

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.



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going back to 2000 are available on the Internet at <http://scm66.org>. You can download the latest e-mail version of the Chronicle there, as well as previous issues.

SCM CHAPTER EVENTS - DECEMBER

Friday, December 12, 7:00 pm

Danbury Dinner - Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner

at John's Best Pizza, Shop Rite Plaza, Federal Road, Danbury. Interested M's should contact Ward Mazzucco at 203-744-1929, ext 25, wjm@danburylaw.com or Rev. Bill Loring at 203-794-1389, fr.bill@comcast.net for info on location and/or reservations.

Saturday, December 14, Noon - 7:00 pm

Games Gathering

in New Canaan. Contact Hilary at upscwru@gmail.com for directions. Plenty of room to have multiple games going at once (up to five?). Also, let's do a game gift exchange - bring a wrapped game (used is okay, if it is complete and lightly used), and we'll do the steal the present game (3:00 pm for that). I'll have some food/drink, but contributions will be appreciated. Starts at noon, ends when it is done (4 am?). I have room for houseguests - if you want to stay over, just let me know, so I can plan. First come first served on the three beds other than mine; then it goes to floor space. Three cats inside, smokers can go on the porch out back. If anyone is coming a very long way and wants to make a weekend of it, I could take house guests Friday night, too, as I'm taking that day off. I may have to draft you for some light house chores should you decide to come Friday, though I'd be glad to have you! Please RSVP for yourself and any significant others you plan to bring and let me know your plans.

January's Game Night will be in Westport.

Tuesday, December 17, 6:30

Post Road Dinner

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

LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday, January 18, 6:30

Monthly Dinner

The PUTNAM HOUSE Restaurant, 12 Depot Place, Bethel, CT 06801 (downtown - across from old railroad station). Author and world traveler Jerry Brooker, a member of Southern CT Mensan for two decades, will speak about his recent trip to Syrian refugee camps in Jordan and his talk before the Trans-generational Trauma conference in Amman. Jerry has photos of the trip to show and will tell us about his visit to the refugee camps with the Patch Adams Clowns.

At the conference, Jerry gave a short talk "The Journey from Ordinary to Extraordinary", geared towards Sunni Muslim medical professionals who are developing a healthcare structure in the camps. At his January presentation for us, Jerry will pose questions from his 2013 conference presentation. We will consider matters such as how we respond to failure: do we let it undermine our progress and potential or do we find ways to overcome it?

CONNECTICUT AND WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER EVENTS

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

DECEMBER

5, 12, 19, 26 Thursdays 6:30 pm

Scrabble

The word-loving Mensans (are there any other kind?) and non-Mensans gather to play Scrabble at Panera Bread Restaurant at Bishop's Corner, 2542 Albany Ave., West Hartford. For more info contact Lois Cappellano 413-567-4702

Admitted in CT, NY & OR

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6 Friday 5:30 pm

Happy Hour in Wallingford

(ME, 1st Fridays) Ann Polanski (contact her at 203-269-4565 or cell 860-817-9910 or ann.polanski@comcast.net) 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.

11 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

19 Thursday 6:30 pm

Pioneer Valley Dinner, West Springfield, MA

(ME, 3rd Thursday) Email Ian Fraser (ianfraser@usa.net) for more information, directions, or to RSVP. As always, new members and guests are encouraged to attend this always friendly and interesting event. We hope to see you there!

27 Friday 5:00 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

27 Friday 7:00 - 12:00 pm

Holiday Party for CT and Western MA

Join us for a sit down dinner featuring music, a candy buffet, dance floor and music, airbrush tattoos, and an array of casino table (funny money only, of course) featuring poker, blackjack, roulette, and craps. Folks are encouraged to dress up for the party. When we say dress up, feel free to dress up in whatever way makes you feel you look best: fancy dress, steampunk, renaissance wear or whatever seems appropriate. We welcome all.

Hospitality Room opens at 5 pm
Vegetarian and Gluten Free meals available (with advance request)

The Party is Friday, December 27th from 7-12 at the Marriott in Springfield. Tickets are \$10 for members and \$25 for guests if you prepay before December 1st, or \$15 for members and \$30 for guests after that. Parking is only \$5. Don't want to drive home after the party? We've arranged a special room rate of only \$79!

Awards for:
Best Dressed*
Best Candid Camera Phone Picture*
Funniest Camera Phone Picture*
High Roller Charity of Choice - 1st Place*
High Roller Charity of Choice - 2nd Place*

Gaming Room (Hospitality Room after the shindig begins) for Board Games, etc and rumors of an after-party

Attendees can sign up at sign up at cwm-holidayparty2013.brownpapertickets.com

FROM THE LOCSEC

GAMES

It's December and in case you're headed out to do some extra shopping, here (in no particular order) are some of the games that Mensans have been playing recently when they get together:

Ingenious
Alhambra
Puerto Rico
Seven Wonders
Citadels
Mercante
Kingdom Builder
Power Grid
Ticket to Ride
Quirkle
Fresco
Acquire
Blokus
San Marco
King of Tokyo

RECOGNITION

December is also when Mensa starts soliciting nominations for some of the Foundation's Awards. The Mensa Education & Research Foundation was established about 40 years ago to support the pursuit of excellence in human intelligence. The mission and strategic focus are directed at scholarships, education and awards.

TEACHING

The Mensa Distinguished Teacher Award recognizes a teacher, professor or instructor at any educational level who has had an especially positive influence on the education or life of a Mensa member. The educator may have impacted a Mensa member directly or, as a result of their influence, on the education of a dependent. Recognition letters may be submitted by the member or their dependent.

CREATIVE ACHIEVEMENT

The Copper Black Award for Creative Achievement, named after the late Ms. Copper Black, recognizes an outstanding creative achievement by an American Mensa member. Copper Black was a Mensan who valued creativity and left a legacy funding in her will to support a special annual award recognizing a different outstanding creative achievement every year.

RESEARCH

Presented jointly with Mensa International, Ltd., these annual awards are given internationally for outstanding research on intelligence, intellectual giftedness and related fields. As many as 10 awards are given to the best published papers.

INTELLECTUAL BENEFITS

This award program recognizes the application of Mensans' intellectual abilities that result in tangible benefits to society. In addition to the foregoing recognition awards, we are currently accepting applications for the College Scholarship program. Full details are available on the Foundation's website.

Sincere wishes for a great month!
Deb Jennings

Advertisement

HISTORY OF THE WORLD OR THE LIFE AND TIMES OF WILLY THE SHAKE

by William Hutchinson

Ten years in the making, it is unlike any history book you have ever read. It looks at the truth, the assumptions and the lies.

It starts at the beginning and takes you to:

- The Stone Age Inventors - creators of indoor toilets and skis
- The early Olympics - they were mean and corrupt and magnificent
- Saint Patrick - a man who changed a country's religion without shedding a drop of blood
- Columbus - as seen through the eyes of a yellow journalist
- The formation of the Church of England - as seen by a committee
- Pocahontas - as you have never seen her
- Spend some time with the hard-headed Separatist
- Take a trip on the Flying Dutchman - but don't do it at night
- Check out a memorial to a great man - often considered nothing more than a fictional hero in today's childrens' books
- Go to the gold fields, travel on the Underground Railroad, dig for dinosaurs, take a look at the movie industry and visit the workings of big business

**This eBook is still only 99 cents.
Paperbacks are available.**

Check it out: WillytheShake.com

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

1. How often should you check your e-mail?
2. How many nations fought in World War I?
3. About how long does it take to clear the damaged vehicles from a traffic accident from the road?
4. How do the Dow Jones average, the S&P 500, and the NASDAQ Composite Index differ in how they weight stocks in their indexes?
5. Which of Shakespeare's plays do critics find most difficult to interpret?
6. What are the sister cities of Stamford, CT?
7. How much of the previous day do people usually remember?
8. Estimate the populations of these historic European cities: Pisa, Italy; Trento, Italy; Versailles, France; Wittenberg, Germany; Corinth, Greece.
9. What diseases are often misdiagnosed?
10. Who coined the term "the Third World"?
11. How can onlookers stop an argument or skirmish from turning into a fight?
12. Which Connecticut cities have served as state capital?
13. Which historians were the best writers?
14. How many NFL (National Football League) teams have a beast, bird, fish, or insect as their team nickname? How many major league baseball teams do?

PUZZLES & QUESTIONS ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

2. What is the population of the Australian state Tasmania, which includes the island of Tasmania and 334 surrounding islands?

A: The population of Tasmania is about 512,100. Tasmania is about 240 km. (150 miles) from the Australian continent. It is about 364 km. (226 miles) long and about 306 km. (190 miles) wide. The island is named after the Dutch explorer Abel Tasman, the first European to sight the island, back on Nov. 24, 1642.

4. In the U.S., what is the approximate ratio of male alcoholics to female alcoholics?

A: There are about 2.5 male alcoholics for every female alcoholic.

6. How many elements are there in the periodic table?

A: Right now there are 118 elements in the periodic table, although four (elements 113, 115, 117, and 118) have not been confirmed yet.

The first 98 elements in the table exist naturally, at least in trace amounts, and the last 20 have only been synthesized or reportedly synthesized in laboratories.

8. What was the first state fair held in the U.S.? How many states hold state fairs?

A: The first state fair in the U.S. was the New York State Fair of 1841, held in Syracuse. The second state to hold a state fair was Michigan, which held its first State Fair in 1849 in Detroit. 49 states hold state fairs. Only Connecticut doesn't have one, although it participates in the Big E New England Fair. Connecticut's state fair, formerly held in Goshen, is defunct.

Some states hold more than one state fair yearly, holding them at different times of the year in different towns.

WORD CHECK

See if you can define these military words.

1. adiaphora -
2. animism -
3. doxology -
4. eschatology -
5. gnosticism -
6. midrash -
7. soteriology -
8. theodicy -

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. amazing -
2. intense -
3. generous -
4. keep (verb) -
5. particular -
6. past (adjective) -
7. spawn (verb) -
8. utopia -

ANSWERS ON NEXT PAGE

10. What percentage of the earth's surface water is in the oceans? What percentage of the fresh water on earth is ice?

A: About 97.5% of the world's surface water is in the oceans. The rest is in lakes and in icebergs, glaciers, and ice caps. About 69% of the earth's fresh water is in this ice.

Although oceans cover 71% of the earth's surface, they are only about .02% of the earth's mass. The Southern Hemisphere is about 80% ocean and the Northern Hemisphere is about 60% ocean.

About 96.5% of the ocean is water and the rest is dissolved solids. The average temperature of the ocean surface is about 62.6 degrees Fahrenheit (17 degrees Celsius). It is lowest at

the North and South poles (about 28 degrees F, -2 degrees C) and highest at the equator (86 degrees F, 30 degrees C).

12. In National Football League games (NFL), what percentage of field goal kicks from the 52-yard line are successful when the temperature is moderate? What percentage are successful when the temperature is at or below 30 degrees Fahrenheit?

A: When the temperature is moderate, NFL kickers make 52-yard field goals about 55% of the time. When the temperature is 30 degrees Fahrenheit or below, they are only successful about 30% of the time.

WORD CHECK ANSWERS:

1. **adiaphora** - in Biblical religions, actions or beliefs which are neither commanded nor forbidden in the Bible, and thus left to the liberty of the conscience; issues of theology or morals to which scripture does not speak definitively.
2. **animism** - belief that souls or spirits exist in animals, plants, geographic features, or meteorological or other natural phenomena.
3. **doxology** - a short hymn glorifying God.
4. **eschatology** - branch of theology dealing with end times or last things.
5. **gnosticism** - theological-philosophical systems which hold that matter is corrupt and evil and God cannot interact directly with it but only through emanations, and that mortals can only free themselves from the material world through secret knowledge - gnosis - which will enlighten them and lead them into divine reality.
6. **midrash** - an early Jewish interpretation of or commentary on a Biblical text, clarifying or expounding a point of law or developing or illustrating a moral principle. 2. A collection of such commentaries, especially ones from approximately 1 - 1,200 A.D.
7. **soteriology** - branch of theology dealing with salvation.
8. **theodicy** - any philosophical attempt to square the existence of evil with the existence of a benevolent, omnipotent God.

SYNONYM SENSE ANSWERS:

11. **amazing** - fantastic, awesome, incredible, astounding, astonishing, stunning, spectacular. Antonyms: routine, dull, ordinary, routine, common, commonplace, unspectacular, trivial.
2. **intense** - extreme, sharp, keen, acute, strong, concentrated. Antonyms: dull, dim, minor, mild, unnoticeable, tedious, numbing, deadening, lackluster.
3. **generous** - benevolent, charitable, munificent, magnanimous, kind, liberal, philanthropic. Antonyms: stingy, miserly, uncharitable, Scrooge-like, tight-fisted, penurious.
4. **keep** - save, retain, hold, have, preserve, maintain. Antonyms: discard, eliminate, lose, leave, abandon, give up, reject, repudiate, relinquish, junk, throw out, jettison, surrender, toss.
5. **particular** - specific, specified, special, custom, select, distinct. Antonyms: general, generic, unspecific, unspecified, indefinite, indifferent.
6. **past** - former, bygone, erstwhile, late, lost, irretrievable. Antonym: future, impending, anticipated, dawning, new, prospective, coming, forthcoming, approaching.
7. **spawn** - generate, breed, produce, trigger, kindle, engender, begin, spark, foster, stimulate, sire. Antonyms: stop, kill, choke, check, halt, interrupt, squash, squelch, strangle, smother.
8. **utopia** - nirvana, paradise, Arcadia, Shangri-la, Erewhon, Elysium. Antonyms: dystopia, antiutopia, apocalypse, hell, Hades, abyss.

NOTED & QUOTED

History does not repeat itself except in the minds of those who do not know history - *Kahlil Gibran, (1884 - 1931), Syrian-American writer and artist*

Every past is worth condemning
- *Friedrich Nietzsche, (1844 - 1900)*

Optimism is the opium of the people.
- *Milan Kundera, (1929 -), Franco-Czech novelist*

Reality is the name we give to our disappointments. - *Mason Cooley, (1927 - 2002), U.S. aphorist, City Aphorisms, Ninth Selection (1992)*

I have scars on my hands from touching certain people. - *J.D. (Jerome David) Salinger, (1919 - 2010), U.S. novelist, Seymour: An Introduction (1959)*

We cannot be more sensitive to pleasure without being more sensitive to pain.
- *Alan Watts, (1915 - 1973), Anglo-American Zen philosopher*

When I'm not writing, I'm dying.
- *Neil Diamond, (1941 -), U.S. songwriter, singer*

Time and space are fragments of the infinite for the use of finite creatures.
- *Henri Frederic Amiel, (1821 - 1881), Swiss philosopher*

Our destiny can be examined, but it cannot be justified or totally explained. We are simply here.
- *Iris Murdoch, (1919 - 1999), Irish-English philosopher and novelist*

Talent without genius isn't much, but genius without talent is nothing whatsoever.
- *Paul Valery, (1871 - 1945), French author and poet*

The problem with Ireland is that it's a country full of genius, but with absolutely no talent.
- *Hugh Leonard, (1926 - 2009), Irish dramatist, essayist, television writer*

Many of us crucify ourselves between two thieves - regret for the past and fear of the future.
- *Fulton Oursler, (1893 - 1952), U.S. journalist, editor, playwright, and detective novelist*

The thing I fear most is fear.
- *Michel de Montaigne, (1533 - 1592), Essays, Book I, Chapter 18 (1580)*

Time and tide wait for no man.
- *Geoffrey Chaucer, (c. 1343 - 1400), English poet*

Time in its aging course teaches all things.
- *Aeschylus, (525 - 456 B.C.E.), Greek dramatist*

Even the longest day has its end.
- *Irish Proverb*

Even a snail will eventually reach its destination.
- *Gail Tsukiyama, U.S. novelist, The Street of a Thousand Blossoms*

You cannot change your destination overnight, but you can change your direction overnight.
- *Jim Rohn, (1930 - 2009), U.S. entrepreneur, author, motivational speaker, philosopher*

Yes, there are two paths you can go by, but in the long run, there's still time to change the road you're on. - *Led Zeppelin*

All is ephemeral - fame and the famous as well.
- *Marcus Aurelius, (121 - 180), Meditations, Book IV*

Happiness [is] prosperity combined with virtue.
- *Aristotle, (384 - 322 B.C.E.)*

War is the Province of Chance. - *Count Carl von Clausewitz, (1780 - 1831), German soldier, military theorist*

I don't research anything. If I need something, I'll invent it.
- *Mickey Spillane, (1918 - 2006), U.S. detective novelist*

The life we all live is amateurish and accidental; it begins in accident and proceeds by trial and error toward dubious ends.
- *Wallace Stegner, (1909 - 1993), U.S. historian, novelist, short story writer, and environmentalist, Where the Bluebird Sings to the Lemonade Springs: Living and Writing in the West (1992)*

The Chronicle is THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA #066.

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MIND GAMES 2013 WINNERS:

Kulami. A tactical marble placement game for 2, where players take turns placing marbles on a configurable board of tiles. The placement of one player’s marble dictates the row or column into which the next marble may be placed. Winning requires domination of the most tiles. It is another simple but clever and well-made game from Fox Mind.

Suburbia. Suburbia is a Euro-style tile laying game for up to 4 players who try to build up a suburb that is both sustainable and supportive of growth. Building parks encourages population growth, but factories generate income. By how best to acquire and place tiles, players may develop the most successful infrastructure.

Kerflip. There are already so many word games that you might think it could be difficult to come up with a new one. But Damon Tabb did it with Kerflip, and it proved to be a winner. A handful of tiles are tossed onto the board, and the sooner a player uses as many letters as possible, the more they win. More fun than you might think!

Ghoost. This is basically a crazy 8 type game but with a more sophisticated mechanic and well-designed cards.

Forbidden Desert. This game is related to a prior-year winner, Forbidden Island. It is a cooperative game, meaning 2 to 5 players work together and try and beat the game.

MENSA MIND GAMES 2014

Austin is the host with the most! Game on! Mind Games(r) 2014 will be held April 18-20 in the Texas capital

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

To change your address on the web, login at <https://www.us.mensa.org/> and click on the Edit Profile link.

Please allow four weeks for the change in MENSA Bulletin (the National Magazine) delivery, and eight weeks for the Chronicle. Remember to give your membership number to facilitate this process (This number appears on your membership card and labels affixed to the Chronicle and MENSA Bulletin.) Member Number:

Name: _____

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Telephone Number: _____

Please send form to:
 American Mensa, Ltd.
 Membership Dept
 1229 Corporate Dr West
 Arlington, TX 76006-6103

SOUTHERN CT MENSA TREASURY

Fiscal Year:

April 1, 2013 - March 31, 2014

Opening balance at 4/1/13 \$11,753.08

INCOME

American Mensa
 Local Group Support Funds: \$1,521.32
Total Income **\$1,521.32**

EXPENSES

Chronicle Printing Expenses: \$120.17
 Chronicle Postage & Supplies: 64.40
 Testing Expenses: 265.07
 Domain Name: 180.30
 CultureQuest, MeetUp dues: 188.00
TOTAL EXPENSES: **\$817.94**

2nd Quarter Balance 9-30-13 **\$12,456.46**

ADVERTISEMENTS

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

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)

Larsen Toy Labs

(Westport, CT) at <http://larsentoylab.com/> to see educational and creative gifts. You can get a 25% discount when you make a donation of blocks to a nursery or elementary school or children's charity.

For ideas, go to www.Adoptaclassroom.org or www.schooldigger.com/go/CT/schoolrank.aspx.

Then Use code DONATE25 at the Larsen Toy Labs checkout to get your 25% discount.

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

Holistic Kidney

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

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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