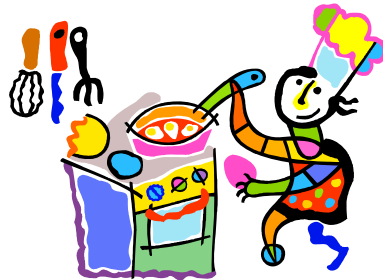


# COLUMBIAN

Volume 39, Number 14 The Newsletter of Columbia River Mensa Nov-Dec., 2007  
<http://www.crm.us.mensa.org>

**ELLENSBURG BRUNCH:** The first Saturday at 11:00 am, at The Palace Café 323 N Main St Ellensburg, WA 98926 (509) 925-2327 (thepalacecafe.net).

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. Co-coordinators, Alix Drake-Williams and George Drake. Contact: [EasternCascadesArea@crm.us.mensa.org](mailto:EasternCascadesArea@crm.us.mensa.org) Regarding share rides: [locsec@crm.us.mensa.org](mailto:locsec@crm.us.mensa.org).



**MONTHLY DINNER MEETING 6:00 p.m. the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month:**

November **24 3 Margaritas** at [627 Jadwin Ave, Richland](#)

December **22 Tri-Teriyaki** at [5437 W Van Giesen Rd, West Richland](#)

January: Katya's Wine Bar, Richland

February: Old Country Buffet, Kennewick

Other suggestions are welcome. Email Mark Mitchell at [Locsec@crm.us.mensa.org](mailto:Locsec@crm.us.mensa.org).

## WEBSITE REMINDERS

If you have forgotten where the next meeting will be and have lost your newsletter, don't panic - our website (<http://www.crm.us.mensa.org>) now has all upcoming events shown on the front page.



Northwest Passages  
by John Recht  
RVC, Region 8  
[rvc8@us.mensa.org](mailto:rvc8@us.mensa.org)

Yesterday I read a fascinating article. The gist of it was that researchers have found that people can and do divert brain activity away from visual areas in order to listen harder to music and complex sounds.

Sometimes when I am eating, I've been asked why I have my eyes closed. I have always thought the answer was that it helps me to focus on the taste of the food, but it seemed silly to say that. Now I have a reason to think that that is a reasonable reply. Of course, if I turn off my hearing also, I won't be worth much as a dinner companion, so I'll have to be somewhat discreet about that.

Now that the holiday season is upon us once again, many of us are thinking about our favorite foods that go along with the time of year. For my wife Linda, it means pumpkin pie a la mode ice cream, a treat that I have to hunt for, but well worth the effort in order to hear her exclamations of joy. For me...well, I used to eat a lot of sugary treats, but I can't do that any more. I look forward to my little piece of dark chocolate every day...and of course I close my eyes when I eat it.

Right about the time you read this column, Linda and I will be taking our honeymoon cruise. I understand that cruise ships are famous for encouraging overindulgence in food, but I don't really think that that will be the top priority for either of us. Whatever you do to enjoy this holiday season, I hope you do some of it with other Mensans, and that you all have a spectacular time doing it!

And as 2007 comes to a close, please don't forget about the good times coming up in 2008, including Mensa of Western Washington's Regional Gathering, EveRGreen 2008: Romp & Circumstances, on Feb. 15-17. Information and registration forms are available at [www.mensaww.org/gather.htm](http://www.mensaww.org/gather.htm). I also recommend Oregon Mensa's RG, which will be May 4-6; follow the links on the home page at [www.oregon.us.mensa.org](http://www.oregon.us.mensa.org) and you will find information and registration forms. And finally, it's definitely time to think about registering for the 2008 Annual Gathering In Denver from Jul. 2-6; you will find all the information you need at [www.ag2008.us.mensa.org](http://www.ag2008.us.mensa.org). Happy holidays, and I hope I see you soon! Yes, I'll keep my eyes open for you.

Sacramento's Gold Country RG - **California Dreamin'** - is coming up soon, October 26 - 28, and there is still time to sign up for a wonderful weekend full of great speakers, games, food, and fun. We're holding the price at an inflation-beating \$65, and don't forget to ask for the "Mensa Rate" when making your hotel reservations. The Hawthorn Suites hotel (916-441-1200) is just off Hwy 5 and convenient to the airport. Free shuttle service is provided to hotel guests.

Here are just a few of the treats in store for you: Chocolate, Islamic Speaker, Trivia Challenge, Joke off, Sexy Legs Contest (bring yours), Yoga, Intellectual Property, Guess the Gadget (bring yours), Cribbage Tournament, Costume Party (bring yours), Word Game, Chili Cookoff, Socrates Cafe, Electric Car talk, and Crafts Project (material provided). And that's not the full list! We will also have a great hospitality suite and an excellent game room as always.

If you've been to a Gold Country RG in the past, you already know what a good time you have in store. If you are a first-timer, take the plunge and find out why so many folks return year after year. Come dream with us!

Contact Michael Walacavage at 530-647-2396, or download a registration form from our web site: [www.sacramento.us.mensa.org/normal/rg.html](http://www.sacramento.us.mensa.org/normal/rg.html)



### Dates to Ponder

November 2, Spruce Goose flight anniversary, 1947  
November 3, Sputnik 2 anniversary, 1957, first animal in space (dog named Laika)  
November 5, Guy Fawkes Day  
November 17, Homemade Bread Day  
November 19, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address anniversary, 1863  
November 20, Edwin Hubble birth anniversary, 1889  
November 21, World Hello Day – say “hello” to people

December 1, Civil Air Patrol founded, 1941  
December 2, First Self-Sustaining Nuclear Chain Reaction anniversary, 1942  
December 5, Prohibition Repeal, 1933  
December 8, Soviet Union dissolved, 1991  
December 15, Bill of Rights anniversary, 1791  
December 17, Anniversary of Wright Brothers flight, 1903  
December 20, Louisiana Purchase, 1803  
December 21 Humbug Day, everyone is allowed 12 “bah, humbugs.”

Issue 4, 2007 of Mensa World is now available at [www.us.mensa.org/mensaworld](http://www.us.mensa.org/mensaworld)  
<[www.us.mensa.org/mensaworld](http://www.us.mensa.org/mensaworld)>

For any questions or comments about Mensa World, please contact Editor Kathy Spaltro at [mensaworld@mensa.org](mailto:mensaworld@mensa.org). If you have any trouble with your password while accessing these online publications, please email [WebServices@americanmensa.org](mailto:WebServices@americanmensa.org).

**Mensa of Western Washington presents 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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:**

** <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> EEarrllyy BBiirrd \$5555 bbyy AAuugg.. 3311,, 22000077	<input type="checkbox"/> Sept. 1-Oct. 31 \$65	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov.-Dec. \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> January 1-31. \$90
			<input type="checkbox"/> 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)<sup>1</sup>  
-- 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 Mornay 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

<b><u>I want the following (see boxes checked above):</u></b>	
New Member Lunch \$ _____	If you are not a new member, feel free to join us, but it will cost you..
Saturday Banquet: \$ _____	<b>Make Checks Payable to</b>
Sunday Brunch: \$ _____	<b>EEvveeRRGGrreeenn RRRGG</b>
Registration Fee \$ _____	<u>Mail Checks and Registration to:</u>
Tours \$ _____	<b>Mensa – EverGreen RG 2008</b>
<b>TOTAL \$ _____</b>	<b>4051 Gilman Ave. W., Suite 306</b>
<b>ENCLOSED</b>	<b>Seattle, WA 98199-1537</b>

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

<sup>1</sup> Courtesy of Mensa of Western Washington – Your local host group!

<b>Local Officers</b>			
Local Secretary	Mark Mitchell	851-4668	<a href="mailto:Locsec@crm.us.mensa.org">Locsec@crm.us.mensa.org</a>
Newsletter Editor	Beret Ing	(509) 882-2104	<a href="mailto:Editor@crm.us.mensa.org">Editor@crm.us.mensa.org</a>
<b>Local Areas</b>			
Eastern Cascades	Alix Drake-Williams George Drake	(509) 933-3117	<a href="mailto:EasternCascades@crm.us.mensa.org">EasternCascades@crm.us.mensa.org</a>
Far North	Frances Rios		<a href="mailto:FarNorthArea@crm.us.mensa.org">FarNorthArea@crm.us.mensa.org</a>
All opinions herein are those of the authors and not those of Columbia River Mensa or of American Mensa Ltd. Mensa as an organization has no opinions.			

