

PlainsPeaking



The Newsletter of Plains and Peaks Mensa, Southern Colorado

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December 2007

MERF College Scholarship Essay Contest

“The Mensa Education & Research Foundation college scholarship program is unique in that its awards are based totally on essays written by the applicants. There is no requirement for applicants to be Mensa members nor is consideration given to grades, academic program, or financial need.” (From the MERF Web page at <http://merf.us.mensa.org>)

What could be simpler than writing an essay describing your goals and filling out a very simple application? And the applicant re-

quirements couldn't be simpler, either: The applicant must be a citizen or permanent resident of the US who resides in a participating local group's area; the applicant must be enrolled in a degree program in an accredited institution of higher learning during the academic year following the application date; and lastly, the applicant must submit an application and essay of not more than 550 words explaining their academic and/or vocational goals.

So, if you're in a degree program or

about to enter one, check out the MERF Essay Contest. There will be at least one prize of approximately \$300 given out for our local area, along with the potential of winning up to \$1000 at the national level. And remember, you don't have to be in Mensa to participate, so if you have a friend or relative who would qualify, direct them to the MERF web-site for the complete rules and application, or have them contact Sandy Halby, 528-5483, mandshalby@adelphia.net.

Welcome and Farewell

WELCOME:

A Stephen Herzog, who moved here from Georgia. Welcome to Plains & Peaks Mensa!
Patrick Harlan, a new Mensan. Welcome to Mensa!

WELCOME BACK:

Susan Paul, who is rejoining our group.

FAREWELL:

Heather Preston, our past PlainsPeaking newsletter editor, who moved to Washington. Good luck to you, Heather – and we'll see you in July 2008 at the Denver AG!!

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Holidays and Gifting Your Favorite Loved One

Virginia Story

Give your favorite loved one (including yourself!) the gift of companionship, intellectual stimulation, and great food. Give the gift of Seattle's 2008 Regional Gathering (RG), Romp and Circumstance. On President's Day Weekend, February 15-17, 2008, join all of your favorite loved ones at Mensa of Western Washington's RG in Seattle.

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. Remember to mention Mensa to get our special room rate, good through January 17, 2008.

Find something for everyone:

- ◆ Including a FREE LUNCH (with coupon) for new members since September 2005.
- ◆ Play games in the nonstop Game Room, a Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament (Velma Jeremiah won in Portland and is co-chairing with John Recht), Darts for (Scholarship) Dollars, and Trivia.
- ◆ Listen to a speaker from Flying Lab Software, an Internet Game Development Company, that is beta testing "Pirates of the Burning Sea" a historically based 15th century international video game".
- ◆ Graze through never ending Hospitality.
- ◆ Feast at the Saturday Night Banquet with a choice of prime rib, chicken Florentine, salmon filet, or vegetarian stir fry. Then listen to Irish Music and watch Tempest Burlesque.
- ◆ Breakfast at the Sunday Brunch Buffet on scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, ham, eggs benedict, crepe wrapped chicken, salmon, bagels, Belgian waffles, and fruit. While eating, listen to a speaker from the National Space Society.

Other events include "How I broke the law in intellectual property", a UW Professor weaving Physics and Math together, a presentation on health care by a speaker from Bastyr University, a Wiccan pastor, someone from Public Access cable TV, and a computer lab for low-techies. Interested in something unique to our RG? Walk over to the Science Fiction Museum at the Seattle Center and tour with our very own Donna Shirley, its original direc-

tor. When you have had enough Science Fiction, ask Donna about the Mars Pathfinder rover team which built the 23-pound, six-wheeled robotic explorer Sojourner, as well as the story of the Mars Global Surveyor team.

If this is your first RG, come to meet new friends and enjoy out of the ordinary experiences. If this is your nth RG, spend time with old friends and make new ones. If you are an RG Junkie like many of us, well, there isn't anything else I can say, except "Romp On!"

Registration is \$75 by December 31, \$90 by January 31, and \$100 at the door. Contact Mary Prior with questions and to volunteer at yeomama@msn.com .

For more information and to print registration materials, go to: <http://www.mensaww.org/gather.htm>

PS Did someone say Book Sale?

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Mensa of Western Washington presents its 2008 Regional Gathering (RG)
Registration Form

EveRGreen 2008: Romp and Circumstance ~ February 15-17, 2008

Name: _____ Name for Badge _____
 Address: _____ Apt. _____ Country _____
 City: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 E-mail: _____ Phone: (____) _____

We have been invited back to the **Best Western Executive Inn** (1.5 blocks from the Science Fiction Museum/EMP/Seattle Center) at 200 Taylor Avenue North, Seattle, Washington 98109-5016. Washington State is now a completely non-smoking state in all public facilities, and the hotel is a non-smoking hotel.

Room Rates:

- 85.00 Single/Double plus tax and \$5/day parking
- 105.00 Triple/Quad plus tax and \$5/day parking

Group rate is guaranteed until January 17, 2008. **Must call direct to 1-800-351-9444 or 206-448-9444 to make reservations at the group rate. Specify MENSA of Western Washington Room Rate.**

- ☺ Tour the Science Fiction Museum with its original director, Donna Shirley, and do the Experience Music Project (EMP) on your own – at no additional cost.
- ☺ Romp with Mensa of Western Washington Track
- ☺ Political & Circumstance Track: Get rid of your frustration with politicians at our "darts for scholarships" competition
- ☺ Friday Night Fish Bowl

Registration:

Early Bird \$55
by Aug. 31, 2007

- Sept. 1-Oct. 31 \$65
- Nov.-Dec. \$75
- January 1-31. \$90
- February 2008 and at the door \$100**

Tours:

- Science Fiction Museum & EMP \$ _____ \$13.50 each ticket (group rate) Friday @ 1pm
- Ride the Ducks (amphibious tour) \$ _____ \$22.60 (enclosed in Winter-but still bring a jacket) Sunday at 1:30 pm

Meal Information & Selections:

- Sat. New Member Lunch: \$17.50 (free to new Mensa members with coupon) (since Sept. 2005)¹**
 – Buffet Lunch: Finger sandwiches, Casar Salad, Chicken Drumettes, Swedish Meatballs. Dine and get acquainted with LocSecs, our RVC, and other notable and active Mensans you may have read about in the ToteMs.
- Sat. Banquet:**
 - \$33 Prime Rib-Slow roasted prime rib of beef w/garlic mashed potatoes/rosemary jus lie
 - \$24 Chicken Florentine-oven roasted, filled with wilted spinach leaves, braised asparagus, and smoked gouda cheese with classic Momay sauce
 - \$25 Sake Seared Salmon Filet -spiked and iron seared, with baby bok choy, red pepper soy and Asian sticky rice
 - \$24 Vegetarian Stir Fry
 - \$24 Other: Please specify dietary restrictions _____
- \$24 Sunday Brunch Buffet:** Fluffy scrambled eggs, bacon strips, sausage links and sliced ham, eggs benedict, crepe wrapped chicken, smoked salmon with bagels and cream cheese, and Belgian style waffles, fruit juice, fruit tray, roasted red baby potatoes

I want the following (see boxes checked above):

New Member Lunch	\$ _____	If you are not a new member, feel free to join us, but it will cost you..
Saturday Banquet:	\$ _____	Make Checks Payable to EveRGreen RG
Sunday Brunch:	\$ _____	
Registration Fee	\$ _____	Mail Checks and Registration to:
Tours	\$ _____	
TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$ _____	Mensa – EveRGreen RG 2008 4051 Gilman Ave. W., Suite 306 Seattle, WA 98199-1537

Please type or print clearly and fill out one registration form for each person attending.

¹ Courtesy of Mensa of Western Washington – Your local host group!

December/January Calendar

Wednesday, Jan 9th, 6:30 pm: January ExComm Meeting and Dinner. The January ExComm Meeting and Dinner will be at Brooklyn Italian Kitchen and Bakery, at 1371 North Academy Blvd (in the strip mall between Palmer Park and San Miguel). For a quick preview, visit the CS Indy article at <http://www.csindy.com/gyrobase/Content?oid=oid%3A22111>

Saturday, Jan 12th, 6:30 pm: Main Monthly Meeting - Games Night! We're meeting at Sandy's house for a bit of nosh, a bit of wine (or soda or beer), and a bit of fun playing games! We've got a variety of games - lots of different word games and, since we're movie buffs - Scene It?® ! Or - bring your old favorite or a new one - we'll try it out! Sandy's house is at 6066 Del Rey Drive (near Flintridge and Dublin), 528-5483 or e-mail mandshalby@comcast.net for directions. Allergy alert - dogs and cats.

Tuesday, Jan 15th, 6:00 pm: Trivia at Bennigan's! Join us at 3502 N. Academy for a few brisk games of trivia, a drink or two, and something to nosh on!

Thursday, Jan 17th, 8:00 pm: RSVP for Poker Night. Call Dave & Jen at 442-6451 to RSVP for Poker Night!

Saturday, Jan 19th, 6:00 pm: Poker Night. Dave & Jen will host a Just-for-fun nickel-dime-quarter poker game at their house. Beginners are welcome. Snacks and diet sodas will be provided. Bring your own drinks if you want something else. Allergy alert - friendly cats.

Sunday, Jan 20th, 1:00 pm: Scrabble®! Meet at Sandy's house, 6066 Del Rey Drive (near Flintridge and Dublin, call 528-5483 or email mandshalby@comcast.net for directions) for an afternoon of Scrabble®. Sodas, wine and snacks provided. If you have a Scrabble® game, please bring it with you!! Allergy alert - cats and dogs!

Wednesday, Jan 24th, 8:00 pm: Reservations for Ultimate Saturday Supper!! Call Al at 635-4910 to confirm a spot at the table at Famous Dave's Barbeque on Saturday!

Saturday, Jan 26th, 6:30 pm: Ultimate Saturday Supper at Famous Dave's Barbeque. Let's get sauced! Barbeque sauced, that is ... at Famous Dave's Barbeque, 8330 Razorback Road (just off of North Academy Blvd and High 83). Some say this is the best barbeque food in town since Tony Roma's shut down. For a peak at the menu, visit www.famousdaves.com.

Advance Notice: Thursday, February 7th, 6:30 pm: February ExComm Meeting and Dinner. The February Ex-

Comm Meeting and Dinner will be at Kura Japanese Restaurant, 3478B Research Parkway (at Union and Research).

If you'd like e-mail reminders of upcoming Plains & Peaks Mensa events, please contact Sandy at mandshalby@comcast.net. Sandy sends out e-mail reminders a couple of days before a Plains & Peaks Mensa event (when she remembers). She uses bcc: so your e-dress says private.

December/January Birthdays

December

Genai R Odhner	Dec 2
Karen Jo Anne Park	Dec 4
David Cunningham	Dec 5
Marc Lyons	Dec 5
Jeffrey Jensen	Dec 7
Kevin M Powers	Dec 7
Jack Israel	Dec 13
Nolin Renfrow	Dec 16
Roberta C Ackerson	Dec 19
Susan Creager	Dec 27
Wetzel B Howard	Dec 30

January

Elizabeth A Steinweg	Jan 2
Diana Carlson	Jan 3
Windy Haddad	Jan 3
Boyd Rodman	Jan 9
A Stephen Herzog	Jan 10
Stephen Pease	Jan 17
Jennifer R Owens	Jan 27
Robert Dillon	Jan 29

NOTE: If you don't see your birthday posted here, it's probably because that information (and perhaps more) is marked "non-releasable" on our rosters. If you'd like to check on your personal information release status, please contact American Mensa (1-800-66-MENSA) or go to www.us.mensa.org and under Member resources, select the PDQ section.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 6:30 PM Ex-Comm Mtg & Dinner	10	11	12 6:30 PM Games Night
13	14	15 6:00 PM Trivia@ Benningan's	16	17 RSVP for Poker	18	19 6:00 PM Poker Night
20 1:00 PM Scrabble®	21	22	23	24 8:00 pm RSVP For Ultimate Supper	25	26 6:30 PM Ultimate Saturday Supper @ Famous Dave's
27	28	29	30	31		

Questions That Haunt Me

- ❖ Can you cry under water?
- ❖ Why is "bra" singular and "panties" plural?
- ❖ How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?
- ❖ If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a song about him?
- ❖ Why do you have to "put your two cents in" but it's only a "penny for your thoughts"? Where's that extra penny going to?
- ❖ If the professor on Gilligan's Island can make a radio out of a coconut, why can't he fix a hole in a boat?
- ❖ Why does a round pizza come in a square box?
- ❖ Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?
- ❖ What disease did cured ham actually have?
- ❖ Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? They're both dogs!
- ❖ How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?
- ❖ If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?
- ❖ Why is it that people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake up like every two hours?
- ❖ If electricity comes from electrons, does morality come from morons?
- ❖ If a deaf person has goes to court, is it still called a hearing?
- ❖ Do the Alphabet song and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star have the same tune?
- ❖ Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?
- ❖ Why did you just try singing the two songs above?
- ❖ Why do doctors leave the room while you change? They're going to see you naked anyway.

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