

# MOMENTUM

The Voice of Mensa in New Hampshire and Maine

Vol. 25 No. 3

October 2005

## New Hampshire Mensa Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary



We invite you to help us with the celebration! All October events (and there are *a lot* of 'em!) have been designated as Anniversary Events. All who attend will be presented with a special keepsake commemorating the 25th Anniversary of New Hampshire Mensa. So make your picks from our calendar, and come out to reacquaint with old friends and make new ones!

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## New Hampshire Mensa

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# Bauman's Quiver

*LocSec John Bauman*

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When I attended the Greater New York Mensa RG in the spring, they were passing out party favors left over from their 40th Anniversary observance and this got the wheels turning. I filed it away in the not-too-deep recesses and made a note to myself to check into when New Hampshire Mensa was begun, to see if we had any kind of momentous milestone on the imminent horizon. According to our Members' Handbook, our Bylaws were submitted in October 1980 and were ratified by AML in December of that year. Therefore, it would appear that we are on the cusp of our 25th Anniversary. Congratulations to us all!!

The ExComm has been trying to come up with fitting ways to observe this milestone and one of the first ideas that was lighted on was to submit a Proclamation to the governor to recognize the anniversary. I have been told that this project has been accomplished and, hopefully, we will have the text available both in the newsletter and on our chapter website. We have also decided to designate every event held during the month to be an Anniversary event, and to that end, we have had a keepsake memento fabricated for the chapter. I would challenge all members, especially those who have been members for most of the past 25 years, to make a concerted effort to come out and attend at least one event this month. We have had an initial supply of 100 of these keepsakes made, and we would be more than happy to be forced to place a re-order due to the increased attendance at events. Be sure to contact the host at any event that you attend to receive your special token.

So this is October, so it must be National Testing Day month. As of this writing, I have secured testing sites and Proctors for five sessions in New Hampshire and four in Maine. We have an immense backlog of Prospects in Maine and I would call on all Maine members to beat the bushes for any friend/acquaintance/relative to come out to a session this month. Although the backlog is large, we seem to have a dickens of a time in actually getting people to attend. We are going back to Bangor for the first time since last NTD, and it is discouraging that only two Prospects tested there last year, after all the expense and effort that went into the planning. We are testing in Cape Elizabeth, Dexter and Augusta, as well, so there is a location far north, midstate and southern coastal. We are bringing the mountain to Mohammed, to hopefully remove that obstacle to the prospective test-taker; in these days of \$3+/gallon gasoline, this is no small consideration. So please take that extra step yourself and be an advocate/recruiter for your chapter during the next couple of weeks. Anyone who would be willing to place a publicity banner/poster at a local library/bookstore/supermarket is encouraged to go to the Member Resources section of the National website, or if you are not online, contact either myself or the PR Coordinator. You can see a list of the testing

sites on Page 17 of this *Momentum* and at our webpage, at the Admission Testing link under events. The most detailed listing for each session can be found at the zipfinder under NTD at the National homepage.

Speaking of the PR Coordinator, David Hallmark has offered his services in that capacity and he was swept into office by unanimous acclaim at the last ExComm. Huzzah, huzzah! Not being the shy and retiring type, he has waded into the publicity machine attendant to the upcoming NTD right away and has set a lofty goal for his first big endeavor — research shows that nationwide NTD participation last year was 1,260 folks and David sees no reason why NH Mensa can't test 1,500 ourselves! So you can see that he is going to need all of you proselytizing to come anywhere near to that.

I trust that we will be engaged in October baseball again this year. I fear for the bullpen, so I do not know how far we will go. I do not feel that wresting the Eastern Division away from the Yankees should be enough. I'll be keeping my fingers crossed. **GO BOSOX!!** 🍀



## What's Cooking in Region 1

*Region 1 Vice Chair Margheretta McBean*

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I just got back from Mid-Hudson Mensa's Autumn in New York RG. What a truly wonderful weekend! Although the title is a misnomer, since it is still summer (and we had gorgeous warm sunshine as proof), nothing else about this gem of a Regional Gathering is in the least misleading.

Set in the picturesque Hudson Valley at the foot of the Catskill Mountains, the location is perfect for any outdoor enthusiast, whether ardent hiker, casual stroller, canoeist, or just sit-on-the-porch-and-watch-the-deer-and-chipmunks nature lover. Accommodations are in cabins reminiscent of your summer camp days, albeit with plenty of hot water and comfortable bunk beds. Delicious meals are prepared by a Culinary Institute of America-trained chef, with special dietary requests (vegetarian, kosher, etc.) also available. This year's theme was "Eat Your Way Through the Catskills" and all attendees heroically tried to do just that.

In addition to the outdoor attractions, folks played a variety of card and board games, put puzzles together, and discussed myriad topics like St. Paul's personality, the dynamics of smoking, SAT test scoring, and bus driver pension plans, to mention just a few overheard conversations.

Mark Adams, whose family has farmed in the Hudson Valley for almost a century, gave a fascinating presentation on 'Foods of the Hudson Valley.' As president of the Dutchess County Farmers Association, Mark is in the forefront of promoting sustainable agriculture and educating consumers on the benefits of locally produced foods. His lecture included tastes of heirloom tomatoes and apples, cheese, honey and even venison sausage (for the meat eaters). A lively discussion about genetically modified foods rounded out his talk.

Tim "Merf" Murphy's presentation on 'Knife Safety' was most informative. As a cook in a large restaurant, he has had ample opportunity to observe the correct (and incorrect) ways knives are handled, from cutting to carrying to sharpening.

Yours truly gave a talk on 'Blue Ribbon Baking: How to Win Recipe Contests and County Fairs.' Having done the former and judged at the latter, I passed on some tips for would-be contestants.

The featured speaker was Geraldo "Dr. Demento" DeMenna Ph.D., whom I met at the 2000 Philadelphia AG, when he gave a standing-room only presentation on the chemistry of chocolate. Jerry, who has a doctorate in Food Chemistry, had all of us enthralled with his lecture 'Culinary Spectroscopy: Organic Synthesis with Edible Reagents or Clinically Correct Cooking.' Why alkaline foods taste better with white or black pepper while acidic foods need red pepper, the evils of hydrogenated oils, a chemical analysis of French fries...these topics and more were explained clearly for even the chemistry-challenged.

I urge all of you to seriously consider marking your calendars for next year's RG (8-10 September 2006); your psyche will thank you!

New York apple farms produce the greatest variety of apples in the United States. Since autumn is apple time, here is a delicious omelet using apples in a non-traditional way.

## Cheese and Apple Omelet

2 tart (Northern Spy, Jonathan, Granny Smith) apples, pared,  
cut into ¼-inch slices

3 Tbl. unsalted butter

5 eggs, lightly beaten

2 Tbl. water or milk

Salt

Ground white pepper

½ cup crumbled sharp blue cheese (Fourme D'Ambert Bleu,  
Roquefort, Silton™) (about 3 ounces)

1. Sauté apples in 2 tablespoons of the butter in large omelet pan over high heat until just fork-tender, about 1 minute. Transfer to plate.
2. Whisk eggs, water or milk, salt and pepper in medium bowl until blended.
3. Heat remaining tablespoon butter in omelet pan over high heat, tilting pan to coat sides with butter.
4. Add egg mixture; cook, stirring with fork, until eggs begin to set.
5. Sprinkle cheese over one half of the omelet; spoon half the apple slices over cheese. Fold omelet in half; transfer to warm platter. Garnish with remaining apple slices. ■



## Notes from National

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Our thoughts are with the millions of people affected by Hurricane Katrina. This tragedy hits close to home as, just last month, many of us gathered in New Orleans for our Annual Gathering.

Several hundred Mensans live in the hurricane region and we have been contacted by many members with offers to help them. We have set up a special email address ([hurricanerelief@americanmensa.org](mailto:hurricanerelief@americanmensa.org)) to facilitate communication during this crisis. Please use this email address if you have assistance to offer (housing available, supplies, transportation, employment) or if you are a Mensa member who has been affected, or had family affected, by the hurricane. Please be very specific in your email; let us know your name, member number, location and specific needs or ability to help. The National Office will review these emails and attempt to connect members who can help each other.

Many members have asked about donating through American Mensa to the Red Cross. We are happy to facilitate this effort. Checks should be made out to "Red Cross - Disaster Relief" and sent to the National Office at 1229 Corporate Drive West, Arlington, TX 76006. We will collect the donations and present them to the Red Cross in the name of concerned Mensans. There are other organizations collecting for these efforts as well and we encourage you to give to the organization of your choice.

Thank you to each person who has already contacted the National Office with offers of assistance. Many members call Mensa their family and it is truly wonderful to see this organization pull together as a true family.

**New American Mensa Web Site:** We've been promising you a number of things via the web site Sneak Preview, and although we're not done with everything quite yet, you have a shiny new web site to check out. <http://www.us.mensa.org> is the place. We'll look forward to seeing you there.

What will you find? More content, including the Awards section under Programs, an updated Officer Resources section, and pictures, graphics, and member names throughout the site. Be sure to check out the History of Mensa under the About Mensa section (in the site footer) where you'll see a vintage picture of Victor Serebriakoff meeting Peter Sturgeon. We welcome any historical photos or information updates for the site.

You'll also find updated search capabilities and an updated events calendar. You will now be able to use your email address (in addition to your member number) to log into the site. Bear in mind that this is your email address of record at the National Office. If you don't have an email address on file, you'll still have to use your membership number. Also note that should your email address permanently bounce, we'll remove it from your record and you'll be back to using your member number.

If you can't find something, the old site can be found at <http://previous.us.mensa.org>. There's MUCH more to come, and we hope you'll take a look around. If you have any comments or suggestions, you're always welcome to drop an email to J. Howard Prince, Director of Operations, at [howardp@americanmensa.org](mailto:howardp@americanmensa.org).

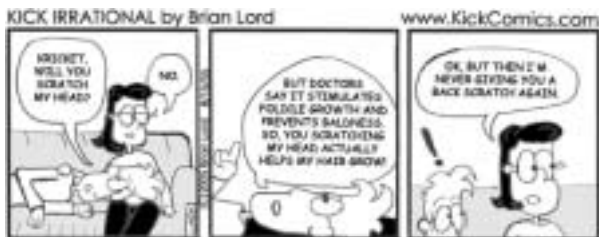
**Two New Member Benefits:** Your Membership Committee has been hard at work identifying and researching possible new member benefits. AMC Membership Officer Heather Miller and her committee are proud to announce two new benefits for members of American Mensa:

1. A subscription discount to *mental\_floss* magazine. *mental\_floss* is built on a simple premise: People love to feel smart. But many don't have enough time these days to achieve that admirable goal. That's where *mental\_floss* comes in. The *mental\_floss* team has taken the chore out of learning by presenting information in a way that's quick, simple, quirky and fun. They cover everything from black holes to the Dead Sea Scrolls, and they're offering Mensans 18 percent off of the annual subscription rate — that's a \$4 savings! Visit <http://www.mentalfloss.com/mensa> to subscribe today!

2. VPI (Veterinary Pet Insurance). VPI pet insurance is affordable health coverage that helps pay the treatment costs for your pet's accidents, illnesses and routine medical care. Coverage is available for dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, reptiles and other exotic pets. Your coverage pays for diagnostic tests, treatments, office visits, lab fees, prescriptions, hospitalization, X-rays and surgical procedures. You are free to use any licensed veterinarian anywhere, even when you're away from home.

Premiums for the VPI Superior Plan start at less than \$19 per month for dogs and \$12 per month for cats and are based on the species, age of your pet and the plan you select. Optional vaccination and routine care coverage is also available to help you maintain the health of your pet. Mensans get a 5% group discount on base policy premiums.

Veterinary Pet Insurance Co. is the nation's oldest and largest provider of health insurance for pets. Since 1982, they have worked with hundreds of thousands of loving pet owners to help deliver the very best care for their pets. For more information, visit [http://www.petinsurance.com/affiliates/americanmensa\\_npr](http://www.petinsurance.com/affiliates/americanmensa_npr). 🐾





# Executive Committee Meeting

Recording Secretary Claire Natola

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**Date:** 20 August 2005

**Present:** Bill Alleman, Darlene Alleman, John Bauman, David Hallmark, John Lewicke, Ann Majeske, Claire Natola, Tom Shiel, Walter Wakefield, Joe Zanca

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 p.m.

John Bauman reported that we had a net increase of 11 members (5 new, 5 renewing, 1 moving in) for a total of 454 (321 in N.H., 133 in Maine).

David Hallmark, the proposed candidate for Public Relations Officer, was introduced to the Executive Committee. Joe Zanca suggested contacting newspapers for articles/exposure in advance of National Testing Day, as a supplement to any advertising we do. Claire Natola moved to appoint David to the position of Public Relations Officer. Darlene Alleman seconded. The motion was approved.

John Bauman reported that he and Claire have discussed reprinting more Member Handbooks, because we are down to an inventory of 15. Claire will contact Carl Howes to ask if he wants to update his submission. John Bauman will write a submission as current LocSec. Bill Alleman would like to see a page labeled, "This page intentionally left blank." John Lewicke suggested including photos of our Executive Committee in deliberative pose. John Bauman suggested an article spotlighting the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the chapter. Darlene suggested including an article about the Joe Zanca Scholarship.

Joe Zanca reported that he does not believe Elizabeth Becker collected the RG trailer for inventory while he was at the AG.

Claire will contact the national office to see if our RG notice will be in the September *Bulletin*.

John Bauman reported that the winner of the Karen Cooper Scholarship should be receiving her money directly from the Mensa Foundation. Adam Smargon is due to vet the three local scholarship winners. Claire will tell Adam to contact Curry Bartlett about getting the list of New Hampshire and Maine high schools and colleges for the 2005-2006 scholarship mailing.

John Bauman reported that he tested six people this month. He also reported that Adam has finished his proctor certification.

Bromley Baril has resigned as Membership Officer. Ann Majeske nominated Claire Natola to serve as Interim Membership Officer until a permanent Membership Officer steps forward. Tom Shiel seconded. The motion was approved.

Darlene presented a new completed application to the Mensa Foundation for the establishment of the Joe Zanca Scholarship, given to her by Marty Capodice. This outlines a 10-year time frame to raise the funds, does not

contain a geographical restriction, does not contain any academic restrictions, and indicates that the scholarship has a value of \$600. John Bauman expressed a preference for some sort of filter to aid in the judging. Claire moved to have the new application signed and submitted to the Mensa Foundation. Bill seconded. The motion passed with a majority vote. Joe thanked the Executive Committee for honoring him with this scholarship.

John Bauman reported that he has copies of audited financial statements for American Mensa and the Mensa Foundation if anyone wants to see them.

Claire presented three designs for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary lapel pin created by the Mensa Boutique's staff designer. The ExComm voted to use the design of Logo A, but with the color scheme of Logo B. The ExComm also voted to order keychains instead of lapel pins, and in a quantity of 100. Claire will get pricing from the Mensa Boutique.

Joe requested that the ExComm consider providing reimbursement to event hosts for them to send postcard reminders about their events to members in a nearby geographic area. The discussion was tabled until next month when Publisher Ric Werme can be involved in the discussion.

Darlene reported that it costs us \$8.50 per month plus a per-transaction fee (approximately 4%) to be able to offer charging to MasterCard and Visa. Paypal would be cheaper: No monthly fee, and a per-transaction fee of 2.9% + 30¢. The downside is that you cannot do in-person transactions; they can only be done online (unless we signed up for the deluxe version, which is more expensive than what we are doing now). Darlene spoke to RG Registrar Deb Stone about PayPal, who suggested that there may be some logistical concerns, but that she would work with whatever the ExComm decided. John Bauman asked Darlene if she could check with our bank to see if we can "turn off" our merchant accounts for the ten months of the year that we don't need it. David Hallmark reported that there are other options that his business uses, such as GoChargelt. Darlene will investigate this option as well, and the discussion is tabled until next month.

Tom moved to adjourn. Ann seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m. ■



## Business Meeting

*Recording Secretary Claire Natola*

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**Date:** 20 August 2005

**Present:** Bill Alleman, John Bauman, David Hallmark, Jeff Jennings, John Lewicke, Ann Majeske, Claire Natola, Tom Shiel, Walter Wakefield, Joe Zanca

The meeting was called to order at 6:46:09 p.m. Hearing nary a whisper of new business, John Lewicke moved to adjourn. Bill Alleman seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:46:26 p.m. ■



## Letters to the Editor

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*[Editor's Note: If you know of a Mensa family who has been displaced by Hurricane Katrina, please pass along to them a copy of our first letter:]*

Dear American Mensan,

My name is Joseph Zanca, Member #1041283, 351 Concord Road, Northfield, NH 03276, 800-397-4156, home 603-286-4157, fax 603-286-4156, email Zanca@zancas.com. My wife Nancy, daughter Ashley and I have been extremely active in Mensa over the years.

We have the ability and desire to offer housing to a Mensa family during this time of crisis. We have two bedrooms available and can accommodate approximately up to five people (to a Mensa family in need). We have a 150-year-old farmhouse.

While we are located in New Hampshire, a long way from the disaster area, our local environment is very conducive to helping someone get on their feet. The cost of living is low and we have no sales tax or income tax. We are located in a rural setting in central New Hampshire with no crime rate to speak of. Our schools are extremely cooperative with parents.

Our Mensa group is very active and truly represents the Mensa family. Our community has a lot of pride and tends to mobilize when there is a need to do the right thing. Our community is of a mind-set of neighbors helping neighbors. Whoever comes to stay with us will have a support network of Mensans and non-Mensans that will help tremendously in establishing personal belongings, clothing and things needed for starting over again and get them through this rough spot in their lives.

Our local hospital (15 miles away) has impressed me greatly with the quality of services provided. They treat not only the injury but the whole patient. I have personally experienced great quality care.

Please feel free to contact us day or night.

*Mensally yours,  
Joseph B. Zanca*

Many Mensans would like to donate reading materials to the folks who are displaced due to Hurricane Katrina. I have chatted with reps of a couple of relief agencies, book-donation businesses, and regional libraries.

I have been told that the relief agencies stress the need for cash at this time. They are able to gather and distribute reading material as the local situations stabilize. If any Local Groups would like to donate reading material, please consider donating to a book-donating business that has a collecting-

sorting-distribution system in place. The website <http://www.albany.edu/~dlafonde/Global/bookdonation.htm>, a directory of book donation programs, has an extensive list of entities to choose from, plus links to their websites. Cash would be best; there is no national shortage of books, but a need for cash to pay for the distribution process.

The recovery situation is dynamic, and changing daily. In time we will have more opportunities to donate directly. The main need at present is for life-sustaining items, and thus the call for cash.

If you know of any Mensans or Local Groups already involved in donating reading material to local shelters, please let us know. We will assist if and as appropriate. If you know any specific entity that could use reading material right now or in the near future, please let us know.

Project Inkslinger activity normally occurs after a library, for example, is rebuilt. As such we will be involved for some time. We are ramping up a communication process that will provide more information on book-donation businesses and their procedures. The website shown above is the first step. I hope it is of some value to you.

If you have any questions or information to share, please contact me at [inkslinger@us.mensa.org](mailto:inkslinger@us.mensa.org).

*Respectfully,  
Michael Paul Beetham  
Project Inkslinger Coordinator*

I have an idea for the next issue of *Momentum*. It's a short story written by Woody Allen, titled "The Whore of Mensa."

I'm familiar with the story because I own a book titled *The Big Book of Jewish Humor* and his story is featured in the book. The story is originally from his book *Without Feathers* (Random House, 1975). It was also featured in the magazine *The New Yorker*.

I didn't want to re-type the whole thing, and so I searched on the web. I found it at <http://woodyallenitalia.tripod.com/short-uk.html>. It turns out it was typed up by a member of Greater Phoenix Mensa.

Please let me know if you can find space for it in *Momentum*. Thanks!

*Sincerely,  
Adam Joshua Smargon*

*While I have nothing against reprinting previously-published material in Momentum, we are fortunate to have enough original material and Mensa news to publish a thicker Momentum than we can typically afford each month. Therefore, I'll leave it to interested parties to read this brilliant story at the web site you provided above. - Ed. ■*



# A Search Engine Primer

David Hallmark

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## *Add Weight On This New Diet!*

**A**dding weight to a web page by putting it on a diet is the goal this month. The “heavier” your page is, the better it performs. A lean and mean web page is one that weighs the most for a search engine spider. (A spider is the “bot” that crawls your site looking for the “meat” of your site. Too much “filler” and the spider will move onto more “meatier” sites!) Cutting the fat from your page will make it more attractive to these spiders, thus making it “heavier.”

Let’s put your web page on a diet. Keys to remember:

1: Keep your page about 500 - 700 words total. If you need more than that to describe your product or service, break it into additional pages. Remember the 30-second elevator speech rule? Write that and if you need to expound on a key point, use another page.

2: Use keywords in various combinations in each paragraph and in the title, page name and image names. Following our previous examples, it would look like this:

```
<title>David’s Custom Automobile Paint Now Available  
Online.</title>
```

```
<img src=“custom-automobile-paint.jpg”>
```

```
<h3>Custom Automobile Paint Available in NH</h3>
```

```
<text>David’s Paint Shop in NH now has mixing capabilities  
for Custom Automobile Paint and may be ...</text>
```

```
<text>Automobile paint in custom colors may be used for  
...</text>
```

```
<text>Custom paint for your automobile may be ordered  
here.</text>
```

3: Every search engine has a list of what is called “stop words,” words that typically do NOT get “spidered,” like *a*, *the*, and *and*. Google has a list at: <http://www.google.com/support/bin/answer.py?answer=981&topic=359>. Try to avoid using any of these stop words in title, meta and header tags.

4: Bloated code makes a page hard to spider. FrontPage is the leading worst offender. Most WYSIWYG program generators use this type of programming language and “stuff” a page with unneeded code. 10 lines of code used as “shims” to break text when two <br> tags would do is but one example. (For an actual example you will need to email me.) Javascript code can be placed into a subdirectory and referred to. You do not need all 120

lines of code ON the page to have your fancy rollovers work; `<script src="javascript/rollovers.js" language="Javascript"></script>` will do the trick. Cleaning a web page is easy, but deciding what stays and what goes is difficult. Hitting "Delete" is easy. Stripping code is not number one, but ranks in the top ten of things to have done. In many cases, a page that is 25k in size using a program generator can be reduced to 10k or lower.

The series we have done has been geared towards getting you natural, or "organic," search engine placements. The steps outlined cannot be replaced with "Pay \$39.95 and we'll get you ranked in 10 days!" The steps needed are hard work, mentally hard work...knowing what goes where and when. Submitting alone is not enough.

PPC (pay-per-click) is another story and will be covered in our next installment of this series. If you need help with your site's ranking, call or email. I am confident the return on investment is worth the price of admission.

I would welcome success stories any time from this series; please feel free to contact me directly at [dh@cvwp.com](mailto:dh@cvwp.com).

*David Hallmark works for CrystalVision Web Site Design in Portsmouth, New Hampshire as a Search Engine Optimization Coordinator. ■■*



## Our Northeast Corner

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Lots of great events are happening in Maine; many thanks to the event hosts who are making them possible! Among the offerings:

Susan Flaherty has added a **Dinner and Pub Quiz** event to the late September calendar (yes, September...the date is upon us!). On **Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**, come to Rí Rá Irish Pub on Commercial Street in Portland to enjoy dinner and to put your head together with those of other Mensans for a pub quiz! This event repeats on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

Scott Cayouette has put together the first-ever **Leaf-Peeper Harvest-Festival Weekend Getaway** in Dexter on **October 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>**! It's like a mini-RG right on your doorstep, complete with brunches and munchies, a "Baked Bean Dinnah" and lots of fun.

And if you happen to get this *Momentum* in the nick of time, don't forget to join Editor Claire Natola for the second **Roving Salon**, being held on **Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>** at 3:00 p.m. at the Bohemian Coffee House in Brunswick. If you missed the first one in Damariscotta, you won't want to miss this one! ■■



# Granite Gathering 2006 Update

RG Chair Claire Natola

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**G**ranite Gathering 2006 will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Nashua, N.H. on February 17-19, 2006. Be sure to register before November 15, 2005 to get the best price!

The theme of the Gathering is "Return to Middle Earth," and Medieval or Tolkienian garb is encouraged. Rentals will be available, with all proceeds to benefit our scholarship fund.

If you're interested in finding out more about what we have in store, you are welcome to join us for our kick-off RG Planning Dinner on October 15<sup>th</sup> at Florence's Restaurant in Merrimack. (See Page 30 for details.)

We are fortunate to have many RG veterans agreeing to volunteer their time and talent once again for next year's Gathering. However, we could always use more help. No amount of assistance is too small! Areas in which we would welcome your participation include Programming, Hospitality, Games, Gifted Children, and Speaker Escorting, among others. Items for our Silent Auction and Book Sale benefiting our scholarship fund are also appreciated.

Feel free to contact me at [rgchair@nh.us.mensa.org](mailto:rgchair@nh.us.mensa.org) or 603-279-9986 with your ideas, questions, and comments.

Here's to planning another great Granite Gathering! 

## Granite Gathering 2006: Return to Middle Earth February 17-19, 2006

### Hotel Details:

Crowne Plaza Nashua  
2 Somerset Parkway  
Nashua, NH 03063

603-886-1200 (ask for the Mensa rate)

Room rate: \$94 per night, exclusive of 8% N.H. Rooms Tax

Room rate guaranteed until January 18, 2006.

The Crowne Plaza features a complimentary full-service health club, complimentary indoor parking garage, and complimentary shuttle service to and from Manchester Airport when prearranged. How complimentary!



# CultureQuest® Sampler

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Each month, we publish a few questions from this year's CultureQuest® so you can quiz yourself. Do think about joining a New Hampshire Mensa team for next year's CultureQuest®! Answers can be found on Page 17.

1. What word was coined by mathematician Charles H. Hinton and introduced in a children's book by author Madeleine L'Engle, although the two did not necessarily apply to it precisely the same meaning?
2. What body of water did Eliza cross by leaping barefoot from one ice cake to the next with her child in her arms in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*?
3. Which war was settled by the Treaty of Westphalia?
4. Where is the Upper Palatinate?
5. On an ordinary VCR tape, what does VHS stand for?
6. Name the person to whom the following quote is attributed, and name the thing to which the word "it" refers: "Because it's there."
7. According to the popular song, "Mele Kalikimaka" is Hawaiian for what phrase?
8. The paleontologist Roy Chapman Andrews is rumored to have inspired what film character? What early wolf-like mammal did he discover?
9. The "Golden Triangle" plays an important role in the history of opium. What three countries does the "Golden Triangle" refer to?
10. Mandalay, Bago, and Thaton are all cities found in this country. 🇲🇲



## On the Scene

Claire Natola

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What a pleasant surprise at a recent concert to spot another fellow music lover wearing a tie-dye t-shirt with a Mensa logo! Wearing my own tie-dye t-shirt with a Mensa logo (albeit of a different style), I approached him and introduced myself. While we (in our tie-dye t-shirts with Mensa logos) were chatting, we were approached by a gentleman who asked me, "Are you Claire Natola?" It turns out that he was yet another Mensan who had attended Joe Zanca's Road Rally in July! This is what's great about Mensa! So, a big *Momentum* shout out to Doug Amato of Dover and Jon Kelly of Concord! I hope to see you out and about again soon! 🇲🇲



# Good Wine Cheap

(and good food to go with it)

John Grover

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Here we are in the midst of summer; and, what do we do with all those vegetables that are coming on in our gardens. (Or, what do you do with all those vegetables that show up in the office because of the inveterate gardener that inhabits the cubicle next to you.) The Boss has a recipe that should solve these pressing problems, at least in the cucumber category. The result reminds me of the “new pickles” that could be found in old time delicatessens.

The wine this month is a 2004 Vinho Verde from Portugal. The brand name is “Gazela” produced by Sogrape Vinhos. Vinho Verde is a white wine from the North of Portugal. It literally translates as “Green Wine”. This is not indicative of the color but rather that it is picked before full ripeness and should be consumed young. This wine is light, dry and effervescent with a citrus and slightly tart flavor. It is perfect for warm weather with only a 9% alcohol content. Of course, when I mentioned this last fact to a couple of our more sybaritic friends, they said that just meant that you could drink more. It retails for around \$7 a bottle.

## Marinated Cucumbers

6 to 8 cucumbers  
1 cup vinegar  
½ cup water  
¼ cup chopped parsley or dill  
6 tablespoons sugar  
1 teaspoon salt  
¼ teaspoon pepper

Peel and slice cucumbers very thin. Add remaining ingredients. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours before serving. Although, it gets even better overnight. We generally halve this recipe for just the two of us.

I hope that you will contact me with your comments and favorite wines at [jgrover@berk.com](mailto:jgrover@berk.com). I will be happy to share them with the broader Mensa group.

*John Grover is a member of Mensa of Northeastern New York. He lives with his wife Sharon in the Hudson Valley of New York. ■■*



# Upcoming Testing Sessions

Tell Your Friends!

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.

Date	Location	Proctor
Sunday, 09 October 2:00 p.m.	Dexter, Maine	John Bauman 603-883-7494
Saturday, 15 October 10:00 a.m.	Cape Elizabeth, Maine	Bev Bryant 207-799-0888
Saturday, 22 October 9:00 a.m.	Keene, N.H.	Bill Costa 603-357-6659
Saturday, 22 October 10:30 a.m.	Portsmouth, N.H.	Bromley Baril 603-749-1088
Saturday, 22 October 10:30 a.m.	Augusta, Maine	Adam Smargon 603-978-4205
Saturday, 22 October 10:30 a.m.	Lebanon, N.H.	Meg Brodhead 603-242-3367
Saturday, 22 October 10:30 a.m.	Bangor, Maine	Laurie Levesque 207-748-0045
Saturday, 22 October 10:30 a.m.	Weare, N.H.	Bill Alleman 603-529-4446
Monday, 24 October 7:00 p.m.	Nashua, N.H.	John Bauman 603-883-7494

## Answers to CultureQuest® Sampler

(See Page 15 for the questions if you're reading *Momentum* back-to-front.)

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Tesseract                                | 5. Vertical Helical Scan       |
| 2. Ohio River                               | 4. Part of present-day Bavaria |
| 3. The Thirty Years' War                    | 3. The Thirty Years' War       |
| 4. Henry "Indiana" Jones, <i>Andromedus</i> | 2. Ohio River                  |
| 5. Thailand, Burma (or Myanmar), and Laos   | 1. Tesseract                   |
| 6. George Mallory; Mt. Everest              |                                |
| 7. "Merry Christmas"                        |                                |
| 8. Henry "Indiana" Jones, <i>Andromedus</i> |                                |
| 9. Thailand, Burma (or Myanmar), and Laos   |                                |
| 10. Burma (Myanmar)                         |                                |



# The Alchemist

Al Thomas

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**E**ver jump out of a plane? It's OK if you wear a parachute. Pretty dumb if you don't. Ever buy stocks, mutual funds or Exchange Traded Funds? It's OK if you know how much you are willing to risk. Pretty dumb if you don't.

Parachute investing is buying an equity with a parachute so you won't risk all your money or, better yet, give back the profit you have made as the stock or fund went up and then goes down. If you bought that hummer at \$12 per share and then seen it go up to \$52, you don't want to give back that nice profit, do you? With a parachute you can save most of it. How?

When you invest in any stock of fund you must know how much you will risk before you buy it and how much of the profit you are willing to give back when it turns down. Take that beauty at \$12. Instead of going up, it went down. Are you willing to agonize as it drops to \$5? If you had a parachute you would have jumped out of the plane before it crashed. If you had an exit strategy for your stock you would have sold it before you lost a chunk of cash.

The secret of a safe investment is an exit strategy. When you bought Mr. Twelve Dollars you shook hands and told him I'd like to be your friend, but if you change your name to Ten Dollars I am leaving. Maybe that that is not very nice, but nice doesn't cut it in the investment world.

Mr. Twelve Dollars said I am going up and I want you for my friend. Please follow me and if I falter you can leave and we will part friends. Now that makes sense. You trail along and after it goes to \$52 it does falter. Do you know where you are going to leave or are you going to ride it go back down to \$12? In other words do you have your parachute on?

That parachute is your continuing exit strategy that is in place every day. In the investment community it is called an open trailing stop loss order. Any broker can put this in place for you. You might be lucky enough to have a broker who knows where to place stops, but there are not many of them.

The brokerage industry does not teach its employees (brokers) how to protect customers' money. If that is the case you might want to use the old standard 10% rule. Have the broker place an open stop every Friday at 10% of the closing price of that day as it closes higher. Never lower the stop loss. Brokers hate this as it makes them work, but that is what they are there for and that is how they earn their commissions. With your parachute you can always protect your original cash purchase from a big loss and as your stock advances you can lock in profit as the stock advances.

Every investment should have a parachute.

*Al Thomas' best selling book, If It Doesn't Go Up, Don't Buy It! has helped thousands of people make money and keep their profits with his simple two-step method. Read the first chapter and receive his market letter for 3 months at <http://www.mutualfundmagic.com> and discover why he's the man that Wall Street does not want you to know. Copyright 2005* 📖



# Calendar of Events

October 2005

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1 Bike Ride Where's George? Stargazing Saturday
2 Sunday Puttering Time	3	4	5	6	7 Temperance League	8 Leaf-Peeper Harvest-Fest Open-Studio Art Tour Stargazing Saturday
9 Leaf-Peeper Harvest-Fest Second Sunday Brunch Bunch	10 <b>Columbus Day</b> Leaf-Peeper Harvest-Fest	11	12	13	14 The Immoveable Feast	15 RG Planning Dinner Central Maine Dinner Stargazing Saturday
16 Roving Salon	17 Pre-FSM Dinner FSM/ExComm Meeting	18	19 North of Boston Dinner	20	21 Winnepa Supper	22 Stargazing Saturday
23 Fourth Sunday Lunch	24	25 Dinner and Pub Quiz	26	27	28 Appetite for Discussion	29 Stargazing Saturday
30	31 <b>Halloween</b>					

Mensa members are welcome to submit calendar listings to the Calendar Editor (calendar@nh.us.mensa.org) 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. Abundant and continued thanks to our event hosts!



This is what the  
critics say.

What do you say?

[googolplexgames.com](http://googolplexgames.com)