



DelaMensa

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EXCOMMunication - December, 2007

By: Maria Sawczuk, Local Secretary

I hope your holiday is going well. I am actually nearly done my Christmas shopping, which is a new feeling for me this early. I've been contacted by some new members, asking how they can get involved. The biggest thing you can do is come out to events. Not seeing anything that interests you? Well, call or email me with a suggestion for something that would. We are all ears! I'd love to hear your ideas, and turn them into reality. Some of our best programs have started that way.

More news – the lunch bunch (which meets the 2nd Monday of each month) has moved from downtown Wilmington to Ed Oliver House (formerly the Terrace at Greenhill). The restaurant is located at Ed "Porky" Oliver Golf Club, 800 N. DuPont Road, Wilmington. If you've never been to a lunch bunch meeting, it's just an informal get-together, where all manner of chatting can be heard. It's truly a great Delaware Mensa experience, and if you live or work nearby, I would encourage you to check it out.

Delaware Mensa's scholarship program is in full swing. If you are a student, or know any students, who will be enrolled in post-secondary education in the fall of 2008, en-

Directory of Local Officers

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courage them to enter the scholarship competition. They do not need to be Mensa members. Essays must be submitted (postmarked) no later than January 15, 2008. More information, and a downloadable application, can be found at www.mensafoundation.org.

That's it for now. Have a happy holiday and a wonderful New Year. See you in 2008!

DM

Event Report — Read Aloud Delaware

On November 28th, we met at "A Piece of Ireland" in Newark for dinner and a talk with Mary Hirschbiel, founder of Read Aloud Delaware. Read Aloud Delaware has been dedicated to fighting illiteracy by instilling a love of books in children by reading to pre-schoolers for over 20 years. Their mission is to make sure that every child is read to on a one-on-one basis, leading to literacy. Mary said, "Many parents don't realize that the simple act of reading to their child daily from birth lays the foundation for adult success."

The Department of Education reports there are 30 million adults in the US who are functionally illiterate in English. That is almost 20 percent of the population that can't function in today's world.

Read Aloud Delaware has volunteer reading programs, and also programs to help parents. Volunteer programs train people to read to children in Pre-schools and Head-start centers one-on-one. They are recruited for a specific location and time, usually 9 to 11 in the morning. Depending on the age and attention span of the kids, volunteers read to each child for 10 to 20 minutes at a time.

Programs to help parents include workshops to help parents read to their own children. They also provide books for the children. It is generally recognized that a child needs to own at least five books of their own to be c

The benefits to kids from experiencing reading are lengthened attention span, increased vocabulary, improved brain development, and expanded imagination. Vocabulary is considered to be related to intelligence. There is also a statistical link between the number of words heard daily and IQ. Below average kids hear an average of 8400 words per day; kids of average intelligence hear an average of 17,000 words per day; above average kids hear 34,000 words per day.

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact them at 877-656-READ, or www.readalouddelaware.org. In order to be a volunteer reader, you must have time on a regular basis, and also pass a fingerprint background check. A 90 minute training class is available several times a month. There is also a need for help in other areas, and always a need for money.

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

By John Grover

Writing a wine and food column is a great excuse for trying many different wines. Clearly the joy is in the hunt. One thing that I try to do is to sample wines from grapes not broadly marketed in the United States. There are literally hundreds of grape varieties used for wine in Europe that are seldom seen in this country. I challenge our readers to go beyond the broadly distributed Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot.

The wine for this month is a white, the 2005 Verdelho from the Stevenot Winery of California. Verdelho is a Portuguese grape rarely but increasingly grown in the United States. Our tasting panel (the Boss and I) debated this wine's characteristics. It has a nose starting with banana and perhaps vanilla and peach. The taste is clearly tropical fruit, both citrus and a hint of sweeter types such as pineapple. The result is a creamy lighter style that is perfect as an aperitif or with seafood dishes such as below. This wine or some of its Portuguese cousins can be found

for around \$10 a bottle. I came across it on sale at a discount shop for \$6.

Maryland Crab Cakes

8 oz. Lump Crab Meat (fresh or canned); 1 egg; 1 tsp. Worcestershire; 1/8 tsp. dry mustard; 1 tbs. mayonnaise; 1/2 tsp. lemon juice; 1 1/2 tsp. Dijon mustard; 1 1/2 tsp. melted butter; 1/2 tsp. dried parsley flakes (or a tbsp of chopped fresh if you have it); 1/2 tsp. Phillips or Old Bay Seafood Seasoning; 1/4 cup bread crumbs

Combine all ingredients except crab meat. Mix in crab meat. Shape into cakes (probably six). Pan fry. Serve with fresh lemon wedges and Tartar sauce, 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.

Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great.

Mark Twain

I have this theory that chocolate slows down the aging process.... It may not be true, but do I dare take the chance?

Unknown

Celebrations

As of October 31, we had 165 members

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

Name	Birthday
David Brady	12/2
Scott Judd	12/3
Alan Trachten	12/8
Paul Sedoti	12/11
Walter Crowe	12/15
Mark Sheppard	12/18
Lawrence Laporte	12/25
Regina Barry	12/31

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:

Name	Member since:		
Mark Sheppard	2001		
Marlene Naylor**	1975	Alan Trachten	2001
Robert Busche	1994	Sonia Combs	2003
Lidia Epps	2000	John Proctor	2004
Carol Ann Schumann	2000	Frederick Bryner	2006
Edward Yannul	2000		

*** Marlene passed away suddenly on November 4, 2007. She hosted several Games Days at her home. Our sympathies go out to her family.*

and, a warm Delaware welcome to:

New member Michael Landmann of Wilmington, Jeffrey Billon, who moved to Bear from Las Vegas, NV John Gomez, who moved to Delaware from New York and to David Brady, who reinstated his membership after a lapse of more than one year !

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.

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

SECOND MONDAY Downtown Lunch Bunch

LOCATION CHANGE!!

Effective 10 December and 14 January, and subsequent 2nd Mondays, 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, although it is not "downtown," there were few downtown workers who joined us. (**Second Monday of each month**)

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

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.

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

Frank Zappa

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

Mario Andretti

All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident.

Arthur Schopenhauer (1788-1860)

Delaware Mensa Calendar

Grab your personal calendar and write down some events!

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|-------------|---|
| Wed, Dec 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, Dec 10 | 11:45—? Downtown Lunch Bunch will meet in a new location, Ed Oliver House, 800 N DuPont Rd, Wilmington. for lunch and stimulating conversation. (Second Monday) Info: Dee Richardson at 302-892-2299 |
| Wed, Dec 19 | 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 legal-ady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118. |
| Sat, Dec 29 | 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. |

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

December 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5 Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night	6	7	8
9 New Moon	10 Lunch Bunch	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night	20	21	22 Winter Solstice
23 Full Moon	24 DelaMensa Deadline	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29 Philosophy Discussion
30	31	New Years Day				