NEVA-MIND

Northern Nevada Mensa
Volume 34, Issue 5 — May 2010



In all things of nature there is something marvelous.
-Aristotle (Greek philosopher 384 B.C. – 322 B.C.)

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LAKE TAHOE PROCTOR
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NEVA-MIND

Northern Nevada Mensa

Volume 34, Issue 5 — May 2010



Cover shot of beautiful and delicious home-grown tomatoes by Bill Kositzky.

"If I had my life to live over again, one of the things I would do is start gardening in my teens instead of waiting till my fifties."

— Bill

A Note From the Editor

by Anna Wright



Isn't spring the best time of year? When the warmth finally returns, it makes me want to go outside and say a cheer to the sun (Perhaps my Sioux great-grandmother would approve.) And, the spring bulbs make such a showy floral display it seems as though they are cheering too. We hope you enjoy our gardening issue. Many thanks to Anne Stewart for her gardening-advice snippets and "Potted Plants" clip art.

— Anna



We come from the earth,
we return to the earth,
and in between, we garden.
— Anonymous

Got something to share? We want it!
Neva-Mind submission deadline is the 10th of each month!
Editor@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

May 2010

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These are the people who keep Northern Nevada Mensa running. Thanks!

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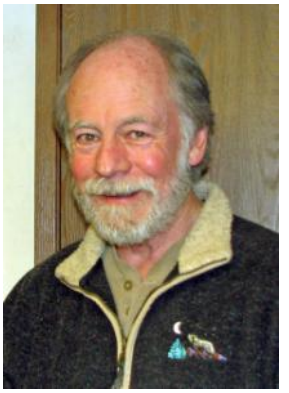
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From the LocSec

by Bob McAllister



Spin Doctors

Some months I struggle to come up with an article subject. Other months... I also struggle. (I'm always tempted to get up on my soapbox.)

This month, though, an article came my way written by an author, Christopher Corbett. It's about the Pony Express which had an anniversary in April.

Americans love a winner and they remember what they want to remember, and so let us now remember the Central Overland California & Pike's Peak Express Co. — known from the day it began 150 years ago on April third, 1860, as the Pony Express.

We remember the Pony Express as one of the most enduring and endearing of American stories, a tale of the frontier, a story of bold entrepreneurs, daring young horsemen, true riders of the purple sage and all that. In truth, the venture hemorrhaged money from day one, was doomed by technology (another particularly American story), lasted a mere 78 weeks, ruined its backers and then disappeared into what historian Bernard DeVoto called "the border land of fable." Across the wide Missouri, fact and fantasy collided and the Pony Express became "a tale of truth, half-truth and no truth at all," as another historian observed.

The truth is that the Pony Express was started by the freight-hauling company Russell, Majors & Waddell as a fast mail service over the 2,000 miles between St. Joseph, Mo. and Sacramento, aimed at linking the East with California. News that had taken months to travel by land or sea now could be delivered in ten days or less. Racing in both directions riders traveled light, rode good horses and changed mounts every ten or 12 miles. Their instructions were to outrun interlopers. The company did not issue firearms. Or uniforms. Customers paid five dollars to send a letter — a week's wages then for a working man. It was all over in 18 months. The service was shut down in the flash of a telegrapher's key when the transcontinental telegraph was completed in October 1861. The records of the business, if there were any records, were lost. That would prove liberating for later chroniclers.

150 years of Mythmaking

For many years, the West was aswarm with old men who claimed to be "the last of the Pony Express riders." The king of these was an accomplished prevaricator named Bronco Charlie Miller, an old Wild West show roustabout and admitted horse thief who could take a match out of a volunteer's mouth with a whip at fifty paces. (I'd like to have seen how many takes were required for a successful snatch.)

The first literary chronicler of the Pony Express was Colonel William Lightfoot Visscher, an alcoholic journalist and occasional temperance lecturer. His legal address was the bar at the Chicago Press Club, and he did much of his research there. He was not a colonel, but that's another story. Writing in 1908, nearly half a century after the Pony Express folded, he called his book "A Thrilling and Truthful History of the Pony Express." He got the thrilling part right.

But the person who immortalized the Pony Express was William Frederick Cody, or Buffalo Bill. (He also claimed he had been a rider. Not true.) The fast-mail service may have only lasted for a year and a half, but it thrived for four decades in Cody's Wild West show, seen by millions in the U.S. and in Europe.

(Continued on page 6)

(Loc Sec continued from page 5)

To add drama to his reenactment, Buffalo Bill might throw in a war party of savage Indians chasing a heroic rider who always managed to escape. It would become one of the most enduring images of the Pony Express, but it was not true; the actual riders rarely tangled with Indians. Why would a Paiute want a two-week-old copy of Horace Greeley's *New York Tribune*?

We still hear the fading hoof beats of the Pony Express across the years because of dime novelists, illustrators like Frederic Remington and N. C. Wyeth, and Hollywood. Filmmakers loved the lone horsemen galloping overland. Even the master, John Ford put the Pony into his classic "Fort Apache," where the brave rider thunders into the fort to bring news of Custer's last stand, which, alas, took place some 15 years after the Pony stopped running.

If the Pony Express continues to thrill and baffle us, consider the words of an old horseman in western Nebraska who advised me when I expressed some concerns about this yarn. "We don't lie out here," he explained kindly. "We just remember big."

So, I like history. (Whoops. Here comes the soapbox.) It's more than merely interesting to contemplate what incredible things have been done throughout mankind's history. Unsung things. Equally, though, is how disturbing it is that we have to wend our way through revisionist history to attain a semblance of truth. Distortions abound. It's said that to the victors go the spoils. That applies to recounting history too, apparently. I've been through some ostensibly historical events and have been astounded to read distorted accounts of those events in which I had personal experience.

Self-styled "experts" receive a pass from naïve people in power and the record of "what happened" is eternally distorted. Even statisticians get in on the act — or are part of the distorting. An example: four years ago in area "X" there were 100 reported rapes. Then, in the following year, there are a reported 110 such occurrences — a ten percent increase. Yet again, in the subsequent year, there are 120 reported such occurrences. That's (twenty more than the starting 100, a disturbing 20 percent difference 20 *vis-á-vis* the starting 100) oddly, reported as "good news." The rate has gone down! 100 to 110 is a ten percent increase.110 to 120 is less than a ten percent increase. And that is purported to be "good news." The rate is going down!

Beware the Spin Doctors. ■

Found: One serving set consisting of a serrated knife and matching pie server left at the home of Annemarie McTaggart at the last Mensa meeting. Please contact her to claim your items (747-7636.)

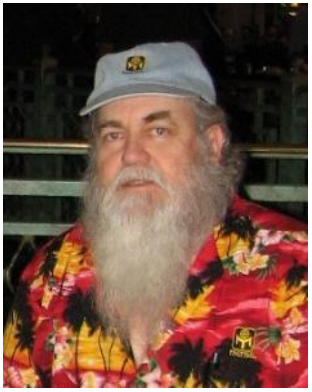
Notes From the ExComm

April 17, 2010

- Present were Bob McAllister, LocSec; Annemarie McTaggart, 1st Vice-Secretary; Gerald Lockhart, 2nd Vice-Secretary; Carole Preisach, Treasurer; and Anna Wright, *Neva-Mind* editor
- The upcoming date for the 2nd annual Northern Nevada Mensa Picnic in the Park event was tentatively set for June 27.
- Meeting adjourned.

From the RG Chair

Greetings *Spacial* People,



We have made it our business to go where no man has gone before, to do the impossible, and search for the meaning of life. Our path is simple, "Second star to the right, and straight on 'till morning." What powers this special fantastic voyage? You! Your energy is what is required to fly. Bring it on!

For pure physical empowerment and joy, I will let you know that all of our entertainers have agreed to perform again and the power and beauty of Taiko drums will once again rock the Reno Ballroom. The much requested costume parade through the casino is also happening again and I encourage you all to be a part of that. It was fun and exciting and you don't HAVE to be in costume to participate.

A few areas being represented in presentations this year are: psychology, space, medicine, environment, time, seismology and many more.

We will visually entertain your mind, we will auditorily stimulate your gray matter, we will touch your cranial cortex with ideas. If you attend the Saturday Banquet and Dinner Show, the meal is sure to capture both your sense of taste and smell. What is required is for you to be there: the rest is easy.

To get the absolute most out of the experience I highly recommend becoming a part of the RG crew. Volunteer a little of your time in Hospitality, or as a Speaker Shepherd, work the Registration desk, escort the tour to Fleischmann Planetarium, or contribute your ideas. Get involved and make it YOUR RG.

Registration is available on line now, operators are waiting to assist you. We want to put the "U" back into F-U-N.

The dates are October 1, 2 and 3 of 2010.

The location is the Silver Legacy Resort Casino in beautiful downtown Reno, Nevada.

Join us. You are officially invited.

— Ken

RGChair@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

GardenSites.Info
Directory supplies convenient access to garden and gardening websites in the United States. www.gardensites.info/index.cfm



In Praise of Naps

by Anne Stewart

The cover of the March *Neva-Mind* featured a proverb that said, in part, “If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap.”

Sound advice, that. I am very much in favor of naps, especially on cold, dark winter days, of which we have had many lately. As a grownup, there is something delicious, slightly sinful even, about snuggling under the covers in the middle of the day and drifting to sleep amid soft pillows and perhaps a warm cat.

Naps are very therapeutic. If you’re stressed or trying to figure out how to do something, a short nap can be the perfect way to step back from the problem and take a break. Your mom probably advised you to “Sleep on it before you make a decision.” Mom knew her stuff.

MENSA is supposed to make us think, right? So lately I’ve been wondering about that proverb. What does it mean to “take” a nap? Where do you “take” it? Sure, you can probably fall asleep anywhere in the house, but is a nap something you can carry with you from room to room? Is it like a briefcase or a package that you lug along with you throughout the day? Does carrying around a big, unused nap wear you out?

Is a nap only good for one-time use? If you save a seat for someone, you may say, “Sorry, this seat is taken,” meaning that is reserved. If you “take” a pill, you swallow it, it dissolves and the same pill can’t be taken twice. Once “taken,” is a nap used up? Where do the new ones come from?

If you settle down for a nap, but can’t sleep, do you have to keep trying until you get it right? Is there a maximum daily allotment of naps? What happens if you use up too many? Do you have to get a new prescription to get a refill?

Maybe you should take a nap while you’re waiting for the mail: a quick on-line search reveals that “NAPS” is, among other things, the acronym for “National Association of Postal Supervisors.” No wonder it’s called “snail mail.”

All this thinking has worn me out. You guessed it: a perfect excuse to take a nap! ■



Happy Birthday



May

Birthstone: Emerald

Flower: Lily-of-the-Valley and Hawthorne

Astrological Signs:

Taurus: April 20 - May 20,

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

5	**Mary Weber**	Reno
20	**Ellen Hendricks**	Reno
23	**Howard Beckerman**	Incline Village
23	**Karin Dixson**	Reno
24	**Frank Baird Jr.**	Reno
28	**Julie Kriss**	Reno

Congratulations!

Todd and Kimberly Jacobs, married March 16, 2010 in Reno. Long life and happiness together from your Mensa friends.



Mensa Admissions Testing, May 1

Testing will take place in room AB 201 of the Ansari Business Building on the UNR campus, from 10 a.m. until noon. The cost is now $40, payable in cash or check, and applicants must bring photo identification with them. Applicants should plan to arrive a little before 10 a.m. so that the exam can start promptly. Test results are strictly confidential, and communicated only to the applicant.

The UNR campus is located in Northwest Reno. From I-80, take the North Virginia Street exit and go north on Virginia Street. Parking on campus is free on Saturdays. You can find the exact location of the Ansari Business Building, and therefore where best to park, by looking at the campus map at: http://www.unr.edu/tour/UNR-Campus-Map.pdf.

Call or text Mindy (626) 230-0466, email mindyhsu2002@yahoo.com

The Old Farmers Almanac

Yup, it's still around! Since 1792, ***The Old Farmer's Almanac*** has provided a plethora of useful information: tide tables for those who live near the ocean; sunrise and planting charts for those who live on the farm; recipes for those who live in the kitchen; and forecasts for those who don't like the question of weather left up in the air. The Almanac, North America's oldest continuously published periodical, comes out every year in September.

http://www.almanac.com/content/about-us ■







Community Resources for Gardeners

Nevada Cooperative Extension, has offices in every county and offers a large amount of free information for gardeners, including what and how to grow, step-by-step instructions, weed identification and the Master Gardner program. Dozens of free publications are available on line and at their offices. Visit their website at www.unce.unr.edu/

Master Gardeners in Nevada learn advanced plant science skills through at least 50 hours of classroom instruction and then pass along their skills by volunteering at least 50 hours per year. They give talks and workshops, send out informational materials and answer questions. For more information, visit their website at http://www.unce.unr.edu/programs/sites/mastergardener/



Companion Planting

Some plants are great friends and some just can't stand each other. Some companions help repel garden pests such as bugs, beetles and aphids. Your task as a gardener is to learn which ones get along and help each other out.

- Garlic planted near roses deters aphids and produces a naturally occurring fungicide that helps prevent plant diseases. Garlic is also a good friend for fruit trees, cucumbers, peas, lettuce and celery.
- Basil helps repel thrips, flies and mosquitoes. It lives happily with tomatoes, peppers, oregano, asparagus and petunias.
- Marigolds, nasturtiums and oregano deter bugs and beetles.
- Pumpkin pals are corn, melon and squash.
- Beans like celery and cucumbers but dislike onions and fennel.■





Gardening With Northern Nevada Mensans

Photos by Bob McAllister, Bill Kositzky, and Anna Wright. Gardening advice researched by Anne Stewart (who is also an avid gardener.)

— Thanks!

Fertilize with Fish

Fish fertilizer is one of the most powerful organic fertilizers that you can feed your plants. Buy it at a garden supply store, or, if you're feeling adventurous, you can make it at home.

Use whole fish or fish parts by adding them directly to the soil. Add a fish to the hole when planting new plants. For existing plants, dig a hole 6 to 8 inches deep near the base. This does not need to be directly under the roots, but should be within a 10 to 12 inches from the base. Add the fresh fish or fish parts to the hole.

Cover with soil to prevent animals from digging it up. Keep in mind that if you use fresh fish, it will take a while to decompose. The area should be left alone until the fish has done its job. ■



PUZZLE PAGE

by Joe Kisenwether

I've never been a fan of *The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary* (*OSPD*).

How can you trust a book that insists OCREAE, EXUVIUM and PSCHENT are all perfectly valid, but denies the words INTERNET, SIDEBURN and TEABAG?

In the list of 21 words below, 11 are legitimate according to the *OSPD*, and 10 are what tournament players call "phonies." Each of the phonies has a real, common word that can be made as an anagram using all the same letters. The definitions of these common words (as they appear in the *OSPD*) are given below the word list.

Identify which words are the fakes, and find the real words that could have been made with the same letters.

AMHERST	HASBEEN	SCAREDER
BOULDERY	KEYCARD	SMIRCHES
BROCKED	MENSAS	SNOWPEA
CERTABLE	NOSEDOVE	SUBIDEA
CINGULAR	OUTBLED	SUMOIST
COVERSOME	OUTINTI	UNIQUER
GROOVILY	RINGTONE	WHATNOT

DEFINITIONS:

A female spirit	The study of viruses
A burrowing rodent	A gaseous element
Gets the better of	A fee for instruction
Instruments used in combat	The rock under soil
A close fitting jacket	A wrist ornament

BONUS QUESTION:

The first edition of *The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary* contained the word PIZZAZZ, but it was removed from all later editions. Why?

Answers to April Puzzle page can be found on page 26.

Buyer, Beware!

Nevada's springtime weather is notoriously unpredictable. Resist the temptation to buy those lovely annuals and vegetables available in stores in March and April unless you plan to keep them indoors for a while.

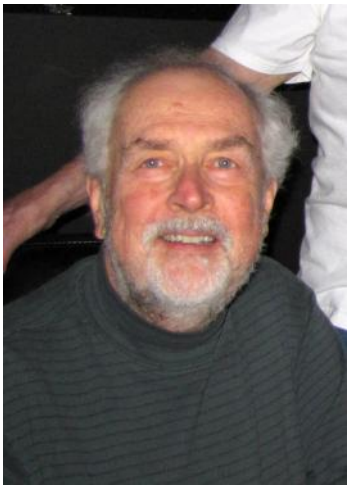


There's an old Reno saying:

"Don't plant until the snow is off Peavine Mountain."

How the Card Trick Works

by Gary D. Campbell © 1988



If you followed the directions, and actually performed the "April Card Trick" here is what you should have observed. Each of two (or more) people would have likely picked different starting numbers and followed a different initial count as successive cards were turned over. Each would then receive a new count at random. Their new counts would average a bit over five with a tendency to actually be five, since all face cards are counted as fives. This means that, with 52 cards, there would be about ten counting cycles to get through the deck. If, at any point, your new count and another person's new count happens to land you on the same card at the end of your counts, both of your counts are thereafter locked together for the duration. If this happens, both of you will encounter the same "final count." Therefore, you will both hold up the same number of fingers when the last card is turned over. Hopefully, this was a surprise and a source of amusement or puzzlement.

The trick doesn't produce this result every time. You can set up a sequence of cards where two selected initial numbers will produce different final numbers. The fact that probability is involved makes the trick more difficult for most people to figure out. With an average count of five, and ten counts to get through the deck (close, but not perfectly accurate assumptions), there are ten opportunities, each with one chance in five (on average), to "lock onto" the other person's counting sequence. This means that a failure to lock by the final count has an average value of 4/5 to the tenth power. This means the trick works "correctly" about 9 times out of 10. If someone assumes that the trick must work every time, they might assume that one failure out of ten is due to a counting mistake on their part. All of this makes the trick suitable grist for an April Fool's joke. Hope you enjoyed it! ■

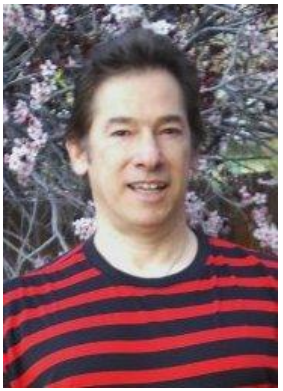
Reprint from *Numinations* — May, 1998



Wanted: companions to take beginning rock climbing class.
Invitation to join Mindy Hsu at
Rocksport,
corner of Silverado and Oddie Boulevards,
June 30, 7-8:00 p.m.
If 10 people show up we can get a private instructor.
$25 each includes rental of harness and shoes.
Contact Mindy: mindyhsu2002@yahoo.com

Program Listing

by Richard Arbib



May Monthly Meeting

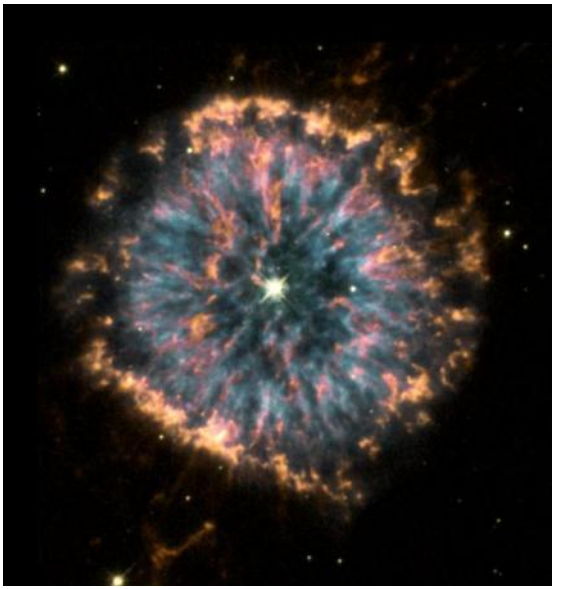
Saturday, May 15

Time: Arrive after 6 p.m. Presentation at 7 p.m.
Potluck dinner. Bring a dish to share.
Speaker: Kovil Sven

Topic: "Planetary Nebulae and the structures in the Astrophysical Plasma surrounding them: a pictorial odyssey with further investigations."

Hostess: Loren MacArthur
Address: 6240 Stone Valley Drive, Reno
Phone: (775) 746-2938

Directions: Go west on Interstate 80 past West McCarran. Take the Robb drive exit from I-80 and drive north till you get to Mae Anne Ave. Go left (west) on Mae Anne for two blocks. Take a right on Stone Valley Drive. Her house is on the right just a few doors up from Mae Anne.

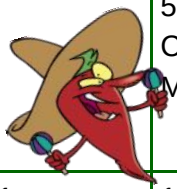
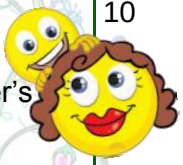


Credit: NASA, The Hubble Heritage Team (STScI/AURA)

June Monthly Meeting:
Saturday, June 12
Miniature Golf and Pizza
at Wild Island in Sparks
5 p.m. miniature golf, followed by pizza at the Coconut Bowl

Due to the huge popularity of the online **Mensa Home Test**, its introductory fee of only $13 has been extended through the end of May. Just a reminder: the Mensa Home Test is a practice test for the Mensa Admission Test, but it does not qualify anyone for Mensa membership.
Get more information at **www.us.mensa.org/mht**.

May 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Games Night at Joe's Place: Saturday May 1. Potluck. 4:30 until 8:30 p.m. 1047 Table Mountain Court, Sparks Contact: (775) 338-6521 or joe_kisenwether@hotmail.com.					1 **Testing. Games Night**
2	3	4 	5 Cinco de Mayo	6 Sigmund Freud Birthday	7 P. Tchaikovsky Birthday	8
9 Mother's Day 	10	11 Salvador Dalí Birthday	12 Florence Nightingale Birthday	13	14 T. Gains-borough Birthday	15 **Mensa Meeting**
16	17	18	19 Malcom X Birthday	20	21	22 Richard Wagner Birthday
23	24	25 **Lunch Bunch**	26	27 Wild Bill Hickock Birthday	28 Jim Thorpe Birthday	29 John F. Kennedy Birthday
30 	31 Memorial Day	June 1	June 2	June 3	June 4	June 5 **Games Night**

Fourth Tuesday Lunch:
The lunch bunch meets at 11:45 a.m. Tuesday, May 25, at Fresh Mex, 985 W. 5th Street in Reno. For information, call Loren at 746-2938**.**

ACROSS



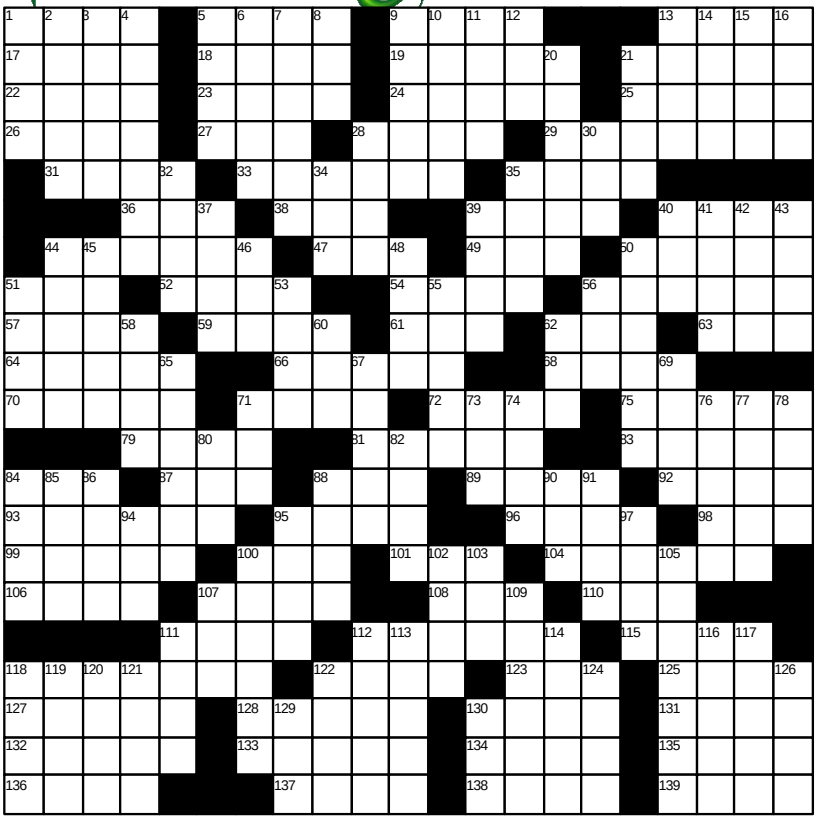
1 Puff
5 Prefix ten
9 Quick
13 Trolley
17 Notion
18 Vivacity
19 Antiquity
21 Task
22 Flick
23 Sheriff : posse :: foreman : __
24 Humor
25 Drip : gush :: stream : __
26 Minuscule
27 Hubbub
28 Bide
29 Area : Russia :: language : __
31 Floating ice
33 Domain
35 Excess flesh
36 Dos : II :: __ : I
38 Tree gum
39 Tolls
40 Soothe
44 Melon
47 Kermit : pond :: Charlotte : __
49 Headed
50 Scarf
51 Aced
52 Clock : hand :: fork : __
54 To incite
56 Parentless child
57 Embraces
59 Engrave
61 Drone
62 Remote
63 Epoch
64 Niches
66 Horse : stable :: guest : __
68 Illinois : Missouri :: Wyoming : __
70 Railroad track
71 Shoshonean
72 Layer
75 Desert plant
79 Husband : wife :: Herr : __
81 Ship's sail holders
83 Petite
84 Square : cube :: circle : __
87 Tree
88 Kitten's cry
89 Charlie : Snoopy :: Dick : __
92 Formal dance
93 Topaz : yellow :: amethyst : __
95 Expel : admit :: villain : __
96 Small boat
98 Terminal abbr.
99 Single
100 Boy
101 Throw
104 Mayo : cinco :: July : __
106 Lily bulb
107 Ewe : ram :: mare : __
108 Ear : corn :: pod : __
110 Winter sport
111 Make a whizzing sound
112 Subtlety
115 Tides
118 Restaurant with dancing
122 Seed pod
123 Wonderland : 127-across :: Eden : __
125 Wagers
127 Eden : 123-across :: Wonderland : __
128 Summit
130 Uproar
131 Square : rectangle :: circle : __
132 Arcade coin
133 Malicious person
134 Typesetting measurement
135 Roman emperor
136 Origination
137 Water : agua :: nothing : __
138 Doings
139 Done : wrought :: Killed : __

DOWN

1 Sage : advice :: donor : __
2 Improvise a speech
3 Hudson : New York :: __ : Paris
4 Graffiti : wall :: hieroglyphics : __
5 __ vu
6 Sidestep
7 Rebounds
8 Whichever
9 Monk
10 Den : fox :: __ : eagle
11 Casino machine feature
12 Metal
13 Ludicrous : silly :: emaciated : __
14 Stray
15 Jupiter : Zeus :: Mars : __
16 Meager
20 Rotated
21 Chick : baby :: nest : __
28 Mop
30 In possession of
32 Wolf : Chihuahua :: fly : __
34 Horse : hoof :: squirrel : __
35 Dentist : teeth :: podiatrist : __
37 Off-Broadway award
39 Escape
40 Teen : cell phone :: psychic : __
41 Suffer

Analogies

by Anna Wright



© 2010 by Anna M. Wright

42 Glide
43 Bunsen burner
44 Minivan : family :: __ : couple
45 Anxiety
46 Picnic visitor
48 Infant
50 Ranges
51 Hit
53 Reverberate
55 Straps
56 Cereal
58 Slave
60 Jump
62 Scales : trout :: __ : mink
65 Keenly
67 Timepiece
69 Camel's back
71 Buzz
73 Possessive pronoun
74 See
76 Insertion mark
77 Novelist : book :: weaver : __
78 __ mater
80 Brew
82 Central Office : HQ :: truant :
84 Poet : sonnet :: composer : __
85 Ancient German alphabet character
86 Boast
88 Repair
90 Clod
91 Deuces
94 Affirmative
95 60 minutes
97 Genesis : Exodus :: Mark : __
100 Suture
102 Opaque gem
103 Nevis or Lomand
105 Bales : wires :: tresses : __
107 Her
109 Vinegar acid
111 Small bird
112 Smelled
113 Fanatical
114 Kick out
116 Knife edge
117 Leer
118 Canine : dogs :: feline : __
119 Healing plant
120 Child's transportation
121 Won
122 Y : z :: alpha : __
124 Time periods
126 Pokey
129 Fled
130 Health Resort



Venimus, Vidimus, Vicimus, Vamonos

by Jeeks Rajagopal

April 11 dawned ominous and cloudy, very unlike the perfect spring day we had anticipated for CultureQuest®. No, we were not intrepid biologists looking to rebirth a microorganism in a Petri dish. We were the first team to enter Mensa's CultureQuest® trivia competition from Northern Nevada. This annual event had happily gone on for two decades with no team participation from our area, and the average age of our team members was over twice the age of the event — not exactly the best augury!

When Anna approached me to join the Biggest Little Team as an alternate, I was flattered and then, when I got bumped up to a team slot, I was thrilled but still had misgivings, especially after seeing the sample questions that were forwarded to me every day. Some were simple, the kind that assured me that I still had functional grey matter and my synapses were still firing. Others were absolutely horrific, rife with multiple interpretations for answers and glaring reminders of my ignorance in many fields. After over a month of practice questions, I doubt if any of us had clear ideas of what obscure trivia and tidbits of knowledge would be demanded of us.

Anna and Ken kindly gave me a ride into Sparks, where we met the other team members, Joe Kisenwether and Walter Scott for lunch. After a quick bite, we headed to Joe's house and made ourselves comfortable. I was told that one of our two alternates, Howard Chen, had bowed out and Anne Stewart, our second alternate, had stayed away for fear that she might not be able to avoid an involuntary blurt.

This pretty much precluded any opportunity on my part to plead gastric distress (as I like to refer to my nerves) and bow out.

The beginning of the competition was staggered in the different time zones so that it would begin simultaneously nationwide and minimize the possibility of unethical assistance a.k.a. cheating. Promptly at 1 p.m., after reading out the rules, setting up the timer and gathering writing implements, Anna took out the list of questions. There were over two hundred questions and only 90 minutes to answer them. Soon after we began, we gave up the idea of taking turns in reading the questions, opting instead to plow ahead and answer whatever we could, and to return to the rest as time allowed.

We thought we were on track and in control, but suddenly, magically, the clock conspired with the compilers of the quiz to leave us with five minutes and a few questions we had wanted to return to. We threw out possible answers, some of which revealed our complete lack of knowledge in certain areas like buoy signals and musical notes, and others that sounded perfectly logical and were therefore probably dead wrong. Anna gamely kept pace with the torrent of answers we threw at her and wrote them all down in the official answer sheet. This, she



The Biggest Little Team: Culture Quest XXI Competition
Walter Scott, Joe Kisenwether, Jeeks Rajagopal, Anna and Ken Wright

sealed in the official envelope at 2:31 p.m.

We were done! Now all we had to do was avoid thinking about how badly we had done (not too bad — I came home and checked answers), how we would fare nationwide (not too badly but definitely not in the top ten), and whether we would garner national attention for our team (resounding NO!) Obviously, the blustering wind was not a portent of our blowing away the competition!

We then posed for a few team pictures, one of which is sure to show up in the *Neva-Mind*. Whether we will repeat this self-flagellating display of the lacunae in our knowledge base in coming years remains to be seen. We all agreed that “Nothing ventured, nothing gained” was the spirit *du jour* and we all had fun. If any of this narrative has you burning with envy at being left out, please, join us next year — we may even manage to sign up enough eager participants to enter two teams. After all, according to the CultureQuest® rules, there is always a chance that some of our answers may be among the most entertaining incorrect ones and may be featured in a future issue of the *Mensa Bulletin*. Infamy may yet be ours to claim! ■

The same CultureQuest® practice questions can be yours too! Just navigate to the Mensa home page http://www.us.mensa.org and click “Subscribe to our Culture Quest®-ion of the Day.” (No log-in is required.) Here are some recent examples:

1. If you are working in a system, some of whose variable parameters are computed in oersteds, webers and gilberts, what sort of equipment are you working on?
2. What is an English equivalent for "ubermensch"?
3. Who wrote the short story "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place"?
4. Who is famously paired with Troilus?
5. Who was the first African-American woman to serve in the U.S. Congress? (Answers can be found on page 27.)



Snapshots:

by Anna Wright







Did <u>you miss</u> attending *Down the Rabbit Hole* with the Mensa group? Last minute adventures happen. Join the Northern Nevada Mensa E-List.

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

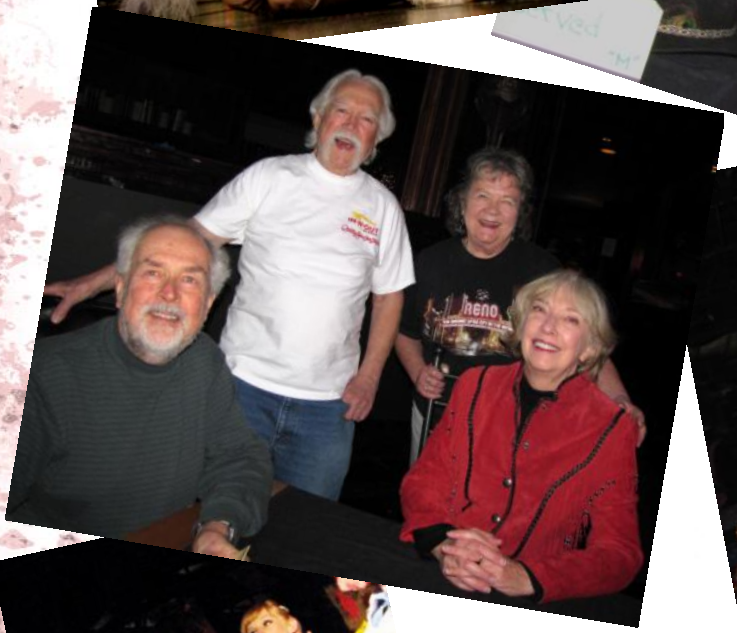
If you have trouble signing up via the web, you may also subscribe yourself via automated email by sending an email to: **northern.nevada.mensa-subscribe@codegnome.org**

















Want to read more about it?
http://reno.metromix.com/events/article/local-groups-revive-art/1865452/content

Mensa for Kids

by Maurice Pollack and Anna Wright

Alright **brainiacs!**
Look at the math below:

Experts say only people with a high IQ are able to figure this out.
If:
2 + 3 = 10
7 + 2 = 63
6 + 5 = 66
8 + 4 = 96
then: 9 + 7 =???
Brainiac problem
sent by Ed Hanley, Thanks!



If 7 maids with 7 brooms sweep 7 rooms in 7 days, how long does it take for one maid with one broom to sweep one room?

1	3	3
5	4	20
5	12	?

Missing number: Each of these arrays contains a simple mathematical pattern. Can you figure out the missing entries?

1	3	4
5	4	9
6	7	?

Have you seen the **barn owl** chicks growing up? Live streaming video of the owl family is on the web: **http://www.ustream.tv/theowlbox**. They are real animals living in their real nesting box. ■

Listen to this cool web site where the revolution of the **planets** is not only in proportion to real life, but their movement in orbit plays simple rhythmic music.
http://www.whitevinyldesign.com/solarbeat/
URL sent in by Ken Wright, Thanks!

A Famous Riddle:

On my way to St. Ives
I met a man with seven wives.
Each wife had seven sacks.
Each sack had seven cats.
Each cat had seven kits.
Kits, cats, sacks, wives,
how many were there
on the way to St. Ives?

Extra for Experts:

In the riddle, how many people/animals/sacks were mentioned?



GRAFFITI WALL

by Anna Wright

If U all 4 me, and we ,

married!

















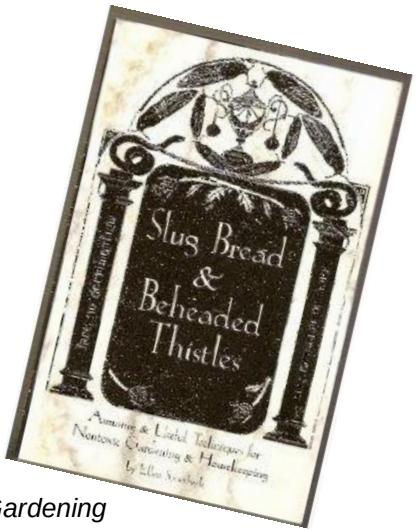








The Gardener's Bookshelf:



"Off With Their Heads!"

Thistles can be a real problem in the garden and can spread quickly. I tried commercial weed killer to no effect. They loved it! Then a friend shared a great tip: cut off the thistle flowers. The plant will "bleed" to death right down to the roots.

Turns out the Red Queen was right! To keep your roses blooming all season, cut off the spent flowers. Look for the first cluster of five leaves and trim the stem just above it.

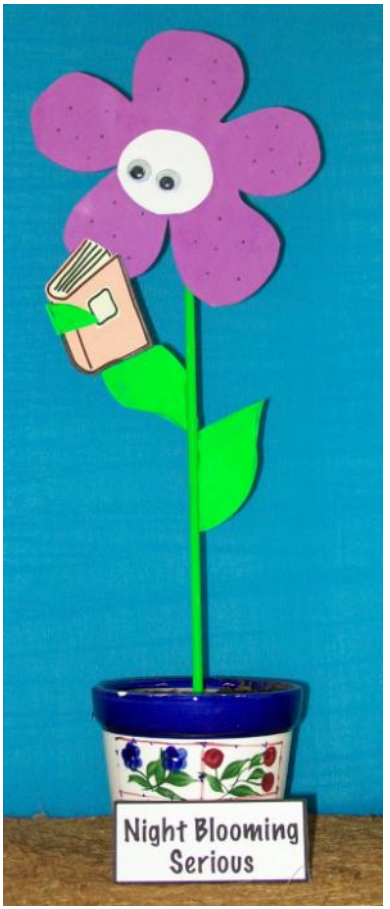
Slug Bread & Beheaded Thistles
Amusing and Useful Techniques for Nontoxic Housekeeping and Gardening
--by Ellen Sandbeck, © Broadway Books, New York, 2000

Mensans recommend 50 Best Web Sites:

In November 2009, American Mensa members began nominating more than 280 Web sites, and the list was cut to the top 100 in January as members voted for their favorites. Members continued voting through mid-March, and the 50 Web sites that received the most votes made the cut. After more than 10,000 votes were cast over four months, our members have selected the Top 50 for 2010, which we are pleased to announce.

Whether your goal is to find, learn, reference, shop or merely be entertained, this list gives you plenty of solid - and some unexpected - options, including:
Gizmodo (http://www.gizmodo.com)
The Smart Life (http://www.thesmartlife.com)
Pandora Internet Radio (http://www.pandora.com)
Popular Science (http://www.popsci.com)
Drudge Report (http://www.drudgereport.com)
Hulu (http://www.hulu.com)
Snopes (http://www.snopes.com)
Lifehacker (http://www.lifehacker.com)

Check out our winners as chosen in nine categories at http://www.us.mensa.org/top50sites.■





SCIENCE VS. SCIENCE FICTION



Register now! http://northernnevada.us.mensa.org/



2011 Colloquium Feb. 18 through 20, 2011

to examine the world of electronic gaming.



The Mensa Foundation is pleased to announce Colloquium 2011: "Electronic Gaming and Its Impact on Society." This weekend-long event will take place at the Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark in Austin, Texas. The early-bird registration rate (including three meals) is only $169 through the end of July. Pack your games, invite your friends — both M and non-M — and make your plans now! Visit www.colloquium.us.mensa.org for more information and to register. ■

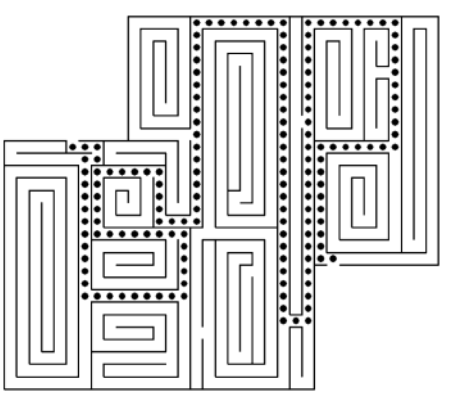


Graffiti Wall:

- Banana split
- If you care at all for me, and we can't elope, let us be married!
- *Beat It!* song by M. Jackson
- Lemon mousse
- 24 carat gold
- The animals came in pairs to Noah's ark.
- Let us pray.
- Chilly peppers
- Leaky roof

Mensa for Kids!

- Brainiacs: 144
- Maids: 7 days
- St. Ives: 1
- Experts: 2403
- Left array 60
- Right array 13

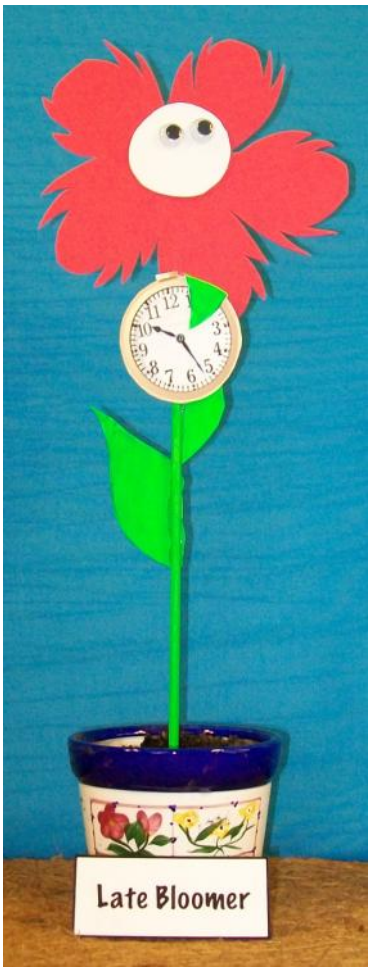


Answers to the April Puzzle Page:

King Lear
War And Peace
Jingle Bell Rock
Luck Be A Lady
I Love Lucy
Brave New World
Born To Be Wild
Some Like It Hot
Green Eggs And Ham
Taming Of The Shrew
My Fair Lady
The Call Of The Wild
Father Knows Best
Leave It To Beaver
West Side Story
The Wizard Of OZ
Lord Of The Flies
Night Of The Living Dead
Gone With The Wind
Tie A Yellow Ribbon Round The Old Oak Tree

Answers to Analogies Crossword Puzzle:

G	A	S	P	■	D	E	C	A	■	F	A	S	T	■	■	■	T	R	A	M
I	D	E	A	■	E	L	A	N	■	R	E	L	I	C	■	C	H	O	R	E
F	L	I	P	■	J	U	R	Y	■	I	R	O	N	Y	■	R	I	V	E	R
T	I	N	Y	■	A	D	O	■	W	A	I	T	■	C	H	I	N	E	S	E
■	B	E	R	G	■	E	M	P	I	R	E	■	F	L	A	B	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	U	N	O	■	S	A	P	■	■	F	E	E	S	■	E	A	S	E
■	C	A	S	A	B	A	■	W	E	B	■	L	E	D	■	A	S	C	O	T
W	O	N	■	T	I	N	E	■	■	A	B	E	T	■	O	R	P	H	A	N
H	U	G	S	■	E	T	C	H	■	B	E	E	■	F	A	R	■	E	R	A
A	P	S	E	S	■	■	H	O	T	E	L	■	■	U	T	A	H	■	■	■
M	E	T	R	O	■	H	O	P	I	■	T	I	E	R	■	Y	U	C	C	A
■	■	■	F	R	A	U	■	■	M	A	S	T	S	■	■	S	M	A	L	L
O	R	B	■	E	L	M	■	M	E	W	■	S	P	O	T	■	P	R	O	M
P	U	R	P	L	E	■	H	E	R	O	■	■	Y	A	W	L	■	E	T	A
U	N	A	R	Y	■	S	O	N	■	L	O	B	■	F	O	U	R	T	H	■
S	E	G	O	■	S	T	U	D	■	■	P	E	A	■	S	K	I	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	W	H	I	R	■	N	U	A	N	C	E	■	E	B	B	S	■
C	A	B	A	R	E	T	■	B	O	L	L	■	E	V	E	■	B	E	T	S
A	L	I	C	E	■	C	R	E	S	T	■	S	T	I	R	■	O	V	A	L
T	O	K	E	N	■	H	A	T	E	R	■	P	I	C	A	■	N	E	R	O
S	E	E	D	■	■	■	N	A	D	A	■	A	C	T	S	■	S	L	E	W



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



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

Would you like to receive a copy of your *Neva-Mind* in color?

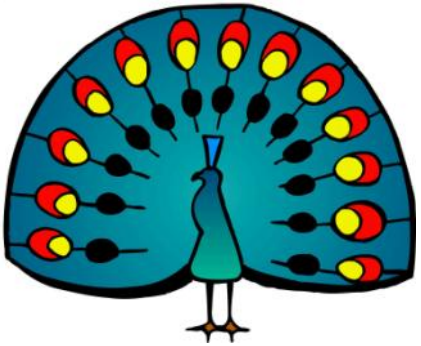
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Mensa-Speak

AG	Annual Gathering (Conference)
AMC	American Mensa Committee (National Elected or Appointed Officers)
CAMA!	Calling All Mensa Adventurers! Join with local Mensans who like to go on outings.
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)

CultureQuest® Practice Question Answers: (page 19)

1. Magnetic
2. One with great powers and abilities; superman.
3. Ernest Hemingway
4. Cressida
5. Shirley Chisholm



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