

# MOMENTUM

The Voice of Mensa in New Hampshire and Maine

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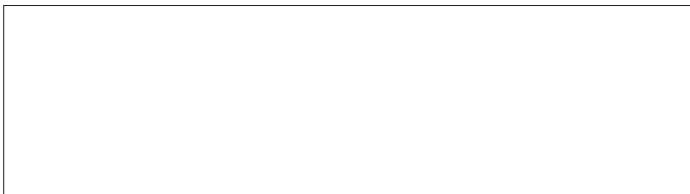
New and  
Inactive  
Members:  
See Page 12!

# RG



**THE RG IS COMING!**

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## New Hampshire Mensa

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# Bauman's Quiver

LocSec John Bauman

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As this arrives in your mailbox, I trust that Christmas is still a few days in the future, so I want to take this opportunity on behalf of the entire ExComm of New Hampshire Mensa to wish all members and their families the best of all possible holiday seasons. Attendance at Mensa events in December seemed to be at levels that were at least average for other months, with several guests brought along and first-timers, as well, so I am heartened that some members remembered to include their Mensa family as part of their get-togethers and merry-making.

There are several projects underway on the local level that will come to completion in the first few months of this new year, and it is to those that I will first turn my attention. To begin, the deadline for the local scholarship essay contest is 15 January. As of this writing, we have had seven essays received, with the lion's share issuing from the state of Maine. It is gratifying to see that there has been such a response from our neighbor to the north and this is a big improvement compared to last year. All members who are attending a post-secondary institution or are aware of anyone of the general public engaged in such an enterprise are invited to participate in the contest. To reiterate, you are not required to be an M to compete for these prizes, although there are several categories open only to M's, which correspondingly have much less competition. If there is any interest at this late date, I would recommend going to <http://foundation.us.mensa.org/scholarship/zipfinder.php> to attain an

entry form and review the rules of the contest. If you have specific questions of detail, please contact the Scholarship Chair at [menh\\_scholarship@mindspring.com](mailto:menh_scholarship@mindspring.com).

Continuing on the topic of scholarships, I would like to bring the general readership up to speed on the Joe Zanca Scholarship. To begin, I will surmise that not everyone in the readership takes the time to pour over the minutes of previous ExComms, so to recap: in October, it was decided to establish a scholarship as a tribute to Joe, for all the service that he has bestowed upon the organization as a LocSec, RVC, fundraiser and general ambassador for Mensa. We are currently looking into the process of establishing a restricted endowed fund under the aegis of MERF. To give you an idea of the scope of this undertaking, this particular fund has a requirement of raising a minimum of \$20,000 to achieve a self-perpetuating status. While this might seem like a formidable amount to raise, using the charitable foundation status of MERF would allow donations to be tax deductible, which would hopefully permit donors to be more generous. The discussions concerning this scholarship are still early days, and once details and criteria have been agreed upon, they will be printed in this forum at the earliest opportunity. I can report that funds have been raised in the name of this scholarship already. At the Pilgrimage RG in November, hosted by Boston Mensa, Joe conducted one of his trademark auctions of a \$5 bill, which raised \$600 and a Canadian nickel. The current RVC, who was in attendance, pledged \$100 matching

RVC funds, and with the addition of the proceeds of a 50/50 raffle conducted by Boston Mensa, the total for the day was \$862. So we are off to a good start, and anyone needing any year-end tax deductions...

On the RG front, I would urge anyone who has never attended an RG to seriously consider being part of the crowd in February, to find out what this aspect of Mensa membership is all about. Last year, we published a series of articles in *Momentum* from RG neophytes and habitués alike, to give you an idea of what one of these conclaves is like. You might suggest that we only published the good reviews, but seriously, we do not censor our input. I have never heard anyone exiting the convention center or hotel muttering to themselves about time misspent, that this was the worst weekend of their life or anything

approaching that ilk. There is always abundant food and drink, speaker programs of all description, videos, a game room with many marathon elimination contests, shrimp and chocolate, and above all, fabulous conversation. This year, the cost is a little higher than in years gone past, but that extra cost is to cover the Saturday night buffet, which is included, and not just reheated, bland hotel food. Walter has retained the services of a preeminent BBQ operation in Manchester, which will establish the benchmark for all banquets for years to come. So take advantage of the price break that is in effect until the 15th and register today!!

Here is hoping for another great year in Mensa, with continued influx of new members and promises of an ever-expanding calendar. Happy New Year to us all and BEAT NEW MEXICO. 🍷



## What's Cooking in Region 1

Region 1 Vice Chair Marghretta McBean

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Once again Boston Mensa put on a Regional Gathering to bring smiles to all attendees. From the very young to the young at heart, there was something for everyone. One of the few RGs where children attend in significant numbers, the Kids' Room was the site of paper airplane and seasonal wreath making, a baking class, and age-appropriate videos, as well the kiddie mealtimes. A big tip o' the hat goes to Chris and Dave Picard who coordinated the Kid's Room, and to all the parents and friends who gave so generously of their time and expertise.

Friday night's activities included karaoke, and yours truly (after several

liquid libations) took to the mike with my rendition of Janis Joplin's "Take a Little Piece of My Heart." Even I cannot, in good consciousness, call what I did "singing." Saturday night's talent show revealed a wealth of real talent. Region 1 must hold some kind of talent record: we have four Presidents/LocSecs who are professional singers: John Bauman (New Hampshire), Paul Mailman (Boston), Tom Padwa (Rhode Island), and Michelle Wojtaszek (Mid-Hudson). Paul and Tom did solos and also sang together, with encore requests.

With another nod to regional talent, by now you all must have seen the

November/December issue of the *Mensa Bulletin*, with Michelle Wojtaszek on the cover. Congratulations, Michelle! She certainly marches to the beat of her own drummer - she is, in fact, the drummer in her group, Abominatrix.

The AMC (American Mensa Committee) quarterly meeting was held in Orlando, Florida at the Disney World Coronado Springs Resort, the site of the 2006 World Gathering. Many of the motions passed pertained to eliminating a lot of the micromanagement and administrivia that had crept into the Communications area (Mensa publications and website primarily). Despite the unfortunate resignation of Tim Folks, the former Communications Officer, I was pleased to be a sponsor of his legacy: better and more efficient governance. Robin Crawford, Chicago Mensa's President, was appointed to serve the remainder of the Communications Officer's term. Central Alabama Mensa won the bid for the 2007 Annual Gathering to be held in Birmingham, Alabama. Fort Worth, Texas lost in a very close race.

In Old Norse, the term "ves heill" means "be of good health;" the Old English transliterated it to "wes hal." The term was associated with both a spiced mulled beer punch and the tradition of

going door to door on Christmas Eve, greeting one's neighbours and drinking to their health.

This wassail is made with wine, since finding beer that warms up nicely is difficult (Canada's Quelque Chose, a cherry beer from the Unibroue brewery, is a great choice but hard to find). Warm wishes for a wonderful holiday season and the best for 2005!

### Wassail

- 4 cinnamon sticks
- 1 lemon, sliced horizontally
- 1 cup sugar
- ½ cup water
- 6 cups dry red wine
- 2 cups pineapple juice
- 2 cups orange juice
- 1 cup sweet sherry

1. Bring the cinnamon, lemon, sugar and water to a boil, and cook until slightly thickened. Take care not to burn the mixture.
2. In a large non-reactive pot, heat the wine, juices and sherry until hot. Add the syrup. This tastes even better when it has been allowed to stand and mellow. ■



## Notes from National

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**Y**ou have just a few days left to renew your American Mensa membership before the dues increase! Dues will increase from \$49 to \$52, effective January 1, 2005. By acting by December 31, 2004,

Mensans can renew their memberships at the \$49 rate. Renew now online at [www.us.mensa.org/renew](http://www.us.mensa.org/renew) or by calling (817) 607-0060.

Following are the Mini Minutes of the American Mensa Committee (AMC) Meeting of December 4, 2004 in Orlando, Florida, submitted by Judy Vasiliauskas, AMC Secretary:

Appointments: Robin Crawford, Communications Officer; Jim and Barbara McIntyre, American Mensa 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Coordinators; and Keri Guilbault, Gifted Children Outreach Coordinator.

A Records Retention Policy was adopted.

A Planning and Review Committee was established to poll AMC about perceptions of how American Mensa is functioning, and to recommend changes and involve the AMC in planning arising from annual surveys. This committee will conduct the annual evaluation of the Executive Director's performance, with feedback and information from the AMC. The committee will also be available to advise the Executive Director on staff-related issues and concerns.

The Policies and Rules Governing the Conduct of Hearings, the Procedure to Implement Regional Hearings, and the Dispute Resolution Guidelines were amended for clarification and to conform to the bylaws. Regarding regional hearings, calling a hearing is discretionary, certain sanctions may be imposed only by the AMC, and if the person with whom a complaint is filed (RVC or 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair) chooses not to call a hearing, the complainant may appeal to the First Vice Chair.

National Publications Guidelines were adopted, clarifying roles and responsibilities and consolidating print and internet policy for our national publications.

A uniform policy regarding SIG funds was adopted.

SIGs are the result of the personal efforts on the part of volunteer SIG Coordinators and their designees. Participation in a SIG is at the discretion of the particular SIG's Coordinator. Disputes over SIG membership may be taken to the SIGs Officer for mediation.

The following candidates are nominated to run for the specified offices in the next Mensa International election: Chris Leek, Chairman; Jim Werdell, Director of Administration; Stacey Kirsch, Treasurer; Willem Bouwens, Director of Development; Tim Knights, Director of Development.

Central Alabama Mensa's bid to host the 2007 AG in Birmingham was accepted, pending legal review of the hotel contract. Bids are especially encouraged for the 2008 AG from Regions 1, 7 and 8.

The World Gathering 2006 core committee was approved.

The resignation of Oscar Zeiger, chair of Project Inkslinger®, was accepted with regret.

MindGames® 2006 will be hosted by Oregon Mensa in Portland.

The next meeting of the AMC will be in Columbus, Ohio on March 19, 2005.

### Most New Members for the Month of November 2004

Metropolitan Washington Mensa	38
Greater New York Mensa	32
Chicago Area Mensa	27
Minnesota Mensa	25
San Francisco Regional Mensa	22
Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa	20
Boston Mensa	19
Maryland Mensa	16
Conn./Western Mass. Mensa	15
Delaware Valley Mensa	14
Gulf Coast Mensa	14
Oregon Mensa	14
Southeast Michigan Mensa	14



## Local Kudos

Would you like some success to rub off on you? You'd better head to Portsmouth, home of both recipients of this column's praise as the new year begins. *Delmarva Youth Magazine* recently awarded Googolplex Games top honors of "Best for 9 to 12 Year Olds" category. This is the fifth award received by Googolplex Games this year, following on the heels of honors from *Parents' Choice*, *Creative Child Magazine*, *NH Magazine* ("Best of NH") and the National Parenting Publications Awards. Created by Mensan **David Hallmark**, Googolplex Games is a hand-crafted, solid wood maze board game with 36 individual movable tiles. Players attempt to maneuver through the maze with each turn to get to the opposite corner. There are

no dice, spinners, play money or cards and it is suitable for ages 6 to 106. For more information on Googolplex Games, visit [www.googolplexgames.com](http://www.googolplexgames.com) or call 603-433-2441.

Congratulations to **Ralph A. Sperry**, whose Portsmouth story "He and She" is included in the anthology *Private Places*, recently published by the Monadnock Writer's Group. This is the fourth anthology that the Monadnock Writer's Group has published over the course of the last twenty years. ■■

*Please send news to editor Claire Natola at 21 Hillrise Lane, Meredith, NH 03253 or [editor@nh.us.mensa.org](mailto:editor@nh.us.mensa.org).*



### Mensa Education & Research Foundation

#### 2004-2005 Scholarship Essay Contest Announcement

Residents of a participating American Mensa local group who will be enrolled in an accredited U.S. institution of post-secondary education for full term of 2005 are eligible to apply for awards of \$300 to \$1000.

For an entry form with essay rules, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the address below postmarked by December 31, 2004.

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

...or visit <http://foundation.us.mensa.org/scholarships/zipfinder.php> to download an entry form for your area by ZIP code.

All applications must be postmarked by January 15, 2005.  
Questions? Email them to [scholarship@nh.us.mensa.org](mailto:scholarship@nh.us.mensa.org).



## Letter to the Editor

We've been hearing a lot from the press about an "obesity epidemic" and the financial crisis that Social Security is facing. We've also been hearing a lot about athletes using drugs to improve performance. Except for filling up time and space in the news, there doesn't seem to be much connection between the three things.

Then you get to thinking, why would a multi-million dollar a year athlete risk his career by using "drugs?" Then you get to wondering, why would a whole lot of multi-million dollar a year athletes risk their careers by using "drugs?" After I got to wondering, I started reading, and I found some answers.

What I found is that the drugs really work. They improve performance, and they enable older athletes to perform as well as younger ones.

The other thing I found when I started reading was that the same drugs have beneficial effects for people who are obese, and for healthy people who are aging. The drugs (specifically human growth hormone and steroids like testosterone) increase muscle, and reduce fat. They also help to build muscle and repair injuries in older people who aren't

obese. When combined with exercise, they work even better. (Don't take my word for any of this, check it out for yourself.)

Like most drugs, the performance enhancing drugs (or health enhancing drugs) have both good effects and bad effects. However, it appears that the negative effects occur when people take very large doses, or when they take less than pure street versions of the drugs. In clinical trials where the dosages and purity were controlled, the effects were universally positive.

So what's this got to do with Social Security, and why are these drugs being demonized? Might it have something to do with the fact that the government has already spent all the money that they took from us for our retirement? What would happen to Social Security if people lived longer and were healthier after retirement? It seems to me that Social Security would likely go bankrupt sooner, and Medicare might do a little better. Now the Congress that can't fix Social Security is going to address the "drug problem" in major league baseball.

*John Lewicke  
Mason, NH*





## On the Scene

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### *Sunday Brunch Review* by Darlene Alleman

*Note: Second Sunday Brunch has proved so successful, and we've visited so many interesting places these past six years, that we've decided it's time to share our experiences so others may be inspired to follow our established trail, or join us in forging new paths in to the unknown brunch world.*

This month we visited the Milford Diner, located on the Oval in Milford, NH. We had 12 attendees, including a brand new Boston Mensa member attending his first event (he said he preferred New Hampshire to Massachusetts, so we didn't hold his state of residence against him). The New Hampshire contingent ranged from Keene to Portsmouth. If you haven't been to the Milford Diner in a long time I think you'll be pleasantly surprised. The atmosphere was very agreeable, with a country décor. We reserved a large table, and were provided with ample seating (which, as you regulars know, can be an issue in itself).

They offer a Sunday Brunch special for \$7.25, which includes 3 eggs, 3 pancakes, 3 bacon, 3 sausage and a Mimosa or Bloody Mary. They also offer a dish called a "Potato Thing" which is mashed potatoes with onions, garlic and spices, sautéed like a pancake. It was very good, although slightly overdone. The total bill for 12 was under \$100. The service was excellent, with plenty of coffee refills, and we remained engaged in conversation until they started sweeping up around us,

having closed for the afternoon. We then stood outside on the sidewalk and talked some more (we're a very chatty bunch). The ratings from attendees (on a scale of 1-5) ranged from 2.5-5.0, with an average of 3.52.

Join us in January at The Common Man in Concord! A complete listing of previous places we've been, with ratings, as well as tentative future targets can be found at [allemanse.com/brunch.htm](http://allemanse.com/brunch.htm).

### *Annual Candlelight Stroll* by Walter Wakefield

Thanks to all who attended Strawberry Banke Candlelight Stroll in Portsmouth Sunday 5 December 2004. Our wonderful disparate Mensa trekkers who made this night special for each of us were most welcome. It was the best weather we ever had for this event.

With about 100 homes to take in, and the thousands of candles lining the pathways and streets, we found the highlights, making sure not to miss the big bonfire with old-time wooden chairs(!), the cidershed and all those old-time people at Strawberry Banke dressed in period costumes and clothing, with bountiful displays of Christmas in all its aspects, even old recipes were made afresh! This was all about a Happy Christmas and its celebration.

We lost and gained people as the event progressed, and eventually found Rosa's Restaurant to be a warm, cozy delight to finish the evening. Please come again. ■



## Bits and Pieces

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**STILL LOOKING FOR A (NEW) JOB?** Lynn Pina, host of the now-defunct Hire-A-Mensan Yahoo Group, suggests *Weddle's Job Seekers Guide to Employment Web Sites 2004* ([www.weddles.com](http://www.weddles.com)) as an excellent resource for jobseekers as it saves time by providing full descriptions and key statistics concerning a vast number of online job search sites. Here are just some of the sites rated "best" by Weddle's for 2004:

America's Job Bank ([ajb.org](http://ajb.org))  
BestJobsUSA.com  
CareerBuilder.com  
CareerJournal.com  
ComputerJobs.com  
Computerwork.com  
CraigsList.org  
DICE.com  
EmploymentGuide.com  
ExecuNet.com  
FlipDog.com  
HotJobs.com  
Jobsinthemoney.com  
NationJob.com  
Net-Temps.com  
RegionalHelpWanted.com  
Techies.com  
TrueCareers.com

**FREED-M: INTELLIGENT LIBERTY** is a new group intended as a relatively nonpartisan forum for the intelligent, reasoned discussion of liberty-related issues, and how to pursue an environment of philosophically honest and consistent, practical limited government, and personal liberty. To subscribe, maybe even help make a difference, send an email to [Freed-M-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Freed-M-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

**ANNOUNCING TWO NEW WEB-BASED, INTERNATIONAL SIGs:** M-Environment is a Mensa eSIG for discussions about our planet and its future. To join, send a blank email to [M-Environment-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:M-Environment-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). For more information, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/m-environment>. M-Architecture is a Mensa eSIG devoted to urban planning, design, historic preservation, and architecture. To join, send an email message with your name, city, and state to [M-Architecture-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:M-Architecture-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). For more information, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/m-architecture>.

**FILM LOVERS TAKE HEART!** Since advertising the formation of the Film Lovers group, I haven't been to any movies at the Portsmouth Music Hall...a months-long drought for me that is highly unusual! I hope to get back there before long and will contact those of you who have expressed an interest in joining me. In the meantime, turn to January 24 in our Calendar of Events for an opportunity to revisit *The Godfather* on the big screen in Concord. Film Lovers is a group of Mensans who love rare, independent, and international films, meeting primarily to view them at the Portsmouth Music Hall on the largest screen north of Boston. If you would like to join us, contact Claire Natola at [mensabear@hotmail.com](mailto:mensabear@hotmail.com) or 603-279-9986.

**DO YOU PLAY GO?** Mensa member looking for someone to teach him (and play occasionally or perhaps frequently) the Japanese game of GO. Please contact Chris King at [chris7423@hotmail.com](mailto:chris7423@hotmail.com).



## 2005 RG Update

### RG Co-Chair Darlene Alleman

The countdown has begun! Only six more weeks until Granite Gathering 2005! We've got a lot of special things planned this year. Our goal is to make this our most successful RG yet. We have a very enthusiastic RG Committee, many of whom are first time Chairs. This has brought a lot of fresh ideas to the table. If it's been a number of years since your last RG, this is the year to make plans to return!

We're going to try something different with the lunch schedule this year. In order to alleviate the long lines, we'll have two lunch breaks on Saturday (probably at 11:30 and 12:30, although this is subject to change). The longer lunch period will allow those of you attending the speakers to take your time getting back to Hospitality, with the assurance that the food will be refreshed at the second serving. It'll also cut down on the crowds in Hospitality at feeding time. Sue Barnes has a great menu planned for Friday night dinner and Saturday lunch. She's done a fantastic job for a number of years, and NH Mensa wants to express their gratitude for all her hard work. Please contact Sue (sbspdisp@metrocast.net) if you'd be interested in helping out in Hospitality prep, or if you can bake something in advance. Contributions to the Chocolate orgy are especially appreciated!

Bob Oxford is busy working on the Music Plus Hospitality schedule! All you closet musicians, please bring your

instruments. We'll have solo performances, jam sessions and much more! If the Boston RG was any indication, we'll have a very musically entertaining weekend. We also have Perry and Elizabeth Barnett chairing the Gifted Children's Room and Adam Smargon running the Games Room. A sneak peek at the Speaker Program should be available on the website shortly. It's going to be a very full weekend!

Remember to make your hotel reservations early. Rates are only guaranteed until 1/27/05, and our hotel block fills up quickly. Please contact Darlene at rgchair@nh.us.mensa.org if you'd like a roommate. I have a couple of people on the list already, and will connect interested parties. All final arrangements are the responsibility of attendees.

I'll need shirt orders by 1/15/05 in order to guarantee availability. We are offering both a T-shirt and Polo style this year, both with a custom embroidered design. Make sure you pre-order to avoid missing out! Photos can be seen at [www.nh.us.mensa.org/rgnews.shtm](http://www.nh.us.mensa.org/rgnews.shtm).

Finally, please consider donating items for the silent auction and book sale. You can bring them the day of the RG, or make arrangements for pickup beforehand. All proceeds go to the Scholarship Fund, and this is our only fundraiser of the year. It'll reduce the clutter in your closets, and benefit a good cause at the same time.

That's it for now; see you in six weeks! ■■



# To New and Inactive Members

## RG Co-Chair Darlene Alleman

The RG Committee would like to extend to you a hearty invitation to attend Granite Gathering 2005, to be held in Manchester in February 2005. It's a great way to get introduced to Mensa, meet a variety of people, and have a lot of fun! For those of you not familiar with an RG, here are Frequently Asked Questions that explain some of the basics of an RG and why we make such a fuss over it.

### 1. *What is an RG?*

An RG (Regional Gathering) is a weekend-long party that starts Friday evening and runs until Sunday afternoon. For one registration fee, you have access to unlimited food and drink, speakers and workshops on all sorts of topics, a movie room, a games room and all sorts of other activities too numerous to mention.

### 2. *I don't know anyone. Won't I feel uncomfortable?*

Not at all! We will be holding an RG primer on Friday evening, to help orient new members to everything an RG has to offer. You'll also find we're a pretty friendly bunch, and enthusiastically welcome new faces. Feel free to join in to any conversation or activity. Or, if you're uncomfortable in just a social setting, attend a talk or play a board game. There are always groups looking for another player. The structure of an activity can make it easier to feel more comfortable.

### 3. *Can I bring a non-Mensan friend?*

Of course! Family members and invited guests of members are always welcome!

### 4. *I have young children. Are they welcome?*

Yes. We even have a children's room, full of activities specially targeted to keep the youngsters happy and occupied. We only ask that parents take turns overseeing the children's room, and monitor their children's behavior during the RG.

### 5. *I saw the hotel rates. Do I have to stay in the hotel?*

It's not required. We have some attendees who drive home in the evening, but the vast majority prefers to get a room in the hotel. Our Hospitality suite is open 24 hours a day, and you'll find it easier (and safer) to stay in the hotel than to drive home at 3 a.m. after you lost track of the time because you became so involved in a deep (or not so deep) conversation.

### 6. *I'm busy on Friday. Can I attend Saturday only?*

Yes, we have a discounted rate for a Saturday only registration. Please see the registration form for rates.

### 7. *Do I have to pre-register?*

No, walk-ins are welcome. However, there is a discount if you pre-register. Please see your registration form for rates.

### 8. *How should I dress?*

Most people dress very casually. In fact, you'll find a lot of people who don't even bother with shoes! It's a relaxed weekend where you can just kick back and enjoy yourself. ■■



## Feb 18th - 20th 2005 NH RG's Music Plus Hospitality!



**Come, enjoy, listen & participate**

### **NEW "Music Plus Hospitality" room**

(Note: There will still be the Traditional Hospitality Room!)

**Please bring your instruments!!!**

- |               |                            |                |
|---------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| • Drums       | • Guitars                  | • Dulciners    |
| • Banjo       | • Basses                   | • Harps        |
| • Voices!     | • Clarinets                | • Keyboards    |
| • Tambourines | • Maracas                  | • French Horns |
| • Fiddles     | • Saxophones               | • Trumpets     |
| • Trombones   | • Other Exotic Instruments | • Whatever!    |

Designed around musical talent and across the hall from the Traditional Hospitality Room, the **Music Plus Hospitality** will feature performances by talented Mensans as well as local performers.

There will be formal "Sing Alongs", Solo performers, duos, educational presentations, time set aside for "Just Jammin'" with your friends **and MORE!** I've heard rumors about maybe Ballroom Dance lessons too!

Basic sound reinforcement equipment (Microphones and such) and a Piano (Maybe a Synth/Keyboard if we can't get the real thing) will be provided. So if you play a piano, you don't have to bring your Mason and Hamlin Concert Grand along! If you require anything unusual that you can't bring yourself, please let Bob know and he'll try to work it out.

**Come, enjoy, listen & participate**

### **NEW "Music Plus Hospitality" room**

**Please bring your instruments!!!**

If you are musically inclined and interested in performing or would like to be a speaker on a musical topic, please contact: **Bob Oxford** at 603-626-3000 as soon as possible!

Check out: <http://nh.us.mensa.org/rgnews.shtml> for Up to the Minute NH RG News!!

## Please save your...

- Egg cartons
- Cardboard boxes
- Paper towel and toilet paper cores
- Styrofoam cartons or trays
- Small paper bags
- Quaker Oat boxes

...for the Children's Room at the RG. Help with the planning and organizing of the Children's Room will also be appreciated. Watch this space for notice of where the drop-off location for these items will be, and also whom to contact if you want to help.

**Granite Gathering 2005**  
**Phant-M: The Music of the Night**  
**February 18-20, 2005**



Please join us in New England for NH Mensa's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Gathering! We'll have plenty of food, drink and revelry! Meet new and old friends alike on the top floor of the Radisson Hotel, with a lovely view of the city below. We have a great speaker line-up, as well as games, contests, and surprises spread throughout the weekend.

**FULL SATURDAY NIGHT BBQ BUFFET INCLUDED IN  
REGISTRATION COST THIS YEAR!**

**Hotel Information:** Radisson Hotel Manchester at the Center of NH, 700 Elm Street, Manchester, NH 03101. Single/Double/Triple/Quad \$92. Rates guaranteed until 1/27/04. Call 1-800-333-3333 or 1-603-625-1000 and ask for "NH Mensa" rate.

**Registration:** \$65 until 1/15; \$75 after 1/15 or at the door. Do not mail registration after 2/1; please register at the door instead. Children 8-17 \$15 less than the regular rate; children under 8 free. Saturday rate \$10 less than regular rate in effect at registration. Make your checks payable to "NH Mensa" and mail your form and fee to:

**Deb Stone, Registrar**  
**24312 Spartan Street**  
**Mission Viejo, CA 92691-3921**  
**email: debstone@cox.net**

Questions? Contact Darlene (603-529-4446)  
or Walter (877-436-7250, toll-free) or  
rgchair@nh.us.mensa.org.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name on badge: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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

T-shirt \$16 Size: S M L XL XXL *Quantities VERY limited*

Golf shirt \$20 Size: S M L XL XXL *at RG. Please pre-order!*

(All shirts are hemp fabric with embroidered design.)

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ (make checks payable to NH Mensa) *or*

MC/Visa # \_\_\_\_\_ Expires: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

**Check for the latest details at [www.nh.us.mensa.org/rgnews.shtm](http://www.nh.us.mensa.org/rgnews.shtm)**



# Gifted Children

Maine GC Coordinator Brian Stacey

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Greetings all. I would like to begin this month's column with a very special "Thank You" to Joe Zanca. Joe sent me some materials and information, including a very good book, at no cost. Zanca Books has a great selection of gifted education materials, so if you're looking for such things, visit their website.

January marks the deadline for schools in Maine to submit their waiver requests for Chapter 104. All schools are required to implement a Gifted Education program this school year unless they receive a waiver from the Maine Department of Education.

I am closing in on a final product for the handbooks that I have been working on. They come in several varieties, from

parent to educator, and I hope they will be available soon. In the meantime, Bill Alleman has offered to host them on the website. As soon as I have an edited edition of each, I will submit them to him for hosting. That way, even if I can't have them printed, you will all be able to access the information in them.

The NH/ME Mensa website has some great resources for gifted children. Check them out at <http://nh.us.mensa.org/giftedresources.shtm>. If you know of any other links that would make good additions, please email me and I will have them added.

I hope you have all enjoyed the holidays, and I look forward to helping any and all of you in this new year. 🍷



## Upcoming Testing Sessions

Tell Your Friends!

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Information on testing and prior evidence can be found at [nh.us.mensa.org](http://nh.us.mensa.org). Anyone 14 or older who wishes to take the Mensa Admissions Test should pre-register with the respective proctor listed below, who can provide testing site information. The test costs \$30; a photo-ID is required.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Proctor</b>
Wednesday 05 January 2005, 7:00 p.m.	Nashua, N.H.	John Bauman 603-673-9388
Saturday 08 January 2005, 10:00 a.m.	Portsmouth, N.H.	Bromley Baril 603-749-1088
Saturday 15 January 2005, 10:30 a.m.	Weare, N.H.	Bill Alleman 603-529-4446



# Executive Committee Meeting

## Recording Secretary Claire Natola

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**Date:** 17 November 2004

**Present:** Bill Alleman, Darlene Alleman, John Bauman, John Lewicke, Ann Majeske, John McGondel, Claire Natola, John Sheehan, Tom Shiel, Walter Wakefield

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 p.m.

John Bauman reported a net addition of 7 members, resulting in a total of 465.

Walter Wakefield was pleased to report that Joe Zanca was released from Lakes Region General Hospital after two weeks. Joe wants to run the Mensa Boutique and conduct an auction at our RG. Joe was delighted that the ExComm wants to institute a scholarship in his name. Whether the scholarship would be awarded based on an essay, a nomination, or some other criteria was discussed. A committee will likely be formed. It was decided that more discussion directly with Joe Zanca should take place.

John Bauman reported that Culture Quest will be held on 10 April 2005. The registration deadline is 01 March 2005. Anyone interested in being a Team Captain for Culture Quest should make him/herself known to any member of the ExComm.

Tom Shiel nominated John Lewicke for a Member-At-Large position. Darlene Alleman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

John Lewicke offered the use of his pickup truck to transport the RG trailer to and from the RG in February. Darlene will look into the trailer's registration.

Claire Natola moved to reimburse Laurie Levesque for her National Testing Day hotel expense. Bill Alleman seconded. The motion passed.

Ann Majeske moved that NH/ME Mensa institute a policy, suggested by John McGondel, whereby all non-pre-approved expenses submitted are subject to ExComm approval. Tom Shiel seconded. The motion passed.

Bill Alleman reported a recent uptick in traffic on the NH Mensa email discussion list. Claire moved that the ExComm request that American Mensa transfer administration of the discussion and notices email lists to Bill Alleman. Darlene Alleman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Darlene moved to adjourn. Tom seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.



# Business Meeting

## Recording Secretary Claire Natola

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**Date:** 17 November 2004

**Present:** Same as Executive Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 9:44:02 p.m. Bill moved to adjourn. Ann seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:44:10 p.m. ■



## Happy Dais at Pilgrimage or, Multi-Level Interactions at Boston Mensa's RG

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**A**mbivalence. For Months! That's what I felt for long before this anticipated event, my first "Pilgrimage," so to speak. Knowing there are as many character types as there are Mensans made obviating a distinct possibility. I decided to put aside my reservations and make a tangible registration early with ever-so-gracious Birchmires and the hotel. Many friends were set to attend; and talking with them made this a more enthusiastically desirable event, beforehand. It wasn't really far, only 65 miles for me.

I drove through Boston center this early Friday evening, to yet again glimpse that incredibly beautiful new Leonard P. Zakim Bridge, the real value of the \$14B to me. Then, through the not-so-wonderful new convoluted tunnel south where the ceiling leaked on my car; and, driving through water was imperative. I arrived mid-evening to find many people shuffling about in pajama mode. It was really good to see so many familiar faces; and, welcoming new ones. Oh, we do have so much, and nothing, in common!

The parking was easy, as was ingress. Apparently, because of my early registration, I had been assigned the very closest single room to Hospitality, which gave me good feeling of privilege and

welcome. What a nice venue, with Hospitality set up like a large nightclub, on several levels; and, various kinds of live music provided by both the talented and others. Thanks to Bob Oxford and other skillful musicians, as well as the often-funny Karaoke.

Early on, I found Joe Zanca and ever-cheerful wife Nancy tending to Mensa Boutique, where as always, I found new goodies to buy (I never get away from that shop for less than a hundred bucks). With pre-arrangement with Sonia Verrochi, I brought a box of old and interesting books to put in the silent auction; but, in the end, this aspect was not fruitful for anyone it seems. Some persons had donated garage sale leftovers/broken items instead of items of value, which put a pall on the auction. Maybe a new way to approach fund-raising in auctions could be looked at? I felt bad for those who had put effort, time, expense into creating the auction venue.

I saw the search of Singles is omnipresent, usually healthy, though we have our share of a few lounge lizards (I cannot but be entertained by their sidling, as well as remotely observing my own.) Conversations that lasted hours seemed truncated, momentary encounters. I found many interesting people in the

Smoking Room, all through the event. (I have to admit that many of the most important people of my life were/are big smokers; but, for myself, other than once on a dare in the bowels of Mammoth Cave in Kentucky during my Boy Scout phase, I never partook.) I've noticed that smokers have long memories, seemingly longer than those who don't smoke; and, seem to be able to produce almost eidetic iterations. Maybe smokers know things I don't – I think they do.

Even though I was told there were some 150 registrations, the facility was huge; and, never felt crowded, except in Wine Tasting and “Bondage Toys,” wherein it seemed like everyone crowded in to see and experience... One of our closet B&D practitioners asked me to buy a certain “device,” which I found fun to do and tender. The Games Room turned out to be a huge draw, which pleased me seeing a lot of really smart people of all ages together in fun competition.

Rick Kovalcik did wonders in tending to every food and bar need. When I jokingly asked where I might find a sandwich late at night, he produced an entirety within a minute from some out-of-sight source. Such energy and enthusiasm, with little speech, nor seeking for himself!

There were so many good room events and speakers. While I tried to get to many, conversations and over-lapping made it difficult for me at least, to more than sample some. I had my own contentious presence in “Meet the RVC Candidates” to worry about. I asked Lisa Maxwell, whom I approached not long before the start, if I could wear my favorite 1950s Bermudas with polka dots. While she perhaps thought, “Who is this dolt?” (as opposed to “adult”), it all turned out OK when I appeared in a pinstripe suit to fit. She and Paul mailman handled the “event” with great skill, both during the

presentations and question period, avoiding anarchy. Questions were both appropriate and not; but, no blows were suffered by anyone. I am always happy to see Marghretta and John McGondel, in whatever form.

A bit of a sidebar here (if this whole article isn't enough of a sidebar...): I am a student of how people react to excess weight in our physical beings. It is “eerie” (I didn't say this was going to be a scientific sidebar) how weight affects relationships between those in the same situation and those in normal weight, between genders, age, etc. Also, the amount of it changes the reactions and interaction, too. This is a large societal dilemma. Almost none of us are able to cure; and, I have to wonder where that extra-evolutionary ability comes from – it seems superhuman. Why is this sidebar here? Because Mensa inspires us to do better than we can “outside.” I think so. Praise Mensa. End Sidebar.

The Saturday dinner in that fabulous dining hall was well worth the cost; and, it gave opportunities to meet even more un-met friends. Ever the experimenter on my friends and others, I decided to try the common practice of not saying goodbyes to most; and, just leaving Sunday afternoon. As I am by nature careful to gently dis-engage, this was NOT comfortable to do; but, I wanted to feel how those who do it do it. It left me feeling less emotional about the event and separation, with a little buffer of guilt to coat it. Now I understand; but I won't change. Expressing goodbye is important, for who can say when/if we will meet again. There is “post-RG depression” for those born on some birthdates. Goodbye only for the moment. I want to see you all again soon.

With Care,  
*Walter Wakefield*

# Calendar of Events

## January 2005

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
26 Dec 04 Fourth Sunday Lunch	27	28	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>	01 Jan 05 <i>New Year's Day</i>
2	3	4	5 Meditation Techniques	6	7 Temperance League	8 Central Maine Meet and Munch
9 Second Sunday Brunch Bunch	10	11	12 Meditation Techniques	13	14 Second Friday in the Monadnock Region	15 Central Maine Dinner
16	17	18	19 RG Planning Meeting  Meditation Techniques  FSM/ExComm Meeting	20	21	22
23 Fourth Sunday Lunch	24 Film Lovers	25	26 Meditation Techniques	27	28 Appetite for Discussion	29
30	31	01 Feb	2 Meditation Techniques	3	4 Temperance League	5

Calendar listings must be in the hands of the Calendar Editor before the first of the month prior to the cover date. It is NH/ME Mensa policy to avoid conflicts as much as possible, but no conflicts are allowed to group-sponsored events. Mensans, members of their household, and invited guests are always welcome at NH/ME Mensa events. Many thanks to our event hosts, without whom this calendar would be quite barren. E-mail your events to [Calendar@nh.us.mensa.org](mailto:Calendar@nh.us.mensa.org).



# Events Further Afield

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## **Midwinter Blahs Party February 27, 2005**

It was such a success last year, Northern New Jersey Mensa's doing it again! Join us at the Fairfield Inn by Marriott (850 Paterson Plank Road, East Rutherford, NJ 07073-2130, 201-507-5222) for an entertaining and educational day featuring speakers, games, puzzles, and music. Food, coffee, tea, sodas, lots of chocolate and prizes! Open to Mensans and Non-Mensans of all ages.

To register, send a check payable to NNJ Mensa for \$5.00 to NNJ Mensa - Registration, P.O. Box 64, Hawthorne, NJ 07507. Please include your Mensa ID, name, address, phone number, and email address. For more information, contact Nancy Pool at 973-989-8709 or nep@sprynet.com; or Mindy Maidens at 201-224-0453 or mmaidens@rcn.com.

## **Snowball XXXI: Nautical But Nice March 4-6, 2005**

Sail Away with Central NJ Mensa on the *S.S. Snowball* for a fun-filled weekend featuring the speakers, games, music, and hospitality that have made Snowball the premier Regional Gathering on the East Coast. Registration \$60.00 to 2/15, \$65.00 after 2/15. Rooms: \$83.00 per night S/D/T/Q until 2/13. Call the Sheraton Four Points Hotel in Piscataway, NJ (732-980-0400 or 800-325-3535) to reserve your room. Free parking. Registrar: Andrea Gallini Giarnieri, 632 Salem Avenue, Apt. 501, Elizabeth, NJ 07208. Questions? Contact Andrea at: 908-351-1583 or andreabgg@aol.com.

## **Earth in Mind: Fueling the Future March 4-6, 2005**

Mensans from around the world will gather at the Tucson (AZ) Sheraton Hotel and Resort to explore the issues surrounding renewable energy. Among the speakers are hydrogen fuel cell researcher John Turner, author David Orr, and environmental journalist Alan Weisman. Speakers will be followed by group discussions on societal changes, economic impact, and technological challenges of renewable energy. Register online or call (817) 607-0060, ext. 122. Visit [www.colloquium.us.mensa.org](http://www.colloquium.us.mensa.org).

## **Oregon Mensa's BeaverRG-VIII: We're History May 6-8, 2005**

Our Theme is History - past, present and future! Our Keynote Speaker is Donna Shirley of the Seattle Science Fiction Museum, author of *Managing Martians*, the story of the Sojourner Martian Probe.

Three programming tracks, bountiful hospitality, large games room, Saturday Banquet, Sunday Lunch, and a unique scholarship fund charity auction.

Registration: \$80 through 2/28/2005. Includes Saturday dinner and Sunday luncheon! Rooms: \$69 plus tax, for single/double/triple/quad! Red Lion Inn at the Quay in Vancouver, WA *on the mighty Columbia River with views of Portland and Mt. Hood*. Call 800-RED-LION; ask for the Oregon Mensa rate and free Airport Shuttle. For more information, <http://www.oregon.us.mensa.org/rg/>.