

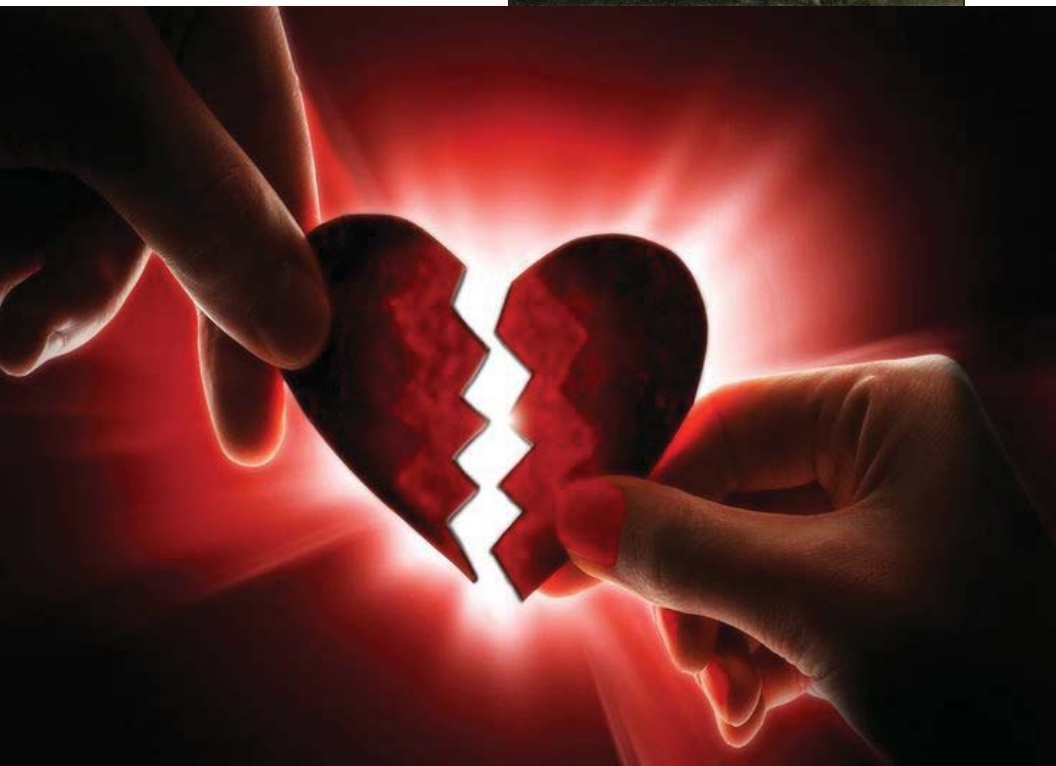
THE FRENCH BROAD MENSA NEWSLETTER

BROADCAST

Vol. 23, No. 2 Feb 2017

<http://frenchbroad.us.mensa.org>

Exposed:
Full Story of a
Broken Heart
Within.
Read on if you
dare!



From the Grand Poobah...

January signifies regime change in 2017. For the membership of French Broad Mensa has been a much more civil affair than the one in D.C., with admittedly fewer contentious issues at stake.

Experience, both local and on the national level, has shown that participation in local events is rarely overwhelming. And I'm not going to admonish anyone here. The information is available, the locations are somewhat diverse, centering on the Asheville area. We (mostly) eat and drink and talk, sometimes we do a community service, and we are in the throes of essay reviews for a scholarship. And as is oft repeated, everyone is invited to participate.

If there is something that piques your interest that we have not done, please let someone know. My e-mail is federspiel@bell-south.net.

And that is the end of that.

John Federspiel
Grand Poobah



Editorial Mutterings

Hmmm. I'm not so sure about that cover. I don't know if it captures this month's Valentine's Day theme. Oh well, I can take another shot at it next year.



Lucky for all, I don't have much to say this month. Let the images speak for themselves.

Oh, I do want to welcome our new "leadership" team. May their burdens be light, and may they shed light on our burdens. (Wow! Did I write that?)

Your Heart-worn Editor,
Michael Havelin



*Roses are red, violets are blue,
(In retrospect) I can't imagine why
I ever fell for you.*

History of Valentine's Day

From: <http://www.stvalentinesday.org/history-of-st-valentines-day.html>

Valentine's Day - the popular festival of love and romances traces its origin to ancient Roman festival and has not been created by card companies as some people believe it to be. There are various legends associated with the festival along with the belief that birds began to mate from this day. Popularity of the Valentine's Day festival stems from the combined effects of all these legends, beliefs and of course the wish to glorify the unparalleled feeling of love.

Feast of Lupercalia

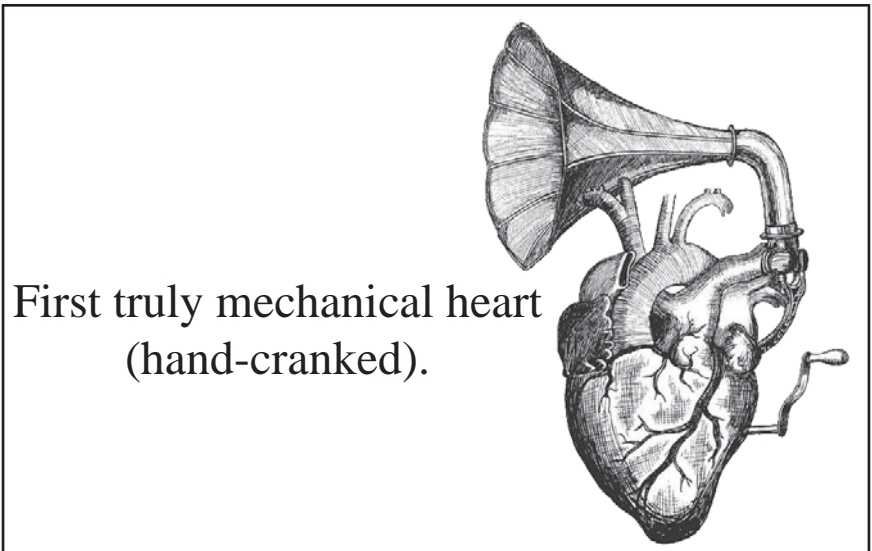
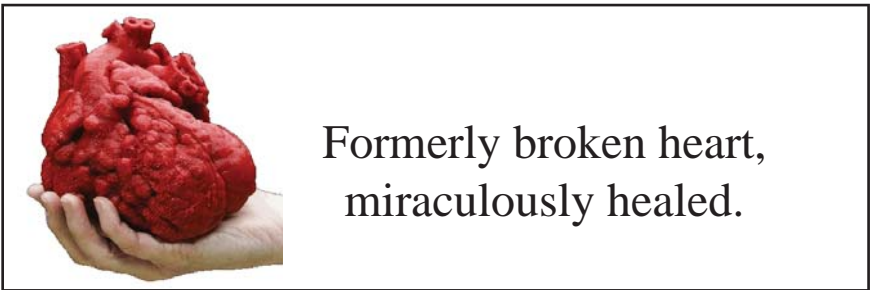
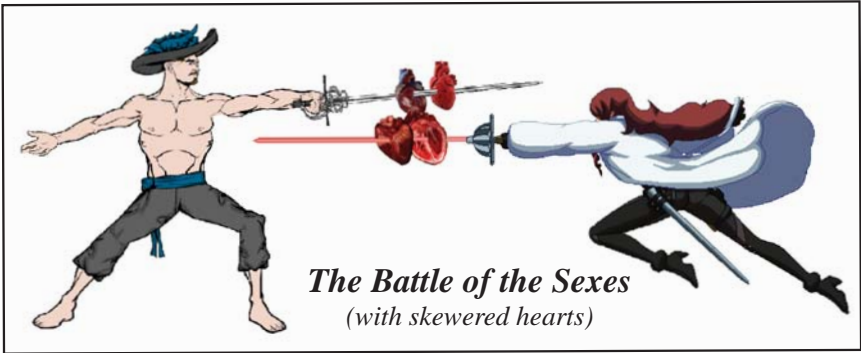
Historians trace the origin of Valentine's Day to ancient Roman Empire. It is said that in the Rome of ancient times people observed a holiday on February 14th to honor Juno, the Queen of Roman Gods and Goddesses. The Romans also regarded Juno as the Goddess of Women and Marriage. On the following day, February 15th, the fertility festival called 'Feast of Lupercalia' began. The festival was celebrated to honor the gods Lupercus and Faunus.

An interesting custom was followed in the Feast of Lupercalia to bring together young boys and girls who otherwise were strictly separated. On the eve of the festival, names of young Roman girls were written on a slips of paper and placed into jars. Each young man drew out a girl's name from the jar and was paired with the girl for the duration of Lupercalia. Sometimes pairing lasted for a year until next year's celebration. Quite often, the couple would fall in love and later marry. The custom lasted until people felt that the custom was un-Christian and that mates should be chosen by sight, not luck.

Defiance by Saint Valentine

The pairing of young boys and girls set the mood of the Valentine's Day Festival as we know today. But it was actually due to the efforts and daring of a priest St Valentine that the festival got its name and clearer meaning. The story goes that during the reign of Emperor Claudius II Rome was involved in several bloody and unpopular campaigns. Claudius found it tough to get soldiers and felt the reason was men did not join army because they did not wish to leave their wives and families. As a result Claudius cancelled all marriages and engagements in Rome. A romantic at heart priest of Rome, Saint Valentine defied Claudius's

Continued on Page 8...



RVC Column, February, 2017

We are in the throes of winter. As I write this, the temperature is about 15 degrees outside. Which is why I am inside writing my column! Winter will be with us for a little longer. Don't use that as an excuse to stay home from your local Mensa events. Join your fellow Mensans and enjoy the company of some awesome folks.

It won't be long until I am headed south to Birmingham for "The Magic City RG" February 17-19. Registration is \$65 until January 31 and \$70 (with a \$5 veteran discount) after that. You can make a reservation at the Hampton Inn at: <http://tinyurl.com/CAM-RG2017-hotel>. Registrar Mary Ambridge can be reached at: ambridge@bellsouth.net. Check out their Facebook page: [facebook.com/centralalmensa](https://www.facebook.com/centralalmensa). Their RGs are a great way to enjoy a weekend in Birmingham. Hope to see some of you there.

The last Region 5 Regional Gathering of the Spring takes place May 5-7 in Greenville, South Carolina. "PaMinal House" features all kinds of programming as well as plenty to eat and drink. Contact Registrar Mary Ann Cox at 509 Bethel Drive, Mauldin, SC, 29662, phone 864-963-2335, e-mail: registrar@piedmontareamensa.org (Please call or e-mail to request credit card instructions.)


Registration for CultureQuest® is now open. This literacy contest has been a Mensa tradition since 1990. Register and get more information at: <https://www.us.mensa.org/attend/culturequest/cq-registration/>.

If you read this before January 31, I encourage you to go to the National office website and go to: <https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/elections/2017-board-election/candidate-information/>. There are candidates for the AMC who need your electronic signature in order to get on the ballot. I would appreciate it if you would sign my petition for re-election. I have enjoyed my 2 terms as RVC and would love to serve you for another one.

As you can see, there's a lot going on over the next few months. It's a great time to renew your membership. Renew by March 31 so that you can participate in these great events. You don't want to miss out on anything going on in Mensa, whether it's a national, regional, or local event.

"Hooray for Hollywood," is this year's Annual Gathering in Hollywood, Florida, July 5-9. Registration and hotel rooms are available and it should be a great event. If you are heading on there, you might also want to check out the Colloquium, which deals with The Health Care of Catastrophes: Innovation Driven by Disaster. You can get more information at: ag.us.mensa.org.

I couldn't end this column without mentioning the passing of Marc Lederman. He passed away in early December, was the chair of several very successful AGs and Chair of the 2017 AG. His leadership in American Mensa will be sorely missed.

Thanks to all the leaders, who, like Marc, give so much time and effort to make Mensa a better organization. 

French Broad Mensa

February 2017 Events Calendar

(Please RSVP all events for table planning & menu coordination.)

Fri, Feb 3, 11:30 - First Friday Luncheon at Chili's Grill and Bar, 253 Tunnel Road, Asheville. From I-240, take Exit 7 and see Chilli's across the first intersection. Despite impending bad weather, we had nine members dining at the Olive Garden in January - great food. This month's luncheon hinges on having good driving conditions. Please email Fae Armstrong at one4fae2@yahoo.com or phone (828) 298-1707. \$5 off food is offered for local members attending events for the first time.

Sun, Feb. 5 - Super Bowl LI (51) Party at Wayne's House, 26 Greenleaf Circle, Asheville. Arrive at 6pm with snacks to share, BYOL. Kickoff is at 6:30pm. Contact - Wayne Stanko, 828-253-8781 or wstanko@charter.net

Tues, Feb. 7, 6pm, ExCom at Trailhead Cafe, 207 West State St, Black Mountain.
Contact - John Federspiel, 828-450-8463 or federspiel@bellsouth.net

Mon, Feb 13 - Trivia at Jack of the Wood, 95 Patton Ave, Asheville. Dinner at 6:30 pm, game at 7:30 pm. Contact: Will McGuffin, 828-296-7544 or wmcguffin@charter.net.

Feb 15 - BROADCAST content submission deadline (letters, articles, clever rude remarks).

Thurs, Feb 26, 6:30pm - Sure Happy It's Thursday Dinner at Farm Burger, 1831 Hendersonville Rd. in Asheville. Please RSVP for table planning. Contact: Will McGuffin, 828-296-7544 or wmcguffin@charter.net.

Tues, Feb 28, 6pm - Mardi Gras Party at Grace Lehto's Home, 25 Hopedale Circle, Asheville (Emma, really). Debauched celebration of Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras). New Orleans special foods (Gumbo, Red beans & Rice, etc) and King Cake will be on offer. Also beads. BYOB. Other food contributions are welcome. Costumes and/or masks encouraged. Best costume contest by secret ballot with surprise prize. RSVP by Feb. 22 to Grace Lehto, grace@mychickensheet.com or (828) 575-2877.



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unjustified order. Along with Saint Marius, St Valentine secretly married couples. When his defiance was discovered, Valentine was brutally beaten and put to death on February 14, about 270 AD. After his death, Valentine was named a saint.

In another version, Valentine was killed because he attempted to help Christians escape from the Roman prison as they were being tortured and beaten. Yet another popular version of the legend states that while in prison Valentine or Valentinus fell in love with jailer's daughter who visited him during confinement. Before his death Valentine wrote a farewell letter to his sweetheart from the jail and signed 'From your Valentine.' The expression is still popular amongst the love-struck.

By the Middle Ages, Valentine assumed the image of heroic and romantic figure amongst the masses in England and France. When Christianity later spread through Rome, the priests moved Lupercalia from February 15 to February 14. Around 498 AD, Pope Gelasius declared February 14 as St. Valentine's Day to honor the martyr Valentinus and to end the pagan celebration.

Beginning of Birds' Mating Season

During the Middle Ages, people in England and France held a belief that birds started to look for their mate from February 14. This popular notion further helped to link Valentine's Day - celebrated in the middle of the February - with love and romance. Over time, St Valentine became the patron saint of lovers and they began to celebrate Valentine's Day as a day of romance by exchanging love notes and simple gifts such as flower.

Popularity of St Valentines Day

Valentine's Day festival gradually grew in popularity amongst the masses due to the combined effect of all the above reasons. To mark the day, lovers began to exchange love notes called 'Valentines' with their sweethearts. In the beginning the trend was to send handmade cards but this was changed in the beginning of 19th century and mass-produced greeting cards caught the fancy of the people. In the course of time, Valentine's day came to be regarded as the festival that celebrates love, and not just romantic love. Today, Valentine's Day cards are gifted to teachers, parents, friends, siblings and sweethearts. Popularity of Valentine's Day has spread in countries across the seven continents and is still increasing by the year.



French Broad Mensa ExCom Minutes

Thursday, Jan. 12, 2017, 6 pm

Held at Trailhead Cafe, in Black Mountain.

Present: John Federspiel, Pat Benard, Will McGuffin, Michael Havelin

Financial Report for Dec 2016

Beginning Balance:		\$3842.89
Credit	American Mensa Cons Pay	\$111.35
Debits:	Postage	\$11.35
	Food	\$221.90
	Gift for out-going LocSec	\$47.07
<u>Total:</u>		<u>\$280.32</u>
Ending Balance:		\$3673.92

Fourth Quarter Financial Report, 2016

Beginning Balance		\$3752.55
Credit:	American Mensa Cons Payments:	\$385.95
Debits:	Postage	\$16.01
	Gas	\$10.00
	Food	\$315.90
	Bulk mail deposit	\$50.00
	Newsletter Mailing Supplies	\$15.60
	Buncombe County Public Library	
	Test Room Fee	\$10.00
	Gift for Out-going LocSec	\$47.07
<u>Total:</u>		<u>\$464.58</u>
Ending Balance		\$3673.92

Upcoming events were decided upon. (*Editor's note: see Calendar on Page 7*).

John will do monthly column for Broadcast.

Mardi Gras party Feb 28, Grace's? Ask.

Brewery Tour - Sierra Nevada - March? John will check on availability. Could go in late afternoon, then have dinner.

Meeting adjourned 7:20 pm

Submitted by Pat Benard, Deputy Loc Sec

Editor's Note: In past years, even though we have the best-looking newsletter in American Mensa, we've been disqualified from receiving the "Big Award" because we didn't print ExCom minutes. No longer. We'll print 'em this year (in the smallest readable font possible if necessary) to meet the award requirement. Rules! Sheesh!



A Word From Baker Ring RVC

As you know, I am a candidate for re-election as RVC 5. I appreciate all of the support that I have received from the Mensans in Region 5. I have a number of signatures on paper petitions, which I will be submitting soon, however, I still need electronic signatures. If you have not already done so, I'm asking that you go to the national website and sign my electronic petition. While there, you can also sign for any of the national office candidates.

The link to the petition is: <https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/elections/2017-board-election/candidate-information/>

If you haven't signed on to the site since November, you will need to enter your e-mail and then, click on the link to get a new password.

Mediocre-Okay Advice from Gabbie

Dear Gabbie,

I've been mildly depressed ever since the election.

Bummed Out

Dear Bum...

So have I. And so has everyone else. Take a deep breath and a couple of Prozac. If that doesn't help, try electroconvulsive therapy (ECT).

Gabbie

Send your quandaries to Gabbie c/o the BROADCAST editor.



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French Broad Mensa again thanks Clark Communications for their help in making this the best looking local group publication in the nation.

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Membership Coordinator - Position Open

BOILERPLATE: Deadline for articles, letters, comments, etc. is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Original (!) material is welcome. Editor reserves right to refuse publication or to edit submissions, as long as intent and meaning is retained. No personal attacks. Email submissions, with a subject line, to Editor at michael@michaelhavelin.com. Editor deletes suspected spam or emails without subject lines without reading. Opinions expressed are those of the author, not necessarily Mensa's or the Editor's.



BROADCAST

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