



# DelaMensa

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April 2008

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## EXCOMMunication - April, 2008

By: Maria Sawczuk, Local Secretary

It's that time of year again – time to renew your Mensa memberships. I hope everyone decides to renew. You won't want to miss out on the fun we're planning. We've got some great things planned for the coming year, including our SECOND annual Regional Gathering!

In fact, why not mark your calendars right now for the weekend of September 12-14, and plan to meet with us in Newark for The Tower of Babel – Watch Your Language! We're going to explore the many facets of language, from dictionary crafting, to learning new languages, to divining the future through the language of runes; to the language of love, money and heck, even computers! Flyers will be available soon, and registration is only \$45 until July 7. If you want to get a jump on things, feel free to send me your money and info now and I'll get you signed up.

Why not try coming out to an event this month. I'd love to meet more of you. If you're a bit shy, feel free to drop me a line and maybe we can get to know each other through email first. Then you might feel more comfortable about coming out.

If you've got any ideas for an event, please let me know. We could use some fresh ideas, and if you think it might be fun, chances are someone else will too.

DM

### Directory of Local Officers

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All are lunatics, but he who can analyze his delusion is called a philosopher.

*Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914)*

There is more stupidity than hydrogen in the universe, and it has a longer shelf life.

*Frank Zappa*

It is much more comfortable to be mad and know it, than to be sane and have one's doubts.

*G. B. Burgin*

## Coming Events

### SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2008 - Delaware Art Museum

Join Delaware Mensa for a private group tour of the highlights of the Delaware Art Museum. Few people know we have such a world-class museum right in our backyard! Founded in 1912, the Delaware Art Museum holds a world-renowned collection that focuses on American art and illustration from the 19th century to the present as well as the British Pre-Raphaelite movement of the mid-19th century. More information can be found on their website, [www.delart.org](http://www.delart.org). We'll enjoy

lunch after the tour, either at the Museum or at a local restaurant.

DATE: Sunday, April 13, 2008

TIME: 1:00 p.m. (lunch to follow)

PLACE: Delaware Art Museum, 2301 Kentmere Parkway, Wilmington (302) 571-9590

COST: \$7 per person

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

(PLEASE RSVP FOR THIS EVENT!)

## Member Interview

By Dee Richardson

Albert Daniels is a musician; he is a retired teacher; he is a collector; he is a puzzle freak; he is a Delawarean and a Mensan!

Albert joined Mensa in 1979 just to prove a point. He knew he was qualified because when was drafted into the army during the Korean War, he qualified for Officer Candidate School. But he opted not to go to OCS, because he just KNEW that he'd qualify for the Army Band, which he did!

Albert and his wife Jane currently live in Middletown, Albert having retired from 30 years teaching music (12 years at Smyrna High School and 10 at Smyrna Middle School), selling tires at Sears for 10 years, and performing with various local bands for all those years PLUS. Oh, he also directed the award-winning Citizens Hose Company Band in Smyrna for 30 years, having taught most of its members. Albert and Jane, who is a retired DuPonter, have been married 49 years!

In the early days, Albert played saxophone primarily with the AI Green Band at a dance hall called the Colesium in Woodland Beach (DE) that was formerly a roller rink, and with the Bob Wagner Band in Dover.

As collectors, Albert and Jane haunt local antique shops, thrift shops, and flea markets. His specialties include covered bridges (primarily books about and pictures of, NOT the covered bridges themselves!), post cards especially if they depict old-time Middletown, and musical lead sol-diers.

Of course he is a devotee of PBS's ANTIQUES ROAD SHOW.

Albert says that he's never been to a Delaware Mensa meeting. He's got too much else going on. I tried to explain to him that he should at least join us for the Second Monday Lunch Bunch, 'cause he's got to eat, and might as well eat with us. (BTW this is a good time to remind people that spouses, significant others, and friends are always welcome at our events.) Some of the other things going on include playing FreeCell, working jigsaw puzzles, especially if they have covered bridges pictured, and the biggest time hog lately has been the book that Albert is writing. The subject is mathematical puzzles. We need to stay in touch, Albert, so we can learn about the progress of your book. Do you need anyone to try out the puzzles for you?

## Volunteering

(reprinted from [www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org))

Perhaps more than any similar organization, Mensa has a strong "do-it-yourself" philosophy. Its activities at every organizational level are directed by volunteers, and members are strongly encouraged to create and/or run any program or activity that sparks their enthusiasm.

### Why should you get involved?

Learn new things. Return a favor. Impress others. Test your leadership skills. Act on a strongly held belief. Gain recognition. Meet neighbors and new friends. Gain visibility in the community. Try something new. Pursue your interests. Get out of the house. Gain self confidence. Change something you don't agree with. Feel successful. Gain experience. Stay active. Have fun. Why not?

### How can you get involved?

- Help with your local newsletter's mailing party.
- Attend a gathering and help out with registration or Hospitality.
- Start a local or national Special Interest Group.
- Offer to help with your Local Group's RG
- Run for office.

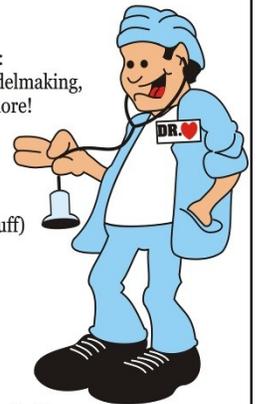
Get involved right away by contacting your Local Secretary about what opportunities there are for you locally, or step up to the challenge at your next monthly meeting or the next gathering you attend.

Tidewater Mensa presents:

# M-URGENCY!

Regional Gathering in Williamsburg, Virginia  
November 14-16, 2008

- Saturday night banquet/feast, included with registration fee
- Pungo Players \*humerus\* play/musical *Some Transplanted Evening* ...will leave you in stitches!!
- CASINO -- "Beat the Reaper"
- Frog-bobbing in pool, a Tidewater Mensa tradition!
- Stimulate your gray matter with fascinating speakers:  
Local TV personality DR. MADBLOOD, Movie Modelmaking, Forensics, Anthropic Principle, Election Politics, more!
- Tours and other Williamsburg attractions
- Friday night: Chili cook-off, Carnelli, and "On-the-Rack" game
- Games, cards, puzzles in game room
- Sunday book/media swap (bring old stuff, get new stuff)
- Four Points Sheraton Hotel with indoor heated pool, Jacuzzi, and free wireless
- Resuscitate your taste buds at the hospital-ity suite: nourishment/anesthesia (snacks, beer & wine) 24 hours a day
- Hospital garb (for Saturday night) encouraged, the WACKIER & TACKIER, the better!!!
- It doesn't take a doctor to diagnose...this RG is a great Rx!!!



Registration rates: \$75 to 8/31/08. \$81 to 10/31/08. \$86 afterwards or at the door (registration fee does not include hotel). Mail payment to registrar John Treffeisen, 524 Currituck Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23322. Tel. (757) 222-2760, email: [jtreffe@verizon.net](mailto:jtreffe@verizon.net). Checks payable to *Tidewater Mensa*. Questions? Contact Dr. Kevin Beard, RG Chair, at (757) 599-4210. Email: [kbeard@earthlink.net](mailto:kbeard@earthlink.net). Check with our website: [www.tidewater.us.mensa.org](http://www.tidewater.us.mensa.org) for updates and details!



HOTEL: Four Points by Sheraton, Williamsburg, VA. Room rate: \$72.00.  
VERY IMPORTANT: YOU MUST REGISTER SEPARATELY FOR YOUR HOTEL ROOM (BE SURE AND MENTION MENSA TO GET THIS SPECIAL RATE) BY OCTOBER 16, 2008. HOTEL TEL. 1-800 962-4743.

## Good Wine Cheap (and good food to go with it)

By John Grover

One of the most dependable websites for recipes is *Epicurious*. Put an ingredient that happens to be in your refrigerator into their recipe search engine and, MIRACLE OF MIRACLES!, a dozen or so good recipes pop up. This is how we came across this month's recipe. It is a very good idea to read the reviews found after most of the recipes. These will give suggestions for preparation and serving.

This month's wine shows that it is still possible to find a good, yet affordable, red wine produced in California. It is the 2004 "TIZred" from the TIZ Winery of Santa Rosa. It is a blend of classic grape varieties including Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Syrah. This combination offers a pleasant fruit filled nose followed by a rich berry taste with a hint of oak. The soft tannins provide a smooth velvety finish. A California wine of this quality and complexity is a steal at \$8 a bottle.

**Marinated Skirt Steak** (*The New American Steakhouse Cookbook*, by David Walzog and Andrew Freidman, 2005, Broadway Books, as printed on the *Epicurious* website)

Ingredients: 3/4 cup balsamic vinegar; 1/2 cup corn or canola oil; 1/4 cup Worcestershire sauce; 2 shallots, roughly chopped; 2 peeled garlic cloves; 1 tbsp cayenne pepper; 1 tbsp chopped fresh cilantro leaves; 1 tsp freshly ground black pepper; 1 tbsp kosher salt; 4 lbs skirt steak, cleaned of all exterior fat and connective tissue (You can easily cut this recipe in half.)

Put all ingredients, except the steak, in a blender and blend until smooth. Pour the marinade over the skirt steak

in a non-reactive pan. Marinate, refrigerated, for 3 to 4 hours before grilling, but no more than 10 hours. (We marinated the steak for about 5 or 6 hours. This cut of meat requires no less marinating time than the minimum noted above. The balsamic vinegar and Worcestershire sauce need that amount of time to break down the connective tissue and to produce a tender piece of meat.)

Remove the skirt steak from the marinade and clean away any excess marinade with the back of a knife. Grill the steak over medium-high heat for 4 to 5 minutes per side to serve it rare to medium-rare. (Our Steaks were rather thin. We found that 2 to 3 minutes on a side resulted in medium rare.)

When cooked, slice the steak thinly against the grain, starting at one corner and cutting on the bias. Serve either hot or at room temperature. The authors recommended serving this dish with tabbouleh salad. We used it for fajitas, stuffing the meat into soft taco shells with an avocado salsa.

I hope that you will contact me with your comments and favorite wines at [jgrover@berk.com](mailto:jgrover@berk.com). I will be happy to share them with the broader Mensa group.

*John Grover is a member of Mensa of Northeastern New York. He lives with his wife Sharon in the Hudson Valley of New York.*

Seen on a bumper sticker:

**"Where are we going, and why am I in this handbasket?"**

## Celebrations

As of February 29, we had 177 members

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

Name	Birthday
Sheldon Waters	4/2
Francis Gribbon	4/20
Michael Landmann	4/22
Francis Stevens	4/25
Eric Bald	4/26
Theresa Quaintance	4/27
Michael Enright	4/30
Matthew Latocha	4/30

And also to those who don't wish to have their birthdays published

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

*Apologies to Albert Daniels, for missing his Mensaversary in March. He's been a member since 1980!!*

Name	Member since:	Name	Member since:
William Halberstadt	1967	Michael Ross	1999
John Shaposka	1972	Timothy Ryan	2001
Michael Enright	1982	Karl Boettcher	2002
William Boyles	1988 (20 years!)	John Gomez	2002
JohnPalabrica	1988 (20 years!)	Michael Kamps	2004
Henry Milligan	1989	Michael McQuade	2004
Keith Johnson	1994	Susan Novellino	2007

And a warm Delaware Mensa welcome to  
New members: Blyth Germany of Rehoboth Beach and  
Harvey Smith, III of Odessa

Returning member Michael Paregian of Wilmington  
and Shawn Polson, who moved to Newark from Charleston, South Carolina

## 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 (Dover) and Third (Bear) 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](mailto:bluepointjive@gmail.com).

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

### SECOND MONDAY Downtown Lunch Bunch

The Delaware Mensa LunchBunch will meet from about 11:45 to 1:15 at ED OLIVER HOUSE. Formerly the Terrace at Greenhill, the restaurant is located at ED "Porky" OLIVER Golf Club, 800 N. DuPont Road, Wilmington. 302-571-9041. Meet us there for lunch and stimulating conversation.

There is plenty of parking, and it's not too far from downtown. (**Second Monday of each month**)

For further information, contact Dee Richardson, 302-892-2299, [busydeeee@comcast.net](mailto:busydeeee@comcast.net)

### TUESDAY, April 15, 2008: DOWNSTATE DOWN - Dining Out With Nerds

Come out and support our newest monthly event – Downstate DOWN – Dining Out With Nerds. Leah Kinder will pick a different ethnic restaurant each month. Broaden your culinary horizons, share some stories, and have fun with your fellow Mensans.

DATE: Tuesday, April 15, 2008

TIME: 6:00 pm

PLACE: **Ichiban Japanese Restaurant, 737 N. DuPont Hwy., Dover**. To RSVP: e-mail Leah at [bluepointjive@gmail.com](mailto:bluepointjive@gmail.com), or call 302-222-2357. (WE MUST HAVE AN RSVP IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THIS EVENT!)

### 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](mailto:doctordeb@copper.net), or call 610-485-2745.

## Delaware Mensa Calendar

*Grab your personal calendar and write down some events!*

Wed, Apr 2	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 <a href="mailto:bluepointjive@gmail.com">bluepointjive@gmail.com</a> .
Sun, Apr 13	1 pm. A private tour of the Delaware Art Museum, 2301 Kentmere Parkway, Wilmington (302) 571-9590. Cost is \$7 per person. For info or to RSVP, e-mail Maria at <a href="mailto:legalady@magpage.com">legalady@magpage.com</a> or call 302-893-5118.
Mon, Apr 14	11:30—? Downtown Lunch Bunch meet in the basement Cafeteria of the Hotel DuPont for lunch and stimulating conversation. ( <b>Second Monday</b> ) Info: Dee Richardson at 302-892-2299
Tues, Apr 15	6:30 to pm, Downstate DOWN (Dining Out With Nerds). <b>Ichiban Japanese Restaurant, 737 N. DuPont Hwy., Dover</b> . RSVP with Leah at <a href="mailto:bluepointjive@gmail.com">bluepointjive@gmail.com</a> , or call 302-222-2357
Wed, Apr 16	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 <a href="mailto:legalady@magpage.com">legalady@magpage.com</a> or call 302-893-5118.
Sat, Apr 26	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 <a href="mailto:doctordeb@copper.net">doctordeb@copper.net</a> , or 610-485-2745.

*Your event here!!*

DM



# TOWER OF BABEL WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE!

The Second Annual Delaware Mensa  
Regional Gathering  
September 12-14, 2008

We still need a few good volunteers to help with:

**Hospitality Committee** (plan, buy and serve all the food and drinks. Keep the tables full and the lines moving.)

**Programs Committee** (plan ideas

for the speaker program, recruit speakers, and get them to the room on time.)

**Entertainment Committee** (plan and schedule all the entertainment, games or outside tours. Ideas needed for what to do, and who should do it.)

**Registration Committee** (manage the advance registrations, keep financial records, prepare registration packets, sign in attendees at the RG, and welcome all our guests)

**GenX Liaison:** We want a GenX liaison for each of the above committees!

This is your RG. Come out and help make it a success. To volunteer, contact Keith at [keith.johnson@hughes.net](mailto:keith.johnson@hughes.net) or 302-242-8201, Maria at [legaldy@magpage.com](mailto:legaldy@magpage.com) or 302-893-5118 or any of the group officers.

## Mensa-Speak, part 1

Mensa has a language of it's own, it seems. There are acronyms and coined words, and for those of you not familiar with them, here is a list borrowed from [www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org).

**ABM:** Annual Business Meeting. Annual meeting, typically held during the Annual Gathering, where officers report on the state of Mensa and members can ask questions.

**AG:** Annual Gathering, the official name of American Mensa's national convention.

**AMC:** The American Mensa Committee, American Mensa's board of directors.

**AML:** American Mensa, Ltd.

**Area Coordinator:** A volunteer who welcomes new members, receives calls and questions from members, and schedules events in a limited geographic area within the Local Group.

**ASIE:** Actions Still in Effect. Decisions rendered by the AMC or local ExComm that will affect future administrations and member issues. They are removed when they no longer relate to current policy or the policy as defined has passed.

**CAP:** Community Activities Program.

**Carnelli:** A word game invented by Mensan Jan Carnell. As with Charades, the quicker-witted you are, the more fun Carnelli is. It's best in groups of four or more. The next time you're with a group of Ms that includes an "old hand" or two, get the old hand to explain the game and start up a round.

**CO:** Communications Officer on the AMC.

**Coordinator:** A loose term for a volunteer who does anything from acting as a telephone contact to organizing and hosting functions.

**EG:** Eternal Gathering. A phrase used to refer to Mensans who have passed away.

**ExComm:** Executive Committee. The governing body of the AMC or a Local Group.

**DO:** Development Officer on the AMC.

**DSE:** Director of Science and Education on the AMC.

**Feghoot:** Named for fictional character Ferdinand Feghoot, a shaggy-dog type of joke with a pun as the punch line. For example, "Pardon me, Roy, is that the cat who chewed your new shoes?" (more about Feghoots in future issues)



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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Arlington TX 76006-6103**

FIRST CLASS MAIL

# April 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night	3	4	5
6 New Moon	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Delaware Art Museum Visit	14 Lunch Bunch	15 Tax Day Dining Out With Nerds	16 Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night	17	18	19
20 Full Moon Start of Passover	21	22	23	24	25 DelaMensa Deadline	26 Philosophy Discussion
27 CultureQuest!	28	29	30			