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[www.memphismensa.org](http://www.memphismensa.org)

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# Memphis Mensa Newsletter



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March 2006

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**Website Information**

**By Trisha Nelson**

Events:

If you are planning a Mensa event, please upload the information to the online Mensa calendar at <http://prem.calendars.net/mmensa>

The "Add Events" button is at the bottom of the calendar. Please be sure to include a contact number for each event.

To make changes/corrections to an event on the calendar, please e-mail the changes to [webmaster@memphismensa.org](mailto:webmaster@memphismensa.org).

Event Notices:

If you would like to receive an e-mail notice of upcoming events, please go to <http://memphismensa.org> and click on the flashing "Excursion Central" button at the bottom of the page. NOTE: If you are signed up to receive forum e-mail, you will automatically receive these notices through the forum.

Event Photos

If you have photographs from a Mensa event please e-mail them, along with descriptions to [webmaster@memphismensa.org](mailto:webmaster@memphismensa.org) so they can be uploaded to the website.

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**Editorial Policy**

All items for publication are subject to editing except those ordered to be printed by the ExComm, the time and date of calendar entries, and those articles designated "print as is or not at all." Editing will consist of correcting spelling and grammar, modifying for space, appropriateness and clarity, and determining if the material is in good taste.

Any submission that is edited will not have the general meaning changed unless approved by the author. If, after negotiation, the editor and the author do not both approve the text, the submission will not be published.

Articles will be selected based on the following criteria. They must:

Provide members with information they want and/or need.

Contribute to members' enjoyment of Mensa.

Represent the group's variety of interests, tastes and points of view.

Encourage communication among members.

Things to avoid:

Personal attacks, offensive material, acrimonious anonymous contributions, scolding the members, inappropriate personal information, attacks on Mensa, cliquishness and private jokes, and unexplained abbreviations or acronyms.

The Margaret A. Edwards award is the Young Adult equivalent of the Wilder Award. Established in 1988, its honorees include S.E. Hinton, Richard Peck, Robert Cormier, Lois Duncan, M.E. Kerr, Walter Dean Meyers, Cynthia Voight, Judy Blume, Gary Paulsen, Madeline L'Engle, Anne McCaffrey, Chris Crutcher, Robert Lipsyte, Paul Zindel, Nancy Garden, Ursula K. Le Guin, Francesca Lia Block, and Jacqueline Woodson. Some of the authors are as well known for their adult fiction as for their juvenile fiction.

Another YALSA award which may be useful when looking for books for gifted children is the Alex Award. This honor is given annually to "ten books written for adults that have special appeal to young adults, ages 12 through 18".

Good luck in finding all of the books that your children deserve. If your young reader loves a particular book, please recommend it to other readers. Sharing excitement about good books is an excellent way to celebrate Gifted Education Month.

To find out more about books that can help the parents and teachers of gifted children, check American Mensa's updated website, www.us.mensa.org. To reach a list of recommended books, click on "Programs", then "Gifted Children", and finally "Book List". Halstead's "Some of My Best Friends are Books: Guiding Gifted Readers from Preschool to High School" is only one of several dozen recommended books.

This month American Mensa has a special benefit for families that want to expand their libraries. Free Spirit Publishing is offering American Mensa's members a 20% discount on all purchases made through April 3, 2006. Free Spirit Publishing offers materials designed to help students thrive emotionally, socially, and academically. It began in 1984 with the publication of "The Gifted Kids' Survival Guide" by Judy Galbraith, still a favorite of teachers, students and parents. To place an order using the Mensa discount, contact Free Spirit Publishing at www.freespirit.com or 1-800-735-7323 and mention coupon/promotion code Mensa20.

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"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."

Sir Richard Steele

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## The Public Eye

By Greg Childers

Before I get started, I'd like to humbly thank all those who voted for me for ExComm in the last election. I hope that I am able to live up to your expectations, and possibly exceed them. For those who voted but not for me, I hope to give you reason to think kindly of my contributions in the future. For those who didn't vote at all, I hope that I along with the rest of the ExComm inspire you to become more involved in the following year.

Since I am the new person on the ExComm, I am still feeling my way around. Fortunately, the others have served in one capacity or another and can help me navigate through the procedural part of the job. I'm sure I'll make a few mistakes along the way, but I'm a quick learner and will build upon those experiences to (hopefully) do a better job.

With that being said, 2005 was a great year for Memphis Mensa. There was a membership jump from 234 members in 2004 to 243 members in 2005. The current count is 247, and hopefully it will keep climbing during 2006. One way to accomplish that is to make certain that everyone renews their membership. The deadline for renewing is March 31<sup>st</sup>, so make sure you send in yours ASAP. You can renew by visiting [www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org) or calling (817) 607-0060 ext. 199. Just to make sure I practice what I preach, I have already renewed for the year.

I would also like to call attention to our wonderful volunteer staff of proctors. Testing events have increased recently, due to the effort put in by this great group of folks. We had one test last month in Lexington, TN. Another test was scheduled locally but had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. A test is scheduled in Jonesboro on March 25<sup>th</sup>, and another local one is scheduled on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our proctors provide a very important service to the local group, and deserve our thanks.

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## LocSec's Corner

By Ben Burgess

Will return next month.

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## Past Newsletters

By Trisha Nelson

If you're interested in some Memphis Mensa history, most of the past newsletters going back to early 1984 are currently being added to the website at <http://memphismensa.org/newsletters.htm>

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For information about what reading grade levels mean, try "Reading Levels of Children's Books: How Can You Tell?" by Carolyn K., aka. "Mrs. Hoagie", at [http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/reading\\_levels.htm](http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/reading_levels.htm). It has links to information about many different ways to judge reading levels. For book ideas, check "Reading Lists" at [http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/reading\\_lists.htm](http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/reading_lists.htm).

There aren't many books that deal with the mismatch in age, maturity, and reading level that is faced by most young gifted readers. The best recent book is Halstead's "Some of My Best Friends are Books: Guiding Gifted Readers from Preschool to High School" (second edition, 2002, Great Potential Press, Inc.). Its recommendations about both books and their young readers make it a worthwhile addition to the library of any family with gifted children.

Many parents faced with the problem of helping their children find interesting books to read find that their best resources are parents of gifted children slightly older than their own children. These parents know what worked for their own children, and often have useful suggestions.

Experienced teachers and librarians can be excellent sources of book ideas. Booksellers who specialize in children's literature may also be helpful. Often they suggest titles from lists of award winning children's books. The most famous awards are those given by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association. These include the Newbery Medal for the "most distinguished contribution to American literature for children". Information about these awards and the award winners is available at any library, or online at <http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryawds/literaryrelated.htm>.

The Laura Ingalls Wilder Award is the ALSC honor which is often the most helpful to parents of young gifted children. Rather than honoring an individual book, the Wilder Medal is given to people whose books "have made, over a period of years, a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children". Since 1954 fifteen recipients have been honored as the top authors and illustrators in the field of children's literature. They are Laura Ingalls Wilder, Clara Ingram Judson, Ruth Sawyer, E. B. White, Beverly Cleary, Theodor S. Geisel (Dr. Seuss), Maurice Sendak, Jean Fritz, Elizabeth George Speare, Marcia Brown, Virginia Hamilton, Russell Freedman, Milton Meltzer, Eric Carle, and Laurence Yep. Their work is of high quality and readily available in libraries and bookstores.

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), another division of the American Library Association, also gives awards. They are listed online at [www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists). Parents of young readers need to remember that the award winning books were written for a teenaged audience, not younger children, and pre-read accordingly.

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**Personal Vacation Club** - Mensans can research, design and reserve vacation travel through an incredibly easy-to-use website.

**Popular Science** - Mensans can subscribe for a special rate of \$10 a year.

**VPI Pet Insurance** - The name says it all. This can help pet owners pay for their best friends treatments without taking out a second mortgage.

These aren't the only benefits. There are many short-term specials that can save you real money. Go to American Mensa's website ([www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org)) to get all the details on these and other member benefit programs. It's always a smart choice to save money.

Finally, I want to remind everyone about two the RGs that are coming up in the near future. Piedmont Area Mensa will be hosting the AMC meeting at the Carolinah RG March 24-26. Central Alabama Mensa will be holding the Owlabama RG May 5-7. Both are great parties and are real benefits of being a Mensan.

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## Good Books

By **Kathe Oliver, NJ Mensa**

March is Gifted Education Month. Very few schools celebrate it. Instead, many schools begin the month with Dr. Seuss Day on March 2, and spend the rest of the month preparing for International Children's Book Day on April 2. This is ironic, because one of the common challenges faced by young gifted children and their parents is finding suitable reading materials.

Every parent wants to avoid giving their children books that lead to reviews like this couplet written by a bored first grader:

"Reading is heeding the word of someone.  
Although the author may have been a dumb one."

Gifted children rarely read "grade level", and it is often difficult to find reading materials that are a good fit for gifted children in interest, reading ability, and level of personal maturity. Many of the topics that are appropriate when included in a book written to be read by seventeen-year-olds are not appropriate for a six-year-old with the reading ability of that average seventeen-year-old. Until gifted children reach their teens, most of their parents find that they spend hours pre-reading books to be sure that they are right for their children.

This is a daunting task, but help is available. A good place to start looking for help is on the Internet. Begin with "Guiding the Gifted Reader" (ERIC EC Digest #E481) by Judith Wynn Halstead, written for the ERIC Clearinghouse on Disabilities and Gifted Education in 1990, and now preserved on the Hoagies Gifted website at <http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/eric/e481.html>. This short article includes information on the characteristics of gifted readers.

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# Plan Ahead...

## The Owlabama Blast RG

"Cinco de Mayo"

May 5 – 7, 2006

Alta Vista Hotel

Birmingham, Alabama

Join us for the 21st annual Owlabama Blast on a new date. For this year only our RG will be the first weekend in May. With the new date comes a new theme. We will be celebrating all things Mexican. Margaritas, pinatas, salsa, and tortillas spring to our minds immediately, but there will definitely be additional surprises in store for you. We will have the usual great hospitality, great speakers, great games, great scholarship fund raisers, great "Chocolate Off", great karaoke; in short, just a really, really great time.

Register by the January 31st and save at only \$40 for a weekend of fun, hugs, laughs, conversation, and great speakers. After that the rate is \$45 until the 21st of April. The rate at the door is \$50.

We will, again, be staying at AltaVista Hotel overlooking Birmingham from the top of Red Mountain. Our room rate is \$59.99 per night, single/double/triple/quad. To reserve a room call (888) 290-8099 or (205) 290-8000, and tell them you are with Mensa.

For more information contact Mary Ambridge, 8444 6th Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35206 or email [ambridge@bellsouth.net](mailto:ambridge@bellsouth.net).

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## Prior Evidence

Know someone you think is Mensa material? During the month of April, they can send in the results of any standardized intelligence test they've taken in the past, and we'll evaluate their scores for Mensa membership for free. The usual fee is \$30.00. American Mensa accepts the results from more than 200 tests; a partial list may be found at: <http://www.us.mensa.org/testscores>. To take advantage of this offer, your friends should visit: <http://www.us.mensa.org> in April and follow the instructions on the home page. Note that in most cases, evidence must be sent directly from the testing entity to Mensa, which can require considerable time for a response. Please get started early if you plan to take advantage of this offer.

## Memphis Mensa Seeks Volunteers

By Greg Childers

There are many reasons given for joining Mensa. Some people join for the social aspect. Others join for the intellectual stimulation. Still others do it, "just for the card." Here's another reason: the opportunity to make the organization the best it can possibly be. Memphis Mensa needs you!

There are several official positions which need attention. Currently, the ExComm and other volunteers are doing an admirable job in filling these roles, but the group would be better served with as many different contributors as possible.

One position is Programs Coordinator. This person is responsible for coordinating the monthly meeting, obtaining a speaker, and moderating the event. Recently, Joe Baker performed this function but has since stepped down. Brent Milton has agreed to fill this role until a permanent replacement can be found. If you are interested in the position, please contact Brent Milton or the ExComm for details.

Another open position is Membership Officer. This person is responsible for contacting new members, keeping track of birthdays, membership anniversaries, etc. Recently, Susan Hinson performed this function but has since stepped down. Sherry Mars has agreed to fill this role until a permanent replacement can be found. If you are interested in the position, please contact the ExComm for details.

Another position which is always needed is Mensa Testing Proctor. If you are interested in becoming a proctor, contact the Proctor Coordinator, Tom Miles, or any ExComm member. Contact information is located at the front of the newsletter.

In fact, if you are interested in volunteering in any way contact the ExComm. I'm sure there are several volunteers who are already contributing who would more than welcome you to the team. As editor of the newsletter, I welcome all contributors to the newsletter. We are always looking for contributors, from the single article to the regularly published column.

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## A Chocolate Orgy - My Kind of Party

By Trisha Nelson

Events sometimes are planned after the monthly newsletter has already been sent out. This happened in February when a Valentine's Day Chocolate Orgy sprang up for those members who wanted something different from the regularly scheduled Mensa meeting, which also fell on February 14.

Early in the evening, it appeared that this was going to be a very gender-imbalanced party, with only one man (Dick Shaw) and five women present. Not wanting Dick to feel uncomfortable, I made the offer to scour the neighborhood in search of other men who liked chocolate, champagne and hugging, but Dick was a real

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## View from a Southern Porch

By Mike Seigler RVC5

Members are always telling me reasons they like being in Mensa. "The conversations are interesting." "I met my wife in Mensa." "I don't have to pretend to be stupid." are examples. Invariably though each statement is followed by a "but". "But, what do I from my membership that has real value?" (Hopefully, the guy is not saying that in front of his Mensa bride.) The following is a list of benefits that you are eligible for as a Mensa member without having to turn 50. (If this is too much like an advertisement, skip on down to the bottom. You won't hurt my feelings.)

**Alamo Car Rental** - Members receive unlimited mileage and year-round discounts.

**Association Cruise Club** - Cruise Club rewards, benefits, and savings on cruises.

**Capital for Knowledge** - Education funding and refinancing education loans.

**Choice Hotels International** - A 20 per cent discount off the regular room rate at Comfort Inns, Clarion Hotels, Econo Lodge and several other hotel chains.

**Edmund Scientifics** - Save 15 per cent on everything in their catalog.

**GEICO** - The auto insurance program offers members quality insurance.

**Hertz Rental Car** - Discounts are available on a wide variety of rental needs.

**Long-Term Care Quote** - Get online policy comparisons for long-term care from sound insurance companies.

**Marsh Affinity Group Services** - Members can save on several types of insurances including life and accident insurance.

**MBNA** - American Mensa credit cards and CD and money market accounts are available to qualified applicants.

**Mental Floss** - Members get 18 percent off the subscription price.

**MyHomeBenefits** - Provides members with a simplified moving process and group discounts on professional moving services.

**National Car Rental** - Mensans receive unlimited mileage and year-round discounts.

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### Memphis Gifted Children Program Interest Form

Visit [www.memphismensa.org](http://www.memphismensa.org) and view the calendar for upcoming events. Also check the Memphis Mensa Newsletter.

Please complete this form and either return by email to [giftedchildren@memphismensa.org](mailto:giftedchildren@memphismensa.org) or by snail mail to

Ed Raper  
8205 Shady Fern Cove  
Cordova, TN 38018

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark all of the activities you would like to participate in

- \_\_\_\_\_ Culture Quest (like a national trivial pursuit for Mensa Members)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Game Day
- \_\_\_\_\_ Movie Night
- \_\_\_\_\_ Chess Tournament
- \_\_\_\_\_ Theatre/Acting
- \_\_\_\_\_ Huntsville, AL space station daytrip
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sun Studio (making a record)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Reptile Exhibit by an area expert
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nature hike in Shelby Forrest
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tour University of Memphis Earthquake Center
- \_\_\_\_\_ Backyard Science Experiments
- \_\_\_\_\_ Chemistry and/or Physics experiments at University of Memphis
- \_\_\_\_\_ Write in your own ideas below

Have you received a special award, achievement, or honor you would like Memphis Mensa to know about?

\_\_\_\_\_

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trouper and opted to go it alone. Later arrivals included other men, so the ladies didn't all have to share Dick all night but the women still outnumbered the men almost two to one. I guess it was the lure of chocolate that caused it.

Oh, there was ever-so-much chocolate to be had! Cherry fudge, double-layer fudge, fudge pie, chocolate bars, chocolate cake, chocolate liquor, chocolate wine, chocolate truffle trifle and a huge box of chocolate candy in a heart shaped box all found it's way to the table. The entire party ended up standing around the table sampling the various goodies for most of the night.

One of the best things about hosting a Mensa party is you end up with some delicious food and an assortment of leftover liquor after the party. The Chocolate Orgy was no different. I'm still giving away (and eating) chocolate delicacies and have an unopened bottle of champagne and three cans of whipped cream in the refrigerator that I'm trying to come up with a use for.

If you would like to be notified of events that are scheduled after the newsletter publication, you can sign up to receive an e-mail notice of all events (published and unpublished). Go to the Memphis Mensa website (<http://memphismensa.org>) and click on the "Excursion Central" button at the bottom of the home page.

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### Gifted Children Event

By "Coach" Ed Raper

I am attempting to develop a routine of having our event the third Saturday of the month, beginning at 10:30AM. February's event to the Civil War Show at the Midsouth fairgrounds was canceled due to inclement weather. We exercised an option soldiers of the Civil War did not have; we stayed warm and dry in our homes rather than endure the freezing rain!

March's event (March 18<sup>th</sup>) is at the Memphis Fire Museum downtown and April's event (April 15<sup>th</sup>) is at Chucalissa Museum. I want your input for event planning beyond April. A survey has been included in this month's newsletter. This survey has been sent to all young Mensa members and now I am soliciting Mensa members with children and grandchildren, all of whom are welcome at these events, to provide me feedback to the survey. Get it to me by email, snail mail, phone, or any other means necessary! I look forward to hearing from you.

We'll meet at the Fire Museum at 10:30AM. The museum is located downtown at 118 Adams. Admission for all children with our group will be sponsored by Memphis Mensa. Adult admission is \$6. Seniors (60 and over) and military admission is \$4. Learn more information about the Memphis Fire Museum at [www.firemuseum.com](http://www.firemuseum.com). Please call me if you have any questions about this event or any future Memphis Mensa Gifted Children events.

<http://prem.calendars.net/mmensa>

# Memphis Mensa March 2006

## Weekly Events:

**Temperance** – Friday (3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>) at 5:30pm. Bennigan’s Restaurant at 5336 Poplar Ave. We usually have a table in the raised section to the right. Hope to see you there.

## Monthly Events:

Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 12:30 pm: **First Friday Lunch Bunch.** The Butcher Shop on Germantown Parkway at the Agri-center. Limited menu of hamburgers (the best in town), hot dogs, chicken sandwiches and pork chops. Everyone who shows up gets to vote on where the April lunch will be held. Call Trisha at 759-1232 for additional information.

Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm: **All Night Movie Marathon.** Bring a snack and your favorite movie or one you’ve wanted to watch (DVD or VCR). I’ll even move the big screen TV back into the living room for the night. Breakfast of scrambled eggs, bacon, toast, juice & coffee will be served Sunday morning. RSVP to Trisha at 759-1232 or trisha@ims1.net if you plan on attending.

Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm: **ExComm Meeting.** Pancho’s Restaurant, 717 N White Station Road (on Summer and White Station, at the I-40/I-240 interchange), (901) 685-5404.

Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm – 8:30pm: **Monthly Meeting.** This month’s topic is Ballroom Dance. Six dancers will be present for discussion/demonstration.

Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm: **St. Patrick’s Day Celebration.** BYOB and a munchie to share and wear something green. Soft drinks will be provided. Dick Shaw’s House, 2396 Eastwood Place (323-8520) Directions: Go to the Firehouse on E. Parkway in Overton Park. Directly across Parkway from the firehouse is Eastwood Ave, which is only one block long. Dick’s house will be on the left.

Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> 10:30pm – 12:00pm: **Gifted Children Event - Fire Museum of Memphis.** We will visit Fire House #1 downtown at 118 Adams Ave. This event is free for children. Adults are \$6. Seniors or military are \$4. For additional information about the Fire Museum of Memphis visit [www.firemuseum.com](http://www.firemuseum.com). Call GCC Ed Raper @ 508-1843 for additional event details.

Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>: **Newsletter deadline.** Email your contributions to [editor@MemphisMensa.org](mailto:editor@MemphisMensa.org) or call Greg Childers at 412-9019.

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Entry fee to Culture Quest and \$35 entertainment expense approved [5-0]. David Stowell to host 2006 event.

Brent Milton requested advertising/public relations’ budget. Approved [5-0] \$35 for advertising in U of M paper for upcoming test. Further budget discussion deferred.

Meeting adjourned 3 PM

*[Meeting minutes approved 4-1, Dave Shiffman dissenting.]*

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## Crypto Lyrics

By “Coach” Ed Raper

Solution to January’s Cryptolyric

We’re just two lost souls swimming in a fish bowl, year after year.  
—Wish You Were Here (by Pink Floyd)

This month’s Cryptolyric (followed by song title and artist)

YBCZOAGCDY SUNHXYFPYX THUB BYZDCF XFCPYHS, ZUZY MND  
UNHXYFPYX OCZ THYY UNH BAZEX.  
—— HYETBGDAUZ XUGQ — MUM BCHFYS

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## March Birthdays:

John R Halstead 3/3  
Dave Stevens 3/3  
Charlotte Jeanne Prather 3/5  
Michael Deming 3/9  
E Neville Mayfield 3/12  
David L Dunavant 3/25  
Andrew Babian 3/29  
Eric Fountain 3/29

## New Members:

Paul D Marelli

## Reinstating Members:

Charlotte Jeanne Prather  
Samuel Albert Weakley

## Members Moving In:

Kurt Ristig  
David J Loechel  
Hazel ‘Zekie’ McKenzie

## March Anniversaries:

Phillip H Slaughter 1964  
Fredric H Shapiro 1980  
Dr. Karel Saalwaechter 1981  
Virgil Anthony Homan 1986  
George N Starr 1990  
Steven W Jordan 1991  
David J Loechel 1991  
Elaine Gurkin 1999  
Joe E Baker 2000  
Melissa B Booth 2000  
Madeleine Landrum-Noe 2002  
Jeffrey P Scarpace 2004  
Dr. William Roy Crom 2005  
Ryan Hailey 2005  
Susan L Hinson 2005  
Robert Todd Milburn 2005  
Donald C Richie 2005  
Eric Schmitt 2005  
Kathryn Treneff 2005

## Memphis Mensa Strategic Planning Session Minutes

February 4, 2006  
Collierville Public Library

The meeting of the 2005 Executive Committee of Memphis Mensa convened at February 4, 2006 at 10:10 AM at the Collierville Public Library. Members present: Dave Shiffman, Brent Milton, and Sherry Mars. Also present: ExComm member-elect Greg Childers, ExComm member-elect Aimee Sufka, Ben Burgess, Marcia Denman, Susan Hinson, Trisha Nelson, David Norris, and former Mensa member Jamie Francis.

Sherry Mars acting as recorder for meeting.

David Norris presented the election results. Following a question from Susan Hinson, Brent Milton resigned from the Board. Ben Burgess was nominated and elected, 4-0 to fill the vacated spot.

2005 Board adjourned and 2006 Board reconvened.

Ben Burgess and Dave Shiffman nominated themselves as LocSec. Ben Burgess elected, 3-1, by votes of himself, Aimee Sufka, and Sherry Mars (Greg Childers abstain). Other new officers are Dave Shiffman as Assistant LocSec and Aimee Sufka as Treasurer, both 5-0. Remaining ExComm members to serve as Members at Large.

Other Officers elected/reelected include Greg Childers as Editor, Dick Shaw as Publisher, Tom Miles as Proctor Coordinator, Alan Rasmussen and Joyce Townsend as Area Coordinators, Trisha Nelson as Webmaster, Dave Stevens and Brent Milton as WebMensors, Sherry Mars as Membership Officer and Brent Milton as Program Coordinator, Advertising and Public Relations Officer All votes 5-0,

Brent Milton presented the outgoing Treasurer's report from 2005 including the quarterly bank statement and income and expense statement.

Newsletter name change discussed. Board agreed to poll general membership for input on decision to change the name, as well as for suggested names.

Discussion of need for new copier/printer for newsletter production. Committee formed consisting of Brent Milton, Greg Childers and Dave Shiffman to look into possibilities/options.

Agreed [5-0] to include external events on the Mensa calendar, providing a Mensa member contact name and number is included.

Agreed [5-0] to reimburse Tom Miles for travel expenses to/from out of town testing sites

Agreed [5-0] to not renew domain names memphismensa.com and memphismensa.net.

Agreed [5-0] to submit Tom Miles and Jennifer Thompson names for national awards. Trisha Nelson asked to do this.

*(continued on page 13)*

*(continued from page 8)*

Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> 6:00pm – 9:00pm: **FSM (Fold, Staple, Mutilate) Party** at Dick Shaw's house, 2396 Eastwood Avenue. Phone 323-8520. Directions: Go to the firehouse on East Parkway in Overton Park. Directly across the parkway from the firehouse is Eastwood Avenue, which is only one block long. Dick's house is on the left. Come help assemble the Memphis Mensa Newsletter.

Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> 7:00pm – 9:00pm: **Literary Discussion Group** At the Sufka's, 67 W. Calhoun Avenue; phone number 252-9814 (home) or 523-5051 (work). Please join us in discussing **The Tempest** by William Shakespeare. Directions to South Bluffs: From East Memphis/Cordova – Drive down Walnut Grove/Union or Poplar to Front Street. Turn left onto Front Street. Turn right onto G.E. Patterson. Go through the gate (Calhoun Avenue) and down to the fountain. Go around the fountain and drive back down Calhoun Avenue to the 2nd house on the right. Parking on the street. Please call ahead for the gate code if you plan to attend the meeting.

Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> 12:30 pm - 3:00 pm: **Jonesboro Mensa Test at Arkansas State University.** Registration starts at 12:30, and testing promptly at 1:00 p.m. Meet in the Business Building, on the campus at ASU directly across the street from the armory, on Aggie road. Parking is not a problem on Saturday. You will need to provide a photo ID and \$30.00, either cash, check, or credit card. You must be at least 14, and if less than 18, parent/guardian permission is required. We provide the form. Testing usually takes just less than two hours counting registration. Contact Joyce Townsend, 870-268-8865, nomadj72401@yahoo.com

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## Scholarship Contest Update

**By Brent Milton**

Thank You! More members volunteered to be Scholarship judges (15) than were needed at the local level. The Regional Committee or the National Committee may still need you to read applications so please volunteer if they ask for help.

We had five (5) applications for our Scholarship Contest and five volunteer judges were invited to my house on Sunday afternoon, February 4 to read the essays.

One of the judges could not make it, but each of the remaining four judges read and scored each essay. I tabulated the results and forwarded all the materials to the Regional Scholarship Chair for the next round of judging.

Because there are multiple scholarships and each applicant applied for a different "special" scholarship as well as the general scholarships, we forwarded all five scholarships to the regional competition.

The Regional judging will conclude during March and National winners will be announced by the end of June.

The Mensa Scholarship Program is one thing that we can all be proud of. If you want to know more or make a donation to the program please visit <http://merf.us.mensa.org/scholarships/>

### Outgoing Treasurer’s Report

Income/Expenses from 11/01/05 to 02/13/06

#### INCOME

|                         |        |      |
|-------------------------|--------|------|
| American Mensa          |        |      |
| 1. Full Dues            | 512.64 |      |
| 2. Second Family Member |        | 3.25 |
| 3. New Member           | 9      |      |
| 4. Reinstating Member   | 5      |      |
| 5. Corp Subscriptions   | 17.55  |      |
| 6. Newsletters Received | 0      |      |
| 7. Tests @ \$10         | 0      |      |
| 8. Tests @ \$12.50      | 175    |      |
| 9. Miscellaneous        | 0      |      |

|                             |        |  |
|-----------------------------|--------|--|
| <b>TOTAL American Mensa</b> | 722.44 |  |
| Other Inc                   | 120    |  |

**TOTAL INCOME** 842.44

#### EXPENSES

|                         |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Entertainment           | 263.09 |
| Gifted Children Program | 37.56  |
| Monthly Meeting         |        |
| Speaker’s Dinner        | 152.11 |

**TOTAL Monthly Meeting** 152.11

|               |       |
|---------------|-------|
| Newsletter    |       |
| Postage       | 43    |
| Subscriptions | 43    |
| Supplies      | 84.13 |

|                         |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| <b>TOTAL Newsletter</b> | 170.13 |
| Recruitment             | 60.98  |
| Testing Expense         | 25.09  |

**TOTAL EXPENSES** 708.96

**OVERALL TOTAL** 133.48

#### ASSETS as of 02/13/06

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| Checking Balance | 3,418.66 |
| Paypal Balance   | 76.48    |
| Postal Account   | 32       |

**TOTAL ASSETS** 3,527.14

**LIABILITES** 0

### By Brent Milton

### Hugging - Mensa Style

Many groups in our region have a friendly custom of hugging as a way of saying hello and goodbye. Women hugging men, women hugging women, men hugging women, and yes, even men hugging men.

This wonderful way of greeting came about when Huntsville members, David Mann and Cathy Funston (now Whitehead) took a lady to a New Orleans RG. The lady was very bashful and was expressing reservations about meeting a large group of people she didn’t know. David and Cathy told her that it was a Mensa tradition to hug everyone you met. At that time this “tradition” was nonexistent but they “salted” the waters with some likely folks like Marvin Grosswirth and other people they believed would give nice, friendly hugs. The lady was so enthused at the end of the RG that they decided this would be a good thing to do in Huntsville. So the Hugging Contest complete with certificates evolved and the rest is history.

The Memphis group used to hug too, but we seem to have forgotten about it. The four of us have appointed ourselves as the “Official Memphis Mensa Huggers” to try to bring back this friendly way of greeting fellow Mensans. So, don’t be surprised if we walk up to you and ask for a hug!

However, we do realize that some people are not comfortable with this practice and it is not our intention to make anyone feel uncomfortable. We’ll always ask first unless we already know it’s ok with you. If, for whatever reason, you don’t want a full-fledge hug, just hold out your hand and we’ll give your hand a mini-hug (handshake) instead. If you like the idea of hugging (either style) as a way of saying hello and/or goodbye, please pass it on to other members. Just be sure to ask them first if it’s ok.

*Thanks (and hugs) to LeAnne & Steve Porter from Birmingham for the history lesson on the evolution of hugging – Mensa style.*

Hugs from the four of us.

Marcia, Sherry, Susan (the hug lady) & Trisha

### THE LANGUAGE LIVES, BUT IT’S AILING

By J. R. Dunworth

I wish that I would never see an n. as active as a v.;  
But verbs are being crowded out, and nouns are what it’s all about.  
I gift to you, you gift to me, dialogue-ing around the tree;  
And then we’ll conference about how nouns are in and verbs are out.