



DelaMensa

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EXCOMMunication - January, 2008

By: Maria Sawczuk, Local Secretary

Happy New Year everyone!! I wish you nothing but the best throughout 2008!

So, have you made a new year's resolution? Can I suggest adding "Participate in Delaware Mensa Activities" to your list? We have some openings for volunteers for testing, mailing, public relations, RG planning and ombudsman – if you would like to help out, please let me know.

Speaking of RG planning – last year's inaugural RG (Regional Gathering) was so successful, we decided to do it again. Since you have that brand-new calendar, why not turn it right now to September, and mark off September 12-14. You'll be busy that weekend enjoying yourself and the company of Mensans from around the country. Our theme this year is "The Tower of Babel – A Study of Language in All Its Forms" Are you interested in helping us plan our upcoming RG? If so, contact Keith Johnson.

Don't forget about the scholarship contest – the deadline for entering is January 15. Go to <http://www.mensafoundation.org> for more information. If you would like to help judge the essays, contact Dee Richardson.

Finally, start thinking about participating in Culture Quest, Mensa's nationwide trivia contest, which will be held this year on Sunday, April 27. We will be forming groups soon.

Directory of Local Officers

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

If you are interested on being on a team, or want more information, let me know.

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!

Don't fight a battle if you don't gain anything by winning.

Erwin Rommel

Coming Events

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2008 - Asperger's: Understanding the Illness

What is Asperger's Syndrome? How is it being recognized internationally as a condition that may limit individuals in their daily living activities? What services are available to those afflicted with Asperger's? Delaware Mensa is pleased to host Barbara Riley, a Program Specialist with the Delaware Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Her duties include the coordination of services for students with disabilities as they transition from high school to post-secondary education, training and/or employment. Barbara is also an adjunct professor at Wilmington University teaching graduate stu-

dents within the Department of Behavioral Sciences for the Community Counseling Program.

DATE: Thursday, January 24, 2008

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

PLACE: Sheridan's Pub, 42 W. Commerce St., Smyrna
To RSVP, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118.

*** There will be an ExComm meeting prior to the talk, beginning at 6:00 pm. If you are interested in helping to plan upcoming events, please come by early. All members are welcome!*

The Kinder Garden

'Tis the season! We may finally be getting some rain (and snow!) but the Kinder Garden is brown and grey. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season this year, and is staying warm and dry. By the time you receive this, the Solstice will have passed and the days will start getting longer. I can hardly wait.

Our region had a great turnout for Mensa Testing Day this year. I even had a radio interview on a station out of Ocean City, MD the day before MTD to help promote the event. That interview was a result of a press release sent out by our National Office staff. You might be surprised at how much they can help you with, when it comes to services for your local group. Check www.us.mensa.org/materials for some of the publicity materials they can send you.

On the same weekend as Mensa Testing Day, Delaware Valley Mensa hosted Liberty Bell Regional Gathering (RG). They had a good turnout of attendees, and lots of great programs with a James Bond theme in common. There was even a casino on Saturday night, where I quickly lost every last one of my poker chips, and shortly afterward, all the poker chips that the other players donated to me. Thank goodness for fake money! The Leadership Development Workshop went off without a hitch, thanks to the efforts of several volunteers. We began with dinner and programs on Friday evening, had more programs all day Saturday, and finished up on Sunday. There were many old hands and repeat attendees, as well as some new faces present. We're in the early stages of planning our next LDW, and I hope you'll consider attending. It's a great way to network, and to learn how to get more involved with your local group.



The AMC met in West Palm Beach, FL on December 1st. It was so hard to leave my jacket in the car when I departed from Philadelphia (29 degrees), but when I landed, it was in the mid-80s and humid. By the time you receive this column, I hope the minutes will have been released from that meeting. You can find minutes, agendas, and reports from AMC meetings on the website at www.us.mensa.org/meetingreports once you log into the site. Our next meeting will be in San Francisco, CA in March 2008. I'll be attending Winter Solstice RG hosted by Central Pennsylvania Mensa in mid-December, so look for my report from that in my next column. The next RG in our region after that is Central New Jersey's Snowball RG, which is the largest in our region. Shortly

after that will be Metropolitan Washington Mensa and Maryland Mensa hosting an Early Cinco de Mayo RG, and before you know it, there will be another Annual Gathering, this year in Denver, CO. If you've never attended a Regional or National event, maybe you should think about it!

Last but not least, our Web Services team has rolled out the new American Mensa, Ltd. Community on the AML website at www.us.mensa.org/community. The best part of that is the new Forum interface. You can visit the site and set up your user profile, and interact with other members online. There are currently nearly 6000 members registered, and new members are joining every day.

*Leah Kinder
RVC2, Mid-Atlantic Region*

<http://kindermensa.blogspot.com>

Number Puzzle

The game board is made up of nine blocks of nine cells, each of which should have one number in it. This puzzle is solved by finding the right combination of numbers to have one each of the numbers 1 to 9 in each row, column, and small block of nine on the board.

Use logic, deduction, and all your powers of observation to find the right solution. Save guessing and trial-and-error for a last resort—they're "poor form."

Is there a unique solution? I don't know—tell us all if you find more than one way to complete the board.

4	1	2		3				
				8				1
			5					7
6	8	7		2	5			9
9			1				2	5
5			8		9	6		3
3		5	7	1				
	9		4	6				
	7				8	1	3	6

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

By John Grover

This month's column is inspired by our recent trip to Russia. It is a vast and beautiful country with grand palaces, ancient churches, friendly people and an overwhelming sense of history. The new found gas and oil wealth appears to be driving a construction boom in both Moscow and St. Petersburg. The impact upon the smaller towns in between was not so clear.

The food on the trip was excellent and varied. It could be accompanied by Vodka (of course) and by inexpensive local sparkling wines referred to as "Russian Champagne". I have not been able to locate this rather pleasant Russian Champagne back home. So when our gourmet group got together last month to sample Russian cuisine, we tried several affordable sparkling wines from around the world and the United States.

The clear winner from this wine tasting was an American wine, Domaine Saint-Vincent of Albuquerque, New Mexico. This yellow gold sparkler is a non vintage brut made by the traditional "Methode Champenoise" (fermentation in the bottle). It starts with a citrus and vanilla nose. The taste is crisp, lively and complex with an almost creamy combination of apple, lemon and mineral. The other wines, a Cava from Spain and a Prosecco from Italy, paled in comparison. The Domaine Saint-Vincent matched well with the recipe below. I have found it in several stores in our area for between \$9 and \$11 a bottle.

Chicken Gorky (We found this recipe on several web-

sites; but, this one is from ruscuisine.com)

Ingredients: 3 lb Chicken breasts boneless, 2 oz Vodka heated, 1 tbsp Tomato paste, 5 tbsp Butter, 1 tbsp Flour, 1 ½ cup Sour cream or plain yogurt, 4 tbsp Feta cheese crumbled, ½ tsp Pepper, ½ tsp Salt, ½ tbsp Dried parsley, 1 Garlic clove minced, ¾ cup Chicken broth, ¼ cup Onion chopped

Brown chicken in butter with the chopped onions. Pour heated vodka over the chicken & onions. Add the garlic, salt, pepper, & parsley. Remove chicken from the pan, dredge in the flour, add the tomato paste, & chicken broth to the pan. Stir-in the sour cream & feta cheese. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Add the chicken again to the mixture, reduce heat and simmer for 20-30 minutes. Arrange the chicken in a deep casserole dish. NOTE*** At this point this dish may be frozen or refrigerated for later cooking to finish. Pour the mixture over the chicken and cook in preheated 350 degree F oven and cook for 20 minutes or until brown on top. Please note also that heating the Vodka before adding it to the cooking chicken is an important safety measure. This can be accomplished by placing it in a Pyrex measuring cup in the microwave for just a few seconds.

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 November 30, we had 171 members

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

Name	Birthday
Alexis Campbell	1/10
Geoffrey Weyer	1/13
James Carroll	1/14
Thomas Desmond	1/14
Timothy Ryan	1/18
Michael Ross	1/19
Maria Sawczuk	1/20
Judith Armstrong	1/21
Jodi Walker	1/30

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:

Name	Member since:	Name	Member since:
Roy Jackson	1964	Leslie Leach	2003 (5 years!)
Judith Armstrong	1966	David Moak	2003 (5 years!)
Robert Abel	1979	Michael Wendeler	2003 (5 years!)
George Majors	1980	Harry Albert	2004
Richard Hartland	1984	Terrance Blanch	2004
Howard Layton	1985	Nancy Hillyard	2004
John Williams, III	1997	Thomas Keane	2004
Sheldon Waters	2000	Francis Murray	2004
Mary Carr	2003 (5 years!)	James Lee	2006
John Carson	2003 (5 years!)	Ankush Bansal	2007
Kari Goral	2003 (5 years!)	Jesse Conrad	2007
Charles Houghton	2003 (5 years!)	Christiane Winslow	2007
Bonnie Jackson	2003 (5 years!)		

and, a warm Delaware welcome to New Members
Michael O'Leary-Myers of Claymont
Stephen Shisler of Wilmington

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!!

On 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 it's not too far from downtown. (**Second Monday of each month**)

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 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, January 15, 2008

TIME: 6:00 pm

PLACE: Taste of India, 348 N. DuPont Hwy., Dover 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, Jan 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. First Wednesday of each month we'll be in Dover. To RSVP, e-mail Leah at bluepointjive@gmail.com .
Mon, Jan 14	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
Wed, Jan 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.
Sat, Jan 26	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.
Thur, Jan 24	7 to 9 pm, Dinner meeting—Understanding Asbergers Syndrome, Sheridan's Pub, 42 W. Commerce St., Smyrna. For info or to RSVP, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118.

Your event here!!

Delaware Mensa Treasurers Report

Treasurer's Report For the six months ending 12 December 2007

Submitted by Dee Richardson

The treasury is recovering nicely now, with newsletter costs down below our annual group funding.

The RG proved to be quite a money-maker for us. We had a GOOD theme, picked a good weekend, and had incredible volunteers. I know the event has been reported in the newsletter, but I just want to add that I think the word is getting around that Delaware Mensa is a happenin' place!

Dee

Balance on Hand 12 June 2006		\$1,065.8
Income:		
Local Group Funding	\$829.84	
Test Revenue	\$60.00	
Lapsed member mailing supplement	\$15.00	
Private Subscription to DelaMensa	\$8.00	
Total "ordinary" income	\$912.84	
Extraordinary income		
RG Proceeds (See below)	\$1,086.24	
Total Income:	\$1,999.0	
Total Funds Available		\$3,064.9
Expenses:		
Printing Newsletter	\$357.45	
Mailing Newsletter	\$352.60	
PO Box rental (Scholarship expense)	\$36.00	
Lapsed member mailing	\$68.57	
Mailing Tests (certified)	\$0.00	
Total Expenses		\$814.62
Balance on Hand 12 December 2007		\$2,250.3

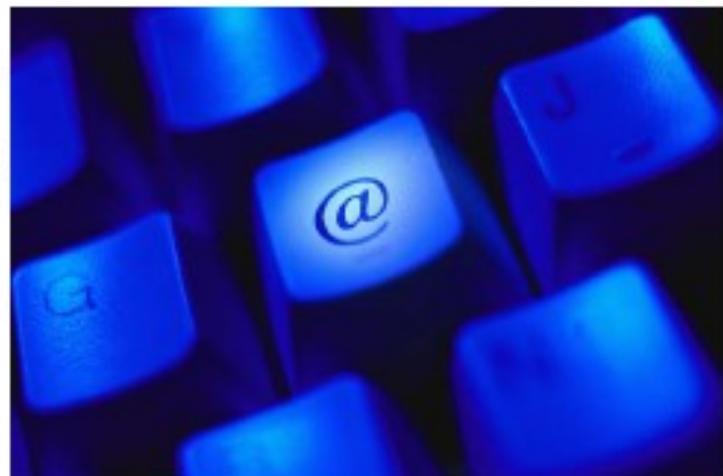
RG Financial Overview

Income		
Registrations (41 in advance; 21 at		\$2,575.0
Miscellaneous income		\$70.83
Total income		\$2,645.8
Expenses		
Common rooms	\$313.84	
Food and beverages	\$913.84	
Entertainment	\$200.00	
Miscellaneous	\$131.91	
Total expenses		\$1,559.5
Net income		\$1,086.2

Ed Note: Once again, thanks to the volunteers, named and un-named, who helped put on our Regional Gathering. Their hard work, careful shopping, and scrounging of donations whenever possible helped us come out with a profit instead of a loss.

We're doing it again in September—mark your calendars!!!

It's time to renew
your Mensa membership.
Renew online at
www.us.mensa.org/renew
or call 817-607-0060
ext. 199



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FIRST CLASS MAIL

January 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night	3	4	5
6	7	8 New Moon	9	10	11	12
13	14 Lunch Bunch	15 Dining Out With Nerds	16 Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night	17	18	19
20	21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	22 Full Moon	23	24 Understanding Asbergers	25 DelaMensa Deadline	26 Philosophy Discussion
27	28	29	30	31		