

The French Broad Mensa Newsletter

BROADCAST

Vol. 28, No. 7, July 2022

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



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A note from the editor:

What do you know, or remember, about August 1972? Where were you, and what were you doing? Please send your stories to the editor by July 15. And if you aren’t old enough (or young enough) to remember 1972, you could wait for the stories and laugh at us.

Submissions to the Broadcast

Deadline for articles, letters, and comments 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.

FBM Events Calendar July 2022

Friday, July 1, 11:30am: First Friday Lunch

at Baabals, 188 St. John's Rd, Fletcher (beside Foam & Fabric)

If you plan to attend, please contact Fae Armstrong:

one4fae2@yahoo.com or 828-575-0121

Tuesday, July 5, 11:30am: Executive Committee Meeting

at Grace Lehto's home, 25 Hopedale Circle in Asheville

RSVP by July 1 to GraceLehto@yahoo.com

Saturday, July 9, 11am: Second Saturday Gathering – RAD

Walking tour of some art studios in the River Arts District

<https://www.riverartsdistrict.com/event/second-saturday-2-2021-09-11-2022-04-09-2022-05-14-2022-07-09/2022-07-09/>

Lunch at 1pm at Urban Orchard, 210 Haywood Rd in Asheville

<https://www.urbanorchardcider.com/>

More info on page 16, and more to follow in emails.

RSVP by July 5 to GraceLehto@yahoo.com

Thursday, July 28, 6:00pm: Thu.D!

at Ichiban Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi, 2 Hendersonville Rd. in

Asheville, north of railroad tracks in Biltmore Village

<https://www.ashevilleichiban.com/>

RSVP by **July 25** to SharronArmel@gmail.com

RSVPs are important for table planning, and many public eateries are still operating at limited capacity and/or reduced staffing. Please respond if you plan to attend an event. If you don't, the venue might not be able to seat you.

All regular and special Mensa events are open to members in good standing. However...



Until further notice, in-person events are open to fully-vaccinated members & guests only.

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

Regional Vice Chairman's Message



I've been waiting for COVID to be over for a long time now, and I've decided that I just can't wait any longer to make on-site visits with Local Groups in the Southeast. Our Region has twenty Local Groups in six states. That's more than twice the number of Local Groups in some of the other Regions! It's also at least three Local Groups in each state. During the first nine months of my first term, I had visited nine of the

20 groups before COVID hit.

In May, I started visiting Local Groups again. First was Coastal Carolina Mensa. I observed Chris Ross leading his first testing session as a Proctor-in-Training in the morning, and attended a dinner meeting that evening. My next stop was Savannah Area Mensa in Georgia. I talked to four of the group's leaders there. My third stop was in Decatur, Georgia, where Mensa in Georgia was having one of their monthly luncheons. Later that day I met with their brand new LocSec, Peter Spier. I enjoyed these visits immensely.

In June, I plan to visit groups on the western side of the Region. I will visit Mississippi Mensa and Memphis Mensa for sure, and probably another group along the way. In July, I'll be at the annual Gathering in Reno, Nevada, and in August, I'll visit three or four more Local Groups. If you'd like to be next, invite me!

Here are some upcoming Gatherings:

1. **COLLOQUIUM July 5th in Sparks NV - Giftedness Across the Lifespan: A More Complete Picture** - brings together five subject-matter experts in the field of giftedness, each specializing in a development period from youth to elderhood.
(<https://www.mensafoundation.org/what-we-do/education-and-outreach/colloquium/>)
2. **ANNUAL GATHERING July 6-10th in Sparks, NV** – While I'm looking forward to the programming, gaming, and social events scheduled, I'm particularly looking forward to hearing our Gala speaker: *Hidden Figures* author Margot Lee Shetterly shines a dramatic light on four phenomenal women of color, "human

computers” whose mathematical genius fueled NASA’s rockets during the golden age of space travel. (<https://ag.us.mensa.org/>)

3. **Charlotte Blue Ridge Mensa’s Annual RG -- To Infinity and Beyond.** November 4-6, 2022 will be held at the Fairfield Inn and Suites Charlotte Uptown. To register for the RG, register online at <https://cbrmensa.org/2022-charlotte-blue-ridge-mensa-rg-registration/>.

Nancy Campbell, RVC5

704-533-3351 or RVC5mail@gmail.com

Local Secretary’s Message

Felicitations for the coming long, hot summer!

Welcome to members joining or rejoining our group:

Jerri Lincoln

Mary Zogzas

Farewell and good wishes to ***Pradeep Darooka***, who has left our group.:



Happy July Birthdays to:

Pat Benard

John Bulgin

Marie Cole

David Diehn

Aaron Guillotte

Michael Hart

Robert Nelson

John Runnberg

James Womack

Happy Mensa Anniversaries to:

Henry Bovee

Walter Busby

David Fincher

Dawn Hardin

Lawrence Latimer

Robert Nelson

David Pereda

William Peyton

Anna Whisnant

If your name is missing from any of the applicable “celebration” lists, please check your profile at AmericanMensa.org, to make sure you’re allowing display of your information.

Sharron Armel, Local Secretary

SharronArmel@gmail.com

My Friend Julie

by Grace Lehto

Julie is a small woman, less than four and a half feet tall. She’s lived on this planet now for more than 102 years. She lives by herself and cooks her own meals, does her own laundry which she hangs out on the line when the weather permits. (It saves money on electric bill.) She has a grand sense of humor, a ready laugh and likes to read historical novels.

Recently, her daughter-in-law called to tell her that her annual doctor’s appointment was set for a Wednesday at 10 AM. Thus, Julie got all gussied up and ready to go. When her daughter-in-law arrived, Julie was most surprised. Seems she had brought her laptop and it was to be a remote appointment. Julie was amazed. (Julie is NOT computer literate). She could talk to her doctor with the folding TV right at her kitchen table. What won’t they think of next?

She’d gotten herself all dressed up and wasn’t going anywhere so, her daughter-in-law, sensing Julie’s disappointment suggested they go out for lunch. This delighted Julie and they went to a local little restaurant. Once there, Julie was astounded. The waitress who waited on them was wearing jeans with holes in them. Julie wanted to leave a \$20.00 bill for a tip because she felt sorry for the waitress who was so poor, she had to wear those shabby jeans.

The daughter-in-law explained that it was the fashion for young women to wear jeans that looked worn. Needless to say, this was hard for Julie to understand. She thought it was nuts for people to pay extra to have holes in their jeans. Personally, I agree.

Asheville Radio Museum

by Sharron Armel

Our Second Saturday Special Event for May was a visit to the Asheville Radio Museum on the AB Tech campus. **Lan Sluder, Randy Farmer, Rosalie Rogers, Will McGuffin, Grace Lehto,** and **Sharron Armel** were greeted and shown around by museum President **Ron Beaver**, and given an in-depth interactive presentation by Curator **Stuart Smolkin**.

Did you ever stop to think how many times a day you use radio technology? I hadn't, until Stuart asked us a few questions. Did you use your GPS to get here? ("That's radio," he said.) Did you use your cell phone? Or Bluetooth speakers, wireless internet router, TV remote control? All radio. And there's so much more.

We heard about the earliest discovery of radio waves, and the continuing development of productive ways to use the technology. Many antique devices, both beautiful and functional, were explained and demonstrated.

The museum is open from 1:00 to 3:00pm on Saturdays, February through November. You can arrange a group tour in advance, or use their self-conducted audio tour. It's definitely worth a visit, or two!

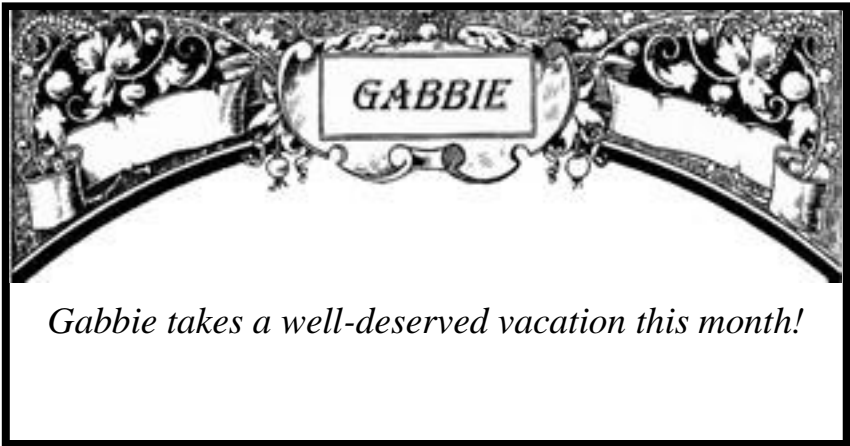


<https://www.avlradiumuseum.org/>

Randy and Will checking out the details

Mediocre-Okay Advice from Gabbie

Gabbie hears your woes and offers curmudgeonly advice. Send your quandaries to Gabbie c/o the *BROADCAST* Editor.



Trivia at Asheville Pizza & Brewing



On May 18, some of your bravest colleagues met at Asheville Pizza & Brewing to participate in their weekly trivia contest. **Michael Havelin, Will McGuffin, Karen Youket, Carol Forthman, Pat Benard, Jan Stanko, Wayne Stanko, and Sharron Armel** enjoyed dinner together, but were not

inspired to return for more trivia. The questions were just not a good match with our knowledge. In other words, losing ain't fun.

Our core trivia team is looking for a new place to frequent, at least temporarily. Most of us are not comfortable with the extreme crowding and minimal ventilation at Jack of the Wood (though we do really like their trivia matches, perhaps because we have a good chance of winning!)



Photographs by Michael Havelin

If you know of any good trivia game locations, please let Wayne Stanko know!

The Haiku Habit

(Please send yours!)

Error 404:

Your haiku could not be found.

Try again later.

Mensa Scholarships

We're happy to announce the winners of the Mensa Foundation Scholarships this year! The Mensa Foundation awarded 192 scholarships this year (187 nationally, and 5 internationally), with almost \$200,000 awarded in total. Congratulations to the winners! Their essays stood out with excellence of content and construction, and we couldn't be happier to encourage the winners on their educational journey.

For more information on the Scholarship program, please visit mensafoundation.org. If you'd like to apply for a scholarship, the window for applications opens later this year and if you'd like to volunteer to be a judge next year, please email sharronarmel@gmail.com.

Benjamin Hagaman, winner of \$600 scholarship from Mensa Educational Research Foundation, was grateful to hear that he'd won:



Hi Wayne,

Thank you so much, I am incredibly grateful for the award and support! Let me know if this photo does not work or if there is anything else you need from me!

Warmly

Ben Hagaman

Ben's winning essay:

While growing up in rural North Carolina, my personal hideaway was a grassy mountain top along the Appalachian Trail. With panoramic views of the many mountains and valleys of western NC, this peak was both a place of escape and a reminder of how trapped I felt in high school. My experience growing up was formed as the son of a Baptist pastor in a bubble experience, an echo chamber of conservative, Protestant ideals in a predominantly white town. My reality and perspective was limited, experiencing cultural diversity through film and literature. I had trouble even conceptualizing being gay as I had no experiences with openly queer peers or adults.

Coming into the honors program at Boston College was an enlightening and uplifting opportunity that renewed my spirit and sense of self. Finally I was having an actual exchange of ideas and traditions while I pursued my questions on human behavior and social norms through a philosophical and psychological lens. It is also at BC that I found my voice in compassionate advocacy, through mentorship and retreat facilitation. As a Pride Peers mentor, I worked with queer underclassmen to help them grapple with being a queer student— at a Catholic university no less— in mutually formative relationships. Getting to know my new queer community at Boston College helped reframe what I had been taught and integrated my alienated sexuality with my identity. This was far from an easy journey, but mental health professionals, peers, and mentors created a new support system to turn to. These deep, authentic relationships displayed the emotional need for and benefits of human connection, providing a sense of self-worth I had lacked for a long time. I led numerous BC retreats, hoping to create the space for affirmation, vulnerability, and reflection that I had not had. I was placed outside my comfort zone, learning to lead small group discussions and speak to my own vulnerabilities to large groups of students. Retreats and group programs at BC became core to who I am because of how greatly I value learning from others.

Through my college formation and a year with Jesuit Volunteer Corps, I feel called to pursue a Masters in Social Work to enact change and social justice. With JVC I work within affordable housing services to provide clients with any resource they might need as well as social programming. This year has provided invaluable experience and prepared me to take on the combined load of field work and coursework that comes with an MSW. I regularly worked up to 20 hours a week during my undergraduate career of weekend-long extracurricular activities and the coursework of an intensive major, and financially I always needed to take on summer work.

After my graduate career I will most likely pursue fields within behavioral health, having always been motivated by mental healthcare and the visible need for individual support. Ideally, I will use my MSW in a range of practices, always working towards integrating the multifaceted degree with what would best serve my community at that time. My childhood showed me the importance of community, the

negative and positive impacts that leave a mark, and what a difference it is to have unconditional support systems. I aspire and believe I can be a support system to those in need.

Megan Hutchinson was also very pleased to hear that she had won a special local award of \$600 from French Broad Mensa.



Hi Mr. Stanko

Good morning and thank you so much for your generosity in awarding me this scholarship. Words cannot express how ecstatic I felt upon hearing the news and I feel honored to have been chosen as a recipient this year.

Thank you again for your thoughtful and generous gift towards my education.

Megan's winning essay:

Biking up Tallahassee's winding hills, I am reminded once again of my disdain for biking. Inhaling exhaust fumes of the bustling rush hour traffic beside me, I accelerate down the narrow pavement under an orange glow of the rising sun. Biking over six miles of rolling hills, I finally reach FYZICAL Therapy, a physical therapy center, where I had the privilege of volunteering with an underserved population. It was not an enjoyable trek and I often longed for a car, however, what made the ride worthwhile was the meaningful experiences I gained with patients that reaffirmed my ambition to become a neurological physical therapist.

Biking to and earning almost seven hundred volunteer hours in hospitals and clinics around my community, I learned differing methods of therapy and what truly encompassed the field. However, my experience at FYZICAL Therapy had the most significant impact on my perception of the field because it demonstrated to me the remarkable impact neurological physical therapy can have on individual's lives. I learned that physical therapy is not only facilitating a patient's natural healing

through movement, it is about understanding the patient as a whole and actively guiding them throughout their rehabilitation journey. Through volunteering, I connected with individuals from all walks of life; working with a patient recovering from brain cancer, patients recovering from strokes, and a patient who had been in a coma for over a month and was not expected to survive. Being able to hear their stories of resiliency and witness their persistence each day allowed me to truly understand the role physical therapists undertake.

Now as a second-year Doctor of Physical Therapy student, I am continually motivated to pursue neurological physical therapy as an office manager and volunteer in our MAPHealth pro bono clinic on campus, a program that provides free physical therapy services to individuals who are unable to afford and access treatment. Being able to volunteer as part of the management and treatment team serves as a constant reminder of why I chose to pursue this profession and motivates me to continue assisting this subset of the population in the future. Furthermore, in order to help achieve my ambition, I am part of a Parkinson's Learning Community, that has been guiding me on how to better assist individuals with Parkinson's disease so that I can understand their unique needs and create a more systemic approach to improve their quality of life.

To conclude, my experience volunteering at FYZICAL Therapy cultivated the passion I have for aiding others and I yearn to continue my efforts by becoming a specialist in neurology through a one-year residency following graduation so that I can become an expert in assisting individuals recovering from brain and spinal cord injuries. My ultimate intent is to become an officer in the United States Public Health Service, to promote and integrate rehabilitation services in underserved and vulnerable populations across the nation. Lastly, once I am financially stable, in my community, I desire to create a partnership with a local bicycle shop and create a program that provides gently-used bicycles for students in need. I recognize what it's like to not have access to transportation and how much of a difference a bike can make, and yearn to provide that same experience one day for other students.

Strange Questions (& Stranger Answers)

by Grace Lehto

What puzzles you?

Last month's question: "Why is the shape of a quarter-pound stick of butter on the West Coast of the USA different from a stick of the same quantity on the East Coast?"



Craig Russell replied: I moved here from Los Angeles (& was a native Angeleno), so I was curious why the butter was shaped differently now that I'm in NC! I couldn't figure out why the butter dish I brought from California no longer would fit NC butter LOL It's so crazy that I recently looked up this question & now see it pondered in the Broadcast!!

I was going to try & type my answer, but I found this pretty concise article from NPR: <https://www.npr.org/2022/01/30/1076798492/the-east-coast-and-west-coast-have-differently-sized-and-shaped-sticks-of-butter> -- and they do a better job than I could:

"Why are there two sizes? Well, for one, packaging machines first developed when the Midwest dominated the dairy industry - produced those long and lean sticks that are familiar in the East. And then came the 1960s, when California's dairy industry started giving the Midwest some competition. New machines were built. They produced shorter, fatter sticks of butter, and that became the norm for markets west of the Dakotas and Oklahoma."

Thanks, **Craig**!

And now we'd like to know:
Why do electrical plugs have holes in the flat prongs?

And while we're at it, how about the questions you've wondered about? Send an e-mail to gracelehto@yahoo.com to posit your question or answer.



Lake Lure Boat Tour

June's Second Saturday Special Event was a boat tour of Lake Lure, followed by lunch at the Burntshirt Vineyards Bistro. We couldn't have asked for a nicer day, a better tour captain, or a more pleasant and relaxing ride -- and the company was great, too!

Due to popular request, we'll plan on doing this again next year!



On the tour boat

Anne Dickens photograph



After lunch

Anne Dickens photograph

Bob & the Bobettes

Breaking News: Summer warmth is plumping and sweetening the four Bobettes. It won't be long now until harvest time!

Please send your favorite pineapple recipes to GraceLehto@yahoo.com.



Grace Lehto photograph

Touring Studios in the River Arts District

by Grace Lehto



Check out the list of studios that will be open on July 9th. (The link below will take you to the site.) Some fun and unusual presentations by local artists on display. Choose the artists or mediums which most interest you. And at 1:00 PM let's meet at Urban Orchard (210 Haywood Road in Asheville) to have lunch together and compare notes about the creations we have

seen.

<https://www.riverartsdistrict.com/event/second-saturday-2-2021-09-11-2022-04-09-2022-05-14-2022-07-09/2022-07-09/>

Executive Committee Report

The Executive Committee met Monday, June 5 at the new-ish Crab du Jour on Tunnel Road in Asheville. Members and advisors present were: Sharron Armel, Michael Havelin, Grace Lehto, Will McGuffin, and Wayne Stanko.

Lake Lure Boat Tour: Sharron reported that we have 12 people signed up, and several more in the “maybe” category. Sharron will send an email blast to the group reminding folks of the event and giving a firm RSVP date on Wednesday evening; we must confirm our attendance count Thursday morning. Members and guests will be asked to pay \$8 at the dock, either by check to FBM or in cash (correct change preferred). Once we know the roster, we’ll make some suggestions about car-pooling. After the boat tour, those interested will have lunch at the Burntshirt Vineyards Bistro on the edge of Lake Lure.

Scholarships: Wayne announced the winners as recently reported to him by American Mensa. One applicant from our region will receive a \$600 scholarship from American Mensa Foundation. As previously decided by ExCom vote, FBM will award an additional \$600 scholarship to the highest scoring applicant in our region. Wayne will notify the winners; Sharron will post essays in the newsletter.

Website: Sharron reported that American Mensa has begun supporting the use of WordPress for group websites. A WordPress style template, adaptable by local groups, has been developed and made available by one web designer member. In addition, information and assistance is available through Mensa-designed training videos and from a number of group webmasters who have already implemented the new system. Sharron proposed that FBM do likewise, as it’s well-supported (and she has previous experience with WordPress). Our preparation leading to the changeover will continue this summer.

Locations and events for July were established.

Submitted by ***Grace Lehto***, Deputy Local Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Closing Balance at April 30, 2022	\$5,673.65
Receipts:	
Monthly subsidy from Am. Mensa	\$97.90
Total Receipts	\$97.90
Disbursements:	
Miscellaneous	10.00
Total Disbursements	\$10.00
Closing Balance at May 31, 2022	\$5,761.55

Submitted by **Wayne Stanko**, Treasurer



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

French Broad Mensa Elected Officers:

Executive Committee (January 2021- December 2022)

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Deputy Local Secretary

Grace Lehto gracelehto@yahoo.com

Treasurer

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

Member-at-Large

Johanna Dokter johannadillo@gmail.com

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Ombudsman

Will McGuffin 828-274-5050 wmcguffin@gmail.com

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

Scholarship Chair

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

Membership Coordinator Position Open

Advisors

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