

# **ORANGE COUNTY MENSA REGIONAL GATHERING**

Radisson Suites  
Hotel  
Buena Park, CA

August 31 -  
September 3  
2012



**Your Guide to the Gathering**

# Welcome to Occupy OC Mensa

When I first envisioned the Occupy theme, I imagined a discussion of the responsibilities of intellectual elites toward the 98%, the state of education and its connection to financial success, the bank meltdown and its effects on our economy, and similar topics more suitable for a Colloquium than a Gathering. I quickly discovered that “you can build it” but they won’t come, unless they think it will be fun. Thus, the theme quickly evolved into one of occupying our own unique space and doing those things Mensans like best. Our program and activities reflect that, with a tinge of Occupy-style exuberance and a theme-related game based on free-market economics corrupted by bureaucracy. Maybe we can still talk about serious things in the wee hours and the corners of the rooms.



In keeping with our theme, a major goal for this RG was to widen access for more members by reducing the costs. We have tried to make the RG affordable, since most of us have had to tighten our belts. More than half of our attendees took advantage of the early-bird rate. Financial realities also apply to hotels and have affected what we’ve been able to do this year. Meeting spaces are no longer free, food costs more, and there were not many hotels willing to permit us to bring in our own hospitality. We think we’ve found a great venue and we hope you’ll agree that we have been able to show you a fine time on our more limited budget. When more people can attend, everything is more fun, because hanging out with people is the main point of an RG, beyond prizes, beer and games.

This RG would not have been possible without the help of many people in OC Mensa. I personally thank the RG Committee members and their many volunteers for their hard work and creativity. You are the people who have made this gathering a wonderful place to discover new friends and enjoy old ones. Thank you for everything!

Nancy Alvarado  
RG Chair

## GENERAL INFORMATION

*Read this and the following pages to be “in the know” this weekend...*

### Hospitality Suite (LaPaz/Buena Park)

The Hospitality Suite is where you can go in between scheduled programs to relax, have a snack or drink and visit with new acquaintances and long-time friends.

The Hospitality Suite hours (unless otherwise posted) are:

- Friday: 4 PM – Midnight
- Saturday: 7 AM - 6:30 PM & 8:30 PM – Midnight
- Sunday: 7 AM – Midnight
- Monday: 7 AM – 1 PM

### Activities Room (Monterey)

This is the room we’ve traditionally called the “Games Room.” Our usual assortment of board games are available, and if the mood strikes you, wander in, select a game or puzzle and start playing. If it looks like you’re having fun, others are sure to join you. It’s a great way to meet your fellow attendees.

At certain specified times, we’ve scheduled a hands-on workshop or a specific game. If you don’t want to participate in the scheduled activity, and you’d rather play a different game or work on a puzzle, that’s fine, as long as it doesn’t interfere with the scheduled activity.

Note that entrance to the Activities Room (Monterey) is through the Hospitality Suite (LaPaz/Buena Park).

## Playing the Bernanke Game

*If this seems complicated, bribe an official to explain it!*

Our currency for the weekend is Bernankes (B). In keeping with the "Occupy" theme, we plan to recreate the class struggle, so inequality is built into our economic system. You received a small number of Bernankes in your registration packet, but as in life, the dole covers only bare necessities. But life is unfair, so some will start with more and some with less.

The good news is that you aren't stuck with your initial allotment – you can earn Bernankes throughout the weekend. Make a speech, wear a costume, bring a donation to the clothing or book exchange, volunteer in Hospitality or Registration, be an official, win a contest, play a guitar or sing a protest song, act in our amateur show, carry a protest sign... all pay off in Bernankes. See the list in your registration packet for all the ways to earn Bernankes.

Bernankes can be exchanged for luxuries at various points in the RG, for a lunch or dinner ticket, and for prizes at the end of the RG on Monday. You can pool your Bernankes, trade them or spend them (but not counterfeit them or steal them, please).

As in life, we expect that "Haves" and "Have Nots" will emerge. "Haves" will receive special treatment. Those who are "Have Nots" can pretend to be "Haves" and those who are "Haves" can keep a low profile or flaunt their wealth, as they choose.

One lucky ducky will be selected at random to receive huge financial blessings this weekend. He or she will receive a head start in the Bernanke economy by receiving an obscenely large number of Bernankes and the privileges of wealth will follow throughout the weekend in various ways. A prize will be given to whoever figures out who that lucky person is and identifies him or her to an official.

If you prefer not to participate in our economy or the class struggle -- no worries... it won't interfere with your enjoyment of the other RG activities, speakers, games and hospitality.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Sign up ASAP for a volunteer shift! The RG is planned, run, and staffed by our volunteer attendees, and the more people who pitch in, the more fun it is for everyone! All you need to donate is an hour or so of your time in Hospitality or Registration or as an "Official" as part of the Bernanke game economy. It's a great opportunity to meet your fellow Mensans and share in the success of this event. Plus, volunteers will be compensated in Bernankes. There are volunteer sign up sheets in the Hospitality Suite. We will be especially appreciative of help cleaning up on Monday afternoon.

## VIP Menu in Hospitality

Do you want to eat and drink like the Nouveau Riche? Your Bernankes can buy you caviar, mimosas, and other delicacies! Ask for the Special 1% VIP Menu in Hospitality.

## Silent Auction for Prizes

This will be in Hospitality on Monday from 9:00 – 11:00 AM., concurrent with the Book and Clothing Exchange. This is your opportunity to spend your hard-earned Bernankes and take home a really cool prize.

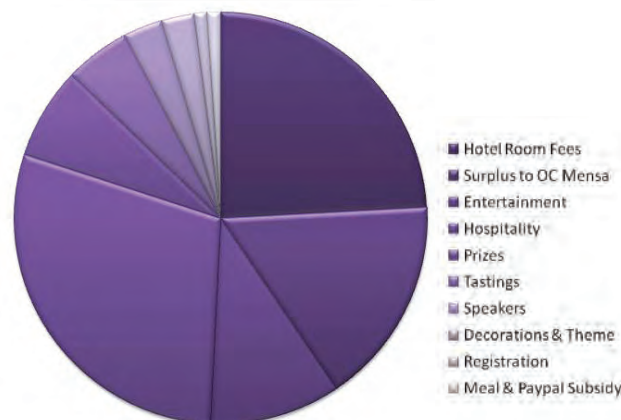
## Book and Clothing Exchange

This will be on Monday morning from 9:00 – 11:00 AM. Bring lightly used clothes (men's or women's) and books to trade for new-to-you items. The more people participate, the better the selection. Bernankes will be given for donations and will be charged to "purchase" items. No more Bernankes? A cash donation to our OCM Educational Fund will be accepted as well.

## Children and Teenagers

Your children and teenagers who are registered for the RG are welcome to attend any session that is not restricted to adults, but we do not have special events for them. Children must be supervised by a parent or other adult. California state law prohibits us from serving alcohol to anyone under 21 years of age. Note to attendees staying at the hotel: there is no lifeguard at the hotel pool; parents are responsible for the safety of their own children.

How Your RG Registration \$ Was Spent



## Debates

Based on the fact that the Debate Track at the AG in Reno was very successful, we have scheduled several of our own on both Saturday and Sunday. These sessions are actually fast-paced discussions on a specific topic and are organized to allow the maximum contributions from the participants. Hand signals allow the listeners to share information without verbally interrupting the speakers.

See Page 4 for the debate rules and the hand signal conventions we are using.

## Please be Respectful of the Opinions of Others

Mensa as an organization has no opinions and does not espouse any political ideology. But many of our members are very opinionated! We have tried to provide a balanced menu of speaker topics, political and religious viewpoints, and activities.

Our speakers (both members and non-members) are donating their time. We welcome serious discussion and debate, but at all times, please be respectful of our speakers and of the opinions of others.

## Hotel Shuttle

The Radisson Suites offers free transportation to area theme parks. Make reservations at the hotel's front desk.

If you are going to John Wayne Airport, the hotel front desk will help you arrange shuttle transportation (around \$15-\$20).

## Other Info You Need

**Name Tags:** Name tags must be worn at all times when in Hospitality, the Activities Room or Speaker Rooms. If you are not wearing a name tag with the appropriate dates, you will be asked to leave.

**Hospitality Suite:** Food & drink may not be removed from the Hospitality Suite. If you are observed flaunting this rule, you may be asked to leave the RG without refund.

**Smoking:** California law prohibits smoking in indoor public areas. This includes our Hospitality Suite, Activities Room, and Speaker Rooms.

**Alcohol:** Beer and wine is available in our Hospitality Suite, while supplies last. California state law prohibits us from serving alcohol to anyone under 21 years of age. Safety Caution: If you are a day tripper and you find that you or your designated driver has imbibed too much, please consider taking a hotel room for the night.

**Noise and General Conduct:** In addition to our group, the hotel will also be occupied by families with small children who are visiting local theme parks. Please conduct yourselves in a way that will respect their needs, especially late in the evening when excessive noise complaints are likely to cause problems for our group with the hotel.

## Evaluation Form

Please complete the RG Evaluation Form in your registration packet and give it to one of the committee members before you leave the RG. Your suggestions will help the next OCM RG Committee.

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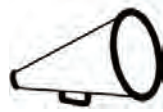
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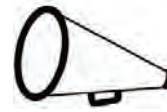


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## About the Debates!



We have scheduled five fast-paced debates over two days about stuff nobody can agree on. They are organized to allow the maximum contributions from the maximum number of participants, all in a civil atmosphere. So here's how we do it:

1. Grab a seat and familiarize yourself with these guidelines. (Oh, right, you're already doing that...)
2. Start time! If no moderator and timekeeper have been selected, group votes to select relatively impartial moderator and timekeeper. (If you have *strong* opinions, you should be speaking, not moderating, duh.) Each sits in front and gets a laminated instruction sheet.
3. Suggest issues: along with the issues listed in the program for this topic, at this point you may suggest additional issues on this topic worthy of discussion if you wish.
4. Discussion period:
  - a. Raise your nametag to be added to the "stack" of waiting speakers. Get added. Lower tag.
  - b. Get called on by moderator. (May not be in order: first-time speakers get priority.)
  - c. Stand and speak for up to a minute (**MAX!**). Be original, be civil. *Never* criticize other speakers, only other ideas.
  - d. Yield floor to next speaker.
5. At the end: Choose a winner! Not a winning side, but a winning speaker. With five minutes to go, discussion is cut off (regardless of "stack"). Group nominates speakers who were most *interesting* (regardless of being "right"). Vote for your favorite nominees (you may vote more than once). Winner gets the **Golden Megaphone Award** to be worn with great aplomb!

**Hand signals** allow the listeners to share information *without verbally interrupting the speaker*. Hand signals used during the discussions are:



Hints about debate: Current science tells us you cannot persuade an opponent you confront—the defense instinct is too strong to let their reason overrule emotion. The best you can do is to allow others to *understand* your point of view, and the best way to do *that* is to understand theirs first.

Good Luck and Have Fun!

# Friday, August 31

**4:00 PM**  
**Registration Open**

**Suite 252**

**7:00 PM**  
**Protest Sign Judging**

**Monterey**

**4:00 PM – Midnight**  
**Hospitality Open**

**LaPaz/Buena Park**

Munchies, snacks, sweets, soft drinks, beer, wine, and more. Your Bernankes can buy you special food and drink delicacies. Ask to see the special “1% VIP Menu.”

**7:00 PM - Midnight**  
**Tee Party in Hospitality**

**LaPaz/BuenaPark**

Let your chest (or your back) do the talking! Wear a tee shirt that communicates your political ideology, your life philosophy, or your sense of humor. The most expressive shirts will win Bernankes for their wearers.

**4:00 PM – Midnight**  
**Activities Room Open**

**Monterey**

**4:00 PM – 7:00 PM**

**Monterey**

**Make Your Own Protest Sign**

We’ve provided the materials... use them to make a sign to display your own slogan, message, or “pet peeve.” What cause do you want to champion or what practice will you protest? Judging will be at 7:00 PM. Bernankes will be awarded for the most cleverly written sentiments or the most inspiring artwork.

**7:30 PM**  
**Air Band**

**Monterey**

Have you ever had the desire to perform in a band on stage? Well, here’s your chance! Don’t worry about such inconsequentials as lack of instruments or talent. We’ve got lots of music (and a more than adequate air supply) – but we’re relying on you to be the “musicians.” Lip synchers and dancers welcome. Karon Roberts conducts.

**6:00 PM**  
**Game: Catch Phrase**

**Monterey**

This is a fast-talking, fast-passing team game that is a combination of *Password* and “Hot Potato.” If you like *Taboo*, you’ll love *Catch Phrase*!

**8:30 - 10:00 PM**  
**Game: Encore**

**Monterey**

Join us for this fun game of song lyrics. You get a word. Search your memory bank... can you come up with the lyrics to a song using that word?

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# Saturday, September 1

**7:00 AM**  
**Hospitality Open**

**LaPaz/Buena Park**

**7:00 AM – 6:30 PM**  
**Activities Room Open**

**Monterey**

**8:00 AM**  
**Registration Open**

**Suite 252**

**8:00 – 10:00 AM**  
**Continental Breakfast in Hospitality**  
Muffins, yogurt, fruit, OJ and coffee/tea... just the thing to start the day.

**LaPaz/Buena Park**

**9:00 AM**  
**Why Progressives and Conservatives Think Differently – Matt Cooper**

Matt explains how progressives and conservatives really are “different in the head” both biologically and morally. Understanding these differences and how to work with them could be the key to helping Americans and our government become less polarized and actually able to accomplish stuff. Matt will share with us dozens of current proposals to bridge this rift, as well as to make government better generally, and invites the audience to weigh in on each of them. Matt has been a Mensan for 35 years, 17 of them in Orange County. He now lives in Florida. As a political consultant, he worked professionally on dozens of political campaigns for both parties, and as a volunteer on the Gore, Obama and other campaigns.



**10:00 AM – 6:30 PM**  
**Hospitality**

We'll put away breakfast and bring out munchies, snacks, sweets, soft drinks, beer and wine.

**LaPaz/Buena Park**

**10:00 AM**  
**Nobody Owns You, Nobody Owes You – Bob Booth**

Bob Booth will explain the Libertarian philosophy and why NOBODY can lay claim to you, your life, or your property. Despite what we keep hearing, neither the government, nor any individual or special interest group has first dibs on your work, thoughts, time or money. Using our own history as an example, he will show how a system of Individual Liberty and Personal Responsibility is the



most effective and ethical means to solving our political and economic problems. Previously the Chairman of the Libertarian Party of Orange County, Bob is currently serving as its Treasurer.

**10:00 AM**  
**Origami Workshop – Marti Reis**

**Barcelona**



Learn the Japanese art of paper folding at this hands-on class led by origami expert OC Mensan Marti Reis. Fun for beginners, as well as for more experienced folders. All supplies will be provided. Attendance is limited, so plan to arrive early.

**11:00 AM**  
**Ripples, A Non-Discrete Approach to Public Policy Solutions -- Steve Young**

**Puebla**

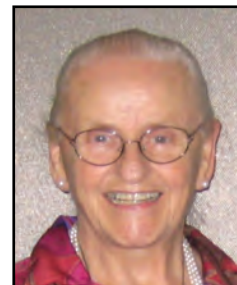
Steve Young will discuss his “Ripple Theory of Solution Innovation” and show why applying labels to issues limits the ability to create holistic solutions to multi-category problems. He is a Civil Justice Attorney, a writer, and a Democratic candidate for the State Senate (37th District). His writings include how to change Congress into a 21st Century institution, the roots of the recession (and how to prevent a recurrence), an analysis of religious allegory, and several novels.



**11:00 AM**  
**You're Better Than You Think You Are – Lee MacMorris**

**Barcelona**

Learn what your handwriting says about you, and practice analyzing your own handwriting or that of a fellow attendee in this participatory workshop. OC Mensan Lee MacMorris has been analyzing handwriting since 1977. She spent three years studying handwriting analysis and holds a certificate as a Master Graphoanalyst from the International Graphoanalysis Society.



## Saturday, September 1

Noon - 1:00 PM

### Barcelona

#### **Treasure Hunt -- Nikki Frey**

In a combination of puzzle solving and scavenger hunt, you and your team members solve puzzles of various sorts that identify the object wanted by the Hunt Master. You then must find the actual objects and deliver them to Hunt Central. Time is of the essence, since teams are racing against each other to be first to solve each problem. Points are awarded for each correct response -- more if you are first, then fewer if your team comes in second, third, etc. Are you up to the challenge?



Noon - 1:30 PM

### Monterey

#### **Pin Cushion Craft Workshop -- Thea Wills-Olsen**



What do crafting, upcycling, and cupcakes have in common? Join us in this creative yet uncomplicated hands-on workshop to find out! We will be making cupcake pincushions out of recycled felted wool. All you need is your imagination, although basic hand sewing skills are helpful. All materials and sewing assistance will be

provided by your hostess, Thea.

1:00 PM

### Puebla

#### **Will Occupy Wall Street Change Everything? -- Dick Eiden**

Political activist and retired civil rights attorney Dick Eiden will share his personal experiences and analysis of the Occupy Wall Street movement. He will explain how OWS is challenging the very nature of both the political and economic systems, raising questions such as, "Do we have to keep living like this, with vast and growing inequalities of wealth, power, opportunity, with war after war, enemy after enemy, economic crisis after crisis?"



1:00 PM

### Barcelona

#### **Table Topics: Mensan Toastmasters Reunion**

Can you speak "off the cuff" for two minutes? Mensan Toastmasters was founded by and for Orange County Mensans in 1981 and continued well into the 1990s. All Mensan alumni, as well as members of other Toastmasters clubs (and even those who have never been to a Toastmasters meeting) are invited to show off their speaking skills at Table Topics. This won't be like a traditional Toastmasters meeting... no prepared speeches, no evaluations, no "Ah" Counter, no Grammarian. Don't care to participate? Come and be part of the audience!

2:00 PM

### Puebla

#### **Debate: Taxation and the Budget**

What's fair? What's not? If there is a "better way," what is it? In addition to income tax, what about all of those underlying taxes -- gasoline, cigarettes, inheritance, property, etc. Under any tax plan, can the budget be balanced, or have we begun a spiral? Moderator: Matt Cooper. Matt organized the innovative and very successful debate track (debates on 46 different topics) at the 2012 AG in Reno.

2:00 PM

### Barcelona

#### **Job Interviewing Do's and Don'ts -- Paul McGinnis**

Want to get hired? OC Mensan Paul McGinnis will give tips to help you ace that next interview. In this participatory session, you'll have the opportunity to hone your interviewing skills during roleplays. Bring your resume to receive feedback on how it can be improved. Paul manages a staff of engineers for a large international corporation and has conducted scores of interviews.



2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

### Monterey

(20 minutes each)

#### **Tarot Card Readings -- Lee MacMorris**

Are you looking for love in all the wrong places? Or, do you want to understand your current relationship better? Do you have a question about some aspect of your plans for the future? OC Mensan Lee MacMorris will give personal Tarot Card readings using the Voyager Deck. \$10/individual; \$15/couple. All proceeds go to the OCM Educational Fund. Sessions are 15 - 20 minutes and start at 2:00, 2:20, 2:40, 3:00, 3:20, 3:40, 4:00, 4:20, & 4:40. To reserve a time, sign up on the signup sheet in the Monterey Room.



## Saturday, September 1

3:00 PM

Puebla

### **Debate: Global Warming and the Future of Energy**

Recently, even most skeptics have agreed that global warming is real. Is it stoppable? Should carbon producers pay for the damage they cause and have caused in the past? Americans pay about half what Europeans pay for gas, while oil-rich countries highly subsidize oil products for their people. What will it take for us to embrace non-oil forms of energy? The US uses far more oil per capita than anywhere else in the world. What forms of energy will take us into the next century and beyond? How will we transition?

Moderator: Matt Cooper.

3:00 PM

Barcelona

### **The Halliburton Gravy Train - Karon Roberts**

OC Mensan Karon Roberts will show photos and talk about her experiences during the six months she spent in Iraq as a civilian contractor.



4:00 PM

Puebla

### **Debate: Occupy Movement vs. the Tea Party!**

Who's posted the best posters? Supplied the most supportive supporters? Found the flushiest funders? (and fundies...) Which effort has the most organized operation? The top tactics? The most moving message? And, ultimately, which will have the most lasting impact? Moderator: Matt Cooper.

4:00 PM

Barcelona

### **Twenty-Five Minute Stories – Terry Black**

You can write a short story in 25 minutes! OC Mensan Terry Black shows how to awaken the natural storyteller inside each and every one of us. Choose from a list of random words and themes to fashion a story no one else could have imagined – your own. Learn the power of dramatic focus, how conflict propels character, and how to wrap the darn thing up before the timer goes

off. Terry is an award-winning author and screenwriter whose credits include *Dead Heat*, a zombie film with Treat Williams and Vincent Price. He also writes a column in the *Oracle* about cats, storytelling, and his own romantic disappointments.



5:00 PM

Puebla

### **Debate: Drug Addiction and Legalization**

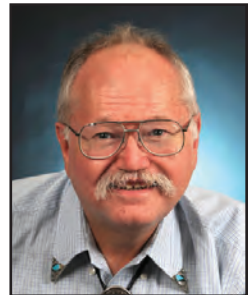
How much of our legal, criminal and economic woes are tied to, in one form or another, drug trafficking? How do we choose which recreational pharmaceuticals to regulate (currently nicotine, alcohol and prescriptions) and which to criminalize? How do you think drug legalization (like in Portugal) would affect the future? Is there an easy answer? Well, what is it? Moderator: Matt Cooper.

5:00 PM

Barcelona

### **RVC Rap Session – Clark Jones**

This is your opportunity to find out what's happening in Mensa on the national level and to voice your opinion. Clark Jones of Greater Phoenix Mensa is our Regional Vice Chairman (RVC) representing Region 9 on the American Mensa Committee (AMC).



6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

*Hospitality & Activities Rooms closed during dinner.*

7:00 PM

Puebla/Barcelona

### **No Host Bar**

No need to purchase a dinner ticket to buy a cocktail to enjoy with your friends.

7:30 PM

Puebla/Barcelona

### **Buffet Dinner**

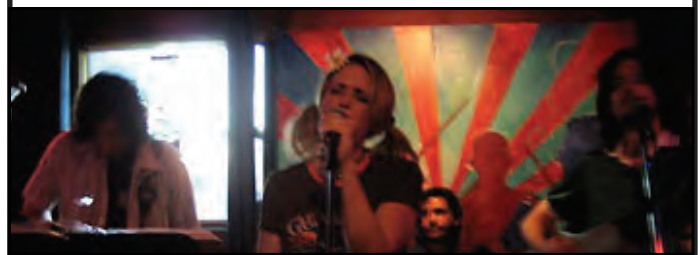
Pre-purchased meal plan ticket required.

7:45 PM

Puebla/Barcelona

### **Entertainment – Paddy's Pig**

Enjoy lively renditions of traditional and original Irish and Celtic folk music played with a sense of humor and lots of energy! *Those who do not have a dinner ticket are welcome to come in to listen and join the fun.*



## Saturday, September 1

**8:30 – Midnight**      **LaPaz/Buena Park/Monterey**  
**Hospitality & Activities Rooms Re-Open**

**8:30 PM – 10:00**      **Monterey**  
**Game: Taboo**

This fun team party game is an OCM Games Night favorite. You'll be given a word and five "forbidden" words or phrases. Your mission (if you choose to accept it)... come up with cleverly-worded clues without saying the "unmentionables" to get your teammates to guess the given word.

**10:00 PM - Midnight**      **Monterey**  
**Carnelli**

It's the Mensa-created game of quick thinking and associations. For those who are new to Carnelli... it begins with a book, play, movie, or song title. The next person must name another work with the same word in the title, or the same creator, character name, actor, etc. Pun linkages are also allowed, as long as they draw sufficient groans from the other people present. (Example: *Night of the Iguana* – *Iguana Hold Your Hand*).

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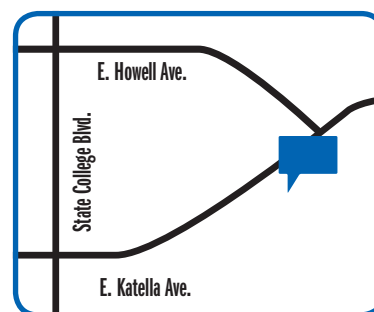
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# Sunday, September 2

**7:00 AM**  
**Hospitality Open**

**LaPaz/Buena Park**

**7:00 AM – Midnight**  
**Activities Room Open**

**Monterey**

**8:00 AM**  
**Registration Open**

**Suite 252**

**8:00 – 10:00 AM**  
**Continental Breakfast in Hospitality**  
Muffins, yogurt, fruit, OJ and coffee/tea... just the thing to give you energy for everything on the schedule today!

**LaPaz/Buena Park**

**9:00 AM**  
**Healthcare Reform -- Samuel King**

**Puebla**



Samuel King will share his insights into the rising cost of healthcare, President Obama's new health care plan and options open to our "greying" population. He has an extensive background and broad experience in health plans, medical groups, hospital, integrated delivery systems and consulting. He is a Managing Principal of King's Consulting and

is on the faculty at the Paul Merage School of Business at UC Irvine and UCLA Jonathan and Karin Fielding School of Public Health.

**9:00 AM**  
**Big Bang Theory Auditions**

**Barcelona**

Calling all thespians and closet artistes! We will be performing an original spoof of the popular TV show *The Big Bang Theory* later today, and we are in need of actors (or actual nerds) to be in the cast. Come and try out for one of the available roles. The only requirements are the ability to read a script and a commitment to be here at 5:30 PM today for the production. Who knows... after this, you may be on your way to Hollywood!

**10:00 AM – Midnight**  
**Hospitality**

**LaPaz/Buena Park**

We'll put away breakfast and bring out munchies, snacks, sweets, soft drinks, beer and wine.

**10:00 AM**  
**Driverless Cars: Just Around the Corner – Matt Cooper**

**Puebla**

Self-driving cars are cool. And they are coming... sooner than most people think. And they may not be as benevolent as you think. ("Where were you last Friday? Never mind, I'll just ask our car...") Mensan Matt Cooper explores the latest progress in self-driving technology, as well as how it will change society (a lot) and you (a lot, too). We'll also have an open discussion to discover the real Mensan vision of a driverless future. Matt has been a lecturer on world trends and technology for colleges, Mensa Gatherings, and other esteemed venues. In addition to training in engineering, he holds an MBA from UC Irvine.

**10:00 AM**  
**How Can Someone So Smart...Smart...Smart...? Susan Siaw**

**Barcelona**

Susan Siaw explains, "A few years ago, I took a colleague (who happens to be a professor, an Ivy League grad, and an atheist) to a Veritas Forum at Cal Tech to hear Dr. Francis Collins speak on *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*. My colleague later remarked (in reference to Collins and his belief in God), 'How can someone so smart, smart, smart be so stupid, stupid, stupid?' I, as a believer in Jesus Christ and a professor who teaches critical thinking, ask a similar question about my colleague: 'How can someone so smart, smart, smart NOT believe in God?' My presentation will be a mixture of Christian apologetics and personal testimony that summarizes discussions I have had with my smart, smart, smart colleague since that Collins lecture."



**11:00 AM**  
**M-Atheists SIG – Meet and Greet**

**Puebla**

Meet with like-minded folk in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. All are welcome, SIG members and non-members alike. Cary Chilson hosts.



## Sunday, September 2

**11:00 AM**

**Barcelona**

### ***Lifestyle Balance – Hit or Myth?*** **Susan Ingebretson**

Discover the principal practices that can create healthy habits to last a lifetime. Learn nutrition, fitness, and stress-relieving activities that can be implemented right away. Sue Ingebretson is an author, speaker, and the director of program development for the Fibromyalgia and Chronic Pain Center at California State University, Fullerton. Her Amazon best-selling book, *FibroWHYalgia: Why Rebuilding the Ten Root Causes of Chronic Illness Restores Chronic Wellness*, details her own journey from illness to wellness. She has been a repeat guest on the nationally syndicated health TV program, *Know the Cause!* and her writing has appeared in various health and wellness periodicals.



**11:00 AM**

**Monterey**

### **99 or 1 – John Olsen**

Come join us for a trivia contest where all the questions are based on 99 or 1. What percentage will you get right?

**Noon  
Lunch**

**Santa Fe Restaurant -- ground floor**

Pre-purchased meal plan ticket required.

**12:30 PM**

**Santa Fe Restaurant -- ground floor**

**Keynote Speaker: Meet Actor Leif Gantvoort,**

### ***Featured in The Amazing Spider-Man***



Mensan Leif Gantvoort is best known for his villainous role in the \$250 million blockbuster movie *The Amazing Spider-Man*, currently being shown in theatres this summer. He will describe his career as an actor and give us a behind-the-scenes story of what it's like to work on a major movie production. Leif has appeared in such TV series as *Desperate Housewives*,

*Justified*, and *Revenge*. He writes, performs, teaches and directs sketch comedy at ACME Comedy Theatre in Hollywood.

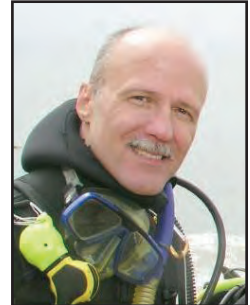
*Those who do not have lunch tickets are welcome to attend the talk.*

**2:00 PM**

**Puebla**

### ***From Bullets to Bubbles: Scuba Diving as Therapy for Disabled Veterans – Debra Hill and Mel Pasley***

This session will begin with a day in the life of our soldiers. What is it like to live in a combat zone where your morning alarm clock is the first rocket attack of the day? We'll then learn about the benefits of scuba for our injured veterans and specifically Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injuries. (TBI is the signature wound of the Iraq war.) LtCol (retired) Melvin K. Pasley is a 36 year veteran of the US Army & Army Reserves. He received the Bronze star for service in Iraq in 2006-2007 as an advisor to the Iraqi Security Forces. He founded the Disabled Veterans Scuba Project in 2008 upon his return from the war.



Debra Hill, MD, is a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst in private practice. An accomplished scuba diver, Dr. Hill holds a number of advanced diving certifications, including scuba instructor and rescue diver. She has written, directed, shot, and produced several underwater video and TV productions.



**2:00 PM**

**Barcelona**

### ***The Psychology of Violence -- Jacqui Lewis***

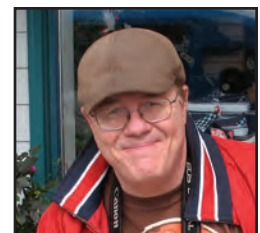
Recent events have left all of us wondering why people choose to use violence against others. This presentation will review the underpinnings of violence, both from an individual and societal perspective, in an effort to gain understanding and suggest methods of prevention. Jacqui Lewis is on the faculty of UCI—Cognitive Sciences.

**2:00 PM**

**LaPaz/Buena Park (Hospitality)**

### ***Lost in the Supermarket – John Olsen***

As The Clash sang, "*I'm all lost in the supermarket, I can no longer shop happily.*" So many odd items for one to buy and eat! John Olsen will have an array of "odd" or unusual foods on display for you to look at and sample. The catch is... their names are all hidden. Grab a quiz sheet and see how many of them you can identify.



## Sunday, September 2

2:00 PM

Monterey

**Game: Boggle** in the Activities Room.

3:00 PM

Puebla

**Panel of TV Game Show Contestants**

What was it like to be a contestant on *Jeopardy...* *Wheel of Fortune...* *Win Ben Stein's Money*? Mensans who have been winners (and also losers) on TV game shows will share their experiences, relate interesting anecdotes, and give tips for those of us who are game show wanna-bes. A highlight will be videos of some remarkable game show performances by your fellow Mensans.

3:00 PM

Barcelona

**Occupy Rationality: Things Every Intelligent Person Should Know -- David Richards**

We will explore how even smart people can cling to irrational, and even downright wrong beliefs. It will begin with an overview of common errors in rationality, including logical fallacies, confirmation bias and cognitive dissonance, mass sociogenic illness, and political bias and the occupy movement. We will move on to address commonly-held but unfounded beliefs in the area of the paranormal: psychics and ESP, monsters and cryptids, UFOs and aliens, ghosts and hauntings. The talk will conclude with a segment called "fun with numbers," outlining some interesting observations about non-linear spaces of various types, and recurring relationships found across widely different disciplines. David Richards is a member of the Center for Inquiry, and the Independent Investigations Group in Los Angeles. He's founder of the OC Skeptics Supper Club, and FreethinkersForLiberty.org. Professionally he is an engineer and partner in a company that manufactures equipment for movie theaters.



4:00 PM

Barcelona

**Debate: Religion and Separation of Church & State**

What is the proper role (if any) of religion in government? Does religion in politics encourage intolerance towards "non-believers?" Do some (or all) religions do more harm than good for people and the world – or is the general effect a positive one? Does any good done in the name of religion require a God? Why do some people require religious structure in their lives while others can happily live as agnostics or atheists? Moderator: Matt Cooper.

4:00 PM

Puebla

**Goldsboro Broken Arrow – Jack ReVelle**

Nearly fifty years before the 2009 Academy Award winning film, "The Hurt Locker," there was the actual 1961 Goldsboro Broken Arrow. Described in the 2011 book of the same name, it tells about then 1st Lt. Jack B. ReVelle's leadership as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) officer in the de-arming and recovery of two thermonuclear (Hydrogen) bombs that were accidentally dropped over North Carolina in 1961. Jack will describe the eight days he and his 10-man team spent locating and recovering one of the two weapons which buried itself in a tobacco field and swamp. (This information was only recently declassified by the military.) Jack is an OC Mensan whose professional career includes over a decade in the U.S. Air Force as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) officer with two Broken Arrows (damaged nuclear weapons) to his credit. Much of his career afterward was spent in aerospace and in academia which included an appointment as the founding dean of the School of Business and Management at Chapman University.



4:30 PM

Monterey

**Game: Carcassonne** in the Activities Room.

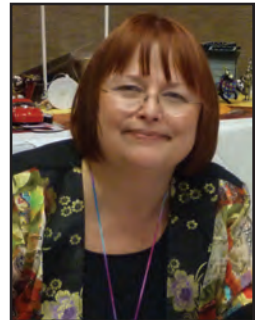
If you don't know how to play, Johnny will teach you.

5:00 PM

LaPaz/Buena Park

**Mai Tais with the Goddess Kristine in Hospitality**

The Goddess Kristine mixes her traditional and fabulous mai tais. She offers both leaded and unleaded varieties.



## Sunday, September 2

5:30 PM

Puebla/Barcelona

### ***Big Bang Theory***

See your fellow Mensans in an originally-scripted spoof of the popular TV show *The Big Bang Theory*. Be prepared to laugh your socks (or your sandals) off!

6:00 PM

Puebla/Barcelona

### ***Special Presentation***

It's a mystery! We gave you the *when* and the *where*... you have to be there to find out the *who* and the *what*.

6:05 PM

Puebla/Barcelona

### ***Scholarship Auction***

All proceeds will go to the OCM Educational Fund.

6:30 PM

### ***Dine Out***

Menus for nearby restaurants are in Hospitality.

7:00 PM

Monterey

***Game: Pictionary in the Activities Room.***

8:00 PM

Puebla

### ***Ask the Sexologist – Robert Berend***

This is an open forum question and answer session covering all aspects of human sexuality. YOU provide the questions in writing or by raising your hand. Sexuality, love, dating, alternative sexualities, STDs, sex and aging... just ask! Mensan Robert Berend has a PhD in human sexuality and has lectured at gatherings for over 25 years on a variety of topics. *Adults only.*

9:00 PM

Puebla

### ***So You Want to Be a Mensa Millionaire* *Art & Angie Mattson***

Do you want to have fun and show off your smarts by competing in a contest of trivia and not-so-trivial knowledge? Of course you do! (Is that your final answer?) Based on the popular TV game show *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?*, each contestant will answer multiple choice questions of increasing difficulty. Come and watch even if you're too shy to compete on your own – you can participate when a contestant decides to "Ask the Audience" for help with an answer.



9:00 PM

LaPaz/Buena Park

### ***Chocolate Fondue in Hospitality***

Calling all Chocoholics... Dip to your heart's content as long as supplies last.

10:00 PM

Barcelona

### ***Absinthe Tasting – Hosted by Randy Bergum***

See if you agree that "Absinthe makes the heart grow fonder." Attendance is strictly limited to 25 due to the many complex apparatuses used herewith. Admission charge will be 5,000 Bernankes, or a substitute frippery deemed worthy by Randy. Eligibility is determined by signing the posted entry sheet in Hospitality on Sunday. We will have alternate drinks for those whose palate is not of this lofty station. Moochers will be publicly shamed and ejected. Modern absintnes do NOT contain more than trace amounts of poisonous Thujone, contrary to what your father told you. Note to day trippers: At the end of the tasting, try saying "absinthe" three times fast. If you can't, consider taking a room at the hotel. *Adults only at this session. California state law prohibits us from serving alcohol to anyone under 21 years of age.*



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# Monday, September 3

**7:00 AM**  
**Hospitality Open**

**LaPaz/Buena Park**

**7:00 AM – 1:00 PM**  
**Activities Room Open**

**8:00 – 10:00 AM** **LaPaz/Buena Park**  
**Continental Breakfast in Hospitality**  
Wake up to muffins, yogurt, fruit, OJ and coffee/tea.

**9:00 – 11:00 AM** **Registration Suite 252**  
**Book Exchange**  
Swap your lovingly read books for books you haven't yet read. Earn Bernankes for each donated book, or use Bernankes you've accumulated to buy "new" ones. Or, if you've gone bankrupt, you can donate real cash to the OCM Educational Fund for the books you want.

**9:00 – 11:00 AM** **Monterey**  
**Clothing Exchange**  
Clean out your closets and swap lightly used items (or shopping mistakes) for a new-to-you wardrobe without spending a cent of real cash. Earn Bernankes for each donated item, or spend your Bernankes to purchase items to take home. Already spent your Bernankes? You can donate real cash to the OCM Educational Fund for items you want.

**9:00 – 11:00 AM** **LaPaz/Buena Park**  
**Silent Auction in Hospitality**  
If you've participated in the economic give and take by accumulating Bernankes this is your chance to cash them in on a cool prize. What is the point of gathering all that fake money if you don't spend it?

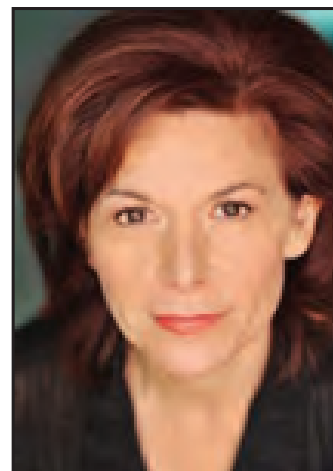
**10:00 AM – 1:00 PM** **LaPaz/Buena Park**  
**Hospitality**  
Help us finish up everything that's left over from the weekend.

**Noon** **Santa Fe Restaurant -- ground floor**  
**Lunch**

Pre-purchased meal plan ticket required.

**12:30 PM** **Santa Fe Restaurant -- ground floor**  
**Keynote Speaker: Anita Finlay**

Actress Anita Finlay will describe the dirty tricks and sexual politics she witnessed as a supporter of Hillary Clinton's 2008 Presidential campaign. Her new book, *Dirty Words on Clean Skin*, has been described as a shocking expose and powerful narrative that travels beyond Clinton's historic run to reveal the sexist denigration that women of all walks of life still experience today. Finlay has played recurring roles on the soaps *The Young and the Restless* and *Days of our Lives*, and she has appeared on *Brothers & Sisters*, *Castle*, *24*, *Boston Legal*, *Gilmore Girls*, *Judging Amy*, and *Melrose Place*. After her talk she will be available to sign copies of her book.



*Those who do not have lunch tickets are welcome to attend the talk.*

**1:00 PM**  
It's time to strike the set! We especially need volunteers to help us clean up and "un-occupy" Hospitality.



# REGIONAL & ANNUAL GATHERINGS

## of Orange County Mensa

Year	Dates	Chair(s)	Theme	Location
1981	July 24-26	Franci Taylor	It's a Small World	Inn at the Park, Anaheim
1982	July 2-5	Art Mattson	Riviera of the West	Registry Hotel, Irvine
1983	July 1-4	Barry Stone	Orange Rush: The Best Little RG in the West	Registry Hotel, Irvine
1984	July 6-8	Ken Burke and David Sabet	Orange Rush: The Best Little Olympic Ripoff in the West	Registry Hotel, Irvine
1984	Nov 9-11	Art Mattson	AMC Meeting: A Cultural Experience	Registry Hotel, Irvine
1985	July 4-7	Marie LaBonte; Karol Hawn	Orange Rush: The Best Little Wonderland in the West	Grand Hotel, Anaheim
1986	July 4-6	Andy Abeles	Orange Rush: RG At the End of the Universe	Registry Hotel, Irvine
1987	July 3-5	Teri Lacher	Orange Rush: Prime Time	Westin South Coast Plaza, Costa Mesa
1988	July 1-4	Eric Halasz	Orange Rush: The Owl Whooo Came in from the Cold	Westin South Coast Plaza, Costa Mesa
1989	Aug 4-6	Helen Geerlings and John Olsen	Party At Ground Zero	Buena Park Hotel, Buena Park
<b>1990</b>	<b>June 28-July 1</b>	<b>Art Mattson</b>	<b>AG: California Dreaming</b>	<b>Anaheim Marriott</b>
1991	July 4-7	Tom Herbertson	Feel Free	Radisson Plaza Hotel (was Registry), Irvine
1992	July 31-Aug 2	Teri Lacher	The RG of Aquarius	Days Inn, Fullerton
1993	July 30-Aug 1	Carrie Martin	The Muse Strikes Again	Days Inn, Fullerton
1994	July 29-31	Barbara Podell	Owlizabethan Tymes	Days Inn, Fullerton
1995	July 28-30	Susan Doggett	The M Files	Days Inn, Fullerton
1996	July 26-28	John Olsen	Go For Broke: the Bankrupt RG	Quality Hotel, Anaheim
1997	July 3-6	Stephanie Smith	The Owl of the Baskervilles	Holiday Inn, Fullerton
1998	July 24-26	Lynne Bianco	FlaMingo Fling	Holiday Inn, Costa Mesa
<b>1999</b>	<b>July 1-5</b>	<b>Tom Herbertson</b>	<b>AG: The Big One</b>	<b>The Hyatt Regency, Long Beach</b>
2000	Aug 4-6	Bill Jordan	7 Deadly Mensans	Country Inn & Suites, San Clemente
2001	July 27-29	Deb Stone	The Roaring 20(00)s	Chase Suites Hotel, Fullerton
2002	Aug 9-11	Cookie & Russ Bakke	Mensa General Hospital	Holiday Inn, Costa Mesa
2003			No RG	
2004			No RG	
2005	Sept 2-5	John Olsen	Mpacted Wisdom: The Dental Hygiene RG	Holiday Inn, Costa Mesa
2006	Sept 1-4	Bill Bandaruk	Magi of Mensania	Holiday Inn, Costa Mesa
2007			No RG	
2008	Aug 29-Sept 1	Bill Shaddle	Election Daze	Holiday Inn, Costa Mesa
2009	Sept 4-7	Greg Wilson	Endless Summer	Holiday Inn, Costa Mesa
2010	Sept 3-6	Greg Wilson	The Time Warp RG	Atrium Hotel, Irvine
2011			No RG	
2012	Aug 31-Sept 3	Nancy Alvarado	Occupy Orange County Mensa	Radisson Suites Hotel, Buena Park

## 2012 RG Floor Plan Radisson Suites Hotel

← To Lobby &  
Restaurants

			Restroom	Restroom
<b>Barcelona</b>  <i>Speakers &amp; Workshops</i>  <i>Saturday night dinner &amp; entertainment Sunday Amateur Show &amp; Auction</i>	<b>Puebla</b>  <i>Speakers &amp; Workshops</i>	<b>Monterey</b>  <i>Activities &amp; Games</i>	<b>La Paz/Buena Park</b>  <i>Hospitality Suite</i>	

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## 2012 RG Committee Members

Chair.....Nancy Alvarado  
 Vice Chair.....John Olsen  
 Registrar.....Sean Meade  
 Treasurer.....Brian Sullivan  
 Hospitality.....Colleen Nolan  
 Program.....Art Mattson  
 Activities.....John Olsen  
 Theme Coordinator.....Al Schwartz  
 Publicity.....Kristine Calitri  
 Program Book.....Angie Mattson  
 Prizes.....Nancy Alvarado  
 Volunteers.....Cary Chilson

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