



The Voice of Mensa in New Hampshire and Maine

Vol. 25 No. 7

February 2006

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And to the dozens who have already done so, we thank you!

New Hampshire Mensa

Send all correspondence to:

Officer Name
New Hampshire Mensa
P.O. Box 7998
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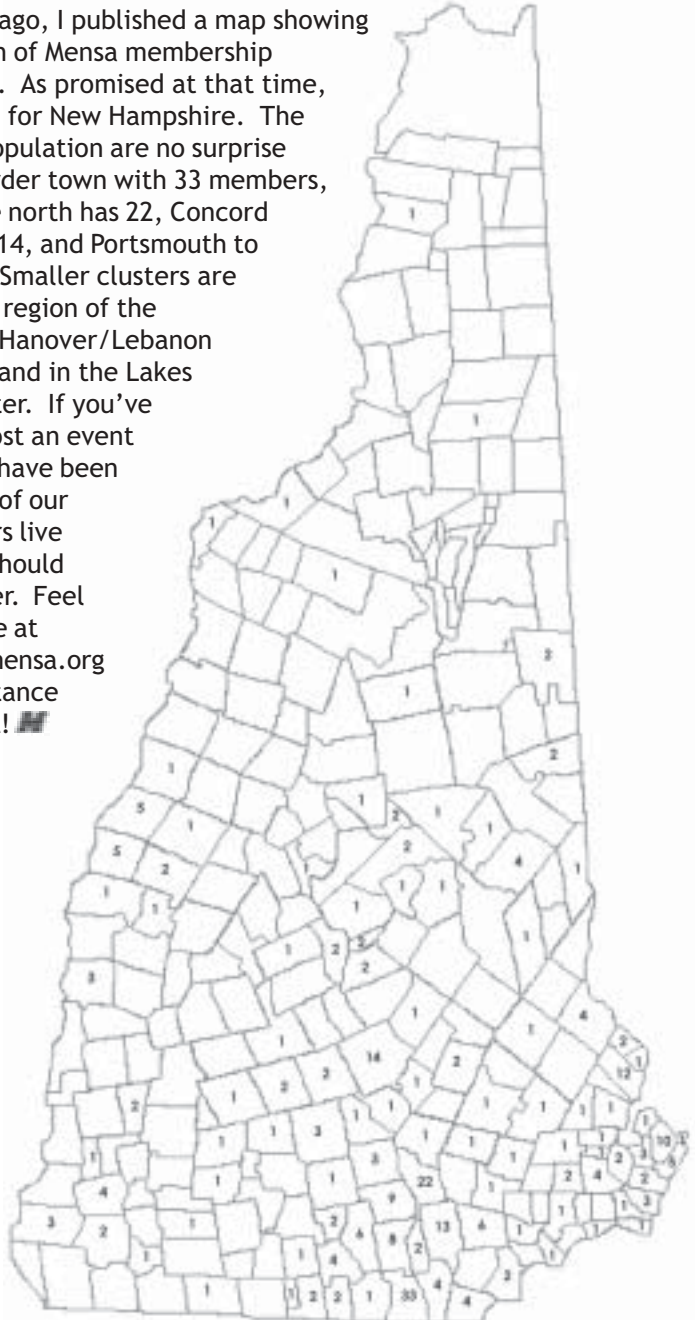
2 *Momentum*



Editorial Ramblings

Claire Natola

Several months ago, I published a map showing the distribution of Mensa membership throughout Maine. As promised at that time, below is the same for New Hampshire. The clusters of high population are no surprise (Nashua is the border town with 33 members, Manchester to the north has 22, Concord further north has 14, and Portsmouth to the east has 10). Smaller clusters are in the Monadnock region of the southwest, in the Hanover/Lebanon area in the west, and in the Lakes Region in the center. If you've ever wanted to host an event in your town, but have been unsure how many of our chapter's members live nearby, this map should provide the answer. Feel free to contact me at calendar@nh.us.mensa.org if you'd like assistance or encouragement! 📧





What's Cooking in Region 1

Region 1 Vice Chair Marghretta McBean

I know it's really winter when I start reading seed catalogs. Whether creating an imaginary horticultural extravaganza or pondering blueberry species, it makes the short cold days feel warmer.

I think gardening can confer good management skills: in order to have a successful growing season, preplanning is essential. Available light, soil, etc. must be accurately accessed to determine what will (and will not) grow. Just as important is an honest appraisal of gardening commitment: are you an every day or once a week gardener? Plants, like people, respond to attention. Failure is common in the gardening world: one must have the ability to accept a reversal and have a contingency plan in place. It is a humbling experience to sow a seed, nurture it, and watch as it develops into a beautiful flower or luscious tomato.

Leaving my botanical reverie, I hope to see many of you at the upcoming gatherings in our region. New Hampshire & Maine Mensa will be hosting their Granite Gathering with a "Return to Middle Earth" theme. Fun for your inner hobbit during Presidents Day weekend.

Northern New Jersey Mensa's ever-popular Midwinter Blahs returns the last weekend of February. This one day event has a format that many groups could use: Regional Gathering features (speakers, games room, hospitality, etc.), but in a more manageable size for a small group and/or RG committee.

The Year of the Dog will begin on the new moon in Aquarius, January 29th. When I was a child, the Chinese laundryman would offer Tea Eggs to customers as a lunar new year's gift. They look spectacular, and taste good too.

Tea Eggs

12 eggs	1-inch piece cinnamon
4 quarts water	1 Tbl. salt
¼ cup black tea leaves	½ tsp. five-spice powder
2 star anise	

1. Place eggs in large pot. Cover with 2 quarts water and bring to boil over high heat. Reduce heat to medium and cook 7 minutes.
2. Drain; let stand until cool. Lightly tap eggs to crack shells, but do not peel.
3. Bring 2 quarts water to a boil in large pot. Add tea leaves, salt and spices. Carefully add cracked eggs.
4. Reduce heat to low. Cover and simmer 1 hour.
5. Let cool; drain. Peel while still warm or thoroughly cooled. Serve whole as a finger food.

Visit <http://region1.us.mensa.org/cooking.shtml> to see past articles. 🍴



Executive Committee Meeting

Recording Secretary Claire Natola

Date: 20 December 2005

Present: Bill Alleman, Darlene Alleman, John Bauman, Jason Bedrick, Wayne Eddy, John Lewicke, Ann Majeske, Claire Natola, John Sheehan, Tom Shiel, Adam Smargon, Walter Wakefield, Ric Werme

The meeting was called to order at 7:55 p.m. John Bauman reported a net gain of 9 members for a total of 481 (337 New Hampshire, 144 Maine).

Darlene Alleman moved to appoint Robert Roy as Membership Officer. John Lewicke seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Claire Natola reported that several RG Committee members toured the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Adam Smargon announced that he intends to run a Sudoku tournament at the RG. John Bauman reported that we are looking for a volunteer to tow the RG trailer from Northfield to Nashua.

John Bauman reported that we have received approximately a dozen scholarship entries to date.

John Bauman reported that Scott Cayouette has become certified as a proctor and Claire Natola has just completed the requirements to become certified. Scott plans to use Augusta, Maine as a base of operations.

John Bauman reminded everyone that American Mensa is looking for volunteers for the national Nominating Committee. He also noted that registration is now open for CultureQuest.®

Wayne Eddy reported some progress on Bylaws revision. Work continues.

Descriptions of officer positions are to be published in the February *Momentum* in preparation for the 2006 ExComm election.

Claire Natola reported that 39 members have signed up for electronic distribution of *Momentum* to date.

Darlene Alleman will investigate Uno's Restaurant's program of donating a portion of one night's profits to a designated not-for-profit organization.

The Executive Committee decided to print 100 copies of the updated member handbook at this time.

Ann Majeske moved to adjourn. Tom Shiel seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. ■



Letter to the Editor

Hi Claire, I thought this might be of interest: I found a really good free website, <http://www.brainbashers.com>, with lots of puzzles, fun facts, and games. The webmaster (Mensan Kevin Stone) seems like a math buff in particular. Enjoy!
-- Robert Lagos



Nominations Open for 2006 NH Mensa Elections

Election Committee Chair Ric Werme

The By-laws of our chapter require that elections be held in even years, and that notice be given to all members that nominations are open for the elected officer positions described below. The term of office will be from Spring 2006 to Spring 2008.

If you want to help maintain and improve NH Mensa, running for office is one of the best things to do. While the Executive Committee has both elected and appointed positions, only elected officers can vote on ExComm actions.

There are three ways of getting on the ballot:

1. File a nomination petition with the Election Committee.
2. Be nominated at a forthcoming business meeting during our RG.
3. Be selected by the Election Committee (and agree to being in the election).

Of these, the first is the best way. If you want to run:

- Read the office descriptions below and decide which most appeals to you.
- Find three other members of NH Mensa who will support you. Choose one of you to send a nomination to the election committee. Per the By-laws, "A nomination consists of three members in good standing supporting a candidate, and acceptance by the candidate of the nomination."
- In the nomination include names and membership numbers (e.g., from the label on *Momentum*) of the candidate and supporters, and the selected position. Send it by Email to ElectComm@nh.us.mensa.org or US mail to New Hampshire Mensa, Attn: Election Committee, P.O. Box 7998, Nashua, NH 03060-7998.

Nominations can also be made at a special Business Meeting held near the end of our RG: February 19 at 1:00 p.m. in the Presidential Suite on the 8th Floor of the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Nashua. That will close the nomination period. The business meeting is not part of the RG per se so paying for RG attendance is not necessary if you will attend just the Business Meeting.

Note that the candidate and supporters should be at the meeting to present an acceptable nomination. Typically that meeting is used to fill in any open positions; please don't wait until then.

Members of this year's Election Committee are:

Ric Werme (chair)

Bromley Baril

Linda McCracken

Email them at ElectComm@nh.us.mensa.org to start making a difference!

Elected Officer Duties

The descriptions below are versions of what can be found in our By-laws. They have been edited slightly to remove the formal, legalistic phrasing. If you wish to see the By-laws in full, they are available on our website at <https://secure.us.mensa.org/nh/bylaws.shtm> or from the Election Committee. The By-laws also describe the election procedure in detail.


The Local Secretary acts as our chapter president and administers the business of New Hampshire Mensa in accord with our By-laws and the principles of American Mensa. Official duties involve: presiding at ExComm and Business Meetings, acting as the primary point of contact between AML and our local group, and notifying the National Office within two weeks of the results of elections and of any changes in the officers of the local group.

The Assistant Local Secretary performs the duties of the LocSec during his/her absence or disability. Other than that, the Assistant LocSec attends ExComm and Business Meetings, provides input on decisions, and may volunteer to take on small tasks to help out the LocSec. This is a good position for someone who wants to become the LocSec, but not yet.

The Secretary attends ExComm and Business Meetings, records the minutes, and subsequently types and submits them to the newsletter editor for publication.

The Treasurer acts as custodian of New Hampshire Mensa funds by handling deposits, paying bills/reimbursements, maintaining financial/administrative records for the group, sending quarterly bank and financial statements to the LocSec, and reporting in the newsletter semi-annually the income, expenses, and balances for all funds controlled by our group (including for the RG, scholarship program, newsletter, etc). According to the By-laws, the Treasurer also performs the duties of Assistant LocSec during his/her absence or disability.

New Hampshire Mensa has four Members-at-Large on the ExComm. They serve our group by attending the ExComm Meetings, providing advice and consent. They may also fulfill other duties appointed to them by the ExComm. Their value is in providing their own perspectives on business discussed at ExComm Meetings. The positions are one way to give non-voting members of the ExComm a vote.

Our last pitch: Keep in mind that ALL positions are open for nominations. You need not have prior experience in a Mensa position to run, but running for LocSec if you haven't been active on the ExComm probably is not recommended. New members have plenty to offer this group and often an infusion of new perspective is exactly what is called for. If you check the slate of officers on the back cover, you might see that a lot of current volunteers are doubling or tripling up on jobs. Please consider relieving them of some of their extra jobs and contact the Election Committee. 



An Open Letter to Members

Membership Officer Robert Roy

Dear Fellow Mensa Members,

My name is Robert Roy and I am the newly appointed Membership Officer for our local New Hampshire and Maine Mensa group and wanted to say hello. Those interested can find way more information than anyone would want to know about me at my website <http://www.guldies.net/>.

I am fairly new (September 2005) to Mensa and the HIQ world myself, and I look forward to the experience of those members who have been here for a while, as well as the new points of view from new folks like me. I hope all will take a few minutes of their busy lives in the near future (I'll explain how) to help make an organization which we should all be very proud to be members of, more of what we want it to be, so that every one of us can get the most out of it while doing the most good for others. From active participation to just having the membership card, each should get out of being a member as they wish, and I would like to see everyone happy with their membership. That is my goal.

According to the December 2005 membership report, we have 144 members in Maine and 337 members in New Hampshire, for a grand total of 481 of the brightest and most talented people of those available for membership in Maine and New Hampshire. I personally am quite honored to be associated with all 480 of you, and hope to show you that honor in the performance of my duties as Membership Officer, and through my goals as part of that position of strengthening the existing bonds between each member and the other members as well as each member and the organization itself.

In order to jump in with both feet I have come up with a couple of chores for myself, which I think will help get me started. I would like to share them with you here now and you shall see where I need a few minutes of everyone's time to assist me:

1. Get Member lists with all pertinent information from Officers, including their input.
2. Send letter to all members.
3. Gather information regarding all regularly occurring events.
4. Contact each and every member for their input: What they like about the group, what they don't like, what they would like, ideas, thoughts.
5. Communicate the information gathered to the officers and members clearly so it may be understood and discussed so we may move forward

strong and united as a closer group, made up of many smaller groups and various social settings, with no individual member feeling left out, something for everyone, everybody involved somehow with projects or events.

As you can see, I am working on number 1 and you are reading number 2. I am working on contacting those involved with each of the regularly occurring events, number 3. That leaves number 4 where I need your help. You may wait for me to contact you, and I will, or you may contact me, but I need the input of all members and ask that you help me make our local Mensa group better for each one of us when we do make contact by being honest and speaking up.

My sincerest best wishes of Health, Happiness and Harmony to Everyone.

*Peace,
Robert Roy*



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
Saturday, 11 February 10:00 a.m.	Portsmouth, N.H.	Adam Smargon 603-978-4205
Saturday, 11 February 2:00 p.m.	Rockland, Maine	Scott Cayouette 207-649-1515
Saturday, 18 February 9:00 a.m.	Nashua, N.H.	John Bauman 603-883-7494 February 2006 9



Notes from National

American Mensa Forums: Online discussion boards, forums, and threaded discussions are nothing new to computing or the Internet. There have been dial-up bulletin boards, CompuServe, AOL, Yahoo! Groups, newsgroups (NNTP), MSN communities, and the list goes on. What IS new are the American Mensa Forums (<http://www.us.mensa.org/forums>) on the AML Web site! Debuting for all members are the initial forums of All about SIGs, Ask Mensa, Brainstorm, Gatherings, Hospitality, and Puzzles and Games.

ALL ABOUT SIGS is the forum where you can chat with Special Interest Group coordinators or the national SIGs Officer. Ask questions. Find interest for your own SIG. The All About SIGs forum is for general discussion about Special Interest Groups.

ASK MENSA is the forum of "Who? What! Where? When! How?" It's your chance to ask Mensa that burning question about Mensa that you MUST get the answer to. Submit your question, and we'll post both your question and the answer! The Ask Mensa forum is for questions and answers about Mensa.

BRAINSTORM is the forum where you can pose a question to the general membership. Anything from managing your Local Group to global issues to how to get a spot out. All questions are welcome, but remember, there are no bad ideas or answers in brainstorming. The Brainstorm forum is for general discussion of any topic of interest.

HOSPITALITY is the forum that mirrors Hospitality rooms across the country. If you've ever been to a Gathering, you know that Hospitality is the place to meet and mingle before moving on to other programs or activities. The same is true for this online gathering. The Hospitality forum is for general discussion of any topic of interest.

PUZZLES AND GAMES is the forum for discussion of just that – Sudoku tips...the latest board game craze... is Grand Theft Auto a boon or bane... If it has to do with games or puzzles, Mensans will discuss it here. The Puzzles and Games forum is for general discussion of puzzles, games and gaming.

Of course, we have the capability to support more forums than just these. As we move forward, we hope that new General Interest forums will take form (or forum, rather) and that our Local Groups and SIGs host forums on the Web site also. Often our newest members look to the AML Web site first to meet other Mensans, and this is a great opportunity to meet and welcome those new members.

Please note that we will add additional forums in early February to allow us to test the waters with these new forums and tweak any issues. Also, any new forums must have at least one member moderator. So stay tuned. There's certainly more to come.

New Member Benefit: Looking to book your next cruise? Have you thought about a rafting trip in Hell's Canyon? Maybe you'd like to create your own magic while traveling to Egypt? Visit <http://mensa.virtuocard.com/> for this great new membership benefit powered by Virtuocard, which allows you to research, design and reserve vacation travel exclusively through an incredibly easy-to-use Web site. Book with some of the best travel companies in the world, and because of your American Mensa membership, you'll receive discounts and added value!

Travel is the most popular pastime with Mensans throughout the world. It spells freedom, enjoyment and, surely, education! Don't just dream of the exciting places you'd like to visit. Go!

Volunteer for a Valentine: Here we are in the New Year. The holidays are over and store shelves are packed with those heart-shaped boxes of Valentine candy. Windows of lingerie shops are filled with red lace. What should you get for your significant other? Or are you starting another year with no one special?

Volunteering with Mensa can change that. For decades, Mensa has been "The Place" to meet potential mates. There are a number of well-known couples who have met, married, and been living Happily Ever After since meeting at Mensa Gatherings.


The upcoming World Gathering to be held at Disney World in Orlando this year has the potential of setting a new record for number of couples created with Mensa as matchmaker. Even if you're shy and reluctant to talk to strangers, you have the opportunity to meet hundreds of intellectual equals in comfortable and supportive surroundings.

Just bring your smiling face to help Registration Chair, Eddie Truelove. (Eddie, by the way, met his Maggie, Region 10 RVC, at a Gathering.) It's a great way to meet a wide variety of people under positive circumstances without feeling awkward.

If you're a little more outgoing, try Hospitality. (Hospitality Chair Jerry Fortner met Merrell through Mensa and they were married at the Central Florida Mensa RG.) If you're secretly longing to perform or are already an established musical artist, there'll be plenty of opportunity to show off your talent to a captive audience.

Dave Bryant and his handpicked Hunks (or is that Hulks?) will be there to assure Security, so there's no need to worry about disobeying your mother - it's safe to talk to strangers at the Mensa World Gathering, August 8-13, 2006.

Check out CONTACTS on the National website and let Kay Klasen, Volunteers Coordinator, know what you want to do to help. (Incidentally, Kay met her husband, John, at one of the first MENSAs events that she attended!)

Of course, volunteering could create a problem for you: What to do with all those valentines you'll receive in 2007! 



Granite Gathering 2006 Update

RG Chair Claire Natola

Well, the Granite Gathering is upon us; I hope that you've registered! If you haven't done so yet, you can find a registration form on the following page.

I would like to call your attention to two events in particular that are not only mainstays of our gathering, but also important factors in our fundraising for scholarships: the Book Sale and the Silent Auction. We are eager to receive donations for both, and hope you can help us. You do not need to be attending the Gathering to assist us with donations to these two vital fundraisers (although we hope you do!).

If you're like many (most? all?) Mensans, you may be drowning in books. Donate some of your surplus to our Book Sale! The best part of donating these books is that you don't need to take them back when the Gathering is done; what hasn't sold by Sunday morning is heavily discounted for "fill-a-bag" sales, and the ultimate leftovers move on to another chapter for assistance in their fundraising activities.

Our Silent Auction runs from Friday afternoon through Saturday evening, and is vital to our fundraising efforts. I'd like to call on everyone reading this article (all three of you...just kidding) to donate something new/never used to the auction. Do you have a favorite restaurant you frequent? Perhaps you can ask the manager to donate a gift certificate to us (or buy one yourself for donation). Do you quilt, crochet, do woodwork or another kind of craft as a hobby? Perhaps you can donate something that you've made. Did you receive as a Christmas gift a brand-new tie that you'll never wear or a DVD that you'll never watch? We're the ones to donate them to!

To arrange donation of books for our Book Sale or items for our Silent Auction, please contact me at 603-279-9986 or rgchair@nh.us.mensa.org. Your generosity is appreciated!

Switching gears for a moment, I would like to give a special thank you to the following editors from other Mensa chapters in Region 1: Lynn MacDonald (Boston Mensa), Paula Grey (Rhode Island Mensa), Judy Keating (Northeastern New York Mensa), Jim Mizera (Southern Connecticut Mensa), and Jeane Thompson (Vermont Mensa). I submitted to my fellow Region 1 Editors information about our Granite Gathering with a request that they consider publishing it in their January newsletters. Our friends listed above were kind enough to grant us space, and we are forever grateful! Thank you!

And so the countdown begins. I look forward to seeing you all at the Crowne Plaza in Nashua. Don't forget: you can find much of the information you might need about the Gathering on our website at <http://www.nh.us.mensa.org/rgnews.shtm>. I'm happy to answer any other questions you may have, so please feel free to get in touch. ■■

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



Your presence is kindly requested at New Hampshire Mensa's 16th Annual Regional Gathering! Our growing reputation does not rest solely on being the northeasternmost RG in America, but on being one of the best: stellar hospitality, ample food and libations, scintillating speakers, music, games, contests, book sale, silent auction, and more! Medieval or Tolkiensian garb encouraged; rentals benefiting our scholarship fund will be available.

Location: Crowne Plaza Nashua, 2 Somerset Parkway, Nashua, NH 03063. Call 603-886-1200 for reservations. Complimentary indoor parking garage. Complimentary shuttle service to and from Manchester Airport *when prearranged*. Complimentary full service health club.

Registration: \$75 adult, \$60 children 8-17, free for children under 8. Saturday-only rate is \$65 adult, \$50 children 8-17. Saturday evening buffet \$28. Mail your form and fee to our Registrar: Deb Stone, 24312 Spartan Street, Mission Viejo, CA 92691-3921. (email: debstone@cox.net) Do not mail registration after 2/1/06; please register at the door instead.

Questions, concerns, criticisms, compliments? Contact Claire Natola at rgchair@nh.us.mensa.org or 603-279-9986. For latest details, see www.nh.us.mensa.org/rgnews.shtm. See you in there!

✂-----

Name	Name on Badge	Tell us something(s) interesting (or not) about you for your badge...
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Children's Names: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

email: _____

Telephone: _____

Type	Qty	Rate	Subtotal
Adult Registration			
Child 8-17			
Child under 8		Free	
Saturday Buffet		\$28.00	

Total: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to "New Hampshire Mensa" or charge to MasterCard or Visa:

Card # _____ Exp: ___ / ___ Name on Card: _____



Good Wine Cheap

(and good food to go with it)

John Grover

This month we go to the Rioja region of Spain. Rioja is probably the best known Spanish wine region in this country. It is noted particularly for its robust red wines. However, we will be matching an affordable and outstanding Rioja white wine with what is perhaps my favorite Mediterranean-style seafood dish.

The wine is the 2003 Rioja Blanco from Marqués de Cacérés. This dry white wine is made from the Viura grape and is a nice alternative to Chardonnay. It has a pleasant citrus and floral nose and a crisp acidity that matched well with the classic ingredients of olive oil, lemon and garlic in the recipe below. This wine should retail for \$7 to \$8 a bottle.

Scallop Gratins with Garlic-Lemon Butter

(adapted from Epicurious.com)

- 5 tbsp chopped fresh parsley
- 3 tbsp unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1 tbsp chopped shallot
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1½ tsp grated lemon peel
- 1½ tbsp olive oil
- 1½ cups fresh bread crumbs made from French bread
- 1½ pounds sea scallops, side muscles trimmed (these are the large scallops; don't even consider those whimpy little bay scallops)

Mix 4 tablespoons chopped parsley, butter, chopped shallot, minced garlic, and grated lemon peel in medium bowl to blend. Season to taste with salt and pepper. (Seasoned butter can be made 1 day ahead. Cover and refrigerate. Bring to room temperature before using.)

Preheat oven to 400° F. Heat oil in heavy large skillet over medium heat. Add breadcrumbs; sauté until crisp and golden, about 6 minutes. Transfer to plate.

Rub some of seasoned butter on bottom and sides of four 1 1/4-cup ramekins, custard cups or individual casserole dishes. Divide scallops among prepared dishes. Spread 1 teaspoon remaining seasoned butter on top scallops in each dish. Top with breadcrumbs, dividing equally. Dot bread crumbs with remaining seasoned butter.

Place dishes on large baking sheet. Bake in oven until scallops are cooked through, about 25 minutes. Sprinkle with remaining 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley and serve. Makes four servings. ■■



More Good Wine Cheap

(and good food to go with it)

John Grover

Now we take on the challenge of finding a wine that matches well with ham. The strong taste of this smoked meat can be rather off putting when it comes to pairing with wine. But, this month's wine has a strong character that stands up and combines well to this month's recipe.

The wine this month is a red from the South of France. It is the 2003 Cotes-du-Rhone from Louis Bernard. This wine is a blend of Grenache and Syrah grapes. This combination produces a rich flavor of raspberry and black cherry with hints of pepper and perhaps chocolate. The intense fruit flavor makes it a good match for savory dishes such as stews or roast pork. This wine should retail for between \$8 and \$10 a bottle.

Honey Bourbon Ham Steak

(from *Born to Grill* by Cheryl Alters Jamison and Bill Jamison
Harvard Common Press, 1998)

Ham Glaze: 3 tbsp honey
 2 tbsp Bourbon whiskey
 1 tbsp soy sauce
 2 garlic cloves roasted and mashed
 ½ tsp dry mustard

Two 1-lb fully cooked bone-in ham steaks ½ to 1 inch thick (Buy a good brand like Smithfield).

Combine the glaze ingredients in a food processor. Brush glaze on steaks and place on a pre-heated open grill over high heat for about 3½ to 4 minutes; turn steaks once, apply more glaze and grill for 3½ to 4 minutes more; apply more glaze about a minute before you are done; remove and serve hot; pour on any remaining glaze. Serves 4. The result is the best ham that I have tasted in memory.

I hope that you will contact me with your comments and favorite wines at jpgrover@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. ■■■



The Alchemist

Al Thomas

Why Technical Indicators

The fight continues to rage among traders who use technical indicators and those who prefer fundamental information to establish new positions and to exit current positions.

The fundamentalist believe in knowing all the facts about a company such as price earnings ratios, sales growth, product margins, management capabilities, cost of production, cash flow, etc., etc. while the technicians could care less about the latter and want to see sector price trends and rank, the Relative Strength Index, MACD (moving average convergence divergence), stochastics, trend lines, chart patterns and many more esoterically evolved indicators.

Which method is the best?

There is no Holy Grail of trading and what critics of either method forget that it is the trader who adds the final nuance that results in profit or loss. The more years a professional investor has been working his plan the more successful he usually becomes. The unsuccessful ones have long since gone broke and are no longer in the game.

It is somewhat difficult for me to give great credence to fundamentalists as I am a technician and have a very long profitable track record to prove it; however, I do sometimes look at some of fundamentals. It seems that the longer term trader can do well with a fundamental approach because the timing to buy or sell has a lag time. He does not buy the bottom nor sell the top, but who does?

The technical trader will ignore the informational approach with the use of charts and other indicators. Short term traders must be technicians, especially day traders, as there are no fundamentals upon which they can assess their buys and sells.

Technical trading is based on the psychology of the mass of traders that ride upon the hidden values of the changing fundamentals. Charts and other indicators tell the of the long term health of a company, country or commodity as it is shown in the price action. The fundamentalist looks for the reason for a change to buy or sell whereas the technician tries to find the change in the price action to initiate buys and sells.

No matter what a fundamental trader's position he must be very patient. He may have a position on for years. During that same period there will be waves of highs and lows during which he remains constant in his position. The technician may trade the same equity several times buying the low of the wave and selling the high (hopefully). In commodities it is astute trading, but when it is done in stocks and funds it is called timing.

A combination of technical and fundamental methods can give the best results. For the average guy occasional trader I can only caution him to be very careful. Very few intermittent traders ever make money.

A successful trading approach requires commitment. It is a business the same as owning a shoe store or trucking company. You must give it your all.

Like any business you have to work at it.

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 ■

Favorite Field

Lying here winds rush around
Blades of grass bounce off my face
Pocket-watch the only sound
Foreign to this favorite place

Quite a climb to get up here
High above the town below
Only boys with little fear
Usually take the time to go

Most of them don't know this field
They climb fire-tower stairs
But to grasses I soon yield
Daydreaming of great old bears

Long ago I brought my friend
Once we found an eagles' nest
When his life came to an end
Here he took his final rest

'Used to hate this watch he wore
Didn't like the man-made noise
Now I couldn't love it more
Thinking of our time as boys

F.S.Fournier



This Mensan's Thoughts on Euclidean Geometry

A Narrative by John McGondel

There was a time when the concept of geometry was approached and practiced without using numbers, using abstract thinking and mental imagery instead. Around the time of 300 hundred B.C., a Greek mathematician by the name of Euclid wrote "Elements," which was comprised of many postulates, definitions, and propositions, all complete with proofs. That book, which was used for centuries to teach the logic of mathematics and the relationships between geometrical shapes, has been the most published textbook in history, and second only to the Bible as having had the most editions published. Its use, for some unexplainable reason (my own opinion is laziness and the "dumbing-down" of America), has dropped off since the early twentieth century.

I was first introduced to Euclidean geometry while enrolled in a private college-prep high school in Massachusetts, in the very early seventies. I could not appreciate it, which is probably to blame on a combination of my own immaturity and my math teacher's droning voice. Then, when I began attending college, along with my two daughters, in 1998, I was re-introduced to it by my then math teacher and now good friend. He carefully explained to me that the study of geometry from a Euclidean point of view was entirely ethereal in nature, and not really designed to be demonstrated on paper except for proving its correctness to those who do not understand. It is an imaginary exercise that stretches, expands, and hones the thinking skills of the learner. It is my intention and fervent desire that the reader not look at the figures included at the end of this treatise, but to instead attempt to use their mind's eye to picture the results, and thus to use the figures merely as a means of verification at the end of the exercise.

To briefly demonstrate a small section of it, I shall explain how to construct an equilateral triangle in one's mind. Euclid was able to employ a stick and a piece of string, the stick to make a representation of a point or axis, and the string to stretch into a straight line.

First, one establishes a point, and then one uses that point as the center-point of a circle. The point is referred to as point "A." Then, another point, "B," is established anywhere along the circumference of the circle. Then, a line is "drawn" connecting the two points and extending beyond them infinitely in both directions, after which a new circle is created, using the point "B" as its center. So now we should be able to picture in our minds two circles that basically form a Venn diagram.

We all probably understand that any line that connects the center of any true circle to any point on said circle's circumference is equal in length to any other line that connects the same center point to any other point along the

same circle's circumference. That being stipulated, we will now label the two points where the two circles intersect each other as points "C" and "D." We then draw another line between points "A" and "C." Then, another between "B" and "C." Since both "lines AC and AB are both connecting the center point of the first circle with a point along its circumference, they must therefore be of equal length. The same can be said regarding the lines represented by BA and BC. And, since $AB = AC = BA = BC$, we have constructed a perfect equilateral triangle.

And that is both the beginning, as well as where the fun stuff starts. In your mind, since you have already extended the line AB infinitely in both directions, use the intersecting points along it with there it meets the other sides of the two existing circles to create two more circles. Let's call these four intersecting points "E" (top) and "F" on one circle, and "G" (top) and "H" on the other. Now form two more equilateral triangles there. Then, draw an imaginary, infinite line between points EF, GH, and CD. These lines must, of course, be parallel to one another, as they must by the laws of geometry be equidistant and non-intersecting.

At this particular juncture, we have begun to be able to further expand at an exponential level on the amount of pure geometrical shapes that unfold were we to continue connecting all interstices with infinite lines.


Now, imagine these points and lines instantly stretching out on all sides of this flat plane we have been dealing with thus far, infinitely and in all directions, across the universe, much like a steroidal laser show.

Then imagine another exact duplicate at any point above or below it, said duplicate being entirely equidistant from the "original." Then connect the two planes with infinite lines that connect the two planes at exactly their counterparts' relative points. Then, imagine all this is happening within the time it takes to blink an eye, and that all of the imaginary and infinite lines are laser beams, and that in each millisecond thousands of more interstices are created until there is nothing but a solid cube of laser light all around you which stretches into infinity in all directions.

This, then, is the magic of Euclid, and this is why I am sorry to say that very few students these days are exposed to what may well be the purest form of logical reasoning ever produced by man: Euclidean Geometry.

I believe that it would greatly benefit our society if such teachings were reinstated, as we should strive to, in the immortal words of The Beatles:

"Get back to where we once belonged."

I will be happy to furnish my own representations of the graphic figures for this to anyone who emails me and asks. 

Jteacher1@hotmail.com
Platoeuclid@hotmail.com



Brain Teasers

Join us for CultureQuest® 2006!

CultureQuest® 2006, a contest of cultural knowledge, takes place on Sunday, April 30. If you are interested in being on a team, or have any questions at all about CultureQuest®, please contact Claire Natola at editor@nh.us.mensa.org. In the meantime, try your hand at this sampler of CultureQuest® questions from last year's challenge. You'll find the answers on Page 22.

1. What country contains more land along the Equator than any other in the world?
2. Taken as a set, to what do the following refer: Birches, Mending Wall, Fire and Ice, The Death of the Hired Man.
3. Name the person to whom the following quote is attributed: "Be polite; write diplomatically; even in a declaration of war one observes the rules of politeness."
4. General Motors' Hummer® derives its name from the Humvee®. The name Humvee®, in turn is derived from the pronunciation of the acronym HMMWV. What does HMMWV stand for?
5. Which monster in Greek Mythology guards the third circle of hell in Dante's *Inferno*? ■

Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. The solution can be found on Page 22.

Can't get enough Sudoku? Have you already finished this one and are jonesin' for more? The electronic version of *Momentum* contains triple the fun! Subscribe today by sending an email to Claire Natola at editor@nh.us.mensa.org.

2				4			8	
		3	6		9			
		7		8			6	
		9			3			
8				2				6
			8			7		
	3			7		5		
			2		4	1		
	9			5				2



Calendar of Events

February 2006

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3 Temperance League	4 Roving Salon
5	6	7	8	9	10 Immoveable Feast	11
12 Lantern Festival and Asian Buffet Second Sunday Brunch Bunch	13	14 FSM/ ExComm	15 North of Boston Dinner	16	17 Granite Gathering! WinnipeSupper	18 Granite Gathering!
19 Granite Gathering! Special Business Meeting Central Maine Dining	20 <i>Presidents' Day</i>	21 Dinner & Pub Quiz	22	23	24 Appetite for Discussion	25 Thai Taste Test Games Night
26	27	28	<i>Many thanks to our event hosts!</i>			

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. ♦ Event hosts may petition the Executive Committee for funds to promote events via postcard to members within a proximate geographic area. ♦ 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 group-sponsored events. ♦ Hosts of home-based events reserve the right to restrict attendance due to space or other appropriate reasons. ♦ While our hosts endeavor to provide accurate directions, attendees are well-advised to use their mapping medium of choice to determine their own best routes. ♦ In addition to being proper etiquette, R.S.V.P.'ing makes logical sense; it helps the host plan for the proper number of attendees and allows you to be kept abreast of any changes.

Answers to CultureQuest® Sampler

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 3. Otto von Bismark | |
| 2. Poems by Robert Frost | 5. Cerberus |
| 1. Brazil | 4. High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle |

Sudoku Solution

7	9	4	1	5	8	6	3	2
6	5	8	2	3	4	1	7	9
1	3	2	9	7	6	5	4	8
3	4	6	8	9	1	7	2	5
8	7	1	4	2	5	3	9	6
5	2	9	7	6	3	8	1	4
9	1	7	5	8	2	4	6	3
4	8	3	6	1	9	2	5	7
2	6	5	3	4	7	9	8	1

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