



# DelaMensa

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March 2007

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## EXCOMMunication - March, 2007

By: Maria Sawczuk, Local Secretary

Culture Quest® is coming! Are you signed up to be on a team yet? The deadline is coming up on March 30. This year's competition will be held 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 in being on a team, or want more information, give me a call or shoot me an email before the deadline of March 30.

Have you made your plans for the Annual Gathering in Birmingham, Alabama? It's going to be tons of fun! If you're looking for something a little closer to home, why not volunteer a few hours a month to help us with our first-ever Regional Gathering? Contact Keith Johnson if you want to help.

That's all for this month – you know the drill: come out and meet us, and let us know what types of events you'd like to see us hold. We're your group – make the most of it! Oh, and DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!!!

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### Directory of Local Officers

LocSec	Maria Sawczuk	302-893-5118	legalady@magpage.com
1st Councilor	Cindi Basner	302-644-9541	lightintheclouds15@yahoo.com
2nd Councilor	Alexis Campbell	302-644-9541	sassy_butt_0401@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Dee Richardson	302-892-2299	busydeee@comcast.net
Proctor Coord	Frances Joseph	302-994-6347	
Downstate Coord	<b>Vacant: Volunteer Needed</b>		
Editor	Keith Johnson	302-242-8201	jkjohnson@snip.net
RVC-2	Leah Kinder	302-222-2357	bluepointjive@gmail.com, RVC2@us.mensa.org



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call 817-607-0060  
ext. 199



Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted.

*Albert Einstein (1879-1955)*

## Coming Events

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2007 - DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

You may have never lived through a disaster, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't be prepared for one. Join Delaware Mensa and the Red Cross of the Delmarva Peninsula for information about what the Red Cross does, both nationwide and here in your community. Learn what to do when disaster strikes, and how to prepare yourself in advance. Everyone should attend this important meeting!

DATE: Wednesday, March 14, 2007

TIME: 7:00 p.m. for dinner; speaker around 8:00 pm

PLACE: International Grill Buffet, Kirkwood Hwy, Elsmere (next to Value City) To RSVP, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 15 - Black-Market Knitting with Regina Barry

During WWII, my great-great uncle had a thriving black-market business in his Army service in Europe. Meat? Cigarettes? Booze? – No, socks. His mother had insisted that all her children learn to sew, cook and knit well; and he was **very** good at knitting socks. And scarves, and hats and gloves. My uncle would, for a fee, design and knit-to-fit anything anyone wanted to pay him to do! Socks made him the most money.

Then, he taught me to knit...which means I don't have any of the fancy techniques in the books - but I can make almost anything.

Ever knitted? Never knitted? Drop in and I'll have needles,

*(Continued on page 2)*

## The Kinder Garden—March 2007

By Leah Kinder, Interim Region 2 RVC

After all that unseasonable warmth, we're now having an actual winter in Delaware. Punxsutawney Phil says it's almost over already, and I can't complain about that. I couldn't believe my eyes when I was in Rehoboth for the Polar Bear Plunge and saw people walking around in bare feet and bathing suits as I was bundled up to my eyebrows. Air temp was 29, water temp was 43, dollars raised for the Special Olympics were nearly half a million.



The January AMC meeting came and went, and by the time this column reaches you, it will be nearly time for the March meeting. The GenX SIG's bid for the 2010 AG was unanimously approved by the AMC. I made my first motion, which was to delay voting on the Local Group Charter Agreement until the March meeting. We're still working on the document, and I hope we have something more satisfactory to the membership by then. Be sure to check out the agenda online and let me know what you think of the issues we'll be talking about! This meeting will be on the heels of the Colloquium in Chicago, March 23-25, titled "Aspects of Humor: The Art and Science of Laughter."

Also in March, Central New Jersey Mensa will be hosting Snowball XXXIII, billed as American Mensa's longest running and best RG. I'm partial to it myself, since it was my first RG, after which I was hooked for life. They're in a new hotel this year, but with the same great 24/7 hospitality. I'm told there will be a Meet The Candidates session, most likely on Saturday morning, for those of you who would like to come out and get to know those candidates in attendance who are running for office in the next national elections.

CultureQuest® XVIII approaches already. You can register online at [www.us.mensa.org/eventregistration](http://www.us.mensa.org/eventregistration) and the deadline for registration is March 30, 2007. If you saw the article about me in the Delaware News Journal a while back, you know I'm dismal when it comes to anything trivia-related, so I'm trusting that some of the rest of you will be the ones to make our region proud.

So far, we haven't had much feedback regarding or interest in the LDW planned for November 2007 in Virginia. If you've ever wanted to take a more active role in Mensa (at any level), see a need for improvements in your group, or have ideas you'd like to share, now is the time to do it. The forms can be obtained by emailing me directly at [RVC2@us.mensa.org](mailto:RVC2@us.mensa.org) or Marc Lederman, the coordinator of this LDW, at [Secretary@us.mensa.org](mailto:Secretary@us.mensa.org).

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### COMING EVENTS (Continued from page 1)

yarn, simple patterns and some easy lessons (or bring your own goodie to start...) My husband will show off his neck-warmer, carefully designed to use while riding motorcycles and working in ship rigging; and easy to make. Of course we'll have some food.

DATE: Sunday Apr 15, 2007

TIME: 1 to 4 pm

PLACE: Regina's house, Wilmington. Please RSVP to Regina Barry at 655-0290, or [rmbarry1066@earthlink.net](mailto:rmbarry1066@earthlink.net), to get directions and so I know how many chairs to set out.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2007 - CULTURE QUEST

SIGN-UPS DUE BY MARCH 30 – Do you know who won the first Nobel Prize for Physics? How about the other name for the spice also known as "wild marjoram?" Join a team and see just how good your trivia skills really are.

DATE: Sunday, April 29, 2007

TIME: 4:00 p.m.

PLACE: TBD—To join a team, contact Maria at 302-893-5118 or [legalady@magpage.com](mailto:legalady@magpage.com) before March 30.

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## Mensan in the News

### Introduction to African-American Genealogy Research

There's one more session—Delaware Mensan Regina Barry will present a talk on African-American genealogy research at:

- 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](http://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](http://region2.us.mensa.org)



## Games Day—Saturday, February 17

On Saturday, February 17, we had another Games Day at Leah's house. This time it was spiced up by a concurrent Chili Cook-off.

Games were divided up into strategy gamers, who played Paul's favorite, Empire Builder (the North America version today). This was a special request from LD, who was late arriving (some weak excuse about work), but relayed his strategy to Leah via cell phone.



The other group ended up playing Trivial Pursuit – 90's Edition. Maria trounced us all in that game, although some of the challengers got rolling near the end.



While that was going on, there was also the Chili Cook-off. We had entries from Leah, Maria, Steve and Cindi. The first to run out was the vegetarian chili. No meat, no beans, no tomato – OK, actually it was just rice, but everyone had some and hit the bottom of the pot first. In the actual voting, Leah's entry took the prize

(steak, chunky tomatoes and lots of fresh peppers), although there was some grumbling about home-field advantage and who was counting those votes anyway.

A good time was had by all, and another is planned for May 20<sup>th</sup> – come on out and join the fun.

*(Photos from 11/06 games day..)*

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## Dinner Meeting at Wilmington College

*By Keith Johnson*

Wilmington College is a private college founded in 1968, and now has six locations covering the state of Delaware. On Wednesday, Feb 28, about 15 of us met with Dr. Jack Varsalona, a Delaware Mensan and President of the college, who talked to us about the history of the school and what the future may hold.



*Dr. Jack Varsalona, President, Wilmington College*

Wilmington College was founded before the advent of Community Colleges, and focused on traditional aged students who, for whatever reason, were not able to attend a major University. Later, the college became more attractive to adult learners who were in the workforce but wanted to continue their education, at either the graduate or undergraduate level. That is the core of the student body now (the last dormitory was shut down several years ago) although Jack sees a trend back toward the just-out-of-high school crowd now starting. The college's philosophy is to keep class sizes small, give students personal attention, and maintain a high academic standard. They manage to do that while keeping tuition about even with the state funded schools.

The major shift for Wilmington College, and possibly for all of academia, is a move toward Distance Learning. While not a new idea (I took my first DL college credit class in 1984), the initiative at Wilmington College has been going on for a few years now. They are ramping up the program



*Mensans at the dinner. (apologies to those who were cropped from the picture)*

as it becomes more popular with students, and as other institutions in Delaware are building their own programs.

Distance Learning can be a valuable tool, letting an instructor reach students who would otherwise not be able to take a class at all (whether for location or schedule), or letting an instructor reach more students than he or she could ever teach in person. It does take a little extra measure of responsibility and initiative from the student, but DL can be a significant force. I've been involved in three distinct types of DL courses, and the one common trait is that the quality of the instructor is even more important than in a traditional live course. The very distance that makes the approach worthwhile takes away some valuable cues and the chance to ask spontaneous questions or ask for clarification. The more complex the subject, the more of a problem this can be. It takes an extraordinary educator to keep the message clear and understandable without the immediate feedback of a live class of assertive, prepared students.

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## 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, Mar 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. <b>First Wednesday of each month</b> we'll be in Dover. To RSVP, e-mail Leah at bluepointjive@gmail.com.   |
| Mon, Mar 12  | 11:30—? Downtown Lunch Bunch meet in the basement Cafeteria of the Hotel DuPont for lunch and stimulating conversation. ( <b>Second Monday of each month</b> ) Info: Fran Joseph at 302-994-6347  |
| Wed, Mar 14  | 7 to 9 pm, Dinner Meeting with the Red Cross on Disaster Preparedness, at the International Grill Buffet, Kirkwood Hwy, in Elsmere. For info or to RSVP, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118.                                       |
| Wed, Mar 21  | 6 to 8 pm, Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night at Buffalo Wild Wings, Sunset Station Shopping Center, Route 40, Bear. <b>Third Wednesday of each month</b> . For info or to RSVP, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118. (next event Dec 20) |
| Sat, Mar 31  | 8 pm, Philosophy and Discussion Group at John and Deb's house. <b>Last Saturday of each month</b> . For info and directions, John or Deb at doctordeb@copper.net, or 610-485-2745.  |
| Sun, Apr 15  | 1 to 4 pm, Black Market Knitting with Regina Barry. Meet at Regina's home to learn the secrets of knitting good, functional garments. To RSVP and for directions, contact Regina at 655-0290, or rmbarry1066@earthlink.net                                |
| Sun, Apr 29  | 4 to 6 pm, Culture Quest, the annual Mensan trivia contest. Must sign up before March 30. Contact Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118.   |
| Tues, May 15 | 7 to 9 pm, ExCom Meeting, at A Piece of Ireland, Chesmar Plaza, Route 4 and Marrows Road, Newark. Please RSVP by e-mailing Maria at legalady@magpage.com or calling 302-893-5118.   |
| Sun, May 20  | 1 to 4 pm, Games Day at Leah's house. Play the house favorites, or bring your own. Chili Cook-off! Snacks and drinks will be served. Contact Leah for directions at bluepointjive@gmail.com or 302-222-2357.  |

*Your event here!!*

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## Celebration

As of February 28, we had 178 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>
Sonia Combs	3/4	Harry Albert	3/14
Fran Joseph	3/4	Ann Warner	3/19
Christopher Shelley	3/4	Albert Daniels	3/23
Alan Bleier	3/12	Ronald Snow	3/26
Paul Craven	3/12		

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>
Albert Daniels	1980	David Brenner	2005
Ronald Baldwin	1995	Miriam Francisco	2005
Leonard Freedman	2002	Theodore Leach	2005
Patrick McMahon	2002	Carrie Upreti	2005
Edward Stahl, Jr.	2002	Rogers George	2006
Robin Roland	2004		

**Remember: In many ways, dogs and cats are better than kids because they:**

1. Eat less
  2. Don't ask for money all the time
  3. Are easier to train
  4. Normally come when called
  5. Never ask to drive the car
  6. Don't hang out with drug-using friends
  7. Don't smoke or drink
  8. Don't have to buy the latest fashions
  9. Don't want to wear your clothes
  10. Don't need a gazillion dollars for college.
- And finally,
11. If they get pregnant, you can sell their children.

### A warm Delaware Mensa welcome to:

Ankush Bansal of Newark, Frederick Bryner of Smyrna  
John Mercante, Jr. of Wilmington, and Colin Regnier of Newark

And welcome back to reinstating members:  
Jesse Conrad of Claymont, and Christiane Winslow of Wilmington

**Don't forget to Vote in the Mensa National Elections (see your Bulletin for details and a ballot)**

**NOTE: Our own Leah Kinder is running for Regional Vice Chair—Region 2.**

## Immediate Attention

"MURDER" Philadelphia Casting is casting for the new Reality Series, "MURDER" produced by SPIKE TV/ Bunim-Murray (Real World, Road Rules, Simple Life, etc).

If you (or someone you know) are aged 25-35, SMART, and up to the challenge of figuring out a real homicide -- then send an email with your picture and a brief description of your interest in the show to: [project@philacast.com](mailto:project@philacast.com)

We will select the emails with the most personality and interest in the show-to be interviewed by the LA Casting directors!

Emails accepted until end of day, March 8th. But don't wait, we could be full by then!

What are we really looking for? SMART people with GOOD PERSONALITIES, Murder Mystery fans, people who wanted to be a DETECTIVE when growing up!

What do you receive if chosen? \$1,000 for participating, and another \$1,000 per person on the winning team... PLUS they'll donate \$5,000 to a charity of the winnings teams choice.

Interviews with the LA Casting Directors will be held in Center City Philadelphia, Saturday, March 10, by appointment only. Maybe you're just ready for a NEW challenge. If you think you have what it takes to solve a homicide, contact us today!

For more information on the show: [www.bunim-murray.com](http://www.bunim-murray.com)

(\*To be considered, applicants MUST be available for the 2 day challenge and 2 days of travel, between mid April and mid May in LA.)

("Murder" is an innovative reality-style series premiering on Spike TV. The series profiles some of the most difficult and complex homicide cases ever to be solved by our nation's finest detectives. While many popular crime shows make solving homicides look easy, "Murder" reveals just how difficult cracking a real murder case can be.

*In "Murder" ordinary people will put their heads together for the extremely difficult task of trying to solve these complicated crimes. They will visit exact replicas of the actual crime scenes. They will gather evidence and speculate motives. They will have access to every pertinent detail that the real detectives had when solving the actual cases. While the names and locations are changed to protect the victims and their families, every other aspect of these homicides is exactly as it was in the actual cases. Down to the last detail, these cases are real. How will these regular people fare in making sense of a crime scene? Gathering evidence? Understanding motives? How will they navigate through the twists and turns as new information presents itself? Will these ordinary people be able to solve these real-life murders?*

[project@philacast.com](mailto:project@philacast.com)      [www.philacast.com](http://www.philacast.com) )

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Editor:  
Keith Johnson  
181 Proctors Purchase  
Hartly DE 19953

**Postmaster: Send change of address notification to:  
American Mensa Ltd.  
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## MARCH 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
						Full Moon
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Lunch Bunch		Red Cross Dinner Meeting	St Patrick's Day		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
New Moon		DelaMensa Deadline	Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
						Philosophy Discussion