



DelaMensa

Volume 33, Number 11 November 2007

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EXCOMMunication - November, 2007

By: Maria Sawczuk, Local Secretary

Another National Testing Day has come and gone, and hopefully we'll have a few new members soon. We've also been featured in a few newspaper articles, including the Hockessin and Mill Creek Community News. I'm hopeful the new publicity will increase our membership numbers. If you know of anyone you think would want to join, please encourage them to find out more.

I'm writing this from 'WeeM, Chicago Mensa's annual Regional Gathering ("RG"), which attracts over 500 people from all over the country. Hmm...Wonder if Delaware Mensa's RG can grow that big? I mentioned the success of our first RG, and quite a number of people are interested in next year's event. If you are interested in helping out, please let Keith Johnson, our RG Chair, know.

There's so much you can get out of your membership with Mensa. Aside from our wonderful local events, you can take advantage of every other group's events (which comes in handy when traveling). There are also regional gatherings happening somewhere in the country every weekend. Plus, there are Special Interest Groups ("SIGs")

<i>Directory of Local Officers</i>			
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

for just about any interest you might have. I'll add a special plug for the GenX SIG, of which I am part. This is a group of Mensans who were born between 1961 and 1981. I've made wonderful friends through this SIG, and encourage anyone who qualifies to ask me more about it. In fact, feel free to email me to ask any question about how you can get more out of Mensa.

Coming Events

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2007 - READ ALOUD DELAWARE

Read Aloud Delaware is an organization dedicated to promoting reading aloud to children in order to encourage a love of books and a desire to become a reader. The organization helps parents prepare their children to learn once they enter school. It seems like a perfect fit for Mensa!

Come to our monthly speaker series dinner, enjoy a wonderful meal and find out more about Read Aloud Delaware. Learn about the benefits of reading aloud to children, and, if interested, see how you can volunteer.

DATE: Wednesday, October 28, 2007

TIME: 7:00 p.m. for dinner; speaker will start around 8:00 pm

PLACE: A Piece of Ireland, Chesmar Plaza, Route 4 and Marrows Road, Newark To RSVP, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118.

From the Editor

You may ask yourself, from time to time, what you could do to be more involved in Mensa. There are many ways to help out, but two of the easiest and most appreciated are to set up local events, and to write articles for the newsletter. Just try it once, to see how you like it.

Setting up meetings is easy—all you need is an idea and a little time. If you only have one or the other, someone else in the group can supply the other. Your ExCom works steadily to come up with meetings, but we are always hungry for something new. Mensans are a strange bunch, with a multitude of interests. One member wanted to tour a funeral home. It sounded odd to talk about, but turned out to be a fascinating event.

Writing articles for the newsletter is easy, too. Write about a Mensa event you attended, or a non-Mensa event. Write about a hobby, a passion, an opinion. Write a poem, or a story or a joke. Ideally an article would be clear, concise, and about 500 words. As a general rule, your editor is a little manic about sentence structure, word usage, punctuation and such—it's an editor thing—but exceptions can be made for the sake of art.

Call us and join the fun.

The Kinder Garden

The Kinder Garden is finally beginning to recover from this summer's drought, although this week we seem to be getting into another. It poured last weekend when I was in New York City, but I hear not a drop touched the ground in Delaware while I was gone. By the time you receive this, my cool weather crops should be about due for harvesting. Mmm... broccoli...

It's not just the season for cool weather vegetables in Region 2, it's the season for Gatherings! We have Liberty Bell in late October and Winter Solstice in mid-December. We also have a Leadership Development Workshop November 9-11 in Williamsburg, VA. Registration is free, and we'll be providing some of your meals, all you have to do is register in advance and show up! The rooms are only \$70/night, up to four people per room at the same price. You can contact me or Marc Lederman for more information, or visit the webpage at <http://region2.us.mensa.org/LDW2007.htm>.

The September Planning Meeting has now gone by, and our next meeting will be November 30-December 2 in West Palm Beach, FL. At the Planning Meeting, we talked about Planning in the Big Picture sense, about what our over-arching goals were for the next 18-24 months. The planning part of the meeting was facilitated by Jeff De Cagna, a Mensan from Metropolitan Washington Mensa, in our very own region. His company, Principled Innovations, works with the Boards of Directors of various associations to plan innovative ways to create value for their members. This is the statement that he put together that he thought encompassed all of our conversations during



the course of the planning session:

"Over the next 18-24 months, we will focus our attention on matching the reality of the Mensa membership experience with your expectations. To do this, we plan to make it much easier for you to participate in social and intellectual interactions with other members by clarifying and simplifying our structures, and by capitalizing on new Web technologies that build community.

We're going to look carefully at how to update Mensa's business model for the 21st century, and we'll engage in open, authentic, and trusted communication, so you'll always know where things stand and how you can contribute. At the same time, we want to learn more about what you're doing, so we can effectively support your efforts to create the Mensa you envision for the future."

The most important thing that happened at that meeting, in my opinion, was the creation of a Planning Committee, with John Recht (RVC8) appointed as Chair of that committee. I was a seconder for the motion to create it. I have high hopes for that committee, and for the AMC as a whole, to live by the things they said in their campaign statements and to work together for the betterment of Mensa. We can't do it without you, the members. I hope to hear from many of you with your ideas of what our future should hold.

Leah Kinder
RVC2, Mid-Atlantic Region

<http://kindermensa.blogspot.com>

Event Report — Kalmar Nyckel Meeting

By Dee Richardson

Barbara Mayers, the education director of the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation was our speaker on October 15 at the International Buffet restaurant in Elsmere.

In my opinion, Barbara was the most interesting part of the evening. She does not look at all like a swashbuckling seafarer, but to hear her tell about her sailing adventures, you can tell that she can handle the ropes of a tall ship.

Barbara brought a beaver skin with her. Her story of the exploration and development of North America has everything to do with beaver skins, for, in a broad sense, that is what the explorers were after. The original Kalmar Nyckel sailed from Sweden to the New World in 1638 leaving its passengers to establish the first permanent European settlement in the Delaware Valley, the Colony of New Sweden in present-day Wilmington, Delaware. She made a total of four round-trip crossings of the Atlantic-more than any other ship of the era. Its historical significance rivals that of the Mayflower, but her remarkable story has never been widely told.

As education director, Barbara's usual audience is school children, but she had no difficulty relating to us, and she made the evening entertaining, educational, and well worth the trip. Originally scheduled to present at the "Dead M's Tell No Tales" RG in September (and it would have been a great addition to that event), we're lucky to have been able to hear her this month.

Barbara didn't make a pitch for joining or supporting the Kalmar Nyckel (The word Nyckel means "key" in Swedish). If you are interested in doing so, I suggest that you start by looking at the organization's website, <http://www.kalmarnyckel.org/aboutfoundation.asp>.

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

By John Grover

This month's column has less to do with the technique of wine and food pairing and more to do with just fun things to do in the Fall. The wines mentioned are from our recent trip along the Hudson Valley Wine Trail. And, the recipe is a very easy answer to the question: "I was invited to a holiday dinner party. Out of politeness, I asked if I could bring something. And, OH MY GAWD, they actually said yes! Now what do I do?" Calm down, this is a very simple recipe.

We got off the NYS Thruway at the New Paltz exit and traveled down Route 9W to the Village of Marlboro. On a side road at the edge of the village is the Stoutridge Winery. This is a brand new winery that is just now releasing its first wine. The very technical and informative tasting featured wines primarily from producers in the Finger Lakes where the owner/winemaker worked and went to college. Their first release is a dry and crisp but fruity white made from the Vidal Blanc grape. It is a perfect choice for fish or chicken or as an aperitif and available for \$12 a bottle. Back in the village we stopped for lunch at the Raccoon Saloon for "The best hamburger in the Hudson Valley", some killer onion rings and an absolutely gorgeous view of the Hudson River from our table.

After lunch we wended our way up the mountain to Glorie Farm Winery. This winery's location moved the classification of the view from beautiful to spectacular. You can see for arguably 30 to 40 miles over the Hudson Valley. After a very entertaining tasting, I actually bought a mixed case.

The wine that I want to highlight here is a red called Red Monkey. This is an interesting blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, DeChaunac (a French-American hybrid) and Noiret (an innovation from the Geneva Experimental Station) grapes. The nose and initial taste are reminiscent of a Bordeaux; but, the mid-taste through finish is similar to the country wines of the South of France. This wine would match well with pot roast or pork loin and gravy. And once again, this wine is available for \$12 a bottle.

This just scratches the surface of wonders to behold at the now 42 vineyards to be found in the Hudson Valley and Catskill Mountain wine region. For more information, go to NewYorkWines.org or google for wineries in your own state, particularly Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Maryland, Virginia and the Carolinas. Be prepared for a wonderful experience of good food, good drink, beautiful landscape and meeting people who truly love their work.

Bean and Ground Beef Casserole (This recipe has been floating around our family for years.)

Ingredients: 1 lb. ground beef; 1 diced onion; 1 can pork and beans; 1 can lima beans drained; 1 can dark red kidney beans drained; ½ cup brown sugar; ½ cup catsup; 1 tbsp. mustard (whatever kind you got); and, about ½ lb. bacon.

Cook the ground beef and onion together in a frying pan until all meat is brown. Drain excess fat (This will not be necessary if you use 90% lean meat). Combine all ingre-

(Continued on page 4)

Celebrations

As of September 30, we had 165 members

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

Name Birthday

Patrick McMahan	11/6
James Lee	11/11
Anthony McGuire	11/14
William Halberstadt	11/16
Dee Richardson	11/19
Robert Abel	11/21
Charles Houghton	11/23
Mary Carr	11/25
Edward Stahl, Jr.	11/25
Coke Westbrook	11/26
Steven Allison	11/30
David Henry	11/30
Nicole Perefège	11/30

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:

Sandra Lehman	1967 (40 years!)	Joseph Gillson, Jr.	2003
Paul Craven	1982 (25 years!)	Leah Kinder	2003
James Bradley	1990	Joanne McCarthy	2003
David Bailey	1991	Theresa Quaintance	2003
Coralee Witham	1998	Joseph Rank	2003
Todd Litterelle	2000	Alison Taggi	2003
Regina Barry	2002 (5 years!)	John Zahradnik, Jr.	2003
Arnold Caine	2002 (5 years!)	Allison Berdoulay	2004
Thomas Desmond	2002 (5 years!)	Lynda Wright	2004
Martha Lankford	2002 (5 years!)	Stephen Chehi	2005
Brian Miller	2002 (5 years!)	Steven Michel	2005
Chris Quintanilla	2002 (5 years!)	Curtis Smith	2005
Robert Auer, Jr.	2003	Eric Bald	2006
Maryanne Bellman	2003	Althea Gutteridge	2006
		David Henry	2006

and, a warm Delaware welcome to Ed Fuska, of Middletown, who renewed his membership after a lapse of more than one year, and Kari Goral of Trevoise, PA, who preferenced into our group!

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 Downtown Lunch Bunch meets at 11:30 in the basement Cafeteria of the Hotel DuPont for lunch and stimulating conversation. (**Second Monday of each month**)
Info: Fran Joseph at 302-994-6347

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.

(Continued from page 3) Good Wine Cheap

dients (except bacon) in a 2 ½ or 3 quart casserole dish and top with enough bacon to cover. Cook in a pre heated oven for one hour at 350 degrees. This will generally serve about 8 people as a side dish. And, the amazing thing is that people will actually ask you for the recipe.

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.

If stupidity got us into this mess, then why can't it get us out?

Will Rogers (1879-1935)

Everything is changing. People are taking the comedians seriously and the politicians as a joke.

Will Rogers (1879-1935)

Delaware Mensa Calendar

Grab your personal calendar and write down some events!

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Wed, Nov 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, Nov 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 |
| Wed, Nov 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, Nov 24 | 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. |
| Wed, Nov 28 | 7 to 9 pm, Dinner meeting with Read Aloud Delaware, at A Piece of Ireland, Chesmar Plaza, on Rt 4. For info or to RSVP, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118. |

Your event here!! DM

Cyber-Trysting

by Jim Werdell [Distributed and printed in several Region 8 local newsletters, circa 1999]

I must admit that the Internet has changed the way I run my life. Many of the changes are subtle ... changes that one could easily overlook. But, subtle or not, one of these changes in particular is both fascinating and perplexing.

The change to which I refer is the process of meeting new friends of the opposite gender. Now, I'll be the first to admit that I'm not what one might consider a lady's man, but I'm still able to extend a chance meeting into a subsequent contact with all of the associated societal trappings ... in other words, get a date. BI (Before the Internet) the usual courting progression ran something like this: meet a woman face to face, absorb first impression, determine (through keen, male intuition) whether or not I make her retch, get her phone number (with or without her approval), call for a date and then make a complete fool out of myself in person.

The Internet, however, has changed that process completely (well, except for the last step). When I meet someone in cyberspace, there is no face-to-face contact ... not even any voice contact ... for quite some time. The initial "meeting", usually accomplished via email or perhaps a chance encounter in a chat room, leaves much to the imagination. In this first meeting, there is usually an exchange of physical descriptions ... all provided through the somewhat biased eyes of the describer. Next, an exchange of such things as likes, dislikes, astrological signs, counts of fingers and toes, vital statistics, education, geographic haunts, parentage and, sometimes, genetic codes ... pretty much the same information you discuss in a first date.

After my cyberfriend has determined that I'm not a psy-

chotic serial killer (as opposed to a sane one) through the exchange of several emails, she makes a tentative offer to call me by asking for my phone number (which is also a clever way of verifying that I'm not homeless). Finally we speak ... a voice that I may now associate with her faceless, vaguely described body.

After several-to-many phone calls, a tentative meeting is arranged ... usually just for coffee, in case one of us wants to bail out after five or ten minutes. At last we meet! After only twelve emails, eleven phone calls and two wet dreams. A face, body, gestures, clothing preferences, flirtatious mannerisms ... all of the things you usually got in the first chance meeting BI. The old courting process has been completely reversed ... first you get to know her, then you meet her.

So, which is better? I think it depends to a large extent on the type of person you are. We introverts seem quite capable of expressing our thoughts and feelings in email-ese (perhaps the seven or eight iterations each email takes make a difference). So it is to our advantage to communicate first through the email medium. It tends to soften the impact of the stuttering, blushing and stammering that occurs in the first face-to-face meeting. Plus, by the time we meet in person, my cyberdate has already invested a fair amount of email and telephone time in me ... there is much more incentive for her to give me enough time to settle down and act like the human being I really am. Those who depend primarily on good looks, a great smile and a winning opening line, however, are probably at a disadvantage in cyberspace (what a damn shame).

It seems to me that I've found the holy grail of courting . It's just too bad that it's probably twenty or thirty years too late.

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."

No room for a solution, write me if you really need it. (ed)

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

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Editor:
Keith Johnson
181 Proctors Purchase
Hartly DE 19953

**Postmaster: Send change of address notification to:
American Mensa Ltd.
National Office
1229 Corporate Dr. West
Arlington TX 76006-6103**

FIRST CLASS MAIL

November 2007						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night	8	9 New Moon	10
11 Veterans Day	12 Lunch Bunch	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night	22 Thanksgiving Day	23	24 Full Moon Philosophy Discussion
25	26 DelaMensa Deadline	27	28 Read Aloud Delaware	29	30	