

THE FRENCH BROAD MENSA NEWSLETTER

# BROADCAST

Vol. 24, No. 3 March 2018

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



## *The Goodbye Issue*

*Wherein the Long-time Editor  
Bids Farewell to All and Sundry,  
and to the  
Membership at Large,  
Small and In Between*

## *Who's Out There?*

As the map in the February issue of the Broadcast showed, membership of French Broad Mensa covers several counties in western North Carolina. In the short time I have been a member of French Broad Mensa, I have met a fraction of the membership. The same is probably true of everyone else in French Broad Mensa. This must be how the folks in Nevada and Utah experience life in their respective Mensa groups.

So, how do we go about getting to know each other a little better (assuming you would like to know other local Mensans)? Starting later this month, I will send out a short (fewer than 5 questions) online survey to each member. Don't worry, anonymity will be preserved. Results of the survey will be published in the Broadcast. And like any other survey, you may skip questions or the survey entirely.

You may ask (or not) "what kind of questions will be asked?" Initially, basic background information such as age, interest level in participating in Mensa activities and distance willing to travel to a Mensan event. Later surveys will address "likes" and "dislikes" of Mensa and French Broad Mensa and kinds of activities you would be interested in. Again, your identity will not be exposed in the surveys.

If you don't wish to wait for the survey to come your way, or you have a question or comment not covered in a survey, please drop me a line. I'm looking for new ideas on making French Broad Mensa meaningful to our membership.

Scott Samson, French Broad  
Mensa LocSec for 2018  
ki4gis@yahoo.com



## *Editorial Mutterings*



This is my final issue as editor of *BROADCAST*. It's been a fun ride for me for the past 10+ years as editor, but it's time for new blood, new ideas, new approaches. Besides, I'm getting stodgy in my dotage.

But in this, my last tear-soaked column, I want to thank all those who have helped over my time, and those who've made my Mensa life (since 1987) a pleasure and an adventure. I'm still a member and plan to attend this and that, but I'm shedding the responsibility.

A next editor hasn't been annointed yet. If you're interested in having a central role in French Broad Mensa, contact the ExComm forthwith. The editorship is a volunteer position, but it's vital to the health of our chapter. It's where we get our local news and announcements of future events (which you are all encouraged to attend, by the way). Mensa works for us "pointy heads," but it can't work without your participation. Go for it. I guarantee that you'll grow as a person. Maybe you'll even learn to play the harp sometime in the future as a reward for your "good works."

Thank you, and good luck to us all.

Your Defrocked Former Editor,  
That Havelin Guy

### *2018 MERF Scholarship Program*

Twenty eight entries were received for the 2018 Mensa Education and Research Foundation Scholarship Program. The entries are based on an essay stating the applicant's goals and how they plan to achieve them.

Five entries were disqualified. One for placing their name in the essay, and four did not state their goals. Of the remaining 23, eleven were sent to be considered on the regional level. At least one local \$600 scholarship will be awarded. In the past, we have had more than one award.

Thanks to Grace Lehto, Carmen Jessup, and Janis Durr for volunteering to judge the essays.

## Suggested Non-Mensa Event - For Those Interested

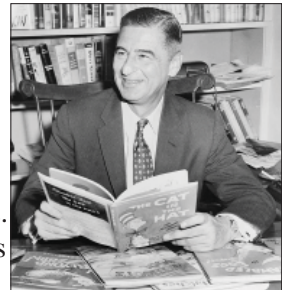
**March 14, 6pm-7:30pm - An Evening with the Answer Man at Highland Brewing** at 12 Old Charlotte Highway, Asheville NC 28803. *The Citizen-Times* invites you to An Evening with the Answer Man presented by Givens Gerber Park. John Boyle has been answering the community's most burning questions for more than 15 years. John - with local experts and officials - will review the top questions of his career and answer questions live in his humorously sarcastic way. Limited VIP seating in the first three rows is available to subscribers. Log-in at <http://www.citizen-times.com/insider/2018/02/13/evening-with-answer-man/110383438/> to reserve your VIP ticket. General admission tickets are also available there.

### Celebrity Birthday

**MARCH 2, 1904**

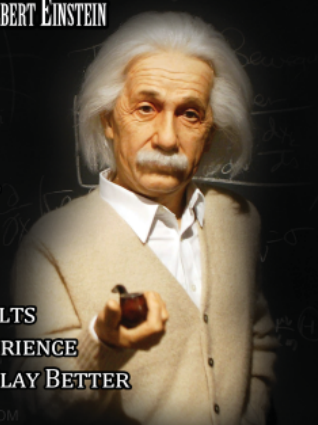
### **THEODOR GEISEL (DR. SEUSS)**

As a student at Dartmouth during Prohibition, Geisel was caught hosting a gin-soaked get-together and was banned from the school's humor magazine, the *Dartmouth Jack-O-Lantern*. To keep publishing he used his middle name as a pen name: "Seuss." The "Dr." came later.



### 10. AMAZING LIFE LESSONS YOU CAN LEARN FROM ALBERT EINSTEIN

1. FOLLOW YOUR CURIOSITY
2. PERSEVERANCE IS PRICELESS
3. FOCUS ON THE PRESENT
4. THE IMAGINATION IS POWERFUL
5. MAKE MISTAKES
6. LIVE IN THE MOMENT
7. CREATE VALUE
8. DON'T EXPECT DIFFERENT RESULTS
9. KNOWLEDGE COMES FROM EXPERIENCE
10. LEARN THE RULES AND THEN PLAY BETTER



## ***I Lost My Mind in the Doorway!***

(or "Check Your Brain at the Door")

Contributed by Sharron Armel

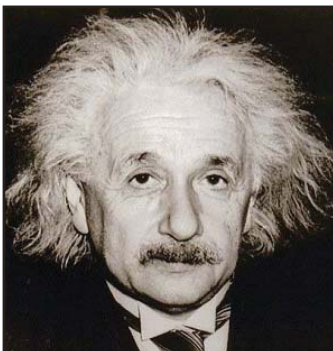
"Now why did I come into this room?" If you've ever asked yourself that question, you may have blamed your memory, attention span, ability to focus, age, and impending doom. Would it comfort you to know you're not alone, and that this is an ordinary human-brain phenomenon?

Crossing the threshold causes some kind of reset in your brain's memory process, giving you a fresh start in that new room. But a reset isn't always what we need or want! I used to cope by returning to where I was when I started the errand, hoping that the same surroundings would re-trigger the thought. That rarely worked. My current solution is to say the name of the thing I'm fetching as I pass through the doorway. "Scissors, scissors, scissors" usually helps, except when it alarms my houseguests.

Researchers at the University of Notre Dame have conducted some clever scientific studies on "The Doorway Effect," as noted in *Scientific American* and *Psychology Today* articles:

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/mental-mis-haps/201205/doorways-cause-forgetting>

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/why-walking-through-doorway-makes-you-forget/>



Learn from yesterday,  
live for today, hope for  
tomorrow. The  
important thing is not  
to stop questioning.

**Albert Einstein**

## *Executive Committee Minutes, February 6, 2018*

Held at 6pm at Pomodoros Greek & Italian Cafe on Long Shoals Road in Arden

Present: Scott Samson, Bob Bouvier, Sharron Armel, Will McGuffin

Bob Bouvier, Treasurer, presented the January 2018 Financial Report:

Opening Balance	\$3,845.82
Credits	
Am. MENSA Contributions 1/19/2018	107.10
Total Credits	107.10
Total Debits	<u>.00</u>
Closing Balance	\$3,952.92

The group discussed newsletter and website issues:

- Need to recruit a new newsletter editor, due to Michael Havelin's retirement after 10+ years of producing the *Broadcast* (Thank you, Michael!)
- Newsletter schedule will remain the same: deadline for articles is the 15th of the month.
- Scott has put in a temporary web page, to serve until we can find a new webmaster. (Thank you again, Michael!)

Member survey: Scott plans to distribute a short (5 question) online survey to members to help us understand what members want. Do they feel welcome? What would members who don't participate like to see?

New Member Welcome Gift: Rather than giving new members \$5 at the first lunch or dinner they attend, we will mail them a coupon for \$5 off their meal. The mailing will include the schedule, and direct the members to the *Broadcast* for further details. This will be a physical reminder in the hands of the member, and (we hope) it will encourage participation.

Thu.D! Our "Sure Happy It's Thursday!" get-together, on the 4th Thursday of each month, gets a new name this year: Thu.D. (that's "Thursday Dinner" in non-acronym.) Please send suggestions for restaurants to SharronArmel@gmail.com. We need at least one place in the Brevard area, as we have committed to staging a spring event there.

Member Fae Armstrong has suggested bringing back some of the gatherings the group has enjoyed in the past:

- Monthly Discussion Group (Fae Armstrong will organize)
- Quarterly Lectures (seeking ideas for locations and speakers)

Respectfully submitted by Sharron Armel

## *French Broad Mensa*

### *March 2018 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 2, 11:30 - First Friday Lunch at Ay Caramba**, 801 Fairview Road. Restaurant is across from River Ridge Shopping Center in the Oakley area (801 Fairview Road). Details will be furnished later in a reminder email to members. Contact Fae Armstrong at one4fae2@yahoo.com or phone (828) 298-1707.

**Tues, Mar 6, 6pm - ExCom Meeting at Post 25 Kitchen & Lounge**, 2155 Hendersonville Rd, Arden (the former Black Forest Restaurant) Asheville, NC. Contact: Scott Samson, 662-769-1654 or ki4gis@yahoo.com.

**Mon, Mar 12 - Trivia at Jack of the Wood**, 95 Patton Ave, Asheville. 6:30pm for dinner, 7:30pm to play. Contact - Wayne Stanko, 828-253-8781 or wstanko@charter.net.

**Mar 15 - BROADCAST content submission deadline.** Send your letters, articles, photographs to Scott Samson at ki4gis@yahoo.com.

**Sat, Mar 17, 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.

**Thurs, Mar 22, 6:30pm - ThuD (Thursday Dinner) at Texas Roadhouse**, 230 Hendersonville Road Asheville, NC. Contact: Sharron Armel, 828-280-6234, sharronarmel@gmail.com.

Note: If you're planning to attend an event, please R.S.V.P. to the contact person for head count & table planning purposes.



Before I get to my regular newsletter, I need to begin with bad news for Region 5. Days before writing this column, I received word that Neil Caesar, former Loc Sec of Piedmont Area Mensa, passed away after a short illness. In addition to Loc Sec, Neil served as Ombudsman and filled many roles in PAM. Neil, his wife Courtney, and son Baer have been fixtures at many events in Region 5 as well as Annual Gatherings. Neil will be missed by those of us who knew him, and our sympathies are with Courtney, Baer, and Lindsay, as well as his friends in PAM.

If you didn't have a chance to attend the Central Alabama Mensa Regional Gathering over President's Day weekend, I hope that you will plan to attend it next year. Nothing better than a Mensa Family Reunion.

Don't forget to register for the Carolinah RG, "Get Smart," March 23-25. For information you can check out their website: <http://piedmont.us.mensa.org/rg2018.htm>. The rate is \$70 if you register before Feb. 23. First timers get a \$5 discount. People attend from throughout Region 5 and other parts of the country. They are at the Drury Inn in Greenville again, this year. It's a great hotel for this event. Who knows, there might even be the infamous "Blond Bowl."

It's not too late to register for CultureQuest®. Register and get more information at: <https://www.us.mensa.org/attend/culturequest/>. Registration is open until March 31 and the contest is April 29. If your group hasn't had a team in the past, do it this year. Typically, over 100 teams participate in this trivia challenge.

You can still register for the American Mensa Annual Gathering, "Monumentally Mindbending." Tours are on-line at: <http://ag.us.mensa.org/>. Programs will be on-line over the next few weeks. This year's AG will take place July 4-8. This year's Colloquium will take place on July 3, with the theme, "The Evolution and Revolution of Manufacturing." For more information, 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 would also like to thank readers who have assisted since Jan 15. Serving as scholarship reader is important to Mensa. The Foundation can't give scholarships without you. Mensa is a volunteer organization. To make the most out of your membership, 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 February previous test scores can be reviewed for \$15. Many local groups test during the months of March and February; if you know someone who should test, watch for test dates in your area. Don't forget that in October you received a code for a voucher for free testing or prior evidence review. This expires March 31, so I encourage you to locate it and pass it along.

And - by the way - if you haven't renewed for next year, do it soon, so you don't miss out on any of the fun this year.

See you next month.



## *Trivial Report*

**The Whoos** The Whoos played against 16 teams at Quizzo at Jack of the Wood in February. The theme of Round One was women in science.

1. Biologist Neddie Stevens discovered a person's sex is determined by what two chromosomes?
  2. Who left for Africa in 1960 to study monkeys?
  3. What American anthropologist visited Samoa in 1925?
  4. What process was developed after it was discovered that brucellosis could transfer from cows to humans through milk?
  5. Gladys Dick discovered a cure for what disease causing a red rash?
  6. What marine biologist wrote *The Sea Around Us*?
  7. In 1942 Leona Woods was on the Fermi team that achieved what for the first time?
  8. Rosa Smith Inganman's study of the blind gobi was in what branch of science?
  9. In 1929 Herbert Hoover gave a check for \$50,000 to whom to buy a gram of radium?
  10. In 1969 Dorothy Hutchins identified what pancreatic hormone?
- We answered all the questions correctly and we tied for first with one other team.

The theme of Round Two was novel quotes.

1. Who wrote the *Fountain Head*?
  2. Who wrote *Rabbit is Rich*?
  3. The second line of what novel is "It was an age of wisdom and an age of foolishness?"
  4. What 1932 novel contained the Main Central London Hatchery?
  5. In what novel is the Holy Grail a person?
- Extra. In what novel does Eliza make her retreat over a frozen Ohio River?
6. Who said "never laugh at live dragons?"
  7. What novel contains the line "Hello Dave. This is Hal?"
  8. What 1902 novel has the line "He said he would shoot unless I gave him the ivory?"
  9. In what novel is "tout por un, un por tout?"
  10. Who said "I named him Friday because that is the day I saved his life?"
- We were perfect again and were in first place by one point.

The Round Three was the speed round. We had five minutes to decipher a sheet of rebus word puzzles. We only got eight of twelve correct. We were then tied for third place two points behind the leader.

*Trivial Report continues on Page 10...*

*Trivial Report Continued...*

The theme of Round Four was potpourri.

1. What gas is used with oxygen for welding metal?
  2. What metallic element is named after an 1802 asteroid?
  3. In the fixed do musical system what note is re?
  4. The 1994 genocide of the Tutsis by the Hutus was in what country?
  5. What Budapest born financier retired in 2011?
  6. What is the Japanese word for a person born before or a master?
  7. Who led the Muslims against the Meccans in the 624 battle of Badar?
- Extra. What is the term for behaving overly agreeable with one's boss?
8. What Latin term is a suffix for queens?
  9. What is  $2/3$  times  $3/4$ ?
  10. The anthropology Fischer Soller scale measures the color of what?
- We answered 9 of the 11 correctly but finished third, two points behind the leader.

Answers:

Round One: 1. X and Y; 2. Jane Goodall; 3. Margaret Mead; 4. Pasteurization; 5. Scarlet fever; 6. Rachel Carson; 7. Nuclear chain reactions; 8. Ichthyology; 9. Marie Curie; 10. Insulin.

Round Two: 1. Ayn Rand; 2. John Updyke (Will); 3. *Tale of Two Cities*; 4. *Brave New World* (Wayne); 5. *Da Vinci Code*; 6. J. R. R. Tolkien; 7. *2001 Space Odyssey*; 8. *Heart of Darkness* (Will); 9. Three Musketeers; 10. *Robinson Crusoe*.

Round Three: 1. Acetylene; 2. Palladium; 3. D (Will); 4. Rwanda (Robert); 5. George Soros; 6. Sensei (Wayne); 7. Mohammed; Extra. Kowtowing; 8. Regina (Wayne); 9.  $1/2$ ; 10. Hair



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**NATIONAL OFFICE**

..... 817-607-0090 ..... AmericanMensa@mensa.org

**REGION 5 VICE CHAIRMAN**

Baker Ring ..... RVC5@us.mensa.org

**FRENCH BROAD MENSA OFFICERS**

**Executive Committee**

**Local Secretary (LocSec)**

Scott Samson..... 662-769-1654 ..... ki4gis@yahoo.com

**Deputy Local Secretary**

Sharron Armel..... 828-280-6234 ..... sharronarmel@gmail.com

**Treasurer**

Bob Bouvier ..... 828-713-0270 ..... bouv1946@gmail.com

**Member-at-Large**

Nel Ruffin..... 662-769-1254 ..... ruffianspamson@gmail.com

**FRENCH BROAD MENSA APPOINTED OFFICERS**

**Proctors**

Karen Youket..... 828-645-4569 ..... kyouket@charter.net

Carmen Jessup ..... ciej@aol.com

**Editor & Web Geek - Position Open**

**Testing Coordinator**

Wayne Stanko ..... 828-253-8781 ..... wstanko@charter.net

**S.I.G.H.T.**

Cari Watson..... 828-633-2575 ..... pactonbooks@yahoo.com

**Ombudsman**

Grace Lehto..... 828-575-2877 ..... grace@mychickensheet.com

**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.



# BROADCAST<sup>®</sup>

BROADCAST (USPS 0013-506) is published monthly for \$8 per year by French Broad Mensa.

Periodical postage paid at Asheville, NC 28810. BROADCAST is the official newsletter of French Broad Mensa Group 287 in Region 5 of American Mensa.

**POSTMASTER: ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  
AMERICAN MENSA LTD.  
229 CORPORATE DRIVE WEST  
ARLINGTON, TX 76006-6103**

Periodical Postage

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