

Northern Nevada Mensa
Volume 34, Issue 10 - October 2010

NEVA-MIND



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MEMBERSHIP
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UNR PROCTOR
LAKE TAHOE PROCTOR
AND AREA COORDINATOR

NEVA-MIND

Northern Nevada Mensa
Volume 34, Issue 10 — October 2010

Our action shot cover this month was taken by Bill Kositzky. You can see more of Bill's weekend adventure photos starting on page 18.





A Note From the Editor

Fall is here and there is so much to do and see in Nevada. The weather is so amenable that folks just naturally gravitate to the out-of-doors.

Check out our photo essay on page 18. Local Mensan, Bill Kositzky, has captured the excitement and action of the annual Virginia City Camel (and other animals) Races. And, on the facing page you'll find some of the spectacle of beauty that characterizes Reno's annual Balloon Races.

My spouse, Ken, made the trip to the Black Rock Desert again and captured some beautiful images at this year's Burning Man Event. See page 12 for a peek into an uninhibited world of artistic expression.

And, of course, we round up the fall with our own exciting Regional Gathering. This year it's even better than ever. Our schedule begins on page 8, jam-packed with more speakers, more entertainment, more food,… more of everything! Come join us for the weekend, or just a day. It's an experience you'll remember. ■

OCTOBER 2010

Features:

SOMETHING'S COMING, SOMETHING WONDERFUL!

And, it's here: Northern Nevada Mensa RG 2010 Page 8

Burning Man 2010 *by Ken Wright* Page 12

Mensa for Kids! *by Maurice Pollack and Anna Wright* Page 17

On the Road *with Bill Kositzky* Page 18

Columns:

From the LocSec *by Robert McAllister* Page 5

From the RVC *by Debra Reiger* Page 16

Events:

Mensa Admission Testing Page 10

Calendar Page 13

Game Night, Lunch Bunch Page 13

AG 2011: A Great Journey West Page 21

Puzzles:

Puzzle Page *by Joe Kisenwether* Page 11

The Who Revisited *by Travis McCord* Page 14

Answers Page 22

In Every Issue:

Volunteers Page 2

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

Cover Credits and A Note from the Editor Page 3

Note of Remembrance Page 6

Notes From the ExComm Page 6

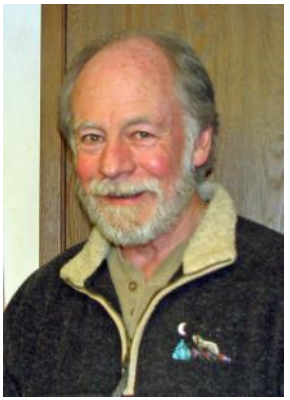
Happy Birthday! / Welcome! Page 7

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



From the LocSec

by Bob Mc Allister



Everyone has a story

I'm not sure when I came to realize that dismissing others out of hand just isn't right. I like history. I'm never really sure when to trust that I might be being exposed to revisionist history, though. Whoever is in charge gets to make the rules and to tell how things transpired — according to them. Yet, some really incredible things have happened, been done and even serendipitously came to be. People have done the incredible with seemingly little to help them accomplish it.

Beethoven didn't have synthesizers and computerized music programs to help do his compositions. Thomas Jefferson didn't have Google to help him collate social and philosophical conclusions. Newton developed algorithms with no computer assistance, while today's average person has difficulty with simple arithmetic without calculators. Aristotle and Plato did astounding work that stands up to today's critiques.

Has our evolutionary process taken some steps backwards?

A recent article that I read posited that the human race may be *dumbing down*; that we may be becoming less intelligent, as evidenced by our documented gradual decrease in brain size. A counter argument suggested that perhaps we are becoming more "socialized" and don't have the need to be too individualized which would logically lead to smaller brains or that perhaps that our now smaller (compared to some centuries, if not millennia, ago) brain sizes are merely more streamlined. I remember mentioning some time ago in these pages that I learned to take a list of 50 or 100 words given to me once in a random order and that I could give them back in order. It's a mere parlor trick. Anyone can do this, it merely entails a willingness to learn a simple procedure. Our brains seem to have developed to do a lot more than the usual average; we have amazing propensities.

I've seen a stumbling drunk suddenly spring up and go through an amazing blur of surprisingly coordinated shadow boxing. I've seen a man in his mid-sixties turn his body from a crippled arthritic to an accomplished gymnast because he willed it. People have learned a foreign language in surprisingly short periods of time — out of necessity. History is filled with recountings of lives that accomplished amazing feats both by people of resolute dedication and by people who may be considered otherwise ordinary. I've seen people in retirement homes, who were highly deco-rated war heroes, left on their own to be forgotten. There have been peo-

(Continued on page 6)

ple who perished in "flop houses" who stopped trying to survive after they unselfishly gave of themselves to support three generations of family until there was no more family.

It has become apparent to me that many who seem to be regarded by many as "worthless" may well have a poignant story to tell and being too ready to be dismissive of these individuals isn't necessarily right.

“Amazing” isn't a recent concept — it just mistakenly seems so

History has many touching and inspiring tales to tell and those lives of dedication come and go. Subsequent generations are, for the most part, absolutely unaware of what may have preceded them. Many people subsequently take for granted what they have and give no credit to that which got them here.

And, yet, as sophisticated as we like to feel that we might be, we often are embarrassingly gullible.

Taking freedom for granted

What I'm about to explain next is why I've gotten onto this soapbox.

Recently, my son had me read some postings on his son's blog site. My grandson's name

(Continued on page 20)



Note of Remembrance: Pearl Don Johnston

Northern Nevada Mensa would like to acknowledge and inform the membership the passing of another of our members: Pearl Don Johnston from Dayton, on July 9th. ■

NOTES FROM THE EXCOMM:

September 11, 2010

- Present were Bob McAllister, LocSec; Annemarie McTaggart, 1st Vice-Secretary; Gerald Lockhart, 2nd Vice-Secretary; and Anna Wright, *Neva-Mind* editor.
- Also present were Richard Arbib, Programs; Ken Wright, RG Chair; Jennifer Sanches, Gifted Children’s Coordinator; and many members at large.
- The ExComm did not have a formal meeting.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

October



Birthstone: Opal, Tourmaline

Flower: Calendula

Astrological Signs:

Libra: September 23 - October 22

Scorpio: October 23 - November 21

1	**Phillip Fuller**	Ely
5	**Anne Stewart**	Sparks
8	**Gloria Dondero**	Reno
9	**Becky Smith**	Sparks
9	**Kelly Heapy**	Truckee
10	**Richard Campbell Jr.**	Carson City
10	**Stuart Finlayson**	Carson City
12	**Diane Howard**	Carson City
14	**Minnis Alderman**	Ely
15	**Loren MacArthur**	Reno
23	**Chelsea Teller-Chen**	Reno
24	**Katherine Stangland**	Sparks
25	**Anne-Louise Bennett**	Reno
27	**Donald Newman**	South Lake Tahoe
30	**Jennifer Sanches**	Fallon





WELCOME!



Dr. Thomas Sharpton, Reno

Arthur Chenin, Carson City

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



IT'S HERE!
NORTHERN NEVADA MENSA'S REGIONAL GATHERING 2010:

SCIENCE VS. SCIENCE FICTION

Friday October 1

	Silver Baron E	Silver Baron D	Silver Baron C	**Hospitality** room 3401	**Games** room3405
3:00 PM	**Registration Opens**			**Open!**	**Open!**
3:30 PM	Ken Wright Meet & Greet				
4:00 PM	Mignon Fogarty Grammar Girl Q & A				
4:30 PM					
5:00 PM	Dr. Ali Norman Burning Man 2010				
5:30 PM					
6:00 PM		Michael Eager Chocolate Tasting!			Word Games (Not just another Scrabble!)
7:00 PM	Kovil Sven Planetary Nebulae			Great Basin Brewery Beer Tasting	
7:30 PM			Dan Ruby Mars Caves		
8:00 PM		"Lady Bronwyn" Witchcraft in the Twenty-first Century			
9:00 PM			Fleischmann Planetarium Tour $10	Late Night Snack	
10:15 PM					
11:00 PM				?	?

Registration can be found in the hallway outside Silver Baron conference rooms.
Friday: 3 PM to 6 PM — cost for 1 day only: $35
Saturday: 8 AM to 12 PM — cost for 1 day only: $45
No registration available on Sunday

Saturday October 2

	Silver Baron E	Silver Baron D	Silver Baron C	Silver Baron B	Hospitality	Games
8:00 AM					Continental Breakfast	Open
9:00 AM	Dr. S. "Kent" Hoekman, D.R.I. Energy & Fuels Renew vs. others	Mark Vollmer Tales from the Underworld: Nevada's Geology	Dr. Ali Norman The Science of Fitting In			
10:30 AM	Russ Waters Watch out!	Mary Crawley Steampunk	Diane Depolo Earthquake!	Annemarie McTaggart Mensa Admission Testing		
12:00 PM	Kelly Wetzler Aguilera Hysterical History	Jim Grace "Awaken the Darkness"	Dr. Wendy Calvin Mars Rover		Light Lunch	Flavor Tripping (Taste sensation)
1:30 PM	Cookie Bakke The Science of Fraud	Arthur Chenin Renovations: Sci-Fi World Con	Dr. Howard Chen Medical School in One Hour		Blind Wine Tasting. Taste and vote until the wine is gone.	
3:00 PM	Murray Silver Ghosts of Savannah		Teena Miller Laughter Yoga			2010 Mensa Select Winners
4:00 PM		Dr. Susan Palwick No Escape: Social Engagement				
5:00 PM			Pete Fairley Musical Brain Twisters			
6:15 PM	Parade line-up at 6:15 for escort to the Banquet in the Reno Ballroom				Cold Plate Supper	
7:30 PM	Location: **Reno Ballroom** Sci-Fi Banquet and Dinner Show $35 (reserved tickets only)				Sci-Fi Movie and popcorn	
10:30 PM	Open to all Adult RG attendees (starting time approximate)				Dessert & Coffee	
11:30 PM	Late Night: Bohemian Burlesque					

Sunday October 3

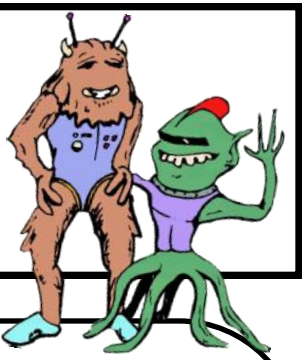
9:00 AM

10:30 AM

Brunch

Awards

and Farewells





2010 RG SOUVENIR T-SHIRTS

Heavy weight cotton t-shirts in navy blue.

small med large X-large	$20
XXL	$22
3XL and larger	$25

contact
editor@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

Order by October 31

Encourage your family and friends to test for Mensa admission:

Sat, Oct 2 - 10 a.m. to noon, Silver Legacy Resort - 407 N. Virginia, room: Silver Baron B. $40. As part of our Regional Gathering festivities (http://northernnevada.us.mensa.org/index_Page1186.html), we will offer candidates at this session free admission to the rest of the RG.

We've set up more testing dates through January 2011 (Saturday November 6, and Saturday January 8.) If you can't make one of these testing sessions, please contact me and we will work on setting up individual appointments. The test is $40 and takes about 2 hours. You will need to bring picture ID and your favorite #2 pencil.

Mindy Hsu mindyhsu2002@yahoo.com

PUZZLE PAGE

by Joe Kisenwether

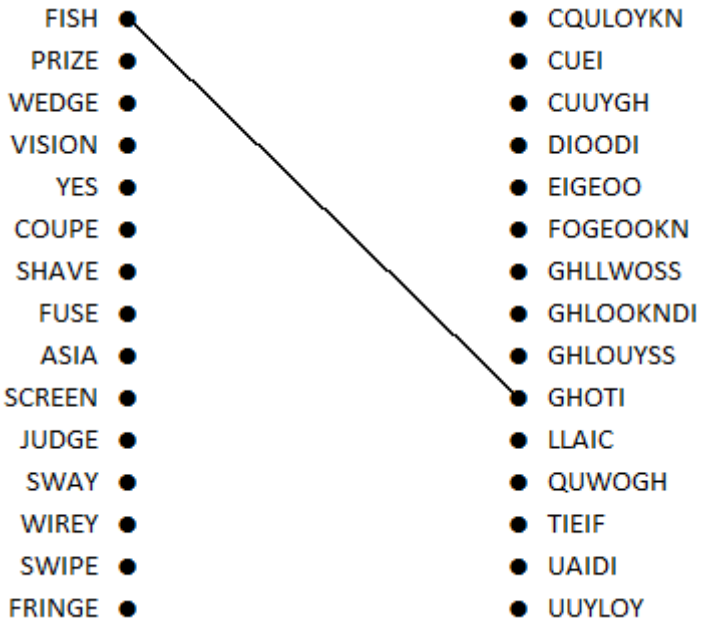
The suggestion that *fish* could be spelt *ghoti* is usually attributed to George Bernard Shaw. The story is that Shaw, an outspoken proponent of spelling reform, created *ghoti* as a way to highlight the inconsistency of traditional English spelling. The *gh*, you see, is pronounced as in enough, the *o* as in women, and the *ti* as in motion. Hence, g h o t i spells *fish*.

But this phonetic Frankenstein's monster doesn't actually appear anywhere in Shaw's writings, and in fact it is known to pre-date him. (Shaw, not Frankenstein's monster.)

Ghoti's first known appearance is in a letter written by Charles Ollier in 1855, a year before George Bernard Shaw's birth. In the letter Ollier describes *ghoti* to the writer Leigh Hunt as "…an experiment in orthography, which it may amuse some of our readers to carry further at this season of puzzles…"

155 years later, it amuses me to carry it further in this month's *Neva-Mind* puzzle. Below, there is a list of common English words on the left. On the right is the same list of words (in a different order), but with new spellings in the same style as the *fish-ghoti* pair. Match the traditional spelling with the "Ollieresque" spelling, and come up with real words from which these pronunciations can be derived.

HINT: In the right-hand list, sounds are always spelled the same way. For example, since the sound *f* is spelled *gh* in *ghoti*, it will be spelled *gh* whenever that sound occurs. The opposite, however, is not true. Not every appearance of *gh* necessarily be pronounced *f*.

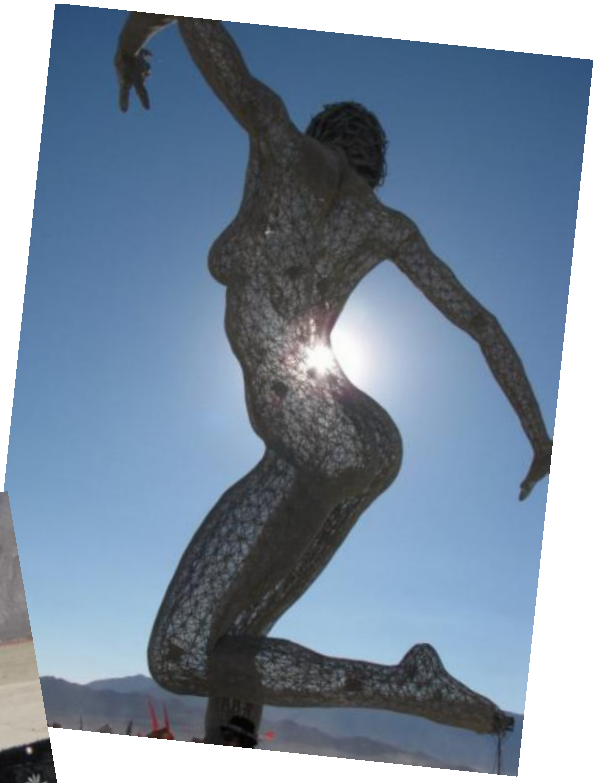


POINTLESS TRIVIA:
In the Klingon language the word for fish is *ghoti'*.

Burning Man 2010

by Ken Wright









“A beautiful exercise in community and getting along with 51,000 of your closest friends. “

Ken

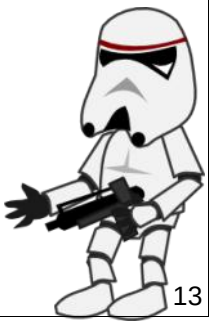
OCTOBER 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Game Night at Joe's Place returns on Saturday November 6. Potluck. 4:30 until 8:30 p.m. 1047 Table Mountain Court, Sparks Contact: (775) 338-6521 or joe_kisenwether@hotmail.com.					**1** **Northern Nevada Mensa Regional Gathering**	**2**
3 **NNM RG**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7** **Birthday Niels Bohr**	**8**	**9** **Hindu Navaratri begins**
10 **Birthday Giuseppe Verde**	**11** **Columbus Day**	**12**	**13**	**14** **Birthday Dwight Eisenhower**	**15** **Birthday Friedrich Nietzsche**	**16** **Birthday Noah Webster**
17	**18**	**19**	**20** **Birthday Christopher Wren**	**21** **Birthday Alfred Nobel**	**22** **Birthday Franz Liszt**	**23**
24	**25** **Birthday Pablo Picasso**	**26** **Lunch Bunch**	**27**	**28** **Birthday Jonas Salk**	**29**	**30** **Birthday Fyodor Dostoevski**
31 **Halloween**	**Nov 1**	**Nov 2** **Birthday Daniel Boone**	**Nov 3**	**Nov 4**	**Nov 5**	**Nov 6** **Game Night Returns**



Fourth Tuesday Lunch Bunch:

On October 26th (fourth Tuesday), we'll dine at Uncle Vinny's Pizza (a great choice from Anne Stewart), in Sparks on the southwest corner of Greg and S. McCarran next to Starbucks. The address is 1560 South Stanford, and Stanford is accessible from McCarran. They have a buffet, and serve breakfast all day. For more information contact Don or Laura: (775) 826-5904.



Still having problems with that author I mentioned. Same basic problem, really... he keeps saying he needs to be exact and unequivocal in his language and I keep saying he needs to write so that people can READ THE [censored] ARTICLE.

This is more of his writing, this time about a few artists over several years . He may be getting a little better — some of these I can even translate — but it's still ridiculous. I was trying to tell him to lay the hell off the academic-ese when he threw his papers at me. Because of that I've just gotten lists of his "special" song names without any indication of who sings which group. By the way, I asked him about the numbers in brackets before he stormed out. He said something about "Ohio's Official Rock Song," which makes no sense.

[4, 9]
- My Identity is that of a Mass of Mineral Matter
- Structure Spanning a Turbulent Natural Channel of Runoff
- The Audio Interpretation of Ambient Noise Below the Level of Perception

[2, 5]
- Mental States Indicative of Belief in Guilt or Falsehood
- Completely Engaged in a Vibratory or Tremulous State
- Your Sole Identity is That of a Canis Familiarus Bred and Raised to Pursue Game

[1, 3]
- Male Human Possessing or Wielding Abilities of a Supernatural Nature
- Member of Genus Sphyraena
- Isolated, Specifically from Immediate Human Contact

[13, 14]
- I Advise You Not To Cease the Activity In Question Until You Achieve Satiation
- Either Absorbing or Reflecting the Entire Visible Spectrum
- Tending to Engage in Activity or Behavior Contrary to the Accepted Mores of Society

(Continued on page 15)



(Who continued from page 14)



[1, 4]

- Year Which Acquired Exceptional Cachet Due To Millennial Fears
- Occasion in Which Members of Genus Columbidae Visibly Express Sadness
- Joining of Lips to Express Affection

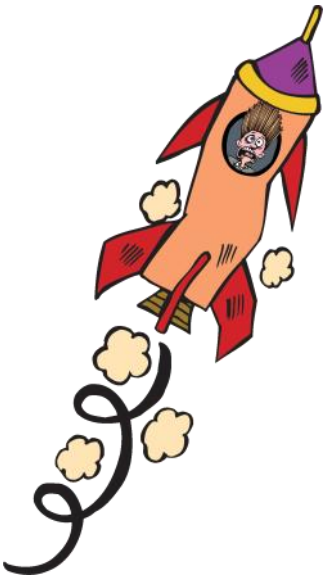
[3, 4]

- Females Currently Not Part of a Pair-Bond (Introduce a Small Metal Toroid to Its Surface)
- Experiencing an Altered Mental State while Emotionally Attached to Another
- Exceptionally Pretty Prevaricator ■

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. 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. ■



Wouldn't you like to see all of this great artwork and photos in COLOR?

Email me:
editor@northernnevada.us.mensa.org
and I'll put you on my e-version (email) list. Each month you will receive the *Neva-Mind* earlier and in color. (You'll still receive your paper copy too.) Unsubscribing is just as easy if you change your mind. Give it a try!

From the RVC8

by Debra Reiger

Cool stuff on the Mensa web site!



I have heard a strange rumor that some busy Mensa members still have not logged on to the American Mensa, Ltd. (AML) web site at www.us.mensa.org . If you are one of those, you should take a few minutes and check it out. Really.

It's full of interesting and useful information; it is well-designed and easy to navigate; and it has a variety of frequently updated games. If you haven't looked at it lately (or not at all) you should give it a try.

Here are some of the things that you access on the web site:

- Discounts (car rentals, magazine subscriptions, hotel discounts, insurance, office supplies, scientific products and more!)
- Career Link (to post resumes or recruit)
- Calendar of Mensa events, including upcoming gatherings, meetings, etc.
- Games
- E-newsletters for many local groups
- Handbooks and other help for officers
- Membership directory
- Options for updating your member profile

And so much more!

Here is how to get started:

In your internet browser, navigate to: www.us.mensa.org.

Then when you get the Mensa screen, click on "MEMBER LOGIN" in the upper right corner.

If you already have a password, go ahead log in. Or you can follow the easy instructions to register with the web site using your member number or email address. If Mensa doesn't already know your email address and you can't remember your member number, you can just contact Web Services, using the contact info right there on the web page, and those very helpful people will help you get set up. And once you are set up, don't forget to bookmark it!

And by the way, for people who are not Mensa members, there is also a non-restricted section to provide information about Mensa membership and its benefits.

Have a great month, and remember to recommend Mensa to your friends, family, and coworkers. Let's get these people to test and possibly join the Mensa family.

Best regards,

Debra Reiger, rvc8@us.mensa.org

Regional Vice Chair, Pacific Intermountain Region

Mensa for Kids!

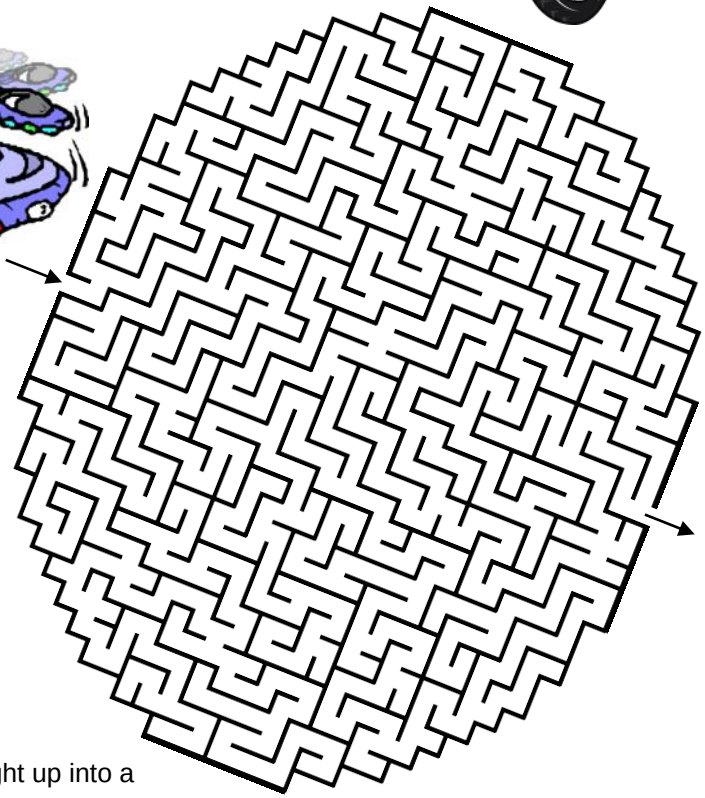
by Maurice Pollack and Anna Wright

(and kids at heart)



Geronimo Jones' kids had a few bicycles and tricycles and one unicycle. All together there were 11 wheels. How many bikes and trikes were there?





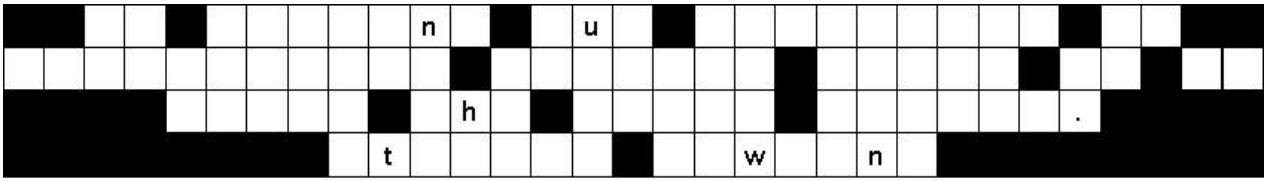
Geronimo Jones got one of the (patterns) answers to the following problem, but there are two patterns — can you find both?

1 7 17

3 2 32

4 9 ?

Fallen Phrase. Move each of the letters straight up into a space to form a quote by a famous British cosmologist.



f r s u

c o r S e e o n t H a t i o i r d

r r l s m n i i t e h e t r e a s k e p g i i n t

t e T o e i t i t a l p m a h u m a n t w n t l o t b e o t o











Our frequent photo contributor, Bill Kositzky, missed the September monthly meeting in Fallon because he spent that weekend photographing The Great Reno Balloon races in Reno and the Camel Races in Virginia City. These are both examples of local annual events which make living in this area such a pleasure. The fellow falling from the camel and other riders in the event were members of a local "camel jockey" club. He was surely stiff and sore the next day but no serious injuries occurred on the Sunday that Bill attended.

You may visit Bill on Facebook to see a few more of his photos of these events.



(LocSec continued from page 6)
also is Robert. Robert McAllister made a posting suggesting that people view a lengthy video on YouTube. It "proved" his contention that the devastation that was wrought upon the Twin Towers nine years ago was the doing of our own clandestine government. This, not surprisingly, stirred up a lot of responses. Including my own.

The Net is free. It's free from oversight... free of credentialed responsibility. Claims of legitimacy are not necessarily true. These dynamics occur from a combination of well-intentioned people, of duplicitous people with agendas the inspirations of which only they can know and of the willingness of gullible people to promulgate and power these contentions.

Earlier this year, a woman named Shirley Sherrod from the USDA gave a touching speech to an attendant audience. She explained that when she was younger, she had had a skewed perspective of society and felt, in her position of governmental responsibility, why give white people a break when blacks and other minorities needed help more? Then she came to realize that everyone has a story and that everyone is in the same boat of life. A white petitioner for financial help was assisted by Sherrod. That assisted person, who had been on the verge of bankruptcy until then, came back from the edge of that abyss and ended up providing help to others, minorities included. He returned to Sherrod and thanked her for her help.

Someone edited that brief speech and highlighted the part of how she felt that whites should not receive help and that minorities were more deserving. The edited version was promulgated on the Net and picked up by the mainstream (and perhaps irresponsible) media and the White House knee-jerk policy summarily removed her from her position. Only after due diligence was the fraud exposed for what it was.

Longer versions of fatuous and questionable, manipulative actions can be found in the labors of the likes of Michael Moore and his films. Certainly his works can become the opinions of others. Taking carefully crafted contentions of others at face value is a disservice to all of society, if that action becomes an actionable belief that ultimately affects the rest of society. As has been said earlier, we're entitled to our opinions and we are not entitled to our own facts.

We live in a free society. That freedom deserves better vigilance.

The world may actually not be flat. American astronauts may actually have visited the moon more than once. The high incidence of AIDS in Africa may not really be a sinister plot of genocide perpetrated by Americans. Maybe there aren't any alien bodies on ice in Nevada's Area 51.

And maybe a highly motivated, multi-million dollar terrorist organization with a lengthy track record of sabotage against America actually was solely responsible for the devastating event at New York's Twin Towers.

When common sense is refuted by anyone, we owe it to ourselves to determine why that act flies in the face of our common sense before embracing it. ■

AGreat Journey West

Portland, Oregon - June 30 - July 4, 2011

In the "Greenest City in America," the Annual Gathering Committee brings a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for members of all ages. The city hosts tax-free shopping, nationally-recognized restaurants with fresh, local ingredients, diverse neighborhoods, acclaimed parks and gardens, and family-friendly attractions.

Ringed by natural beauty — Mount Hood, the Columbia River Gorge and the Willamette Valley wine country — Portland is your 2011 destination to meet with friends, old and new, as American Mensa members begin . . .

AGreat Journey West!

Full registration rates, according to date received by the National Office:

$80 by Dec. 31, 2010
$90 by March 31, 2011
$100 by June 15, 2011
$110 after June 15, 2011

Young Mensan rates, by age:
5 and under: free
Ages 6-12: $40
Ages 13-20: $55



Registration is just a few clicks away:
http://www.ag2011.us.mensa.org//AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home13



Answers to: The *Who* Revisited

The first group of songs is by Simon and Garfunkel: (puzzle letters O and G)
I Am A Rock
Bridge Over Troubled Water
The Sounds of Silence

Second group is by Elvis: (L, S)
Suspicious Minds
All Shook Up
You Ain't Nothin' But a Hound Dog

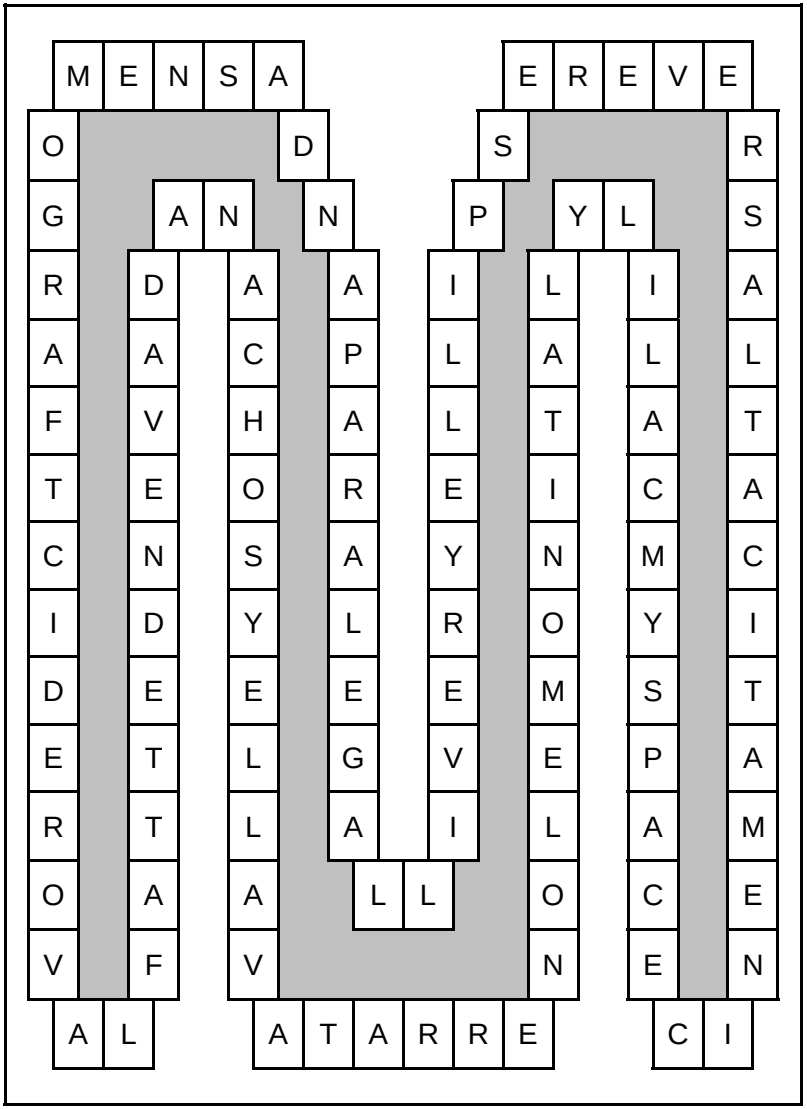
Third group is by Heart: (H, A)
Magic Man
Barracuda
Alone

Fourth group is by Michael Jackson: (O, N)
Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough
Black Or White
Bad

Fifth group is by Prince: (P, N)
1999
When Doves Cry
Kiss

And the last group is by Beyonce: (Y, O)
Single Ladies (Put a Ring On It)
Crazy In Love
Beautiful Liar

Answers to October Puzzle Page:



As for the numbers, if you take those letters from the artist names and anagram them, you get the title of the song that the Ohio General Assembly designated the state's Official Rock Song: "Hang On Sloopy." (I didn't believe this either, but it's apparently true — House Concurrent Resolution No. 16, 1985.)

Mensa For Kids! Answers:

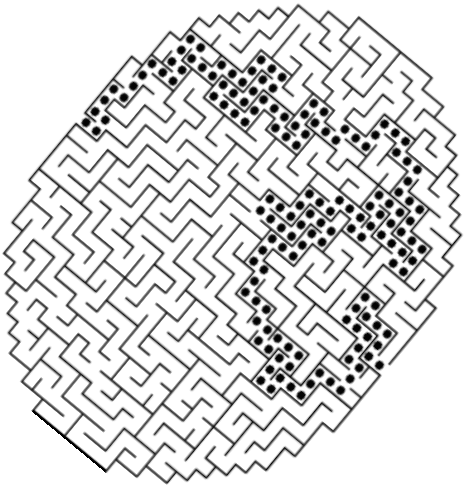
Number Patterns:

The answer is “49”

1. Vertical (top-to-bottom) addition.
2. Horizontal (left- to-right) concatenation (the numerals are stuck together)

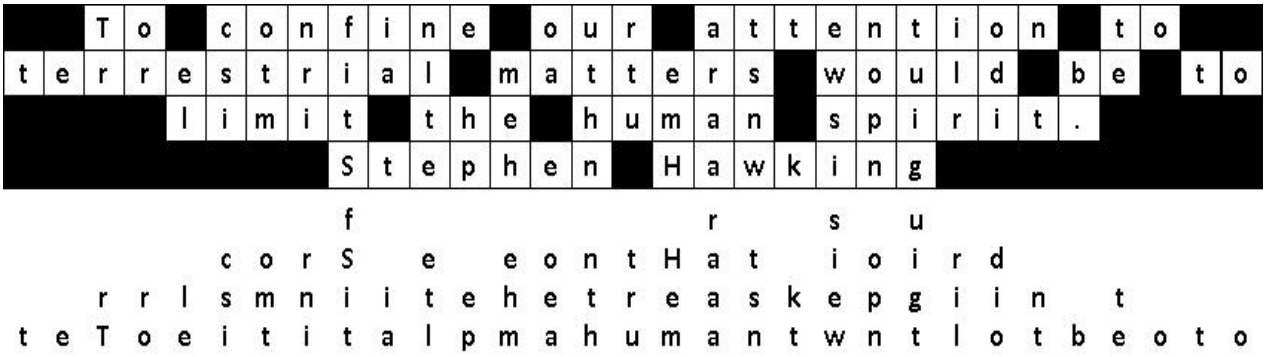
Geronimo Jones:

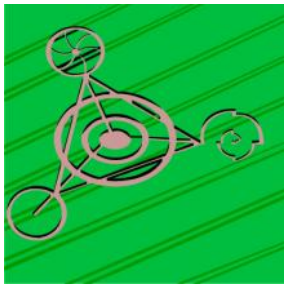
Two bikes and two trikes.



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)





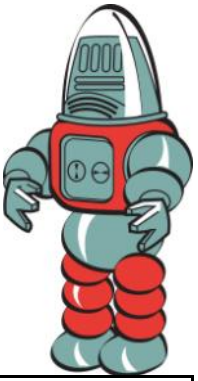
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