



October 10--

Take Your
Teddy Bear to
Work Day!
(2nd Monday in October)

Mensa Qualification Test

The qualifying test for entry into Mensa will be held on October 29, 2005 at the Delray library, 29 SE 4th Ave, at 11 AM. If interested, please call or write for all details.

Hank Colman
561-352-4154
hanor@webtv.net

Surf our Web site for current newsletter & calendar:

<http://palmbeach.us.mensa.org/>
Next Newsletter

Information due: October 15

Send your newsletter items, e-mail address changes, updates and announcements to mensa@ritchason.net

MENSA is an international society of people who score higher than 98% of the general population on a standardized IQ test. It is a not-for-profit society, has no political or religious affiliations, and functions only to bring intelligent people together. Qualification for membership is determined by a Mensa-administered test or by submission of properly certified prior evidence. Please send all inquiries to the Membership Coordinator or to American Mensa, 1229 Corporate Dr. W., Arlington, TX 76006-6103.

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Notes from the Underground by Barry Karas

October, 2005

PARTICIPATION Last Spring I invited you to participate in writing this newsletter. It should be for and by the members of Palm Beach County Mensa. We have several new members [we are one of the top two Florida chapters in recruiting new members] and some of them may be interested in writing for this newsletter. Just because I am LocSec doesn't mean your newsletter is in my private domain. The LocSec does have a column but not nearly the whole newsletter.

Please contact OUR Editor, Andy Ritchason (561-451-3934 or mensa@ritchason.net) for details.

PASSWORDS One of the most annoying things about personal computing is the requirement for these. I can accept a password requirement for a financial website or a website that has confidential information. However, I cannot accept a password requirement for a website that requires neither type of information...and there are plenty of those.

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LUCK We are very lucky that we escaped the effects from Hurricane Katrina. The eye missed us and hit Broward County where there were at least 11 deaths. Then the hurricane traveled a across the state, was energized by the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico and headed for New Orleans... Many people consider it good luck when they hit it big in Las Vegas, etc. That is luck. But when you think about it, not getting hit by a major natural or other disaster is real luck.

NATIONAL TESTING DAY ("NTD") October 25, 2005 is NTD. That is the day that many prospects take THE admission test. If there are friends/relatives who you think may score in the upper two percent of the test, please notify Hank Colman, our Proctor Coordinator, Janice Johnson in Martin County, Bobbie Kadlec in Ste. Lucie County, or me.

PET INSURANCE I do not have a pet so I don't know how important this is, but by being a PBC Mensa member you can get a 5% discount on VPI Co, Inc. pet insurance.

October—	
Fri 7	FIRST FRIDAY 7:00 pm at Payathai, NW corner of Congress Ave and Lantana Road, Lantana. RSVP Barry Karas , 561-964-4360 or bkaras@adelphia.net . Palm Beach County Mensa
Sat 8	MONTHLY PARTY AT RUBY AND JORDAN'S house in Hollywood at 7:00 pm. Games if you want them, talk is cheap and plentiful, the patio is just perfect for being outdoors under cover, the people are great, and the food (Bring A Dish) is super. \$3.00 contribution per person, members and non-members. Hostess (she's got the mostess') Ruby Allman , 954-961-7334. Broward Mensa
Tue 12	ELECTRONIC TRIVIA NORTH meets, as always, at Rickey's , 4645 Hollywood Blvd. Exit I-95 at Hollywood Blvd. and go west to 48th Ave. Park in back. We meet at 5:30 p.m. since there are some good games early, but if you can't make it early, come when you can. Enjoy pretty good food and very good trivia. Smoking where permitted. Miami Mensa
Sat 15	COVERED DISH DINNER . 8:00 am. We're not scared of ghosts and goblins and we're offering treats (not tricks) at our covered-dish dinner "witch" is at the home of Joe & Carol Lee Vitale , 3840 N.W. Third Terrace, Pompano Beach. RSVP to 954-781-7659. Pets. Smoking on the front porch or back deck. Broward Mensa
Sun 16	SUNDAY BRUNCH at La Piazza Pasta Cafe, 11:00 am. It's a new location...a five star all you can eat buffet, featuring a cold station with salads, shrimp, eggs and more; a hot station with pastas, eggs benedict and quiches; a carving station with prime rib, salmon and chicken fingers; crepes and omelets, breads and desserts. The price of \$14.95 includes orange juice, coffee, tea, Mimosas or Bloody Mary. This is sure to become a favorite with a menu like this. La Piazza Pasta Cafe is located one block west of Young Circle at 1885 Hollywood Blvd. RSVP to Micki Hawn at 954-345-1688. Broward Mensa
Sat 22	BICYCLE THE BEAR ISLAND UNIT OF BIG CYPRESS PRESERVE . This is at MM (mile marker) 79.5 on I-75 (Alligator Alley). This is a delightful ride, sometimes a little wet if it's rained recently, but always a delight. We see some alligators, perhaps wild turkey, deer, bobcat; do a little exploring. We'll meet about 9:00 AM at the entrance. Afterward, a BYO picnic lunch at the rest stop at MM 64. Nominal charge, \$5.00 per person, member or non-member. Kids over 10 welcome - if under 10, they have to be able to keep up. You can call and discuss with Jordan London , 954-961-8286. Broward Mensa
Sat 29	Mensa Qualification Test The qualifying test for entry into Mensa will be held on October 29, 2005 at the Delray library, 29 SE 4th Ave, at 11 AM. If interested, please call or write for all details. Hank Colman 561-352-4154 hanor@webtv.net Palm Beach County Mensa
November--	
Fri Sat 11-12	Big event on Grassy Key for the Micro-G. Two days of fun and party. Details available at http://palmbeach.us.mensa.org

Mensa Scholarship--

Palm Beach Mensa is participating again this year in the Mensa Education and Research Foundation Scholarship Program.

The only eligibility requirements are that the applicant be enrolled, for the academic year following the award, in a degree program in an accredited American institute of post-secondary education. For the general awards, the applicant need not be a member of Mensa. Awards are made on the basis of an essay of fewer than 550 words which describes the applicant's career, vocational or academic goal. Awards range from \$300 to \$1,000.

To apply, go to

<http://foundation.us.mensa.org/scholarships/zipfinder.php>

or send an SASE to P.O. Box 77, Palm City, FL 34991 postmarked by January 5, 2006.

New Circulation Manager--

Cheryl Gommel has volunteered to handle circulation for the PB Mensa newsletter. Thanks!! Cheryl is taking over from this position from **Joan Zieff**. Joan handled circulation for several years and we really appreciate her efforts!

From our friends in the UK--

On behalf of the Board of British Mensa I'd like to express our sympathy and support to any members of American Mensa who have been affected by Hurricane Katrina. You are in our thoughts.

Best regards,

John (Paines)

Chairman - British Mensa

The First Friday Event by Barry Karas--

10 September 2005. We met for dinner at Payathai yesterday, 9 September 2005. Note: this was the SECOND Friday, not the first when we usually have them. Attending were Lynn O'Dwyer [our previous LocSec who'll be moving to New Mexico in a few weeks], **Andy Ritchason**, **Joan Zieff**, **Dianna Loy**, **Jan Carnelli**, **Bryan Reeves**, **Matt Laskowski**, and yours' truly. As usual, the food was quite good, but the service was lacking. By this I mean it took a very long time for us to get our checks. Luckily, the atmosphere, and our discussions and banter with each other were very nice.

Member News—

Palm Beach County Mensa ended September with 333 members. We gained 10 brand new, renewing or moving into our area. Welcome or welcome back to: **Rutger Fraher**, **Ondine Fraher**, **Albert Sims**, **Ashley Sims**, **Corey Kubber**, **Michael Antori**, **Edith Niles**, **Molly Leban**, **Lindy Southwick**, and **Gregory Van Dam**. Come on out to an event (the **First Friday** is an event favorite), organize one yourself, or write an article for this newsletter.

The Tenth Story—

RVC C olumn by Maggie Truelove

I am sure that many of you have joined me in heartfelt sadness watching the horrific devastation of the Gulf Coast region of the United States, from New Orleans to Biloxi and Gulfport and Mobile. It was made personal for many of us because we had so recently enjoyed the hospitality of New Orleans for the 2005 Mensa Annual Gathering. Now we need to realize that several local Mensa groups in those areas have been severely uprooted, with many members scattered to other locations for extended periods. We may find some of them becoming part of our local groups, for whatever length of time, until they are able to return to homes and jobs which are currently not available to them. Join me in welcoming them with open arms if and when they appear.

Heather Miller, who was the chair of the aforementioned AG in New Orleans and is the new AMC Membership Officer, and her membership committee have been hard at work finding new member benefits for all of us. Within the last few days, there has been notice of no less than three. First, you can save 15% off anything you order from Edmund Scientific (www.scientificsonline.com), delighting both your inner scientific geek and your inner accountant, by including the member promotion code AE57724 when placing your order. Second, VPI pet insurance is now available to Mensans, with quite affordable health coverage for pets, as well as a 5% group discount on base policy premiums for Mensans (www.petinsurance.com/affiliates/americanmensa_npr). Third, Mentalfloss, a magazine that is proving quite appealing to many Mensans, is giving us a \$4.00 discount on the subscription rate (www.mentalfloss.com/mensa). I have been a member of Mensa for more than 20 years, and I don't remember there ever before being so many member benefits available. Heather and her committee are doing an outstanding job!

Going back to my earlier question about what Region 10 groups do to welcome new members, I received a reply from **Pat Hamilton**, Manasota's worthy Membership Coordinator. She has developed several varied letters, one for new members, one for move-ins, one for reinstating members, and so on. She uses a merge file on her computer, so each of them receives a personalized letter. For new members, she includes a "kitty coupon" worth \$3.00 for events that have a kitty. She also includes a complete membership list for each new member, suggesting that they might look through it for any members who might live nearby. Now that's an idea worth considering! Good job, Pat! She goes above and beyond as membership coordinator, and even contacts prospects, suggesting that they not only contact the proctor for testing information, but she invites them to one of the group's public events. Another great idea! Sadly, I hear that Pat is moving away and leaving Manasota's area. Hearing about the job she has done for the last several months, I think she will be leaving big shoes to fill.

I have just begun the process to set up a Region 10 website. Like most of our local group websites, it will be on the Mensa national website. Now I would like to hear from you about what you would like to see on that website. Of course we will list upcoming Regional Gatherings in the region. Of course we will include basic information about the different groups in Region 10, perhaps with a Florida map and links to the local websites. But what else should we include? Would you like a section telling of awards members from Region 10 have received? Should there be a section for poetry or artwork from members in Region 10? I want this to be OUR website, for all of our members. Tell me what you would like to see there. I really do want to hear from you!

Did you know that there are more than 750 Mensans, both from the USA and internationally, already registered for the 2006 World Gathering? Actually, I can't believe that there aren't already more than that, from right here in Region 10; how often does such a monumental event takes place close enough to home that you can drive there? This is an opportunity not to be missed - the chance to socialize with Mensans from all over, the chance to attend programs from around the world and the best of the best of programs from around the country from all the RGs we don't get to . . . I can't wait!

Speaking of the World Gathering, you undoubtedly know that the program chair, yours truly, has been lining up terrific speakers, many Mensan, some from outside. As of this writing, there are about 100 programs already on the list. But believe it or not, that doesn't come close to filling all the time slots for speakers! So if you have been thinking about it, or maybe thinking that it is too late, do get in touch with me (truluvs@cfl.rr.com or rv10@cfl.rr.com). And if you want to volunteer for ANYTHING at the WG, contact Kay Klasen, volunteer chair (volunteers@WG06.us.mensa.org). MANY volunteers are needed, in MANY areas, such as hospitality, registration, speaker shepherds, security, and even just sign up as a volunteer if you don't know where you want to help. One new type of volunteer needed is "stuffers" - the folks who will "stuff" all those goodies into goodie bags at the start of the gathering. While we are at in, we need lots of GOODIES to put into those bags, especially Florida related. Not sure about what kind of goodies? Contact me or any member of the WG committee for ideas. I think I am running on too long to list them all!!

Maggie Truelove, RVC 10

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