



NEWSLETTER

February, 2011
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SMCNC.ORG

MENSA INVITATIONAL (with thanks to Alan Fleischer)

The Washington Post's Mensa Invitational invited readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. Here are some of the winners:

Intoxication – Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

Sarchasm – The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

Reintarnation – Coming back to life as a hillbilly.

Osteopornosis – A degenerate disease.

Glibido – All talk and no action.

Dopeler Effect – The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you quickly.

Beelzebug – Satan in the form of a mosquito that gets into your bedroom at 3 a.m. and can't be cast out.

Arachnoleptic Fit – The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.

Caterpallor – The color you turn after finding half a worm in the fruit you're eating.

Decafalon – The grueling event of getting through the day eating only things that are good for you.

FEBRUARY SPEAKERS (Meetings are at 10:00 a.m. in Morrill Hall, St. Mark's Church.)

Feb 4 Connecticut State Representative for the 125th District, John Hetherington, Esquire, will discuss politics in Connecticut. Representative Hetherington has served New Canaan since 2003 and he will enlighten us as to what ails Connecticut and why we can't afford the government we currently have. Among the key points of his address will be: An overview of Connecticut today; Our Challenges and Strengths; What We Need Government to Do; How Government is Currently Structured; Taxes and Who Pays Them; How We Got to Where We Are; and Time for a New Model.

Feb 11 Richard J. Colangelo, Jr. is a Senior Assistant State's Attorney in the Judicial District of Stamford / Norwalk. He will tell us about the "Consequences of an Online Life." Children have grown up in a world of technology and understand the tech better than parents and grandparents. An online presence can change a child's life, from putting too much information online to having contact with a predator. Children need to know how the choices they make can have long lasting ramifications. Sexting, cyberbullying and the importance of protecting the child's digital reputation will also be discussed.

Feb 18 Robert Stokes is a job developer with Career Resources/Re-Entry Works, a nonprofit work force development agency in Bridgeport that finds jobs for ex-offenders. Stokes is also a novelist, playwright, co-author of the autobiography "Odyssey of an Eavesdropper," and a former correspondent for Newsweek magazine and a former associate editor for Life Magazine. He, along with his colleague Stephanie Urdang, Senior Staff, Business Services Specialist, will speak about the challenges of a person finding work with a felony on their record. They will bring 1 or 2 ex-offenders to tell us of their success stories to gain some understanding and compassion about the plight of ex-offenders.

Feb 25 Using color slides, our fellow member Craig Wright will speak on another vacation destination, "Bhutan and Ladakh." The first, a tiny Buddhist kingdom in the Himalayan mountains between India and China and the other, an isolated mountainous region of northwest India, share a religious heritage from Tibet, but have evolved quite dissimilar cultures. He will also present a few slides of Gwalior, Orchha and Sanchi, three ancient sites in central India.

SMC DUES BULLETIN. Your annual SMC dues for 2011 of \$40 are due and payable. Our collection campaign for calendar year 2011 dues is now in progress. Please give your check for \$40, payable to SMC, to Bob Spence or Wally Pease at any weekly meeting or send it to SMC, c/o YMCA, 564 South Avenue.

COUTH

- Feb 15 (Tues)** We are going to the Culinary Institute of America. We will leave from St. Marks about 9AM for a 10:30 tour and 11:30 lunch. Depart the CIA about 2PM and we should be home by about 3:30. Lunch will be in the American Bounty restaurant. The two entrees to be offered are yet to be decided, but always great food. We will leave a little time for people to shop at the bakery while there. Cost is \$59 per person. Bob Spence (203-966-6499) and Dave Conrod (203-594-1401) will be your hosts.
- March** There is no trip planned for March.
- Apr 13 (Wed)** Our annual trip to the NY Philharmonic open rehearsal. Kurt Masur will conduct the Brahms Symphony No. 1 and Franz Liszt's Les Preludes (the other Lone Ranger theme). We will lunch directly across Broadway in the back room at Josephina's. To allow for traffic, check-in St. Mark's at 7:45 a.m., bus departs 8:00, to return about 4:00 p.m. Cost \$80 per person. Hosts Tracey Mackle (203-966-1149) and Pete Stair (203-966-6497).
- Apr 28 (Thur)** A Glass Hour tour day is being arranged. Details to follow.

As a reminder, the Couth policy is as follows: The sign-up sheet is to be used as an indication of interest and intent to participate, but not to establish a reservation. The date of the check receipt by the Couth Committee will be the control of a confirmed reservation.

ACTIVITIES (Check the website at SMCNC.ORG for updates)

- Amateur Chefs** The chefs will meet at Lapham Community Center on Thursday, February 17. Details will follow at the Friday meetings and on the website.
Bert Liebelt (203-966-3696), Nick Zaccagnino (203-966-7217)
- Bridge** Talk with your friends and organize your own games after the Friday meetings. You may play at Lapham or stay at St. Marks.
Eric Musa (203-966-3125)
- Cycling** Cycling has been suspended until the spring when weather again permits.
Les DeVilliers (203-966-9645), Roger Colson (203-966-9258)
- Paddle Tennis** Play on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 to 11:00 at Waveny. A Rec Department permit is required. \$10 ball fee.
Steve Rowley (966-2376), John Ross (966-8339)
- Photography** The Photography group will meet Wednesday, February 23rd, 1:30-4:00pm at Lapham Center Computer Room. The agenda includes Show and Tell, Using Picassa and Photoshop for basic enhancements, and Converting a Photoshop slide presentation to PowerPoint.
Jack Messert (203-966-8754)
- Racquetball** Players wanted. Mon, Wed, Fri 8:00 a.m. at the YMCA. Bill Patton (203-966-4849)
- 4F Luncheon** Our informal, relaxing Dutch treat lunch is on the Fourth Friday. The site will be announced at Friday meetings. All are invited to join in, especially newer members who will find the group always hospitable. Sign up at the Couth desk, either before 10 a.m. or during the coffee break.
Don Tiefenthaler (203-966-5794)

NEW MEMBERS - We have two new members since the last newsletter: Kevin Moynihan and Shashi Shah. Please welcome them when you see them at the meetings.

NEED A RIDE TO FRIDAY MEETINGS? Members are reminded that Getabout van service is available to and from our Friday meetings. Just call Getabout at 972-7433 one day in advance and sign up to travel with the others enjoying this service. Getabout asks for a donation of \$3 each way but does not require it. This is a great way to travel!! You can even arrange to be driven from the meeting to lunch or shopping downtown and taken home after that.

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