

November 2008



Mid-Mensan

The Newsletter of Mid-Hudson Mensa

Election Issue

FRANKLY, I'M NOT ALL THAT IMPRESSED
BY OPPOSABLE THUMBS



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New Bylaws Ballot Inside!

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In This Issue

Notes from Newburgh	3
Mid-Hudson Mensa Officers & Contacts	4
Amid-Hudson Mensans	5
Snappy Science Snippets	6
RVChat	8
Program Notes	9
Calendar	10
Pun of the Month	11
Are You Game	12
What's Up?	13
TV Trivia	14
Cryptograms	15
Answers	16
Proposed Bylaws	17
Ballot	27

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The deadline for contributions for each issue is announced in the calendar of the previous month's issue. Anything not received by then will be held for consideration for the following issue. Contributions must be signed by the author or artist but may be published using a pen name or anonymously.

Bylaws Ballot

I approve the new bylaws.

I disapprove of the new bylaws.

Please return ballot
by November 30, 2008
to
Jim Jelacic
PO Box 133
Esopus, NY 12429

Bylaws must be approved by 2/3 of all votes received.

Election Committee Report

There were 5 public spirited members who were nominated to Mid-Hudson Mensa Executive Committee this year. They are:

Eve Hinderer
Chuck Whitsell
Karl Zetterholm
Susan Olah
Lisa Simpson

Many thanks to their stepping up to the task.

Since there are 5 open seats in the Executive Committee, all candidates have been selected to take a position on the incoming Exec Com. No election will be necessary this year. Again, many thanks to these five fine candidates for their time and effort.

**Got an event
you'd like to see
on the
calendar?**

**Send it in!
Be sure to include full contact information and utilize our clever codes to let folks in on the nature of your event.
See you soon!**

ballot in the newsletter or by mail. Approval of an amendment to the bylaws shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote of all those voting. The Recording Secretary shall be responsible for the collection and tabulation of the ballots received for the amendment of the bylaws.

4. After voting by the membership, the bylaws as amended shall be sent back to the AMC for final approval. The AMC Bylaws Committee will notify MidHudson Mensa of the effective date of the bylaws as amended.

ARTICLE VII. MENSA LOGO & NAME

American Mensa, Ltd. (AML) has granted a royalty free, non-exclusive license to Mid-Hudson Mensa for the use of the mark "Mensa" and a logo, consisting of a globe over a stylized "M" within a border, in connection with the non-commercial uses of Mid-Hudson Mensa. AML retains full ownership of the mark and logo and all statutory and common law rights in the mark and logo.

ARTICLE VIII. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE & RULES OF ORDER

1. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, latest edition, shall govern the Mid-Hudson Mensa in all cases to which they are applicable and not inconsistent with these bylaws.

2. Rules of order for the ExComm and for those matters concerning Mid-Hudson Mensa which are not specified in these bylaws may be adopted by the ExComm.

Notes from Newburgh

Eve Hinderer

Earlier last month I called Bill Zigo, deeply discouraged at my involvement in Mensa. I'd been trying hard dating back to the mid-80s when I first joined the Greater New York chapter to schedule regular activities for the club, running two Sigs, or special interest groups. "Let's talk about vitality" was how I was going to begin this month's column. "You may want to sleep on this," was his first suggestion. "I don't feel like donning a nun's habit when I'm currently holding a pitchfork in my left hand," I retorted. Well, his final word lead into the rest of what I have to say this month—"Mensa is about people."

Being in The Zone, my dark bipolar space where I run the risk of inflicting damages on my relationships, I instead decided to do something that had long been on my agenda: I visited the Tibetan Buddhist monastery in Woodstock—KTD, or Karma Triyana Dharmachakra. I'd done work exchange there back in 1992 and hadn't visited in more than 10 years.

Of course with the autumn foliage, this trip was a particularly beautiful one, taking me to the edge of the Catskills. I took the long way around, knowing full well that the steep ascent directly up Meads Mountain Road would burn my transmission on the way up and my brakes on the way down.

I began with a chummy chat with the bookstore clerk, reminiscing on both the old staff as well as the much smaller gift shop of the time. There were also two gorgeous figures of a couple in obvious delectation of some cosmic yabyum, both more than a foot tall. The one with the filigreed halo was more than a thousand, but the

starker one without ornamentation, the one I preferred, was \$400. Another thing to do if I win the lottery, I thought. But I digress, seriously digress.



After munching on some blessed pistachio nuts leftover from a tsok, I began my inspection of the premises. Lo and behold, the controversial replacement retreatant dormitory was under construction and nearing completion. Designed to surround the monastery itself at a lower elevation, it looked like a classic configuration. I felt as though I were in Tibet.

But what I had really longed to visit, and the climax of my visit, was the golden dharma wheel, beheld by two seated does, atop the monastery. This vision reminded me of the all decisions I'd made leading to this reverential moment. Dharma is not only the journey through life itself, hopefully to include the practice of compassion, but it is one's path in life, including right livelihood. I found myself thinking that I could no sooner go back to my past of working in publishing than I could return to waitressing. It's not my dharma, man.

Too, much as I sometimes struggle with it, Mensa is my dharma, providing me with a sense of belonging, an organization by and for the people actively participating in it.

This month, as a sign of the health and vitality of our chapter, we are going to be casting our ballots on proposed changes in the Bylaws, changes slowly and carefully hammered out by a dedicated subcommittee. Please take the time to seriously turn your attention to this matter and vote. And remember, the party doesn't happen all at once: allow the syncopation to build gradually.

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Mid-Hudson Mensa Home Page: mid-hudson.us.mensa.org

American Mensa Home Page: www.us.mensa.org

the Nominating Committee.

11. The five persons receiving the largest number of votes cast for membership on the Executive Committee shall constitute the members of the ExComm. Ties shall be broken by the flip of a coin. The Election Committee shall certify the results of the election to the President at least two (2) days before the deadline for publication in the December issue of the local newsletter.

12. The election results will be published in the December issue of the newsletter in each even-numbered year.

13. The President shall notify American Mensa, Ltd. and the Regional Vice Chairman of the results of the election within two weeks of the election, and shall notify same of any changes in the membership of the ExComm or roster of officers during the year.

14. The newly-elected ExComm and all officers appointed by them to serve during their term of office shall take office on the 1st day of January following their election or upon their appointment.

ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENTS

1. A petition to amend these bylaws may be submitted by the ExComm or upon a petition signed by twenty (20) members of Mid-Hudson Mensa. Proposed amendments and rationale shall be made available to the membership of Mid-Hudson Mensa in sufficient time to allow for discussion and comment before submission to the AMC for approval to ballot. Such proposals shall then be submitted to and approved by the AMC before balloting by the Mid-Hudson Mensa membership.

2. After the AMC has indicated its approval to ballot, the proposed amendment shall be published in the next issue of the local newsletter or in a separate mailing, along with a mail ballot.

3. The deadline for receipt of ballots shall be no less than ninety (90) days following publication of the proposed amendment and

deadline for submissions to the October newsletter, such date being published in the immediately preceding newsletter or mailing.

7. The ExComm shall, in each even-numbered year, no later than the deadline for the October issue of the local group newsletter, appoint an Election Committee of three (3) members who shall be responsible for conducting the election, receiving and counting the ballots, and certifying the results. No member of the ExComm and no person nominated to serve on the ExComm shall be eligible to serve on the Election Committee or to carry out any function on behalf of the Election Committee. Since the time frame and duties of the Nominating Committee and the Election Committee are separate, a member who had served on the Nominating Committee may also be appointed to serve on the Election Committee.

8. The October issue of the newsletter, or a separate mailing to all members of Mid-Hudson Mensa, either of which must be posted no later than October 1 of each even-numbered year, shall contain the list of candidates including petition candidates, any candidate statements, the ballots, and ballot instructions, or, if there are no more candidates than are required to fill the positions on the ExComm, the Election Committee shall declare all candidates elected, and the October issue of the newsletter shall contain only a statement to that effect. In the latter case, there will be no ballot, and no counting of ballots.

9. The ballots must be returned, by mail or in person, to the Chairman of the Election Committee and received no later than November 1. Ballots received after that date shall not be counted.

10. Confidentiality of communication to the Nominating Committee and to the Election Committee and voter anonymity shall be preserved. The counting of the anonymous ballots may be witnessed by delegates chosen by candidates (one per candidate) should they choose to appoint one. Said delegates shall not be members of the current ExComm, or a candidate, or a member of



Chuck Whitesell

Happy Birthday to members of Mid-Hudson Mensa born in November:

- 11/4 Steven P. Cook, Cathy A. Cooper, Ray Phillips
- 11/6 Ollie Logan Simpson, Jean Thomas Welsh
- 11/12 Derek W. Steele
- 11/25 Maria T. Weinberg
- 11/26 Deacon Frederick C. Steup II
- 11/27 Jessica N. Konikowski

Happy Anniversary to members of our group who joined Mensa in November:

- 2007 Charlotte M. Farrell, William M. Reed, Shuchorita 'Oli' Bose, Steven P. Cook, Susan Ganci-Fraude, Lisa L. Simpson

- 2006 Christopher K. Hayes, Clair Cassiello, Patricia Hawkins-Anderson
- 2005 James M. Slingerland, Donald P. Stillwaggon
- 2004 Arnold H. Green
- 2003 George J. Scott
- 2001 Amberlyne Hadigan
- 2000 Ramon F. Oteiza, Robert Paul McAndrew
- 1992 Timothy Loren Reeves
- 1990 Louise M. Mancinelli
- 1987 Susan Jeane Olah
- 1984 Daniel J. Burke
- 1980 William C. Oliver Jr.
- 1979 Susan P. Gruber
- 1978 Betsy Jane Burke
- 1964 D. Ronnie Brown

Welcome back to member Susan Breslow of Phoenicia.

Welcome to member William J. Kenrick JD who joins us from New York, James M. Slingerland who joins us from Glenmont, and Shuchorita 'Oli' Bose who joins us from Middletown.

Dues Hardship Committee

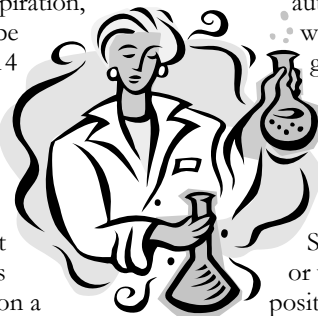
A three-person committee is in place in Mid Hudson Mensa to consider cases of financial hardship in the payment of membership dues. Decisions are final and gifts are made on a one-time-only basis. If you feel you qualify, contact committee chair Kevin McKenzie no later than January 31, 2009. All communication will be held in the strictest confidence.

Kevin McKenzie
125 Swan Court
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
kmckenzie@hvc.rr.com

TECHNICALLY TRAINED PEOPLE are serving in Congress. Wisconsin Congressman Steven Kagen is a physician. Kansas Representative Nancy Boyda is a chemist. Iowa Congressman Chris Carney has degrees in environmental science and diplomatic history. New York Representative John Hall studied physics before dropping out to become a rock musician. Representative Rush Holt of New Jersey is a physicist. IRON is an essential nutrient for plants as it is for the humans who eat plants. In plants iron is needed for to harvest energy from the sun via photosynthesis and to turn food into energy via respiration, but too much iron can be toxic. "Science", Vol. 314 (11/24/06), p. 1215

HYBRIDS ARE FREQUENTLY STERILE OR CAN'T SURVIVE. Many functions in an organism are carried out by a sequence that starts with a signal that turns on a gene, which affects the functioning of another gene, which affects the functioning of another gene, etc. and ends with the desired result, such as turning on or off a body function. Research suggests that this is due to the evolutionary divergence of genes in the same pathway, perhaps because accessory proteins have changed. Ibid., p. 1292

TYPHOID FEVER is caused by a strain of Salmonella bacteria and mostly affects poor communities in the Southern Hemisphere. It can be carried by individuals who are not sick, have no symptoms and shed many bacteria. It first infected humans before the Neolithic times and is still with us because it



hides in the gall bladders of disease carriers. Ibid, p. 1215

A MAJOR CHALLENGE WHEN USING DRUGS TO FIGHT CANCER is delivering the drugs, which are toxic to cells, to the malignant cells in sufficient doses while sparing normal cells. One promising strategy is to insert the drugs into liposomes, which are drops made of fats. Researchers have found that injecting mice with spores of a strain of Clostridium, a bacterium that thrives in low oxygen areas and selectively infects tumors, causes rupture of the liposomes in the tumor. Ibid, p. 1215

TIDE, introduced in 1946 [as was the automatic washing machine], was the first synthetic detergent that could clean really dirty clothes in hard or soft water. Both detergents and soap contain molecules that bind to water on one end and fats (grease) on another. Soap is derived from animal or vegetable fats and binds to positive ions in hard water to form that scummy residue. In early attempts to mix chemicals to produce a detergent, clothes became clean but so stiff you couldn't walk. Chemists tinkered with surfactants and "builders" and eventually Tide was born. Ibid, p. 1221

THE BRAIN CONSUMES much more energy than its responses to external stimuli or its weight would predict. What is this energy used for? Neuroimaging suggests that 60-80% of energy consumed within the brain supports communication between neurons and their supporting cells. Responding to the environment may consume perhaps 1%. Is the brain structured so that

(Continued on page 14)

ing.
ARTICLE V. ELECTIONS

1. The ExComm shall be elected by the membership.
2. The ExComm shall, in each even-numbered year, no later than the deadline for the August issue of the local group newsletter, appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of three (3) members. No member of the Nominating Committee may be an elected officer or a candidate for elected office in the forthcoming election. Note: The timeline for the procedures in this section is based on newsletter issues, and assumes one issue per month, five issues to complete the process. If any newsletter issues are combined, the process will still require five issues, as opposed to five months, and the target issues must be adjusted. (For example, the contact information for the Nominating Committee must be in the "December minus four" issue.)
3. The August issue of the newsletter shall contain the names of and contact information for the members of the Nominating Committee, and a call for candidates for nomination. The August issue shall also contain the procedures for petition candidates (Article V, Section 6.).
4. The Nominating Committee shall, in each even-numbered year, no later than the deadline for the September issue of the local group newsletter, nominate candidates, a number at least sufficient to fill all positions on the ExComm.
5. The membership of Mid-Hudson Mensa shall be notified of these nominations in the September issue of the local group newsletter or by direct mail, either of which shall be posted no later than September 1. This notification shall include the procedures for petition candidates (Article V, Section 6.).
6. Additional nominations may be made by petition signed by ten (10) members of the local group, delivered to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee no later than two (2) days prior to the

23. The term of office for all appointed officers and positions expires at the conclusion of the term of office of the current ExComm or upon sooner termination by the ExComm.

24. All outgoing officers must turn over all files, equipment, and materials in good order to the incoming officers no later than four (4) weeks after the outgoing officer leaves office.

25. A member of the ExComm who fails to attend three (3) consecutive ExComm meetings may be removed from office upon the unanimous vote of the remaining members of the ExComm.

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS

1. Regular meetings and activities may be held at such times as may be appropriate, however, there shall be a minimum of four (4) regularly scheduled meetings of the ExComm per year, and there shall be no more than three (3) months between said meetings. Notice of meetings and activities shall be published in the newsletter.

2. Special business meetings of the ExComm may be called at any time by the President or by the ExComm, or by receipt of a petition signed by ten (10) members of Mid-Hudson Mensa, using the most recent membership roster provided by AML. The date, time, place, and purpose of the meeting shall be announced in the local group newsletter or by direct mail at least two (2) weeks before such meeting. At a special meeting, no other business than that indicated in the notice calling the meeting may be acted upon.

3. Emergency meetings of the ExComm may be called on shorter notice for a matter which requires immediate attention. No other business than that being indicated as an emergency may be acted upon. The membership must be notified in the next available issue of the newsletter as to the reason for the meeting, the officers and other members in attendance, and the outcome of the meet-

Mensa Testing Day Report

Jim Jelacic

Mensa Testing Day was a great success this past October 18 with 9 candidates and potential members tested over two sessions. The candidates were treated to cider and apple cider donuts as well as pre-Halloween candy. My thanks go to Rich Dennison for his running one of the sessions and to Eve Hinderer for her

My Thinking about our Monthly Gatherings

Andi Bartczak

There have been some complaints about my schedule of monthly events: that they are not at the same time and place every month, that the topics do not interest the person complaining. Let me explain. I took over the responsibility of arranging monthly gatherings from Bibi, who had found free space on Friday nights at the Marlboro Library. Angela was kind enough to pick up the key the day before, since she lives in Marlboro. The last time I scheduled a game night there and drove perhaps 45 minutes to get there, no one showed up. That's when I decided to hold gatherings near where I live in Gardiner, so if no one showed up, I wouldn't be very inconvenienced. Interestingly, since I moved the meetings to New Paltz, people have always shown up.

I want several gatherings a year just for Mid-Hudson Mensans and their friends and at least two public meetings in order to get our existence known to the general public and to those interested in Mensa. Our Mensan events include a fall new member party, December holiday party, summer pool party and spring solstice gathering, each hosted by a different member of our chapter and a conversational salon where we can discuss or argue whatever topics interest us. For the general public and Mensans I have always scheduled a games night. Since I am interested in what's happening in society, I scheduled the 2007 panels on the facts, politics and solutions to climate change and this year's panel of Mid-Hudson Mensans discussing how to make our society self-sustainable. I like the idea of getting Mensans to give us the benefit of their thinking and will continue our MHM panel this year with different panelists. (Want to volunteer?)

Free space in the New Paltz area is difficult to find, generally hard to reserve for several times a year and each has disadvantages. That's why the venue changes. I deliberately change the day of the week so that people who can't make one particular day a week are not always excluded from our events. I put all the events I'm interested in into my schedule book, so when I scan the week ahead I know what's going to happen, so I'm not in the habit of thinking that if it is -- it must be time to go to --.

Not interested in what I've scheduled? I'd be happy to assist you in scheduling an event that you want to attend. If you can find a free space near where you live, great. Our members are centered around Poughkeepsie/New Paltz but we have plenty of outliers. When I scheduled Smokefree Dining, I deliberately picked restaurants all over our chapter's area. So help me out, guys. Volunteer to organize one gathering next year.

RVChat

Lori Norris

Happy Thanksgiving! Don't forget, November brings one of the region's favorite RGs – Boston's *Pilgrimage '08 – Pilgrims' Progress* which will be held November 21st through the 23rd in Braintree, MA. Check it out on-line at <http://BostonRG.org>. Some of the activities to look forward to include karaoke (bring your voice or maybe earplugs), dedicated video game room, costume contest, open bar mixer (you'll find me there), games, tournaments, speakers and, of course, great hospitality. In case I haven't mentioned it lately, I met my now-husband at this RG back in 1998 – my how time flies, ten years already.

Last month's Mensa Testing Day was a great success, with 11 of the 12 Region 1 groups participating. I would like to extend my thanks to all the proctors and other volunteers who worked so hard on Mensa testing day and the rest of the year representing Mensa to prospective members. The majority of new Mensans come to us through the testing program, rather than submitting prior evidence. Most groups could use more help with their testing program. There is usually a need for more proctors and if you have a college degree, you are eligible to train to be a pro-

tor. Even if you aren't eligible to be a proctor, you can volunteer to help out and be a representative of Mensa to prospective Mensans. Contact your proctor/testing coordinator and offer to help out. I was a proctor for many years and enjoyed meeting prospects and encouraging them to join the group. To this day I will occasionally meet a member who remembers me from the testing session and it still thrills me. Every so often my husband and I will show up at a testing session to meet prospects, provide hospitality or just be a spare set of hands. It's very rewarding.

Speaking of testing, American Mensa is offering a prior evidence special promotion to current and veteran armed services personnel. From November 1 to November 30, the \$40 fee for evaluation of prior evidence will be waived for anyone who submits their prior evidence along with a copy of their current military ID or a copy of their DD214 form. American Mensa currently accepts more than 200 tests as prior evidence. To see a partial list of accepted tests, please visit <http://www.us.mensa.org/testscores>. If you know of anyone eligible for this special, please point them to the website for information on submitting the prior evidence.

Lori

for the ExComm and officers, and other materials as appropriate or as required by these bylaws. A printed version of the newsletter shall be sent to all local members unless they request otherwise.

19. Members of the ExComm may be removed from the ExComm or from office for cause by unanimous vote of all other voting members of the ExComm or by recall election. A recall election may be called by a petition presented at a special or regular meeting of the ExComm, citing the reason for such action, and signed by five (5) percent of the membership of the local group as listed on the most recent membership roster provided by AML. The balloting provisions of a regular election shall apply except that a recall election must be held within ninety (90) days of presentation of a properly qualified petition at either a regular or special meeting of the ExComm, and the dates set forth in Article V shall be adjusted appropriately.

20. The ExComm shall fill by appointment all vacancies in the ExComm and among the officers caused by death, resignation, failure to qualify, removal, or inability to serve, except as specified by Article III, Section 8, regarding succession to the office of President. An appointed replacement for an elected member of the ExComm is considered to be an elected member of the ExComm, whose term ends with the next regular election.

21. Each member of the ExComm and each appointed officer must be a current member in good standing of American Mensa, Ltd. and Mid-Hudson Mensa, and must remain a member in good standing of American Mensa, Ltd. and Mid-Hudson Mensa during his or her term of office.

22. The term of office of an ExComm member shall be two (2) years, from January 1 in an odd-numbered year to December 31 in the succeeding even-numbered year, or until installation of a properly-qualified successor, except in the case of resignation, death, or removal from office as provided in Article III, Sections 19, 20, and 25.

10. Members at Large shall perform such duties as assigned by the ExComm.

11. The Ombudsman shall serve as a mediator for disputes within the Mid-Hudson Mensa, and as an arbitrator available to serve as a representative to Regional Hearings Committees.

12. The Editor, in addition to editing the local newsletter, shall publish notices of meetings and programs, required ballots, results of business meetings and elections, amendments to the by-laws and related discussions and ballots, and the semiannual financial reports, and shall prepare and publish Post Office forms, if required. The national and/or local Ombudsman may submit material to the Editor marked "for publication" that relates to his or her official duties; and anything so marked must be given the highest practicable priority for publication.

13. The Proctor Coordinator shall be a liaison with AML and other sources regarding testing of candidates.

14. The Recording Secretary shall be responsible for keeping all minutes of the business and ExComm meetings.

15. The Publicity Chair, if appointed, shall be responsible for publicity.

16. The Membership Chair, if appointed, shall be responsible for recruitment and retention programs and membership reports and for maintaining a current roster of the membership and officers of Mid-Hudson Mensa.

17. The Program Chair, if appointed, shall be responsible for arranging for local group activities, and shall coordinate with and advise the ExComm and the Editor of these activities.

18. The ExComm shall publish a newsletter at a frequency determined by the ExComm, but at least bi-monthly, containing a calendar of group activities and meeting notices, contact information

Program Notes

Calendar Editor Kevin McKenzie

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If an event looks questionable because of the weather or other concerns, call the event contact or calendar editor for the latest information.

Directions to events may be obtained a variety of ways online; for example, www.mapquest.com, maps.google.com, and maps.yahoo.com. I'm sure there are others.

Key to events:

\$ Fee involved
B BYO drink
H Handicapped accessible
K Suitable for kids
K+ Suitable for kids over 10
P Pets at event site
R RSVP
S/N Smoking/Non
Y Yummies Welcome

Eclectic Eatery Expedition:

Coco's Pasta and Grill

① Angela Tremain

Mon 11/10, 6:30 pm

Hyde Park -- N/R

Some of Angela's favorite restaurants are the ones she hasn't been to yet--but that come well-recommended. Northern Spy Cafe [Route 213 & Old Route 213, (845) 687-7298] is one of these. From burgers to vegan fair, there should be something for everyone here. You can check the menu in advance if you want to make sure:

<www.northernspycafe.com>. Come join us before the weather turns! Angela appreciates RSVPs so she can get a right-sized table.

14th Annual Camping Weekend

① Bibi Sandstrom

Sat 11/8

The 14th Annual Mensa Camping Weekend should maybe be called "Densa", as your host has picked a weekend in NOVEMBER. Let's hope for once that global warming strikes Saturday, Nov 8th. (In case of severe cold, rain, or snow, we'll cancel... no sense in shivering miserably in the woods!) If interested at all, let Bibi know immediately, as we're for once picking a regular site instead of a group site, at nearby Clarence Fahnestock State Park. bibis@juno.com
Fee around \$10 for the weekend (though might not set up til Saturday depending on the weather) - and Eric's famous Campfire Pizza might get

(Continued on page 11)

November Activities

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Camping Weekend
9 Camping Weekend	10 EEE 6:30 pm High Falls	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Third Thursday Therapy 6:30 pm Pok Board Games 7 pm New Paltz	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Holiday Book Sale Pok	29 Holiday Book Sale Pok
30 Holiday Book Sale Pok						

member may be appointed to multiple offices. An office itself does not imply a vote.

5. The ExComm may appoint other officers at any time, as deemed necessary.

6. A simple majority of the ExComm shall be required for the conduct of business. The vote of a majority of the attending ExComm members shall be required to approve any action.

7. The President shall be the chief executive officer and the liaison with other local groups and with AML.

8. The Vice-President shall assist the President, preside over meetings in the absence of the President, and immediately and automatically succeed to the office of President if that office becomes vacant.

9. The Treasurer shall be responsible for financial matters of the local group, including the finances of the local group newsletter, and shall provide to the President quarterly statements from banks and any other institutions where the group's money is deposited. The Treasurer shall submit to the ExComm a semiannual financial report which shall also be published in the local group newsletter. The semiannual financial report shall contain schedules of income, expenses, and balances for all funds under the control of the local group, including Regional Gathering, scholarship, and other special funds. All accounts must be separate accounts in the name of Mid-Hudson Mensa, and have two signatories. The Treasurer's report shall also include a listing of all equipment owned by the local group. At twelve (12) month intervals an independent and impartial review of all the financial books and records of the group shall be performed by a person or agency who was not involved in the issuing or collecting of money during the period being reviewed, and a report made to the ExComm. The Treasurer may assist the Editor in the preparation and submission of any postal forms that might be required.

offending party to leave, and, failing that, to request appropriate assistance in removing the offending party from the event. Whenever a member or the guest of a member is asked to leave or is removed from an official event, a written report of the reason(s) and the action(s) taken may be sent to the Regional Vice Chairman (RVC) in whose jurisdiction the event took place. In the case of SIGHT, the National SIGHT Coordinator shall be notified.

4. Mid-Hudson Mensa shall observe the preferences of members for data suppression and publication, as filed with AML, when publishing a local group roster or a membership directory/register.

ARTICLE III. OFFICERS & DUTIES

1. The governing body of Mid-Hudson Mensa shall be an Executive Committee (hereinafter “ExComm”) which shall conduct the business of Mid-Hudson Mensa. The ExComm shall consist of five (5) members, each of whom shall have one (1) vote.

2. At their first meeting after taking office, the ExComm shall appoint the following required officers from among themselves: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and two Members at Large. Note: For all intents and purposes, the words “President” and “Local Secretary” (“LocSec”) in all contexts are equivalent. Either term may be used in any context, except that within said context the usage should be consistent to avoid confusion.

3. At their first meeting after taking office, the ExComm shall appoint the following officers: Ombudsman (must not be a member of the ExComm), Editor (must not be a member of the ExComm), Proctor Coordinator, and Recording Secretary.

4. The ExComm may also appoint the following officers: Publicity Chair, Membership Chair, and Program Chair. Note: “Officer” is a person given a title with specific duties. A

(Continued from page 9)

changed to either lunch time or hot dogs depending on how cold it is!

Third Thursday Therapy

① **Charlie Rovner**

Thu 11/20, 6:30 pm

Poughkeepsie—K+/H/N

Take a break from the hectic pace with some therapy at the Orient Buffet. It is located at the north end of the Poughkeepsie Plaza Mall on Route 9.

Board Games Night

① **Andi Bartczak**

Thu 11/20, 7:00 pm

New Paltz—K+/H/N/Y

It's time for our annual board games extravaganza, open to the public. This time at the New Paltz village hall, famous for its head-smashing ceiling. This venue is handicap-accessible, with amazing parking for all you drivers. We provide the liquid refreshments, please bring the munchies, which go so well with our sparkling conversations.

Holiday Book Sale

① **Karl Zetterholm**

Fri 11/21—Sun 11/23

Poughkeepsie

The annual Holiday Book Sale organized by the Friends of the Poughkeepsie Library District for the benefit of the Library District and their programs will be hosted by the Locust Grove Samuel Morse Historic Site (www.lgny.org) on South Road in Poughkeepsie on November 21 – 23, 2008. The hours are: Friday 10am – 8pm; Saturday and Sunday 10am –

5pm.

We expect to have approximately 7,500 “gift-quality” books sorted into 26 categories. Pricing is very attractive at \$4.00 for hard-cover books, \$2.00 for oversized paperbacks, and \$1.00 for mass market paperbacks. Coffee table and other special books will be individually priced. Sunday is half price day.

Coming in December:

Winter Solstice Party. Time TBD.

Pun of the Month	
Jim Jelacic	
I got these Handy Engineering Conversions puns from Bill Zigo who got them from a friend:	
♦	Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter: Eskimo Pi
♦	2000 pounds of Chinese soup: Won ton
♦	1 millionth of a mouthwash: 1 microscope
♦	Time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement: 1 banana-second
♦	Weight an evangelist carries with God: 1 billigram
♦	Time it takes to sail 220 yards at 1 nautical mile per hour: Knot-furlong
♦	365.25 days of drinking low-calorie beer because it's less filling: 1 lite year
♦	16.5 feet in the Twilight Zone: 1 Rod Serling
♦	Half of a large intestine: 1 semicolon
Send your favorite groaner to PUNS, PO Box 133, Esopus NY 12429 or jimjelacic@verizon.net	



ARE YOU GAME?

Bill Zigo

“Train games” are very popular with Mensans, and in my opinion, they have evolved over the years. The first really popular train game was Rail Baron ®, © by Avalon Hill back in 1977. In that game, you purchased railroad companies and hauled freight across railroad lines (which cost less along the lines you owned) for profit. You would either use the profit to expand your rail network, improve your trains, or build cash towards winning the game. It was fun, but cumbersome to calculate your destinations and payoffs, and usually took hours to play.

Next came the Empire Builder ®, © by Mayfair Games in 1980, which took a little longer to catch on. But once it did, it and its spinoffs (e.g., Eurorails, Australian Rails, etc.) Were the new fad. These games featured a “blank” map with major and minor cities, and grids. You drew your own railroad line on the board as you built it, moved freight between established lines, and used your profit to expand your network, improve your trains, or build cash towards winning the game. It was also fun, but again took hours to play.

There was probably a demand for games which took less time to play but still featured the challenge of building a successful railroad network. There are several versions available. The most popular of these is Ticket To Ride ®, © 2004 by Days of Wonder.

The board for Ticket To Ride is a map of the United States and southern Canada. There are several dozen cities on the board, and cities in proximity are connected by 1 or 2 railroads of 1 to 6 “cars” in length. Each link is color-coded, or grey for neutral. A deck of cards contains railroad cars of each of the game colors, plus engines, which are essentially wild (i.e., every color). At the start of the game,

several of these cards are turned face up, and the remainder go into a draw pile. Each player also gets several rail line cards, each of which shows two cities which must be connected, and a number of associated victory points for successfully doing so. You are required to keep 3 of these at the start of the game.

On your turn, one of your options is to draw cards. You may draw from either the upturned cards or the draw pile. You may pick up to 2 car cards, or 1 face-up engine card, or you may draw two cards from the draw pile. Your choice probably depends on what you need at the moment. Your second option is to link two cities. To do that, you turn in the number of colored and/or engine cards to acquire a link, and you place 1-6 of your tokens on that link. For a neutral line, you can use any color of card, as long as they are all the same color, or engines. Your third option is to draw 3 additional destination cards, and if you do this, you must keep at least 1 of them.

The game continues until 1 player is down to 2 or fewer markers, at which point each player gets one more turn. At that point, points are totaled. You get a certain number of points for each rail link you have created (more points for longer links), plus bonus points for the longest network. You then reveal your destination cards. For each card you fulfilled, you get the associated points; for each one you did not fulfill, you lose the associated points. Highest point total wins.

A newer version of the game includes an expansion deck of destination cards. The destinations are shorter, therefore easier to attain, and it gives you the option of acquiring more cards. There are also other versions of the game for lands beyond the U.S.

Ticket to Ride is for 2-5 players (4 is considered best) and can be played in approximately 45 minutes (as opposed to the “several hours” above).

PROPOSED BYLAWS OF MID-HUDSON MENSA

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

1. The name of this organization shall be Mid-Hudson Mensa.

2. Mid-Hudson Mensa is a local group of American Mensa, Ltd., and is subject to the Constitution of Mensa, the Bylaws of American Mensa, Ltd., and the resolutions adopted by the American Mensa Committee. American Mensa, Ltd. is herein abbreviated as “AML” and the American Mensa Committee as “AMC”.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership of Mid-Hudson Mensa shall be open to all members of AML in good standing in the geographic areas assigned to Mid-Hudson Mensa by the AMC, or as otherwise assigned by AML.

2. Mensa members in good standing who are not also members of Mid-Hudson Mensa are welcome to participate in the social activities of Mid-Hudson Mensa at the discretion of the host or hostess. The National Ombudsman, his surrogate, and members of the American Mensa Committee shall be permitted to participate in the business affairs of the local group in the discharge of their official duties.

3. When a Mensa host or hostess offers a private home for a business meeting, membership meeting, or other official local group meeting, all local group members must be granted the right to attend. Hosts or hostesses for any other activities, such as Special Interest Groups (SIGs), open houses, parties, Service of Information, Guidance and Hospitality to Travelers (SIGHT) visits, or any other activities which are not official functions may invite or exclude individuals, including Mensa members, at his/her discretion. Even at official functions, a member may be evicted for specific unacceptable behavior. The organizers of the event have the responsibility and duty to attempt to control any offending party. This control can take the nature of asking the

And In Closing . . .



What's Up?

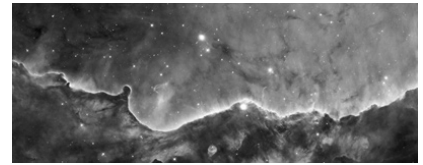
Tom Rankin
Mid-Hudson Astronomy Assn

For October, we talked about Mercury, Jupiter, Saturn and 2 Meteor showers. Did you see any of these?

For November, Mars and Mercury will be lost in the Sun's glare. Venus will continue to be seen higher in the Western sky each night, heading for a late month rendezvous with Jupiter and the Moon. Saturn rises around 1:00 in the East and shines brightly until dawn. On the night of the 27th, Antares will pass very close to the Moon.

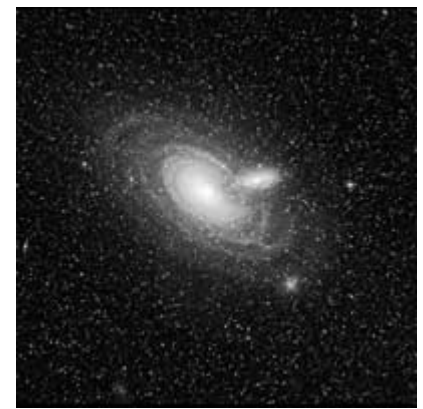
News:

Stillllll going! The Hubble Space Telescope has been sending back pictures for many years. Here is a 'mountain range' from the archives that is a composite of multiple instruments (see <http://hubblesite.org/newscenter/archive/releases/2008/34/image/a/> for full details, including a zoomable image).



The Hubble Space Telescope strikes again, capturing a rare alignment between two spiral galaxies. The outer rim of the smaller galaxy is silhouetted in front of a larger more distant

galaxy. Tentacles of dust can be seen beyond the small galaxy's disk. From the ground, the two galaxies look like a single object. But the HTS's sharp "eye" can distinguished the blob as two galaxies. More info at <http://hubblesite.org/newscenter/archive/releases/2008/33/>



(Continued on page 15)



Answers

- TV Trivia**
- A) 714.
 - B) 6 - Sabrina, Jill, Kelly, Kris,
 - Tiffany and Julie.
 - C) 19.
 - D) 79.
 - E) 2 - Tabitha and Adam.
 - F) 9.
 - G) 3.
 - H) 4 - Janet, Chrissy, Cindy and Terri.
 - I) 4 - Adam Schiff, Nora Lewin, Arthur Branch & Jack McCoy.
- Cryptograms**
- Easy:** A politician would do well to remember that he has to live with his conscience longer than he does with his constituents. Melvin R. Laird
- Hard:** To succeed in politics, it is often necessary to rise above your principles. Andri's Kleinram
- Jack Lord** was the star of "Hawaii 50".
- $((714 / 6) - 19) / (((79 + 2) / 9) / 3) - (4 / 4)) = 50$

(Continued from page 6)

it can predict the future? Ibid., p. 1249
THREE BASIC STRATEGIES are used in chemotherapy, to maximize the killing of cancer cells and minimize the death of normal cells. Selective toxicity uses drugs more potent in inhibiting the growth of tumor cells than normal cells; this includes conventional chemotherapy and newer agents such as Gleevec. Another strategy uses agents such as antibodies which react with specific molecules

found mostly in tumor cells. A third strategy (angiogenic) uses agents that target abnormal aspects of the blood vessels within the tumor. Ibid., p. 1308 NOTE: Past Science Snippets can be viewed at <www.scienceforcitizens.org/extras.html>

It's All in the Numbers TV Trivia

Jim Jelacic

Here is a challenging puzzle. Fill in the numbers in the equation and name the star of the show that has the equation's answer in its title.

$$((A / B) - C) / (((D + E) / F) / G) - (H / I)$$

- A) Joe Friday's badge number on "Dragnet".
- B) The total number of "Charlie's Angels".
- C) The number of times Susan Lucci was nominated for an Emmy on "All My Children" before she won.
- D) The number of episodes of the original "Star Trek".
- E) The number of children Samantha and Darren had on "Bewitched".
- F) The number of spikes on Bart Simpson's hair.
- G) The number of spots you see on Scooby Do's back.
- H) The total number of room mates Jack Tripper had on "Three's Company".
- I) The total number of District Attorneys on "Law and Order".

Cryptograms

Jim Jelacic

Easy("*" means capital letter):

N ARMZFZQZNC IRGMU UR IVMM FR

SVOVOPVS FYNF YV YNB FR MZHV IZFY YZB

QRCBQZVCQV MRCXVS FYNC YV URVB IZFY

YZB QRCBFZFGVCFB

Hard - no punctuation and grouped in five:

AUCNO OSSQX PBURX AXOCX AXCUT ASPPS

OSCCK IHAUI XCSKM UDSHU NIBIX POXBR SC

(Continued from page 13)

November has the famous Leonid meteor shower. This can range from zilch to awesome. The best times to look are early on the mornings of November 16-18th. This Leonid streak is as big as the constellation of Orion and vastly brighter than the bright stars in the picture!



Club Activities: Our club has lots of meetings all over the Hudson Valley. If you want to see what all the MHAA is doing this month, outdoors or indoors, check out our NEW web page at <http://www.midhudsonastro.org/>, visit or join our yahoo group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mhastro/>, call our hotline at (845)-255-4719, or email us at mhastro1@yahoo.com. We have books, videos, and telescopes to lend.

Clear skies! Tom Rankin