NEUR-MIND

Northern Nevada Mensa

Volume 35, Issue 4, April 2011



"While some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do." -Apple Computer, Inc.

Northern Nevada Mensa Volunteers

Executive Committee

LOCAL SECRETARY
Robert McAllister 849-2269
LocSec@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

FIRST VICE-SECRETARY
Annemarie McTaggart 747-7636
jsbach1630@sbcglobal.net

SECOND VICE-SECRETARY
Gerald Lockhart 882-0868
g-lockhart@sbcglobal.net

TREASURER
Carole Preisach 847-4431
Treasurer@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

PAST LOCAL SECRETARY
Ed Hanley 746-0741
ezeflyer@nvbell.net

***NEVA-MIND* EDITOR**
Anna Wright 423-4694
Editor@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

Appointed Officers

PROGRAM CHAIR
Richard Arbib
Calendar@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

GIFTED CHILDREN COORDINATOR
Jennifer Sanches 867-3878
GiftedChidren@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

WEBMASTER
John Preisach
Webmaster@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

TESTING COORDINATOR
Mindy Hsu
mindyhsu2002@yahoo.com

TEST PROCTORS
Fallon
Anna Wright 423-4694
pirsqrd@charter.net
Reno/Sparks
Annemarie McTaggart 747-7636
jsbach1630@sbcglobal.net
Other Areas Volunteers needed

MEDIATOR/ARBITRATOR
Bill Jacobsen 323-8990

HISTORIAN
Gary Marks 331-7581

AREA COORDINATORS
Churchill County
Ken Wright 423-4694
strtwlkr2@charter. net
Other Areas Volunteers needed

***NEVA-MIND* DISTRIBUTION**
Robert McAllister 849-2269
robertjmcallister@earthlink.net

RG CHAIR
Ken Wright 423-4694
RGChair@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

REGIONAL VICE-CHAIR
Debra Reiger
rvc8@us.mensa.org

Volunteers Needed:
S.I.G.H.T. COORDINATOR
RECRUITMENT
MEMBERSHIP
SCHOLARSHIP
UNR PROCTOR

Cover Quote *submitted by Mindy Hsu*

Thanks Mindy!

Have you seen a quote that inspired you, impressed you, or just made you chuckle? Send it in! editor@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

A Note from the Editor

by Anna Wright



Yes, that's my photo on the front cover.

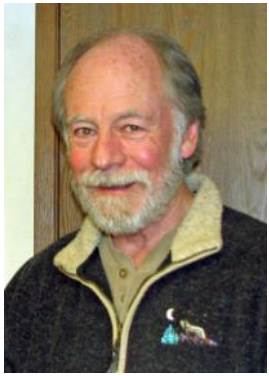
At this writing, Ken and I have just returned from the Gold Country Regional Gathering (RG) in Sacramento. And, it was a delightful combination of information and camaraderie. My personal favorite presenters spoke about current events and technology: "You Can't Kindle Everything" about the metamorphosis libraries are experiencing with the advent of technology and the decreasing availability of public funding, "Armageddon" about America's obsessive fascination with end-of-the-world scenarios, and "Middle East" comparing the populous uprisings in the various countries in the region and America's interests there (not always very flattering to us.) We ate well, laughed long, and generally enjoyed both the new and old friends made there. RGs give you so much value for your time and money.

We also took time, as we always do, to explore the host city. We had not visited the Sacramento Zoo in many years and I am pleased to tell you that the changes they have made in the interim show a genuine interest in improving the lives of the animals there. Habitats are larger and more natural with plenty of mentally stimulating items and/or toys to beat the doldrums. I spent a long time viewing the apes and caught the cover image as this orangutan was trying to decide whether to steal a blanket from a sleeping neighbor or not. (She did eventually succeed in this caper.)

This month I've also had the pleasure to nominate my Editor's Choice list of your contributions to the *Neva-Mind* over the past year, page 9. The Mensa Publication Recognition Program (PRP) competition is held every year to recognize the best authors, artists, humorists, and columnists who generously give of their time and talents to make our local bulletins interesting and entertaining. I've listed a few of my favorites; I hope yours are numbered there too. Winners are always announced at the Mensa Annual Gathering (AG) in July. This year that's happening in Portland, the closest venue to us in a great number of years. (P.S.: If you've never attended an AG before, get out and attend this one. It will whet your appetite for the following year when we host the 2012 Northern Nevada PARTY!)

April is also Mensa national elections month. We've taken the time to add a few informative items to help you with your decisions. Kathe Oliver, of Oregon Mensa, has guest written an article explaining the process in our "Mensa for Kids! (and Kids at Heart)" column, page 16. The complete list of nominees is provided for you on page 20 and another candidate introduction letter can be found on page 21. Please take the time to find out about your Mensa representatives who are asking for your vote and, of course, then vote! ■

From the LocSec *by Bob McAllister*



Around last April, I wrote about the possibility of seismic activities around the time of the gravitational effect of the moon's perigee. Especially around the time of the coincidence of perigee and perihelion. Those times when the earth is nearest to the sun and when the moon is nearest to the earth. Though the scientific community wouldn't say that there are any convincing statistical conclusions to support the idea, it is notable that the sad devastation that recently happened to Japan's northeast was near the time of a perigee.

From the Asian part of the world.

There was an odd haze in our usually clear mountain skies a couple of years ago. It was clearly shown to be dust clouding off the Gobi Desert. It manifested in the Sierra Nevada. Much has been made of anthropomorphic global change (referred to these days as AGC). Planet Earth is experiencing thermal pollution. Its source is a matter of dispute. There are other forms of pollution the source of which is indisputable. Mankind. My mother would recount how buildings in cities of in her native Scotland were largely marred in black soot from coal burning factories. Though it has been in large part scoured in present day from most of the buildings, it still is evident to a degree. The coal industry, in order to be "profitable" has had a history of producing both power and its byproduct, atmospheric mercury. An American energy and environmental scientist, David Streets, had been established in China for some years. He helped China clean up its embarrassingly polluted Beijing for the Olympics that were hosted by the Chinese. He was able to obtain emissions readings regarding metal smelting and coal combustion in China. In 1999 the world's estimated human-generated mercury emissions were 590 tons (the U.S. share of that was 117 tons). By 2003, China's share alone had jumped to 767 tons of mercury into the atmosphere. Satellite tracking shows undeniably that mercury and sulfates from coal and oil burning originating in China track the world's atmospheric course from West to East at around 20,000 feet.

That Old Adage

What goes around, comes around. Oddly, pollution generated in China makes it around the world and comes back to contribute to its place of origin. There are also industrial pollutants from China that contain sulfates. These contribute here in the U.S. to respiratory problems and to the development of acid rain. It has been suggested that different forms of influenza that are generated in places like the Gobi Desert can manifest here or, literally anywhere in the north-

ern hemisphere through this same dynamic. The small world created by the jet age needn't be a factor in its generated aspects. There had been a suspicion that the old Soviet Union, in its abuse of the land in Siberia, had contributed to the dirtying of the land to the point that light would not reflect back into space, that the sullying, further, had started the erosion of Siberia's permafrost, thus releasing methane, also a serious thermal pollutant. It that's so, then perhaps AGC can be lain at the feet of mankind.

Subversion of the Kyoto Protocol

Like with many things that start as well-intentioned, the precepts of the Kyoto Protocol became subverted. Rather than attaining a workable consensus, Third World countries were induced to skew the Protocol's principles so that those precepts would become tools for them to contribute to the problem. This, while we would be making things worse as well by becoming ineffective as world leaders. China, as of 2009, has reduced its sulfur dioxide emissions by more than 25 tons. It's a start. Being under the watchful eye of the rest of the world, they seem to have become more environmentally responsible. So have we in the U.S. If much of the rest of the world does the opposite, as seems to be happening, it will be for naught.

(Continued on page 20)

Notes From Your ExComm March 19, 2011

- Present were Bob McAllister, LocSec; Annemarie McTaggart,1st Vice-Secretary; Gerald Lockhart, 2nd Vice-Secretary; Carole Preisach, Treasurer, and Anna Wright, *Neva-Mind* Editor.
- Also present were Richard Arbib, Program Chair; Mindy Hsu, Testing Chair; Ken Wright, RG Chair; John Preisach, Webmaster; and Anne Stewart member-at-large.
- Ken Wright gave reports about the upcoming local Regional Gathering in October and Annual Gatherings for both 2011 Portland, and 2012 Reno.
- Bob McAllister reported the possibility of our borrowing and/or purchasing a high volume laser printer to enable us to self-publish the *Neva-Mind.* He will continue to research the details.
- Anna Wright made a motion to purchase web design software for the new Webmaster, John Preisach. Motion passed.
- Anne Stewart requested permission to form a local dining-out special interest group, "Supper Club." The formation of a local SIG does not take ExComm approval, but all agreed that it sounded like a good idea and she is encouraged to proceed. Watch for your invitation to join!
- Various fund raising ideas were discussed.
- Meeting adjourned.

“Don’t worry; it won’t rain.” *by Ken Wright*

Springtime brings *cotillions* in the South, and fair weather and pretty girls go together well. I was invited to attend one such soiree as a young man and even though it meant having to get dressed up, I liked the idea of being in the company of so many young ladies.

If you have never seen girls dressed in Southern Belle or Antebellum style dresses with the low front and corsets lifting their charms, you have no idea of how inspirational that can be.

Guys that had to be reminded to tie their shoes and zip up their pants were looking for tuxedo rental deals. Young men who thought playing football was a graceful activity and that beer induced flatulence was humorous, all of a sudden had to learn to dance. Not only dance, but with someone and touching them in a polite way.

There is a certain poetic justice in young men having to learn the rules of etiquette to impress young women, after years spent developing crude and rude techniques of tormenting them.

With the help of my girlfriend and date for the event, I was able to locate a tuxedo that would fit and didn’t eat up my meager funds. I thought it was pretty strange that the rental place was a florist shop in the front and a formal wear rental in the back.

We drove to the event in my parent’s big shiny car and parked where we could get away if it turned out to be awful.

The cotillion was held at a large red brick church which had a great location on a hilltop just outside of town and a commanding view of the hills and valleys around. There was a separate large hall with big double doors that opened wide and a hardwood floor inside but they could not get permission to move the furniture inside to dance. I suspect that it was the dancing rather than the furniture moving that they objected to. So a dance floor was created outside on the hard red clay surface and chairs placed all around to sit down as we tired.

The gala was planned as an afternoon and early evening event so it could be held outside and it would also be different from another similar cotillion which was held in the evening and all indoors. The politics and competition between two groups of women, all done “for their daughters,” was bitter and cutthroat to put it nicely.

We arrived at the appropriate time and entered the building with style, being introduced from our invitation cards by a purely elegant older black man with gray hair and the nicest tuxedo I had ever seen. His voice was deep and clear and had a quality that reminds me now of James Earl Jones. I have had my name announced in many places in my lifetime, but none as well done as that time.

I felt a little odd as we had to walk down the center aisle of this church to the altar and then turn right and follow the carpet out of the main room. It looked a lot like a dress rehearsal for a wedding and every guy that I glanced at as we were do-

ing this had a scared, “deer in the headlights” look on his face. Adding to the panic was the crowd of mothers sitting in the pews with cameras and tears in their eyes.

We went into a room set up for the fifty couples to sit in the middle and eat, while the guests lined the outside walls and watched us as they drank the champagne that we couldn’t have. That was bizarre, but it was the first time that I got a good look at the other forty-nine young ladies and I instantly forgot about the old folks.

My girlfriend was a lot of fun and was discretely commenting on the girls to me with insider information that was designed to keep my face red. We finished eating what little we dared to eat for fear of spilling anything and excused ourselves from the table and went outside.

His voice was deep and clear and had a quality that reminds me now of James Earl Jones.

They had placed decorations everywhere and almost all of it made from tissue paper. The dance area had overhead strings of crepe paper and paper lanterns floating in the air on string or very thin line of some kind.

As we stood outside admiring the set up and noting that there was a lot of red dirt in the area, the breeze came up a little. I certainly didn’t mind as I was roasting in the tuxedo.

The beautiful ladies started coming outside and I was paying close attention to them and holding onto my girlfriend’s arm when the two girls in charge of the dance stopped next to us and posed that fateful question, “What if it rains?” to the matron of the cotillion. She said with complete confidence in her ability to control the situation, “Don’t worry. It won’t rain.” We should have run then, but we were young; we didn’t know any better.

The music had begun and the people were gliding, or nearly so, about the makeshift dance arena when the gust of wind hit that smelled like rain to me. Being raised in the much wetter south Florida clime, I was wary of sudden downpours.

It was twilight and the clouds’ advance had been hidden by the fading light so no one noticed. I smelled the rain coming and told my date that we needed to get away from the red dirt or I would be buying a tuxedo and her beautiful dress would get ruined.

Have you ever seen what happens to tissue and crepe paper when it gets wet? Or, how fast red dirt becomes mud with the properties of superglue and red paint? I have. We warned the girls that rain was coming and they said, “No it isn’t; Momma said so.”

We were in the car when the cloudburst hit.

The kids moved inside the big hall with the double doors and I’m sure incurred the wrath of church officials. The woman in charge was standing in the rain looking up when we drove off. I’m not sure if she was ordering the rain to stop or just what, but it had by the time we reached my house.

It took me nearly forty years before I put on another tuxedo and I still checked the weather forecast. ■

More Music Puzzles

by Travis McCord



A. Starting with a straightforward question: aside from being classic rock standbys, what do the following songs have in common?

- *Blinded By The Light*, Manfred Mann
- *Black Magic Woman*, Santana
- *Cum On Feel The Noize*, Quiet Riot
- *I Love Rock And Roll*, Joan Jett and the Blackhearts

B. According to several songs, this is a psychoactive substance, a location for major fighting, similar to a very reactive element, outside of normal experience, and the sole requirement. Fortunately it's cost-free. What is it? (Also, name those tunes.)

C. You may have heard of "backwards masking," in which lyrics are recorded backwards and mixed into a song so that the listener's subconscious picks it up. (There is no credible evidence that it has any effect, by the way.) Turns out there is some of that happening... mainly ironically.

One of the more interesting examples is by Prince (or whatever he's calling himself now). His song "Darling Nikki" (on *Purple Rain*) is a fairly explicit song about a, um, sexually active woman, in a lobby with a magazine... ahem. Anyway, at the end of the song is a backward-masked part. When played forward, those lyrics can be summarized as which of the following?

a) sex sex sex sex sex
b) drugs drugs drugs drugs drugs
c) buy more Prince merchandise at finer stores everywhere
d) have faith in Jesus
e) don't do that, you'll wreck your equipment

D. Well, that writer's struck again... One of the other guys was kidding about lyrics comparing goofy things, and he heard it, and a little later came up with this list. If I get it right, these can be paired up and translated into lyrics. The finished form will be "(blank) is (blank)." (Then, of course, you need to name those tunes.)

1: A juvenile isolated from human contact
2: A section of an inedible solid hydrocarbon compound
3: A severe lack of water in the Lone Star state
4: A supreme being
5: A unit of modern gunpowder-based ammunition
6: An unconscious reaction to stimuli
7: Intimate physical activity
8: Modern commemoration of the Lupercalia
9: My experience of temporal passage
10: Systems of thoughts and meditations on existence
11: That which proves most difficult to comprehend despite instruction
12: The physically simplest thing in question
13: The upper openable part of the breakfast food container
14: Finished or completed

Answers can be found on page 22.

Publication Recognition Program

2010 Editor's Choice (chronologically):



Humor		
Silly Egg Photos & Definitions	Anne Stewart	April
In Praise of Naps	Anne Stewart	May
Kamp Sunshine	Ken Wright	July
Juiced	Ken Wright	Aug
Poetry		
New Mexico, Land of Enchantment	Maurice Pollack	Sept
it starts with a sound	Anne Stewart	Feb
a camera,	Bill Kositzky	March
Puzzles		
Mnemonic Fever	Joe Kisenwether	August
It Just Doesn't Belong Crossword	Anna Wright	August
The Who?	Travis McCord	Sept
Ghoti	Joe Kisenwether	Oct
Cracked	Travis McCord	Nov
Art		
Tomatoes - Cover Shot	Bill Kositzky	May
Butterfly - Cover Shot	Anna Wright	July
On the Road with Bill Kositzky	Bill Kositzky	Oct
Burning Man Retrospective	Jenny Beatty	Dec
Silk's Dancer	Bill Kositzky	March
Essay — Mensa Themed		
Venimus, Vidimus, Vicimus, Vamonos	Jeeks Rajagopal	May
San Diego Mind Games	Sam Beckerman	June
Reno RG 2010 Photo Essay	Richard Arbib, Bill Kositzky, Mary Prior, Anna Wright	Nov
Essay Non-Fiction		
Who'd Do What?	Don MacGregor	April
Modern vs. Alternative	Chelsea Chen	July
A Good Friend I Never Met	Joe Kisenwether	Oct
Hiding From the Rain	Ken Wright	Oct
Pompeii and the Chariots	Maurice Pollack	March

Continuing Column

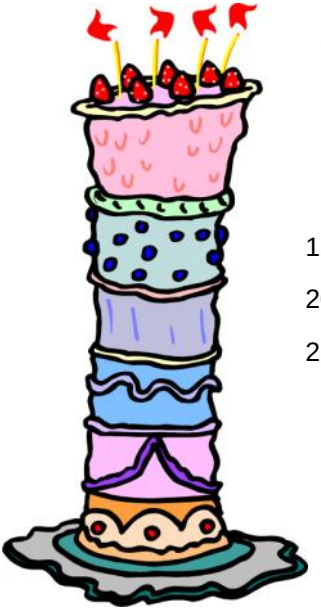
From the LocSec by Robert McAllister

Mensa for Kids! (and Kids at Heart) by Maurice Pollack, Anna Wright

Thank you contributors for another excellent year! — Anna

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

April



1	**Sheryl Gann**	Sparks
5	**Denis Begin**	Reno
6	**H. Joseph Schiess III**	Reno
7	**Eugene Hysner**	Reno
7	**Shelley MacDonald**	Reno
12	**Brett Pearson**	Sparks
20	**Larry Gevedon**	Reno
22	**Heather Maule**	Gardnerville

Birthstone: Diamond

Flower: Sweet Pea, Daisy

Astrological Signs:

Aries: March 21 - April 19,

Taurus: April 20 - May 20



WELCOME!

And Welcome Back!

Capt. James Lockridge, Reno

David Kaul, Sparks

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



Gone to the Dogs

by Anne Stewart

Match up these famous dogs and their owners:

1	MIGHTY MANFRED	A	Roy Rogers
2	KING TIMAHOE	B	Dagwood Bumstead
3	SNERT	C	Superman
4	BULLET	D	Odysseus
5	BO	E	Sherman's owner
6	HAMLET	F	Orion
7	DAISY	G	Pres. Richard M. Nixon
8	KRYPTO	H	Sarah Bernhardt
9	MR. PEABODY	I	Hagar the Horrible
10	SIRIUS	J	Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt
11	ARGOS	K	Tom Terrific
12	FALA	L	Pres. Barack Obama



Answers can be found on page 23.



Help! Call for items!

Authors, poets, artists, photographers, in next month's *Neva-Mind* we want to feature your gardens and flowers. Please, share your creativity! editor@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

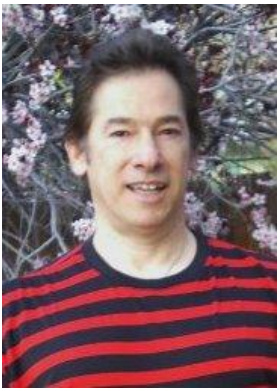


Anna Wright

It's New!

Join in our
*FUN*d-raiser
at the next Mensa meeting!
You could win $$$
in our 50/50 raffle drawing
and help us start raising
$ for club projects.

Our next 2 meetings are
April 16 and May 14.
Mystery prizes too!



Program Listing *by Richard Arbib*

April Monthly Meeting

Saturday, April 16

Time: Arrive after 6 p.m. Speaker at 7 p.m.
Potluck dinner. Bring a dish to share.
Speaker: Joey Ray, NRA instructor and owner of local company, Family Defense, will present items from his seminar, "Refuse to Be a Victim."
Host: Mark Simkin

From the speaker's website, www.familydefensetraining.com:
Refuse To Be A Victim® Seminars

The seminar includes classroom instruction on a variety of crime prevention strategies, from criminal psychology to automobile crimes to cyber crime. Seminars can vary in length, and may be modified to suit the needs of a particular audience. This is not a firearms instruction course, and does not include instruction in physical combat self-defense. Seminars teach about common weaknesses that criminals may take advantage of, and teaches a variety of corrective measures that are practical, inexpensive, and easy to follow. Strategies include home security, carjack avoidance techniques, cyber safety, and use of personal safety devices.

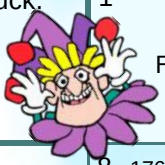
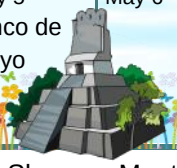
The instructor has gone through all the required training to teach the listed NRA Classes. He is one of only a handful of teachers qualified to teach Personal Protection In The Home, The Basic Firearm Courses, the Reloading Courses, and the Refuse To Be A Victim Courses. He is a certified Nevada CCW, and Utah CFP instructor. He has a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Nevada, Reno, and has many years of firearms experience and training.

Host: Mark Simkin
Address: 550 Creighton Way, Reno (Northwest Reno)
Phone: (775) 323-1766

Directions: From downtown Reno, go west on 5th Street and north on Washington Street. On Washington Street, go past the traffic circle (and just before the entrance to San Rafael Park), turn right on Putnam Drive. In about 100 feet (i.e., the length of one house lot), turn right on Creighton Way and follow the road as it curves east. Mark's house is about one block down on the right from that curve. ■

May Monthly Meeting, Saturday, May 14. Local Mensa member, Loren MacArthur, will give a slide show and talk, "Adventure in Guanajuato." Location: Mi Casa II Mexican Restaurant.

APRIL 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Game Night at Joe's Place: Saturday April 2. Potluck, 4:30 until 8:30 p.m.1047 Table Mountain Court, Sparks. Contact: Joe (775) 338-6521or joe_kisenwether@hotmail.com.					1 April Fool's Day 	**2 Game Night at Joe's**
3	4	5	6 1869 Isaac Hodgson received a patent for the "roller skate".	7	8 1766 The first fire escape was patented.	9
10 Culture Quest	11	12	13 1990 *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* movie was copyrighted.	14		**16 Mensa Meeting**
17 1908 *Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here*, the song, was copyrighted.	18	19	20	21 1828 Noah Webster published the first American dictionary.	22 1864 The U.S. minted the first coin with "In God We Trust" on it.	23
24 Easter 	25 1961 Robert Noyce received a patent for an I.C. "chip."	**26 Lunch Bunch**	27	28 1908 Leonard Dyer was granted a patent for an auto trans-mission.	29	30
May 1	May 2	May 3	May 4	May 5 Cinco de Mayo 	May 6	**May 7 Game Night at Joe's**

Lunch Bunch: Come join us as we celebrate April Showers Month at the Peppermill buffet by the "rainwall." There's always something for everyone's taste at a buffet. We'll meet at 11:45 a.m. For more information contact Don or Laura: (775) 826-5904.

Stormy Weather *Crossword by Anna Wright*



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ACROSS

1 Overdue
5 Mayan language
8 Ascot
13 Goofs
17 Make over
18 Roman three
19 Woofer
21 Colored horse
22 South Dakota National Park
24 Localized rotating destructive column of air
25 European monetary unit
26 Upper atmosphere
27 A strong current of air
28 Pixie
29 Concord e.g.
14
31 Stitch
32 Region of protective shelter
33 Played in shallow water
36 Labels
38 Woman priest
44 National capital
45 Local light wind
48 Fasting season
49 Carpe __
51 Many
53 Water condensed from atmospheric vapor
54 And so forth
55 Fahrenheit gradients
58 Basin
59 Deaden
60 To be
61 Ripen
62 Steal
64 Wrath
65 Congressional member
67 Generally, outside conditions
69 Baths
73 Cinder
74 Spies R Us
75 Vapor condensed of very fine particles suspended in the air very close to the ground
76 Expect
77 Darjeeling and tisane
78 Fine woolen yarns
80 Out of focus
82 Nothing
83 Stormy winter mo.
84 Bolted
85 Pollen jockey

86 Part of 1968 movie title about a family with 18 children
90 "Relay for Life" org.
91 Alert condition after "watch"
94 Choose
95 Continent
96 Showery
99 Oil
100 Wind condition between breeze and storm
101 Wind chill temperature adjustment
103 Subdivision
105 Measures atmospheric pressure
108 Juno
109 Floral leaf
111 Accommodate
112 Star that is the source of light and heat for Earth
114 SFO abbr.
116 Pastry
117 Garret
119 Future chick
122 Fencing sword
124 Complying
127 Air that is able to rise easily, potentially causing storms
129 Green seedless plant
130 Atones
131 Deli order
132 Dirt
133 Part of NIMH (abbr.)
134 Lingo
135 .com or .org (abbr.)
136 Tails

DOWN

1 Globes
2 Infirm
3 A current moving contrary to the main current
4 Pain unit
5 Ballroom dance
6 STD (abbr.)
7 A mass of fine droplets of water in the atmosphere
8 Slave class
9 May
10 Alias
11 Colorful baseball team
12 Injury or destruction of tissue caused by prolonged exposure to extreme cold
13 Before
14 *The Social Contract* author
15 Scarce
16 Precipitation in the form of small ice crystals
19 Brood
20 Of or pertaining to Arctic conditions
23 Gets older
30 Companion of feathers
32 Rent
34 Flightless bird
35 Digging into
37 Seed
38 Requests
39 Recede
40 Burnt fragrance
41 Garden tool
42 Title of respect
43 Behold
46 Teen trauma
47 Compass point
50 Arial
52 Tangy
55 Courts
56 Id's counterparts
57 Cry
63 Split lens
66 Expression of surprise
67 Atmosphere
68 Titanic goddess of the dawn
69 Swayed
70 Standard
71 Everglades transport
72 Spire
74 Metric temperature
76 Actor Alda
78 Mineral
79 Latest
80 Thicket-forming thorny plant
81 Dissuade
82 Tellers
86 Lout
87 Oh beautiful, for spacious skies… (abbr.)
88 Often desirable quality
89 Fill
92 Grate
93 BB association
97 Albuquerque to Denver
98 Barking
100 Gain
102 Lode yield
104 Defile
106 Compensate
107 Glove
110 Not arms
112 Partial
113 On top
115 First murder victim
117 Tempt
118 Black stone
119 Black
120 Delighted
121 Precious stones
123 NYC zone
125 Government agcy. concerned with man-made air conditions
126 Japanese buck
128 Lager

Answers can be found on page 23.

Mensa for Kids! *(and kids at heart)*

by Maurice Pollack and Anna Wright

April is Mensa elections month, and Gifted Children's Coordinators are often asked if young Mensans can vote in national elections. Yes!

In the article below, Kathe Oliver, Gifted Children's Coordinator for Oregon Mensa, details the election process and provides valuable information about voting. Look for your ballot package in the mail and get ready to vote!

Lessa Scherrer, Gifted Youth Committee Chair,
American Mensa, Ltd.

Mensa Elections *by Kathe Oliver (Omen, April 2011)*

It is spring, and an odd numbered year. Therefore it is election season for Mensa. Gifted Children's Coordinators are all hearing the same question from Young Mensans: "Can I vote?" The answer is "YES!" Any member can vote in Mensa's elections, no matter what their age is. Membership, not age, is the qualification for voting.

When thinking of elections, the assumption is often that the person or thing with the majority of the votes wins. Usually they do, but not always. The winner could have the plurality of the vote (the largest number, but not a majority), or the winner could be chosen in a multi-stage election with a separation between the popular vote and the final choice of a winner. There are many ways to hold a valid election.

A simple "majority rules" election works well in circumstances where there are unlikely to be more than two candidates. However, that majority could be only a fraction of a percent of the votes cast, giving the winning candidate little or no authority. With three or more candidates the person with the most votes usually has a plurality, not a majority. If an election allows victory with a plurality, the candidate with the most votes has won, but most people voted against them. The winning candidate is likely to have difficulty being an effective leader.

Many systems have been developed to try to avoid this problem. In the United States the best known such system is the two step method used to elect the President, the Electoral College. This system was designed to both keep states with a disproportionate percentage of the population from dictating the nation's leadership and to assure that the country would elect a widely acceptable leader from what was expected to be a broad field of candidates.

American Mensa Committee (AMC) elections sometimes draw three or four candidates for an office. When that happens, American Mensa uses a Preferential Voting System (PVS), sometimes known as an "instant runoff" system, to elect AMC members. Rather than limiting voters to one choice for each office,

voters in PVS elections may indicate their first, second, third, etc. choices for office, voting for every candidate if they wish to do so. In this way Mensa tries to guarantee that whoever wins office will have the support necessary to lead and represent Mensa.

Under the "Code of Election Procedures" (published in the January 2011 *Mensa Bulletin* and available online at www.us.mensa.org) the ballots are first counted to see if any candidate has a majority of the votes. If no one has a majority, Rule XX states:

"As described by Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, the preferential system used for this election will be the computer equivalent of having ballots sorted into piles according to first choice. The smaller piles will then be redistributed to the larger piles according to second choice beginning with the smallest pile. This procedure shall be repeated until one candidate has a simple majority."

And American Mensa has a new officer.

This system has worked well for Mensa. Often it has been used to decide who would fill several offices on the AMC, but this year it will be used in only two elections, the contests for 1st Vice Chair and for Treasurer. The list of candidates is available on the American Mensa website, www.us.mensa.org. Click on "Elections" for details.

Voting instructions are on the ballot, which will be mailed separately from the Mensa Bulletin, on or about April 10. Under Rule XVI, they will be sent to all "members of good standing as of April 1, 2011". The election ballot package will contain candidate statements and information on the referenda, as well as the ballot itself.

If you haven't received a ballot package by April 30, request a replacement by e-mailing Operations@americanmensa.org or calling 888/294-8035 ext. 5502. This year there will not be election materials from Mensa International, because there were no referenda and all of the candidates ran unopposed. Congratulations to Chairman Willem Bouwens, Director of Administration Sylvia Herbert, Treasurer Cyndi Kuyper, and Director of Development Bibiana Balanyi.

Before you vote in the American Mensa elections, take the time to learn about the candidates. Read the candidate information which accompanies the ballots. Put your Mensa brain to work, and examine their qualifications. How much experience do the candidates have, and in what? How well suited are the candidates for the jobs for which they are applying?

Once you have made your decisions, complete your ballot and mail it so that it will be received by May 31, 2011, OR vote online by 11:59 PM, Central Daylight Savings Time on May 31. However you choose to do it, don't forget to vote! Make your voice heard in Mensa. ■



Number Block:

Use the numbers between 1 and 10 to fill in the spaces in the grid. The numbers in each horizontal row total the numbers to the right of each row. The numbers in each vertical column total the numbers at the bottom of each column. Two diagonal lines across the entire grid total the numbers in the top right box and the lower right box.

You may use the same number more than once. Every number is used at least once.

					27
	2				36
					23
		6			17
		9			38
			1	5	25
31	20	31	22	35	29

Dropped Tiles:

Rearrange these tiles to reveal a quote by baseball great, Casey Stengel.

y o u	a n d o	c a n r	e e t h
r i t	c a n w	c a n l	y o u
b a l l	i n g s	h e r e '	g a m e :
N o w t	s t h r	i n o r	i n a
b a s e	a i n .	o s e o	y o u c

Answers can be found on page 22.

Residual snowfall



Alliterative Oxymoron



Photos thanks to Maurice Pollack.

Graffiti Wall

Anna Wright

Humor from the odder side...

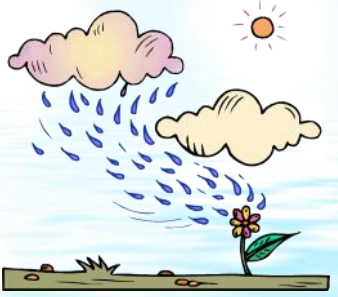
















American Mensa Election Nominees Announced:

The nomination and petition periods are now officially closed. Here is the final list of candidates for Region 8. Those running unopposed are declared elected and will take office on July 1. A full list of national candidates is available on the Mensa web site.

Maggie Truelove, Election Committee Chair
ElectionChair@us.mensa.org

Chair
Elissa Rudolph
Lee Berkovits

1st Vice Chair
Cookie Bakke *
Dan Burg
Robin Crawford

2nd Vice Chair
Lori Norris
John Recht *

Secretary
Jared Levine
Heather Poirier

Treasurer
Guy Conti
Nick Sanford
Gary Chilson

RVC 8 (Northern NV)
Debra Reiger *

*** FYI:** These candidates have attended and supported our Northern Nevada Mensa events.



The *Neva-Mind* holds no opinion on any of the Mensa candidates or any statements made by them.

(LocSec continued from page 5)

It has been noted that the relatively recent volcanic eruption in Iceland undid in a few days all the rest of the world's efforts of environmental maintenance over the previous five years.

There are those who sarcastically point out that one year's worth of volcanic eruptions can overshadow what responsible efforts attempt to correct in a whole generation. Someone once laughingly declared that a fire in South Lake Tahoe a few years ago cancelled out what would have happened had no one who lives there and everyone who had visited there for the past ten years had not driven an automobile. Meanwhile, it is not yet known what the extent of the nuclear generators' part is in the recent earthquake in Japan. As of this writing, it seems to be getting out of hand. If it becomes as bad as Chernobyl, we might find ourselves being affected by it, also. A University of Washington, atmospheric chemist, Dan Jaffe, said, "There is no planet B. We all live down wind." ■

Meet an AMC First Vice-Chair Candidate *by Dan Burg*

Dan Burg for First Vice-Chair of American Mensa

The job of First Vice-Chair is free-form. It is what the occupant makes of it. Various First Vice-Chairs have interpreted the same words differently over the years. “[A]ct as substitute during the Chairman's absence or inability to serve” – that’s easy to discern. “In the case of vacancy in the office of Chairman . . . the [First Vice-Chair] shall move up” – that’s easy to discern too. But what does “assist in the discharge of the Chairman’s duties” mean? To me, it means that the Chairman and the First Vice-Chair should act as a team. I provide informal advice and historical perspective and act as a resource to the Chairman and to other individuals and to the AMC as a whole. I’m also currently on eight national committees, including two as chair, and gather member input on issues important to them. I help people write motions whether I agree with the content or not; I do this because I think it is important that ideas get discussed without technical issues standing in the way.

Representing American Mensa internationally is another important part of the First Vice-Chair’s job. The First Vice-Chair traditionally serves as one of American Mensa’s national representatives to Mensa International. The international board meeting last fall was my ninth, the most of anyone currently in the American delegation. This experience has let me find solutions that are beneficial to both American Mensa and international Mensa.

I’ve chaired the national Bylaws Committee since 2005. During that time I’ve helped dozens of local groups update their bylaws. I’ve also informally reviewed bylaws and proposed amendments on request from several local groups, to help them get through the process faster. We’ve updated the Minimum Standard Bylaws to allow electronic distribution of ballots; now, local groups don’t have to send printed copies of the newsletter to electronic-only subscribers just to get a ballot to them. The Minimum Standard Bylaws and the Model Bylaws contain a lot more explanatory material than they used to, and each is cross-indexed. Each of those improvements was done under my leadership.

The First Vice-Chair has to be ready to step into the chairmanship at a moment’s notice should the need arise. Well-rounded experience – local, regional, national, international – is important. I have that experience.

I would be honored to receive your vote to continue as First Vice-Chair. Thank you for your support.

Dan Burg



More Music answers:



Part A: Those are all covers that did better than the original songs (to the point where people don't know they're covers). The original artists: Bruce Springsteen, Fleetwood Mac, Slade, and the Arrows. (Yeah, I haven't heard of those last guys either.)

Part B: Love. The songs are: "Love is the Drug," Roxy Music; "Love is a Battlefield," Pat Benatar; "Love is Like Oxygen," Sweet; "Love is Strange," Mickey & Sylvia; "Love is All You Need," the Beatles; and either "Love is Free" by Sheryl Crow or "Love Don't Cost a Thing" by Jennifer Lopez.

Part C: d. The actual lyrics: "Hello, how are you? I'm fine because I know the Lord is coming soon. Coming, coming soon." Incidentally, the B-52s did edit their song "Detour Through Your Mind" with a backward-masked "Oh no, you're playing the record backwards! Watch out, you might ruin your needle."

Part D: The pairs and corresponding lyrics are:

4 & 5: "God is a bullet," Concrete Blonde, *God is a Bullet*

6 & 1: "the Reflex is a lonely child," Duran Duran, *The Reflex*

7 & 3: "sex is a Texas drought," Bloodhound Gang, *The Bad Touch*

8 & 14: "Valentine is done," Blue Oyster Cult, *(Don't Fear) the Reaper*

9 & 2: "and my time is a piece of wax," Beck, *Loser*

10 & 13: "Philosophy is the top of a cereal box," Edie Brickell and the New Bohemians, *What I Am*

11 & 12: "the hardest to learn is the least complicated," Indigo Girls, *Least Complicated.*

Number Block

					27
9	2	9	9	7	36
6	1	4	2	10	23
2	1	6	2	6	17
8	6	9	8	7	38
6	10	3	1	5	25
31	20	31	22	35	29

Dropped Tiles answer:

Now there's three things that you can do at a baseball game: you can win or you can lose or it can rain.

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Mensa-Speak *What are we saying?*

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)

Gone to the Dogs

answers:

1: K
2: G
3: I
4: A
5: L
6: H
7: B
8: C
9: E
10: F
11: D
12: J

Stormy Weather answers:

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



American Mensa Ltd.
1229 Corporate Drive West
Arlington, TX 76006-6013

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IDENTIFICATION STATEMENT

The *Neva-Mind* is published monthly by Northern Nevada Mensa. Members of American Mensa local group #893 receive the *Neva-Mind* for a $9.84 portion of their annual membership.

Subscriptions to others are available at $10.00 per year payable by check to *Neva-Mind* Subscriptions, c/o Robert McAllister, 350 Old Washoe Circle, Washoe Valley, NV 89704. Known Office of Publication: Anna M Wright, 510 Michael Dr., Fallon, NV 89406.

Postmaster: Send address changes to:
American Mensa, Ltd.,
1229 Corporate Dr. West,
Arlington, TX 76006-6103.

Check us out at: http://northernnevada.us.mensa.org/