



# DelaMensa

Volume 37, Number 10

October 2011

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## From the New LocSec

By Steve Michel

Maria put together a great program for this year's RG – our fifth. It was titled "I ♥ Mensa: The Relationship RG". Great food, snacks and beverages, numerous speakers and karaoke. Hats off to Maria to another job well done. Pictures have been posted to the DEM website. Hopefully we'll get a few more locals to attend an upcoming RG (overnight staying is not required). An RG usually has speakers – and always has great food, snacks, beverages, chit-chat, games, and, of course, karaoke.

We are working on a Leadership Development Workshop. We are in the preliminary stages of it, but what we do know is that it will be late February or early March 2012. Watch here and, of course, the DEM website

By the time you read this, it will be the fourth quarter of the year (or a football game *somewhere*). I don't know about you, but I wonder where the year went already. Halloween is almost here. Thanksgiving is right behind it. And then Christmas and New Year's. The end of the year is usually a busy time for many – but be sure to stay in touch with loved ones and be safe, healthy, and happy.

### Directory of Local Officers

LocSec	Steve Michel	302 832-2665	sdm1177@yahoo.com
1st Councillor	Cindi Basner	302-898-0093	lightintheclouds15@yahoo.com
2nd Councillor	Alexis Campbell	302-234-0563	alexis.campbell@comcast.net
Treasurer	Dee Richardson	302-892-2299	busydeee@comcast.net
Proctor Coord	Nicole Perefegé	302-345-9526	perefegelow@gmail.com
Downstate Coord	<b>Vacant: Volunteer Needed</b>		
Editor	Keith Johnson	302-242-8201	keith.johnson@hughes.net
RVC-2	Marc Lederman	717-308-1221	RVC2@us.mensa.org

Oh, and speaking of October, on the 29<sup>th</sup>, we are also planning a Mensa outing to "A Night of Grave Robbing" in Odessa, DE (not that I know of another Odessa). An optional dinner will be held somewhere nearby too. Since the event shall have happened before the next letter, please watch the DEM website for more information.

*People will accept your idea much more readily if you tell them Benjamin Franklin said it first.*

*David H. Comins*

## Marc My Words

by Marc Lederman, Region 2 RVC

I spend way too much time on facebook. It's a good way to keep in touch with a few hundred of my closest Mensa friends, and spend a lot of time playing inane time-sucking games. But every now and then somebody posts something that makes me stop and think. Shawn Kenney, a member of Cleveland Area Mensa, recently posted a list of 100 things he would do different in Mensa. I didn't agree with everything he listed, but there were several excellent ideas in his list. What impressed me the most is that he took the time to create and post this list. If there is something in Mensa you don't like, or suggestions you have for improvements, please let me know. And if anyone would like a copy of Shawn's list, email me at [RVC2@us.mensa.org](mailto:RVC2@us.mensa.org), and I will send you a copy.

The AMC met in Dallas last month. In addition to our quarterly board meeting, we also held our annual planning day. Local groups who produce electronic member directories

will now be able to email them directly to their members, even as a supplement to an electronic version of their newsletter. Mensa is going to hire an actuary to help us develop new dues multiples to be used in calculating the lifetime membership dues rate. Our current multiples are based on data from 1994.

Are you looking for something to do Columbus Day weekend? Metropolitan Washington Mensa (MWM) will be hosting their Regional Gathering that weekend, October 7 - 10 at the Hyatt Dulles in Herndon, Virginia. Do you think you're smarter than a young Mensan? Come find out. Have you wanted to meet someone from Think Geek? Here's your chance. The RG will feature lots of programs, two dinners, a large game room, and lots more. Due to the holiday weekend, you'll get four days of fun instead of the usual three.

Periodically, the Mensa Foundation hosts Colloquium  
*(Continued on page 2)*

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

events to help further its mission of identifying and fostering human intelligence for the benefit of humanity. All those who like to learn and share information should look forward to 2012 as the Foundation unveils two fascinating Colloquium events. The first, "Bioterrorism Strikes Home," will be held May 4-6, 2012, on the Kansas State-Olathe campus. In order to further the reach of Colloquium's edu-

cational efforts, the second event, "Social and Video Games," is planned as a one-day add-on to the Annual Gathering in Reno, Nevada, and will take place on Tuesday, July 3, 2012. To learn more about these upcoming events or to register, visit [www.colloquium.us.mensa.org](http://www.colloquium.us.mensa.org).

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION:**

Following a decision of the American Mensa Committee, and in an effort to save costs, starting in November 2011 DelaMensa will be distributed electronically to everyone who has not specifically requested print delivery in their member profile with the National Headquarters. Select your preferred method of delivery by going to [www.us.mensa.org/profile](http://www.us.mensa.org/profile) and selecting the "Publication Preferences" link at the top of the page.

**Mensa Brilliant:**

To celebrate the 65th anniversary of International Mensa, the usual Mensa Testing Day is expanded to the whole month of October. Get your friends and family a \$15 discount off of the test cost by downloading the coupon from [www.us.mensa.org/brilliantcoupon](http://www.us.mensa.org/brilliantcoupon). For info on test days in Delaware, contact Nicole Perefegé, 302-345-9526, [perefegelaw@gmail.com](mailto:perefegelaw@gmail.com), or check the Delaware Mensa website ([www.delaware.us.mensa.org](http://www.delaware.us.mensa.org).)

**Two Colloquiums for 2012:**

This year there are two Mensa Colloquiums planned. "Bioterrorism Strikes Home," May 4-6 in Olathe Kansas. "Social and Video Games," July 3 in Reno Nevada. Check the Bulletin or AML website for more details.

**Bank of America Benefit:**

Bank of America is offering an American MENSAs Platinum Plus MasterCard to qualified members. For more information, visit [www.us.mensa.org/benefits](http://www.us.mensa.org/benefits).

**Winter Solstice RG**

**December 16-18, 2011**

Bird-in-Hand, Pennsylvania

- Enjoy a Saturday night buffet
- Two indoor pools and a large hot tub
- Plenty of shopping at more than 200 Outlets
- Free Amish Farmlands tour (inquire with the hotel when you make your reservations)
- Beer tasting session
- Chocolate orgy
- Model building presentation
- More to come!



Hotel Information:

Bird-in-Hand Family Inn  
2740 Old Philadelphia Pike  
Bird-in-Hand, PA 17505  
(800) 537-2535

Room Rates: \$95 (SR/DR), \$105 (TR), \$115 (QR).

Reservations must be made by November 2. Mention Mensa when you make your reservation.

This hotel is completely non-smoking.

To access more information about the Inn, discover things to see and do in Bird-in-Hand, print the Solstice flyer, or to register online: <http://www.cpa.us.mensa.org/solstice.htm>.

If you wish to register by mail, send your check to Mike Durakovich at 16 Lexington Drive, Shrewsbury, PA 17361. Make your check payable to Central Pennsylvania Mensa. Include your name, mailing address, e-mail address, desired name(s) for your badge(s), and whether you are attending all weekend or only on Saturday.

## Celebrations

### A Happy Birthday to these Mensans :

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Leah M Kinder	8-Oct
Jennifer R Johnson	9-Oct
Andrew T Trachtman	11-Oct
Steven Michel	12-Oct
Richard T Dillard	16-Oct
Dr Michael R McQuade	21-Oct
Jason Nomura	25-Oct
Joyce L Stevenson	25-Oct
Jack Phillip Varsalona	29-Oct
Kari Goral	30-Oct
Brian L Miller	30-Oct

*(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:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Member since:</u>
William F Bialk	1970
Francis J Gribbin	1976
William E Mace	1980
Patricia F Lehman	1982
John R Kurpjuweit	1983
Franklin M Ward	1984
Beverly Carter Williams	1984
Paul Vincent Sedoti	1986
Jean Lynn Armstrong	1989
Andrew T Trachtman	2003
Geoffrey R Weyer	2004
David Damien Brady	2007
Michael Landmann	2007

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

*By John Grover*

The wine for this month is the 2009 Friuliano from Bastianich Viticoltori Friulani. Friulano is one of the primary grape varieties grown in the Friuli Region of North East Italy. Friuli is so far to the North East of Italy that it is almost in Slovenia in the old Yugoslavia (A source of no small amount of historical tension). And, yes the Bastianich name should be familiar to American foodies because this wine is produced by Lidia's son Joe.



This white wine starts with a nose of peach and flowers. It then moves to a rather luscious taste combining peach, pear and citrus. It has just enough acid and mineral taste to fill the tongue for a clean finish. It is pleasantly smooth but has enough character to provide a nice counter point to the traditional Chesapeake Bay spice blend used in the recipe below. This is a very nice food wine and is marketed for between \$11 and \$15 a bottle.

**Plantation Shrimp and Rice Salad** (originally published in the "Lady and Son's Savannah Country Cookbook", by Paula Deen, 1997; and available on the Food Network website. The Lady and Son's Restaurant in Savannah, Georgia is definitely worth the trip; but, you can't be afraid of a few calories.)

Ingredients: 2 lbs shrimp, cleaned and de-veined; 1 tbsp shrimp seasoning (recommend Old Bay); 1 cup rice; 1/2

cup chopped onion; 1/2 cup chopped green olives; black pepper; 1 cup mayonnaise

Boil shrimp in water, enough to cover, with shrimp seasoning just until pink (important not to overcook). Drain shrimp and reserve the shrimp boil water. Chop shrimp into bite-size chunks, put on paper towels; set aside to cool. In the reserved water, boil the rice according to package instructions until tender, drain and set aside. Add the onion, olives, and black pepper, to taste, to the rice. Then stir in the mayonnaise. Add the cooled, dry shrimp last. Toss and serve. This dish can easily be cut in half for a couple of aging empty nesters.

I hope that you will contact me with your comments, suggestions and favorite wines at [jgrover@berk.com](mailto:jgrover@berk.com). I will be happy to share them with the broader Mensa group.

*John Grover is a member of Mensa of Northeast New York. He lives with his wife Sharon in the Hudson Valley of New York.*

## Computer Haiku

Flowers never seen  
Bring to mind your document:  
Imaginary

## Unemployment Etiquette: A Guide for Employers, the Newly Unemployed, and Others

by Victoria Monroe [Reprinted from *Empire*, newsletter of Central New York Mensa, January, 2004; Paul Baxter, Editor]

Like so many business and social situations, unemployment is one that calls for tact and discretion. Unlike other situations, your mother never taught you how to act with regard to unemployment, yours or others'.

**Rules for Employers:** If funding cuts put you in the position of having to take away someone's livelihood, and very likely a source of pride and commitment, follow these simple rules.

Do not sugarcoat the act with wishy-washy revisionist terms such as "letting you go" or "downsizing." Put it in writing. This should be short and to the point. The newly unemployed person will need this document. You can even set an apologetic tone and express appreciation for your erstwhile employee's contributions. If you need help with such terms, consult a dictionary and/or thesaurus.

Know your employment policies. This is a good time to bone up on that Employee Policy Manual. It does not make scintillating reading, but the person you have sacked has probably read it to find out his or her rights and entitlements upon termination. Your failure to follow these policies or even to know them reflects badly on you. It also sends two important messages. One: You don't care. (Heck, you probably don't, but it is good form to pretend that you do. This is what etiquette is all about.) Two: You have no business being in charge of an ant farm, let alone people's lives.

On the employee's last day, try to find it in your schedule, if not in your heart, to set aside a few minutes to talk with the person you have sacked. I know; the last thing you want to do is be with someone who is probably righteously angry and disgusted with you, no matter how gracefully he or she has taken it up until now. Failing to make time for the about-to-be unemployed sends a clear message: You don't care. Still, there are good reasons for pretending that you care.

Much as you might feel abandoned by the departure of the person you sacked, resist the urge to talk trash about that person with your employer buddies. Now free from the bother of deciding what to do with that pesky paycheck every two weeks, your ex-employee may or may not choose to spend that newfound free time and those dwindling financial resources pursuing legal action.

Do not call your ex-employee on the phone. Hard as it might be for you to imagine, he or she probably does not want to talk to you. Do not ask the answering machine why your ex-employee has not returned your calls. (Perhaps it is because he or she does not work for you anymore.) On the other hand, this does provide a lot of laughs at your expense.

**Rules for Friends and Family:** Most of us know the rules of etiquette governing table manners and social occasions such as marriage, birth, and death. Keep your elbows off

the table, and do not comment on the baby's cone shaped head or the unhealthy lifestyle choices of the deceased. But what do you do when you find out someone has lost a job?

If you have ever been involuntarily unemployed yourself, your understanding will be a source of comfort and companionship. If not:

Do offer your friend a big glass of wine.

Do not express any of the following platitudes:

Everything happens for a reason.

- This is going to turn out to be the best thing that has ever happened to you.
- You should travel, go to law school, get your Ph.D., any other ridiculously expensive endeavor. (Remember, your friend no longer has an income.)

Do not ask any of the following questions:

- What happened?
- Have you found a job yet?
- Are you looking?

Do not preface any of the above with "Not to rub salt in a wound..." If you really do not want to rub salt in a wound, then don't. Do feel free to express righteous indignation on your friend's behalf. Do offer your friend another big glass of wine.

**Rules for the Newly Unemployed:** You may have some things you want to say to your about-to-be-ex-boss. Don't. You may think your feelings of betrayal are perfectly normal, justified, and to be expected. Your boss is not in the business of caring about your feelings, even if he or she is in the business of caring about other people's feelings. Do not listen to people who tell you to "be in the here and now" and "feel your feelings." No, thanks. Some other time, maybe.

No matter what you hear your former employers have done or said about you after you are gone, do not contact them. Slander and fraud may be illegal, but calling people on breaches of ethics or employment law is gauche. That's what attorneys are for.

People will be asking you a lot of questions. If you would rather not talk about it, simply reply, "I would rather not talk about it."

People will ask you a lot of questions, anyway. Take a deep breath. Remember, it is not polite to stab people with your fork, no matter how much they deserve it.

This is a good time to work on the house, take on new projects, see how bad daytime television really is, work out a lot, take better care of your skin, learn something new, and catch up on your reading. It is not a good time to lose weight. Try to set your expectations accordingly.

Nastrovya.

## EVERY MONTH EVENTS!

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

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.

### 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](mailto:busydeee@comcast.net)

### SECOND THURSDAY Happy Hour/NTN Trivia Night

TIME: 6 to 8 pm

PLACE: Buffalo Wild Wings, 2062 Limestone Rd, **Wilmington** (near Kirkwood Hwy). To RSVP, e-mail Maria at [legalady@magpage.com](mailto:legalady@magpage.com) or call 302-893-5118. CHECK WEBSITE or YAHOO GROUP FOR POSSIBLE MOVE TO NEW LOCATION AND DAY.

### THIRD TUESDAY Happy Hour/NTN Trivia Night

TIME: 6 to 8 pm

PLACE: [Stewart's Brew Pub](#), Governor's Square, Route 40, Bear. To RSVP, [e-mail Steve](mailto:Steve@sdm1177.com) at [sdm1177@Yahoo.com](mailto:sdm1177@Yahoo.com).

## Delaware Mensa Calendar

*Grab your personal calendar and write down some events!*

Mon, Oct 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
Thur, Oct 13	6 to 8 pm, Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night at Buffalo Wild Wings, 2062 Limestone Rd, Wilmington. <b>Second Thursday of each month.</b> For info or to RSVP, e-mail Steve at <a href="mailto:sdm1177@yahoo.com">sdm1177@yahoo.com</a> or call (302) 832-2665.
Tues, Oct 18	6 to 8 pm, Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night at Buffalo Wild Wings, Sunset Station Shopping Center, Route 40, Bear. <b>Third Tuesday of each month.</b> For info or to RSVP, e-mail Steve at <a href="mailto:sdm1177@yahoo.com">sdm1177@yahoo.com</a> or call (302) 832-2665.
Sat, Oct 29	7 pm, "A Night of Grave Robbing" with Ed Okonowicz. Corbit-Calloway Memorial Library in Odessa DE. Contact Steve at <a href="mailto:sdm1177@yahoo.com">sdm1177@yahoo.com</a> or call (302) 832-2665 for more info and to find out about dinner beforehand!

*Your event here!!*

*DM*

## SUDUKO

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

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."

This puzzle is rated "moderate difficulty."

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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Keith Johnson  
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Hartly DE 19953

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

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.

# OCTOBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10 Columbus Day Lunch Bunch	11 Full Moon	12	13 Happy Hour/NTN Trivia Night-Newark	14	15	
16	17	18 Happy Hour/NTN Trivia Night-Bear	19	20	21	22	
23	24 DelaMensa Deadline	25	26 New Moon	27	28	29 A Night of Grave Robbing - Odessa	
30	31 Halloween						
DelaMensa			6	October 2011			