neva-mind

Northern Nevada Mensa
Volume 33, Issue 11 — November 2009



I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Robert Frost
(1874–1963)

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UNR PROCTOR
LAKE TAHOE PROCTOR
AND AREA COORDINATOR

Neva-Mind

Northern Nevada Mensa
Volume 33, Issue 11
November 2009



Our cover shot this month comes from our own games and puzzle master, Joe Kisenwether. Joe's wanderlust combined with his sense of humor take him to some of the most original and unusual sites.

"Scientists are still puzzled by how the ancient Nebraskans were able to get these cars all the way from their source in Detroit and erect them into place, and, of course, by why they would. For anyone who hasn't guessed already, Carhenge is a replica of Stonehenge built out of cars. One can only stand in slack-jawed awe at the complete randomness of this place. I mean WHY? Turns out that this was built in 1987 as 'something to do' at a family reunion."



"Carhenge" Alliance, Nebraska © Joe Kisenwether

A Note From the Editor



This is the month where many of us begin to plan trips to visit family and friends for the holidays. But, what if I wanted to travel this month and delay receiving Aunt Betty's cheek-pinching welcome or Uncle Art's "Pull my finger!" joke for the hundredth time? Inspired by the cover shot, Carhenge by Joe Kisenwether, I asked our readers to submit photos of the odd, strange, or quirky places they have visited.



We received a number of submissions related to our theme and true to the diverse thinking of Mensans, not all of them are pictures. We have a photo album, of course, called "Off the Beaten Path" (page 18,) a trivia questionnaire on lesser known Nevada hot-spots (page 13,) and a Thanksgiving essay (page 9,) all designed to tickle your funny bone and your curiosity. So, sit back, relax, and join us on an armchair tour *off the beaten path*. ■

November 2009

Features:

International Thanksgiving *by Ken Wright* **Page 9**

On the Ballot: *ExComm Candidates Speak* **Page 11**

Off the Beaten Path: *postcard snapshots by local Mensans* **Page 18**

A Plethora of Good Ideas:

MERF Lessons for Mensa Kids **Page 23**

Idea Aid *from Mensa Process* **Page 24**

2011 AG in Portland *a call for volunteers* **Page 25**

Stay tuned next month for the story of "Reno-Sance!"

Columns:

From the LocSec *by Robert McAllister* **Page 5**

Events:

CAMA! *Weekend of Theater November 20, 21* **Page 8**

Program Listing *by Richard Arbib* **Page 12**

Calendar **Page 13**

Game Night, Lunch Bunch **Page 13**

Other Events:

Sacramento Mensa RG: Just Say Know *March 26, 2010* **Page 23**

2010 AG Dearborn, MI: A Groovin' in Motown **Page 23**

Puzzles:

Puzzle Page *by Joe Kisenwether* **Page 12**

Trivia: Nevada A to Z! *by Anne Stewart* **Page 13**

Crossword Puzzle *by Anna Wright* **Page 16**

Answers **Page 27**



In Every Issue:

Volunteers **Page 2**

Thank you to the people who keep Northern Nevada Mensa running!

Cover Credits and A Note from the Editor **Page 3**

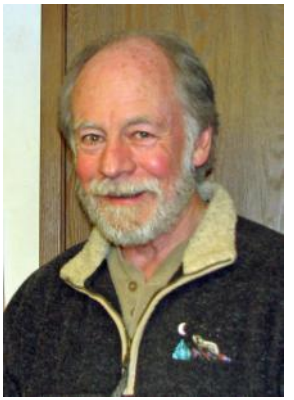
Notes From the ExComm **Page 7**

Happy Birthday! / Welcome! **Page 8**

Mensa-Speak *What are we saying?* **Page 24**

From the LocSec

by Bob McAllister



I believe it'll be a while before the glow of a very successful RG wears away. And even then, it'll long be remembered as one for the books. A visitor from Kentucky took me aside and praised me (of all people) for the very best RG he had ever attended. He has been to quite a few (even in Canada) and, though they were all very worthy (he said) compared to our Reno-ssance, those others could be construed as "fives or sixes" out of ten, whereas ours should be considered "a twelve." During the banquet, I approached Ken Wright and opined that he had outdone himself and had maybe set the bar too high. Characteristically, he replied, "Nah. We'll just do something different next time."

Meanwhile, I have to believe that we could well have garnered some positive attention. And, by the way, I told the fellow from Kentucky to whom the credit was due. The rest of us merely got to bask in that glow.

Finally, cheating by not being original, I'll conclude here with something that was sent to me on the Net that is sort of reminiscent of our recent Elizabethan experience.

Back in the 1500s: You may have heard the phrases, now here are the origins.

They used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot; then once a day it was taken and sold to the tannery. If you had to do this to survive you were "Piss Poor". But worse than that were the really poor folk who couldn't even afford to buy a pot they "didn't have a pot to piss in" were the lowest of the low.

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!"

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."



There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real

(Continued on page 6)

(LocSec continued from page 5)
problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "Dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance way. Hence: a “thresh hold.” (Getting quite an education, aren't you?)

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme: “Pease porridge hot, pease porridge cold, pease porridge in the pot nine days old.”

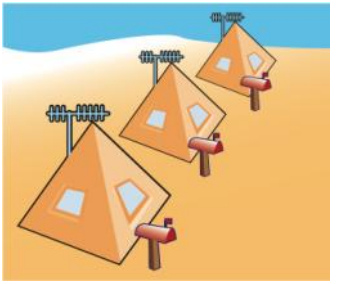
Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and “chew the fat.”

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the “upper crust.”

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them or burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a “wake.”

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be, “saved by the bell” or was considered a “dead ringer.”



And that's the truth. Whoever said history was boring ! ! !

So . . . get out there and educate someone! Share these facts. (Since this is off of the Net, it maybe should be said “these ostensible facts.”) ■

Notes From the ExComm on October 17, 2009

- Present were Annemarie McTaggart, 1st Vice-secretary; Gerald Lockhart 2nd-Vice secretary; Ed Hanley Past LocSec; Anna Wright *Neva-Mind* editor; and appointed officers Richard Arbib and Mindy Hsu.
- Anna Wright gave reports on the 2009 RG registration, finances, and participant feedback.
- Richard Arbib answered questions regarding the next two Mensa meetings.
- Mindy Hsu answered questions about the testing program.
- The ExComm discussed the 2010 RG, theme, and prospective speakers.
- The ExComm adjourned

Featured Reno-ssance Speaker to have book signing:

Local Gal Makes Good (again!)

Book signing for Mignon Fogarty's new book,
The Grammar Devotional.
Saturday, December 5
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Sundance Bookstore
1155 West Fourth Street, Reno





Calling All Mensa Adventurers! (CAMA!)



Theater seasons are starting again and the Adventurer's Club invites you to join us as we start this season with a weekend of theater November 20 and 21.

Begin on Friday evening with:

Pilobolus Dance Performance - You've never seen anything like this dance troupe before! Friday November 20 at 8 p.m. at The Grand Sierra Resort. Tickets range from $30 to $50. To purchase show tickets please call the box office at 1-800-648-3568. Video clip below says it all. http://www.metacafe.com/watch/1699230/pilobolus_late_night_with_conan_obrien/



Conclude your weekend with a Saturday afternoon musical show:

The King and I - Western Nevada Musical Theatre Company will charm us with their matinee performance on Saturday, November 21, at 2 p.m. in the Carson City Community Center. Tickets to all shows: $20/$18/$16, Call 775-445-4249.

Need more info? Call Anna (775) 423-4694

Happy Birthday

November

Birthstone: Topaz, Citrine

Flower: Chrysanthemum

Astrological Signs:

Scorpio: October 23 - November 21

Sagittarius: November 22 - December 21



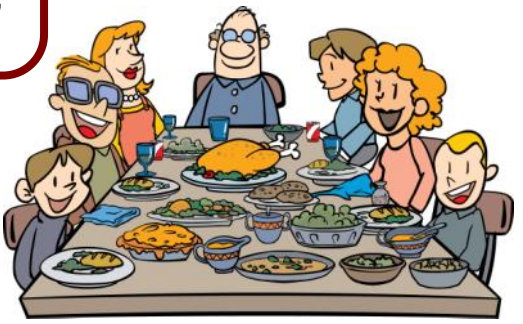
1	Michael Shore	Dayton
3	Carolyn Metzka	Reno
6	Nathaniel Burkett	Washoe Valley
7	David Williams	Incline Village
11	Patrick Wright	Sparks
12	Travis McCord	Reno
12	Rachael Black Pruyne	Reno
13	Anna Wright	Fallon
14	Frank Riley	South Lake Tahoe
15	Dr William Jacobsen Jr	Reno
18	Maurice Pollack	Reno
19	Melanie Supersano	Reno
20	Richard Arbib	Reno
20	Brian Carlson	Truckee
21	William Borges III	Reno
21	Keith Winchester	Carson City
22	Andrew Sadler	Reno
24	Alan Cranford	Carson City



Welcome!

Shane Preston, Reno

Willkommen, Bienvenidos, Chaire, Irashaimasu, Dobro pozhalovat', Bienvenue, Howdy!



International Thanksgiving in Alaska 1976

by Ken Wright

Ft Richardson Army Base, near Anchorage, AK

Being stationed in Alaska from 1975 to 1978 was a great thing for an outdoor type like myself, with a wife, little girl and dog to keep me company. We had each other and our hobbies and interests. For those Air Traffic Controllers who worked for me it was quite different; most were alone.

The idea started out simply as a Thanksgiving meal where everyone could gather and not be by themselves. A good plan, but as we added people to the list it began to show a different color to me. The names I wrote down on the page is what did it.

I was the Southern-raised boy, with an Ohio wife and a Georgia-born daughter. Add to that a Japanese kid from Hilo, Hawaii, and Polish guy from New Jersey, a German man from New York City with his British-imported wife, a Czechoslovakian from Michigan, a French Canadian from Wisconsin, a pair of Nebraska yuppies of mixed Scandinavian ancestry, and a nut ball from Puerto Rico. What you have here is a U.N. meeting without the politics.

From that realization arose the theme of International Thanksgiving.

I called upon my second-in-command, Stanley Foulke, to assist me with finding cultural dishes from each ethnic group represented. This could prove to be a strange conglomeration, but that would just make it more interesting.

For our Hawaiian-born Japanese son, Clifford Mitsuo "Mitch" Miyamoto, we, for an unknown reason, decided that octopus was a good representative offering. There were none to be found in the commissary, so we headed into town and stopped at the big chain grocery store. The man at the meat counter laughed at me when I asked for a whole octopus. I guess that was a “no” to my question as to whether they had any.

As is common in remote parts of the world, everyone listens to everyone else's conversations and Anchorage was no different. An older Chinese gentleman heard our question and was too polite to interrupt the rude grocery man, so he waited until we turned to leave to summon us to his side. He was dressed in traditional Chinese clothing and looked to be very ancient, but he spoke better English than the clown we had just dealt with. "Gentlemen," he said, "you may find what you seek at this market" and handed us a card. Shades of Charlie Chan!

We drove to the market and went inside a small building with a huge shop stuffed inside. There was everything from those old black and white movies of the 1930s that you have ever seen hanging in a shop: live chickens in crates, canaries in bamboo cages, eels in pots of water and more of the little ancient Chinese guys smoking pipes. The place was a trip! I couldn't find the cash register, which is where every American shopper goes to find out about anything, so I asked the youngest looking man in the place if he spoke English, and he said, "No, but my grandfather does," pointed at a really old guy and left. What?!

The man in charge came to our rescue and told me that the others were a bunch of jokers and asked if he could help. I explained what I was trying to find and he lead us through the maze of shelves to a big deep sink with a sheet of glass on top of it with bungee cords holding it in place.

I thought that was odd until the moment he unhooked the cords a tentacle pushed under the edge of the glass and kept growing in size until the body of an octopus appeared. Evidently they are supreme es-

(Continued on page 10)

(International Thanksgiving continued from page 9)
cape artists that can and will get out and slip into the most inconvenient places imaginable, and probably some that we couldn't imagine. The shop owner deftly grabbed the creature by the head with his fingers in the eyes and breathing openings. He said, “Will this one do?”

“Well, yeah,” we said, thinking “how the hell and what the hell do we do with this thing now?” The man had already figured out that we didn't have a clue so he took us farther into his shop to a free-standing butcher block where he grabbed a wooden club similar to a belaying pin on a sailing vessel, and whacked the life out of the beastie in one stroke. He then took a meat cleaver and had the beak and the internals out of the octopus before we could really focus on what he was doing.

The gentleman gave us instructions on how long to wash, then dunk in boiling water, then steam cook this meat. Why didn't we remember that they have McDonald's on the Big Island? This was going to be a lot of work. Hey wait a minute, let's make Mitch do it! Cool, this was going to work after all.

Stan kept fussing that his German food was next, but at least it wasn't so hard to get. He wanted bratwurst, sauerkraut, and German beer. The man was actually a pretty good cook too. I guess it was his bachelor years between wives. His first wife didn't like him being on the road all the time playing bass for great jazz horn man, Chick Corea, so she had emptied his bank account, filed for divorce in Reno (Hey!) and driven off in his brand new Cadillac. So, Stan had to fend for himself. When he married Geisla (Geese -La) in London, he didn't realize that he would still have to do the cooking if he wanted to taste anything. Even though she was born in Germany of German parents, she was raised in London by relatives who had made her into a complete Brit — no flavor in her food at all.

Our man Andre Letourneau was a French-Canadian transplant to Wisconsin. He was born there and was a U.S. citizen, but all of his family lived in Canada. When he joined the Army, his parents and siblings went back north to live where the rest of the clan was. His contribution was Canadian Duck, a really tasty meal, which used chopped up duck meat, ham, onions, celery, some kind of green peppers, a lot of butter, flour, and all kinds of spices. He fussed around with it in the kitchen all morning singing stuff in French and being just a happy chef. It required a lot of stirring, I do remember that, and it was awesome tasting.

Scott Wesley Leon-Guerrero was a unique individual. He was one of the crudest, rudest, ugliest people I have ever known and likely one of the most brilliant electronics technicians that ever walked. He could look at a piece of equipment and know what it did and how to deal with it. If textbook fixes weren't possible, he would invent something that worked. I can't tell you how many times he made something out of nothing for me. Can't have everything I guess. He was only allowed to bring alcohol. No cooking should ever be consumed if he had anything to do with it. He could somehow cause food poisoning in an unopened can of peaches. He brought about three gallons of hard liquor and we called it good.

My number three guy, Jerry Lachewicz, was of Polish extraction and raised in New Jersey, he right away jumped on the idea of kielbasa and a surprise, which he wouldn't tell us until he brought it. It turned out to be six large pizzas with anchovies on every one of them. He was a sick individual. He knew that if he said “anchovies” before hand, only he and Mitch would say yes. This way no matter which pizza he got to, it would have his beloved little dead sea creatures on it. The kielbasa was very good though, and it was cooked in some kind of seasoned oil that his grandmother told him to buy.

Alexander Niepritzky was the only boy of six children to his 100% Czechoslovakian family from Upper Michigan. He was never in the kitchen while growing up to do anything but eat. He chopped a lot of fire-

(Continued on page 21)

On the Ballot:

All four of the candidates for office in the ExComm are incumbents running for re-election. I asked each of them the following question. What would you like to see happen during your next term of office in Northern Nevada Mensa if you are re-elected? Ballots will be included in the December *Neva-Mind*.

Carole Preisach, Treasurer



My main reason for seeking re-election as Treasurer of Northern Nevada Mensa is to keep the records organized in the easily-understood format which I have set up in my last terms. When I took over as Treasurer in February, 2007, I was handed a large envelope of unopened bank statements and receipts. To the best of my knowledge, my predecessor had not set up our account in any money software nor had any bank statements been balanced. This has now all been done and I am able to state, accurately, at any time how much money is in our checking account and how much money is in our recently-opened savings account.■

Bob McAllister, Local Secretary



My "like to happen" wish is merely that we continue on our unprecedented course. My understanding is that "not much happened" earlier. I don't know whether this might be so. I wasn't in the mix of that "before."
I imagine that much of note likely had happened and that we then eased into a place of complacency. Members have said to me that we seem to have advanced over relatively recent apathy. I can't take credit for any of that. My approach has been to be a responsible caretaker, not to be a dynamic leader. Perhaps that aspect of being responsible has worked to some advantage.
If someone more dynamic might wish to step forward, I would responsibly support that. ■

Annemarie McTaggart, 1st Vice Secretary



I'd like to see attendance at our meetings and events improve. I sometimes think that people join Mensa so that they can put the membership on their resumes. But we are a lot of good people and have many interesting and enjoyable events. So maybe we can come up with some way to get more people interested in attending them.■

Dr. Gerald Lockhart, 2nd Vice Secretary



When I joined Mensa in the late 1980s we would occasionally have a Saturday activity/excursion to a particular site (Fallon Naval Air Station, Virginia City Cemetery, etc.) Perhaps future trips could be: museums (Nevada State Museum, UNR Museums,) Fleischman Planetarium, Starbucks roasting plant, bowling, picnic in a park, a beach, Governor's Mansion, etc.■

PUZZLE PAGE

by Joe Kisenwether

For each list below, find another set of three words which rhyme with the three given, and which all fit into the same category. For example, if the words were “Bun, Coo, Free” the one possible answer would be “One, Two, Three” with the category being “Numbers”. You can try and solve them as is, but if you get stuck, the list of categories used is given upside down at the bottom of the page.

1. Best, Fourth, Mouth
2. Dance, Flirt, Packet
3. Proper, Bold, Chin
4. Virgin, Grounder, Daring
5. Plants, Gain, Niece
6. Bored, Heavy, Lodge
7. Dregs, Taken, Coast
8. Cherries, Chorus, Zebra
9. Pie, Beer, Glows
10. Quirky, Juice, Thicken
11. Antelope, Teach, Grapple
12. Cry, Lake, Toil
13. Tart, Rub, Maid
14. Card, Pinch, While
15. Birth, Pattern, Scars
16. Glamour, Flaw, Bench
17. Croak, Pillow, Staple
18. Dead, Hello, Crew
19. Wife, Dune, Cork
20. Ring, Fluke, Mount

The categories in no particular order

Zodiac signs	Eating Utensils	Parts of the Face	Cooking Methods
Breakfast Food	Royal Titles	Countries	Fish
Planets	Directions	Tools	Birds
Units of Distance	Fruit	Metals	Colors
Trees	Articles of Clothing	Car Manufacturers	Card Suits

Answers to Last month’s Puzzle:

1	Fate	Thine	8	Meth	Youth
2	Shot	Scold	9	Spin	Spout
3	Dover	Dunder	10	Offend	On End
4	Pogo	Postop	11	Remix	Resort
5	Pearly	Plate	12	Town	Frown
6	Anus	Anthem	13	Roughies	Smoothies
7	Olive	Odie			



"If pro is the opposite of con, what's the opposite of progress?" - Paul Harvey

NEVADA: A to Z! *by Anne Stewart*



Sure, you've heard of the "biggies"…Reno, Sparks, Las Vegas…
But did you know that Nevada has the whole alphabet covered?
Can you name a Nevada town for each letter of the alphabet?

A _____

B _____

C _____

D _____

E _____

F _____

G _____

H _____

I _____

J _____

K _____

L _____

M _____

N _____

O _____

P _____

Q _____

R _____

S _____

T _____

U _____

V _____

W _____

X _____

Y _____

Z _____



Program Listing: November Monthly Meeting

by Richard Arbib

Saturday, November 14

Time: Arrive after 6 p.m. Speaker and performer at 7 p.m.

Speaker & Performer: Roger Scimé

(And potluck dinner, so bring a dish to share.)



Host: Roger Scimé

Phone: (775) 323-8005

Address: 923 Kimball Dr., Reno, NV 89503

Directions: Take Interstate 80 to Keystone. Go north on Keystone about four blocks north of 7th Street to Kimball Dr. Go right on Kimball Dr.

Musical Performance and Talk with Mensa Member Roger Scimé

Roger Scimé (shim-'MAY) has been a professional musician for more than 40 years, during which time he has played every kind of music from doo-wop to folk to British Invasion to classic rock. Although a native New Yorker (he and Billy Crystal performed in high school musicals together), for 15 years he performed on the Las Vegas Strip as a member of "Finnegan's Wake of Ireland" (even though he's of Sicilian heritage). In addition to being an exceptional guitarist, he is an accomplished singer-songwriter. He will discuss how popular musical performance has evolved over the years. He will also perform, as appropriate. ■

NEW!

Monthly Book Exchange

Bring one book to the meeting…

Take a new one home!



December Monthly Meeting Holiday Party

Saturday, December 19

Time: Arrive after 6 p.m. for potluck dinner and holiday party. Bring a dish to share.

No speaker tonight,

but let's have a big party.

Hosts: Bob & Mary McAllister

Location: Washoe Valley



November 2009

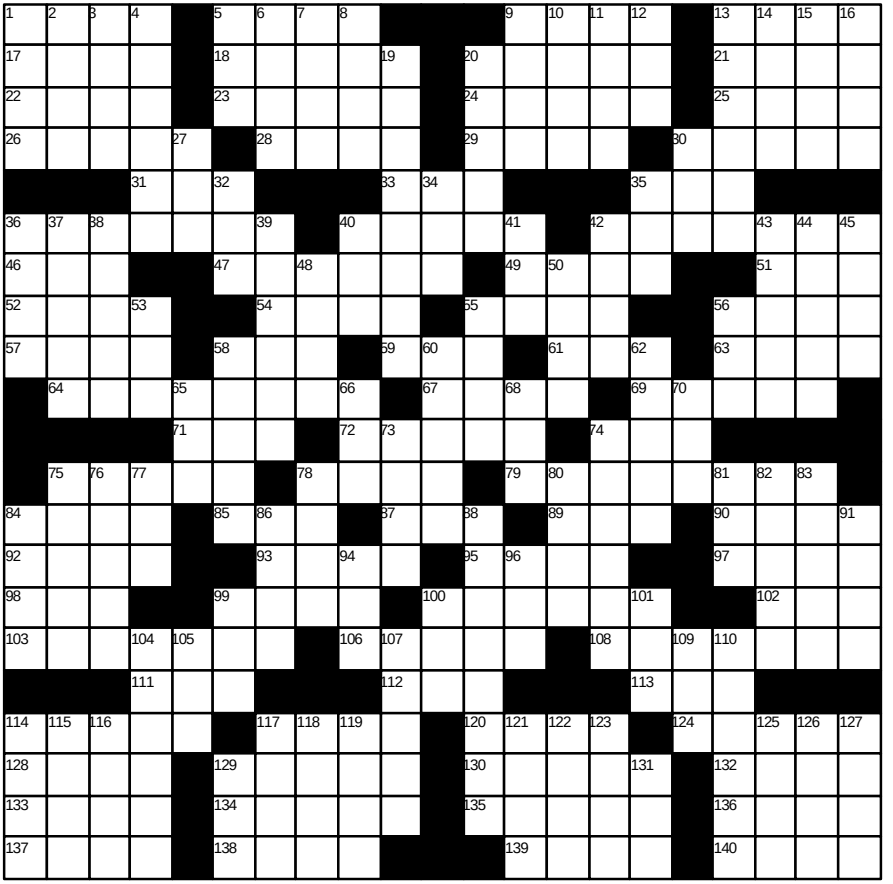
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 **Games Night**
8	9	10	11	12 Veterans Day	13 Friday the 13th	14 **Mensa Meeting**
15	16	17	18 **Lunch Bunch**	19	20 **CAMA!** ***Pilobolus*** **See page 8**	21 **CAMA!** ***The King and I*** **See page 8**
22	23	24	25	26 Thanks-giving	27	28
29	30	Dec 1	Dec 2	Dec 3	Dec 4	Dec 5 **Games Night**

Games Night returns at Joe's Place: Saturday November 7, Potluck. 4:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. 1047 Table Mountain Court, Sparks, NV Contact: (775) 338-6521 or joe_kisenwether@hotmail.com.

Lunch Bunch: Ahoy Matey! Set your sails for lunch at the Pirate Ship, 495 Greenbrae Dr. Sparks, NV 89431, (775) 331-7203, http://thepirateshipnv.com/PDF/PirateShipMenu.pdf. This month we'll meet one week early, November 18, at 11:45 a.m. By the way, you'll recognize the restaurant because **it is** a ship! Need more information? Call Anne (775) 358-1755.



Triskaidek-a-phobia?



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ACROSS

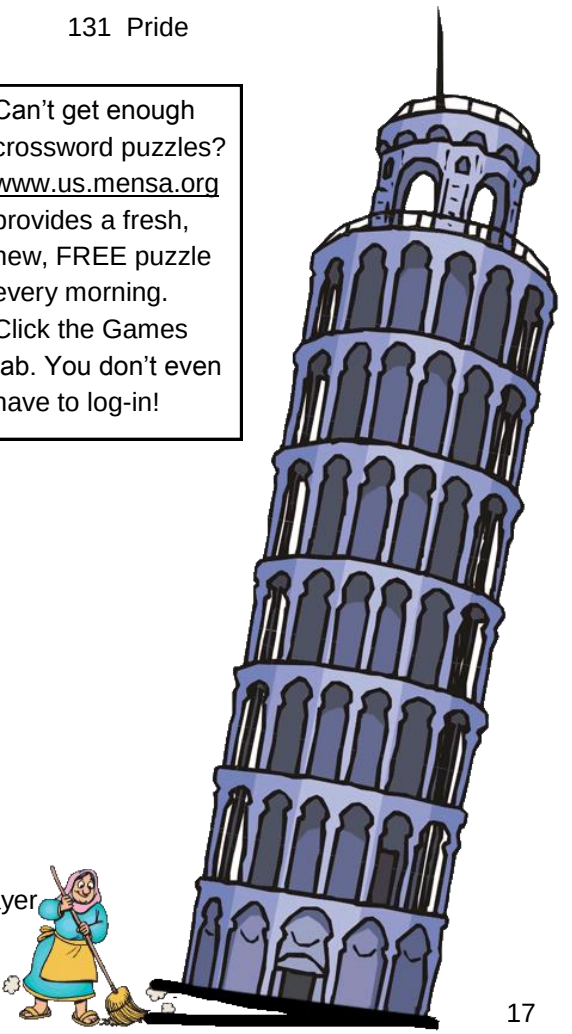
1 __ pro quo
5 Orient
9 The alphabet
13 Stack
17 Preposition
18 Ascot
20 Cackle
21 Voiced
22 Thought
23 Asian nation
24 Haste
25 Gather
26 Crypts
28 Districts of ancient Attica
29 Retired persons association (abbr.)
30 Packed
31 Set
33 Proof ending
35 Metric measure (abbr.)
36 Tablet
40 Wharfs
42 Art style
46 Rainy mo.
47 Dance
49 Secondhand
51 Employ
52 Unable to hear
54 Something in orbit
55 Skewer
56 Foot part
57 Opera solo
58 Distress call
59 Pair
61 Military headquarters (abbr.)
63 Belongs to us
64 Old items
67 Bode
69 Prods
71 Absent
72 Crouch
74 Insect
75 Asian country
78 Dazzle
79 Water transport
84 Capital of the Ukraine
85 Genetic code
87 High naval rank (abbr.)
89 Vase
90 Clutch
92 Whirl
93 Among
95 Asian nation
97 Greek goddess of youth
98 Dowel
99 Always
100 Contestant
102 Deer
103 Tremor
106 Peer
108 Woodland mammal
111 Clod
112 Highs
113 Chum
114 Most unfavorable
117 Second letter

120 Alter
124 Angles
128 Asian country
129 Rice dish
130 Spooky
132 Funny saying
133 Listing
134 Wand
135 Catapult
136 CA University
137 Dawdle
138 Cabana
139 Mexican money
140 Potato sprouts

DOWN

1 Abandon
2 Reverse
3 Object
4 Possible
5 Lawyer's title
6 University (abbr.)
7 Fill
8 Streetcar
9 Peacock blue
10 Cold person's noise
11 Fish
12 Heavens
13 Shaddock
14 Persia
15 Young girl
16 Otherwise
19 Visit habitually
20 Suspicious
27 Exhaust
30 Danish money (abbr.)
32 Root vegetable
34 Dine
35 Parent
36 Naught
37 Musical production
38 Educate
39 Brownout
40 Status __
41 Eat
42 Elizabeth's nickname
43 Line up
44 Drug doers
45 Snaky fish
48 Prow
50 Omen
53 Oil
55 Body
56 Greedy person
58 Small group
60 Damage
62 Chess piece
65 Charged particle
66 Fast plane
68 Airport abbr.
70 Crimson
73 Courtyard
74 Range top find
75 Apple drink
76 Fence of bushes
77 Climbing vine
78 Alike
80 Wharf
81 Expression
82 Doctrine
83 Banned
84 Stored
86 Central church part
88 Ginger snap ingredient
91 Was
94 Anger
96 Bad (prefix)
99 Pixie
100 Whelp
101 Knock
104 Muslim's house of prayer
105 Cave dweller
107 Gulp
109 Feline
110 Exclusive group
114 Weakling
115 Dunking cookies
116 Order
117 Gnaw
118 Zeal
119 27th U.S. president
121 Seaweed
122 Canal
123 Beats
125 *I Love* __
126 Roof covering
127 Baths
129 Clock time
131 Pride

Can't get enough crossword puzzles? www.us.mensa.org provides a fresh, new, FREE puzzle every morning. Click the Games tab. You don't even have to log-in!



Off The Beaten Path

by Northern Nevada Mensans



Musical Instrument Tree, Seattle, WA
© Ken Wright

Hate the crowds and the parking? Here are a few interesting stops not likely to be found in *Condé NastTraveler.*



Above: Flintstone Bedrock City Theme Park and below: The Black Hills Maze © Joe Kisenwether





We decorated this wooden moose sculpture that stood sentinel on a forgotten country road in Maine.
© Anna Wright



Q: What do you get when you mix concrete with crazy people?
A: Thunder Mountain Park.
Thunder Mountain, Imlay, NV © Joe Kisenwether



The Moving Birthday Cake
© 2009 Burning Man and Jenny Beatty



Plasterman, Victoria, BC, Canada
© Bill Kositzky



The Center of the Nation is in the middle of some ranchland a few miles from Belle Fourch, SD. One article described the strategy for finding the point like this. "A scale map of the United States is pasted on cardboard (Alaska and Hawaii included) The center of the nation is where the map would then balance on a pencil." © Bill Kositzky



© Bill Kositzky

"Strange Pet" is on I-90 about in the middle of South Dakota. It is within sight of a South Dakota tourist attraction, “1880 town.”
© Bill Kositzky





© Joe Kisenwether

In the words of the great Weird Al:

I parked the car and walked
with awe-filled reverence towards
that glorious huge majestic sphere.

I was just so overwhelmed
by its sheer immensity,
I had to pop myself a beer.

Yes, on these hallowed grounds,
open ten to eight on weekdays,
in a little shrine under a make-shift pagoda,
there sits the biggest ball of twine in Minnesota ■

(International Thanksgiving continued from page 10)
wood and did all of male-oriented chores, but didn't have a clue about cooking anything. We told him that we had lots of food and we just wanted him to join us and enjoy. He finally settled on bringing the staple of every American meal, potato chips, bags and bags of potato chips. He couldn't decide what kind went with our meal... like who could? So he bought a big bag of every kind the store had.

Alex was a big sensitive quiet guy, who I had to coax into speaking into a microphone when he first arrived, but could now hold his own working traffic at the control tower. You were never quite sure what he was thinking, but the man never missed anything going on around him. When he arrived back at my house after he dropped off his bags of chips and went to the barracks to get cleaned up, he was again carrying a bag. 'What the hell is he doing?' I thought, not more chips! But, it wasn't.

His family practiced a tradition which is largely thought to be Russian, but many cultures in the area follow it, of carving eggs and painting them as gifts. He had two large eggs for Stan's and my houses, and smaller, chicken egg size, ones for everyone else in attendance at that dinner. They were all ornately carved and painstakingly hand painted with a tiny brush, inside and out. We aren't talking Easter egg dye job painting either. Alex had painted scenes inside of each egg and crosshatch patterns with gold paint on the outside. Think Faberge eggs and you would be close to what they looked like. They were certainly not that same quality, but every bit as precious to us. He had stayed awake every night after work creating these gifts instead of sleeping, because he wanted to contribute something to our celebration. Okay, lots of *allergic reactions* all through the room as the manly men rubbed their eyes and tried to regain composure. It was a very touching gift.

The last two members of our group were the newest arrivals to the family of controllers and in fact, the female was the ATC person, "Can't Cook Kate," and her husband Sam Spelling, who worked in personnel. The husband told us her nickname when we first met them at the their check-in to the company HQ. He was explaining a scorch mark on her duffel bag, saying that she had dropped a flaming pan of something on it and he had rolled the bag to put it out. We all assumed he was joking. Turns out, he wasn't.

Kate was to bring a big garden salad. The two wives had advised us that no one could screw that up, so we gave the assignment to Kate to bring a big salad. She asked if she should bring salad dressing too, and thinking of bottles of stuff you pour on your green salad, we said, "Sure, why not?"

Since their car had not arrived in Anchorage yet, Stan and I drove over to the temporary quarters they were in to pick them up. As we walked in the front door, the smoke was rolling out to meet us and a smoke alarm was playing a melody that we were to hear so often at their house. Kate was coming out of the kitchen towards the metal trash can outside with a pan of blackened something, which turned out to be "French Toast after the Revolution," I'd say. Sam was nonchalantly walking out of the bedroom in his country club tennis attire complete with the sweater tied around his neck. I fully expected him to say, "Oh Buffy, shall we go?" But, he didn't. There was still a layer of dark smoke hugging the ceiling as Kate came back from changing into her matching tennis outfit, again complete with a sweater around her neck.

We started out to the car and I asked, "Weren't you bringing a salad?" "Oh yes," she said and ran back towards the next remodeling job for the housing office on base. She didn't pop right back out, so I went in after her. She was mixing something back and forth between two mayonnaise jars and looking puzzled. I should have known that it was a bad sign, but I was in a hurry and didn't. I picked up the bowl

(Continued on page 22)

(International Thanksgiving continued from page 21)
of salad looking stuff and she carried the jar in her own hands.

We had pans of food everywhere there was space to set them down. The octopus was still in the pan of water it was cooked in, the duck was in a big pot on top of the stove, the kielbasa on a cookie sheet in the oven, as were the bratwurst, with the sauerkraut on the back of the stove stinking up the place.

The pizza was delivered in a snow storm by a goofy looking guy in a ratty old pick up truck, and Mitch met him at the back door and took delivery. Mitch was funny, he would not allow anyone to walk into our house wearing their shoes. There was quite a pile of boots, shoes, coats, etc., piled up just inside our back door. Daughter Jenny, who was quite young at the time, decided to help and threw all of it down the basement stairs, and then brushed her hands together and declared, “There, that’s better.” She had done such a good job that later when people were trying to leave, no one remembered her comment and didn’t have a clue what happened to all the gear.

The pizza and the big salad occupied the dining room table, so we just grabbed plates and did the buffet line thing and filled up with goodies.

This brings us to the actual meal time and a very touching moment where each person said something in the form of a blessing in the language of their heritage. It was truly a special moment and I had no idea how much we needed those prayers.

As we all pretty much started with the salad, being the more or less traditional beginning to American meals, it was predestined that we should all react in the same way at the same time. We put the salad in our mouths at the same time, and we all spit it out at the same time.

Kate had poured all of the quart jar of mixture on the bowl of salad and saturated it really well. It was primarily a whole bottle of vinegar and an unknown type of oil which she had found in the cabinet, in the kitchen, in a clear bottle. I, for one, didn’t think that I would ever get it off of my tongue, even though I was licking a kitchen towel.

Moving right along, we tried to stab a piece of octopus and found that one could not stab the pink morsel, you must scoop it up. Mitch grabbed him with his fingers and drug it through the soy sauce and popped it into his mouth. We all got there eventually. Then we chewed, and chewed, and chewed a lot more. If these were pink pencil erasers they wouldn’t have been any harder to chew up and swallow.

The Canadian Duck was excellent, what there was of it. We told Andre not to make a lot of it because we had so much food and he did as instructed.

The brats were good, but very greasy, and the kielbasa was good but spicy as all get out. The sauerkraut still stunk like crazy, but we ate it.

Jerry was happy as could be eating his anchovy pizzas and, in fact, ate so much of it that he had to go outside and unload some of it, (well, and tequila and beer,) before he could start eating more.

By the time the evening was over, we had consumed all of the duck, most of the brats and kielbasa, all of the alcohol and all of the potato chips. Four large pizzas were gone, and two whole ones were left. There was lots of salad and octopus to be had. Maybe we should have mixed the two together, the oil might have softened the meat to where it could be chewed. We did learn that we had over cooked the octopus a teensy bit. Okay, ten times the amount of time we were supposed to do, but who knew?

The only thing we remembered for sure was that we had all been together for the day and evening and we enjoyed each other’s company immensely. No one was alone or left out and that was tremendous in a place where alone can be fatal to your mind and well being. It was good. ■

2010 AG July 4th week

A Groovin' in Motown

6-day, 2-country AG for only $80



For more information:

- Join the 2010 AG Yahoo elist:

  http://groups.yahoo.com/group/m-us-ag-2010/

- Join our Facebook group: Mensa 2010 AG
- Follow us on Twitter: Mensa2010AG
- Register today! http://ag.us.mensa.org

Sacramento Regional Mensa RG:

Just Say 'Know'!



When: March 26-28, 2010
Where: Hawthorne Suites,
321 Bercut Drive, Sacramento CA 95814

- Reservations: 916-441-1200 or 800-767-1777. Special new lower RG room rate: $79 (Ask for Sacramento Regional Mensa rate.)
- Registration: Through Jan. 31, 2010: $50; Feb. 1-March 19: $55; After March 19: $60
- Checks to: "SRM/Gold Country RG." Mail to: Rod Baker, 240 Fernwood Way, Dixon CA 95620. Email: drodbaker@juno.com.
- Program Info: Watch our Web site: http://www.sacramento.us.mensa.org/rg.php

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Mensa Education and Research Foundation (MERF)

Attention teachers, homeschooling parents and involved family members: The Mensa Education & Research Foundation is sponsoring a series of lesson plans for grades kindergarten through 12. Designed to challenge gifted children, these plans cover topics from the alphabet to the periodic table of elements, from Fibonacci numbers to the Seven Wonders of the World. Since they are designed to be completed with minimal supervision, they serve as independent coursework either in the traditional classroom or outside it.

These lesson plans will be available through the Mensa For Kids Web site in the Parent/Teacher Resources section (www.mensaforkids.org/teachers); or click on the "Learn More" schoolhouse and follow the Parent/Teacher Resources link. You can view the course materials online and download complete copies to hand to your favorite gifted student(s).



The first lessons to go online are "The Moon" (first grade), "The Cell" (fifth grade) and "The American Dream" (grades 11 and 12). New plans will be published periodically, and you can sign up online to get email alerts when new plans are published.

If you're curious to see what the Mensa Foundation has come up with, how intrigued do you think your bright young minds will be? Visit www.mensaforkids.org and download a new path of learning today!

Jill Beckham, Foundation Director
817-607-0060 x 5509 or jillb@americanmensa.org

ABOUT IDEA AID



Every day, Mensa Process works with leading for-profit companies such as The Coca-Cola Company, Procter & Gamble and Bayer HealthCare to solve some of their most difficult problems. They do this with the help of the brainpower of Mensa Members (learn more at www.discovermensaprocess.com).

On November 14-21, 2009, they will be undertaking Idea Aid, a major initiative for not-for-profits. This is the world's first brainstorming benefit. Like Live Aid or Farm Aid, Idea Aid is an important event designed to make a real difference in people's lives. In these tough economic times, it's increasingly difficult to make monetary donations to not-for-profits. So instead of simply giving money for a charitable cause, participants in Idea Aid will be giving their ideas to solve some very pressing and challenging problems, thereby defraying high research costs.

For the inaugural Idea Aid event, Mensa Process has partnered with Heifer International. Mensa members around the globe, along with technology, finance, development and public health experts, students, educators and informed consumers will brainstorm online for one week to identify innovative and sustainable models for raising a billion dollars annually to help end global poverty.

Idea Aid will instantly connect thousands of participants. Because this online brainstorming benefit will include very different thinkers, looking at the challenge from very different perspectives, we expect to generate some truly life-changing ideas, which can then be implemented by our partners. Mensa members, as well as non-Mensa members are welcome to participate.

Mensa Process is working with American Mensa to make this a new-member recruiting event, as well. The goal is to register 10,000 Idea Aid participants. To do this, Mensa Process is seeking your help in several areas:

- Volunteers in each local Mensa group to help spread the word about Idea Aid, and to encourage members to sign up.
- Volunteers to spread the word on college campuses.
- Volunteers to spread the word on Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites.

If you have not already done so, please let Mensa Process know about your interest in volunteering for Idea Aid by completing the short form at this link:
http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dHdBY3ZJVEI1S0RCRzlqaWp0YjBfeEE6MA

- Help promote Idea Aid.
- Brainstorm online at the Idea Aid ideation portal November 14-21.

Questions? Contact Mensa Process at:
David Wynett, Managing Director Mensa Process
404-551-4311 or inquiries@ideaaid.com

"2011 A Great Journey West!" *by Mary Prior*

2011AGProgramChair@comcast.net

The very first Annual Gathering ("AG" aka the annual American Mensa Convention) to be in the Pacific Northwest will begin Thursday, June 30, 2011, and run through Monday, July 4, 2011, at the downtown Hilton Hotels in Portland, Oregon! Oregon Mensa and Mensa of Western Washington are co-hosting the event.



And we need YOU! For starters, we need a Pacific Northwest theme and a logo designed and, if you can come up with a better theme than the title of this article, BRING IT ON! Send it to our AG Chair, Michael Meagher, at 2011AGChair@comcast.net and, since I am doing the programming that goes with the theme, send me a copy, too. I am still looking for good speakers and programs, so please e-mail me not just a name, but more information about the recommended author/speaker/presenter.

At an AG, there are some "givens."

- **Great Hospitality in a huge exhibition hall** – your registration fee helps us buy the food and drink for the gathering. We usually have beer and wine, lots of food and munchies, and this will be only 1 floor below the main banquet level. No traipsing from Hotel A to Hotel D.
- **A Plethora of Marvelous and Varied Speakers and Presentation**. We have invited *Mythbusters* Adam and Jaime to be our Sunday Night Special Keynote Speakers, although they have not confirmed as yet.
- **Multiple "tracks"** of speakers/events possibly including an Activity Track, Arts & Authors Track, Kids Track, Games Track, Cultural Track, Science/Technology; and, of course, **the Pacific Northwest!**
- **Annual Business Meeting**
- **LDW – Leadership Development Workshops**
- **Games Room, tournaments, presentations.** On the same level as the Hospital Suite.
- **Saturday Night Dinner**
- **Sunday Night Banquet**
- **Monday Brunch –** Your last chance to bid adieu to all the new and cherished friends you've made.

We will need a lot of volunteers, especially on-site, but definitely in the planning, both here and in Oregon. We still need a Hospitality ChairM, someone willing to handle the Kids Track/youth activity coordinator, someone willing to tackle the printed program, variety show and Mr. Mensa competition coordinators, speaker shepherds, volunteers to help with hospitality, games, registration, and a multitude of people will be needed on-site. The more volunteers we have, the more each of us can enjoy the entire event and the planning leading up to it! ■

Do you Twitter? Mensa does!
http://www.twitter.com/americanmensa

Triskaidek-q-phobia?

Answers:

Q	U	I	D		E	A	S	T			A	B	C	S
U	N	T	O		S	C	A	R	F		S	Q	U	A
I	D	E	A		Q	A	T	A	R		H	U	R	R
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P	O	K	E		T	E	N	T			P	E	S	O

Nevada A to Z Answers:

Argenta, Avalon, Arthus
Beowawe, Bracken, Beatty, Battle Mountain
Coin, Caliente, Copperfield
Deeth, Denio, Dike
Ely, Elko, Enterprise, Empire
Fiddler's Green, Fallon, Fleisch
Gabbs, Goiconda, Gold Hill
Hafed, Hazen, Hawthorne
Imlay, Ione, Incline Village
Jarbidge, Jiggs, Jean, Jackpot
Knight, Kingsbury, Kampos,
Lida, Lux, Lockwood
Manhattan, Mercury, Mesquite
Nightengale, Nixon, Nyala
Owyhee, Old Bullion, Olinghouse
Pahrump, Panaca, Pogonip
Qualey's Camp, Quartz Mountain, Quinn
River Crossing
Rhyolite, Ruth, Rawhide
Sage, Sulphur, Schurz
Tuscarora, Thisby, Talapoosa
Ute, Ursine, Unionville
Verdi, Vivian, Valmy
Wabuska, Winnemucca, Wells
--ok, we lied! No "X"i
Yankee Blade, Yerington, Yoacham
Zenobia, Zephyr Cove

Tired of scanning the classifieds to find that perfect career?



Introducing American Mensa's CareerLink, the new job board created specifically for members of American Mensa. The service is a member benefit and is free for all Mensans to search for jobs and post résumés.

Just login to www.careerlink.us.mensa.org to begin your search. Mensa members and non-members may also post job openings on American Mensa's Careerlink for a nominal fee.

American Mensa's CAREERLINK

www.careerlink.us.mensa.org

Mensa-Speak

AG	Annual Gathering (Conference)
AMC	American Mensa Committee (National Elected or Appointed Officers)
AML	American Mensa Ltd. (National Office Employees)
ExComm	Executive Committee (Local Elected Officers)
LDW	Leadership Development Workshop
LocSec	Local Secretary (Local President)
M/Ms	Mensans
MERF	Mensa Education & Research Foundation
MIL	Mensa International Ltd.
NNM	Northern Nevada Mensa
PRP	Publication Recognition Program
RG	Regional Gathering (Conference)
RVC	Regional Vice-Chair
SIG	Special Interest Group
SIGHT	Service of Information, Guidance and Hospitality to Travelers
WG	World Gathering (Conference)

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Sign up at **http://tinyurl.com/5bz9x7.**

If you have trouble signing up via the web, you may also subscribe yourself via automated email by sending an email to: **northern.nevada.mensa-subscribe@codegnome.org**

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and I'll put you on my e-version (email) list. Each month you will receive the *Neva-Mind* earlier and in color. Unsubscribing is just as easy if you change your mind. Give it a try!



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