



DelaMensa

Volume 34, Number 5

May 2008

Inside:	
EXCOMMunication	1
Coming Events	1
RG Flyer	2
Good Wine	3
Birthdays	3
Calendar	4
Mensa Speak, cont.	5

EXCOMMunication - May, 2008

By: Maria Sawczuk, Local Secretary

If you haven't renewed your membership, this likely will be your last newsletter. Please take a moment and either send in your form, or go online at www.us.mensa.org.

There's a contest running in May among the regions to see which region can test the most prospects. Do you know someone who you think would qualify? Have them contact me and we can set them up with a testing session.

Are you going to Denver. I'm all set, and can't wait! It's looking like it will have the highest attendance of any Annual Gathering. The programs look great, and the side trips are very enticing (I just need to be willing to pull myself away from all the festivities). Check out www.ag.us.mensa.org for more information.

Our Second Annual Regional Gathering is coming up too. The theme is The Tower of Babel – Watch Your Language. It's being held in Newark on September 12-14. Registration is now open, so send in your check and reserve your hotel room. It's going to be a heckuva party! Contact Keith Johnson, or come out to our next ExComm meeting if you want to volunteer.

DM

Coming Events

SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2008 - Games Day

Leah and LD Kinder invite you to their home in Felton for a day of games, food and fun, from 1:00 pm until we get tired. House favorites include Beyond Balderdash, Cranium, Scrabble and Trivial Pursuit, or bring your own game, if you have a special favorite. Snacks and soft drinks will be served.

DATE: Sunday, June 8, 2008

TIME: 1:00 p.m. `til ??

PLACE: Leah's and LD's House, Felton (please RSVP for directions)

To RSVP, e-mail Leah at bluepointjive@gmail.com or call 302-222-2357. Please RSVP so we know how many people to expect.

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	keith.johnson@hughes.net
RVC-2	Leah Kinder	302-222-2357	bluepointjive@gmail.com , RVC2@us.mensa.org

Mindgames!

More than 210 Mensans gathered in Phoenix this weekend for Mind Games 2008. During the three-day event, members played and rated 54 board and card games. The top five games have earned Mensa Select distinction and may use the Mensa Select seal on their games.

The winners are:

AmuseAmaze (HL Games, <http://www.hlgames.com>)

Eye Know (Wiggles 3D Inc, <http://www.eyeknowgame.com>)

Jumbulaya (Platypus Games, <http://www.platypusgames.com>)

Pixel (Educational Insights, <http://www.educationalinsights.com>)

Tiki Topple (Gamewright, <http://www.gamewright.com>)

Mind Games 2009 will be held April 24-26 in Cincinnati. To register, visit www.mindgames.us.mensa.org.

I am often amazed at how much more capability and enthusiasm for science there is among elementary school youngsters than among college students.

Carl Sagan

·réunion·Festversammlung·σύννοση·*sammankomst*·*ebop*·جمع·kokous·vergadering·GENNYESEDES·zebranie·riunione·gadr·
...gathering!



Mark your calendar: September 12 – 14, 2008

Delaware Mensa's 2nd Annual RG will explore "Language" in all forms.

Dictionaries, computers, runes, ASL, learning languages.

Enjoy an expanded games room, 24-hour hospitality, and poolside entertainment with last year's hit, Todd Chappelle!

A buffet breakfast is included for all hotel guests!

Registration Fee(s):

\$45 through July 7, 2008
\$50 through August 15, 2008
\$60 thereafter (and at door)

Make checks payable to:
Delaware Mensa

Send checks to:
Dee Richardson
3101 Duncan Road
Wilmington, DE 19808

Hotel:

TownePlace Suites by Marriott
410 Eagle Run Road
(I-95 and Route 273)
Newark, DE 19702
302-369-6212 x0 or 888-236-2427

Hotel Rates:
Single Suites \$89/night
Double Suites \$99/night
One Bedroom Suites \$149/night

Room rates guaranteed until 8/15/08
Hotel Reservation Code: Delaware Mensa

Last year's gathering was a great success, so we're looking forward to seeing new and familiar faces this year.
Don't delay, *registro hoy!*

-----Detach and send with registration-----

Name: _____ Local Group: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number of people registering: _____ Amount included: _____

Name(s) on badge(s): _____

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

By John Grover

Several members of our gourmet club recently spent a week on the Island of Curacao in the Caribbean. After a week of beaches and golfing, they were inspired to host a Cuban dinner in honor of their favorite restaurant on this otherwise Dutch island. The food was excellent; but, the dessert our friend Donna made below was so extraordinary that it must surely make the angels weep. Cafe con leche is the traditional "latte" that many Cubans drink for breakfast. It combines a strong espresso coffee with steamed milk and sugar.

This month's wine is the 2006 Snoqualmie Riesling from Washington State's Columbia Valley. This wine is termed off dry with 5% residual sugar. Yet the sweetness is well balanced with a crisp acidity. Snoqualmie Vineyards has achieved a luscious blend of tastes including pear, apricot and spice with this wine. While not a true dessert wine, it will go well at the end of a meal with a cheese course or the dessert below. This wine is a real find at only \$8 to \$9 a bottle.

Cafe Con Leche Custard (as reprinted on the Tasteof-Cuba.com website)

Ingredients: 4 tbsp cornstarch, 3 cups milk, 1 cup heavy cream, 2 & 1/2 tbsp instant coffee powder (Donna used instant espresso powder), 1 cup sugar, 2 eggs, whipped cream, chocolate covered espresso beans for garnish

Stir cornstarch into 1 cup milk, stirring until smooth. In top of a double boiler, pour the cornstarch mixture and the rest of the milk, cream, instant coffee powder, and sugar. Stir over medium-high heat until thickened. Cover and let simmer 10 minutes.

Beat the eggs well. Slowly add 1 cup of the hot coffee mixture to the eggs, beating continually. Pour egg mixture into remaining coffee mixture in the double boiler, still over

heat, and beat well to incorporate. Cover and simmer 2 minutes.

Remove from heat and pour into coffee cups. Cover with plastic wrap, leave to cool and then refrigerate. When chilled, top with fresh whipped cream and 1 chocolate covered espresso bean (shaved chocolate on top is a nice alternative). This recipe serves 4.

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.

Talking about Language

No one actually asked about the mention of Feghoots in the last issue, but you're going to hear about them now.

Feghoot is now a term for a humorous short story or vignette ending in an atrocious pun, the more painful the better. It originated as a long running series of pieces about the fictional Ferdinand Feghoot, and appeared under the collective title "Through Time and Space with Ferdinand Feghoot." Originally written by Reginald Bretnor, they were published in the magazine *Fantasy and Science Fiction* from 1956 to 1973, but have often been imitated by authors as well known as Isaac Asimov and John Brunner.

Because (some) Mensans love puns, and Science Fiction, the Feghoot continues to appear in the world of Mensa. To get you thinking about language, and the merits of puns, you'll be seeing some in future issues of DelaMensa, and you are invited to write your own for publication. Search the web for instructions.

Celebrations

As of March 31, we had 178 members

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

Name	Birthday
Paul Stitik	5/4
Joseph Gillson	5/5
Maryanne Bellman	5/10
Rogers George	5/13
Lidia Epps	5/14
William Boyles	5/20
Michael Paregian	5/31

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

Congratulations, and a Happy Mensaversary to these mem-

Name	Member since:
Dennis Cripps	1983 (25 years!)
Jack Varsalona	1986
James Carroll	2004
John Coburn	2006
Alexandra Poletae	2006
Shawn Polson	2006
Erik Pearson	2007
Fred Wiley	2007

And a warm Delaware Mensa welcome to
New members: Jason Romeo of Middletown
Christopher West 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

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, May 20, 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, May 20, 2008

TIME: 6:00 pm

PLACE: **La Tolteca Mexican Restaurant, 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, May 7 | 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, May 12 | 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 |
| Tues, May 13 | 7:00 to 8:00, Delaware Mensa EXCOM and RG Planning Meeting, at Maria's house. All members invited. For info, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118. |
| Tues, May 20 | 6:00 to pm, Downstate DOWN (Dining Out With Nerds). La Tolteca Mexican Restaurant, 859 N DuPont Hwy, Dover . RSVP with Leah at bluepointjive@gmail.com , or call 302-222-2357 |
| Wed, May 21 | 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, May 31 | 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-Speak, part 2

Fishbowl: A party or gathering activity in which anonymous questions are written and put into a fishbowl (or equivalent container). A moderator draws the questions one by one and solicits responses. In the most popular variation, the men write questions for the women, and vice versa.

FSM: For groups that publish and mail a newsletter, this is often the name of the distribution/preparation event jokingly known as "Fold, Staple, Mutilate" and more accurately as "Fold, Seal, Mail."

GC/GCC: Gifted Children/Gifted Children Coordinator.

GOTYA: [Group Of The Year Award](#). Begun in 1999 to recognize and reward Local Groups' membership-related activities and their active participation in all that Mensa has to offer, this is a competitive program in which all Local Groups participate.

Hospitality: The hub of any Mensa gathering, the Hospitality room offers snacks, beverages, meals and the opportunity to sit down and chat with other attendees.

IBD: International Board of Directors.

IJ: The publication [International Journal](#), included in the *Mensa Bulletin*.

Isolated M: A newsletter for Mensans who may not be able to participate in Local Group activities due to location or preference.

Joke-Off: A popular event at AGs and RGs. Ms compete to tell the funniest clean and "not so clean" jokes. The contest may last for several hours.

LDW: Leadership Development Workshop (or Weekend). This gathering provides courses to improve the skills and knowledge of Local Group officers and any other Mensans.

Local Group: A geographically defined local chapter of American Mensa.

LocSec: (pronounced "loak-seck") Local Secretary, president of a Local Group. Reflecting Mensa's British origins, the title is a holdover from the time when this officer was simply a secretary reporting to national Mensa. Although many Local Groups call their chief executives something else, to the national organization they're all LocSecs.

LttE: Letters to the Editor, usually referring to the *Mensa Bulletin*.

M: A Mensan of either sex. Plural is Ms (pronounced "emz," not "miz").

MERF: Former acronym for the [Mensa Education & Research Foundation](#).

MIL: [Mensa International, Ltd.](#)

Mind Games[®]: American Mensa's [national games competition](#) where Mensans select the top five new board and card games based on originality, game play, play value,

aesthetics and clarity of instructions.

Mommy Letter: Referencing "stuff you wish your mommy had told you," this document is sent to the registrants for many Mensa events. Mommy letters include pertinent facts about getting to the hotel, the hotel itself, meals, entertainment, special events, the weather, what to pack, security, pets... whatever the event planners feel it would be most beneficial for you to know in advance of your arrival.

National Office: The [administrative headquarters](#) of American Mensa maintains membership records and qualifications; keeps track of local officer information; provides monthly funding, membership labels and reports to Local Groups; and supports the AMC and the mission of the organization. Contact the office at 817/607-0060.

NomComm: Nominating Committee. Pretty much every Mensa group, from local up to international, has a Nom-Comm in place to help identify and officially nominate candidates for office.

Owl: OK, you know what an owl is. Because the owl was sacred to Athena, Greek goddess of wisdom, it has become the unofficial mascot of Mensa, and when you get active in Mensa you'll see lots of them. Over the years other unofficial mascots have included pelicans, unicorns, Opus the penguin, and doubtless other things — but the owl is pretty solidly entrenched.

Project Inkslinger[®]: This community-service [program](#) supplies information on other, non-Mensa programs that need book donations and is expanding to include more general, book-related philanthropic projects.

PRP: [Publications Recognition Program](#). This program recognizes excellence in American Mensa's newsletters and Web sites, with the overall goals of wider distribution and better communication among Mensans. The program allows Local Groups with any level of editorial experience, regardless of size or publication budget, to compete fairly and win awards.

RG: Regional Gathering — what Local Groups call their annual, regional conventions, usually held over weekends throughout the year.

RVC: Regional Vice-Chairman — members of the AMC elected by the constituents of each region.

SIGs: Special Interest Groups, which can be local or [national](#). These are groups of members who get together to enjoy and celebrate a specific interest or hobby, everything from chocolate to zydeco music.

SIGHT: [Service for International Guidance and Hospitality to Travelers](#). This network of volunteer hosts offers accommodations to Ms who want to visit their cities.

Young Mensans: Mensans under the age of 18. American Mensa has members as young as 3.

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

May 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 New Moon	6	7 Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night	8	9	10
11	12 Lunch Bunch	13 EXCOM/RG Com- mittee Mtg	14	15	16	17
18	19 Full Moon	20 Dining Out With Nerds	21 Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night	22	23 DelaMensa Deadline	24
25	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31 NASCAR in Dover Philosophy Discussion