

The Voice of Mensa in New Hampshire and Maine

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In our continuing effort to introduce you to the officers who make our chapter run like clockwork, this month we bring you Yvonne Crocker, Member-At-Large and member of the Fundraising Committee. Thank you, Yvonne, for your service to Mensa!

New Hampshire Mensa

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The Fine Print

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Material for publication must be received by the first of the month preceding publication and will be used at the Editor's discretion. Maximum length for the printed version of *Momentum*: 1,000 words. Longer submissions may be considered for the electronic version of *Momentum*. All submissions are subject to editing. Anonymous submissions will not be accepted. Submissions may be published anonymously or under a pseudonym if the Editor determines that circumstances warrant it. All letters received by the editorial staff will be considered for publication unless otherwise specified by the writer. Submission grants New Hampshire Mensa permission to publish in any medium.

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Out of My Mind

LocSec Claire Natola

I just recently returned from Chicago Area Mensa's "HalloweeM" Regional Gathering, where I was one of FIVE attendees from New Hampshire! It seemed that every time someone asked where I was from, my response was met with, "Wow! There are a lot of New Hampshire people here!" I daresay that I speak for all five of us when I say that I had a wonderful time!

As the RG came to a close, a member of Chicago Area Mensa asked me, "So, did you get a bunch of ideas for your RG?" To be brutally honest, I didn't, despite the fact that theirs *is* a fantastic gathering. In fact, I'll be bold enough to say that our own Granite Gathering offers several things that HalloweeM doesn't (dedicated rooms for live music and movies, for example). Now that I've had the opportunity to attend a couple of other chapters' RGs, I must boast and say that for a small chapter, we have a darn fine gathering! Sure, Chicago's attendance of 500 is approximately 2.5 times the size of our attendance, but their membership is four times the size of ours, so that's to be expected.

If you have yet to attend one of our RGs, I urge you to register for Granite Gathering '07 coming up in February. You'll find tons of food and drink, the aforementioned movies and live music, interesting speakers, a dedicated games room, children's activities for your youngsters, contests, puzzles, tournaments, a book sale, a silent auction, and much, much more.

Are you thinking, "But I won't know anyone there; I'll feel out of place..."? You may not believe this, but even the most shy Mensan leaves an RG with a passel of new friends. If you need encouragement, give me a call in advance of the gathering, and I will make it my personal mission to greet you and introduce you to everyone I can.

I honestly feel that my Mensa experience would be a mere fraction of what it is now if I had never attended a Regional or Annual Gathering. Once you attend one, I know you'll feel the same.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season. Please let me know what I can do to make your 2007 in Mensa a fulfilling experience!



What's Cooking in Region 1

Region 1 Vice Chair Marghretta McBean

Let's hear it for Little Rhody!!! Two years ago when then Rhode Island Mensa president Tom Padwa broached the idea of hosting a regional or national event, he set about a mini revolution. His group had never held an RG, hosted a LDW, let alone an AG, yet he felt that the time had come to get its feet wet. I suggested that hosting an AMC (American Mensa Committee) board meeting would be a good first step.

Well, Rhode Island Mensa more than outdid itself! The meeting venue was a hotel staffed by Johnson & Wales, the international culinary and hotel management

school. Superb food, wonderful accommodations, and most importantly, fantastic local group support. As we on the AMC move around the country to hold our meetings, many times we wonder "why?" Few local members attend the board meeting, and the opportunities to meet them outside of the meeting are often limited. RIM set up a cozy hospitality room that encouraged socialising and had a magnificent Saturday night dinner where each table had a mixture of locals and visitors. I was pleased to present Tom with a Regional Service Award and pin for his more than 33 years of involvement with all things Mensa. AMC members heaped praise on the RIM team's efforts; Pam Donahoo, Mensa's Executive Director, summed it up: "The Rhode Island meeting ranks up there with my favorite AMC meeting venue. The hotel was great to deal with; the food good. And the company of the local group was outstanding!!!" Kudos to Little Rhody!!!

I just observed an anniversary: thirty years ago I found out that I was considered to have above average intelligence. Coming across a letter dated 1 November 1976 from the American Mensa Selection Agency which had informed me that the unsupervised test I had recently submitted appeared to indicate that my intelligence quotient was higher than 98% of the population. What a shock that was to me! While I had usually been the "smartest" in school, it had never occurred to me to think of myself as unusually bright. Taking a supervised test a few weeks later, the resulting letter was even more astounding: I was considered brighter than 99% of the population. I know many Mensans who had similar surprises: we did not think we were in any way special, and if we were different from our peers, it probably was not in a positive or socially acceptable way.

I write this because that Mensa test forced me to look at my life, in particular my business and personal relationships, in a light that I had never before imagined. We Mensans are all highly gifted; let us use our gifts to enrich not only our lives, but the lives of those around us.

Erratum: a beady eyed reader with a offbeat sense of humour caught the phrase "a Muslim Chaplin" in my last column and thought it was a Freudian slip: equating a Muslim cleric with one of the characters played by Charlie Chaplin. I did not mean that at all: the correct wording would have been "a Muslim chaplain". That's what happens when a column is written at 2:00 a.m.

Sbiten, the traditional beverage of wintertime Russia, is a drink that has been around since the fourteenth century. Traditionally, it was served on Russian street corners from a heated copper samovar by a worker called a sbitenshchik. The word sbiten comes from the verb sbit: to beat or pound. Herbs and spices were ground in a mortar, then mixed with honey. The mixture was allowed to ferment for a short period, and then mixed with water to make a slightly alcoholic drink. This version is non-alcoholic, but can easily be made "fortified".

Sbiten

5 l (5 qt. 10 oz.) water [or a good Cabernet Sauvignon for a more robust libation]
800 g (28 oz.) raspberry or apricot preserves
200 g (7 oz.) honey
2 - 4 g (½ - 1 tsp.) ground ginger
2 - 4 g (½ - 1 tsp.) whole cloves
2 - 3 cardamom pods: seeds removed, toasted and crushed
1 -2 g (¼ - ½ tsp.) ground cinnamon
1 bay leaf, crumbled

1. Combine all ingredients in a large non-reactive pot and bring to a slow boil over medium heat.
2. Whisk continuously to insure honey is well mixed.
3. Remove from heat and allow to come to room temperature.
4. Strain liquid through cheesecloth into an airtight container for storage and refrigerate until ready to bottle. This makes a lovely holiday gift!
5. To serve, gently heat until almost simmering. While it can be drunk out of a mug, the Russians pour it into a glass. Put a metal spoon (for heat transferral) in the glass before pouring to avoid shattering the glass. A shot of vodka or brandy can be added as well.



Connecticut & Western Massachusetts's MensAutumn RG of Sept. 29, 30 and Oct. 1, 2006 at Vernon, Conn.

By Guest Outsider: Walter Wakefield (2005 & 2007 RG Co-Chair NH/ME)

What fun I had at their sorely under-attended MensAutumn RG, put on by a real team effort of their ExComm, Ed Sisson, Pam Guinan, etc. Everyone on that team went about doing work without drawing any attention to themselves, making sure every guest could have an enjoyable experience and be with their kind.

While there was a small turnout of registrants, there was no shortage of Mensa joy. Friday arrival brought renewed friendships and good conversation on many subjects until late at night. Saturday morning brought a hearty breakfast, followed by the beginning of a slate of varied speakers and workshops, set up sequentially so I could get to all of them. Noontime brought a catered Oriental buffet brought in, all included in C&WM's reasonable \$80 registration.

More activities on the slate followed until mesmerizing Pat Connolly, a prominent scholar of American history, spoke on current American foreign policy; and then, the "big meal," also included, from a very good Italian restaurant locally known as "Marco Polo." Everything got quiet during this meal, a clear indication all felt this was a quality feed; and indeed it was! Afterward, Mr. Connolly graced us with a question-and-answer period that was fascinating.

Then, back to Hospitality where a mother-and-daughter duo was performing wonderful and skilled renditions of old songs, on saxophone and organ. It became game time; and many Mensans went to a table to start a game of choice with eager others. There were no wallflowers. The chosen hotel facility was excellent, quiet and catered to all our Mensa needs!

Sunday morning brought more hearty breakfasting followed by a "Meet & Greet the Candidates 2007" which consisted of statements by Marghetta McBean for Chair, Lori Norris and myself for RVC1, which Marghetta is vacating. Such events usually only draw a few people; but this one drew 17! What was expected to be an event of no more than perhaps a half hour, turned into 75 minutes of spirited engagement between candidates and concerned Mensans! It truly was an experience I recommend be cultivated in other RGs as an example how Mensa government works for all members. While I have been to a number of these in past years, this one turned out to be the most rewarding. I have learned from it; and will offer the format in other RGs, including for the NH/ME group RG in

February 2007. Please come! Even though the Election is not until next spring, it doesn't hurt to experience the health of your society.

After this, there was a flurry to pick up and clean up and say our goodbyes to new and old friends, anticipating the perhaps less-than-perfect departure back to our other lives. All well until we meet again, I am:

Walter S. Wakefield



Notes from National

Welcome to Mensa's newest member discount – Office Depot. Need help “taking care of business”? Let Office Depot help, and get a discount just for being a Mensa member! American Mensa has partnered with one of the world's largest office-products distributors to help Mensans save money both online and at Office Depot's stores. Mensans will receive a 10% discount on purchases and will save 60% on printing. You will also:

- Get free next-day delivery in most areas
- Save time through your choice of three convenient ordering methods: Internet, phone or fax
- Get access to technology products and advice through their sister company Tech Depot

Please note you will need to register a current credit card to get these discounts, which will be taken automatically at payment when you pay with the linked card. Further, please note this discount does not apply to furniture and technology-related items such as computers, printers, fax machines, etc. Visit https://odams.officedepot.com/registrations/mensa_cc.php

Colloquium 2007 -- Aspects of Humor: The Art and Science of Laughter (March 23-25 in Chicago, Illinois): Your scholarly persona will learn about the physiology of humor and how it influences our self-image and world view. Your comic persona will learn the mechanics-writing, improv, and more-of humor and get a chance to practice. The program features: *The Comic Toolbox* (John Vorhaus), *Jest for the Health of It: Is Laughter Really the Best Medicine?* (Dr. Rod Martin), *Joking Cultures: How Groups - Even Mensa - Develop a Humor Identity* (Dr. Gary Alan Fine). Watch for the surprise keynote speaker!

Hotel: Colloquium 2007 will be held at the Doubletree Hotel Chicago - Oak Brook, 1909 Spring Road, Oak Brook, IL 60523. The room rate is \$99 until March 2 or until our room quota is filled. Reserve online or call 800.222.TREE and mention Mensa Colloquium. After March 2, reservations will be accepted based on rate and room availability.

Registration: By February 14, \$220 (Mensans) or \$270 (non-Mensans) for the weekend and three meals. After February 14, \$270 and \$320. Enrollment is limited, so sign up now online or send your registration form to Colloquium 2007, American Mensa, Ltd., 1229 Corporate Dr. West, Arlington TX 76006. For a registration form, details, and contacts, visit <http://www.colloquium2007.us.mensa.org>

You won't be laughing if you miss this event!



ExComm Minutes of October 17, 2006

Recording Secretary Liz Modesitt

Voting Members Present: John Bauman, Mark Becker, Yvonne Crocker, Wayne Eddy, Liz Modesitt, Claire Natola, and Joe Zanca

Others Present: Alicia Andrus, Jim Barnes, Sue Barnes, Elizabeth Becker, Marty Capodice, Anne Majeske, Tom Sheil, Walter Wakefield, and Ric Werme

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 p.m.

Claire Natola thanked Liz Modesitt for having FSM/ExComm at her apartment. She also updated the chapter on various medical issues that several members have been having trouble with recently.

Current membership totals 487 people, with 328 members in New Hampshire and 159 members in Maine.

As of March 2006, the Joe Zanca Scholarship Fund totaled \$3, 683.00, but this figure does not include donations made at the 2006 World Gathering.

The San Antonio bid for the 2010 Annual Gathering was not accepted. However, there are not enough people interested to put together a New England bid for the event.

There are eleven New Hampshire and Maine locations where testing will take place during the upcoming National Testing Month.

Walter Wakefield presented a job description for the position of Chapter Archivist. There was a discussion regarding what the Archivist is supposed to save versus what the LocSec and/or Momentum Editor keep, where Walter will store the materials, and what happens if a Chapter Archivist dies. Claire motioned for Walter to be appointed Chapter Archivist, and Joe Zanca seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Claire has received descriptions of "Hardship Funds" that other chapters have developed to help people afford their membership renewals. We will look these examples over and then talk about the matter further.

As far as RG Updates, the quest for speakers is going well. John Follansbee and Anna Lique have agreed to run the Children's Room. Plans for Monte Carlo Night continue to be worked on. There will be another RG Planning Meeting soon.

Wayne Eddy made a motion for Mark Becker to be allowed to purchase an update to PageMaker for chapter use. Joe Zanca seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously with one abstention.

Mark brought up mechanical problems with the chapter laptop. No resolution was reached regarding what to do about it.

The meeting went into a closed session.

After the closed session, the idea of having Regional Gathering attendees sign a pledge against inappropriate behavior was introduced. No formal motion was made on the subject.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

THE
ANTIQUARIAN
BOOKSTORE



WANTED: All publications of Mensa, Intertel, I.S.P.E., new or old. Especially need all pre-1980 Mensa *Bulletin*, NH/ME/VT/MA local publications, registers, other paper material and pins. Wanted for preservation and access for research to members of these organizations. I will pay \$ for your items, but donations greatly appreciated. Help preserve our past.

Actively BUYING/trading collections/accumulations of old and new books, magazines, comics, sheet music, postcards, photos, prints, music CDs, adult/erotica in all forms.

Bring to The Antiquarian Bookstore at 1070 Lafayette Road (U.S. Route 1, adjacent to old Yoken's Restaurant), Portsmouth, N.H. 03801-5408 or call Walter Wakefield at 603-436-7250. New Hampshire's largest used/rare bookstore since 1973. Over 1/4 Million volumes in stock. Usually open Monday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. (Sometimes at club events -- call.) Thank You.

Paid Advertisement



Granite Gathering '007: RGs Are Forever February 16-18, 2007



New Hampshire Mensa's 17th Annual Regional Gathering! RG aficionados say that for a small state, we have one of the best RGs: stellar hospitality, ample food and libations, scintillating speakers, live music, games, contests, silent auction, and more!

Location: Crowne Plaza Nashua, 2 Somerset Parkway, Nashua, NH 03063. Room rate of \$96 (exclusive of 8% NH Rooms Tax) per night guaranteed until 1/16/07. Call 603-886-1200 and ask for the Mensa rate. Complimentary: indoor parking garage, shuttle service to and from Manchester Airport (*when prearranged*), full-service health club.

Registration: \$65 until 1/16/07; \$75 thereafter or at the door. Children 8-17 \$15 less than regular rate; children under 8 free. Saturday rate is \$10 less than regular rate in effect at time of registration. Fabulous Saturday night 007-themed buffet is \$28 per person. Mail your form and fee to Registrar Deb Stone, 8 Hancock Drive, Bedford, NH 03110. (email: debstone4@verizon.net) Do not mail registration after 2/1/07; register at door instead.

Questions? Contact RG Co-Chair Walter Wakefield at 877-436-7250 or RG Co-Chair Mark Becker at rgchair@nh.us.mensa.org. For latest details, see www.nh.us.mensa.org/rgnews.shtm.



Registrant #1: _____ Registrant #3: _____

Registrant #2: _____ Registrant #4: _____

Children's Names and Ages: _____

Address: _____ City, State, ZIP: _____

email: _____ Telephone: _____

Type	Quantity	Rate (see above)	Subtotal
Adult Registration			
Child 8-17			
Child under 8		Free	
Saturday Buffet		\$28	

Total: \$ _____

Make checks payable to "New Hampshire Mensa" or charge (MasterCard or Visa):
Card # _____ Exp __ / __ Name on Card: _____



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.

Proctor	Date	Location
Scott Cayouette 207-872-4576	Saturday, 09 December 2:00 p.m.	Augusta, M.E.
Laurie Levesque 207-512-2828	Saturday, 16 December 10:00 a.m.	Portsmouth, N.H.
John Bauman 603-883-7494	Wednesday, 20 December 7:00 p.m.	Nashua, N.H.

Due to the advanced nature of deadlines there may be other testing dates that did not make it to press in time for this issue. Please refer to the NH Mensa website (<http://nh.us.mensa.org>) or contact the Testing Coordinator (see back cover for contact information) for more up-to-date information.

Welcome to NH/ME Mensa!

Christina Dafopoulos	Nashua, NH
Mauricio De La Garza	Hanover, NH
Richard Eason	Orono, ME
Rolfe Ashley Forland	Bass Harbor, ME
Donald McDougal	Hartland, ME
Deborah L. Stone	Bedford, NH

Welcome back to Mensa!

Jean R. Black	Bangor, ME
Peter A. Duncan	Bangor, ME
Betty Jean McLaughlin	Orono, ME
Robert Michael Pickel	Falmouth, ME
Michele Lois Roberts	Surry, NH
Eileen M. Verbeke	Cary Plantation, ME





The Alchemist

Al Thomas

ETFs: Better Than Mutual Funds

Let's be sure you know what an ETF is. It is an Exchange Traded Fund. They have not been around very long, but are catching on. More and more are being created.

It is similar to a mini-mutual fund and has many of the same characteristics. A regular fund is composed of many stocks. There are index funds that have hundreds of stocks with the same equities as the S&P500. Almost all major funds have several index funds and there are ETFs with the same composition.

If the investor buys an index mutual fund he must wait until days end to have the entry price calculated. Not so with an ETF. It can be purchased during the day at any time and the buyer receives the prices of the stocks at that moment. Each mutual fund family has their own managed S&P500 index mutual fund whereas the SPY (the ETF of the S&P500) is the same for all brokerage companies. The only difference for the trader is the amount of commission charged that can be as low as \$7.00 to as much as the brokerage company wants.

Expenses of a "good" fund are about 1.5% or less. Expenses for ETFs run about 2/10th of 1%. Big difference.

Brokers want you to buy a regular mutual fund because he has a trailing commission every year. It may only be 1%, but most people who buy mutual funds don't trade so this is better than a poke in the eye. ETFs have no trailing commission. Brokers will tell you these commissions are bad, but when you figure it out you are way ahead.

Suppose you put \$10,000 in an ETF. The total commission might range from \$7.00 to \$25, maybe a little more depending on the broker. It is a one time buying charge. Even if you buy a no-load fund other than an index fund there is still the 1.5% annual expense fee. That's \$150 every year. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to see why he wants to switch you into a mutual fund.

You can't put stop loss protection on a mutual fund, but brokerage houses will accept Good Till Cancelled stops on ETFs. Never rely on any broker to "watch your account". He won't. Never invest without stop loss protection.

The majority of mutual funds have adopted redemption fees. These are extra fees to discourage the investor from selling. They may be as short as 30 days or as long as one year with a fee as high as 2%. There is no solid reason for this. That fee goes in the fund manager's pocket. He wants to keep your money because he gets paid on the amount of money in his fund and not on performance. Whether you win or lose he makes money.

The mutual fund industry has a serious and progressive case of Alzheimers. They are chasing customers away in droves with excess charges and high commissions.

It is time to look into ETFs.

Al Thomas' 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 2-step method. Read the first chapter at <http://www.mutualfundmagic.com> and discover why he's the man that Wall Street does not want you to know. Copyright 2006 All rights reserved.



Calendar of Events December 2006

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					01 Temperance League	02
03	04	05 RG Planning Meeting	06 GenX Pub Trivia Night	07	08 The Brady Bunch	09 Candlelight Stroll WinnepeSupper
10 Second Sunday Brunch	11	12	13 GenX Pub Trivia Night	14	15	16 CHANUKAH
17 North Country Lunch Central Maine Dining	18	19 Pre-FSM Dinner FSM/ExComm	20 North of Boston Dinner	21 WINTER SOLSTICE	22 Appetite for Discussion	23
24	25 CHRISTMAS	26 Dinner & Pub Quiz in Maine	27 GenX Pub Trivia Night	28	29	30
31						

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 or cancellations.



A Sampling of Next Month's Events*



Wednesdays, January 3, 10, 24, 31
Friday, January 5, 7:00 p.m.
Friday, January 12, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 14, 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday, January 16, 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, January 16, 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, January 17, 6:00 p.m.
Friday, January 19, 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 21, 1:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 21, 4:00 p.m.
Friday, January 26, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, January 30, 6:30 p.m.

GenX SIG Pub Trivia Night, Concord, N.H.
Temperance League, Manchester, N.H.
The Brady Bunch, Peterborough, N.H.
2nd Sunday Brunch, New Boston, N.H.
Pre-FSM Dinner, Concord, N.H.
FSM/ExComm, Location TBD
North of Boston Dinner, Peabody, Mass.
WinnipeSupper, Location TBD
North Country Lunch, North Conway, N.H.
Central Maine Dining, Location TBD
Appetite for Discussion, Portsmouth, N.H.
Dinner and Pub Quiz, Portland, Maine



Bits and Pieces

The Academy of Applied Sciences is looking for Mensans and others to judge a Young Inventors' Competition on Saturday, April 7, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Winnisquam Regional High School in Tilton, New Hampshire. No experience necessary! For more information, contact Pamela Hampton at phampton@aas-world.org or 603-228-4530.

Dear Friends, if you are, like me, a committed reader and someone who would like to share that passion, consider holiday giving that includes a donation to a literacy cause. One effort that aims to help the poorest of children in Managua, Nicaragua is the Share-a-book program started in the Plymouth, NH area a number of years ago. Several of us have visited the "Springtime" neighborhood of Managua, and we know how little these children have. Since their parents must pay for school costs, some of the children are not able to attend school. Others may go for a few years, but few have access to books to support early reading or feed their growing minds.

We have located very inexpensive primers, in Spanish, which are fun for early readers. We can ship these free of charge with visiting college students for \$.25 each. We have learned to send money too, since field workers we trust make good use of those dollars in the local bookstores, buying just what is needed locally, and incidentally, supporting a small business. Your holiday gift can be given in honor of a friend or family member, and we can send you a simple card acknowledging the gift.

If this makes sense to you, we are happy to answer questions, mail me at saltma@hotmail.com. Starr King Fellowship has agreed to be our fiscal agent. If you can send a check, mail it to SHARE-A-BOOK, PO Box 337, Plymouth, NH 03264.

Sincerely,
Margaret Salt for Share-a-Book

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