

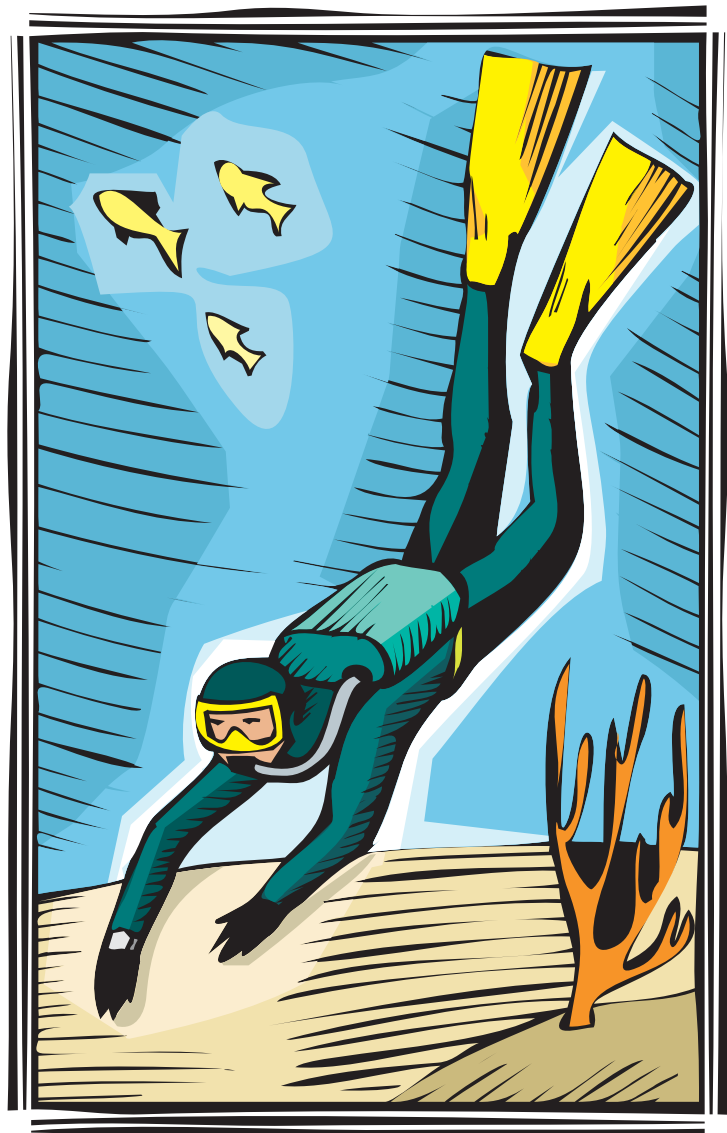
# SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA CHRONICLE

You should have received your **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL** form in early January. You can renew by mailing in your form, by renewing online at [www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org), or by calling (817) 607-0060, ext. 199 and using your MasterCard or Visa.

If you or someone you know would like to be a speaker at our monthly dinner, please contact Nancy O'Neil at [NancyOneil@aol.com](mailto:NancyOneil@aol.com). The dinner is held the third Saturday of the month at the Three Door Restaurant in Bridgeport.

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**SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS FOR JUNE**

Friday, June 13, 6:30

**Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner**

This is the new date for this monthly dinner at the Old Sorrento Restaurant, Newtown Road, DANBURY, CT Interested Mensans should contact Ward Mazzucco at (203) 744-1929, ext 25, wjm@danburylaw.com, or Rev Bill Loring at (203) 794-1389, frbill@mags.net.

Saturday, June 21, 7:00

**Monthly dinner, Three Door Restaurant**

1775 Madison Ave., BRIDGEPORT  
Long-time Mensan and Master Industrial Designer Joseph F. Lynders will be our speaker. Socializing starts at 7:00, followed by dinner at approximately 8:00 Please contact Nancy O'Neil at nancyoneil@aol.com or 203-791-1668 for information and reservations Dinner is \$15 and includes everything but the cash bar. Dress is casual and guests are welcome.

Saturday, June 28, 8:10

**THEATRE EVENT: Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice**

performed by Shakespeare on the Sound([www.shakespeareonthesound.org](http://www.shakespeareonthesound.org)), Pinkney Park, Route 136, Rowayton (Norwalk), CT. This is an outdoor show so arrive early and bring your chair. Suggested DONATION is \$15. For info or reservations, please call Jim Mizera at (203) 522-1959 or e-mail [Jmizera@hotmail.com](mailto:Jmizera@hotmail.com)

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR JUNE**

Friday, July 9, 7:00

**Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner**

See above listing for details.

Friday, July 17, 7:00

**Monthly Dinner**

See above listing for details.

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

This is not a complete listing WE - Weekly Event, ME - Monthly Event, YE - Yearly Event  
CT & W. Mass Calendar Editor Gisela

Rodriguez, (860) 872-3106,  
email: [lilith@snet.net](mailto:lilith@snet.net),

**JUNE**

5, 12, 19, 26 Thursday 7:00 PM

**Scrabble (WE) at Emmanuel Synagogue**

160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford Ellen Leonard, (860) 667-1966 (Please call first to make sure this is happening today).

6, Friday 5:30 - 7:00 PM

**Happy Hour (ME, first Friday) at the Ramada Inn, Meriden**

Ann Polanski, (203) 269-4565 This monthly reunion usually draws 10-20 people, Nov 2 we had 30! We warmly welcome newcomers, and it's less than a mile from the I-91 and I-691 interchange.

DIRECTIONS: From I-91 north or south, or Route 15 north or south, take East Main St (Meriden) exit, head east (away from Meriden Center) After the I-91 interchanges, take a right at the next light There is a small Ramada sign at the corner After you pass the Meriden Cinema Complex and the road curves to the left, take a right into the Ramada parking lot Inside Silver City Grill, ask the host/hostess for the Mensa table - they know us well!

11 Wednesday 6:35 PM

**Baseball game in New Britain.**

The Rock Cats host the Altoona Curve, Double-A farm team for the Pittsburgh Pirates. Buy a general admission ticket for \$5 and meet in Section 213, about six rows from the top. Confirm the starting time with your daily newspaper, or at [www.rockcats.com](http://www.rockcats.com). Need more info? [tom.thomas@the-spa.com](mailto:tom.thomas@the-spa.com)

*Admitted in CT, NY & OR*

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Fax (203) 852-1574  
[sharon@oberstlaw.com](mailto:sharon@oberstlaw.com)

11 Sunday 10:00 AM

**Breakfast (ME, 2nd Sunday)**

VFW Hall in Manchester. Sunday Brunch hosted by VFW Post 2046 in Manchester, CT from 8 AM to 12 noon. Enjoy omelets made to order, scrambled eggs, pancakes, english muffins, coffee, tea, juices and more, all for \$5.00 pp. Meet you at the Post (608 E. Center St.) around 10 AM. Take Rtes. 44/6 east thru town until E. Center joins E. Middle Tpke. The Post is on the right side (across from Birds and Books). Call Bill Vincent for details (860) 646-3007.

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20 Friday 6:00 - 8:00 PM or so

**Diner Dinner**

(ME) Third Friday of the month, at Olympia Diner, Rte 5, Newington, just north of the Berlin town line and North East Utilities Meet at 6 PM or thereabouts Diner Dinner ranges from toasted cheese sandwich to steak and fish dinners. Basic bar menu available, no happy hour prices, but the food is good and very reasonable Please contact John Bentley at (860) 644-0435 or email BENTLEYJ860@aol.com, subject "diner dinner."

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17, Saturday 6:35 PM

**Mensa Goes to a Baseball Game**

Meet Tom Thomas in New Britain Stadium to see the Rock Cats host the Portland Sea Dogs, the Double-A farm club of the Boston Red Sox. Buy a general admission ticket, go to Section 213, about six rows from the top and enjoy an evening of baseball and laughs. Need more info? Contact tom.thomas@thespa.com or www.rockcats.com

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21 Saturday 10 AM - 1 PM

**Family Outing: Jonathan's Dream Playground**

Mukesh Prasad and family (wife: Abhilasha, children: Shaan, 5 and Trisha, 4) would like to invite Mensan families with young children to the Jonathan's Dream Playground in West Hartford for an afternoon of family fun. Bring a picnic lunch. Call Mukesh or Abhilasha at (860) 683-2183 for info.

Directions: Jonathan's Dream is on Abrams Blvd, right off Route 189 (Bloomfield Avenue) in West Hartford, behind the Jewish Community Center. It is near the West Hartford/Bloomfield boundary. From I-91 South, take exit 35-B. Make a right onto 218. After 3.75 miles, take a left onto 189. After 1.25 miles, turn

right on Abrams Blvd. (If you see University of Hartford, you have gone a mile too far.) From I-84 West take Exit 44 Prospect Ave. Take a right at light at the end of exit. Drive a half block and take a left onto Prospect Avenue and follow it to the end. At the end of Prospect Ave., take a right onto Albany Ave. Get in the left lane and at the next light take a left onto Bloomfield Ave. Drive down Bloomfield Ave. for approximately one mile and then take a left at the stop light and turn onto Abrams Blvd. This light is right after a large sculpture.

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25 Wednesday Noon

**Middlebury Lunch (ME, last Wednesday)**

Good food and good conversation available! Where? At Maggie McFly's in Middlebury, visible on the right from Rte. 63 just south of the Rte 63 and Rte 64 intersection. This intersection is at the end of a long ramp at Exit 17 on Rte 84 west. From this exit, turn left at the 63/64 intersection. If you use Exit 17 on Rte. 84 east (heading toward Hartford), turn left off the exit ramp and see Maggie McFly's on your left. When? On the last Wednesday of any month from 12 noon to about 1:30 p.m. The number of attendees is growing; so, join the fun. Become a McFlyer. Maggie, in goggles and leather helmet, flying a red biplane, soars over your head. Please call Richard Fogg at 860-274-2370 if you will attend for the first time. This will give him time to scramble for a larger table, or a longer lunch trench, as needed.

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27 Friday 5:00 PM

**Fourth Friday Happy Hour, (ME, fourth Friday)**

Colonial Tymes, 2389 Dixwell Ave Hamden Located about 1/2 mile north of Exit 60, Wilbur Cross Parkway We have been able to sit at a nice big table and enjoy the good free food for a few months now Come on down and join us We also seem to be going out to dinner after, so if you plan to come and want dinner, too, let us know so we can reserve Gail Trowbridge (203) 877-4472 or Gail.Trowbridge@att.com I send out an e-mail reminder every month Let me know if you'd like to be on the list.

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**MENSA REGIONAL GATHERING**

October 17-19, 2003

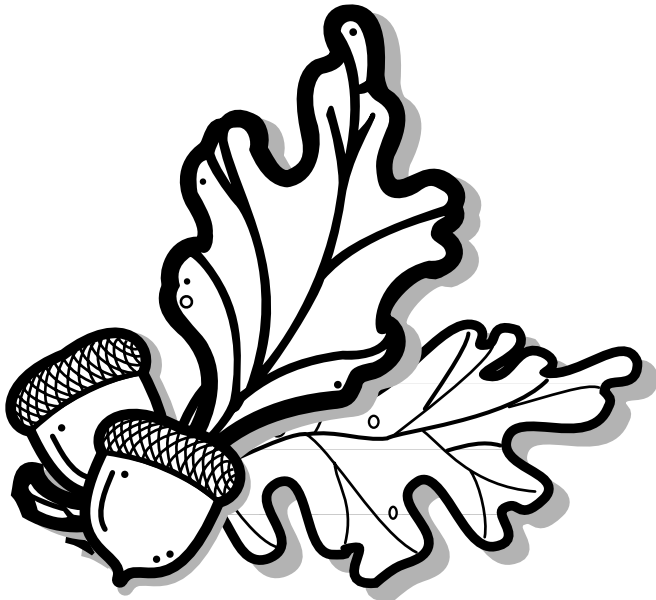
**MENSAUTUMN 2003**

Cromwell, CT.

Connecticut & Western Massachusetts Mensa is hosting its 26th annual Regional Gathering. Enjoy food and beverages galore, fascinating speakers, and wonderful conversation. Join us for a great weekend.

Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, 100 Berlin Road, Cromwell, CT 06416. (860) 635-2000. SR/DR \$84. TR/QR \$94 + tax. Room rates guaranteed to 9/24. Hotel is off I-91, south of Hartford, north of New Haven.

Checks payable to C & WM Mensa RG. Contact William Vincent, 70 Weaver Rd., Manchester, CT 06040. (860) 646-3007, wpvincent@aol.com

**PAUSE FOR REFLECTION**

Regional Vice-Chairman Betsy Burke

Are you tired of reality shows on TV? I certainly am not enamored of them. I haven't been able to care about who survives the trials of trying to land a false millionaire, pick a potential mate from a group of masked men, become the latest pop or country-western star, do the stupidest feat, or eat the most revolting things imaginable. However, Mensa has become part of this world (sort of)! On June 9, Fox TV will run a show that tests the nation's intelligence, and Mensa helped with the production.

Fox asked Mensa to help norm the test. Various people around the country were tested with one of Mensa's qualifying tests and a Fox TV test. The Mensa scores were then used to norm the Fox Test. Mid-Hudson Mensa participated in the tests, as did Boston Mensa. I was amazed at how this worked, especially the speed with which everything had to be set up and organized. You might enjoy watching this show and seeing if you qualify for Mensa!

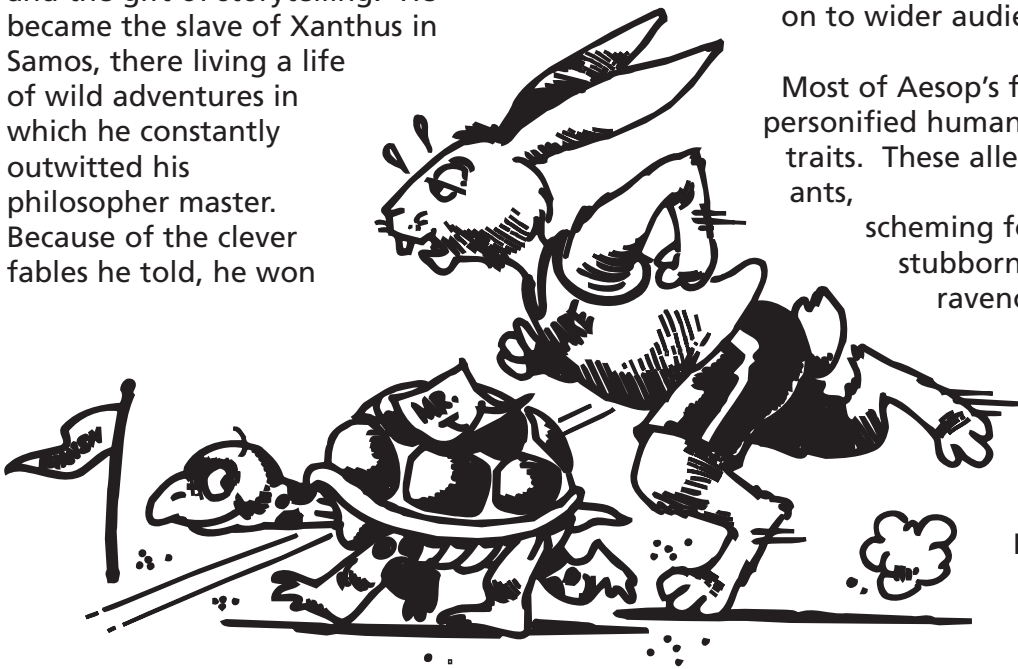
This might be my last column as your RVC, as the results of the voting will be known this month. I'd like to thank everyone who helped me, especially the editors and loc-secs. Thanks for all you do for this organization. I hope to see many of you at the AG.

I didn't write a column last month due to a personal health problem. I went in for my annual checkup and discovered that I needed out-patient surgery. Unfortunately it ended up being more serious than anticipated, and I had to be admitted to the hospital. (Never let yourself be admitted to a hospital when someone who works there has the same name - this caused all sorts of funny problems when relatives tried to locate me and my clothing disappeared!) Thankfully, all tumors turned out to be benign, but it was a major scare and I just haven't been able to "bounce back" yet. I missed Greater New York's RG because of this but I heard it was a successful and enjoyable gathering.

## AESOP AND HIS FABLES

The name Aesop is synonymous with fables. Most adults have ingrained in their minds from childhood the lessons from Aesop's famous stories such as "The Tortoise and the Hare", "The Boy Who Cried Wolf", "The Goose and the Golden Egg", and "The Fox and the Grapes." Few people, however, remember much else about the man except that he lived in Ancient Greece. Perhaps that's because very little is actually known about Aesop. His biography is a mixture of conjecture, myth, and legend.

Most biographies of Aesop say that he lived from 620 - 564 B.C. but no one is quite sure that Aesop even existed. Credible 5th-century sources such as Herodotus and Aristophanes admit uncertainty but characterize him as a sixth-century slave of marvelous wisdom. Most accounts say that he was born in Phrygia, although others claim that he was born in Sardis; the capital of Lydia (in modern day Turkey), or Samos; a Greek island, or Mesembria; an ancient colony in Thrace. The earliest biography we have of him is the Life of Aesop, which in its original version had the longer title The Book of Xanthus the Philosopher and His Slave Aesop. According to this manuscript, the great fabulist was born deformed, ugly, and mute. Because of his kindness in helping a priestess of the goddess Isis, Aesop was given the power of speech and the gift of storytelling. He became the slave of Xanthus in Samos, there living a life of wild adventures in which he constantly outwitted his philosopher master. Because of the clever fables he told, he won



the admiration of many wise men and eventually his freedom.

As a free man, Aesop traveled through many lands, winning audiences both among common folk and the learned with his wise tales. He settled in Sardis, the capital of Lydia, to serve the king Croesus, a patron of philosophers and sages. There, he conversed with famed minds such as Solon and Thales but outshone them all in the eyes of the monarch. Aesop was an administrator and ambassador under Croesus, visiting many of the small republics of Greece, as well as the mightier city-states such as Corinth and Athens. He lectured to the citizens of these states, counseling them through his fables.

There are more than 300 fables attributed to Aesop but he did not invent all of them, and he probably did not even create most of them. Many of them were already circulating long before his birth. For instance, the fable of "The Hawk and the Nightingale" appears in the writings of Hesiod (8th century B.C.), and "The Fox and the Eagle" by Archilochus (760 - 670 B.C.). The ancient Greeks were inveterate storytellers, and Aesop probably picked up many tales in his travels and passed them along from city to city. Some of Aesop's Fables can be traced to much later times, to monks of the Middle Ages. But Aesop is considered the father of fables because he collected so many of them, told them in a distinctive style, and passed them on to wider audiences.

Most of Aesop's fables featured animals who personified humans with distinctive character traits. These allegories have hard-working ants,

scheming foxes, proud peacocks, stubborn mules, imperious lions, ravenous wolves, and a host of other animals, birds, and insects. But many of these creatures have virtues and vices which turn up in different tales, or even in the same story, as in the "The Frogs and the Well" and "The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse."

continued on page 6

## AESOP'S FABLES CONTINUED

Aesop's fables also feature assortments of working men, ordinary people who converse with animals, and men and beast petitioning the gods - usually getting something they didn't ask for in the bargain. Regardless of their characters, however, most of the stories have a clear lesson, many of which echo to this day: "Look before you leap", "Pride comes before a fall", and "Out of the frying pan, into the fire."

Although Aesop's stories were simple and entertaining enough for children to enjoy, they were not originally intended for children. They were meant as rhetoric to win an audience to a point of view. This apparently was Aesop's idea in lecturing citizens of the Greek city-states which he toured. In visits to Corinth and Athens, he sought to reconcile the people of those cities with their rulers' regimes. Hence, the morals of many fables chastised ungrateful, reckless, or impatient men and animals. However, because the stories involved animals, people did not feel they were being reprimanded and they usually accepted the advice without resentment.

According to the poet Phaedrus and other writers, Aesop met his death on one of his many ambassadorial missions. Sent to Delphi by King Croesus to distribute a large amount of gold among the citizens, he became disturbed at the greed of the people there and, instead of gently counseling his hosts, criticized them with his sharp sarcasm. Not only that, he refused to give the Delphians their shares of gold, instead sending the riches back to his king. The enraged Delphians sentenced him to death and executed Aesop by pushing him off a cliff into the sea.

Legend has it that, because of its sin against philosophy, the city of Delphi was plagued by

calamities until its citizens repented. The rest of Greece mourned and honored the great sage in monument and poetry. The famous sculptor Lysippus erected a statue to Aesop's memory in Athens. He lived on in the hearts and minds of all Greeks.

After Aesop's death, his fables were passed on by oral tradition. Students of rhetoric took a great interest in them. Plato states that Socrates spent his time in prison before his execution translating some of Aesop's fables into verse. Demetrius of Phalerum, a student of Aristotle who became the ruler of Athens and librarian at the Great Alexandrian library, compiled the first collection of these fables about 300 B.C. Phaedrus, like Aesop a former slave, translated many of these fables into Latin iambics in the beginning of the 1st century A.D. Babrius, a Greek poet of an uncertain period, recorded a version that would only be recovered over 1500 years later. Many later Latin translators changed the style and the grammar of the fables. Other writers either added or invented fables, or falsified or passed on the most fantastic and absurd stories about Aesop's life.

Aesop's fables seem to have disappeared during the centuries of the Dark Ages. It was not until the beginning of the 14th century that they were rediscovered. A scholarly monk of Constantinople, Maximus Planudes, made a collection of about one hundred and fifty of the fables. Planudes served as a diplomat under the Byzantine Emperor Andronicus the Elder, a patron of learning. His visits to the Western Roman Empire in Venice spread knowledge of Aesop's works. There is doubt about the scrupulousness of Planudes' work, as they contain some anachronisms. He may have altered the collection of Aesop's fables by introducing his own fables or those of contemporary authors,

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## AESOP'S FABLES CONTINUED

or he may have just passed on the changes made by translators, philosophers, and rhetoricians of the first millennium. But despite these misgivings, modern scholars believe he passed on many of Aesop's tales that were close to the original, and he brought them to the attention of many scholars.

The Fables of Aesop gained their honored place in the Western mind during the Italian Renaissance. Along with Homer, Herodotus, and Thucydides, Aesop was one of the first of the ancient writers translated into Latin by Renaissance scholars. Planudes' collection was printed about 1475, and was translated and published in England in 1485.

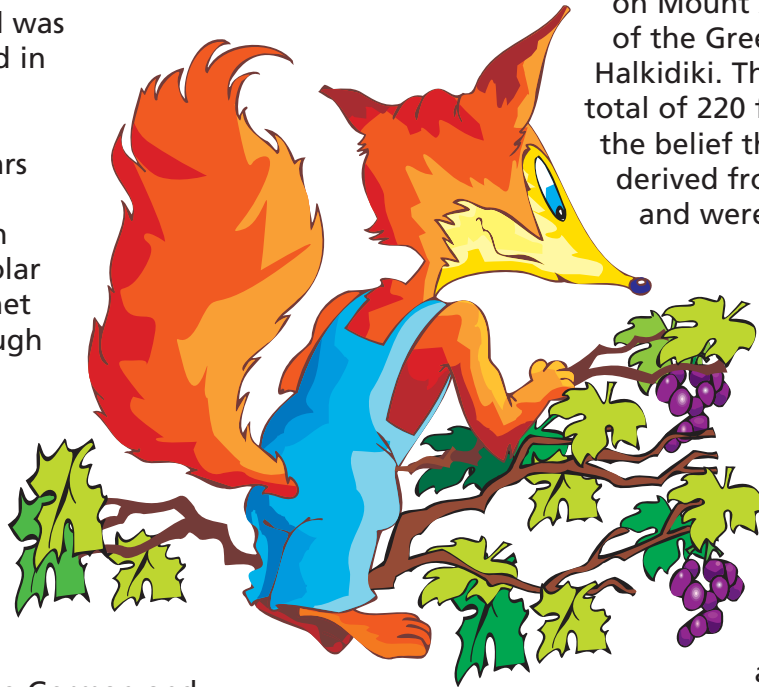
Later Renaissance scholars recovered much of the biographical material on Homer. The French scholar M. Claude Gaspard Bachet de Mezeriac sifted through the works of classical writers to recover what had been said about Aesop's life. He published his *Life of Aesop* in 1632.

Aesop's Fables spread throughout Europe, as they were translated into German and French. Many of the preachers of the Reformation used the fables to satirize and protest the abuses of the Catholic Church.

In 1610, the Swiss Isaac Nicholas Nevelet printed a new edition of Aesop's works, adding to the fables collected by Planudes over 200 previously unpublished fables recovered from the Vatican

Library and from ancient translators. This book furthered Aesop's reputation as one of the greatest moralists and teachers of all time.

Nevelet did a great service to scholarship about Aesop by suggesting that the existing versions of Aesop's Fables could be traced back to the ancient writer Babrius. 18th-century scholars provided evidence that they could not be entirely the work of Aesop because they used words not introduced until hundred of years after Aesop. Further analysis showed the style of the fables to be very close to that of Babrius. Finally, in 1884, researchers found a copy of Babrius' version of Aesop's Fables in a convent on Mount Athos, which is on one of the Greek peninsulas of Halkidiki. This manuscript had a total of 220 fables, and confirmed the belief that current works derived from Babrius' translations and were of ancient origin.



In the centuries since their rediscovery, Aesop's Fables has been the most widely circulated book except for the Bible. It is one of the most popular works of world literature, read by Christian, Jews, Muslims, and pagans alike. Many of the

morals from Aesop's stories have become household phrases, the epitome of common sense and wisdom. While Aesop's life may be half-legend, his fables have become truly legendary.

*You can read Aesop's Fables, along with some other fables, on-line at [www.AesopFables.com](http://www.AesopFables.com), .net, or .org.*

If you wish to submit material, please write or e-mail Jim Mizera at PMB #181, 7365 Main St., Stratford, CT 06614-1300, [Jmizera@hotmail.com](mailto:Jmizera@hotmail.com) E-mail submissions are preferred Please include your name, address, and telephone number Anonymous material will be rejected, although names will be withheld on request Items will be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope Currently, the deadline for postal submissions is the 15th of the month preceding publication, and the 20th of the month for e-mail submissions.

## WORD ORIGINS

Many English words come from Greek mythology. Below is a list of words, their meaning, and their source in Greek myth.

### **achilles' heel - vulnerable spot**

(one mortal spot of Achilles, Greek warrior in Trojan War.)

### **adonis - a handsome man**

(a young man loved by Aphrodite [Venus].)

### **aegis - sponsorship, protection of**

(The goatskin shield or breastplate of Zeus or Athena.)

### **amazon - strong woman**

(mythological warrior women)

### **astral - relating to the stars**

(Astraeus, Greek god of the four winds.)

### **atlas - a collection of maps**

(a Titan who held up the earth.)

### **cassandra - a person who utters unheeded prophecies or forecasts.**

(daughter of king of Troy who had the gift of prophecy but who was fated by Apollo never to be believed. She foretold the fall of Troy but went unheeded.)

### **celestial**

(Caelestis, form of the name of Jupiter, heavenly god.)

### **cereal**

(Ceres, Greek goddess of agriculture, named Demeter by Romans.)

### **chaos**

(the most ancient of Greek gods; the personification of the infinity of space preceding creation of the universe.)

### **Charybdis**

(mythological whirlpool off the coast of Sicily that sucked down vast quantities of water three times a day. Together with the monster Scylla, Charybdis was one of twin perils faced by Odysseus. He could not avoid one without facing the other.)

### **chimerical - fantastic or foolish**

(Fire-breathing monster that was part lion, part-goat, and part-serpent.)

### **circe - an irresistibly charming woman**

(enchantress, friend and advisor to Odysseus.)

### **chiropractor - doctor who heals by manipulating**

### **chirography - handwriting, penmanship**

### **chiromancy - palmistry**

(Chiron, originally a Thessalonian god of healing, but later in Greek myth a centaur who tutored Achilles and Hercules in many things, including medicine.)

### **chronology**

(Chronos, god of time.)

### **cyclopean - very big, huge**

(Cyclops, one-eyed giant of the race that built Olympus for the gods.)

### **cloth**

(Clotho, goddess who was the youngest of the three Fates. Her job was to spin the thread of human life with her distaff.)

### **copious - plentiful, abundant**

### **cornucopia - an abundance**

(Copia, Roman goddess of wealth and plenty, who carried a cornucopia - a horn of plenty. She belonged to the retinue of the goddess Fortuna.)

### **dionysian - ecstatic or wild**

(Dionysus, the god of wine)

### **echo**

(Nymph condemned by Hera to speak only to echo the words of others)

### **Elysium, Elysian fields - a heavenly place**

(part of the Underworld for heroes. The abode of the blessed after death.)

### **ethereal - light, heavenly, fine**

(Aether, the personification of the pure upper air in which the Greek gods resided.)

### **fortune**

(Fortuna, Roman name of Tyche, Greek goddess of good fortune.)

**gorgon - ugly creature**

(snake-haired goddesses who turned onlookers to stone.)

**halcyon - calm**

(Alcyone, demi-goddess, changed by the gods into a bird who calmed the waters.)

**herculean - powerful**

(Hercules, hero who completed 12 labors.)

**hydra - problem that is hard to get rid of**

(water monster who grew two heads when one was cut off.)

**hypnosis**

(Hypnos, the personification of sleep in Greek mythology.)

**jovial**

(Jove, form of the god of the sky Jupiter's name. The planet Jupiter was thought to make those born under it joyful or jovial.)

**junoesque - of stately bearing**

(Juno, Roman name of Hera, Greek goddess of marriage, wife of Zeus, and the Queen of the Olympians.)

**labyrinth - maze**

(fiendishly complex maze that held the Minotaur, a monster who was half man and half bull.)

**martial**

(Mars, Roman name of Ares, Greek god of war.)

**mercurial - quick and changeable**

(Mercury, Roman name of Hermes, swift, wing-heeled Greek messenger of the gods.)

**mentor - teacher or counselor**

(advisor of Odysseus)

**mnemonics - system to improve memory**

(Mnemosyne, Greek goddess of memory.)

**muse, music**

(Muses, Greek goddesses who presided over the arts and sciences.)

**narcissism - abnormal love of self**

(Narcissus, youth who was cursed by falling in love with his own reflection.)

**nemesis - enemy**

(goddess of vengeance)

**odyssey - a long journey**

(Odysseus, hero who took 10 years to find his way home from the Trojan War.)

**olympian - majestic**

(Olympians, race of gods who ruled the cosmos.)

**paeon - a song of praise**

(name for Apollo; hymn that glorified and praised Apollo.)

**panic**

(Pan, god of shepherds and flocks. Born with the legs and horns of a goat, Pan was considered the cause of sudden fear that comes for no reason, especially in lonely places.)

**plutocracy - rule by the wealthy**

(Roman name of Greek god Hades, ruler of the underworld. The word "Pluto" means "wealth" in Latin and Greek, either because precious minerals come from beneath the surface of the earth or because Pluto was rich in dead souls.)

**procrustean - rigid, strict**

(Mythological host who adjusted his guests to fit their bed. )

**promethean - boldly creative; defiantly original**

(Prometheus, Titan who stole fire from Olympus and gave it to humankind, for which Zeus chained him to a rock to be eternally tormented by an eagle.)

**protean - able to change**

(sea god who could change his shape.)

**psyche, psychology**

(Psyche, beautiful young woman whom even Eros, son of Aphrodite, fell in love with, inciting Aphrodite's jealousy. She became the personification of the human soul.)

**shade**

(insubstantial, phantom-like remains of the dead, the form in which the newly deceased congregated on the shore of the River Styx, awaiting their passage to the underworld.)

**siren - a seductive, dangerous woman**

(Sweetly singing enchantresses, part woman, part bird, who lured sailors to their doom.)

**somnambulism - acting while asleep or sleepwalking**

(Roman name of Hypnos, Greek god of sleep.)

**stentorian - very loud**

(Greek herald in the Trojan War who had the voice of 50 men.)

**stygian - dark and gloomy**

(Styx, river of the Underworld)

**tantalize**

(Tantalus, man who was punished by the gods by forever hungering and thirsting for food he couldn't reach.)

**terpsichorean - of or relating to dancing**

(Terpsichore, the Muse of dancing and choral singing.)

**titanic - huge and powerful**

(race of giants who ruled before the Olympians overthrew them.)

**thanatology - study of death and dying**

(Thanatos, Greek god of death.)

**typhoon - tropical cyclone**

(Typhon, ugly and destructive Greek god.)

**venerate - to regard with reverence**

(Venus, Roman name of Aphrodite, Greek goddess of love.)

**volcano**

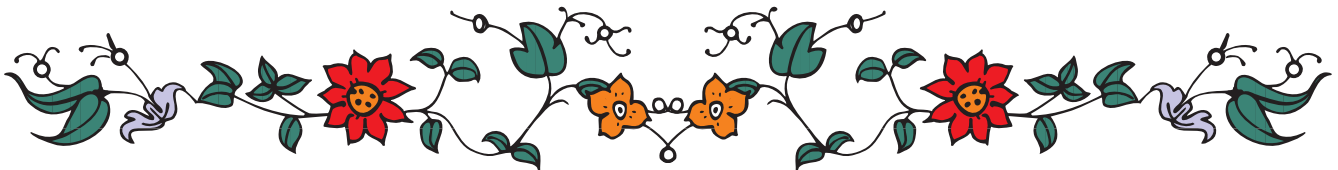
(Vulcan, Roman name of Hephaestus, Greek god of fire.)

**zeal, zealous**

(Zelus - Greek god who accompanied Zeus and personified zeal or emulation.)

**zephyr**

(Zephyrus, Greek god of the west wind.)

**POETRY CORNER****Sundown**

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. (1807 - 1882)  
 (From *The Belfry of Bruges and Other Poems*, 1845)

THE summer sun is sinking low;  
 Only the tree-tops redden and glow:  
 Only the weathercock on the spire  
 Of the neighboring church is a flame of fire;  
 All is in shadow below.

O beautiful, awful summer day,  
 What hast thou given, what taken away?  
 Life and death, and love and hate,  
 Homes made happy or desolate,  
 Hearts made sad or gay!

On the road of life one mile-stone more!  
 In the book of life one leaf turned o'er!  
 Like a red seal is the setting sun  
 On the good and the evil men have done,—  
 Naught can to-day restore!

**Dusk in June**

by Sara Teasdale, (1884 - 1933)  
 From *Rivers to the Sea*, 1915

EVENING, and all the birds  
 In a chorus of shimmering sound  
 Are easing their hearts of joy  
 For miles around.

The air is blue and sweet,  
 The few first stars are white,—  
 Oh let me like the birds  
 Sing before night.!

## GOOD WINE CHEAP (AND GOOD FOOD TO GO WITH IT)

By John Grover

With summer on the way, the Northeast and Mid Atlantic States provide many opportunities for day and weekend trips to wine regions. The Finger Lakes of New York is the largest of these areas, and the Chateau Lafayette Reneau, on the East side of Seneca Lake, is at its heart. Its 2001 Seyval-Charonnay blend is one the great finds in New York wine. This white wine starts out with a floral and vanilla nose that switches quickly to crisp apple and smooth Chardonnay through the mouth. A hint of oak complements these tastes. It's so good that the \$6 to \$7 price is absolutely astounding.

Now get out the Lipitor. Double up on the Pravachol. This month we progress from politically incorrect to criminally hedonistic. We have a recipe for the ages, complete with the dreaded butter and heavy cream.

*John Grover is a member of Mensa of Northeastern New York. He lives with his wife Sharon in the Hudson Valley in Kinderhook, New York.*

## Veal Adeline

Ingredients:

12 veal medallions approximately 1 1/2 oz. each  
1/4 lb. butter (you probably won't need all this)  
all purpose flour  
3 oz. sweet Marsala wine  
1 cup heavy cream  
1 lemon  
fresh ground black pepper  
garlic powder to taste  
12 mushroom caps (go ahead add more)  
10 artichoke hearts (halved).

Coat the bottom of a large heavy skillet with butter. Dredge the veal in flour and then place in the hot skillet. Sauté veal medallions until they are golden brown. Add the Marsala wine, pepper and garlic powder and simmer briefly. Add one cup of heavy cream and the juice of 1/2 lemon. Add mushrooms and artichoke halves. Simmer until rich and creamy. Place veal on a serving platter arranging the mushrooms and artichokes on top. Serve with rice or try a garlic couscous.

I hope that you will contact me with your comments and favorite wines at [jgrover@berk.com](mailto:jgrover@berk.com). I will be happy to share them with the broader Mensa group.

*Hello everyone.*

*It is my sad duty to inform our club that the Three Door Restaurant has been sold. The closing will be at the end of this month, June. Until just recently, I was not able to disclose knowledge of the sale per the buyer's orders.*

*This is the end of a great run for our club, and the beginning of a wonderful new era.*

*A big Thank You to everyone who spoke to our members, attended the dinners or read the subsequent articles in the Chronicle. We had a great time over the last twelve years. Yes, it has been twelve years. Our first dinner meeting at the Three Door was in October of 1990.*

*I want to publicly thank Lee Steuber. For all of those twelve years, Lee has been the gracious host, organizer, ticket taker, etc. of the dinners. I merely supplied the space and food. Thank You Lee. You are great to work with and I felt we were an effective team.*

*So, I will see you all at our next get together. Third Saturdays will never be the same. They are going to be better.*

*Thanks Again,  
Donald Bobowick*

## PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

### 1. Shivering Sherlock! Whodunit?

One snowy night, Sherlock Holmes was in his house sitting by the fire. All of a sudden, a snowball came crashing through his window, breaking it.

Holmes got up and looked out the window just in time to see three neighborhood kids, who were brothers, run around a corner. Their names were John Crimson, Mark Crimson, and Paul Crimson.

The next day Holmes got a note on his door that read "? Crimson. He broke your window."

Which of the three brothers should Sherlock question about the incident?



2. How many different basic plots are there for stories? How many different themes are there?

3. What were Albert Einstein's greatest mistakes?

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

3. Jones and Smith each buy 100 feet of fencing for their gardens. Jones makes a square garden and Smith makes a circular garden. Which one will have a bigger garden?

A: Jones' garden will be 25 feet by 25 feet, or 625 square feet. Smith will make a circle of circumference 100 feet with his fencing. From the circumference, we can calculate the radius of the circle and from the radius we can calculate the area. The circumference of a circle is given by  $C = 2 \times 3.14 \times (\text{the radius})$ . So the radius of the circle will be  $100/(6.28)$ , or about 15.92 feet. The area is  $3.14 \times (\text{the radius})^2$ , or about 795.82 feet, considerably larger than that of the square garden.

### THE READING EDGE ^ WHAT'S YOUR READING SPEED?

Do you know what your reading speed is? There is an online test that can give you a quick estimate. The Reading Edge, a Wallingford, CT company, has a test at their website [www.the-reading-edge.com](http://www.the-reading-edge.com). The tests take only a minute and calculate your reading speed instantly. For a more comprehensive test, the company offers a free demo that you can download that will test not only your speed but also your comprehension. The software can be set for different grade levels to test children as well as adults.

The company reports that the average person reads at a speed of between 200-300 words a minute but that people who enjoy reading can read more than 400 words per minute, and that some people can even read well at more than 800 words a minute.

The Reading Edge also offers books, tapes, tele-classes, and personal lessons to help people read faster and more efficiently. For more information, visit their website at [www.the-reading-edge.com](http://www.the-reading-edge.com) or contact them at [info@the-reading-edge.com](mailto:info@the-reading-edge.com)

## NOTED AND QUOTED

If you can't be a good example, then you'll just have to be a horrible warning.

- Catherine Aird, *British mystery writer, (1930 - )*

Poetry is what gets lost in translation.

- Robert Frost, (1874 - 1963)

What if nothing exists and we're all in somebody's dream? Or what's worse, what if only that fat guy in the third row exists?

- Woody Allen, (1935 - )

Skepticism is a virtue in history as well as in philosophy.

- Napoleon Bonaparte, (1769 - 1821)

Art is a lie that makes us realize the truth.

- Pablo Picasso, (1881 - 1973)

The saints are the sinners who keep on trying.

- Robert Louis Stevenson, (1850 - 1894)

Others will tell you to try to prove you are right; I tell you to try to prove you are wrong.

- Louis Pasteur, (1822 - 1895)

Boredom is the feeling that everything is a waste of time; serenity, that nothing is.

- Thomas Szasz, (1920 - )

Life is very nice, but it lacks form. It's the aim of art to give it some.

- Jean Anouilh, *French playwright, (1910 - 1987)*

Sight is a faculty; seeing is an art.

- George Perkins Marsh, *U.S. diplomat (1801 - 1882)*

Bees are not as busy as we think they are. They just can't buzz any slower.

- Kin Hubbard, (1868 - 1930)

Reputation is a bubble which a man bursts when he tries to blow it for himself.

- Emma Carleton, *U.S. journalist, (1850 - 1925)*

Wisdom is knowing what to do next; virtue is doing it.

- David Jordan

Children always prefer the straight and narrow path ... across your lawn.

- Anonymous

To him who is in fear everything rustles.

- Sophocles, (496? - 406 B.C)

One who walks in another's tracks leaves no footprints.

- Anonymous

There's no such thing as perfection. But, if we strive for perfection, we can achieve excellence.

- Robert J. Frates

You can rarely look too deep, only too long.

- Anonymous

History will be kind to me for I intend to write it.

- Sir Winston Churchill, (1874 - 1965)

## VOCABULARY BOOSTER CD

*The Vocabulary Booster CD is a great way to build vocabulary skills. Contains 200 of the most common and troublesome SAT words with definitions, contextual usage sentences, and various memory aids. Produced by Gene McKenna, a graduate of Georgetown University with a master's degree in education, who scored a perfect 800 on the verbal section of the SAT. As founder and director of Ace In-Home Tutoring, he has helped thousands of people improve their vocabulary strength. Now you, too, can get all the advantages of his expert one-on-one tutoring at just a fraction of the cost with the Vocabulary Booster CD. Just pop this CD into your car stereo or portable disc player for ten minutes a day, and watch your vocabulary grow. It's fast, easy, and effective. Guaranteed results. Full money-back guarantee if not more than completely satisfied. CD is only \$19.95, taxes, shipping and handling included.*

*Gene McKenna's "Vocabulary Booster" CD can be purchased through his Web site, [www.inhometutoring.com](http://www.inhometutoring.com).*

**CHAPTER NOTES**

Southern Connecticut Mensa has an e-mail server list on Topica where members can discuss topics with other Mensans on the list To subscribe, just send a blank e-mail to:  
MensaSCT- subscribe@topica.com

**BETHEL CINEMA FILM GROUP** The Bethel Cinema is an independent art house movie theater in the town of Bethel, CT, just outside Danbury The Cinema will be running a Freudian Flicks psychological-film discussion group from now until May or June Meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month at 11:00 am (Bethel Cinema 778-2100) If you are interested in participating in a Mensa group to see films in this series or any of the films on the theater's regular schedule, please contact Nancy O'Neil at Nancyoneil@aol.com.

**If you would like to organize or sponsor a Mensa event**, please contact Jim Mizera at Jmizera@hotmail.com The event can be posted in the Chronicle and announced at monthly dinners It can also be listed in the newsletter of the Connecticut and Western Massachusetts Mensa chapter, the Media, if enough lead-time is available.

**Change of Address**  
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In **Don't Forget to Write!**, The 6' Ferret Writers' Group shares more than ten years' experience on how to start a local writers' group, add members, and avoid common problems Also included are writing exercises, events, recommended reading, and stories from a few exercises Order through your favorite on-line or local bookstore ISBN 0-7388-3698-2 Visit our website, too!  
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