

CHINOOK

Volume 26, Number 12 The Newsletter of Columbia River Mensa December 2005

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

MEMBER INTERESTS

According to the latest member interests mailing, we have quite a few members interested in literature/reading. Is there anyone out there who would like to lead a discussion of a book, or other literature, that they recommend reading? (Either open to the public or not.)

The next most mentioned interests are in fishing, computers; next are golf, astronomy, music history, and nuclear energy. Anyone is welcome to plan an activity and send the details to be entered in the Chinook.

CRM MEMBER DIRECTORY

We are in the process of preparing a group directory of CRM members, for CRM members due to the enthusiasm for one at the Ellensburg dinner and by others in Ellensburg. For those of you who's phone number and email address in a list from National, cleared for membership directories, we will use that number or address in the directory, unless you apprise LocSec of another number or email for this use, or if you contact locsec requesting NOT to be included.

However, many members do NOT have a phone number or email address listed in this list, nor in the monthly membership list sent to locsec. If you are one of them, and if you have a phone number and/or email address you are willing to have in the directory, please contact locsec@crm.us.mensa.org with your information.

This will only be for use of our members to contact one another, and is NOT intended for soliciting use. It may be illegal to use it for such purposes.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

DECEMBER DINNER MEETING 12/31, 5:30 pm, Anthony's, 550 Columbia Point Drive, repeat: 5:30 pm. (We were lucky even to get that, on 11/10!!) Be sure to mark you calendar and RSVP is recommended: locsec@crm.us.mensa.org, or 946-8309.

The November monthly meeting was held at the Cedar's in Kennewick. Along with a lovely setting and delicious menu, there was a lively discussion on ESP. It was as if these people knew when to come together.....!!!?

Be sure to bring your filled in ballot to dinner at Anthony's if you haven't already sent it in by then. You can also email your ballot to locsec@crm.us.mensa.org or mail it to 2148 Hoxie Ave. Richland 99354 before January 15, 2006.

Ballot:

Local Secretary.....Alma Lewandowski_____
Assistant Local SecretaryMark Mitchell_____
Treasurer.....Les Aldrich_____
Write-in: Name: _____Office:_____
Write-in: Name: _____Office:_____
Write-in: Name: _____Office:_____

CHOCOLATE & NATIONAL TESTING DAY 2005----- Here is a summary of the local publicity efforts and response for NTD (10/22, plus we tested in Ellensburg 11/5). The people who tested in Richland got the testing information from a remarkably varied list of sources. This appears to indicate that hitting all these sources is a good idea. They included Channel 13, our web site, The Entertainer, Richland Bookworm, Hastings, and TCH (2). The Herald's brief article was later than usual, so that might be improved.

Posters and brochures are routinely mailed or brought to all public libraries in our boundaries, a month or more before testing. Brief article requests or announcements are made to all radio, TV, and newspaper outlets in our boundaries. (Except for NPR which charges a lot. We did try it in the spring--no response as yet.) And, CRM members are sent attached posters to post where they choose. Longer article requests or suggestions are made to Ellensburg and Yakima when we test in those locations. The TCH won't do another long article again, unless we can think of a publicity coup. Free testing is offered to media members. Sometimes this is a problem, because they want to come over before the test with cameras, and it is not a good idea to subject people about to take a test to this kind of hubbub. The media don't want a set-up after the test--they want a live shot. If you have a suggestion about this, please share it. It takes a lot of time to get out the publicity and prospect contacting, so any help from you is appreciated.

November was the first time we've tried testing in Ellensburg on the CWU campus. CWU is very restrictive about postings, so I indulged in four ads in the campus and town paper, to see what can be rounded up there. Locals there often want to have activities--more members there would increase that possibility. However, the ads did not improve response. I'm looking into an off-campus posting service. Having a Local Area rep there might help (Georgenalix@elltel.net). Kudos and thanks to Mark Mitchell for testing, Corwin King for getting us space on campus (not as easy as you would think), to Sharon Rosell for a valiant effort with posters, to George and Alix for becoming area representatives, and to anyone I don't know about who helped out!!

If you heard or saw any of the publicity announcements, please let me know--I've taken for granted that they are broadcast or printed, but only ask for copies of the longer ones. At the tests,

prospects are asked to write their source of Mensa or testing information, but maybe some of you members have some valuable feedback—did any of you notice the glass case displays at the local libraries? If so, do you think other people would be influenced by them? Do you have any other suggestions for publicity? And I'm wondering, did any of you notice places where there were not notices that would have been good sites? Feedback is appreciated.

Last but not least, our group won chocolate for testing the most people (7) on NTD, in our group size category. (And we had 3 more 11/5.) Look for a meeting, to be planned, where we can all snack on this prize!!

Alma Lewandowski, Proctor Coordinator, Testing@crm.us.mensa.org



Regional News -- John Recht

American Mensa, Regional Vice Chairman - Region 8

<http://www.johnrecht.com/blog.php>.

11/13/05 -Joining me on the monthly regional LocSec conference call this evening were **Jerry Moore** from Greater Northstate Mensa, **Ed Ledger** from Mensa of Western Washington, **Michael Eager** from San Francisco Regional Mensa, **Denise Yancey** from Mensa Alaska, **Ed Hanley** from Northern Nevada Mensa, **Kristina Bernette** from Oregon Mensa, Assistant RVC-8 **Debra Reiger**, and a special guest, Region 8 Webmaster **Scott Rainey**. Although the regional results from National Testing Day were not available, I shared the results year-over-year for membership in the region as of 10/31/05. Total membership in the region was up to 5,048 from 5,017 on 10/31/04, for a gain of 0.6%, and the gains and losses by group were as follows:

Northern Nevada Mensa +10.0%
Redwood Empire Mensa +5.6%
Monterey County Mensa +3.9%
San Francisco Regional Mensa +2.5%
Mensa of Western Washington +1.2%
Sacramento Regional Mensa -0.8%
Oregon Mensa -2.5%
Greater Northstate Mensa -3.3%
Mensa Alaska -3.4%
Southwest Idaho Mensa -3.9%
Eastern Washington/Northern Idaho Mensa -7.0%
Columbia River Mensa -11.5%

Discussion touched on issues in the upcoming AMC meeting in December, and in particular the LocSecs on the call expressed their support for availability of electronic versions of membership directories for their local groups. Scott offered insight on local group website matters, and offered his assistance in website development and maintenance for groups in the region.

Debra and Ed Ledger received kudos for the wonderful RGs in October in Sacramento and Seattle, respectively, and Debra brought us up to date on plans for a Leadership Development Workshop in Sacramento from 2/24-2/26, 2006. Michael spoke about the upcoming RG in San Francisco on 11/25-11/27, 2005, which has a terrific program planned in an excellent location in the heart of the city. Several of us are planning to attend, and are looking forward with pleasure to another outstanding RG.

Denise received a warm welcome for her first appearance on the monthly call, and she gave us some fascinating highlights of the activities of Mensa Alaska, and the unique challenges that the group must

cope with. I invited Denise to send me a write up of the group's experiences so that I may get something published nationally about what they have been up to up there. We closed the call by setting the date and time for the next call, on Sunday, 12/11, at 8 pm PST.

The National Nominating Committee is seeking volunteers.

Each local group may appoint a representative to the committee for potentially more than 130 members. The representative of a local group may be a single Mensan, or a group, but each local group will be able to appoint only one spokesperson/liaison to the NomComm. I anticipate that, while not every group will appoint a representative, the response will be great enough to give us broader coverage and make it possible to seek new candidates from within the local group structure who, perhaps, have not been approached before.

The NomComm conducts two meetings at the Annual Gathering in even years. The first meeting is procedural, where the procedures and policies are reviewed and any changes are discussed, ensuring everyone is aware how the committee functions. The second meeting at the AG is a "Meet the Candidates" session that allows the candidates to address the assembled NomComm personally.

To volunteer, contact your LocSec to have him/her send your name to the national NomComm Chair no later than March 1, 2006. Or contact me directly at:

Stormie Kullman

AML Nominating Committee Chair

59 Washington Drive

Piedmont, SC 29673-9713

864-295-1315

NomComm@us.mensa.org <mailto:NomComm@us.mensa.org>

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Sent to Alma by A.L. Temple who says "I've seen lots of porcupines, but none so young!
(Hope those quills are soft for the birthing process!)"



From Francis Rios:

CHAOS

The world of stability can disappear in many ways
For myriad are the roads that lead to Chaos.

As a placid river can give way to foaming rapids
sometimes the change can build slowly
A quiet night behind the bar - pouring the regular drinks
for the regular crowd. Door slams and slams again as new
people pour themselves in. Tempo builds as bodies jam in
closer to the bar. Impatience adds its smell to those of smoke
and heated bodies. Faster and faster the pace increases. . .
riding the crest. . .waiting . . ."We just ran out of plastic cups!" . .
for the wave to break into foaming Chaos.

As an earthquake can throw the world into wild disorder
sometimes the change can come without warning in one swift stroke
A quiet night at home. . .watching a ballgame, reading a book.
Unexpected, a soft knock at the door. . ."I can only stay for an
hour." - clothes slither to the carpet - "I told him I was going shopping."

Four on the floor and ready to clutch, adrenalin rush kicks the world over
into raging Chaos.

When, eventually, the World settles back into normalcy, some go quietly . .
.relieved
by the Calm. . .ready for the rest. . .Others do not retreat.
Instead, they go to seek
a new road out of the Valley of Stability. Searching . . .for the
razor's edge . .
for the whirlpool. . .Bodies bared to the expected storm

Addicted to Chaos.

Midwinter Blahs

February 26, 2006

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Fairfield Inn by Marriott

850 Paterson Plank Rd
East Rutherford, NJ 07073-2130
Tel: (201) 507-5222

Yes, we're doing it again, and we're getting better at it.
TWO speakers, more fun and games, and more prizes!

Open to Mensans and Non-Mensans. Bring all your friends!

Games will continue all day!

Food for all tastes, coffee, tea, sodas will be served, LOTS OF CHOCOLATE! Door Prizes and competitions!

EASY ACCESS. 15 MINUTES BY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FROM NYC.

PRIOR REGISTRATION \$5.00 OR \$10.00 at the door.

Please send check payable to NNJ Mensa for \$5.00 to:

NNJ Mensa – Registration
PO Box 64, Hawthorne, NJ 07507

Please include your Mensa ID, Name, Address, Phone number, and (if available) e-mail address

To facilitate catering RSVP to:

Nancy Pool (973) 989-8709, nep@sprynet.com
or Mindy Maidens (201) 224-0453, mmaidens@rcn.com

For those who will stay in the hotel on Saturday night, please contact Mirabelle Sacks, (973) 663-6280 or mirs@nac.net and we'll have an unofficial get-together.

Sent by Nancy Tincher

The Heaviest Element:

A major research institution has recently announced the discovery of the heaviest element known to science.

The new element has been named "Governmentium." Governmentium has one neutron, 12 assistant neutrons, 75 deputy neutrons, and 224 assistant deputy neutrons, giving it an atomic mass of 312. These 312 particles are held together by forces called morons, which are surrounded by vast quantities of particles called peons.

Since Governmentium has no electrons, it is inert. However, it can be detected, because it impedes every reaction with which it comes into contact. A minute amount of Governmentium causes one reaction to take over four days to complete, when it would normally take less than a second. Governmentium has a normal half-life of four years; it does not decay, but instead undergoes a reorganization in which a portion of the assistant neutrons and deputy neutrons exchange places. In fact, Governmentium's mass will actually increase over time, since each reorganization will cause more morons to become neutrons, forming isodopes.

This characteristic of moron promotion leads some scientists to believe that Governmentium is formed whenever morons reach a certain quantity in concentration. This hypothetical quantity is

referred to as "Critical Morass." When catalyzed with money, Governmentium becomes Administratium - an element which radiates just as much energy as the Governmentium since it has half as many peons but twice as many morons.

Submitted by Bob Dejaiffe who has been touring the country with his wife visiting their children and grandchildren.

DISCUSSION ON LOVE

7/04

There is a credit card ad about using the card to buy things, but remembering who those things are for is priceless. I love that ad – it hits the nail on the head -- the good things in life are priceless, and mostly those things are related to love. Also relevant is the hymn “For the Beauty of the Earth” which says “for the joy of human love – brother, sister, parent, child – friends on the earth and friends above.” It is those various forms of love, and the joy they bring that prompted this letter.

A rich man came to Jesus and asked how to enter heaven. Let me give my interpretation of Jesus’ answer. Give what you have to friends, neighbors and the poor (thereby showing love for your fellow man) and then come and follow me (thereby seeking a love relationship with the Father) and surely you will find your way to heaven. When the man left (unwilling to give up his riches), Jesus observed that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven. That doesn’t mean that it is impossible, for with God all things are possible. The point is that money should be a facilitator for living and loving. When it becomes a goal in itself, then it becomes the handicap that the man in the story faced. What started me thinking along these lines about love was a statement made by a famous media mogul a few years ago. He said, in summary, God is old fashioned: in the modern world we should rescind the commandment against adultery. At first, that statement made me angry. I wrote a letter about it, but then realized that the letter was only negative reaction to the quote, and I should instead be thinking positively about love. Ironically, I recently saw an announcement that the same man and his wife are separating – they said they needed to find themselves. Actually, I think they have been themselves all along, and what the need is to find God.

Let me go back to the list of the forms of love. Parental love is our first experience when we enter the human realm. Equally universal is the love of children. They are so easy to love. I would like to share a poem about children and love.

Reflections

I watch my mirrored reflection
In a crystal pool.
The breeze is making ripples,
The evening air is cool.

As I dream my time away
Another face I see.
Tis the face of a lovely child;
Does she belong to me?

No, no child belongs to anyone
Except to God above
He only lends them for awhile
To teach us how to love.

I hear her lilting laughter
As she skips away,
Calling come and join me
I am going to play.

Oh, she seems so real to me
With her windblown hair,
Talking, smiling, loving me,
Lessening all my care.

The sun sinks now behind the hills,
My reflections fade away.
But I’ll return to my crystal pool,
To dream another day.

This poem was written by a young woman who had just been told by her doctor that she would probably not be able to have children. She proved the doctor wrong – had four children (by struggling through eleven pregnancies), and continued to write. Later, she took the pen name Jennifer Layne when she wrote “Trial and Triumph”.

I can't comment on sibling love since I was an only child, but I have a few friends that I love like brothers. We all need at least one "best friend," and developing new friendships is a great source of satisfaction

Perhaps the form we think of first when we see the word "love" is the intimate relationship between husband and wife. A good marital relationship can be the most satisfying form of human love. It does, however, require two people who truly wish to make it work. It is not easy, but it certainly can be worth the effort. I would like to share another very short poem called

Love Is

Touching,	Dreaming,	Love.
Kissing,	Caring,	True,
Holding,	Hoping,	Me,
Missing.	Sharing.	You.

Twelve words that say volumes about marriage – physical – emotional – memories of the past – plans for the future – and that key word "true" – yes, this poem was also written by Jennifer Layne. Have you figured out who she is?

Remember that He taught – Love thy neighbor as thyself. Also remember the Ten Commandments – if you consider them, they are simply instructions on how to conduct our relationships so that we can live a life filled with love – the way God intends.

Our relationship with God goes beyond what we, as humans, can comprehend. Deeper than the conscious mind, this relationship goes into the sub-conscious soul, or spirit. I believe that the spirit is what God created in the Garden of Eden. That creation would fulfill the teaching that man was created in God's image. That spirit was then placed in the body of Homo sapiens, and at the point the animal became man with dominion over the earth, and the responsibility of taking care of it. When the man dies, the spirit returns to God while the body returns to the earth (ashes to ashes, dust to dust). This fulfills the parallel teaching to "render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's and to God that which is God's."

I cannot adequately define it, but the Bible makes it clear that a relationship with God is the most important thing in one's life. There is one big difference in this relationship (as compared to human love). You don't have to think about whether it will be returned. We are assured that God loves all his children. Love is the living water that Jesus offered to the woman at the well; love is the water in the river of life.

A parable tells about a vineyard owner who hired workers at sunrise with a promise of a certain payment. He brought in more workers at lunchtime and again late in the afternoon. At dusk, all were paid the same rate as promised to the morning workers. The point of the story is that if we develop a love relationship with God, it doesn't matter whether it started when we were children in Sunday school, or when we "born again" at mid-life, or finally realized what life is really all about when we approached retirement. The reward is the same: Jesus promised that all who love and follow Him in their heart will enter heaven. At the same time, following His teachings will lead to a greater love and happiness while we dwell on earth.

Some have questioned Thomas Jefferson's use of the goal "the pursuit of happiness." He was a wise man and realized that happiness has two components – career achievements and love. He strove throughout his life to do what needed to be done for his country, while trying to make as much time as possible to spend with his family. His goal was carefully considered. So, as life's primary goal, we should seek love in as many forms as we can find it while we are on earth. It is the only thing that we can find on earth to take with us when we leave. We should use all the resources available to us to show love to as many as we can, and enjoy any that is returned to us. It is a wonderful feeling to know that someone loves you.

We should seek those whose life has been a dry riverbed like the valleys in the desert, and try to show love on a personal basis and try to express the meaning of a love relationship with God. Helping someone find the living water is a great joy.

People have said to my wife and me that it is clear that we have a good relationship, and have also said on occasions that we show our Christianity. These are the greatest compliments that can be paid to a child of God, and it renews our commitment to help each other find the joy of love outside of marriage as we have found it in each other.

Oh yes – about the wise poetess Jennifer Layne. I was fortunate enough to marry her, and she taught all about love. Yes, life is made of Faith, Hope and Love – but the greatest of these is Love.

Local Officers

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