



DelaMensa

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January 2014

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Steve's Corner

By Steve Michel

Happy New Year! Hope everyone had a great holiday.

The football post-season is upon us and the Eagles are, surprisingly, in it. I guess we'll see how that turns out. And what about the big game being played outdoors. In the north. I don't think the weather should be an element in playing the final game of the season. And how miserable would it be if the game were played in six inches of snow?

America Mensa is running a promotion right now to take the home test for only \$1. Do you know someone that is thinking about taking the test? This is a very inexpensive way for them to at least get an idea of whether or not they may qualify.

We are in the process of finalizing the paperwork for our second certified proctor. Hopefully before the end of the month, it will be so.

Our next RG – in September, our 8th – will be themed on "She blinded me with science. And technology." We've just started the planning but have some great ideas underway. Last year's RG – a joint venture with DVM – was one of our highest attended RGs of all time.

We continue to discuss some charitable effort we could

Directory of Local Officers

LocSec	Steve Michel	302 832-2665	sdm1177@yahoo.com
1st Councillor	Cindi Era	302-898-0093	lightintheclouds15@yahoo.com
2nd Councillor	Dee Richardson	302-892-2299	busydeee@comcast.net
Treasurer	Jen Johnson		delaware_jen@yahoo.com
Proctor Coord	Steve Michel		
Downstate Coord	Roger Mussard		
Editor	Keith Johnson	302-242-8201	keith.johnson@hughes.net
RVC-2	Cam Smart	703-791-3650	RVC2@us.mensa.org

do. One idea that is gaining traction, at least as a start, is to collect a book from RG attendees and donate them.

As always, if you have an idea for a program / gathering / event, we'd love to hear about it! We currently have a Monday lunch, Tuesday trivia and a Saturday afternoon tea. We've had people host games day in their home (the only requirement is that you have a home to host it – but light refreshments are appreciated) and used to have a philosophical discussion session as well. If someone wants to coordinate an outing to somewhere – anywhere – you are welcome to, also (last year we had a tour at the Dover Air Force Base). The earlier it is scheduled the better so that word can get out and the DM website can be updated. Any assistance you would care to provide would be welcome. For all event details, please visit the DM website at <http://delaware.us.mensa.org/events.htm>.

A Proper Afternoon Tea— February 8, 2014

Join Delaware Mensa for a proper afternoon tea. We will meet at the British Bell Tea Room in Peoples Plaza in Glasgow. Please RSVP as seating is limited.

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 a banger roll 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.

DATE: Saturday, February 8, 2014
TIME: 2:30 p.m.

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



Celebrations

Congratulations, and a Happy Mensaversary to these members who celebrate their Mensa anniversary this month:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Years of membership:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Years of membership:</u>
Judith Armstrong	48	Terrance B Blanch	10
Robert Abel MD	35	James Lee	8
George Edward Majors	34	Beverly Wright	5
Richard Joseph Hartland	30	Shaharris Beh	3
Gerald E Lenis	11	James E Bradley	2
David Moak	11	Irene K McCall	1
John W Carson	11	Meghan Yerkes	1
Thomas R Keane	10	Susan Hendrich	1
Harry F Albert	10		

A Happy Birthday to these Mensans :

Name Birthday

January Birthdays

Todd Litterelle	5-Jan
Geoffrey R Weyer	13-Jan
James D Carroll	14-Jan
Thomas P Desmond	14-Jan
Jason R Brower	15-Jan
Shaharris Beh	19-Jan
Michael Anthony Ross	19-Jan
Maria Aprile Sawczuk	20-Jan
Judith Armstrong	21-Jan
John R Kurpjuweit	22-Jan
Douglas Alan Hyde	25-Jan
Jodi L Walker	30-Jan

(And also to those who don't wish to have their birthdays published)

And a warm Delaware welcome to:
Richard H Babb , who moved to Lewes.
Also, welcome back to reinstating member
Alison J Taggi, of Hockessin.
Finally, thanks for staying around, renewing members
Taralee Morgan, of Newark, and William N Timm, of Wilmington.

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN READING?

(An occasional column in which the author answers the title question. Book reviews from other Delaware Mensans welcomed)

I recently read two classic "Island" books that I, and I believe many other people, confuse with each other:

Mysterious Island, by Jules Verne, and published in 1874, is a celebration of technology and man's dominion over the earth. In it, a small band of castaways on a seemingly deserted island in the South Pacific use their knowledge of modern (for 1874) technology to shape their environment to give them all the comforts of home.

Their accomplishments were very impressive, in a manifest destiny kind of way, and were enough to make anyone think, "I wish I had paid more attention in school." But, they gradually learn that even with all they accomplished, they would have been drowned, starved, and killed by pirates without the protection of someone with even better technology.

In the end, nature fights back and they escape only by the *deus ex machina* of a ship arriving to rescue someone marooned on a nearby island years ago, showing the limits of mans abilities.

The Island of Dr. Moreau, by H.G. Wells, and published in 1896, is a cautionary tale against man pursuing knowledge for the sake of knowledge, and without an ethical framework to guide it. The movie adaptations have all been classified as "horror movies," and rightfully so.



The story starts with the protagonist in a shipwreck in the South Pacific, and after floating on the ocean for a week, he is rescued by another man on a mysterious mission, aboard a low rent sailing ship. After a series of personal conflicts with the ship's Captain, he is thrown off the ship at the next stop, which turns out to be the island home, of Dr. Moreau.

Dr. Moreau's purpose is to alter the course of nature by re-making animals with human abilities and characteristics. Typical of Wells, things don't end well, and his fate is similar to Dr. Frankenstein.

So, what have you been reading?

Delaware Mensa ExComm Mtg—Dec 14, 2013

Attendees: Steve, Cindi, Jen, Dee (phone), Keith

1. Downstate coordinator:
 - Roger Mussard interested.
 - Unanimously approved as DSC.
2. Testing: 2 people took the test in November.
3. RG & Finances:
 - Jen to provide an update.
 - PayPal password will be sent to Steve [again?].
4. Financial assistance for members:
 - We have lost three officers due to financial reasons.
 - There are other members who didn't renew for financial reasons.
 - Partial assistance (SEMM has a documented process).
 - Volunteer and get a membership credit.
 - The members of the ExComm will consider the idea and various options and constraints.
5. Next RG:
 - Topic: Science and Technology – “She Blinded Me With Science. And Technology.”
 - Date: 09/19-21
 - Liquor license (\$20).
 - Sherm's catering – improved over last year. Next year, order more Marsala.
 - Season's Pizza for dinner (was that better?) Casapulla's for lunch (how was it)?
 - Todd Chapelle and Hot Breakfast for music. HB is moving to Northern NJ. They are willing to play, but it will be more of an effort for them next year.
6. Other items:
 - Karaoke Saturday night.
 - Games from volunteers – went well.
 - Cam's reception was well received and should be repeated.
 - Welcome to adjust the schedule of activities (such as the music and or karaoke), but just need suggestions for what to do.
 - Where can we get speakers? We need to get the word out – such as with DVM, FB, DM website, etc. How about UD?
6. Other items:
 - Chapter participation is very minimal. We don't really have any ideas – right now – for better participation. The weekly trivia isn't really well attended, but the Tea is rather well attended.
 - We discussed some ideas for doing something for charity. Book collection for a library – such as for the Bear Library as that is where we've had a couple ExComm meetings, food collection for the food bank, some other work for another organization.
 - May conduct some future meetings via conference call.
 - Does the chapter have a single address? No, but it isn't needed.
 - DM website link to AM is wrong and needs to be updated.
 - Ask SEMM how many people have used the subsidy.

Help Wanted

Wanted, columnists and reporters for DelaMensa. Put your imagination and creativity to work for Delaware Mensa. Use the power of the pen (or keyboard) to share your ideas with the world, and be a vital part of making Mensa work. Writing and editing experience is helpful but not required. If interested, send in your submissions any time, or contact Keith (302-242-8201, keith.johnson@hughes.net) or Steve (302 832-2665 , sdm1177@yahoo.com)

Delaware Mensa Calendar

Grab your personal calendar and write down some events!

Mon, Jan 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, Jan 14	6 to 8 pm, Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night at Stewart's Brew Pub , Governor's Square, Route 40, Bear. For info or to RSVP, e-mail Steve at sdm1177@yahoo.com or call (302) 832-2665.
Mon, Feb 10	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
Sat, Feb 8	2:30 pm, Afternoon Tea, at the British Belle Tea Room, Peoples Plaza in Glasgow DE. Seating is limited, so please RSVP, contact Maria Sawczuk at 302-893-5118 or legalady@magpage.com
Tues, Feb 11	6 to 8 pm, Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night at Stewart's Brew Pub , Governor's Square, Route 40, Bear. For info or to RSVP, e-mail Steve at sdm1177@yahoo.com or call (302) 832-2665.

Your event here!!

DM

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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.

January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <small>Games Night at Trader's Cove</small>	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 <small>Afternoon Tea</small>
12	13 <small>Lunch Bunch</small>	14 <small>Happy Hour/NTN Trivia Night-Bear</small>	15 <small>Full Moon</small>	16	17	18
19	20 <small>Martin Luther King Day</small>	21	22	23	24 <small>DelaMensa Deadline</small>	25
26	27	28	29	30 <small>New Moon</small>	31	

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