

FEBRUARY 2010**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

by **A.M. Paulos, Programs Officer**

IMPORTANT INFO: We recommend that you **contact the host** prior to the event to make sure there are no last-minute changes. All events are **smoke-free** unless noted. No events will be scheduled opposite an official MWM event. All are reminded that, with the exception of official MWM events, attendance at events is at the discretion of the host. This being said, we encourage hosts to be inclusive and welcoming. In general a spouse, significant other, family member, or guest will always be welcome. **The deadline for entries is the 5th of the month before the event's month.** (For example, for events in January, the deadline is December 5.) We share our event calendar with our northern neighbors, Maryland Mensa. "(MM)" means that Maryland Mensa supplied the item. "(MWM-W)" means that the event will take place in Virginia, west of the Beltway. "(NM)" indicates a non-Mensa sponsored event. NOTE: In the event of last-minute changes to the calendar, updates may be found at the mwm_calendar Yahoo! group, http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mwm_calendar/.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

6 - 8 PM **Pizza SIG**
Joe's Pizza and Pasta, 5555 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA 22207. Share pizza, pasta, salad, subs, sodas, beer, wine, and the check. Order off the menu, or use the full buffet. No RSVP required, feel free to just show up. If no RSVPs are received by *the day before* the event, the host may or may not be present, and the event may not take place. PoC: Kevin McCall.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

12 - 2 PM **Suitland Lunch Bunch**
RSVP for location near Suitland, MD.
PoC: Paul Bethé.

6:30 - 10 PM **Games Night**
Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Rd, Potomac, MD, (240)777-6960. Take I-270 exit for Montrose west, go left on Falls Rd, PCC is on left after about 1.4 miles. Ask for "Board Games" at front desk. \$2 toward room rental. Call PCC in case of bad weather; we will meet if Center is open—even if they think all events are canceled! Non-members welcome.
PoC: Perry Farrar.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

8 - 10 PM **A Prairie Home Companion With Garrison Keillor - Live in HD**
AMC Tysons Corner 16, 7850 Tysons Corner Center, McLean, VA 22102. The program will be broadcast live from the Fitzgerald Theatre (St. Paul, MN), to theatres across the US. Don't miss this once in a lifetime event! This program is not rated but roughly PG13. Buy own tickets (\$22) at box office or online (https://www.movietickets.com/purchase.asp?perf_id=595656145). Buy early; this is the only DC area showing! We will gather first for drinks at TGI Fridays (inside the mall); look for the Mensa sign at table. PoC: Paulos (contact info inside front cover).

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

6:30 - 9 PM **First Friday Film Fun (MM)**

Charles Theatre, 1711 N Charles St, Baltimore, MD 21202. Come to the Charles Theatre, 60-year-old Baltimore icon (near Charles and Lanvale Sts), where we'll choose and watch a distinctive film with other Mensans. Afterwards, we'll go to a nearby restaurant or coffee shop and share our hopes for the year and our thoughts about what we just saw. RSVP. PoC: Mary Sherry.

6:30 - 9:30 PM **Zorba's & Plasma Propulsion**

Come to Zorba's Café (zorbascafe.com), 1612 20th St NW 20009, just north of Dupont Circle, for good dinner. Then at 7:55 PM we walk about 1 1/2 blocks to the Cosmos Club, 2170 Florida Ave NW 20008, for the free 8:15 PM meeting of the Washington Philosophical Society, with light refreshments afterwards. This week we'll hear "Plasma Propulsion for Space Exploration" by Edgar Choueiri, Director, Electric Propulsion & Plasma Dynamics Lab, Princeton University. Talk and speaker info are available at philsoc.org. WARNING - call PoC before 5PM to see if new DC parking changes will interfere! PoC: Rebecca Prather, (703)534-2274.

7 - 10 PM **Friday Night Salon**

La Madeleine Cafe and Bakery, 7607 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD 20814. Enjoy stimulating, fast-paced, ever-shifting, intense conversation and the best French country cuisine at La Madeleine, at the corner of Old Georgetown and Commerce, one block from the Bethesda

Metro stop on the Red Line. Park in the lot, on the street, or in the inexpensive public garage on Woodmont Ave. Our format: Casual conversation, segueing into Q&A. Each participant anonymously writes a question for the group, so all get to talk but nobody monopolizes the discussion. No pressure, just fun, and being on time is not required! Usually we're in the room behind the fireplace. If you get there first, sit at one of the long tables and, as people come in, they'll join you. We usually have about 15 people or fewer. This event is wheelchair-accessible! PoC: Herb Guggenheim.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

2 - 4 PM **Lunch in Sterling (MWM-W)**

Friendly's, 46200 Potomac Run Plaza, Sterling, VA 20164, (703)430-2486. Just finished training for being a judge at Odyssey of the Mind and find yourself a little hungry? Just curious to find out what all the hoopla is about? Just want to join fellow Mensans for food and conversation of all types? Join us for a late lunch and shoot the breeze with us. PoC: Jared Levine (contact info inside front cover).

5:30 - 9:30 PM **IDEAs**

Investigate where your ideas come from and how they were developed. Dinner is optional but you may not join the discussion once we've started. Introverts and new thinkers welcome. If you enjoy exploring the intellectual realm, this is for you! Reservations required: seating is limited to eight. Dinner in DC and discussion at my home. RSVP for location. No smoking. PoC: Catherine Woytowicz.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 06

7 - 10 PM **FREE SATURDAY NIGHT PARTY**

Haven't been to events lately? Come out and mingle! New, and trying to find your way around? Welcome, here's a chance to meet other Ms! We've been having great turnouts lately, so come see old friends and meet new ones. Light fare, beer, and wine available. No RSVP. PoC: A.M. Paulos. Do *not* ring or knock at the front door! Go around the back to the basement entrance instead. The back-door will be unlocked.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

1 - 4 PM **Chinese New Year Celebration**

Bring a Chinese dish, a dessert, or \$5. RSVP by Saturday for location and directions. PoC: Rose Chu.

2 - 4 PM**ExComm Meeting**

This month MWM's governing body meets at the home of Programs Officer A.M. Paulos. All MWM members are welcome. Contact LocSec Jared Levine (contact info inside front cover) to put items on the agenda. For directions, contact Paulos (contact info inside front cover). Note: Go around back for basement entrance. Do not ring front doorbell, another party resides there.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9**6 - 10 PM GenX SIG Dinner & a Movie**

Dinner@6: Old Dominion Brew-house, 1219 9th Street NW, Washington, DC 20001. Movie@8: The Warehouse, 1021 7th Street NW, Washington, DC 20001. Ready for something offbeat to relieve winter blahs? The Washington Psychronic Film Society (wpfs.org) shows independent, cutting-edge, student, experimental, anime, off-beat, underground, obscure, super-8, low-budget, classic, forgotten, must-see, and just about anything on film. Join your GenX buddies for the weekly screening at The Warehouse at 8 p.m. Dinner first at Old Dominion Brew-house at 6 p.m. Both are within two blocks of Mount Vernon/Convention Center Metro. Look for the table with a Mensa sign. PoC: Heather.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10**12 - 2 PM****Rockville Lunch Bunch**

El Mariachi, 765 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852, in the Ritchie Center, at the corner of Wootton Parkway and Rockville Pke (MD-355). RSVP by COB Tuesday to reserve your place. PoC: Jewell Golden.

6:30 - 10 PM**Games Night**

(See Feb 3rd entry for details.) Theme for tonight is "Tiger".

7:30 - 9:30 PM Chinese Restaurant Odyssey

To learn the location and reserve a place (required!), RSVP by Monday. PoC: Gail Korb or Greg Key.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11**6 - 7 PM Dinner and Drinks at Dukem**

Dukem Restaurant, 1114 U St NW, Washington, DC 20001. Dine at one of DC's premiere Ethiopian restaurants. RSVP to PoC (below) so we can reserve table space. PoC: Paulos (contact info inside front cover).

6 - 8 PM Harford County Camaraderie (MM)

Link up with northern Maryland's Mensans for dinner and friendly, thought-provoking conversation at the Grand Buffet (at the Festival, 5 Bel Air S Pkwy, Bel Air, MD 21015, (443)512-8600). No reservation needed; just ask for Mensa—the natives are friendly.

From I-95: take exit 77 onto MD Route 24 north. There is a traffic light 0.1 mile north at MD-24 and Emmorton Road; continue for 2.6 miles past it, and then turn right onto Bel Air South Parkway. Turn right off Bel Air South into the Festival shopping center (250 feet), and continue straight to a stop sign. Turn right, and you'll find the restaurant in the middle of the row of shops on the right. PoC: Barry Williams.

7:30 - 9 PM South Mountain/Western Maryland Mensa (MM)

Join Mensans from western Maryland and West Virginia, or who wish they were, at Pizza Hut (1220 W Patrick St. (US-40, just west of US-15), Frederick, MD 21703, (301) 695-0100), on the west side of Frederick. No reservation needed; just ask for Mensa — the natives are friendly. We're usually in the party room in the back, and usually order pizzas to share. Cost in the \$10 range. For more info contact Carol and Robert Martinez.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12**7 - 9 PM****Dinner and Conversation (MWM-W)**

Pacino's Ristorante, 5653 Stone Rd, Centreville, VA 20120, (703)222-5885 [pacinoristorante.com]. Brian is once again hosting an evening of conversation and nice, casual dining at Pacino's. RSVP to Brian Harrison by Thursday.

7 - 10 PM Create Your Own Valentine Card (Party)

Come to my condo in the Cherrydale section of Arlington for an evening of fun creating your own Valentine's Day Card (s). Please bring something red (to eat or drink) to share and perhaps some romantic CDs to get us all in the mood. Street parking is available (do not park in the lot or you may be towed). There is a circular drive at the entrance if you need to drop someone off. Coffee, tea, and small candy hearts with messages will be served. Some paper, ribbon and paper doilies will be available, but you may want to bring some supplies. No smoking inside. In

regard to pets, a cat has stayed there periodically, but will not be there then. RSVP for directions. PoC: Janet Roder.

7 - 10 PM**Friday Night Salon**

(See Feb 5th entry for details.)

7:30 - 11:30 PM Meeting of the Minds

Colonel Brooks' Tavern, 901 Monroe St. NE. Come check out the new home of Meeting of the Minds at Colonel Brooks' Tavern. They have a parking lot and are Metro accessible by Red Line, Brookland-CUA stop. Spend a nice evening with friends old and new, and have an interesting conversation or four. There are usually several conversations going on at once at the table, with breaks to yield discussion power to the holder of the green marble. No RSVP necessary. PoC: Jess Byron.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13**10 AM-12 PM****BLAMs Attends The Nation's Gun Show (MWM-W)**

Note change of venue. Assemble at Chick-fil-A, 4412 Chantilly Place, Chantilly, VA 20151. This month BLAMs is attending the Nation's Gun Show at the Dulles Expo in Chantilly. Meet at the Chik-fil-A next to the Holiday Inn by 10:00 AM sharp! Bring your cell phone and remember to bring Adam's number. We will probably visit a nearby watering hole and the NRA range when we're done with the show, so bring your toys. From the website: "The LARGEST Gun Show in the Metro DC Area! 1000 tables of vendors and displays. The Size of 2 football fields! Over 1 1/2 miles of Guns, Knives and Accessories!" thenationsgun-show.com and dullesexpo.com. PoC: Adam Beslove.

1 - 3 PM**Cheap Shows**

Meet Ken and JJ for a movie at a Metro-accessible theater, and a late lunch. Call Ken Kaufman or JJ Armour, Friday night or Saturday morning, for show and location.

2 - 4 PM**Parapsychology SIG**

Phone Stanley or use your ESP to reserve by preceding Thursday. PoC: Stanley Korn.

3 - 6 PM 'Cooking With David' Dinner (MWM-W) **Kid-Friendly**

Pet-free, smoke-free, kid-friendly; up to 10 people (adults or children). Ingredients selected by attendees a week in advance. Bring containers to take leftovers. Rain date Saturday the 20th. RSVP by Saturday, the 6th for head count, location, di-

reactions and ingredients. PoC: David Medinets.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

11 AM-2 PM Columbia Sunday Brunch (MM)

Celebrate Valentine's Day by brunching with Mensans in the Holiday Inn Columbia (7900 Washington Blvd [US-1 & MD-175], Jessup, MD 20794). The hotel's restaurant offers brunch buffet with made-to-order omelets and waffles; \$14 covers buffet, beverages, tax, and tip. Meet in hotel lobby at 11. For more info call Dottie Kuhlman or Cindy Zelkowitz.

11:45 - 2:45 PM Mensan Monthly Museum Migration (Inaugural)

This month we take the Highlights Tour at the Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Art (12th & Jefferson Dr. SW, Washington, DC 20439, (202)633-1000), the first Smithsonian museum devoted to the fine arts. Explore the Freer's rich and diverse collections. Learn about the museum's history and outstanding holdings of Asian and late 19th-century American art. Exceptional works from China, Japan, Korea, South and Southeast Asia, the ancient Near East, and the Islamic world are on view. The Freer also houses the world's most extensive collection of paintings, prints, and drawings by American artist James McNeill Whistler, including his famous Peacock Room. No RSVP needed, come one, come all. Free! We will gather at the info desk. Come early, tour starts promptly at noon. PoC: Paulos (contact info inside front cover).

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

7:30 - 9 PM Investment & Speculation SIG

If you're so smart, how come you aren't rich? Bring a \$1 contribution to Ben's house to learn how. RSVP. PoC: Ben Perchik.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

5 - 7 PM GenX SIG Happy Hour

Relax with people who get your jokes at The Pour House (319 Pennsylvania Ave SE (upstairs), Washington, DC 20003). \$3.75 Yuengling drafts, \$5 Stoli and Stoli flavors, \$1 off wines by the glass, and half-price bottles of wine. This comfy neighborhood hangout is popular with both staffers and locals. Look for the table with the Mensa sign. PoC: Heather.

6:30 - 8 PM Science SIG

Ballston Common Mall, Arlington, VA

22203. Meet Michael in the Food Court for dinner and to discuss the latest science news and issues. Look for a Mensa sign and a Cap-M on the table. PoC: Michael Hendrickson.

6:30 - 8:30 PM Annapolis Gourmets (MM)

Mensa's Annapolis convulsion meets for dinner ("uncomplicated but uncommonly good food") and conversation at Reynolds Tavern (7 Church Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401, [reynoldstavern.org], (410)295-9555). The oldest tavern in Annapolis (ca 1757) and one of the oldest in America, Reynolds has been beautifully restored to reflect the working nature of colonial taverns and the charm of finer dining in the 18th century. Local legend says future president George Washington was not only a regular there, but took quite a liking to Mrs. Reynolds, which led to being chased down Main Street by Mr. Reynolds! RSVP by Sunday. PoC: Emily Joyce.

6:30 - 10 PM Games Night

(See Feb 3rd entry for details.)

8 - 10 PM Gen Y Pub Quiz Night

Ireland's Four Fields, 3412 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC 20008 (Cleveland Park Metro - Red line). For those who love trivia or just want to hang out for a while, come join other 20-Something Mensans for a Pub Quiz night! Guests are welcome! Hope to see you there! RSVP to PoC for headcount/table size. PoC: Allison.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

6:30 - 9:30 PM Zorba's and Hybrid Vehicles

(See Feb 5th entry for details.) Tonight's speaker will be David Howell of the U.S. Department of Energy, talking on battery research and hybrid vehicles. The talk, abstract, and info. on the speaker should be available at philsoc.org/.

7 - 10 PM Friday Night Salon

(See Feb 5th entry for details.)

7:30 - 9 PM Maryland Mensa Monthly Meeting (MM)

Our northern neighbors meet each month on the near side of Baltimore. You're invited to join them at the Stillmeadow Church (5110 Frederick Ave, Baltimore, MD 21229) near Catonsville, 1.2 miles inside the Baltimore beltway (I-695 exit 13, east toward Irvington, on the left-hand side). Maryland Mensa's own Dan Shawan will be February's speaker, and

will talk about "Life after the Singularity". For a quick sense of his subject, see ted.com/talks/jeff_hawkins_on_how-brain_science_will_change_computing.html. Dan is a former telecommunications engineer who started in communications satellite research and development. After later working on a team in the 2005 DARPA Grand Challenge (which Dan described to us in March, 2006), he became passionate about AI. Come and share his passion.

PoC: Casey Costley.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

12 - 2 PM Lunch at Faang Thai (MWM-W)

We'll meet at Faang Thai Restaurant & Bar (251 W Lee Hwy, Warrenton, VA 20186 #177) in the shopping center behind Borders Books, and across the side street from the Warrenton Safeway on Business 29. RSVP to Karen Caron by Friday for headcount.

1 - 3 PM Mature Mensans (MM)

Mature Mensans of any age, but particularly those already enjoying or eligible for retirement, are invited to compare notes over lunch at Monaghan's Pub (2121 Gwynn Oak Ave, Woodlawn, MD 21207 (410)944-3311).

Directions: I-695 exit 17 (Security Blvd, east towards Woodlawn). Continue on Security for ~ 1.5 miles. Turn left onto Gwynn Oak and proceed for 0.7 of a mile. The pub and its parking lot are on the right-hand side. No reservations.

1 - 10 PM NoVa Board Games

Monthly gaming group alternating between two homes, open to non-Mensans, and going to late evening. We mostly play board, "train", word, family, or party games. We usually have 8 to 15 people, not fiercely competitive, who will teach you, and will even help you during play if wanted. No charge, and come and go as you please. Bring snacks only if you want; we usually order pizza around 6:00. If interested, please e-mail me at my work e-mail, as I don't check my personal e-mail every day. PoC: Karen Williams.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

6 - 8 PM Gourmetsans

Meaza Ethiopian Restaurant, 5700 Columbia Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041 (near the huge Borders). An excellent restaurant with a wide variety of Ethiopian food. Reservations strongly recom-

mended. New or prospective members, and visitors, always welcome. PoC: Paul or Nancy Vogel.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

6 - 7 PM **Bard in the Dark**

Lansburgh Theatre, 450 7th St NW, Washington, DC 20004. You've heard of the Bard in the Park, well here he is in the dark. Synetic Theater explores one of Shakespeare's last great tragedies with their haunting "art of silence." Using a thrilling blend of music, movement, and dance, Synetic Theater will lay bare the heart of this doomed and legendary affair. Antony and Cleopatra will star eight-time Helen Hayes Award winner and resident choreographer, Irina Tsikurishvili, in the title role. RSVP to Paulos (contact info inside front cover) by 2/12 for group rate.

6:30 - 10 PM Games Night
(See Feb 3rd entry for details.)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

6 - 7:45 PM **GenX Pre-trivial Dinner**

Join us as we dine at Matchbox (521 8th St SE, Washington, DC 20003) before we go to trivia (see 8 p.m. entry). RSVP to Heather so we can reserve a table.

8 - 9 PM **GenX Trivia Night**

Wisdom, 1432 Pennsylvania Ave. SE (1/2 block from Potomac Avenue Metro). The Mensa trivia team reigned in November! The battle for supremacy is ongoing, however. Cost to play is free; prizes for the top two teams and the worst team, plus drink specials. If you like, you also can join us for dinner at Matchbox (see 6 p.m. entry) PoC: Heather, or visit one of the GenX Mensans Facebook groups.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

7 - 10 PM Friday Night Salon
(See Feb 5th entry for details.)

7 - 10 PM **DC Happy Hour**

Forget your troubles and come to the Friday Night Happy Hour at Zorba's Café (zorbascafe.com, 1612 20th St NW, Washington, DC 20009), just north of Dupont Circle. Zorba's was rated as the best Greek restaurant in the DC area by the City Paper. Parking difficult, but the Metro is less than a block away. PoC: Stefan Patejak.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

11:45 AM-2 PM **Mensan Monthly Museum Migration (Inaugural)**

See February 14th entry; only the date and time are different.

5 - 7 PM **Dinner at Dulles (MWM-W)**

Join some of your fellow Mensans for tasty food and good conversation at the Cheesecake Factory (Dulles Town Center, 21076 Dulles Town Circle, Sterling, VA 20166, (703)444-9002). No frills, just good eats and good peeps. PoC: Jared Levine (contact info inside front cover).

7 - 10 PM **Listeners of Classical Music**

Join the Listeners of Classical Music for quiet conversation, a friendly atmosphere, snacks & pizza to share, and classical music. This month's theme is "Music of the Mountains". Bring records or CDs to share. BYOB. No donations, but bring a few dollars for optional pizza. LCM is located in Falls Church near Hwy 50 and the Beltway in Virginia. Call or email Ken Zabielski for exact location.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

2 - 5 PM **New Members Open House**

Are you a new member of Metropolitan Washington Mensa? We want to welcome you! Many new members are mystified when they see all the events in our calendar, and don't know which to attend first. We suggest that the New Members Open House (NMOH) is a good place to begin. NMOH is the closest we have to a monthly general meeting, so you'll see many long-time members, as well as a small group of new ones. It is a casual activity, featuring light food, soft drinks, beer, and wine. There's no agenda; just come, chat, and socialize with other Mensans. It's easy, casual, fun, and FREE! PoC: This month's NMOH will be held at the home of Janet Roder. On street parking is available (do not park in the lot or you may be towed). No smoking inside. No pets will be in attendance, but a cat has stayed there occasionally.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

SUNDAY, MARCH 07

5 - 7 PM **ExComm Meeting**

In March, MWM's governing body meets at the home of Jared Levine, our Local Secretary. All MWM members are welcome. Contact Jared (contact info inside front cover) to put items on the agenda. Directions will be in March's Cap-M, or contact Jared.

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

2 - 4 PM **ExComm Meeting**

In April, MWM's governing body meets at the home of Ken Pratt, our Scrivener. All MWM members are welcome. Email

LocSec Jared Levine (contact info inside front cover) to put items on the agenda. Directions will be in April's Cap-M, or contact Ken (contact info inside front cover).

FRI, APRIL 30 – SUN, MAY 2

Friday eve - Sunday morn **MWM RG**

Join Metropolitan Washington Mensa for its biggest event of the year — our MATRIX 2 — "Piratical Sabbatical" Regional Gathering! The action takes place at the Holiday Inn Gaithersburg, 2 Montgomery Village Ave., Gaithersburg, MD. It features more than thirty programs (including two pool parties), a banquet (included in the price of registration), as well as 'round-the-clock hospitality and games. This is one event you won't want to miss! To find out more and to register, see the form on the opposite page, go to our Web site mwmrg.org, or contact RG Chair Herb Guggenheim. Remember: Pirates rock!