

Welcome to New Hampshire Mensa's
Granite Gathering
20th Anniversary



Learn from the Past, Plan for the Future, and
Celebrate the Present!

February 12- 14, 2010
Best Western Wynwood Hotel and Suites
Portsmouth, NH

Regional Gathering Committee

Chair	Holly Green
Assistant Chair	Richard Conde
Hospitality Chair	Elizabeth Becker
Hospitality Angel	Sue Barnes
Hospitality Angel	Devin Starlanyl
Programming Chair	Holly Green
Registrar	Deb Stone
Games Chair	Wayne Eddy
Music Room	Bob Oxford
Movie Guy	Richard Conde
Kid's Room	Cathy Segedy
Biermeister	David Melville
Icemeister	Jim Barnes
Program Book Editor	Mark Becker
Video Game Room	Jack Follansbee

Thank you to everyone who helps
out throughout the weekend!

RG Tips and Tidbits

BADGES Anyone NOT wearing a badge will NOT be allowed entry into Hospitality. Many of you will think this stinks. However, this is the only way we can ensure that only paying RG attendees will be able to avail themselves of the victuals and libations that your registration dollars paid for. We trust you understand, and we thank you for your cooperation.

HOSPITALITY Please do not carry open containers outside the RG area. We need to abide by state regulations that govern the hotel.

SMOKING No smoking is allowed in the hotel. Thank You.

POOL If you choose to use the hotel pool, please observe the posted rules.

BEHAVIOR Please respect the property of the RG and the hotel. Illegal, destructive, or abusive behavior will not be tolerated and will be considered cause for possible eviction from the RG, without refund.

HUGGING The Mensa hugging dot code:
GREEN = Yes, please hug me!
YELLOW = Please ask me first.
RED = Don't hug me.
BLUE = Seeking Dates

Please treat children as if they have red dots, as they often decorate their badges.

PARENTS AND CHILDREN Please, no unaccompanied children, under 12, in public areas after 10:00 p.m. Please make certain your children are supervised in the Children's Room as daycare service is not provided by the RG or by the hotel. Individual parents are requested to supervise activities and crafts, and to staff the room. RG staff provide craft materials.

PHOTOGRAPHS We'd love to see your RG photos! Feel free to email them to Bill Alleman at webmaster@nh.us.mensa.org for posting on the New Hampshire Mensa website, and/or to Mark Becker at editor@nh.us.mensa.org for inclusion in a future issue of *Momentum*.

RG ELEMENTS All elements of our schedule are current as of 2/1/10, but are subject to change without notice. We hope nothing changes, but if it does, may it only be for the better. We will endeavor to post any and all changes on a prominent whiteboard in Hospitality.

20th in '10, the 2010 NH RG

Our theme is the 20th Anniversary of the NH RG: Learn from the Past, Plan for the Future, and Celebrate the Present!

Friday

3:00 p.m. Registration Opens, Hospitality

4:00 p.m. Hospitality and Games Room (Badger) Open

Hospitality and Games Room will be open round the clock until Sunday 12:00 pm - Noon.

4:00 p.m. Music Room (Cutter) Opens for Socializing

5:00 p.m. Kids' Room (Room 294) Opens

About our Kids' Room: All children should have the name of a responsible adult and cell phone number written on the back of their name tag in case of emergency.

When there are no events going on, the Kids' room will be available for kids to play, color, and have fun. Children under 10 years old must be accompanied by an adult to be in the Kids' Room during the free-play times (we are not a babysitting service).

5:00 p.m. Kids' Meet 'n' Greet, Kids' Room (Room 294)

Get acquainted; make name tags, color, and general play time.

5:30 p.m. Movie Room (Room 296) Opens

About our Movies: Our movies are "drop-in"-able. Come in when you can. Stay as long as you want. Go when you have to. Our movie theme this year: Reminiscence.

5:30 p.m. 50 First Dates (2004, PG13, 1:39), Movie Room (Room 296)

Adam Sandler is a man in Hawaii who routinely dumps women before they ask for commitment. Then he meets a woman, Drew Barrymore, who can't commit at all: She loses all memory of yesterday every time she goes to sleep!

6:00 p.m. The Crock Pot Cook Off, Hospitality

Enjoy good food and vote for your favorite crock pot dish.

6:00 p.m. Family Folk Sing-a-Long, Music Room, Cutter

7:00 p.m. 50/50 and Gift Raffle Ticket Sale, Hospitality

Come get tickets for the raffle, and help support our local scholarships.

Also Bob Oxford has donated a gift that he has earned in another venture. The

winner will get to choose one gift from the Variety Collection. You can view the items in the collection at: https://www.ordermygift.com/74625000000_variety.aspx
Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

The winning ticket will be drawn Saturday after dinner.

7:15 p.m. Whatever Works (2009, PG13, 1:32), Movie Room (Room 296)
Larry David stars as Boris, a PhD intellect who finds that life has a way of not coming out the way he fears. Life is not about your plans, but 'whatever works'.
Written & directed by Woody Allen.

7:30 p.m. GenX/Y Mixer, Meet 'n' Greet Room (Room 293)
Get together with other GenXers (born from 1961 to 1981) and GenYs (born from 1976 to 1988). Meet up with old friends and make new ones! This is an unstructured, drop in event.

8:00 p.m. Ice Cream Sundaes, Hospitality
Make your own sundaes, a treat from several of our past RGs

8:00 p.m. Siroteau (A Classic Folk/Rock Duo), Music Room, Cutter

8:00 p.m. Story Time, Kids' Room (Room 294)
What could be better than a nice story or two before bed for the little ones?

9:00 p.m. Karaoke and Open Jam, Music Room, Cutter

9:00 p.m. Open Bar, Hospitality
Pete the Bartender returns by popular demand and will mix your drink to order.
Adults over 21 only.

9:00 p.m. General Play Time, Kids' Room (Room 294)

9:00 p.m. It Might Get Loud (2008, PG, 1:37), Movie Room (Room 296)
Jimmy Page, the Edge, and Jack White (of Led Zeppelin, U2, and The White Stripes) talk about their music and jam together. (Whether it actually gets loud is yet to be determined). Directed by David Guggenheim ("An Inconvenient Truth").

10:00 p.m. Kids' Room Closes

10:30 p.m. Shrimp & Champagne, Hospitality
Toast the 20th anniversary of the NH Mensa RG!

10:45 p.m. (500) Days of Summer (2009, PG13, 1:35), Movie Room (Room 296)
A story about love, not a love story. Shown randomly, these are the 500 days Tom

(Joseph Gordon-Levitt) is in love with a woman named.. Summer (Zoey Deschanel).

12:30 a.m. Movie Room Closes

Saturday

6:00 a.m. Breakfast - Hotel Breakfast Room

Join us for hot waffles and continental breakfast provided by the Hotel. Breakfast will be served until 10:00 a.m.

7:00 a.m. General Play Time - Kids' Room (Room 294)

When there are no events going on, the Kids' room will be available for kids to play, color, and have fun. Children under 10 years old must be accompanied by an adult to be in the Kids' Room during the free-play times (we are not a babysitting service).

7:30 a.m. Morning Movie - Kids' Room (Room 294)

Come watch a movie with friends. This will be something appropriate for the younger set. It's OK to bring your breakfast in there, or come after breakfast.

9:00 a.m. Self-Healing 101 - Wil Howitt, Appledore

Long before doctors and HMOs, cultures around the world developed ways for people to take care of their own health. Recent science shows that the mind can influence the body far more than we used to believe. This workshop draws on Native American shamanic lore, Indian pranayama, Chinese qigong, autohypnosis, and biofeedback to synthesize simple, effective techniques for self-healing that anyone can do. Involves visualization, breathwork, and light movement.

**9:00 a.m. The Human Perspective for the Palestine Situation -
Carolyn Cicciu, Cutter**

The session will describe observations made as part of a delegation with the Inter-Faith Peacebuilders team last spring. She will include some pertinent history and the work being done to address humanitarian concerns, both by Palestinians and Israelis.

**9:00 a.m. Scavenger Hunt and General Play Time - Kids' Room (Room
294)**

10:00 a.m. Bending for Beginners - Wil Howitt, Appledore

Fans of Nickelodeon's "Avatar: The Last Airbender" love the combination of martial arts and magic in the show. This is a demonstration of the four different kinds of kung-fu that are used to manipulate the four elements in the show. No sparring, but participants are welcome to try the moves as we go. Great for cosplayers!

9:30 a.m. Scrapbooking Make and Take - Sue Follansbee, Room 292

We'll be making a card - Sue will have a variety of different designs on display.

She will have numerous patterns, cut-outs, stickers, etc. for you to choose from to design your own card or replicate one of her designs. Sue has been scrapbooking avidly for about 3 years and recently bought a Cricut. She will also share money saving tips and techniques she has learned using her Cricut.

10:00 a.m. Sustainable Seafood: How Local Fishermen Are Doing Business Differently - Carolyn Eastman, Cutter

Some think of fishermen as pillagers of the sea, but NH commercial fishermen have operated in sustainable ways for the past 15 years. Carolyn and Ed Eastman started the first NH *Community supported Fishery (CSF), Eastman's Local Catch*, in response to limited days to fish and pounds to catch in hopes of directly helping the boat and providing the freshest fish directly to local consumers while still rebuilding fish stocks.

10:00 a.m. Boggle Tournament, Tournament Games Room (Room 295)

Race against your fellow Mensans to find the most words. The first round will consist of 3 games which will narrow the field down to 4 finalists who will then compete for the honor of being named 2010 Boggle champ.

10:00 a.m. Up (2009, PG, 1:36), Movie Room (Room 296)

Ed Asner is the voice of Carl, an old man quietly mourning his late wife, Ellie, and the adventures they never had. But one day, he ties a huge bundle of balloons to his house, and Carl takes off for an adventure in the wilds of South America!

10:00 a.m. General Play Time - Kids' Room (Room 294)

10:00 a.m. 50/50 and Gift Raffle Ticket Sale, Hospitality

Come get tickets for the raffle, and help support our local scholarships.

Also Bob Oxford has donated a gift that he has earned in another venture. The winner will get to choose one gift from the Variety Collection. You can view the items in the collection at: https://www.ordermygift.com/74625000000_variety.aspx
Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

The winning ticket will be drawn Saturday after dinner.

11:00 a.m. The End of Drug Prohibition? - Richard Van Wickler, Appledore

Richard Van Wickler, member of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP) (www.CopsSayLegalizeDrugs.com) will speak about his experience as current Superintendent for the Cheshire County Department of Corrections. Also a professor of Justice Studies and Corrections Operations, Superintendent Van Wickler will discuss the many failures associated with the "War on Drugs" and how this social problem needs to be redefined as something other than a criminal justice issue. The mission of LEAP is to reduce the multitude of unintended harmful consequences resulting from fighting the war on drugs and to lessen the incidence

of death, disease, crime, and addiction by ultimately ending drug prohibition.

11:00 a.m. Organic Garden Planning - Ayn Whytemare, Cutter

Vegetable gardening has many benefits for body and soul. Whether you are new and want to know where to start or have done it for years and want some new techniques this talk is for you. We will cover garden siting, types of garden beds, soil types, compost techniques, season extension and types of plants to grow.

11:00 a.m. Nachos 101 - Laurie Piper, Room 292

If you enjoy delicious food, come hear food tips from a professional chef and learn how to make tasty fresh salsa and mildly spicy guacamole to serve with nachos.

11:00 a.m. Craft - Spoon People - Kids' Room (Room 294)

We'll be making people from wooden spoons. This is a good craft for any child who is comfortable with scissors and glue. The results can also be used as puppets.

12:00 p.m. noon Lunch, Hospitality

Sandwiches on homemade bread with salad.

12:30 p.m. Ratatouille (2007, G, 1:51), Movie Room (Room 296)

Remy dreams of being a great chef in Paris. Problem is, he's a rat (*rattus norvegicus*). Humans want him dead, his family just wants to eat garbage. But with the aid of his human partner, Linguini, he lives for his motto: Anyone Can Cook!

1:00 p.m. The Aspergerian Adventure - Carol Ann Edscorn, Appledore

We will start with an overview of autism and Asperger's Syndrome. We will look at sensory integration issues, neuroscience research, and the social/cognitive language differences regarding Asperger's. The presentation will end with information about the Asperger's Association of New England. Intertwined are personal anecdotes, many humorous, about life in undiagnosed autism.

1:00 p.m. History and Foundation of Soothsaying - Tchipikaan, Cutter

Soothsaying has been practiced in many forms throughout human history. It fulfilled different roles in different cultures but as a natural, if rare, human ability, every culture has to come to terms with the phenomenon. We'll explore how various forms of soothsaying work, and how they fit into various world views.

1:00 p.m. Maine Ex Comm Meeting, Meet & Greet, Room 293

1:00 p.m. General Play Time, Kids' Room (Room 294)

1:30 pm Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Tour - Gary Hildreth, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (Pre-registration required)

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard has a venerable heritage and rich tradition. For more

than 200 years Yankee ingenuity and craftsmanship have been the keys to the Shipyard's success. Learn about its role and achievements in times of war and peace. Through history and human interest stories, the Shipyard will come alive.

2:00 p.m. Soothsaying and Developing your Psychic Abilities - Tchipikaan, Cutter

Beginning exercises for developing natural human abilities to learn about yourself, your friends, the future, and other "hidden" connections between different things in the universe. Psychometry, Dousing and some other simple soothsaying techniques.

2:00 p.m. Climategate: 162 MB of Leaked Emails, Documents, Software and Data - Ric Werme, Room 292

NH Mensa has offered a talk in each of the last several RGs on global warming and what's happening on the subject. The most interesting event of 2008 was the release of 1,000 Emails, a few fascinating documents, and a lot of software and data. Reaction to the release ranges from "It's nothing" to "It's the smoking gun." As usual, the truth is somewhere in between. Ric reports on some of the suspicions confirmed, the formal investigations it has spawned, and what it means for the future of climate research.

2:00 p.m. Sudoku Tournament, Tournament Games Room (Room 295)

The tournament will consist of a warm-up round to get your brains functioning followed by 3 Sudoku puzzles (2 standard and 1 surprise). The first one to finish all three puzzles will be the winner.

2:30 pm TaKeTiNa - Elaine Fong, Appledore

Developed 40 years ago by Austrian musician Reinhard Flatischler, TaKeTiNa or Taketina (www.taketina.com) is a rhythmic meditative experience. Rather than "thinking about rhythm", in Taketina, you connect directly to the rhythm using your body. Through vocalization, clapping and stepping you are guided into three separate rhythmic layers. It is a musical group process that allows participants to access their innate ability to express and embody rhythm.

Taketina reinforces a natural, at your own pace and organic way of learning that can induce a deeply relaxed state. It is a powerful process that can rapidly quiet the chatter in your head and bring you into connection with your inner core. The theme of this workshop is to take what is experienced in the workshop out into one's daily life. Participants in a Taketina workshop describe it as "not yoga, not pure meditation, and not dance and yet it still has elements of all of these".

Are you curious? Then come and get a taste of Taketina. Please wear comfortable shoes and clothes that you can move in. There will be a time during class where you will lie down – feel free to bring a yoga mat or blanket for your comfort.

2:30 pm Magic the Gathering, Kids' Room (Room 294)

Come play Magic The Gathering (tm) with others. We will have some cards there,

but feel free to bring your own deck.

2:30 pm Man On Wire (2008, PG13, 1:34), Movie Room (Room 296)

The Oscar-winning Best Documentary that shows the “Artistic Crime of the 20th Century”, the daring plot to create Philippe Petit’s 1974 wire walk between the towers of the just-completed World Trade Center, 1350 feet above New York. A moment of wonder. (No mention whatsoever about anything that happened years later).

3:00 p.m. Asperger’s Syndrome, Anxiety, and Physiology - Robert Lagos, Cutter

Anxiety may be the most prevalent obstacle for those with Asperger’s Syndrome (A.S.). This talk will deal with the importance and cause of anxiety in A.S., what it actually is, first-person experiences of people with A.S. regarding anxiety and related issues, and how other symptoms may be tied in to it. Also discussed: where research is at, and brain physiology involved in Asperger’s and autism.

3:00 p.m. Global Warming – It’s Real, It’s Here, and It Creates Jobs -David Heimann, Room 292

The last ten years have been the warmest decade in a very long time. Glaciers in the Arctic and Antarctic have been retreating at an ever faster pace. Weather around us has become more volatile. What is going on? It’s global warming.

David will cover four points:

- What is global warming?
- How does global warming affect me and my family?
- What can we do about global warming (the 2% solution)?
- How will dealing with global warming help the economy, create jobs, and protect our tenancy on the planet?

3:00 p.m. Snacks, Hospitality

Old favorites (cake, cookies, and finger sandwiches).

3:00 p.m. Dominion Tournament, Tournament Games Room (Room 295)

4:00 p.m. Matrix Magic - Ron Oplinus, Room 292

A discussion of quantum physics as the basis for the transformation, or miracles that are performed by practitioners of Matrix Energetics and other healing modalities. These “miracles” include such things as removal of aches and pains caused by injury, arthritis, aging, etc, elimination of tumors and cancers, repair of lungs as damaged by COPD, etc. If time permits, a demonstration of transformations will be performed.

4:00 p.m. Music Room (Cutter) Opens for Socializing

4:15 p.m. Landing Robots on Another Planet - Kurt Schwehr, Appledore
This presentation will give an insider's view of landing robots on another planet. Research assistant professor has Kurt Schwehr Mars has worked on NASA mission control teams and designed computer vision, 3D visualization, and on-board driving software for NASA's Mars exploration program.

4:15 p.m. Adam (2009, PG13, 1:39) Movie Room (Room 296)
Beth (Rose Byrne) moves into a new apartment and starts a relationship with her neighbor, Adam (Hugh Dancy.) Adam is cute and brilliant, but talking to him is tricky: he has Asperger's Syndrome. Love can be a series of missteps and uncertainty, especially for Adam, who is learning how to deal with Asperger's while experiencing love and a newly independent life.

5:00 p.m. Poker Tournament, Games Room (Badger)

5:00 p.m. Phil Simonds (Classical Piano), Music Room, Cutter

5:00 p.m. Norse Story Hour - Tchipikaan, Kids' Room (Room 294)
The Vikings and other northern Europeans had some great stories. Kids will enjoy hearing about how some of our ancestors dealt with their friends and enemies in ingenious and (to the modern mind) often bizarre ways. Some gods, heroes, ghosts, magick, "fighting, torture, revenge, giants, monsters, chases, escapes, true love, miracles..." , Everything a growing boy needs to hear about.

5:15 p.m. The Force - Kevin Tremblay, Room 292
The Force has been seen as a god that can be controlled. A force that can be manipulated and bent to a person's will. When an endospore breaks its seed-coat-shell and a plant emerges reaching to the sky, and root into the ground, the force is present. This force is the ether; an all pervading energy; without space or form. Wilhelm Reich, Nicola Tesla, Rudolph Steiner and Andrija Puharich are a few scientists that worked directly with the ether. May the electromagnetic force be with you!

5:30 p.m. RVC Rap Session - Lori Norris, Meet 'n' Greet Room (Room 293)
Lori Norris, Regional Vice Chair (representative to the American Mensa Committee) for Region 1 will lead a discussion on the latest happenings regionally, nationally and even internationally.

6:00 p.m. Steven Winikoff (Clarinet), Music Room, Cutter

6:00 p.m. The Jerk (1979, R, 1:34), Movie Room (Room 296)
Steve Martin's first movie. The rags to riches to rags story of a perfect Densan. [R rating for use of adult language.]

6:30 p.m. Dinner, Appledore and Games Room (Badger)

Join us for a sit-down dinner and enjoy a taste of New England cuisine.

7:00 p.m. Familiar Echoes (Folk Trio), Music Room, Cutter

7:30 p.m. China: Not What You Might Expect - Jane Davis, Appledore

No one can truly understand another culture without having lived it but there are insights available to all of us and observations that allow us to make projections, all with a combination of known modifiers as well as wild cards. China is in flux with growth and adaptations changing everyday lives. Where is the dragon heading and how have we contributed? I can't answer all the questions but can maybe provide you with some of the modifiers that may encourage your own investigation and a visit to this amazing land of contrasts.

7:30 p.m. TeenSIG Hang Out, Meet & Greet Room, 293

Teenagers, round up your friends and spend the evening hanging out.

7:45 p.m. Star Trek (2009, PG13, 2:06), Movie Room (Room 296)

JJ "Lost/Alias" Abrams directed this 'reboot' of the Star Trek franchise (an "Alternate Reality", to the continuity trekkies). An extratemporal Romulan goes back to the Enterprise's maiden voyage, determined to destroy the Earth (of course.) Chris Pine as Kirk, Zachary Quinto as Spock, and Leonard Nimoy as Spock Prime.

8:00 p.m. Acoustic Mayhem (Blues Duo), Music Room, Cutter

8:00 p.m. 50/50 and Gift Raffle Ticket Sale and Drawing, Hospitality

Last chance to get tickets for the raffles, and help support our local scholarships. The winning ticket will be drawn at about 8:30.

8:00 p.m. Dungeons and Dragons, all ages, Kids' Room (Room 294)

Join the party of adventurers as they make their way through their adventure! We'll be playing by 3.5 Rules. We have some dice and books, but feel free to bring your own. If you want to make your character ahead of time, you can. 4th level - the DM reserves the right to make changes. We'll have a few pre-made characters available as well.

9:00 p.m. Double Deck Cancellation Hearts Tournament, Tournament Games Room (Room 295)

Valentine's weekend is the most appropriate weekend to compete in breaking hearts. Come play this RG favorite card game of skill and luck. Depending on the number of contestants, we'll play 2 or 3 rounds to determine who will be the heartbreaker of 2010.

9:00 p.m. Open Bar, Hospitality

Pete the Bartender returns by popular demand and will mix your drink to order.

Adults over 21 only.

9:00 p.m. Karaoke and Open Jam, Music Room, Cutter

10:00 p.m. Traditional Chocolate Feast

Celebrate the 20th anniversary of the NH RG with chocolate treats galore!

10:00 p.m. Taking Woodstock (2009, R, 2:09), Movie Room (Room 296)

Ang Lee directed this film, based loosely on a real life story. Eliot Tiber spent the early summer of 1969 helping his parents save their motel in the Catskills. Then he got a great idea, and introduced Woodstock producer Michael Lang to dairy farmer Max Yasgur. Next, 500,000 concertgoers came to little Bethel, NY. Note: not about the music concert itself (you can't really hear it except in the distant background), but about Tiber and his family's reaction to it. A cute coming of the Age of Aquarius movie. [R rating for language, brief nudity, and drug use <shock, shock!!>]

12:00 a.m. midnight - Kids' Room Closes

12:15 a.m. Movie Room Closes

Sunday

6:00 a.m. Brunch - Hotel Breakfast Room

Join us for hot waffles and continental breakfast provided by the Hotel. Breakfast will be served until 10:00 a.m.

7:30 a.m. Morning Movie, Kids' Room (Room 294)

8:30 a.m. General Play Time, Kids' Room (Room 294)

9:00 a.m. Chocolate Divination - Tchipikaan, Appledore

A new way of reading the future using chocolate. Fun, tasty, and it works. If you don't care for chocolate, other small candies can be substituted- or just give them away. (The origin of this system used seeds and beans, which were just used for soup after the soothsaying.)

10:00 a.m. Kids' Room Closes

10:00 a.m. Awards and Announcements, Appledore

Many Thanks to Our Speakers!

Carolyn Cicciu is a peace activist, former English teacher, and literacy volunteer with programs for refugees and immigrants.

Jane Davis is a two-time cancer-survivor who decided, after beating her 6-month death sentence in 2002, to see as much of the world as possible and to share the experiences with others in order to expand their view of their own backyard. She has a BA in Communications and an MSB in Business and has worked as a professional photographer and videographer in a long career of trying a little bit of everything. She is the mother of three grown children and is used to them answering the phone with, “Hi Mom, Where are you now?” The irony there is that two of her grandchildren are now studying the globe and saying “you haven’t been there yet, have you?”

Carolyn Eastman has been an educator for the past 13 years, which includes adolescent and adult education. She has been a national Education consultant for the past 8 years examining alignment to standards with teachers. Carolyn uses her education background in her current endeavor, Eastman’s Fish, to help educate consumers about local seafood and fishery management. She currently serves on the NH Sector Board of Directors for new fishery management, runs Eastman’s Fish with her husband Ed,

and travels with her consulting business. Carolyn resides in Madbury, NH with her husband and two children

Carol Ann Edscorn is a published author/essayist/poet, a musician and artist (watercolors and acrylics mostly) and who loves computers. And stars. I have been married for 27 years to the Christopher and I have 5 children, 11-24, all of whom I have educated at home. I am always accompanied by my service dog – Shakespeare Aristotle.

Sue Follansbee has been scrapbooking avidly for about 3 years. She utilizes many different web sites for tutorials and to learn new techniques and has attended and worked at a few scrapbook conventions. Sue has decorated a wall at work for News and Events, Department happenings, Educational training and has made scrapbook pages for a “Meet the Team” wall at work. She makes cards for all occasions and is a prodigious scrapbooker; she has several scrapbooks she has completed or is still working on from trips she have taken and has made scrapbooks for other people as gifts. Sue would like to start a small business making cards and/or scrapbooks.

Elaine Fong is a certified TaKeTiNa teacher, advanced level. She received her training from the founder of the

Many Thanks to Our Speakers!

TaKeTiNa process, Reinhard Flatischler. Ms. Fong has led TaKeTiNa workshops in the New England area, Canada, Washington, and California. She is also the founder and former artistic director of the New England taiko (Japanese drum) group, Odaiko New England, and is still active as a taiko artist. Ms. Fong has over 25 years of percussion experience, and collaborates with both West Coast and East Coast artists.

David Heimann has been a member of Mensa since 1976. For most of that time he has been hosting the Spring and Fall Mountain Climbs in the New Hampshire White Mountains and attending most of the New England Pilgrimage and New Hampshire RGs. In his day job he has developed software and improved its quality, created reliability and analytical models, and otherwise made numbers talk. He has taught Management Science and Information Systems at the University of Massachusetts Boston. His long-held interest in weather, natural science, and the environment has led him to become active in the Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter, where he is Chair of the Energy Committee.

Gary Hildreth is a retired United States Navy Submariner who at an early age in his naval career fell in love with Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and the Maine Seacoast. After nearly 29 years in the Navy, Gary began his

second career as a member of the Public Affairs Office at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. His interest and enthusiasm in the Shipyard's history and folklore have inspired him to further research the Shipyard's storied heritage. He is currently finishing a master's degree in American New England Studies at the University of Southern Maine.

Wil Howitt is a doctor of computer science and electrical engineering, specializing in physical acoustics and psychoacoustics. He has worked at MIT and BU, developing human auditory system models and speech recognition systems. He also enjoys drumming, dancing, and playing didjeridu and other rhythmic instruments. He teaches Taoist martial arts, rides a black BMW motorcycle, fences with a German longsword, and looks around a lot.

Robert Lagos is employed as a computer programmer/analyst/developer for a company in Portland, Maine, which is dedicated to health and health insurance, and has been in this industry for about 20 years. He is a graduate of UCLA (University of California at Los Angeles) with a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry and a certificate in the upper-division extension program in Computer Science. He is also a musician (pianist), but is not currently performing professionally.

He has been a member of Mensa

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since October 2005. He is currently the facilitator for the Maine Adult Asperger group which meets monthly in Portland, as well as an advisory board member for the Maine chapter of the AANE (Asperger Association of New England).”

Ron Oplinus is a member of NH Mensa, a Certified Practitioner of Matrix Energetics, and a retired electrical engineer/engineering manager

Laurie Piper is a 1980 graduate of the CIA (no, not the spy agency), Culinary Institute of America. She has 15 years of experience cooking for a wide variety of restaurants, including French, Swiss, Mexican, Italian, Scottish, and American.

Kurt Schwehr is an assistant research professor with the Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping (CCOM) at the University of New Hampshire. He received his Ph.D. from Scripps Institution of Oceanography studying marine geology and geophysics. His research has included components of computer science, geology, and geophysics. He looks to apply robotics, computer graphics, and real-time systems to solve problems in marine and space exploration environments. He has been on the mission control teams for the Mars Pathfinder, Mars Polar Lander, Mars Exploration Rovers and the Phoenix Mars Lander. He has designed computer vision, 3D visualization, and on-

board driving software for NASA’s Mars exploration program. Fieldwork has taken him from Yellowstone National Park to Antarctica. He is currently working on a range of projects including the Chart-of-the-Future, the maritime Automatic Identification System (AIS), visualization techniques for underwater and space applications, marine geology, and Mars spacecraft.

Tchepakkan is an artist, writer, healer, and soothsayer, author of several cookbooks and magazine articles. She practices and teaches RunValdr and Reiki, huna healing, herbalism, and divination with runes, palmistry, tarot, has been involved in and studying Paganisms and magick for four decades. Her paintings include portraits, book covers and tarot cards.
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Kevin Tremblay is a member of Maine Mensa and is the Editor of MaineScene, the Maine Mensa newsletter. He lives in Ripley, Maine and has one published book, and is the president of the book publishing company, Main Bookshelf, LLC. He was raised in the Boston area and is an avid gardener.

When **Ric Werme** joined Mensa back in 1974, he was already interested in meteorology and climatology, in addition to pretty much anything else that is related to science. However, after finding that programming computers was more fun, his career has been

Many Thanks to Our Speakers!

working as a software engineer on operating systems and networks. Ric attended the 2008 Mensa Annual Colloquium in Atlanta late last February. He's still annoyed that his flight home was canceled. By snow. In Atlanta. In March. Much of his climate-related interest (or is that obsession?) is recorded at his climate web site, <http://wermenh.com/climate/index.html>.

Ayn Whytemare is the owner and founder of Found Well Farm. Previously she owned and operated Ecological Landscape Gardening, which emphasized using native plants, organic fertilizers, and person-based, rather than machine-based, maintenance. Her other experience working in the plant trades (florist, nursery and garden centers) and as a consultant on forest pollution lead to a desire to find more native plants for use in wild and home landscapes for restoration and enhancement. Her talk in 2003 at the winter Northeast Organic Farmers Association (NOFA) conference "Using Native Plants in the Landscape" solidified her ecosystem-approach and underscored the need for plants native to New Hampshire to be made available to public. Ayn received her B.A. from Barnard College of Columbia University in 1988 with a major in Environmental Science and an M.S. from University of Washington in Forest Ecology in 1994.

Thank you for being a part
of yet
another great Granite
Gathering!
We'll see you next year!



Mensa Gathering Primer

1: Hugging

If you have ever wondered if Mensa has an official handshake, we do... sorta. It is called the hug. Many members have been coming to gatherings for years, have built established friendships and you will see that the Gatherings become a family reunion of sorts. The hug also has a therapeutic quality. So if you see people giving each other hugs out of the blue do not worry! If you are one who is uncomfortable with giving hugs to strangers be sure to put a red dot on. Nobody will think any different of you and as you build friendships within the group those who you would like to greet with a hug will know they have permission from you and vice versa, even with a big red dot on your badge.

2. Standard Gathering Fare

RG's tend to be scaled down versions of AG's and follow the same template. Expect to find the following activities/amenities at these gatherings.

A: Speakers

Each gathering has speakers which cover a wide range of subject matter to appeal to a wide audience. These speakers are usually experts in their field and most sessions run about an hour. Speakers present throughout the day. If you have a topic you wish to present contact the gathering organizing committee for more information on how to do so.

B: Hospitality

Each gathering has a hospitality room. In this room you will find tables, chairs, snacks, beverages and members sitting around the tables together conversing. If

the gathering you are attending will be providing meals they will be served in this room. Hospitality is typically open the entire gathering 24/7 for those night owls or those with the late night munchies.

C: Games Room

The games room is where you will find anything games related. Board games, card games, puzzles, tournaments, etc. Popular tournaments include Euchre and Hearts but you may even find some people playing in an encore tournament as well. The games room is also open 24/7 and many games go into the wee hours of the morning.

D: A Little Something Special

Many gatherings have their own unique event that they put on to make their gathering stand out from the rest. WEEM, the annual Chicago gathering takes place near Halloween and has a costume contest. SEMMantics, the Southeast Michigan Mensa (Detroit Area) gathering has their famous lingerie show. These items on the program help make each gathering experience special and memorable.

3. Meeting Other Members

There are a number of ways you can begin to meet people at gatherings. A large number of members tend to be shy or introverted in their daily lives but you wouldn't know it from looking around!

A: Find a table, and sit.

Other mensans will go out of their way to make you feel comfortable if they hear it is your first gathering and will quickly work you into whatever conversation is taking place. This is a great way to take the pressure off being a fish out of water and get

you into the flow of the gathering.

B: Volunteer!

There are ways you can help out at a gathering of any size, even if it is just for an hour of your time. Mensans do not get paid to put on any gathering including the AG's and do it out of their love of the group and the kindness of their hearts. But the organizers can't do it on their own. Helping with hospitality is a popular and easy way for all members to help out and meet other members during their shifts.

C: Check out a SIG!

Many gatherings, especially the AG's have SIG (Special Interest Group) get together. This is a great way to meet other people who you have things in common with. For members that fall into the "GEN-X" age range, their popular "meet and greet" and "bar crawls" are a great way to meet members your own age and build friendships right away.

4. Common Courtesy

While the RG/AG's are often times a vacation for members, please keep in mind a few things while attending a gathering.

A: RESPECT THE HUG DOTS!

These work only because people adhere to them. Do not ask to or try to hug a member with a red dot. This will get you into trouble. Also, do not attempt to hug a member with a yellow dot without asking permission. This will also get you into trouble.

B: RESPECT THE SINGLES DOT!

Look for the dot, not the ring. Many singles are not looking for other singles at gatherings. Please do not make advances towards other members of either gender if

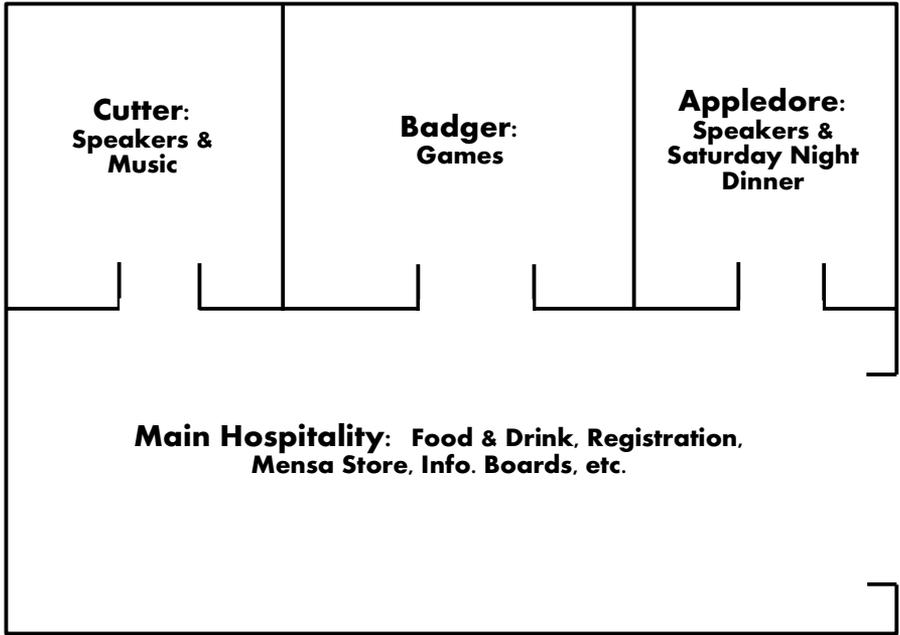
they do not have a singles dot on. No means no in Mensa too so if you approach a member with a singles dot and they are not interested please respect their wishes.

C: CAREFUL WITH THE CAMERA!

While everyone is at the gathering to have a good time, and you want to capture these memories on film/digitally please remember to think twice before shooting a photo of someone. Other members are attending to have a good time too and don't appreciate it when they find out after the gathering that a member they don't know has a less than flattering photo of them online in a photo gallery. Also, many people are just uncomfortable with camera's in general. While there is no "Camera Dot" to place on your badge if you think you would like to take a photo of a member, or a group of members ask first. They will appreciate it even if they say "No" and it may be a polite way to introduce yourself to other members. Please also remember that these gatherings are private events! Some RG's have no camera policies for specific activities and they are strictly enforced. Additionally, many gatherings have their own "In House" photographer as part of the organizing committee. If you see these individuals take photos of you that you are uncomfortable with speak to them about it. They are more than willing to respect your comfort level and make sure you have a great time at the gathering.

Selections reprinted from Shawn Kenney's American Mensa forums post of April 30, 2006.

First Floor Meeting Rooms



Second Floor Suites

