



DelaMensa

Volume 35, Number 12

November/December 2009

<u>Inside:</u>	
Coming Events	1
Birthdays	2
RVC Column	3
Good Wine, Cheap	4
Calendar	5

EXCOMmunications - December 2009

By: Maria Sawczuk, Local Secretary

Happy Holidays! I hope you had a great Thanksgiving, and you have a calm, happy holiday season. Speaking of the holidays, are you stumped for gifts? Check out American Mensa's annual holiday gift guide at <http://www.us.mensa.org/giftguide>. Find items that could help make the holidays easier, smarter and just more fun. You can check everyone off your list without ever leaving your house!

Take a break from the holiday hub-bub by coming out to the Solstice RG, hosted by Central Pennsylvania Mensa in Lancaster, PA. Solstice is one of the most laid-back RGs around – there's no programming – just hanging out with friends, playing games, visiting Amish bakeries and stores, and shopping at the outlets! Regional Gatherings are a great way to get your money's worth from your Mensa membership. Why not give it a try?

Speaking of gatherings - the Annual Gathering is only a half a year away (eek!) – have you registered yet? We are nearing our 1,000th registrant, and we expect over 2,000 fellow Mensans to congregate in Dearborn Michigan this summer. The main hotel is almost sold out, and we've opened our overflow hotel – the nearby Ritz-Carlton! The

Directory of Local Officers

LocSec	Maria Sawczuk	302-893-5118	legalady@magpage.com
1st Councilor	Cindi Basner	302-898-0093	lightintheclouds15@yahoo.com
2nd Councilor	Alexis Campbell	302-234-0563	alexis.campbell@comcast.net
Treasurer	Dee Richardson	302-892-2299	busydeee@comcast.net
Proctor Coord	Frances Joseph	302-994-6347	
Downstate Coord	Vacant: Volunteer Needed		
Editor	Keith Johnson	302-242-8201	keith.johnson@hughes.net
RVC-2	Marc Lederman	717-308-1221	RVC2@us.mensa.org

Ritz is matching our \$107/night rate, believe it or not! Registration is only \$80 until December 31 – but the 1,000th registrant pays only \$50, in honor of North American Mensa's 50th Anniversary. So sign up now at <http://www.ag.us.mensa.org>

We have a new event this month – a monthly movie night in Newark. Read more about it in the calendar. This came about because a member had an idea. If you have any ideas for events, please let me know. We'd love to add more to our calendar! Happy New Year!

DM

COMING EVENTS!

We need your RSVPs ASAP!

A PROPER AFTERNOON TEA - SAT, DEC 5

We are really enjoying our afternoon teas and are making these a monthly event. I hope you can come out to join us - please RSVP so we have enough seats - it's a small place!



Join Delaware Mensa for a proper afternoon tea. We will meet at the British Bell Tea Room in Peoples Plaza in Glasgow on Saturday Oct 10 at 2:00 p.m.

Afternoon tea, complete with sandwiches, scones, desserts and of course, your choice of tea, is only \$19 per person. 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. WE MUST HAVE AN RSVP ASAP IN ORDER TO RESERVE ENOUGH SEATS!

DATE: Saturday, December 5, 2009

TIME: 2:00 pm

PLACE: British Bell Tea Room, Peoples Plaza, Glasgow
To **RSVP**, contact Maria Sawczuk, at 302-893-5118 or legalady@magpage.com.

MENSA MOVIE NIGHT—FRI, DEC 18

Adam Smargon hosts Monthly Movie Night at The Centre at Studio Green in Newark DE; it's a new residential clubhouse with a medium-sized movie theater. The legendary 1967 World War II film "The Dirty Dozen" will be screened at 7:30 P.M. on Friday 18 December. Directions: From Elkton Road in Newark, turn west on Thorn

(Continued on page 2)

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

Lane. Pass the fire house, and you'll see The Centre on the left. Park in the lot across the street or in the lot behind it. Next month's movie is TBA, but Adam is happy to take suggestions. Note: Studio Green's residents are also invited, and attendance is limited to the first 23 people. Contact Adam for more

information: 302-561-4585 or adam@smargon.net.

DATE: Friday, December 18, 2009

TIME: 7:30 pm

PLACE: The Centre at Studio Green, Newark To **RSVP**, contact Adam, at 302-561-4585 or adam@smargon.net .

Celebrations

As of October 31, we had 174 members.

A Happy Birthday to these Mensans :

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Patrick McMahon	11/6
James Lee	11/11
James Bishop	11/14
Anthony McGuire	11/14
William Halberstadt	11/16
Dee Richardson	11/19
Robert Abel	11/21
Edward Stahl, Jr.	11/25
Coke Westbrook	11/26
Jean Armstrong	11/30
David Henry	11/30
Nicole Perefegé	11/30
David Brady	12/2
Harvey Smith	12/8
Alan Trachten	12/8
Jason Robinson	12/9
Paul Sedoti	12/11
Daniel Furlong	12/14
Walter Crowe	12/15
Mark Sheppard	12/18
Lawrence Laporte	12/25
Gregory Moore	12/25

(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:

November:	<u>Name</u>	<u>Member since:</u>
	Sandra Lehman	1967
	Paul Craven	1982
	David Bailey	1991
	Coralee Witham	1998
	Todd Litterelle	2000
	Regina Barry	2002
	Arnold Caine	2002
	Thomas Desmond	2002
	Martha Lankford	2002
	Brian Miller	2002
	Chris Quinanilla	2002
	Robert Auer	2003
	Maryanne Bellman	2003
	Leah Kinder	2003
	Joanne McCarthy	2003
	Theresa Quaintance	2003
	John Zahradnik	2003
	Allison Berdoulay	2004 (5 YEARS!!)
	Lynda Wright	2004 (5 YEARS!!)
	Steven Michel	2005
	Althea Gutteridge	2006
	David Henry	2006
	Stephen Shisler	2007
	James Masotti	2008
	Ian McMahon	2008
	Lauren McMillan	2008

December:	<u>Name</u>	<u>Member since:</u>
	Robert Busche	1994 (15 YEARS!!)
	Lidia Epps	2000
	Carol Ann Schumann	2000
	Mark Sheppard	2001
	Sonia Combs	2003
	Christopher Gee	2003
	Ronald Riebman	2003
	John Proctor	2004
	Frederick Bryner	2006
	Susanne Moskalski	2008
	Scott Schreiber	2008

And a warm Delaware Mensa welcome to:

Reinstating member Richard Eckerd of Dagsboro; New member Susan Irwin of Middletown; And also Christine Mastbrook, who moved to Frankford from Silver Spring MD, Mary Webb, who moved to Greenville from Bryn Mawr, PA, and Christopher Gee, who moved to Hockessin from Langhorne, PA

Marc My Words

by Marc Lederman, Region 2 RVC

As of October 31st, there were 6,449 members of Region 2. How would you feel if 6,439 of those members were denied the right to vote for their next RVC? If the AMC has their way, and the membership agrees, that could happen. One of the discussion items at the October AMC meeting was RVC replacement. If a current RVC moves out of his region or resigns, we currently do not have a legal way to select a new RVC. The AMC is allowed to appoint a non-voting Regional Representative, but cannot appoint a new RVC. Two options were on the last ballot, but neither received the 2/3 of the vote needed for the motion to pass. The more popular of the two would have allowed the entire region vote for a replacement, and the less popular option would have allowed just the LocSecs of the region to vote. The AMC has agreed to put the LocSec voting option on the ballot one more time, but this time as their only option. I personally oppose the LocSec option for RVC replacement, as I feel it disenfranchises the vast majority of a region's voters and gives them no voice whatsoever in selecting the RVC who represents them on the AMC.

American Mensa's Web services team has introduced Mensa on the Web. Are you interested in finding your Mensa niche on the Web? Would you like to find other

Mensa communities to participate in? Have you been wondering what all is "out there"? American Mensa currently provides and supports many officially recognized Internet communities, including our own Community, Local Group and SIG Web sites, and e-lists, but there are many, many other unofficial online Mensa-centric groups in all areas of the Internet. So, as part of American Mensa's ongoing efforts to make it easier for members to find each other and to interact socially and intellectually, a page of links to some of these groups has been published on our Members menu. You can reach it directly at www.us.mensa.org/MensaontheWeb. It's a great way to browse the Internet, find new friends, and get the most out of your Mensa membership.

Later this month Central Pennsylvania Mensa will be hosting their Winter Solstice Regional Gathering (RG), December 18th through the 20th in Bird-in-Hand, PA. The RG features lots of food, drink, games, a Saturday evening all-you-can-eat Amish buffet, and a most confusing gift exchange. This year I'm chairing Hospitality, and I hope to see many of you there.

I hope you all have a great holiday season and a happy new year.



Winter Solstice RG

December 18 – 20, 2009

Bird-in-Hand Family Inn - Bird-in-Hand, PA



Saturday night buffet

2 indoor pools and a large hot tub

Plenty of shopping at more than 200 Outlets

Free Amish Farmlands tour (inquire with the hotel when you make your reservations)

More to come!

Hotel Info: Bird-in-Hand Family Inn 2740 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bird-in-Hand, PA 17505, 800-627-1910. Room Rates: \$99 (SR), \$99 (DR), \$109 (TR), \$119 (QR). Reservations must be made by November 4. Mention Mensa when you make your reservation. This hotel is completely non-smoking

Special Door Prize:

Each person who registers and books a hotel room by July 31 will be entered into a drawing to receive their registration for free.

Full Registration:

\$65 (Oct 1 to Dec 7)

\$70 (after Dec 7)

Saturday Only:

\$55 (Oct 1 to Dec 7)

\$60 (after Dec 7)

Check out our RG Website: www.cpa.us.mensa.org/solstice.htm

Send your check (payable to Central Pennsylvania Mensa) to:
Mike Durakovich – 16 Lexington Drive - Shrewsbury, PA 17361

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

By John Grover

The fact, that I was still harvesting heads of Bibb lettuce in mid-November (in Upstate New York), was the start down the road to this month's column. This near miracle of gardening was facilitated by some old saw horses and a large sheet of clear plastic to cover the plants. The constant supply of greens from the garden since last Spring, has encouraged our new found proclivity toward dinner salads of all types.

The wine this month is the 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon from Robert Mondavi's "Private Selection" line. This wine is made from 77% Cabernet Sauvignon and the balance from the juice of four other grape varieties. This wine has a rich berry nose and fills the mouth with black cherry, velvet tannins and a subtle oak flavor. This is an extraordinarily rich wine for the price. I paid \$9 a bottle for this wine based on a case price.

Blackened Steak Salad (recipe from the Chicago Chop House, printed in *Bon Appetit Magazine*, September, 2000)

Ingredients for steak spice mixture: 1 tbsp paprika; 2 tsp ground black pepper; 1 ½ tsp salt; 1 tsp garlic powder; 1 tsp cayenne pepper (you may want to cut the cayenne in half the first time); ½ teaspoon dried oregano; ½ tsp dried thyme

For salad: ¼ cup olive oil; 2 tbsp balsamic vinegar; 1 tsp Dijon mustard ; 6 cups (packed) mixed baby greens; ½ green bell pepper, thinly sliced; ½ cup thinly sliced red on-

ion; two 5-to-6 ounce beef tenderloin steaks, each about 1/2 inch thick; 3 tbsp butter, melted; 6 tbsp crumbled blue cheese (about 3 ounces); 1 tomato, quartered

Prepare spice mixture: Mix all ingredients in small bowl. (Can be made 1 week ahead. Store airtight at room temperature.)

Make salad: Whisk oil, vinegar and mustard in large bowl to blend. Season with salt and pepper. Add greens, bell pepper and onion and toss to coat. Divide salad between 2 plates.

Cook Steaks: Spread spice mixture on a plate. Coat both sides of steaks with spice mixture. Dip both sides of steaks into melted butter. Heat heavy large skillet over high heat until very hot. Add steaks and cook to desired doneness, about 2 minutes per side (½ inch steak) for medium-rare. (Our steaks were about 1 ¼ inch requiring 4 minutes a side for medium-rare.) Transfer to cutting board; let stand 2 minutes. Thinly slice steaks crosswise. Arrange slices atop salads. Sprinkle with cheese. Garnish with tomato and serve. This recipe serves two aging baby boomers very nicely.

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

MENSA NEWS!

What are your top Web sites?

It's baaaaaack. In the first quarter of 2010, American Mensa will release its second annual list of Top 50 Web Sites as recommended by Mensa members. If you missed out on the fun last year -- or if you had so much fun you're on board for another round -- now's your chance to participate! Throughout November, we encourage you to nominate absolutely all the Web sites you find most useful, valuable, intriguing, humorous and, of course, family friendly.

Include your email address with your submissions, and you'll have the chance to participate in at least two rounds of voting to narrow down the winners. Voting is quick and easy, and, while we'd appreciate your opinion across the board, you can choose what categories to vote in.

At the end of nominations last year, you and your fellow Mensans had entered more than 300 Web sites for judging. Once again, we need your input to ensure we list only the best! Visit the American Mensa Web site at www.us.mensa.org/Top50Sites beginning November 1 to submit your top picks.

CULTUREQUEST 2010

Culturequest 2010, the annual Mensa contest of cultural knowledge, is just a few months away. Do you know the answers to some of these questions from a past edition:

- How many countries does the equator pass through. Island nations count only if there is an actual land crossing.
- In 2004, Nancy Zerg accomplished something that many people thought impossible. What was it?
- Name the three most recent appointees to the Supreme Court.
- Counting from the left, in which column of the periodic table are the halogens listed?
- What is the Messier number for the galaxy Andromeda?
- How long is a standard bowling alley, from the foul line to the edge of the front pin?

If you knew the answers to ANY of these questions without consulting reference material, we desperately need you on our next team!

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 Lunch Bunch 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

AML Statistics—October 2009

Total membership	53,235
New and reinstating membership	417
Offers of membership	602
New members since April 2009	2,069
Reinstating members since April 2009	1,541

More information is available on the AML Web site at www.us.mensa.org

Delaware Mensa Calendar

Grab your personal calendar and write down some events!

Tues, Dec 1	6 to 8 pm, Downstate Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia, at Buffalo Wild Wings, 680 South Bay Rd, Dover. First Tuesday of each month we'll be in Dover. To RSVP, e-mail Leah at bluepointjive@gmail.com .
Sat, Dec 5	2:00 pm, Afternoon Tea, British Bell Tea Room, 890 Peoples Plaza, Newark . Please RSVP. For info, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118.
Thur, Dec 10	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, Dec 14	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
Wed, Dec 16	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.
Fri, Dec 18	7:30 pm, Movie Night at The Centre at Studio Green in Newark DE. This week, "The Dirty Dozen," seats are limited. To RSVP , contact Adam, at 302-561-4585 or adam@smargon.net
Tues, Jan 5	6 to 8 pm, Downstate Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia, at Buffalo Wild Wings, 680 South Bay Rd, Dover. First Tuesday 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.

DECEMBER 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night	2 Full Moon	3	4	5 Afternoon Tea
6	7	8	9	10 Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night	11	12
13	14 Lunch Bunch	15	16 New Moon Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night	17	18 Movie Night Studio Green	19
20	21 Winter Solstice	22	23	24	25 Christmas	26
27	28 DelaMensa Deadline	29	30	31 Full Moon	New Year's Day	
DelaMensa		6		September/October 2009		