

Welcome to New Hampshire Mensa's
Granite Gathering 2009:
Love Potion '09



**February 13-15, 2009
Radisson Hotel
Nashua, New Hampshire**

Regional Gathering Committee

Chair	Holly Green
Assistant Chair	Richard Conde
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Movie Guy	Richard Conde
Children's Room	John D. Follansbee III & Ginger
Biermeister	David Melville
Icemeister	Jim Barnes
Program Book Editor	Mark Becker
Scholarship Fundraising	Sondra Wilkins

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, because we are on a floor that is also populated with non-RG guests, 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 keep all food and drinks on the within the Hospitality Suite. Please do not carry alcoholic beverages between rooms, the hallway is considered a public space. We still need to abide by state regulations that govern the hotel. Please limit hall SIG to soft drinks only.

SMOKING No smoking is allowed in the hotel. Please use the smoking areas outside the lobby. 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.

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

PARENTS AND CHILDREN Please, no unaccompanied children in public areas after 11:00 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 provides 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 2/1/09, 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 near the registration desk.



Food/
Drink



Movie



Children



Speaker/
Workshop



Special
Event

Games
Event

Time
Check

Legend

Friday



4:00 p.m.

Hospitality, Children's and Games Rooms Open

4:00 p.m.

Film: *Love Potion #9*,
Movie Room



(1992, 1hr32m, PG13, Sandra Bullock, Tate Donovan). Two geeky biochemists try out a "love potion" that makes them instantly attractive.



4:00 p.m.

Kids' Meet-and-Greet, Children's Room

Kids can get the ball rolling with plenty of games and fun! Pick magical names for the weekend and make name tags.

5:45 p.m.

Film: *Bell, Book, and Candle*,
Movie Room



(1958, 1hr46m, 'PG', Kim Novak, Jimmy Stewart, Jack Lemmon). A modern-day witch (Novak) casts a spell on her neighbor (Stewart) for him to fall in love with her. But another spell overcomes her: real love.



6:00 p.m.

The Crock Pot Cook Off, Hospitality

Come be a judge! Vote for your favorite crock pot delight.



7:00 p.m.

Learn New Games, Children's Room

Learn an new game, or play old favorites.

7:00 p.m.

The Bridge Non-Tournament, Tournament Games
Room



This is not a tournament; it's just an opportunity for enthusiasts of this trick-taking card game of skill and chance to have a time and place to play.

7:30 p.m. **Film: *All of Me*, Movie Room** (1984, 1hr33m, PG, Steve Martin, Lily Tomlin). A dying rich woman (Tomlin) plans to have her soul take over the body of a young woman. But something goes wrong, and she ends up in the right half of her lawyer (Martin), leaving him in the left half. A comedy classic.



8:00 p.m. **Ice Cream Sodas, Hospitality** Sodas, floats, and syrups make for a magical treat.



9:15 p.m. **Film: *The Illusionist*, Movie Room** (2006, 1hr50m, PG13, Edward Norton, Jessica Biel). In early 1900s Vienna, a magician uses his abilities to court his love, a noblewoman trapped in a dangerous betrothal.



9:00 p.m. **GenX/Y Mixer, Meet 'n' Greet Room** Get together with other GenX'ers (born from 1961 to 1981) and GenY's (born from 1976 to 1988). Meet up with old friends and make new ones! This is an unstructured, drop in event.



9:00 p.m. **Children's Room Closes**



11:00 p.m. **Shrimp & Champagne, Hospitality** Traditional toast to the first night of the RG. Cuddle up with bubbly and shrimp and relax into the wee hours.



11:10 p.m. **Film: *Revenge of the Nerds*, Movie Room** (1984, 1hr30m, R, Robert Carradine, Anthony Edwards.) <R: marijuana use, sexuality, brief nudity> "Are all nerds as good as you?" "Yes. All jocks think about is sports. All nerds think about is sex." (So is it okay to say I think about sex?).



12:00 midnight **Music Room Closes**

12:45 a.m. **Movie Room Closes**



Saturday



7:00 a.m.

Children's Room Opens



7:00 a.m.

Breakfast with Friends, Children's Room

Bring your waffles down to the Children's Room and leave the old fogies behind. Chair has DVD's to watch.



8:00 a.m.

Breakfast, Hospitality

Come enjoy fresh, hot waffles and many other fixings.



9:00 a.m.

Film: *Fools Rush In*, Movie Room

(1997, 1hr49m, PG13, Matthew Perry, Salma Hayek.) A very WASP-y man elopes with a gorgeous Latina. Is their romance a culture clash, or destiny?



9:00 a.m.

Making Wings and Wands, Children's Room

Magical wizards, fairys, and gargoyles, build your tools in the Children's Room.



9:00 a.m. **Education in Exile: Teaching in a Tibetan Refugee Community in the Himalayas - Carolyn White, Hollis**

When His Holiness the Dalai Lama of Tibet was forced to flee his homeland in 1959, he settled in Dharamsala, a hill station in the Himalayan foothills of northern India. Dharamsala is now the center of a vibrant Tibetan refugee community: it is the seat of the Tibetan Government-in-Exile and home to thousands of Tibetans who have escaped political and religious oppression in their homeland and followed their leader into exile. It is also a backpacker's paradise, with tourists from around the world—drawn to the town's mountainous landscape and promise of spiritual awakening—mixing with the Tibetan and Indian residents in a true cultural *mélange*. In 2007, Professor White spent her six-month sabbatical living and working in Dharamsala, where she taught English to Tibetan refugees and experienced firsthand the beauty of their ancient, rich, and tragically threatened culture. Join Carolyn for a discussion of her adventures in India, where she braved monsoon downpours—and roaming livestock—to get to language class; learned about the rules of cricket from sports-crazy monks; studied Buddhist philosophy with a respected lama; and discovered that ultimately her Tibetan students were the true teachers.

9:00 a.m. Formation of the Many Conspiracy Special Interest Group - Kevin Tremblay, Chesterfield



Kevin Tremblay, founder of the MC-SIG, is a Maine Mensa member from Ripley. From early childhood when his parents, relatives and neighbors (those he trusted) tried to fool him that there was a Santa Claus, he knew something was wrong in the universe. Why lie to give him presents? It did not make sense. That is a warping conspiracy. There are thousands more.

From Kris Kringle, to the third building collapsing at the World Trade Center on 9/11, there are conspiracies. Disinformation, misinformation, truth paired with lies; are techniques, and technologies exist, that are used to shape thinking and behavior. MCSIG proposes to explore these events, capabilities and investigate the world of “non-lethal weapons” to elicited meaning out of the chaos of conspiracy theories. The approach of our news sources that say: “we report, you decide,” is spin that is used to led mass thought to slanted views.

The areas suitable for this group’s discussion are: MK-Ultra, Remote Viewing and Stargate, L. Ron Hubbard, Nazism, Gang, Vigilante or Cause Stalking; Andrija Puharich, the False Memory Foundation, Reptilians, Aliens and Demons; Religions and Occult Sciences, Mind Control, Cybernetics, New World Order, Chemtrails, Illuminati, Secret Societies, Eugenics, and the Biodiversity Treaty and Declaration of Human Rights; are some of the subjects to discuss in the MC-SIG.

No subject should be considered taboo. Some subjects are wise not to discuss in public! Help shape MC-SIG. Join and belong! May the force be with you.

9:00 a.m. PTSD/CPTSD - The Invisible Disability - Priscilla Sweet, Meet & Greet



Prolonged, repeated trauma causes a chemical imbalance in the brain we call complex PTSD. Learn how it affects those who have it, including emotions, consciousness, and perceptions.

10:00 a.m. Progression Chess Tournament, Tournament Games



Progression Chess is varient of the classic game where pawns gain power as they advance across the board. Pawns in the first 4 rows are treated as pawns (yes, you can end up with a pawn in your first row). Pawns in the 5th row are treated like Knights, in the 6th row as Bishops, the 7th row as Rooks, and in the 8th row as Queens. Cheat sheets will be available in Tournament Games, and we will run a practice set if people want before the tournament begins.



10:00 a.m. Mensa Admissions Test, Berkley (6th Floor)
Anyone 14 or older who wishes to take the Mensa Admissions Test may do so. The test costs \$40; a photo-ID is required.



10:00 a.m. What Makes Us Human - Will Howitt, Chesterfield

We humans share almost 99 percent of our genome with our closest living relatives, the chimpanzees. Yet the differences between humans and other primates are striking. How did we come to be this way, and what caused this divergence? We will investigate the genetic and fossil evidence, and discuss various theories of how we became human. The result may surprise you!

Disclaimer: This talk includes frank discussion of sexual behavior, both human and ape. We really can't talk about primates without talking about sex. If this will offend you, please be elsewhere.
in space.



10:30 a.m. Cohousing: "Drawing on the strength of community to live sustainably" - Françoise Paradis, Meet & Greet

Cohousing visionary and project developer, Françoise Paradis, Ed.D., will give a presentation on the characteristics of cohousing and its many benefits - for the individual, the community and the environment. The concept originating in Denmark in the 1970's, is growing in popularity in this age of "Green" consciousness, and the desire of many for a greater sense of connection and community. Many cohousing communities are a mix of families, retirees and single individuals who share some time together at weekly community meals, engaging in common interests or just helping each other out by sharing errands, tending a garden, childcare, or pet sitting.

The number of cohousing communities in the United States is on the verge of doubling, with 111 cohousing communities nationwide, another 113 are currently in the process of development. One of those new projects, being developed by Dr. Paradis with support from members of the community, is Greensward Hamlet, located in Buxton, Maine.

Dr. Paradis is quick to point out, "These are not 'hippie communes', but an intentional way to live independently AND in community at the same." It is a well documented fact that people are happier, healthier, more productive, and live longer when they

are connected to a nurturing social network. In addition, Dr. Paradis promotes the sustainable use of geothermal, solar, and wind power for generating energy, greatly reducing the “carbon footprint”, energy consumption, and monthly utility bills.

Participants will learn the characteristics that make cohousing communities unique and timely in the 21st century.

11:00 a.m. View from the Top: Imaging the Earth's Environment from Space - David Bartlett, Hollis



The last 30 years have witnessed a revolution in the use of aerial and orbital sensors to image and study the Earth (AKA “remote sensing”). UNH’s Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space (EOS) has been at the forefront of research developing and applying these techniques. In this presentation, examples of imagery and other data from remote sensors will be used to demonstrate applications under development at EOS. Sample imagery and research topics include assessment of forest health in the US and Europe; mapping migratory bird habitat in the White Mountains; measuring plant production in the oceans and on land; and, contributions to predicting bird flu outbreaks in Asia.

11:00 a.m. Community Preparedness - Eugene Heighton, Children’s Speaker Room



Learn how you, as a local community member, can prepare yourself, your family and your neighbors to enhance disaster readiness.

11:00 a.m. Film: Stardust, Movie Room



(2007, 2hr7m, PG13, Claire Danes, Michelle Pfeiffer, Robert DeNiro.) A young man crosses into the magical land of Stormhold in search of a fallen star. The star turns into a young woman (Danes). All the powerful princes and witches are out to catch her, for the one who takes her heart will become immortal.

11:00 a.m. Story Hour, Children’s Room



Story to be announced.

11:30 a.m. Magician - Joe Michaud, Children’s Speaker Room



12:00 noon Lunch, Hospitality

Sandwiches on homemade bread with salads.





12:00 noon From Alchemy to Chemistry in Picture and Story
Arthur Greenberg, Chesterfield

This book by University of New Hampshire professor Arthur Greenberg chronicles the beauty, mystery, truths, lies, and even humor of chemistry. "From Alchemy to Chemistry in Picture and Story" connects five centuries of the development of chemistry to human history with 200 brief essays and a rich array of historical artwork, including 24 color plates.



12:00 noon Financial Planning - Chuck Bovaird, Meet & Greet

An informational speech covering the basics of investment. asset classes, investment accounts, financial products, basic concepts of financial planning, and basic strategies in financial planning.



12:30 p.m.

Weather - Eric Hoffman, Children's Speaker Room

Eric Hoffman will show you how to make fog, and crush a can without touching it. Also how that relates to the weather.



1:00 p.m.

Making Valentines, Children's Room

Come make a special Valentine for Mom & Dad, or another special someone.



1:00 p.m. The Presidential Book of Lists - Ian Randal Strock,
Meet & Greet

Ian Randal Strock is the author of *The Presidential Book of Lists*. The book grew from his search for comparisons of the Presidents, and not finding the book he wanted, he wrote it. In this interactive, trivia-laden talk, he'll take the audience on a verbal journey through 219 years of the US Presidency, pointing out interesting facts and fascinating connections.



1:00 p.m. Magick in the Middle Ages - Tchipakkan, Berkley
(6th Floor)

Most people have a general idea of medieval witches and wizards from fairy tales, and modern witches stories of the "burning times". What we think of as magic is a way of making effects in the real world using mechanisms and techniques that were developed through many cultural and personal perspectives. I'll concentrate on Europe between the 6th and 16th centuries, and attitudes toward magick and witches, and perhaps lean more toward some of the less mentioned aspects.

1:15 p.m. **Film: *The Princess Bride*, Movie Room**
(1987, PG13, 1h38m, Cary Elwes, Robin Wright, Mandy Patinkin.)
Based on the novel by William Goldman. This is the story of Princess Buttercup and her rescue from kidnapping by the Dread Pirate Roberts. A classic story. As You Wish.



1:30 p.m. **Opening Round of the Sudoku Tournament, Tournament Games Room**

This speed-based tournament has two rounds. There will be a warm-up puzzle (which will not count for the tournament) before tournament play begins. The opening round consists of three standard (9x9) Sudoku puzzles. They may be completed in any order, and players are permitted to go back and forth between puzzles. The three fastest players to correctly finish the three puzzles move on to the finals, which occurs at 8:00 p.m.



1:30 p.m. **Planetarium Show for Children - Dennis Machnik, Hollis**



1:30 p.m. Climate Update and Changes in Climate Change - Ric Werme, Children's Speaker Room

NH Mensa has offered a talk in each of the last several RGs on global warming and what's happening on the subject. Last year one of our members, Ric Werme, realized it was finally time to pay attention and this year he's giving the talk. There will be a little bit of everything - CO2, ocean currents, solar minimum, fading sunspots by 2015, and even temperatures. Hint: it looks like the world is cooling. Spread the word!



1:45 p.m. **You Are the Mess You Make -James Krasner, Chesterfield**

Storage is a growth industry in America today because we have too much stuff. We pack our things in closets and attics and Tupperware bins, and we never seem to be able to get rid of anything. Rather than decrying our materialistic ways, this talk offers a defense of mess by looking closely at the relationship between memory, identity and accumulated objects. Why can't we stand to get rid of clothes that no longer fit, broken knick-knacks and books we'll never read? By using gerontological studies of space management, as well as literary and cultural examples, we can find the hidden message in our mess.



2:30 p.m. Meet the AMC - Lori Norris and Russ Bakke, Meet & Greet

Meet Lori Norris, Regional Vice Chair (representative to the American Mensa Committee) for Region 1 and Russ Bakke, American



Mensa Chairman. Come and share your concerns and questions about Mensa.



2:30 p.m. Asperger's Syndrome / High-Functioning Autism: Probing the Diagnosis and the Population - Robert Lagos, Children's Speaker Room

This talk will examine the nature of the diagnosis and research, as well as the symptoms, characteristics, and issues involved for persons with Asperger's Syndrome and High Functioning Autism, and also against certain stereotypical concepts.



3:00 p.m. Snack Time, Hospitality
Between meal refreshment with fresh fruit and cookies.



3:00 p.m. Film: WALL-E, Movie Room
(2008, 1h38m, G, Animated). A garbage-gathering robot falls in love with an explorer robot, EVE, and the two of them go in search of the long-missing humans. Nominated for Best Animated Feature.



3:00 p.m. Relax and Color, Children's Room
Chill out with some coloring books.



3:30 p.m. Planetarium Show for Adults - Dennis Machnik, Hollis



3:30 p.m. Vermont Mensa Confab - Lori Norris, Meet & Greet
Vermont Mensa is re-energizing. There is a full board of officers; the newsletter looks good and events are being held. Come explore ideas for future events. Vermont offers a wide range of options for activities. Ice fishing is planned for March. Perhaps some other outdoor events for the spring/fall. All Mensans welcome at this session as well as at future events. Please bring your ideas and enthusiasm.



3:30 p.m. Ghost Quest - Raven Duclos, Beckah Boyd, and Katie Boyd, Berkley (6th Floor)

Ghost Quest is a paranormal society based out of New Hampshire that has been in operation for over seven years. They have investigated some of New Hampshire's most haunted places! They are an all female team consisting of Raven Duclos - Psychic Medium, Beckah Boyd - Psychic Medium and Katie Boyd - Demonologist and Occult Sciences Expert. Each came to the group with previous experience, Katie - has studied the Occult for over 20 years and Demonology for the same amount of time. She blends the two to create a neutral system that helps the client expel the negative or demonic entity. Katie is the author of Devil's and Demonology

in the 21st Century which will hit stores at the end of the month. Raven Duclos is a psychic medium who knew from the age of three that this plane was not home. She uses her abilities in Ghost Quest to speak with the spirits in a home and help those same spirits cross over if they choose (and sometimes even if they don't). Beckah Boyd is also a Psychic Medium with over fifteen years practice and seven years professionally. She has worked with some of New Hampshire's top businesses as a consultant and reader at corporate events. She lends her abilities to validate spirit hauntings and give closure to families. She also uses her abilities to cleanse the home, help spirits cross over and find vortexes. Ghost Quest uses a mix of spirituality and hard evidence to validate the hauntings. Using the same tools that many other groups do, they go in with a skeptic's eye and are on a never ending quest to find out exactly what goes bump in the night.

4:00 p.m. Poker Tournament, Tournament Games
We've seen all the glitz and glamour of television contests, not to mention the high stakes. Bring that to Nashua, subtract the studio audience, and you've got yourself a poker game! Rules on specifics (i.e., style of poker game, betting, and bribing the dealer) will be discussed once the game begins.



4:30 p.m. Stupid Author Tricks - Ian Randal Strock, Meet & Greet
Ian Randal Strock is an author, but he's also an editor. He's seen the good, the bad, and the truly outrageous ways authors sabotage their own careers, and shares the best, worst, and funniest. It's easy to learn how not to do it when you're laughing at the truly clueless (no names will be used). He's been collecting stories about authors (as opposed to stories by authors) for twenty years, and shares them to be both instructive and entertaining. Non-writers welcome (after all, the world needs far more readers than writers).



**5:00 p.m. Magic: The Gathering Tournament, Children's
Speaker Room**
Prizes will be awarded to the winners.



5:00 p.m. Film: *Ever After*, Movie Room
The "real" story of Cinderella -- Danielle, a young woman of France who is quite capable of rescuing herself, and meets her own Prince Charming -- Henry, the heir to the throne.





5:30 p.m. 10,410 Miles - Lori & Ron Norris, Hollis

This summer, Lori and Ron, took a nine-week coast-to-coast driving trip enjoying some of the spectacular scenery this country has to offer. They drove through 29 states and 2 provinces. They will share stories and pictures with you.



6:00 p.m. Pasta Dinner, Hospitality

Pasta with various sauces, salads and bread. Surly a love potion for many Mensans.



7:00 p.m. Toss Across Tournament, Children's Room

Come join us to play Toss Across: Tic Tac Toe with bean bags, what could be better?



7:00 p.m. How to Play Safely as an Adult, with or without a Partner: The Ins & Outs (so to speak) of romance in the 00's, or Naught-ies as one might say ;-) - Denise (Penkalski)

Brown, Meet & Greet

We will have fun talking about protecting yourself and those you care about, the technical plusses and minuses of various materials and accessories (props will be on hand), and will try to field any technical questions you may have. This is an adult themed discussion, and is not intended for younger attendees.



7:30 p.m. Film: *Enchanted*, Movie Room

(2007, PG, 1h47m, Amy Adams, Patrick Dempsey.) Giselle, a young woman in the fairytale (animated) land of Andalasia, is thrown down a well by the evil queen, and comes out in a place with no magic: modern-day (live action) Manhattan. Can love triumph in the real world?



8:00 p.m. Antarctica: More than Just Ice - Jane Davis, Hollis

Jane Davis's recent trip to Antarctica was an adventure tour that took her to the continent itself, rather than just the outlying islands. Crossing the Drake Passage twice was an experience all its own but more of that after dinner on the 14th....



8:00 p.m. Dungeons & Dragons Game, Children's Speaker Room

Join John Follansbee III for an ALL-AGES D&D game that goes well into the night.

8:00 p.m. Final Round of the Sudoku Tournament, Tournament Games



Although only the three finalists from the opening round are permitted to play, spectators and cheerleaders are encouraged!

Feel free to cheer for (or AGAINST!) your (least) favorite player. There will be a few added twists to the three 9x9 puzzles in the finals.

8:15 p.m. **Teen Hangout, Meet 'n' Greet Room**
Round up your friends and spend the evening hanging out.



9:30 p.m. **Film: *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*, Movie Room**
(2008, PG13, 2h02m, Harrison Ford, Karen Allen, Shia LeBoef.) Dr. Jones re-teams with Marion Ravenwood, battling 1950s Russians over a mysterious, magnetic crystal skull.



11:00 p.m. **Sweetheart Valentine's Feast, Hospitality**
More chocolate than can be eaten at any one RG.



11:45 p.m. **Film: *Dona Flor and her Two Husbands*, Movie Room**
(1978, 1h50m, R, Sonja Braga.) <R: nudity, sexuality.> Dona's first husband comes back as a (very naked) ghost when her second, much more loyal husband is too boring in bed.



2:00 a.m. **Movie Room Closes**
Enjoy some romance this evening, then Get some rest!



Sunday

7:00 a.m. **Children's Room Opens**



7:00 a.m. **Breakfast with Friends, Children's Room**
Bring your appetite!



8:00 a.m. **Sunday Brunch, Hospitality**
Enjoy brunch with your friends before we wrap up the weekend's festivities.



10:00 a.m. **Children's Room Closes**
Be sure to pick up all your crafts to bring home and show your friends!



10:00 a.m. **Awards and Announcements, Hospitality**
Another successful RG comes to a close. We thank you for coming and hope to see you again next year!



12:00 noon **Most Rooms Close**
Hospitality, Games, Video Games, Smoking, and Music Rooms close. Any help cleaning them is greatly appreciated!



Many Thanks to Our Speakers!

David Bartlett holds a Bachelor's degree in Geology from Amherst College and a doctorate in Marine Sciences from the University of Delaware. He spent ten years as a research scientist at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Langley Research Center, conducting studies of the environment using sensors on Earth-orbiting satellites. His research interests are in chemical interactions of vegetation with the atmosphere, causes and effects of global-scale climate change, and management of coastal resources. He has published extensively on the use of aerial and orbital sensors for measurement of important environmental parameters. Since 1989, Dr. Bartlett has been Associate Director of the Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space (EOS) at the University of New Hampshire. He is responsible for the management of the Institute's research and educational programs and assists the Director in planning and in developing new avenues for external support of the Institute. EOS' research in space and Earth sciences is supported by more than \$30 million per year of grants and contracts. Dr. Bartlett is the founding Director of the New Hampshire Space Grant Consortium, an educational and public information collaboration of New Hampshire Universities, Colleges, and science organizations. Dr. Bartlett continues his research in applications of satellite sensors to assess large scale variation in environmental conditions and the impact of terrestrial ecosystems on

global biogeochemical cycles. He serves on the Policy Advisory Committee of the New Hampshire Sea Grant Program.

Chuck Bovaird started off as a financial advisor at MassMutual, and then later moved to Prudential. He primarily does retirement planning for his clients. He also works with small businesses.

Denise (Penkalski) Brown is both a Mensa member and the sole proprietress of her own business (home-parties and online store) for over 2 years, with hopes of one day opening a boutique.

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?"

Arthur Greenberg is a professor of organic chemistry at the University of New Hampshire. He joined UNH in 2000 as dean of the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences and served a full five-year term in this position. Prior to that he was Chair of the Department of

Many Thanks to Our Speakers!

Chemistry at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (1994-2000) and this followed five years as Professor and Director of the Graduate Program in Environmental Sciences at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He received his Ph.D. from Princeton University and his current research interests include physical organic chemistry and environmental organic chemistry. He has published 120 refereed papers and book chapters, authored 5 books, and edited 18 books.

Captain Eugene Heighton is the Trainer at NH Citizens Corps, an organization that has as its mission harnessing the power of every individual through education, training, and volunteer service to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues and disasters of all kinds.

Eric Hoffman is an Associate Professor of Meteorology and Chair of the Department of Atmospheric Science and Chemistry at Plymouth State University. His main areas of expertise are in synoptic meteorology, weather analysis, and forecasting but he regularly teaches the introductory courses and conducts outreach with K-12 classes. He has earned a B.S. degree in Meteorology from Cornell University and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Atmospheric Science from the University at Albany, State University of New York. Eric has lived in Plymouth, NH for five years with

his family.

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

James Krasner is an associate professor of English at the University of New Hampshire where he teaches British literature, the Bible as literature, and secondary school English teaching. His research interests include British Victorian literature, interdisciplinary studies, aesthetics, and science and nature. He was a recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award in 2006.

Robert S. 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

Many Thanks to Our Speakers!

since October 2005. He was diagnosed with autism (in 1980), and 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 Norris has belonged to Mensa for almost a quarter of a century and is the Program Coordinator for Rhode Island Mensa. Ron is a high-school math teacher in his spare time. **Lori Norris** is an attorney practicing in Warwick, RI. Lori has been a member of Mensa for 18 years and currently serves as the RVC (Regional Vice Chairperson) for Region 1 and is currently running for her second term. Ron and Lori enjoy traveling especially to the Caribbean during winter vacation and for extended summer camping trips. The rest of the year they enjoy escaping for long weekends and Regional Gatherings whenever possible. And for those of you who haven't heard, Lori and Ron were married on their way to the NH RG in 2001 and actually spent their honeymoon with us.

Françoise Paradis is a psychologist by profession and a sociologist at heart. Her bachelor's degree from the University of Maine was in sociology and her doctoral degree from Boston University in Counseling Psychology. Her world view, influenced by growing up in a large Franco-American family in northern Maine, starts with the "whole" that encompasses all the "parts." Thus, in her work as a psychologist she focuses on enhancing the client's commu-

nity: their family life, social circle, support network, and living environment. It was a natural progression for her to initiate a "green" co-housing community at a time when our planet is in jeopardy.

Ian Randal Strock is the author of *The Presidential Book of Lists: From Most to Least, Elected to Rejected, Worst to Cursed – Fascinating Facts About Our Chief Executives* (Random House/Villard, October 2008, ISBN 978-0-345-50736-5) and the keeper of the blog at <http://uspresidents.livejournal.com>. His fascination with the Presidents dates to his childhood, but when he realized he was unlikely to ever become President himself, he turned to studying and writing about them.

In his other guise, Strock is an editor, author, and reporter. He started as the Deputy Editorial Page Editor of Boston's *Daily Free Press*, before realizing the science fiction was the life for him. Moving to New York, he started as the Editorial Assistant of *Analog and Asimov's* science fiction magazines, rising to the position of Associate Editor before he left to publish and edit his own *Artemis Magazine*. He's also been the News Editor of *Science Fiction Chronicle*, and currently edits and publishes SFScope.com, the online trade journal of the speculative fiction fields. He's been on both sides of the editorial desk (sometimes simultaneously) for two decades.

In addition to all that, Strock blogs at

Many Thanks to Our Speakers!

<http://ianrandalstrock.livejournal.com>. He was the President of Greater New York Mensa, Editor of GNYM's *Mphasis*, and chairman of GNYM's RG, before moving on to being Treasurer of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America.

Priscilla Sweet was diagnosed with PTSD after experiencing a prolonged hostile work environment; this qualified her for retirement disability. She was in the Army Reserve for 14 years, where she taught leadership courses and worked as an ob-server controller, evaluating and re-training military units before they were deployed overseas. She has also been a volunteer firefighter and a white collar labor union leader

Tchipakkan is an artist, writer, healer, and soothsayer, author of *Divine Cookies* and the Rune article series in *The Blessed Bee* Pagan Family Magazine. She practices and teaches RuneValdr and Reiki, huna healing, herbalism, and soothsaying with runes, palmistry, tarot, and other systems and has been studying and teaching about the history of Witchcraft, Magick and Wicca for four decades.

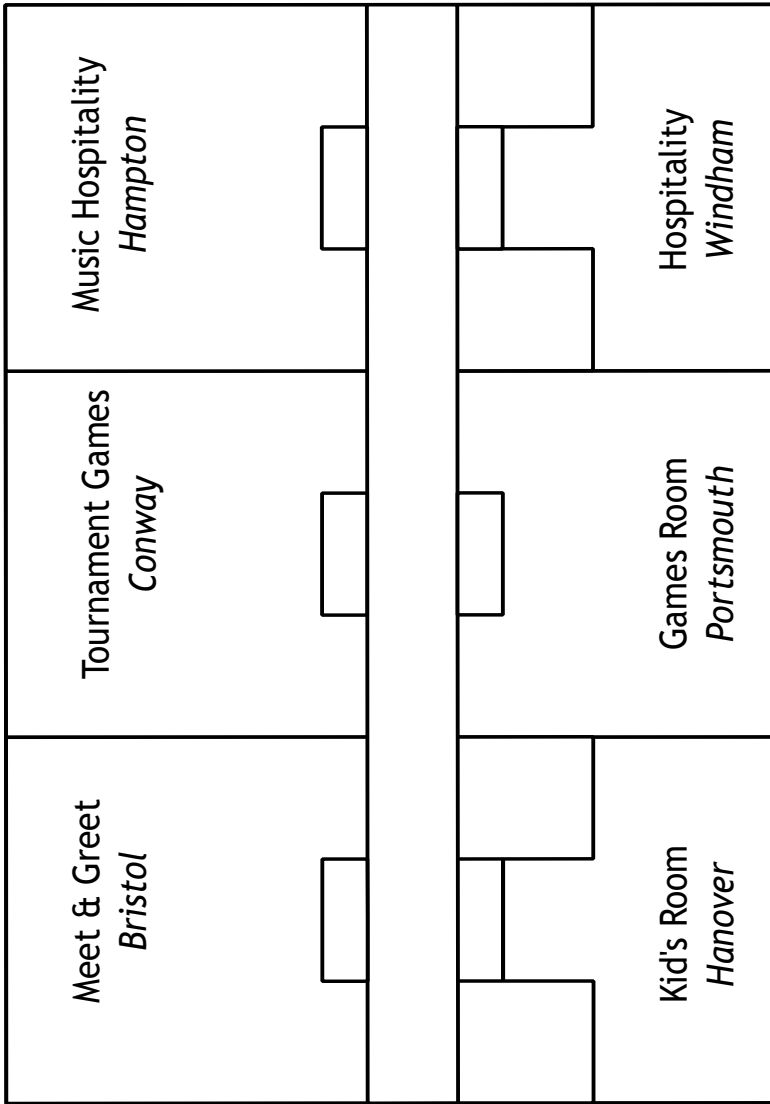
When **Ric Werme** joined Mensa back in 1974, he was already interested in meteorology and climatology, in addition to pretty much anything else that is related to science. However, after finding that programming computers was more fun, his career has been working as

a software engineer on operating systems and networks.

Ric has testified to the NH Governor's Climate Change Task Force about the importance of separating conservation measures from climate change because the reasons for conservation goes beyond climate. That testimony and much of his climate-related interest (or is that obsession?) over the last year is recorded at his climate web site at <http://wermenh.com/climate/index.html>.

Carolyn White is the head of public services at the University of New Hampshire Manchester Library, where she focuses on library instruction and reference services. Her research interests include information literacy, faculty collaboration, and peer tutoring in the library. Professor White is very interested in the history and civilization of Tibet, and is the secretary and web master of the Monadnock Friends of Tibet, a New Hampshire-based Tibet support group. As a result of this interest, and as a result of her deep concern about the current plight of the Tibetan people and their nation, she pursued a long-held dream by spending her academic sabbatical in the foothills of the Himalayas, teaching English to Tibetan refugees in Dharamsala, India, home of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan Government-in-Exile. While in Dharamsala, she put her library skills to good use as well by reorganizing a volunteer organization's community reading room.

RG Floor Plan



Other Rooms in the RG

- Children's Speakers,Room 136
- Movies, & a Restroom,.....Room 152
- Hospitality Prep,.....Room 150
- Mensa Boutique,.....Room 151
- Berkeley Speaker Room,.....6th Floor
- Hollis & Chesterfield Speaker Rooms, 1st Floor Across the Lobby