



DelaMensa

Volume 33, Number 1

January 2007

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EXCOMMunication - January, 2007

By: Maria Sawczuk, Local Secretary

Happy New Year everyone!! I hope this year brings you nothing but good things!

I want to take this opportunity to welcome all the new members of Delaware Mensa. Remember, this is a member-driven organization. If you have any ideas for activities discussions, field trips, whatever, please let us know. I never turn down a good idea!

I also want to welcome the new members of the Executive Committee (ExComm) – It's nice to see some new faces, and I am looking forward to working with you in the coming years. Also, my heartfelt thanks goes out to Jim Bishop and James Carroll for their support and energy on the ExComm these past few years. I appreciate all you've done to make Delaware Mensa what it is today.

Okay, time for a new year's resolution: Why not resolve to attend one of our upcoming events? We've got lots of great things planned for 2007 (even an RG!!). We'd love to see some new faces.

Are you interested in helping us plan our upcoming RG? If so, contact Keith Johnson. We're going to start full-force planning this month – so hop on board!

Finally, start thinking about participating in Culture Quest, Mensa's nationwide trivia contest, which will be held this year on Sunday, April 29. We will be forming groups soon.

<i>Directory of Local Officers</i>		
LocSec	Maria Sawczuk	legalady@magpage.com
1st Councilor	Jim Bishop	bishopdds@hotmail.com
2nd Councilor	Vacant: Volunteer Needed	
Treasurer	Dee Richardson	bussydeee@comcast.net
Proctor Coord	Frances Joseph	302-994-6347
Downstate Coord	Vacant: Volunteer Needed	
Editor	Keith Johnson	jkjohnson@snip.net
RVC-2	Leah Kinder	bluepointjive@gmail.com, RVC2@us.mensa.org

If you are interested on being on a team, or want more information, give me a call, or shoot me an email.

That's it for now. To get reminders about upcoming events, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com> and join the "DelawareMensa" group. Hope to see you at an upcoming event!

DM

I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forgo their use.

Galileo Galilei

Coming Events

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2007 - SCRAPBOOKING DAY

Are you an avid scrapbooker? Have you heard about his new hobby and wondered what it's all about? Join Delaware Mensa for an outing to a local scrapbook store for a day of scrapbooking our favorite memories, shopping, chatting and just having fun. If you've never scrapbooked before, bring some photos and we'll teach you. If you are already into it, you know what to bring! Call Maria for more information or questions.

DATE: Saturday, January 6, 2007
TIME: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (you can come for all or part of the day)
PLACE: *Scrapbooking and More*, 725 N. Broad Street, Middletown (302-378-9777)
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.

Snacks and soft drinks will be served. Contact Leah at bluepointjive@gmail.com for directions, and to let her know how many people to expect.

DATE: Saturday, February 17, 2007
TIME: 1:00 p.m. til' ??
PLACE: Leah and LD Kinder's house, Felton
To RSVP and for directions: E-mail Leah at bluepointjive@gmail.com

DM

The Kinder Garden

By Leah Kinder, Interim Region 2 RVC

As I write this in early December, the weather this week has been cold, cold, cold. Even my poor Rugosa rose has given up any semblance of color. I've been to the beach to watch the sun rise the past few mornings, and there are some beautiful holly trees on the way home. Note to self: plant holly trees in the spring.



The January AMC meet-

ing is quickly approaching, and by the time most of you receive this column in your newsletter, the agenda will have been posted on the American Mensa website. I'd love to hear your comments on the items we'll be discussing and voting on in Birmingham. You may email me directly at rvc2@us.mensa.org or contribute on either of the Region 2 forums, if you're more inclined to discuss them with other members. The Yahoo! group is at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AML-Region2> and our forum on the AML site can be found at <http://www.us.mensa.org/community/forum/> under the local groups category.

I hope everyone has a lovely holiday season, and a wonderful new year in 2007!

Leah Kinder - RVC2

Treasurer's Report (for the six months ending December 12, 2006)

Balance on Hand	12 June 2006		\$789.72
Income:	Local Group Funding	\$731.04	
	Test Revenue	\$150.00	
	Full Mailing Reimbursement	\$0.00	
	Private Subscriptions to DelaMensa	\$8.00	
	RVC Support	\$0.00	
	Miscellaneous (lapsed member funding)	\$17.50	
Total Income:			\$906.54
Total Funds Available			\$1,696.26
Expenses:	Printing Newsletter	\$380.55	
	Mailing Newsletter	\$312.00	
	Misc. (P.O. Box rental for scholarship apps)	\$28.00	
Total Expenses			\$720.55
Balance on Hand	12 December 2006		\$975.71

Submitted by Dee Richardson

What a difference a year (of good financial management) can make! As I prepare this Treasurer's Report, I see that the Balance on Hand at this time last year (12 December 2005) was \$276.78. Our proactive efforts at stemming the losses and our RVC's response to our cries for help with a \$100 infusion have put us into a more stable financial position.

Each month, the local funding portion of what we receive from the National Office varies according to our membership level. This year we have fluctuated as much as 20% from month to month – our high number, 181 members in April 2006, was cut by 20% down to 145 members following Mensa's annual "dues date." The funding from National dropped from \$139 down to \$113 that month. Ouch!

Membership is building again – both from new members and those reinstating, and currently stands at 171. Keep it up! And consider the "life member" status so you don't have to think about it every year!

Dee

Mensan in the News

Regina Barry will be presenting 'An Introduction to African-American Genealogy' on Feb 12 at the Newark Free Library, Newark DE at 7pm. She helped a friend put together a family tree for her family reunion, tracing her family from Alexander, a slave born in South Carolina in 1820 to the current family members in Wilmington. Further research traced several generations of Alexander's family. 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



WHAT ARE YOU READING?

(an occasional column in which the author answers the title question; movie or book reviews from other Delaware Mensans are welcomed, and, in fact, eagerly sought!)

BLACKLIST, A V.I. Warshawski Novel, by Sara Paretsky

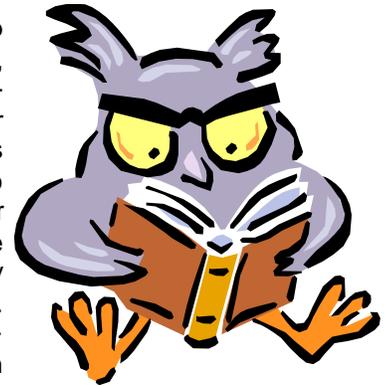
This book is the eleventh novel in the V.I. Warshawski series, copyrighted in 2003. I have not read all of the series, but I found this to be the most enjoyable of the ones I have read.

Ms. Paretsky's work had it's highest level of public attention in the 1990's, when a movie starring Kathleen Turner was released, based on the first two books in the series, and then-President Clinton was seen carrying a copy of one of her novels as he left Air Force One.

The books are all set in Chicago in the year of publication, and recount the adventures of a female lawyer-turned-private investigator as she works her way through yet another complex case. As happens so often in detective stories, the true extent of the crime is not at all apparent at the beginning of the investigation, which grows and takes on a life of it's own as one client loses interest and another appears to help V.I. carry on, or else she continues out of pure dedication to the truth.

I read several of the novels, years ago, but was put off by Warshawski's tendency to start irrational fights with, and to be unconscionably rude to, almost everyone she came in contact with, but most especially people from her private life rather than people involved in her cases. She appeared to be the kind of person I go out of my way to avoid in my own life, so I saw no sense in buying her and bring-

ing her home. I picked up **BLACKLIST** on a whim, and was pleased to discover that Warshawski (or perhaps Ms. Paretsky) has mellowed, and learned to moderate her behavior enough to be civil to the doctors, priests and family friends who mean her well. She is still feisty and independent when dealing with authority figures and clients.



BLACKLIST starts out with an investigation of lights seen in a supposedly empty house by a rich but elderly woman. The first question, whether the woman was imagining or hallucinating the lights, is answered quickly, as Warshawski discovers both a young girl about to break in to the house, and the body of a dead journalist. Her investigation into what brought each of them to the house, and how they are connected, uncovers a string of long-buried scandals of Chicago's ultra-rich and famous families, going back to the McCarthy era and beyond. The story is complicated by a current-day suspected Egyptian terrorist and a pack of Federal investigators brandishing the Patriot Act and following (or trying to) Warshawski's every move through the 458 pages of the Signet paperback edition.

I found this book very much worth reading, and recommend it to anyone who enjoys a mystery. I might even look for the next book, myself.

DM

Upon entering the little country store, the stranger noticed a sign saying "DANGER! BEWARE OF DOG!" posted on the glass door. Inside he noticed a harmless old hound dog asleep on the floor besides the cash register.

He asked the store manager, "Is THAT the dog folks are supposed to beware of?"

"Yep, that's him," he replied.

The stranger couldn't help but be amused. "That certainly doesn't look like a dangerous dog to me. Why in the world would you post that sign?"

"Because," the owner replied, "before I posted that sign, people kept tripping over him."

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Word Puzzle

This is a word-finding puzzle, prepared for your entertainment. The game board is a 4 by 4 grid of letter cells

Find as many words as possible in the grid. Words must be formed from adjacent cells, in the order in which they connect, and no cell can be used more than once in a word (but a letter can be used more than once if it is in more than one cell). Words must be three or more letters. A cell has up to eight adjacent cells: one above, one below, one on the right, one on the left, and four along the diagonals. Words can go up, down or whatever, and needn't be in a straight line.

A	U	S	S
D	B	E	K
I	T	R	T
L	P	H	O

The official solution found 43 words. Can you find them all? Can you find others? The listed solution uses English only, no abbreviations, acronyms, contractions, or proper names.

(Solution on page 5)

DM

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, Jan 3 | 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, Jan 8 | 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 |
| Wed, Jan 17 | 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, Jan 20 | 10 am to 3 pm, Scrapbooking Day, at Scrapbooking and Moore, 725 N Broad St, Middletown. Come for all or part of the day. To RSVP, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com . |
| Sat, Jan 27 | 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 5 | 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 |
| Sat, Feb 17 | Games Day at Leah's house (Felton), 1 til ?. Play the house favorites, or bring your own. 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. |

Celebration

As of November 30, we had 172 members

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Alexis Campbell	1/10	Michael Ross	1/19
Geoffrey Weyer	1/13	Maria Sawczuk	1/20
James Carroll	1/14	Judith Armstrong	1/21
Thomas Desmond	1/14	Joseph Rank	1/29
Timothy Ryan	1/18	Jodi Walker	1/30

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>
Roy Jackson	1964	Leslie Leach	2003
Judith Armstrong	1966	David Moak	2003
Robert Abel	1979	Michael Wendeler	2003
George Majors	1980	Raymond Abbott	2004
Richard Hartland	1984	Harry Albert	2004
Howard Layton	1985	Terrance Blanch	2004
Paul Saunders	1991	Patricia Curlett	2004
John Williams III	1997	Nancy Hillyard	2004
Sheldon Waters	2000	Thomas Keane	2004
Mark Macon	2001	Francis Murray	2004
Mary Carr	2003	Donald Hearn	2005
John Carson	2003	Judith Kipke	2006
Charles Houghton	2003	James Lee	2006
Bonnie Jackson	2003		

A warm Delaware Mensa welcome to:

New members: Eric Bald of Wilmington; Althea Gutteridge of Wilmington; and Spencer Kiernan of New Castle

Reinstating member David Henry of Bear,

Renewing member Stephen Chehi of Wilmington

Also, Alexandra Poletaev, who moved to Bear from Swedesboro, NJ, and Richard Bieber-Schneider, who moved to Wilmington from Avondale, PA

Solution for Word Puzzle on page 3

ORBIT	BITES
ORE	BITE
HOT	BIT
PRO	BID
PRESS	BET
LIP	BUD
LIT	BUS
LID	DIP
TORTE	DUET
TORT	DUES
TORE	DUE
RHO	DAB
ROTE	SUB
ROT	SUET
TIP	SUES
TROT	SUE
TREK	SET
BAD	USER
BAUD	USES
	USE
	ABET
	AUDIT

It is easy enough to be friendly to one's friends. But to befriend the one who regards himself as your enemy is the quintessence of true religion. The other is mere business.

Mahatma Gandhi

Glory is fleeting, but obscurity is forever.

Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821)

THINGS WE CAN LEARN FROM DOGS (part 1)

- Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.
- Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
- When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
- When it's in your best interest, practice obedience.
- Let others know when they've invaded your territory.
- Take naps and stretch before rising.
- Run, romp and play daily.
- Eat with gusto and enthusiasm. Stop when you have had enough.
- Be loyal.
- Never pretend to be something you're not.
- If you stare at someone long enough, eventually you'll get what you want.
- Don't go out without ID.
- Be direct with people; let them know exactly how you feel by piddling on their shoes.
- Leave room in your schedule for a good nap.

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

JANUARY 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Pres Ford Funeral	Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night		Full Moon	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Lunch Bunch					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	ML King Day		Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night	New Moon		Scrapbooking!
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		DelaMensa Deadline				Philosophy Discussion
28	29	30	31			