

The French Broad Mensa Newsletter

# ***BROADCAST***

Vol. 26, No. 2, February 2020

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



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***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 February 2020**

All Mensa events are open to members in good standing. RSVPs are important for table planning. Please respond if you plan to attend an event. If you don't, we might not be able to seat you. And don't forget to look for the Big Yellow M Table on the table at Mensa events!



**New Members: French Broad Mensa welcomes you! Watch your mail for a coupon that you can trade for a \$5 contribution to your first meal with the group.**

### **Monday, February 3, 6pm: Executive Committee Meeting**

at the Creekside Taphouse, 8 Beverly Road in East Asheville

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

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

### **Friday, February 7, 11:30am: First Friday Lunch**

at Cinnamon Kitchen, 1838 Hendersonville Rd. in Gerber Village, South Asheville

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

Contact: Fae Armstrong, [one4fae2@yahoo.com](mailto:one4fae2@yahoo.com) if you can attend; drop-ins are welcome, too.

### **Monday, February 10, Trivia (6:30 for dinner, 7:30 to play)**

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

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

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

### **Saturday, February 15, 6:00pm: Games Night**

Players and kibitzers, gather at Grace Lehto's home, 25 Hopedale Circle in West Asheville. Bring munchies to share. Coffee and iced tea will be available. BYOB. RSVP via email to [gracelehto@yahoo.com](mailto:gracelehto@yahoo.com)

### **Thursday, February 20, 6pm: Thu.D!**

at the Sawhorse, 101 New Leicester Hwy in West Asheville

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

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

## Local Secretary's Message



Congratulations, and many thanks, to Mark Crossley, who has signed up as our newest Proctor-in-Training. He joins Johanna Dokter and James Stewart in the training process. They will eventually join Karen Youket and Carmen Jessup as Proctors authorized to manage Mensa testing. Mark has also agreed to be our new Testing Coordinator! Thank you, Mark!

Webmaster Lizz Russell is eager to see what you've been up to, hobby-wise, and to share your story and pictures on our new **Show and Tell** web page. If YOU have art you've created, books you've written, crafts you've made, or any other hobbies you want to share, send pictures or an article about it to [lizz@dnet.net](mailto:lizz@dnet.net) or mail to Lizz Russell; 353 Carolina Mtn Drive #105; Franklin, NC 28734.

Sharron Armel, Local Secretary, [SharronArmel@gmail.com](mailto:SharronArmel@gmail.com)



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

You still have a few days to register for Central Alabama Mensa's upcoming RG in Birmingham, AL from February 14-16, 2020 (Valentine's Day weekend.) Walk-ins are \$70. If you have never been to an RG, you're missing out on one of the best experiences in Mensa. Get details about the RG and hotel info from [maryambridge@gmail.com](mailto:maryambridge@gmail.com)



We also have the Piedmont Area Mensa RG coming up March 27-29, 2020. It's a Pirate themed RG. Registration is \$85. Until March 20. The walk-in rate of \$95 applies from March 21 until the RG. For information and application forms, <http://www.piedmont.us.mensa.org/rg2020.htm>

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP, MOBILE, AL  
MARCH 6-8. YA'LL COME!!!!**

This is your last chance to sign up for the Region 5 Leadership Development Workshop (LDW) scheduled for March 6-8, 2020 in Mobile AL. The LDW is open to ALL Mensa Members who want to learn more about how Mensa is run, or hold a leadership role in a Local Group, or are considering taking a leadership role in their Local Group. Our host is South Coast Mensa. The cost is only \$25 per family.

Friday night (March 6) will be sessions on Conflict Resolution and Dealing with Problem Members, led by a former Ombudsman. Saturday, March 7 will feature morning sessions on Gatherings; Getting Area Groups Going (works for SIGs and age-defined groups, too); Welcoming New Members; and Getting People Involved, all led by past or current RVCs or their spouses.

Saturday afternoon will be small group breakout sessions for LocSecs, Proctors, GYC's (Gifted Youth Coordinators), etc. Sunday morning we will have presentations by the National Office.

The LDW will be held at the Ashbury Hotel and Suites, 600 I-65 Service Road, Mobile, AL 36608. Phone number is 251-344-8030. The rate for Mensans is \$75 a night s/d/t/q. The hotel will provide free breakfast for guests, and Region 5 will provide all other meals and snacks.

The LDW will run from 5 PM Friday evening March 6, to noon on Sunday, March 8. I've asked all newsletter Editors to include the application form in the February newsletter. If your newsletter did not have room, please email Nancy Campbell at [rvc5mail@gmail.com](mailto:rvc5mail@gmail.com) for a registration form.

Editor's Note: Registration form is at  
<http://www.frenchbroad.us.mensa.org/ldw.pdf>

Please send the completed application, along with your check for \$25 per family made out to South Coast Mensa, to Bunny Warsh, registrar, 7761 Creekwood Drive, Mobile, AL 36695-4065. If you prefer to pay by PayPal, contact Nancy Campbell at [rvc5mail@gmail.com](mailto:rvc5mail@gmail.com)

Part of the value of LDWs is learning how other LocSecs/ Editors/ Treasurers/ GYC's/ etc have handled the challenges that your group is facing. So, come for the knowledge, and the fellowship, and the fun of exchanging ideas with your fellow Mensans. See ya there!

Nancy Campbell, 704-533-3351 or [RVC5mail@gmail.com](mailto:RVC5mail@gmail.com)

## ***The Unexpected Consequences and Benefits of Automation***

- by Josie

It was so wonderful when you got that new robot vacuum for Christmas . . . . A machine that will vacuum your floors while you are out.

Oops! But your dog had a little accident while you were out . . . .

Go to your favorite video site and do a search for "robot vacuum poop" See what happens. See the instructional videos on how to clean poop out of your robot vacuum and off your floors and carpets.

But do not fret . . .

A company named Trifo ([trifo.com](http://trifo.com)) has now invented a poop-dodging robot vacuum named Lucy that is also a 24-hour security system—you might not even need that dog anymore.

Don't you wonder if it barks, too?

## ***Mediocre-Okay Advice from Gabbie***

Back by popular demand! Gabbie hears your woes, and offers advice.  
Send your quandaries to Gabbie c/o the BROADCAST Editor.



*Dear Gabbie,*

*I've been watching the financial news and it looks like life is about money, money, money. Is this true? Is this healthy? What's really important?*

*Anxious Money-grubber*

*Dear Grub,*

*It IS about money for lots of people... all those capitalists who think that cash is the goal of life. We live in a "greed" economy. More, more, more, all the time, and damn the poor.*

*But I have to say, if that's what you think life is about, you're not flying a sane course. The world is all one piece (if you haven't noticed). We are on a ball of rock in a vast void that goes on forever & a half. We (earthlings of all species) are totally insignificant on this dust mote in the Cosmos. We happen to be able to think, but our thinking is inside-out and based on accumulation of rocks, and chemicals, and the myth of money.*

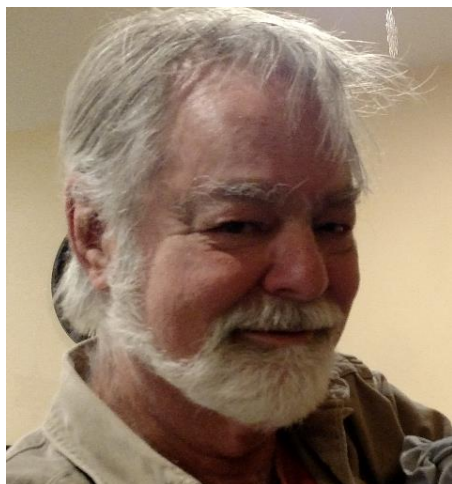
*We're such clever monkeys. Look: opposing thumbs! Those are handy to have. Let's make some more weapons while we still can.*

*Gabbie, Citizen of Earth*



## **The Spider**

*Kirk Thomas*



I sit out on the front porch every morning with my coffee, and one summer day I noticed a spider building a web between the porch rail and one of the butterfly plants just beyond the edge. Later that day it was gone and I didn't think any more about it, but the next morning there she was again, building another web in the exact same spot, so I guess it must have been a good place to pick up a few juicy morsels. Before the day was out that one was gone too, but being the enterprising critter that spiders are, the following day she was back and hard at work again.

Then unaccountably, I said out loud, "*I have a spider on my front porch rail.*" As it happens, I often talk to myself, the dog, the cats, random spiders and whatnot, which my wife thinks might be indicative of something or the other but hey, I am perfectly fine. Not to worry. Anyway, I thought it was a nice iambic pentameter line, and being enamored of such things, that maybe I should use it in a poem. Nowadays I write poetry, it's just what I do, in addition to talking with the dog and other miscellaneous critters who wander by. So I went into the house, cranked up the computer and wrote, "*I have a spider on my front porch rail.*"

Then I looked at it. Okay, now what? Where am I going with this? But after a while it began to come together, and this is the end result:



## ***The Spider***

I have a spider on my front porch rail;  
She puts her three long anchor lines in place,  
Then spins her web around into a whorl,  
To catch unwary insects in that space.

I watched her build the first one on a Monday;  
It hung there for the best part of a day,  
But it was gone by late that afternoon,  
And I just reckoned she had gone away.

But no, for by next sunrise she was back  
At work to build again in that same spot;  
She spun her tiny filaments around,  
To catch whatever victims found her trap.

She built an even finer web this time,  
Then, toil and labor done, she took her ease,  
To sit and wait for what might come along,  
Inviting them for dinner, if you please.

But by that afternoon it too was gone,  
The butterflies and insects all were safe;  
The air was clear, there was no threat at all,  
The spider on the porch had wandered off.

But spiders have persistence in their genes,  
And next day she was back to work again,  
And all week long she built and built and built,  
And every day it came down in the end.

So if you think your labors are in vain,  
You do your best and all your efforts fail,  
I have a thought to help you on your way;  
Come watch the spider . . . on my front porch rail.

## ***Overheard Comments That Are Somehow a Little Off***

Collected by Michael Havelin

Questioning great-grandma's motivation:

"What was it that impulsed her...(to do whatever)?"

Rescue worker talking about effect of Hurricane Dorian on Abacos:

"...entire community was obliterated."

Politician on radio:

"It's okay to be scared, but use that scaredness to..."

Speaking about a debilitating accident:

"It could have been much more fatal."

U.S. negotiator Madeleine Albright speaking of negotiations:

"We all worked very hard to put our shoulders to the wheel to get it over the line."

NFL player said about an inspirational comic book hero:

"I try to emulate myself after him."

Misc. quote:

"Her sense of reasoning logic is very misconstrued."

"Are there always this few people here?"

"Oh, more people dwindle in and dwindle out through the evening."

Girl who couldn't attend meeting because of a schedule conflict said:

"I have a cramp in time."

Teacher warning students to follow directions:

"If you don't follow the yellow brick road, that snowball behind you is going to eat your lunch."

Woman explaining how her kids would react to the new baby:

"They're gonna fit when she goes to squallin'."

Waitress to customer:

"If you give me a minute, I'll be with you in a second."

Radio jock:

"Call us. We like to conversate with you."

Indicating broad range of inclusion:

"They were all there, from one end of the pendulum to the other."

**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**January 6, 2020**

The ExComm meeting was held at Zia Taqueria. Attendees included Sharron Armel, Mark Crossley, Michael Havelin, Grace Lehto, Will McGuffin, and Wayne Stanko.

The February events schedule was planned, along with a discussion of spring and summer events we might consider. We considered changing the time or day of our meetings, but decided the present plan is best.

The group welcomed Mark Crossley, who has agreed to be our new Testing Coordinator. Sharron has sent him a booklet documenting the responsibilities of the position, as provided by American Mensa. Wayne, previous Testing Coordinator, will be Mark's mentor as needed.

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 December 2019**

Opening Balance at November 30, 2019 .....	\$4,339.29
Receipts:	
Am. MENSA Monthly Subsidy .....	\$118.45
Total Receipts .....	\$118.45
Disbursements:	
Holiday party expenses .....	\$227.77
Mailing labels.....	21.38
Total Disbursements .....	\$249.15
Closing Balance at December 31, 2019 .....	\$4,208.59

Submitted by Wayne Stanko, Treasurer

## ***Trivial Report***

There were 12 teams playing Quizzo at Jack of the Wood on the second Monday in January. Christina joined the Whoos for the first time, welcomed by Jan, Karen, Sharron, Wayne and Will.

The theme of the first round of questions was *AUSTRALIA*.

1. What is the name for 75%-80% of Australia?
2. Paul Hogan (“Crocodile Dundee”) did an ad for what car company?
3. Since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Australia has been referred to by what two-word term?
4. What is the most populous city?
5. What animal, brought to Australia to work the fields, now numbers 750,000?

Extra: What movie and Broadway musical was about three drag queens?

6. What is the name of the fast food restaurant that is home to the Whopper?
7. The 1988 two-dollar coin has an elder on one side and what constellation on the other?
8. The Tropic of Capricorn passes through Western Australia and Queensland. What province is between the two?
9. What novel about forbidden love takes place in Australia?
10. What is the name of a manatee-like sea cow?

### *Answers*

1. Outback; 2. Subaru (Sharron); 3. Down Under (Sharron); 4. Sydney;
5. Camels (Will); Extra: *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* (Christina);
6. Happy Jack; 7. Southern Cross (Wayne); 8. Northern Territory; 9. *The Thorn Birds* (Wayne, Sharron); 10. Dugong (Will).

We got 9 correct, ended the round in 4th place, 9 points behind the leader.

The theme of the second round was *NEILS & NEALS*.

1. Who wrote the 2014 book *Barney Simpson’s Last Words*?
2. Who did *Rolling Stone* designate as the fourth-best drummer of all time?

3. What author and astronaut has a museum in Wapakoneta, Ohio?  
Extra: What is the title of the book he wrote?
4. A 2013 book by Chris Matthews is about which President and Speaker of the House?
5. What is the title of that book?
6. Who is known as “the Queen of the Harlem Renaissance”?
7. In 1973, who was the youngest person other than Shirley Temple to win an Academy Award?
8. What gland did Descartes call “the seat of the soul”?
9. Who wrote *Long Day’s Journey into Night*?

*Answers*

1. Neal Patrick Harris (Christina); 2. Neal Peart; 3. Neil Armstrong;  
Extra: *The Eagle Has Landed* (Will, Sharron); 4. Ronald Reagan and Tip O’Neill; 5. *Tip and the Gipper*; 6. Zora Neal Hurston (Christina);  
7. Tatum O’Neal; 8. Pineal (Karen); 9. Eugene O’Neill.

We again got 9 right, and chose to double (“joker”) our score. That left us in a three-way tie for first place.

The third round is the *SPEED ROUND*. We were given a sheet of questions that we have 5 minutes to answer. Each answer contains a double B.

1. A dagger is kept in it.
2. Game where the score is kept by inserting pegs into holes
3. One who raises annoying petty objections to things
4. Pieces of rock used in masonry
5. The head of a monastery
6. What I am if you’re glue
7. Unreasonably obstinate
8. Collective agricultural community in Israel
9. Adjective for one who thinks they’re superior to others
10. Short ends of grain after harvesting
11. To mend boots
12. Rachel Ashwell decorating books “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” *Chic*

*Answers*

1. Scabbard; 2. Cribbage; 3. Quibble; 4. Rubble; 5. Abbot; 6. Rubber;
7. Stubborn; 8. Kibbutz; 9. Snobbish; 10. Stubble; 11. Cobble; 12 Shabby

We got them all right, but some teams chose to “joker” this round, so we were now in fifth place, 5 points behind the leader.

The theme of the final round is always *POTPOURRI*.

1. In the year 2000, what competition TV show led all other shows in popularity?
2. What is an old French term for bestowing a special honor?
3. What explorer got stuck in Antarctic ice in 1918?
4. The Overseas Highway connects what chain of islands?
5. Nicholas Cage played Johnny Blaze in two movies,. What was his alter ego?
6. What is the oldest public park in the U.S.?

Extra: in a 2019 sports car racing documentary, what is the term for a nonprofessional who rides with a pro driver?

7. What are two homophones related to blood vessels and the Roman goddess of love?
8. Haakon County in North Dakota is named after a king from what country?
9. Who was the head of the IRA intelligence who helped de Valera escape in 1912?
10. What ill-fated ship was named after the admiral who drove the French out of Genoa?

*Answers*

1. American Idol; 2. Homage (Christina); 3. Shackleton (Will); 4. Florida Keys (Wayne); 5. Ghost Rider; 6. Boston Commons (Wayne); 7. Venous and Venus; 8. Norway (Wayne); 9. Michael Collins; 10. Andrea Doria.

We got only 7 right, and ended in 5th place.

You knew some of the answers to these questions, didn't you? Join us next month and have some fun answering a new batch of questions.

## **French Broad Mensa Contacts**

**National Office**...817-607-0090...AmericanMensa@mensa.org

### **Region 5 Vice-Chairman**

Nancy Campbell.... 704-533-3351 ..... RVC5mail@gmail.com

### **French Broad Mensa Elected Officers:**

#### **Executive Committee**

#### **Local Secretary**

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

#### **Deputy Local Secretary**

Grace Lehto..... 828-575-2877 ... gracelehto@yahoo.com

#### **Treasurer**

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

#### **Member-at-Large**

Jeff Patterson..... jefflpatt@icloud.com

### **French Broad Mensa Appointed Officers:**

#### **Proctors**

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

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#### **Webmaster**

Lizz Russell..... lizz@dnet.net

#### **Testing Coordinator**

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#### **Ombudsman**

Will McGuffin ..... 828-296-7544 ... wmcguffin@charter.net

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

Lizz Russell..... lizz@dnet.net

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



# BROADCAST

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