



DelaMensa

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EXCOMMunication - October, 2005

By: Maria Sawczuk, Local Secretary

I've decided I am not going to do August anymore. I think I'll make up a new month to take its place – September or something. Last August I lost my father, and this August I lost my "Happy Place" – New Orleans. I spent over a week worrying about my friends' safety, then the next week helping them cope with the realization that they've got to start over. And all this time, I grieved for my adopted city. As I write this, I watch the waters that Hurricane Rita forced over the levees begin to recede, I reminisce of the happy times I spent there throughout this year, and I plan for the future. I will be there for Mardi Gras this year – I know there will be one. If you've ever been to New Orleans, you know this too. And if you haven't, my condolences – but feel free to join me this winter. You'll be amazed at the breath – the soul – of this city and its people.

Please, if you haven't already, or even if you have, reach into your wallet and part with some cash for the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Humane Society of the United States, or one of many other wonderful, legitimate charities doing amazing work across the battered Gulf Coast. If you can't afford to make a monetary donation, volunteer your time. Even a few hours a week can go a long way, and there are plenty of opportunities right in our backyard where you can help those affected by the hurricanes. For further information on volunteer opportunities, go to www.usafreedomcorps.gov.

Okay, off my soapbox, and back to Delaware Mensa events. It's that time of year again – National Testing Day is Saturday, October 22, and Delaware Mensa is participating. This year, we have two sites: Grace Church in down-

town Wilmington, and the Georgetown Public Library. If you know anyone whom you think would qualify for Mensa, tell them to register to take the admissions test. As an alternative, they can also check out www.us.mensa.org to find a list of test scores ("prior evidence") that will qualify them for acceptance into Mensa.

Also, we are promoting National Testing Day, and Delaware Mensa, by inviting the general public to our meeting with Ray Didingler on October 6. So if you know any huge football fans, or anyone who likes good ribs (Stanley's has the best rack in town, in my opinion), invite them to join us. Remember, there's a \$5 admission fee, to help us pay for the private room. So please come out and enjoy a wonderful speaker, a delicious meal, and great Mensan camaraderie.

DM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2005: E- A- G- L- E- S EAGLES!

The ExCom met this month and planned more events for the rest of the year. More on that later. But this happens this week!! Plan to come on out.

Delaware Mensa (well, me specifically, but I am sure my ExComm will back me on this) is thrilled to have Ray Didingler, senior producer with NFL Films for our Speaker Series this month. Ray covered pro football for the Philadelphia Bulletin and Philadelphia Daily News for 26 years before joining NFL Films in 1996, and has won four Emmy Awards for his work as a writer and producer on the weekly series "NFL Films Presents" and the Turner Network documentary "Football America". Ray was the 1995 winner of the Dick McCann Award for long and distinguished reporting in the field of pro football. The award was presented by the Pro Football Writers of America and Didingler's name was added to the Writers Honor Roll in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. He was also named Pennsylvania Sportswriter of the Year five times, has won six Keystone Press Association Awards for feature writing, three Associated Press awards for column writing, three Philadelphia Press Association awards for reporting, and the Pro Football Writers of America award for outstanding feature story in 1991.

His eighth book on pro football, "The Eagles Encyclopedia", will be published in the fall by Temple University Press. He has written for numerous national magazines and hosts a weekly radio talk show on WIP-AM in Philadelphia. He was named Best Sports Radio Personality in the 2005 "Best of Philly" Awards by Philadelphia Magazine. He also serves as a pro football analyst on the Comcast Sports Network and his show, "Post-Game Live", was selected as Best Local TV show in the 2005 "Best of Philly" Awards.

Now you see why I am excited! OPEN TO EVERYONE INTERESTED IN MENSA - BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

DATE: Thursday, October 6, 2005

TIME: 7:00 p.m. for dinner; speaker to begin at 8:00 p.m.

PLACE: Stanley's Tavern, Foulk and Grubb Roads, Wilmington

COST: \$5.00 (to help us pay for the private room)

To RSVP, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118.

DM

Shipwrecked in Delaware

By Nicole J. Perefegé

On Sunday, September 18, 2005, Delaware Mensa enjoyed a field trip to the Discover Sea Shipwreck Museum in Fenwick Island, Delaware. The unassuming museum is located in a strip mall atop Sea Shell City, a gift shop at 708 Ocean Highway. It's humble exterior hides a wonderful treasure. Inside the museum is a vast display of artifacts collected from local shipwrecks along the Delmarva Peninsula, includ-

ing rare coins, silver and gold bars, weapons, jewelry, pottery, china place settings from shipwrecked cruise ships, and ballast that hides precious gems within.

The curator, Assistant Director Sarah Meyers, is extremely knowledgeable about the collection by virtue of the fact that she has personally participated in many of the dives. She showed us detailed exhibits of the restoration process and even served four hundred year

old rum, recovered from a local wreck, to one lucky member of our group!

The Discover Sea Shipwreck Museum opened in July 1995 by Dale W. Clifton, Jr., Director and Founder. It is free to the public, but donations are encouraged. This was my first outing as an official Mensa member and I thought it was well worth the two-hour drive from New Castle. DM

Marc My Words

By Marc Lederman, Region 2 RVC

It has been less than two months since I returned from the Annual Gathering in New Orleans, but many of my memories of the AG have been replaced with the images of Hurricane Katrina. Several hundred members of American Mensa live in the hurricane region and we are developing ways to support these Mensans. Please visit the American Mensa website (www.us.mensa.org) for the latest information on how you can help Mensans in need.

In August I attended the annual Thomas Jefferson Mensa Corn Boil. Dave and Liz Remine hosted the event at their beautiful new home in Luray, Virginia. More than a dozen Mensans from six local groups attended this event. Region 2 was represented by members from Central New Jersey Mensa, Lehigh Pocono Mensa, Metropolitan Washington Mensa, Richmond Mensa, and the host group, Thomas Jefferson Mensa.

While I was in the area, I attended three local Metropolitan Washington Mensa events. I spent Friday evening in Washington, D.C. at Zorba's Cafe with more than a dozen local members. This weekly event features three things that Mensans do best - eating, drinking, and talking. Saturday morning on my way to the Corn Boil, I hooked up with six Mensans at their weekly Starbucks outing. This was also my first ever visit to a Starbucks. After the Corn Boil it was off to North Potomac, Maryland, for the "A Trio of August Birthdays Party" hosted by Dianne Dawson and Mary Pat Collins. More than twenty people showed up to cele-

brate the birthdays of Herb Guggenheim, Fred Nelson, and Thomas Kates.

I hope to see many of you at our region's next RG, Delaware Valley Mensa's "That's Medieval! An Anachronistic Extravaganza", October 14 - 16 at the Sheraton Park Ridge in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. I will be presenting an overview of the World Gathering and leading a RVC Rap Session.

October 22 is American Mensa's eighth annual National Testing Day. I'm pleased to report that all ten groups in Region 2 are participating. I've been told we are the only region with 100% participation. Thank you to all the Testing Coordinators, Proctor Coordinators, and Proctors who are taking part in this event.

The MERF Scholarship Program soon will be underway. Eight of the ten groups in Region 2 are participating. Selena Updegraff is once again our Region 2 Scholarship Chair. Thank you to Selena, the local Scholarship Chairs, and the Scholarship Judges for participating in this activity.

MWM is about to announce plans for their next RG, to be held February 17 - 19, 2006, in Laurel, Maryland. Stay tuned for more information.

I have just finalized the guidelines for the 2006 Publications Recognition Program (PRP). This is my third year chairing the program. When I talk to people throughout the region about the PRP, the question I hear most is, "Why hasn't Region 2 won more awards?" The main reason is simple - most of our groups don't enter. Only two newsletters and zero websites from our re-

gion participated in the 2005 PRP. I'd like to see that number increase next year. I know that some editors and webmasters do not wish to have their work judged, but the awards also cover contributions to the newsletters and websites. Contributions won't get recognized if the newsletters and websites aren't entered.

Plans are still underway for a spring 2006 Leadership Development Workshop (LDW) in the King of Prussia, Pennsylvania area. I hope to have some details to announce next month. I have sent a copy of the LDW Needs Assessment Form to each LocSec in the region. This form helps identify the topics we should cover at the LDW.

American Mensa will be hosting Mensa's Diamond Anniversary World Gathering (WG) from August 8 - 13, 2006, in Orlando, Florida. More than 100 programs already have been booked. The WG also will feature an American Mensa Committee (AMC) Meeting, International Board of Directors (IBD) Meeting, and two full days of LDW programs. More than 700 people already have registered. Please check out the WG website (wg06.us.mensa.org) for up-to-the-minute information.

It is good to see a few new members joined our Region 2 Yahoo Group last month. You will find the group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AML-Region2/>, and you can join by going directly to the website or sending an email to AML-Region2-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. DM

Delaware Trivia

Caesar Rodney, Delaware patriot who signed the Declaration of Independence, was born on Oct 7, 1728

In 1861, the 1st Regiment Infantry unit was organized in Wilmington, and deployed to Fort Monroe, VA as part of the Union army on October 21. They continued as a unit for three years.

The first ballpoint pen is patented, Oct 30, 1888

The Pennsylvania Turnpike, pioneer toll thruway, opens, Oct 1, 1940

On October 31, 1957, Delaware State Police first received radar units for speed control in Delaware.

Che Guevara was executed in Bolivia, Oct 9, 1967

Janis Joplin, rock singer, dies at 27, on Oct 4, 1970

On October 15, 1970, Delaware State Police first started using VASCAR units .

On October 19, 2005, Delaware Mensa will once again meet for a friendly round of NTN Trivia. The location this month will be at Stewart's Brewing Company, Governors Square Shopping Center in Bear (Rr 40 at Rt 7), from 6pm to 8pm. Don't miss it!
DM

Celebrations

As of August 31, we have 165 members

A Happy Birthday to these Mensans with a birthday this month:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Beverly Williams	10/6	Jeffrey Pearson	10/16
Christiane Winslow	10/6	Barbara Lavelle	10/20
Theodore Leach	10/7	Michael McQuade	10/21
Leah Kinder	10/8	Arnold Caine	10/24
Andrew Trachtman	10/11	Jack Varsalona	10/29
Richard Dillard	10/16	Brian Miller	10/30
Franklin Ward	10/16		

Congratulations, and a Happy Mensaversary to these members who celebrate their Mensa anniversary this month:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Member since:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Member since:</u>
William Bialk	1970	Paul Sedoti	1986
Francis Gribbin	1976	Barbara Sikora	1986
William Mace	1980	Jean Armstrong	1989
Patricia Lehman	1982	Lee Machemer	2002
Eileen Ruehr	1982	Christopher Shelley	2002
Franklin Ward	1984	Andrew Trachtman	2003
Beverly Williams	1984	Geoffrey Weyer	2004

And a warm Delaware Mensa welcome to
New Member Abby Shubert of Newark, and
Reinstating Member Melissa Hanlon of Wilmington

Delaware Mensa Calendar

Grab your personal calendar and write down some events!

Thur, Oct 6	7 to 10 pm, an evening with Ray Didinger, journalist, author, film maker, and EAGLES expert—Stanley's Tavern, Foulk and Grubb Roads, Wilmington. To RSVP, e-mail Maria at legal-ady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118.
Mon, Oct 10	11:30—? Downtown Lunch Bunch meet in the basement Cafeteria of the Hotel DuPont for lunch and stimulating conversation. (Every 2nd Monday) Info: Fran Joseph at 302-994-6347
Oct 14-16	(Delaware Valley Mensa) Liberty Bell XV RG: That's Medieval: An Anachronistic Experience. Sheraton Park Ridge Hotel, King of Prussia, PA. Register with Joy Gomez-Farrow at gomezfaj@pobox.upenn.edu or (610)521-6701. Book a hotel room at (610)337-1800 or (800)325-3535 (special Mensa rate of \$92/night before 9/23)
Wed, Oct 19	6 to 8 pm, NTN Trivia Night at Stewart's Brewing Co, Rt 40 in Bear. Every 3rd Wednesday. For info, call Maria, 302-893-5118
Sat, Oct 22	National Testing Day—Delaware Mensa has testing locations in Newcastle (Grace Church, Wilmington) and Sussex (Georgetown Public Library) counties. If you know someone who would like to test, call Maria (302-893-5118), Fran (302-994-6347), or Jim Bishop (302-644-9541) for info or to sign up.
Dec 16-18	Winter Solstice RG, the Regional Gathering of Central Pennsylvania Mensa, Lancaster PA. Contact Amy Antonucci at Shoikana@gmail.com or (717) 481-7747 for info or registration

Your event here

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Mensa is an international society whose sole membership requirement is a score in the top two percent of the general population on an approved intelligence test. It is non-profit, has no religious or political affiliations, and promotes no official positions. Send address changes and requests for information to: **American Mensa Ltd., National Office, 1229 Corporate Drive West, Arlington, TX 76006-6013, 817-607-0060, e-mail:** AmericanMensa@mensa.org. DelaMensa is the official publication of Delaware Mensa, local group number 197 of American Mensa Ltd. *Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors, and should not be construed as official opinions of either American Mensa Ltd. Or Delaware Mensa.* Manuscripts and letters are welcome, but must be original and unpublished. Reprints will be considered if accompanied by written permission from the copyright holder. All submissions must be signed, although the name of the author will be withheld upon request. Deadlines are shown on the calendar included in the newsletter. All submissions should be sent to the Editor at the address listed in the directory below.

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OCTOBER 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 New Moon	4	5	6 Ray Didinger Dinner Meeting	7	8
9	10 Columbus Day Lunch Bunch	11	12	13 Yom Kippur	14 Liberty Bell RG	15 Liberty Bell RG
16 Liberty Bell RG	17 Full Moon	18	19 Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night	20	21	22 National Testing Day
23	24 DelaMensa Deadline	25	26	27	28	29 John Glenn oldest man in orbit (1998)
30 End Daylight Savings Time	31					

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