



**The French Broad Mensa Newsletter**

# ***BROADCAST***

**Vol. 29, No. 3, March 2023.**

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

***In this issue***

Events Calendar ..... 3  
Regional Vice-Chairman’s Message..... 4  
Mensa Membership..... 5  
Local Secretary’s Message..... 6  
Mediocre-Okay Advice from Gabbie..... 7  
Sierra Nevada Brewery Tour ..... 8  
Old Age ..... 10  
The Man I Shall Not Name ..... 11  
The Funnies..... 11  
Executive Committee Report ..... 13  
Treasurer’s Report..... 14  
Contacts..... 15

***Cover Art***

Part of the beer-making process  
at Sierra Nevada Brewery

***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**  
**March 2023**

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

at Cheddar's, 106 Bleachery Blvd. in Asheville

If you plan to attend, please contact **Fae Armstrong**:

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

**Monday, March 6, 11:30am: Executive Committee Meeting**

at Wild Ginger, Skyland Center 1950 Hendersonville Rd., Asheville

RSVP by March 5 to **Sharron Armel** (828) 280-6234.

**Thursday, March 23, 6:00pm: Thu.D! with a Special Speaker**

Yao Buffet & Sushi, 153 Smokey Park Highway in West Asheville

Cathy Dolan, who once worked for Charles Yost, an aeronautical engineer who developed parachute recovery systems for the Apollo flights and the foam later known as memory foam, will speak to us about her work with Yost and her later continuation of foam product manufacturing with her own company. Her reminiscences are interesting and will be followed by a question-answer session.

RSVP by March 20 to **Will McGuffin** at (828) 274-5050.

Where would YOU like to gather with Mensa friends?

The Executive Committee  
welcomes your suggestions!

RSVPs are important for table planning. If an event listing includes "RSVP," please do respond if you plan to attend; if you don't, the venue might not be able to seat you.

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



In January, I continued working with the overview of Leadership Development Workshops (LDWs) available on the national website, [us.mensa.org](http://us.mensa.org). I highlighted one workshop from the Local Group Administration track, and one from the Mensa Foundation group.

In February, I drew your attention to the Testing and Admissions Track. First, there is a video called Private Testing that explains all about this new method of gaining admission to Mensa, so that you can explain it to your friends who might want to join Mensa. The URL is

<https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/leadership-workshops/testing-and-admissions-track/private-testing-ldw/>

Then, there is a PowerPoint called Prospects from Start to Finish. That URL is

<https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/leadership-workshops/testing-and-admissions-track/prospects-from-start-to-finish/>

Another topic I want to emphasize is the Gifted Youth Track. You can find a number of LDWs on this subject listed at

<https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/leadership-workshops/gifted-youth-track/>

The recent offerings by Billie Lee and Jenny Wise are particularly informative. The workshop by Ray and Sarah Richards has many photographs and ideas for youth events.

I am sad to report that the RG scheduled to be held in Birmingham, AL in February has been cancelled. Registrations were just not high enough to warrant holding the gathering as planned. Are you one of the members who had planned to go, but did not get around to registering? Please register promptly for future RGs and AGs.

Piedmont Area Mensa will be holding their Pirate themed ARRRRRGH! RG March 17-19, 2023 at the Drury Inn and Suites Greenville, SC. Full-weekend registration is \$75 from February 1, 2023, through March 1, 2023; and \$85 from March 1, 2023 and beyond.

To encourage families to join in the fun, PAM is offering a \$30 registration rate for ages 7 - 12 and a \$50 registration rate for ages 13 - 20. First-time attendees also receive a \$5 discount off the applicable weekend registration rate. RG registration includes all programs and activities, light refreshments in our hospitality suite, and lunch on Saturday. (Hotel registration includes free hot morning breakfast and free dinnertime snacks and drinks.) Go to <http://www.piedmont.us.mensa.org/rg2023.html> for more information and to register.

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](http://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."

*Nancy Campbell*, RVC5  
704-533-3351 or [RVC5mail@gmail.com](mailto:RVC5mail@gmail.com)

### ***Mensa Membership***

Don't forget to renew your American Mensa membership this month! The future with Mensa looks good, and you don't want to miss any of it.

Mensa has a past, too! **Will McGuffin** found these two short videos on the history of North American Mensa.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzH9zf7vS7Q>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6roSWcfqU5o>

## **Local Secretary's Message**



Last year we started Second Saturday events. Let's add something else new this year:

**Call for Artists:** Would you like to participate in an art auction to benefit French Broad Mensa? The Executive Committee is looking into staging such an event, with proceeds to be split between the artists and FBM. We may begin the auction online, and then finalize everything at our September picnic.

Farewell and good luck to **Deborah Welt**, who has moved out of our area.

Welcome to members joining or rejoining FBM:

***Austini Jandrucko***

***Timothy Upton***

Happy Mensa Anniversaries to:

***Jeff Catanese***

***John Levensgood***

***Jania Durr***

***Dean Little***

***Mark Gamble***

***Lester Pulst***

***Aaron Guillotte***

***William Smith***

***Charles Gurslin***

***James Stewart***

***Michael Dean Hart***

***Fred Tucker***

***Michael Korstange***

***Jack Wilkinson***

Happy March Birthdays to:

***Henry Bovee***

***Michael Shelly***

***Johanna Dokter***

***Sandy Stoddard***

***William Peyton***

***Kenneth Workman***

***Lester Pulst***

***Robert Youngblood***

***Pater Shanahan***

**Sharron Armel**, Local Secretary

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



## **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,*

*How come everybody's so upset about that guy whose heart stopped after he made that great tackle? Hell, they stopped the game, America's game, for cryin' out loud. Everyone is so sensitive these days?*

*Football Fan Frank*

*Dearest Frank,*

*A fan, eh? A lemming, you mean! You're just following the mob and in love with the chaos of "the game."*

*Football, eh? So you think that's "America's Game?" Well, you're mistaken. You've been brainwashed by the NFL and the makers of washing machines and designer footwear. Let's face it; American football may be aggressive and requiring of big muscles and determination, but there's a strategy to it (he admitted dejectedly), but it doesn't do the ultimate job of characterizing the "real" us.*

*Believe me, after exhaustive comparative study of the various games I found the perfect national game for us. Soccer, the so-called "beautiful game," doesn't cut it. Too much running back and forth to no effect, and little to no blood. Nah!*

*How about rugby? It's a mean contest, aggressive as hell, and sometimes even gushing blood and tooth fragments. But there are referees and when a ref's decision is handed down, the players are meek and gentlemanly about it. Disgusting!*

*I don't even want to think about basketball. Their uniforms are the worst!*

*No, there's only one sport that encapsulates the true inner American character. Only one sport that's aggressive enough, murderous in intent, uses large mechanized weaponry, and is pure chaos from the beginning to the end. (I suppose there are rules, but I haven't seen them yet.) Oh, you want to know which sport I selected, eh?*

*It's demolition derby. Yeah, that's it, all right. Demolition derby. Think about it.*

*Your sporty fountain of diverse opinionated opinion,  
Gabbie*

## **Sierra Nevada Brewery Tour**

**Michael Havelin** shares some photos from our visit:



**Dawn, Randy, Rosalie, Sharron, and Meredith** ready to start the tour.



Our Second Saturday special event for February was a tour of the Sierra Nevada Brewery in Mills River. We learned about the chemistry of beer-making, the packaging and distribution of products, and enjoyed a taste of four different beers.



Looking down into the area where bottles, cans, and kegs of beer are organized for delivery.



After the tour, we gathered at La Carreta in South Asheville for lunch.  
L to R: *Meredith, Sharron, Dawn, Craig, Rosalie, Randy, and Will.*

## **Old Age**

Old Age, the winter of life's fading leaves,  
Once proud and strong, now withered and worn.  
Memory fades, but wisdom still believes  
In the lessons learned, and the battles won.  
Though wrinkles form, and hair turns silver-grey,  
The soul still shines with the fire of youth.  
Experience and stories pave the way  
For future generations to learn the truth.

With each passing year, we see our time  
Drawing nigh, as the hands on the clock  
Wind down, to the beat of life's chime.  
But despite the aches, and the heart's slow shock,  
Old Age is a treasure, a crown of life,  
A journey's end, where wisdom's riches thrive.

A retired high-school English teacher said, of the poem above, "It's full of clichés, but if a 10<sup>th</sup>-grader wrote it I'd give it a C." But this poem was written entirely by Artificial Intelligence, in response to a request of ChatGPT for "a sonnet on old age."

What do you think of this new development in Artificial Intelligence?

Read more about it:

What is ChatGPT and why does it matter? Here's everything you need to know [What is ChatGPT and why does it matter? Here's everything you need to know | ZDNET](#)

From the company that launched ChatGPT [ChatGPT: Optimizing Language Models for Dialogue \(openai.com\)](#)

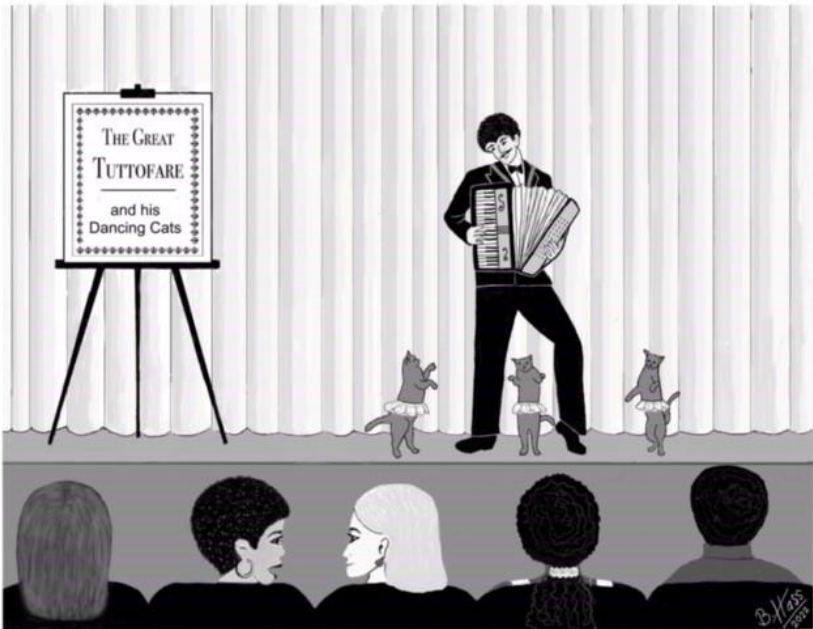
## ***The Man I Shall Not Name***

*written by Real Human Being Grace Lehto*

The man I describe is no Forest Gump  
In fact, he's known as a bit of a grump.  
He extolls his virtues when on the stump  
Calls his rivals dummies or chumps.  
His volume ramps up when he's in a slump.  
He throws good advice into the dump,  
Still witlessly believing he's over the hump,  
With no wit to see he's a losing lump.

So, as you relax and munch on your crumpet  
There is news from the media's trumpet.  
How he paid a porn star, a lover, a strumpet  
She set the bar and he had to jump it  
Without her silence, he'd have to dump it.  
Now she can afford much more than a crumpet.





*"An accordion? I'm calling the SPCA."*



## ***Executive Committee Report***

The Executive Committee met Monday, February 13 at the new Taco Boy in West Asheville. Members and advisors present were ***Sharron Armel, Michael Havelin, Will McGuffin,*** and ***Wayne Stanko.***

### *Executive Committee Vacancy:*

The Executive Committee accepted, with regret, the resignation of ***Dawn Hardin,*** effective immediately. Our By-Laws provide for vacancies to be filled by vote of the Executive Committee, so we will be looking for candidates during March, and expect to vote on a new member in April.

### *Scholarship Update:*

***Dawn Hardin, Michael Havelin,*** and ***Will McGuffin*** have completed our group's judging of 49 essays submitted this year. In March, our results will be forwarded to American Mensa and then judged at the regional and national levels before scholarship awards are announced later this year.

### *Events:*

***Will*** and ***Sharron*** will work together to transition primary responsibility for scheduling and facilitating events to ***Will.*** Looking ahead, we'll plan these Second Saturday Special events:

#### April: Citizens' Vinyl

Did you know that quality vinyl records are still being pressed here in downtown Asheville? We'll tour the facility.

#### May: Basilica Tour

The Basilica of St. Lawrence the Deacon & Martyr, in downtown Asheville, offers a noteworthy display of art and architecture. We plan to schedule a guided tour.

### *Fundraising Idea:*

French Broad Mensa will consider conducting an Art Auction, art to be submitted by members and proceeds to be split between the artists and FBM. ***Sharron*** indicated that our RVC has approved this idea and gives it her full support. ***Sharron*** will investigate the best way to make this happen.

Submitted by ***Sharron Armel,*** Local Secretary

*Treasurer's Report*

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

Receipts:

Monthly subsidy from Am. Mensa ..... \$41.65

Total Receipts..... \$41.65

Disbursements:

Special Event expense..... \$61.45

Total Disbursements..... \$61.45

Closing Balance at January 31, 2022 ..... \$3,692.33

Submitted by *Wayne Stanko*, Treasurer



- OFFSET PRINTING
- DIGITAL PRINTING
- STRATEGIC MARKETING
  - SOCIAL MEDIA
- SIGNAGE & DISPLAYS
- MAILING SOLUTIONS

**828/254.1432**  
**[www.oneclearchoice.com](http://www.oneclearchoice.com)**



## ***French Broad Mensa Contacts***

**National Office**...817-607-0090...[AmericanMensa@mensa.org](mailto:AmericanMensa@mensa.org)

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

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

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

**Executive Committee** (January 2023- December 2024)

#### **Local Secretary**

Sharron Armel ..... 828-280-6234 ..... [sharronarmel@gmail.com](mailto:sharronarmel@gmail.com)

#### **Deputy Local Secretary**

Will McGuffin ..... 828-274-5050 ..... [wmcguffin@gmail.com](mailto:wmcguffin@gmail.com)

#### **Treasurer**

Wayne Stanko ..... 828-253-8781 ..... [wstanko@charter.net](mailto:wstanko@charter.net)

**Member-at-Large**..... Position Open

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

#### **Editor**

Sharron Armel ..... 828-280-6234 ..... [sharronarmel@gmail.com](mailto:sharronarmel@gmail.com)

#### **Publisher**

Wayne Stanko ..... 828-253-8781 ..... [wstanko@charter.net](mailto:wstanko@charter.net)

#### **Webmaster**

Lizz Russell ..... [lizzz@dnet.net](mailto:lizzz@dnet.net)

#### **Testing Coordinator**

Wayne Stanko ..... 828-253-8781 ..... [wstanko@charter.net](mailto:wstanko@charter.net)

**Ombudsman** ..... Position Open

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

#### **Scholarship Chair**

Sharron Armel ..... 828-280-6234 ..... [sharronarmel@gmail.com](mailto:sharronarmel@gmail.com)

#### **Scholarship Assistant Chair**

Wayne Stanko ..... 828-253-8781 ..... [wstanko@charter.net](mailto:wstanko@charter.net)

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

#### **Advisors**

Michael Havelin ..... [havelin@yahoo.com](mailto:havelin@yahoo.com)

Grace Lehto ..... [gracelehto@yahoo.com](mailto:gracelehto@yahoo.com)



# BROADCAST

BROADCAST (USPS 0013-506) is published monthly for \$8 per year by French Broad Mensa. Periodical postage paid at Asheville, NC 28810. BROADCAST is the official newsletter of French Broad Mensa Group 287 in [Region 5](#) of American Mensa. ¶

**POSTMASTER: ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED** ¶  
**AMERICAN MENSAS** ¶  
**1315 BROOKSIDE DRIVE** ¶  
**HURST, TX 76053** ¶

Periodical Postage  
**PAID**  
Asheville, NC 28810

**TIME VALUE MATERIAL**