

The French Broad Mensa Newsletter

BROADCAST

Vol. 28, No. 9, September 2022

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



***French Broad Mensa
excels again!***

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A note from the editor:

Did you notice that last month’s masthead showed the date as August 1972?

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
September 2022

Friday, September 2, 11:30am: First Friday Lunch

at Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen, 106 Bleachery Blvd. in Asheville

If you plan to attend, please contact Fae Armstrong:

one4fae2@yahoo.com or 828-575-0121

Monday, September 5, 11:30am: Executive Committee Meeting

at Andale Way Mexican Grill, 63 Southside Ave. in Asheville

(where the Iconic Grill used to be)

RSVP by **September 4** to SharronArmel@gmail.com

Thursday, September 22, 5 to 8pm: ANNUAL PICNIC

at Carrier Park Picnic Shelter, 220 Amboy Road in Asheville

(same place as last year)

FBM will provide catered box lunches.

More info on page 7.

RSVP by **September 15** 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 only to members & guests who are fully-vaccinated against COVID.

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

Regional Vice Chairman's Message



I'm just back from a full week at the Annual Gathering (AG) in Sparks, NV. I had a great time overall. The week began Tuesday, with the Colloquium. This was a wonderful day long program titled "Giftedness across the Lifespan: A More Complete Picture." My favorite speaker was Rianne van de Ven, who has worked as a professional coach for gifted adults for more than 15 years. She is from the Netherlands, and shared her story about not

being identified as gifted until the age of 33. She has since dedicated her energy to improving the quality of life of gifted adults.

Word from the Mensa Foundation President, Charlie Steinhice, is that the Foundation will continue to research this topic of Giftedness Across the Lifespan.

Wednesday I was able to attend several sessions, and all were excellent. Thursday was the all day American Mensa Committee (AMC) meeting. We began by appointing the following officers: Robin Crawford, Communications Officer; Charlie Steinhice, Director of Science and Education; Tabby Vos, Marketing Officer; and Kimberly Strickland, Membership Officer. We received the Volunteerism Task Force's Final Report. We accepted the 2021-2022 Audit report done by CliftonLarsenAllen, LLP. We passed a motion to add Volunteerism to the Strategic Plan and a motion to codify the statement of Member Rights and Responsibilities. And then we tabled the next five motions, all pertaining to the office of Ombudsman, until the next AMC meeting in Hurst, TX in September. Finally, we passed a motion to change the term of the Ombudsman to three years; and a motion to clarify rules regarding a parent or guardian attending a test session with a minor child.

My favorite parts of each AG are the Chairman's Reception (invitation only) and the Foundation Reception (invitation only, for Foundation supporters). Both are Black Tie events and it is fun to see my friends dressed to the teeth in long gowns and formal wear.

A report on the AG would not be complete without mention of the Gala Dinner. The speaker this year was Margot Lee Shetterly, the founder of The Human Computer Project, an endeavor that is recovering the names and accomplishments of all the women who worked as computers, mathematicians, scientists and engineers for NASA from the 1930s through the 1980s.

On Sunday, we had our first ever Drag Brunch. Frankly, our Queens in the Queen City of Charlotte, NC are prettier and more talented...

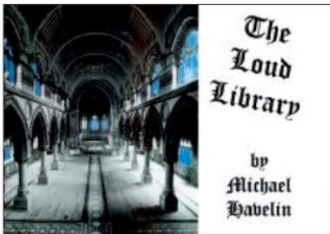
Don't forget -- Charlotte Blue Ridge Mensa's Annual RG -- To Infinity and Beyond, November 4-6, 2022 will be held at the Fairfield Inn and Suites Charlotte Uptown. To register for the RG, register online at <https://cbrmensa.org/2022-charlotte-blue-ridge-mensa-rg-registration/>.

Nancy Campbell, RVC5

704-533-3351 or RVC5mail@gmail.com

Kudos to "our" Michael!

book review by Caroline McCullagh in August Mensa Bulletin



The Loud Library by Michael Havelin is laugh-out-loud fun. I think every librarian in the country who does a story hour for children should have a copy of this book, and most parents should too. The author tells us

that it's called the Loud Library because they like noise there and lots of it. With large print and a variety of terrific pictures, the text invites children to make noises like chickens, robots, jet planes, and other items. Havelin writes that this is fun for kids and readers alike. I completely agree.

Unlike most of the books I review, this one is not listed on the major book sites, but you can find it at [Etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com/) or buy it directly from the author at michael@michaelhavelin.com.

Local Secretary's Message



French Broad Mensa is proud to have received another Diamond Award for the past year. American Mensa says “The Local Group Jewels recognize and reward local groups’ membership-related activities, and for their participation in all that Mensa has to offer to positively impact the experience of the Local Group members. Points are earned for a variety of activities and accomplishments and collected throughout the

fiscal year (April 1 through March 31). The Diamond is the highest group award given.”

Welcome to members who have recently joined our group:

Paul Brooks

Stephanie Walker

Paul Deangelis

Farewell to ***Walter Busby***, who has moved out of our group.

Happy Mensa Anniversaries to:

Fae Armstrong

John Runnberg

Peter Christian

Sandy Stoddard

Earl Hunty

Deborah Welty

Timothy Leogrande

Happy September Birthdays to:

Paul Brooks

Alison Lee

Martin Davis

Steven Lerner

Carl Edwards

Sally Reid

Dawn Hardin

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

Annual Picnic

Combining our regular Thu.D! and Saturday Special Event gatherings for September, we'll hold our Annual Picnic in the same place we did last year. We've reserved the Carrier Park Picnic Pavilion on Thursday, September 22, from 4pm to 8pm. The meal will arrive around 6:30pm.

Our meal will be catered box lunches, similar to last year. To allow time to get your menu choices and arrange the catering, the RSVP deadline is a week before the picnic.

We had a great time last year, celebrating our group's 25th anniversary, attempting a very tough trivia quiz, and just spending time with friends.



More information will come to you via email. If you have questions, suggestions, or could volunteer to help with the tasks needed, please contact Sharron Armel at 828-280-6234.

**Clue for Newbies
(or for Oldies who have forgotten):**

**“Thu.D!
is a clever abbreviation of ‘Thursday Dinner’
as coined by Will McGuffin.**

(Don't even ask what we used to call it.)

Mediocre-Okay Advice from Gabbie

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



Dear Gabbie,

I keep getting all these advertising emails and phone calls and I'm wondering why they send them to me. I don't wanna buy nuttin'. And besides, I'm broke. How'd they get my phone number anyways?

Ad averse

Dear Advert-Averse,

Hey, wanna buy a bridge? It produces instant and constant cash income that flows with the traffic and increases with population crowding. At least that's the theory... and it can be yours for a song (so to say – probably a dirge).

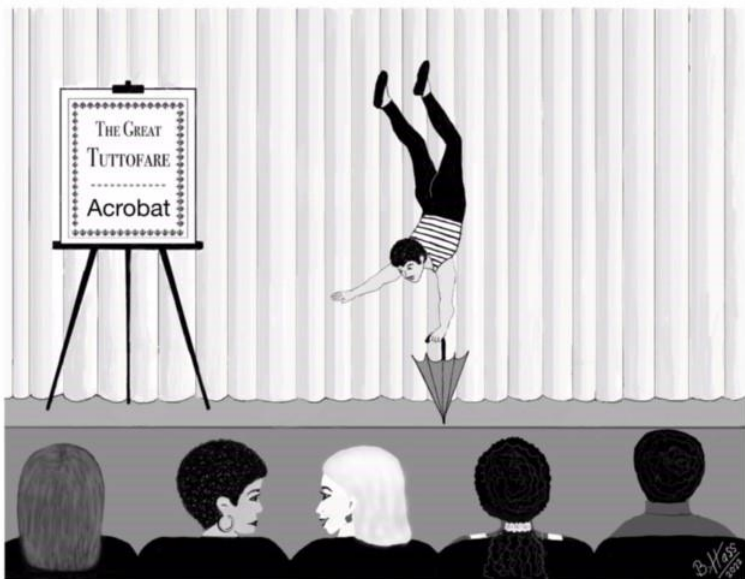
As much as we're all on our own, we're really all in the same proverbial boat, and it's taking water fast. I get those calls, too. Not even the National Do Not Call Registry can help. I bet they get the same calls the rest of us get. There's nothing we can do about it. It's like trying to stop an avalanche once it's started. The only chance you've got to stop it is to take a big hammer and give your phone a couple of good solid whacks. That might help some. (But you'd probably get an email within minutes or a recently graduated youngster at your door who has been hypnotized by dreams of capitalist conquest of the money-sphere. At that point it's your choice: call the cops to report a trespasser, shoot (to wound but not necessarily to kill), or just slam the door.

Gabbie goes on...

They may have my address, my phone number and Social Security number (popularly known as your “social”) and a list of everything you purchased for the last 16 years, but proverbially speaking, this is one Inuit they’re not going to sell a refrigerator to, with or without automatic thawing and an artificially intelligent ice maker.

Capitalism... who said it? Winston Churchill, Karl or Harpo Marx? “You can fool some of the people some of the time, but there’s a sucker born every minute.” (That bridge is still for sale, by the way. Y’interested? Put it on your credit card.)

*Overwhelmed but not interested in any of the garbage they’re trying to sell me,
Gabbie*



“ I could never do that. I’m not left-handed.”

FINLAND TRIP
by Sandy Stoddard

The World Masters Track & Field Championships were hosted by Finland this year. The Masters is organized for men and women over 35, who compete in 5-year age groupings. This summer, over 2000 competitors from over 60 countries braved the virus to attend. I scored a second place in the Javelin - the 75-79 age group. And as Woody Allen concluded, "...95% of success is just showing up."

Here are some photos of Tampere, a city surrounded by lakes. The city is a lot more picturesque and varied than my photos suggest. The city is a haven for young people, who all speak English better than me.





The final photo is from the Lenin Museum in Tampere, in the same building that housed the first meeting between Lenin and Stalin (1905), together with various Finnish labor groups. For many years, Finnish workers provided a safe haven for Lenin while he was exiled from Russia. The museum project was created in 1946, a joint effort between Finland and the Soviet Union, to celebrate the ties between the two countries. How things have changed, as Finland seeks NATO protection. While Museum seems ironic to this 21st Century American, it documents the periods of widespread hardship, deprivation, and starvation faced by workers from both countries during those earlier eras.



MORE 1972

by *Phyllis Franklin* (“Frankie”)

Back in 1972, I was living in Pompano Beach in Broward County, Florida, and that was the year that I joined Mensa. What followed the qualifying testing has been 50 years of good times and good friends. I have attended countless local events, many RGs, and one AG (Hollywood, FL).

One of the first events that I attended in Broward was a Wednesday "Pub Night" at a place in what is now the city of Wilton Manors (Florida). At the time the location was called Mel's Hideaway (see photo).



For about ten years (approximately 1979 to 1989), I was the Singles Chairman for the Broward group, and we had wine tastings, toga parties and other events. We were having so much fun at the Singles' parties that the married folks wanted to come too, so we followed a model then being used by Miami Mensa, and the Broward Singles SIG was renamed the G.H.R.A.S. SIG (pronounced "grass"). This name was an initialization for General Hell Raisers and Singles and the parties were open to all members.

One of the great things about being an active Mensa member has been all the interesting folks I have met over the years, from the speakers at the gatherings to the folks around the table at a luncheon or a dinner or a pub night.

Back in 1997, when I was visiting family in Hawaii, I went to a Mensa lunch event in Waikiki. This was the Mensa get-together where I met George W. Trendle, Jr., whose father, George W., Sr., was a lawyer and businessman best known as the first producer of the Lone Ranger radio and television programs.

In 2017, when the Hooray for Hollywood AG was held in Florida, I had the privilege of meeting Ben Ferenz, the last living Nuremberg trial prosecutor. Mr. Ferenz was then living in the South Florida area and was a speaker at the Hollywood AG. (Note: I have since seen Mr. Ferenz

interviewed on the Amanpour & Company TV program, Christiane Amanpour, 4/15/22)

During the latter months of 2020, I was working with our chapter's archivist and writing some articles for Brow*Beat about the history of Broward Mensa and I was rather nonplussed to see that the June 1970 newsletter included this editorial comment: "By the way, we are still looking for male judges for the upcoming Miss Dade/Broward beauty contest - so let's not disappoint all the pretty damsels we're amassing - you male eggheads!" (Quote-Unquote) Times have certainly changed! Alas, June 1970 predated my membership in the Broward group, so I don't know what happened at the beauty contest way back then.

My sixth and final history article for the Broward Mensa Brow*Beat was published in the December 2020 Brow*Beat. It was titled "Nerds & Naugas" and the "Nerds " part included the name of a then Broward member who is now a member of French Broad Mensa. It's a "small world," as the saying goes. As to the "Naugas," the August 1979 Brow*Beat included a letter to the editor referencing the formation of a Nauga Rescue League to save the poor little critters being slaughtered for their skins in the making of bar rolls, like the one at Mel's. I don't think we'll ever know whether then Brow*Beat editor, Edgar Proner, picked up on the Nauga joke that was circulating back in the late 1970s...or whether our Mel's Hideaway Pub Night location was actually the birthplace of the Nauga gag that is still around (see urbandictionary.com).

I became a member of French Broad Mensa when I moved from Florida to Asheville, NC, in the late summer of 2021, and I will celebrate my 50th Anniversary in Mensa in November of this year.

The Haiku Habit
(Please send yours!)

**N F I V E
N N S E V E N
F I V E 2**

Moogseum Tour



On the Second Saturday of August, a group of FBM members and guests toured the Moogseum in downtown Asheville. Some of us learned, after saying it incorrectly for a half-century, that Bob Moog's last name is pronounced with a long O.

Bob Moog (portrait), *Rosalie Rogers*, *Grace Lehto*, and *Jason Whisnant*

Bob Contributes

Bob's babies took center stage one Sunday afternoon and were a real hit. They were remarkably sweet and tasty and without doubt, the best pineapple pieces I have ever tasted. I am hoping that this coming year, there will be even more pineapples and fewer squirrels. Although I am still grateful to the squirrel who planted Wally (the infant walnut tree that now grows on my front porch.)



Grace Lehto photographs

Ichiban Visit

In late July, another group of FBM members and guests had our Thu.D! at Ichiban Japanese Steakhouse in the Biltmore Village area of Asheville. We were seated “grillside,” and our chef put on quite a show. When he learned that it was Pat Benard’s birthday, he added even more bling to his performance, including leading us in singing *Happy Birthday*.



Brian, Judy, Wayne, Carol, Pat, Sharron, and Will



Mark Crossley photos

Strange Questions (& Stranger Answers)

by *Grace Lehto*

What puzzles you?

Last month's question:

Why are pistachios one of the few nuts commonly retailed with their shells still attached?



According to *howstuffworks.com*: To roast and salt nuts like walnuts or cashews, producers need to remove the protective shell. But the reason that's not so for pistachios? Between 70 and 90 percent of pistachios develop a natural split in their shells during the growing process, says University of California, Davis pistachio expert Louise Ferguson, co-author of the "Pistachio Production Manual." After those pistachios are shaken off the trees by harvesting machines, they can be salted and roasted while still inside the shells as that natural crack allows heat and salt access to the nut, eliminating a step in the industrial process and saving processors some money.

And now we'd like to know

...about Bloomers!

When were they invented, and by whom? And why are they called "Bloomers"?

Did you know that Martha Washington, and women of her era, didn't wear bloomers?



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.

Executive Committee Report

The Executive Committee met Monday, August 1 at The Village Porch in Woodfin. Members and advisors present were: Sharron Armel, Grace Lehto, Will McGuffin, and Wayne Stanko.

Election Plans:

- Will, as Nominating Committee Chair, will forward the names of candidates to Sharron by September 15 for publication in the October *BROADCAST*.
- The official “fold here and mail back” ballot will be published in the November *BROADCAST*.
- Completed ballots will be returned to Will by December 10, for counting and publication in the December *BROADCAST*.

Scholarships Update: Wayne reminded the group that the process begins in September. As usual, we’ll need volunteer readers of the essays submitted. Sharron will serve as Scholarship Chair, and Wayne as Scholarship Assistant Chair this year.

Future Special Events:

- ***September Picnic:*** Sharron reported that we have reserved the Carrier Park Picnic Pavilion again for September 22, taking the place of our Thu.D! gathering. The group will provide catered box lunches and other refreshments, at no cost to attendees. Each attendee may bring one guest. Sharron will arrange for meals to be delivered after we know how many plan to attend.
- ***October Train Ride*** We have arranged to rent the caboose of the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad in Bryson City for Saturday, October 15. From 2:00-6:00pm the round trip will take us through the Nantahala Gorge, where we hope to see a lot of fall color. Six nearby parking spaces are reserved for us. The total cost is \$1,111.35 (15 passengers max); the Ex.Comm. voted to charge attendees \$20 each..

Locations for other future events were established.

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

Treasurer's Report

Closing Balance at June 30, 2022 \$5,557.15

Receipts:

 Monthly subsidy from Am. Mensa \$98.60

Total Receipts \$98.60

Disbursements:

 FBM Scholarship \$600.00

 Picnic Shelter Reservation 150.00

 Meeting Expenses 25.00

Total Disbursements \$775.00

Closing Balance at July 31, 2022 \$4880.75

Submitted by **Wayne Stanko**, Treasurer



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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 (January 2021- December 2022)

Local Secretary

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

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

French Broad Mensa Appointed Officers:

Editor

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

Publisher

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

Webmaster

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

Testing Coordinator

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

Ombudsman

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

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

Scholarship Chair

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

Scholarship Assistant Chair

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

Membership Coordinator..... Position Open

Advisors

Michael Havelin..... havelin@yahoo.com

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



BROADCAST

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