

THE FRENCH BROAD MENSA NEWSLETTER

# BROADCAST

Vol. 23, No. 3 March 2017

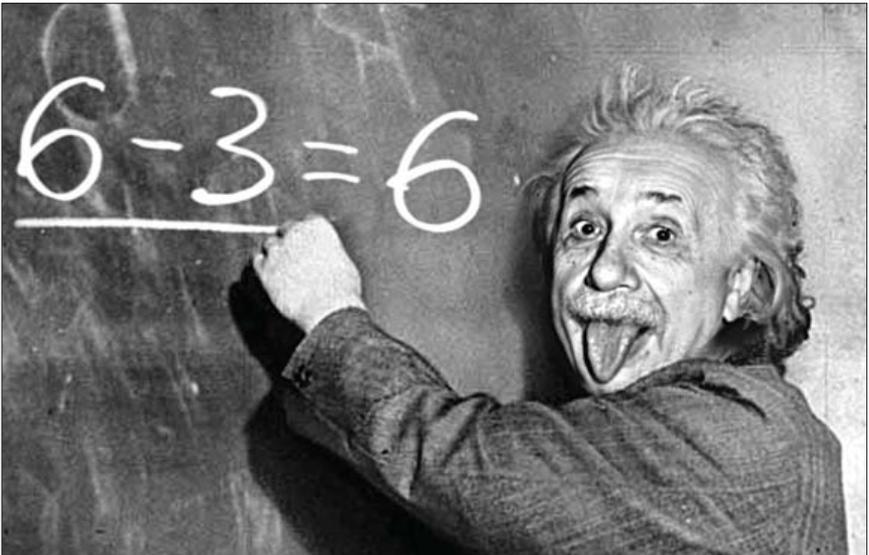
<http://frenchbroad.us.mensa.org>



**Before**



## Happy Birthday, Albert!



**After**

## *Minutes of French Broad Mensa Executive Committee*

Held Feb. 7, 2017, 6 pm, at Trailhead Cafe, Black Mountain, NC.  
Present: John Federspiel, Pat Benard, Bob Bouvier, Will McGuffin,  
Michel Havelin, Wayne Stanko, Grace Lehto

### Financial Report for January 2017

Submitted by Bob Bouvier, Treasurer

Opening Balance:	\$3,673.92
Credits: Am. MENSA Contribution	<u>\$113.20</u>
Total:	\$113.20

### Debits:

Check 604-Food (Treasurer handoff meeting)	\$59.06
Check 605-Postage	<u>\$49.00</u>
Total:	\$108.06

**Closing Balance: \$3,679.06**

Calendar events set (see calendar on Page 7 for details).

David Diehn - in appreciation of his printing our newsletter for free, we will buy him dinner, pay for his 2017 membership, and present him with a certificate.

John suggests visit to the Sanctuary Brewery for April.

Grace suggests getting a bus to take interested members to a demonstration in DC in support of Science.

Meeting adjourned 7:15 pm.



## *Editorial Mutterings*

For the past several years, we (French Broad Mensa) have celebrated Pi Day on March 14 (3.14). This year we celebrate (yes, that spelling is correct!) Albert Einstein's birthday, which strangely enough, is also March 14.



In my younger days, I tried for the Sean Connery look: macho but debonaire, erudite & devil-may-care. But at this stage of my game, I'm more suited for the Albert look, don't you think? I thought you'd agree. It's an aspiration, the "look" that is. I'll never achieve his level of "thought experiment," even if I'm made of the same cosmic dust as he... and the rest of us, too. Oh, well... maybe next time.

I don't know what you think of the current political situation in the good old USA, but I'm hoping to awaken from this science fiction nightmare some time soon. It's hard to know if I'm hallucinating or everyone else is. Remember, regime change begins at home. Keep your wits about you, think critically, and speak up when you see something that's obviously bogus. Let's try our hardest to keep democracy alive. It's up to all of us. 

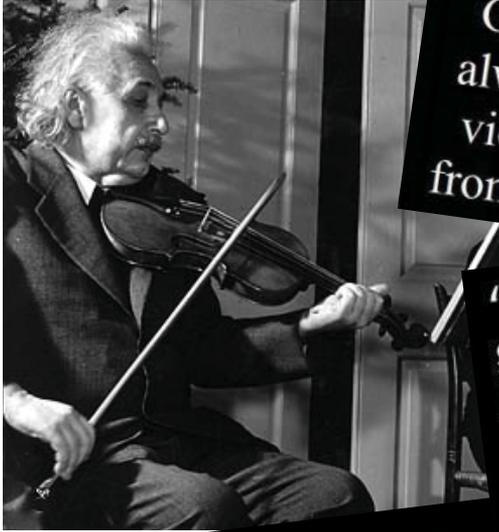


### ***French Broad Mensa MERF Scholarship Program***

We received 28 applications for the Mensa Education and Research Foundation Scholarship Program. Thirteen were forwarded for consideration at the regional level. At least one local entrant will receive a \$600 scholarship. In past years we have had more than one winner.

Thanks to Grace Lehto, Rick Dawley, and Lan Sluder for volunteering to judge the essays.

# What Albert Thought...

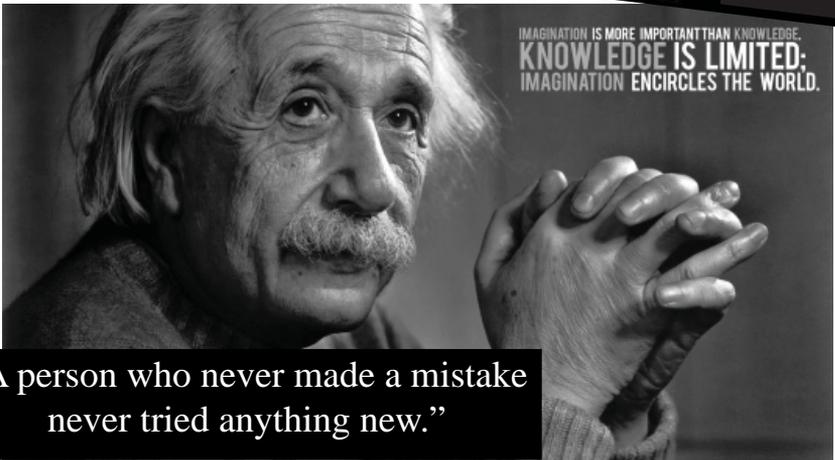


Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds

"If people are good only because they fear punishment, and hope for reward, then we are a sorry lot indeed."

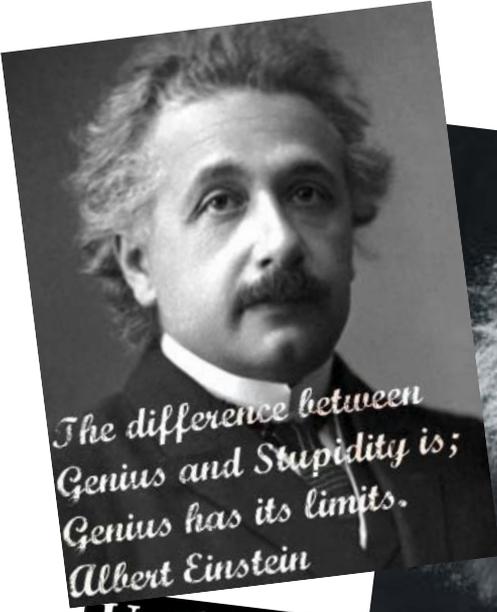
"If you can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough."

"The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything."

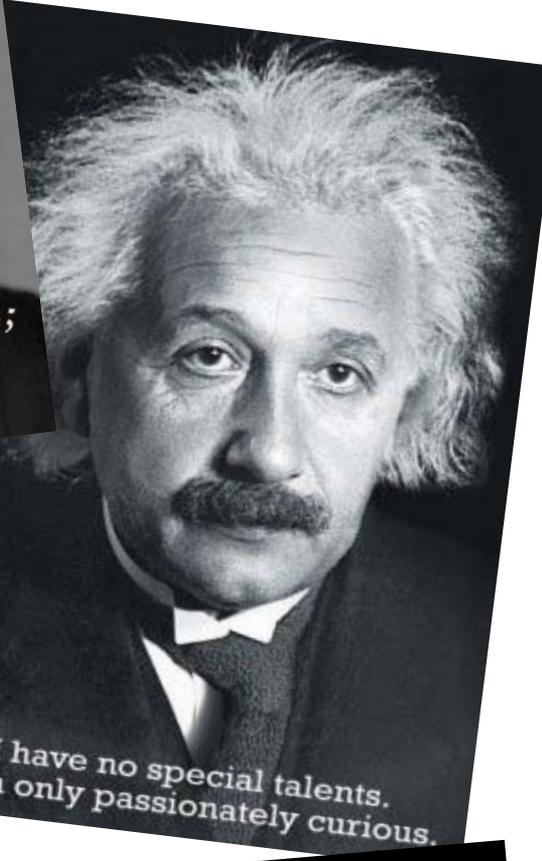


IMAGINATION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN KNOWLEDGE.  
KNOWLEDGE IS LIMITED;  
IMAGINATION ENCIRCLES THE WORLD.

"A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new."



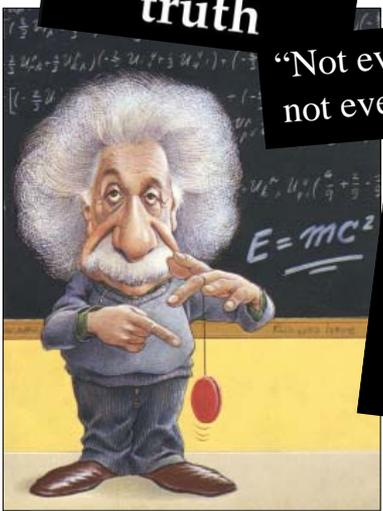
*The difference between  
Genius and Stupidity is;  
Genius has its limits.  
Albert Einstein*



*I have no special talents.  
I am only passionately curious.*

**Unthinking  
respect for  
authority is  
the greatest  
enemy of  
truth**

**“Not everything that can be counted counts;  
not everything that counts can be counted.”**



**“Everybody is a genius.  
But if you judge a fish by  
its ability to climb a tree,  
it will live its whole life  
believing that it is stupid.”**

## *Sierra Nevada Tour*

*Report by Will McGuffin*

On Feb. 9, a sunny but cold day, John Federspiel, Bob Bouvier, Bob DeBrecht and I met at the Sierra Nevada east coast brewery in Mills River to take the free tour. Our guide, Allen, was knowledgeable and enthusiastic and led us through all phases of how beer is brewed on a large scale. We were introduced to the four primary ingredients of beer (water, malted barley, hops and yeast) and then shown how Sierra Nevada



puts them together to make large varieties of excellent beer. We had “hands on” experience with hops, grinding them up between our palms to savor the aroma (accepting the hand cleanser offered to remove the residue), and were also allowed to taste sweet and hopped wort, a precursor to beer. We saw all phases of the brewing process and inhaled the aromas of hops and the fermentation process. The

tour ended with a tasting of eight varieties of beer following which three of us continued on to the restaurant for a meal. I highly recommend either taking the tour (you'll have to go on a weekday unless you want to wait a few months) or just wandering around on your own, slack-jawed with amazement at the scale of things! (Of course liking beer is probably a prerequisite.)



## *French Broad Mensa*

### *March 2017 Events Calendar*

NOTE: RSVPs are important for table planning. Please RSVP if you plan to attend an event. If you don't RSVP to the contact person, we may not be able to seat you. Preference goes to RSVPs.

**Fri, March 3, 11:30 - First Friday Lunch Ay Caramba**, 801 Fairview Road. Restaurant is nearly across from River Ridge Shopping Center. Great Mexican fare. A good event for you if you usually shop in Asheville near the first of the month or do not drive to our happenings at night. For table planning, notify Fae Armstrong if you can attend, 828-298-1707 or one4fae2@yahoo.com.

**Sat, Mar 4, 11am, French Broad River Greenway Clean-Up** on Amboy Road between the French Broad River Park and Carrier Park. We will also pick-up trash along Amboy Road. Riverlink supplies bags, gloves, safety vests, and pickers. Meet at Amboy Greenway parking lot. For incentive, Mensa will provide lunch for the volunteers after we finish. Contact Wayne Stanko at 828-253-8781 or wstanko@charter.net by **March 1** if you want to help. Reservations are needed so we will know how much equipment we need from Riverlink.

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

**Mon, Mar 13 - Trivia at Jack of the Wood**,  
Asheville. 7pm for dinner, 8pm to play. Contact - Will McGuffin,  
828-296-7544 or wmcguffin@charter.net.

**Sat, Mar 18, - Mensa Testing**

**1:30pm Enka-Candler Library - Enka-Candler Library**,  
1404 Sandhill Road, Candler, NC 28715

Contact: Wayne Stanko: 828-253-8781 or wstanko@charter.net, and...

**1pm Franklin Library**, 149 Siler Farm Road, Franklin, NC 28734.  
Contact: Carmen Jessup at ciej@aol.com

**Thurs, Mar 23, 6:30pm - Sure Happy It's Thursday Dinner at**  
**Asiana Grand Buffet**, 1968 Hendersonville Rd, Asheville, NC 828-654-  
8879. Contact: Wayne at 828-253-8781 or wstanko@charter.net.

## *RVC Column, March, 2017*

There's a lots going on in American Mensa right now. If you didn't attend the Central Alabama Mensa Regional Gathering, I hope that you'll plan to attend it next year. February in Birmingham isn't too bad.



Charlotte/Blue Ridge Mensa is sponsoring a Leadership Development Workshop March 17-19. Registration is just \$25 and includes Hospitality and two meals on site at Comfort Inn-Matthews-Charlotte. No early discounts planned. Hotel provides hot breakfast for registered guests. To register, or for more information contact John Barnes at [kf4oyt@carolina.rr.com](mailto:kf4oyt@carolina.rr.com) (preferred) or 704-882-5718. Local group website is [cbrmensa.org](http://cbrmensa.org). Event page is [www.cbrmensa.org/wordpress/ldw-2017](http://www.cbrmensa.org/wordpress/ldw-2017).

Don't forget to register for the Carolinah RG, "PAMinal House," May 5-7. For info check their website: [www.piedmont.us.mensa.org/rg2017.htm](http://www.piedmont.us.mensa.org/rg2017.htm). The rate is \$70 if you register before March 31. First timers get a \$5 discount. There will be attendees from throughout Region 5 as well as from other parts of the country. They are at the Drury Inn in Greenville again, a great hotel for this event. And, it's the only place that you will find the "Blond Bowl."

It's not too late to register your CultureQuest® teams. Register and get more info at: <https://www.us.mensa.org/attend/culturequest/>. Register until March 31; the contest is April 30. Typically, there are over 100 teams participating in this trivia challenge.

You can still register for the American Mensa Annual Gathering, "Hooray for Hollywood." Tours are on-line at: <http://ag.us.mensa.org/>. Programs will be on-line over the next few weeks. This year's AG is July 5-9. Colloquium will take place on July 5, with the theme "Driven by Disaster." For more info check out the Colloquium section of the AG website.

A big thank you to Region 5 Scholarship Chair, Bertie Clarke, and the local group Scholarship Chairs. I want to thank the readers who have assisted them since Jan 15. Scholarship reader is an important role in Mensa. The Foundation can't give scholarships without you. Mensa is a volunteer organization. I encourage you to volunteer to help your local group. The more you put into Mensa, the more you'll get out of it.

Remind your friends and family that during the month of February, there is free review of previous test scores. Many local groups test during March and February. If you know someone who should test, keep your eyes open for testing dates in your area. And - by the way - if you haven't renewed for next year, do it soon.

And, finally, thank you to everyone for their support for RVC 5. I was the only candidate and thus elected. I'm looking forward to serving you for two more years.

## *Trivial Report*

**The Whoos** competed against 14 teams at Quizzo at Jack of the Wood in February. I am listing a selection of questions with the answers shown below, so you can play along. The theme for the first round was rivers.

1. What Chicago band performed the song *Lady*?
  2. What river is on the New Jersey quarter?
  3. The Monongahela and Allegheny join to form what river?
  4. What Venezuelan river did Columbus discover?
  5. What “White” beer is made in Portland, Maine?
  6. What capital is on the Han river?
  7. What city is at the confluence of the Columbia and Willamette rivers?
- Extra credit - What song was a big hit for Enya in 1991?  
Extra credit - The Ganges river is sacred to what religion?

The theme for the second round was Georgia.

1. What Georgia city has the same name as the New York capital?
2. Who founded the Georgia colony?
3. What is a famous brand name of a Georgia agricultural product?
4. What large natural wonder is in Gwinnet County?
5. What comic strip that ran from 1950 to 2000 featured Sally Brown?
6. After being burned during the Civil War, what did Atlanta adopt as its symbol?
7. What large army base is in southwest Georgia?
8. What golf tournament is held in Augusta, Georgia?
9. True or False: By land mass, Georgia is the largest state east of the Mississippi.

Round three was the lightning round.

1. Name the first five Disney feature length animated movies.
2. What six state capitals are west of Los Angeles?

The round four theme was potpourri.

1. Ernest Hemingway did an ad for what beer?
2. The anniversary of the Tiananmen Square protest is celebrated in what city?
3. The Downtown Athletic Club awarded what trophy for the first time in 1935?
4. Who was arrested in Milwaukee in 1991 after Tracey Edwards was found wearing one handcuff?
5. What is the property tax evaluation for the Biltmore Estate?
6. Not counting water, what is the smallest continent?
7. What name was given to an orange colored alligator in South Carolina?
8. In the movie *Gold Finger*, Odd Job used what weapon?
9. What celestial object does the Global Oscillation Network Group monitor?

*See trivia answers on Page 10....*

*Mediocre-Okay Advice from Gabbie*

Dear Gabbie,

*What's really going on anyway?*

*Perplexed*

Dear Perp...

*Who cares? Just live your life the best you can. Be polite to others and eat all your vegetables. Donate your organs when you're done with them (the ones that aren't pickled).*

*Gabbie*

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

**Trivia answers**

Round 1: 1. Styx, 2. Delaware, 3. Ohio, 4. Orinoco, 5. Allagash, 6. Seoul, 7. Portland, Or.

Extra credit: 1. Orinoco Flow, 2. Hinduism.

We answered seven correctly and were in sixth place 6 points behind the leader.

Round 2: 1. Albany, 2. Ogelthorpe, 3. Vidalia onions, 4. Stone Mountain, 5. Peanuts, 6. Phoenix, 7. Fort Benning, 8. The Masters, 9. True

We were in 7th place, five points back after answering all the questions correctly.

Round 3: 1. Snow White, Pinocchio, Fantasia, Dumbo, Bambi, 2. Sacramento, Salem, Olympia, Juneau, Honolulu, Carson City.

We then in 6th place, six points back. We earned nine points in the round.

Round 4: 1. Ballantine, 2. Hong Kong, 3. Heisman, 4. Richard Dawmer, 5. \$300 million, 6. Australia, 7. Trumpagator, 8. His hat, 9. The sun.

We got eight points that round.

We finished in seventh place 5 points behind. How well did you do? If you had a good score, why not join **The Whoos** in March?



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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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**Treasurer**

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**Member-at-Large**

Nell Ruffin ..... ruffianspamson@gmail.com

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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.

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