



# DelaMensa

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## EXCOMMunication - September, 2007

By: Maria Sawczuk, Local Secretary

My column's short this month (stop thanking your religious deity of choice!) – The RG has me exhausted! But it was a great time – we had 62 attendees! It was so much fun, we've decided to do it again next year. Stayed tuned for more ways you can get involved in the plans for next year's event. Oh, and before I forget, let me give a big thanks to Keith Johnson as RG Chair, Cindi Basner as Hospitality Chair, and EVERYONE who are pitching in to help make our first RG successful.

The Education Director for the Kalmar Nyckel, who was originally scheduled to speak at the RG, will instead speak as part of our Speaker Series, on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Don't miss this very interesting talk, at a favorite venue, the International Grill Buffet (mmm...sushi). If you have any ideas for a speaker, please let us know. As Mensans, we are always interested in learning about anything and everything.

Do you know anyone who you think would qualify to join

### Directory of Local Officers

LocSec	Maria Sawczuk	302-893-5118	legalady@magpage.com
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RVC-2	Leah Kinder	302-222-2357	bluepointjive@gmail.com, RVC2@us.mensa.org

Mensa? We are hosting a test session on Saturday morning at the RG (September 8) and Mensa Testing Day is just around the corner, on October 20. Please let your friends and colleagues know about this great opportunity to join Mensa!

DM

## Coming Events

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2007:

#### ExComm Meeting

Help us plan future Delaware Mensa events and make Delaware Mensa responsive to you. All members are welcome to attend our ExComm meeting.

DATE: Wednesday, September 26, 2007

TIME: 7:00 pm

PLACE: A Piece of Ireland, Chesmar Plaza, Route 4 and Marrows Road, Newark

Please RSVP by e-mailing Maria at legalady@magpage.com or calling 302-893-5118.

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2007 - Games Day - UPSTATE

Dee Richardson and her lovely poodles invite you to their home in Wilmington for a day of games, food and fun, from 2:00 pm until we get tired. House favorites include Scrabble and Trivial Pursuit (and Paul loves that train game – I don't remember what it's called), or feel free to introduce us to your own favorite game. Snacks and soft drinks will be served.

DATE: Sunday, September 30, 2007

TIME: 2:00 pm 'til ??

PLACE: Dee Richardson's Home, Wilmington DE (off Kirkwood Highway)

To RSVP and for the address and directions, e-mail Dee at busydeee@comcast.net or call 302-892-2299.

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2007 - KALMAR NYCKEL

The original *Kalmar Nyckel* was one of America's pioneering colonial ships. Its historical significance rivals that of the Mayflower, yet her remarkable story has never been widely told. Barbara Mayers, the Education Director of the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation, will teach us the history of this graceful ship, and its present-day replica, which serves as Delaware's seagoing goodwill ambassador.

DATE: Monday, October 15, 2007

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

PLACE: International Grill Buffet, Kirkwood Hwy, Elsmere (next to Value City)

To RSVP, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118.

## The Kinder Garden

It FINALLY rained this week. The drought really did a number on my garden, especially the week it was in the 90s while my husband and I were in Birmingham at the Annual Gathering. Everything, especially my lawn, was brown and crispy when we got back. Ah well, they're perennials, they'll be back next year... Speaking of the lawn, I suppose now that it has rained, I'll have to mow for the first time in a month. I kid you not--it's been a month.

Speaking of the AG, we had a great time! I spent most of my week in meetings, but my husband got to do tons of volunteering in Hospitality and socializing. There were some problems in the weeks leading up to the event, which resulted in a last-minute change in management, but the event itself went off without a hitch, thanks to all the hard work and dedication of the original co-chairs, Steve and LeAnne Porter, their committee, and the new chair, Beth Anne Demeter, combined with massive amounts of work done by volunteers from the local group and from across the country.

By the time you read this column, I will have attended events for both Thomas Jefferson Mensa and Lehigh Pocono Mensa in the month of August. My goal is to visit each group within a year of my election. I don't know if it's do-able or not, but I'm going to try. Other upcoming appearances by yours truly include Delaware Valley Mensa's Liberty Bell RG in October, the Leadership Development Workshop hosted by Tidewater Mensa in November, and Central Pennsylvania Mensa's Winter Solstice RG in December.



There's one major event in our region I'm going to have to miss--Delaware Mensa's first-ever RG! They're having it September 7,8, and 9, which is the same weekend as an American Mensa Committee meeting all the way over in Texas. I hope those of you who are able to attend take lots of photos!

That AMC meeting I'm attending is our planning meeting, so I hope to return with my head positively bursting with plans. I've agreed to serve on two committees so far this term--the Communications Committee and the Site Selection Committee. Oh! Speaking of Site Selection... the AMC approved our committee's recommendation for the 2011 AG to be hosted by Portland Mensa and Mensa of Western Washington! I can hardly wait--I've never been to the northwest. And speaking of future AG plans, next year's, in Denver, already has over 700 registrants as of this writing (8/1/07).

Last, but most certainly not least, have you made plans to join us for the Leadership Development Workshop in Williamsburg yet? It's the weekend of November 11th, and registration is free. You still need to register with Marc ( marc@paonline.com) but you won't need to pay for it. If you've ever wanted to get more involved with Mensa at any level, this is worth checking out. You can email either me or Marc for more information--please do! I hope to see lots of new faces there!

Leah Kinder  
RVC2, Mid-Atlantic Region  
<http://kindermensa.blogspot.com/>

## Celebration

As of July 31 we had 159 members

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Roy Jackson	9/4
William Bialk	9/12
Henry Milligan	9/16
Karl Boettcher	9/17
Paul Stitik II	9/17
John Paschetto	9/18
Anthony Eros	9/20
Lorelei Hunt	9/22
Richard Hartland	9/23
Leslie Leach	9/25
Frederick Bryner	9/27
Coralee Witham	9/27

And 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>
Paul Thompson	1977 (30 YEARS!!!)
Richard Dillard	1981
George Daly	1987 (20 YEARS!!)
Maria Sawczuk	1999
Gail Lear	2000
Jodi Walker	2003
Nicole Perefegé	2005
Jacob Weyer	2005

and, welcome back to reinstating member (lapse of more than one year):  
Jason Nomura of New Castle, DE

## Event Report—Delaware Mensa RG

When you bring together a whole hotel full of Mensans, you never quite know what you will get. This time we got an outstanding Regional Gathering – the first one ever in Delaware Mensa. The final count was 62 attendees, with about half of them coming from neighboring groups and the GenX SIG.

We got nothing but complements on the gathering, and loads of credit need to go to Maria and Cindi, who pulled together the speaker program and the food, Dan and Lee, who organized the games and tournaments, Dee and Nicole, who ran registration, and all the speakers who volunteered their time to be there and entertain or enlighten us.

In case you don't know, a Regional Gathering (universally known as an RG) is grass-roots Mensa at it's fundamental best. A local group decides to host a gathering, sets up a program, passes around the date and time, and people show up and have fun, enjoying each others company. They are usually held in a hotel, and the best way to attend is to stay at that hotel, so you can maximize the experience. You don't have to, however. It's perfectly ok to drop in for an hour or two, leave for a while, and come back later.

Treasure Galleon, didn't you?) Later that night, the Poker tournament raged on and people relaxed in the Hospitality suite to the point that before the night was out we were planning a food re-supply run.



Built-in Beverage Storage in every room?

After breakfast, the day kicked off with a Scrabble tournament. Speakers covered advice on car repair, and a description of several all-Mensan trips cruising the British Virgin Islands via sailboat.



Wanted: a larger games room

The afternoon saw lunch around the pool, more speakers, and more games. We heard about local history and (pirate) folklore, Pharology (the study of Light-houses – just so you don't have to look it up) on the



Shipwreck Artifacts

Friday night started off with the opening of Hospitality and the games room. We had a speaker from the Delaware Shipwreck Museum, who brought a sample of treasures recovered from shipwrecks from the Florida Keys to Fenwick Island (you did know that Delaware had it's own Spanish



Sarah Meyers  
Delaware Shipwreck Museum

mid-Atlantic coast, followed by a warm-up for Talk Like a Pirate Day (September 19 – [www.talklikeapirate.com](http://www.talklikeapirate.com)), and capped off by a lesson in genealogy, and how to tell if you are related to a pirate. The games room was busy with a Seafarers of Catan tournament, and a Double Deck Cancellation Hearts tournament. If you think that is more than one person can do, you're right.



Todd Chappelle on stage



Cap'n Maria

After supper, we gathered around the pool to hear a local singer, Todd Chappelle, singing requests and parodies, and generally humorous songs. Throughout all this, the Hospitality room was never empty. People

*(Continued on page 4)*



Part of the Pool Party Crowd



There are always people to talk to in Hospitality

gathered there to relax, to socialize, to eat, to drink, to read, to knit, to watch movies, or several of those at once. You could see why the hospitality room is always the heart of a gathering.

Sunday was mostly clean-up and tear-down, as we tried to put the hotel back the way we found it. I hope this sounds like something you would want to try, next time you get a chance, because you can bet we'll be hosting another RG. Watch for talk about the next one, and contact any of the local officers if you want to get involved. You could even go to RGs in our neighbor states.



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

By John Grover

OH MY GAWD! It's the attack of the killer tomatoes. My garden is overflowing with the things. Hmm, what will I do? The answer of course is tomato sauce and a good wine to go with it. There are few things that I look forward to with more enthusiasm than the fresh tomatoes of Summer. The secrets to this recipe are first the roasting of the fruit (the tomato) which brings out its natural sweetness; and second, scout them down or start growing them yourself, the fresh herbs.

The wine this month is the 2005 Zinfandel from Cline Cellars of Sonoma, California. This is a delightful red Zinfandel that starts with a rich berry aroma. The taste as it fills your mouth is distinctly black cherries. But perhaps its finest attribute are the supple and exquisite tannins that dance across the middle of the tongue. This wine is widely available for about \$10 a bottle. I got it as a part of a case for \$8. Such a deal!

**Provençal Oven Roasted Tomato Sauce** (from the Epicurious website; originally printed in Gourmet Magazine, August, 1998)

Ingredients: olive oil for brushing pans; 1 head garlic; 4 lbs vine-ripened red tomatoes (about 10 medium) (We use a Roma [or paste] tomato); 1 tbsp fresh rosemary leaves; 1 tbsp fresh thyme leaves; 3 tbsp fresh orange juice, or to

taste (Based upon the reviews we skipped the orange juice.).

Preheat oven to 450°F. and lightly brush 2 shallow baking pans with oil. Separate garlic head into cloves, discarding loose papery outer skin but keeping skin intact on cloves, and wrap in foil, crimping seams to seal tightly. Cut tomatoes into 1/2-inch-thick slices and arrange in one layer in baking pans. Sprinkle 2 tsp each of rosemary and thyme evenly over tomatoes and season with salt and pepper.

Put foil-wrapped garlic in one of baking pans with tomatoes and roast garlic and tomatoes in upper and lower thirds of oven, switching position of pans halfway through roasting, about 35 minutes total, or until garlic is tender and tomatoes are slightly charred. Unwrap garlic and cool slightly. Peel skins from each clove and force pulp with warm tomatoes and herbs through a food mill fitted with small disk into a bowl.

Finely chop remaining tsp rosemary and remaining teaspoon thyme and stir into sauce with orange juice (or not). Season sauce with salt and pepper and reheat if necessary. Sauce keeps, covered and chilled, 4 days or, frozen, 4 months. Reheat sauce over low heat and reseason with orange juice, salt, and pepper. Makes about 3 cups, enough for 1 pound pasta.

I hope that you will contact me with your comments and  
*(Continued on page 5)*

## 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 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. 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.

## Delaware Mensa Calendar

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

Mon, Sep 10	11:30—? Downtown Lunch Bunch meet in the basement Cafeteria of the Hotel DuPont for lunch and stimulating conversation. ( <b>Second Monday of each month</b> ) Info: Dee Richardson at 302-892-2299
Wed, Sept 19	6 to 8 pm, Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night at Buffalo Wild Wings, Sunset Station Shopping Center, Route 40, Bear. <b>Third Wednesday of each month</b> . For info or to RSVP, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118.
Wed, Sept 26	6 to 9 pm, EXCOM meeting, A Piece of Ireland, Newark. To RSVP, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118.
Sat, Sept 29	8 pm, Philosophy and Discussion Group at John and Deb's house. <b>Last Saturday of each month</b> . For info and directions, John or Deb at doctordeb@copper.net, or 610-485-2745.
Sun, Sept 30	2pm to ?, Games day at Dee Richardson's house (upstate). To RSVP, e-mail Dee at busy-dee@comcast.net or call 302-892-2299.
Wed, Oct 3	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. <b>First Wednesday of each month</b> we'll be in Dover. To RSVP, e-mail Leah at bluepointjive@gmail.com.
Mon, Oct 8	11:30—? Downtown Lunch Bunch meet in the basement Cafeteria of the Hotel DuPont for lunch and stimulating conversation. ( <b>Second Monday</b> ) Info: Dee Richardson at 302-892-2299
Mon, Oct 15	7 to 9 pm, Kalmar Nyckel meeting. International Grill Buffet, Kirkwood Hwy, Elsmere (next to Value City). To RSVP, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118.
Wed, Oct 17	6 to 8 pm, Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night at Buffalo Wild Wings, Bear.
Sat, Oct 27	8 pm, Philosophy and Discussion Group at John and Deb's house.

*Your event here!!*

DM

*Good Food (Continued from page 4)*

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.*

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## SEPTEMBER 2007

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