

# 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.

## ARCHIVED COPIES OF THE CHRONICLE

going back a year to July 2002 are available on the Internet at <http://www.solarandthermal.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 DECEMBER**

Sunday, December 5, 11:30

**Mensa FILM Event: To Kill a Mockingbird**

at the Avon Theatre, 272 Bedford Street, Stamford, CT, 06901. LUNCH afterwards at a local diner. PLEASE call or e-mail Catherine Schwartz at (203) 221-0762, rin@optonline.net (put MENSA in the subject line) to let her know you are coming and to get further details.

Friday, December 10, 7:00

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

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, December 18, 7:00.

**Monthly Dinner**

Mensan Joe Lynders will speak on "How I Overcame Terminal Cancer." Come and hear him and enjoy dinner in our private dining room at the Stony Hill Inn, 46 Stony Hill Road (right off Exit 8 on Rte. 84), Bethel, CT 06801, (203-743-5533). Dress is casual. Contact Nancy O'Neil, Nancy-oneil@aol.com, 203-791-1668, for information and reservations. You MUST call and MAKE RESERVATIONS by Friday, November 19 so we can assure that the restaurant can provide seating. If you make reservations and can't attend, PLEASE call and cancel. Directions from New Haven or Bridgeport: Take Route 25 into Newtown, where it becomes Route 6 West. OR take I-84 and get off at Exit 9 (Route 25 Brookfield). At the end of the ramp take a left if eastbound or a right if westbound. At the first light take a right on to Route 6 West. The hotel is located 2 miles on the right, not far over the Bethel line. From Stamford/Norwalk: Take Route 7 to I-84 and follow the above directions, turning right after exiting I-84.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS FOR JANUARY**

Friday, January 14, 7:00.

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

See above listing for details.

Saturday, January 15, 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,

**Mensans on the Radio:**

C&WM Mensan Janine Bujalski is on the airwaves every 1st & 3rd Friday 6-10 a.m. on 89.5FM, WPKN in Bridgeport, CT. There is a limited internet broadcast - about 25 can listen simultaneously at [www.wpkn.org](http://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.

**DECEMBER**

2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Thursdays 7:00 pm

**Scrabble** (WE) at Emmanuel Synagogue, 160 Moughtan Drive, West Hartford. Ellen Leonard, (860) 667-1966 (Please call first to make sure this is happening today).

3 Friday 5:30-7:00 pm

**Happy Hour in Wallingford** (ME, 1st Fridays) Ann Polanski (contact her at 203-269-4565 or [ann.polanski@rfsworld.com](mailto:ann.polanski@rfsworld.com)) hosts us at George's II Restaurant, 950 Yale Avenue, Wallingford, CT 06492 Phone: 269-1059 Directions: Exit 66 off Wilbur Cross Parkway. Turn left (south) onto Rte 5. Take first left onto Yale Avenue. George's II is in the Yale Plaza on the right.

17 Friday 7 pm

**C&WM Mensa Holiday Party and Annual Meeting** (YE) at the Solomon Welles House, 220 Hartford Avenue, Wethersfield CT. [http://www.wethersfieldct.com/rec/solomon\\_welles.html](http://www.wethersfieldct.com/rec/solomon_welles.html) Come feast and mingle with old and new friends, and maybe give your intellectual 2% at the Chapter Annual Meeting, too. Everybody welcome! Official chapter vote counting will take place at 7:30 pm. ExComm meeting will begin at 8 pm, immediately followed by the

Chapter Annual Meeting. Contact LocSec Bob Smith at 860-872-3106 or BoboRobDOS@snet.net if you have questions or want to add anything to the agenda. Traveling North On I-91: Take Exit 26 (Old Wethersfield). At stop sign at end of ramp turn left. At next stop sign turn left. At end of road turn left onto Marsh Street (curves to the right). At next stop sign turn right onto Main Street. At second left turn onto State Street and proceed past Department of Motor Vehicles on right. The Solomon Welles House is on the right at the corner of State Street and Hartford Avenue. Look for large white house with a red door. Traveling South On I-91: Take Exit 26 (Old Wethersfield) At stop sign at end of ramp turn right. Take quick left onto Marsh Street (curves to the right). At next stop sign turn right onto Main Street. At second left turn onto State Street and proceed past Department of Motor Vehicles on right. The Solomon Welles House is on the right at the corner of State Street and Hartford Avenue. Look for large white house with a red door. Traveling Route 5/15 North: Take Exit 28 (Wethersfield) and continue south. Take Exit 85 (Wethersfield/Rocky Hill - 99 S). The exit ramp will merge into 99 S. Immediately get into far left lane. Turn left at light onto Jordan Lane. At stop sign turn right onto Hartford Avenue. The Solomon Welles House is after next stop sign on left at the corner of Hartford Avenue and State Street. Look for large white house with a red door.

29 Wednesday 12 Noon

**Middlebury Lunch** (ME, last Wednesday) 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. Contact Richard Fogg at 860-274-2370 for more info.

31 Friday 5:30 pm on

### **The Real Millenium ^ Part VI**

(YE) The tradition continues! It's back to Cromwell for C&WM Mensa's own unique New Year's Eve bash. Unlike the rest of the nation (Ms love to be different), we celebrate New Year's Eve at Midnight Greenwich Mean Time ^ 7 pm EST. The party starts anytime after 5:30 p.m. At 7, we uncork the champagne, sing Auld Lang Syne loudly and off-key, hug everyone in sight, & celebrate. We eat around 7:30-ish. By 9 pm, you're outta' there ^ plenty of time to go on to another party, celebrate First Night, or simply get home before the serious drinkers hit the road. Wear your absolute fanciest outfit, BYOB and

your favorite show-off dinner dish to share, and \$2 for the champagne kitty. RSVP to Barb Holstein ^ 860-632-7873 or BarbCPA@att.net - She needs a head count to harvest the bubbly. Directions: 2 Old Colony Lane, Cromwell. I-91 N or S to Exit 22S onto Rte 9 South toward Middletown. First exit off Rte 9 West St, Cromwell. Turn Right at end of exit ramp, first Right on Rte 3 North, first Right on Evergreen Rd., & second Right onto Old Colony Lane. #2 is the very first house on the right ^ gray colonial, pink door, and lots of gargoyles to greet you. Contact Barb if you need other directions. Note: This party is typically the largest house party of the year and is an absolute command performance ^ only a note from your mother or the LocSec will excuse you!!

January 1 Saturday 2pm - 7 pm

### **New Year's Day Open House**

(YE) in Ellington. Start the bright new year in a cozy mood and come on back to Art Swanson's home for an afternoon of chatter and camaraderie. Come and go as you like, bring something edible or potable to share if you like, or just bring yourselves; this is a very casual and gentle event in which to unwind after last night's festivities. Newcomers always welcome. Call Art at 860-872-9308 or ASwanson34@aol.com for info and directions.

## **REGIONAL GATHERINGS**

### **BOSTON MENSA'S PILGRIMAGE RG.**

Join us for great speakers, movies, games, and music. Arts & crafts, karaoke, a full kids track, plus Boston Mensa's signature hospitality: plentiful food, beer & wine, two open-bar events: a "Pajama Jam" and an "Alter-Ego" party, Chocolate Orgy, Shrimp Fest, Irish Coffee, and more. We're back at the Sheraton Braintree. Our room block fills up quickly, so make your reservations early. Rates good until 11/5: \$82 single/double; \$94 triple; \$106 quad. Mention Boston Mensa to get these rates. Hotel: 781-848-0600.

**Registration:** Adults \$59 until 11/1; \$69 after 11/1/2004. Children under 6 are free. Ages 6-20 are \$2 per year of age.

Saturday Dinner Buffet: Adults \$20/kids menu \$12. Sunday Brunch: Adults \$14/kids 4-12 \$9/under 4 free.

T-shirts: Sizes Small to XXXL \$12.50.

See web or Bulletin for more info. Checks,

payable to "Boston Mensa" to: Wendy Birchmire, Registrar, 70 Oak Hill Road, Needham, MA 02492. (P.S. There's a \$5 off coupon at [www.NewEnglandPilgrimage.com/take5](http://www.NewEnglandPilgrimage.com/take5).)

**GRANITE GATHERING 2005**  
**Phant-M : The Music of the Night**  
 February 18th-20th, 2005

Please join us in New England for NH Mensa's 15th Annual Regional Gathering! We'll have plenty of food, drink and revelry! Meet new and old friends alike on the top floor of the Radisson Hotel, with a lovely view of the city below. We have a great speaker line-up, as well as games, contests, and surprises spread throughout the weekend. It'll be held FEBRUARY 18-20th at the Center of NH, Manchester NH and the theme will be Phant-M : The Music of the Night. Bring a little intrigue and mystery to your weekend and come up to Northern New England for a great time! We'll have all the usual trappings (great beer and wine selection, games, book sale, auction, chocolate, speakers, children's program) as well as the unusual (you'll just have to come to find out, now won't you?). Please check the website at <http://nh.us.mensa.org/rgnews.shtm> for more details or to download a registration form. Hope to see you there!

**FULL SATURDAY NIGHT BBQ BUFFET INCLUDED IN REGISTRATION COST THIS YEAR!!!!**  
**Hotel information:** Radisson Hotel Manchester at the Center of NH, 700 Elm Street, Manchester, NH 03101. Single/Double/Triple/Quad \$92. Rates guaranteed until 1/27/04. Call 1-800-333-3333 or 1-603-625-1000 and ask for "NH Mensa" rate.  
**Registration:** \$50 until 11/15; \$65 until 1/15; \$75 after 1/15 or at the door. Do not mail registration after 2/1 - please register at the door instead. Children 8-17 \$15 less than the regular rate, children under 8 free. Saturday rate is \$10 less than the regular rate in effect at registration. Make your checks payable to "NH Mensa" and mail your form and fee to: Deb Stone, Registrar 24312 Spartan Street  
**Questions?** Contact [rgchair@nh.us.mensa.org](mailto:rgchair@nh.us.mensa.org) Mission Viejo, CA 92691-3921 or Walter (603-436-

7250) or Darlene (603-529-4446) e-mail: [debstone@cox.net](mailto:debstone@cox.net)  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name on badge: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 e:mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 T-shirt (Hemp fabric with embroidered design)  
 \$16 Size: S M L XL XXL  
 Golf shirt (Hemp fabric with embroidered design)  
 \$20 Size: S M L XL XXL  
 Quantities VERY limited at RG. Please pre-order!  
 Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (make checks payable to NH Mensa) or  
 MC/Visa # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expires: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
 Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Ski SIG of American Mensa**  
 invites Mensa members worldwide to join us for a half-week or week+ of snow skiing the deep fluffy snow on the Rocky Mountains of Aspen and Snowmass. For details see [Http://lists.us.mensa.org/mailman/listinfo/skisig-announce](http://lists.us.mensa.org/mailman/listinfo/skisig-announce) or contact John Adams, [rip2005@skisig.us.mensa.org](mailto:rip2005@skisig.us.mensa.org), +1 713 666 9277, 8211 Fairhope Place, Houston, TX 77025-3201, USA.

**2005 Post-AG Cruise**  
 The 2005 Annual Gathering in New Orleans will end with a Mensa cruise to Jamaica, the Cayman Islands and Cozumel. Extra-special pricing until August 5, 2004. Details at <http://www.suitecruising.com/ag2.htm>

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.

**FROM THE VICE CHAIR**

Marghretta McBean

This month's column salutes some dedicated members across Region 1 who have used their "smarts" in many wonderful and diverse ways:

Baril Bromley of New Hampshire & Maine Mensa worked with the FNX Radio Network (broadcast throughout the Boston area as well as southern Maine and New Hampshire). She obtained a sample test from the national office that was administered not only to the morning drive show's studio workers, but also as an on-air quiz for a tickets giveaway for listeners. According to the producer of "The Swasey Show", "...the phones lit up. Our winner was very impressive, coming up with correct answer after correct answer even while stuck in traffic. I suggested he check out your website and get in on National Test Day." Publicity like this is priceless! Way to go, Baril!

In the same group, John Bauman who is not only the President/LocSec but a proctor as well, proctored a reporter from the Nashua (New Hampshire) Telegraph in preparation for National Testing Day (NTD). A great article appeared in the paper, with a positive Mensa slant. If it hasn't been archived, you can read it at: <http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20041012/ENTERTAINMENT/110120034>. Congratulations John and all the hardworking proctors in NH & ME Mensa who even got as far north as Bangor, ME on NTD!

Speaking of NTD kudos, a tip o' the hat goes to Connecticut & Western Massachusetts Mensa. They had 37 (!) candidates for NTD. A round of applause to Dick Dolliver, proctor coordinator and his proctors in C&WM!

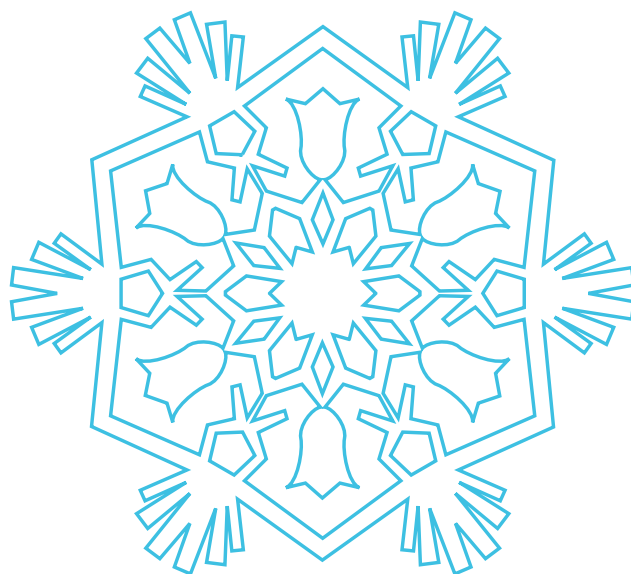
The week before NTD, I attended C&WM's Mensa Autumn RG in Cromwell CT. All attendees agreed that the speaker highlight was 13 year-old member Christian Burns, who gave a standing room only crowd a fascinating lecture on owls, the Mensa mascot. Christian, who's a sophomore in college (yes, 13 and a college sophomore) illustrated his 1 1/2-hour presentation with beautiful slides and graphics, all of which he had compiled. He also brought owl skeletons and feathers for audience perusal. The Q&A was

handled with aplomb, even questions asking about owl mating habits and gender differentiation. Bravo Christian! We are already looking forward to your next presentation!

Down in the southern part of the region, DiAnne Chamberlain and Keith Armonaitis of Northern New Jersey Mensa, produced the second in their group's Distinguished Lecture Series. The subject was Paleontology, and the duo had assembled a stellar panel of experts. Attendees, who included many juvenile Mensans, were treated to discussions on the Politics in Paleontology, the Aurora Excavation site in North Carolina (with an accompanying video), and some of the controversies and theories surrounding dinosaur paleontology. A lively Q&A was followed by a hands-on exhibit of fossils from the panelists' personal collections. Everyone got a souvenir fossil to take home: mine is a shark tooth from the early Pliocene era found in the Lee Creek Mine in Aurora. I had to miss the first lecture on Astronomy because of the March AMC meeting, but hopefully will have no date conflicts for future presentations. Huge plaudits go to DiAnne and Keith for the hard work they did producing this lecture! I urge all of you to watch for news of the next lecture and try to attend.

And in the Miracles Can Happen Department: Whadda 'bout those Red Sox???? The Curse Of The Bambino is Lifted! (As a Mets fan, I know about baseball miracles...)

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A specialty of the Limousin region of central France, the clafoutis was traditionally made with the first red cherries of summer. Now the clafoutis is made with any type of seasonal fruit, so here's a perfect late fall brunch or dinner dessert.

### CRANBERRY CLAFOUTIS

1 tablespoon butter (for greasing pan)

1 cup sugar

2 eggs

1 cup flour

1 cup half-and-half or whole milk

Pinch salt

2 cups cranberries

1 cup (scant) walnuts

Confectioners' sugar.

1. Heat the oven to 425 degrees F. Butter a deep 9 or 10-inch pie plate or a gratin dish of similar size. Sprinkle it with a tablespoon or so of sugar, then swirl dish to coat evenly. Invert to remove excess.
2. Beat eggs well, then add remaining sugar. Beat until smooth. Add flour, and beat again until smooth. Add the half-and-half or milk and salt, and whisk until smooth.
3. Coarsely chop cranberries and walnuts. If using a food processor, do not overprocess ~ just pulse until chopped. (It's very fast.) Put cranberry mixture in pie plate, and pour batter over it.
4. Bake for about 30 minutes, or until clafoutis is nicely browned on top and a knife inserted into it comes out clean. Sift some confectioners' sugar over it, and serve warm or at room temperature.

Yield: At least 6 servings.

### PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. What is wrong with the word "reiterate?"
2. How many clocks do you have in your house and what is the difference in time between the slowest and the fastest one?
3. What things have you simplified lately and what things have you complicated?
4. Make some suggestions for improving baseball umpiring and football and basketball refereeing.
5. Name some of the differences and similarities between Julius Caesar and Napoleon.
6. Make a case against detective stories.
7. Estimate the distance across Connecticut from east to west and from north to south.

### ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

1. Define the word "peruse."
- A: To peruse means to read carefully, attentively. Many people believe it means something opposite - "to read casually, to skim or glance over," but that is not the dictionary definition and it is still not accepted as good usage.

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## IS THAT RIGHT

Are the following statements facts, fallacies, partial truths, or uncertainties?

### 1. The Federal Reserve Board sets interest rates.

No. The Federal Reserve does not set interest rates. It does not raise or lower the prime rate or any other consumer rate. The only rate it sets is the discount rate for loans it makes to commercial banks. But not many banks borrow from the Fed anymore. The Federal Reserve Board's Open Market Committee (FOMC) also sets a target for the federal funds rate, the rate that banks charge each other on short-term (usually overnight) loans of excess reserves. But this is only a target; it does not fix rates for such loans.

While the Federal Reserve Board does not set interest rates, it influences them by selling and buying Treasury bonds. Its purpose is to decrease or increase the amount of money in circulation, which affects the federal funds rate and general interest rates. The Federal Reserve's Open-Market Committee buys and sells Treasury bonds in the open bond market. When the Fed buys a bond, it creates the money to make the purchase. This increases the money supply. If the Fed buys a lot, the new money will increase the supply of funds for lending and this will tend to lower interest rates. If it sells bonds, which it does less frequently, it takes money out of the economy, which tends to increase interest rates.

When the Federal Reserve makes an announcement about its target for the federal funds rate, it is really just tipping its hand as to what it will do in the bond market. When it lowers the target rate, it is saying that it will buy enough bonds to lower that rate. But it is the creation of money to buy bonds that increases the money supply and influences interest rates, not any command by the Fed.

### 2. Abraham Lincoln wrote the Gettysburg Address on the back of an envelope while traveling on a train to Gettysburg the day before the speech.

No. Lincoln did not write the speech in a burst of inspiration while riding to Gettysburg, and it would have been out of character for him to write any speech like that. There are two drafts of the speech written on White House stationery days before the ceremony, indicating that Lincoln carefully composed and revised the speech, as he did all his oratory. The story of the president dashing it off on an envelope while riding to the site springs from someone's recall that Lincoln dropped an envelope on the train. But there is no evidence that Lincoln was composing his address on this envelope. President Lincoln did, however, finish writing his speech on the morning of the consecration, November 19, and even made some changes as he spoke that afternoon.

Lincoln did not give many speeches as President, probably because his voice was high-pitched and he feared making mistakes that might inflame some in the audience. When he had to give a legal presentation or speech, he preferred to draft it very slowly, continually reorganizing his points, and revising his phrases and logic. Not all of his speeches were short, however; a speech he gave in Chicago in 1858 lasted three hours. A reporter hailed that oration as elegant, and stated that it commanded the audience's attention.

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was not the main address of the ceremony. That honor went to famed orator Edward Everett, who started speaking at noon and gave a two-hour speech dedicating the new Civil War cemetery. Lincoln followed with his three-minute address. The audience of 15,000 applauded five times, but some reported its response as lukewarm, possibly because listeners didn't expect the speech to end so soon. Lincoln immediately afterward said, "It's a  
*continued on next page*

## NOTED AND QUOTED

Man's capacity for self-deception is unlimited.

- George H. Tausch

Fame is a fickle food upon a shifting plate.

- Emily Dickinson, (1830 ^ 1886)

Journalism is organized gossip.

- Edward Eggleston, (1837 ^ 1902), U.S. editor and novelist

Gags die, humor doesn't.

- Jack Benny, (1894 ^ 1974)

A desert is a place without expectation.

- Nadine Gordimer, (1923 - ), S. African novelist, winner of Nobel Prize in Literature, 1991

A classic is a book that doesn't have to be written again.

- Carl van Doren, (1885 ^ 1950), U.S. biographer and critic

I couldn't wait for success  $\Sigma$  so I went ahead without it.

- Jonathan Winters, (1925 - )

We learn to walk by stumbling.

- Bulgarian proverb

People learn something every day, and a lot of times it's that what they learned the day before was wrong.

- Bill Vaughan, (1915 ^ 1977), U.S. author, journalist

You cannot train a horse with shouts and expect it to obey a whisper.

- Dagobert D. Runes, (1902 - ), *Letters to My Son*

Idleness is not doing nothing. Idleness is being free to do anything.

- Floyd Dell, (1887-1969), editor, novelist

A professional is someone who can do his best work when he doesn't feel like it.

- Alistair Cooke, (1908 ^ 2004)

Things don't change, but by and by our wishes change.

- Marcel Proust, (1871 ^ 1922)

Experience is knowing a lot of things you shouldn't do.

- William S. Knudsen, (1879 ^ 1948), Danish-American auto executive

Man staggers through life yapped at by his reason, pulled and shoved by his appetites, whispered to by fears, beckoned by hopes. Small wonder that what he craves most is self-forgetting.

- Eric Hoffer, (1902 ^ 1983), *The Passionate State of Mind*, 1955

Investment is successful speculation.

- Benjamin Graham, (1894 ^ 1976), *Security Analysis*, 1934

Hope is not a strategy.

- Anonymous

Those who do not feel pain seldom think that it is felt.

- Samuel Johnson, (1709 ^ 1784)

Despair ruins some, presumption many.

- Benjamin Franklin, (1706 ^ 1790)

Give the people not hell, but hope and courage.

- John Murray, (1741 ^ 1815), U.S. clergyman

I hate women because they always know where things are.

- James Thurber, (1894 ^ 1961)

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## IS THAT RIGHT *CONTINUED*

flat failure", but Everett disagreed, telling the President that his words had stated things better in minutes than Everett himself had done in two hours.

The next day, Northern newspapers judged the speech along party lines. The Chicago Tribune editorialized, "The dedicatory remarks by President Lincoln will live among the annals of man." The Chicago Times, on the hand, said, "The cheeks of every American must tingle with shame as he reads the silly, flat, and dishwatery utterances. "But several critics called it a masterpiece. Goldwin Smith hailed it, proclaiming, "Not a sovereign in Europe, however trained from the cradle for state pomps, and however prompted by statesmen and courtiers, could have uttered himself more regally than did Lincoln at Gettysburg." Horace Greeley echoed that praise, "I doubt that our national literature contains a finer gem than that little speech at the Gettysburg celebration," And Charles Sumner foresaw history's judgment: "The world at once noted what he said, and will never cease to remember it."

## WORD ORIGINS

English names come from a variety of lands. Here are some names with their country of origin and original meanings.

**Andrew** - from the Greek andreios - man, manly.

**Austin** - English form of the Latin Augustinus - magnificent.

**Charles** - from the German ceorl - free man.

**Daniel** - from Hebrew, "God is my judge."

**Donald** - from Scots Gaelic Domhnall - world rule.

**George** - from the Greek georgos - soil tiller, farmer.

**Ronald** - Scots form of the Old Norse Rognvaldr - advice-ruler.

**Steven** - from the Greek stephanos - crown, garland.

**Thomas** - Aramaic "twin".

**Tyler** - from the Old English tigeler - tile layer.

**Zachary** - English form of the Hebrew Zechariah - "God has remembered."

**Alice** - Old French form of the German Adalheidis - noble kind.

**Angela** - from the Greek angelos - messenger of God.

**Ashley** - English place name - ash grove.

**Barbara** - from the Greek barbarus - foreign.

**Clara** - from the Latin clarus - famous.

**Deborah** - Hebrew "bee."

**Ethel** - from the Old English aethel - noble.

**Florence** - from the Latin florens - flourishing.

**Margaret** - from the Greek margaron - pearl.

**Mildred** - from the Old English Mildthryth - mild strength.

**Patricia** - from the Latin Patricius - belonging to the noble class.

**Sarah** - Hebrew "princess."

**Shirley** - English place name - bright clearing or shire meadow.

### 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)

## RUMINATIONS

### ON THE STUDY OF LATIN

Arthur Schopenhauer, (1788 - 1860)

The abolition of Latin as the universal language of learned men, together with the rise of that provincialism which attaches to national literatures, has been a real misfortune for the cause of knowledge in Europe. For it was chiefly through the medium of the Latin language that a learned public existed in Europe at all - a public to which every book as it came out directly appealed. The number of minds in the whole of Europe that are capable of thinking and judging is small, as it is; but when the audience is broken up and severed by differences of language, the good these minds can do is very much weakened. This is a great disadvantage; but a second and worse one will follow, namely, that the ancient languages will cease to be taught at all. The neglect of them is rapidly gaining ground both in France and Germany.

If it should really come to this, then farewell, humanity! farewell, noble taste and high thinking! The age of barbarism will return, in spite of railways, telegraphs and balloons. We shall thus in the end lose one more advantage possessed by all our ancestors. For Latin is not only a key to the knowledge of Roman antiquity; its also directly opens up to us the Middle Age in every country in Europe, and modern times as well, down to about the year 1750. Erigena, for example, in the ninth century, John of Salisbury in the twelfth, Raimond Lully in the thirteenth, with a hundred others, speak straight to us in the very language that they naturally adopted in thinking of learned matters.

They thus come quite close to us even at this distance of time: we are in direct contact with them, and really come to know them. How would it have been if every one of them spoke in the language that was peculiar to his time and country? We should not understand even the half of what they said. A real intellectual contact with them would be impossible. We should see them like shadows on the farthest horizon, or, may be, through the translator's telescope.

It was with an eye to the advantage of writing in Latin that Bacon, as he himself expressly states, proceeded to translate his Essays into that lan-

guage, under the title *Sermones Fideles*; at which work Hobbes assisted him.

Here let me observe, by way of parenthesis, that when patriotism tries to urge its claims in the domain of knowledge, it commits an offence which should not be tolerated. For in those purely human questions which interest all men alike, where truth, insight, beauty, should be of sole account, what can be more impertinent than to let preference for the nation to which a man's precious self happens to belong, affect the balance of judgment, and thus supply a reason for doing violence to truth and being unjust to the great minds of a foreign country in order to make much of the smaller minds of one's own! Still, there are writers in every nation in Europe, who afford examples of this vulgar feeling. It is this which led Yriarte to caricature them in the thirty-third of his charming *Literary Fables*.<sup>[1]</sup>

In learning a language, the chief difficulty consists in making acquaintance with every idea which it expresses, even though it should use words for which there is no exact equivalent in the mother tongue; and this often happens. In learning a new language a man has, as it were, to mark out in his mind the boundaries of quite new spheres of ideas, with the result that spheres of ideas arise where none were before. Thus he not only learns words, he gains ideas too.

This is nowhere so much the case as in learning ancient languages, for the differences they present in their mode of expression as compared with modern languages is greater than can be found amongst modern languages as compared with one another. This is shown by the fact that in translating into Latin, recourse must be had to quite other turns of phrase than are used in the original. The thought that is to be translated has to be melted down and recast; in other words, it must be analyzed and then recomposed. It is just this process which makes the study of the ancient languages contribute so much to the education of the mind.

It follows from this that a man's thought varies according to the language in which he speaks. His ideas undergo a fresh modification, a different shading, as it were, in the study of every new language. Hence an acquaintance with many languages is not only of much indirect advantage,

but it is also a direct means of mental culture, in that it corrects and matures ideas by giving prominence to their many-sided nature and their different varieties of meaning, as also that it increases dexterity of thought; for in the process of learning many languages, ideas become more and more independent of words. The ancient languages effect this to a greater degree than the modern, in virtue of the difference to which I have alluded.

From what I have said, it is obvious that to imitate the style of the ancients in their own language, which is so very much superior to ours in point of grammatical perfection, is the best way of preparing for a skillful and finished expression of thought in the mother-tongue. Nay, if a man wants to be a great writer, he must not omit to do this: just as, in the case of sculpture or painting, the student must educate himself by copying the great masterpieces of the past, before proceeding to original work. It is only by learning to write Latin that a man comes to treat diction as an art. The material in this art is language, which must therefore be handled with the greatest care and delicacy.

The result of such study is that a writer will pay keen attention to the meaning and value of words, their order and connection, their grammatical forms. He will learn how to weigh them with precision, and so become an expert in the use of that precious instrument which is meant not only to express valuable thought, but to preserve it as well. Further, he will learn to feel respect for the language in which he writes and thus be saved from any attempt to remodel it by arbitrary and capricious treatment. Without this schooling, a man's writing may easily degenerate into mere chatter.

To be entirely ignorant of the Latin language is like being in a fine country on a misty day. The horizon is extremely limited. Nothing can be seen clearly except that which is quite close; a

few steps beyond, everything is buried in obscurity. But the Latinist has a wide view, embracing modern times, the Middle Age and Antiquity; and his mental horizon is still further enlarged if he studies Greek or even Sanscrit. If a man knows no Latin, he belongs to the vulgar, even though he be a great virtuoso on the electrical machine and have the base of hydrofluoric acid in his crucible.

There is no better recreation for the mind than the study of the ancient classics. Take any one of them into your hand, be it only for half an hour, and you will feel yourself refreshed, relieved, purified, ennobled, strengthened; just as though you had quenched your thirst at some pure spring. Is this the effect of the old language and its perfect expression, or is it the greatness of the minds whose works remain unharmed and unweakened by the lapse of a thousand years? Perhaps both together. But this I know. If the threatened calamity should ever come, and the ancient languages cease to be taught, a new literature will arise, of such barbarous, shallow and worthless stuff as never was seen before.

[Footnote 1: Translator's Note -Tomas de Yriarte (1750-91), a Spanish poet, and keeper of archives in the War Office at Madrid. His two best known works are a didactic poem, entitled *La Musica*, and the *Fables* here quoted, which satirize the peculiar foibles of literary men. They have been translated into many languages; into English by Rockliffe (3rd edition, 1866). The fable in question describes how, at a picnic of the animals, a discussion arose as to which of them carried off the palm for superiority of talent. The praises of the ant, the dog, the bee, and the parrot were sung in turn; but at last the ostrich stood up and declared for the dromedary. Whereupon the dromedary stood up and declared for the ostrich. No one could discover the reason for this mutual compliment. Was it because both were such uncouth beasts, or had such long necks, or were neither of them particularly clever or beautiful? or was it because each had a hump? "No," said the fox, "you are all wrong. Don't you see they are both foreigners"? Cannot the same be said of many men of learning?]

**GOOD WINE CHEAP****(and good food to go with it)**

By John Grover

This is the time of year that we think about that first pristine snowfall, Santa Claus, and tiny bubbles in our wine. Holiday entertaining immediately brings to mind good food and champagne. The problem is that "good" champagne can be quite expensive. But "Good Wine Cheap" comes to the rescue! There are many fine sparkling wines with the same quality as those from France's Champagne region but at half the price. Some of these are bottled just a few miles away in neighboring French provinces while others can be found in Spain, Italy, and the United States.

Our first wine selection this month is from the city of Limoux in Southern France. This white sparkling wine carries the official appellation "Blanquette de Limoux". We chose Limoux's 2001 wine, which is touted as France's oldest sparkling wine and is produced by Saint-Hilaire. Benedictine monks first produced it over 450 years ago, more than 100 years before the first champagne. It is a very dry refined wine with the taste of tart apples. I thought I tasted walnut in it also but the "Boss" gave me one of those looks when I mentioned this. I found this sparkler on sale for \$9 a bottle although you usually get it for about \$11.

Our second wine is sparkling Cava from Spain. A good example of this at a very reasonable price is Cristalino Brut (non-vintage), a nice bubbly with an aroma of toasted bread and a clean citrus taste. It is a real deal at \$7 a bottle. Like our first selection, it performs well as an aperitif served with this month's appetizer, given below.

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

*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.*

**SALMON AND CREAM CHEESE SPREAD****Ingredients:**

1 lb. canned salmon  
 1 / 2 -tsp. liquid smoke  
 1 tbsp horseradish  
 1 tbsp. lemon juice  
 1 / 2-lb. cream cheese  
 2 tbsp mayonnaise  
 1 tbsp dry parsley (or 2 or 3 tbsp fresh parsley finely chopped).

After taking salmon from can, carefully check meat for bones. Blend the salmon, cream cheese and other ingredients in a small bowl to obtain a smooth, homogeneous mixture. Serve with crackers, bagel chips or small toasts. This very simple appetizer will be a real hit at your next party.



## THE NOVEMBER DINNER A TRIUMPH OVER CANCER

Twelve years ago a doctor told Joe Lynders that he had terminal cancer and had only three to five years left to live. But Joe Lynders is alive today and thriving. At our November dinner, he was there to tell us of his odyssey through diagnosis, chemotherapy, experimental treatments, and recovery. Through luck, pluck, and the wisdom and skill of his doctors, Joe survived and he gave us the story with insight, wit, and a philosophy that has carried him through both life and his life-threatening crisis.

Joe's trials began when he and his wife were sailing along on a wonderful Caribbean cruise. As the trip was coming to an end, Joe felt sick. He and others expected his illness to go away, just as many ailments encountered at sea do. But while shaving, he felt a swollen gland in his throat. Concerned, when he returned home, he went to an ear, nose, and throat specialist. The diagnosis: it was a tumor. But there was reassuring news - a needle biopsy came back negative, indicating the tumor wasn't malignant. In a pattern that was to repeat itself, however, Joe's specialist decided to investigate further. He did a CAT scan of Joe's neck. There he found more scars - Joe had low-grade lymphoma.

His ordeal was just beginning. He went to an oncologist, who took another CAT scan - a head, neck, and chest scan. The findings were terrifying - cancer of the abdomen. Joe needed chemotherapy. His original doctor told him that he had only three to five years to live. But neither Joe nor his doctor was willing to accept this as a final verdict. There was an experimental treatment, one that offered pain but hope. Joe reached out for hope.

Joe's hope stemmed from his philosophy. He has always thought that people live by one of three mottoes - "A Battle to Fight", "An Adventure to Live", and "Beauty to Rescue." Those who see life as a battle to fight, struggle for efficiency - doing things right. Those who view it an adventure, pursue effectiveness - doing the right thing. But most progress in life and medicine, Joe stated, comes from those who strive for efficiency and effectiveness - doing the right things right, which is excellence, the rescuing of beauty. Each doctor Joe worked with went the extra mile, giv-

ing him a better shot at life. They were all effective, but it was the fourth and last doctor Joe dealt with who excelled, saving him from cancer.

Joe's final doctor supervised his chemotherapy - seven days of intensive treatment with three pumps attached to him. This regimen literally sucked the blood out of him, drawing about 18 vials worth from his system. There was much more to the treatment, however. In the first few days, he had to take 42 pills four times a day. It took four days of chemo to knock out his cancer and bone marrow, two days to k.o. Joe's stem cells that doctors had replanted in him, and one day to destroy the tumor. After all this was done, Joe needed one day of rest to have his system flushed with fluids to rid him of the chemotherapy, and to transfuse red blood cells. Since his treatment left his body's defenses as weak as an infant's, his entire immune system had to be restored. Doctors had to guard against the slightest infection. They couldn't even pull a tooth that had a cavity lest they open the door to microbes.

After 25 days in the hospital, Joe returned home but he felt like he belonged in an old folks' home. It was as if he "had grown fifty years older." He could hardly move - he was exhausted after walking just 3 steps. He had lost 20 pounds and all his hair, and now had to wear masks to avoid catching any virus that might overwhelm his precarious resistance. There was a deadly threat if his bone marrow problem returned - in the past, most patients had died if they had such a cancer relapse. Hence, he had to keep going back for blood tests. Recovery was a project.

Joe gamely struggled back, gradually resuming his regular activities such as racquetball. As he recounted to us, he knew he was progressing because his game kept improving. At first he could only lob back shots that barely cleared the net. A moment of exertion required a minute of rest. He could run some but he didn't have the strength to stop, so when he chased after balls he ended up with his face in the fence. But his game and his life were returning. He figured that he was regaining a year of youth each week. After three months, he was actually winning again against much younger players! Joe joked that he passed 65 years of age twice, once

on the way up and once on the way back. Now he looks forward to hitting 65 a third time - this time naturally.

Despite his tribulations, our speaker called himself a lucky man - lucky to have become sick on the cruise - otherwise he wouldn't have noticed the lump that turned out to be a tumor. Lucky to run into the right people at the right time - he had doctors who kept sending him on to check for further problems even when they had diagnosed his immediate problem. Lucky to have come along just as experimental treatments were improving - he met another experimental patient who earlier took the same treatment but suffered from side effects that Joe avoided because of what doctors had learned. Indeed, Joe considers it lucky that his case was hopeless - if he hadn't had terminal cancer, he wouldn't have qualified for the experimental treatment!

Joe Lynders may have been lucky, but as one listener in our audience told him, "You're no accident. You're a medical hero. You chose not to be a victim but a comrade with your doctors in the battle."

Joe admitted that his attitude helped him through it all, noting, "I've seen people think themselves to death." But Joe thought himself to health. Cancer damaged his heart, his lungs, his kidneys, his liver, and every cell in his body, but the cancer cells didn't realize there was much more to this indomitable Mensan - his will to live. Today, he calls on terminal cancer patients to bring them hope. Those suffering could scarcely have a better counselor than Joe Lynders. He has never stopped battling, never stopped living an adventure, and never stopped seeking and encouraging excellence. May he give others the same good humor and intrepid spirit he showed us.

**KICK IRRATIONAL** 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)

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**POETRY CORNER****A Calendar of Sonnets: December**

Helen Hunt Jackson (1830 -1885)

The lakes of ice gleam bluer than the lakes  
 Of water 'neath the summer sunshine gleamed:  
 Far fairer than when placidly it streamed,  
 The brook its frozen architecture makes,  
 And under bridges white its swift way takes.  
 Snow comes and goes as messenger who  
     dreamed  
 Might linger on the road; or one who deemed  
 His message hostile gently for their sakes  
 Who listened might reveal it by degrees.  
 We gird against the cold of winter wind  
 Our loins now with mighty bands of sleep,  
 In longest, darkest nights take rest and ease,  
 And every shortening day, as shadows creep  
 O'er the brief noontide, fresh surprises find.

**Lines Composed in a Wood on a Windy Day  
(1848)**

by Anne Bronte (1820 -1849)

MY soul is awakened, my spirit is soaring  
 And carried aloft on the wings of the breeze;  
 For above and around me the wild wind is roaring,  
 Arousing to rapture the earth and the seas.

The long withered grass in the sunshine is glancing,  
 The bare trees are tossing their branches on high;  
 The dead leaves beneath them are merrily dancing,  
 The white clouds are scudding across the blue sky

I wish I could see how the ocean is lashing  
 The foam of its billows to whirlwinds of spray;  
 I wish I could see how its proud waves are dashing,  
 And hear the wild roar of their thunder to-day!

**Death Be Not Proud**

By John Donne, (1572 - 1631)

Death be not proud, though some have called thee  
 Mighty and dreadful, for, thou art not soe,  
 For, those, whom thou think'st, thou dost over-  
     throw,  
 Die not, poore death, nor yet canst thou kill mee.  
 From rest and sleepe, which but thy pictures bee,  
 Much pleasure, then from thee, much more must  
     flow,  
 And soonest our best men with thee doe goe,  
 Rest of their bones, and soules deliverie.  
 Thou art slave to Fate, Chance, kings, and desperate  
     men,  
 And dost with poyson, warre, and sicknesse dwell,  
 And poppie, or charmes can make us sleepe as well,  
 And better then thy stroake; why swell'st thou  
     then?  
 One short sleepe past, wee wake eternally,  
 And death shall be no more; death, thou shalt die.

**I felt a cleaving in my mind**

By Emily Dickinson, (1830 ^ 1886)

I felt a cleaving in my mind  
 As if my brain had split;  
 I tried to match it, seam by seam,  
 But could not make them fit.

The thought behind I strove to join  
 Unto the thought before,  
 But sequence ravelled out of reach  
 Like balls upon a floor.

**CHAPTER NOTES**

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