

CHINOOK

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The Newsletter of Columbia River Mensa

May/June 2006

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

BI-MONTHLY CHINOOK: In line with dropping some tasks and having a neater house, the Chinook will be cut back to bi-monthly. It is a little tricky to plan ahead, so if you know of any events we should consider, or avoid, (or something entirely different!) please contact locsec. The May/June edition will be sent out again in June, reminders as usual or more often. And on that note, Webmaster Reese Femreite is cutting back entirely, and Rodney Savard will take over—THANKS ROD!. If you can help too, please contact locsec. We owe a lot of THANKS TO REESE for creating our website! Thanks, thanks, thanks, thanks, thanks, thanks, thanks, thanks, thanks, THANKS TO YOU REESE !!!!!!! 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷

UPCOMING TEST: Admission testing is planned May 13th in Yakima, 1:30 12 South 8th St. (far right, side entrance). See Maps, web site. \$30 (check or money order preferred) and picture ID required. Email testing@crm.us.mensa.org for other details, or if you are under 18.

MAY ACTIVITIES

YAKIMA AFTER-TEST BAR GROUP: May 13th, 4:30, The Barrelhouse. Take Yakima Ave. to 1st street, turn right. Drive a block or two, it will be on your left. At Mel's Diner, you have gone too far. Look for proctor (Mark) with prematurely grey hair and beard. Contact: Mark 851-4668.

MONTHLY DINNER MEETING: MONTHLY DINNER MEETING: May 27th, 6:00 pm, Tri-Teriyaki, 5436 W. Van Giesen Rd, West Richland. Delicious Chinese and Korean food, great tempura. Contact locsec, 946-8309.

JUNE ACTIVITIES


ELLENSBURG - FIRST SATURDAY, June 2nd, no-host brunch, 11:00 a.m. at The Matterhorn, 101 Umptanum Road, Ellensburg 509-925-7200. Take Exit 109 [Canyon Road] off of I-90, drive North to the first traffic light and turn West (left). The Matterhorn is on the Northwest corner of Canyon and Umptanum.) 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. From the new Co-coordinators, Alix Drake-Williams and George Drake. Contact: EasternCascadesArea@crm.us.mensa.org Regarding share rides: locsec@crm.us.mensa.org. We were 9 for May and the topics were numerous and interesting!


MONTHLY DINNER MEETING: June 24th, 6:00 pm, Heritage Inn, Highway 97 & Buster Rd., Toppenish, WA. Great Native American and other food. Contact locsec@crm.us.mensa.org 946-8309.
DIRECTIONS -- Yakama Nation Cultural Heritage Center: From I-82 take #50 exit, follow signs to

Toppenish and Highway 97. Go through Toppenish. At Highway 97 turn right (north), go about a mile, look for signs to Yakama Cultural Heritage Ctr. and follow them. It is on the left side of 97, a tall brown shingled building. There is a Yakama Nation RV Park next to it. (You can also take Buster Rd from 220, just west of Legends Casino, to the Cultural Center, at 100 Spiel-Yi Loop.) Link to map: http://maps.yahoo.com/maps_result?addr=Hiway+97+%26+Buster+Road&csz=Toppenish%2C+WA&country=us&new=1&name=&qty

ELLENSBURG FIRST SATURDAY: JULY 1st, 11:00 am, The Matterhorn, 101 Umptanum Road, Ellensburg. (See above for contacts, directions.)

LOOK for continuing **First Saturday Brunch in Ellensburg**, and **Fourth Saturday dinner meetings around Tri-Cities or in between.** 

Projected for **July, on the fourth Saturday (7/22)**, dinner at Cedars in Kennewick. 

Projected for **first weekend in August: Ellensburg Brunch Saturday 8/6 at 11am.** Personal sight seeing in area (or as brunch group decides). **Saturday evening, attend Vue Dale Drive-In in Wenatchee**, either eating in town or at the Drive-In, for dinner. AAA says it is "painstakingly preserved, boasting by far the best canned '50's music you'll hear anywhere".....Contact locsec re lists for share rides, camping, sharing rooms, or if you can be an alternative host, as summer is a bit unpredictable. Yellow balloons are available, or identifying banner of your choice. 

DON'T THROW ANYTHING AWAY!!! Along this line, we are contemplating a garage sale soon. A friend has a friend running dental clinics in Africa (www.teethsavers.org). Whenever they have a book that they can give to a child, the children are thrilled with this gift. The plan is to advertise the garage sale, asking for payment in books. These would be sent to the dental clinic to give to these children. If we have to accept come cash, we can use that for postage for the books, or if enough, donate to another Mensa group's scholar-ship drive. Bring your old or unused stuff to locsec, 2148 Hoxie, Richland, or call for pickup, 946-8309. **Or better yet, bring it to an event!**

MONTHLY SPEAKER MEETING--If you know of someone who would make another interesting speaker or presenter at one of our meetings, contact locsec@crm.us.mensa.org.

PARENT'S ALERT: There are quite a few of you who are parents. Some of us non-parents have tried setting up activities planned for your families, but the idea has not really taken root or been given a chance. A suggestion: any of you who would like to see such events occur more often, or regularly, (say every 3rd Sunday, or whatever) help set up a rotation of parents who would sponsor such an activity now and then. If you would like to see this happen, contact locsec@crm.us.mensa.org.

Mind Games - One hundred ninety-eight Mensans gathered in Portland in April for Mind Games 2006. During the three-day event, members played and rated 62 board and card games. The top five games have earned Mensa Select distinction and may use the Mensa Select seal on their games.

The winners are: Deflexion by Deflexion (www.deflexion.biz)

Hive by Smart Zone (www.smartzonegames.com)

Keesdrow by Pywacket (www.pywacketgames.com)

Pentago by Pentago (www.pentago.com)

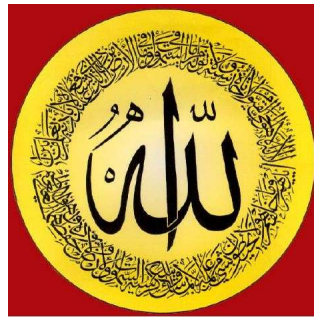
Wits & Wagers by North Star Games (www.northstargames.com)

Mind Games 2007 will be held April 20-22 in Pittsburgh, PA. To register, visit www.mindgames.us.mensa.org.

Battelle Video Club: Adult and student video producers have submitted videos for the Columbia Basin Video Festival. The Battelle Video Club would like you to participate by voting for the “Best of Show” on June 17, 2006. Please visit our website for a movie schedule in June at: <http://bsa.pnl.gov/video/upcoming.html>. Admission is free.



CLASS ABOUT ISLAM: This isn't a Mensa activity, but pertains to a subject that requires intelligent thought from somebody. The Shalom United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Church are presenting a class about Islam, on May 7, 21st, June 4th, 18th, (1st & 3rd Sundays) from 4 to 6 pm, at 505 McMurray Blvd in Richland. Activities of this sort could be a basis for an improved understanding between different cultures, which might help to eventually defuse the current tension. See flyer below.



The ABC's of Islam

Stories involving Islam and Muslims fill the news these days, but they do little to inform us about the faith tradition of one-quarter of the world's people. Community Unitarian Universalist Church (CUUC) and Shalom United Church of Christ are offering a series of classes to help fill this knowledge gap in our community. Join with us to explore the ideas, personalities, and historical events we all need to know about in order to have a meaningful conversation about Islam.

- ✓ Who was the prophet Muhammad, and how did his religious mission begin?
- ✓ What do Muslims believe about their sacred scripture, the Qur'an?
- ✓ How is this book like - or unlike - the Bible?
- ✓ Do Muslims worship the same God as Christians and Jews?
- ✓ What does Islam teach about Jesus, Moses, Abraham?
- ✓ Besides the Qur'an, what other books do Muslims read for guidance?
- ✓ What are the important differences between Sunni and Shi'i Islam?
- ✓ Should we be afraid of Muslims?
- ✓ Are there really any moderate ones in the world?

These are just some of the questions we will consider. The most important questions will be the ones you bring to share!

The classes will be held at Shalom United Church of Christ (505 McMurray, Richland, WA) from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm on May 7, May 21, June 4 and June 18. Contact CUUC office at 946-3242 if you have questions regarding the classes.

About the presenters

CUUC's minister, The Rev. Craig Moro is a graduate of the University of Chicago and Starr King School for the Ministry. He has studied music, language, and religious expression in India and Thailand. Rev. Moro developed an

abiding interest in Islam during the worldwide controversy over the publication of Salman Rushdie's novel, The Satanic Verses. This led him to an intensive study of Arabic and the core texts of Islam. He has taught courses on Islam at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley and Illinois Wesleyan University, and at many churches in California, Illinois, and the Pacific Northwest. He was ordained as a Unitarian Universalist minister in 1985.

The Rev. Stephen Eriksen--M.Div., Earlham School of Religion MATS, United Theological Seminary, is the minister of Shalom United Church of Christ in Richland.

The Rev. James Dyson-- M.Div., Christian Theological Seminary D.Min., San Francisco Theological Seminary. Jim was for many years the pastor of the Northwest United Protestant Church.

Northwest Passages

RVC Column for May Newsletters in Region 8



This week the April-May issue of the *Mensa Bulletin* graced my mailbox, and article by article, photo by photo, I was enchanted. I love to travel, and next to going myself, I enjoy reading about the adventures that are to be found yonder. Fortunately for me, I have had ample opportunity to travel in recent years, so I do not feel deprived in the least.

Still, it was slightly weird for me when, earlier today, I wished bon voyage to my 13-year-old daughter Marissa, who is on her way to London for a week-long acting workshop. Josie, my elder daughter (and Oregon Mensa member), is living in Japan for two years while she teaches English to middle school children. So how is it that they have become world travelers and I have scarcely left the States? Yes, I'm a little jealous, but I am also really happy for them. What's more, I'll be making my own voyage later this year, as I'll describe in just a bit.

Although it is true that I have limited travel experience outside the U.S., I have had plenty of adventures over the years as I criss-crossed the continent of my birth. I always loved to explore, and I found Jack Kerouac's On the Road to be both a revelation and an inspiration. One small anecdote: my companion and I were driving back from Alaska in my Chevy Vega in late July, 1972, and after midnight, somewhere around Fort Nelson, B.C., as we drove along we saw shimmering green and yellow curtains, streaks, and pinwheels filling the sky overhead. Filled with wonder at the sight, we pulled over to the side of the road and watched the show, which got even better when, suddenly, the color palette broadened into a full spectrum. During the hour that we sat there, two cars came by, and each time they stopped and asked us if we were okay. We said, enthusiastically, yes, and look up there! They merely glanced up at the spectacular aurora, said something polite, and drove away shaking their heads. I guess even the most glorious sights can lose their luster when you see them every day.

Happily for me, my travel plans this year feature two very exciting destinations, including the World Gathering (WG) in Orlando, FL, on August 8-13, and the British Mensa Annual Gathering (AG) on September 28-October 2. Yes, I will finally get to cross an ocean! But first, I am looking forward to celebrating Mensa's Diamond Anniversary at the WG, with more than 2,000 of my fellow Mensans from all over the world. This will truly be a once-in-a-lifetime event, and it is not to be missed if at all possible. I strongly encourage you to visit the WG Web site at www.wg06.us.mensa.org, and register now, if you have not already done so.

A month after the WG, I will make my first ever trip to England, and once again I will have the chance to celebrate Mensa's Diamond Anniversary, this time at the British Mensa AG. My beloved Linda and I are planning to trot around Derbyshire before we descend upon Nottingham for Mensa's birthday weekend. To find out about the British Mensa AG, visit www.mensa.org.uk/diamond. When we come back from England, I will race back across the U.S to Albany, NY, for Colloquium 2006: Revolution in Cosmology, on October 6-8 (more info at www.colloquium.us.mensa.org). Yes, I'll be on the road, all right. And loving every minute of it! See you at the WG....

The Minutes of the American Mensa Committee meeting of 3-25-06 in Greenville, SC, are now posted on the web site.

Go to www.us.mensa.org

Click on Members

Click on Officer Resources

Click on Committee Reports

Let me know if you have any problems accessing them. Best regards, Judy Vasiliauskas, Secretary AMC

WORLD GATHERING ORLANDO AUGUST 8-13TH: It's not every day that your organization plays host to the entire world -- unless you're on an Olympic committee, but we digress. Well, come to think of it, maybe we don't. The Mensa World Gathering could be thought of as an Olympics for the brain - synapses firing as your thoughts race and leap, adrenaline rushing from the challenge of thoughts (and humor) of world-class minds. Maybe we overstate it just a tad... but if you've been to a gathering, you know that perhaps we don't.

And the WG will be an unparalleled gathering. It's scheduled for Aug. 8-13, and already 1,400 Mensans from 23 countries are registered! Five days of nearly nonstop seminars, workshops, games tournaments and activities are planned. Even the most random look at the extensive program shows you can:

- * Begin your day at sunrise with Mensan joggers and end it well past midnight learning to play (or pronounce) euchre.
- * "Speed talk" with hundreds of new Mensan friends.
- * Do martial arts, yoga and various forms of dance.
- * Take shortcuts to genius.
- * Solve the Mensan murder mystery or hunt treasure.
- * Learn about facets of giftedness at all ages of life.
- * Watch American Mensa -- and Mensa International! -- conduct official business.
- * Hear an Emmy-nominated actor describe a Mensan's life in Hollywood.
- * Consider dangerous ideas.
- * Celebrate Mensa's Diamond Anniversary at the Gala Dinner and Dance.

But you don't want to spend all your time in a convention area? No problem. Take the day tour to the Kennedy Space Center or go on a fossil-hunting expedition. Enjoy the Disney Insitute's tours "behind the scenes" at the Disney resorts. You can sign up or get more information online at www.wg06.us.mensa.org. Also, remember that the WG is taking place at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort at Disney World. How better to decompress than by enjoying the Happiest Place on Earth with your family? Through the Extra Magic Hours program, WG attendees who stay at the resort get special after-hours access to the theme parks!

Visit www.wg06.us.mensa.org to learn more about the program schedule, the tours, traveling to Orlando, and more. We've made it easy for you to register and to reserve your hotel room online - but we suggest you do it soon as the \$80 registration fee will increase after Monday, May 15.

C'mon, you've been in training for this your entire life. Don't let this once-in-a-lifetime chance pass you by.

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There is a tremendous need for Speaker Liaisons for the MENSA World Gathering Diamond Anniversary to be held August 8-13, 2006, at Disney World in Orlando, Florida, USA. Being a Speaker liaison requires social skills, attention to detail, and WALKING SHOES. In addition to the health benefits from all the walking, you'll have the opportunity to meet some interesting people, not all of whom belong to MENSA.

The Liaisons will be giving some speakers their first impression of MENSA or, in some cases, of the United States. The Liaison will put speakers at ease, let them know that we don't eat humans (unless we're really hungry), that we're not all geeks, and that we're not as weird as we sometimes make ourselves out to be (although the author admits to being a bit twisted).

Check out the PROGRAM and Speakers List on the website <http://wg06.us.mensa.org> and then email Volunteer Coordinator Kay Klasen by clicking her link under the CONTACT tab to sign up.

ENTERTAIN US

Come and entertain us! If you're an entertainer, amateur or professional, sign up to perform for us in August at the MENSA World Gathering in Orlando, Florida, USA.

Dan Gilmore has been producing ensemble shows for MENSA Gatherings in the U. S. since 1985, and he's working on something for the WG06 which he calls The Two Per Cent Show. He's looking for scripts, script ideas, instrumentalists (music reading ability is a huge plus). If you have a song, a sketch or an act that's both humorous and MENSA-oriented, that's even better.

You can contact Dan Gilmore in Seattle, Washington, USA, by email at himself@att.net or by telephone at 206-248-0100. Dan is on West Coast time, so please be kind and remember that when you call. Come and entertain us. Let's have a really good time!

American Mensa's Membership Committee is charged with coordinating activities relating to members, member benefits and services, retention of members, membership renewals, etc. Following this charge, AMC Membership Officer Heather Miller and her committee would like to announce the following new member benefit.

Join Costco and get a \$10 Costco Cash Card!

American Mensa members can join Costco and start saving immediately with a \$10 Costco Cash Card! Here's the usual fine print: the Free Cash Card is available only to non-Costco members for their first year of membership. Limit one offer per household. Offer is nontransferable and cannot be combined with any other offer or coupon. Visit www.costco.com/Service/FeaturePage.aspx?ProductNo=11116720 for more information and to sign up!

Do you like board games, brainteasers and strategy? Introducing *Knucklebones* magazine - the table-top game publication for people who like to have fun and enjoy flexing their cranial muscles. Mensans are offered a half-price subscription: pay \$14 instead of \$27.95 when you subscribe. To subscribe, have the code **501360** in hand and visit www.kbones.com or call 800/331-0038, ext. 1.

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