

COLUMBIAN

Volum40, Number 15 The Newsletter of Columbia River Mensa Jan-Feb, 2008

<http://www.crm.us.mensa.org>

ELLENSBURG BRUNCH: The first Saturday at 11:00 am, at The Palace Café 323 N Main St Ellensburg, WA 98926 (509) 925-2327 (thepalacecafe.net).

The table will be marked with two wine glasses turned upside down. If you want to make a trip of it, you could come for the First Friday Art Walk and stay for Mensa Brunch on Saturday. Co-coordinators, Alix Drake-Williams and George Drake. Contact:

EasternCascadesArea@crm.us.mensa.org Regarding share rides: locsec@crm.us.mensa.org.



MONTHLY DINNER MEETING 6:00 p.m. the 4th Saturday of each month:

January: Katya's Wine Bar, Richland

February: Old Country Buffet, Kennewick

March: Apollo Greek Restaurant, 620 Cullum, Richland

April: Inca Mexican Restaurant, 1825 Leslie Road, Richland

Other suggestions are welcome. Email Mark Mitchell at Locsec@crm.us.mensa.org.



WEBSITE REMINDERS

If you have forgotten where the next meeting will be and have lost your newsletter, don't panic - our website (<http://www.crm.us.mensa.org>) now has all upcoming events shown on the front page.

ZIPLOC OMELET FOR A FUN PARTY

Have guests write their name on a quart-size Ziploc freezer bag with permanent marker.

Crack 2 eggs (large or extra-large) into the bag (not more than 2) shake to combine them. Put out a variety of ingredients such as: cheeses, ham, onion, green pepper, tomato, hash browns, salsa, etc.

Each guest adds prepared ingredients of choice to their bag and shake. Make sure to get the air out of the bag and zip it up.

Place the bags into rolling, boiling water for exactly 13 minutes. You can usually cook 6-8 omelets in a large pot. For more, make another pot of boiling water.

Open the bags and the omelet will roll out easily. Be prepared for everyone to be amazed.

Nice to serve with fresh fruit and coffee cake; everyone gets involved in the process and a great conversation piece.



Northwest Passages
by John Recht
RVC, Region 8
rvc8@us.mensa.org

When I was in college 40 years ago (!), there was a lot of discussion on my campus about Robert Maynard Hutchins and his educational theories. Despite the passage of years, I believe that Hutchins' ideas would still appeal to many members of Mensa in particular, and I encourage you to take a look at what Hutchins had to say and think about how his ideas could be incorporated into our intellectual development today. If you are unfamiliar with Hutchins, a good place to start would be to read the Wikipedia article about him.

Perhaps the most famous quote attributed to Hutchins was the statement, "Whenever I get the urge to exercise, I lie down until the urge passes." While I can see that this would also appeal to many Mensans today, it's not my personal credo. I believe that a balanced life includes a lifetime of learning as well as a lifetime of physical involvement with the world, and I have consciously made an effort to include exercise in my life for my health and enjoyment. When I swim laps or take walks, it also gives me a lot of time to think, so I find all the more reason to get out and about. Especially when I am looking for ideas for my column!

Something that gives me a great deal of pleasure in my job as Regional Vice Chair (RVC) for Region 8 is to hear from members about things that they want to do for Mensa. Not long ago I met with Alexis Sterling Wise, the Teen SIG Coordinator, who wants to help promote recruitment of teens in Mensa. I think Alexis has terrific ideas, and I would like to see all of our local groups work on finding ways to recruit and involve teens in their activities.

Ken and Anna Wright contacted me recently about their plans to chair a Regional Gathering (RG) for Northern Nevada Mensa in Reno, NV. This has been a dream of mine for years, and I hope that their plans come together in the near future; I have asked Assistant RVC Debra Reiger to work with them to help make it happen.

Just the other day, I received a note from Diane Clayton, a long-time member and proctor in Southwest Idaho Mensa, who wants to jump-start the testing program in her local group. I'm very excited to hear that! Testing in Diane's group could use the boost, though I am happy to report that testing in Region 8 as a whole has exceeded the average for American Mensa as whole in the past year.

Following up on my pledge last month to talk about goals, one of the short-term goals that the American Mensa Committee adopted in December was to "research and review local group participation in the testing program and consider and implement incentives and support to increase participation." On Dec. 31, 2007, Mensa membership in Region 8 stood at 5,501, up 2.7% from a year earlier. Of the 4,047 prospective members tested by American Mensa in 2007, 479 were tested in Region 8.

While the above numbers show that our region is doing its part to contribute to the continued growth of American Mensa, there is much more that can be done to improve our performance, and I applaud Diane and all the other folks in our local groups who have made testing a high priority. I would love to hear more about any ideas or methods for increasing participation in the testing program that have proven successful in our local groups, and could be shared with other groups who have not had as much success.

In conclusion, I would like you to join me in congratulating three brave Mensa volunteers who have stepped forward to shoulder major responsibilities for their local groups. They are the new LocSecs in Region 8: Steve Bean in Monterey County Mensa, Rosmaire Duffy in Sacramento Regional Mensa, and Harold Ward in Southwest Idaho Mensa. Good luck to each of you!

And as always, I invite everyone to join me at our upcoming gatherings:

Mensa of Western Washington's EverGreen 2008: Romp & Circumstances on Feb. 15-17 (www.mensaww.org/gather.htm), Oregon Mensa's BeaverRG XI: Power SuRGe! on May 4-6 (www.oregon.us.mensa.org/rg/), and the 2008 Annual Gathering In Denver on Jul. 2-6 (www.ag2008.us.mensa.org). Hope to see you there!



BeaverG XI: Power SuRGe!

Oregon Mensa invites you to attend our 2008 Regional Gathering, which will be held May 2-4, 2008. We are very excited to return to the newly renovated Red Lion at the Quay in Vancouver, WA, across the river from Portland, OR. This will be the fourth time the RG has been held at this popular location. All the action takes place on the main floor, so you can easily switch between the Game Room, Hospitality, speakers and 2 catered meals. We are also offering a Teen Room this year, with games and activities for those 18 and under.

The hotel features 160 spacious guest rooms, and all the amenities you'd expect of a first-class hotel: improved handicapped access, free Net4Guests high-speed wireless Internet, in-room coffee, room service, laundry and valet service, and refrigerators and microwaves in all guest rooms. Located on the beautiful Columbia River, you can take a scenic walk or jog on the 3K trail right outside the hotel, or hang out in the hospitality room overlooking the river. Free airport shuttle service is available every day between 9 am and 11 pm. To reserve a room at the special rate of \$89.95 (plus tax) call 1-800-RED-LION and mention code 080430or.

The RG committee is planning something for everyone, including Texas Hold 'em Poker, a Friday tour, an expanded Hospitality overlooking the river, and programs that will get you out of your seat and moving! Of course, we will continue to provide thought-provoking speakers, the ever-popular Game Room, and the annual auction to benefit our scholarship programs.

Register before January 31st, 2008 to get the lowest registration rate of \$60. The registration rate will then increase as follows (according to postmark): by 2/29/08 - \$70; by 4/15/08 - \$80; after 4/15/08 - \$90. New this year, attendees aged under 21 receive \$20 off the registration fee! The Saturday buffet is \$30, and Sunday lunch is \$20.

Send payment and [registration form](#) to: Stephen Darnell, 3011 NW 23rd Ave., Camas, WA 98607-8094. For up-to-the-minute information, visit our web site at www.or.us.mensa.org.

Issue 1, 2008 of Mensa World is now available at www.us.mensa.org/mensaworld <www.us.mensa.org/mensaworld> Select the Online Library from the left menu.

For any questions or comments about Mensa World, please contact Editor Kathy Spaltro at mensaworld@mensa.org. If you have any trouble with your password while accessing these online publications, please email WebServices@americanmensa.org.

The January/February edition of InterLoc is online at:

<http://www.us.mensa.org/interloc> <<http://www.us.mensa.org/interloc>>

Select InterLoc online library from the left menu.

Individual articles from this issue are also available in The 2% Journals in AML's online Community at <http://www.community.us.mensa.org> <<http://www.community.us.mensa.org>> .

If you have any trouble with your password while accessing the online edition InterLoc, please email WebServices@americanmensa.org. For any questions or comments about InterLoc, please email InterLocEditor@us.mensa.org.

Set your calendars and round up your trivia buffs - the 2008 CultureQuest(r) competition will take place on Sunday, April 27. Rules and registration forms are available for download at www.us.mensa.org/eventregistration <www.us.mensa.org/eventregistration> . Registration will be open until Monday, March 31, 2007. For more information on CultureQuest(r), contact CQ Chair Elaine Brody at CultureQuest@us.mensa.org.

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2007-2008 Community Activities Program

Many Mensa Local Groups make their communities better by participating in community service activities. These community service efforts are recognized yearly by the national Community Activities Program (CAP). As well as providing recognition, the program encourages Local Groups to share their experiences and ideas with other Local Groups.

Local Groups participate in any community service activity they choose and enter their projects (and results) in the program. Over the years, over 200 entries have been submitted.

Members of the Community Services Committee have agreed to a change of approach for the 2008 CAP, consistent with comments received from Mensans over the last year or so. CAP is NOT a competition or contest. All legitimate entries will receive the public recognition and appreciation that they so rightfully deserve. It may happen that the Committee members determine that an entry warrants consideration for a special award. This may or may not occur. Recognition and appreciation of all legitimate entries will be announced during the Annual Gathering, and listed in the Bulletin.

The CAP entry form, in PDF format, can be found on the American Mensa Website. Click on officer resources, then Forms and Guides. After filling out the form, have it signed by the Local Secretary, and send it to the National Office by May 1st. The Community Services Committee members look forward to reading about and celebrating your community service activity.

Respectfully,
Michael Paul Beetham
Chair, Community Services Committee
communityservices@us.mensa.org

Our Web Services team is extremely excited about recent enhancements to our Web presence. Here's a (somewhat lengthy, with apologies) snapshot of new things for you to see and do!

AML's NEW ONLINE COMMUNITY

(www.community.us.mensa.org)

After a number of months research into available software, we settled on a new discussion board software package to replace the FuseTalk package. The old software, in hindsight, wasn't up to our needs and wasn't as intuitive or easy to maintain as we thought it would be. We settled on a new package that's expanded our Community outside of discussion forums, and in October and November, we transitioned the bulk of some 70,000+ posts from the old system. (We're now close to 83,000 posts in 8,600 discussion threads.)

Some of the Community updates include:

- * a redesigned, clean interface
- * the ability for you to subscribe and respond via email to single discussions and entire sections of the forums. (Note that you can't respond via email to private messages at this time.)

- * tags and tag clouds. Tags are simply words and phrases that allow you to categorize posts, downloads and photos. The more you tag, the easier it is for others to find information in the community. Tag clouds are clusters of tags that help find you find the content you're looking for.

- * a community directory. In addition to the member directory on AML's main Web site, you can also search the community directory for information about participating members, and we've enabled forum participants to have photos with their posts so you can see who you're speaking with!

- * discussion favorites -- you can now rate those posts you find most interesting.
- * easier access to your favorite discussions. In addition to the option of marking a post as a favorite, you can also customize the discussions so that you only view the sections you frequent most often.

- * a WYSIWYG editor. Instead of the text-based post editor, you can now use the What-You-See-Is-What-You-Get editor. (Note that our devoted Mac visitors will be able to use a Firefox browser to utilize the WYSIWYG editor until we find a fix for the Safari issue.)

We're all very excited about the new online Community, but wait, there's more....

THE OFFICERS' SHAREHOUSE

(www.community.us.mensa.org/files)

Housed within the new online Community is a file-sharing area that's home to the new Officers' Sharehouse. The Sharehouse is where Editors, Webmasters and other volunteers can upload and share their graphics, photos and articles. Unlike personal files, the Sharehouse is meant to be a source of evergreen materials for our groups to use.

Because the Sharehouse is a part of the Community, you'll have the ability to rate uploaded content and comment on the uploads as well. We think this will be a great addition for our editors and Webmasters to provide our members with great content from all over the country!

Yes, we're excited about the Sharehouse, and yes, there's more....

THE 2% JOURNALS

(www.community.us.mensa.org/journals)

Yes, that should probably be the "2 percent journals," but the menu option would've much larger.)

We're collecting content from a number of sources into one location for your reading enjoyment. You'll find recent InterLoc articles, AML News notifications, and interesting articles and essays culled from our 134 Local Group newsletters.

In the future, we hope to bring you other types of content, and as with the Sharehouse, you'll be able to rate and comment on any of these content pieces.

Oh, you know we're excited about the Journals as well, but we have one last enhancement to the Web site that we know you'll find useful....

MY MENSA

(www.us.mensa.org/mymensa)

Having trouble finding a specific area on one of our Web sites? Know where you want to go but hate the trip to get there? We have the answer for you -- it's "My Mensa," where we provide you with the ability to create your own, personalized page of links and information about Mensa.

You can add QuickLinks from the main Web site, available officer resources, games from our online Games Room (but not yet those from MensaForKids.org), and your favorite sections from the new Community! If you're on a page on our main site that you want to visit again, simply click Bookmark under the left menu. You can also add your own bookmarks and read content from InterLoc and AML News. And you can access all of these just by logging into the main Web site and personalizing your page!

In a nutshell, My Mensa is really your Mensa... our Web information the way you want it.

(With the advent of My Mensa, we no longer had a need for the Click Here to Continue page, so it's a thing of the past.)

That's it for now, but there's always more to come from your Web Services team.

Romp and Circumstance -Seattle's RG Feb. 15-17, 2008

By Virginia Story

Romp, stomp, circumnavigate, and circumlocute, but never circumspect or circumvent Seattle's Regional Gathering (RG). Join us President's Day Weekend, February 15-17, 2008.

This year we return to the Best Western Executive Inn (completely non-smoking) in downtown Seattle. It is an easy one and a half blocks from the Seattle Center, Space Needle, Science Fiction Museum, and Experience Music Project. Call 1-800-351-3444 or 206-448-9444 to reserve your room. Mention Mensa to get our special room rate, good through January 17, 2008.

Registration has been frozen at \$75 and \$80 at the door. For more information and to print registration forms, go to <http://www.mensaww.org/gather.htm>

Choose from the following menu of rare and scintillating events.

Pirates of the Burning Sea. Flying Lab Software is a Seattle-based game development company, maker of the critically acclaimed *Rails Across America*. Their current project is *Pirates of the Burning Sea*, an innovative massively multiplayer online role-playing game of adventure, history, and naval combat in the age of sail.

How to Exorsize Your Computer. *Donna Prior* discusses how to keep your computer clean and free from spyware, viruses, and adware. Specially designed for non-computer literate folks. Added bonus: what you need to know about contacting tech support.

Bach to Einstein and Beyond." *Professor Vladi Chaloupka* links physics and music in a musico-logical setting. After a career in experimental elementary particle physics, he is now merging his life experience with his three passions: science, music, and human affairs. At the UW, Dr. Chaloupka is Professor of Physics, Adjunct Professor at the School of Music, and Adjunct Professor at the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies.

Pre-Banquet Piano Music will be provided by Marsha Wright (classical, of course, and probably Bach!), MWW's resident ivory tickler.

Esperanto Saluton! *Brian McCullough*, Esperanto Speaker and Expert, discusses the social climate in which Esperanto came into being, how the movement has worked to help non-Esperantists, and real-world benefits of Esperanto.

Canadian Aboriginal Women and Storywork. *Donna Hill* presents her Master's thesis, demonstrating a culturally respectful platform for some urban Aboriginal women to voice their stories about being Indigenous women living with HIV/AIDS.

Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Guide Dogs but Were Afraid to Ask!

Claire Anderson, new to MWW, talks about her experience in becoming blind and getting a guide dog. Special Guest in attendance.

Salon Emeraude Burlesque. Seattle's premier burlesque and cabaret performing group, specializes in burlesque and vaudeville traditions. More than just glitz and glamour, it is burlesque in the spirit of classic vaudeville with a modern day edge. Acts may include acrobats, aerialists, animal acts, clowns, live music, skits, comedy, and magic. **ADULTS ONLY!**

Serena McKenzie of Bastyr University. Ms McKenzie's mission as a naturopathic physician is to empower others to be fully alive. She combines clinical science with the art of medicine to deliver holistic and integrative care for the body and beyond. Her goal is to evoke life-enhancing changes that nurture extraordinary health. Bastyr University provides natural health education, research, and health care for the greater community.

Can't Get Enough Trivia? Trivial and Fun Pursuits. *Tom Brown* and *Rosann Oreilly* host three sessions of Trivia contests throughout the weekend. Topics run the gamut from dead serious to very silly, so come prepared to be challenged.

More Games. Phil Lacefield, Jr, will demonstrate new games on Friday and Saturday, and then play them with those interested. He will also discuss game design.

How I Broke the Law in Intellectual Property. *Everett Freuhling*. Everett is a local Mensan and attorney who deals primarily with trademarks, domain names, and is conversant with other Internet law issues.

Region 8 Spelling Bee. Ed Lucas will emcee the right to claim the Region 8 Spelling Bee Championship! Ed comes up with some wild and often unknown words, but it is always interesting and fun to watch. Mensa of Western Washington has had several spelling bees over the past few years, and it never fails to amuse, entertain, and certainly add to one's vocabulary!

Region 8 Texas Hold 'Em Tournament starts Friday evening at 7 p.m. You must sign up at registration to participate. At registration, you may sign up to play, and your chips, etc., will be provided at the tournament. If you wish, you may also throw \$10 in a pot (at the registration desk) and play to win the pot at the conclusion of the tournament. The pot will be divided among the top 3 winners from those who

ante up. This is separate from the tournament itself, for which no money is required. I believe a trophy will be provided.

TANSTAAFL! New Members' Lunch. Hosted by MWW and free to *registered* new members (yes, that's the hitch!) (a coupon will be in new members' registration packages). We have opened this up to all members who want to join us and meet and greet the new members, if they are willing to pay for their lunch.

TOURS include the Science Fiction Museum (Friday, February 15, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. - meet at the museum at 12:45 p.m.) led by its original director, Donna Shirley, and (Sunday, February 17, 2008, at 1:30 p.m.) an amphibious tour (“yes, land and water”) of Seattle in an old WW II landing craft. The cost of the Science Fiction tour includes the "connected" Experience Music Project (EMP), but you can do that at your own pace and time, if you do it the same day (Friday).

BOOK SALE. There will be a silent book sale to raise money for our local scholarship program on Saturday only.

We will not be having a fishbowl this year.

Contact Mary Prior with questions and to volunteer at yeomama@msn.com .

Dates to Ponder

January 4: Louis Braille Birth Anniversary
 January 4: Trivia Day
 January 5: Wyoming elects first female governor, 1925
 January 7: First balloon flight across English Channel, 1785
 January 8: National Clean Off Your Desk Day
 January 11: International Thank You Day
 January 17: First Nuclear Powered Submarine Voyage, 1955
 January 19: James Watt Birthday Anniversary 1736
 January 21: National Hugging Day
 January 29: National Puzzle Day
 February 3: 16th Amendment Ratified, creating income tax
 February 7: Chinese New Year, Year of the Rat
 February 9: AFL & CIO Merger, 1955
 February 11, Thomas Edison Birth Anniversary, 1847
 February 12: Clean Out Your Computer Files Day
 February 13: Read to Your Child Day
 February 16, Cultural Diversity Day
 February 24, Gregorian Calendar Day, changing incorrect Julian Calendar, 1582
 February 26 Grand Canyon National Park Established, 1919
 February 29, Leap Year Day

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