified Master Gardener in 1988. Mrs. Beck was a member of the American Society for Clinical Pathology and a member of MENSA since 1974. In addition to her husband Christian, she is survived by her daughter, Margaret Kaufman; her stepdaughters, Kimberly Shiffman, Melinda Smith, Tara McLaughlin and Nicole Pearlstein; eleven grandchildren, and many friends.

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

**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.)*

This Supplement will contain the following sections within my book's original scope. In other words, this Supplement will



cover the years 1946 through 1995. Any artist whose career began after 1995 will not be included in the Supplement. Please note that it is obviously impossible to accurately document active artists and current record labels, since any such discographies and biographies will automatically be incomplete.

The Supplement will contain the following sections:

1. Additions within book's scope! I already have data on Echoes (on Columbia), Ramrods (Amy), Cosmopolitans; Boss City Records, Daryl Petty, Pierre Maheu (Kapp), Steam, Rogues, Audio Dynamics Records, Incidentals, etc.; and from 1970s+: Jasper Wrath; Arden House; Zoldar & Clark; Jeff Cannata; Arc Angel; Machinery; Thurston Moore; September Sun; Book of Love; etc.
2. Corrections to original text!
3. Miscellaneous information with possible inclusion of photos of rare records & picture sleeves!
4. Revised price guide with current values!
5. Special Offers!

For this edition of "In the Groove," I present photos of a few of the artists and records that will be featured in "Supplement to Connecticut Rocks!" Below are: The Jive Bombers, The Ramrods, Daryl Petty, and Five Cards Stud!



Next Month: I am taking time off from preparing this "In the Groove" series in order to finish my manuscript for "Supplement to Connecticut Rocks!" Please watch this space in the coming months! And thank you for each of you who have sent me positive feedback to "In the Groove!"

## THE FEBRUARY DINNER

### INNER AND OUTER SPACE: EARLY TV SCIENCE FICTION

At our February dinner, Rick D'Amico gave a presentation on early television science fiction and fantasy. He discussed *The Prisoner*, his favorite show, along with other popular shows from the 1960's such as *Star Trek*, *The Twilight Zone*, *The Outer Limits*, *Lost in Space*, and later space dramas such as *Space 1999* and *Battlestar Galactica*. Mixing research and commentary, Rick brought out many interesting facts about the shows and offered some opinions on their continuing appeal.

### THE PRISONER ENIGMA

Growing up in the 1960's, Rick was a fan of science fiction but one show in particular "immediately fascinated" him - *The Prisoner*, a 1967 British television program that combined spy drama with science fiction and psychological intrigue. *The Prisoner* is the story of a British secret agent (played by Patrick McGoohan) who, after abruptly resigning from a government agency, is kidnapped from his London home and awakes in a strange, unknown village that is isolated by mountains and the sea. What's stranger still is that he doesn't know who his captors are or even what side they are on. Their agents don't address him by name, referring to him only as "Number Six". In the village, Six finds hundreds of diverse people but, like him, none of them has a name, they have all been reduced to an assigned number. To our hero's amazement, they all apparently placidly accept their assigned roles in the village, like automats. Only he resists control, proclaiming, "I am not a number! I am a free man!" He seeks to find out who runs the village, how they run it, which side they are on in the Cold War, and how he can escape. As he strives to uncover the village's secrets, he finds out many things are not what they seem to be and many people, including the outwardly submissive residents, are not who they seem to be.

The prisoner attempts several times to escape the village but everything is arrayed against him. Rick called the atmosphere of the village "Orwellian" and that aptly describes it. All around are monitoring devices and security per-

sonnel, so Number Six feels he is being watched. Indeed he is. Not only are many of his fellow villagers spies, but there is a big spy in the sky - Rover, a ubiquitous balloon-like craft that floats above the village, surveying for anyone who might attempt to escape. Rick showed us a slide photo of this ominous aerial overseer, which was a chilling reminder of the village's Big Brother.

Number Six's chief nemesis is Number Two, the administrator of the village, who carries out the orders of the unseen supreme commander "Number One". Number Two interrogates Number Six, trying to pry out of him why he resigned as a secret agent and what information he uncovered on his spy missions. Two uses every technique at his disposal to undermine Number Six's will to resist - propaganda, drugs, mind control, and even dream manipulation. What makes Number Two all the more mysterious is that his/her identity changes, as different agents rotate in the role in an effort to confuse Number Six or to better torment him. Still Number Six resists, asserting his freedom and individuality. Rick gave us Number Six's defiant answer to his inquisitors: "I will not make any deals with you. I've resigned. I will not be pushed, filed, stamped, indexed, briefed, debriefed, or numbered! My life is my own!" It was an inspiring statement of the prisoner's credo, a battle cry in the conflict between individualism and totalitarianism, and a message that resounded among the show's fans.

Rick, being the avid fan he is, remembered many of the lines from the film. He re-enacted the opening dialogue of the series with another Mensan *Prisoner* aficionado who was in the audience. While these two obviously shared a deep appreciation of the show, they disagreed in some of their interpretations.

But this is not surprising because as, Rick brought out, *The Prisoner* was full of enigmas. He quoted McGoohan on this point: "I suppose that (*The Prisoner*) is the sort of thing where a thousand people might have a different interpretation of it, which I think is very gratifying. I'm glad that's the way it was, because that was the intention." As Rick told us, throughout the series, Number Six was haunted by the question, "Who runs the village - us or them?" He strove to get

to the bottom of things, but early on he learned an important lesson: on the island, you can't tell who's your friend. Even after the final episode, we are left with questions: Who are the captors? Who is Number 1? The Prisoner deliberately left these questions unanswered, inviting speculation and differing opinions that continue to this day.

Rick pointed out several interesting but forgotten facts about the great star of *The Prisoner*, Patrick McGoohan. He was born in Astoria, Queens in New York City before his family moved to Ireland and England. In England, he was working on a stage crew, when an actor fell sick and McGoohan was called on to substitute for him. From there, he worked his way to stardom. He was the original choice to play James Bond on screen. Instead, he starred for six seasons on the popular British TV espionage series *The Danger Man* (titled *Secret Agent Man* in the U.S.), a show that made McGoohan the highest paid actor in Great Britain, and inspired him to write the outline for *The Prisoner*.

As McGoohan intended, *The Prisoner* only ran for one season - 17 episodes from September 1967 to February 1968 in the U.K., and in the summer of 1968 in the U.S. But in that one year, it attracted a devoted group of fans, what Rick affectionately called "a cult." He praised the show as "ahead of its time," but one veteran Mensan who also lived through that era objected. He countered that the show merely reflected its time, arguing that it was, after all, the Space Age, the height of the Cold War, a decade of both real life spies and fictional spy movies like the *Manchurian Candidate* and the James Bond films, and of many TV shows like *I Spy* and *The Man from Uncle*. But regardless of whether *The Prisoner* was ahead of its time or reflected its time, it influenced not only many fans of espionage and science fiction, but also many young dramatic actors in general. In a poll of film stars, it was ranked tenth on the list of series that had most influenced actors.

## OUTER SPACE

From *The Prisoner*, Rick moved on to space drama, the best known of which was *Star Trek*. Although the original series ended in 1969, *Star Trek* has never really ended, as it spawned the

follow-up TV series *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, *Star Trek: Voyager*, and *Star Trek: Enterprise*, along with eleven films, and hundred of books. Asked to compare the original *Star Trek* with the later series, Rick said, "You can't. Each version of *Star Trek* had different qualities, different characters, and different themes." As he explained, the later shows were set in different time periods and the crew had different missions that changed the emphases. Regardless of the differences, *Star Trek* has retained a loyal following and gained many new fans worldwide. Rick added that it was never just a science fiction show. It has tackled cultural, social, and psychological themes many times, and perhaps for this reason, won many awards outside of the science fiction category, including 31 Emmies in drama.

## INNER SPACE

"Inner space" on television refers to the mixture of fantasy, sci-fi, suspense, thriller, and horror featured on shows like *The Outer Limits* and *The Twilight Zone*. Rick discussed both of these early to mid-

1960s series that were noted for the striking twists in their stories. He talked about the genius of Rod Serling, who created and hosted *The Twilight Zone*, and wrote nearly 60% of its episodes. Serling took on serious themes such as racism, war, society, technological progress, fear, isolation, paranoia, obsessions, and psychological conflict. Rick mentioned several memorable episodes of the series, including "Nightmare at 20,000 Feet", an episode we watched on DVD during dinner. It featured William Shatner in the lead role, one of many rising stars who would get a career boost by appearing in *The Twilight Zone*.

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Rick noted that most of the popular sci-fi and fantasy TV series followed a familiar pattern: they had modest success for three to five years, survived one or more threatened cancellations before succumbing to inadequate ratings, and then later attempted revivals that usually lasted a few years only to fall by the wayside again. *The Outer Limits* ran for two seasons and 49 episodes, and *The Twilight Zone* for five seasons

(1959 - 1964) and 156 episodes, while Star Trek and Lost in Space each ran for three seasons. All of these series had a solid following among science fiction and fantasy fans, but had less success at attracting a wider audience for more than a season or two. Part of the problem, Rick said, was that competitors moved popular shows geared to a wider audience into the same time slot as the sci-fi and fantasy shows, thus drawing away the less die-hard fans. (Remember, this was the era before DVD recorders and Tivo.) But despite eventually losing in the ratings wars, these science fiction and suspense shows have been popular in syndication, drawing in new fans for the old shows.

At the end of his presentation, Rick posed a question that many critics of science fiction have asked: can science fiction and fantasy transcend empty escapism and enter the realm of adult drama? One person responded to the question by characterizing TV science fiction and fantasy as more than cartoons but less than Shakespeare. Whatever their limitations, these shows should be taken seriously for several good reasons. First, as Rick pointed out, many of their writers, notably Rod Serling, Ray Bradbury, Harlan Ellison, and Reginald Rose, had won awards for serious dramas such as Serling's Requiem for a Heavyweight and Rose's classic Twelve Angry Men, before they began writing sci-fi or mystery scripts for television. Secondly, many of their actors, of which Rick gave examples (Lee Marvin, Jane Seymour, Martin Landau, Sally Kellerman) had succeeded on stage and screen in non-science fiction roles or would go on to succeed in general drama. Thirdly, the scripts dealt with serious psychological, social, and philosophical controversies, even if their symbolism was often heavy and their message less than subtle. One problem was trying to achieve high drama in a half-hour to hour format. Nonetheless, the shows won critical acclaim and influenced many because the scriptwriters and actors were craftsmen and the stories were often powerful. Certainly, they were more than thrills, chills, and action.

Despite the dinner's science-fiction theme, a topic that appeals to many Mensans, attendance was poor again. While it was cold, it didn't snow or rain, so the weather shouldn't have been an obstacle. Those who missed the dinner can learn more about The Prisoner at several fan websites such as the The Prisoner Appreciation Society's site <http://www.sixofone.co.uk/index.html>, and view The Prisoner and other sci-fi shows of yesteryear on YouTube or Hulu.

*NEXT MONTH'S DINNER: THE MARCH DINNER: Saturday, March 16. "Copyright and Permissions: What Every Smart Person Should Know." Our speaker will be Southern CT Mensan Elsa Peterson, author of a new book on the topic published by the Editorial Freelancers Association. There will be a quiz and the winner will receive a free copy of Elsa's book. Elsa will have copies of her book on hand, and will autograph them for people who would like to purchase a print edition for a discounted price of \$10. The e-book will be available on Lulu for \$8.99).*

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## NOTED &amp; QUOTED

If you need drugs to be a good writer, you're not a good writer.

- Rod Serling, (1924 - 1975)

What you have become is the price you paid to get what you used to want.

- Mignon McLaughlin, (1915 - 1983), U.S. author, editor, humorist

One good turn deserves another.

- John Heywood, (1497? - 1580?), English poet, playwright

The popular definition of tragedy is heavy drama in which everyone is killed in the last act, comedy being light drama in which everyone is married in the last act.

- George Bernard Shaw, (1856 - 1950)

If you want to keep your memories, you first have to live them.

- Bob Dylan, (1941 - )

Every cask smells of the wine it contains.

- Spanish proverb

A full cup must be carried steadily.

- English proverb

It is easy to get a thousand prescriptions but hard to get a single remedy.

- Chinese proverb

If you need encouragement, praise, pats on the back from everybody, then you make everybody your judge.

- Fritz Perls, (1893 - 1970), German-born American psychiatrist and psychotherapist

Give thyself time to learn something new and good, and cease to be whirled around.

- Marcus Aurelius, (121 - 180), Roman Stoic philosopher, author, and Emperor. *Meditations*, Book II, 7

Great events are the hour-hands of time, while small events mark the minutes.

- Andrew Michael Ramsay, (1686 - 1743), Scottish author

The more sand that has escaped from the hour-glass of our life, the clearer we should see through it.

- Jean-Paul Sartre, (1905 - 1980), writer and philosopher

We say we waste time, but that is impossible. We waste ourselves.

- Alice Bloch, professor of Sociology, City University London

A single event can awaken within us a stranger totally unknown to us. To live is to be slowly born.

- Antoine de Saint Exupery, (1900 - 1944), French novelist, essayist, aviator

Death, thou shalt die.

- John Donne, (1572 - 1631), English poet

Most novices picture themselves as masters - and are content with the picture. This is why there are so few masters.

- Jean Toomer, (1894 - 1967), Afro-American poet, novelist

The educated person is neither scared by novelty nor bored without it.

- Mark van Doren, (1894 - 1972), U.S. poet, literary critic, *Liberal Education* (1943)

If I had asked people what they wanted, they would have said faster horses.

- Henry Ford, (1863 - 1947)

Most ball games are lost, not won.

- Casey Stengel, (1890/1891 - 1975), U.S. baseball player, manager

Be one of those upon whom nothing is lost.

- Henry James, (1843 - 1916), U.S. novelist, short-story writer, essayist

Literature is for the sake of humanity.

- Cynthia Ozick, (1931 - ), U.S. short-story writer, novelist, *Art and Ardor* (1983)

We are born crying, live complaining, and die disappointed.

- Thomas Fuller, (1608 - 1661), U.S. clergyman

An elephant can be tethered by a thread-- if he believes he is captive. If we believe we are chained by habit or anxiety, we are in bondage.

- John H. Crowe

All know that the drop merges into the ocean but few know that the ocean merges into the drop.

- Kabir, (1440 - 1518), Indian poet, mystic and philosopher

Man is, beyond dispute, the most excellent of created beings, and the vilest animal is a dog; but the sages agree that a grateful dog is better than an ungrateful man.

- Saadi, (1184 - 1291), Persian poet

The rare moment is not the moment when there is something worth looking at, but the moment when we are capable of seeing.

- Joseph Wood Krutch, (1893 - 1970), U.S. drama critic, essayist, teacher, naturalist

My experience of ships is that on them one makes an interesting discovery about the world. One finds one can do without it completely.

- Malcolm Bradbury, (1932 - ), English novelist and critic

Actually if a writer needs a dictionary he should not write. He should have read the dictionary at least three times from beginning to end and then have loaned it to someone who needs it. There are only certain words which are valid and similies (bring me my dictionary) are like defective ammunition (the lowest thing I can think of at this time). - Ernest Hemingway, (1899 - 1961)

Most people think that shadows follow, precede, or surround beings or objects. The truth is that they also surround words, ideas, desires, deeds, impulses and memories.

-Elie Wiesel, (1928 - ), writer, Nobel laureate

The human soul has still greater need of the ideal than of the real. It is by the real that we exist; it is by the ideal that we live.

- Victor Hugo, (1802 - 1885)



## 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 were:

**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**

<b>Opening balance at 4/1/12</b>	<b>\$10,949.27</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	
American Mensa	
Local Group Support Funds:	<u>\$1,328.86</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,328.86</b>

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

<b>2nd Quarter Balance 9-30-12</b>	<b>\$11,168.78</b>
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### 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

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