

GRANITE GATHERING 2005

PHANT-M: THE MUSIC OF THE NIGHT

Cast

Chairs	Darlene Alleman Walter Wakefield
Registrar	Deb Stone
Hospitality	Sue Barnes Elizabeth Becker Paula Werme John Bauman
Programming	Claire Natola
Music Plus Hospitality	Bob Oxford
Games	Adam Smargon Judi Shaw
Puzzles	Claire Natola
Movies	Rich Conde
Biermeister	Bill Alleman
Icemeister	Jim Barnes
Speaker Coordinators	Jack Balcom Ben Thompson
Gifted Children	Perry Barnett Kim Barnett Gail Meinhold
Silent Auction/Book Sale	Laurel Ladd
Auctioneer	Joe Zanca
RG Primer	Laurie Levesque
Admissions Test Proctor	John Bauman
Program Book	Claire Natola

Any omissions are simply oversights due to the insanity of the Program Book Editor, not to any lack of appreciation by the RG Committee.

Production

ACT I: BADGES Please wear your badge. It is the only way we can distinguish one another from other hotel guests.

ACT II: HOSPITALITY Please keep all food and drinks in the Hospitality and Games rooms. Although we have use of the 12th Floor, we still need to abide by state regulations that govern the hotel.

ACT III: SMOKING Smoking is allowed only in the Smoking Hospitality room.

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

ACT V: 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.

ACT VI: HUGGING The Mensa hugging dot code:

GREEN = Yes, please hug me!

YELLOW = Please ask me first.

RED = Don't hug me.

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

ACT VII: PARENTS AND CHILDREN Please, no unaccompanied children in public areas after 11PM. 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 provides craft materials.

ACT VIII: PUZZLE CONTEST Picture and Word Puzzles are on display, so be sure to grab an answer sheet and play along! Complete your answer sheet by 8:00 p.m. Saturday to be in the running for a fabulous prize!

ACT IX: BEST RG PICTURE CONTEST Enter your photos for the Best RG Picture Contest! Submit your entries via email to webmaster Bill Alleman at webmaster@nh.us.mensa.org. Contest closes March 1 with winner to be posted at <http://www.nh.us.mensa.org> shortly thereafter. The prize is a \$10 Mensa Boutique gift certificate!

ACT X: RG ELEMENTS All elements of our schedule are current as of 2/16/05, but are subject to change without notice. We hope nothing changes, but if it does, may it only be for the better.

A Message From Our Games Chair

Hi! I'm Adam Smargon, and I'll be the Games Chair for this RG. I'm a relative newcomer to Mensa...and to New Hampshire. I'm originally from Florida, so now I am very cold. I moved here in June 2004 to get a doctoral degree in natural resources from the University of New Hampshire.

I was informed that there should be rules for the gaming activities during the RG. Here ya go:

Rule 1: The Games Room should be open at all times, day and night.

Rule 2: The Games Room opens at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, and will not close until 1:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Rule 3: Games are provided by many individuals and organizations. Please take care that the games and game pieces see no food, drink, ashes, or damage.

Rule 4: Pads of paper and writing implements will be supplied.

Rule 5: We're going to try laissez-faire organization as an experiment. In other words, no particular games are scheduled.

What if you want to play a particular game at a particular time (say, poker at 10:00 p.m. on Saturday), and you want to publicize that for a tournament? There will be a central games message center that will feature tournament announcements from your fellow Mensans, as well as requests for partners or opponents for less-organized games.

Those of you who have played in game tournaments at RGs before should know how to get organized, and I'm sure newcomers will either (a) figure it out on their own or (b) get instructions from a happy Mensan.

Checking for messages every now and again during the RG should keep you informed, happy, and playing to your heart's content.

Please include names and hotel room numbers; I want to encourage the use of the hotel telephone system. If you're not staying in the hotel, cell phone numbers and/or home phone numbers are certainly okay. Let's stay connected!

Rule 6: There is no Rule 6.

Rule 7: Please be discreet, and please use proper etiquette.

Rule 8: Please clean up after yourselves: put garbage where it belongs, and repackage games in their original containers when you are finished.

Other rules shall be posted and/or communicated at the RG.

Have a good time!

Legend



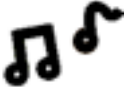
Food/
Drink



Speaker/
Workshop



Special
Event



Music



Movie



Dancing



Children's
Music



Children



Time
Check

Friday



4:00 p.m.

Hospitality, Children's and Games Rooms Open



4:00-8:00 p.m.

Children's Room Welcome

Come to the Children's Room to eat, hang out, meet "old" friends and make some new ones.



6:00 p.m.

Dinner, Hospitality

Join us for a welcoming New Hampshire dinner in Hospitality.



7:00 p.m.

RG Primer, Room 1215

First time at an RG? **Laurie Levesque** is here to answer all our questions and to show you the ropes. Meet fellow newcomers and make some fast friends. Room 1215 adjoins Hospitality.



7:00 p.m.

Film: *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow*, Movie Room

(2004, 1:47, PG. Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow) A hero pilot and a reporter woman must stop an evil scientist and his robot army from destroying the world. Almost everything that isn't an actor was created on a computer: all sets, visuals, and even the evil scientist (image of Lawrence Olivier).



8:00 p.m.

Children's Room closes



8:00 p.m.

Beer Tasting, Hospitality

Join Biermeister **Bill Alleman** as he present's this year's selection of finely-crafted brews.

8:00-10:00 p.m. **Karaoke, Music Plus Hospitality**
Come and sing to terrific Karaoke back up tracks provided by the professional Karaoke Jockey from **Captain Chris Entertainment**. There are some 1000 songs for you to choose from, so you are sure to find something you'll be able to sing! So come one, come all and let us hear how talented you are (or aren't!)...or just come and watch others show off! (Think "Mensa Idol"!)



8:30 p.m. **Ice Cream Sundaes, Hospitality**
Sure, it's February...but New Englanders love ice cream all year round. Make your own sundaes from our buffet of ingredients.



9:00 p.m. **Joke-Off, Smoking Hospitality**
Join **Jay Carlisle** for a joke-off and showcase your comedic skills.

9:00 p.m. **Film: *Hero*, Movie Room**
(2003, 1:39, PG13. Starring Jet Li, Directed by Zhang Yimou of *House of the Flying Daggers*) A man appears before a warlord with the weapons of three assassins, and three dubious stories of how he got them. Is he there to protect the warlord – or just trying to get closer?



10:00 p.m. **Irish Coffee, Hospitality**
Cap the evening with a warm Irish Coffee.



10:00-12:00 p.m. **Informal Music Jammin', Music Plus Hospitality**
Did you bring your own instruments to join us? If not, there will be a variety of instruments available for you to play. Come and jam and sing with other folks during this unstructured time.



11:30 p.m. **Shrimp, Champagne and Domestic Caviar, Hospitality**
Didn't you hear? Beluga sturgeon is endangered; domestic caviar is what everyone's eating now! Along with our traditional shrimp, we'll have a tasting of 5 different types of domestic caviar, served with some champagne, of course! Come try the hottest new item on restaurant menus!



11:30 p.m. **Film: *Open Water*, Movie Room**
(2004, 1:22, R.) A couple goes scuba diving alone in the open sea, but when they surface, the boat that was supposed to pick them up doesn't show. How do they survive, avoid becoming fish food, and not go crazy?



1:00 a.m. **Movie Room closes**



Saturday



8:00-10:00 a.m.

Breakfast, Hospitality

Paula Werme will be making various flavored waffles from home-made batter.



8:00-10:00 a.m.

Morning Activities, Children's Room

Bring your breakfast to the Children's Room and enjoy some cartoons, arts and crafts, and face painting.



8:00-9:00 a.m.

Healing through Taoist Tai Chi, Webster

Tai chi is a Chinese system of exercise that is renowned for its ability to heal chronic injuries, stimulate health and wellness and rejuvenate the aging body. The Taoist form provides a gentle but thorough workout, suitable for people at any level of physical fitness or debility (can be done in a wheelchair). **Wil Howitt** teaches several basic exercises, and demonstrates the entire form (108 moves). For more information: International Taoist Tai Chi Society <<http://www.taoist.org/>>



8:00 a.m.

Film: *Ella Enchanted*, Movie Room

(2004, 1:36, PG. Anne Hathaway.) Ella travels across the kingdom to return a 'gift' from her fairy godmother: obedience. Anything anyone tells her to do, including 'freeze,' she does immediately.



9:00-10:45 a.m.

Mensa Admissions Testing, Spaulding

Proctored by John Bauman.



9:15-10:15 a.m.

You CAN Get There By Train, Pierce

When **Susan Engelke** was six her father told her by digging a hole in the back yard she could reach China. Despite lots of digging, she did not reach this destination. Then a friend pointed out to her while she lived in Zagreb, Croatia that, "You can get there by train." This presentation chronicles a journey through Croatia, Hungary, the Ukraine, across Russia on the Trans-Siberian, into China and then Mongolia.



9:15-10:15 a.m.

Fitzmaurice Tremoring Voicework, Webster

The Fitzmaurice Tremoring Voicework technique was developed by acting coach Catherine Fitzmaurice, with a goal to wake up resonators in the chest, the throat, the nasal passages, etc. **Doug King** guides participants as they assume yoga positions, allow tension in a large muscle group (such as the thighs), and seek the tremor. The technique also works splendidly well as a method of alpha wave meditation. You'll leave the session feeling refreshed and alert!"

10:00 a.m. Silent Auction and Book Sale Begin, Room 1215
Laurel Ladd coordinates our Silent Auction and Book Sale, with proceeds to benefit the NH/ME Mensa Scholarship Fund. Room 1215 adjoins Hospitality.



10:00 a.m. Film: Mean Girls, Movie Room
(2004, 1:36, PG13. Lindsay Lohan, written by Tina Fey.) A new girl at school fights a 'girl war' of manipulations against a ruling clique of 'plastic' girls.



10:00-11:00 a.m. Build Your Own Instrument, Music Plus Hospitality
An event for children and childlike adults! Come and build a musical instrument. If you are brave enough, you might even choose to play your custom made instrument at one of the Informal Music Jammin' sessions!



10:15-11:00 a.m. Memories of the Old Man of the Mountain, Pierce
Deb Nielsen, the only woman to scale the face of the Old Man of the Mountain, shares her memories with us.



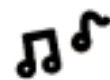
10:30-11:30 a.m. Hypnosis: What's In It For You, Webster
This seminar focuses on what Hypnosis is and is not, and how self-hypnosis can be utilized in so many facets of your life. **Bob Adams** will present numerous illustrations and examples from casework and history, including the work of Milton Erickson, MD. Comparisons and parallels of self-hypnosis with other well known disciplines: meditation; affirmations; auto-suggestion, et al. The "untapped" power of the mind in self-hypnosis will be highlighted, with practical and immediate suggestions for achieving the "state" itself!



11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon A Comprehensive Solution to the Energy Crisis, Spaulding
We have all heard many times of the "Energy Crisis," currently one of the major topics of public interest, due to high crude oil prices. Numerous "solutions" have been proposed, yet they have all failed for various reasons. **Les Case** outlines his long-term solution, which relies on America's own reserves of oil shale.



11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sing Along Fun with Amy, Music Plus Hospitality
Amy Conley is a versatile professional musician and entertainer, delighting audiences of all ages with her voice, (sometimes even puppets!), instruments and song. Be sure to come along and sing along with Amy!





11:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Taoism 101, Pierce

Taoism is an ancient Eastern system of thought that incorporated philosophy, religion, and technology for generations of Chinese development. Presented by **Wil Howitt**, this lecture is one Western guy's attempt to explain the basic precepts of Taoism, teach its basic ideas, and dispel some common misunderstandings about Taoism. Not a complete class, but a starting point for those who wish to study further.



11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Lunch, Hospitality

We're offering two lunch periods to ease the crush, and to accommodate workshop/lecture attendees. If you can't make lunch at this time, the next round is at 12:30 p.m.



12:00-1:00 p.m.

Scarf Juggling, Webster

Join **Patrick Nearing**, President of the UNH Juggling Club, for a workshop on juggling scarves. Scarves will be provided for all participants, and can be purchased after the workshop for a small fee, with proceeds benefiting NH/ME Mensa's Scholarship Fund.



12:15 p.m.

Film: *Super Size Me*, Movie Room

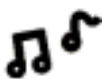
(2004, 1:40, PG13.) Director Morgan Spurlock documents his 30 day "McDonald's Only" diet (with only 1 1/2 miles of walking per day – the US average.) This is a hilarious critique of corporate irresponsibility, school lunches, and the eating habits of a lot of the U.S.A. Nominated for Best Documentary 2004.



12:30-1:30 p.m.

Lunch, Hospitality

The second of our two lunch periods. If you think you'll be attending a workshop/lecture at this time, come to our first lunch at 11:30 a.m.



12:30-1:30 p.m.

**Informal Music Jammin',
Music Plus Hospitality**

Did you bring your own instruments to join us? If not, there will be a variety of instruments available for you to play. Come and jam and sing with other folks during this unstructured time.



12:30-1:30 p.m. Why It Is So Easy to Hack Your PC, Spaulding

An amazing number of home computers are infected with viruses, spyware, and trojans every year. Every day, people unintentionally provide their personal information over the network. Should you like to learn a little about why this is happening, what it means to you, and few things you can do about it, you'll want to attend this presentation by **Curry Bartlett**.

1:00-6:00 p.m. **Chair Massages, Room 1215**
Jeff LeClair, LMT, founder of Full Spectrum Wellness of Manchester, will be providing chair massages in Room 1215, which adjoins Hospitality. Chair Massage (or seated massage) refers to a brief bodywork session, usually acupressure-based, done in a special chair in which the client sits facing toward the cushions, exposing the scalp, shoulders, neck, arms, back, and hips. Massages will be provided for a reasonable fee, with proceeds to benefit NH/ME Mensa's Scholarship Fund.



1:15-2:30 p.m. **Everyday Einstein, Pierce**
2005 marks the 100th anniversary of Einstein's "Miracle Year," 1905, when he published 4 papers that rocked the world. **Harry Ringermacher** will describe those works and how they affect each of us every day of our lives.



1:15-2:45 p.m. **Like, Totally Gross Anatomy, Webster**
Is your reaction "Eww, gross!" or "Cool!"? Whether you consider it fascinating or icky, this workshop is sure to be different from any other you've attended at previous RGs! You'll have the chance to dissect your very own sheep brain, sheep eye and pig heart! **Darlene Alleman** and **Ken Gacioch** will start with a short introduction of each organ, and then you'll be able to hack away with the scalpel and identify the structures in your own specimen. Having flashbacks to 9th grade biology class? At least you won't have to pith a frog...



1:30-2:30 p.m. **Design Your Own T-Shirt, Children's Room**
Kids, join in the fun and get creative while we design our own tees!



1:30-2:30 p.m. **Conducting with Lisa,**
Music Plus Hospitality
"Conducting - it's not just waving your arms!" Are you a control freak? Do you desire absolute power to be held in your own hands? Come learn how to conduct an orchestra. Session will be part lecture and part hands-on. You need not be able to read music to attend.



1:45-2:45 p.m. **Meet the RVC1 Candidates, Spaulding**
Region 1 Vice Chair **Marghretta McBean** and NH/ME Assistant LocSec **Walter Wakefield** invite you to meet with them as we prepare for this spring's elections.



2:00 p.m. **Film: Shrek 2, Movie Room**
(2004, 1:32, PG. Mike Meyers, Antonio Banderas.) Shrek meets his in-laws, an assassin Puss in Boots, and other adventures in Far Far Away.





2:30-3:00 p.m. Gingerbread Men, Children's Room
You've shown us your creativity with the t-shirts, now keep it going as we decorate gingerbread men!



2:30-3:00 p.m. Rob Oxford (Guitar/Vocal), Music Plus Hospitality
Performing a wide variety of music. Not just folk, not just Country, just plain FUN. Come along and be entertained as Rob performs with guitar in hand. Who knows, others may join in, too!



2:45-3:45 p.m. Don't Save the Planet, Pierce
Why do we care about environmental issues? Should we care in the first place? Is anything wrong with the planet? What's the selfish side of the modern environmental movement? What improvements can we make? **Adam Smargon** explores the answers to these questions.



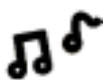
3:00-5:00 p.m. Games and Activities, Children's Room
We'll be enjoying various children's group games and activities before dinner.



3:00-5:00 p.m. Watercolors, Spaulding
Cynthia Collins presents Watercolors For People Who Are Ready For It To Be Warm! We'll be painting a beach scene! You need no experience, no ability to draw and no uptightness. You will, however, need a sense of adventure and curiosity. Materials will be provided, enthusiasm is required and your presence is requested.



3:00-5:00 p.m. Ballroom Dancing, Webster
Nothing is quite as romantic as dancing cheek-to-cheek! **Moe Montminy** has pursued a life-long hobby of teaching folks to dance, ballroom style! Come on down and let him teach you a step or two. Turn one of those left feet into a right foot in no time!



3:00-5:00 p.m. Informal Music Jammin', Music Plus Hospitality
Did you bring your own instruments to join us? If not, there will be a variety of instruments available for you to play. Come and jam and sing with other folks during this unstructured time.



4:00-5:00 p.m. A Woman In an All-Male World, Pierce
Some years ago **Bromley Baril** had the privilege of working as a social worker in an all-male maximum-security prison. It was a world with its own rules and culture, quite foreign to anything that she had ever experienced. Inmates experience the isolation,

depersonalization, rules and restrictions of prison life in many different ways. Working there gave Bromley some insights into group and individual behavior changes and norms that translate into many of the reasons inmates have such difficulty transitioning back into "society." Please join her for a travelogue through a maximum-security prison.

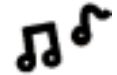
4:00 p.m. **Film: *School of Rock*, Movie Room**
(2004, 1:49, PG13. Jack Black.) An out-of-work musician slips into a substitute music teaching job and decides to form a rock band with his grade-school students.



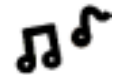
5:00-6:00 p.m. **Wine Tasting, Hospitality**
We'll test your taste buds! Can you tell the most expensive wine of each type from the least expensive one? Find out with this blind taste test. We bet *surprises* will abound...



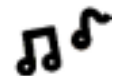
5:00-5:45 p.m. **Percussion Jam, Music Plus Hospitality**
Join us for a fun and educational jam session on an assortment of percussion instruments. We will explore how to hold and play each of the instruments, and then play together as an ensemble. Feel free to bring your own percussion instruments.



5:45-6:15 p.m. **Steven Winikoff (Clarinet),
Music Plus Hospitality**
Come listen to the smooth stylings of Steve as he dazzles you with his licorice stick! He performs along with back up tracks to give you a full sound along with his clarinet solos!



6:15-6:45 p.m. **Thom Keith (Saxophone),
Music Plus Hospitality**
Nothing is so Saxy as a great Saxophone! Thom plays his Sax along with great backup tracks. Wonderful stuff! If you missed it at the Boston Pilgrimage, here's your chance to hear what you missed!

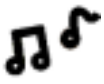


6:15 p.m. **Film: *DodgeBall*, Movie Room**
(2004, 1:32, PG13. Vince Vaughn, Ben Stiller.) An homage to "underdog" sports films, this pits the Average Joes against the ultraelite Purple Cobras. Their training is unorthodox: "If you can dodge a wrench, you can dodge a ball."



6:30 p.m. **Barbecue Buffet, Hospitality**
Voted Best of New Hampshire for barbecue by the readers of *New Hampshire Magazine*, KC's Rib Shack of Manchester serves mouthwatering 'cue that's slow-cooked in hickory smoke.



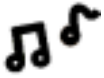


6:45-7:00 p.m. **Jason Brodsky (Singer), Music Plus Hospitality**
Jason will be singing a few tunes for you and kicking off the evening's festivities!



7:00 p.m.

Children's Room Closes



7:00-7:30 p.m.

**Live from the Left Coast,
Music Plus Hospitality**

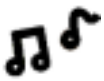
Donna and Gerry have some great tunes and harmonies in store for you, all the way from the Left Coast. Not to be missed!



7:30 p.m.

Live Auction, Hospitality

The inimitable **Joe Zanca** auctions as only he can, with proceeds to benefit our scholarships.



7:30-8:15 p.m.

**Dan Sirois (Singer/Songwriter),
Music Plus Hospitality**

Entertaining audiences throughout New England for MANY years, Dan is a professional Singer/Songwriter with stories to tell and a newly released CD, *Movies on the Wall*. Dan will dazzle you with his guitar playing, original tunes and melodies!



8:00 p.m.

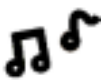
Puzzle Contest Closes



8:00 p.m.

Film: *The Terminal*, Movie Room

(2004, 2:10, PG13. Tom Hanks, directed by Steven Spielberg.) A man from a small Slavic country is trapped in a legal limbo: He can't enter the US, nor can he get a flight out of a US airport. He somehow survives for months entirely within the terminal, finding a place to sleep, food, employment, and possibly even love.



8:15-8:45 p.m.

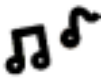
**Paul Mailman (Guitar/Vocals),
Music Plus Hospitality**

Boston Mensa LocSec and a favorite entertainer at RGs for many years, Paul with his guitar and vocals performs songs you may know, and some you may not, but all are a sure bet to entertain.



9:00 p.m.

Silent Auction and Book Sale End



9:00-10:00 p.m.

**Fun with Familiar Echoes,
Music Plus Hospitality**

A Folk trio with Guitar, Bass and Banjo, and performing together for over 5 years, these guys are sure to get your blood pumping and toes tapping with their great tunes and three-part harmonies. Familiar Echoes has performed at pumpkin festivals and other venues around Southern NH. Come on in and clap along!

10:00 p.m. Chocolate Orgy and Irish Coffees, Hospitality
Isn't this why we are all here?



**10:00 p.m.-12:00 midnight Informal Music Jammin',
Music Plus Hospitality**

After a full day of music, this informal Jam promises to be a grand finale to end all grand finales! Don't miss it! Of course, just like the other Jams, there will be a variety of instruments available for you to play if you didn't bring your own.



**10:30 p.m. Film: *Eternal Sunshine of the
Spotless Mind*, Movie Room**

(2004, 1:48, R. Jim Carrey, Kate Winslet, written by Charlie Kaufman of *Being John Malkovich*) A man discovers that his girlfriend dumped him and had all her memories of him erased from her brain. When he has the same operation done on himself, he has second thoughts mid-treatment and tries to hide from the brainwashing in his deepest memories. Nominated for Best Original Screenplay, Best Actress.



12:30 a.m. Movie Room Closes



Sunday

8:00 a.m. Children's Room Opens



8:00 a.m. Breakfast, Hospitality
A simple breakfast will be served in Hospitality. A full breakfast buffet is available on your own at Cafe on the Park in the hotel lobby.



11:00 a.m. Prizes, Hospitality
We'll be awarding prizes for the puzzle contest, games tournaments, and any special awards.



1:00 p.m. Most Rooms Close
The Children's, Games, Smoking Hospitality, and Music Plus Hospitality rooms close. Any help cleaning them up before 2:00 p.m. is greatly appreciated!



3:00 p.m. Hospitality Closes
Any help cleaning Hospitality and its prep room before 4:00 p.m. is greatly appreciated!



**Thank you for being a part of yet
another great Granite Gathering!**

Many Thanks to Our Speakers!

Bob (Robert F.) Adams holds a Master's in Education from Antioch College and is a State of NH Licensed Massage Therapist; a certified acupressurist, breathworker and bodyworker; a certified Clinical Hypnotherapist; and a Reiki Master. He is a Certified Instructor in Hypnosis for the National Guild of Hypnotists and also owns and directs a mind-body training center in NH—The Bennington Center (www.benningtoncenter.com). He is a Professor at NH Community Technical College Nashua, and directs the college Massage Therapy program. He can be contacted at rfadams@verizon.net.

Darlene Alleman has been a member of Mensa since 1988, and is currently NH Mensa's Treasurer as well as this year's RG co-chair. She has worked in the pathology field for almost 20 years, where she first met her co-presenter Ken Gacioch, whom she has to thank for introducing her to Mensa. She met her husband Bill at an RG in 1995 and has been an avid RG attendee since. In her spare time she tends to her poultry, which she loves to discuss at any opportunity!

Bromley Baril is a retired alcohol and drug counselor who has worked in numerous social service agencies throughout New England. Having finally decided she needed to make a decent wage, she entered the field of IT, and currently works at Liberty Mutual in Portsmouth, NH. Bromley joined Mensa in 2002 and has become

active in the local group activities. She is currently Membership Coordinator for NH/ME Mensa, proctors admissions tests regularly, and hosts the popular "Appetite for Discussion" event in Portsmouth

Curry Bartlett has spent the last two decades working in, managing the security for, and developing techniques to protect networked computer environments. Curry has presented at a NASA computer security conference, at the National Information Systems Security Conference, and has assisted criminal investigators. Most recently Curry was part of the DEC/Compaq/HP Tru64 UNIX Operating System Security Group.

Les Case, a chemical engineer with more than 30 patents to his name, grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma. After earning four degrees at MIT (three in chemical engineering and one in business administration), he went to work for Dupont. Frustrated by the constraints of the corporate world, Dr. Case left to teach at universities (Purdue and Tufts among them) for ten years. He then started his own laboratory, studying improved plastics and polymers. Over two years in the early 1990s, Dr. Case conducted experiments at the Nuclear Center of the Department of Physics and Mathematics at Charles University in Prague. Among his many achievements is the discovery that fusion reactions could be made more reliable by the addition of a palladium-on-carbon catalyst.

Many Thanks to Our Speakers!

The most important thing you need to know about **Cynthia Jane Collins** is that she will be Grandmama to a charming granddaughter sometime in the middle of March. She is also someone who loves watercolors! She's discovered just how much fun they are to play with and would like to share that with her friends. When she's not painting, she lives in Maine, writes, causes trouble and generally forages for chocolate.

Susan Engelke is a public school administrator and lives in Salem, MA. Although a long time member of Mensa, this is her first presentation at an RG. She was once fined by the IRS because her activities were "not necessary or ordinary" when Susan realized that this statement defined her entire life. She's the mother of four children and grandmother to nine.

Ken Gacioch, LocSec of Rochester (NY) Area Mensa from 1988-90, joined Mensa in 1987, when he was assimilated by D-SIG at his first RG. Resistance was futile.

Having received a degree in biology from Rochester Institute of Technology, he spent the next eleven years toiling at brain research at the University of Rochester Medical Center's department of Neuropathology. He employed a variety of investigative techniques involving seriously long words to advance the frontiers of human

understanding of human brain development, as well as Alzheimer's disease, AIDS encephalopathy, mercury poisoning, and sundry other nastinesses.

Incidentally, it was during this time that he browbeat Darlene Alleman, née Sojda, who worked in the lab across the hall, into joining Mensa.

Then he switched to designing expert systems and distributed business enterprise software applications, which tend not to turn one's fingers shocking colors, nor have quite as interesting a range of aromas.

Wil Howitt is a Doctor of Science from MIT, with publications in physical acoustics and psychoacoustics, speech coding and recognition, and neuroinformatics. He has traveled in China and studied at a Taoist monastery, where he became a certified taiji instructor, and learned many Taoist arts. He also spends lots of time drumming, dancing, and playing didjeridu and other rhythmic instruments. He fences with a medieval German longsword, drives a VW bus, and looks around a lot.

Doug King is an artist and writer. He has studied different methods of meditation for a number of years. He has also studied public speaking, initially as a way to overcome a speech impediment, and then later on, for its own sake.

Many Thanks to Our Speakers!

Patrick Nearing is a sophomore at the University of New Hampshire where he studies civil engineering and international affairs. He learned to juggle on one stormy day at age ten, finding a juggling book when his mother wouldn't let him go out and play in the woods under lightning-filled skies...and he's been doing it ever since. Patrick learned to make balloon sculptures a couple of years later and started working at birthday parties, restaurants and festivals (a great way to earn money through high school and now college). Currently, he is President of the UNH Juggling Club, which meets every Monday night around 7:00 p.m. at the UNH Memorial Union Building. He invites you to join them sometime. For details on where in the building they will meet on a given Monday, go to <http://www.unh.edu/juggling-club/>.

Deborah A. Nielsen is the Sergeant-at-Arms of the State of New Hampshire House of Representatives. The only woman to scale the face of the Old Man of the Mountain, Deb is the daughter-in-law of Niels Nielsen, who became the Old Man's First Official Caretaker in 1960. Deb's husband David succeeded his father as the Second Official Caretaker. Deb's first trip to the Old Man was in 1983, on her second date with David. They've shared a love for each other, and the Old Man, ever since.

Harry I. Ringermacher ("Doc Harry") earned his Ph.D. in Physics in 1980 from Washington University (St. Louis). He has been with the General Electric Research Center in Schenectady, NY since 1997 working on infra-red imaging and laser techniques. He has numerous publications and patents. "Doc" won the 2003 Mensa Copper Black award. His avocation is Einstein's theory of General Relativity upon which he has published journal papers and recently won a \$100,000 NASA research contract.

Adam J. Smargon is a first-year doctoral candidate at UNH in Durham, pursuing a Ph.D. in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies. He has been a college instructor at Southern Vermont College in Bennington, Vermont, and Bryant & Stratton College in Albany, New York. He received a Master of Science in Environmental Management and Policy from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1999, where he specialized in pollution prevention and business strategy. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Food and Resource Economics from the University of Florida in 1997, where he focused on natural resources and environmental economics. He has interned at the White House Task Force on Recycling, the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority, the Environmental Business Association of New York State, the recycling division of the public school system in Miami, Florida. He lives in Dover, New Hampshire.