

MOMENTUM

The Voice of Mensa in New Hampshire and Maine

Vol. 24 No. 9

April 2005



New Hampshire Mensa

Send all correspondence to:

Officer Name
New Hampshire Mensa
P.O. Box 7998
Nashua, NH 03060-7998

Cover Art by Christine Bartlett



Bauman's Quiver

LocSec John Bauman

Another Presidents' Day Weekend has come and gone and another Granite Gathering has become history. For those of you who were unable to attend, the attendance tally peaked out at 193, including speakers, Saturday morning test-takers and those who just popped in for a hug and a quick beer with old friends. There were 87 attendees with home addresses in either New Hampshire or Maine, so the host chapter was well represented, as hoped for. Massachusetts provided the next largest contingent, with 69, but we did have someone from all six New England states and Deb was not the only one to travel from California. The LocSecs from six locals within the Region were in attendance, along with the RVC, so we had a good representation from among the officer cadre. There were plenty of kids on hand, plenty of first-timers and plenty of old hands, so we entertained pretty much all of the categories.

The speakers program this year was plentiful, with three simultaneous tracks and the breadth of topics covered was staggering. The theme of Phantom of the Opera and Music of the Night was repeated often in the graphics of the program, by the masks included in the goody bags and through the presentation of a group of players who basically became a session of the famous Clue board game brought to life, dressed in costumes based on the Phantom story. However, the signature aspect of this RG that will undoubtedly come to identify it in the future was the Music Plus Hospitality room. Huzzahs are due to Bob Oxford for assembling a great collection of instruments and performers, so that RG

goers could listen, sing along or participate themselves. The young ones were even included on Saturday when they were given an opportunity to create their own instruments. As a sidelight to the music, there was even a chance to brush up on your ballroom dancing skills, which found 8 couples doing it the Arthur Murray way.

Although the appropriate people were cited and applauded for at a gathering on Sunday morning, I will make the assumption that volunteers never become weary of being commended for their good deeds, so I would like to thank them once more in this forum. Of particular note are Darlene Alleman and Walter Wakefield, the first-time Co-Chairs who did a superb job in coming up with a theme, assembling a great team of volunteers and executing an RG with a minimum of headaches. Hospitality was exquisite again this year under the guidance of Sue Barnes, but I want to state that in Devin Starlanyl, we seem to have found a reincarnation of Linda Church as a tireless and omnipresent worker. Kudos also to Paula Werme for manning the waffle irons on Saturday - I never got to taste any of them myself on the way to testing, but they smelled great. Thanks to Perry and Kim Barnett for keeping the children safe and occupied. Finally, thanks to Adam Smargon as a first-time Games Room Coordinator - we look forward to better things next year.

In the midst of all these good times and eating, there were some serious things that took place. On Saturday, Joe Zanca was made an Honorary Trustee of MERF as a result of a vote taken by the

Trustees at their most recent meeting on 07 February - shows you how fast the Foundation can move when the occasion calls! I am told that the original plan had been for Phyllis Miller, Vice President of MERF, to travel to the RG in order to make a presentation, but a family emergency prevented her from attending. Marghretta McBean, our RVC, was pressed into service to do the honors and, after appropriate remarks, presented a trophy to Joe commemorating the event, which left him speechless - a rare event, indeed. After the congratulations and outpourings of affection subsided, and Joe had been given an opportunity to regain his emotional equilibrium, we launched into an iteration of the patented auctioning of a \$5 bill - what better time to hit people up for money for your namesake scholarship than right after being acclaimed by MERF? Between the \$5 bill auction, personal contributions, passing the jar in the hall while people were queued up for their barbeque and throwing change from Mensa Boutique purchases into the can, I am pleased to report that we were able to raise another \$448 for the Joe Zanca Scholarship. I am less sure of a total amount raised for NH Mensa local scholarships, but I do know that we gained \$110 from chair massages,

\$82 from a 50/50 raffle, \$55 from the sale of juggling scarves, \$73.50 from the silent auction and book sale and another \$200 from various and sundry sources. At any rate, once the Treasurer's report of the RG is completed, I feel certain that the final reckoning will show that we operated in the black, once again, and that the lion's share of the \$700 committed to local scholarships was raised.

Turning to other things Mensa, Christine and Curry Bartlett have already agreed to serve again as Co-Chairs for next year's scholarship essay contest, evidencing no apparent capacity to learn. We still need a volunteer to take over the Testing Coordinator position and anyone who might see fit to revive the Speaker Program will be assured of a place in Mensa heaven. We were able to field a team for CultureQuest and have been put on notice that a road rally and dinners in Northfield are in the works. You will have a few scant days to get your 2006 membership dues in by the time that you receive this newsletter, so please renew online today. The Cape Mini-RG and Spring Mountain Climb are not that far off, so make the appropriate entry in your personal planners today.

Peace. 🏠



What's Cooking in Region 1

Region 1 Vice Chair Marghretta McBean

February started off with Staten Island Chuck's observation that winter would soon be gone. Staten Island is the home of not only this genius groundhog (Staten Island Zoo), but the Jacques Marchais Centre of Tibetan Art, and last but not least, Greater New York Mensa's biennial RG. Join us New Yorkers as we

party hearty 8-10 April. This is an unabashed plug, but hey, I am a member of the group. By the way, Chuck, New York City has gotten 22 inches of snow since your prognostication...

Fashion Week swooped in after the groundhog, (parties, after-parties and oh, yes - clothes!) followed the next week by

the Westminster Dog Show. As a former model I can definitively say that the canines have far more runway presence than most supermodels. While I was rooting for the otterhound, I will say the German shorthaired pointer who won was a real show stopper.

New Hampshire Mensa more than outdid itself with its Phant-M RG. Music all weekend - what talented members we have! Clarinetists, singers, guitarists, conductors (Lisa Maxwell gave an excellent workshop) - you name it, they performed! Some of the hospitality highlights included shrimp, caviar(!), and would you believe - barbecue! Manchester, I learned, has over 70 different ethnic groups, affording a lot to culinary diversity.

The highlight, however, was the presentation to Joseph Zanca of an award granted by the Mensa Foundation. Joe was made an Honorary Trustee in recognition of all the work he has done raising funds for the many scholarships administered by the Foundation. Congratulations, Joe!

The month ended on high note - Northern New Jersey Mensa's Mid-Winter Blahs Party. Such much fun was had last year that NNJM decided to make this casual one-day get together an annual event. Having never played Carnelli before, I can now say I could

easily become an addict. Carnelli (which I didn't know) was invented by a Mensan.

Easter comes early this year. (Trivia: it's the first Sunday after the first full moon after March 21st). Although most of the Italians I grew up with were Sicilians, the Neapolitan kids always had this dessert on Easter Sunday.

Pizza con Riso (Pizza with Rice)

Filling: ½ cup rice
 2 cups milk
 3 eggs
 Grated rind of one lemon

Dough: 1 cup flour
 2 Tbl. melted butter
 1 Tbl. Sugar
 ½ tsp. baking powder
 1 egg

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Cook rice in milk until tender. Cool. Mix with eggs and lemon rind. Set aside.
3. Put flour on a board. Make a well in the centre and add the rest of the ingredients. Mix together and knead well. Roll out and line bottom and sides of a 10" pie plate.
4. Add filling and bake about 1hour.
5. Serve at room temperature or chill and serve cold. 🍷

KICK IRRATIONAL by Brian Lord



www.KickComics.com





Upcoming Testing Sessions

Tell Your Friends!

Information on testing and prior evidence can be found at 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.

Date	Location	Proctor
Wednesday 06 April 2005, 7:00 p.m.	Nashua, N.H.	John Bauman 603-673-9388
Saturday 16 April 2005, 10:00 a.m.	Portsmouth, N.H.	Bromley Baril 603-749-1088



Intelligence Is...

What's your definition of intelligence? Each month, we'll print a definition of intelligence provided by one of our members. Send your definition to Editor Claire Natola at editor@nh.us.mensa.org or 21 Hillrise Lane, Meredith, NH 03253 for consideration in a future issue of *Momentum*. This month's definition comes from John Connolly of Etna, N.H.:

Intelligence – The measure of clarity by which a (man) is able to support the reasons for (his) actions.

John continues: “Adaptability to change and the circumstances of one’s existence by making connections and understanding patterns is generally understood as intelligence. The ability to support that by virtue of our actions may be the highest form of intelligence.

“I’ve read some formal definitions and the litany of didactic descriptions of intelligence only to further confound the issue by attempting to distinguish between intelligence and wisdom or vision, etc. Of course there is the unspoken need to differentiate yourself from the queue of other intelligent people in trying to “truly” understand and appreciate intelligence and having the gift of insight to present the idea so concisely so as to be forever venerated as a prophet of wisdom, this millennium’s Promethean disciple bringing the fire of the gods to mankind and light the way for the evolution of consciousness. Had you going there, didn’t I?”



On the Scene

Mensan-About-Town Adam Smargon

I met Batman!

No, seriously! I went to my first RG in Manchester over a weekend. We're all wearing nametags, and so mine has "ADAM" in large type. Riding the elevator alone from the top level to the lobby, it stops somewhere in the middle floors, and a tall man wearing an overcoat, sunglasses and a yellow hat enters. He notices my nametag and says, "Hello, Adam. My name is Adam too." We shake hands. "So tell me, Adam, what do you do for a living?" I reply, "I'm a graduate student at the University of New Hampshire. What do you do, Adam?"

He said, "Oh, I'm a graduate student of... Hollywood. Been doin' that for about 40 years... my mug's been all over the place." It was at that point I got a good look at his face: "Say, you look familiar. Are you Adam West?"

"Yes, I am."

"May I have your autograph?" I produced a pen and the MENSA weekend program of events, and he signed it: "To Adam... Adam West."

While he was signing it, I asked him, "What brings you to Manchester?"

"I'm doing a play called Love Letters with Dawn Wells." I told him I had seen the play about ten years ago in Gainesville, Florida... with two different actors. I did NOT tell him to come to the top floor of the hotel (where most of the MENSA activities were), because it was evident from his clothing that he wanted to remain incognito, and over one hundred Mensans would mob him. As we got to the lobby, I said, "It was a

pleasure meeting you, Adam." I walked out of the elevator, never to see him again.

I had a great time this weekend. Seeing Adam West was an extra thrill, to be sure, but I also:

- ran the all-day-and-all-night games room
- was one of two dozen speakers (my topic? "Don't Save The Planet")
- ate some really good food (great barbecue for Saturday dinner! chocolate orgy for dessert!)
- met many more MENSAns from around New England and the United States, and talked about nothing like nuclear physics or how to control the world

And the best part?

They had a dedicated music room for the first time. People were encouraged to bring instruments, and some professional musicians brought their own instruments and gave all kinds of learning sessions. Karaoke, jam sessions, et cetera. I used to play the drums, but that was in high school. I did get a chance to sit behind their drum kit no less than four times, and within five minutes I was jammin' with the best of 'em. I took part in three jam sessions (my first three!), playing songs from Eric Clapton, Simon & Garfunkel, The Everly Brothers, and some other songs that I did not recognize (and therefore had to fake it the best way I knew how).

What a tremendous amount of fun... and it's always nice to know that I haven't lost too much of my drumming skills! Yeah, it's like riding a bike... except the pedals are for different purposes.

I'm gonna try like hell to get to the next RG, as well as trips to the Annual Gatherings (New Orleans this year!) and

World Gatherings (Orlando next year!) that won't break my bank account.

Much of the events, food, and discussions reminded me of get-togethers with some of my good college buddies. A great time. I'm coming back for next year! 🍀



The Irish "Famine"

John McGondel

The 'Great Irish Famine,' or more accurately: 'The Great Hunger' and which I shall refer to as the 'Irish Holocaust' for the rest of this discussion essay, has most definitely been as a historic turning point in Irish history, and there are two reasons for this.

One would be that the blight of the potato crop, which caused the failure of the potato plants in 1845, 46 and 47-48, directly and indirectly, caused the deaths of approximately one million Irish people, as well as causing at least another million or so to flee to other, foreign lands. The reason that I say indirectly is because it was not the failure of the potato crop that caused the mass starvation and diseases, for there was an abundance of other foodstuffs that were produced in Ireland that did not suffer from blight. But the English government, who could and should have stopped the export from Ireland of these other crops, chose to instead ignore the Hunger problem and to continue to ship the Irish grown crops out of Ireland. One of the excuses used to that: "otherwise, Englishmen would have to pay a higher price for their corn."

As a direct result of England's deliberate refusal to help their starving Irish subjects, the plight and misery of

the Irish people became exponentially worse, and at long last, the entire world became aware of the horrible holocaust that was happening in Ireland.

A large proportion of Irishmen and women were shipped off to Canada and the US, and there were many accounts given by first-hand witnesses of both countries as to the wretched conditions and abominations that they suffered. There were countless substantiated stories of the 'coffin ships' arriving in North America. Many of the less fortunate had not survived the journey, and their emaciated bodies had been unceremoniously thrown from the ships while en route from Ireland, "leaving their bones to whiten on the ocean bed."

And of the ones who had managed to avoid dying from the famine fever or starvation during the voyage, those fever stricken ones were quarantined in droves, where they died and were buried in mass graves. These ships left the many bays of Ireland for month after sickening month, floating out to sea with their human cargoes at every tide.

At the mouth of the St. John River in Canada was Partridge Island, from where stories have come down to us of "unfed, unclothed and pitiful creatures," dumped

off by the shipload, some clad in straw, to be herded to the many trenches where their feeble corpses were to be buried. Alongside the St. Lawrence Seaway, from the port of Sarnia to the shores of Lake Ontario, lies the final resting places of countless of sons and daughters of Ireland, some 20,000 communal graves, with few, if any, marking stones.

The Canadian immigration authorities kept exceptional records and counted 90,000 Irish immigrants in 1847 alone. Those were the ones who made it to Canada alive. One sixth of those...perished.

Now the attention of the world was focused upon Ireland, for the truth had gone beyond the borders of English control. 'Good Queen Vickie' was seen for that which (witch?) she was. She sought to give relief to the landlords and agents instead of the many hundreds and thousands who were dying.

There are many other deep wounds that the English inflicted upon the Irish people, but their numbers preclude me from listing them here.

So, tens of thousands of starving Irish lay dying in the fields and on the roads, and in the very roads, while shiploads of Irish grown corn crossed to England and back again, over and over, sometimes up to four crossings, so as to further the gamble of the English traders.

Another account tells us of one Mitchel's observances: cowering

wretches, naked in the savage weather, prowling in turnip fields, trying to grub up roots that the hogs had passed, while hiding from the coaches. Groups and families sitting helplessly by the roadsides, with their gazes of despair.

My grandfather's father was on one of those coffin ships, and the horrible tales have not died away, as they are passed down through the generations.

There are two separate and distinct reasons that the so-called 'famine,' or great hunger, or as I prefer to refer to it: 'The Irish Holocaust,' is such a watershed in Irish history. The first and foremost is the fact that the Hunger years marked the point where the Irish finally started to come together as a nation against England. It was the point of no return, both for the English and for the Irish. Ireland would never be the same.

The second reason is that the opinion of the world swung against England as the 'situation' in Ireland became known, and that the widespread publicity served to bolster and reinforce the 'freedom fighters' of Ireland.

And the British are still paying for the so-called famine. It was a black mark in English history, but it was also many years ago. I for one am happy to see fewer bombings and fewer innocent civilians getting killed in Northern Ireland, and hope that peace will come between the Irish and the British during my lifetime. ■■

\$ Mensa Money \$

You may have noticed the coupon inserted into your March *Bulletin* worth \$5 off the American Mensa testing fee. We encourage you to pass it on to a friend. However, if you have no one to pass it on to, please consider mailing your coupon to NH Mensa at P.O. Box 7998, Nashua, N.H. 03060-7998, or giving it to LocSec John Bauman at a NH Mensa event. We will make sure the coupons are used by potential members.



Calendar of Events

April 2005

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
27 Mar Fourth Sunday Lunch	28	29	30	31	01 April Temperance League	2 Spring Beer Festival
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Second Sunday Brunch Bunch	11	12	13	14	15 The Moveable Feast <i>The Mind's Eye/"The Elegant Universe"</i>	16 Central Maine Dinner
17	18	19 Pre-FSM Dinner FSM/ ExComm	20	21	22 Appetite for Discussion	23
24 Fourth Sunday Lunch	25	26	27	28	29	30

Calendar listings must be reach 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.



Testing the Waters

IDEAS WANTED: Donna Scott of western Massachusetts, intrepid host of the Fourth Sunday Brunch in the Brattleboro, Vt. area, would like some feedback on other events that Mensans would like to see on the calendar. One idea Donna had is visiting a butterfly farm. Please contact Donna at 413-628-0149 or scota@crocker.com (with “Mensa” in the subject line) with your interest in that event or to share your ideas.

H2G2²: Don’t Panic! You can see *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy* twice! A film version is being released at the end of this month. Save the weekend of **May 6-8** to see it with your fellow Mensans. In the meantime, we want to have an event to watch the DVD of the 1981 BBC miniseries. Please express your interest in a get-together to watch the DVD to Claire Natola at 603-279-9986 or editor@nh.us.mensa.org. We’ll pick a date and location based on the responses.

REMEMBER CAVE-IN? There have been whispers about bringing this monthly Concord-area dining event back! Anyone willing to step forward to revive it? Please contact Claire Natola at 603-279-9986 or editor@nh.us.mensa.org to express interest in hosting this event, or any other regularly scheduled event in *your* geographic area.

ATTENTION ALL YOU ART LOVERS, and particularly motorheads: Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts is hosting an exhibition of 16 automobiles from the collection of Ralph Lauren, featuring a 1938 Bugatti Type 57SC Atlantic Coupe. There were only three copies of this vehicle ever made in the world and this is your chance to see one up close! Also on hand will be a Jaguar XKD, a Porsche 550 Spyder, a 1930 “Count Trossi” Mercedes-Benz SSK and a Ferrari 250 Testa Rossa. The quiet little secret is that on four occasions, they will open up the hoods and let you see what is under there. Of course, we won’t get to sit behind the wheel or breathe on the paint too hard, but these four times are prime to take in the exhibit. We have a choice of 31 March, 28 April, 26 May or 30 June. These will all be evening showings, from 5:00 p.m. to closing at 9:45 p.m.

If you are interested, contact John Bauman at locsec@nh.us.mensa.org. Exhibits in the Gund Gallery are ticketed under a timed entry system, so that a gaggle does not press through all at once. John can obtain half-price off tickets, but you need to let him know soon - especially for a 31 March expedition, since that is just days off.

John adds, “Also on view will be an exhibit of prints that are sets, series or suites; I have looked through about one-third of them and they are varied and interesting. Another gallery has an installation of photographs by Czech artist Josef Sudek, which will be open only until 03 April. The gallery that seems to be garnering the most attention has a selection of installations by British artist Damien Hirst, including a glass enclosure housing animatronics, rotting fruit, and live butterflies and plants – it really is better than it sounds. Beginning 01 June, the textiles gallery will open with an exhibit of quilts from Gee’s Bend.”



Spring Mountain Climb

20-22 May 2005, Woodstock, N.H.

New England has wonderful mountains, enjoyable seashores, and lively cities. New England also has Mensa! This spring, we combine the mountain part with the Mensa part for a wonderful weekend!

This is when the cold and ice have gone and the bugs have not yet arrived. This is the best time for wonderful hiking weather. The mountains are there for our enjoyment!

Our venue is Pembroke Lodge. Home base for many Appalachian Mountain Club

trips, Pembroke Lodge is surrounded by woods with a snow-fed brook flowing by, with the Pemigewasset River a short walk away. It has country bedrooms and a deck, a homey dining room open to a large kitchen, a secluded sitting room, and a basement with its own refrigerator and shower. It also has a clock that each hour chirps out the sounds of different birds, including, of course, a Mensa owl!

The weekend is low-key and basically unstructured. The one major piece of structure is; you guessed it, hiking! We generally have two hikes. One goes to a mountain peak or other destination worthy of a good day hike. The other takes a few hours over easier terrain to reach a viewpoint, waterfall or other point of interest. Of course, there's also the 'null hike': a short walk or drive amidst the new leaves and flowers, some shopping, or relaxing around the lodge.

The weekend includes two nights' accommodations, two full breakfasts, Saturday dinner, and snacks and soft drinks (BYOB for anything stronger), for

just \$60 per person. For Saturday lunch, the hike groups stop at a store for people to buy sandwiches and the like before heading out on the trail.

Once the sleeping spaces at the lodge, around 15, are full, registrations without accommodations are \$30. The town of Woodstock with a number of inns and motels is a couple of miles away. There are also some good nightspots in town.

We generally pick out the hikes on Friday night. The mountain hike leaves right after Saturday breakfast while the shorter hike leaves an hour or so later. As for the cooking and housekeeping, we do them cooperatively using a chore sign-up sheet, which definitely increases the feeling of closeness and camaraderie.

To sign up and reserve a place, send a check for \$60 per person to David Heimann, 149 Water Street, #5, Wakefield, Mass. 01880. You'll receive confirmation and directions to the lodge by return mail, email, or phone call. If you have questions or need more information, call David at 781-245-2087, send him email at heimann@world.std.com, or call Bob and Brendy Horn at 781-843-5581.

So there it is: wonderful weather, wonderful mountains, invigorating countryside, and Mensa friends, all in one wonderful weekend. Be sure to sign up early to guarantee a place!





Events Further Afield

Cape Cod Mini-RG

Mark your Calendars!

May 6-8, 2005



Join us on beautiful Cape Cod for a weekend of dining, shopping, swimming (beachside pool), socializing and great hospitality. Take a day trip to Provincetown, go whale watching, antiquing, bicycling, or just sit back and listen to the ocean!

Hotel rooms are \$84.95 until 5/31 and \$90.95 after 4/31. Send your check made out to "Boston Mensa", directly to them at: 41 Chase Avenue, Danversport, MA, 01928. Make your reservations early as the Conair and Cressley fill up fast. Hotel information: 908-302-0278.

Adult registration is only \$28 until 4/30; \$48 all the time.
Children under 6 are free. Ages 6-20 are \$71 per year of age.

Send your name(s), age(s) of children and a check, payable to "Boston Mensa" to: Al Boney, Registrar, 19 Centre Street, Northam, MA 02843.

Download a registration form: www.CapeCod.com.

A New York State of Mind Staten Island, New York April 8-10, 2005

Greater New York Mensa presents food, games, speakers, and socializing! Registration: \$55 to 3/31, \$60 after. Saturday Buffet Dinner \$42. Staten Island Hotel, 718-698-5000; mention Mensa. Rooms \$110+tax single/double if booked by 3/31. Hotel is convenient to downtown NYC, Long Island, the New Jersey Turnpike, and Newark Airport.

Mail your check or money order payable to Greater New York Mensa to Karen Coopersmith-Tobin, Registrar, 21 Wisteria Court, Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852. Questions? Contact Karen Coopersmith-Tobin at 732-438-0067 or IlanasMom@aol.com.

MensAGumbo! New Orleans, Louisiana July 6-10, 2005

Join us at one of the most spectacular locations on earth for an Annual Gathering designed to satisfy your every want, need, and expectation. Expect speakers beyond belief, astounding entertainment, and more!

Registration: \$75 to 4/8; \$80 to 7/1; \$90 after. Register online at <http://www.ag.us.mensa.org> or send registrations to AG2005, American Mensa, Ltd., 1229 Corporate Drive West, Arlington, TX 76006-6103.