



DelaMensa

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November 2006

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EXCOMMunication - November, 2006

By: Maria Sawczuk, Local Secretary

It's the day before National Testing Day as I write this, and I expect another moderate turnout. As of now, there are about a dozen people signed up. Hopefully today's publicity push will bump that number up. If you know of anyone you think would want to join, please encourage them to find out more. I'm still reaching for my goal of topping 200 Delaware Mensa members.

It's election time again! Not only in Delaware politics, but Delaware Mensa as well. You should be receiving a ballot, either in this newsletter or as a separate mailing. Please be sure to send it in, even if there's only one person running in a certain position. It's a validation that you care about the work we are doing.

Speaking of which, are you happy with your membership in Delaware Mensa? Is there something you'd like to see us do that we are not doing? Do you have an idea for an event? We greatly appreciate feedback from our membership. You can contact me, or any member of the Ex-Comm, and let us know your thoughts.

Finally, we are still looking for a downstate proctor to help us test those members in the southern part of our state. Please, if you hold a minimum of a bachelor's degree, and are interested in volunteering a small amount of time a year to Delaware Mensa, contact me and I'll give you more information.

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<i>Directory of Local Officers</i>		
LocSec	Maria Sawczuk	legalady@magpage.com
1st Councilor	Jim Bishop	bishopdds@hotmail.com
2nd Councilor	Vacant: Volunteer Needed	
Treasurer	Dee Richardson	busydeee@comcast.net
Proctor Coord	Frances Joseph	302-994-6347
Downstate Coord	Vacant: Volunteer Needed	
Editor	Keith Johnson	jkjohnson@snip.net
RVC-2	Leah Kinder	bluepointjive@gmail.com, RVC2@us.mensa.org

Message from Dee

I am touched, and grateful to Delaware Mensa and its members for your messages to me during our recent bereavement on the death of my husband. The love and support that my family and I are still receiving from so many people is overwhelming. Although there is still much to be done to adapt to my changed circumstances, I am repurposing and refocusing my personal life.

*Thank you.
Dee Richardson*

Coming Events

Join Delaware Mensa this fall at one of our many fun events. Time to pull out those calendars!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2006 - Kent Co.
Happy Hour/NTN Trivia Night

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2006 - New Castle Co.
Happy Hour/NTN Trivia Night

It's become so popular we decided to hold it twice a month! On the first Wednesday of each month, we'll be in Dover!

Join Delaware Mensa on the First and Third 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. You answer the ques-

tions shown on the TV screen by using a small voting device. If you've never played before, it's highly addictive! Come out and see what it's all about, and challenge your fellow Mensans.

DATE: Wednesday, **November 1**, 2006
(next event, Dec 6, 2006)

TIME: 6:00-8:00 p.m.

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. No RSVP necessary, but we'll know to look for you this way, and we'll have an adequate table.

DATE: Wednesday, **November 15**, 2006
(next event Dec 20, 2006)

TIME: 6:00-8:00 p.m.

(Continued on page 2)

The Kinder Garden

By Leah Kinder, Interim Region 2 RVC

October has arrived, and I can feel it in the air. The air is turning brisk, and the leaves are beginning to turn colors. My garden is beginning to go to sleep, with a few exceptions. The Chrysanthemums haven't bloomed yet, and the Gerbera daisies and Marigolds are still going strong. The Rugosa Rose, possibly my favorite plant in the entire yard, will still be in bloom when I sit down to write my next column, barring any major weather events.

It's a busy month! It's been nearly a month now since our Chairman Russ Bakke announced that I would be stepping in to fill Marc's shoes as the RVC for our region. As I'm writing this, I am still Interim RVC; it is expected to be voted in by the full AMC at the meeting in Rhode Island on October 14. I received a stack of paper about two inches thick from the national office in my mail today!

I hope those of you who are at Liberty Bell while I'm in Rhode Island take plenty of photos for those of us who can't make it! For the rest of October, I'll be attending MWM's Election Day

Party on October 21, and SuperWeem in Chicago the last weekend of the month.

November 10 brings us to Tidewater and Richmond Mensa's Mensalot, in Williamsburg, VA. Friday night, there's a chili cook-off, and Saturday night, there's a banquet included in the registration fee. The Pungo Players will be performing the play/musical "Mensalot." For those who want to go offsite and sample the local flavor, there will be outings to Jamestown and Williamsburg. I'm going to try to talk my husband into wearing the suit of armor he got married in (we had a Medieval-themed wedding), but he may still be recovering from the last time he wore it.

Central Pennsylvania Mensa will be the RG host for December, with the Winter Solstice gathering, in Lancaster, PA, December 15-17. They invite us to join them to call back the light on the shortest day of the year. Now that's an idea I can get behind. There will be feasts and unparalleled Hospitality, including a Chocolate Orgy. Other things to look forward to include

a pool party, an open mike session, and The World's Most Confusing Gift Exchange (bring a \$10 wrapped gift).

In 2007, Central New Jersey Mensa will be hosting Snowball XXXIII March 2-4, in Iselin, NJ. Snowball holds a place close to my heart, since it was the first RG I ever attended. Or maybe I should hold a grudge for getting me hooked... Anyway, they're moving to a new hotel this year, with even more space. They'll have an even bigger Hospitality suite this year, with beverages and snacks available from Friday afternoon until noon on Sunday. No program information available yet, but stay tuned as the time draws nearer...

Also in 2007, Metropolitan Washington Mensa and Maryland Mensa will be hosting their RG on Memorial Day weekend, May 25-27. More details to follow on that one as it approaches.

Last but not least, I heard a rumor that Delaware Mensa was in the early stages of planning their first RG as well. But you didn't hear it from me...

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EVENTS (Continued from page 1)

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. No RSVP necessary, but we'll know to look for you this way.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2006: Games Day

Leah (our brand-new RVC) 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. Contact Leah at bluepointjive@gmail.com for directions, and to let her know how many people to expect.

DATE: Sunday, November 19, 2006

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

PLACE: Leah and LD Kinder's house, Felton To RSVP and for directions: E-mail Leah at bluepointjive@gmail.com

(PRIOR TO GAMES DAY, WE WILL HOLD AN EXCOMM MEETING AT LEAH'S HOUSE, BEGINNING AT 12:00 NOON. -- ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND AND HELP US PLAN THE NEXT BATCH OF EVENTS.)

COMING SOON - Evening with CSI

I am negotiating a date with a very busy Detective from the Delaware State Police, for him to come out and speak to Delaware Mensa about Crime Scene Investigation techniques. Popular shows like the various CSI series have made crime scene investigation and forensics well-known in the general public. We will find out what's true, what's TV myth, and how CSI affect our lives.

THIS EVENT WILL LIKELY OCCUR NEAR THE END OF NOVEMBER, OR IN DECEMBER. KEEP AN EYE ON OUR YAHOO BOARD IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING. NOT A MEMBER OF OUR YAHOO BOARD? VISIT <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DelawareMensa/> TO SIGN UP.

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No man, however strong, can serve ten years as schoolmaster, priest, or Senator, and remain fit for anything else.

Henry B. Adams

Event Report—SPCA Dinner Meeting

On Tuesday, October 3, Delaware Mensa had a dinner meeting at Michael's Restaurant (1000 Churchman's Rd, Newark DE). This restaurant seemed an excellent location for this type of meeting. We were in a semi-private room isolated from the rest of the diners, and the food was very good. Everyone attending had the buffet, and no-one left hungry or disappointed.

The Speaker for the evening was Scott Vogel, Animal Affairs Educator for the Delaware Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA). He explained to us some of the complexities of animal control in Delaware, and many stories from his experiences in 17 years of working for the SPCA.

The most surprising thing he told many of us is that the plethora of SPCA organizations around the country are not affiliated in any organized way – they only share the same mission. The ASPCA is not a “parent” organization, merely the oldest of the local SPCA's (and a very aggressive fundraiser), and it operates in New York City. Delaware SPCA is active in New Castle and Sussex counties, but Kent County SPCA is a separate organization, albeit on fairly good speaking terms.

For many years, Delaware SPCA had the state contract for animal control, and they captured stray animals and kept them in the county where they were found while waiting to be claimed. That contract now belongs to Kent County SPCA, so that most strays are now transported to the Kent

County facility. The Delaware SPCA experience is that it typically takes about five days for an owner to claim their pet, but that is almost twice as long as the state requires animals be held before being euthanized. Complicating things for a pet owner, Newark and Wilmington have separate arrangements for animal control, adding to the number of places that must be searched when your pet goes missing.



Scott said that he makes, on average, 600 presentations in a year, to churches, schools, and organizations like ours, talking about animal welfare and the need for all of us to consider it in our actions. He had many stories from his years with the SPCA. He described some of the exotic animals they have captured in Delaware, including lions, poisonous snakes, and even alligators that people had unwisely brought in as pets. Of course, most pets who get in trouble or lost are dogs and cats, but he told of active dogfighting and cockfighting groups active in our state.

It is a sad fact that most animals who enter a shelter do not find happy homes, so please spay or neuter your pet, and always have tags with your contact information on their collar. Microchips or tattoos help, but are not always found, and chips are still not universally readable.

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Pet Statistics

- There are approximately 65 million owned dogs in the United States.
- Thirty-nine percent of U.S. households (or 40.6 million) own at least one dog. Most owners (65%) own only one dog.
- Eighteen percent of owned dogs were adopted from an animal shelter.
- Seventy-two percent of owned dogs are spayed or neutered.
- Roughly 64% of the total number of animals that entered shelters were euthanized (1997)
- 56% of dogs and 71% of cats that enter animal shelters are euthanized.
- Only 15% of dogs and 2% of cats that enter animal shelters are reunited with their owners.
- 25% of dogs and 24% of cats that enter animal shelters are adopted.
- It is widely accepted that 9.6 million animals are euthanized annually in the United States.

Always, always have your pet wear tags with owner contact information.

(This information is from the Humane Society of the United States, and American Humane.org)

MINI MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AMERICAN MENSA COMMITTEE (AMC)

October 14, 2006, Warwick, Rhode Island

Elections: Marc Lederman, Secretary; Leah Kinder, Regional Vice Chairman for Region 2; Doug Miller, Regional Vice Chairman for Region 9.

Appointments: Marc Lederman, Fourth National Representative (NatRep); Marc Lederman, AG Bid Procedures Review Committee Chairman; Claire Natola, Publications Recognition Program 2007 Chairman; Dave Swanka, member of the Bylaws Committee; Ralph Rudolph, Assistant Regional Vice Chairman for Region 6; Lori Norris, Assistant Regional Vice Chairman for Region 1; Lewis Gosnell, Assistant Regional Vice Chairman for Region 5; Jonathan Elliott, CultureQuest® 2007 Coordinator; Sean Medley, GOTYA Coordinator.

The AMC nominated the following individuals for the upcoming Mensa International election: Jim Werdell, Chairman; Stacey Kirsch, Director of Administration; Godwin Zwanenburg, Treasurer; Willem Bouwens, Director of Development.

The bid of South Texas Mensa to host the 2010 Annual Gathering in San Antonio Texas, July 3-8, 2010, was accepted, contingent upon the ability of the hotel to give us the desired hotel rooms and a Host Contract acceptable to the AML Legal Counsel and the Executive Committee.

The AMC directed our National Representatives to take forth motions to the IBD to form an international committee to investigate a National Mensa accepting for membership someone who had previously been expelled from another National Mensa.

Two sense motions regarding AMC actions were approved: the ExComm should consult with the AMC before making major policy decisions, and the business of American Mensa shall be conducted in public, with the exception of necessary interim business conducted via any electronic means available. In addition, when the AMC must take action between meetings, reasonable notice should be given and advance agendas should be made available so that members have the opportunity to express their views and wishes to their representatives.

The AMC expressed its desire to hold physical meetings four times during an AMC election year and three times during an AMC non-election year.

The Mensa Literacy Project has been terminated and removed from ASIEs.

The 50th Anniversary Study Committee was discharged, and the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee was created. The AMC Chairman shall appoint the Committee's chairman, with the advice and consent of the AMC, no later than the January, 2007 AMC meeting.

Discussion items included the LMCA/Mensa Process agreement with MIL, AML and British Mensa, Local Group Funding, the NomCom Process, and Guest Memberships.

The next meeting of the AMC will be January 12-14, 2007, in Birmingham, Alabama.

Respectfully submitted,
Marc Lederman, Secretary, AMC

Korki's Page by Korki Whitaker

[Reprinted from Nova, newsletter of Western Michigan Mensa, December, 2003; Sara Youngman, Editor]

I hate shopping ... I dislike the whole physical experience of going to stores, walking around, waiting in lines, lugging my purchases back to the car. That is one of the major reasons nearly all my holiday shopping is done on-line, and coworkers can tell when my husband has finally dragged me to a clothing store to buy a new outfit. It will be the one they haven't seen a kazillion times. However, there are three kinds of stores that I could spend hours in, if I had the time.

The grocery store is a given – even though I rarely cook in the traditional sense, there are all those aisles to walk up and down, looking at new products and old, wondering why anyone would buy some of them, wishing that I could try others without adding even more pounds. The store that I go to most frequently has a terrific deli, fresh fruit (forget vegetables), and even a service where they will cook your choice of fish while you do the rest of your shopping. It's just the right size – large enough to hold new surprises, but not so huge that the number of checkout lanes spans the length of a city block.

Office supply stores are even more fun – although I don't spend as much time or money in them. I love to look at the

different kinds of paper that is now available. There are funky paperclips, classy desk supplies, even fun pens and pencils. While I tend to avoid looking at software and hardware, paper shredders have fascinated me for years, and I finally broke down and bought one. There are labels, envelopes for mailing anything, glues, tapes, just lots of interesting office items that intrigue me.

But, hardware stores are the best – and old hardware stores are the epitome of fun. I love discovering things from decades ago – and I love the smell of old, country hardware stores. I love looking at different types of screws, nails, bolts, and other such things. The strange tools that I don't recognize and would have no idea what they were for, other than the fact they tend to be in specific areas such as plumbing, make my imagination run wild with speculation.

The fact that newer hardware stores also carry plant supplies and painting supplies and household products are added bonuses. They carry bird seed and bird houses and firewood and gardening tools. I won't say that it ever gets to the point where I actually use most of the things I look at, but maybe some day I will. Until then, it's better than looking for clothes, electronic stuff, or most anything else.

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Website of the Month



This month's Website of the Month is the **Insultingly Stupid Movie Physics** site:

<http://www.intuitor.com/moviephysics/>

On these pages, generic errors in movie physics are discussed, and a number of movies are reviewed for how closely they follow the known laws of physics and the behavior of matter in the universe.

If part of your enjoyment of a movie is talking about whether "that would really happen," then this site is for you.

In my youth I stressed freedom, and in my old age I stress order. I have made the great discovery that liberty is a product of order.

Will Durant

Celebration

As of September 30, we had 164 members

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Shauneen Hutchinson	11/3	Charles Houghton	11/23
Patrick McMahon	11/6	Mary Carr	11/25
James Lee	11/11	Edward Stahl, Jr.	11/25
Jim Bishop	11/14	Coke Westbrook	11/26
William Halberstadt	11/16	Jean Armstrong	11/30
Dee Richardson	11/19	Nicole Perefego	11/30
Robert Abel	11/21		

Congratulations, and a Happy Mensaversary to these members who

<u>Name</u>	<u>Member since:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Member since:</u>
Sandra Lehman	1967	Maryanne Bellman	2003
Paul Craven	1982	Joseph Gillson, Jr.	2003
James Bradley	1990	Leah Kinder	2003
David Bailey	1991	Joanne McCartht	2003
Coralee Witham	1998	Theresa Quaintance	2003
Todd Litterelle	2000	Joseph Rank	2003
Regina Barry	2002	Ronald Snow	2003
Arnold Caine	2002	Alison Taggi	2003
Thomas Desmond	2002	John Zahradnik, Jr.	2003
Martha Lankford	2002	Lynda Wright	2004
Brian Miller	2002	Allison Berdoulay	2004
Jeffry Pearson	2002	Steven Michel	2005
Chris Quintanilla	2002	Curtis Smith	2005
Robert Auer	2003	Rachel Urban	2005

Delaware Mensa Calendar

Grab your personal calendar and write down some events!

Wed, Nov 1	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. (next event Dec 6)
Mon, Nov 13	11:30—? Downtown Lunch Bunch meet in the basement Cafeteria of the Hotel DuPont for lunch and stimulating conversation. (Every 2nd Monday) Info: Fran Joseph at 302-994-6347
Wed, Nov 15	6 to 8 pm, Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night at Buffalo Wild Wings, Sunset Station Shopping Center, Route 40, Bear. Every 3rd Wednesday. For info or to RSVP, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118. (next event Dec 20)
Sun, Nov 19	Excom meeting at Leah's house (Felton), 12 to 1. All members are more than welcome. Stay for the games day to follow immediately. RSVP with Maria at legalady@magpage or Leah at bluepointjive@gmail.com.
Sun, Nov 19	Games Day at Leah's house (Felton), 1 til ?. Play the house favorites, or bring your own. Snacks and drinks will be served. E-mail Leah for directions at bluepointjive@gmail.com.
Wed, Dec 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. (next event Dec 6)

Your event here

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

November 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night	2	3	4
5 Full Moon	6	7 Election Day	8	9	10	11 Veterans Day
12	13 Lunch Bunch	14	15 Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night	16	17	18
19 Games Day	20 New Moon	21 DelaMensa Deadline	22	23 Thanksgiving Day	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		