

Friday the 1st

6:30pm: FIRST FRIDAY FILM FUN. Come to the **Charles Theatre**, the **Baltimore** icon at 1711 North Charles Street (www.thecharles.com; near the intersection with Lanvale Street), to choose and watch a distinctive film with other Mensans. Afterwards we'll go to a nearby restaurant or coffee shop and share our thoughts about what we just saw. Please tell the event coordinator if you plan to go. **MM**

7:30–11pm: FRIDAY NIGHT SALON IN BETHESDA. Enjoy stimulating conversation at **La Madeleine Café and Bakery**, 7607 Old Georgetown Road (at the corner of Old Georgetown and Commerce Street, just one block from the Bethesda Metro stop on the red line). Park in La Madeleine's own parking lot; on the street; or in the inexpensive public garage on Woodmont Avenue. Our format: casual conversation, followed by a question-and-answer period. Participants write down questions they want the group to address. The questions are submitted anonymously, and then read aloud. No pressure—just fun—and being on time is not a requirement. We'll try to grab a table in the back. This event is wheelchair-accessible. For more information, contact one of the event coordinators. **MWM**

Saturday the 2nd

Noon: MEET DELMAR! Join the event coordinator and friends at three events, all in the same town: **Delmar, Delaware**, known as "The Little Town Too Big for One State". Delmar is near Salisbury, and you're welcome to enjoy one, two, or all three events. We'll begin at noon, with lunch at a place that's been voted Best Italian Restaurant in Southern Delaware: **Delmar Pizza & Pasta**, at 38650 Sussex Highway, Unit 5, in Delmar (www.delmarpizzapasta.com, 302-846-3636). Then about 1pm, we'll go to the open house at the **Delmarva Model Railroad Club**, Delmarva's largest club for model railroaders. The club features layouts in N scale, N scale modules, HO, O tinplate, O scale, standard, and G scale; and is located at 103 State Street in Delmar (<http://delmarvamodelrailroadclub.org>, 302-856-9250). Open house hours are 11am to 4pm, and refreshments will be available. Finally, we'll finish with the Delmar Christmas Parade down State Street beginning at 2pm. For more information, contact the coordinator. **MM**

Sunday the 3rd

6pm: GOURMENSANS venture into the heart of **Silver Spring** to visit **Arepas Pues** at 855 Fenton Street (240-670-8020). The restaurant features Cuban, Venezuelan, and Columbian foods, with emphasis on soups and *arepas*, the Venezuelan-Columbian version of empanadas. Reservations strongly recommended to one of the event coordinators. **MWM**

Tuesday the 5th

6:30–9pm: SALON OF MAJESTIC ENLIGHTENMENT. A salon is "a fashionable assemblage of intellectuals, artists, and literary figures who meet to discuss art, literature, current events," and, no doubt, themselves. You already know you're intellectual, etc.; so come be part of our posh and fashionable assemblage! We'll enjoy our December Salon at **Lin's China Bistro**, 10270 Bristow Center Drive in **Bristow, VA**, near the Harris Teeter. Please bring your most interesting topics for discussion—the salon is as good as we make it. Being on time is not necessary, but having a good time is. Our monthly salon will rotate venues for variety of cuisine; suggestions for potential sites are welcome. *RSVP* by Monday the 4th to the event coordinator. **MWM**

Wednesday the 6th

6:30–9pm: POTOMAC GAMES NIGHT is for players of all persuasions. From Rockville Pike (MD-355) or I-270, take Montrose Road west to Falls Road, turn left, and go 1.4 miles to 11315 Falls Road and the **Potomac Community Recreation Center** in **Potomac** (www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec/where/centers/potomac.html; 240-777-6960). Free. Non-Mensans are welcome. YOU MUST SIGN IN AT THE FRONT DESK—ask for "board games". There's no charge for a PCC access card; the center wants you to have one. Contact the event coordinator with any questions. **MWM**

Thursday the 7th

7–9pm: MWM WRITERS AND READERS SIG attends a reading by famed Washington, DC poets Marty Sanchez-Lowery and Michael Davis. The reading will be held at the **Georgetown Neighborhood Library**, 3260 R Street NW in **Washington, DC** (www.dclibrary.org/georgetown, 202-727-0232). There will be a brief open mike following the featured readers, so feel free to bring a one-page poem of your own to read aloud if you choose. The event is free, and the library is located on the corner of Wisconsin Avenue and R Street NW. For more information, contact the event coordinator. **MWM**

Friday the 8th

7:30–11pm: FRIDAY NIGHT SALON IN BETHESDA. For details, see first Friday entry. **MWM**

Saturday the 9th

6pm: EASTERN SHORE WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS. We'll board the Winterfest Express to see more than one million holiday lights and hundreds of animated, fairy tale-themed light displays throughout **Northside Park**, 127th Street (bayside) in **Ocean City**. The one-mile journey will take us through 58 acres of lights, and the park features a 50-foot-tall Christmas tree. Hot chocolate is available in the heated Winterfest Village pavilion, where children may have a photo taken with Santa. Cost to board the train is \$5 for guests 12 years and older, and free for children 11 years and younger. Dinner at an Ocean City restaurant after the Winterfest visit is optional. For more information, contact the event coordinator. **MM**

Sunday the 10th

1–3pm: MENSA ADMISSION TESTING IN ANNAPOLIS: Maryland Mensa's holding a test session at the **Annapolis Regional Library**, 1410 West Street in **Annapolis** (www.aacpl.net/location/annapolis, 410-222-1750). The test will be proctored by Royall Whitaker. Please contact Sherry Miles at shermensa33@gmail.com to reserve a seat. You can learn more about the Mensa admission test at www.us.mensa.org/join/testing/, and then follow the links to pre-purchase a voucher: Click on "Join", then "Take the admission test", then "Pre-purchase testing", and finally "Supervised test". **Be sure to add the voucher to your shopping cart when you're done.** Note that you'll have to register on American Mensa's site to do all this. **Payment is by voucher only**, so be sure to bring a printed copy of yours to the library with you. (*Michelle Hirsh also offers the Mensa admission test in Mount Airy. If that's more convenient for you, contact Michelle at mensamichelle77@gmail.com or 240-476-6464 to make arrangements.*) **MM**

Tuesday the 12th

6pm: EASTERN SHORE GET-TOGETHER at **Tall Tales Brewery**, 6929 Heron Grove Court (just off Forest Grove Road, which intersects with U.S. Route 50), in **Parsonsburg** (Wicomico County). Enjoy pizza cooked in a wood-fired brick oven, craft brews or wine or other beverages, and camaraderie!. For more information on the event, or to *RSVP* (appreciated, but not required), contact the event coordinator. For more information about the brewery, see www.facebook.com/Talltalesbrew. **MM**

Wednesday the 13th

6:30pm: ANNAPOLIS GOURMETS. December's restaurant is an AG favorite: **Galway Bay Irish Pub**, at 63 Maryland Avenue in downtown **Annapolis** (410-263-8333, www.galwaybayannapolis.com). Galway Bay is a sister restaurant to Davidsonville's Killarney House and Severna Park's Brian Boru, and like the other two is authentically Irish in nearly every aspect. Whether you're fond of Celtic things or not, you'll end an evening at Galway Bay with a contented smile. Please plan to join us, and then make your reservation without fail with the event coordinator by Sunday the 10th. **MM**

6:30–9pm: POTOMAC GAMES NIGHT. See entry for first Wednesday. **MWM**

Thursday the 14th

6pm: HARFORD COUNTY CAMARADERIE. Link up with northern Maryland's Mensans for dinner and friendly, thought-provoking conversation at the **Kobe Buffet Grill** in the Festival at Bel Air shopping center, **Bel Air** (5 Bel Air South Parkway, Suite 1559; 410-569-8888). The menu features oriental and other foods, all at reasonable prices. Just as in Frederick, no reservation needed: simply ask for Mensa—the manager and natives are friendly. Directions from I-95: take exit 77 onto MD Route 24 north. There is a traffic light one-tenth of a mile north of I-95 at MD-24's intersection with Emmorton Road; continue north on 24 for 2.6 miles past the traffic light, and then turn right onto Bel Air South Parkway. Turn right off Bel Air South into the Festival shopping center (250 feet), and continue straight on the shopping center drive until you reach a stop sign. Turn right at the stop sign, and you'll find the restaurant in the middle of the row of shops on your left. Please contact the event coordinator for more information. **MM**

7:30pm: SOUTH MOUNTAIN PIZZA. Join Mensans from western Maryland and West Virginia, or ones who wish they were, at the **Pizza Hut** on U.S. Route 40 on the west side of **Frederick** (1220 West Patrick Street; 301-695-0100). No reservation needed—just ask for Mensa. We'll be toward the back of the restaurant, and we usually order pizzas to share from the menu. Cost for the evening will be in the \$10 range. For directions and answers to Mensa-at-Pizza Hut questions, please the event coordinator. **MM**

Friday the 15th

7:30pm: MARYLAND MENSA'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY features major mingling, sipping, and noshing surrounding a warmly chaotic gift exchange. The party will be in Maryland Mensa's usual meeting place: Columbia's **River Hill Meeting Room**, at 6330 Trotter Road in **Clarksville** (a trivially short distance north of MD-32). Admission to the party is a home-prepared, covered dish or dessert, or—if you must—\$5. Bring a wrapped, unmarked gift in the \$20 range, with the giver's name written on the bottom (←*sole exception to "unmarked"*) to join in the serial exchange. The gift can be humorous, utilitarian, drinkable, wearable, or anything else you think apt, so long as it doesn't offend the sensibilities of any children present. Exchange rules will be cheerfully explained and ruthlessly enforced. Please come and contribute to the spirit of the season—you'll leave richer than you arrived, no matter what sort of levelheaded or harebrained gift you take home. For more information about Maryland Mensa's monthly meetings in general, contact MM Second Vice President for Programs Bedford Bentley at bedfordtb@hotmail.com or 443-695-0523. If you send email, please include 'Mensa' in the subject line. **MM**

*(SPECIAL ALERT: Due to scheduled renovation work in the River Hill Meeting Room, **FEBRUARY'S M4 will be cancelled.** This will not affect December's or January's monthly meetings, and MM will return to its usual monthly meeting date, time, and place in March, 2018.)*

7:30–11pm: FRIDAY NIGHT SALON IN BETHESDA. For details, see first Friday entry. **MWM**

Saturday the 16th

1pm: MATURE MENSANS of any age, but particularly those already enjoying or eligible for retirement, are invited to join like-minded peers in comparing notes over lunch at **Monaghan's Pub**, 2121 Gwynn Oak Avenue in **Woodlawn** (410-944-3311; exit I-695 onto Security Boulevard east [inside Baltimore's beltway], continue on Security for about 1.5 miles, then turn left onto Gwynn Oak and proceed for seven-tenths of a mile—the pub and its parking lot are on the right-hand side of the street). Enter the pub through the unmarked doors on either side of the building. Please come if you can—no reservations are required. Contact the event coordinator if you'd like to know more. (*Note: January's Mature Mensans will return to its usual fourth Saturday.*) **MM**

7–11pm: LISTENERS OF CLASSICAL MUSIC CHRISTMAS AND WINTER SOLSTICE PARTY. Join LCM for quiet conversation, a friendly atmosphere, snacks and pizza to share, and classical music. This month's theme is "Music for Christmas and the Winter Solstice". Please bring music to share on CDs, iPods, LPs, or other e-storage devices. BYOB along with healthy snacks to share. An optional collection will be taken for pizza. LCM is located in **Falls Church, VA** near the intersection of U.S. Route 50 and the Washington beltway. For *RSVPs* or more information, contact the event coordinator. **MWM**

7:30pm: METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON MENSA SATURDAY NIGHT PARTY. This month's MWM Saturday Night Party—to which all Maryland Mensans are assuredly invited—will be in honor of the Christmas season. Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Festivus, and all other celebrants are welcome as well. The **FREE** party will be in the hosts' home in **Alexandria, VA**. No reservations needed, but if you'd like more information or directions, please contact one of the hosts. **MWM**

Sunday the 17th

5–9pm: BRIDGE SIG. Come to a location in **Northern Virginia** for friendly party bridge. We play at a lower to intermediate level and welcome all compatible players. We'll also try to find partners for singles, and to arrange pickup from Metro if requested. The Bridge SIG donation is just \$5 for light supper and refreshments, and all bridge tolls from MD or DC will be cheerfully refunded. No smoking. To learn the address and to *RSVP* (requested by Sunday the 10th), contact the Bridge SIG coordinator. **MWM**

Wednesday the 20th

6:30–9pm: POTOMAC GAMES NIGHT. See entry for first Wednesday. **MWM**

Friday the 22nd

7:30–11pm: FRIDAY NIGHT SALON IN BETHESDA. For details, see first Friday entry. **MWM**

Friday the 29th

7:30–11pm: FRIDAY NIGHT SALON IN BETHESDA. For details, see first Friday entry. **MWM**

Saturday the 30th

11:30am–1:30pm: GOOD DRINKS, GOOD FOOD, AND GOOD COMPANY. You're invited to join our monthly lunch event for great conversation in addition to the good things listed. You're also welcome to bring a guest. This month we'll enjoy a delicious buffet at **Taste of India**, 14706 Lee Highway in **Gainesville, VA**. It's right next to Afghan Famous Kabob, in the shopping center behind the Rite Aid drug store on Route 29 South. New members are especially invited to join us. *RSVP* by 5pm Friday the 29th to the event coordinator. **MWM**

Sunday the 31st

8pm–2018: LISTENERS OF CLASSICAL MUSIC NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY. Join LCM for quiet conversation, a friendly atmosphere, and classical music. The evening's theme is "Music for the New Year"—please bring some to share, along with anything you care to drink. Donation of \$3 is requested for celebratory sparkling wine and grape juice. Host will provide a Honey Baked Ham; all other attendees are requested to bring an appetizer, a side dish, or a desert. Reservations are required. When responding to LCM's host, please indicate what sort of plate you intend to bring. LCM is located in **Falls Church, VA** near the intersection of U.S. Route 50 and the Washington beltway. **MWM**

8pm–after Midnight: NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY. Celebrate the New Year with the host in his custom-designed house on the west side of Rock Creek Park in NW **Washington, DC** (between Oregon and Nebraska avenues). New members are especially welcome. A pot luck buffet dinner will be served all evening, with champagne (and non-alcoholic alternatives) at midnight. There's a \$10 charge per person, waived for those who make reservations and bring food or drinks. You're welcome to bring friends or family members with you, but each adult is expected to contribute. Refreshments costing more than \$10 may be credited to two people. Please call or email the host to make reservations, coordinate food and drinks, and—if needed—get directions. Smoking is only permitted outside. Plenty of street parking is available. No pets are on the premises. The party will continue until the last person leaves. **MWM**

Coming Distractions for January

(Unless otherwise noted, locations for next month's events will be the same as those for this month's counterparts.)

5 January (First Friday) 6:30pm: ***First Friday Film Fun MM***

9 January (Second Tuesday) 6pm: ***Eastern Shore Get-together MM***

10 January (Wednesday) 6:30pm: ***Annapolis Gourmands*** dine at ***Yellowfin Steak & Fish House MM***

11 January (Second Thursday) Noon: ***Rockville Mensa Lunch Bunch MWM***

11 January (Second Thursday) 6pm: ***Harford County Camaraderie MM***

11 January (Second Thursday) 7:30pm: ***South Mountain Pizza MM***

13 January (Second Saturday) 10am: ***BLAMS Go Shooting*** in Fairfax, VA ***MWM***

19 January (Third Friday) 7:30pm: ***Maryland Mensa's Monthly Meeting MM***

(PLEASE NOTE: FEBRUARY'S M4 is cancelled to accommodate renovation of MM's meeting place in Columbia)

21 January (Third Sunday) 11:30am: ***Dim Sum Brunch*** at ***Mai Dragon***, in Hanover ***MM***

27 January (Fourth Saturday) 1pm: ***Mature Mensans MM***