



The Voice of Mensa in Northern New England

Vol 23 No 8

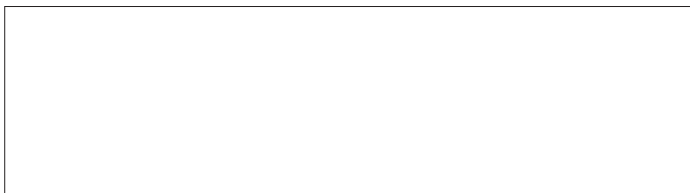
March 2004

Please Note a Change of Venue for the Special Business Meeting

Sunday, February 22, 1:30 p.m.

As the RG wraps up, we'll conduct a Special Business Meeting, convened specifically for the purpose of nominations for the 2004 NH Mensa elections. **We'll meet in the RG Hospitality area** at the Center of New Hampshire Holiday Inn at the close of the RG. You do not have to attend the RG as a paying participant in order to attend this meeting.

DIRECTIONS: The Center of New Hampshire Holiday Inn, 700 Elm Street, **Manchester, N.H.**, 603-625-1000. From the north: Take I-293 south to exit 6 (Amoskeag Bridge/Manchester). Keep left at the fork in the ramp. Turn left onto Eddy Road; Eddy Road becomes McGregor Street. Turn left onto West Bridge Street. Turn right onto Elm Street. Hotel is .2 miles ahead on the right. Take a right onto Granite Street to enter the hotel's parking garage. From the south: Right off I-293 exit 5 onto Granite Street. The parking garage for the hotel is ahead on the left at the corner of Granite and Elm.



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Opinions expressed are those of their authors and not those of *Momentum* or of Mensa.

Advertising rates: \$30 full page, \$15 half page, \$8 quarter page/business card per issue prepaid. Short, text only, noncommercial ads free to members on a space available basis. The Editor reserves the right to reject advertisements.

Mensa is an international society in which the sole requirement for qualification for membership is a score at or above the 98th percentile on any of a number of standard IQ tests. Mensa is a not-for-profit organization whose main purpose is to serve as a means of communication and assembly for its members. All inquiries should be addressed to: American Mensa, Ltd., 1229 Corporate Drive West, Arlington, TX 76006-6103.

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Momentum logo by Matthew DeSmith

To begin, I want to send out a great big attaboy to the New England Patriots for giving us something to crow about at this time of year. After the miserable disappointment of the Red Sox back in October, followed by the continuing frustration over not getting to sign A Rod, it was just what we needed to get our minds off of things. For those of us who attended the get-together at the Allemans', we cannot imagine how loud Bill might have become if they had **lost**. During the AFC Championship game, Bill held off on posting his congratulations on the webpage until the game was actually over, so as not to jinx the outcome. This does not mean that he gets to claim total responsibility for the win, but he sure was rooting. Bill certainly is a fan - I guess we will better gauge the measure of how much by seeing when the congrats finally come down.

By the time that most of you get this in hand, the RG will be over. On the chance that you receive it prior to 20 FEB, if you were thinking of going and have not pre-registered, please don't feel that it is in any way too late to attend. As of this writing, we have a little over 80 folks who have indicated their intentions, and we are counting, as always, that there will be a goodly number who just show up at the door. Since one of the prime reasons for the RG is to serve as a fundraiser for scholarships, I will take this last opportunity to extend a heartfelt invitation to all of you Mensans who rarely attend functions to come out and join in the fun. If you have read the articles from the RG Co-chairs in last month's Momentum, you will realize that an RG is a great way to begin your participation in Mensa. There usually are representatives of upwards of eight different locals in

attendance, so this is a fabulous means to expand your acquaintances in the organization. So, if you are a relatively new member, or if it's been a while since you attended an RG, or if you are a faithful attendee who just wants to see if things are better at the Center of New Hampshire - whatever the deal that you have to make with yourself to show up, come join the party!! Otherwise, you will never know how many Mensans **do** fit in a 10XL t-shirt.

I would like to extend a welcome to two new officers who were just elected. Bob Fuller has taken over the Testing Coordinator position and is also fulfilling the role of the token Maine resident to hold a leadership position. Bob is a former Locsec from Northern Louisiana Mensa and brings a wealth of experience in Mensa to our little band of volunteers. Ben Thompson has taken over as the Young Mensa Coordinator, which seems apropos, since he is a Young Mensan himself. Our current YM census hovers at 12, and we hope to be able to expand the scope of the programs geared specifically towards those members in the near future. On a sad note, Charlie Bouchard has had to step down from his duties as the Secretary. We thank him for his efforts, most especially his willingness to host the FSM.

The center of this issue should contain a survey that was created by the elected and appointed officers to check the pulse of NH Mensa. When we conducted a quick check of those who attend ExComm meetings regularly, nobody could remember any such undertaking having taken place in the last 20 years. Instead of anguishing in a vacuum, trying to divine what it is that

you, the readership, want out of your Mensa experience, we are going directly to you for input. I would push for an electronic response as the favored method of participation – you can go to the NH Mensa webpage, download the survey as an RTF file and forward it to publicrelations@nh.us.mensa.org. If you prefer, just separate the survey from the newsletter and mail it to PO Box 7998, Nashua, NH 03060. Our intention is to publish an overview of the results from the survey in the MAY Momentum, with the unabridged results being posted on the web. As a further inducement to participate, we will be awarding thank you gifts from the Mensa Boutique to the winners of a drawing held from among all attributed responses.

The appeal this month is for someone to take over the position of the Scholarship Officer. John McGondel has shepherded the process through the reading of the essays and does not feel that he would want to continue in the position for a second go-round next

year. Instead of waiting until next summer to find a replacement, he has asked that his intention to resign be published now, so that those volunteers-in-lurking out there can make themselves known. We still need a Gifted Children's Coordinator for Maine, as well as a Secretary; and the paramount need now is a location to hold the FSM at someone's home. We are scurrying to find a replacement locale for the February FSM at a public accommodation, but it would be far more preferable to have the use of someone's home so that we do not have to lug the folding/stapling machine around. If you can put up with about a dozen Mensans invading for a few hours once a month, please let us know ASAP.

Well, I trust that the RG was a success. The pitchers and catchers report to Fort Myers in a matter of days, so conditions must be improving. Remember, all the press indicates that there is global *warming* – this weather can't last forever. Aloha. 🍻

What's Cooking in Region 1

*Region 1 Vice Chair
Margaretta McBean*

Are you Presidential Material (former, now or thinking about it)? Ever wonder what makes Mensa tick? How can your group get and keep members? These and many more topics will be featured at the Leadership Development Workshop to be held April 2 - 4 in Manchester Connecticut, just outside of Hartford. Connecticut & Western Massachusetts Mensa is hosting what promises to be a thought-provoking weekend.

Unlike Regional Gatherings where the purpose is 24-hour fun, LDWs help focus on fostering present and emerging Mensan leaders. The skills

learned can be used not only within your local group, but also in other facets of your personal and professional life. Mensa's President, Jean Becker Ph.D., will be leading workshops, as will staff from the national office.

In what may be a Mensa first, we will be having a Gifted Children track, with gifted children in attendance. Mensans are of all ages, and why just talk about gifted children without their input. We are very fortunate to have Dr. Deborah Ruf, the National Gifted Children Coordinator, who is also a gifted child parent, lead the presentations.

Registration information can be downloaded in .pdf format from the Region 1 website: http://region1.us.mensa.org/CWM_LDW.pdf

Membership renewal time is fast upon us. Those of you who have voted your proxy, please don't void it by not renewing. For you proxy fence sitters, please renew your membership and exercise your proxy at the same time (a card is conveniently included in the renewal package). Online voting is available at <http://proxy.us.mensa.org>

In celebrating Black History Month two relevant quotations come to mind: "We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.", spoken by Martin Luther King, Jr. And from Vladimir Nabokov: "Genius is an African who dreams up snow."

Peanuts are a staple of West Africa. Here's an adaptation of:

Senegalese Peanut Soup

- 3 Tbl. butter (or peanut oil)
- 3 Tbl. flour
- 4 cups milk
- 1 small chopped onion
- 1/4 tsp. Paprika
- 1 tsp. curry powder
- 1 tsp. (approx.) salt*
- 1 cup peanut butter (unsalted chunky; *if you use salted, decrease/eliminate the salt)
- 3 cups sieved tomatoes (fresh or canned)

Melt butter (or heat oil) and add flour, stirring until smooth.

Add milk and cook over low heat until slightly thickened, stirring constantly.

Add seasonings and blend part of hot mixture with peanut butter; then combine with the rest of the hot mixture. Heat tomatoes and add slowly, stirring constantly. ■

Special Events

Test the Nation 2 March 5, 2004

Last June, thousands of people across the country tested their intelligence during the two-hour FOX special, Test the Nation. The show was so successful that FOX has scheduled Test the Nation 2 to air on Friday, March 5. American Mensa's supervisory psychologist Dr. Frank Lawlis will once again be a guest on the program to discuss Mensa and intelligence. This would be a great time to get together with your Mensa friends!

Snowball XXX: Nice 'n' Naughty March 5 - 7, 2004

Central New Jersey Mensa's Snowball RG is being held once again at the Four Points Barcelo Sheraton Hotel in Piscataway, New Jersey. For details,

go to <http://www.cnj.us.mensa.org/> or contact "Uncle" Frank Zollner, Chairman of Snowball XXX, at (732) 251-1277 or unclfrnk@optonline.net. Snowball's Registrar is Andrea Gallini Giarnieri, 632 Salem Avenue, Apartment 501, Elizabeth, NJ 07208, (908) 351-1583, andreabgg@aol.com.

CultureQuest® XV March 28, 2004

CultureQuest® XV, a 90-minute test of cultural knowledge for American and Canadian Mensans, takes place anywhere and everywhere simultaneously on Sunday, March 28. Questions range from politics to science and from entertainment to current events (aiming for accessibility over obscurity). The top 20 teams receive cash awards, traditionally designated for their Local Groups'

scholarship funds. Each team captain must submit a completed registration with the \$40 filing fee by March 1. The rules and the registration form can be found at www.us.mensa.org/best_of_culturequest.php3. (For a hard copy, call the National Office at 817-607-0060.) Any other questions can be emailed to CultureQuest® Coordinator Eliot T. Kieval (CultureQuest@us.mensa.org).

**Toga XVII at the Ugly Fox
Shrewsbury, Mass.
March 19, 2004, 8:00 p.m.**

As they probably never said in Rome, "Tempus sure has fugited." Nevertheless, the time has come to invite you to the seventeenth annual St. Patrick's Day Toga Party.

If this event were a person, it would be talking back and demanding the car keys. Fortunately, this event is not a person but an opportunity for a lot of people -- including you -- to gather and enjoy our fashionably late dual celebration of the "Ides of March" and the "Wearin' o' the Green." Feel free to wear a toga or not, but please wear something.

New members and not-so-new members alike are always welcome at this convivial, family-friendly event. Questions? More information? Other sentence fragments? Call Otto and Karen at 508-UGLY-FOX (508-845-9369). Otto & Karen Kunz, 42 Monroe Street, Shrewsbury, Mass.

Directions: From East: Mass Pike to Route 9 in Framingham, Route 9 to Route 140N in Shrewsbury, left on Kennilworth (immediately following the better-marked Lake Street). (**) Kennilworth bears right and ends at Monroe. Go to number 42 and rejoice at having found The Answer.

From West: Mass Pike to I-290 in Auburn, I-290E to Route 140 in Shrewsbury, (***) Rte 140S to Kennilworth (immediately before the better-marked Lake Street). Proceed from ** above.

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From North or South: I-495 to I-290 in Marlboro, I-290 W to Route 140S in Shrewsbury, proceed from *** above.

**Cape Cod Mini-RG:
A Whale Of A Good Time
May 7-9, 2004**

Join us on beautiful Cape Cod for a weekend of dining, shopping, swimming (heated indoor pool), socializing and great hospitality. Take a day trip to Provincetown, go whale watching, antiquing, bicycling, or just sit back and listen to the ocean!

Hotel rooms are only \$59.95 until 3/31 and \$64.95 after 4/1. Send your check, made out to Resort Motels, directly to them at: 41 Chase Avenue, Dennisport, MA 02639. Make your reservations early as the Corsair and Crossrip fill up quickly. Hotel information: 800-332-2279.

Adult registration is still only \$35 until 3/31; \$40 from 4/1 until 4/30; \$45 at door. Children under 6 are free. Ages 6-20 are \$1 per year of age.

Send your name(s), age(s) of children and a check, payable to "Boston Mensa" to: Al Beecy, Registrar, 32 Bromfield Street, Watertown, MA 02472.

**Bonaire SCUBA Trip
May 29 - June 5, 2004**

The SCUBA SIG of American Mensa invites Mensa members worldwide to join us for a week of SCUBA diving the Caribbean island of Bonaire May 29 to June 5, 2004 (Saturday to Saturday). Cost of \$1086 includes lodging at the Sand Dollar Condominium Resort, air from Miami, a daily boat dive, unlimited shore diving, car rental, and breakfast. Windsurfers, snorkelers and beach-sitters are welcome, too. Details at <http://lists.us.mensa.org/mailman/listinfo/scubasig-announce> or contact Brian Bloch, SCUBASIGTrip2004@scuba.us.mensa.org, 245 W. Tujunga Ave #209, Burbank, CA 91502-2842, 818-840-8450 (PST).

Region 1 Leadership Development Workshop

Schedule - Friday, April 2: Registration, Orientation, Mini-Workshop and Mixer.
Saturday, April 3: National Resources and Group Dynamics Tracks, Gifted Children Track, Dinner, and Mixer. Sunday, April 4: Wrap-Up

Registration - \$15.00 for the National Resources and Group Dynamics Tracks, \$10.00 for the Gifted Children Track (Children are free. All minors must be accompanied by an adult.)

Hospitality - Friday: Light snacks (subs or pizza); mixer. Saturday: Continental breakfast; catered deli salads and sandwiches for lunch; group dinner (pay your own tab - approximately \$15.00); mixer. Sunday: Continental breakfast.

For complete details, see http://region1.us.mensa.org/CWM_LDW.pdf. Use the form below to register:

REGION 1 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Friday 2 April - Sunday 4 April 2004

sponsored by Connecticut & Western Massachusetts Mensa

Super 8 Motel
20 Taylor Street
Manchester, CT 06040
Telephone: 860.643.1864
Fax: 860.643.1897
<http://www.super8.com>

Mensa Rates:
\$55.25 plus tax per night (double)
\$63.75 plus tax per night (queen)
\$93.50 plus tax per night (king)
Mention Mensa when making your reservation

Name: _____ **Telephone:** _____
Address: _____ **Email:** _____
City, State, ZIP: _____ **Local Group:** _____

Mensa Office(s): ~LOCAL SEC/PRESIDENT ~BOARD MEMBER ~EDITOR ~PROCTOR
~GIFTED CHILDREN COORDINATOR ~OTHER:

Child(ren): _____

Registrar: William A. G. Mackey
52 Llynwood Drive
Bolton, CT 06043
Telephone: 860.946.1619
Email: Mackeyw@att.net

**Make checks
payable to:
C&WM Mensa**

Register Now! ~ \$15.00 National Resources and Group Dynamics Tracks (includes Friday and Saturday night Mixers, Saturday and Sunday breakfasts, Saturday lunch)

~ \$10.00 Gifted Children Track (includes Saturday lunch)

Traveling by Bus or Train? ~ I need a ride from the Greyhound Manchester Bus Stop
~ I need a ride from the MetroNorth New Haven train station

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Yes, the RG is just a day or so away as you're reading this, but I wanted to make certain every opportunity was taken to invite you to this year's RG! We really want to involve you new folks – we know where you are because we've been there ourselves when we first joined Mensa. If you've never been to a Mensa event, or an RG, or have never volunteered, here's your chance this year! There is nothing like being part of the volunteer team to get you into the heart of things instantly. Don't let the fact that you'd know no one keep you away – come help us and we will guarantee that you know at least five new friendly people before Registration opens that Friday! We'll put you to light work, you'll have fun, and there's no better social icebreaker than being a volunteer on team along with the great regulars from previous years. Just show up and introduce yourself at Registration! There will also be signup sheets.

Here Are Positions/Areas Where We REALLY Need Help!

Best Hawaiian Shirt Contest:	Judges/MCs/Entrants
Wet T-Shirt Contest:	Judges/MCs/Someone to hold the fan!
Wet T-Shirt Contest:	Entrants (male only, please!)
How Many Mensans Can You Fit into a 10XL T-shirt Contest:	Judges/MCs/Entrants
Best Hugs Contest:	Secret Judges
New Member Mentors:	Volunteers
Adult/Children Egg Spoon Race:	Entrants
Speaker Escorts (2-3) Gofers	
Ad Hoc Help on premises! Just come tell me, Lynn Pina, RG Chair, or Sue Barnes, Hospitality Chair "Can I help?" and we'll put you to enjoyable work!	

We need **BAKERS!** Lots of BAKERS of things for the Like Water for Chocolate Orgy! We also need folks to volunteer to bake bread, cookies and non-chocolate things as well. Contact Hospitality Chair Sue Barnes at Sbspdisp@aol.com with questions, or just bring it to the RG.

Here Are the Primary Positions/Areas Where People Have Volunteered!

RG Chair & Co-Chair:	Lynn Pina, John Lewicke
Assistant RG Chair:	John McGondel
Registrar	Deb Stone
Programming Chair:	Lynn Pina
Hospitality Chair:	Sue Barnes
Games Chair:	Darlene Alleman
Movie Room Chair:	Rich Conde
RG Primer:	Bromley Baril, Wendy Birchmire
Saturday Breakfast Coordinator:	Bette Lewicke
Beermeister:	Bill Alleman
Icemaster:	Jim Barnes
Mensa Test Proctor:	Empty
Youth Coordinator/Gopher:	Ben Thompson



Granite Gathering 2004

Registration Form

February 20 - 22, 2004

The Old Man went south this year, so we're bringing him back for the "I Wanna Go Where It's Warm" Reunion Tour on the infamous 12th Floor of the Holiday Inn at the Center of New Hampshire. Warm, hearty NH homemade soups and stews, new member icebreakers and RC Primer ice cream, international coffee, excellent shrimp "Lava Water for Chocolate" eggs something better than Sexual Fishbowl, Lunch in Acapulco, hotel-provided "lava" beer drinks, private "tik" pool party, gifted children's rooms, movies, book sale, auctions, poker tournaments, games galore, best Hawaiian shirt, wet t-shirt and other contests, Libertarian/Liberal debate (initiative) and speakers, speakers, speakers! And, of course the best beer selection EVER!

Registration: \$45 until 12/1, \$50 until 12/31, \$55 after 12/31. Do not mail registrations after 2/6/04 - please register at the door instead. Children 8-17, \$10 less than the regular rate, children under 8 free. Saturday rate is \$10 less than the regular rate in effect at registration. Make your checks payable to "New Hampshire Menne" and mail your form and fee to: Registration, After-Deli Store, 24312 Spartan Street, Mission Viejo, CA 92691-3921 or email to debatone@com.net.

Hotel Information: Holiday Inn at the Center of NH, 700 Elm Street, Manchester, NH 03101 (web link on our RC details page) Call 603-625-1000 (NOT the 1-800 number) for reservations and ask for the NHMen on RC rate. Single/Double: \$99. Triple/Quad: \$99. Room rates guaranteed until 1/25/04. Handicapped access, hotel/airport shuttle, separate smoking/gaming and hospitality rooms. \$2/day hotel parking fee (included in the hotel bill for those staying overnight). Saturday Evening Buffet: \$25/person (we need at least 30 people for buffet style), Sunday Brunch \$9.95/person.

Name: _____ Name on Badge: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____ Is this your first RC/Menne event? _____

Tell Us 3 Things About You for Your Name Badge: _____

Dinner Buffet @ \$25 each _____, Kids Meal @ \$12.95 each _____, Sunday Brunch @ \$9.95 each _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ (make checks payable to New Hampshire Menne) or

MC/Visa # _____ Expires: ____/____/____ Name on Card: _____

I knocked loudly on the big oaken door of the Franciscan monastery, and was slightly surprised when a Jesuit priest opened it for me. I was surprised even more by the Israeli made Uzi submachine gun that he was carrying, and I quickly produced my purchase orders for the custom made wooden chairs that I was sent there to pick up. He scanned my papers, waved my truck in and secured the huge door behind me.

I silently cursed my boss for sending me to this God-forsaken wilderness somewhere out in northern Minnesota. I hadn't seen a paved road in hours. No phones, electricity, mail or plumbing. I didn't care if they did make the best-darned furniture in the world: How the heck could they live like this?

After ruffling through my papers, the Jesuit introduced himself as Fr. Ramos and apologized for the gun, mumbling something about being isolated and there being no cops to call...

"Yes Father, I quite understand," I lied to him, as he steered me across the huge courtyard towards this rather enormous barn. I noticed on the way that there were quite a lot of people in this, what I perceived to be, compound. They were clumped together in groups of from three to seven, and all of them stopped talking to stare at me, as I was being led through their midst. So much for rolling out the old welcome mat.

We proceeded to the barn, actually an airplane hangar converted into a combination workshop and warehouse, and which was filled with handmade furniture, literally acres of it. The Jesuit walked me over to a robed clerk at a small desk. As the clerk/priest checked my

invoices, I glanced around, my eyes finally coming to rest on a worktable in a corner. There was a young boy of about eleven or twelve building a chair. He appeared to be either black or at the least, very dark skinned. He gave off an aura of calm intensity as he carefully fitted a wooden dowel into its hole while four priests hovered about him, intently observing each of his every actions.

Then the clerk had handed me back my papers, and informed me that my merchandise would not be ready until morning. "Heck! Now what to do...?," I thought to myself...

The alert Jesuit took me by the elbow, off to the side. "My son. You have come during our most private and important of conferences. Your arrival has interrupted some of our most serious business. For this, we apologize, and will do our absolute best to make your night's stay here as comfortable as is humanly possible. Will you accept our humble offer of hospitality?"

I thought quickly: Too far to a motel. Sleep in the truck? Nope. I spoke up: "I appreciate it, Father. You are too kind. I shall be obliged to take you up on your much-too-generous offer."

As we turned to leave, I noticed that same boy again, pouring some water into a bowl from a pitcher. Then the four priests formed a line, taking turns dipping their fingers in the bowl and blessing themselves. Must be some water, I thought. After that the Jesuit brought me to his own, personal quarters. When I protested, he would have none of it, explaining to me that all of the guest beds were full for the conference, and that he would sleep in a spare bunk in the chapel.

Opening the door for me, the Jesuit bid me welcome to his room. "Dinner is at six, in the cafeteria under the bell tower. Make yourself at home. I must go. Enjoy your stay."

I wandered around the room. (Suite was more like the word.) Oil paintings. Silver candleholders. Egyptian tapestries. Persian rugs. Marble Greek busts. Bronze Roman coins. Gold crucifixes over every door. Bookshelves with thousands of volumes lined the walls. A wine rack with dozens of vintages from around the world. Finally I sat down and took off my shoes, settling into a very comfortable chair. I was soon asleep, too tired to dream. Until the unholy ringing of an obnoxiously loud dinner gong almost caused me to fall from my chair. I was hungry to the extreme, and hurried over to the cafeteria, where the Jesuit sat waiting for me. During the meal, I noticed that the boy from the workshop, whom I could then see was of Negroid features, was pouring the wine for each table. When he finished the last table, it was time to start over again at the first. Between eating and talking, I was unable to keep a constant eye on him, but I never saw him change his pitcher or refill it. I knew that he must have, or else it was a bottomless pitcher. I chuckled to myself at that thought.

The meal over, the Jesuit bid me a good-night, and I walked back to his suite, feeling immensely satisfied. Once inside, I picked out a bottle of wine. Bulls Blood of Eger '93. Then, after much browsing, I selected G. Gordon Liddy's autobiography to read, figuring that that ought to help me to get to sleep. But where were the matches? Hundreds of candles, there had to be matches. I tried drawer after drawer, no dice. No matches. It was growing dark. I came to a draw that seemed to be stuck. So like a jerk, I forced it until it broke

open. Inside there was a lighter. And a magnifying glass. And a letter, with a Vatican postage stamp. Hmm... I figured: "Hey, what the heck, the damage was already done."

So I lit some candles, poured some wine, and read the letter, which was dated eleven years ago, and addressed to a Fr. Ramos. It was from the Pope and referred to something called the 'Joshua Twin.' Something else about bloody spikes sealed in wax for centuries. A bunch of stuff about DNA and genetics and cloning. Most of it was gibberish to me. As I browsed the last pages the Jesuit knocked on the door and opened it.

He saw the paper and frowned deeply. "So, make yourself at home means break into locked, private areas, huh?" He was glowering at me.

"Well, ah, see, ah, it was an accident. I couldn't find any matches, and I looked everywhere, and I thought it was only stuck, and..."

"Enough! Enough! Bring me that letter and come with me."

I did, and we left, going to a room across the courtyard, where the Jesuit knocked softly on the door. It opened and we went inside. To where two monks were waiting. The Jesuit spoke to them, after motioning to me to sit down. They nodded slowly, and then all three of them pinned me with their eyes.

"How much did you read?" John asked.

"Read what?"

"The letter, The LETTER!"

"I don't know. Besides, most of it I couldn't tell what it meant anyway. Not my area of expertise, cloning, science stuff." I stole a glance at a fishbowl in the corner. In it was something resembling a softball-sized lump of soap or lard or other wax like substance. They followed my gaze.

"Aha! See? He knows! He knows!" The monks were nearly hysterical. The Jesuit tried to calm them down. I

picked up a glass of water and sipped it, watching each of them.

They were discussing the situation heatedly amongst themselves, when there was a knock at the door. The Jesuit opened it, and in walked the boy.

“Welcome, Rabbi,” they all said, while quickly rising.

Then Francis tried to introduce us: “Rabbi Joshua Ben....”

He got no further, as the boy interrupted him: “Just Joshua, please.” He held out his slim hand, and I started to shake it, amazed at its firmness. As I looked at him, I felt his gaze go straight through my eyes, right to the back of my brain, bounce off my skull, and come back out through my eyes and into his. Still frozen in mid-shake, I was then falling into his eyes, and through them into space. I could feel the universe, hear the solar winds, smell the comets and asteroids. And see the earth.

Then, WHACK-SNAP, I was finishing shaking hands with the boy, and had to sit down. I had never felt so at peace with myself before. I looked up to find them all staring at me. I could sense that they knew. I

asked for my water, wishing that it were wine. The boy picked it up to hand to me. I gulped it down. It WAS wine. I looked from Francis to John, to the Jesuit. Then at the boy. He had the eyes of a boy again. A boy who would be about the same age as the one in the letter I’d been caught reading.

I left there the next morning, with my truck loaded, shaking hands warmly with all of my new friends, promising to return, all of us knowing that I would not. They had explained that he needed some few more years of learning, before he would be ready for the world.

I delivered the truck and my resignation to my boss, and withdrew my bank accounts in cash. Then I gave mostly all of my worldly possessions to my greedy friends and relatives, and worked my passage to the Middle East on a freighter ship.

Once documented into Israel, I found a kibbutz to work on, and here I’ve been this last year and a half. Waiting. For him. Some call him Rabbi. Some call him Yeshua.

To me, he is The Joshua Twin. 

Executive Committee Meeting 15 January 2004

Charles Bouchard

Officers Present: Bill Alleman, Darlene Alleman, John Bauman, Charles Bouchard, John McGondel, Claire Natola, Lynn Pina, John Sheehan, Tom Shiel, Eric Werme

Members Present: Jim Barnes, Sue Barnes, Ann Majeske, Eileen McGondel

The meeting was called to order at 8:19 p.m.

Item Status Started Description

- 4.05 Old 12-18-03 Public Relations Officer John Sheehan proposed a means and methods of polling current members for input regarding participation. Proxy votes are at 16% with a minimum of 50% required. Registered members will be encouraged to vote electronically at the 2004 RG.
- 5.01 New 1-15-04 John McGondel nominated Robert Goodman Fuller to the position of Testing Coordinator. Claire Natola seconded the nomination. All present were in favor signified by an aye vote; none were opposed.
- 5.02 New 1-15-04 John Bauman reported that NH/ME Mensa now has 471 members, a net gain of twelve.
- 5.03 New 1-15-04 Darlene Alleman motioned to confirm Ben Thompson as the new Young Mensa Coordinator and John McGondel as Young Mensa Advisor. Claire Natola seconded the nomination. All present were in favor signified by an aye vote; none were opposed.


The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m. 

Scholarship Competition Update

John McGondel

By the time you read this, the scholarship competition will be over and the scored essays will have been forwarded to Regional for the next stage of judging. I would like to extend a warm expression of gratitude to the people who did the actual judging: John Sheehan, Ben and Julie Thompson, and Bromley Baril. I would also like to thank Anne Majeske for her assistance with last year's archives. We had 21

applications, four of which were not allowed due to improper formatting.

I have already started preparing for the next scholarship competition, so that whoever takes over this position will have a leg up for next year. Good luck to all who have been sent to the next level, and all of the essays I received were well worth the reading. 

March 2004 13

This month our gourmet group ventured into the cuisine of French Canada. With the simple entry of "Quebec recipes" into the search engine we found numerous and interesting recipes. The result is North Woods cooking with a French flair. This included an extraordinary pea soup, maple glazed carrots, fine sea food and a meat pie to die for. And while the native beverage of choice might be spelled "Labatt's", we did find several wines that also fit well with the meal.

The first wine is the 2001 Cuvee Rouge from the Chateau LaFayette Reneau winery located in New York's Finger Lakes region. This dry red wine is a blend of Baco Noir and Pinot Noir grapes. This blend produces a rich

and fruity wine that passes like velvet through the mouth. It is a good food wine matching well pizza, pasta and the recipe given below. I have found it commonly for between \$6 and \$8 a bottle.

We move from a good wine to an excellent wine with the 2000 Cotes du Rhone by E. Guigal wines of France. Typical of Cotes du Rhone, it is a blend of Syrah, Grenache and Mourvedre grapes. This is a complex wine that layers the taste of cherry, raspberry and pepper with subtle hints of flowers. It has a crispness borne of well balanced acidity and a nice smoothness from its mellow tannins. This truly fine wine is generally available for between \$10 and \$12 a bottle.

Tourtiere

French Canadian meat pie. (There are probably as many variations to this recipe as there are mothers and grandmothers in Quebec.)

Ingredients: 1 pound ground pork; 1/2 pound ground veal (or beef); 6 slices bacon; 1/2 cup chopped onion; 1/2 cup chopped celery; 1 clove garlic, minced; 2 teaspoons dried sage; 1/4 teaspoon salt; 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper; 1 teaspoon allspice; 2 tablespoons cornstarch; 2 (9 inch) unbaked pie crusts; 1 1/4 cups water

1. In a deep pan, brown ground veal, pork, and bacon. Drain off fat.
2. Stir in onion, celery, garlic, sage, salt, and pepper. Stir in 1 cup of the water, and bring mixture to boiling. Reduce heat, and cover. Simmer for 10 to 15 minutes, or till onion is tender. Stir frequently.
3. Combine cornstarch and the remaining 1/4 cup water. Add to hot meat and vegetable mixture, cooking and stirring till thickened and bubbly. Cook and stir 1 to 2 minutes more. Remove pan from heat, and cool slightly.
4. Fill pastry shell with meat and vegetable mixture. Roll out top crust on top, seal the edges, and put patterned slits in top crust.
5. Bake in a preheated 400 degrees F (205 degrees C) oven for 40 minutes, or until golden brown. Let stand about 15 minutes before serving.

I hope that you will contact me with your comments and favorite wines. I will be happy to share them with the broader Mensa group. 🍷

Special Interest Groups

M-VESTOR is a new group formed to exchange and discuss investment possibilities. M-vestor meets at 5:30 p.m. on the first Friday of every month at Milly's Tavern in Manchester, prior to Temperance League. Feel free to arrive whenever you can; the group will morph into Temperance League around 7:00 p.m. For more information, contact Bill Watson at (978) 433-8659 or bill@betweenwaters.com.

HIRE-A-MENSAN If you're an unemployed or underemployed Mensan looking for a job, please join us — maybe we can help each other. How do you join? Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Hire-A-Mensan-SIG/> then click "Join this Group" and follow instructions. When you receive the approving email, be prepared to make a post introducing yourself (there are others as examples), to post a list of job titles for which you wish to apply, any geographic limitations, and your resumé as well. All we guarantee are extra sets of eyes and an online place to exchange tips, resources, possibilities, etc. If you have any other questions, contact Lynn Pina at Lpb52@cotse.net.

Classifieds

I CAN FIX IT Whatever it is, from industrial electronics to engine rebuilds, and lots of things that aren't in between. Numerous Mensa and non-Mensa satisfied customers. John Lewicke, (603) 878-2610 or lewicke@yahoo.com.

Announcements

SUBMISSIONS WANTED I am soliciting short stories, essays, poems, etc. from members of NH Mensa, to be published by PlatoEuclid Press (my small press). Any proceeds above costs will go into our NH Mensa scholarship fund. Anything may be submitted, fiction or not, up to 2,000 words. Must only be submitted digitally, online or through mail, and using 12 pt, Times New Roman, and either as a text only or as an RTF. RTF much preferred. No submission fee. First run of books will be approximately \$17.00 each. Book should be published in April of this year. Email John McGondel for details at: jteacher1@hotmail.com, or mail to: P.O. Box 183, Chester, NH 03036.

CRUCIVERBALISTS? Is anyone planning on attending the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament in Stamford, Connecticut on March 12-14? If so, drop a note to Claire Natola at mensabear@hotmail.com.

FILM LOVERS UNITE! At least once a month, I make the drive from the Lakes Region to the Portsmouth Music Hall just to see a decent film! However, the Music Hall's schedule is not often publicized early enough for me to post an event in *Momentum*. If you are a lover of rare, independent, and international films, and would enjoy the opportunity to see these films on the largest screen north of Boston with like-minded film lovers, drop a note to me (Claire Natola) at mensabear@hotmail.com or call me at 603-279-9986, and I'll be sure to contact you whenever I plan a trip to the cinema.

Calendar of Events

March 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 29	March 1	2 10:00 am M-trepreneur	3	4	5 5:30 pm M-Vestor 7:00 pm Temperance League	6
7	8	9 10:00 am M-trepreneur	10	11	12	13 3:00 pm Central Maine Meet and Munch 5:00 pm Second Saturday Supper
14 11:00 am Second Sunday Brunch Bunch 5:30 pm Portland Dinner	15 7:00 pm FSM/ ExComm	16 10:00 am M-trepreneur 6:30 pm St. Patrick's Eve Dinner	17 7:00 pm Mensa Admission Tests in Nashua <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18	19 6:00 pm International Dinner 7:00 pm Nashua Area Temperance League	20 10:00 am Mensa Admission Tests in Portsmouth 10:30 am Mensa Admission Tests in Weare
21	22	23 10:00 am M-trepreneur	24	25	26 6:30 pm Appetite for Discussion	27
29 12:30 pm Fourth Sunday Lunch	29	30 10:00 am M-trepreneur	31	April 1 <i>April Fool's Day</i>	2 5:30 pm M-Vestor 7:00 pm Temperance League	3

Calendar listings must be in the hands of the Calendar Editor before the first of the month prior to the cover date. It is NH/ME Mensa policy to avoid conflicts as much as possible, but no conflicts are allowed to group-sponsored events. Mensans, members of their household, and invited guests are always welcome at NH/ME Mensa events. Many thanks to our event hosts, without whom this calendar would be quite barren. E-mail your events to Calendar@nh.us.mensa.org.