

MOMENTUM

The Voice of Mensa in New Hampshire and Maine

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June 2005

AML Spotlight Shines on NH Mensa

John Sheehan

National has announced the Publications Recognition Program nominations, and New Hampshire Mensa has garnered two spots, thanks to the deft handling and professional management of the editorial content and layout of *Momentum*, all attributable to the substantial talents of Editor Claire Natola.

The Publications Recognition Program annually confers awards upon local groups and members of American Mensa, Ltd., for official print and electronic publications. This voluntary program is intended to draw attention to deserving newsletters and Web sites among the local groups and at the national level, resulting in wider distribution and in the fostering of greater communication among Mensans. It allows a local group with any level of editorial experience, regardless of group size or publication budget, to compete fairly and win awards.

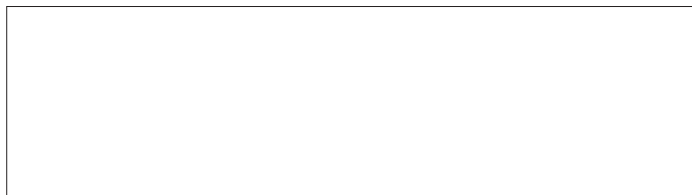
The first nomination is in the Mensa Recognition category. This category acknowledges the regular recognition of

Mensa in the newsletter. This award encourages the recognition of Mensa at the local, regional and national level. Items to be considered include, but are not limited to, Mensa Anniversaries; welcoming new members to Mensa; RVC columns and reports; and National Mensa news and reports.

The second nomination is in the Best Newsletter category for medium-sized chapters. This category acknowledges overall achievement in service, contributions, and production of the newsletter, and may be awarded in each of small, medium and large groups, with group size (based on the Local Group Ranking Report as of March 31, 2005) defined to allow fair competition.

While the winners will be announced in July at the Annual Gathering, NHM already has been recognized, just by being nominated. Thank you, Claire, for leading New Hampshire Mensa toward the winners' circle.

[Editor's Note: Aww, shucks...]





Bauman's Quiver

LocSec John Bauman

Let me begin by addressing the subject of nominees for this year's Publication Recognition Program, newsletter division. For those of you who are unaware, every year we are offered a chance to submit examples of our newsletter for peer review. Volunteer judges around the country attempt to identify the best of the submissions and winners in several categories are recognized at the AG. For purposes of identifying these superlatives, locals are broken down into three categories - Large, Medium and Small. (It hardly seems fair to compare the efforts of a local comprised of 75 individuals against another able to boast 2000+) At any rate, NH Mensa falls into the Medium category and our *Momentum* has been cited, along with five others, as among the Best Newsletter (Medium). This has far-reaching implications, since editors of smaller newsletters who are forced to cut-and-paste from other newsletters, in order to turn out their product, will suddenly begin to pay more attention to our effort, if they did not do so already. So for those contributors-in-waiting out there who might be looking for that little extra incentive to finally submit something - this can be your chance for Mensa immortality. Write one helluva story, draw an exquisite image and it might spread all over the country! By the way, *Momentum* was also cited for excellence in Mensa Recognition, so we have two chances of receiving a trophy in July. In the PRP, Website division, I can report that in the inaugural year, NH Mensa was recognized and given a trophy in one category; but since then, the Webmaster has not allowed our webpage

to be submitted for consideration. Without his willingness to participate, there is no way for our site to receive peer review or be recognized for excellence. I have tried without success to change his mind. So those of you who are frequent webpage users who may feel that our site is worthy of consideration are invited to contact the Webmaster to offer your encouragement - maybe next year we can make him relent and have NH Mensa submitted, once more.

Although I still have not seen a current roster, the AML monthly distribution leads me to believe that we begin the new fiscal year with 412 members, down from 515. That is the expected 20% loss that we have historically experienced - although it is nice to know that some things never change, I would rather not be so predictable in this one area. A surprising result is that we actually moved up on the list of locals sorted according to number of members; we begin the year as the 31st largest local in the country. I will assume that the general readership is unacquainted with several initiatives to increase attendance at testing sessions that were begun by National in the January timeframe. I did not notice any particular drop-off in our testing effort until more recently, so I would urge any member who may be aware of a relative/friend/acquaintance who might be interested to submit prior evidence or contact me at testing@nh.us.mensa.org to schedule a test.

For those who live in the north country, I bring to your attention a new inclusion on the calendar - the inaugural

installment of WinnepaSupper. There is a conscious effort, especially on the part of the host of Second Sunday Brunch, to vary the location of meetings around our two-state area, to remove the obstacle of a prohibitively long drive from as many people as possible - in other words, to spread around the pain in a rotating fashion, so that one sector is not continuously put upon. This being said, the usual process for establishing an event is that it takes several months to build up a following. Let's make WinnepaSupper a success from the start: I call on all members north of Concord to make a special effort to check out this event.

One last bit of local business - negotiations have been all but finalized for the 2006 RG, so I do not think that I am premature in announcing that it will be held at the Crowne Plaza location in Nashua next year. The ExComm was pleased to appoint Claire Natola as RG Chair and I would ask that you watch future issues for details on how to attend and volunteer.

On a National level, there is an election underway and I urge you all to take advantage of your opportunity to see the candidate of your choice be seated by casting the ballot that was included in the May issue of the *Bulletin*. Last cycle, there was something on the order of 300 votes cast for RVC in Region 1, so let's try to be more involved this cycle.

Well, by the time that you receive this, the Spring Mountain Climb hosted by Boston Mensa should be history. I enter this climbing season lacking only eight peaks to have completed all 4000 footers recognized by the AMC in New Hampshire, so that tally should be decreased when you read this. There should also be a new NCAA lacrosse champion named - I was not aware last month when I exhorted the Midshipmen to best Hopkins exactly how long it had been - they entered the game with the longest consecutive losing streak in the sport - 30 matches. Even though the game was played in Baltimore, and even though the Blue Jays scored the first two goals, the Mids entered the final period with a one-goal lead. After Hopkins tied the game once more, Navy went ahead with 58 seconds left and it looked as if all that history was about to be overcome. But an attacker named Harrison scored his fifth goal of the day with 23 seconds left and it was evidently one of the most impossible goals ever witnessed in the chronicles of sport. Needless to say, Hopkins won at 2:13 of the overtime, after a questionable possession call gave them the ball. If I can wait 86 years for the Red Sox, I can wait 'til next year for Hopkins. Maybe karma will have them take the whole thing this year to soften the blow.

GONAVY. 



What's Cooking in Region 1

Region 1 Vice Chair Marghretta McBean

It's May! It's Taurus Time! Happy Birthday to all my fellow Tauri, with Special Best Wishes to Kenneth Garee, Jeffrey Kochosky, Jack Peregrin

(Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Mensa); Harvey Nisselson, Alex Peters (Northern New Jersey Mensa); Jacques DuPuis (Vermont Mensa); Marvin

Murdock (New Hampshire Mensa); Oleg Bayborodin, Lorenzo Perez (Boston Mensa); Traci Nagy, Fabian Binz_Scharf, Kevin Thompson, Salvatore Negri (Greater New York Mensa), all of whom share May 7th with me. Happy Birthday to Us!

Region 1 really has major representation in the PRP (Publications Recognition Program) nominations. While my group, Greater New York Mensa, garnered several spots, attention plaudits are also due to the Vermont, Mid-Hudson and New Hampshire & Maine groups, none of which is large. Both Angela Tremain and Claire Natola have created publications that are attractive and interesting, with diverse articles. Jeane Thompson's beautiful colour photographs, which grace the covers of the *VerMonter*, showcase the beauty of the Green Mountain State. Two years ago Kristine O'Malley-Levy gave *Mphasis* a total makeover, and the results are certainly award-worthy. Best wishes to all the writers and editors!

2005 PRP Print Contribution Award Nominations

Non-Fiction (Essay): "Seriously and Personally," Michael Novak (*Mid-Mensan*; Mid-Hudson Mensa; Angela Tremain, Editor; Sep 2004)

Artwork: "Winter's Day in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom," John Matthews (*The VerMonter*; Vermont Mensa; Jeane Thompson, Editor; Jan/Feb 2005)

Continuing Item: "Kids Page," Natalie Krauser (*Mphasis*; Greater New York Mensa; Kristine O'Malley-Levy, Editor; May/June, July/Aug, Sep/Oct 2004)

Continuing Item: "SIG and Ye Shall Find," by Marty Merado (*Mphasis*; Greater New York Mensa; Kristine O'Malley-Levy, Editor; May/June, July/Aug, Sep/Oct 2004)

Continuing Item: "Snappy Science Snippets," by Andi Weiss Bartczak, PhD (*Mid-Mensan*; Mid-Hudson Mensa; Angela Tremain, Editor; Oct, Dec 2004; Jan/Feb 2005)

2005 PRP Newsletter Award Nominees

Calendar: *Mphasis*; Greater New York Mensa; Deborah Yaffe, Calendar Editor

Member Recognition: *Mphasis*; Greater New York Mensa; Kristine O'Malley-Levy, Editor

Overall Presentation: *Mphasis*; Greater New York Mensa; Kristine O'Malley-Levy, Editor

Overall Entertainment: *Mid-Mensan*; Mid-Hudson Mensa; Angela Tremain, Editor

Mensa Recognition: *Momentum*; New Hampshire Mensa; Claire Natola, Editor

Mensa Recognition: *Mphasis*; Greater New York Mensa; Kristine O'Malley-Levy, Editor

Best Newsletter (Large): *Mphasis*; Greater New York Mensa; Kristine O'Malley-Levy, Editor


Best Newsletter (Medium): *Momentum*; New Hampshire Mensa; Claire Natola, Editor

Best Newsletter (Small): *Mid-Mensan*; Mid-Hudson Mensa; Angela Tremain, Editor

I was recently asked to create menus for people who are unable to eat solid food. Here's a refreshing and nutritious fruit soup that's great for everyone at breakfast, lunch or even dessert:

Cantaloupe Soup

- 1 medium ripe cantaloupe
- 1 cup orange juice
- 2 Tbl. lime juice
- 1 cup plain yogurt
- Fresh mint leaves and melon slivers for garnish [optional]

1. Halve cantaloupe and remove seeds. Cube fruit (remove rind!) and place in food processor or blender. Add juices; purée.
2. Place yogurt in non-reactive bowl and whisk until smooth. Whisk in melon mixture.
3. Cover bowl and refrigerate at least 3 hours for flavours to develop. Serve cold, with mint and melon slivers if desired. 



Local Kudos

IN PRINT: **Ralph A. Sperry's** science fiction story "Why Do They Want To Know?" appears in the May-July 2005 edition of the online quarterly *Ad Hoc Monadnock* (adhocmonadnock.org), a publication of the Monadnock Writers' Group. Another of his science fiction stories, "The Right Thing," appeared in the November 2004-February 2005 issue. Ralph, a resident of Portsmouth, N.H., is a member of the Science Fiction Writers of America.

KING OF ALL MEDIA: A recent article in the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* featured a website run by our own **Adam Smargon**. The website (<http://www.smargon.net/nicknames/>) is a comprehensive list of college nicknames. Marquette University's recent decision to change their nickname to the Marquette Gold, and the local backlash against the decision,

prompted the *Journal-Sentinel's* article (<http://www.jsonline.com/sports/marq/may05/324428.asp>). This led, in turn, to Adam being interviewed on 09 May on SportsRadio 1250 AM WSSP in Milwaukee.

HITTING IT BIG: **David Hallmark's** Googolplex Games has passed the first round of submissions for acceptance to FAO Schwarz of New York City and Las Vegas. FAO Schwarz is one of the country's oldest and most respected toy stores, priding themselves on unique and exclusive toys and games. Googolplex Games is proud to become one of the newest members of their family of offerings.

Please send news to Editor Claire Natola at 21 Hillrise Lane, Meredith, NH 03253-5709 or editor@nh.us.mensa.org.



Notes from National

MENSA MARKETPLACE wants M-Crafters, M-Artists, M-Musicians, M-Creative-Types with “stuff” to sell!

This year’s AG in New Orleans will again feature The Mensa Marketplace, a place for creative Mensans to show and sell their crafts. All AG guests are invited to bring their goodies to New Orleans and set up a table on Saturday (perhaps on Friday, too) to display and offer their wares to their fellow Mensa AG-goers.

The fee for a “table” (we’ll loosely define table as we see how many M-sellers want to participate) will be \$15. You will have to fill out an application to sell in New Orleans and agree to collect and pay New Orleans sales tax (9.25 percent).

This event has been very successful for members who have participated in the past. We hope you’ll want to join other crafty Mensans for this year’s Marketplace.

For more information, please contact: Donna Jadis, 3000 Beechnut Street, Antioch, California 94509, donna@mooseworks.org

NEW MEMBER BENEFIT: If you plan to buy, sell, finance, or move your home, HomeBenefits is your one-stop solution.

American Mensa members and their families can get a simplified move process, award-winning service, and exclusive member savings: cash rewards when you buy or sell a home, great mortgage rates with reduced fees and group discounts on professional moving services.


Real Estate Rewards: Connect with a hand-picked network of the nation’s best real estate agents and receive exclusive Real Estate Rewards - Get up to \$1,000 or more when you buy or sell a home. (see Web site or call for state and other restrictions)

Home Financing: Receive personalized counseling on a full range of mortgage rates and products, fast approval and a \$300 Mensa member closing reward.

Full Service Moving: Move with the world’s most trusted movers, Allied or North American Van Lines, and get special American Mensa discounts on interstate moving, personal property protection coverage and storage.

Get moving with a free estimate — call 877-903-0639 or visit <http://mensa.myhomebenefits.com>.

THE GIFTED CHILDREN’S COMMITTEE would like to remind local groups that there are numerous links to organizations and resources for gifted children and families on the American Mensa website at http://www.us.mensa.org/activities/gc_resources.php.

As summer approaches, parents may inquire about local programs and camps. For additional resources by state, please send an email to the Gifted Children Outreach Coordinator, Keri Guilbault at young_mensa@yahoo.com. 



Intelligence Is...

What's your definition of intelligence? Each month, we've been printing a definition of intelligence provided by one of our members. Last month, Ric Werme provided us with a thought on the relationship between intelligence and knowledge. This month we hear from Les Case of Newfields, N.H.:

Ric Werme's definition of Intelligence is a neat concept, and has utility. But I consider it to be only a first approximation. I suggest three addenda (there are likely more):

1. Most of us forget what we have learned over time. Thus there should be a forgetting factor within the integral. I suggest this factor to be approximated as e (base of natural logarithms) to the $-f$ (forgetting coefficient) times θ (elapsed time since gaining the knowledge). The value of f will vary for each of us, for type of knowledge for any individual...and maybe two terms, one for fast forgetting, one for slow.

2. Knowledge should be multiplied by a factor of $1+CC$, where CC is a correlation coefficient. To illustrate, I relate a story I read about Jim Thorpe, a very famous athlete. He had never seen a javelin, and when he went to a meet where he saw a college athlete throwing same,

he watched for a while, and then said, "Let me try that." On his first try, he threw it 10 yards farther than the practiced athlete had ever thrown it. He had a general athletic knowledge and skill, and was able to transfer his knowledge from one discipline to another immediately in his mind, controlling his performance (a large correlation coefficient). Contrast that with another famous athlete, one Bill Russell. Bill had one skill to an extreme level, namely blocking opponents' shots. This athletic skill was not transferable, except maybe to volleyball.

3. Then there is creativity. A few of us can sit around thinking, and come up with previously-unthought-of thoughts. This is self-generated knowledge, or creativity. Edison had this ability. (I seem to also have it to some degree.) This is rare, only a few trained people have it. Mozart had it to an extreme degree. And Hemingway had it in literature, etc., etc. Not only is creativity rare, it can be very, very important.

Thank you, Les! Send your definition of intelligence to Editor Claire Natola at editor@nh.us.mensa.org or 21 Hillrise Lane, Meredith, NH 03253 for consideration in a future issue of *Momentum*. ■■■





On the Scene

CultureQuest® XVI
by Claire Natola

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
by John Bauman

On April 10, a team of four NH Mensans gathered at Bill and Darlene's home in Weare to compete in Mensa's annual CultureQuest® test of cultural knowledge. Bill, Darlene, Adam Smargon, and Yours Truly slogged our way through 230 questions in (*gulp!*) 90 minutes.

The test was divided into five sections: Precise Answer; Best Answer; Quotations and Acronyms, Homonym, Alliteration, & Rhymes; Next Generation; and Maps/Geography. We made ourselves comfortable on the deck on a glorious spring afternoon, and enjoyed some mental badminton in Section One...bouncing answers back and forth off each other. Ahhhh...what a nice time we had.

Then we finished Section One. And looked at the clock. &%%\$#! With half our time gone, we each took charge of one of the remaining sections. However, none of us was expert enough at any one section to feel comfortable tackling it alone, and our strategy changed again to one of "everyone-charge-through-every-question-and-we'll-combine-answers-in-the-final-minutes."

We lamented our unfamiliarity with unmarked maps of other continents. We wish we hadn't forgotten so much Shakespeare. We vowed to memorize The Bible for next year. But despite it all, we had a blast!

Each month beginning in July, I will publish some questions from this year's CultureQuest® in *Momentum* so you can test your own cultural knowledge. Perhaps you'll join us next year?

8 *Momentum*

The three NH Mensa members who made the trip to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts in April to see the featured exhibit consisting of autos from the Ralph Lauren collection were treated to what appeared to be a cultural event. I would go so far as to say that the majority of attendees that evening would not normally be caught dead at a museum, but something about fast cars seems to have caught the imagination of the Boston public and people are turning out for this exhibit.

The people-watching was nearly as good as what was provided by Mr. Lauren, and his cars are superb. Although the vintage Bugattis seem to be garnering most of the media attention, both in print and image, other hits of the show include an example of the same Porsche Spyder that James Dean was killed in, a Mercedes gullwing and a futuristic MacLaren F1.

When we were leaving in March, the line for the 8:00 p.m. last showing was down the hall and the tickets for the April open engine evening were nearly gone. An inquiry at the box office during the April trip had tickets for the projected 26 May trip still available, but they may be gone by the time that this item goes to print. The box office advises that weekend tickets are going fast.

The exhibit will come to a close on 03 July and I advise everyone to make an attempt to attend at least once. See Page 24 for more information about increased opportunities to view the exhibit in the month of June. ■



Upcoming Testing Sessions

Tell Your Friends!

Information on testing and prior evidence can be found at nh.us.mensa.org. Anyone 14 or older who wishes to take the Mensa Admissions Test should pre-register with the respective proctor listed below, who can provide testing site information. The test costs \$30; a photo-ID is required.

Date	Location	Proctor
Monday 06 June 2005, 6:00 p.m.	Cape Elizabeth, Maine	Bev Bryant 207-799-0888
Wednesday 08 June 2005, 7:00 p.m.	Nashua, N.H.	John Bauman 603-673-9388
Tuesday 21 June 2005, 7:00 p.m.	Portsmouth, N.H.	Bromley Baril 603-749-1088



Letter to the Editor

Dear Claire,

After several years of being SIGHT Coordinator, it is time to give someone else the opportunity to hold this position. This was brought home to me when I was recently deployed to New York for Disaster Relief after the floods.

As I thought about the fact that I can be sent out for an unknown length of time, with little notice, I realized that this would not allow me to adequately perform my SIGHT duties, and so I must resign.

*Sincerely,
Jayne Britton*

Editor's Response: Jayne, thank you for your tireless service as our SIGHT Coordinator. We are sorry to see you leave the position, but are proud knowing that everyone who has taken advantage

of your assistance has been in good hands.

For those of you unfamiliar with SIGHT, it is the Service of Information, Guidance, and Hospitality to Travelers. The local SIGHT Coordinator matches potential guests with suitable hosts in his/her local chapter. Once a match is made, the host and guest communicate directly. There is no obligation on the part of the SIGHT Coordinator to host travelers him/herself.

If you are interested in finding out more about serving as SIGHT Coordinator for our chapter, please feel free to contact John Bauman at LocSec@nh.us.mensa.org or Bob Cox, National SIGHT Coordinator, at SIGHT@us.mensa.org.

Jayne would also be happy to answer questions about her experiences as SIGHT Coordinator. She can be reached at 603-436-5890 or xoangelfire@aol.com.



A Search Engine Primer

David Hallmark

Do you know the difference between SEO and SEM?

Search Engine Optimization (or SEO) is the process of optimizing the code of a web page to make it easier for a search engine spider to crawl and subsequently index your site. The actual optimization process includes items such as links between pages, sizes of images, and proper code techniques for faster loading and ease of “spidering” for “natural” or “organic” search engine placement.

Search Engine Marketing (or SEM) may encompass SEO, but often relies on advertising techniques on the web. The use of pay-per-click (or PPC) ads, banner ads, and pay-for-inclusion directories are all part of a SEM program. An aggressive SEM program is closely tied to a ROI (Return on Investment) factor and holds little weight to actual organic placement. For example, for every dollar spent, you should expect x amount of traffic that should generate z amount of sales. The profit from each sale (z in this case) divided by the actual dollar amount spent yields your ROI. Increasing your ROI depends on “conversion rates,” or z

divided by x . Writing better ad copy and using better placements on better web sites often hold the key to increasing your conversions.

Although the differences between SEO and SEM are vast, the desired outcome is the same: Getting a visitor to your site to respond to your “call for action.” One is fast and quick, the other slow and methodical. One has long-lasting effects once the budget is used, the other stops when the budget does.

To understand more about these two types of search engine campaigns, please email me and I’ll be happy to try to answer your questions.

In our next installment, we will cover the topic of web success, or measuring your “call for action.”

David Hallmark, a New Hampshire Mensan, works full-time for CrystalVision Web Site Design in Portsmouth, N.H. as a Search Engine Optimization Coordinator. He can be reached at dh@cvwp.com. ■

Our Northeast Corner



...Maine, that is. And a mighty big corner at that! I would like to run a monthly article that calls more attention to our members in Maine, includes submissions from Maine Mensans, and heightens the awareness of all of us to what’s happening in the eastern half of our chapter! Please send your submissions to Editor Claire Natola at editor@nh.us.mensa.org or 21 Hillrise Lane, Meredith, N.H. 03253.



Executive Committee Meeting

Recording Secretary Claire Natola

Date: 19 April 2005

Present: Bill Alleman, Darlene Alleman, Curry Bartlett, John Bauman, Elizabeth Becker, John Lewicke, Ann Majeske, Claire Natola, Tom Shiel, Walter Wakefield, Ric Werme

The meeting was called to order at 8:16 p.m.

Darlene Alleman reported that the 2005 Regional Gathering bills have all been paid. We ended with a loss of approximately \$100.

Elizabeth Becker reported that she has proposals from three hotels for the 2006 Regional Gathering: The Radisson Center of New Hampshire in Manchester, The Crowne Plaza in Nashua, and the Best Western Executive Court in Manchester. Darlene moved to appoint Claire Natola as Chair for the 2006 RG. Ann Majeske seconded. The motion passed with one abstention. Tom Shiel, Darlene, Claire, and Elizabeth agreed to review the contract from the Crowne Plaza. If acceptable, the Crowne Plaza will be the location for the 2006 RG. The Best Western would be the second choice.

John Bauman reported that as of March 31, we have 10 new and 9 reinstated members, one moving in, and two moving out for a total of 515 (360 in N.H., 155 in Maine).

John reported that Joe Zanca would like a motion to be made about the issue of subsidizing \$250 apiece for the LocSec and the Editor to attend the 2005 Annual Gathering. Darlene moved the question. John seconded. The motion was defeated.

Regarding the Joe Zanca Scholarship, Darlene reported that MERF Treasurer Michael Jacobson advised her that starting with a non-endowed scholarship and later switching to an endowed scholarship could be problematic under New Hampshire and IRS statutes. He recommends deciding up front whether to establish an endowed or non-endowed scholarship. Lengthy discussion ensued. Claire moved to establish an endowed scholarship. Bill Alleman seconded. The motion passed with one abstention.

The Executive Committee discussed dispensing with our merchant account, which costs us \$15 per month. The subject was tabled.

Darlene announced that we have Certificates of Deposit that are coming due soon. Claire moved to leave the decision of renewing the CDs up to the judgement of the Treasurer. Bill seconded. The motion passed.

Darlene moved to adjourn; Tom seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m. ■■■



Good Wine Cheap

(and good food to go with it)

John Grover

This month we go to the lands down under for our wine and recipe. Australia has been making great inroads into the U.S. market over the past decade and a half with some very affordable wines. But, new comer New Zealand has made quite a splash on the American scene with some wines of startling high quality.

The wine this month is a Sauvignon Blanc from the Marlborough region of New Zealand's Southern island. The wines from this area have quickly gained a great reputation. This particular wine is

the 2004 vintage from Chimney Creek Vineyard. It possesses an intensity of aroma and flavor that you would expect from only much more expensive wines. The tasting experience begins with a distinctive nose of gooseberries so common to this grape. The mouth is then filled with the taste of citrus and green apples and finishes cleanly. This wine will match well with a wide range of chicken and seafood dishes; and, it has enough character to stand up to spicy Asian dishes. I paid \$9 a bottle for this wine.

Australian Shrimp on the Barbie

(from recipessource.com website)

Marinade: ½ cup (1 stick) melted butter
¼ cup olive oil
¼ cup minced fresh herbs (parsley, thyme and cilantro)
3 tbsps fresh lemon juice
3 garlic clove, crushed
1 tbsps minced shallot
salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

1½ lbs large shrimp unpeeled (the shells help keep in the moisture during cooking)
Spinach leaves and lemon slices

Combine marinade ingredients in large bowl. Mix in shrimp. Marinate at room temperature 1 hour or in the refrigerator 5 hours, stirring occasionally. Prepare barbecue with medium hot coals. Thread shrimp on narrow skewers.* Grill shrimp until just opaque, about 2 minutes per side. Line platter with spinach. Arrange skewers on platter. Garnish with lemon slices and serve. Makes 8 servings. There was "no shrimp left behind" when we served this dish at a recent party. (*Wooden skewers should be soaked at least 30 minutes before grilling.)

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.



The Alchemist

Al Thomas

You want to have a business of your own. That's great. Of course I agree since I have always had my own company in various fields and done very well. But how do you choose the right business that you can effectively finance, manage and make a good living doing it?

Today with the internet there are many enterprises that you can start at home with a minimum of expense. When they take off and become profitable you may want to have an off-premises location, but most internet-type companies don't need a storefront. If you go into a manufacturing, distribution or business where there will be people traffic, you will not be able to do it at home.

The most popular businesses are restaurants, lounges, beauty salons, lawn care, handyman, distribution and warehousing, staffing and manufacturing. The size of the business will determine where its location must be.

One of the most important aspects is to try to determine the demographics of your location as to what will be needed. Is there a big enough demand for what you plan to sell or service? The internet is unlimited, but if you need local customers you must determine if there are enough of them to provide the income you wish.

One of the most difficult bits of information to know is what will the economy in general be for the next 10 or 20 years and how will it affect your business. That is close to impossible, but we do know that everyone needs to eat, sleep and be healthy. Is there a growing market for the type of business you choose?

Looking ahead for those time periods, one of the growing markets would be in health – almost any type of health care, but especially that which appeals to the aging society. The baby boomers start retiring in 2007 and in general seem to be a more affluent group.

Those who want their own businesses might start a search in the health field from selling vitamins on the internet to providing some kind of personal in-home service for retirees.

Today the service of bringing hot meals to the home is provided at minimum cost by Meals On Wheels. They only bring lunch. Would a service that brings hot full-course dinners to the affluent be viable? That you will have to determine. This might require a full kitchen or a contract with local restaurants to prepare so many meals each day. Your customers would receive a menu a week in advance to choose what they want on each day of the week. And so forth. Lots of detail.

No one said it was going to be easy. You will need a business plan. There are many business plan outlines you can obtain at no charge on the internet. Don't go into any business without one.

Whatever business you choose be sure it is something you like and really want to do or you will feel trapped and it will probably not be successful. Have fun. You can do it!

*Visit <http://www.mutualfundmagic.com> to read the first chapter of Al Thomas' book *If It Doesn't Go Up, Don't Buy It!* and to receive his market letter for three months. You'll discover why he's the man that Wall Street does not want you to know. © 2005.*



Calendar of Events

June 2005

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
22 May Fourth Sunday Lunch	23	24	25	26 Visit to Boston's Museum of Fine Arts	27 Appetite for Discussion	28 Backyard Party
29	30 <i>Memorial Day</i>	31	01 June	2	3 Temperance League	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 The Moveable Feast	11
12 Second Sunday Brunch Bunch	13	14	15	16	17 WinnepaSupper The Ugly Fox and the Rite of Spring	18 Monthly Summer Party FSM/ExComm Central Maine Dinner
19 <i>Father's Day</i> Long Hill Estate and Sedgwick Gardens	20	21	22 North of Boston Dinner	23	24 Appetite for Discussion	25
26 Fourth Sunday Lunch	27	28	29	30	01 July Temperance League	2

Calendar listings must reach 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.



Testing the Waters

BY POPULAR DEMAND! The box office at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts has advised that the open hood events for Ralph Lauren's automobiles have been so popular that they have added on extra times. Every Thursday evening in June will be open hood, as will Father's Day (19 June). Anyone interested in attending any of these dates in June is advised to secure their tickets ASAP and then contact John Bauman at locsec@nh.us.mensa.org in order to coordinate the Mensa aspect of the trip. This exhibition showcases 16 of Lauren's automobiles, including a 1938 Bugatti Type 57SC Atlantic Coupe, a Jaguar XKD, a Porsche 550 Spyder, a 1930 "Count Trossi" Mercedes-Benz SSK and a Ferrari 250 Testa Rossa. The exhibition closes on 03 July.

IDEAS WANTED: Donna Scott of western Massachusetts, intrepid host of the Fourth Sunday Brunch in the Brattleboro, Vt. area, would like some feedback on other events that Mensans would like to see on the calendar. One idea Donna had is visiting a butterfly farm. Please contact Donna at 413-628-0149 or scota@crocker.com (with "Mensa" in the subject line) with your interest in that event or to share your ideas.

LOCAL GENX SIG GROUP: Believe it or not, there appear to be no local GenX SIG Groups in Region One, not even in Boston or New York City! Let's show the rest of Region One that we are trailblazers up here in the north country! Denise Penkalski (penkad@alum.rpi.edu) of Nashua is interested in forming a local or regional GenX SIG group (see Bits and Pieces on Page 23 about the national/international GenX SIG). Email her with your interest!

Denise would probably use the GenX SIG's Region One Yahoo group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GenX-R1>) to coordinate a gathering. To join the GenX SIG, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GenX-Ms> and follow the instructions you'll receive. For more information on the group in general, please see <http://genx.us.mensa.org>.

WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO? We've received some positive feedback about attending a New Hampshire Fisher Cats baseball game in their new stadium in Manchester, so look for that to be added to this summer's calendar. If you are interested in this event, or want to see something else in particular on the calendar, please contact your calendar editor at calendar@nh.us.mensa.org.





The MensAGumbo Pot

Richard Stringer

New Orleans is sometimes called the Only Caribbean city in North America. When 1500 Mensans descend on this romantic, steamy subtropical port this summer, the result will be a lifetime memory for all involved. Reserve your spot for this incredible happening, now, by going to the MensAGumbo website at www.ag.us.mensa.org or by writing or calling as directed on the back cover of the April/May Mensa *Bulletin*.

What do you get for your registration fee? The chance to meet fellow smart people from all over the country, a round-the-clock hospitality room for snacks, drinks and conversation, an incredible choice of programs to attend, games to play, and things to do, as well as the opportunity to experience the uniqueness of New Orleans from the center of it all.

We're anticipating more than 150 programs over the four days, and they run the gamut from local New Orleans themes, to scientific research, to lifestyle choices, to arts and letters. Local-themed programs include New Orleans Architecture, the French Quarter of Tennessee Williams, and Finding the Voodoo Queens of New Orleans. The notorious "Canal Street Madam" will host a showing of the recent movie about her brothel, and will speak and answer questions. Scientific themes include Hurricane Storm Surge Modeling in South Louisiana, Global Warming and Energy, How the Ancient Egyptians Measured Planet Earth, How Computers Got Misinvented, an appearance by the author of the acclaimed *Secret Guide to*

Computers, and a hands-on demonstration in City Park of the ancient spear-throwing tool, the atlatl. Lifestyle choices include an appearance by one of the authors of *Sugarbusters*; Cancer, from Death Knell to Manageable Malady; Investment Strategies and Retirement Planning; and Ask the Sexologists. Besides an all-day everyday game room, there will be LAN computer gaming, a geocaching event in City Park (geocaching is a field game for GPS users), and instructions in card-counting and "Zen and the Art of Craps." For entertainment, hypnotist Marshall Sylver brings his Las Vegas-style act; there are ballroom and swing dance classes, two dances and a gospel jazz brunch. This is a very brief look at a sample of the program schedule. For the full schedule, which is being updated continuously, check the Programs tab at the AG website.

There will be tours of some area attractions, including a rare opportunity to go behind the scenes and meet the scientists at the Southern Regional Research Center and the Stennis Space Center. There will be a Garden District Walking Tour, ending with lunch at Commander's Palace, a tour of Laura and Oak Alley plantations with a Cajun buffet lunch at Oak Alley, and Tea at Longue Vue Gardens.

There is literally something for everyone. You'll find yourself having to make some hard choices of which programs to attend. Don't miss this opportunity, whatever you do! 📖



Big Dan O'Connell: A True Irish Patriot

John McGondel

There were a variety of influences and forces that served together to forge the national/political philosophy of Daniel O'Connell (The Great Man).

One of the most understandable of those was the unique topographical makeup of the area in southwest Ireland where he was born in 1775. This area was virtually cut off from the rest of the world by the wild mountain ranges to the east, and the seacoast immediately to the west. This type of isolated environment would seem to favor what we in America sometimes refer to as the "hillbilly mentality."

This can be seen by observing that the clans of that area seldom produced fewer than ten children, and the fostering out of one or more children over to childless aunts and cousins was a very common practice. In fact, the Great Man himself had been fostered out to his uncle Maurice, who was a dyed-in-the-wool, resolute tax evader.

For many generations the O'Connell clan had earned a comfortable living from the smuggling trade. The smuggling boats would bring in such goods as wines, brandies, velvets and other desirable commodities which would have otherwise been unavailable or unaffordable due to burdensome taxation.

So, we have the Great Man growing up in an environment where it was generally accepted that smuggling and tax evasion were ways of life. He was schooled in catechism by Father O'Grady, and was tutored at the knee of Schoolmaster David O'Mahoney, both of whom were banned by the government. This eventually resulted in the Great Man

becoming very well learned, skeptical towards the government, and comfortable in a criminal environment.

Although all of these would seem to make for a very successful rebel mentality, there was another side to the Daniel O'Connell coin.

The smuggling boats that brought in the illegal commodities also had another purpose, which was to smuggle out Irishmen for exportation to another country, mainly England, Canada, America and Australia. Those who were thusly exported were referred to as the "Wild Geese," and the Great Man's Uncle Dan was one of them, along with 16 other O'Connells. That uncle eventually became a Count, and was the last Irishman to be awarded the rank of colonel in the British Irish Brigades, for historically the Clan O'Connell had always been Tory sympathizers.

And this is the paradox that I believe confused the Great Man: His family heritage of loyalty to royalty, and his family heritage of evading British law.

Then the Great Man left to study in Cork and in Flanders, which culminated in his studying in France. But the French Revolution interrupted his studies in 1793, and he went to England to study for the bar in 1794. That is where he received first-hand experience at the intolerance and astounding tyranny of the English rulers.

Disillusioned, he returned to Dublin, and in 1808, a fed-up Daniel O'Connell stopped his fence-straddling. He took issue with the ten Irish bishops who had secretly voted for a new British law that would have allowed the British

government to veto the appointments of Irish bishops. His anger prompted the other 26 bishops to vote against the bill, and to join with the Irish people. O'Connell was hailed as a national hero and the Irish nation began to grow together.

His status was raised even more when he railed against the Catholic "relief" bill, and again when he won a duel by killing a former English naval officer who was running for the office of High Sheriff of Dublin. He became, overnight, the Irish people's defender.

But then, paradoxically, and at the height of his popularity, he shamelessly abased himself in public in front of King George IV of Britain, once again showing his almost superstitious reverence for British royalty. This act caused much dissention among his followers. But in 1828 he was elected to the previously forbidden parliament, when the many tenant voters refused to follow their landlords' orders on whom to vote for. This in turn led to the Emancipation bill, which gave basic civil rights back to the Irish people, including the right to run for civil office.

In the thirties, the Great Man decided to help the English Whigs with their reform bill, and he put his work on the repeal of the valon on the back burner. With his help, the Whigs came into power with their new reform parliament, and his Whig "friends" promptly turned on him and passed an atrocious coercion bill against Ireland.

The Whigs used O'Connell again and again to keep them in power, as O'Connell urged the Irish to follow him in English reform and to wait until later for repeal. In 1834, he managed to convince the Irish people to try a six-year experiment of forgetting about repeal and trusting the Whigs to help Ireland. Of course, once

again the Whigs repaid Ireland by imposing horrendous new laws and taxes. By 1839 the Great Man's popularity was seriously waning, and he retreated to a monastic environment, exhausted, depressed and discouraged, feeling more traitorous than heroic.

Then in 1840 came the end of the six-year experiment, and O'Connell once again boldly spoke of the subject that had been forbidden to discuss for those six years: Repeal!

And again the Irish people, who had been settled in silent despair, re-echoed his words, and lifted him back to his seat of power. The next year, in 1841, he was elected to become the first Nationalist Lord Mayor of Dublin, and his repeal movement went into full swing. This, of course, greatly troubled the British, who poured regiments into Ireland and surrounded the island with warships. Hundreds of thousands of repeal troops marched in public and put on incredibly large "Monster Meetings."

The people were incensed and ready for the word to go to battle. O'Connell and the Irish people felt strongly that they would win a fight with England. But the Great Man was heard to say, "While I live, such an uprising will never occur," and, "It is better to live for Ireland than to die for her."

The day before the climax of the Monster Meetings, the British announced that the meeting was forbidden, and surrounded the area with traps and a cannon. O'Connell submitted, and the unarmed marchers returned home. For obeying the English edict and for saving his people, O'Connell was rewarded by the British on the following day by being arrested, along with his son John and several others of his key personnel.

The Irish people waited expectantly for his call to arms, but the Great Man's

word was “peace.” The charges were conspiracy and inciting, and the Jury of Tories and Orangemen found the group guilty. O’Connell received a fine of 2,000 pounds and 12 months of imprisonment. And O’Connell, ever the paradox, reformed the repeal movement once again to conform to British law, and even ordered that every meeting should be closed by cheering for England’s Queen!

While his popularity rose during his prison sentence, his health began to decline, and his voice, while ringing out boldly, did not have the substance to rouse the fighting spirit, as he proposed no plan.

After being released on appeal after four months, he retreated to Derrynane to rest and hunt rabbits.

He returned to Dublin for the anniversary of his imprisonment, and was overwhelmed to tears by the public outpouring of support, and he felt a leader once again.

But in 1845 he threw in with the Whigs again, only to watch them do nothing to help during the blights of 1845-47. The hellish sufferings of his people during those three long years completed his psychological breakdown. He sank into a deep depression and even spurned his right to tribute, choosing to suffer with his people instead. He went, frail, weak, and heartsick, to London to plead for his people to the Parliament and to the royal family. He was turned down by the crown and under doctor’s orders he started the journey to the warmer climate of Rome. He made it as far as Genoa where he died on May 15, 1847. His heart was delivered to Rome, and his body to Ireland.

The Great Man, Daniel O’Connell, was born on the eve of the American Revolution and died during the third year of the Irish holocaust. He was born an anti-British tax evader, an Irish patriot, and a Tory sympathizer, and remained all three until his death. ■

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