

# Minnesota Mensa

*2009 Regional Gathering*

*April 24 - 26, 2009*

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Last of the Aughts

# Welcome!



Welcome to Minnesota Mensa's 2009 Regional Gathering, The Last of the Aughts! It's the last year of the unnamed decade. What does this mean for speaking and eating themes? Absolutely nothing. We have a variety of speakers and Hospitality goodies.

This year's RG makes use of two hotels that are across the street from each other and owned by the same

holding company. Hospitality is located in the Holiday Inn Express, which has no restaurant and will allow us to bring in food of any kind. Registration, Young Ms, and two speaking rooms are there as well. Lunch will be served in the main lobby of Hilton Garden Inn; the banquet and brunch will be held in the Hilton Grand Salon. The Grand Salon will also be used for some programs, including the Silent Auction, on Saturday afternoon.

The hotel floor plans in this program show both hotels. The Hilton's is not true to scale, but it shows the layout well enough for you to get around.

Both hotels have a breakfast bar in the main lobby for their registered guests. If you're not staying at the hotel, but are there early enough for breakfast, check the Hospitality schedule.

We trust that the weather deities will be kind over the weekend. Look carefully both ways before you cross the street and enjoy our split venues!

## Registration Location

If you're reading this program you've probably already stopped at Registration, but if you need to find it again, it will be open for most of Friday and Saturday in the main lobby of Holiday Inn Express. Registration will be moved to Hospitality when the number of people arriving at the RG has slowed to a trickle. Registration should be open when needed, but we don't want our volunteers sitting isolated in the cold, empty lobby.

## No Smoking

Both hotels are nonsmoking areas with the exception of designated rooms. Please go outside to smoke.

## Hugging Stickers

Hugging is Mensa's secret handshake and you may see a lot of it at gatherings. Don't be alarmed! It's not required of all members and there's a way to communicate your preference — dots. They were at the Registration table if you missed them when you checked in. Here is what the colors mean:

Green: Go ahead and hug me if you wish.

Yellow: Proceed with caution. Ask for permission before hugging.

Red: Stop! No hugs, please.

Blue: A single person looking for other single people. This should be used in combination with your red, yellow, or green dot.

## Hospitality

Those of you who have been to Hospitality at any RG or AG know what to expect. Food, plenty of beverages, and snacks, some of which are nutritious, are always on hand. It's a place to sit and talk with someone.

The hours are:

Friday: 4:00 P.M. (or RG opening) to 1:00 A.M.

Saturday: 7:30 A.M. to 1:00 A.M. (Closed during lunch, noon to 1:00 P.M.)

Sunday: 8:00 A.M. to noon

Special events will be held in Hospitality, such as a sing-a-long with Bill and Steve, feeding frenzies, and a midnight chocolate contest. All of these things combine to create the heart of the RG. Stop in and check them out!

## Help!

Looking for a way to contribute to the RG and do something new? We need members to give an hour of time in one of five areas. Talk to the coordinator(s) to schedule a time.

Young Ms:	Teresa Manzella
Registration:	Maggie Klinzman
Hospitality:	Jen Fairchild
Speaker Shepherds:	Jane Gmur
Silent Auction:	Barb Andersen

This can be as fun as any other activity here and you'll be appreciated for the time that you've given!

## Name Badges

As always, our badges are color-coded to bring some categories to your attention. Want to find an RG committee member to complain to? Find someone with a purple badge. (Or just bring it to Rich Lee.) Is there someone at the beer keg who looks a little young? A green badge indicates that they're under 21 and shouldn't be there. Here is a list of the colors and what they mean:

Red Speaker  
Blue Saturday Only  
Green Under 21  
Purple RG Committee Member

Help us out for the next RG. Last thing before you leave this RG, leave your clear plastic badge holder with us. A basket will be placed in Hospitality for this purpose.

## Lost and Found

Lost and Found is located in Hospitality.

## Silent Auction

Minnesota Mensa volunteers receive Mensabucks for their efforts. The silent auction is an opportunity to redeem those Mensabucks.

## RG Committee

Co-Chair: Richard Lee  
Co-Chair: Ken Silver  
Registrar: Maggie Klinzman  
Hospitality: Jen Fairchild  
Treasurer: Maggie Klinzman  
Young Ms: Teresa Manzella  
Web site: Karen Kuntz

### *Special thanks to:*

Cheryl Laurent: Printed Program Writing and Editing  
John Sokalski: Printed Program Writing and Editing  
Barb Andersen: Silent Auction  
Steve Cassavant: Music / Entertainment  
Bill Conlan: Printed Program Editor and  
Publisher  
Music / Entertainment

## Young Ms

Teresa Manzella will run the Young Ms program for kids ages 6 to 12. It runs from 9:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. on Saturday, with a break for lunch. Parents must pick up their kids for that hour (check final schedule for lunch time).

Parents may be asked to spend an hour or two helping out. They will be required to leave a cell phone number in case of emergency.

We're happy to provide this service for children and their parents, but it's the parents who are responsible for their children at all times during the RG.



*Hospitality is open until 1:00 A.M. on Friday and Saturday nights. It's a good place to stop in for a chat, something to eat, or just a cup of coffee.*

## Annual Members' Meeting

The RG officially ends at noon on Sunday, but there are two more meetings that you might be interested in attending.

This year's Annual Members' Meeting (a.k.a. January Gathering, Spring Thing, Annual Business Meeting) will be held on Sunday in the Cedar Room, starting at noon.

The monthly Board meeting will begin immediately after the Members' Meeting. It's scheduled for 1:30 because a time had to be defined, but it will start as early as possible.

Members who don't attend the RG are welcome to attend either or both of these meetings.

# Friday

**4:00 P.M. to 1:00 A.M.**

## Hospitality

*Magnolia Room*

Snacks, beverages, good company: Enjoy any and all of these things, and check the schedule for special events!

**6:30 P.M.**

## Pizza Party

*Hospitality*

A simple, scrumptious dinner. Pick up a slice in Hospitality, then find a table in the main lobby, or right there in the Hospitality room. If you want to grab your chair for the movie, sit in the Cedar Room.

**8:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M.**

## Movies

*Cedar Room*

Movies will be announced at the RG.

**8:00 P.M. to 8:50 P.M.**

## Ask the RVC

**Ken Silver**

*Room 133*

Have a burning question about Mensa? Want to know why Mensa things are the way they are? Our own Ken Silver, RVC4, sits on the Board (AMC) of American Mensa. Ask Ken!

**9:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M.**

## Double Deck Cancellation Hearts Tournament

*Room 133*

It's the classic hearts game times two! Twenty-six hearts and two queens of spades challenge your old strategy. Come join your friends for the fun and the chance to win bragging rights!

**11:00 P.M. to Midnight**

## Feeding Frenzy

*Hospitality*

Food, glorious food! A little hungry after watching movies or grilling the RVC? Come to hospitality for something more than chips!

# Saturday

**7:30 A.M. to 1:00 A.M.**

## Hospitality

*Magnolia Room*

Snacks, beverages, good company: Enjoy any and all of these things, and check the schedule for special events! (Closed during lunch.)

**7:30 A.M. to 9:30 A.M.**

## Continental Breakfast

*Hospitality*

**9:00 A.M. to noon**

## Young Ms

*Room 155*

Kids up to age 12 get their own room and their own roster of things to do. See Teresa Manzella for details.

**9:00 A.M. to 9:50 A.M.**

## How Your Myers-Briggs Type Affected Your School Performance

**Deborah Ruf**

*Cedar Room*

Dr. Deborah Ruf uses the Myers-Briggs types to help participants understand why they might not have done well in school and might have gotten into a lot of trouble (even though they were smart). Others will learn why even though they did well in school, life as an adult has been much more problematic (even though they are smart).



# Saturday

**9:00 A.M. to 9:50 A.M.**

## **Making a Web Site**

**Tina Bernu**

*Room 133*

Always wanted your own Web site but didn't know where to start? Tina Bernu will offer instruction and hints on building your own personal Web site with tools that are available on the Internet. Many of the creation tools are free, and there are many affordable options for businesses.

**10:00 A.M. to 10:50 A.M.**

## **Carnelli**

**Lin Rockler**

*Cedar Room*

Carnelli is a party game invented by Jan Carnell, a long-time member of Metropolitan Washington Mensa. A little like charades, a little like ghost, and a lot like free association, Carnelli requires no materials or props; players need only quick-wittedness, a good memory, and an acquaintance with modern culture. As always, the decisions of the judge are arbitrary, capricious, and *final*.

**10:00 A.M. to 10:50 A.M.**

## **The World on a String**

**Mick Lunzer**

*Room 133*

When juggling became his passion, Mick Lunzer made the vital connection between play and productivity. Using the yo-yo as a guide, Mick will show some of his innovations and talk about changing the world around you with your unique talents and ideas..

**11:00 A.M. to 11:50 A.M.**

## **The Joy of Mushrooms**

**Ron Spinosa**

*Cedar Room*

They are beautiful, colorful, bizarre, deadly, delicious, and you wouldn't be here without them! Come and celebrate the wonderful world of Kingdom Fungi. The presentation will include an introduction to mushrooms and other fungi, and it will also reveal the essential role of fungi in the ecosystems of our planet.

**11:00 A.M. to 11:50 A.M.**

## **Opening the Ark of the Covenant**

**Frank Joseph**

*Room 133*

The Ark of the Covenant was a technological device millennia ahead of its time and ours, built by a pre-Israelite people to harness the powers of the Earth for good or ill. What was its original purpose? Where is its present location? How would its discovery change our world?

**Noon to 1:00 P.M.**

## **Deli Buffet Lunch**

*Hilton Lobby*

Go across the street to enjoy the deli buffet: sliced roast beef, ham, turkey, and assorted cheese, gourmet breads, condiment tray, garden salad with assorted dressings, a second salad, or soup.

**1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.**

## **Young Ms**

*Room 155*

More fun for kids after a break for lunch.

**1:00 P.M. to 1:50 P.M.**

## **Liar's Club**

*Hilton Grand Salon*

Is prolix an adverb meaning lengthy, tediously wordy, or a verb meaning cheerful, drunken playing? Come test your vocabulary, or pick out the nonsense definitions. John Sokalski will MC a panel of four Mensans: Bill Chantry, Cheryl Laurent, Linda Seebach, and Pat Shepard.

**1:00 P.M. to 1:50 P.M.**

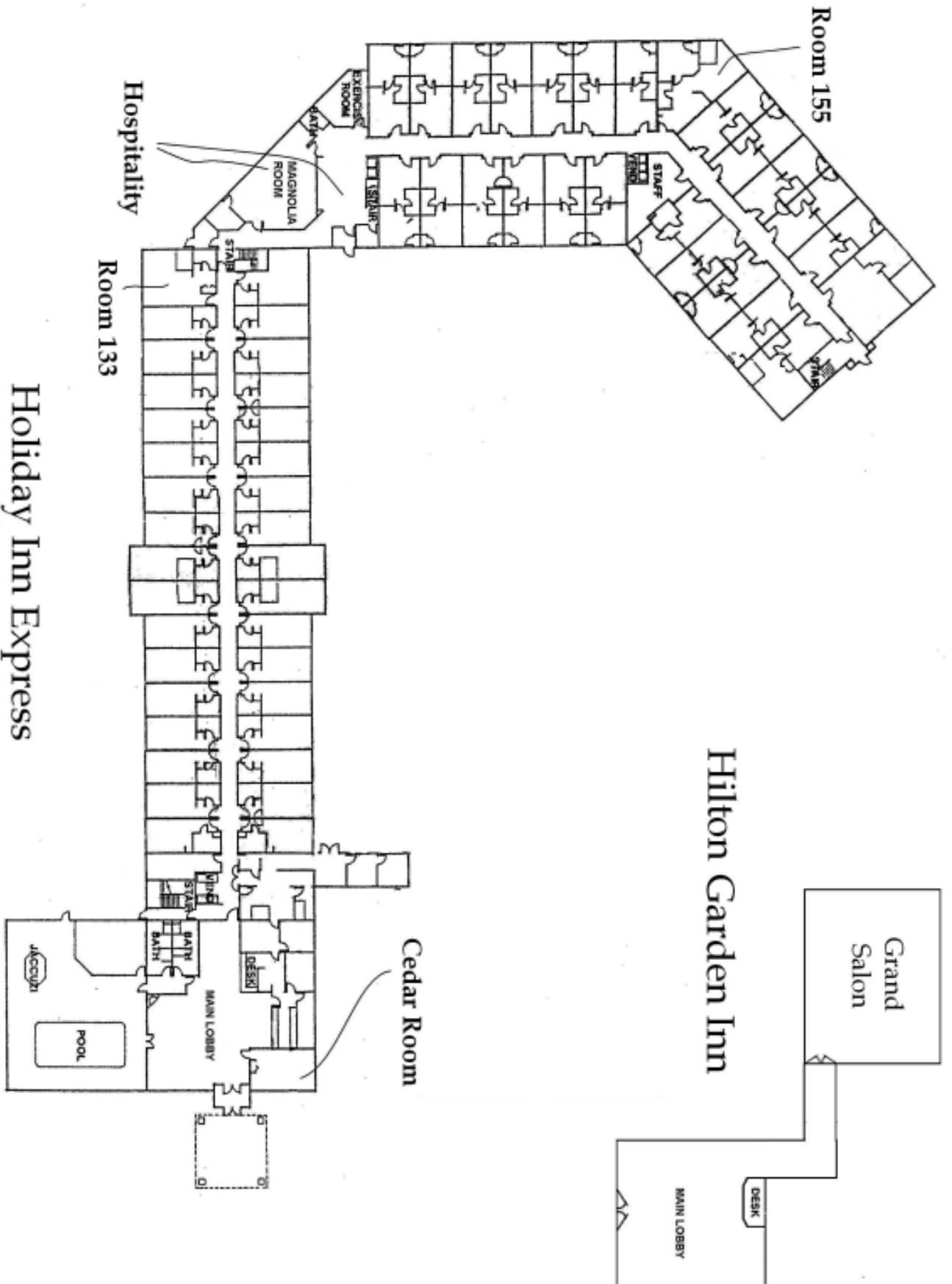
## **Nonprofits: Starting One, Leading One**

*Room 133*

**Michael Cavitt**

Everyone connected with nonprofits suffers from the problems created when a nonprofit is started. Participants will learn of some of the most troublesome problems. The group will identify and discuss solutions to these problems. This will help you, as a volunteer leader, get the best results in the nonprofits with which you work.

Time	Hospitality	Cedar Room	Room 133	Room155	Hilton Lobby	Hilton Grand Salon
<b>Friday</b>						
4:00 P.M.	Opens					
6:30 P.M.	Pizza Party					
8:00 P.M.		Movies	Ask the RVC			
9:00 P.M.			Cancellation Hearts			
11:00 P.M.	Feeding Frenzy					
<b>Saturday</b>						
1:00 A.M.	Closed					
7:30 A.M.	Continental Breakfast					
9:00 A.M.		Myers Briggs Type	Making a Web Site	Young Ms		
9:00 A.M.		Carnelli	World on a String	Young Ms		
10:00 A.M.		Joy of Mushrooms	Opening the Ark	Young Ms		
11:00 A.M.				Closed	Dei Buffet Lunch	
Noon						
1:00 P.M.			Nonprofits	Young Ms		Liars' Club
2:00 P.M.		Living Lifestyle		Young Ms		Minn. Crime Wave
3:00 P.M.		Kennedy Cnsprcy.		Young Ms		Going Green
4:00 P.M.		Game Business	Internet Ate My Paper	Young Ms		
5:00 P.M.			New Member Receptn.	Closed		Silent Auction
6:00 P.M.					Social Hour	
7:00 P.M.						
8:00 P.M.			Texas Hold 'em			Banquet
9:00 P.M.			Texas Hold 'em			Mark Ritchie
9:00 P.M.	Improv Workshop, Main Lobby					
11:00 P.M.	Feeding Frenzy/Chocolate					
Midnight	Feeding Frenzy/Chocolate					
<b>Sunday</b>						
1:00 A.M.	Closed					
8:00 A.M.	Opens					
10:00 A.M.						Brunch
11:30 A.M.	Closeout Auction					
Noon		Members' Meeting				
1:30 P.M.		Board Meeting				



Holiday Inn Express

Hilton Garden Inn

# Saturday

**2:00 P.M. to 2:50 P.M.**

## **A Living Lifestyle**

**Daniel Barrett**

*Cedar Room*

Two out of three will die of heart disease or cancer. We are drowning in misinformation on the causes of disease. You will hear a stunning exposé of the leading cause of death, powerful miracle stories from practice, and simple tools you can use tomorrow to keep from becoming a victim of the three big killers.

**2:00 P.M. to 2:50 P.M.**

## **The Minnesota Crime Wave**

**Ellen Hart, William Kent Krueger, and Carl Brookins**

*Hilton Grand Salon*

The Minnesota Crime Wave's M.O. is to appear in costume, engage unsuspecting convention attendees in a sometimes serious, sometimes amusing panel discussion on a wide-ranging number of mystery, writing, and publication topics.

**3:00 P.M. to 3:50 P.M.**

## **The Kennedy Conspiracy**

**Jim Koepke**

*Cedar Room*

Jim Koepke describes his personal research into the death of President John F. Kennedy. He provides new information and some startling and controversial revelations, including his interviews with former CIA directors Richard Helms and William Colby. This presentation is certain to create some stirring discussions.

**3:00 P.M. to 3:50 P.M.**

## **Going Green to Save Green**

**Diana McKeown**

*Hilton Grand Salon*

Money is tight and energy prices are rising. Come hear from the experts how you can find no-cost and low-cost ways to save energy in your home and business. These methods include everything from weatherization to energy efficient technology. There are a number of ways to reduce your energy use by taking simple steps.

**4:00 P.M. to 4:50 P.M.**

## **The Challenges of the Game Business**

**Don Meyer**

*Cedar Room*

Don Meyer will discuss the opportunities and challenges of the toy and game industry, including highlights of how Pywacket Games managed to develop and promote two Mensa Select-winning games in its first four years.

**4:00 P.M. to 4:50 P.M.**

## **The Internet Ate My Newspaper!**

**Linda Seebach**

*Room 133*

Newspapers are struggling financially, their business model destroyed by the loss of advertising to online alternatives such as Craigslist. My paper, the *Rocky*, closed in February after nearly 150 years. How did newspapers generate revenue to support the news they published? What, if anything, will replace them? If nothing does, will it matter?

**5:00 P.M. to 5:50 P.M.**

## **Silent Auction**

**Gordon Andersen**

*Hilton Grand Salon*

Come hear Gordon Andersen be silent! Turn your hours of volunteering for Minnesota Mensa (the Mensabucks you earned) into tangible goods! Mensabucks are the only accepted currency for this treasure trove of loot.

**5:00 P.M. to 5:50 P.M.**

## **New Member Reception**

*Room 133*

Did you join Mensa after 2006? There's a reception especially for you and others who have signed up in the last three years. Find out what other new Mensans have learned and get to know your "Class of" group.

# Saturday

**6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.**

## **Social Hour and Cash Bar**

*Hilton Lobby*

## **Banquet**

*Hilton Grand Salon*

## **Minnesota's High Performance Democracy**

### **Mark Ritchie**

*Hilton Grand Salon*

An overview of the 2008 U.S. Senate recount and the lessons learned.

**9:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M.**

## **Texas Hold'em Tournament**

*Room 133*

Leave your weapons at the door. This is a relaxed, low-stakes game.

**9:00 P.M. to 10:30 P.M.**

## **Improv Workshop**

### **Joette Poehler and Bill Fricke**

*Main Lobby*

Stop worrying about that next presentation. Learn to think on your feet. Join us for an introduction to improv. In this interactive session, you will learn a few of the basic rules of improv and a couple of games. Improvisation techniques can help you develop poise, spontaneity, and self-confidence. We'll also give you some resources if you're interested in pursuing further training.

**11:00 P.M. to 1:00 A.M.**

## **Feeding Frenzy**

*Hospitality*

See Friday night! Hungry after interacting in the Improv Workshop or bluffing at Texas Hold'em? Come to Hospitality!

## **Chocolate, Chocolate, and More Chocolate**

Cake, cookies, chicken mole. Bring your best chocolate dish to compete in the chocolate contest. Please bring it to Hospitality at least 15 minutes ahead of time. Everyone there is eligible to judge.

# Sunday

**8:00 A.M. to noon**

## **Hospitality**

*Magnolia Room*

Snacks, beverages, good company: Enjoy any and all of these things, and check the schedule for special events!

**10:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.**

## **Brunch**

*Hilton Grand Salon*

**11:30 A.M. to Noon**

## **Hospitality Closeout Auction**

*Hospitality*

Buy food and beverages that didn't get opened or used in Hospitality. Cheap!

**Noon to 1:30 P.M.**

## **Minnesota Mensa Members' Meeting**

*Cedar Room*

The January Gathering, The Spring Thing, The Annual Business Meeting: Now it's the Annual Members' Meeting. This is your chance to hear what Minnesota Mensa has been doing over the past year.

**1:30 P.M. to 2:30 P.M.**

## **Board Meeting**

*Cedar Room*

Minnesota Mensa's Board usually meets on the Monday before First Friday. That Monday is April 27, the day after the RG. Since most Board members are there anyway, we decided to meet at the hotel and stay home the next night. All members are always welcome to attend and are encouraged to attend on Sunday.



*Marie Porter created this "Dali" cake for the 2007 Regional Gathering, "Back in the Future." Check out the Chocolate competition on Saturday night.*

# The Speakers

## Daniel Barrett

“Help as many people as possible live life fully, as free from drugs as possible.” Daniel Barrett, in his 17th year as a Doctor of Chiropractic, uses his eclectic past daily to save lives through healthy self-expression. In addition to his D.C., he has completed an M.D. Dr. Barrett will be assisted by Marlena Hernandez.

## Tina Bernu

Tina Bernu is the current volunteer Webmaster for American Mensa Region 4 ([www.region4.us.mensa.org](http://www.region4.us.mensa.org)). She has experience in setting up and creating Web sites from scratch as well as finding free or reasonably priced monthly rates for hosting.

## Michael Cavitt

Michael Cavitt joined Mensa in 1978. He has consulted with people in organizations in all sectors. He draws on his Master in Public Administration and more than 30 years of consulting experience. He is now focusing on helping volunteer leaders in nonprofits as a coach and cheerleader at Yay Team!.

## Frank Joseph

Frank Joseph became the editor-in-chief of *Ancient American*, a popular archaeology magazine, when it was founded in 1993. His twenty published books, released in as many foreign editions, are devoted to prehistory, military aviation, and metaphysics. Joseph has been interviewed by Shirley MacLaine and numerous other broadcast hosts.

## Jim Koepke

Jim Koepke has researched and written about the Kennedy assassination for years and is nationally recognized as an expert on this subject. He coordinated a national Mensa SIG on the topic. The author of three books, Jim is a founder of the Bloomington Writer’s Festival. He is the former administrator of the Hennepin County Mental Health Center.

## Mick Lunzer

For the past 25 years Mick Lunzer has been a juggler and street performer winning many international awards both as an individual and with his team, the Danger Committee. Thanks to his artistic innovations, Mick is on his way to becoming one of the world’s Grand Master Yo-Yo Champions.

## Diana S. McKeown

Diana S. McKeown joined the Green Institute as coordinator for the metro CERTs (Clean Energy Resource Teams) network created by the Minnesota legislature. Previously, Diana spent 14 years at Clean Water Action Alliance of Minnesota. Diana holds a B.S. degree in environmental studies from the University of Minnesota and is a state certified residential energy auditor.

## Don Meyer

After 23 years on a family farm raising hogs and dairy cattle, Don Meyer was prepared to move into accounting. Over the next 23 years he went from public accounting to controller to CFO of several companies. Lately he has taken this wealth of experience into something he loves to do, developing family and educational board games as founder of Pywacket Games.

## Minnesota Crime Wave

There’s almost no truth to the rumor that the members of the Minnesota Crime Wave met because they have the same parole officer. Established in the fall of 2000, the Crime Wave consists of mystery writers Ellen Hart, Carl Brookins, and William Kent Krueger. Between them they have published more than thirty novels and have received nearly two dozen local, regional, and national writing awards. They’ve toured the country together several times, presenting hundreds of programs and workshops at libraries, bookstores, conferences, and book festivals.

## Joette Poehler and Bill Fricke

Joette Poehler and Bill Fricke have been performing comedy (not necessarily together) for the past five years. They live in St. Paul with three cats, each of whom has a personality disorder (the cats, not Bill or Joette). Dinner at their house is a hoot. Seriously.

## Deborah Ruf

Deborah Ruf, Ph.D., Minneapolis, is a specialist in gifted assessment, test interpretation, and guidance for the gifted. A recent recipient of the national Intellectual Benefits Award from the Mensa Education & Research Foundation, she was the national gifted children program coordinator for American Mensa for more than five years, stepping down from that post in July 2008. Having been a parent, teacher, and administrator in elementary through graduate education, she writes and speaks about school issues and social and emotional adjustment of gifted children. Her award-winning book, *Losing Our Minds: Gifted Children Left Behind* (July 2005), summarizes “levels of intelligence” and highlights the spectrum of giftedness in children.



*Redeem your Mensabucks at the silent auction on Saturday at 5:00 P.M. in the Hilton Grand Salon.*



*Deborah Ruf speaking at the 2007 RG*

## Linda Seebach

Linda Seebach was an editorial writer and columnist at Denver’s *Rocky Mountain News* until she retired to Northfield in 2007. Before heading off for journalism and points west, she taught mathematics at St. Olaf College, ran a small printing business catering to the antique-car hobby, and worked as a foreign expert teaching English in Shanghai. She blogs, intermittently, at [www.lindaseebach.com](http://www.lindaseebach.com).

## Ron Spinosa

Ron served for four years as president of the Minnesota Mycological Society and is the current editor of the *Toadstool Review*, the newsletter of that organization. Ron is also the chair of the Cultivation Committee of the North American Mycological Association.

## Honorable Mark Ritchie

Mark Ritchie serves as Minnesota’s secretary of state, the state’s chief elections officer. Mark previously worked in the Perpich administration in the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and served for twenty years as the president of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy. He and his wife, Nancy Gaschott, live in Minneapolis.



