

The French Broad Mensa Newsletter

# ***BROADCAST***

Vol. 25, No. 3 March 2019

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



**If Winter comes,  
Can Spring be far behind?**

*Percy Bysshe Shelley*

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Cover photo: Pawley’s Island  
by Will McGuffin

## ***Submissions to the Broadcast***

Deadline for articles, letters, comments, etc. is the 15th of each month preceding publication. Original material is welcomed. Maximum length is 250 words. Editor reserves the right to decline publication or to edit submissions, as long as intent and meaning are retained.

Please, no personal attacks!

## **Events Calendar**

### **Friday, March 1, 11:30am: First Friday Lunch**

at Copper River Grill, 1302 Hendersonville Rd. in Asheville

Website: [www.copperrivergrill.com](http://www.copperrivergrill.com)

Contact: Fae Armstrong, [one4fae2@yahoo.com](mailto:one4fae2@yahoo.com)

### **Tuesday, March 5, 6pm: Executive Committee Meeting**

at Atlanta Bread Company, Hendersonville Rd. in Asheville

Website: [atlantabread.com/asheville-nc/](http://atlantabread.com/asheville-nc/)

Contact: [SharronArmel@gmail.com](mailto:SharronArmel@gmail.com)

### **Monday, March 11, Trivia (6:30 for dinner, 7:30 to play)**

at Jack of the Wood, 95 Patton Ave. in Asheville

Website: [jackofthewood.com](http://jackofthewood.com)

Contact: Will McGuffin, [wmcguffin@charter.net](mailto:wmcguffin@charter.net)

### **Saturday, March 16, 6pm: Games Night**

at the home of Grace Lehto, 25 Hopedale Circle in Asheville

Contact: [GraceLehto@yahoo.com](mailto:GraceLehto@yahoo.com)

Coffee, tea, and water will be served. BYOB if you like.

### **Thursday, March 28, 6pm: Thu.D! with Guest Speaker**

at Post 25 Kitchen & Lounge, 2155 Hendersonville Rd. in Arden

Fellow Mensan Jeff Catanese will join us to talk about his recent experience as a *Jeopardy!* contestant. See page 4 for more info.

Contact: [SharronArmel@gmail.com](mailto:SharronArmel@gmail.com)

### **Saturday, March 30, 11am: Amboy Road Greenway Cleanup**

Riverlink will provide gloves, safety vests, grabbers, and bags. Please let

Wayne know if you are coming, so we know how much equipment we need. After the cleanup, FBM will host a lunch for the volunteers.

Contact Wayne Stanko, [wstanko@charter.net](mailto:wstanko@charter.net) or 828-253-8751

### **Sunday, March 31, 3pm: Discussion Group**

at the home of Fae Armstrong, 60 Gerber Rd. Apt 209, in Asheville

The topic will be "Books that changed my life." Tea, coffee, and hot chocolate will be available, or BYOB.

Contact: Fae Armstrong, [one4fae2@yahoo.com](mailto:one4fae2@yahoo.com) or 828-575-0121

**New Members: French Broad Mensa will welcome you with a \$5 contribution to your first meal with the group!**

## ***Meet a Fellow Mensan***

Jeff Catanese has been a Mensa member since 2001, when he took the test out of fear he was growing stupider. Jeff is Artistic Director of Attic Salt Theatre Company in Asheville, and has written three drama education books with his partner at Attic Salt, and fellow Mensan, Marci Bernstein. He acts, writes and directs plays around town for several companies, most recently directing Asheville Community Theatre's *Avenue Q* and Attic Salt's *Blue Window*.

His recent venture onto *Jeopardy!* has made him a reluctant local celebrity, and he's happy to talk about it with his fellow Mensans. Join FBM members on March 28 to talk with Jeff. (See Events Calendar on page 3.)

## ***MERF Scholarship Program***

We received a total of 22 applications for the Mensa Education and Research Foundation Scholarship Program. The application is based on an essay describing the applicant's goals and how they plan to achieve them. In addition to high school Haysville, Canton, Brasstown, Franklin, and Marble, we had entries from students currently enrolled at UNC-Asheville, Mars Hill, Appalachian State, and Johns Hopkins. Ten of the 22 entries were forwarded for regional consideration. There will be at least one local winner. Thanks to Grace Lehto, Janis Durr, and Jeff Patterson for volunteering to judge the essays.

Wayne Stanko, Scholarship Chair

## ***Off The Charts***

***Off the Charts: The Hidden Lives and Lessons of American Child Prodigies*** by Ann Hilbert has been made available for sharing by fellow FBM member Bill Smith in Cherokee. If you'd like to borrow it, email [SharronArmel@gmail.com](mailto:SharronArmel@gmail.com) and you'll be added to the list!

## ***Help Wanted***

**Treasurer:** Bob Bouvier expects to move to Texas later this year, and we'll need someone to replace his Treasurer duties. Now would be a good time to join the ExComm, learn what's up, and make a smooth transition to Treasurer duties when Bob and Leslie leave the FBM area.

**Webmaster:** The French Broad Mensa Website Needs a new Webmaster. Volunteers will please step forward. Just think of the adulation (mostly complaints), the notoriety (become infamous), the raw power (none to speak of). FBM will, however, cover your annual dues.

If you're interested in supporting our chapter, contact LocSec Sharron Armel at [sharronarmel@gmail.com](mailto:sharronarmel@gmail.com).

## ***Regional Vice-Chairman's Message***

I am writing this as I have just returned from the Regional Gathering in Birmingham. The folks in Central Alabama Mensa did a great job in putting it together and making it happen. Kudos to them for a wonderful RG. On the way home, I attended the dinner meeting of North Alabama Mensa. I want to thank their leadership for moving it from its Saturday night time for me to be able to attend.



The next RG in our region will be in Greenville, SC on March 22 -24. The “NaNa NaNa NaNa NaNa” RG (think Batman) will feature all kinds of programming as well as plenty to eat and drink. You can contact registrar, Mary Ann Cox at 509 Bethel Drive, Mauldin, SC, 29662, phone 864-963-2335, e-mail: [registrar@piedmontareamensa.org](mailto:registrar@piedmontareamensa.org) (Please call or e-mail to request credit card instructions.) Typically, over 100 people attend this RG. It's a great time to meet other Mensans from inside as well as well as outside the region.

Charlotte/Blue Ridge Mensa will return to the rank of local groups hosting RGs this year. Put November 15 – 17 on your calendar and plan to be in Charlotte, NC.

It's not too late to register your CultureQuest® teams. You can register and get more information at:

<https://www.us.mensa.org/attend/culturequest/>. Registration is open until March 31 and the contest is April 30. If your group hasn't put together a team in the past, this may be the time to do it. Typically, there are over 100 teams participating in this trivia challenge.

You can still register for the American Mensa Annual Gathering, "Mensa Rising", this year's Annual Gathering. It will take place in Phoenix, AZ, July 3-7. Registration and hotel rooms are available, and it should be a great event. If you are heading on down there, you might also want to check out the Colloquium, which deals with: Privacy in the 21st Century: Mystery or Myth? You can get more information at: [ag.us.mensa.org](http://ag.us.mensa.org).

A big thank you to Region 5 Scholarship Chair, Bertie Clarke, and the local group Scholarship Chairs. I would also like to thank the readers who have assisted them since January 15. Serving as a scholarship reader is an important role in 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.

Back in October, all members received a voucher code that will let you provide someone you know with free testing or free prior evidence review. Last year, I used mine to assist my nephew with joining, and this year I will be giving mine to a high school senior that I know, who will be an asset to Mensa in a few years. Find yours and pass it on.

Candidates for this year's American Mensa elections have been set. You can find them at: <https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/elections/2019-board-election/>. Candidates for Region 5 RVC are: Nancy Campbell from Charlotte/Blue Ridge Mensa and Dan Brown from Middle Tennessee Mensa. I encourage you to look at all the candidate's statements and choose the one that best fits your way that Mensa should be run.

Have a great Spring and Mensa On.

Baker Ring, Region 5 Vice-Chairman

## ***George Haynes' Candidate Statement for Second Vice Chair***

If there existed a secret Mensa handshake, I'd ask you to pretend I was offering it to you now. Hello, Mensans all. My name is George Haynes and I'm just popping in to your newsletter to raise awareness that I'm running for a national office within Mensa that YOU will have the opportunity to vote for.

Second Vice Chair is the name of the office for which I'm running. It's like the Vice Vice President of Mensa. If Alexander Haig held this position, his grasp of the rules of succession would be correct (that's my attempt at making a joke).

This is not my official campaign statement or my official biography. This is just a friendly howdy. Although my tone is more informal in this article, you can rest assured that I take this election very seriously and the responsibilities that come with being on Mensa's national board of directors. I served on the AMC (that's the national board) from 2015-2017. I'm currently the LocSec (that's the president) of St. Louis Area Mensa. I was also the newsletter editor for St. Louis from 2010-2015.

Interesting tidbit, I ran in 2015 for the AMC as a total newcomer to elected office for national Mensa. At that time, there were two ways to get on the Mensa ballot: The Nominating Committee (NomComm) was one way and the other way was by petition, i.e. getting enough signatures to get your name on the ballot. The NomComm initially rejected me because they thought my supposed "lack of experience" should keep me out of the running for national office. Thankfully, the people who signed my petition thought otherwise and indeed got me on the ballot. I won that election against my two opponents who were, ironically, favored by the NomComm. By the way, the two guys who were my opponents were great candidates; I consider them both my friends. My victory in 2015 as an AMC member was made even sweeter by a ballot initiative that eliminated the NomComm.

I share that story to respectfully highlight that I was a big outsider candidate four years ago. Even though I have substantially more Mensa

experience, now, that outsider mentality still pervades my thinking. Everyone plays politics to a degree; there's no avoiding it. If you say you don't EVER engage in political machinations (at work, at home, etc.), I have a hard time believing you. However, there comes a point where every person should ask the question, wherever they find themselves, "Am I primarily just an authentic person or am I a politician?" My desire is to be an authentic hard-working person (with skills and strengths) who serves the organization faithfully and diligently. Politics are real, but they don't have to pervade everything.

Here comes the campaign slogan (forgive me if it's cheesy): "We're all in this together. You're a Mensan too." If you have specific questions, please email me at: [haygeomensa@gmail.com](mailto:haygeomensa@gmail.com)

Please vote George Haynes for Second Vice Chair. Your vote is very much appreciated.



*Almost Spring!*

## ***Einstein Puzzle***

Karen Youket suggested including this kind of puzzle. I had enjoyed these puzzles for decades but never heard the back story. It is said that this quiz format was created by the famous physicist, and according to him, 98% will not solve it. But that shouldn't include us!

Five different-colored cars are parked in a row. Each car's driver is a different nationality, and each prefers a different pet, downs a different drink, and snarfs a different snack food.

1. The Brit drives the red car.
2. The Swede keeps dogs as pets.
3. The Dane drinks tea.
4. The Green car is next to the white car, on the left.
5. The driver of the green car drinks coffee.
6. The person who munches peanuts rears birds.
7. The driver of the yellow car loves doughnuts..
8. The driver of the center car drinks milk.
9. The Norwegian drives the first car.
10. The banana-eater parked next to the cat-keeper.
11. The fish owner parked between the red car and the beer-drinker's car.
12. The person who keeps horses parked next to the one driven by the doughnut-muncher.
13. The man who chews beef jerky drinks beer.
14. The German munches popcorn.
15. The Norwegian parked next to the blue car.
16. The banana-eater has a neighbor who drinks water.

### **Who keeps a pet fish?**

Check the answer on page 14 to see if you are still one of the 2%.

**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**February 5, 2019**

Held at the home of Grace Lehto (Thank you, Grace!)

Present were ExComm members Sharron Armel, Bob Bouvier, Grace Lehto, and Jeff Patterson; other FBM members Michael Havelin and Will McGuffin.

Sharron Armel reported that Jeff Catanese has agreed to be the guest speaker for our March Thu.D! We have requested the small private room at Post 25 on Hendersonville Road in Arden, and are awaiting confirmation. The group suggested Yao as an alternative, or as a site for a future event.

The group discussed possible activities for the year, and confirmed the schedule for the coming month.

Submitted by  
Grace Lehto,  
Deputy Local Secretary

You may suggest topics for future agendas by emailing [SharronArmel@gmail.com](mailto:SharronArmel@gmail.com).

**Financial Report for January 2019**

Opening Balance .....	\$4,363.22
Receipts:	
Am. MENSA Contribution 1/18/2019.....	\$113.05
Total Receipts.....	\$113.05
Disbursements: None	
Total Disbursements.....	\$0.00
Closing Balance .....	\$4,476.27

Submitted by Bob Bouvier, Treasurer

## ***Trivial Report***

There were 13 teams playing Quizzo at Jack of the Wood in February. Sharron Armel, Robert Jones, Will McGuffin, Wayne & Jan Stanko, and Karen Youket represented FBM as “The Whoos.”

The theme of the first round was **language**.

1. Lao is spoken in what country?
  2. In Spanish a y is what part of speech?
  3. Gaelic and Scottish belong to what general language?
  4. What language is spoken in the Biscayne region of Spain?
  5. The southeastern Asia language of Hirdu is a combination of what two languages?
  6. Galician spoken in northwest Spain is similar to what neighboring country?
  7. What is the term for a unique form of a language?
  8. In the 1800s, Sequoyah developed an alphabet for what language?
- Extra. In the 1970s, computer fonts were developed for what native American language?
9. What Chinese dialect is the most-spoken language in the world?
  10. In Mexico, Nahuatl was spoken by the Toltecs and what other group?

### *Answers*

1. Laos; 2. Conjunction; 3. Celtic (Robert); 4. Basque; 5. Hindi and Urdu; 6. Portuguese (Robert); 7. Dialect; 8. Cherokee; Extra. Navajo; 9. Mandarin; 10. Aztec

We answered all the questions correctly, “jokered” the round to double our score, and were in first place by four points.

The theme of round two was **New Orleans**.

1. In 1840, what city replaced New Orleans as the capitol of Louisiana?
2. *Hullabaloo* is the newspaper of what New Orleans university?
3. What general is known as the hero of New Orleans?

4. What is the term for a social group of Mardi Gras revelers?
  5. The bird sanctuary at the New Orleans zoo is named after whom?
  6. Who sent James Monroe to Paris to negotiate the Louisiana purchase?
  7. At one time, the longest bridge over water went over what?
- Extra. What street is named after the connection to the above answer and the Mississippi?
8. What is the name of Brennan's famous flaming dessert?
  9. The New Orleans airport is located in what parish that has the same name as the toy company that makes the Easy Bake Oven.?
  10. What New Orleans native was called the Queen of Gospel music?

*Answers*

1. Baton Rouge; 2. Tulane (Wayne); 3. Andrew Jackson; 4. Krewe (Wayne); 5. Audubon; 6. Thomas Jefferson; 7. Ponchartrain; Extra, Canal Street (Wayne); 8. Bananas Foster; 9. Kenner; 10. Mahaila Jackson.

We missed only the Kenner question. We were now in second place, one point behind.

The third round is the **speed round**. We were given a sheet of paper with the questions. We had five minutes to complete the answers.

In part one, we had to put these US Civil War battles in chronological order.

A. The battle of Harpers Ferry; B. Siege of Vicksburg; C. Battle of Appomattox Court House; D. Battle of Gettysburg, E. Battle of Fort Sumter; F. Battle of Antietam

*Answers*

1. E; 2. A; 3. F; 4. B; 5. D; 6. C

In part two, we had to name the sport that competes for the following trophies.

1. Stanley Cup; 2. Jules Rimet Trophy; 3. Ryder Cup; 4. Six Nations Championship Trophy; 5. Swaythling Cup; 6. Borg-Warner Trophy

*Answers*

1. Hockey; 2. Soccer; 3. Golf; 4. Rugby; 5. Table tennis; 6. Indy race cars

We got six of the twelve right and were still in second place by one point.

The theme for round four was **potpourri**.

1. Lhasa is the capitol of what country?
  2. What rock band's album of greatest hits is the all-time best seller?
  3. What is the name of the first movie Tom Hanks won an Oscar for?
  4. What nation is hosting the next Summer and Winter Olympic games?
  5. Who won an Oscar for the movie *The Pianist*?
  6. "To err is human; to forgive, divine" was written by whom?
- Extra. What type of food is a Berliner?
7. What expressionist painter lived in Tahiti?
  8. After Napoleon escaped Elba, he was sent to what island?
  9. What word is the name of a plant's reproduction organs and part of the retina?
  10. J.H. Holiday practiced what profession in Tombstone?

*Answers*

1. Tibet (Robert); 2. Eagles; 3. Philadelphia (Wayne); 4. Japan (Wayne);
5. Adrian Brody (Wayne); 6. Alexander Pope (Sharron); Extra. Donut
7. Gauguin (Will); 8. St. Helena (Robert); 9. Cones (Wayne); Dentist (Sharron)

We got all the questions right. We finished in second place by one point winning a \$20 gift certificate.

We have won money in six of the last seven months. Why don't you join us next month? The answer you know could be the one to extend our winning streak.

## Who owns the pet fish?

Norwegian	Yellow	Donut	Water	Cat
Dane	Blue	Bananas	Tea	Horse
Brit	Red	Peanuts	Milk	Bird
<b>German</b>	Green	Popcorn	Coffee	<b>Fish</b>
Swedish	White	Beef jerky	Beer	Dog



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## **French Broad Mensa Contacts**

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

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#### **Ombudsman**

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**S.I.G.H.T.**..... Position Open

**Membership Coordinator** ..... Position Open



# BROADCAST

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