



DelaMensa

Volume 33, Number 2

February 2007

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EXCOMMunication - February, 2007

By: Maria Sawczuk, Local Secretary

Last month I had an opportunity to tour the host hotel for the AG in Birmingham Alabama. I wasn't super excited about this AG until I saw the hotel – now I *cannot wait* to go! I came home and sent in my registration immediately! So, are you thinking about going? Info can be found at <http://ag.us.mensa.org/>. I promise you'll have a blast!

On the home front, we want you to come out of hibernation (or hiding) and enjoy some of our events this winter. Games Day brings a new treat – we plan to have a CHILI COOKOFF! So, bring a crockpot full of your best recipe, and enjoy a fun day of eating, drinking and oh yea, playing games!

We are forming groups now to participate in CultureQuest, which will be held this year on Sunday, April 29. From film to politics, from literature to geography and from music to history, Mensan teams of up to five members gather in their neighborhoods on a single day across the U.S. and Canada and, for 90 minutes, compete for cash prizes and cultural literacy bragging rights. If you are interested on being on a team, or want more information, give me a call or shoot me an email before the deadline of March 30.

DM

Directory of Local Officers

LocSec	Maria Sawczuk	legalady@magpage.com
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Don't forget to re-
new your Mensa
membership.
Visit www.us.mensa.org
or call (817) 607-0060
ext. 199

Coming Events

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2007 - EXCOM Meeting

The first meeting of the new ExCom. Help us plan future Delaware Mensa events and make Delaware Mensa responsive to you. All members are welcome to attend our ExComm meeting, at A Piece of Ireland in Newark.

DATE: Tuesday, February 13, 2007

TIME: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

PLACE: A Piece of Ireland, Chesmar Plaza, Route 4 and Marrows Road, Newark

To RSVP, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2007: Games Day

Leah and LD Kinder invite you to their home in Felton for a day of games, food and fun, from 1:00 pm until we get

tired. House favorites include Beyond Balderdash, Cranium, Scrabble and Trivial Pursuit, or bring your own game, if you have a special favorite.

This is an extra-special Games Day because we will have our First Ever **Delaware Mensa Chili Cookoff!** Bring a crockpot full of your favorite chili recipe and put it up against others to see who's crowned Delaware Mensa Chili King (or Queen). Other snacks and soft drinks will be also served.

Contact Leah at bluepointjive@gmail.com or 302-222-2357 for directions, and to let her know how many people to expect.

DATE: Saturday, February 17, 2007

TIME: 1:00 p.m. til' ??

(Continued on page 2)

The Kinder Garden—February 2007

By Leah Kinder, Interim Region 2 RVC

Wow, what is with this weather? This past weekend, it was 72 degrees in Delaware, and my tulips were beginning to rear their heads. A few days and a few bags of mulch later, it was 17 degrees on my way home from work!

I hope everyone had a lovely holiday season. December found me with a welcome respite from the holiday bustle, relaxing at Winter Solstice RG, hosted by Central Pennsylvania Mensa. There was much fun, food, and drink enjoyed by all, and it was a lovely weekend. I really enjoyed the opportunity to hang out in hospitality and meet and talk to many members of our region I'd never met before, as well as the growing crowd I seem to bump into everywhere.

Next up is the January AMC meeting, which I will report on in my next column. I just want to personally thank each and every one of you who has given me your feedback on the items listed on the agenda. I again welcome any inter-



ested parties to contact me, either on the Yahoo! group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AML-Region2/> or at rvc2@us.mensa.org with any comments or feedback.

Planning for the LDW in November 2007 continues, and I hope many of you will consider joining us there. An LDW can be a very useful tool, both for the information available in the various presentations, and for the opportunity to network with other active members in the region. There's a tremendous amount of experience and information available in our region, and an LDW is a chance to take advantage of that, and much more. One of the discussion items on the agenda for the January meeting is how we can foster cooperation between various local groups. I'd specifically like to hear your feelings about how we can do this within region 2.

The next RG in our region will be Snowball, the first weekend of March. They've moved to a new hotel this year, and I can't wait to see the new site! I hope to see many of you there, and will be spending most of my time in hospitality, making myself available to anyone who'd like to speak with me. Snowball happens to fall only a few weeks before the spring AMC meeting, so there will be another agenda to discuss by then. My, how the time flies...

DM

COMING EVENTS (Continued from page 1)

PLACE: Leah and LD Kinder's house, Felton
To RSVP and for directions: E-mail Leah at bluepointjive@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 - Dinner with Wilmington College President

Join us for another installment of our speaker series. Dr. Jack P. Varsalona, president of the college and a member of Delaware Mensa, has invited us to be his guests for dinner and a talk on "Distance Learning and the Impact on Higher Education."

PLEASE RSVP by the end of business on Monday 26 Feb. **There is no charge for this very special dinner.**

DATE: Wednesday, February 28, 2007

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

PLACE: Wilmington College's main campus, Route 13 in New Castle (specific room location to be announced).
PLEASE RSVP BEFORE MONDAY, FEB. 26! TO RSVP, contact Dee Richardson at busydeee@comcast.net or 302-892-2299.

DM

If you think your boss is stupid, remember: you wouldn't have a job if he was any smarter.

John Gotti

Mensan in the News

Introduction to African-American Genealogy Research

Delaware Mensan Regina Barry will present a talk on African-American genealogy research at

- Newark Free Library 7pm, Feb 12
- Woodlawn Library 7pm, Apr 19

Regina will follow the family of Alexander, born in South Carolina as a slave on a plantation, to his present-day family members in Wilmington DE. Many genealogy techniques and tips will be demonstrated. Registration is required - contact the Newark Library—302-731-7550

Websites of interest:

Delaware Mensa local group site: still under construction, but with contact info and links to past newsletters—www.delaware.us.mensa.org

Region 2 site: Information of regional interest, and links to other local groups in our area—region2.us.mensa.org



Sparks - Fostering Creative Thinking Skills

by Keri Guillbault [Reprinted from *The Flame*, newsletter of Central Florida Mensa, October, 2003; Stephen Murray, Editor]

Creativity is a trait that many gifted individuals possess and is a skill that may be developed and strengthened through practice. Our American society and its traditional school system has for years placed more value on analytic thinking skills, asking students to regurgitate facts rather than think for themselves. With new discoveries over the past decade that explain how the brain functions and how students learn, teachers have begun to value right-brained processes more and more although many find it difficult to apply in the classroom if they are not creative individuals themselves. It is important for parents of gifted students to understand how to foster creativity at home and at school so that they may support their gifted child as our culture shifts to a more visually stimulated and right-brained world.

What is meant by creativity? Is it the ability to produce original works because of an innate talent or perspective? Is it the ability to think quickly or come up with many different innovative ideas? Is creativity a unique sense of percep-

tion? The answer to these questions is "Yes!" Creativity can be defined and assessed in different ways. There are several main behavioral components of creativity frequently referred to in teacher education programs. Some of these traits include humor, fluency (number of ideas one is able to generate), flexibility (ability to adapt, modify and combine ideas), originality, and elaboration of thought. Creative individuals tend to possess some or all of the above-mentioned traits. By modeling these processes, one can sharpen and eventually improve his or her creative abilities. For teachers, here is a practical example of how these processes could be applied to a classroom project on the topic of Dinosaurs:

- **Fluency:** Brainstorm a list of ideas related to the topic. Think of as many dinosaurs as you can.
- **Flexibility:** Come up with a variety of categories related to the topic. Group various dinosaurs according to their common characteristics- carnivores/herbivores/omnivores, land/water/air creatures, size, number of horns, etc.

- **Originality:** Come up with unique and uncommon ideas related to the topic. Invent a new species of dinosaur and create a diagram or model of it.
- **Elaboration:** Add details, expanding and refining them. Combine two different kinds of creatures to create a new type of dinosaur. Add as many details as you can think of.

For students, think about how you can apply these skills to the study of more advanced topics or subjects. Consider also how these skills can be applied to a hobby, interest, problem or challenge in your life. One strategy used in gifted classrooms to help develop creative thinking is the SCAMPER technique. Some businesses also use this technique during brainstorming sessions. SCAMPER is an acronym that stands for the following:

- S- Substitute: What can be replaced to change the idea or product?
- C- Combine: How can you combine elements with something else? What can be added or what other items can be synthesized?
- A- Adapt: How can you alter some aspect of it?
- M- Modify, minify, and magnify: What can be changed made smaller or larger?

(Continued on page 5)

M-COUNTER INTELLIGENCE at Maryland and Metropolitan Washington Mensa's Joint Regional Gathering

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND: May 25-27, 2007

LAUREL WEST HOLIDAY INN

15101 Sweitzer Lane in Laurel, MD 20707

Please call 301-776-5300 or 1-888-HOLIDAY (888-465-4329) to make your reservation.
Be sure to mention **MEENSA** to get the special rate of \$89 (plus tax) per night.

MM and MWM invite you to join them in a very special gathering that may not always be quite what it seems. Saturday night dinner buffet and Sunday brunch buffet (both included with registration) Magnificent hospitality (who knows who you'll meet?) Challenging, exciting, games and tournaments (but watch your back!) Saturday night

pool party (*plausible denial furnished to members at risk of compromise*)
Chocolate orgy (*shamelessly sensuous and seductive—or is it?*)
Scholarship auction (*direct action for a high-minded cause*) **Programs, Programs, Programs—** overt, covert, clandestine, and . . . well, we're not at liberty to tell you more here. Wait until we're face-to-face.

RG REGISTRATION RATES

Full registration	Each day
\$85 (through Feb 14)	Friday: \$40
\$95 (Feb 15-Apr 15)	Saturday: \$80
\$105 (after Apr 15)	Sunday: \$20

TO REGISTER, make your check payable to MMWM RG, then mail it along with your name, mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address to:

Bill Hansbury
6128 Martinsburg Pike
Shepherdstown, WV 25443-9738

EVERY MONTH EVENTS!

Join Delaware Mensa this fall at one of our many fun events. Time to pull out those calendars!

FIRST WEDNESDAY Happy Hour/NTN Trivia Night

THIRD WEDNESDAY Happy Hour/NTN Trivia Night

Join Delaware Mensa from 6 to 8 pm, on the First and Third Wednesdays of each month for some after-work cocktails and a little friendly competition as we play another round of NTN Trivia. You've probably seen NTN Trivia at a favorite bar or restaurant. It's a nationwide trivia network, with rounds of games played 24 hours a day. If you've never played before, it's highly addictive! Come out and see what it's all about, and challenge your fellow Mensans.

PLACE: Buffalo Wild Wings, 680 South Bay Road (Route 113), **Dover** (across from former Blue Hen Mall) To RSVP, e-mail Leah at bluepointjive@gmail.com.

PLACE: Buffalo Wild Wings, Sunset Station Shopping Center, Route 40, **Bear**. To RSVP, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118.

SECOND MONDAY Downtown Lunch Bunch

The Downtown Lunch Bunch meets at 11:30 in the basement Cafeteria of the Hotel DuPont for lunch and stimulating conversation. (**Second Monday of each month**) Info: Fran Joseph at 302-994-6347

LAST SATURDAY Philosophy and Discussion Group

Here's a new recurring event for Delaware Mensa. John Slomski and Dr. Deb Gleason host a monthly Philosophy & Discussion Group at their home in Boothwyn, PA, which is a stone's throw from the Delaware State line. Join us, and Delaware Valley Mensa (DVM) on the last Saturday of each month, at 8 pm, for good conversation. Bring your most nagging philosophical questions, and maybe munchies.

PLACE: John and Deb's home in Boothwyn. To RSVP and get directions, contact John or Deb at doctordeb@copper.net, or call 610-485-2745.

Delaware Mensa Calendar

Grab your personal calendar and write down some events!

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Wed, Feb 7 | 6 to 8 pm, Downstate Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia, at Buffalo Wild Wings, 680 South Bay Rd, Dover. It worked so well we're holding it twice a month. First Wednesday of each month we'll be in Dover. To RSVP, e-mail Leah at bluepointjive@gmail.com. |
| Mon, Feb 12 | 11:30—? Downtown Lunch Bunch meet in the basement Cafeteria of the Hotel DuPont for lunch and stimulating conversation. (Second Monday of each month) Info: Fran Joseph at 302-994-6347 |
| Tues, Feb 13 | 7 to 9 pm, ExComm Meeting at A Piece of Ireland, Chesmar Plaza, Route 4 and Marrows Road, Newark. Help us plan future Delaware Mensa events and make Delaware. Mensa responsive to you. All members welcome—for info, contact Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118. |
| Sat, Feb 17 | Games Day at Leah's house (Felton), 1 til ?. Play the house favorites, or bring your own. Chili Cook-off! Snacks and drinks will be served. E-mail Leah for directions at bluepointjive@gmail.com. |
| Wed, Feb 21 | 6 to 8 pm, Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night at Buffalo Wild Wings, Sunset Station Shopping Center, Route 40, Bear. Third Wednesday of each month . For info or to RSVP, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118. (next event Dec 20) |
| Sat, Feb 24 | 8 pm, Philosophy and Discussion Group at John and Deb's house. Last Saturday of each month . For info and directions, John or Deb at doctordeb@copper.net, or 610-485-2745. |
| Wed, Feb 28 | 6:30 pm Dinner Meeting at Wilmington College. Dr Varsalona, College President and closet Mensan, will talk about the College, and other interesting subjects. For RSVP and directions, contact Dee, at busydeee@comcast.net, or 302--892-2299. |

Your event here

DM

The mighty hunter
Returns with gifts of plump birds
Your foot just squashed one.

Cat Haiku

People demand freedom of speech to make up for the
freedom of thought which they avoid.

Soren Aabye Kierkegaard (1813-1855)

Celebration

As of December 31, we had 175 members—the 85th largest group

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Jeffrey Twardus	2/3	Althea Gutteridge	2/16
Patricia Curlett	2/9	Pamela Lamb	2/19
Steven Allison	2/10	Ward Gaisor	2/20
Ronald Riebman	2/12	Nancy Hillyard	2/20
Cynthia Basner	2/15	Michael Kamps	2/27

and those who wish their birthdays not be published

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>
James Bishop	1984	Terri Eros	2004
Lorelei Hunt	1998	Anthony Eros	2004
Coke Westbrook	2000	Helen Ohlson	2005
Don Braid	2001	Susan Juni	2006
David Sechler	2002	Gabriela Poletaev	2006
Cynthia Basner	2004		

A warm Delaware Mensa welcome to:

And a warm Delaware Mensa welcome to:

New member Frederick Bryner of Smyrna;
Reinstating member John Mercante of Wilmington; and
Gabriela Poletaev, who moved to Delaware from Woolrich
Township, NJ

The optimist proclaims that we live in the best of all possible worlds, and the pessimist fears this is true.

James Branch Cabell

Blessed is the man, who having nothing to say, abstains from giving wordy evidence of the fact.

George Eliot (1819-1880)

Creativity (Continued from page 3)

- P- Put to other uses: What other uses can it be put to?
- E- Elaborate or eliminate: What details can be added? What portion could be removed?
- R- Rearrange or reverse: How can you move any component in another way to change the original?

Try using the SCAMPER technique at school or home. This may improve your inventions, creative writing, art, or other original work. Keeping a journal, or record of ideas, allows you to return to and reflect on them later- which also allows for self-assessment and metacognition. Note what worked well and what challenges are being faced as you proceed through each step. Gifted students should remember that with more practice of this technique, the more naturally your ideas will begin to flow!

The SCAMPER technique was developed by Bob Eberle Reference: Barrett, Susan It's All in Your Head

DM



Your membership renewal must be received by March 31 to ensure your vote in the National and International elections. Visit www.us.mensa.org/renew to pay today!

THINGS WE CAN LEARN FROM DOGS (part 2)

- Be aware of when to hold your tongue, and when to use it.
- Always give people a friendly greeting. A cold nose in the crotch is most effective.
- When you do something wrong, always take responsibility (as soon as you're dragged shamefully out from under the bed).
- If it's not wet and sloppy, it's not a real kiss.
- If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
- When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.
- Thrive on attention and let people touch you.
- Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
- On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.
- On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.
- When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
- No matter how often you're scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout...run right back and make friends.
- Delight in the simple joys of a long walk.

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 on page 1.



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FIRST CLASS MAIL

FEBRUARY 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 <small>Groundhog Day Full Moon</small>	3
4	5	6	7 <small>Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night</small>	8	9	10
11	12 <small>Lunch Bunch</small>	13 <small>ExComm Meeting</small>	14	15	16	17 <small>New Moon Games Day</small>
18	19	20 <small>DelaMensa Deadline</small>	21 <small>Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night</small>	22	23	24 <small>Philosophy Discussion</small>
25	26	27	28 <small>Wilmington College Meeting</small>			