Neva-Mind, Northern Nevada Mensa

Volume 36, Issue 10, October 2012

NEVA-MIND



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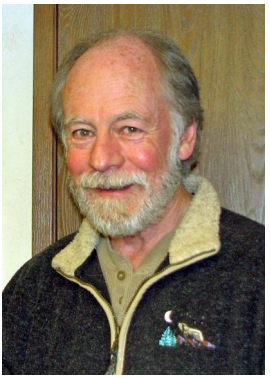
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From the LocSec



by Bob McAllister

It seems to be a worthwhile idea to pass on occasionally to our membership news about what happens in our chapter with respect to our ExComm's management.

A few years ago, a decision was made to take money that we had in a checking account and to put it in some kind of interest-accruing account. Fortunately cash reserves that we had on hand that weren't earmarked for regular payment schedules for our finance management merely went to a savings account.

I say "fortunately" because shortly after depositing a balance that wasn't likely to be put into use any time imminently, we (the country and world economies) experienced the '08 meltdown. It would have taken the acumen of investors beyond our capabilities to recover what would have well been devastating losses.

Still, the savings account of deposit is an insulting one per cent.

A thread that has gone on at ExComm meetings has been "what to do with excess (or at least extra) finances?" After all, the extra is everyone's and it just sits there.

Some seed money went to the inception of our new Scholarship Fund.

Once, when we had a decent-sized group attending a tour of the very interesting Reno Auto Museum, a quick decision was made to pay the admission fees for those in attendance. The idea being that it was an unanticipated gift.

Thought has been given to forgive the Scholarship Fund its seed money, anticipating that it eventually will become self-funded.

So, a quandary is that, should we begin a practice of constant give-aways, our monetary base would erode. Then we wouldn't even be able to afford to do a newsletter.

As it is, we lose about $25 per month. Though maybe a nominal amount, it would add up.

We've done RGs and an AG that were expensive to put on and which only realized a modest profit.

We've toyed with the idea of holding, once or twice a year, a get-together designed to acquire small donations... a spaghetti feed with entertainment, an auction, a raffle. Even a pending occasional Poker Night could have some of its proceeds go to our "charity."

Any ideas? We'd welcome them.

robertjmcallister@earthlink.net ■

Somewhat Annual Perseid Meteor Shower Camp Out 2012 After-Action Report.

by Bill Kositzky

Originally scheduled for Sunday August 12 through Monday morning August 13, a few friends talked me into going out Saturday as well. Saturday viewing was one of the best Perseid shows I have seen. We saw our first shooting star about
9:15 p.m. and at least one person was awake and counting till dawn for an aggregate count of about 220! Sunday night was overcast; we spotted a few but mostly amused ourselves with camp fire conversation, hot dogs, and marshmallows.

Pyramid Lake was the subject of a water quality advisory this year. A couple of folks went swimming with no ill effects. Sandy Lackovic and her grandson Sylys posed enthusiastically for a few photos at lakeside. Sylys had found a dragonfly which either liked him a lot or had a wing problem and couldn't fly away. ■









Happy Birthday!



October

1	**Phillip Fuller**	Ely
8	**Gloria Dondero**	Reno
9	**Becky Smith**	Sparks
10	**Richard Campbell, Jr.**	Carson City
10	**Stuart Finlayson**	Carson City
12	**Diane Howard**	Carson City
14	**Minnis Alderman**	Ely
14	**Mark Hadley**	Reno
15	**Loren MacArthur**	Reno
16	**Judy Dosse**	Las Vegas
17	**Matt Henry**	Carson City
20	**Curtis Freemont**	Reno
21	**Shannon Zettler**	Tahoma
23	**Chelsea Teller**	Reno
25	**Anne-Louise Bennett**	Reno
27	**Donald Newman**	South Lake Tahoe
30	**Jennifer Sanches**	Fallon



Welcome!

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

David Gill	Carson City
Walker McDermott	Reno
Paul Jameson	Carson City



How to Steal $7 Billion

by Mark G. Simkin



What's the world's 205th-richest man doing in jail? He's R. Allen Stanford, and he's there because he's the latest, but probably not the last, cheat to join the billion-dollar swindler's club. In June of 2012, Mr. Stanford was sentenced to 110 years in prison for his part in what now appears to be a $7 billion fraud—in effect, a life sentence for the 62-year old financier.

Mr. Stanford was accused of running a Ponzi scheme, in which the trickster uses funds from current investors to pay earnings on the funds of past investors. In this case, however, Mr. Stanford used monies that investors thought were purchasing certificates of deposit and similar bank instrument in his Stanford International Bank in Antigua to cover up a series of bad, personal real estate investments and other failed business ventures.



In many ways, Mr. Stanford lived the exemplary life style of an embezzler, complete with extravagant homes in Miami and Antigua, a fleet of private jets, and imported, exotic fish — a life style Mr. Stanford apparently didn't want to give up when his investments began to collapse. Instead, he siphoned off the monies of his investors for that.

Perhaps the most memorable part of Mr. Stanford's fraud was his continued denial of wrongdoing, even at his sentencing. In a 40-minute, rambling statement, he repeatedly maintained his innocence, protested government officials' use of "Gestapo tactics," denied any wrong doing, and claimed that it was the government's own interference in his business dealings that kept him from recouping his losses. Perhaps it was his own defiance that resulted in his long prison sentence — a full 40 years longer, in fact, than Bernie Madoff who had taken almost $50 billion more!

Synopsis

Mr. Stanford's thievery is more common than you might suspect, and his thinking is similar to a gambler's who believes the only way to recoup his losses is to gamble more. (This is a major reason employers pay so much attention to the credit histories of job applicants.) But Mr. Stanford was able to use other people's money in his attempts to "win back" the funds he'd lost in his real estate dealings. And like the gambler who loudly protests when pulled away from the

gambling table, Mr. Sanford blamed the government for his inability to make good on his losses.

Mr. Stanford was able to get away with what he did for years because he got help. High on the list of "assistants" was an Antiguan regulator, whom he bribed to misrepresent his holdings. Then there was an outside auditor, whom he also bribed for exactly the same reason. Finally, there were his trusted bank officers, most of whom were also living beyond their means and who have now also pled guilty to conspiracy and corruption charges.

I agree with Mr. Stanford in one regard: his was not a Ponzi scheme. But so what? He still misled investors around the world, and used much of their monies to support his own lavish life style. The lesson is clear: offshore investments that promise above-market returns often also signal big risks. ■

"Picture source: the website of the Commerical Appeal at: http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2012/mar/06/stanford-jurors-resume-deliberations-after-deadloc/."

Cover Credits



"Vase with Fire Buds" *by Anna Wright*

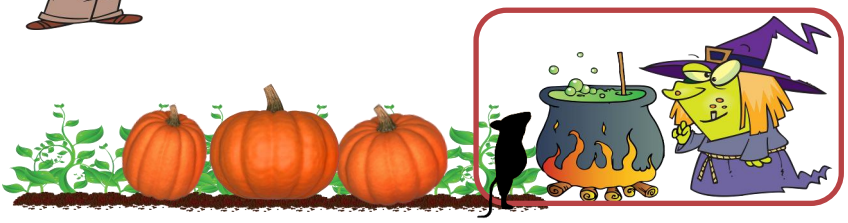
I have always loved fractals. There is something magical about taking algebra and turning it into art. Each part of this graphic began as a calculation, an iteration. After fine-tuning my color palette, I copied and layered the pieces together, adding and subtracting to complete my vision. It is an original creation, existing (alas) only in the virtual world. ■



We want you on the cover!

The *Neva-Mind* is looking for cover shots for the November and December issues. Send us your photo, artwork, or photo of your artwork. It's an open invitation and we're flexible.

Anna Wright, editor
editor@northernnevada.us.mensa.org



Speaking of Spider Bites… *by Cookie*



Speaking of spider bites (September, 2012, *Neva-Mind,* "I Have To Do What?" by the amazingly talented Ken Wright), I spent my entire life being terrified of crawly things. Intellectually, it made little sense; I was always quick to jump on a plane and travel to a politically unstable country in search of a story, but let one little June bug fly within 50 feet of me and I rapidly morphed into a screaming little girl. It was so bad that I wouldn't even step on a creepy crawly with boots on, lest its mother and father, sisters and brothers, and entire village crawl out of a nearby hole and eat my legs in retaliation.

And then came D., a long time arms-length M-friend who led a double life.

She came to me one day, dressed in yet another of her silk work dresses and perfectly coifed, in a near state of hysteria. Having never seen that side of her — she was a long time accountant type who I was sure had doilies on all of her tables and plastic runners to protect her carpets (even though I'd never been in her home) — so I sat her down and dragged the story out of her.

Double life, indeed. D. was a Hoarder, the kind that you see in newspaper articles and on that television show. Her house, she admitted, had not been cleaned in 18 years and somehow the city was "on to her." They'd served her with an inspection notice and she was terrified that she, and her secret, would be on the front page of our local newspaper. I knew then why we'd always met at my house or gotten together at local eateries. And she knew that I'd helped a few other M-Hoarders get through such emergencies, so I was probably not only her only hope, but the only one dumb enough to agree to try to help her.

She drove me, in her high-priced, low-mileage, spotlessly clean old lady car, to her nearby three bedroom ranch style home. It was still daylight and I was expecting the usual M style of newspapers and magazines stacked up to the ceilings kind of mess. I knew I could handle it, albeit was not looking forward to the experience because "those people" get downright hysterical if you throw out an old pizza box with a single remaining piece of petrified pepperoni.

We did not approach the front door, instead went through the backyard gate and entered the home via the back patio door. I'm good at hiding shock, and I am that rare being who has managed to beat judgementality from my soul, however I was ill-prepared for what I encountered. Not only was D. a hoarder, she was a mixed hoarder — and one of the many types of items she "stored" was food. Boxes, cans, bottles, bags, dating back nearly two decades, piled throughout every room, floor to ceiling, and passageway was via thin pathways and, in some

areas, crawl space between rooms. The refrigerator had not been opened — although it was plugged in — for eight years. Ditto on the other appliances. The worst part, however, was the kitchen sink. The water in the house was off, like it had been for the same eight years. Once a week, D. would turn it on, flush the two toilets, and then instantly turn it off. Her reasoning was that there was a leak under the kitchen sink and she could not, under any circumstance, call in a plumber to fix it. Her secret would be exposed. Her remedy was to shower at a local Health Club, go to a local laundromat to wash clothes, use all paper/plastic eating utensils (which then went into the piles of trash), and bring in bottled water, plastic soda bottles, etc. This was readily apparently because a decade of these things were mixed in with the ceiling high piles that she was afraid to take outside on garbage day lest her neighbors wonder why a 60-year-old single woman would produce any more than a small bag or two of trash in a given week.

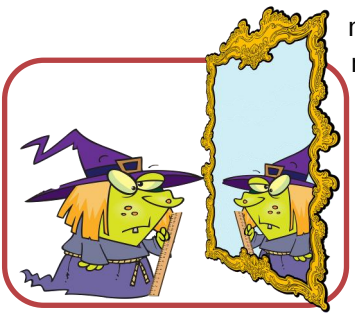
As I took in the scene before me, as well as any human being who has just volunteered to jump off of the Empire State Building to help a friend might take in the vision of the ground below, I saw the first one. A spider. Then another one and another one and another one. "They hardly ever bite," said D. as she burst into great big gulping sobs. "Can you help me?"

What happens when you mix the world's most extreme co-dependent with an arachnophobic?

What happens when you mix the world's most extreme co-dependent with an arachnophobic? A choice has to be made, and the sobs won out. In one instant I lost my fear of spiders.

I know that you all want to know what happened. That part of the story is irrelevant to some degree, although, yes, I hauled over 700 lawn and leaf bags out of there and got them well hidden in a locked outbuilding, I "found" an incredibly gorgeous piano, covered in plastic (thankfully) buried under six feet of Calcutta type refuse, and I learned that spiders will bite if you sit on them.

The bad news was that the little guy I sat upon was a brown recluse, generally a breed that is non aggressive to a fault. Apparently my butt was aggressive. The good news was that my doctor was fascinated with the task of carefully removing necrotic skin from my body, in hopes that he could stop the progression before it necessitated an operating room and a bunch of surgeons. As luck would have it, the bite was exactly on the fused portion of my lower spine, so here I sit able to tell about it, missing only hundreds of dollars in medical costs and my sub-human fear of spiders.



Today, just like at Ken's, we have a red-bellied Black Widow living outside in the small crevice that

(Continued on page 27)

Puzzle Page

by Travis McCord

Since we're heading into that time of year called **"The Holidays"** (ooh, ahh), this month's goofy trivia quiz is all about those various special days. This quiz is just a little bit different, though: many of these have more than one possible answer. Match these descriptions to the days they reference:

1. Considered the end of summer
2. Second biggest shopping day of the year (according to retailers)
3. Outlawed by the Puritans
4. Has a counter-holiday, "Indigenous Peoples Day"
5. Known for guising
6. Known for wassailing
7. Originally called "Admission Day"
8. Set up to honor dead soldiers
9. Julius Caesar was deified on this day
10. Known for being the day before a feast day
11. Known for being the day kids get gifts
12. Date of a dramatic reading of the Bible from Lunar orbit
13. First declared in 1863
14. Made official 1933
15. Made an official holiday in 1938
16. Moved to its current date in 1941
17. Expanded in 1954
18. First coined in 1961
19. Created in 1966, named after "first fruits of the harvest"
20. Celebrated as early as 1966, popularized via TV in 1997
21. Became an official holiday in 1968
22. Can range from January 21 to February 20, depending on a lunar calendar
23. Can range from September 5 to October 5, again based on a lunar calendar
24. The 2nd Monday in November, in Kenya and one county in Alabama

Bonus question: A federal law signed into law on June 28, 1968 and taking effect on January 1, 1971 dramatically changed the calendar... how?

Answers on page 28

Congratulations dear colleagues and friends! The 2011 Publications Recognition Program (PRP) has identified the national nominees for awards. We have been showered with 11 nominations for the *Neva-Mind* and its contributors and 2 more for our website. Each final competition includes 5 nominees from across the country. The winners will be announced in the November *Mensa Bulletin*. Good luck everyone!

— Anna



2011 PRP National Nominations:

Humor:

"Slip 'n Slide Alaska Style" by Ken Wright

Essay (non-fiction):

"I'm Not Throwing Them Away" by Ken Wright

"More Valuable Than Gold" by Ken Wright

Puzzles:

"Name That Ad!" Crossword by Anna Wright

"Events of the 60s" by Travis McCord

Art:

"O! say can you see" by Bill Kositzky

"Burning Man 2011" Photo Essay by Bill Kositzky

Neva-Mind: Anna Wright, Editor

Overall Entertainment

Mensa Awareness

Overall Presentation

Best Newsletter - Small Group

Website: Mindy Hsu, Web-Mistress

Overall Entertainment

Best Website - Small Group

[See RVC column (page 26) for more information.]



Meet a Mensan

an interview by Mindy Hsu

Meet Jessica Kinstler.

Tell me something I would know about you if I knew you well for a year.



I've been married to my awesome husband Aaron for 6 years. We like to travel and want to eventually visit every state except for Wisconsin. (Everyone wants to go to all 50 and we decided to be different, Wisconsin was eliminated because Aaron is from California and takes issue with Wisconsin's claim that they have superior cheese) I was born in Houston, TX and raised in Logan, UT. Moved to Reno for Aaron's job. Graduated from UNR with a B.S. in Nutritional Science, minor in Analytical Chemistry. I don't like birds because of some traumatic childhood encounters with them (chased by a big, mean goose at a park when I was 6, bit by my Aunt's parrot when I was 7, and I'm apparently invisible to pigeons because they always attempt to fly right through the space my head/hair is occupying.) I like to play poker and have played in the World Series of Poker Ladies event a couple times, the first year I played I made it down to the last 3 tables then got taken out on a lucky card by Jennifer Tilly who eventually won the event. I don't like Jennifer Tilly. I love going to big music festivals and like a wide variety of music, we have been to Outsidelands, Vegoose, and Lollapalooza over the last couple years and want to go to Coachella and Bonnaroo over the next few.

What was the first time you knew you might be different from other people?

I was a grade ahead in school so I was always the youngest in my class, but I was in a private school that had a lot of gifted and talented kids. I didn't (and still don't) really feel different from other people.

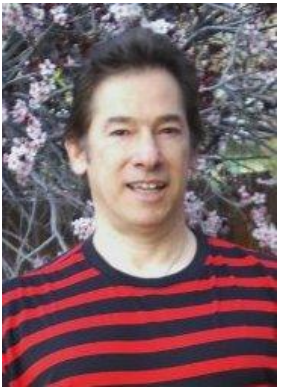
What do you like about pharmacy? (You must since you're going to get a doctorate in it.)

I think the molecular mechanics of the human body are really fascinating. I get kind of awestruck thinking about the countless reactions that are constantly taking place in our bodies just to keep us

(Continued on page 27)



Movie Night at Bob's Home *by Richard Arbib*



October Monthly Program
Saturday, October 13
Potluck dinner, movie, and trivia quiz.

For the Halloween month, we'll see the horror classic, *Rosemary's Baby,* and there will be a related trivia quiz contest afterwards. For those interested, there is also a short documentary on how the movie was made.

Time: 6 p.m. for potluck dinner, followed by the movie.
Hosts: Bob & Mary McAllister
Location: 350 Old Washoe Circle, Washoe Valley
Phone: (775) 849-2269

From *Filmsite Movie Review*:

> "The creepy, eerie gothic film is about a young newlywed couple who move into a large, rambling old apartment building in Central Park West, and begin a loving, post-honeymoon period. They become friendly with the eccentric next-door neighbors, an overly-solicitous and intrusive elderly couple, and soon the husband's acting career turns promising. But after a nightmarish dream of making love to a Beast, the paranoid, haunted, and hysterical woman believes herself impregnated so that her baby can be used in the New Yorkers' evil cult rituals. [Polanski deliberately presented the film with enough ambiguity so that the viewer is never quite certain whether Rosemary's experiences are truly supernatural or just fabricated, imaginative hallucinations.] The big-budget horror film received two Academy Award nominations: one for Polanski's Best Adapted Screenplay, and Ruth Gordon won the Best Supporting Actress award for her performance as one of the well-meaning, 'normal' NYC neighbors."

Directions:

From the intersection of Highways 395 & 431 (Mt.Rose Hwy — the traffic light,) go South 7.1 miles, down into Washoe Valley on Hwy. 395. (Do not take the East Lake turn-off or Interstate 580 entrances.)

When the cement highway divide ends/disappears, make an immediate left turn. (Unfortunately, directly across the northbound Hwy. 395 traffic.) (Coming from south on Hwy. 395 in Washoe Valley — approximately 100 yards north of the "Old US 395 Station," turn right into Old Washoe Estates.)

At the gate, key in "#9467". The neighborhood consists of a traffic circle with four tributary spokes. The traffic circle is called Old Washoe Circle. The southeast spoke is called Wild Life Way. 350 Old Washoe Circle is at the juncture with Wild Life Way.

It's a two story house, grey with white trim, and lots of parking space. ■

Program Listings:

Program Nights: Second Saturdays, 6 p.m.

- **October 13: Movie night at Bob's** home in Washoe Valley. See all the details on page 13.
- November 10: Famous Dave's Restaurant is our destination for great BBQ and a presentation by local member, Dr. Howard Chen. Topic: "Ask the Doctor."
- December 8: Christmas party! (Details TBA)

Your program contact is Richard Arbib, Calendar@northernnevada.us.mensa.org.

Supper Club: Third Tuesdays, 6 p.m.

- **October 16: Bangkok Cuisine South**, 5851 South Virginia St. Reno (775) 284-3802
- November 20 - Niko's Greek Kitchen, 148 West St., Reno (775) 284-3678
- December 18 - Hiroba Sushi (it's not just sushi), 3005 Skyline Blvd., Reno (775) 829-2788

For more information or to offer suggestions for future dinners contact Sandra Lackovic at ssmarticle@gmail.com.

Lunch Bunch Fourth Tuesdays, 11:45 a.m.

- **October 23: Jack's Café**, S. Virginia at Longley; Reno, 826-3929 for October. (This was chosen in honor of the *jack*-o-lantern.)
- November 27: Tired of eating turkey leftovers? Come to the November lunch at Burger Me; 6280 Sharlands; Reno; 737-9404
- December 25: Cancelled for the holidays

Call for info: Don or Laura 826-5904.

Game Night at Joe's Place: First Saturdays, 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Potluck. 1047 Table Mountain Court, Sparks. Contact: Joe (775) 338-6521 or joe_kisenwether@hotmail.com.

- **October 6**
- November 3
- December 1

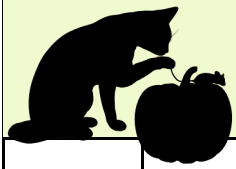
"Challenge your friends with 2-for-1 testing" in October

Hello all. If you bring a friend to test with you on Oct 20, then we will only be charging $20 each. Thanks, Mindy mindyhsu2002@yahoo.com.

- **Oct 20**
- Nov 3
- Dec 1

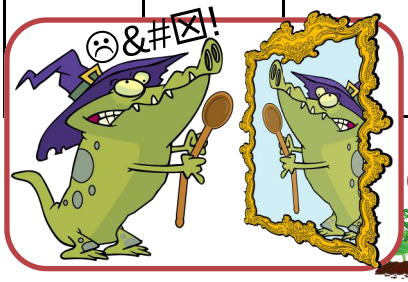
Saturdays from 3-5 p.m.
at Grassroots Books.
660 E Grove St., Reno





October 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Game Night at Joe's
7	8 Colum-bus Day	9	10	11	12	13 **Mensa Program: Movie Night**
14	15	16 Supper Club	**New Poker Night at Bob's** 8:00 p.m., 350 Old Washoe Circle, Washoe Valley. Snacks & drinks will be provided. **Please RSVP!** Phone: 849-2269 Driving Instructions: page 13			20 Poker Night & Mensa Testing 2-for-1
21	22	23 Lunch Bunch	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Hallow-een	Nov 1	Nov 2	Nov 3 Game Night at Joe's





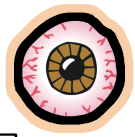
“Once upon a midnight dreary,…”

by Anna Wright

What’s your Poe-tential?

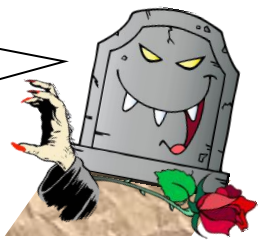






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Of course, if you can’t remember these details you can always *dig out* your old edition of Poe…



Answers on page 29

2a How is Fortunato dressed in "The Cask of Amontillado"?

4a What was in "The Oblong Box"?

5a What color was the seventh apartment in "The Masque of the Red Death"?

10a Where did Poe die?

13a Who does the narrator miss in “The Raven”?

14a What was Poe's wife's name?

15a Where was Poe born?

20a In "The Tell-Tale Heart" what animal is described as the old man's eye?

24a Fortunato is a member of what prestigious group?

28a In "The Fall of the House of Usher" who is entombed alive?

29a Prince Prospero's party is interrupted each hour by what sound?

30a What happened to the girl in "The Oval Portrait"? (2 wds)

31a "Blood was its__..." from "The Masque of the Red Death"

32a How does Poe describe a certain missing letter in a title?

1d It's the title of an E. A. Poe science fiction story.

3d In "Some Words with a Mummy," how was the mummy revived by Dr. Ponnonnor?

6d What was Poe's foster family name after his parents died?

7d Poe is credited with creating what genre of literature?

8d How old was Poe when he died?

9d Who "… lived in a kingdom by the sea"?

11d "Descent into the Maelstrom" — What is a maelstrom?

12d What is the family relationship between Poe and his future wife?

16d What historical event is the cause of the torture in "The Pit and the Pendulum"?

17d Which tale is about a dwarf who is forced to be a court jester?

18d Where do the "Murders at the __ __” occur?

19d Montresor hates Fortunato because of what? (2 wds)

21d What illness took Poe's parents when he was a small child?

22d What was the title of Poe's first published book ("__ and Other Poems")?

23d Which school was Poe expelled from?

25d What drives the narrator to confess in “The Tell-Tale Heart"? (2 wds)

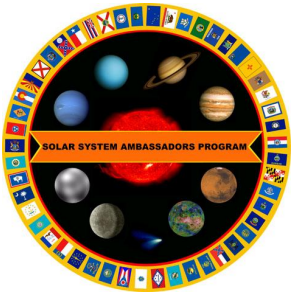
26d What story is told by a man awaiting execution?

27d Who is the master of the House of Usher?

A Space Nerd Speaks

by Ken Wright

Greetings Science Nerds,



I have to wonder if the recent increase in Mohawk haircuts is due to the popularity of NASA's "Mohawk Guy" Bobak Ferdowsi, who is a flight director for the Mars Science Laboratory mission. Certainly a cool guy with a lot of enthusiasm for his job in the exciting field of space exploration. It is great to see a young man in the public spotlight who kids and young adults can identify with and see that science really IS a fun and exciting field to go into.

Who could NOT want to update their Curiosity on Mars infotainment. Check here for details: http://marsprogram.jpl.nasa.gov/msl/

As I promised, I have a NASA technology spinoff to share with you.

I have chosen a development that has proven to be a major improvement for our firefighters struggling to deal with fires all over the USA and the world (civilian and military applications).

Originating in the designs and developments utilized in the thruster technology of the Saturn V rockets that have proven to be so successful in lifting payloads into space, civilian partners ORBITEC and their subsidiary HMA Fire have taken the lessons learned even farther.

The creation of UHP or Ultra High Pressure fire suppression systems has given demonstrated and proven capability of putting out fires faster and with less water. These systems not only knock out fires faster, but reduce temperatures and smoke production making it safer for firefighters to aggressively do their jobs. Less water used means less damage, and extended fire fighting capabilities with the same water payload. One example is the UHP suppression system has repeatedly proven capability of extinguishing a fully engulfed car fire in 9 seconds.

HMA's Hydrus systems are commercially available and being utilized both on their vehicle designs and skid-mounted to be placed on existing fire vehicles. They are seeing duty in Afghanistan at forward firebases and are present on many United States Army, Navy and Air Force bases here at home.

This design which began life lifting giant rockets into space, has now proven to be a lifesaver here on planet Earth, and is just one of hundreds of ways that space science benefits mankind.

From the category of Public Safety: High Pressure Systems Suppress Fire in Seconds http://spinoff.nasa.gov/Spinoff2011/ps_5.html

Here is the site for those who want to see more now:
http://spinoff.nasa.gov/index.html

In the skies for October:

- October 15: New Moon. The Moon will be directly between the Earth and the Sun and will not be visible from Earth. This phase occurs at 5:02 PDT (12:02 UTC.)
- October 20: Astronomy Day Part 2. Astronomy Day is an annual event intended to provide a means of interaction between the general public and various astronomy enthusiasts, groups and professionals. The theme of Astronomy Day is "Bringing Astronomy to the People," and on this day astronomy and stargazing clubs and other organizations around the world will plan special events. You can find out about special local events by contacting your local astronomy club or planetarium. You can also find more about Astronomy Day by checking the Web site for the Astronomical League.
- October 20, 21: Orionids Meteor Shower. The Orionids is an average shower producing about 20 meteors per hour at their peak. This shower usually peaks on the 21st, but it is highly irregular. A good show could be experienced on any morning from October 20 - 24, and some meteors may be seen any time from October 17 - 25. The first quarter moon will set by midnight, leaving a dark sky for what should be a good show. Best viewing will be to the east after midnight. Be sure to find a dark location far from city lights.
- October 29: Full Moon. The Moon will be directly opposite the Earth from the Sun and will be fully illuminated as seen from Earth. This phase occurs at 12:49 PDT (19:49 UTC.)

The mission chosen for this month is: Dawn: Journey to the Asteroid Belt.

Dawn began its 3-billion-mile odyssey to explore the two most massive objects in the main asteroid belt on September 27, 2007. Dawn arrived at Vesta in July 2011 and will reach Ceres in early 2015. These two members of the asteroid belt have been witness to much of our solar system's history.

The spacecraft itself is a marvel of engineering and design. When launched, it was folded to the size of a large motorcycle (7'9"), and once safely into space it deployed its solar arrays and assumed its present shape the length of a tractor trailer rig (65'). The propulsion of the craft is by engines right out of the SciFi world: ion thrusters! Talk about fuel efficiency; these babies will run for 2100 days of thruster time on 937 pounds of xenon propellant!

I can't wait to see what Dawn sends us from dwarf planet Ceres! Most people had never even heard of its existence and soon we will be able to see it!

Read the awesome information Dawn provided about Vesta and see photos of the giant space rock (337 miles across!) taken up close and personal by this flying research tool at these sites:
http://www.nasa.gov/dawn and
http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov ■



The Laws Railroad Museum and Historic Site includes static displays of a train consisting of an oil-fired steam engine locomotive and several freight cars from the narrow gauge Southern Pacific Railroad. The museum's display explains that the railroad was relied on by many eastern Sierra communities before modern roads were built during the 1950s and 1960s. Larger trucks also then became in common use. The maximum extant of the rail line was from Mound House, (east of Carson City, NV) to Keeler CA, on the eastern shore of Owens Lake.



Laws is just a few miles northeast of Bishop, California. The station at Laws was the main operational station. Located here were the water and fuel tanks; and also a turntable for the locomotive, and other rail cars. A station agent's home is located there. The museum also includes several historic buildings moved to the museum site from downtown Bishop, including a church and school house.

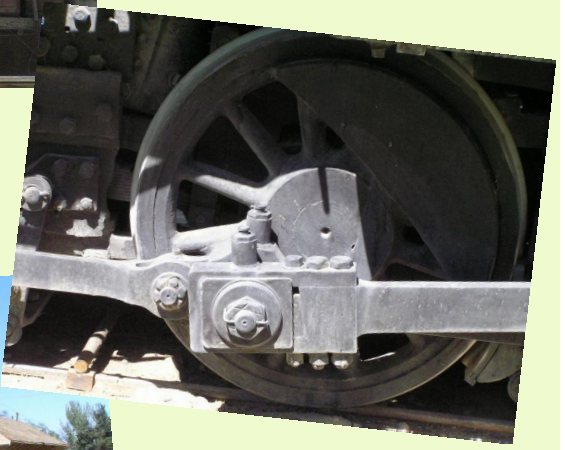


My main interest was in the railroad exhibits. One of the photos shows the two tanks. The furthest tank contained water. The closer tank contained oil. Originally the engines used wood for fuel, and later switched to burning oil, to generate the steam. (web site at: http://lawsmuseum.org/)






LAWS




CARSON&COLORADO RY


9

Mensa for Kids

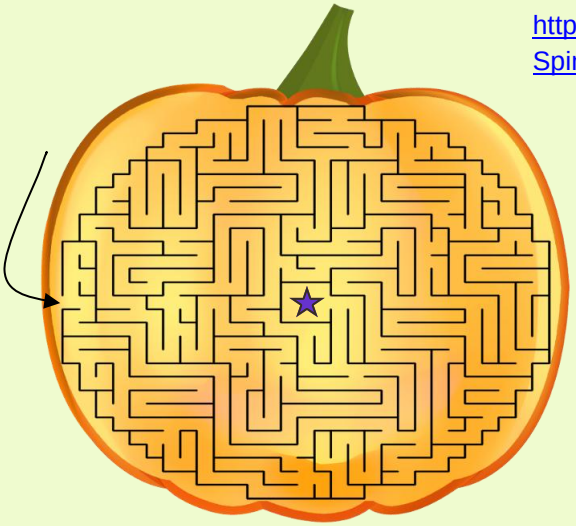
(and kids at heart) by Maurice Pollack and Anna Wright



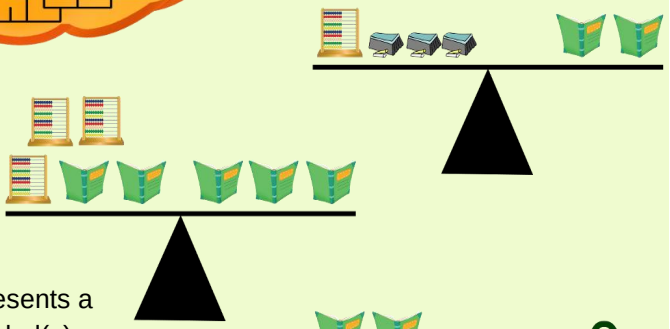
From NASA and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) comes “Space School Musical.” It’s dubbed as “ultra-cool edu-tainment ‘hip-hopera’" and is performed by kids just like you. Awesome! http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/education/index.cfm?page=184

Here’s another fun item from NASA, a puzzle/coloring book that you can download and print out. http://spinoff.nasa.gov/pdf/Spinoff_coloring_book.pdf

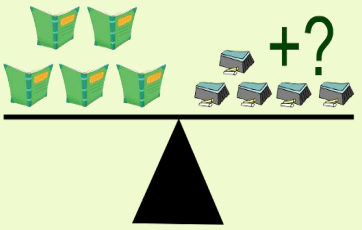
Both links thanks to Ken Wright







Each of these icons represents a whole number. What symbol(s) would you use to complete the last balance? (Position relative to the fulcrum is not important.)



Parents and Teachers —Young Mensan New Benefits:

After coordinating with two prestigious names in education, American Mensa is pleased to announce two new member benefits that are sure to be of great interest to Young Mensans (YMs) and their parents.

Save 10 percent on CTY online courses:

The Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth identifies and develops the talents of the most advanced K-12 learners worldwide. Founded in 1979, CTY's roots extend back to Johns Hopkins psychologist Julian Stanley's pioneering work with gifted middle school prodigies. Today, a former CTY student started Facebook; another co-founded Google.

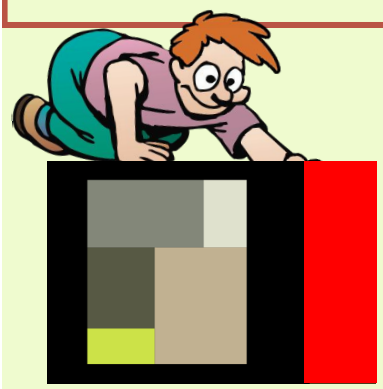
Until very recently, this exclusive benefit was offered only to the center's employees and their children. However, CTY is now offering Young Mensans a 10-percent discount on online courses (for an average savings of more than $100 per course!). YMs can apply to the program via paper application or online application; either way, they must include a copy of their membership cards with their course applications to receive the discount.

Save 20 percent on McGraw-Hill's AP prep courses:

The McGraw-Hill *ONboard*™ Series for Advanced Placement is an online, interactive program designed to help incoming AP students build the background knowledge and skills they need to succeed in their upcoming AP coursework and beyond. This is a very useful program for students who are taking the courses at earlier ages or who may have skipped previous classes. Topics include biology, history, environmental science, psychology, government and economics. The courses are $50 each, but McGraw-Hill is offering Mensans a 20-percent discount, making each course only $39.99.

To get more information on these new opportunities and on all of the other excellent benefits available through your Mensa membership, visit http://www.us.mensa.org/benefits. ■

Answers begin on page 28



Geronimo Jones is trying to count the number of squares and rectangles in this picture. How many do you see?



Notes from Your ExComm:

Minutes of 08-893 ExComm meeting 8/25/2012 convened 6:27 p.m. at home of Bob McAllister

Present: LocSec: Bob McAllister, 1st Vice-Secretary: Ken Wright, 2nd Vice-Secretary: Gerry Lockhart, *Neva-Mind* Editor: Anna Wright. Also present was Webmaster/Testing Coordinator: Mindy Hsu.

McAllister:

Discussion regarding status of local group finances, specifically do we feel any sense of urgency regarding amount held in NNM accounts? Unanimous that no concern is held regarding balances.

1. Discussion on recurring *Neva-Mind* publication cost which amounts to (-$25) monthly.
   Suggestion by Wright, A. that "Periodicals" rate be investigated as possible money saving method for mailing.
   McAllister will undertake research with Carson City Post Office as to feasibility of switching to periodical rate.
   Note by Wright, K. that funds from testing at the AG more than covered a year of shortfall for the *Neva-Mind* and continued testing will provide funds.
   Hsu noted that the extra $25 per month for holding tests expires 12/31/2012 under the current national policy.
   Suggestion by Wright, K. that we could ask for a small monthly donation (such as a $1) from the membership to keep the *Neva-Mind* in the black with no worries.
2. Discussion regarding purpose of funds held by local group and what balances need be maintained.
   Unanimous agreement that as long as funds cover yearly recurring expenses, no further minimum balance is mandated.
   Follow up continues by McAllister concerning achieving a "not-for-profit" status for the local group (like the national organization holds.) The procedures and paperwork is proving extremely difficult to navigate and assistance is being sought to aid us in getting through it.

McAllister:

Discussion regarding methods of administering and replenishing the NNM Scholarship Fund.

1. Wright, A. is researching methods and policies of other groups with successful scholarship programs. Oregon Mensa and San Diego Mensa are being

studied as primary examples.
Unanimous agreement that fund eligibility will be for NNM members and families only (not general public.)

2. Wright, A. suggests a fund raiser "spaghetti feed" be created to add funds to the scholarship account.
   Unanimous approval of the idea.
   McAllister suggests that we do this at least semi-annually. Discussion of likely high-draw speakers also being added to the fund raiser program to boost attendance. McAllister and Wright, A. will pursue the location and support crew for the suggested spaghetti feed events.

Wright, A./ Hsu:

Discussion of storage of NNM supplies, such as RG supplies currently being stored at homes of Hsu and Wright. Previous storage unit has already been released and would be unsuitable due to high price. McAllister to research storage units and possible private residence storage.

McAllister:

Discussion regarding use of e-mail to continue NNM ExComm business rather than necessity to hold physical presence meetings at same date/location as regular monthly meetings.

1. Suggestion by Wright, A. that alternate days and or times would be acceptable for meetings.
2. Unanimous agreement that alternate days/times would be fine as long as we maintain transparency and allow notification of the membership so that anyone who desires to may attend.
3. Unanimous approval for continuing ExComm business via e-mail with all officers being notified/included.

Wright, A.:

Motion to adjourn. Lockhart : seconded. Unanimous 7:10 p.m.

K. Wright







RVC *by Debra Reiger, RVC8*

I would like to offer congratulations to the Region 8 finalists for the 2012 Publications Recognition Program (PRP). The "top ranked in each category" (I assume this means the winners) will be announced in the Mensa Bulletin in November. There are so many Region 8 finalists, and in many categories. It's exciting to see these accomplishments. For the sake of space, I won't be able to list all of the detail, but my hearty congratulations to the following local groups for their finalist standings in categories involving websites and newsletters:

Mensa of Western Washington	Oregon Mensa
Northern Nevada Mensa	Redwood Empire Mensa

Depending on the categories, the finalists are contributors, editors, and/or webmasters. Great job, everyone! The PRP process was challenging for participants this year, and I admire the determination and hard work that went into making it work.

There were 33 Region 8 finalist ratings this year. So impressive! Below is a list of our finalists and their local groups and categories. If you count the names below you will see that there are not 33 names; several people are finalists in multiple categories.

Editor finalists: Nancy Flack (Redwood Empire Mensa), Sandra Wood (Oregon Mensa), Anna Wright (Northern Nevada Mensa)

Webmaster finalists: Jeannie Boag (Mensa of Western Washington), Mindy Hsu (Northern Nevada Mensa), Scott Rainey (Oregon Mensa)

Contribution finalists: Janet Russell (Redwood Empire Mensa), Ken Wright (Northern Nevada Mensa), Lee Spitzer (Redwood Empire Mensa), Anna Wright (Northern Nevada Mensa), Travis McCord (Northern Nevada Mensa), Bill Kositzky (Northern Nevada Mensa), Geri Randall (Redwood Empire Mensa), Walt Bodley (Redwood Empire Mensa)

Check your November Bulletin to see how this ends up.

Again, congratulations to the finalists and to their local groups. This is a very big deal, and our region typically does well. I'm so proud.

I hope everyone is having a good fall season, as I am. The cooler weather is very welcome to me, as I live in Sacramento.

Regards,
Debra Reiger



(Spiders continued from page 9)

is right underneath the bayed plant window in my kitchen. She doesn't bother me — and I don't bother her. And D.? After those insane three weeks trying to keep her out of the newspaper, which I did, she just sort of vanished from my life and never called me again. I took from that entire experience a lesson.

Limits are a good thing. We all need them. It's never too late to learn the word, "no."

Can I stick to these new found teachings? Place your bets at the Silver Legacy Sports Book. ■

(Meet a Mensan continued from page 12)

alive, and that as a system our bodies are amazingly efficient. I want to learn more about the molecular mechanisms behind medications and understand why they work. I just re-read that last part, wow, I'm a big nerd :)

What do you dislike about pharmacy?

Nothing major, otherwise I wouldn't be going into it :) I think it is a fantastic field for the most part, and I'll be able to do a lot with it.

If you were to put a bumper sticker on your car, what would it be? / What is a principle that you live your life by?

Live and let live.

What else should we know about you?

Other jobs I have worked besides pharmacy technician include roller coaster and merry-go-round operator at a theme park in Utah, florist, poker dealer and nanny. I was on the swim team in high school and my event was the backstroke. My favorite food is sushi, especially from Mikuni in Sacramento. Favorite color is green. I have one younger brother and 4 older step-siblings. I hate horror movies / scary TV shows / Halloween / when my sister-in-law starts moaning like a zombie and following me around. ■



"The Holidays" answers:

1. Labor day and Samhain (by the Celts)
2. Labor Day
3. Christmas, but not Halloween
4. Columbus Day
5. Halloween (Trick-or-treating)
6. Christmas (caroling)
7. Nevada Day
8. Memorial Day (Veterans Day celebrates all soldiers)
9. New Year's Day (because of his reforming the calendar)
10. Christmas Eve and Halloween
11. Halloween, Christmas and Epiphany (in parts of Europe)
12. Christmas Eve (Apollo 8)
13. Thanksgiving
14. Nevada Day
15. Veterans Day
16. Thanksgiving
17. Veterans Day (now included all wars, not just WWI)
18. Black Friday
19. Kwanzaa
20. Festivus
21. Washington's Birthday
22. Chinese New Year, Tet (Vietnamese New Year)
23. Rosh Hashanah
24. Obama Day

Bonus question: The Uniform Monday Holiday Act moved several Federal holidays to Mondays, specifically Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Columbus Day, and Veterans Day. The latter was moved back in 1978. ■

Brilliance By The East Bay

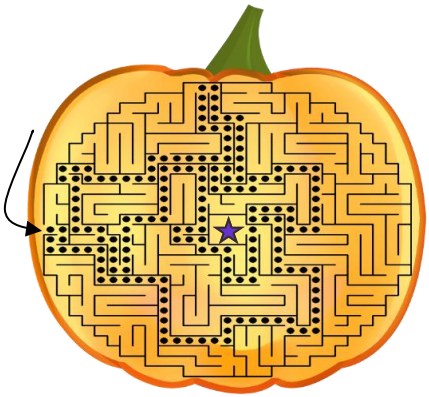
You're Invited!!!

November 16 – 18, 2012

San Francisco Regional Mensa is having a party in the Livermore Valley, known for fine wines and cutting edge science at the Lawrence Livermore National Lab.

Choose from a fascinating variety of speakers, demonstrations, tours, games, and social events at our 2012 Regional Gathering.

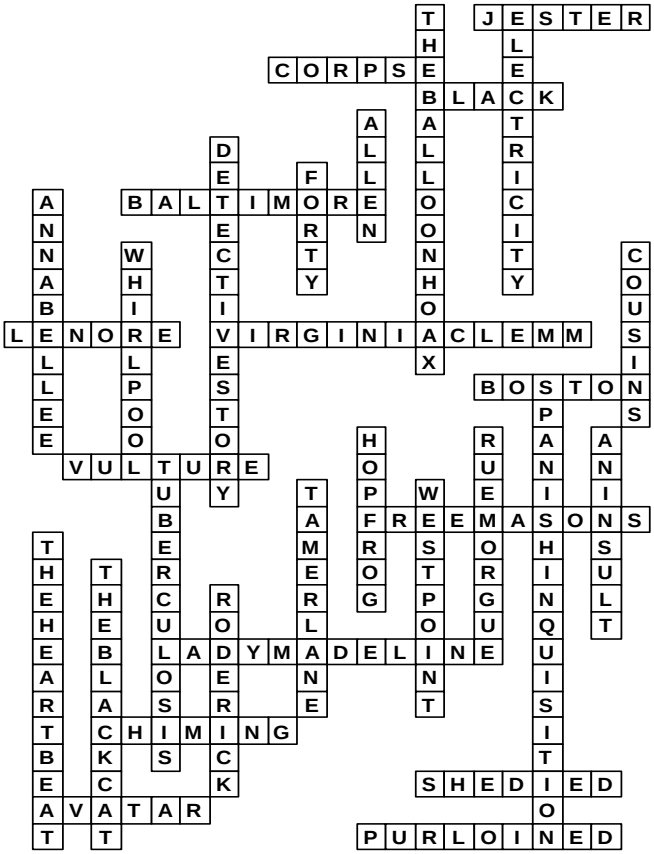
A wine and cheese reception on Friday and a gourmet lunch on Saturday are included with registration. See our RG page at: http://www.sfmensa.org/events/gatherings/rg2012/ for more information.





“Once upon a midnight dreary,…”

answers:



Balance problem:

Abacus = 3

Eraser = 5

Book = 9

So, the last balance needs 4 more erasers.

Counting Squares:

Geronimo counted a total of 12 squares and rectangles.

Northern Nevada Mensa wishes to thank

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American Mensa's AG 2013,
Fort Worth, Texas.
http://ag2013.us.mensa.org/

Pair your trip with MERF's "Between Science Fiction and Science" **Colloquium**, same place, one day earlier on July 2.
http://www.us.mensa.org/attend/calendar/colloquium-game1/









A.W.

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)



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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.