

The French Broad Mensa Newsletter

BROADCAST

Vol. 29, No. 2, February 2023

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



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***Trapped by Will McGuffin
on a recent internet safari:***

Me, walking into bookstore.
"Do you have any books on turtles?"

Clerk: "Hardback"?

Me: "Yeah, with little heads."

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
February 2023

Friday, February 3, 11:30am: First Friday Lunch
at Red Lobster Restaurant on Tunnel Road in Asheville
If you plan to attend, please contact Fae Armstrong:
one4fae2@yahoo.com or 828-575-0121

Monday, February 6, 11:30am: Executive Committee Meeting
at Taco Boy, 521 Haywood Rd. in Asheville (formerly Zia Taqueria)
RSVP DawnHardin88@gmail.com or text 318-328-0971 by **Feb. 5.**

Saturday, February 11: Second Saturday Special Event
Watch your email for an announcement!

Thursday, February 23, 6pm: Thu.D!
at Stoneridge Tavern, 1003 Brevard Rd. in Asheville.
RSVP DawnHardin88@gmail.com or text 318-328-0971 by **Feb. 20.**

Sunday, February 26, 1-3pm: Model Trains Station
at 250 Mill St., Taylors, SC
[Model Trains Station — Family fun at the Taylors Mill in Greenville, SC](#)
Cost: \$10 adult, \$6 child, \$8 senior and military
RSVP if interested to **Fred Tucker**, fctiv@mac.com



March 8, 4-7pm: Games, Chat & Drinks
at Kingmaker's Draft in Hendersonville.

March 23, 6:30pm: Speaker Cathy Dolan
at Yao Buffet in West Asheville.
More info in next month's newsletter!

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.



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

Regional Vice Chairman's Message



Happy New Year 2023 to everybody! New Year's is the time for new beginnings, new experiences, new projects. I wish you all the best ever 2023!!

The RVCs have been asked to help publicize the availability of Leadership Development Workshops in their next few monthly newsletters. You will find the whole list on the national website, at

<https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/leadership-workshops>. I've previewed several of them and was absolutely blown away by Lora Mitchell's video "Uncomfortable Conversations: Coaching and Firing Volunteers," which she presented originally at Weem in 2020. This one will take about 45 minutes for Lora's great presentation, and another 15-20 minutes if you want to listen to all the questions and answers. Lora talks about how to prevent the problems with volunteers from escalating to the crisis point, as well as how to humanely address problems after they arise. I recommend this one highly. Lora is an HR professional in real life, so her presentation is jam-packed with proven, practical measures to get through those Uncomfortable Conversations.

For a magnificent historical overview of the Mensa Foundation, I also recommend "Looking Beyond the Bell Curve," by Nguyen Pham and John Thompson, presented at the 2022 AG. This really covers Where We Have Been and Where We Are Going, and is really brief compared to the previous workshop. Stay tuned for two more next month.

Next Regional Gathering (RG) in Region 5: Mensa World Games, February 10-12, 2023 in Birmingham, AL. Join them for games and activities, or just come hear some speakers or hang out in Hospitality and soak up the atmosphere. Registration includes snacks and drinks in Hospitality as well as Dinner Friday night, Breakfast and Lunch on Saturday, and Breakfast on Sunday morning. Adult registration is \$60 until January 1, 2023. Visit tinyurl.com/CAM2023RG for more information.

Finally, Piedmont Area Mensa will be holding the Pirate themed ARRRRRGH! RG that we have been waiting for! Dates are March 17-19, 2023 at the Drury Hotel. More information next month, or go to piedmont.us.mensa.org now.

The next Annual Gathering (AG) will be in Baltimore, MD at the Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel, from July 5 to 9, 2023. Visit AG.us.mensa.org for more information. Don't forget to sign up for the Colloquium, too, while you are there! This year's Colloquium will be titled "The Talent and Potential of Neurodiversity."

Again, Happy New Year!

Nancy Campbell, RVC5

704-533-3351 or RVC5mail@gmail.com

What'll it Be?



or



Local Secretary's Message



How much fun can we cram into the shortest month of the year?

Check out the Events Calendar – some of our usual get-togethers, and some new ideas we hope will interest members who haven't found what they'd really like to do with French Broad Mensa.

And don't forget to renew your membership so we can keep trying new things, while preserving some of our success, in the coming year.

Welcome to members who have recently joined our group:

Roberta Brock

Joe Wonoski

Bernadette Camille

Happy Mensa Anniversaries to:

Sharron Armel

Alison Lee

Dan Armstrong

Craig Russell

J. Robert Bost

Peter Shanahan

Susan Chitwood Barton

Nikolaos Tasios

David Diehn

Robert Youngblood

Matthew James

Happy February Birthdays to:

Dan Armstrong

Roger Vesely

Jack Bahm

Reuben Williams

Susan Read

Suzanne Zoss

Lan Sluder

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

What Do You Think of This?

by Dawn Hardin

Scientists at the University of Vermont, Tufts University, and the Wyss Institute of Biologically Inspired Engineering at Harvard University have built the first living robots called Xenobots. These computer-designed, hand assembled organisms can swim, locate single cells, work together in groups, self-heal, and self-replicate by using an entirely new form of reproduction. This kinetic replication differs from any animal or plant known to science.

Xenobots are formed from stem cells taken from an African Frog (*Xenopus laevis*). When left to incubate in a new environment without any genetic modification, these newly formed glob-like organisms learn how to grow cilia to move, become omni-directional, navigate mazes, and most surprisingly produce “baby Xenobots” that grow into mature Xenobots.

Are these synthetically created biological artifacts robots or organisms? The answer is currently unclear. Like robots, they are programable, move on their own, and do physical labor; yet like organisms, they are made of cells and reproduce.

While research on Xenobots is new, scientists imagine many applications for these living, programmable artifacts. Some applications include working with radioactive contamination, gathering micro plastic from oceans, scraping plaque from arteries, and even delivering medical compounds to certain specific locations in a body. Have we developed the first living robots? Have we created the first synthetic life form? What do you think of this?

To explore Xenobots further, check out these YouTube links and Google topics:

<https://youtu.be/aBYtBXaxsOw>

Xenobot

<https://youtu.be/akchZ4eG9z8>

Michel Levin

<https://youtu.be/XheAMrS8Q1c>

Living Robots

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 heard you Mensa types had a election just recently but you only had four contestants for four offices and no one hardly voted. What gives, yo? This is 'merica an' we're s'posed to all vote, ain't that right? Wha hoppen?

Concerned not Mensa

Dear Not,

How'd you find out about our secret ballot anyway? Is there a spy in our midst? Perhaps a non-Mensan relation hiding in the woodwork, like termites in the White House? Whatever...

Yeah, this is America (correct and full spelling), and (though I hate to admit it), you're right about our voting privileges (and let's not forget our responsibilities as well). But the trend seems to be that fewer and fewer people give a flying flip about anything except putting food on the table and keeping their benighted children from being murdered by heavily armed wackos at school. It looks like the only people who are concerned enough to act are those very wackos, some of whom are actually high school graduates. Maybe the clarity of their ill-informed insights drives them to action.

Is it about "The Money?" Maybe it's the space aliens. Maybe it's about tRump. Maybe it's not about anything except the publicity, the opportunity to become world famous for a heinous act. I dunno. I ain't no shrink. I'm just another struggling primate out here in the mob of too many people on too small a planet.

Gabbie goes on...

Anyway... I encourage y'all to vote. But don't just push the first button you see. Study the issues. Take a look at who is supporting what position, and perhaps most important, look at who's paying the money and who's walking away with suitcases full of cash. Now there's a Political Truth for ya'.

I don't know that I answered your question, but at least you've got something to think about before electing another psychotic dog catcher.

*Your indefatigable fountain of verbiage,
Gabbie*



French Broad Mensa

	M	T	W	Z	F	Sa	Su
J A N							1
	2 ExCom	3	4	5	6 1 st Fri	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14 2 nd Sat	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26 Thu.D!	27	28	29
30	31						
F E B			1	2	3 1 st Fri	4	5
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	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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	27	28					
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	6 ExCom	7	8	9	10	11 2 nd Sat	12
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	27	28	29	30	31		
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	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27 Thu.D!	28	29	30
M A Y	1 ExCom	2	3	4	5 1 st Fri	6	7
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	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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	26	27	28	29	30		

*Date change

2023 Calendar

	M	T	W	Z	F	Sa	Su
J U L Y						1	2
	3 ExCom	4	5	6	7 1 st Fri	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15 *2 nd Sat	16
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	24	25	26	27 Thu.D!	28	29	30
	31						
A U G		1	2	3	4 1 st Fri	5	6
	7 ExCom	8	9	10	11	12 2 nd Sat!	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24 Thu.D!	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31			
S E P T					1 1 st Fri	2	3
	4 ExCom	5	6	7	8	9 Picnic	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28 Thu.D!	29	30	
O C T							1
	2 ExCom	3	4	5	6 1 st Fri	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14 2 nd Sat	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26 Thu.D!	27	28	29
	30	31					
N O V			1	2	3 1 st Fri	4	5
	6 ExCom	7	8	9	10	11 2 nd Sat	12
	13	14	15	16 Thu.D!	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30			
D E C					1 1 st Fri	2	3
	4 ExCom	5	6	7	8	9 Party	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Strange Questions (& Stranger Answers)

by *Grace Lehto*

What puzzles you?

Last month's question:

What causes the pitch to change when you stir instant coffee into hot water and clang the spoon against the mug?

A number of Google searches did not provide an answer. But maybe the search terms weren't the best ones. Who knew this phenomenon was called "The Hot Chocolate Effect"?

Here's an answer that makes sense to **Will McGuffin**:

(Fast-forward to about 1:20.)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Hr_zFdNW5Q

Fred Tucker suggests that this item, from the *American Journal of Physics* website, should answer the instant coffee ceramic question:

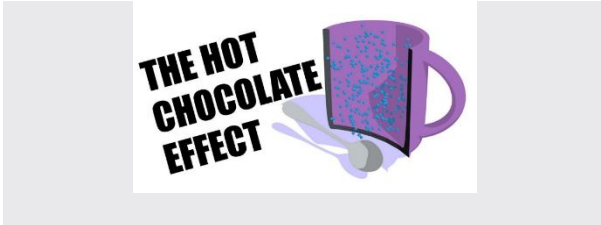
<https://aapt.scitation.org/doi/10.1119/1.13080>

Fred adds: From what I understand (and that is meager at best):

- 1) The gas already dissolved in the water gains kinetic energy as the water is heated and thus the gas is more likely to release.
- 2) Dissolving something like instant coffee, hot chocolate, or salt into the hot liquid is going to compete with the hydrogen bonds with the water (one of the things that make water such a cool molecule). The result is more dissolved gas released from the liquid quite quickly upon adding the instant coffee to the hot liquid.
- 3) The bubbles formed in the liquid slow the speed of the sound waves traveling through the cup. The sound waves were generated by the resonance frequency of the cup when hit by the spoon (this should work on expensive ceramic too!). The result is a lower frequency.
- 4) As the bubbles escape the liquid (quite quickly) and a new equilibrium is established in the liquid, the speed of the sound waves traveling

through the liquid increases (again, from the resonance frequency of the cup) and the frequency rises.

Here's a great video on the effect that does a much better job than I did on explaining:



And now we'd like to know

...about Salt!

The atmosphere picks up moisture from the ocean, then releases it as rain over land. Where does the salt go?

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.



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And Donner never did figure out why no one came to his holiday party.



"He has laryngitis today."

Valentine Trivia Quiz

1. In the Victorian era, mean-spirited Valentine's Day cards were called what?
2. "Wearing your heart on your sleeve" has origins from honoring which Roman goddess?
3. When was the oldest-known Valentine's Day message written?
4. Valentine's Day may be traced back to what Roman holiday traditionally celebrated on February 15?
5. Who invented the first Valentine's Day candy box?
6. Shakespeare mentions Valentine's Day in which of his plays?
7. What insanely popular website debuted on Valentine's Day in 2005?
8. When was February 14 first declared to be Valentine's Day?
9. What notorious gangster orchestrated the St. Valentine's Day Massacre?
10. What major invention was patented on Valentine's Day?
11. The oldest-known love poem was written on what?
12. What Valentine's Day candy was first created on equipment made for lozenges?
13. About how many roses are sent for Valentine's Day each year?
14. The first recorded speed-dating event was held in what year?

1. Vinegar Valentines or Penny Dreadfuls; 2. Juno; 3. 1415; 4. Lupericalia; 5. Richard Cadbury; 6. Hamlet; 7. You Tube; 8. 1537; 9. Al Capone; 10. the telephone; 11. A clay tablet; 12. Sweethearts; 13. 50 million; 14. 1998



Executive Committee Report

The new French Broad Mensa Executive Committee met on January 2 for the first time at The Madness of Asheville on Merrimon Avenue. Present were members ***Sharron Armel, Dawn Hardin, Will McGuffin*** and ***Wayne Stanko***, and advisors ***Grace Lehto*** and ***Michael Havelin***.

Elected and Appointed Officers

Nominating/Elections Chair ***Brian Johnson*** counted 19 ballots with 18 votes cast for the four nominees. As required by our By-Laws, the newly-elected Executive Committee determined how the offices will be held for 2023-24:

Local Secretary:	<i>Sharron Armel</i>
Deputy Local Secretary:	<i>Will McGuffin</i>
Treasurer:	<i>Wayne Stanko</i>
Member-at-Large:	<i>Dawn Hardin</i>

In addition, ***Dawn*** has agreed to help coordinate our events. The Executive Committee will continue to set the dates, choose the events and locations, determine how costs will be shared between FBM and members. ***Dawn*** will handle publicity via ***BROADCAST*** and emails, make reservations, collect RSVPs, and coordinate related activities. ***Sharron*** and ***Dawn*** will meet as needed to assure a smooth transition.

Grace Lehto has agreed to serve as an Advisor to the Executive Committee.

Budget

The budget was discussed and we have a proposed budget with a \$200 deficit for 2023. Various ideas were put forth as to how to eliminate this, among which were charging the members a bit more for events which have been partially subsidized from the Mensa treasury, increasing membership and making picnic events pot-luck. The most expensive event was the train trip, which will probably not be repeated in the near future due to the cost and level of member interest.

The Executive Committee directed the Local Secretary to adjust the budget accordingly to eliminate the proposed deficit.

Events

The group noted several new events being organized by **Fred Tucker**: Games, Chat & Drinks at Kingmaker's Draft in Hendersonville, and a tour of the Model Trains Station at the Taylors Mill in Greenville, SC. Committee members suggested several different ways to get the word out and make sure everyone who's interested has the chance to attend.

Future locations for events were considered:

- The Village Pub near Biltmore was considered for future trivia games and possible speakers.
- The community room at the new East Asheville Library is available until 8:00pm on Tuesday evenings at no charge to non-profit groups as long as the meeting is open to the public.
- Post 25 private room requires a minimum of \$500 expenditure for food and drink; capacity is 42.
- Pavilion in Amboy Road Riverside Park for September picnic, \$150 site fee

Will McGuffin suggested that he will ask Cathy Dolan, who once worked with the late Charles Yost (the inventor of memory foam for NASA and the foam that later became Temperpedic mattress foam) to talk to us about her history with the company. This will be our March Thu.D! event, provided we can find a suitable (available and affordable) location.

Additional events were suggested, and will be considered as we collect more information on them:

- Sierra Nevada Tour (for February's Second Saturday if possible, otherwise April or later)
- New Belgium Brewery Tour
- Basilica Tour

Locations for standing events in February were set:

- Taco Boy on Haywood Rd. in W. Asheville (for Ex.Comm. 2/6/23)
- Stoneridge Tavern (for Thu.D! 2/23/23)

Submitted by **Will McGuffin**, Deputy Local Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Closing Balance at November 30, 2022..... \$3,816.17

Receipts:

 Monthly subsidy from Am. Mensa \$177.10

Total Receipts..... \$177.10

Disbursements:

 Newsletter expense \$250.00

 Meeting Expenses 31.14

Total Disbursements..... \$281.14

Closing Balance at December 31, 2022..... \$3,712.13

Submitted by *Wayne Stanko*, Treasurer

French Broad Mensa Budget for 2023

	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Proposed	
<i>Income</i>							
Am Mensa Subsidy	\$ 1,444.70	\$ 1,428.25	\$ 1,490.80	\$ 1,376.35	\$ 1,346.40	\$ 1,300.00	A
Special events	<u>104.00</u>	<u>280.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>236.00</u>	<u>300.00</u>	B
Total Income	\$ 1,548.70	\$ 1,708.25	\$ 1,490.80	\$ 1,376.35	\$ 1,582.40	\$ 1,600.00	
<i>Expense</i>							
Broadcast	\$ 357.87	\$ 263.28	\$ 50.00	\$ 132.07	\$ 310.76	\$ 300.00	C
Food	261.93	155.18	0.00	20.00	651.74	500.00	D
Member recognition	79.00	158.00	237.00	237.00	408.00	400.00	E
Testing	36.78	14.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	F
Special events	264.42	1,271.02	0.00	682.24	1,533.35	400.00	G
Scholarship	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.00	0.00	
Miscellaneous	<u>0.00</u>	<u>31.90</u>	<u>(0.40)</u>	<u>74.25</u>	<u>10.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	H
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,894.18	\$ 286.60	\$ 1,145.56	\$ 3,513.85	\$ 1,600.00	
Net	\$ 548.70	\$ (185.93)	\$ 1,204.20	\$ 230.79	(\$1,931.45)	\$ 0.00	
<i>Ending bank balance</i>	\$ 4,394.52	\$ 4,208.59	\$ 5,412.79	\$ 5,643.58	\$ 3,712.13	\$ 3,712.13	

- A. American Mensa Subsidy: We receive a payment every month from the national office, based on our membership numbers.
- B. Special Events: Members who participate in special events will pay a portion of the cost.
- C. Broadcast: Postage, bulk mail permit, labels, etc.
- D. Food: Meals for guest speakers, new members' discount, and group events.
- E. Member Recognition: Service awards for webmaster, editor, printer, party host, etc.
- F. Testing: Travel and food expense for proctors, testing supplies, etc.
- G. Special Events: Summer Picnic and Winter Holiday Party are planned; other event(s) may be added.
- H. Miscellaneous: Check printing, supplies, etc.

Proposed by Sharron Arnel, Local Secretary Approved by Executive Committee, January 2023

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 2023- December 2024)

Local Secretary

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

Deputy Local Secretary

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

Treasurer

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

Member-at-Large

Dawn Hardin..... 318-325-0971 dawnhardin88@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 Position Open

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

Grace Lehto 828-989-6722 gracelehto@yahoo.com



BROADCAST

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