



The Voice of Mensa in New Hampshire and Maine

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# New Hampshire Mensa

**Send all correspondence to:**

*Officer Name*  
New Hampshire Mensa  
P.O. Box 1474  
Concord, NH 03302-1474

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# Etched in Stone

## LocSec Deb Stone

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I'm writing this a couple of days after the disappointment of the Superbowl. I really wanted to see a 19-0 season and would have even if it wasn't the Patriots. But it was the Patriots, so it would have been even sweeter. I had kind of a bad feeling going into the game, but when the Pats went up 14-10 with 2 minutes left I was hopeful. Two minutes is an awfully long time in a football game though. And when the Pats missed those tackles on Manning at 50 seconds and he threw that pass and it was caught I just knew it was over. The Giants deserved to win more than the Patriots did though ... but it didn't keep me from being depressed!

By the time you read this column, the RG will have come and gone. I hope many of you will have will have joined us at the Radisson Nashua for the fun. We always have such a great time! And it's not too early to start thinking about next year, so consider getting involved if you had a good time this year. We can always use a volunteer, or a speaker, or someone willing to head an RG committee, or even a new RG Chair with new ideas. We would like to always be the best RG in the region!

I'll ask again have you renewed your membership yet? The end of the membership year is the end of this month; let's keep the 'lapse' rate down this year. Mensa can provide a lot of different things to different people. If you haven't yet really figured out why it's important to you, maybe you aren't taking advantages of all the things it offers. Attend an event. *Host* an event. Join a SIG. Publish in the newsletter. Meet new friends. Have great conversations. Get involved. Or sit home and read about us in the various Mensa publications. Travel and take advantage of the great worldwide network of Mensans. Whatever is valuable to you, if you're not a member you won't have the same opportunities. Besides ... we'll miss you!

On a related note, our next election is coming up shortly (we hold them in even-numbered years.) It's looking like we'll have at least a couple of contested positions on the ExComm this year which means actual balloting will be required. When you receive your ballot, which will come with the April edition of Momentum, please vote. Historical participation ratios for the elections are pretty low. Maybe we can carry some of the enthusiasm for casting a vote in the presidential primaries over to our own election. Let's break some records!



# RVChat

## Region 1 Vice Chair Lori Norris

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Four years ago, in April of 2004, I was out of work recovering from minor foot surgery and in the midst of a major case of cabin fever. No RGs to be found, but Connecticut & Western Massachusetts Mensa was hosting a Leadership Development Workshop ("LDW"). At first the prospect of attending a leadership seminar left me cold. I had been active in Mensa for 14 years and was a former LocSec, Membership Officer, Proctor, etc. While in school for various degrees and at work for a former employer I had taken several seminars on leadership and change. Blah, blah, blah. Ron, who had previously attended a LOTS, talked me into it. (I think he said that if I didn't like it, everyone would understand if I retreated to our room to take a nap, after all I was temporarily wheelchair-bound from the surgery.)

Much to my surprise I had a great time and made some good friends. Socializing was fun as it usually is at Mensa events and the primary topic was Mensa. And the sessions were interesting and fun. They were led by Mensans and National Office staff members. They were not the lectures that I expected but were more like discussion groups with all of the attendees participating and offering advice and suggestions. At the LDW I met then-chair Jean Becker and she encouraged me to become more involved and I did. I was appointed as a member of AMC's Risk Management Committee and eventually I ran for RVC. The rest is now history. Several of the attendees from the 2004 LDW became more active at either the local or national level. The rest used the event to enhance their enjoyment of Mensa.

Now, in case you haven't heard, Region 1 is having an LDW the first weekend of May hosted by Rhode Island Mensa. Do you want to take a more active role in Mensa? Do you want to get the most from your membership? Are you a volunteer who wants to learn the "tricks" to make your job easier? Do you want to volunteer but want to know more before jumping in? Who should attend? Anyone, everyone, YOU! For more information and to register go to: <http://www.rhodeisland.us.mensa.org>. More on the LDW next month, including a brief outline of the scheduled sessions.

On a different note, everyone has heard that the most important benefit Mensa offers to me are the friends I've made, including my husband. One of the often-overlooked benefits is the existence of "instant friends" wherever you may be. Ron recently spent about two months at his parents' home in New Jersey dealing with his father's recent illness (the prognosis is good). After an e-mail to the local group, Ron was quickly invited to local events. I think that this socialization helped him through the tough times. Many thanks

to the members of Central New Jersey Mensa for being there for us. While you are a member of your local group, you are always a member of American Mensa and will usually be very welcome at another group's events.

*Lori*

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## 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 \$40; a photo-ID is required.

Date	Proctor	Location
13, March 7:00 p.m.	John Bauman 603-883-7494	Nashua, NH
15, March 10:00 a.m.	Bromley Baril <a href="mailto:bromleybaril@comcast.net">bromleybaril@comcast.net</a>	Portsmouth, NH*
15, March 10:30 a.m.	Bill Alleman 603-529-4446	Weare, NH

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.

\*Checks, or charge cards only in this location, please.

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## The Maine Event

Maine Mensa is coming back! Preliminary steps were taken at the RG in Nashua with the appointment of Anne Allen as Acting LocSec/Maine until official voting can occur. We anticipate total separation by the end of 2008.

Please comment or provide feedback to either Lori Norris, Region 1 Vice Chair at [rvc1@us.mensa.org](mailto:rvc1@us.mensa.org), or Anne Allen at [wilsnanni@comcast.net](mailto:wilsnanni@comcast.net)

# Now What?

by Fran Tishkevich

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As GCC, I often receive calls or e-mails asking what parents can do after the teacher seems reluctant to create new activities for their gifted child. After spending a few years teaching in a public school classroom, I can appreciate the teacher's reluctance.

Typically, there are twenty-five to thirty kids in the classroom with greatly varying abilities and needs (the "Algebra for All" movement creates a very interesting mix of students in the classroom). There are students with various learning disabilities and handicapping conditions that need to be accommodated. Students who have been abused, have emotional problems or speak little English require additional attention. The teacher is expected to teach the content as defined by state standards, prepare students to succeed on the state-wide assessments, accommodate students' learning styles and needs, be watchful for signs of abuse, neglect, eating disorders and bullying, educate students about drug and alcohol abuse and peer pressure, complete the numerous pages of paperwork on each student with an I.E.P., as well as complete school duties such as recess, lunch, detention and committee work. Personally, I jumped at the opportunity to return to higher education.

However, as a parent, I understand the parent's concern. What can parents do? As I tell those who have contacted me, parents can provide wonderful enrichment opportunities for their gifted children. Not only can it be great fun for both the child and parent, but as the parent, activities can be tailored to the child's interest.

How to do this? Let the child do the work of learning. We all remember some adult who made a difference in our lives. It was probably someone who allowed us to take risks, and even fail, without considering us failures. By allowing our kids to do independent work, they develop self-discipline and confidence. If they fail, they learn about consequences and perseverance, two powerful lessons, and they learn how to ask for guidance and advice when needed. In other words, they learn how to be life-long learners.

Support your GC's diverse interests. Since their peers rarely share their passions, parents can help find adults to serve as mentors, search out advanced programs, or assist in internet research. Interacting with intellectual peers can keep the GC from feeling isolated.

There will probably be a time when your GC will know more about a particular topic than parents or teachers. Adult supervision is still needed to provide emotional, social and intellectual stability. The GC still needs adult assistance in exploring other subjects and activities. Trips to local historical sites

(don't miss those historical markers along the highways and byways of New Hampshire), hikes to places like the Flume (of great geologic interest), museums, and manufacturing plants that provide tours, may trigger a new interest, and will certainly provide opportunity for discussion.

Discussion. GC's love to talk. Sometimes talking is a way to organize thoughts or to test out different approaches to ideas. While we all know that it's impossible to "listen out" a GC, allowing a period of time each day for one-on-one conversation lets the GC know their thoughts are valued and valuable. During these conversations the GC's delightful sense of humor can be encouraged. Enjoying their puns and wordplays, and seeing the humor in everyday life is not only great fun, but provides a stress-reliever for all.

Finally, praising their efforts, rather than the final results shows an appreciation for the effort as well as for the product. For the perfectionistic GC, this is especially important when the finished product is not all he or she had hoped for. When the product is the only focus of attention and praise, the GC may feel that he or she must always be the best and always produce the best in order to be recognized.

Whether done as a team with an understanding teacher, or done solely as a parent and child, raising a GC is great fun as well as a great challenge. Sit back and enjoy the ride. You never know where it will take you next.

References:

Halstead, J. (1994). *Some of my Best Friends are Books: Guiding Gifted Readers from Pre-School to High School*. Scottsdale, AZ: Gifted Psychology Press.

Strip, C., Hirsch, G. (2001, Spring). Trust and Teamwork. *Gifted Child Today*, 24, 26.

Webb, J., Meckstroth, E., Tolan, S. (1982) *Guiding the Gifted Child: A Practical Source for Parents and Teachers*. Scottsdale, AZ: Gifted Psychology Press.



# The Proctors' Guide to the Solar System

by Nicole Bissonnette

In October, proctors Claire Natola and Nicole Bissonnette traveled to Presque Isle, Maine to give the Mensa Admissions Test. On the way to Presque Isle they noticed Saturn along the side of the road and thought its presence rather intriguing. The appearance of Jupiter further along U.S. Route 1 triggered Claire's memory; she had heard something once about a scale model of the solar system on display in northern Maine.

Sure enough, an inquiry in Presque Isle revealed that the Maine Solar System Model begins at the Northern Maine Museum of Science in Folsom Hall on the University of Maine campus in Presque Isle; in the first photograph, Claire stands next to a yellow beam that represents a portion of the circumference of the sun.

Pluto, which was still considered a planet when the model was installed earlier this decade, resides forty miles away where U.S. Route 1 intersects with Interstate 95, inside the Houlton Information Center.

The scale of the model is 1:93,000,000; moons are included.







# Calendar of Events

## March 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						01  Deadline for April events
02	03	04	05	06	07 Temperance League	08 Boston Brunch  Impolite Company  Games Night
09 Second Sunday Brunch  Winslow Supper	10	11	12	13	14 Brady Bunch	15 Nashua Temp League
16	17	18 Pre-FSM Dinner  FSM/Ex-Comm	19 North of Boston Dinner	20 French Film	21 Winnipesupper	22 Impolite Company
23	24	25 Portland Dinner & Pub Quiz	26	27	28 Menstel	29
30	31					

Mensa members are welcome to submit calendar listings to the Calendar Editor ([calendar@nh.us.mensa.org](mailto: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.

# Boston Mensa Event Revival

Sunday, March 30, 2008 1:30-3:30 p.m.

First Congregational Church, 89 College Avenue, Somerville, MA, Davis Square

Boston Mensa is sponsoring what I hope to be a rejuvenation of our MOG (Monthly Gathering) on March 30, 2008 at the First Congregational Church, 89 College Avenue, Somerville, MA (Davis Square). The title is "School Advocacy and Homeschooling for Gifted Children: Strategies for working effectively for your gifted child's education" by Wendy Skinner, a nationally-known advocate and Lorel Shea, our Boston Mensa member who is home-schooling her children. There is a \$5 per person admission to cover rental and refreshments. Browse the resource table. *Infinity and Zebra Stripes: Life with Gifted Children* written by Wendy A. Skinner available for purchase. Come and support Mensa and Lorel by listening to an informative seminar and have wine, cheese, soft drinks, and conversation after the questions.

Susan Engelke

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