

# SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA CHRONICLE

If you or someone you know would like to be a speaker at our monthly dinner, please contact Activities Coordinator Nancy O'Neil at NancyOneil@aol.com or 203-791-1668. The dinner is held the third Saturday of the month.

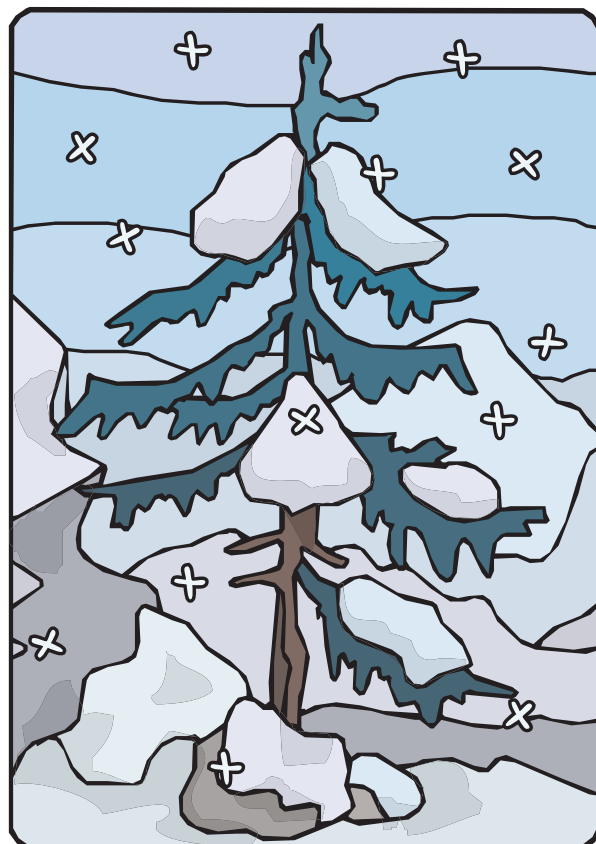
**AMERICAN MENSA LTD. NEEDS YOUR HELP** to correct a technical inconsistency in its Certificate of Incorporation. The Board of Directors of AML wants to change the Articles of Incorporation to permit elections and referenda to be conducted by mail. In order to do so, they need your proxy vote. So please take time **NOW** to give your proxy by visiting <http://proxy.us.mensa.org>.

## ARCHIVED COPIES OF THE CHRONICLE

going back a year to July 2002 are available on the Internet at <http://www.44ellen.com/mensa>. You can download the latest e-mail version of the Chronicle there, as well as previous issues. All issues are in read-only Adobe Acrobat format so there is no chance of viruses accompanying the files.

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**SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY**

Friday, February 13, 7:00

**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, February 21, 7:00

**Monthly Dinner**

John's Best Restaurant, 85 New Canaan Ave. (Rte. 123, just off Rte. 7), NORWALK, 06850, (203) 847-7414. COME TRY OUR NEW MEETING PLACE! DIRECTIONS from I-95: Merge onto US-7 N via exit number 15 toward NORWALK/DANBURY. Take the CT-123/ NEW CANAAN AVENUE exit - #2. Turn RIGHT onto CT-123/ NEW CANAAN AVE. (0.30 miles). Turn RIGHT onto CT-123/ NEW CANAAN AVE. (0.09 mi). John's is on the left after Wendy's and the bank. FROM DANBURY: Take US-7 / CT-33/ DANBURY RD down to Norwalk. Turn RIGHT onto GRIST MILL RD/ US-7. Continue to follow GRIST MILL RD. 0.16 miles Turn LEFT onto the US-7 S. highway and go 1.68 miles to Exit 2. Turn RIGHT onto CT-123/New Canaan Ave and follow to John's Best. Dress is casual. Please contact Nancy O'Neil, Nancyoneil@aol.com, 203-791-1668, for information and reservations.

Saturday, February 28, 8:00

**THEATRE EVENT: Romeo & Juliet** at Southern CT State University, Lyman Center for the Performing for the Performing Arts, 501 Crescent St., New Haven, CT, 06515. Tickets are \$10. Contact Jim Mizera at (203) 522-1959, jmizera@hotmail.com, for info or reservations.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR MARCH**

Friday, March 12, 7:00

**Southern CT and CT/Western Mass. Joint Dinner**  
See above listing for details.

Saturday, March 20, 7:00

**Monthly Dinner** Place to be announced.

**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,

**Mensans on the Radio:** C&WM Mensan Janine Bujalski is on the airwaves every 2nd & 4th Friday 6-10 AM on 89.5FM, WPKN in Bridgeport, CT. There is a limited internet broadcast — about 25 can listen simultaneously at www.wpkn.org. From 6-9 AM there's jazz, blues & music from Brazil and from 9-10 AM the music is from Louisiana, mostly cajun & zydeco.

Vice LocSec Will Mackey is hosting Friday Evening Classics from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. weekly on 91.3 FM, WWUH, in West Hartford. The name of the program is "What You Will" and its focus is chamber music.

What better company to get out of the week and ready for the weekend?

**FEBRUARY**

6 Friday 5:30-8:00 pm

**Happy Hour (ME, first Friday) at the Ramada Inn, Meriden** Ann Polanski, (203) 269-4565 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!

*Admitted in CT, NY & OR*

**Sharon Oberst DeFala, Esq.**  
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sharon@oberstlaw.com

14 Saturday 9 AM until ?

**Connecticut River Eagle Festival** (YE)

The Connecticut Audubon Society will present the 5th Annual Connecticut River Eagle Festival to be held the weekend of February 14-15, 2004 in the New England village of Essex, Connecticut. The first of its kind in the eastern United States, the Festival features a wide variety of free environmental education activities for people of all ages. The focal points at the Eagle Festival are two large, heated tents within easy walking distance of each other on Main Street, both filled with interesting events.

Sprinkled around town at other venues are art exhibits, book signings and other nature-related activities developed to broaden the visitor's knowledge and appreciation of the natural world. Festival activities include lectures by noted environmentalists and authors, live birds of prey presentations, guided boat and land-based eagle viewing tours, nature exhibits, nature classes for children, bird carving exhibits, ice carving exhibits, craft-making activities, musical entertainment, nature-related retailers and horse-drawn carriage rides down Main Street.

For more information, visit the Eagle Festival's web page at [www.ctaudubon.org/eagle.htm](http://www.ctaudubon.org/eagle.htm) or call the Connecticut Audubon Society at 1-800-714-7201. Submitted by our Media Editor, Jeff Kochosky, call if you want to arrange to meet up there.

14-15 Saturday 7:00-11:00 PM

**Happy Hearts Party in Wallingford** (YE).

This is Beth and Charlie's 9th annual celebration of being alive! Reserve by email, preferably ([player.piano@juno.com](mailto:player.piano@juno.com)), or by phone (203-294-1994). We'll have some drinks and snacks, bring some, too! And wear something red (even if we can't see it).

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

**Diner Dinner** (ME, 3rd Friday)

at Olympia Diner, Rte 5, Newington, just north of the Berlin town line and North East Utilities. Menu 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 Nicole Michaud

at (860) 434-7329 or email [nirimi@snet.net](mailto:nirimi@snet.net),  
Subject: Diner Dinner

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. She is either your wingman or she provides ground support as you advance into your lunch! 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.

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

**Happy Hour**, (ME, 4th 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](mailto: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.

Save these dates!

**The Leadership Development Workshop (LDW)**

for Region 1 is shaping up to be a terrific resource for our membership, and it's happening Friday through Sunday April 2-4, 2004, at the \*brand new\* Super 8 Motel in Manchester (near exit 63 of I-84). Watch for news updates in the coming weeks for the details, but pencil in the dates now; you'll be glad you did!

## REGIONAL GATHERINGS

### MENSA MIND GAMES APRIL 16 - 18, 2004

Do you love games? Then mark your calendar for Mensa Mind Games™ 2004!

Members of Mensa are invited to be judges at the 2004 Mensa Mind Games competition. The event will take place April 16 - 18 in Chicago, IL. Judges will spend three days playing and rating the newest board games on the market. Judges will play a large quota of games, maybe around the clock. At the end of the competition, each judge will rank his or her favorite games. The top-scoring games earn Mensa Selectr distinction and may use the Mensa Selectr seal on their packaging and advertising.

Mind Games™ 2004 will be held April 16-18 at the Radisson Hotel O'Hare, 6810 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont, 2 1/2 miles from near Chicago's O'Hare airport. A free shuttle is available 24 hours a day and there is free parking for Mind Games participants. Make your reservation directly with the hotel at 800-333-3333 and ask for the Mind Games rate (\$89 S/D/T/Q).

There will be a HUGE game room - over 7500 square feet - and a restaurant, sports bar and lounge on-site.

Registration is \$60 before November 9, 2003; \$65 though March 31, 2004. On-site registration may not be available. Registration fees include dinner Friday, lunch Saturday, and renowned Chicago hospitality 'round the clock.

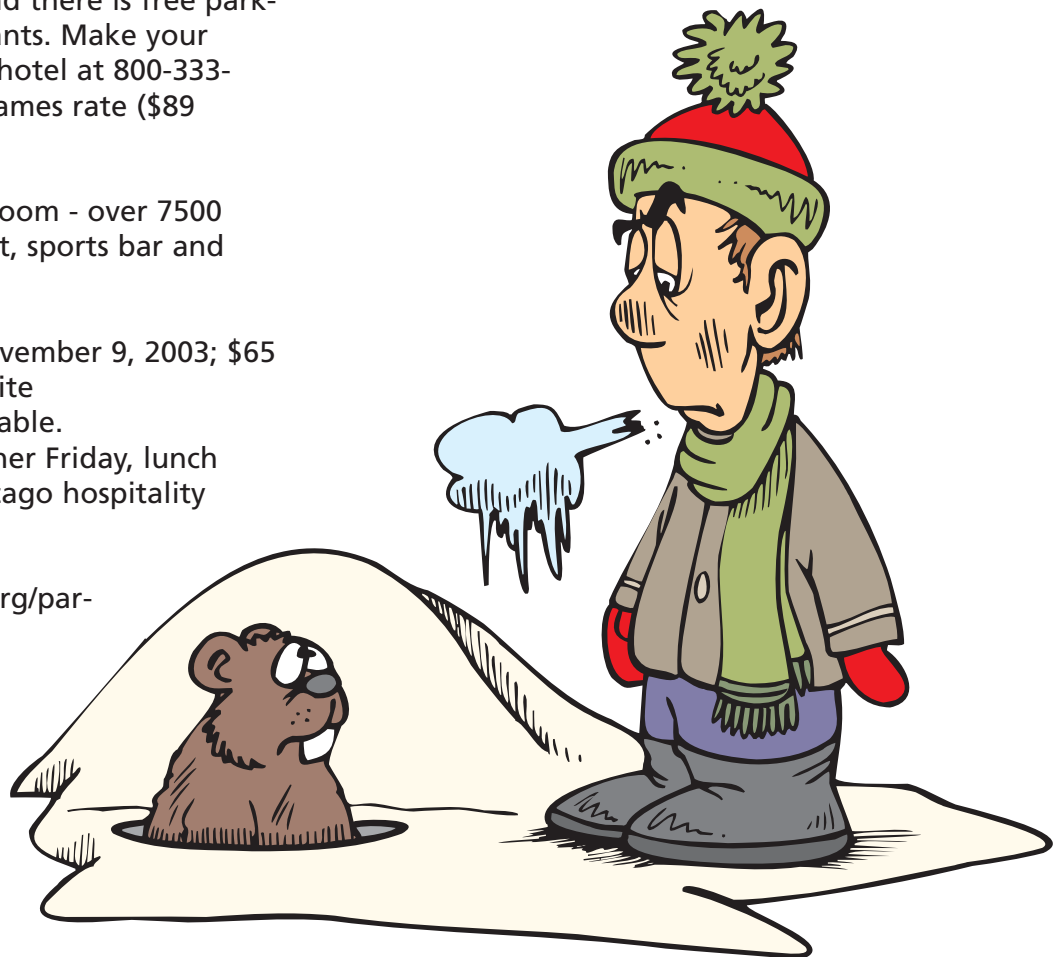
<http://mindgames.us.mensa.org/participant/register.php>

### The Midwinter Blahs Are Here!!!

Beat the blahs at NNJM's "Beat the Midwinter Blahs" Party February 29, 2004 (Leap Day!) Join us for a fun-filled day 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Register at the door for prizes! NO REGISTRATION FEE. Joke-off, Limericks, Music Fest, Games and Puzzles, Speakers, Food, and Prizes. To offer your help or RSVP that you are coming: Nancy Pool: (973) 989-8709 Mindy Maidens: (201) 224-0453

Car Pool Coordinator:  
Mirabelle Sacks (973) 663-6280

Fairfield Inn Meadowlands  
850 Route 120  
East Rutherford, New Jersey 07073  
Tel: 201-896-6666 for directions  
OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS, GUESTS, AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS



**FROM THE VICE CHAIR**

Marghretta McBean

Happy 2004! Happy Year of the Monkey! May happiness, good health and fortune be with you and yours!

I haven't fully recovered from the grueling trip to New Orleans for the last American Mensa Committee (the AMC is the board of directors for American Mensa) meeting, December 11-14. Going down, rain delayed my flight two hours. Coming back, snow and then rain made the four-hour trip stretch to thirteen hours. I arrived home at 2 a.m. to 4 inches of water on my kitchen floor: water had collected on the roof, found a weak spot in my ceiling and poured through. The good news is that my ceiling is now freshly plastered, and I will be getting a new kitchen floor.

I did get a little time to walk around the French Quarter, which is as pretty and mysterious as the novels describe it. The AMC meeting ran almost 12 hours. As they say in diplomatic circles, there were several frank exchanges of opinion. One item of immediate interest is that American Mensa is suing Carlton Books Ltd. (publisher of those Mensa quiz books) for alleged trademark and license infringement. American Mensa believes that Carlton has been using the Mensa name in Great Britain without paying the appropriate fees. This suit will affect the 2004-5 budget. I created an Adobe .pdf file of the court filing which can be seen (and downloaded) at [http://region1.us.mensa.org/AML vs. CarltonBooksLtd.pdf](http://region1.us.mensa.org/AML%20vs.%20CarltonBooksLtd.pdf)

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP UPDATE**

In addition to featuring topics like "Getting Involved at the Regional or National level", and "From Agenda to Zany: Fast, Effective Business Meetings", the Leadership Development Workshop will hear Dr. Deborah Ruf, the National Gifted Children Coordinator, who has graciously offered to lead a Gifted Children track. This will be of special interest to not only Gifted Children Coordinators, but to the parents of gifted children and to gifted children themselves. Another national luminary, Dr. Jean Becker, the president of American Mensa, will also speak.

**PROXYQUEST**

If you haven't yet voted, please do so. You can vote online at <http://proxy.us.mensa.org>.

In cold weather you need something to heat you up (it's 1° F. as I write this). Here are two spice mixtures from Africa that will warm your meals. Berbere is the national spice mix of Ethiopia. Like Indian curry, there are many versions. Tabil is the national spice mix of Tunisia. It is especially nice on steamed vegetables.

**BERBERE**

1 1 / 2 Tbl. chili powder  
 2 Tbl. paprika  
 1 Tbl. onion powder  
 1 tsp. garlic powder  
 1 tsp. basil  
 1 / 2 tsp. ground ginger  
 1 / 4 tsp. black pepper  
 1/8 tsp. each (all ground): cloves, cinnamon, cardamom, nutmeg, allspice, cumin, fenugreek and turmeric.  
 Mix together and store in an airtight container.

**TABIL**

1Tbl. ground coriander seeds  
 1 tsp. ground caraway seeds  
 1 / 4 tsp. garlic powder  
 1/8 tsp. chili powder  
 Use a coffee mill (or mortar and pestle) to grind the seeds. Mix ingredients and store in airtight container.

Marghretta McBean  
 Region 1 Vice Chair  
<http://region1.us.mensa.org/>  
 American Mensa Ltd.

**ON THE 20TH CENTURY  
HYPERINFLATION**

One of the common features of 20th century life was price inflation. Although inflation did not originate in the 20th century, it became more prevalent in the world after World War I. In extreme cases, inflation became rampant "hyperinflation" with disastrous consequences.

Contrary to popular belief, the economic definition of inflation is not an increase in general prices, but an increase in the money supply. However, if the money supply increases faster than the supply of goods and services, there will be a general rise in prices. This rise may be concentrated in financial assets rather than in consumer goods, creating a "credit inflation" or "bubble" without changing the consumer price index much. But most cases of inflation raise consumer prices, and this is certainly what happened in history's hyperinflationary episodes.

One definition for hyperinflation, set by monetarist Philip Cagan in 1956, is 50% monthly increases in the price level. At that rate, something that cost \$1 today would cost

\$130 a year later. There were no general price indexes before the industrial era, but most economic historians believe that the inflationary periods listed in Table 1 were hyperinflationary. The greatest inflation in American history (excluding the Civil War Confederacy) came during the war for independence. Colonists coined the phrase "not worth a Continental" to express their disdain for the revolutionary government's currency. In the 20th century, waves of hyperinflation wracked several European economies after World War I. Usually months or years of high inflation preceded the hyperinflation. Governments ran the printing presses wildly to pay off foreign or domestic debts, devaluing the national currency. When inflation got out of control, businesses raised prices daily and workers demanded daily payment, leading to comic scenes of people toting payments in wheelbarrows.

After World War II, hyperinflation occurred mostly in Third World countries, particularly in Latin American countries trying to inflate their way out of debt. The single greatest hyperinflation of the century, however, took place in Hungary immediately after World War II.

**TABLE 1**

Pre-20th Century Hyperinflationary Periods

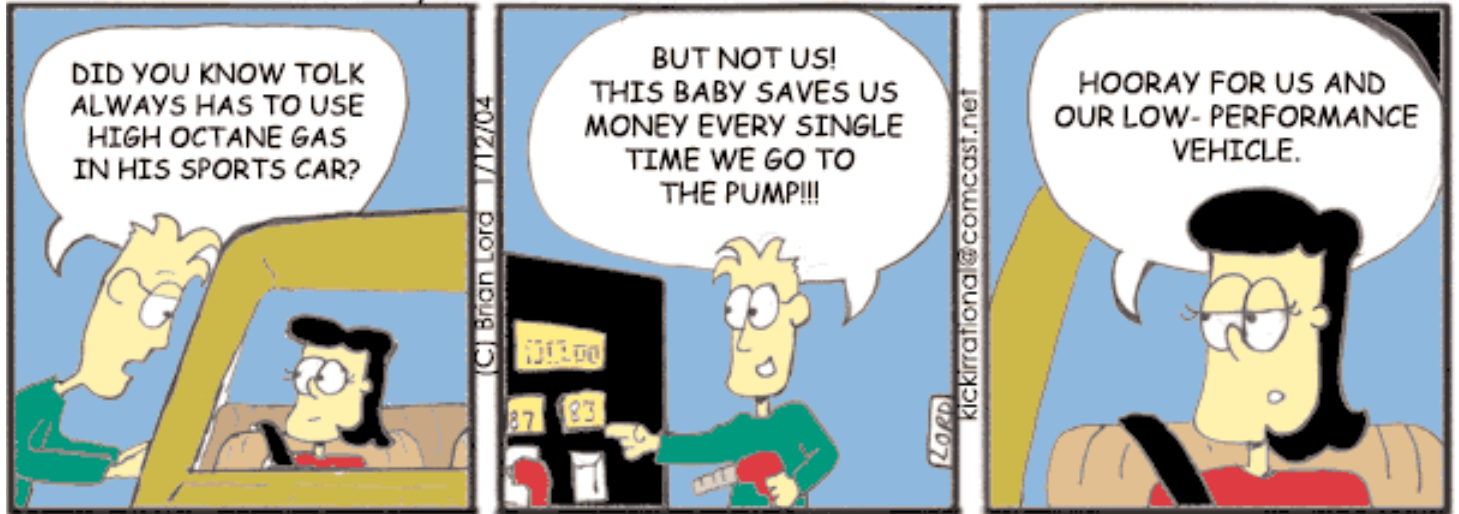
PERIOD		
Rome: Diocletian and his edicts	284	hyperinflation, Empire divided, abdication
China	1166	
China	1448	Ming note loses 97% value, paper money abandoned
France: John Law	1719	Mississippi Bubble
American Revolutionary War		300% cumulative 1776-1778, 1000% 1778-1780
French Revolution	1789-1795	paper money becomes worthless
U.S. Civil War-Confederate States of America	1861-1865	5,000% annual inflation peak

**TABLE 2**

20th Century Hyperinflation	Peak Monthly Increase in Price Index	20th Century Hyperinflation	Peak Monthly Increase in Price Index
Post-WW I: Germany 1920-1923	3.25 million %	China 1949-1950	> 1000%
Russia 1921-1924	213%	Argentina 1989 - 1990	20,266%
Austria 1921-1922	134%	Brazil 1990	6,821%
Poland 1922-1924	275%	Bolivia 1984-1985	23,447%
Hungary 1922-1924	98%	Peru 1990	12,379%
World War II: Greece 1943-1944	8.55 billion %	Ukraine 1991 - 1994	10,155%
Hungary 1945-1946	4.19 quintillion %	Yugoslavia 1992 - 1994	313 million %

KICK IRRATIONAL by Brian Lord

www.KickComics.com



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Brian Lord is a cartoonist and member of Middle Tennessee Mensa (Nashville area). His cartoon Kick Irrational is read weekly by people in 192 cities, 46 states and 9 countries via the Internet. You can see the Kick Irrational comics page at [www.kickirrational.com](http://www.kickirrational.com)

If you wish to comment on articles or 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 e-mail address or 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

Last month's Word Origins column featured eponyms, words derived from the name of a real or fictional person. Here are some more eponyms.

**Derby** - Edward Stanley, 12th Earl of Derby (1752-1834).

**Derrick** - gallows or hoisting equipment.  
Goodman Derrick, 17th century  
English hangman.

**Derringer** - Henry Deringer (1786-1868),  
American gunsmith.

**Doggerel** - silly verse or poetry. Matthew  
Doggerel (1330-1405), English poet.

**Epicure** - Epicurus (341-270BC), Greek philosopher.

**Forsythia** - William Forsyth (1737-1804), British  
botanist.

**Galvanise** - Luigi Galvani (1739-98), Italian physiologist.

**Gardenia** - Alexander Garden (1730-91),  
Scottish-American botanist.

**Gargantuan** - Gargantua, gigantic king in the  
novel Gargantua by French.

**Graham cracker** - Sylvester Graham (1794-1851),  
American dietetic reformer.

**Guillotine** - Joseph Ignace Guillotin (1738-1814),  
French physician.

**Guppy** - Robert J. L. Guppy (1836-1916), Trinidad  
born British scientist.

**Guy** - Guy Fawkes (1570-1606), English conspirator.

**Hansom cab** - Joseph Aloysius Hansom (1803-  
82), English architect.

**Hector** - Hector, Greek legendary character.

**Hermetic** - Hermes Trismegistus, Greek name of  
Egyptian god of learning.

**Hobson's choice** - Thomas Hobson (1544-1631),  
English liveryman.

**Hooligan** - Patrick Hooligan, Irish criminal active  
in London in the 1890s.

**Hygiene** - Hygeia, Greek goddess of health.

**Jacuzzi** - Candido Jacuzzi (1903-86), Italian/US  
inventor and businessman.

**Jumbo** - Jumbo, 62 ton African elephant exhib-  
ited at London Zoo from 1865 to  
1882.

**Leotard** - Jules Léotard (1842-70), French acro-  
bat.

**Lobster Newburg** - Ben Wenberg, West Indies  
ship captain.

**Luddite** - Ned Ludd, 18th century English labor-  
er.  
lynch - William Lynch (1742-1820), American  
plantation owner and vigilante.

**Macadamia nut** - John Macadam (1827-65),  
Australian scientist.

**Magnolia** - Pierre Magnol (1638-1715), French  
botanist.

**Malapropism** - Mrs Malaprop, character in play  
The Rivals by Irish dramatist.

**Marmalade** - Joao Marmalado (1450-1510),  
Portugal.

**martinet** - Jean Martinet, French army officer  
during the reign of Louis XIV.

To be continued....

## POETRY CORNER

**SNOW-FLAKES** (1858)

Rhyme: ababcc

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)

Out of the bosom of the Air,  
 Out of the cloud-folds of her garments shaken,  
 Over the woodlands brown and bare,  
 Over the harvest-fields forsaken,  
 Silent, and soft, and slow  
 Descends the snow.

Even as our cloudy fancies take  
 Suddenly shape in some divine expression,  
 Even as the troubled heart doth make  
 In the white countenance confession,  
 The troubled sky reveals  
 The grief it feels.

This is the poem of the air,  
 Slowly in silent syllables recorded;  
 This is the secret of despair,  
 Long in its cloudy bosom hoarded,  
 Now whispered and revealed  
 To wood and field.

**LIFE** (1911)

LET me but live my life from year to year,  
 With forward face and unreluctant soul;  
 Not hurrying to, nor turning from the goal;  
 Not mourning for the things that disappear  
 In the dim past, nor holding back in fear  
 From what the future veils; but with a whole  
 And happy heart, that pays its toll  
 To Youth and Age, and travels on with cheer.

So let the way wind up the hill or down,  
 O'er rough or smooth, the journey will be joy:  
 Still seeking what I sought when but a boy,  
 New friendship, high adventure, and a crown,  
 My heart will keep the courage of the quest,  
 And hope the road's last turn will be the best.

**FOG** (1916)

by Carl Sandburg (1878 - 1967)

THE fog comes  
 on little cat feet.  
 It sits looking  
 over harbor and city  
 on silent haunches  
 and then moves on.

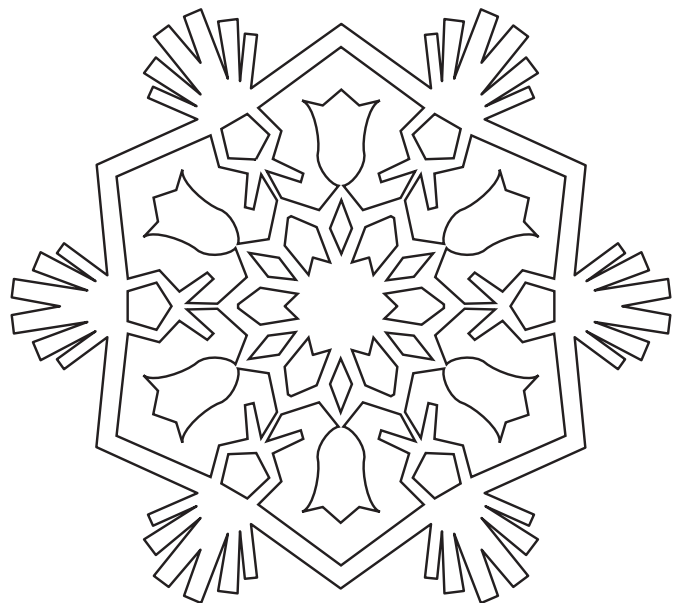
HENRY VAN DYKE, (1852 - 1933)

**IF ALL THE SKIES** (1911)

IF all the skies were sunshine,  
 Our faces would be fain  
 To feel once more upon them  
 The cooling splash of rain.

If all the world were music,  
 Our hearts would often long  
 For one sweet strain of silence,  
 To break the endless song.

If life were always merry,  
 Our souls would seek relief,  
 And rest from weary laughter  
 In the quiet arms of grief.



## NOTED AND QUOTED

There are no grownups. - *Guru on mountaintop*

In order for you to profit from your mistakes, you have to get out and make some.

- *Anonymous*

The one mistake you can't learn from is the one that kills you.

- *Michael Barbieri*

We will have peace with the Arabs when they love their children more than they hate us.

- *Golda Meir, (1898 - 1978)*

Once you have missed the first buttonhole you'll never manage to button up.

- *Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, (1749 - 1832)*

You become a champion by fighting one more round.

- *James Corbett, (1866 - 1933), heavyweight champion 1892-1897*

Have you noticed that no one talks about Pavlov's cat? - *Jim Kissel*

When in Rome, do as you done in Milledgeville.

- *Flannery O'Connor, (1925 - 1964)*

Lose an hour in the morning and you'll be looking for it all day. - *Irish Proverb*

When you travel, remember that a foreign country is not designed to make you comfortable.

It is designed to make its own people comfortable. - *Clifton Fadiman, (1904 - 1999), US author, editor*

The art of progress is to preserve order amid change and to preserve change amid order.

- *Alfred North Whitehead, (1861 - 1947), English logician, philosopher*

People are not against you; they are merely for themselves. - *Gene Fowler*

Or look at it this way. Psychoanalysis is a permanent fad. - *Peter De Vries, (1910 - 1993), US novelist, editor, "Forever Panting"*

The next earthquake comes when the last one is forgotten. - *Peruvian saying*

Every day is more evidence of forever.

- *Anonymous*

Anxiety is the space between the "now" and the "then". - *Richard Abell*

People who claim they don't let little things bother them have never slept in a room with a single mosquito. - *Anonymous*

Do what you know and perception is converted into character. No change of circumstances can repair a defect of character.

- *Ralph Waldo Emerson, (1803 - 1882)*

## 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 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)

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

By John Grover

This month our gourmet group ventured into the cuisine of French Canada. With the simple entry of "Quebec recipes" into the search engine, we found numerous interesting dishes. The result is North Woods cooking with a French flair. This includes an extraordinary pea soup, maple glazed carrots, fine seafood and a meat pie to die for. While the native beverage of choice might be Labatt's, we found several wines that fit well with the meal.

Our first wine is the 2001 Cuvee Rouge from the Chateau LaFayette Reneau winery located in New York's Finger Lakes region. This dry red wine is a blend of Baco Noir and Pinot Noir grapes, which produces a rich and fruity taste that passes like velvet through the mouth. It is a good food wine that matches well with pizza, pasta and the recipe below. I have usually found it for \$6 - \$8 a bottle.

We move from a good wine to an excellent wine with the 2000 Cotes du Rhone by E. Guigal wines of France. Typical of Cotes du Rhone, it is a blend of Syrah, Grenache and Mourvedre grapes. This is a complex wine that layers the taste of cherry, raspberry and pepper with subtle hints of flowers. It has a crispness borne of well-balanced acidity and a nice smoothness from its mellow tannins. This truly fine wine is generally available for between \$10 and \$12 a bottle

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## TOURTIERE: FRENCH CANADIAN MEAT PIE.

(There are probably as many variations to this recipe as there are mothers and grandmothers in Quebec.)

### Ingredients:

- 1 pound ground pork
- 1/2 pound ground veal (or beef)
- 6 slices bacon
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 teaspoons dried sage
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon allspice
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 2 (9 inch) unbaked pie crusts
- 1 1/4 cups water

### Direction:

1. In a deep pan, brown ground veal, pork, and bacon. Drain off fat.
2. Stir in onion, celery, garlic, sage, salt, and pepper. Stir in 1 cup of the water, and bring mixture to boiling. Reduce heat, and cover. Simmer for 10 to 15 minutes, or till onion is tender. Stir frequently.
3. Combine cornstarch and the remaining 1/4-cup water. Add to hot meat and vegetable mixture, cooking and stirring till thickened and bubbly. Cook and stir 1 to 2 minutes more. Remove pan from heat, and cool slightly.
4. Fill pastry shell with meat and vegetable mixture. Roll out top crust on top, seal the edges, and put patterned slits in top crust.
5. Bake in a preheated 400 degrees F (205 degrees C) oven for 40 minutes, or until golden brown. Let stand about 15 minutes before serving.

*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.*

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

**PUZZLES & QUESTIONS**

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

1. How are these digits ordered or arranged?

8 5 4 9 1 7 6 3 2 0

2. How many meals should a person eat a day?  
How many square meals??

3. Some people want to add bridge to the Olympic Games. Make arguments for and against doing this.



**ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:**

1. Where is the Suwannee River?

A: The Suwannee River begins in the glamorous Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia's southeast corner and runs through the Florida panhandle all the way down to the Gulf of Mexico.

3. What are the chances of a golfer getting a hole-in-one?

A: Somewhere between 18,000 and 45,000 to 1.

5. What are the oldest existing cities in the world?

A: Perhaps Aleppo (Syria), Damascus (Syria), or Jericho (Jordan).

6. If property values in Bridgeport drop by 10% and the property tax rate increases by 10%, by how large a percentage will property tax revenues change assuming no incentive effects (i.e., static scoring)?

A: If a property is worth \$100,000 and the tax rate on it is 1%, then the tax is \$1,000. If the property value drops by 10%, it is now worth \$90,000. If the tax rate increases by 10%, it is now 1.1%. A 1.1% tax on the new value, \$90,000, brings in \$990 of tax revenues. So the tax revenue declines by  $[(\$990 - \$1000) / 1000] \times 100\% = -1\%$ .

### 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**  
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.)

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

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