

MOMENTUM

The Voice of Mensa in New Hampshire and Maine

Vol 23 No 11

June 2004

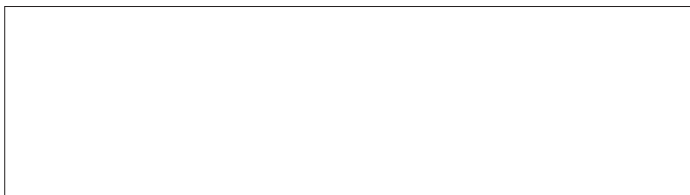
Help!

Gifted Children's Coordinator for Maine Needed

Ann Kucera has been filling the post of Gifted Children Coordinator for Maine for quite some time and has recently made it known that she needs relief. Four months have passed since our first appeal, and Ann has been ever-so-patient. Won't you consider stepping forward to take over this position?

Per the By-laws, the Gifted Children Coordinator maintains and updates resource files for gifted children, their parents and their teachers. Ann has all this material assembled currently and will help transition her replacement into the position. As currently constituted in NH/ME Mensa, there is very little contact between Gifted Children Coordinators and young Mensa membership; that falls under the purview of the Young Mensa Coordinator.

If anyone in Maine will take over this position, it will guarantee entrance into Mensa Heaven. Please contact Ann Kucera or LocSec John Bauman, whose numbers are listed on the back cover. Thanks!



By the time that this is published, many Mensa events that we have been eagerly anticipating will have become memories. The Cape Mini-RG will have occurred and Boston Mensa's annual Spring Mountain Climb will be concluded, as well. Hopefully attendees at both events were plentiful and the weather cooperated enough for everyone to have a good time. The deadline for submitting ballots for the LocSec election has passed and reports are that participation was robust. There are no pressing bits of Mensa business that require attention and no events of a special nature on the immediate horizon. In short, this confluence of events has basically contributed to leaving me with not a lot to write about so this column will be brief.

The monthly LocSec packet of information from National has not arrived yet as of this writing, but I was able to ascertain from the American Mensa website that membership in NH Mensa as of 30 April was 416 souls, down from over 500 at the end of the membership year. This cycle of dropping 20-25% of the membership occurs every April and then we build back up slowly throughout the year by means of late renewals, prospects getting tested and people moving into our area. Although having a larger number of members guarantees nothing, the current ExComm feels that growth is an integral part of developing the chapter into a vibrant, dynamic organization. We depend on new members to keep the chapter fresh, but it is always comforting to maintain the stability of a core group, as well. We had 32 Life Members on the rolls at the end of the membership year, and although not

everyone is willing or able to make that commitment, I would ask that current members consider multi-year memberships during the ensuing year to help us achieve the aforementioned stability.

This month's appeal is a repeat of many month's past — we need a Maine member to relieve Ann Kucera as the Maine Gifted Children's Coordinator and we need a home for FSM. We currently conduct FSM and ExComm in a tavern, and although both of these events will be moving to the Allemanse soon, this again is just a temporary fix. When the weather turns cold in September, we do not want to be forced into having to reconvene in the back room of a bar, discussing the chapter's business in a public forum ten feet away from a pool table. Please, someone must have a big enough kitchen/dining room to accommodate about a dozen people for a few hours once a month. Please contact anyone on the ExComm to make yourself known.

With vacation season coming up, I would make a request that members try to keep Mensa in their plans. There are always demands from the family during the summer, but look at the calendar periodically and try to fit in a Mensa event along with everything else. See you at the ballpark!! 🏈

Congratulations to John McGondel, whose works "The Joshua Twin" and "The Pond" were nominated for an award in the Fiction and Poetry section of Mensa's Publication Recognition Program. Good luck, John, when the winners are announced in July!

It's Taurus Time!!! That special season when spring is truly established, Venus is high in the heavens and yet another year is added to mi vida loca. The happiest of birthdays to all of you fellow bulls, and particularly to Oleg Bayborodin, Lorenzo Perez, and Frank Solensky of Boston Mensa; Walter Galanek, Kenneth Garee, Jeffrey Kochosky, and Jack Peregrim of Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Mensa; Kevin Thompson and Salvatore Negri of Greater New York Mensa; Marvin Murdock of New Hampshire/Maine Mensa; Alex Peters, Stacy Statkus, and Harvey Nisselson of Northern New Jersey Mensa; Joseph Rapczak of Rhode Island Mensa; and Jacques DuPuis of Vermont Mensa - you all share that Best Birthday Of All: May 7th! Many, many Happy Returns!

May is also the month to salute mothers. As we mothers all know, Mother's Day is every day of the year - one never stops being a mommy. The changing joys are what make it worthwhile: sleeping through the night, first day of school, college graduation, first job - all road marks that a mother treasures. Although the definition of mother is being constantly stretched - "birth" vs. "egg donor" vs. "parental" - acknowledgment to our X gene donors is in order, and to those (if not of the former group) who are related to us by love and devotion.

People often pronounce my name "mar-gar-ita" or "mar-guer-eet." My standard response is "I'm neither a drink nor a flower." (My name is pronounced "mar-gret-tah"). However, I do enjoy the (almost) eponymous drink and here's my version:

Marghretta Margarita

(makes enough to get the party started: 1.5 quarts)

- 3 cups passion fruit juice
 - 1 lime, juiced
 - 2.5 cups good quality reposado tequila (e.g., Herradura)
 - 1/2 cup Grand Marnier
 - Raspberries, for garnish
1. Combine all ingredients and stir well.
 2. Store in the refrigerator until ready to use.
 3. Pour into margarita glasses over ice. Garnish with raspberries. 🍷

In Memoriam

With a heavy heart we note the passing of Gary P. Wallin of Manchester, New Hampshire on March 24, 2004. Our condolences go to Mrs. Wallin, and to Gary's family and friends.

Letters to the Editor

The article "War Inc." by John McGondel [*Momentum*, May 2004] made use of the "f" word. It's a good word and one I've used many times, but it is my opinion that its use in *Momentum* was entirely inappropriate. I would like to think that *Momentum* could be read by member's children, and others, without first being screened for objectionable material.

Frank Wilson
via e-mail

Frank,

Let me offer you, and all of our readers, my most sincere apologies for the inclusion of the 'f' word in Momentum. I'll be perfectly honest...I completely missed it, hopefully not due to commonplace use of the word in my own conversation. I had to go back to look for it upon receiving your e-mail, because I am surprised at myself that I missed it.

I agree with you completely that it never should have made it into Momentum. I have rejected other submissions because of racy or otherwise objectionable material, simply because I know that we have not only members' children who might read Momentum, but we have youngsters themselves who are members!

Had I been more "on my game," I would have certainly caught it.

Respectfully,
Claire Natola
Editor, Momentum

Editor's Note: In a recent on-line conversation among NH/ME Mensa officers, John McGondel raised the subject of pre-election publication of the rules governing the validity of local election ballots. Referring to NH/ME Mensa local bylaws, I responded:

[CN]: 7.3 says that "ballot validation procedures" should have been published in *Momentum*, and 7.4 says that the Committee shall judge such "validity." However, the ballot that I printed did not say anything specifically about ballot validation.

John McGondel replied:

[JM]: I would like to commend Claire for her exemplary work in dealing with an issue such as this, in as professional and timely manner as she has done. I would also like to see some type of acknowledgement referencing same, published in *Momentum*. If nobody else rises to submit such an acknowledgement, then I would like this message printed so as to reflect these sentiments.

Therefore, please let the reprinting of this exchange serve as an official acknowledgement to the general membership that the rules governing the validity of local election ballots were not published in Momentum.

While on the subject, unofficial election results show John Bauman re-elected as Local Secretary. Details are to be presented by the Election Committee at our Business Meeting on May 17, a transcript of which will appear in the July Momentum.

Claire Natola

Officers Present: Bromley Baril, John Bauman,
Ann Majeske, John McGondel, Claire Natola, Lynn Pina,
John Sheehan, Tom Shiel, Walter Wakefield, Eric Werme

Others Present: Eileen McGondel

The meeting was called to order at 8:41 p.m.

John Bauman reported that Treasurer Darlene Alleman did receive a check from Brian Lerich of Vermont Mensa.

The RG post-mortem meeting was conducted on April 9th. Claire Natola sent minutes to Lynn Pina, who will distribute them electronically to the ExComm.

John Sheehan suggested that including the member survey in the goodie bag at the RG would have provided a greater response, perhaps with prizes for responding on display. The member survey recently included in *Momentum* and made available at the RG netted only 13 responses.

John Sheehan suggests not conducting another survey until next year, plus shortening the survey to make it easier to fill out.

John Bauman reported that there are 20 new members this month, 10 of whom were reinstatements (i.e., lapsed more than one year), seven brand new members, and three who moved in. We have a net increase of 18 for a total of 505 members. However, the ProxyQuest data indicates that we have only 387 members, due to lapses in membership around renewal time.

John Bauman reported that Janet Gregory indicated she decided not to continue hosting Portland Dinner and that Claire Natola has stepped in as host for May.

John Bauman reported that at the Leadership Development Workshop, Marghretta McBean, Jean Becker, John Bauman, Claire Natola, Walter Wakefield, and Jeane Thompson discussed the Vermont situation. John reported that Jean Becker had drafted a letter to Vermont members. Ann Majeske moved that we not send any correspondence to Vermont members until we see what transpires. John McGondel seconded. The motion passed.

John Bauman reported that MERF has suggested that now is the time to get a Scholarship Chair in place for the coming year. John McGondel reported that our regional scholarship contact in Pennsylvania did not forward our essays (or any essays from Region One) to National. John had to emergency fax them to National after Mary Dwyer Wolfe contacted him looking for the essays. Because of this, the scholarships for our region can not possibly be announced on the previously-publicized date. John McGondel clarified that

he will continue as Scholarship Chair if no one else steps forward. It was agreed that the plea for a new Scholarship Chair should be a separate article in *Momentum*, not simply part of the LocSec article as it has been the last couple of months. Ann Majeske moved that John McGondel be named Scholarship Chair again for the coming year, should no one respond to a plea in *Momentum*. Walter Wakefield seconded. The motion was passed with one abstention.

John McGondel raised the issue of Young Mensans, asking for guidance as far as what he should plan to do as Young Mensan Advisor. The ExComm told John McGondel that his efforts to continue to grow our Young Mensa program are appreciated.

Bromley Baril expressed frustration that our new Testing Coordinator has been difficult to reach. Claire moved that John Bauman contact him to see if he is able to continue in the position. Walter seconded. The motion passed. The discussion has been tabled until John has received an answer.

John Bauman brought forward the topic of the election. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding what may or may not be written in the bylaws regarding the validity of ballots received from members who end up lapsing when renewal time rolls around. Lynn Pina moved to have Claire contact the Election Committee for their final decision regarding date/time/place for the opening of the ballots, and to have Claire inform the ExComm of their decision. Walter seconded. The motion passed.

Tom Shiel moved to adjourn. John McGondel seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m. 🍷

Mensa Authors

John McGondel

I have so far received enough short stories and poetry to fill one-half of a book. My goal remains the same, to publish an entire book-length text that consists of writings by Mensa only authors. I have received submittals from across the nation, as well as from New England, and more particularly New Hampshire. I had originally intended to publish two separate books, one from NH/ME Mensans and one from any/all Mensans, but I have had to revise and readdress my strategy in that area. To that end, and to keep this ball rolling, I have decided, based upon the amount of combined submissions

thus far, to continue the submission process beyond the originally stated dateline, and to extend it to July 15, 2004.

Therefore, I would like to encourage any and all potential submitters to please consider digging up that piece you were proud of writing, or to write the piece that you have been putting off writing. Send your entry, via RTF email attachment, to: jteacher1@hotmail.com. There is no charge for submitting, and every(Mensa)one will be able to purchase the book at cost.

Oh, and yes, photos and bios are encouraged. Peace. 🍷

This past Spring an extended vacation to the Southern United States was in order. One of the highlights was our visit to Savannah, Georgia. Savannah is a city replete with history, architecture, charm and very good food. The recipe this month is from a delightful restaurant called "Lady and Sons". This restaurant is the home of gourmet Southern comfort food. And, Paula Deen, the proprietor, can be seen on the Food Channel.

This month's wine is from Barefoot Cellars, based in Sonoma County, California. Their non-vintage (a blend

from more than one year and often more than one area) Chardonnay is a delightful example of a very good affordable wine. This wine, while down right cheap, does not exhibit the faults of the many inexpensive Chardonnays on the market today (read faults as insipid, flabby, cloying and way too much oak). Barefoot Cellars has produced a Chardonnay that is bright, crisp and with the taste of fresh apples and peaches. It is a real steal at \$7 a bottle and goes well with a cream sauce such as the following.

Veal and Creamed Spinach

(from the Savannah Country Cookbook by Paula H. Deen)

4 to 6 veal scalopini	1 large onion, chopped
1 egg, beaten	1 bunch fresh spinach, trimmed and cleaned
1 tsp. House Seasoning (see below)	Quarter cup cream
1 sleeve of Ritz crackers, crushed	Salt and pepper to taste
3 tbsp. olive oil	
Half cup white wine	

The House Seasoning is 4 parts salt, 1 part pepper and 1 part garlic powder. The Boss keeps a salt shaker full of it by the stove.

Between sheets of wax paper, pound veal into quarter inch thick slices. Beat egg with House Seasoning. Dip veal in egg, then dip into Ritz cracker crumbs. Sauté in heated oil for about 2 minutes on each side over medium heat. Pour wine into pan and cook for another minute or two. Remove veal. Add chopped onion and fresh spinach to pan and sauté until spinach is done, 2 or 3 minutes (don't overcook). Add cream and continue to sauté for 1 more minute or until hot. Season with salt and pepper. Place on platter with veal on top of the spinach. The cookbook suggests that if you want to cut back on calories, not to add the cream. But, I say go for it.

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. 

Are you a closet Mensan? Do yourself the ultimate favor and step outside the closet into **the biggest of the big, the most exciting kaleidoscope of cerebral activities** - and some not so cerebral - in the history of American Mensa.

Mensa's active membership often refer to less active members as "closet members" sitting complacently in the back of the closet like those shoes you only wear for special occasions. They have a membership card in their wallets, but they may never have sampled an actual Mensa event - they're missing out on all the fun!

With more than 1200 preregistrations already received, ExtravAGanza - this year's Annual Gathering of American Mensa - is undoubtedly going to be the largest Mensa event ever held in this country. The Annual Gathering, because of the sheer numbers of people and events, offers a plethora of options and experiences. Mensa is NOT a bunch of bespectacled nerds standing around discussing quantum mechanics or C++ code. It's a marvelous mingling of people, most moving at warp speed, sharing a closeness that just doesn't seem to have a counterpart in the real nine-to-five world.

So, when you venture out of the closet, what are your shoes going to encounter?


During just five days (June 30 - July 5), there will be literally hundreds of events from which to choose. You can stand in the corner and watch...

or jump into the fray with both feet. You can talk... or you can listen. You can dance... or you can just tap your feet to the music that wells up around you. It all depends on what kind of shoes you want to wear.

People! At this rate, we should easily surpass 2,000 attendees. Imagine that - a quarter million IQ points all in one place!

Las Vegas! Paris Las Vegas, a 3,900-plus room hotel, is the largest venue we have ever chosen for an AG. And with our overflow into the attached Bally's property, it's even more impressive. Add more than 120,000 square feet of meeting space, banquets, dances, speakers, tours and you're looking at five days of fun! Just say the word "Mensa" and you'll get our deeply discounted group rate at either hotel.

Get out your appointment book right now and write, IN INK, "Las Vegas AG, Paris Las Vegas" on the pages covering June 30 to July 5. Then log onto ag.us.mensa.org and make plans to combine a great vacation and Mensa experience all in one! Take the plunge. Register for what promises to be an amazing experience. (Yes, you may bring guests along with you - they will also experience the magic that is Mensa!)

Then pack your dancing shoes, your listening shoes, your speaking shoes, your eating shoes, your gaming shoes, oh heck, just grab the biggest duffel bag that you can find, and join us for an event to remember. **The time is now.** 

Special Events

Private Showing: Audubon's Elephant Folio Collection June 16 and 22, 2004

A private showing has been arranged of of Audubon's Elephant Folio Collection at Union College in Schenectady. Containing nearly 400 pieces of art (each 30" x 40"), the Collection is available for our viewing at 3:00 p.m. on June 16 and June 22, 2004. There is space for 20 people at each showing.

After viewing the collection, the group can move to Brandon's Steak and Seafood at 1725 Van Vranken for dinner.

For more information, or to reserve your place, please call Priscilla Sweet of Mensa of Northeastern New York at (518) 864-5366 after 4:00 p.m. weekdays or anytime weekends, or email her at priscilla.sweet@agmkt.state.ny.us.

North Dakota Mensa's First-Ever Regional Gathering June 26-27, 2004 Valley City, North Dakota

Activities: Admission Test, Potluck Picnic, Party, Fireworks, Overnight Stay, Brunch

Cost: Registration is FREE. Rooms at The President's House Guest Inn (www.presidentshouse.com) are \$35 for a double room, \$20 to

share a double, or \$25 for a single. Yes, these prices are incredibly low for such fine accommodations; they are possible because our group is renting the house as a whole!

A dish to pass at the picnic and fireworks if you can get them are requested. Brunch on Sunday morning is on your own. A small donation to help cover the group's expenses is appreciated but optional.

Who Is Invited? All Mensans, their spouses, kids, friends and (if you have a place to stay overnight with them) pets; and those who test for Mensa membership at our June 26 testing session.

RSVP by June 15 to RG co-chair Ann Knudson, kann2@qwest.com, 701-223-2962. Please tell us if you want to rent or share a room at the President's House.

For a detailed schedule and updates, visit the ND Mensa website at <http://northdakota.us.mensa.org>.

Pow-Owl CaMp Buffalo Gap Camp August 20-22, 2004

This delightful new annual event is like a mini summer camp for Mensans and friends/family of all ages. (Yes, including children by popular demand—there will be a

cluster of family cabins.) Buffalo Gap Camp is located west of Winchester, Virginia; the camp is wonderful and the food is excellent.

Planned activities include a variety of RG-like programs, a dance sampler series making use of the fine floor, and traditional camp activities like swimming, singing, and s'mores around the campfire. Cabins will be set aside for games, a book swap, and the children's clubhouse.

All we need is YOU! Registration is \$165 until May 28 or \$185 until July 19. A \$50 non-refundable deposit is requested, with the balance due by July 19. After that, registration is \$205 until August 13. Registration for children: 75% for ages 13-17, 50% for ages 6-12, free for children under 6. Includes pleasant cabin space (private room extra), tasty meals/snacks from Friday dinner through Sunday lunch, and all the fun you can handle!

For more information, contact event sponsor Jenny Foster: pinc@xecu.net or (301) 371-4312 (e-mail preferred).

Cancun Club Med SIG Gathering September 4 - 11, 2004

Mark your calendars for a splashing good time at the Club Med SIG Gathering in Cancun the week of September 4 to 11, 2004.

Enjoy sailing, windsurfing, waterskiing, kayaking, snorkeling, tennis, dancing, and French food (with wine). All lessons are included. All sports equipment is included, even sailboats. All meals and bar drinks and snacks between meals are included!

Registration is free. For more information, e-mail Erica Byrne of the Club Med SIG at EMByrne@attglobal.net. Or, check out the SIG website at www.MensaClubMed.org.

Whale and Puffin Watch Bar Harbor, Maine Tentative Date: September 11, 2004 1:00 PM

Join us on a whale and puffin watch in Bar Harbor, Maine! Acadian Whale Adventures (<http://www.barharborwhales.com/rates.htm>) offers a three-hour cruise.

Rates are \$39 for adults, \$25 for children (under 5 free), \$27 for seniors. Group rates are available for groups of 15 or more, so please indicate your interest to Darlene at 603-529-4446 or DSojda@aol.com so we can plan accordingly.

After the cruise we will go to a nearby park for a picnic dinner. We may also try to schedule a tour of Jackson Laboratory if time and interest permit.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Talk about confusing. The stock market was going up nicely during 2003 and it looked like investors were going to get back some of their losses. Now it has started down again and investors need to know – is this a correction or are we going back to those old low prices?

First I have to tell you that your broker and financial planner don't know. How can I be so sure? Well, look at what they did to your account from 2000 to 2003. Unfortunately, brokers and financial planners are all taught by the Wall Street mavens who work for the big brokerage houses. The one thing they never want you to do is sell and go to cash. If you do that they don't make any money.

Yes, financial planners and brokers do get advice from their company "experts" who are supposed to be able to find things that go up or at least don't go down and give you a decent return. We have seen the scandals about how the "analysts" who work for these companies tout things they think stink. Let's hope that is a finished chapter for Wall Street.

The long term and prudent investor has to know when to be IN the market AND when to be OUT. Is there a way to do this with any accuracy? Yes, there is despite what your financial expert(?) may tell you and it is very

easy to do. What I will explain is what saved many folks huge amounts of money between 2000 and 2003. Don't accept anyone's word until you have checked this personally.

Use your computer to go to the web site www.bigcharts.com and if you don't have one you can do this at the library. In the Interactive Symbol box type in any one of the major indexes such as the Dow Jones Industrial Average (symbol DJIA) or the Standard and Poor's 500 Index (SP500) and then ask it to compute a 40-week Moving Average on the web site. (It is easy so I won't explain it here). Choose a time frame of one decade. You will immediately notice that as long as that red line is going up you can own equities. When it turns down you should be in cash or a money market.

That 40-week line turned up in 1995 and did not turn down until the beginning of 2000. At that time you should have sold everything and waited until about April of 2003 when it turned up again. It still hasn't turned down. When it does you want to be in cash again.

Where are we going? I don't predict and you should not rely on someone else to tell you especially the so-called "experts". Let the market tell you. It is the only one that knows.

Copyright Albert W. Thomas. All rights reserved. Author of If It Doesn't Go Up, Don't Buy It. www.mutualfundmagic.com. Comments to al@mutualfundmagic.com. ■■

Calendar of Events

June 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31 <i>Memorial Day</i>	June 1	2 Mensa Testing in Nashua	3	4 Temp League	5
6	7 Mensa Testing in Portland	8 Photo Exhibit Opening Reception	9	10	11 Appetite for Discussion West!	12 All-You-Can-Eat Buffet Central Maine Meet and Munch
13 Second Sunday Brunch Bunch Portland Dinner	14 Flag Day	15	16	17 Mensa Testing in Portsmouth	18 Springing On at the Ugly Fox	19 Monthly Summer Party a la Deb and Marty FSM/ ExComm
20 <i>Father's Day</i>	21	22	23	24	25 Appetite for Discussion	26 Eat, Drink, Think, Laugh!
27 Fourth Sunday Lunch	28	29	30 Bangor Dinner	July 1	2	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.

MOMENTUM
83 N Main St.
Boscawen, NH 03303-1235
Address Service Requested

Periodicals postage paid
at Concord NH 03301

New Hampshire Mensa

Send all correspondence to: *Officer Name*
New Hampshire Mensa
P.O. Box 7998
Nashua, NH 03060-7998