

THE FRENCH BROAD MENSA NEWSLETTER

BROADCAST

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

Fall is
Falling



Kindness

A simple word, it usually makes people relax a notch when they consider the word. We all seem to like the concept of kindness, particularly when it pertains to us and our loved-ones.

But kindness quickly slips away. Being only human, we take exception to perceived slights, be it a traffic infringement, a rude statement, or simply a raised eyebrow. The ensuing response to such affronts is what makes up our daily lives; sometimes we lash out, sometimes we don't, yet dwell on the incident. Maybe we just accept that it isn't worth the agitation. The better people try to help defuse and calm the offended. I wish I were better at that.

During my life, I have had the opportunity to save two hummingbirds from their premature demise. One had struck a reflective window and was dazed, laying on the sidewalk. Given a twig to grip, it was happily returned to a tall shrub to recuperate. I mentioned this to Cindy, and she married me soon after. The second was trapped in a spider's web, and I'm happy to report that it is feeding this very day behind our back porch.

Both of these tiny birds were potentially going to follow a natural path, having made mistakes that nature does not easily overlook. I went against mother nature, giving them a second chance, and take joy everytime I see a hummingbird.

Why is it so difficult to afford the same kindness to people that simply do not know any better?

John Federspiel, Grand Poobah

Editor's Note: When the Grand Poobah speaks, it behooves all to listen.



Nel's Neologism #42

LETTERATE: good at crossword puzzles



Editorial Mutterings



Well, the world didn't end on August 21 after all. Too bad. Maybe next time...

I recently read Peter Brannen's book *The Ends of the World* (ISBN 978-0-06-236480-7). Very interesting stuff. He talks about the 5 Great Extinctions of the past billions of years (yes, that's billions - essentially a number without end).* It seems that for the analyzing geologists, all the extinctions were caused by massive build-ups of CO₂ gas which trapped heat and, combined with other factors (an asteroid hit, massive volcanoes & lava flows, methane releases from the oceans, etc.), accomplished the task. Brannen asks whether we're in another Great Extinction now, one caused by the "top" predator species on the planet (that would be us humans). The past extinctions took millions of years to reach points of criticality and maximum lethal effect. We (humans, again) have only been on the planet for 100,000 years or so, but in that time, and particularly in the most recent few hundred years, we've been able to accelerate that millions-of-years-build-up to dangerous levels. In effect, we're acting suicidally.

Extinction is forever, boys and girls. No more humans? Awww. The earth will heal itself. It's done so in the past. It will outlast us, outlast our fragile meat and bone. Our towering edifices will crumble back to their constituent atoms and new species will dominate, as has happened in the past. Smart lizards? Smart fish? Smart molluscs? Smart insects? Maybe nothing will be smart enough to cause such large problems in so short a time span. We are a truly exceptional species.

Your Soon-to-Become-Extinct Editor,
The Michael

* I don't care who believes it or not, but the earth wasn't created over a single working week 6,000 years ago and there were no dinosaurs on Noah's ark, not even a Thesaurus. *The Flintstones* TV show was not a documentary series. Don't believe me? Ask the network.

Editor's Note: You have a different opinion? Great. Let's hear from you and it'll be printed. Remember the Boilerplate on Page 11 - it's all personal opinion, not Mensa's view of things.

Does anyone want to take this editor job? All you need is a wandering mind, a graphical eye, some decent layout software, and wwwfar too much patience. Where are our volunteers? Are they all in Tennessee?

RVC Column – September, 2017

Join us in Atlanta for the Peachtreat 2017 RG, Sept 22-24. For more info and a registration form: <http://www.georgia.us.mensa.org/RG2017.php>. This year's theme is "Peachtreat 42: The Answer (to Life, the Universe, and Everything)." Sept 25 is the last date for reduced registration and the room block is held until Sept 9.

October is Mensa Testing Month and the cost of testing is \$30, half off the regular price! If you know someone, or have a family member who is interested in testing, this is the time to do it. If you've ever considered being a Proctor, contact your local group's Testing Coordinator and find out what you need to do to get certified.


In an addition to the awards listed last month, Central South Carolina received a Ruby award. Congratulations, sorry for the omission last month.

Thank you to Bertie Clarke, of Mensa in Georgia for agreeing to serve as Region 5 Scholarship Chair again. That is a huge job and I appreciate Bertie and all her crew for the work that they did last year. The Scholarship program is an important part of Mensa's mission. More than \$87,000 in scholarships are awarded each year. This year, many of the scholarships have increased in dollar amount. Scholarships are available to students seeking a college degree. There are scholarships for members of Mensa and their dependents. Scholarship applications are available Sept 15. More information is at: <http://www.mensafoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships/>

If you read this before August 31, you can still register for the 2017 AG at the Early Bird rate. If it's September, the rate has increased by \$15. This rate is good until Jan. 31, 2017. Remember, in order to register at the beautiful host hotel, The Diplomat Resort, you must be registered for the AG. Hotel registration will open November 1.

One advantage of belonging to Mensa is the Benefits. Check them out by going to My Mensa (on the Mensa website). If you travel at all, you might want to try out the Choice Hotels benefit. You can save money by using the Mensa number and booking on the Choice Hotel's website. I have used this benefit for the past couple of years and it's great. Compare our prices with online hotel websites; our price is almost always better. One more reason to belong to Mensa.

New Orleans Mensa is hosting the December AMC meeting in conjunction with their RG, NORGY 2016, December 9-11. You get an RG and an AMC meeting at two for the price of one! As a bonus, it's in New Orleans!

I will attend the AMC meeting in September in Dallas and will report on it in next month's newsletter. 

Minutes — French Broad Mensa

Held Tues, Aug. 1, 2017, 6 pm at Phil's BBQ, Black Mountain
Present: John Federspiel, Pat Benard, Bob Bouvier, Fae Armstrong,
Grace Lehto, Michael Havelin, Wayne Stanko.

Events for September (see Page 7).

FBM Facebook page - Grace will assist Will with administration.
Michael will put something in the Broadcast about the Facebook
page.

Meeting adjourned 6:58 pm



Is There a Proctor on Board?

Are you looking for an ultra-easy way to support and give back to your local Mensa group? Becoming a proctor would be a simple way to do that. What it entails is observing 1-2 proctor sessions (depending on prior experience) and having a proctor observe you giving a test. Once becoming an official proctor, you would most likely only need to give the test a couple times year. If you live in a WNC county that is outside of Buncombe, you may be able to give the test in your home locale. If you are interested, please contact Wayne Stanko, our French Broad Mensa testing coordinator, at wstanko@charter.net or 828-253-8781.

Interest is building (four people so far) for a book club devoted to “thought” books rather than fiction; books about everything from sociology to astronomy and physics are what I have in mind. We could meet once a month at some mutually agreed upon venue? Suggestions and ideas are welcome.



2018 Executive Committee Election

It is time to start the process of electing next year's Executive Committee. The four offices are Local Secretary (like a president, but the title comes from Mensa's British beginnings), Deputy Local Secretary, Treasurer, and At-Large Member. Four people are elected at-large. They then decide among themselves which office each will hold.

A Nominating Committee has been formed. Wayne Stanko is the Committee Chairman. John Federspiel is also a member. If you would like to be a candidate, please contact Wayne (253-8781 or wstanko@charter.net) or John (450-8463 or federspiel@bellsouth.net). The Committee may be contacting members to urge them to become candidates.

NEW! EVENTS CALENDAR ON FACEBOOK

Join our Facebook Group and get individual invitations to each event. While signed into Facebook, simply go to French Broad Mensa's page, click GROUPS in the banner, then choose JOIN on the radio button that pops up. That's all there is to it! You'll get an invitation on your Facebook page each time a new event is posted to the calendar.

Click "GOING" or "NOT SURE" on an event, and you'll even get a Facebook reminder the day before. A very handy tool for the forgetful – and who doesn't suffer an occasional bout of Absent-Minded Professor Syndrome?



French Broad Mensa
September 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, Sept 1, 11:30am - First Friday Lunch at Iannuci's Italian Restaurant, 1981 Hendersonville Road. Details will be furnished later in a reminder e-mail to members. Contact: Fae Armstrong at one4fae2@yahoo.com or phone 828-298-1707.

Tues. Sept 5, 6pm - ExCom at Ole's Guacamoles, 401 E State St., Black Mountain. 28711. Phone:(828) 669-0550 Contact: John Federspiel, 828-450-8463 or federspiel@bellsouth.net.

Mon, Sept 11, - Trivia at Jack of the Wood, 95 Patton Ave., Asheville. 6:30pm for dinner, 7:30pm to play. Contact: Will McGuffin, 828-296-7544 or wmcguffin@charter.net

Sat, Sept 16, 6:17pm - Games Night at Grace Lehto's house, 25 Hopedale, Emma, Asheville. Contact - Grace Lehto, 828-575-2877 grace@mychickensheet.com

Sun, Sept 24, Noon - Lunch at Greek Festival, Asheville. Meet just inside the front gate. No cover charge, but bring cash for delicious foods. No contact, just show up. Opa!

Thurs, Sept 28, 6:30pm - Sure Happy It's Thursday Dinner at Las Cazuelas Mexican Restaurant, 502 West State Street, Black Mountain, NC. (828) 664-0888. Contact: Michael Havelin, 828-712-5570 or michael@michaelhavelin.com

Save the Date! Sun, Oct 8, 2-4 - Annual Mensa Picnic at John Federspiel's house, 50 Grand Teton Drive, Hendersonville. Menu coordination is a must. Meat (ribs & chicken) will be provided by our host. Contact John at 450-8463 to coordinate dishes. Directions: From I-26 take U.S. 64 east toward Bat Cave. Drive approx. 8.5 miles, turn right onto Grand Canyon. The road goes up a steep grade and comes to a "T." Turn left. The road then snakes around and becomes Trillium Falls and a driveway.

Trivial Report

by Wayne Stanko

There were 18 teams playing Quizzo at Jack of the Wood in August. Some of the questions are below. The theme of Round One was the dreaded pop culture.

1. Hunter S. Thompson wrote about what motorcycle gang in a novel?
2. Adi Dassler founded what sport shoe company?
3. "It floats" was the ad for what product?
4. What did Seinfeld donate to the Smithsonian?
5. What actor was first considered for the lead in the movie *Blazing Saddles*?
6. What two time Oscar winner did a Coppertone sun tan lotion ad at the age of 3?
7. Who performed the rock song *Maybellene*?

We were able to answer only seven of the ten questions in this round.

The theme for the Second Round was "who wrote it?"

1. What duke wrote the song *Mood Indigo*?
2. What British duke was a war hero?
3. Who wrote "even those being blind in one eye can see the color purple?"
4. Who wrote "a thing of beauty is a joy forever?"
5. Who ended her novel with "after all, tomorrow is another day?"
6. Ironically, what inventor needed to take nitroglycerin for his angina?
7. Who wrote the song *Me and Bobby Magee*?
8. What newspaper columnist wrote "if life is a bowl of cherries, why am I in the pits?"
9. Who succeeded George Clinton and said "I am disenfranchised in New York and wanted in New Jersey."

We only missed one question in this round

The Third Round is the speed round. We were given a sheet of questions that had to be answered in five minutes: a list of cities and the league their sports team played in. We were to name the team nickname.

1. San Diego, MLB; 2. Miami, MLB; 3. Kansas City, NFL; 4. Arizona, NFL; 5. Vancouver, NHL; 6. Detroit, NHL; 7. Chicago, NHL; 8. Oklahoma City, NBA; 9. Los Angeles, MSL; 10. Atlanta, MSL; 11. Houston, NBA.

Our sports nerd Wayne got all correct except for Atlanta.

At the end of the round, we were tied for third place, four points behind.

The theme for the fourth round is always Potpourri.

1. What dance was first performed on the island of Molokai?
2. In what American city did 739 people die during a heat wave?
3. What athlete was one of the most loved and most reviled?
4. What movie did army paratroopers watch before going into action in 1940?
5. What penguin is larger than a king penguin?
6. What sneaker brand was Kurt Cobain wearing when he died?
7. What contagious disease killed Wilbur Wright but not Orville?

We ended up in fourth place, 6 points behind.

Answers.

Round 1: Hell's Angels; 2. Adidas; 3. Ivory soap; 4. Puffy shirt; 5. Richard Pryor; 6. Jodie Foster; 7. Chuck Berry.

Round 2: 1. Duke Ellington; 2. Duke of Wellington; 3. Alice Walker (Pat); 4. Keats (Robert); 5. Margaret Mitchell; 6. Alfred Nobel; 7. Kris Kristofferson; 8. Erma Bombeck; 9. Aaron Burr

Round 3: 1. Padres; 2. Marlins; 3. Chiefs; 4. Cardinals; 5. Canucks; 6. Red Wings; 7. Blackhawks; 8. Thunder; 9. Galaxy; 10. United; 11. Rockets

Round 4: 1. Hula; 2. Chicago; 3. Mohammad Ali; 4. Geronimo; 5. Emperor; 6. Converse; 7. Typhoid fever



Financial Report for July 2017

Opening Balance: \$3,907.75

Credits: American Mensa Contrib 7/21/17 \$102.85

Total Credits \$102.85

Debits: Check 613 - postage, bulk mail deposit,

library room fee (\$79.88)

Check 614 - postage (\$4.96)

Total Debits (\$84.84)

Closing balance..... \$3,925.76

Submitted by Bob Bouvier Treasurer

Mediocre-Okay Advice from Gabbie

Dear Gabbie,

I'm not a Densan or anything like that, but I'm having trouble understanding what's going on in the world. Is it just me? Am I still hallucinating after all these years?

Querying Mind

Dear Query...

No, it's not just you. It's everyone. "Moon tides" pull everyone's head to points at monthly intervals. Mostly, it's merely human nature. Maybe you shouldn't pay so much attention to the news. Sorry I can't be more profound. I'm at a loss for an explanation too.

Gabbie

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



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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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