



DelaMensa

Volume 35, Number 4

April 2009

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March Meeting Report

On March 24, 2009, Delaware Mensa met at Delaware State University for an evening with Emmy award winning producer and director Sharon Baker. Sharon is a native Delawarean, and is a graduate of the University of Delaware. She has a life-long interest in film and making movies, and has followed that interest to own an independent studio, located in Newark, and hold a position teaching drama and film at Delaware State University.

She talked to us about her experiences learning her craft and establishing a production company far from the center of the film world. Her production company, Teleduction, produces independent films focused on various aspects of social justice, and has created films for PBS, Nickelodeon, A&E, The History Channel and BRAVO. She also talked about her current projects, including developing curricula for a film department at DSU.

One of her projects is a joint venture between Teleduction and DSU, a "Super Independent Film Festival" held each spring in Dover. This year it is April 4, 2009 at the Schwartz Center for the Arts, in Dover. They will be showing 23 short films from all over the world. Admission is only \$5 for the day. The films are organized into general categories, and the schedule is to the right. More information is available at www.heartsandmindsfilm.org/festival.

<i>Directory of Local Officers</i>			
LocSec	Maria Sawczuk	302-893-5118	legalady@magpage.com
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RVC-2	Leah Kinder	302-222-2357	bluepointjive@gmail.com, RVC2@us.mensa.org

Hearts and Minds Film Festival Schedule

- 10:00 am – Family Shorts
- 11:00 am – Education and Society
- 12:30 pm – Lives of Faith, part 1
- 2:00 pm – Identity, Race & Society
- 3:40 pm – Art & Disability
- 5:00 pm – Struggles of Modern Life
- 6:15 pm – Evening Shorts: Impacts of War
- 7:45 pm – Lives of Faith, part 2
- 9:00 pm – Rights, Reconciliation & Justice

April Events!

Mensa Tea, April 18

Join Delaware Mensa for a proper afternoon tea. We will meet at the British Bell Tea Room in Peoples Plaza in Glasgow on Saturday April 18 at 12:00 noon.

Afternoon tea, complete with sandwiches, scones, desserts and of course, your choice of tea, is only \$19 pp. Or choose high tea, with all of the above, plus banger rolls and soup or salad, for \$25. Not into tiny sandwiches? The British Bell Tea Room has a whole menu for your enjoyment. Check out <http://www.britishbelltea.com/> for more info.

Please RSVP to Maria at 302-893-5118 or legalady@magpage.com so we reserve a large enough table.

Member Benefit

Travel smart in 2009

Have you resolved to save money on travel this year? Have you visited www.us.mensa.org/travel recently? American Mensa has partnered with the YTB Travel Network to provide an entire Web site to handle all of your travel-related needs. At this fully integrated site, you can:

- Book your flight, hotel and car for any trip;
- Search for cruise deals, international vacation packages and last-minute getaways;
- Process online flight check-in;
- Track traveler health advisories, passport requirements and airport delays;
- Sign up for a weekly "deals & steals" e-newsletter;
- Set up a honeymoon travel registry.

Enjoy your trips!

Please visit our Web site at <http://delaware.us.mensa.org/index.htm> for updates

Celebrations

As of February 28, we had 176 members

A Happy Birthday to these Mensans :

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Michael Samuels	4/18
Francis Gribbin	4/20
Michael Landmann	4/22
Francis Stevens	4/25
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:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Member since:</u>
William Halberstadt	1967
John Shaposka	1972
Michael Enright	1982
William Boyles	1988
John Palabrica	1988
Henry Milligan	1989 (20 YEARS!!)
Keith Johnson	1994 (15 YEARS!!)
Michael Ross	1999 (10 YEARS!!)
Timothy Ryan	2001
Michael Kamps	2004 (5 YEARS!!)
Michael McQuade	2004 (5 YEARS!!)
Susan Novellino	2007

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

By John Grover

It is time to say goodbye to Winter's last chill. The prospect of beautiful Spring days helps me to focus upon two of my numerous obsessions. These are of course, the wines from New York's Finger Lakes region and a good meal peacefully bubbling away in our slow cooker. What else does a fellow need?

This month's wine is the 2007 Vidal Blanc from the Thirsty Owl Wine Company on New York's Cayuga Lake. The Vidal grape is a French-American hybrid, and the source of much of the sweet dessert ice wines produced in New York State and Ontario. I prefer the way this particular example is made, resulting in an elegant semi-dry white wine. It starts with a nose characterized by pineapple, orange zest and hints of flowers. In the mouth, this wine balances the lively fruit of green apples and grapefruit with a refreshing acidity. The taste is not too sweet, not too tart; but, is "JUST RIGHT" (Can you guess the last bedtime story that I read to my grandson?). This wine matches well with many Southwestern and Asian dishes. I have found it locally for about \$9 to \$12 a bottle.

Chicken Chili (From the Best of Country Slow Cooker Recipes, Volume II from the publisher of *Taste of Home* magazine; and, available for sale on numerous internet websites.)

Ingredients: 1½ lb. boneless chicken breasts cut into ½ inch cubes; 1 cup chopped onion; 3 tbsp vegetable oil; 1 can (15 oz.) cannelloni or white kidney beans, rinsed and drained; 1 can (14 ½ oz.) diced tomatoes, not drained; 1 can (14 ½ oz.) diced tomatoes with mild green chilies, not drained; 1 cup frozen corn; 1 tsp salt; 1 tsp. ground cumin; 1 tsp. minced garlic; ½ tsp. celery salt; ½ tsp. ground coriander; ½ tsp. pepper; **Optional:** serve with sour cream and shredded cheddar cheese.

Instructions: In a large skillet, sauté chicken and onion in oil for 5 minutes or until chicken is browned. Transfer to a 5 qt. slow cooker. Stir in beans, tomatoes, corn and seasonings. Cover and cook on low for 5 hours or until chicken is no longer pink (You may want to turn the cooker up to high for the last 20 minutes for a higher serving temperature.). Garnish with sour cream and cheese if desired. This should produce about 6 servings.

Cooking/ Serving Tips: If you can't find the tomatoes with chilies, just use the corresponding amount of regular diced tomatoes and add a small can (3 or 4 oz.) of the green chilies found almost everywhere. Also, serving with tortilla chips or crusty bread is a nice addition. And, for you who are tempted to add hot sauce, go right ahead; but, I think that you will find that there is already a lot of flavor in this dish.

I hope that you will contact me with your comments and favorite wines at 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.

I do not consider it an insult, but rather a compliment to be called an agnostic. I do not pretend to know where many ignorant men are sure -- that is all that agnosticism means.

Clarence Darrow, Scopes trial, 1925.

Mensa National Elections

Elissa Rudolph for Chairman, American Mensa Ltd.

American Mensa elects a new chairman come July—a chairman who looks to the future while paying homage to the past and recognizes how organizations evolve with the ebb and flow of changing demographics. I would be honored to lead our organization as it reaches its 50th birthday next year and safeguard its future with a strategic plan created by dedicated members over the last couple years. I am looking ahead, feeling confident that what I have to offer will appeal to our veteran members while capturing the enthusiasm of our younger members so that together we continue to strengthen and grow our society with opportunities for all. Chairing the World Gathering in 2006 convinced me that greatness happens when Mensans of all backgrounds and experience work together. The Mensa round table has room for everyone; I want to look across it to see you there. Visit my website (www.elissa.com) and my blog (<http://hermensauniverse.blogspot.com/>) or throw a sheep at me on Facebook. Ask me for my business card that says it all: elissa12@bellsouth.net. And thank you for reading this.

Regards, Elissa



Dave Swanka for Chairman, American Mensa, Ltd

The sum of all the well meaning and well thought out bylaws and ASIE's is considerably less functional than the individual components. It's as if a team of skilled auto engineers took a quantity of high quality auto parts and assembled them into a Checker cab. A venerable vehicle but not state of art nor what the average person really wants or needs today.

With your help, as Mensa's chairman I intend to launch a comprehensive reworking of our governance and committee structure and rewriting of our bylaws and ASIE's. Capitalizing on the recommendations of our retained consulting firm, studying the recommendations our current committees, and with input from you, the membership, I believe the necessary changes and reforms can be drafted, discussed, finalized, and presented to you for vote in the 2011 election. This is a radically different approach from the minor tweaking of policy which infrequently occurs now.

The end result will produce a more efficient, less expensive Mensa governance; a smaller, trimmer AMC more responsive to the membership; the most efficient National Office possible; and an organization capable of serving you better for another fifty years. Together, we can get the job done and done right.

Yours in Mensa, Dave Swanka



YES on 9, NO on 8

This year's election cycle is important, especially because of the large number of bylaw amendment proposals up for vote. While most of my pro and con statements in the March issue of the Mensa Bulletin should suffice to fully inform your vote on those particular proposed amendments, Amendments #9 and 8 require a bit more. I'm pleased your editor both has sufficient space and believes national issues deserve a place in your newsletter.



in the National AMC elections! To do so you must renew your membership by March 31. Visit us.mensa.org/renew for details.

Proposed Amendment 9 revamps American Mensa's "justice system." The American Mensa Committee (AMC), which creates the rules, is tied to the people who judge members on them. Amendment 9 seeks to remove the AMC from the latter part of the equation. Wholly independent individuals (local group Ombudsmen) will sit on the National Hearings Committee (NHC).

Generally, Ombudsmen are chosen because they are seen as fair, well-reasoned, with good judgment, knowledgeable of the rules (or where to find them), and able to apply those same rules. Clearly, these attributes are essential in bringing about compromise. However, this compromise, which a few seem wary of, is in the context of coming to a mutually

(Continued on page 4)

Mensa National Elections, continued

YES on 9, NO on 8 (Continued from page 3)

agreed upon resolution for ending the situation, not determining the underlying facts. The “offending party” either committed a specified act or didn’t; it’s against the rules or not. Determining the facts of a local dispute are essential for all Ombudsmen to help guide any possible compromise; similarly, determining facts is needed within a national hearing.

Being a good negotiator and not alienating anyone from the group is arguably more difficult than stating guilt regarding each “charge,” giving a rationale for each determination, and figuring out any punishment for someone found guilty. After all, something akin to the first two determinations needs to be made by an Ombudsman when he is attempting to mediate a dispute before it escalates. If an Ombudsman can work with multiple parties to a dispute, he clearly can come to a judgment involving other local groups’ disputes.

While an earlier version was voted down at the 2008 Annual Business Meeting (ABM), all of the concerns raised were incorporated into this proposal, Amendment 9, currently up for your vote – it is NOT the same proposal as was at the ABM. Also, this version was approved at the grass-roots petition level for final balloting. No such concern of pre-balloting input was given to the membership regarding Amendment 8. While the Hearings Process Review Committee and AMC would have you believe Amendment 8’s procedures are independent of AMC, that is disingenuous at best. Amendment 8 retains strong AMC influence over the hearings process: AMC appoints the individuals on the review panel and the variable number of people eligible to serve on the NHC; they can all change at any time.

To cleanly break from AMC influence over the hearings process, vote YES on 9 and NO on 8. For more information not addressed here, go to <http://www.amyx.org/mensa/hearings/petitions> and look at the FAQ for the second petition. E-mail me with any questions about the amendments.

Jared Levine, boxmaster@alumni.williams.edu
Life Member, Metropolitan Washington Mensa



Balloting Procedure Change

A change has been made in the balloting procedure for American Mensa’s 2009 AMC election and bylaws referenda. Instead of your national election ballot being included in the April/May Mensa Bulletin, a national ballot package will be mailed to you separately on or about April 10. This package will include the ballot, candidate information and referenda. The election will run from April 15 to May 29. You may vote online as late as 31 May.

Mensans on TV

A couple of weeks ago (March 22, 2009) CBS aired a two segments on the Denver Annual Gathering from last year. For those who missed Sunday Morning and haven’t happened by the links yet, they are:

“The World’s Brightest”

<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=4882603n>

and, “Mensans Seeking Mensans”

<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=4882613n>

Enjoy them and share as you see fit.

Prior-evidence fee dropped to \$25 through June 2009

Ahh, the good old days — when unemployment was only 4.5 percent, grocery prices were stable, the federal debt was half its current total, and the stock-market bubble had yet to burst.... Was it only 10 years ago?

Out of respect for the current economy and in an effort to maintain our momentum, American Mensa is rolling back the price of prior evidence review to its 1999 rate of \$25. Effective immediately and running through June 30, 2009, this pricing will apply to anyone who wishes to submit scores from any of more than 200 standardized intelligence tests they may have taken at any point in their lives.

Candidates can download the application at www.us.mensa.org/application and return it with their test scores. For a partial list of accepted test scores, all candidates can visit www.us.mensa.org/testscores anytime.

Spring Doubleheader

We’re doing it again! Anyone who buys a Mensa Home Test during the month of April will save \$5; then, if they return the completed test by May 31, they’ll get a coupon worth \$5 off the Mensa Admission Test, which will be valid until July 31. Tell your friends and family members to take a swing at www.us.mensa.org/mht!

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

SECOND THURSDAY 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.

**NEW LOCATION—
now on Second Thursdays in Wilmington!**

PLACE: Buffalo Wild Wings, 2062 Limestone Rd, **Wilmington** (near Kirkwood Hwy). To RSVP, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118.

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 Lunch Bunch

The Delaware Mensa LunchBunch will meet from about 11:45 to 1:15 at Purebread Deli in Greenville, north of Wilmington on Rt 52. 302-571-9041. Meet us there for lunch and stimulating conversation.

For further information, contact Dee Richardson, 302-892-2299, busydeee@comcast.net

THIRD TUESDAY: DOWNSTATE DOWN - Dining Out With Nerds

Downstate DOWN – Dining Out With Nerds. Leah Kinder will pick a different ethnic restaurant each month. Call her to find out where. Broaden your culinary horizons, share some stories, and have fun with your fellow Mensans.

DATE: April 14, 2009

TIME: 6:00 pm

PLACE: TBD. To RSVP: e-mail Leah at bluepointjive@gmail.com, or call 302-222-2357. **(WE MUST HAVE AN RSVP IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THIS EVENT!)**

If everything seems under control, you're just not going fast enough.

Mario Andretti

Delaware Mensa Calendar

Grab your personal calendar and write down some events!

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Wed, Apr 9 | 6 to 8 pm, Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night at Buffalo Wild Wings, 2062 Limestone Rd, Wilmington. Second Thursday of each month. For info or to RSVP, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118. |
| Mon, Apr 13 | 11:30—? Second Monday Lunch Bunch –New Location– Purebread Deli in Greenville, north of Wilmington on Rt 52, for lunch and stimulating conversation. Info: Dee Richardson at 302-892-2299 |
| Tues, Apr 14 | 6 to ? pm, Downstate DOWN. Please RSVP to Leah by e-mail at bluepointjive@gmail.com , or call 302-222-2357 |
| Wed, Apr 15 | 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. |
| Sat, Apr 18 | 12 noon, Afternoon Tea, British Bell Tea Room, Peoples Plaza, Glasgow. For info, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118. |
| Wed, May 6 | 6 to 8 pm, Downstate Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia, at Buffalo Wild Wings, 680 South Bay Rd, Dover. First Wednesday of each month we'll be in Dover. To RSVP, e-mail Leah at bluepointjive@gmail.com . |

Your event here!!

DM

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

This newsletter is sent to members of Delaware Mensa each month (more or less), but is also going out to prospective members who have qualified for membership. If you are one of those prospective members, allow me to add another invitation to you to join Mensa. The organization is both big and small, you can enjoy it at whatever level suits you.

APRIL 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night	2	3	4 Independent Film Festival
5	6	7	8	9 Full Moon Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night	10	11
12 Easter	13 Lunch Bunch	14 Downstate DOWN	15 Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night	16	17	18 Mensa Takes Tea
19 CultureQuest	20	21	22	23	24 New Moon DelaMensa Deadline	25
26	27	28	29	30		
DelaMensa			6	April 2009		