

# The Voice of Mensa in New Hampshire and Maine

Vol. 25 No. 6

January 2006



'Twas the  
season...



...for critters  
in the house!

As temperatures dropped, our furry neighbors sought warmer surroundings. The opossum pictured above was one of three who found their way into Bernie Folta's home in Claremont, N.H. And inside this issue, Gail Meinhold regales us with a story about an unwelcome visitor to her home in Northfield, N.H.

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# Bauman's Quiver

*LocSec John Bauman*

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As 2006 draws near, I suppose that one approach would be to reflect on the year gone past and make a list of all the events and accomplishments that occurred in NH Mensa in the year just ended. This compiling of a ledger for sober assessment and self-reflection is valued in many cultures as a sign of maturity and might be expected. After all, one perception of Mensans is that we devote ourselves only to weighty endeavors, and I am getting to the point of being enough of a greybeard that my countenance evokes a certain gravitas. Or I could make a list of resolutions pertaining to Mensa, thereby laying out my vision of what course I expect the organization to steer over the coming months. But I am not going to do either of those things. I tell candidates that I meet during testing sessions that Mensa is what you make of it and I arrived at the conclusion a long time ago that it is not within my purview as LocSec to tell any member what their level of participation ought to be. And having presided over many ExComms has driven from my head any notion that I am in control. So I will just posit that the upcoming year will undoubtedly contain a variety of gatherings that should stimulate and delight even the most jaded and I would hope that you could find time to join your fellow Ms in these pastimes.


As the time for the RG approaches, I would like to address that issue in a way that might take some of the fun out the enterprise, but I feel strongly that certain facts need to be aired. Upon review of the January 2005 Momentum in preparation for writing this column, it was evident that the Treasurer's Report declared a balance of nearly \$9000. Our current balance is about two-thirds of that figure. For those in attendance at the November ExComm and for those who are included on Claire's announce list, we were already privy to the somewhat alarming disclosure from Darlene that the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter has resulted in a \$1000 loss YTD. This prompted me once more to raise the basic question of what is the driving principle behind our holding the RG - are we trying to make it a fundraiser or are we just trying to throw one helluva party?? The response invariably is that we want it to do both, but a recitation of the results of the last couple of years indicates that we have experienced flagging success as a fundraiser. In 2003, we made a little over \$2000 in profit; in 2004, we lost money; in 2005, we basically broke even. I publish these figures as a backdrop to my plea to have a maximum turnout for the RG this year, so that we may return to the black, from a financial aspect. More importantly, we need people to book a room at the host hotel, which is the only way to prevent another loss. Per the parameters of our contract, the hotel makes very little revenue from providing a space for our frolic, other than the fees for room rentals. If we do not cover 150 room nights, there is a substantial penalty that we would end up paying, on a sliding

scale. So please, turn out and stay in Nashua, if for no other reason than to observe the natives.

Now that the grubby subject of money has been dispensed with, I would urge anyone who has never attended an RG to seriously consider being part of the crowd in February, to find out what this aspect of Mensa membership is all about. If you count yourself among the former habitués at these conclaves, please rejoin us, if only to compare the surroundings of the new venue. Nashua only offers eight floors, as opposed to the twelve at the Center of New Hampshire, but the appearance of the place really lends itself to putting you into the spirit of the theme. There is always abundant food and drink, speaker programs of all description, movies, a game room with many marathon elimination contests, shrimp and chocolate, a music hospitality suite which allows you to jam or attempt almost any type of instrument known to man, and above all, fabulous conversation. The theme this year revolves around all things medieval and you are strongly urged to dress the part. If you want to stride around in full armor, knock yourself out. If you are a fan of Tolkien, or another fantasy writer who specializes in olden days, come dressed as your favorite character and let us guess who you are. Elizabeth Becker is this year's Hospitality Chair, but more importantly, is a member of the Society for Creative Anachronism. She has access to racks of costumes and her plan at this point is to bring costumes to rent, so you do not have to prearrange your rental. We have been advised that the hotel has no objection to weapons being displayed, with the proviso that you keep it in its sheath - leave the unsheathing and brandishing for the D-SIG room!

I am going to jump the gun a bit and announce that Robert Roy has been installed as the new Membership Officer. He has been a member since August and has evidently experienced an epiphany when he was introduced to the world of high-IQ societies. He owns a restaurant in Conway called Guldies, and when I stopped by there in September, the service stopped at 3 P.M. So if you are in the area skiing this winter, please stop in and introduce yourself, but I warn you - be prepared to be bowled over, as Robert seems to be genuinely excited and proud of his membership.

I would also like to extend a welcome to Scott Cayouette as the latest member of the Proctor fraternity. Scott lives in Vassalboro, Maine, and recognized the need for a Proctor located further north than Portland. Accordingly, he made his willingness to train be known and he completed the certification process in record time. His plan at this time is to use Augusta as a base of operations and take testing on a travelling road show around the state. So for those who live in our northeast corner, if you have a friend/relative/acquaintance who has voiced an interest in being tested in the past, but seemed reluctant to travel to Cape Elizabeth, please give Scott a shout and I am sure that something can be arranged.

Here is hoping for another great year in Mensa, with continued influx of new members and promises of an ever-expanding calendar. Happy New Year to us all and see you at the RG for Presidents' Day weekend. **BEAT COLORADO STATE.** 



# What's Cooking in Region 1

*Region 1 Vice Chair Marghretta McBean*

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It's still officially autumn yet every state in our region has had at least one snowfall. Of course snow is relative: here in New York City, three inches means traffic snarl ups; up in Syracuse, in Central New York Mensaland, that does not qualify for shoveling. Paul Baxter, the President of that group, told me that last week's twenty-four (24!!!) inches of snow did merit snowplows.

I just got back from the American Mensa Committee meeting in Phoenix, which went smoothly, thanks in large part to Chairman Russ Bakke's insistence on civility. He has worked hard to create a collegial atmosphere where differences of opinion do not lead to verbal warfare. While it may be difficult at times to remember common courtesy in the heat of an argument, it is a lesson which is sorely needed and well learned.

I was pleased to sponsor a motion that will call for a special referendum to amend our bylaws to allow alternative forms of voting (e.g. online). In the last election, there were numerous requests for this and if the referendum passes, the 2007 elections would be the first to offer this.

Dr. John Sheehan (New Hampshire/Maine Mensa) was named the new head of Name & Logo and Bylaws Committees. He replaces Regional Vice Chair Mike Siegler who had to resign due to work commitments. Dr. Sheehan continues his excellent work as the national Development Committee Chair.

Michael Beetham addressed the AMC about the latest Project Inkslinger® developments. This committee works with local groups who are interested in supplying books and other printed material to needy recipients. Hurricane Katrina highlighted the plight of the loss of libraries, schoolbooks, etc. If there are any groups who are interested in participating, contact him at [inkslinger@us.mensa.org](mailto:inkslinger@us.mensa.org).

Our treasurer, Charlie Bruce, had some not too good news: overall budgeted income is down because of decreased testing and evaluation. With two national hearings adding to the expense column, it looks like we may be out about \$45K by fiscal year's end 31 March. A small positive note: overall expenses are also down.

A motion to establish an "Angel Fund" to help financially strapped members was defeated. While I think the idea is a good one, the degrees of bureaucracy included in the motion were onerous and off-putting to me. Many groups quietly help out members they know have fallen on hard times by simply paying their dues, no questions asked. I have also known individuals who have done so, often without the recipient knowing who did the kind deed. That to me is true charity.

After a lot of soul searching and a secret ballot, the motion to fund AMC members for up to five nights for World Gathering meeting attendance was passed. Many seemed to feel their Mensan political lives would end if they publicly accepted the funding, hence the request for anonymous voting.

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Acceptance of the monies is voluntary as is attendance at the International Board of Directors' meetings. It will be a unique opportunity to meet the heads of international Mensa groups, and as the host country, AMC members were strongly urged to take advantage of this event.

In the "I'm proud to be a member of Greater New York Mensa" department, our group won the "chocolate contest" Category I division for National Testing Day by testing 56 people between October 8<sup>th</sup> and November 5<sup>th</sup> 2005. While getting test takers to actually show up is beyond any proctor's power, the fact that so many did is a credit to the hard work of the GNYM proctor cadre.

There is good news from the Green Mountain state. After a long leadership hiatus, two Vermont Mensans have volunteered to help get the group up and running. I have appointed James Matthew as treasurer and Katja Swift as president/loc sec. As a brand-new GenX-aged member, Katja will bring energy and a fresh outlook to the group.

As the days get shorter and the temperatures drop, hot drinks are a welcome delight. Bishop is a delicious addition to any winter table:

## Bishop

1 large navel orange

12 cloves

½ teaspoon each: mace, ground ginger; cinnamon, allspice, ground cloves

1 lemon: rind thinly peeled; juice strained

8 oz. Water

4 oz. (½ cup) sugar

1 bottle (32 oz.) port

1. Stick cloves into orange, put into fireproof / ovenproof bowl, cover closely and roast until a rich brown colour. Cut up into 8 pieces; remove seeds.
2. Put spices, lemon peel and water into enamel saucepan and bring to boil. Simmer gently 30 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in lemon juice and sugar.
3. Add roasted orange and port, heat up again but be careful not to let it boil - you will ruin the port.
4. Strain off liquid through fine sieve if desired and serve hot.

**Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2006!**



# Executive Committee Meeting

Recording Secretary Claire Natola

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**Date:** 21 November 2005

**Present:** Bill Alleman, Darlene Alleman, Jim Barnes, Sue Barnes, John Bauman, Wayne Eddy, Adam Freiband, John Lewicke, Claire Natola, Robert Roy, Walter Wakefield, Ric Werme

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 p.m. John Bauman reported that we have 11 new or renewed members and 5 members leave our chapter for a net gain of 6 and a total of 472 (333 in New Hampshire, 139 in Maine).

Darlene Alleman presented a report showing that our chapter has lost \$1,000.17 thus far in 2005 just on the cost of printing and distributing *Momentum*. One \$1,000 Certificate of Deposit was not renewed, and some money has been borrowed from our Regional Gathering funds to make up the shortfall. Lengthy discussion ensued regarding cutting *Momentum* costs through such methods as electronic distribution, setting a maximum issue size and submission size, etc. Robert Roy suggested the establishment of a Fundraising Committee; many ideas for fundraising were bantied about. This issue will be published in the January *Momentum* with an appeal for donations.

Darlene Alleman moved to appoint Ric Werme, Bromley Baril, and Linda McCracken to the 2006 Election Committee, with Ric Werme to serve as Chair. John Lewicke seconded. The motion passed.

Compliance with AML Minimum Standard Bylaws was discussed. John Bauman moved that we establish an Amendment Committee to draft Bylaws changes. Bill Alleman seconded. The motion passed. Establishment of this Committee will be announced to the membership via email with a request that pertinent input be directed to Wayne Eddy.

Claire Natola moved to adjourn. Bill Alleman seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m. ■■



# Business Meeting

Recording Secretary Claire Natola

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**Date:** 21 November 2005

**Present:** Same as above

The meeting was called to order at 9:25:12 p.m. Bill Alleman moved to adjourn. Claire Natola seconded. The motion passed. Adjournment occurred at 9:25:18 p.m. ■■



# Editorial Ramblings

Claire Natola

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**W**ow! So much to talk about... First of all, as you read in Bauman's Quiver, our chapter has lost over \$1,000 in this calendar year just on the printing and distribution of *Momentum*. American Mensa, Ltd. (AML) provides a portion of member dues to our local chapter to cover our newsletter, but our costs have greatly exceeded the reimbursement we get. When we discussed this issue at the November ExComm meeting, the general consensus was that we don't want to do anything that would reduce the quality of *Momentum*. Therefore, three methods to "stop the bleeding" were discussed:

**a. Changes to *Momentum*:** In the past, I have always been open to submissions of any length for publication, but now I will need to institute a 1,000-word limit on all articles and submissions, both non-fiction and fiction. You will notice already in this issue that I have begun to keep such features as ExComm minutes and calendar listings as concise as possible without losing pertinent information. (A tiny bit of the literary flair may have disappeared, but I'd rather be in the black.)

**b. Electronic Distribution:** Anyone who would be willing to receive *Momentum* via email as a .pdf file (and NOT via the U.S. Postal Service) is encouraged to email me at editor@nh.us.mensa.org. Benefits include receiving *Momentum* several days in advance of those who only receive it via regular mail, getting to see my cute little clip art and any submitted photographs in color, and being able to sleep well at night knowing that you've done something selfless and beneficial for our chapter. 😊 I, as much as anyone, love getting paper newsletters, so I certainly would be a hypocrite if I tried to strong-arm you into this choice. But if you are someone who'd rather cut down on the amount of paper in your life, you might appreciate this option. Many thanks to the 15 people who have already opted to go paperless as a result of my recent plea via email!

**c. Funding Issues:** During the discussion of this financial challenge at the ExComm meeting, new member Robert Roy suggested that we establish a Fundraising Committee. While such a committee was not established at that time, the suggestion of gathering fundraising ideas from interested parties certainly has merit. If the notion of helping to plan fundraising events (a casino night was one fun idea brought up) or even just brainstorming funding ideas interests you, I urge you to contact me. Together there's a lot we can do to help our chapter continue to provide a quality experience (through the newsletter and beyond) to our members.

In addition to discussing our financial situation, the November ExComm meeting brought forth a new **Bylaws Amendment Committee**, established to draft changes to our chapter's bylaws. This was prompted by AML's request that local chapters ensure that their bylaws are in compliance with AML's Minimum Standard Bylaws. Any member wishing to provide input on this

process is encouraged to contact committee member Wayne Eddy at wizard43@gmail.com. Thank you, Wayne!

Also at the last ExComm meeting, an **Election Committee** was established to supervise the spring 2006 election for our chapter. Many thanks to Ric Werme, Bromley Baril, and Linda McCracken for agreeing to serve on this committee. The elective positions that members may run for are: Local Secretary, Assistant Local Secretary, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and four Member-at-Large positions. Our bylaws state that one way that candidates can be nominated is by petition to the Election Committee: "a nomination consists of three members in good standing supporting a candidate and acceptance by the candidate of the nomination." I have received an enormous amount of fulfillment from volunteering for Mensa; won't you please consider running for elective office also? Descriptions of our officer positions can be found within our bylaws at <https://secure.us.mensa.org/nh/bylaws.shtm> and will be published in the February issue of *Momentum* (per said bylaws). You can have a great say in guiding the future of our chapter! If you have any questions, you can contact committee chair Ric Werme at [distribution@nh.us.mensa.org](mailto:distribution@nh.us.mensa.org).

Here's to a fiscally-healthy and volunteer-wealthy 2006! 🍷



## Upcoming Testing Sessions

*Tell Your Friends!*

Information on testing and prior evidence can be found at [nh.us.mensa.org](http://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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Proctor</b>
Saturday, 14 January 10:00 a.m.	Portsmouth, N.H.	Bromley Baril 603-749-1088
Wednesday, 18 January 7:00 p.m.	Nashua, N.H.	John Bauman 603-883-7494
Saturday, 21 January 2:00 p.m.	Augusta, Maine	Scott Cayouette 207-649-1515
Monday, 30 January 6:00 p.m.	Cape Elizabeth, Maine	Bev Bryant 207-799-0888



# Granite Gathering 2006 Update

RG Chair Claire Natola

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In early December, many members of the RG Committee toured the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Nashua, site of Granite Gathering 2006. I daresay our attendees will be pleased with the hotel! We hashed out a lot of details such as the locations of specific essential spaces (Games, Movies, Music, etc.) and ideas were sprouting by the minute! One about which I'm rather excited is the prospect of having a medieval ball following the Saturday evening banquet. Stay tuned for more details as they become available.

Adam has some great ideas up his sleeve for Games this year, and I'm fiddling with the idea of a special GenX event. I've received a lot of wonderful suggestions for speakers, and I am sure there'll be something of interest for everyone!

We'll be having another RG planning meeting on Saturday, January 7 at 12:00 noon at the Rainbow Buffet at 80 Storrs Street in the Capitol Shopping Center in Concord. All are welcome to join us, to provide input, or simply to eavesdrop!

Our slate of volunteers is filling out nicely, and I would like to thank those who are already on board:

Darlene Alleman as Assistant Chair

Deb Stone as Registrar

Elizabeth Becker as Hospitality Chair

Devin Starlanyl, Gail Meinhold, and Sue Barnes assisting in Hospitality

Adam Smargon as Games Chair

Bill Alleman as Biermeister

Jim Barnes as Icemeister

John Bauman as Beer Tasting Coordinator

Bromley Baril as RG Primer Workshop Leader

Walter Wakefield and John Lewicke as Newbie Shepherds

Bob Oxford as Music Room Co-Chair

Rich Conde as Movie Room Chair

Please forgive me if I've overlooked anyone! I still need to solidify volunteers to run the Children's Room, Silent Auction, and Book Sale; find some Speaker Escorts and more Newbie Shepherds; and get Bob Oxford a Co-Chair for the Music Room. Plus we can always use extra hands in Hospitality! If you can volunteer, or have anyone in mind for these specific jobs, please let me know ([rgchair@nh.us.mensa.org](mailto:rgchair@nh.us.mensa.org) or 603-279-9986).

If we haven't seen you in a long time, this would be a great event to attend to see what's new with your Mensa chapter. If you've never attended a local event, you can't go wrong with this being your first! I do hope to see you in February... #

# Granite Gathering 2006: Return to Middle Earth February 17-19, 2006



Your presence is kindly requested at New Hampshire Mensa's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Gathering! Our growing reputation does not rest solely on being the northeasternmost RG in America, but on being one of the best: stellar hospitality, ample food and libations, scintillating speakers, music, games, contests, book sale, silent auction, and more! Medieval or Tolkienian garb encouraged; rentals benefiting our scholarship fund will be available.

**Location:** Crowne Plaza Nashua, 2 Somerset Parkway, Nashua, NH 03063. Room rate of \$94 (exclusive of 8% NH Rooms Tax) per night guaranteed until 1/18/06. Call 603-886-1200 and ask for the Mensa rate. Complimentary indoor parking garage. Complimentary shuttle service to and from Manchester Airport *when prearranged*. Complimentary full service health club.

**Registration:** \$65 until 1/15/06; \$75 thereafter or at the door. Children 8-17 \$15 less than regular rate; children under 8 free. Saturday rate is \$10 less than regular rate in effect at time of registration. Saturday evening buffet \$28.\* Mail your form and fee to our Registrar: Deb Stone, 24312 Spartan Street, Mission Viejo, CA 92691-3921. (email: [debstone@cox.net](mailto:debstone@cox.net)) Do not mail registration after 2/1/06; please register at the door instead.

\*All registrants who buy their Saturday evening buffet tickets before 1/15/06 will be entered into a drawing for fabulous prizes, including free registration for the 2007 Granite Gathering!

Questions, concerns, criticisms, compliments? Contact Claire Natola at [rgchair@nh.us.mensa.org](mailto:rgchair@nh.us.mensa.org) or 603-279-9986. For latest details, see [www.nh.us.mensa.org/rgnews.shtm](http://www.nh.us.mensa.org/rgnews.shtm). See you in February!

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Name	Name on Badge	Tell us something(s) interesting (or not) about you for your badge...
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_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Children's Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Type	Qty	Rate	Subtotal
Adult Registration			
Child 8-17			
Child under 8		Free	
Saturday Buffet		\$28.00	

**Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to "New Hampshire Mensa" or charge to MasterCard or Visa:

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_



# Mensa Canada's 2006 AG

Claire Natola

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**N**ow is the time to start planning a springtime trip to Newfoundland to attend Mensa Canada's 2006 Annual Gathering! It's happening in St. John's on May 19-22. If you register by February 1, you'll get the lowest rate. AG Chair Marie Johnston was kind enough to provide this list of reasons to attend:

- **GORGEOUS SCENERY!** If you're a photographer, you should know that Newfoundland is the most beautiful place in the whole world.
- Every speaker is being hand picked as "interesting" and "entertaining...we're not doing the "anyone who wants to speak" thing. Quality over quantity, baby! We have some \*amazing\* speakers already!
- The great parties, including a traditional "kitchen party"/screech-in ceremony. And, a dinner/dance is included in the low registration fees.
- The great **FOOD!** I just finished picking out the catering menu for the kitchen party. Among some staples, we'll have cod nuggets, battered scallops, lobster bruschetta, chicken savoury packets, caribou meatballs in red wine sauce, and wild rabbit puffs. Mmmmmmm...
- If you love food (heh!), Newfoundland has something for everyone: Cod Tongues, Seal Flipper Pie, Partridgeberry Cheesecake, Bakeapple Jam, Moose Stew, Caribou Steaks, Salmon Ravioli... For those with an adventurous palate, Newfoundland cuisine is a dream come true. For the less adventurous, it is also a wonderful place to get great seafood, fairly decent steaks, and the best hospitality you've ever experienced!
- If you're a hiker, you should know that the \*best\* hiking is within easy reach of the host hotel...and not only is it gorgeous, but it comes with pristine clean air and cool temperatures. And Newfoundland **DOES NOT HAVE ANY SNAKES OR SKUNKS**. No unpleasant surprises on your hiking!
- The entertainment: We've got some great local talent signing up to play at the dinner/dance and the kitchen party. Newfoundland Traditional/Irish, and some more contemporary cover songs to really get you on your feet!
- The **BIG SURPRISE** we're working on, which will be a first for any North American AG, at the very least. Very big news, and may result in the mother of all AG souvenirs, too!

Sounds great to me! You can find a registration form and a lot more information at <http://www.thymenl.ca/AG2006>. (If you're not online, call me at 603-279-9986 and I'll send you a registration form.) Let's get a big New Hampshire/Maine contingent going! I hope to see you there! 🍷



# Skunked Again!

Gail Meinhold

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Over the summer I noticed that there were some holes around the foundation in my 250-year-old house. I did not think anything about it other than to wonder if a neighborhood cat had made itself at home. However, I noticed that the holes were getting bigger, and when I blocked one, another one appeared within a few days. A little while ago my neighbor reported that she had seen a raccoon under the bushes in the yard. "Oh..." I thought, "...that must be what it is," and never gave it a passing thought. That is, until my neighbor, who is also my tenant, reported some problems with her silverware drawer. It seems that something was chewing the wood in the drawer. I went over to inspect the damage and thought it must be the raccoon that is living in the cellar.

Well, there is only one thing to do when faced with an animal control problem: To engage in a resettlement program with no options for the refugees. So, I called around and had a friend loan me a "Have-a-Heart" trap, which I set up by the foundation holes. The first night I caught the neighborhood cat who meowed piteously to be let out. I made a deal with the cat that I would release it if it promised not to come back. Having successfully negotiated that bargain, I let it go. "Well," I thought as I set the trap again, "I will get the raccoon tonight." No, I did not get the raccoon that night. What I got was another cat.

Unfortunately it was a cat of a different stripe commonly known as a pole cat. Cute as a button but it definitely had the potential of making a big stink about resettlement unless handled with cultural competence. It was time to call in the reserves and let the professionals deal with the problem. I covered the little guy so he would not be afraid of the light and would not see me moving around (and therefore would not decide to release some aromatic perfume in my direction). Since I was unable to get someone to come out that day, I had to release the little guy and wait until the skunk man commeth.

So far I have had six guests check into the Skunk Relocation Camp and they have all agreed to participate in the resettlement program. I began to wonder if I would ever run out of refugees. "Oh, fabulous day!" This morning I did not have anyone checked into the hotel. Now if only that can continue for a few more days, I might be free for another year.

It's not that I do not like the little kitties, it is the potential for destruction in the home and person- or dog-spraying that bothers me. I have found that these creatures are actually very gentle and if you don't startle them or threaten them, they can be quite friendly. Just watch out or you will be calling the toxic waste team in to assist you. 🦨





## Notes from National

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**P**ersonal Biographies are now available to you through your Profile Update (<http://www.us.mensa.org/profile>) and the online membership directory (<http://www.us.mensa.org/directory>). With very little arm-twisting, a few members have already posted their pictures and short biographies!

Have you felt that the Personal Data Questionnaire responses didn't cover everything about you? We're seeing that the addition of member-provided biographies is helping this along. By visiting <http://www.us.mensa.org/bio> or "Members," then "Profile Update," then "Biography Update," you'll have the opportunity to provide your own short biography and a paragraph about your involvement in Mensa. Also, you'll be able to upload a picture of yourself for other members to see on your directory results page!

Remember, if you decide that you don't want some information displayed in the directory, update your privacy releases by visiting <http://www.us.mensa.org/profile> or <http://www.us.mensa.org/PDQ>. Look for your directory releases specifically.

**T**he National Nominating Committee is seeking volunteers. NomComm representatives are entrusted with the duty of encouraging candidates to run for election. Candidates may be the incumbents, past officers, or members who have been active nationally, regionally, or locally.

Since most of the NomComm representatives in the past 4 or 5 years have been electronically linked, our business is conducted online. This does not mean you must be online but it helps. The current timeline has been developed to accommodate snail mail.

The NomComm conducts two meetings at the Annual Gathering in even years. The first meeting is procedural, where the procedures and policies are reviewed and any changes are discussed, ensuring everyone is aware how the committee functions. The second meeting at the AG is a "Meet the Candidates" session that allows the candidates to address the assembled NomComm personally. Each candidate is allowed a few minutes to speak followed by a brief Q&A period.

Why should you volunteer? Because it's a way to serve Mensa, to have a hand in shaping the direction of Mensa without committing to a prolonged term of service. The NomComm serves from the spring AMC meeting (usually in March) through to October 1 in even years. You will learn about the political workings of the organization and get acquainted with some pretty terrific people.

To volunteer, contact your LocSec to have him/her send your name to the national NomComm Chair no later than March 1, 2006.

**Question:** What do roses, games, and playful Mensans have in common?  
**Answer:** You'll find them at the upcoming Mind Games in Portland, OR, the Rose City, from April 21-23, 2006.

Mind Games is an intense weekend of play, a marathon of gaming, and an experience you're never likely to forget. And judging by the many Mensans who make it an annual outing, it's something not to be missed.

From Friday to Sunday, Mensans play, judge, and critique games released in the past year and award the coveted Mensa Select seal to the top five. Past winners include Scattergories, Trivial Pursuit and Taboo.

Registration through January 31 is only \$65, and that includes Friday dinner, Saturday lunch, and 24-hour hospitality throughout the event. Registration forms are available online through the National website at <http://www.us.mensa.org>, or you may contact John Recht at [MGChair@mindgames.us.mensa.org](mailto:MGChair@mindgames.us.mensa.org).

Only the first 170 to register will get in on the fun, so don't wait. Be a winner, and come to Portland for Mind Games 2006!


## **T**op Ten Reasons to Volunteer at the World Gathering 2006:

10. You will make new friends from all over the world!
9. You will experience the satisfying feeling of helping people.
8. Volunteers do it "for free"!
7. You will be "in the know" regarding current events at our World Gathering.
6. Volunteers are appreciated for what they do and what they know.
5. You could meet your future mate! Many couples have met through Mensa!
4. Knowing that without the collective you, it just wouldn't happen.
3. You will be a member of a very special group.
2. You will help make this event one of the best ever!

And the number one reason for volunteering at the World Gathering:

1. Volunteers are the lifeblood that binds our worldwide organization together. Come join us for an infusion!

Contact Kay Klasen, Volunteer Coordinator for World Gathering 2006 (<http://WG06.us.mensa.org>), to explore the volunteer opportunities. The possibilities are endless! Here is a partial list:

- Registration
- Speaker
- Food Service
- Hospitality
- Security
- Ambassador
- Games Host(ess)
- Teachers
- Ticket Taker
- Tour Guide
- Speaker Greeter
- Goodie Bag Stuffer (in Orlando) 



## Join us for CultureQuest® 2006!

Mensa has announced that this year's CultureQuest® contest of cultural knowledge will take place on Sunday, April 30. Be sure to mark your calendars! If you are interested in being on a CultureQuest® team for our chapter, or have any questions at all about CultureQuest®, please contact Claire Natola at [editor@nh.us.mensa.org](mailto:editor@nh.us.mensa.org). (Those who have enjoyed the Pub Quizzes in Portland should LOVE this!) In the meantime, try your hand at this sampler of CultureQuest® questions from last year's challenge. You'll find the answers on Page 21.

1. What cities form the corners of the so-called Sunni Triangle in Iraq?
2. Steel is produced by alloying iron with what?
3. What group recorded "I Second That Emotion" in 1967?
4. Name the person to whom the following quote is attributed: "War is just politics by other means."
5. Give the complete name for *Varecia variegata variegata*, a creature found in Madagascar. #

Paid Advertisement

THE  
ANTIQUARIAN  
BOOKSTORE



**WANTED:** All publications of Mensa, Intertel, I.S.P.E., new or old. Especially need all pre-1980 Mensa *Bulletin*, NH/ME/VT/MA local publications, registers, other paper material and pins. Wanted for preservation and access for research to members of these organizations. I will pay \$ for your items, but donations greatly appreciated. Help preserve our past.

Actively BUYING/trading collections/accumulations of old and new books, magazines, comics, sheet music, postcards, photos, prints, music CDs, adult/erotica in all forms.

Bring to The Antiquarian Bookstore at 1070 Lafayette Road (U.S. Route 1, adjacent to old Yoken's Restaurant), Portsmouth, N.H. 03801-5408 or call Walter Wakefield at 603-436-7250. New Hampshire's largest used/rare bookstore since 1973. Over 1/4 Million volumes in stock. Usually open Monday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. (Sometimes at club events -- call.) Thank You.



## Letter to the Editor

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[We received a lovely thank-you card from one of our scholarship recipients. Written inside was this note:]

NH Mensa Members,

Thank you so very much for my \$100.00 scholarship. I appreciate your kindness and your assistance in making my dream a reality!

*Thank you all,  
Sheila Fenderson  
UNE Student Nurse  
3rd Place Scholarship Recipient*

### **Mensa Education & Research Foundation**

#### **2005 – 2006 Scholarship Essay Contest Announcement**

Current Legal Residents of Maine or New Hampshire who will be enrolled in an accredited U. S. institution of postsecondary education (Post High School) for fall term of 2006 are eligible to apply for awards of \$300 to \$1000.

To download an entry form for your area (by ZIP code) with essay rules, visit  
<http://foundation.us.mensa.org/scholarships/zipfinder.php>

All completed applications must be postmarked by January 15, 2006.

Or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) to the address below, postmarked by December 31, 2005:

MENH MENSAS SCHOLARSHIPS  
P.O. BOX 7998  
NASHUA, NH 03060-7998

(Questions: [scholarship@nh.us.mensa.org](mailto:scholarship@nh.us.mensa.org))



## NH/ME Mensa in the News

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"Mensa Testing Set For Saturday"  
Sunday, October 16, 2005

By Chloe Johnson, Staff Writer

© 2005 *Foster's Daily Democrat*

Think you're pretty smart? Join the club.

October 22 is National Test Day for Mensa, the self-described "High I.Q. Society."

Prospective members will have the chance to take an exam at locations throughout New England on test day, and to join must score in the top 2 percent of the population on an accepted standard intelligence quota test.

Member-at-large Bill Alleman, an information technology consultant from Weare, calls Mensa a social organization that provides a forum for intellectual exchange. Mensa also aims to identify and foster human intelligence for the benefit of humanity and encourage research in the characteristics and uses of intelligence, he said.

"There are some members of the organization who believe that we, as an organization, should be working to solve the world's conflicts," Alleman said. "As individuals, some of us do."

The membership has a diverse array of occupations and passions, he said, adding that he can find someone to talk to about any topic he can think of.

Mensa members have a reputation as elitists, but few actually merit it, he said.

"Most people understand that intelligence is not a concrete concept," he said, explaining that there are different types of intelligence and different tests for them.

There are about 200 tests accepted as qualifiers for Mensa.

Member and local spokesman David Hallmark said New Hampshire and Maine are included in one chapter with 445 members, ranking its size 31st out of 135 chapters nationally. There are about 50,000 active Mensa members in the United States. More than 5 million Americans would be eligible if they took the test, Hallmark estimated. He said the average I.Q. is 100, but that number is meaningless without the test's name.

"Most of us aren't all that impressed with our own intelligence," Alleman said. "I'm not, most of the time."

A higher I.Q. doesn't indicate someone is superior in every way, he stressed. "It's important that we accept our limitations," he said.

Mensa offers an official exam in addition to accepting other tests. Alleman, who serves as a testing proctor, said he's never seen a test taker finish a Mensa exam's first section before the 12-minute time limit runs out. The questions get progressively harder.

Mensa's exam includes seven sections that take a few minutes each, he said. It tests different skills, like most standard tests, such as spatial relations and analogies.

The test answers are sent into the national Mensa office. Scores are returned within two weeks. They come with a letter of congratulations or advice for other testing options.

A link to the practice test is available at the website [www.nh.us.mensa.org](http://www.nh.us.mensa.org). Tests are scheduled throughout the year. ■■

"Mensa Offers Testing in N.H."

Friday, October 21, 2005

© 2005 *Portsmouth Herald*

Just how smart are you? October is the month to find out.

This month, all 135 Mensa chapters in the United States are holding a National Test Day.

The test will be administered in Portsmouth, at Franklin Pierce College, 73 Corporate Drive at the Pease International Tradeport. The test will begin at 10:30 a.m.

A total of six multi-statewide locations are set up for NTD.

Scoring above the 98 percentile of the National average IQ grants admission. No actual test score is given, but a pass/no-pass letter is sent.

"New Hampshire and Maine Mensa ranks 31st in the nation of 135 chapters," said Public Relations Chairman David Hallmark, a new Mensa member. "People are actually smarter than they think, and this is their chance to prove it."

There is a \$30 non-refundable fee, which covers test materials, mailings and grading of tests.

Other Maine and New Hampshire test sites include the following:

Bangor Public Library, Bangor, Maine, 10:30 a.m.

Franklin Pierce College, Keene, 9 a.m.

Lebanon Public Library, Lebanon, 10:30 a.m.

Weare Public Library, Weare, 10:30 a.m.

ON THE NET: U.S. Mensa: [www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org)

N.H./Maine Mensa and acceptance criteria:

<http://nh.us.mensa.org>. ■■



# Good Wine Cheap

(and good food to go with it)

John Grover

---

I recently had the opportunity to travel to Connecticut to give a talk about wine and to conduct a tasting. Connecticut has a fledgling wine industry with 14 wineries with several more under development. The Boss and I traveled to several wineries in the Western Highlands of that state and were very pleasantly surprised. The two wineries that I was most impressed with were Hopkins in New Preston and McLaughlin in Sandy Hook. Both displayed a wonderful quality and refinement in their wines

The wine this month is 2003 "Vineyard Reserve" from Hopkins. This white wine is a blend of two French-American hybrid grapes, Seyval and Vidal Blanc. The result is a delightful combination of fruit and crispness dominated by the taste of pears with a hint of apple. This wine retails for \$9 a bottle. This month's wine might be a little hard to find outside of Connecticut. I would also recommend looking for some New York wines from the Finger Lakes such as Hosmer's Seyval Blanc and Swedish Hill's Vidal Blanc.

French-American hybrid based wines have been pooh-pooed by the wine establishment for years. But, many of the wineries working with these grapes have found the right balance of sugar and acid to produce some truly fine wines. Their intense fruit is a perfect compliment for spicy Asian, Cajun and Mexican foods.

## Barbecued Shrimp

(adapted from *Chef Paul Prudhomme's Louisiana Kitchen*)

**Ingredients:** 2 dozen large shrimp still in shells (about 1 lb.); ¼ lb. butter (1 stick); 1½ tsp. minced garlic; 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce; ½ cup clam juice (or shrimp stock or fish stock); ¼ cup warm beer. **Seasoning Mix:** ½ tsp.\* ground cayenne pepper; ½ tsp.\* black pepper; ¼ tsp.\* crushed red pepper; ½ tsp. dried thyme leaves; ½ tsp. dried crushed rosemary; 1/8 tsp. dried oregano leaves; ¼ tsp. salt.

Combine the seasoning mix in a small bowl. In a large skillet over high heat combine the butter, garlic, Worcestershire, and seasoning mix. When the butter is melted add the shrimp and cook for 2 minutes shaking the pan in a back and forth motion. Add the stock or clam juice, cook and shake pan for 2 more minutes. Add the beer and cook and shake pan for 1 minute longer. Remove from heat. Serve immediately in a bowl with crusty French bread on the side or on a plate over cooked white rice. Serves two (with lots of napkins).

The ingredients marked with an asterisk\* have been halved from the original recipe. By experience we have found that our version is still very zesty but allows you to actually taste the shrimp and the wine you choose to go with it. I hope that you will contact me with your comments and favorite wines at [jgrover@berk.com](mailto:jgrover@berk.com). I will be happy to share them with the broader Mensa group. 🍷



# Events Further Afield

## SIG Gathering February 4-11, 2006 Guadeloupe Club Med, French West Indies

Active Mensans of all ages, including children(!), are invited to join the Club Med SIG of American Mensa for a week of beach sports and fun at the Guadeloupe Club Med starting February 4, 2006. Sports include sailing, windsurfing, archery, flying trapeze, tennis, dancing, snorkeling, beach volleyball, and kayaking.

All sports equipment, lessons, French/Caribbean meals, and drinks are included in the room price of \$95 (double occupancy). Just bring your swimsuit and passport. If you want to climb an active volcano, bring your hiking shoes.

Meet the Mensa group Saturday evening in front of the main restaurant in Club Med at 7:25 p.m. for dinner, followed by a week of active fun on the Guadeloupe Riviera. Details are on the SIG website at [www.MensaClubMed.org](http://www.MensaClubMed.org). Contact Erica Byrne, SIG coordinator, at [EMByrne@attglobal.net](mailto:EMByrne@attglobal.net) with any questions. Registration is free. SIG membership is free. 🏠

### Thank You, Furniture Mall!

Abundant thanks to new member Jason Bedrick for coming to the rescue! Jason responded to our plea for a new space for our Executive Committee meetings by suggesting the conference room at the new Furniture Mall at 1300 South Porter Street in Manchester, directly across I-293 from the Mall of New Hampshire. It's a gorgeous facility, and we thank the staff and management of The Furniture Mall for their hospitality!

### Answers to CultureQuest® Sampler

(See Page 16 for the questions if you're reading *Momentum* back-to-front.)

5. The black and white ruffed lemur
4. Karl von Clausewitz
3. Smokey Robinson and the Miracles
2. Carbon
1. Baghdad, Ramadi, Tikrit



# Calendar of Events

January 2006

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2	3	4	5	6 Temperance League	7 RG Planning Meeting
8 Second Sunday Brunch Bunch	9	10	11	12	13 Immoveable Feast	14 Books and Brunch Games Night
15 Roving Salon Central Maine Dining	16 <i>MLK Day</i>	17 FSM/ ExComm	18 North of Boston Dinner	19	20 WinnipeSupper	21
22	23	24 Dinner and Pub Quiz	25	26	27 Appetite for Discussion	28
29	30	31	<b><i>Many thanks to our event hosts!</i></b>			

Mensa members are welcome to submit calendar listings to the Calendar Editor (calendar@nh.us.mensa.org) before the first of the month prior to the cover date. ♦ Event hosts may petition the Executive Committee for funds to promote events via postcard to members within a proximate geographic area. ♦ 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 group-sponsored events. Hosts of home-based events reserve the right to restrict attendance due to space or other appropriate reasons. ♦ While our hosts endeavor to provide accurate directions, attendees are well-advised to use their mapping medium of choice to determine their own best routes. ♦ In addition to being proper etiquette, R.S.V.P.'ing makes logical sense; it helps the host plan for the proper number of attendees and allows you to be kept abreast of any changes.