



DelaMensa

Volume 35, Number 5

May 2009

EXCOMmunications - May 2009

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.

We have a number of different events from which to choose this month. From our speaker series, to afternoon tea, to photography, to trivia, to history – we have something to please just about everyone! If you've never been out to an event, there's never been a better time to dip your toe in the water. You're sure to have fun!

The Annual Gathering is in Pittsburgh this year. It's being held July 1-5. It's only a 6-8 hour drive away (or a very cheap airfare from Philly or BWI). If you're considering it, make your hotel reservations soon – the main hotel has sold out and the overflow is filling up fast. If you've never been to an AG before, you might want to think about coming for just the weekend to get a taste. I think you'll be hooked! Check out www.ag.us.mensa.org for more information.

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I want to take an opportunity to invite you to join our Yahoo Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DelawareMensa>. You'll get hot-off-the-presses information about upcoming events (some of which have limited capacities, so you get first dibs), reminders, and last minute events that don't make the newsletter. Check it out!

DM

COMING EVENTS!

Great events – but we need your RSVPs ASAP!

A NOT-TO-BE-MISSED EVENT! - WED, MAY 6

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2009 Dinner Meeting at Wilmington University Dr Jack Varsalona, President of Wilmington University, and a member of Delaware Mensa, has graciously offered to host another dinner meeting for our members and their guests.

(If you attended the last one, you can attest to the wonderful meal and discussion!) Our speaker will be Rob Rescigno, Vision Network Liaison for Vision 2015. Vision 2015 is a collaborative effort by education, government, business and civic leaders throughout Delaware to provide a world-class public education to each and every student in Delaware. The goal of Vision 2015 is to be the first state in the country to develop a truly innovative, high-quality education for every student in every school—not just pockets of excellence here and there.

In addition to serving as the director of the MBNA Scholars Program and as principal at Milford High School, Rob Rescigno is currently a Doctoral Candidate at Wilmington College and an adjunct professor at the University of

Delaware. For his work at Milford High, he was recognized as a Superstar in Education by the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce.

WE MUST HAVE AN RSVP BY MAY 3!

DATE: Wednesday, May 6, 2009

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: Wilmington University New Castle Campus
BOARD ROOM, 320 N. DuPont Highway, New Castle
To RSVP, contact Dee Richardson BEFORE MAY 3 at
302-893-2299 or busydeee@comcast.net

RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST!!

SPRING PHOTOGRAPHY AT MOUNT CUBA - SATURDAY, MAY 9

Photograph the gardens of Mt. Cuba Center during this open photography session. Chris Starr, Mt. Cuba Center staff photographer, will offer advice as well as answer your photography questions. Stroll the gardens and capture the visual glory of Spring at Mt. Cuba Center. Pro-

(Continued on page 2)

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

COMING EVENTS (Continued from page 1)

grams are held rain or shine. Gardens are not wheelchair accessible.

This event is offered to the public by Mt. Cuba Center's continuing education program. We must reserve (and pay for) spaces at least one week in advance. Therefore, I NEED CONFIRMED RSVPs BY MAY 2. Check out <http://www.mtcubacenter.org/> for more info on the Center.

WE MUST HAVE AN RSVP BY MAY 2!

DATE: Saturday, May 9, 2009

TIME: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon (we'll go to lunch afterwards)

PLACE: Mt. Cuba Center, 3120 Barley Mill Road, Hockessin To RSVP, contact Maria Sawczuk BEFORE MAY 2 at 302-893-5118 or legalady@magpage.com .

A PROPER AFTERNOON TEA - SAT, MAY 16

We had such a great time at afternoon tea we decided to do it again in May. Join Delaware Mensa for a proper afternoon tea. We will meet at the British Bell Tea Room in Peoples Plaza in Glasgow on Saturday May 16 at 2:00 p.m.

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 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 BY MAY 2 IN ORDER TO RESERVE ENOUGH SEATS!

DATE: Saturday, May 16, 2009

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: British Bell Tea Room, Peoples Plaza, Glasgow

To RSVP, contact Maria Sawczuk **BEFORE MAY 2** at 302-893-5118 or legalady@magpage.com .

SOLDIERS WITHOUT GUNS: WOMEN DEFENSE WORKERS IN WWII - SATURDAY, JUNE 6

In this living history performance, meet Rose Helen Niemiec, a housewife who decides to do her bit for the war effort by working as a welder in a shipyard. Presented by Stacy Roth, this program features songs, a display of period artifacts, and an invitation to the audience to share memories and family stories. This event is offered to the public as part of First Saturdays in the First State.

Following the program, we will take a guided tour of Legislative Hall. There will be other lectures and walking tours going on that day. Be flexible and we can spend a whole day in our Capitol City, and end with dinner.

DATE: Saturday, June 6, 2009

TIME: 12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Legislative Hall, Dover

To RSVP, contact Maria Sawczuk at 302-893-5118 or legalady@magpage.com .

Member News

On May 10, 2009, Mensan and Smyrna DE resident Glenn E. MacDonald will receive an AA degree from Indiana University, through their Distance Learning program. In 2004, he received an AS degree in Math and Physics from Ohio University, through their Distance Learning program, and is proceeding toward a Bachelor degree at both institutions.

We wish Glenn the best of luck with his education, and future endeavors.

EVENT REPORT

A hardy group of Anglophilic Mensans arrived at the British Bell Tea Room in Peoples Plaza, Glasgow, on Saturday April 18, ready for Afternoon Tea. On the menu were sandwiches, scones, desserts, banger rolls and soup or salad, and of course, a choice of tea. It was so much fun, we're doing it again in May—get your reservations in early.

Besides the dining room, features of the British Bell include a retail shop (with teas, cups, pots, and assorted other paraphernalia,) a children's tea room, a soon-to-open Wine Gallery, and an occasional Murder Mystery High Tea Theater. More information is at www.BritishBellTea.com .



Celebrations

As of March 31, we had 178 members (DON'T FORGET TO RENEW!)

A Happy Birthday to these Mensans :

| Name | Birthday |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Maryanne Bellman | 5/10 |
| Lidia Epps | 5/14 |
| Alison Fielo-Worth | 5/15 |
| Lloyd Teitsworth, Jr. | 5/15 |
| Glenn MacDonald | 5/19 |
| William Boyles | 5/20 |
| Derek Underwood | 5/24 |
| Michael Paragian | 5/31 |

(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: |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Dennis Cripps | 1983 |
| Jack Varsalona | 1986 |
| James Carroll | 2004—5 Years! |
| John Coburn | 2006 |
| Alexandra Poletaev | 2006 |
| Shawn Polson | 2006 |
| Glenn MacDonald | 2008 |
| Jason Robinson | 2008 |

(NOTE ABOUT RENEWALS: The rule is, "once a Mensan, always a Mensan," that is, if you join once, you can always renew your membership. BUT, a lapse in membership, according to records at the National Headquarters, will reset your length of membership. We have several members who are disappointed at the "Member since" date shown by their name. We recommend you renew on time, or buy a life membership, and if you can document continuous membership longer than reported here, we will do everything we can to get your records at National corrected.)

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

By John Grover

Spring is in the air, the buds are forming on the apple trees and most importantly our Weber grill is ready for a season of outdoor cooking. This month we are blessed with a wine of such character and complexity that it deserves my "the angels wept" comment. I mentioned this to the Boss; and, she just rolled her eyes and gave me one of those looks. But, I don't care what she says. It was close to a religious experience. Plus, it goes well with the beef steak that we cooked on the grill.

The wine is the 2004 red from Villa Puccini of Tuscany. This Toscana is a blend of 90% Sangiovese and 10% merlot grapes. It starts with a nose richly projecting blackberries. Then as this smooth full-bodied wine washes over the tongue, you can taste layers of plum, black pepper and berry. The finish has an aromatic quality that includes both vanilla and, I think, a hint of cedar. This is one of the finest wines for the money that I have ever found. It is available for about \$10 to \$13 a bottle.

Marinated and Grilled Steak: There are numerous marinades for beef available over the internet. So I thought that I would describe a couple that we have used over the years. I am suggesting ingredients appropriate for two aging baby boomers. For the meat, pick about 1 lb. of strip steak or filet mignon 1" to 1 ½" thick (about 1 ½ lb. if you grill a bone in cut like a t-bone).

Marinade #1 Ingredients: ¼ cup olive oil, ¼ cup red wine; a handful of fresh chopped marjoram (or 1 tbsp dry); ½ tsp kosher or sea salt; 1 tsp coarsely ground pepper.

OR Marinade #2 Ingredients: ¼ cup olive oil, ¼ cup balsamic vinegar; a handful of fresh finely chopped rosemary (or 1 tbsp dry); ½ tsp kosher or sea salt; 1 tsp coarsely ground pepper.

Instructions: In a tight sealing kitchen bag place meat and marinade ingredients and allow to marinate at least 4 hours turning over the bag about half way through. If you are using a less expensive cut of meat such as a sirloin, I would suggest using the marinade containing the balsamic vinegar and letting it marinade over night. The natural tenderizing effect of the vinegar will then have a chance to do its work.

Grilling Tips: Hopefully, you have a good quality gas grill. This will produce the best and most consistent results. Allow the grill to heat up on high with the cover down. Place the marinated meat on the grill, turn the grill down to medium and put the cover back down. If you have a thermometer on the grill, you should be cooking at around 400 degrees. For medium rare, it should take only about 4 minutes a side if the steak is 1" to 1 ¼" thick. I would suggest 5 minutes a side if the steak is a full 1 ½" thick. You can also use an instant digital meat thermometer. 125 degrees in the center will give you medium rare.

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.

AML Statistics—March 2009

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Total membership | 57,835 |
| New and reinstating membership | 1,360 |
| Offers of membership | 627 |
| New members since April 2008 | 4,410 |
| Reinstating members since April 2008 | 5,185 |

A full report of monthly statistics is available on the AML Web site at www.us.mensa.org/officerresources.

Mensa National News

Balloting Information

Voting for both American Mensa and Mensa International elections began on April 15. This year, for the first time in a number of years, your AML ballot and election information packet will be direct-mailed to you instead of included in your April/May *Mensa Bulletin* (which will still contain your international ballot and information). Both this mailer and the *Bulletin* mailed on or about April 13; please watch your mailbox for these two separate packages. (You should have received it by the time you see this notice!)

The national voting period runs from April 15 to May 31. The international election ends earlier, on May 15. Voting information for each election will be included with each ballot. Please note that online voting will be available for the national election and that election-specific login information will arrive with your ballot packet. The international election will be by paper ballot only.

If did not receive a blue International ballot with your *Mensa Bulletin* or have not received your American Mensa ballot after allowing delivery time, please email operations@americanmensa.org or call 888/294-8035 ext. 5502 to discuss replacement options.

Voting is one of the most important actions you can make to affect the course of your Mensa experience. Please take a few minutes to look through your election materials and place your votes.

Fellow Mensans,

If you haven't voted already, please take the time to vote in the current national elections (either online or by separately mailed hardcopy ballot). This year the election includes 10 bylaws amendment proposals. Of greatest importance (in my opinion) are two pairs of competing amendments affected by the same procedure. Amendments 2 and 3 cannot be simultaneously implemented. Hence, if they both pass by the required 2/3 margin, whichever has a greater percentage majority of "yes" votes will be implemented. The same situation is the case with Amendments 8 and 9.

Please make sure to maximize the results by voting YES

for Amendments 3 and 9, and by also voting NO on their respective competing amendments, Amendments 2 and 8.

Finally, my recommendation for all of the ballot measures: vote YES on Amendments 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, and 10, and vote NO on Amendments 2, 7, and 8. For further information on any of the proposed bylaws amendments beyond what has been published in the February Inter-Loc (within the February Bulletin), the March Bulletin, or previously in your local group's newsletter, please e-mail me.

Jared Levine boxmaster@alumni.williams.edu
Life Member Metropolitan Washington Mensa

Rethinking Mensa: A Chairman Candidate's Perspective

My name is Dave Swanka. I'm a member of American Mensa; I'm currently the Regional Vice-Chairman for Region 3; and I'm one of the candidates for Chairman. Each of us has strengths and weaknesses, virtues and vices, and something to bring to the table.

If any one of you reading this is perfectly content with the current status of Mensa and the path it's on, vote for those candidates supporting the status quo. After all, it can be argued that Mensa — which just hit its all-time high membership — is a growing, vigorous, and well managed organization. Two years ago, even last year, the same could be said of General Motors, AIG, Citigroup, Lehman Brothers, and others. My point is, today's snapshot of current status does not reliably predict tomorrow's performance. I would like to see Mensa streamlined and made more efficient now, at the time and pace of our choosing, rather than waiting to do it in the grip of a panic. I voted against this year's budget for that very reason. Mensa relies heavily on its dues in-

come, and its budgets assume continuous revenue growth. Should this not happen, we will be left with a budget shortfall, and we are not nimble enough to cope well with this. Configuring ourselves to the most efficient operational mode possible is our best protection.

The most important thing we all can do is to vote for our chosen candidates. In the last Mensa election, something like 8% of the membership voted. That doesn't send a clear message even to the winners, unless that message is "we don't care, do whatever." I don't believe that's true. We do care; otherwise we wouldn't renew our memberships.

I believe in readying Mensa for bad times as well as good. I believe Mensa can take positive action at its own pace rather than being forced to react. I believe that, even though no plan is perfect, Mensa can plan to handle reasonable risks without sacrificing growth. I believe that, as Chairman, I can prepare Mensa to move forward. I ask you, and thank you, for your support.

Dave Swanka, Candidate for Chairman

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

THIRD TUESDAY: DOWNSTATE DOWN - Dining Out With Nerds

Downstate DOWN – Dining Out With Nerds. Leah Kinder will pick a different ethnic restaurant each month. Call her to find out where. Broaden your culinary horizons, share some stories, and have fun with your fellow Mensans.

DATE: April 14, 2009

TIME: 6:00 pm

PLACE: TBD. 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!)**

Delaware Mensa Calendar

Grab your personal calendar and write down some events!

- Wed, May 6 6 to 8 pm, Downstate Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia, at Buffalo Wild Wings, 680 South Bay Rd, Dover.
First Wednesday of each month we'll be in Dover. To RSVP, e-mail Leah at bluepointjive@gmail.com.
- Wed, May 6 6 to 8 pm, Dinner Meeting at Wilmington College. Rob Rescigno will talk about Vision 2015. Wilmington University New Castle Campus BOARD ROOM, 320 N. DuPont Highway, New Castle To RSVP, contact Dee Richardson BEFORE MAY 3 at 302-893-2299 or busydeee@comcast.net
- Sat, May 9 8 to 12 am, Photography at Mount Cuba, 3120 Barley Mill Rd, Hockessin. Must have RSVP by May 2. To RSVP, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118.
- Mon, May 11 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, May 14 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.
- Sat, May 16 2 pm, Afternoon Tea, British Bell Tea Room, 890 Peoples Plaza, Newark . Must have RSVP by May 2. For info, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118.
- Tues, May 19 6 to ? pm, Downstate DOWN. Please RSVP to Leah by e-mail at bluepointjive@gmail.com , or call 302-222-2357
- Wed, May 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, June 6 12:30 pm, Soldiers Without Guns; Women Defense Workers in WWII, Legislative Hall, Dover. RSVP ASAP to Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118.

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.

► May 2009

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Vision 2015 Mtg NTN Trivia Night | 7 | 8 Full Moon | 9 Photograph—Mt Cuba |
| 10 Mother's Day | 11 Lunch Bunch | 12 | 13 | 14 Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night | 15 | 16 Afternoon Tea |
| 17 | 18 | 19 Downstate DOWN | 20 Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 New Moon | 25 Memorial Day | 26 DelaMensa Deadline | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 Dover 400 | | | | | | |