



The Voice of Mensa in New Hampshire and Maine

Vol. 26 No. 3

October 2006



# New Hampshire Mensa

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*MOMENTUM* (ISSN 0279-2850) is the official publication of New Hampshire Mensa (030). It is published monthly at 83 N Main Street, Boscawen, NH 03303 and is distributed to members of New Hampshire Mensa with the subscription cost of \$6.75 included in the national dues. Out-of-chapter Mensa subscriptions are \$12.00 per year. Non-member subscriptions are \$15.00 per year. Periodicals postage paid at Concord, NH 03301.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Momentum*, 83 North Main Street, Boscawen, NH 03303-1235.

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## Out of My Mind

### LocSec Claire Natola

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By the time you read this, our thoughts will be turning to autumn with its crisp air, turning leaves, candy-stocked store shelves, and earlier sunsets. I'm still grappling with the fact that August is gone. Between the six days spent in Orlando for the World Gathering and 13 days spent undergoing and recovering from surgery, I feel like the entire month escaped my grasp. So, I find myself at the beginning of September snowed under by unanswered emails, too many projects on my to-do list, and with slightly less than my usual amount of energy to juggle it. But, it will all eventually get done (as I keep reminding myself). Many thanks to my friends in Mensa who have supported me of late. From 3 get well cards in the mail to hospital visits with flowers in hand to even just a simple, "Put this request low on your priority list until you are feeling better," it has all meant so much to me, and I thank you.

The biggest news for our chapter to come out of the World Gathering in Orlando is our receiving the Class II Group of the Year Award for the first time! The Group of the Year Award (GOTYA) recognizes local groups for their members' active participation in all the activities that Mensa has to offer (e.g., Mensa Testing Day, CultureQuest, Leadership Development Workshops, etc.). Mensa groups are separated into five categories by size; Class II is the large group category (400 to 899 members). Approximately 25 Mensa chapters are categorized as large, so winning this award was quite an achievement. I can't tell you how many times I heard at the World Gathering, "You guys are doing some fabulous things up there," when people met me and realized I was from New Hampshire Mensa. These comments were coming from members from all over the country, many of whom I had never met or heard of previously. However people are hearing about us, we are making quite the impression. Thank you to all of you who make this a wonderful and notable chapter!

The World Gathering was filled with helpful workshops and the opportunity to make connections with other Mensans near and far & all of which should serve to make the New Hampshire Mensa experience even more rewarding. The "Mensa Testing Day: How-To" workshop provided much useful advice in promoting and executing events related to Mensa Testing Day on October 21. (See the list of all MTD test sessions elsewhere in this issue, and please encourage your friends and family to test!)

The "So You Want to Start a Speaker Program?" workshop was of great interest to me, because I hope to find a volunteer willing to resurrect our long-dormant monthly speaker program. Please contact me if you are interested in helping put this event back on our calendar, and I will be able to provide you with the useful information I collected in Orlando.

Workshops related to SIGHT (Service of Information, Guidance, and Hospitality to Travelers) and Mensa WorldConnect afforded me the opportunity to explore deeper involvement for our chapter in these programs, both of which are designed to

bring far-flung Mensans together. Neil Kennard-Davis, Chairman of Mensa South Africa, will be addressing the his Annual Gathering in late September about twinning a South African chapter with our chapter through the WorldConnect program. Richard Kingston, Mensa's International SIGHT Coordinator has kept up correspondence with me since his return home to Cyprus, and has asked me for ideas about helping the SIGHT program and the WorldConnect program work together effectively.

Bob Cox (American Mensa's National SIGHT Coordinator) and I discussed the SIGHT program as it relates specifically to our chapter. I am pleased to announce that Bob has appointed Charlie McGillicuddy of Augusta, Maine as our new SIGHT Coordinator. Hearty thanks go to Charlie for volunteering for this position, which had been vacant for 16 months. I discussed with Bob the possibility of having two SIGHT Coordinators for our chapter: Charlie for Maine and someone else for New Hampshire. Bob said that would be perfectly acceptable. So, if you are interested in finding out more about what the position of SIGHT Coordinator for New Hampshire would entail, please feel free to contact me.

I would like to also thank several of our Maine members for volunteering for Area Coordinator positions after the plea I published in this space last month. Scott Cayouette, who has always done a fabulous job of hosting events and proctoring the Mensa Admissions Test, has volunteered to be the Central Maine Area Coordinator. Sue Flaherty (who hosts the monthly Dinner and Pub Quiz in Portland) has volunteered to serve as the Greater Portland Area Coordinator. Bob Lagos of Portland has also volunteered to assist Sue in this regard. Thank you, Scott, Sue, and Bob! If you live in an area of Maine that you think would be well-served by an Area Coordinator, and might be interested in the position, please drop me a line.

This is the time of year when visions of Regional Gatherings should start dancing in your heads. Next month is Boston Mensa's Pilgrimage RG in Braintree, Massachusetts. Boston Mensa is including a neat twist in their RG this year: "The Pilgrimage Game." "Mensa Dollars" will be awarded to attendees based on participation in any number of activities or tasks. Registering and paying for the RG gains you \$1. Signing the guest book on the <http://bostonrg.org> website gains you \$1. Winning a games tournament gains you \$3. And so on, and so on, and so on. You can use these "Mensa Dollars" for raffles at the RG. It sounds like it will be a lot of fun! RG Chair Wendy Birchmire, Susan Engelke, Al Beecy, and others have been working hard to make this year's Pilgrimage a can't-miss event, and I hope to see you there!

Finally (drumroll, please) the time has come to unveil plans for our own RG! *Granite Gathering 2007: RGs are Forever* will be held in Nashua on February 16-18. You'll find a registration form in this issue of *Momentum*; be sure to register soon, book your hotel room, and get ready to have fun! Volunteers for our RG Committee are always welcome and greatly appreciated; look for updates throughout the coming months on where assistance is required.

Well, I have far exceeded my allotment of space with all this news! I hope to see you out and about at one or more events this month.



# ExComm Minutes of August 15, 2006

## Recorded by Liz Modesitt

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### Voting Members Present:

John Bauman, Mark Becker, and Claire Natola

### Others Present:

Elizabeth Becker, Nicholas Becker, Anne Majeske, David Melville, Liz Modesitt, Tom Sheil, and Publisher Ric Werme.

The following proceedings are unofficial, since there was not a Quorum present.

Claire reported that we have 472 members, 320 in New Hampshire and 152 in Maine, for an increase of 6 members since last month.

Claire shared her news from the recent World Gathering, where she attended numerous workshops and a soiree for the Mensa Foundation. *Momentum* won the Mensa Recognition award and our chapter won the Group of the Year award for its class. We will be swapping one R.G. registration with the Dayton, Ohio chapter which we will then raffle off to raise money.

9 Maine members and 4 New Hampshire members attended the "Meet the RVC" event in Maine, as well as numerous friends of Mensa. It is unlikely that Maine will become an independent chapter soon, but Area Coordinators will be created for several Maine regions. Charlie McGillicuddy will serve as the Maine SIGHT Coordinator.

Walter Wakefield and Elizabeth & Mark Becker updated us on the R.G., which will have the theme of "James Bond-007". The details for the Saturday night banquet are still being worked out, but we have several possible logos for publicity to use. Adam Smargon will be in charge of Games, and Bob Oxford will be in charge of the Music Room. Several potential speakers were mentioned to try and book for the R.G.

The issues of appointing Liz Modesitt permanent Recording Secretary and moving the location of FSM and ExComm from Szechuan Gardens were tabled due to the inability to take a vote.

The End



# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

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Despite what the Administration keeps trying to maintain, the war in Iraq has does not have a central role in what we need to do as a country to maintain our security and fight terrorism. In fact, the war has likely done more to detract from security and terrorism than to enhance it! If we shift the discussion from Iraq to security and anti-terrorism, the Administration comes up so wanting that I hope the Democrats focus on it strongly, resisting any attempts to pull the discussion off-target to Iraq.

What are the key issues for security and fighting terrorism? Here's a long/short list – feel free to add others:

- o Keeping Afghanistan stable against the Taliban
- o Pushing the hunt for Bin-Laden
- o Rooting out terrorists in Pakistan
- o Solving the Israel-Arab conflict
- o Gathering solid and effective intelligence on terrorists
- o Cooperating with our allies' intelligence efforts
- o Bolstering anti-extremist Muslims and their organizations
- o Presenting our society to Muslims in a good light
- o Create dialogues with other cultures, especially Muslim
- o Ending our dependence on Middle Eastern oil
- o Reducing our energy and resource appetite
- o Supplying ourselves with renewable never-ending energy sources
- o End our economic dependence on foreigners buying our deficit
- o Fully funding local and Homeland Security efforts
- o Protecting ourselves against major natural disasters
- o Protecting our borders against infiltration
- o Resisting religious fundamentalists here at home
- o Build alliances with like-minded nations, especially Muslim
- o Educating ourselves to Muslim countries as to what we're about
- o Educating ourselves about Muslim countries
- o Bringing Russia, China, and other straddlers around

In all of these the Administration has come up woefully short. And this has to do with the fundamental duty of a country, to defend itself, and it has to do with an area where the Administration keeps claiming it's doing a better job than the Democrats would. The time has come to call them on it!

Sincerely,  
David Heimann

Dear Mark,

I am very sorry to have to inform you of the death of Maine Mensa member David Venne. Dave passed away unexpectedly on Friday, 01 September, 2006.

While I am a life-member, I have always considered myself more or less a "closet-mensan", having attended only about three of so meetings. Since Dave and I lived on opposite corners of an intersection, we started MMMMs (Micro-Mini-Mensa-Meetings) which we would hold, in German, right in the middle of our intersection, while the cars squirmed their way around us. Regretfully, I will now have to disband the MMMM branch of Mensa. I will miss those meetings.

Best regards,

Jack Hayes  
Portland, Maine

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.

Paid Advertisement



# Notes from National

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Rhode Island Mensa (RIM) is hosting the quarterly meeting of the American Mensa Committee (AMC) the weekend of October 13-14. We are spreading the word to all Mensans to come and view the inner workings of their governing board. The meetings will be held at the Radisson Airport Hotel in Warwick, Rhode Island. All details are posted on the RIM web page at [www.rhodeisland.us.mensa.org](http://www.rhodeisland.us.mensa.org).

Board members will be arriving from all regions on Friday (the 13th!) to participate in subcommittee meetings and to settle in for the games ahead. RIM will be staffing a hospitality room for arriving board members and all who may wish to meet them, from the hours of 6pm til 11pm. The AMC meeting begins on Saturday at 8am and breaks for a 6:30pm "meet and greet" Saturday dinner, a "taste of New England" chowder, clam cakes, and pasta buffet with a cash bar. The dinner is open to Mensans and their guests; all those who are interested in coming to the dinner please register early as seating is limited.

Please come and join us, come listen in as your elected board members make decisions that guide the direction of Mensa going forward. Become familiar with the inner workings, as this may be your opportunity and your inspiration to step forward and become intimately involved in this dynamic organization- your organization!

Thank you,  
Michele Fremont, AMC Hosting Committee Chair

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Think your friends and/or family members are Mensa material? Help them discover Mensa and join for less!

Visit [www.us.mensa.org/members](http://www.us.mensa.org/members) <[www.us.mensa.org/members](http://www.us.mensa.org/members)> and look under the heading "Discount available for Mensa Testing Day" on the right side of the page. There, you can click on the link and download a document for a \$5 discount on the Mensa Admission Test on Mensa Testing Day (offer valid from 10/7/06-11/5/06). Give these to your friends and family- anyone you think should join Mensa! You can print out as many as you like and give them to as many people as you like, but only one discount is allowed per candidate.

Have a great day! (*I have included one copy on the next page, Editor*)

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We've produced a special issue of the Bulletin that we've dubbed the "pass-along" issue.

This issue is meant for the public and includes information about the different programs and events that Mensa has to offer, as well as information about how to join. We encourage members/local groups to share this issue by placing it in places the public might see it - for example, a waiting room at a doctor's office, the breakroom at work, or the magazine rack at the gym.

If you would like copies of this pass-along Bulletin, please email [DistributionAsst@americanmensa.org](mailto:DistributionAsst@americanmensa.org) with your name, member number, address, and number of copies you would like.

Thanks - Catherine Barney, Marketing Director American Mensa, Ltd.  
8 *Momentum*



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# Think. Discover. Join.

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## **Mensa® Testing Day** Friends and Family Discount

A Mensa member thinks you might be Mensa Material!  
Find out October 21, 2006 on Mensa Testing Day.

Local Mensa Groups across the country will be administering the  
Mensa Admission Test on that day.

Present this for a \$5 discount on testing.  
Visit [www.us.mensa.org/MTD](http://www.us.mensa.org/MTD) to find a test site near you!



**Mensa® Testing Day**  
October 21, 2006

Proctor: please indicate "Friend/Family discount" on Test Session Recap and attach this document.  
Limit one discount per candidate. Offer valid until Nov 5, 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>Proctor</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
Bromley Baril 603-749-1088	21, October	Dover NH
John Bauman 603-883-7494	23, October	Nashua NH
Marty Capodice 603-746-3648	21, October	Lebanon NH
Scott Cayouette 207-872-4576	7, October 8, October 14, October	Hampton ME Riley ME Augusta ME
Claire Natola 603-279-9986	21, October AM 21, October PM	Laconia NH N. Conway NH

There may well be other tests on the 21st for National Mensa testing day that could not be finalized by the newsletter deadline. Please refer to the NH Mensa website, or contact the Testing Coordinator for more up to date information.





# The Alchemist

## Al Thomas

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### POLITICALLY CORRECT INVESTING

In this day of political correctness investors are being influenced to buy or sell certain sectors of stocks and mutual funds. This is a great way to lose money. Remember the big stink about tobacco companies? Not that it wasn't true, but many investors and even major institutions sold all their tobacco stocks. And I ask you, did this hurt these companies at all? Here is one example. Phillip Morris, now called Altria with the same stock symbol on the New York Stock Exchange, MO, in 1984 listed at \$2.67. This nasty company (?) that kills people slowly with tobacco now has that same stock trading at more than \$83.80. It rose steadily thru all the bad publicity.

Did you know that when you buy stock thru your broker you are buying it from another individual and not from the company? The only time a company benefits from your purchase is when they have an Initial Public Offering (IPO). That is the first time their stock certificates are issued. After that you are trading dollars with another investor. The same applies to a sale of any shares you may own. It has no effect on the company at all.

If the investor is a strong believer in health products or the environment or any other pet project it does not make a twit to any company whether you own their shares or not. If Mr. Investor is making money in a company that makes poison gas he can take his profits to use to lobby against their manufacture. Of course, that won't keep any other company in a foreign country from making the same product. Today there is a huge lobby against the manufacture and use of land mines, but millions are still being sold and put into the ground. It is a despicable product. As long as there is big money in it it will continue and thousands will be killed and maimed.

There you have the answer. It is all about money. Health products that don't work, machine guns to kill people, useless environmental projects and on and on when looked at closely the answer is always money. Many of the environmental advocates are there to serve up big salaries for their members.

The shrewd investor will put his money where he has the greatest return. Then with the profits he can support his favorite charity or cause. An investor can make all the political statements he wishes, but why make a useless one that has no effect on the company in question. Put the profits to work where the cause of the investor will do the most good. That is the way to make a real political statement.

Al Thomas' book, "If It Doesn't Go Up, Don't Buy It!" has helped thousands of people make money and keep their profits with his simple 2-step method. Read the first chapter at <http://www.mutualfundmagic.com> and discover why he's the man that Wall Street does not want you to know. Copyright 2006 All rights reserved.



# Granite Gathering '007: RGs Are Forever February 16-18, 2007



Your presence is kindly requested at New Hampshire Mensa's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Gathering! RG aficionados say that for a small state, we have one of the best RGs: stellar hospitality, ample food and libations, scintillating speakers, live music, games and tournaments, contests, book sale, silent auction, and more!

**Location:** Crowne Plaza Nashua, 2 Somerset Parkway, Nashua, NH 03063. Room rate of \$96 (exclusive of 8% NH Rooms Tax) per night guaranteed until 1/16/07. 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:** \$55 until 11/16/06; \$65 until 1/16/07; \$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. Fabulous Saturday night 007-themed buffet is \$28 per person. Make checks payable to "New Hampshire Mensa" and mail your form and fee to Registrar Deb Stone, 24312 Spartan Street, Mission Viejo, CA 92691-3921. (email: [debstone@cox.net](mailto:debstone@cox.net)) Do not mail registration after 2/1/07; please register at the door instead.

Questions, concerns, criticisms, compliments? Contact RG Co-Chair Walter Wakefield at 877-436-7250 or RG Co-Chair Mark Becker at rgchair@nh.us.mensa.org. For latest details, see [www.nh.us.mensa.org/rnews.shtm](http://www.nh.us.mensa.org/rnews.shtm). See you in February!



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Badge \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Badge \_\_\_\_\_

Registrant #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Registrant #3: \_\_\_\_\_

Registrant #2: \_\_\_\_\_ Registrant #4: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names and Ages: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Type	Quantity	Rate (see above)	Subtotal
Adult Registration			
Child 8-17			
Child under 8		Free	
Saturday Buffet		\$28	

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

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

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



## Local Shutterbugs!

This month we bring you some pictures Claire Natola took at the World Gathering in Orlando this summer.

International WorldConnect Coordinator Barbara Lytle looks on while Italian Mensa member Marco Riva and American Mensa's WorldConnect Coordinator speak about the benefits of the program.



International SIGHT Coordinator Richard Kingston leads a workshop on the future of the SIGHT program.

A breakout session during the Mensa Internationals Board of Directors Meeting.





# Local Writers!

Occasionally the mind may wander to a “what-if” land of mental and/or emotional irresistible forces and immovable objects, or happenings that seem, although natural and commonplace, never to occur at the same time.

As children, many of us knelt beside our beds at bedtime and recited the familiar “Now I lay me down to sleep...”, etc. Our abilities to comprehend or even question our mortality, however, were usually limited at that age to such questions as, “Where do I go when I die?”

By the time the concepts and acceptance of our own mortality have been formed, in whatever shape or fashion, we have in all probability been many years removed from kneeling beside the bed and reciting that children’s prayer.

I’d be willing to bet, however, that most of us remember it, though... word for word.

What if the two mind sets or events occurred simultaneously?

What if?

This poem has been published internationally, and cost me a lot to write in many ways; and even more to live to read it.

## **Down...To Sleep...**

*Please don't blame me;  
The dark I seek is not a simple end of day.  
The words I speak are To The Lord I Pray...  
Now I lay me*

*Down...to sleep...  
No more to watch each night crawl past my bed,  
And taste the fright, and choke upon the dread;  
My soul to keep...*

*A black so high  
It covers moons that once gave hope of dawn;  
I know the starlight, too, would soon be gone  
If I should die.*

*Before I wake,  
I count each beat my heart sends to my ears,  
And lie in heat that only feeds my fears...  
My soul to take.*

*I've seen the sun;  
I've watched the edge of light where shadows bend.  
I know tonight the darkness will not end...  
As light and dark are one.*

*guy petit*



## **BOSTON MENSA RG**

### **“The Pilgrimage Game”**

November 17–19

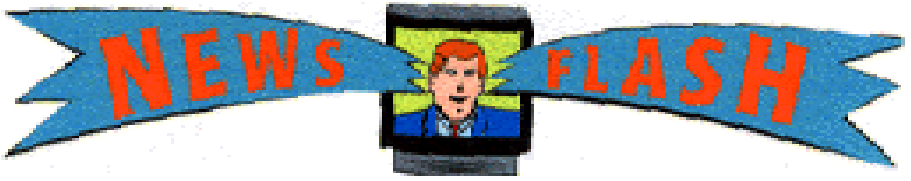
Braintree, MA

“The Pilgrimage Game” will have all the features of our best RGs (great food and beverages, open bar mixers, speaker track, activity track, games tournaments, Kids Academy, newly released movies, and more) plus a variety of individual games and puzzles running in the background. Mensa Dollars will be awarded to attendees during the convention based on which activities they choose to complete. Mensa Dollars can be used in a variety of raffles.

For more information and to register online go to:

**<http://bostongr.org>**





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*We interrupt your regular Momentum to bring you these two late breaking announcements from your LocSec. Your newsletter will continue after these brief messages.*  
Editor

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Many thanks to Rob Roy of North Conway for kick-starting our new fundraising efforts! Rob baked some goodies and sold them at his restaurant, netting \$52 for New Hampshire Mensa. Thank you, Rob! If you can help New Hampshire Mensa with a fundraising idea, please contact our Fundraising Committee Chair Joe Zanca at 603-286-4157 for support and encouragement!

Interested in helping us plan Granite Gathering '007? Join the RG Planning Committee for a planning meeting at The Red Apple Buffet, 161 Loudon Road, Concord, N.H. on Monday, October 9th at 7:00 p.m. Directions: From the north or south, take I-93 to Exit 14 (Loudon Road). Turn left onto Loudon Road if coming from the north; turn right onto Loudon Road if coming from the south. The Red Apple Buffet is 3/4 of a mile ahead on the left.

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KICK IRATIONAL by Brian Lord



www.KidsComics.com



# Calendar of Events

## October 2006

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
01	02	03	04	05	06 Temperance League	07 Leaf Peepers Weekend
08 Leaf Peepers Weekend 2nd Sunday Brunch	09	10	11	12	13 The Brady Bunch	14 Games Night
15 Central Maine Dining	16	17 Pre-FSM Dinner FSM and ExComm	18 North of Boston Dinner	19	20 Winnepesupper	21
22 North Country Lunch	23	24 Dinner and Pub Quiz	25	26	27 Appetite for Discussion	28
29	30	31				

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 or cancellations.