



**The Summer of Love**

**Regional Gathering**

**Hosted By**

**Boston Mensa**

**Nov 16 - Nov 18 2007**

**Sheraton Hotel  
Braintree, Ma**

## Committee

Regional Gatherings do not just happen! They are created through the hard work and cooperation of many Mensans. Special thanks go out to the following committee members for making THE SUMMER OF LOVE a success.

Chair	Tom Birchmire
Hospitality	Rick Kovalcik
Printed Program	Tom Birchmire
Proctor	Joy Chambers
Raffle/Puzzles	Wendy Birchmire
Registrar	Claire Natola
Registrar/Web	Al Beecy
RG Staff	Susan Mozzicato
	Maureen Mullins
Speakers	Susan Engelke
Tournament Games	Adam Smargon
Video Game Room	Mike Ahearn

## Welcome

The RG Committee welcomes you to THE SUMMER OF LOVE. We've tried to put together a program that has something for everyone. We hope you enjoy our selections. If you have concerns during the event, please speak to any committee member.

## Badges/Hugging Dots

Please wear your badge at all times. It is how we distinguish you from the other guests at the hotel. There are "hugging dots" for badges at the Registration desk. They signify:

GREEN - Yes, I would appreciate a hug.

YELLOW - Please ask first before hugging me.

RED - I'm not available for hugs right now.

## Behavior

Please respect the property of the RG and the hotel. Illegal, destructive, or abusive behavior is grounds for eviction from the RG. If the committee must make a decision to evict, it is final and no refund will be offered.

Speakers will be lecturing on their area of expertise. Please consider these to be presentations and not open discussion. We have asked each speaker to leave time at the end of their program to address audience questions.

## Smoking

Smoking is not allowed in any function room or public area of the hotel.

## Hospitality in the Madison Room

This is the hub of the RG! Come here to meet new people, renew old friendships, and to find food, beverages, and entertainment. All RG food and beverages must be consumed in Hospitality.

## Mensa After Hours/Quiet Hospitality Rm 2007

Room 2007 is for those RGeers who want to stay up late or just want a quiet room to sit in. The RG's Hospitality Room closes between 2:00a.m. and 7:00a.m. in accordance with state and local law. The Hospitality Staff will not provide Rm 2007 drinks and snacks, so plan for what you might need in the wee hours.

## Children's Room Hancock Room

The Children's Room is located near hospitality and is equipped with suitable games and supplies. Parents must supervise their children as the RG does not provide any childcare.

## Peace Bucks and the Raffle

Peace Bucks will be awarded at the RG. They can then be used for entering raffles. One Peace Buck will be awarded for each of the following activities.

- Correctly solving any of the ten puzzles
- Participating in a Games Tournament
- Performing in Karaoke, Winning a dual player Video Game
- Wearing a tie-dye T-shirt or Summer of Love Costume on Friday or Saturday.
- Winning a Games Tournament (worth 3 Peace Bucks)

Copies of each puzzle will be distributed from the Raffle Table:

- Friday 6pm, 8pm
- Saturday 9am, 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, 5pm

Copies of each puzzle will be available until they run out. Return completed puzzles no later than 9:00 Saturday.

## Raffle

Raffle items will be displayed in Hospitality for most of the RG. Each item will have a container on the Raffle Table. Sign and place your Peace Bucks in the containers of your choice until 10am on Sunday. You or your designee must be present at the drawing during the Wrap Up beginning at 10:30 Sunday.

# Video Game Room 131 (On Going)

The Video Game room in Suite 131 is hosted by Mike Ahearn with help from Jess Ahearn and Tom Birchmire. Dance Dance Revolution (DDR) and Guitar Hero are the featured games although there will be other titles available. Games can be played at times other than those listed in the program if arrangements are made with Mike.

## Dance Dance Revolution (DDR)

Dance Dance Revolution (DDR) is an active video game enjoyed by all ages. The game controller is a pad on the floor with up, down, left and right arrows. Your job is to dance on the pad, matching the arrows on the screen – all to the beat of some fun songs. There are levels of play from (very slow) beginner to (oh my God, ridiculous) heavy, so DDR is perfect for everyone. Wear some comfortable clothing and join us for one of the best ways to get some enjoyable exercise.

**Mike Ahearn and Jess Ahearn** share DDR duties. Sixteen - year-old Mike Ahearn has been a member of Mensa for six years, and got hooked on DDR at his first Pilgrimage. He hopes to be a video game designer/programmer. **Jess Ahearn** has been coming to Mensa RGs with her younger brother for five years. She loves showing off her DDR skills to newbies at arcades. She will be attending the University of Southern California next spring to study film production and hopes to bring her Ignition dance pad.

## Guitar Hero II™

Guitar Hero II™ is a guitar simulation game that puts you at the center of your very own rock band. After a short introduction, players will experience the essence of what it's like to actually play some of the coolest rock songs of all time. Guitar Hero II™ introduces all new multiplayer modes like: cooperative, pro-face off, and face off, letting 2 Guitar Heroes conduct their own symphonies of destruction.

**Tom Birchmire** has been involved with Boston Mensa since the mid-eighties when he moved to New England from Florida. His Guitar Hero activities are a recent addiction.

## Schedule of Events Friday

**3:00 - 9:00 p.m., in Madison: Registration**

**5:00 - 9:00 p.m., in Madison: Mensa Boutique**

The Mensa Boutique will be open in Hospitality for most of the RG.

**5:00-9:00 p.m., in Hancock: Kids Room Open**

**6:00 p.m., in Madison: First Puzzle**

**6:00 - 8:00 p.m., in Madison: Dinner**

Friday dinner will be soup and sandwiches

**8:00 p.m., in Madison: Second Puzzle**

**8:00-9:00p.m., in Adams North**

### **Newbie Primer aka "My First Time"**

Is this your first Regional Gathering (or even your first Mensa event of any kind)? Join Susan Engelke for a first timer's primer: What to expect, who's who, and how on earth to juggle so many activities when there are multiple fun things to do.

**Susan Engelke** is Boston's Mensa's Loc-Sec (president) and has been a member for a number of years. She is noted for her gracious party giving and her involvement in Mensa activities.

**8:00-9:00p.m., in Video Room 131**

### **Dance Dance Revolution (DDR)**

Instruction on how to play and demos. Be prepared to step on the dance pad and move around.

**8:00-Ongoing, in Video Room 131**

### **A Three Minute Science Experiment**

Drop by anytime when Room 131 is open to take part in a science experiment for Mensan Mike Ahearn's science fair project. The whole process will only take you approximately 3 minutes - just answer 11 very simple questions, look at two things for 5 seconds each, tell Mike what you saw, and you're done! Mike needs to test at least 100 people, so he would appreciate your help.

# Schedule of Events Friday (Continued)

9:00-11:00 p.m., in Madison:

## Open Bar Mixer

Meet your fellow Mensans. Order a mixed drink, on the house! Mud Slides, specialty drinks, beer and wine too! Adults over 21 only.

8:00-9:00 p.m., in Adams South

## Handwriting Analysis

Barbara will enlighten and entertain you through her original and specific Interpretive Handwriting Analysis. You may laugh, cry, and find out something about yourself you hadn't known before. Her food for thought is both provocative and bold.

**Barbara Isaacson** carries a BS degree in two majors from U. Mass. She's worked as a diet supervisor, grade 2 teacher, and later as a traveling teacher. There she developed a tactile academic curriculum through which children learned through their fingertips. Barbara's love of learning and enthusiasm are contagious.

9:30-10:30 p.m., in Adams South

## Noncompetitive Charades

Novices are welcome. The "speaker" (a very inappropriate term for charades) provides paper. To save time, optionally you might think of your entries in advance. The audience can be anyone from teenagers through so-called grown-ups.

**Gary Sockut** is a native New Englander and is a Life Member of Mensa.

10:00-11:00 p.m., in Video Room 131

## Guitar Hero

Multiplayer mode offers two players the chance to compete against each other on the same song.

10:00-10:30 p.m., in Madison:

## Sweets

Desserts provided by your fellow Mensans.

# Schedule of Events Saturday

## 8:00 - 10:00 a.m., in Madison, Breakfast

A "Continental" breakfast of bagels, muffins, breads, etc., will be served along with Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Milk, and juice.

## 9:00 a.m., in Madison: Puzzle 3

## 9:30 a.m., in Adams North

### RVC Rap

Come chat with Lori Norris our new Regional Vice Chair (RVC) and discuss your thoughts about Region 1. Bring your questions for an open and informal session.

**Lori Norris** has been an active member of Mensa since she joined in 1990. She lives in Rhode Island with her husband Ron and has served in many capacities including two one-year terms as LocSec; two one-year terms as Membership Officer, and has served as Chairman of the By-Laws Committee twice.

## 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., in Madison:

Mensa Boutique

## 10:00 a.m., in Madison: Puzzle 4

## 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Adams North

### Poker 101 and Beyond

Whether you're a novice who wants to learn poker or a seasoned amateur player looking to improve your game, don't miss this talk! I'll discuss poker basics, including strategy, probability and money management. We'll cover the specifics of Texas Hold-Em, 5 and 7 Card Stud, Draw poker and Omaha Hold-Em. Time permitting I will talk about "Dealer's Choice" games like Anaconda and Follow the Queen.

**Joe Haber (Java Joe)** has been playing poker for over thirty years and recently enrolled in the World Poker Tour Boot Camp to improve his own game. He will share the knowledge and experience accumulated over many years along with a distillation of what he learned at Boot Camp.

## 10:00 a.m., in Madison: Puzzle 5

Complete each puzzle for a raffle Peace Buck.

# Schedule of Events Saturday (Continued)

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Adams South

## Ideas For America

Ideas for America 1 is a political platform and informative reader built for individual and classroom use. The first ten chapters are essays on such subjects as education, housing, health care, and Chapter 11, applies the ideas of the previous chapters to the author's home state of Massachusetts. The author will share his knowledge and insights on how to help make Massachusetts the "City on the Hill," a model for other states to follow.

**Matthew J. Fraser** has taught and studied languages since 1995, although he currently works with young people with emotional and neurological disorders. He was the Republican nominee for a Senate seat in 2004.

Website\_ "<http://www.ideasforamerica.org>"

12:30 - 1:30 p.m., in Madison, Lunch

A Southern Style barbeque lunch with fixins will be served.

1:00 p.m., in Madison: Puzzle 6

1:30 p.m., in Quincy South Tournament

## Spelling Bee

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., Adams South

## Scrapbooking

How do you preserve your family's precious memories for future generations? Do you have a shoebox full of photos, or a computer full of digital images that you seldom look at? Come along and find out about the variety of both traditional and digital options that CREATIVE MEMORIES has for making beautiful scrapbooks that will last for many generations. You may also order CREATIVE MEMORIES products if you wish.

**Susan Read** has been scrapbooking for about eight years, and has been a CREATIVE MEMORIES consultant for over five years. Susan enjoys a variety of other handicrafts, as well as reading and Geocaching.



# Schedule of Events Saturday (Continued)

2:00 p.m., in Madison: Puzzle 7

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m., Adams North

## Dumbing Down Frankenstein

**John Lauritsen's** talk, "Dumbing Down Frankenstein", discusses his latest book, "The Man Who Wrote Frankenstein" (2007). This has three theses: 1) Frankenstein is a great work, which has consistently been underrated and misinterpreted; 2) The real author is Percy Bysshe Shelley, one of the greatest poets in the English language, not his second wife, the former Mary Godwin; and 3) Romantic male friendship is a central theme of Frankenstein.

**John Lauritsen** studied English Literature and Social Relations at Harvard. He is best known as a gay historian and an "AIDS dissident". His latest of nine books has received rave reviews and caused consternation in Academia.

2:00 p.m., in Madison: Puzzle 7

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Video Room 131

## Guitar Hero

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., Adams North

## Nanotechnology: Many Small Steps to the Future

**Nanotechnology** is a bit like a pun. You may have to think about it more than once before you understand it. I have been thinking about nanotechnology for 20 years. The presentation will introduce you to basic concepts and help you understand nanotech's growing capabilities. It will look at nanotech's promise and possible effects upon our daily lives.

**Frank Dolinar** began following the development of nanotechnology in 1986 after reading Engines of Creation, K. Eric Drexler's first book. Since 1992, he has given presentations on nanotechnology for classes at Michigan State University. Frank is a software developer for the Michigan House of Representatives.

## Schedule of Events Saturday (Continued)

3:00 p.m., in Madison: Puzzle 8

3:00 - 4:00 p.m., in Adams South

### THE GEMSTONE FILE: A MEMOIR

In 1974, while a contributing editor at Playgirl magazine, Stephanie encountered hidden "diaries" of Bruce Roberts, a physicist/crystallographer with a flair for writing history. A year later she wrote a 25-page synopsis of his information called "A Skeleton Key to the Gemstone File," which was widely circulated, samizdat style, around the world. This paper inspired 6 books of research/analysis, and a lot of disagreement. What's it about? Everything, sort of, but primarily Aristotle Onassis, Howard Hughes, JFK, Bobby, MLK, who's really running the country, and how it came about. She will try to explain this in an hour. Please come, and wish her luck.

**Stephanie Caruana** wrote her first play at age 5-1/2, for performance by her kindergarten classmates. It was a moral comedy, featuring lots of fruits and vegetables, a Princess, and a Wicked Queen. Since then she has had a checkered career, careening between east and west coast, and has now alighted in Cambridge. In between, she has taught and written. Her published work centers mainly on U.S. underground politics and Shakespeare authorship. She is currently working on a novel.

3:30 p.m., in Quincy South Tournament

Sudoku (first round)

4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Video Room 131

Dance Dance Revolution

Be the first on the dance pad.

4:00 p.m., in Madison: Puzzle 9

4:30 p.m., in Quincy South Tournament

Rock-Paper-Scissors

5:00 p.m., in Madison: Puzzle 10

# Friday's Activities

	Hospitality	Raffle	Puzzles	Speaker	Speaker	Games	Kids	Video	Video
	Madison	Madison	Madison	Adams N	Adams S	Quincy N	Hancock	131	131
3:00 - 3:30	<b>OPENS</b>	<b>OPENS</b>							
3:30 - 4:00									
4:00 - 4:30									
4:30 - 5:00									
5:00 - 5:30	<b>Mensa Boutique</b>						<b>Opens</b>		
5:30 - 6:00	(until 9PM)								
6:00 - 6:30	<b>Dinner</b>		<b>Puzzle 1</b>						
6:30 - 7:00	Dinner								
7:00 - 7:30	Dinner								
7:30 - 8:00	Dinner								
8:00 - 8:30			<b>Puzzle 2</b>	<b>Newbies</b>	<b>Handwriting</b>			<b>DDR</b>	<b>Science</b>
8:30 - 9:00				8:00-9:00	8:00-9:00		<b>Closes</b>	<b>DDR</b>	<b>Experiment</b>
9:00 - 9:30	<b>Mixer</b>	<b>CLOSES</b>	<b>CLOSES</b>				9pm		<b>8:00-Ongoing</b>
9:30 - 10:00	Mixer				<b>Charades</b>				
10:00 - 10:30	<b>Desserts</b>				9:30-10:30			<b>Guitar</b>	
10:30 - 11:00	Mixer							<b>Hero</b>	
11:00 - 11:30		<b>Rm 2007</b>							
11:30 - 12:00		<b>After</b>							
Midnight		<b>Hours</b>							
		<b>Hospitality</b>							
		<b>open 2:00AM</b>							
		<b>till 7:00 AM</b>							



# Schedule of Events Saturday (Continued)

5:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m., Adams North

## Eclectic Beers of North America

Have you ever seen an unusual beer that you would like to try, but shied away from it because you were required to purchase more than you thought you would like? Well, this topic is tailor made for you. Come join us as we taste and learn more about some of the more eclectic beers of North America.

**Steve Dragon** started homebrewing in the early 1980s and has garnered several competitive awards throughout the years. An accomplished half barrel all-grain beer brewer, Steve enjoys the challenge of brewing "to style" often spending hours researching historical references to develop a recipe.

4:30 p.m., in Quincy South Tournament

## Boggle

7:00 p.m., Chinese Buffet at Beijing Duck

Those of us who have pre-purchased tickets are going to have a Chinese Buffet Dinner off-site at Beijing Duck Restaurant, 731 Granite Street, Braintree. Turn right out of the Sheraton parking lot onto Rte 37, Granite Street. Follow it for about 1.1 miles to the shopping center on the right. The restaurant is to the left of the Burlington Coat Factory.

8:30 p.m., in Quincy South Tournament

## Sudoku Finals

8:30 p.m., in Madison

Come back to Hospitality and begin admiring your fellow Mensans' tie-dye tee-shirts, love beads, and other flowerchild earthmother protester costumery. Win a Peace Buck for wearing a tie-dye tee-shirt or a Summer of Love costume. Wear those tie dyes, peace symbols, bell bottoms, vests, and granny glasses

9:00 p.m., in Madison puzzles close

Please return your completed puzzles and receive your Peace Bucks. Remember to sign your name or a friend's name on each Peace Buck and enter in one of the raffles. You have to be present at the drawing on Sunday morning to win.

# Schedule of Events Saturday (Continued)

**9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m., Madison**

## **Mixer and Open Bar**

Meet your fellow Mensans. Order a mixed drink, on the house! Mud Slides, specialty drinks, beer and wine too! Adults over 21 only.

**9:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m., Madison**

## **Music of the 60's and 70's**

Continue to sample the open bar, mix a little, dance, and listen to the music of the 60's and 70's. For those inclined to sing Bob will provide the Karaoke equipment. Here are some of groups you might have heard on the FM stations in the Bay area: Cream, Jefferson Airplane, Electric Prunes, Traffic, Country Joe and the Fish, Big Brother & the Holding Company.

What were some of these groups playing? Here are some of the most popular:

"All You Need is Love," The Beatles

"White Rabbit," Jefferson Airplane

"Light My Fire," The Doors

"San Francisco (Be Sure to Wear Flowers in Your Hair)," Scott McKenzie

**Robert Chanchlo** is the owner and operator of Band in a Box Entertainment, a company established in 1997.

**10:00 – Till, in Quincy South Tournament**

## **Poker**

Contact Deb Stone for details.

**10:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m., Madison**

## **Sweets**

Various ice creams and toppings for a change of pace in the evening's festivities.

**2:00 a.m. Hospitality and Games Close**

**2:00 a.m. - 7:00 a.m., Room 2007**

## **Mensa After Hours Hospitality**

Room 2007 is for those Mensans who want to stay up late.

# Saturday Tournament Games

1:30 p.m., in Quincy South Tournament

## Spelling Bee

True story: your game tournament director placed 52nd in the 1985 (Miami) Dade County Spelling Bee after winning his grade school's competition, and therefore he got hooked on language and words. Today he reads the words to you, the competitor, as we use a simple elimination strategy that worked well for the two-time World Series champion Boston Red Sox: if you miss a word, that's a strike. Three strikes and you're out. Beware: there will be a twist after the first hundred words read!

3:30 p.m., in Quincy South Tournament

## Sudoku (first round)

This speed-based tournament has two rounds. There will be a warm-up puzzle (which will not count for the tournament) before tournament play begins. The opening round consists of three standard (9x9) Sudoku puzzles. They may be completed in any order, and players are permitted to go back and forth between puzzles. The three fastest players to correctly finish the three puzzles move on to the finals, which occur later on Saturday.

4:30 p.m., in Quincy South Tournament

## Rock-Paper-Scissors

Yes, we're serious! For some strange, twisted reason, this simple child's game has become a favorite in bars and other establishments over the past few years, so we figured: why not bring it to Mensa? There are three hand gestures involved: rock (closed fist), paper (open hand, either facing up or facing down), and scissors (index and middle fingers extended). The objective is to select a gesture which defeats that of the opponent: rock smashes scissors, paper covers rock, and scissors cut paper. This tournament will run on the best-of-three system.

# Saturday Tournament Games

4:30 p.m., in Quincy South

## Boggle

Given sixteen random letters, what words can you find in three minutes? Up, down, left, right, and diagonals are permitted, as long as each word is three letters or more, and you can't use the same cube twice in the same word. Rules on the tournament structure will be discussed amongst all players once the game begins.

8:30 p.m., in Quincy South

## Sudoku Finals

Although only the three finalists from the opening round are permitted to play, spectators and cheerleaders are really encouraged; the finals will have elements of a game show. There will be a few added twists to the three 9x9 puzzles in the final.

10:00 – Till, in Quincy South Tournament

## Poker

We've seen all the glitz and glamour of television contests. Bring that to Pilgrimage, subtract the studio audience, and you've got yourself a poker game! Rules on specifics (i.e., style of poker game, betting, and bribing the dealer) will be discussed amongst all players once the game begins. Contact Deb Stone for details.

## About the Tournament Games Chair

**Adam Smargon** is a Mensan in New Hampshire, but he was born in Detroit and raised in Miami. He has run the game tournaments for New Hampshire's RGs since his arrival from Florida in the summer of 2004, and will do so again in February 2008. Moreover, this is his second year running the game tournaments at Pilgrimage. He is also a certified proctor, but not (yet) certifiably insane. Adam is getting his Ph.D. from the University of New Hampshire in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies. His website, up and running since 1994, is at [www.adam.smargon.net](http://www.adam.smargon.net).



## Schedule of Events Sunday

**8:00 - 10:00 a.m., in Madison, Breakfast**

**A "Continental" breakfast of bagels, muffins, breads, etc., will be served along with Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Milk, and juice.**

**10:00 a.m., - Madison Raffle Closes.**

**Be sure to sign your Peace Bucks.**

**10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Wrap-up.**

**Awards, Raffle Drawings, and thanks for helping to make this a great RG.**

**1:00 P.m., Game Room Closes**

	Hospitality	Raffle	Puzzles	Speaker	Sp/Dance	Games
	Madison	Madison	Madison	Adams N	Adams S	Quincy N
7:00 - 7:30						
7:30 - 8:00						
8:00 - 8:30	<b>Breakfast</b>					
8:30 - 9:00	Breakfast					
9:00 - 9:30	Breakfast					
9:30 - 10:00	Breakfast					
10:00 - 10:30		<b>Closes</b>				
10:30 - 11:00	<b>Wrap-Up</b>					
11:00 - 11:30	<b>Raffle</b>					
11:30 - noon	<b>Closes</b>					
12:00 - 12:30						
12:30 - 1:00						
1:00 - 1:30						<b>Closes</b>

**Hosted By**

**Boston Mensa**

**Nov 16 - Nov 18 2007**

**T h a n k s F o r C o m i n g**

