

The French Broad Mensa Newsletter

BROADCAST

Vol. 29, No. 4, April 2023

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



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Cover Art

Greg Halbach shooting this month’s cover picture of Marymere Falls, Washington.

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
April 2023

Monday, April 3, 11:30am: Executive Committee Meeting
at The Village Porch, North Merrimon Avenue in Reynolds Village
RSVP by April 2 to **Sharron Armel** (828) 280-6234.

Friday, April 7, 11:30am: First Friday Lunch
at Outback Steakhouse, 30 Tunnel Road in Asheville
Present your AARP membership card for a discount!
If you plan to attend, please contact **Fae Armstrong**:
one4fae2@yahoo.com or (828) 575-0121

Saturday, April 15, 1:00-1:45pm: Second Saturday Special Event
at Citizen Vinyl, 14 O’Henry Avenue in Asheville
Did you know that quality vinyl records are still being pressed here in Asheville? We’ll gather around noon for lunch at the on-site café, and then at 1:00 we’ll begin a guided tour of the facility. Tour tickets are free., but a \$5 donation is suggested. We have reserved 8 tour tickets, so please RSVP early to **Will McGuffin** at wmcguffin@gmail.com.

Thursday, April 27, 6:00pm: Thu.D!
at Taco Boy, 521 Haywood Road in West Asheville (where Zia Taqueria used to be). Your ExCom checked it out, and say it’s worth a return visit.
RSVP by April 24 to **Will McGuffin** at wmcguffin@gmail.com.

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.



Save the Date!

Watch upcoming BROADCAST issues for details!

May 11 (Thursday): Basilica Tour (Asheville)



A guided tour, giving background on the architecture and history of this notable Asheville building.

June 10 (Saturday): Boat Tour (Lake Lure)



Back by popular demand – a repeat of the boat tour we enjoyed last June

Regional Vice Chairman's Message



Time passes so fast!

The regular quarterly meeting of the AMC was held March 11 in Hurst, TX

Piedmont Area Mensa held their Pirate themed ARRRRRGH! RG March 17-19, in Greenville, SC.

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."

Nancy Campbell, RVC5

704-533-3351 or RVC5@gmail.com

New Executive Committee Member's Message

I am humbled and honored, in appropriate proportions, by being summarily appointed (but not annointed) as Member-at-Large of French Broad Mensa's Executive Committee. I look forward to being a useful adjunct.

Michael Havelin

Local Secretary's Message



French Broad Mensa has 133 members as of mid-March. Be sure to renew your membership so you'll still be counted next month (when the official "membership year" begins).

And while you're thinking about membership, why not take a minute to tell us what you like best about FBM, and what you'd like to see changed. The Executive Committee always welcomes your input.

No members have left or joined our group this month.

Happy Mensa Anniversaries to:

David Carmody

Johanna Dokter

Brian Johnson

Grace Lehto

Will McGuffin

Eleanor Ninestein

Susan Read

Kerry Shannon

Tilden Singleton

Happy March Birthdays to:

David Carmody

Karen Caskey

Andre Cote

Paul Deangelis

Robert Seay

Jacquelyn Tompkins

Our March Thu.D! featured speaker Cathy Dolan of Pinnacle Products International LLC. Also in March, Fred Tucker organized a visit to the Model Trains Museum in Taylor's Mill, SC (see next page for details).

Monthly First Friday, Second Saturday, and Thu.D! events continue.

What topics, guest speakers, or venues can you suggest for future meetings?

Sharron Armel, Local Secretary

SharronArmel@gmail.com

Model Trains Station

by Fred Tucker

Our visit to the Model Trains Station at Taylors Mill was a success with all marveling at the various life's work of enthusiasts showcased at the museum. From a German village to a vignette of Baltimore to a North Carolina Mountain town that is ever evolving thanks to a host of volunteer electrical engineers, the Model Trains Station is ever bringing new features to life. Pinky's Revenge was enjoyed afterwards by both the pinball enthusiast and the vintage video arcade aficionado as well as those young ones in attendance who are accustomed to a higher resolution in their screen time. And at least one intrepid soul was observed trying her hand at axe throwing at The Blue Ox Hatchet House (brava!) from our vantage point at 13 Stripes Brewery where adult and youth beverages were being enjoyed. A nice day out and worth a visit for those who were unable to attend.

Strange Question (& Stranger Answers)

by Grace Lehto

Here's one: Why did we decide to give February just 28 days when lots of other months have 31 days? Couldn't we have just taken some of the 31st days from other months and added them to February?

CALENDAR 2023

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
Jan																																
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Apr																																
May																																
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Nov																																
Dec																																

And while we're at it, how about the questions you've wondered about? Send an email to GraceLehto@yahoo.com to pose your questions or answers.

The Funnies

Callie bids farewell to
The Great Tuttofare
cartoon series.
(Will McGuffin photo)



*"You can't teach an old dog new tricks. But you **can** teach a new dog old tricks."*

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 old are you? Sometimes you sound like a real jerk. You know that?

Disgusted

Dearest Disgusted,

So you wanna have a food fight, eh? Well, let me tell you something, buddy, you're picked the wrong opponent. I may be a codger, but I can sling a handful of mashed potatoes across a room with the best of 'em. You got goggles? Better put 'em on now.

I gotta straighten you out on something.

(He sat up straighter in his rocking chair and snapped his suspenders for dramatic effect.) I am a "gentleman of a certain age," as we say, and when you achieve such an exalted status yourself (though I doubt you will...) you might get a glimmer of understanding. At my age, I just don't give a flying flip about much, and I'll call out the craziness I see raging around me. I'm gonna tell ya what I think, is what, and I don't much care what you think, or even if you think at all (which I seriously doubt).

You get it, bozo? So pass me that server of mashed and let's get down, yo! You asked for it this time.

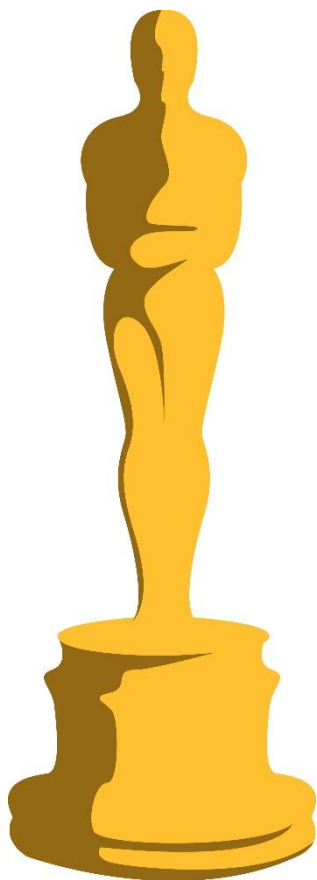
Bursting with enthusiasm and pretty good aim, I remain,

Your favorite curmudgeon,

Gabbie



Everything Everywhere All at Once
AN OPINION by Phyllis "Frankie" Franklin



I am stunned and perplexed. It is the morning after the Oscars were awarded and ***Everything Everywhere All at Once*** (***EEAO***) swept multiple categories, including the Best Picture award. My angst is because I am a long-time movie buff and I found the winning film to be lacking in coherence, so following the story was more of a struggle than a pleasure. When I watched ***EEAO***, my companion was someone who makes a point of seeing most of the critically acclaimed films, and his reaction to the movie was about the same as mine. We are two reasonably smart regular film-goers who simply didn't "get it."

I saw ***The Banshees of Inisherin*** with this same friend and we both enjoyed that also-nominated film immensely. And I saw ***Elvis*** twice and would like to see it again. Perhaps it would have helped to know, at the get-go, that the genre of ***Everything Everywhere All at Once*** was supposed to be sci-fi.

I have long been a serious film buff. My background includes a for-credit university course in film criticism, a charter membership in the film group that became FLIFF (Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival), and a long-time membership in a film discussion group known as the "Classic and Foreign Film Society." And I have written a few published movie reviews.

I am wondering if ***EEAO*** might be the equivalent of *The Emperor Has No Clothes* story? Do people really love the movie...or are folks just going along with the idea that they are supposed to love it? The film is a creative exercise in cinema, and it *is* different. But something "different"

doesn't necessarily mean that the something is good, much less great. However, I do recognize that **EEAO** was on the screen for a lengthy run at Asheville's Fine Arts Theater and now it has more or less swept the 2022/23 Academy Awards. So what am I missing here?

I have long respected A.O. Scott's movie reviews (*New York Times*). Scott calls **Everything Everywhere All at Once** "messy," but writes a mostly favorable review. However, Scott does mention that the filmmakers "— are happy to defy the laws of probability, plausibility and coherence."

Of course, most of us recognize that Hollywood politics and/or popularity can come into play when it comes to the voting process for the Academy Awards. and that it can be due to these factors that the film that garners the most critical acclaim does not always win the Oscar. For example, when **Titanic** won the Oscar for Best Picture in 1997, the critics liked **L.A. Confidential**, and there have been many other such examples over the years. Was there something popular or political in play in the Best Film voting process this year?

Many years ago, I heard a film critic give a talk about how movies can be either "Art" or "Pop." So, lastly, is the movie that won the Best Picture Oscar last night "Art" that will stand the test of time, or is it just "Pop" that will soon be forgotten? I would love to have some input regarding **EEAO's** Best Picture Oscar from other Mensa members. Perhaps local members could have some discussion about **Everything Everywhere All at Once** at an upcoming First Friday or Thu.D! get-together.



April Trivia

(answers on page 14)



1. What is the birthstone for April?
2. Which fast food joint opened its doors for the first time in April of 1955?
3. In addition to Aries, what other star sign might you have if you were born in April?
4. What product was banned from being advertised on TV in the US in April 1970?
5. What annual event is celebrated every April 22 to support the protection of the environment?
6. The Sweet Pea is one birth flower for April. What is the other?
7. Which famous painter and sculptor was born in April 1452?
8. What iconic financial district building was completed in April 1973?
9. April's full moon is traditionally known as what?
10. Ford unveiled its first Mustang model in April 1964, How much did it cost?
11. How many jelly beans are made for Easter in the US every year?
12. Where is April Fool's Day an official city holiday? (Probably not celebrated last year.)
13. What were Richmond residents rioting about on April 2, 1863?
14. After a 1,500 year break, what took place on April 6, 1896?
15. What spacecraft was launched in April 1970?
16. What magazine was first published April 9, 1953?
17. What famous annual event began April 19, 1897?
18. What popular board game is celebrated on April 13?
19. Who became the first man in space in April 1961?
20. What April 9 holiday celebrates a mythical creature?

Executive Committee Report

The Executive Committee met Monday, March 6 at Wild Ginger in South Asheville. Members and advisors present were ***Sharron Armel, Michael Havelin, Will McGuffin, and Wayne Stanko.***

Executive Committee Membership:

The Executive Committee unanimously elected ***Michael Havelin*** to be Member-at-Large.

Scholarship Update:

FBM thanks ***Dawn Hardin, Michael Havelin, and Will McGuffin*** for their work in judging 49 essays submitted from our western NC catchment area. ***Sharron*** reported that these local essay-judging results have been forwarded to American Mensa, where the highest-rated essays will be combined with those from other groups in our region (Region 5). Judges are being recruited for the regional judging round, which ends in mid-April. Winners there will be judged at the national level, and scholarship awards will be announced later this year.

Events:

Will updated the group on plans for our next few Second Saturday Special events:

April 15: Citizens' Vinyl

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

May 11: Basilica Tour (THURSDAY, not Saturday)

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.

June 10: Lake Lure Boat Tour

Repeating last year's successful event, we'll reserve the entire 20 seats on the boat, with the understanding that we can reduce the number a week before the event. .

Standing events were scheduled and venues chosen.

Details on all events will appear in the ***BROADCAST*** Events Calendar.

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

Treasurer's Report

Closing Balance at January 31, 2023 \$3,692.33

Receipts:

 Monthly subsidy from Am. Mensa \$113.2

Total Receipts \$113.2

Disbursements:

 Mailing expense \$71.38

Total Disbursements \$71.38

Closing Balance at February 28, 2023 \$3,734.15

Submitted by **Wayne Stanko**, Treasurer

Trivia Answers

(1) Diamond; (2) McDonald's; (3) Taurus; (4) Cigarettes; (5) Earth Day; (6) the Daisy; (7) Leonardo da Vinci; (8) The World Trade Center; (9) the Pink Moon; (10) \$2,368; (11) 16 billion; (12) Odessa, Ukraine; (13) Bread; (14) The Olympic Games; (15) Apollo 13; (16) TV Guide; (17) The Boston Marathon; (18) Scrabble; (19) Yuri Gagarin; (20) National Unicorn Day



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

French Broad Mensa Elected Officers:

Executive Committee (January 2023- December 2024)

Local Secretary

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Deputy Local Secretary

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

Treasurer

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

Member-at-Large

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

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Webmaster

Lizz Russell..... lizzz@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

Grace Lehto gracelehto@yahoo.com



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