



DelaMensa

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February 2008

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EXCOMMunication - February, 2008

By: Maria Sawczuk, Local Secretary

Wow – how did it become February already? January seemed to just fly by!

Culture Quest is just around the corner – Teams must be signed up by March 31, so if you are interested in participating, let me know.

Speaking of teams, we are also forming a Delaware Mensa team for Relay for Life, to benefit the American Cancer Society. We will be walking at Delaware State University on June 6 and 7. If you've not heard of it, the Relay for Life is a fun-filled overnight experience designed to bring together those who have been touched by cancer. Relay participants help raise money and awareness to support ACS. We take turns walking or running laps overnight. You don't need to participate the entire night, but please consider joining our team. More info will follow in later newsletters and on our Yahoo group.

Oh, and as you may know, memberships expire on March 1. Please be sure to take a moment to renew your membership now. You can easily renew at www.us.mensa.org.

Coming Events

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2008 - Deaf Culture

Join Delaware Mensa for a presentation to increase your understanding in relation to basic Deaf Culture, including social and family environments and varied educational backgrounds (residential school, mainstream program, or regular school). Talk about tips on how to communicate with persons who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, assisted technology that individuals prefer to use, telecommunication relay service options, and how to work with sign language interpreter(s) and RID Code of Professional Conduct.

DATE: Wednesday, February 13, 2008

TIME: Dinner at 6:30 p.m.; with the talk to begin around 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: A Piece of Ireland, Chesmar Plaza, Route 4 and Marrows Road, Newark To RSVP, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com (legalady <at> magpage<dot>com) or call 302-893-5118.

<i>Directory of Local Officers</i>			
LocSec	Maria Sawczuk	302-893-5118	legalady@magpage.com
1st Councilor	Cindi Basner	302-738-3326	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	jkjohnson@snip.net
RVC-2	Leah Kinder	302-222-2357	bluepointjive@gmail.com , RVC2@us.mensa.org

That's it for now. As always, to get reminders about upcoming events, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com> and join the "DelawareMensa" group. Hope to see you at an upcoming event!

DM

"When I am working on a problem I never think about beauty. I only think about how to solve the problem. But when I have finished, if the solution is not beautiful, I know it is wrong."
Buckminster Fuller (1895-1983)

Announcement from National

Ready to publicly proclaim your love for Mensa? From now until midnight on February 15, 2008, AML will be accepting entries to the "Why do YOU love Mensa?" video competition. It's easy to enter, just make a video about why you love Mensa, upload it to YouTube.com and follow the rules outlined www.us.mensa.org/lovemensa <www.us.mensa.org/lovemensa> . If your video is chosen, you'll win an Apple iPod Touch (<http://www.apple.com/ipodtouch> <<http://www.apple.com/ipodtouch>>)! Check out www.us.mensa.org/lovemensa <www.us.mensa.org/lovemensa> for details.

Hilary Moore,
American Mensa Marketing Coordinator
hilarym@americanmensa.org

Relay For Life of Central Delaware

Delaware Mensa is forming a team for the Relay for Life fundraising event for the American Cancer Society. This Relay will be held on June 6-7, 2008, at Delaware State University in Dover.

Each year, across the nation, one event brings together entire communities to take part in the fight against cancer. That event is the American Cancer Society Relay For Life®. It's a time



and place where people come to celebrate those who have survived cancer, remember those we've lost, and fight back against a disease that touches too many lives. Won't you join us this year and be a part of Relay? More details will follow in the next few months. If you want to sign up, contact Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118.

"Subprime" Voted 2007 Word of the Year

In its 18th annual word of the year vote, the American Dialect Society voted "subprime" as the word of the year. Subprime is an adjective used to describe a risky or less than ideal loan, mortgage, or investment. Subprime was also winner of a brand-new 2007 category for real estate words, a category which reflects the preoccupation of the press and public for the past year with a deepening mortgage crisis. Founded in 1889, the American Dialect Society is dedicated to the study of the English language in North America, and of other languages, or dialects of other languages, influencing it or influenced by it.

The word-of-the-year (WOTY) vote is a whimsical, light-hearted affair, though it is conducted by some of the country's top linguists, grammarians, lexicographers, and other language specialists. It is not an official induction of words into the English lexicon. If there is such a thing as "Official English," then it is decided by *all* English-speakers each time they choose to use or choose not to use a word or expression. Their consensus cannot be overruled by any academic body, by any self-appointed maven, nor by any nay-saying commentator.

Still, the ADS WOTY vote sheds light on trends in language change by directing attention to interesting language that was produced or popularized by important events of the past year.

Event Report — Dining Out With Nerds

On Tuesday, January 15th, 2008, Delaware Mensa began the first of a series of outings to downstate ethnic restaurants. We went to A Taste of India, In Dover. It was an Indian buffet with lots of choices for the meat lover or the vegetarian. Although each item on the buffet was labeled, there was no description, so I have no idea what I ate – but it was all delicious. Indian food has a reputation for being spicy, yet most of the items on this buffet were quite tame. Oddly, it was a vegetable pocket that was the hottest. There were several tasty, and cooling, dessert offerings as well as chai tea and a mango yogurt drink. All this for less than ten dollars per person – bravo, Leah, on a great choice. This will be a regular event, every second Tuesday. Next up – Italian!

Nicole Perefefe

Here are some of the nominated words, most which reflect events of the year:

Celebutard - [celebrity + debutante > celebuntante + retard] Stupid famous female

Connectile Disfunction - Inability to gain or maintain a connection

Don't Tase Me, Bro! - Please do not use an electronic stun gun on me, officer! (Words of Andrew Meyer during arrest after persistent questioning of Sen. John Kerry at the U of Florida)

Googlegänger - Person with your name who shows up in your googling of yourself

Happy Kwanhanamas! - [Kwanza + Hanukka + Christmas] Happy holidays!

(Nominator suggests **Feliz Kwanhanamas!** as a PC improvement)

Hill-Bill - Joint US presidency of Hillary Rodham Clinton and William Jefferson Clinton

Human Terrain Team - Culture warriors; group of social scientists employed by the US military to serve as cultural advisers in Iraq or Afghanistan

Sushi - Muslim blurring the distinction between Sunni and Shiite

Truther - Person who believes that 9/11 was an inside job

Two-Car Insurance Seminar - Traffic accident involving two vehicles

Astronaut Diaper - A garment, which might be called a fecal containment unit, worn by astronauts on long flights. It was brought to popular attention by astronaut Lisa Nowak who wore one in February while driving across five states to confront a love rival.

Chief Sustainability Officer - A business executive hired to meet environmental regulations and to find ways to profit through environmentally friendly products and services.

Colony Collapse Disorder - A disease that has killed millions of pollinating bees nationwide and threatens to harm the nation's agricultural output. Suspected culprits are a virus, mites, and insecticides.

Email Bankruptcy - Choosing to delete or ignore a very large number of email messages after falling behind in reading and responding to them. This often includes sending a boilerplate message explaining that old messages will never receive a personal, specific response.

An Exabyte - is 1.074 billion gigabytes.

Exploding ARM - An Adjustable Rate Mortgage whose rates soon rise beyond a borrower's ability to pay.

Forever Stamp - A postage stamp that, bought now, will be sufficient to mail a first-class letter at any time in the future, despite price increases.

FTW - For The Win. A bragging exclamation or interjection of approval, such as "K-Fed got the kids FTW" or "I was able to open the file with Photoshop. FTW!!!" Originally part of the patter of the game show *Hollywood Squares* and later found in online games such as *World of Warcraft*. Now largely used ironically and sarcastically.

Global Weirding - n. An increase in severe or unusual environmental activity often attributed to global warming. This includes freakish weather and new animal migration patterns.

Liar's Loan/Liar Loan - Money borrowed from a financial institution

(Continued on page 5)

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

By John Grover

This month's column is again inspired by our recent trip to Russia. River cruises in Europe are a wonderful way to travel for an aging baby-boomer. And, beginning every day with a Mimosa at breakfast is a delightful bit of decadence.

The Russian and German culinary staff on the ship produced some excellent meals. A notable highlight of each meal was the soup, whether emphasizing a meat, vegetable or fish. Borscht is probably the most recognizable and traditional of Russian soups with as many variations in recipes as there are Russian Grandmothers. Our friend Mandy cooked the recipe below to rave reviews at our last gourmet club.

This month's wine is flavorful red recommended by our friend Tina. It is the 2005 Windmill Estate Old Vines Zinfandel bottled by Michael-David Vineyards of Lodi, California. This wine starts out with a nose that gives a striking expectation of a big fruity wine. But, it has a smooth almost mild taste more like a good Merlot, except with a tad more fruit. The taste is a subtle berry with a hint of vanilla and a bit of pepper at the finish. It will go well with the hearty soup below. I have found it in several stores for between \$8 and \$11 a bottle.

Russian Beet Soup (Borscht) (adapted from the recipe-goldmine.com website)

Ingredients: 6 cups water; 1/2 cup dried navy beans; 1 pound beef boneless chuck, tip or round, cut into 1/2-inch cubes; 1 smoked pork hock; 1 (10 1/2 ounce) can con-

densed beef broth; 2 1/2 teaspoons salt; 1/4 teaspoon pepper; 6 medium beets, cooked; 2 medium onions, sliced; 2 cloves garlic, chopped; 2 medium potatoes, cut into 1/2-inch cubes; 3 cups shredded cabbage; 2 teaspoons dill seed or 1 sprig dill weed; 1 tablespoon pickling spice; 1/4 cup red wine vinegar; and, 1 cup dairy sour cream

Heat water and beans to boiling in Dutch oven (a soup pot about 4 to 6 qts.); boil 2 minutes. Remove from heat; cover and let stand 1 hour. Add beef, pork, beef broth, salt and pepper to beans. Heat to boiling; reduce heat. Cover and simmer until beef is tender 1 to 1 1/2 hours. Shred beets or cut into 1/4-inch strips.

Remove pork from Dutch oven; cool slightly. Remove pork from bone and trim fat; cut into bite-size pieces. Add pork, beets, onions, garlic, potatoes and cabbage to beef mixture. Tie dill seed and pickling spice in cheesecloth bag or place in [tea](#) ball; add to beef mixture. Cover and simmer 2 hours. Stir in vinegar; simmer 10 minutes. Remove spice bag. Serve with sour cream; sprinkle with minced dill weed, if desired. Yields 6 servings.

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.

Celebrations

As of December 31, we had 171 members

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

Name	Birthday
Jeffrey Twardus	2/3
Miriam Weidner	2/5
Steven Allison	2/10
Ronald Riebman	2/12
Cindi Basner	2/15
Althea Gutteridge	2/16
Pamela Lamb	2/19
Ward Gaisor	2/20
Nancy Hillyard	2/20
Michael Kamps	2/27

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:
Lorelei Hunt	1998 (10 years!)
Coke Westbrook	2000
Don Braid	2001
Daniel Malone	2003 (5 years!)
Cindi Basner	2004
Anthony Eros	2004
Terri Eros	2004
Helen Ohlson	2005
Gabriella Poletaev	2006
Jeffrey Billion	2007

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 legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118.

SECOND MONDAY Downtown Lunch Bunch

LOCATION CHANGE!!

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, busydeee@comcast.net

TUESDAY, February 19, 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. **February—La Fontana, 56 W Birdie Ln, Magnolia.** Broaden your culinary horizons, share some stories, and have fun with your fellow Mensans.

DATE: Tuesday, February 19, 2008

TIME: 6:00 pm

PLACE: La Fontana, 56 Birdie Ln, Magnolia 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!)**

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, Feb 6	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, Feb 11	11:30—? Downtown Lunch Bunch meet in the basement Cafeteria of the Hotel DuPont for lunch and stimulating conversation. (Second Monday) Info: Dee Richardson at 302-892-2299
Thur, Feb 13	7 to 9 pm, Dinner meeting—Deaf Culture, A Piece of Ireland, Rt 4 and Marrows Rd, Newark. For info or to RSVP, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118.
Wed, Feb 19	6:30 to pm, Downstate DOWN (Dining Out With Nerds). Italian this month: La Fontana, 56 W Birdie Ln, Magnolia. RSVP with Leah at bluepointjive@gmail.com , or call 302-222-2357
Wed, Feb 20	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, Feb 23	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



Join us in **EARLY CINCO DE MAYO**,
 a wickedly festive *Regional Gathering* jointly presented by
Metropolitan Washington Mensa and **Maryland Mensa**
 on **Friday, May 2nd** through **Sunday, May 4th**
 at the **Holiday Inn Gaithersburg**,
 2 Montgomery Village Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20879.

Saturday night banquet (included with registration), **around-the-clock hospitality**, **three full tracks of programs** from Friday through Sunday, **endless games and tournaments**, **two indoor pool parties** plus a hot tub, **chocolate orgy**, **scholarship auction**, and **much, much more**.

RG Registration: Make your check payable to **MMWM RG** and mail it along with your full name; the name to be printed on your RG badge; your postal mailing address; your telephone number; and your e-mail address to **RG Registrar Bill Todd, 642 Wilson Place, Frederick, MD 21702-4168**.

Hotel Registration: Call 301-948-8900 or see www.higaithersburg.com; cite *Group Booking Code "IQQ"* to get the special room rate of **\$99** (plus tax) per night. Rate is guaranteed through 04/28/08.

For more information, including a full RG registration form, see www.mwm.org/MWMRG08.pdf.

RG Registration Rates			
Full Registration		One Day at a Time	
\$89	(Feb 1—Mar 20)	Friday	\$40
\$99	(Mar 21—May 1)	Saturday	\$80
\$105	(Walk-in at the RG)	Sunday	\$20

Delaware Mensa Regional Gathering—September 12-14

If you missed the very first Delaware Mensa RG last year, you missed a great event. It was successful beyond all expectations - good weather, the hotel cooperated with everything we needed, people had a great time, and we even made a little money. It went so well that we decided to do it again this year. It will be at the same hotel in Newark, on September 12th to the 14th. We are scurrying around now to plan the program, round up speakers, and recruit the people it takes to put on an event like this.

An RG is a unique opportunity to meet and hang out with other Mensans in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. You might have fun, you might learn something, and you might put on a couple of pounds from spending too much time in the hospitality suite. If you were there last year, please come back. If you weren't there last year, then we certainly hope you'll come this year. We'll be announcing how to register soon, along with what to expect at the Gathering, so keep reading the newsletter, and you might want to join our Yahoo group to get all the latest news.

More than that, you might want to volunteer to help out planning and putting on the RG. As Benjamin Franklin said, "Many hands make light work," so the more people who pitch in the more fun everyone involved will have. If you can't help out with the planning and preparation, maybe you can share some of your knowledge with the group by giving a talk. Please volunteer to help out - we have big jobs and small, to fit whatever responsibility you can take. Contact Maria at legalady@magpage.com or 302-893-5118, or call Keith at 302-242-8201.

Word of the Year (Continued from page 2)

under false pretenses, especially in the form of a "stated income" or "no-doc" loan which can permit a borrower to exaggerate income. Dates to 1992 but became prominent in 2007 due to the rising mortgage crisis.

Life-Stream - To make a thorough, constant digital record of one's own life in video, sound, pictures, and print.

Lip Dub - A widely shared amateur video of people singing along to a popular song.

Maternal Profiling - Employment discrimination against a woman who has, or will have, children. This term is being popularized by members of *MomsRising*, an activist group promoting the rights of mothers in the workplace. A woman who is subject to maternal profiling is also often said to have bumped against the **maternal wall**.

Mom Job - Also known as a **mommy makeover**, this is a package of cosmetic surgeries that will reduce the visible effects of childbirth on a

woman's body, such as stretch marks or sagging.

Multi-Dad - Of a woman, to have children by more than one father. First popularized in the U.K.

NINJA - *No Income, No Job or Assets*. A poorly documented loan made to a high-risk borrower.

Wide Stance, to have a - To be hypocritical or to express two conflicting points of view. From Senator Larry Craig.

Chipmunking - resembling the feeding posture of a chipmunk, especially when one is using a Blackberry or similarly small electronic device

Oprah Effect - (another oldie but goodie) the impact of the opinion of Oprah Winfrey, most recently upon the candidacy of a politician

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.



Editor:
Keith Johnson
181 Proctors Purchase
Hartly DE 19953

**Postmaster: Send change of address notification to:
American Mensa Ltd.
National Office
1229 Corporate Dr. West
Arlington TX 76006-6103**

FIRST CLASS MAIL

February 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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3	4	5	6 <small>New Moon</small> Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night	7	8	9
10	11 Lunch Bunch	12	13 Deaf Culture	14 Valentine's Day	15	16
17	18 President's Day	19 Dining Out With Nerds	20 <small>Full Moon</small> Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night	21	22 DelaMensa Deadline	23 Philosophy Discussion
24	25	26	27	28	29	