Neva-Mind, Northern Nevada Mensa
Volume 37, Issue 10, October 2013



NEVA-MIND

Northern Nevada Mensa Volunteers

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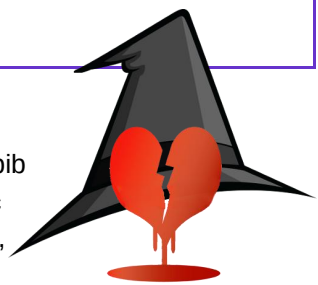
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Volunteers Needed:
S.I.G.H.T. COORDINATOR
TEST PROCTORS
HISTORIAN
UNR PROCTOR

Cover Credits: *Sandra Lackovic*



What's Par for a Pumpkin? features Richard Arbib and Gerry Lockhart. September's program at Magic Carpet Golf, followed by dinner at the Olive Garden, was a hit (or possibly a putt?)

A Note From the Editor *by Anna Wright*

It's Participation Time!
We Need you…

Are you a craftsperson? NNM Scholarship Committee is asking you to donate any new handcrafted items for our Scholarship Dinner raffle on November 16. Last spring we had baskets of goodies, knitted items, and woodcrafted items. Everything would be greatly appreciated. And, of course it's for a good cause! Items will be accepted up to November 16. Contact me: editor@northernnevada.us.mensa.org.

Hi there!

I'm collecting material for a **food-themed issue of *Neva-Mind*** and I hope you will help me. I'd like to have some recipes, but even more I'd love some stories about you and food! The following is not meant as a quiz…just "food for thought!" Maybe these questions will bring a story or two to mind….

Do you have a special signature dish? Is there something your family enjoys only for special occasions? What is your favorite — or least favorite food? What's the weirdest thing you ever ate — or didn't eat because it was too weird? Did your family have a set menu for each day? What was it? Do you have a story about the first time you tried to make something?

Please send your info to
bunnyslippers4me@att.net
I need to hear from you by the end of September.

Many thanks! Happy eating!
Anne Stewart



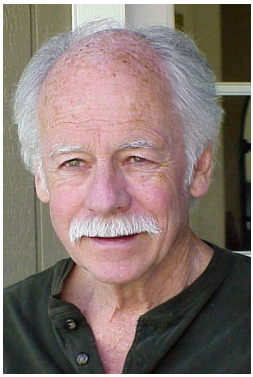
Editor Needed.

I want you all to know that I plan to resign as editor soon. After 5.5 years I feel that my creative energies are becoming spent. And, the editorship, which I have enjoyed, is becoming more of a chore than a joy. My last issue will be December. Hopefully, someone will come forward to fill the vacancy. If any of you would like to give it a try, I am willing to mentor you through the process. The ultimate necessity for a new editor is having a publishing program that can create issue layout in both of its forms, single pages and booklet. Everything else can be learned. I intend to stay on as a contributor, if the new editor accepts my submissions.

Thank you for an awesome tenure!
Anna Wright



From the LocSec



by Bob McAllister

The Sky Is (not) Falling!

Thinking this late in our election season that we likely were going to have nothing to show for it, I wrote this short email below to our RVC, Harold Ward.

Bob McAllister of Northern Nevada Chapter 893 here. This short note is an FYI for you regarding our current status.

A couple of months ago, I announced in my monthly column that I'd be stepping down after eight years as LocSec. In August of each odd-numbered year we announce that it's election time and solicit for nominees. That process was written in July and promulgated in our August newsletter edition.

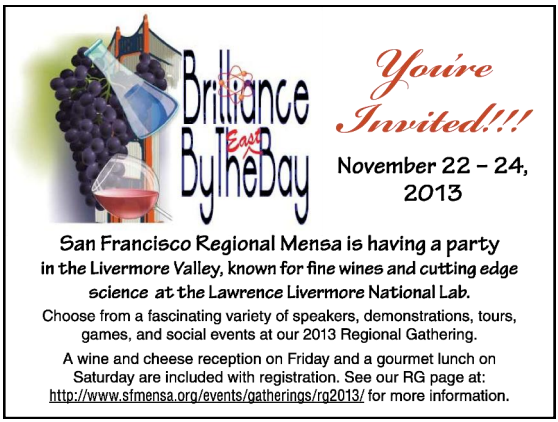
Since then, we have lost our testing coordinator, our treasurer has received debilitating neck surgery, our editor has become burned out and there have been no takers for any of the positions mentioned. In other words, the wheels may be falling off.

Our once enviable and vibrant chapter may become dormant for the foreseeable future and I am letting you know as you are next in the chain of command, as it were, so that you won't be caught unaware when this comes to light.

Apparently I was being like Chicken Little, because after our monthly gathering dinner we had a brief ExComm discussion, some very competent people stepped forward and it seems that we aren't going into receivership, purgatory or to wherever it is that wayward groups are sent (Siberia Mensa for retraining?). Though, as of yet (we still have until December) there is no candidate for Editor, I'm relieved to say that our Executive Committee's new staffing will be able to carry on our chapter's good work.

Long live 8-893!!! (That's us.) ■





Meet Your Candidates for Local Offices:

Our question to the candidates:
What would you like to see happen to improve Northern Nevada Mensa?



LocSec: Ed Hanley



1st Vice-Secretary: Sandra Lackovic:



2nd Vice-Secretary: Gloria Dondero Pedro



2nd Vice-Secretary: Gerald Lockhart

Possible more group events such as: miniature golf; trips to Fallon NAS, Reno airport, V.C. tours, picnics in parks and at lakes, museum tours, etc. (both fun and educational.) ■

Ballots will arrive in your November *Neva-Mind*.

Treasurer: Anna Wright

I'd like to see our group get more involved in community causes. There are so many great activities that philanthropic groups are doing where we could help. And, I would like to see more fun activities for our own members, as well. ■





Mantis religiosa
The July cover of *Neva-Mind* featured a just-hatched praying mantis. It (or one of its siblings) has grown up. I was showing off my garden to one of my gardening friends when we spotted this — 80 days old and 3.5 inches long. Thanks for posing Liz. — Bill Kositzky



Meet a Mensan

by Ashley Cullins



Mary Neuhoff

Meet **Mary Neuhoff**, a Mensa member since 1981.

Favorite quote: "Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms — to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way." - Viktor Frankl

What talent would you most like to have?

A great big, beautiful, dramatic soprano voice. I cannot imagine more delight than being able to communicate with and bring joy to others with one's voice — the greatest musical instrument.

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?

Some favorite locales I'd even hesitate to visit nowadays because of increasingly troubling demographics. That consideration aside: definitely Paris.

What is always in your refrigerator?

Nonfat Greek yogurt.

What words or phrases do you most overuse?

"[…] better than a poke in the eye with a sharp stick."

Who is your real-life hero?

Pope Francis. A great spiritual leader for our times and a down-to-earth "man of the people." who I believe by the time his mortal days are over will have enriched the lives of millions of people of all faiths, and of no faith, by bringing them to a new understanding of God's love. ■



Brilliance in Beantown

July 2 - 6 | Boston | AG.US.MENSA.ORG







Happy Birthday!



	1	**Phillip Fuller**	Ely
O	8	**Gloria Dondero**	Reno
C	9	**Becky Smith**	Sparks
T	10	**Stuart Finlayson**	Carson City
O	10	**Richard Campbell, Jr.**	Carson City
B	12	**Diane Howard**	Carson City
E	14	**Mark Hadley**	Reno
R	14	**Minnis Alderman**	Ely
	15	**Loren MacArthur**	Reno
	17	**Matt Henry**	Carson City
	20	**Curtis Freemont**	Reno
	21	**Shannon Zettler**	Tahoma
	25	**Anne-Louise Bennett**	Reno
	27	**Donald Newman**	South Lake Tahoe



Welcome and Welcome Back!

John Artley	Reno
Dr. Jean Bradt	Carson City
Kevin Kankel	South Lake Tahoe
Darrin McCarthy	Reno

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



Movie Scams *by Mark G. Simkin*

If there were a hierarchy of boiler-room frauds, "movie scams" would rank as the 800-pound-gorilla of the bunch. The venue for such scams is the rarified air of the rich and famous, which unfortunately also includes the top-notch hustlers and cheats in the business. This is the big leagues, where movie stars, well-paid professional athletes, and the merely wealthy-but-stupid play. Most of us have never fallen for a movie scam simply because we didn't have enough money to qualify! But others do. Here's how these scams work, and why you wouldn't want to join the club, even if you could.

The con begins in the usual way. The victim — often a widower who has just collected a large insurance payout — receives a call from an "investment counselor" who claims to have found the victim's name on a list of elite, "qualified" customers who might be interested in risky, but super-profitable investments. "Have you seen the new *Iron Man 3* movie?" the con artist might ask. "That movie made over $175 million its first weekend! How would you like a piece of that action — and have lunch with Robert Downey Jr. when he makes his next movie?"

The fraudster will then name movie after movie, all with big name stars, that his company has bankrolled in the past, and will explain to the potential buyer that he can get the same, tenfold returns on his money that other investors have received on theirs. His company is expanding, he says, and is currently seeking investors to syndicate its next movie. All the mark must do is to qualify as an investor — which means the ability to make the minimum financial investment. The amount varies, but usually exceeds $100,000. There is even a script for the next movie that the con artist says he is willing to send to the investor, even though that's "against company policy." There is also an invitation to lunch with the stars of that movie and two tickets for the opening night ceremonies in Hollywood!

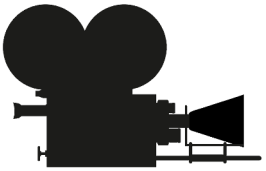
Even the Hollywood stars themselves can be conned in this mess. Depending upon how elaborate a fraud has been devised, for example, a movie actor might be paid over $100,000 just to dine with what he believes are the financial backers of his next movie — not bad for a few hour's work and a free lunch!

It is only after the victims have made their investments that things begin to unravel. Problems vary and some of the reasons for the trouble are almost believable. For example, it could be that the director quits, one of the stars storms off the set, or trouble with a union is causing delays in the shooting schedule. But even if the movie gets made, there can also be distribution setbacks, release disputes, or nameless executives who want to cancel projects for undisclosed rea-

sons. The results are always the same — setbacks that threaten the viability of the movie itself.

The investors are confused and disappointed. But when the con man calls to explain what has happened — usually within a week or two of the initial investment — he also offers a ray of hope. If they can "double down" on their investments, the movie can be saved. To you and me, this means throwing good money after bad. But if the fraudster has gained an investor's confidence, which is usually the situation, that victim more often believes that the extra money will protect his investment for what still promises to be a profitable venture.

Synopsis



If all this sounds like blatant psychological manipulation as well as breathtaking financial fraud, you've understood things perfectly. To me, however, several things make movie scams stand out from other boiler-room frauds. One difference is the magnitude of the fraud, which in aggregate often totals millions of dollars (see reference 1 below). Another difference is the believability of the hustle — the project can't be bogus if the investor actually meets the stars and/or director of the movie, can it?

Yet a third dimension of movie-scam frauds is how often investors are willing to increase their financial commitments to projects when the bunko artist asks for a second or even a third round of investments. "We're in a high-risk, high-reward business," he's likely to tell his victims, and adds "these kinds of setbacks are minor and happen all the time. More money is all we need to make things right." When Allen Jennings of San Diego was asked why he was willing to invest his life savings — over $800,000 — in a succession of such bad deals, he said "I guess I was under their spell a little" (3, p. 91). A little????

Finally, when even more money fails to solve the movie's problems, many investors refuse to believe that they've been swindled. Instead, they conclude that it was just bad luck — a natural part of the moviemaking business. And this enables the swindler to call the investor yet one more time. "I'm sorry about that other thing," he might say, "but today's your lucky day! We're working on a new project and this one is all but guaranteed to make big money …."

For further reading: (1) Nikki Finne, "Breaking: Feds Bust $25M Indie Film Scam (accessed at http://www.deadline.com/2011/06/breaking-feds-bust-indie-film-scam/), (2) Les Henderson, "Film, Media, and Investment Fraud" (accessed at: http://www.crimes-of-persuasion.com/Crimes/Telemarketing/Outbound/Major/Investments/films.htm), and (3) Doug Shadel, "Outsmarting the Scam Artists" (New Jersey: John Wiley and Sons, 2012).

Mark G. Simkin is a professor of Information Systems at the University of Nevada, Reno. He can be contacted at MarkGSimkin@yahoo.com. ■



Ask the Doctor *by Dr. Howard Chen*

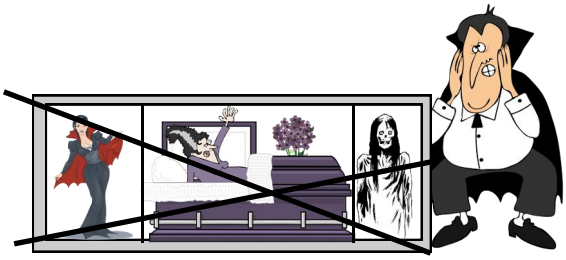
My ophthalmologist discovered cholesterol deposits in my eyes, leading my GP to strongly recommend regular ingestion of a statin. Yet, the much respected and popular Dr. Oz of TV fame had a segment on one of his shows that basically denigrated statins, recommending alternative palliatives. Is there perhaps a middle ground? It seems that not taking statins is not healthy and that taking statins is not healthy.

There are several types of cholesterol lowering agents on the market - among the most commonly used are the "HMG Co-A Reductase Inhibitors," more commonly known as "Statins". Statins are among the most powerful cholesterol improving pharmaceutical agents that are currently available. As a class, they are effective in lowering LDL-C cholesterol and triglycerides (i.e., the bad cholesterols), and elevating HDL (i.e., the good) cholesterol. Because of their multimodal effect on cholesterol, they are naturally the first choice of most physicians when seeking to lower a patient's lipids.

Unfortunately, in the medical world, strength of action often goes hand-in-hand with side effects. A more common side effect of statins includes "statin myopathy," in which the muscles are damaged to varying degrees by the ingestion of these medications. However, this effect may be mitigated by choosing less potent statins, or by stopping the intake of statins. Other possible but unlikely statin side effects include abnormal elevations of liver enzymes, potentiation of diabetes development, and mild cognitive impairments. These side effects generally resolve once the intake of statins is stopped. Importantly, however, statins have NOT been shown conclusively to raise (or lower) the risk for cancer.

Despite the popularity of statins, there are several alternative pharmaceutical agents, which include classes of medications with different actions (and side effects): fibrates (i.e., Fenofibrate/Tricor), fibric acid (i.e., Gemfibrozil/Lopid), bile acid sequestrants (i.e., Cholestyramine/Questran), cholesterol absorption inhibitors (i.e., Ezetimibe/Zetia), and even a vitamin (nicotinic acid/niacin). While none are as comprehensive as a statin in their actions against cholesterol, they are certainly useful for addressing specific elevations in cholesterol components.





In addition to the ingestion of medications, there are certainly other lifestyle modifications that can be undertaken to decrease cholesterol. As always, improved diet and regular exercise are the best options for lowering lipids. Specifically, diets high in soluble fiber, nuts, and extra virgin olive oil, such as the Mediterranean diet and DASH diet, have been shown to significantly reduce cholesterol. Furthermore, increasing intake of foods high in plant sterols and/or stanols has also been shown to have beneficial effects on cholesterol. Some example brand names of these foods include: margarines such as Benecol™ and Promise Activ™, beverages such as Minute Maid® Heart Wise™ orange juice, Rice Dream Heart Wise™, Silk® Health Soymilk, and foods such as Trader Joe's Instant Oatmeal Heart Healthy Whole Grain. For those individuals with a sweet tooth, even regular chocolate and cocoa ingestion may have benefits on cholesterol!

Some herbs and natural supplements can also be useful in managing elevated cholesterol. Dietary supplements containing Red Yeast Rice or Fish Oil have also been found to have beneficial effects on cholesterol.

In short, regardless of which subset of your cholesterol panel is abnormal, there are certainly many alternatives to the use of statin medications for the lowering of your cholesterol. These alternatives include pharmaceuticals, changes to diet, supplements, and exercise. In terms of your health, the healthiest thing to do is to pay attention to your cholesterol!

Ask the Doctor yourself: Email editor@northennevada.us.mensa.org.

Dr. Howard Chen is board certified by the American Board of Family Medicine, a fellow of the American Academy of Medical Acupuncture, and Medical Director of Preventive and Integrative Medicine Services at Renown Health, Reno. ■

Northern Nevada Mensa wishes to thank

Grassroots Books

660 East Grove Street
Reno, NV 89502
(775) 828-2665

For donating their space for Mensa Admissions Testing.

Thanks!

Show this paragraph for a free unstickered book. More than 10,000 to choose from, any genre. Limit one/person from any promotion in a calendar year.



GrassrootsBOOKS

Puzzle Page

by Travis McCord

'Tis that time of year… well, it'll be "that time of year" for a few months now. That's why they call it "The Holidays," plural. But we start off with a night in which people dress up and act like someone else entirely. *Ayep*, IRS Audit season.

Just kidding — Halloween's almost here. So let's take a moment to do some trivia about the people in costumes.



1. OK, let's start off with something the kids are excited about: What do the Ms in M&Ms stand for?
2. One of the popular costumes of recent years commemorates the fall guy for a plot to replace the existing government with a theocratic one. Now it's just a symbol of rebellion in general. What costume?
3. There's a TV show all about what one fan theory says are mutants caused by nuclear testing, based on the name of the setting, the frequent use of atomic-bomb imagery, and the frankly bizarre characters. And yet it's innocuous enough that you'll see kids dressed as the main character. Who?
4. Which subject of a perennial-favorite costume said this in his initial outing: "I am an unfortunate and deserted creature, I look around and I have no relation or friend upon earth. These amiable people to whom I go have never seen me and know little of me. I am full of fears, for if I fail there, I am an outcast in the world forever."
   (Hint: He seems much more eloquent than people "know" him to be.)
5. If you see a mummy over Halloween, and feel threatened by it, rest assured that it's a hollow threat — literally. In a properly prepared Egyptian mummy, there's only one organ left in there. Which one, and why?
6. Based on records of witch trials from the dark days, how many little girls in "witch" costumes should actually be little boys?
   a) 1 in 13 b) 1 in a coven of 9 c) 1 in 5 d) 1 in 2
7. If you see Starchild, the Demon, Space Ace and Catman together and they're not at your door demanding candy, what are they probably doing?
8. The Pirate is a popular costume, usually including an eye-patch. According to one theory (checked out by Mythbusters), the reason for the frequent patches is one that would be helpful to trick-or-treaters even now… what?
9. The "Classic Igor" is generally an ugly hunchback almost slavishly devoted to helping Dr. Frankenstein with his experiments. What's the biggest difference between that and the character from the original novel?
10. Spot the odd man out: Superman, Batman, Spiderman, Aquaman. ■



Answers on page 26

Events and Activities: October, November, December 2013

October Monthly meeting — Movie & Potluck Dinner
Saturday, October 12, 6 p.m.
Movie: "Dirty Little Secret: The Jodi Arias Story" based on the relationship between Jodi Arias and Travis Alexander that led to his murder and the famous four-month murder trial watched by millions. She spent 18 days testifying, more than all witnesses combined in the George Zimmerman trial! This movie by the Lifetime Network takes you from the day the couple met to her conviction for first degree murder.
For more info: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrrE0AZRZBM
Location: At the home of Bob and Mary McAllister in Washoe Valley.
Directions:
Take exit 50 from new Interstate 580 to old Hwy 395 and go north two miles to Old Washoe Estates. (approximately 100 yards north of the Old 395 Station, on right.) Drive 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 south-east spoke is called Wild Life Way. 350 Old Washoe Circle is at the junction with Wild Life Way. It is a two-story house — grey with white trim — and lots of parking space.

Saturday, November 16, 6 p.m. Scholarship dinner Location: To be announced	**Saturday, December 14, 6 p.m.** Christmas party at the home of Loren MacArthur

Contact Richard Arbib at Calendar@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

Tuesday, October 1, 11:45 a.m.
Lunch and Target Shooting in Carson City
Lunch at El Aguila Real Mexican Restaurant
3220 Hwy. 50 East #6 Carson City
After eating lunch together, we will drive to the Carson City Shooting Range. The use of the range is free. Just bring your own handgun(s), ammunition, and hearing protection.

Tuesday, November 5, 11:45 a.m. Lunch and Target Shooting in Carson City Lunch location to be announced. Target shooting at Carson City Shooting Range. Free	**December: No lunch and target shooting this month,** but it will resume in January. Due to cold weather, it will be at the Safe Shot indoor range in Reno in January.

Contact Richard Arbib at Calendar@northernnevada.us.mensa.org

OLLI Presentation UNR: Tuesday, November 19 from 10-11:30 a. m.
in the Nelson Main Classroom (NM).”Mensa: The History of Mensa International, American Mensa, and Northern Nevada Mensa”
by presenter: Donald MacGregor, Recruitment NNM (775) 826-5904

Events and Activities Continued

Chat, Nibbles, and Games at Tahoe
Saturday, Nov 2 at 6 p.m.
Join us for games at Sandy's place in Incline Village. Bring food and/or drinks to share. RSVP for address and driving instructions to ssmarticle@gmail.com, NNM Facebook group, or (631) 398-6393.

Sushi Lovers
Saturday, Dec 7 at 6 p.m.
Tha Joint – This year's favorite!
222 Los Altos Pkwy, Sparks
(775) 626-8677
RSVP: ssmarticle@gmail.com, NNM Facebook group, or (631) 398-6393

Metropolitan Opera Encore and Dinner
Wednesday, 5 p.m. Meet for dinner or dessert prior to opera
Chocolate Bar, 95 N. Sierra St. Reno (775) 337-1122
6:30 p.m. Metropolitan Opera Encore
Century Riverside 12, 11 N. Sierra St. Reno (775) 786-2753
Schedule:
Wednesday, October 9, at 6:30 p.m. Tchaikovsky's *Eugene One*gin
Wednesday, October 30, at 6:30 p.m. Shostakovich's *The Nose*
Wednesday, November 13, at 6:30 p.m. Puccini's *Tosca*
Wednesday, December 18, at 6:30 p.m. Verdi's *Falstaff*
For more information, synopsis, etc:
www.metoperafamily.org/metopera/liveinhd/LiveinHD.aspx
Contact Sandra at ssmarticle@gmail.com, NNM Facebook group.

SUPPER CLUB (RSVP Sandra)
Tuesday, October 15 at 6 p.m.
Brasserie St. James
901 South Center Street, Reno
(775) 348-8888

SUPPER CLUB (RSVP Sandra)
Tuesday, November 19 at 6 p.m.
Johnny's Ristorante Italiano
4245 West 4th St, Reno
(775) 747-4511

Thanksgiving, Thursday, Nov 28
Are you interested in dining with a group of Mensa friends on Thanksgiving? If so let me know. Your ideas, suggestions, and recommendations are welcome! Contact Sandra Lackovic at ssmarticle@gmail.com, NNM Facebook group, or (631) 398-6383.

Supper Club is cancelled for December. Sandra Lackovic, ssmarticle@gmail.com

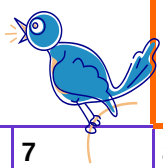
Lunch Bunch
Tuesday October 22 at 11:45 a.m.
Gar Woods 5000 N. Lake Blvd.
Carnelian Bay. CA
(530) 546-3366

Lunch Bunch
Tuesday November 26 at 11:45 a.m.
Great Full Gardens Café
555 S. Virginia #107
Reno (775) 324-2013

Lunch Bunch is cancelled for December.
Contact Don or Laura MacGregor (775) 826-5904.

Mensa Admissions Testing: First Saturday from 3-5 p.m.
October 5, November 2, December 7 at **Grassroots Books**, 660 E. Grove St., Reno. Contact Mindy Hsu: Testing@northernnevada.us.mensa.org.

October 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
NNM now tweets! See page 25. 		**1** **Lunch & Target Shooting** El Aguila	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5** **Mensa Testing** Grass-roots Books
6	**7**	**8**	**9** **Dinner & Opera** Choco-late Bar	**10**	**11**	**12** **Mensa Program** at Bob's
13	**14** Columbus Day Observed	**15** **Supper Club** Brasserie St. James	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**
20	**21**	**22** **Lunch Bunch** Gar Woods	**23**	**24**	**25** Nevada Day Observed	**26**
27	**28**	**29**	**30** **Dinner & Opera** Choco-late Bar	**31** Halloween	**Nov 1**	**Nov 2** **Mensa Testing** Grass-roots Books **& Games at Tahoe** at Sandy's



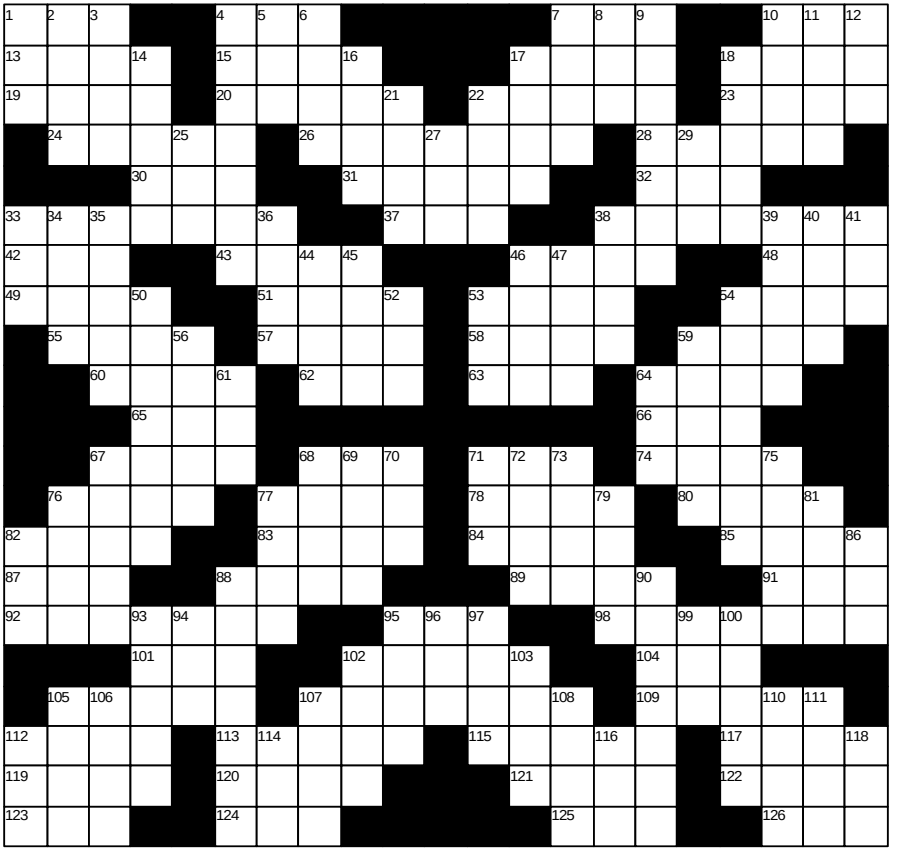






Little Words Mean a Lot. (Warning! *Groaner alert.)

By Anna M. Wright



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Answers on page 26

ACROSS

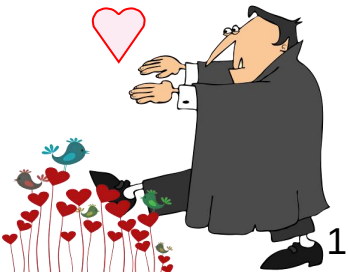
1 Before (prefix)
4 * Help wanted announcement
7 Beehive state native language
10 Charge
13 * Old salts
15 Softest mineral
17 * Play or rest follower
18 * Continental capital
19 Land mass
20 Flaming
22 * Pocket protector
23 * Kids' hangouts
24 Jeopardy
26 Education goal
28 Resource collections
30 * Valuable club
31 Mugs of suds
32 * Baby seat
33 Royal one
37 Bard's bedtime perhaps
38 Halo
42 * Surfer's destination
43 Learner's permit holder, often
46 Nag
48 Check
49 * Id checkers
51 Alackaday
53 High-priced
54 Small fresh water fish
55 * Famous two-person starter home
57 * Hot rock
58 Movie clue sniffer
59 Slough
60 Prune
62 Bloomberg's berg
63 * Pre-schoolers
64 * One in the lead



65 Where the robed are rubbed
66 That woman
67 Glasses
68 * Rolls out a prank
71 Hand tool
74 Sniggler's catch
76 Restaurant server
77 Nautics prefix
78 Former home of the Nets and Jets
80 Lacerated
82 Smutty
83 Put down
84 Loiter
85 Toothed tools
87 * Took the cake
88 * Cold starter
89 * Being number one
91 Debt letters
92 Bucks
95 * Ball girl with two gloves
98 Rebuff
101 * Long time follower
102 * Barbershop need
104 * One on a liquid diet
105 Plebe
107 Tarzan tag-along
109 * Back in the water
112 Ponder
113 * Stuck up
115 *The Far Side* organism {var.}
117 * It's over your head
119 * It's seen among the reeds
120 Unctuous
121 EPA concern
122 It's all in your head
123 Teeny
124 * Step on a scale
125 He penned *The Purloined Letter.*
126 * Former boomer, briefly

DOWN

1 Book fair sponsors
2 File
3 One of HOMES
4 Most hackneyed
5 Klutz
6 Skidded
7 * Major sky sight
8 * Ball-bearing item
9 * Sound barrier
10 Combustible material
11 Time periods
12 Goddess
14 John's running mate
16 * Rattler's place
17 * Uses one's sight
18 Skip the fuss not the ceremony
21 Duel tool
22 Cockcrow
25 * Rocks
27 Original owner of Arlington Cemetery
29 Sculler's need
33 Rightful
34 Goad
35 Bumpkins
36 Tamper hamper
38 Nimbus
39 * Wise leader
40 Praise
41 * Back from the beach
44 A dash of panache
45 * Sub group
46 * Capital of Mexico
47 Dead
50 Carnal
52 Pouch
53 Patriotic org. since October 1890
54 Mr. Kuralt
56 Cold
59 * Bum chaser
61 Ballet step
64 That girl
67 Brutal
68 Rive
69 Prudish
70 Turf
71 Silent language
72 Horse command
73 Pb
75 * Mobile home dweller
76 Baum barker
77 * Draft picks
79 * Way out
81 Noah's numbers
82 * It's hot until it's not.
86 Take to court
88 Caves
90 * It might be found in a bottle
93 Scoop
94 Ripen
95 Accomplishment
96 Chemical suffix
97 Wine pouch
99 Cannabis
100 * Centers of early development
102 Those people
103 L.A. athletes
105 * Die
106 Tissue additive
107 * Bar room
108 Natural fiber
110 Visual receptors
111 Refusals
112 Use blades on blades
114 1983 hit for Duran Duran
116 *To Kill a Mockingbird* character
118 * You could chew it while you talk



Ghosts in the Hall

by Ken Wright

At the time of this story I was in my last year of high school and had been pursuing a possible career in psychology. The three visits to mental institutions prior to this one had done much to dissuade my enthusiasm. Through my own lack of experience I had been tricked, fooled, and taken advantage of by not only the mentally infirm, but their keepers as well. This visit would be the one that derailed my train.

It was a lot for a high school psychology student to grasp, even one as intelligent and sophisticated as I thought that I was. If only youth included the wisdom and experience of past generations in our DNA. Experience really is the best teacher, but I wish that she wouldn't slap me around quite as much. I had been drawn into the story of a schizophrenic individual and found myself more qualified to be admitted than to help treat him. I was a bundle of mixed emotions after the incident with Joshua and nearly didn't write my report, which would have been catastrophic to my semester grade. My teacher, Mrs. B., ever the cool lady, convinced me that I had something valuable to contribute and I did it, gaining an "A" for my efforts.

We had a long talk about what Joshua had said was going on in the hospital regarding electroshock and other scary types of treatments and to my horror Mrs. B. confirmed that it was true. It was 1971 and I felt like I had just glimpsed the methods of the Spanish Inquisition in 1480. I really, really didn't like it.

With approximately twelve thousand patients of many different categories and ailments and a doctor to patient ratio of more than 1:100, it was nearly beyond human capability to treat anyone. They appeared to be doing their best to take care of everyone's physical needs, but as far as effective treatment for mentally ill people, I had my doubts.

My fellow student Barbara and I had only been to two of the nearly one hundred buildings on that sprawling property. It more resembled a college campus, with grand red brick buildings surrounding a domed majestic white main building that looked like a government capitol office. The grounds were covered with pecan trees and farmed areas that had once independently supported the huge hospital's needs.

I was hesitant to go back to the hospital for the last project available for the school year, but I wanted to pursue something that I had heard about from staffers in the cafeteria there. I just couldn't let it go for some reason.

The Inspiration

Some people would talk about the many sightings of "the people who aren't there," as they were called in whispered conversations, and many would not. Ghosts are not something lightly discussed among the largely under-educated and highly religious population that makes up the work force at this huge mental hospital. Some even feared being admitted as patients if they admit to seeing those who still inhabit the old buildings that are shuttered and abandoned.

While visiting the staff cafeteria I happened to sit close to the kitchen door and serving line, thereby being in a position to overhear a conversation between two employees.

The language is as accurate as I can recall it, and took place between two middle aged African-American women as they worked.

"I saw her again last night when I was walking home past that building," said one lady to her friend.

"You can't be talking about that or they will lock you up," replied her coworker. "We daren't talk about haints (ghosts) or Mr. Jim (their white supervisor) will do something bad. He don't believe in them and gets mad when anyone speaks of 'them who ain't there!'"

I was curious about the woman seeing a ghost on more than one occasion, and about why they were so afraid of reprisal for speaking about it. I also knew that as a young white boy outsider, they would never open up to me when they were already afraid of speaking about the subject.

It was indeed fortunate that I had made friends with an older black man named Leone who not only worked there, but was a fourth generation employee. He seemed elderly to me at the time, but thinking back, he was probably in his fifties. His gray hair and dignified manner gave him the air of a man of wisdom and years.

His wife Sarah, and now his son Joseph, who, thanks to his parents saving their wages and helping him, had just graduated from medical school, also worked there.

Leone was in a great position to know things about the hospital, having lived his entire life there, and being the keeper of the keys for the main building. He was responsible for other buildings too, but the main building was the most important and was where you could find him most of the time.

Sarah was in charge of the cleaning staff for the main building after having spent twenty years responsible for the same thing in the women's dormitory building, which was considered a less important job and not as "visible."

She was not bitter about anything, but Joseph and I had more than one conversation about how white women would be hired for the management jobs right out of high school if they were a daughter or niece of a board member, etc., but it took twenty years or more for any of the black staff to reach such a position.

Joseph was doing his internship in a very rough spot; the maximum security wing. This set of buildings occupied what used to be the African-American dormitories and treatment facilities during the not so distant past period when the hospital was segregated by race, as well as gender and type of medical problem. It was full of often violent and always unpredictable patients who frequently assaulted the staff and each other. It was the hospital prison essentially.

Even with him being six feet tall and looking like the athlete that he was, Joseph still had problems. The young, white female doctor who preceded him only lasted two weeks before she asked for either reassignment or termination. It seemed like getting rid of new doctors was sport for the inmates.



The Project

It must seem odd to most people that we even had this opportunity to visit the mental hospital, being high school students. I can only offer two bits of explanation: five students in this class scored higher than first year college students on course specific tests, and our teacher was either a former colleague or fellow college alumnus of several staff doctors there. Additionally, two of us scored (teacher's words) "off the charts" on aptitude tests for the field of psychology. We were her pet

(Continued on page 20)

(Ghosts continued from page 19)
freaks.

For my last project of the school year (and my senior year), I again faced the options: a chance to write another report from a visit to the state mental hospital, or spend hours in the library either at school or downtown researching some mental health ailment or issue to attempt to write about. It only took one prompt from Mrs. B. and I went for the field trip again. She really knew how to push my buttons! I was also going alone this time as Barbara was at a music competition playing her cello.

My challenge was how to relate ghost stories to psychology more than to prove or disprove their existence. I was glad of that, because I didn't think that I could get an interview with a ghost!

Getting to the source

Making good time on my trip I arrived a little bit earlier than planned and went directly to the main building (after checking in) and walked what seemed to me to be miles hunting for Leone. You have to remember that this was before cell phones existed and the administration seriously frowned upon paging anyone below the rank of doctor.

I wondered in my own mind if that was only for white doctors or would they page Joseph for me. It might have been 1971 but it still felt like 1950 to me most of the time that I was at that hospital.

Trying to keep my worst enemy, my own mouth, in check, I elected to just go back to the reception desk to wait for my appointment time. It was the right thing to do as I spotted Leone at the desk as I rounded the corner. I should have just waited there instead of chasing my own tail around the property.

I had made the appointment under the guise of talking to him about the history of the hospital grounds. The administrative staff was happy to not have to bother with that, as let's face it; I was a "nobody." To them, any "underling" employee was good enough for me. I was completely happy with talking to Leone, as I didn't think that I would get a straight answer out of any of the rest of them.

Previous conversations had taught me not to bring up the subject of ghosts or "the people who aren't there" in the presence of the bosses, so I waited until we were all the way outside in the fresh air before I told Leone what I really wanted. This is what I learned from him.

The History

Over the history of the hospital, which was originally called a Lunatic, Idiot and Epileptic Asylum, between twenty and thirty thousand people had died there (1842-1971).

Many of the original patients were Confederate soldiers or slaves with either mental or physical problems, or in some cases, just nowhere else to go. A large percentage of patients were people with no families or means of support. Many were simply dropped off and abandoned there. The end result in almost all of these cases was the same, a grave marked with a metal post and a numbered tag.

In one burial spot some two thousand African-Americans were interred over the years, until the board of directors decided to build a new dormitory building on the very spot where they were resting. They unceremoniously dug them all up and buried them all together in a pit grave. A horrific deed that even today, they are still trying to rectify —

identifying and reburying the bones.

It is that building which was erected over these violated resting places that is the first specific location of this tale.

The Ghosts in the Hall

This story is just one dandelion seed floating on the wind, compared to the thousands of untold tales of woe that live in this old place.

Leone told me of many sightings in buildings both occupied and not, with more in the abandoned ones. Some had been investigated in those days before “ghost hunting” was a popular pasttime, with the hopes of finding a squatter or vagrant as the culprit.

Only once did they find someone; a poor old man sleeping in the very building which was built over the souls of those who had passed on. He claimed that he wanted to be close to his beloved Mary Rose, who had been a nurse there. The old man insisted that he spoke with her on many occasions.

A few days after the man was quietly removed and taken away by the police, a worker passing by that same building after their shift spotted a figure carrying a candle walking past an upstairs window. They were not part of the investigation and had no way of knowing that they had just reported activity in the same room where Mary Rose “lives.”

This report was checked out the next day (after it got light outside), and no evidence was found of anyone being there. After two more reports in the same exact location, Leone was ordered to board and nail the door to that room; but the sightings continued.

During the day there were reports of laughter heard by those who got near the building and the sheriff from town was called to investigate. He drove up in his car along with two deputies carrying shotguns and acting very brave. The three of them went inside the old structure to check it out.

The lawmen ordered two of the hospital maintenance crew to go inside with them to remove the boards over the door to Mary Rose’s room, but they refused to even enter the building. The exact expression from Leone was, “Those two black men turned nearly white and ran away as fast as their legs would carry them.”

By the time the police officers came back out they were no longer swaggering and quickly climbed into the car and sped off.

When questioned by the hospital administrator later in town they said that they found no one inside, but felt like they were being watched and followed everywhere they walked. The sheriff declared this to be a state problem and would not have anything more to do with it. Leone said that they (the three lawmen) refused to ever speak of it again. Everyone knew that they were scared, but didn’t dare say so to them.

The man who wanted to be close to Mary Rose was brought back to the hospital as a patient because the judge didn’t know what else to do with him and thought that he was crazy. He was assigned a locked room (cell) in the main building dormitory wing.



We joined Sarah for lunch in a small, quiet dining room at the back of the main building which used to be a “blacks only” (the sign was still there but painted over with white paint) eating facility and largely still was, although not “officially”. I got some strange looks from African-American

(Continued on page 22)

(Ghosts continued from page 21)
employees who were leaving as we came in.

Smiling at me and nodding his head towards his wife, Leone asked Sarah to tell me what she had seen and heard. It took some convincing as Sarah was very reluctant to speak and pulled the cross hanging around her neck out to hold as she began the story.

The man who loved Mary Rose was named Abraham and was in his eighties, possibly nineties, he wasn't sure himself. She guessed at the time that he was born in the late 1880s from what he described, when he bothered to talk at all.

He would quite often sit for hours and not speak a word, regardless of whether anyone spoke to him or not. Without any outward warning sign, he would turn his head as if to look at someone speaking to him and nod his head and reply to this unseen person.

It scared the life out of the young black orderlies and cleaning staff assigned to his section as they tried to see or hear who he was conversing with. Finally one of the braver girls approached Sarah to ask what to do as they were afraid that "haints" were among them and would do them harm.

Sarah said that she chastised the girl and quoted scriptures to her and told her that there were no haints or ghosts in that building.

She hung her head a little and said that even then she wasn't sure about the building where Mary Rose lived. Leone spoke up and said, "You wouldn't go near that building in the daylight!" Sarah admitted that what he said was true and that it wasn't right to build on that graveyard and disturb all those souls like that.

One night when a girl (employee) was out sick and she had to fill in, Sarah herself was working near Abraham's door and heard him speaking in his room. As she opened the flap on his door to look in she thought that she saw candlelight and smelled hot wax.

Looking me in the eyes Sarah said, "Mister Ken, I know what candle wax smells like!" She was visibly shaking a little as she watched me for a reaction. I just sat there with my mouth hanging open, entranced as I almost smelled it (hot wax) myself.

"What did you do then," I asked getting a strange feeling in my stomach.

"I opened his door to make sure that he didn't have a candle as they were not allowed. Patients could catch their clothes or bedding on fire. I went inside, watching him as he sat on his bed, ready to run for my life if he moved. Mister Ken, I smelled candle wax like it was under my nose in my own hand! But there was no candle there, anywhere!" She said, still obviously very disturbed.

"But that wasn't the worst thing," she continued. "I took his water pitcher out because it wasn't supposed to be left in the room overnight. The male patients would sometimes pee in them and the bosses got really upset if they did that. As I backed out of the room, keeping my eyes on Mister Abraham, I felt like I was backing into an icehouse it was so cold on my back!" said the woman with sweat rolling down her face as she told me this.

"Mister Ken, I locked that door with the keys I carried hooked to my belt with a chain and put that pitcher down on a table across the hall and two doors down. When the morning girl came to relieve me that pitcher was gone! I ran to Mister Abraham's door and opened the flap and that pitcher was in his room again on his table." She said shaking her head in disbelief as she relived that troubling event.

Sarah raised the cross to her lips and kissed it and said that she couldn't talk about it anymore. Leone patted her on the back as he too, remembered that morning.

When we went back outside Leone said that a woman in what appeared to be a Victorian-period nurse's uniform, like in some of the old photos hanging on the wall in the administrative offices, had been sighted in the hall outside of Abraham's room several times by different people, both white and black. When the staff attempted to catch up with her she was nowhere to be found.

The worst was yet to come: the sightings in the shuttered building continued and a wheel came off of the car of a white staff member who made fun of the story of Mary Rose and Abraham — right in front of the hall where Mary Rose "lived." Try as they might, no one was able to assign blame for that event to any particular cause.

The crushing blow came when after yet another nighttime sighting of the Victorian nurse in the hallway. The following morning Abraham was not in his locked room. All three sets of keys were accounted for and each key holder had witnesses as to their whereabouts all night.

It was obvious that the man was not in his room, yet no one could account for his physical location. The grounds were searched as a matter of routine, but they kept coming back to the fact that the door could not be opened from the inside when locked and it had not been unlocked from the outside until the morning bed check.

There was also the matter of the odor of candle wax in his room, smelled by everyone who checked (including Sarah and Leone). It is worth noting that there were no candles used there, the building was fully equipped with electric lights.

The very next day the remaining few patients in the main building were relocated to other buildings, away from the administrative offices. No patients were ever housed there again.

Abraham was "discharged" (*in absentia*), dated the day before his disappearance and the case was closed. Having no relatives or anyone else to notify, there was no one to say a word in protest. He was never seen again.

The main building was shut down and abandoned in 1974 and lies in ruin, but like the fated building built upon a graveyard full of troubled souls, still has those who aren't there walking the halls.

Ghost hunters now call that hospital and especially those two buildings, the most haunted place in America.

Epilogue

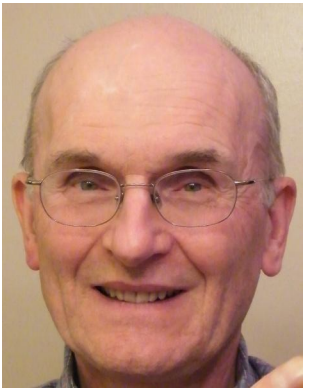
A new administration building was built far away from the original one and people rarely go near the old crumbling halls. Sightings of the "people who aren't there" occur frequently in many of the abandoned structures and ghost hunters all now agree that the place is haunted by the souls of the departed.

I wrote my report on the power of pain and suffering to influence belief in what we want to believe is true, like ghosts. I got my "A" grade and concluded that I had enough of psychology and didn't want to immerse myself in the suffering of others full time. I found that it was just too hard to deal with as I felt what they felt and it distressed me greatly.



Mary Rose, Abraham, if you are listening; I never said that I didn't believe in you. Does anyone smell something burning, like… candle wax? ■

From the RVC *Harold Ward*



There are a large number of models describing how people behave in organizations. They tend to focus on hierarchical organizations with paid employees but ours is largely a volunteer venture. In my time in Mensa, I've participated in a handful of local groups and visited many more. Local groups in Mensa vary dramatically in size and that tends to affect the way they provide "The Mensa Experience." Assuming that Mensans are, as a group, as talented and as willing to participate, my perception is that there are usually a small number of members in each local group, say five, who get together to either do the work or see that it gets done. In the smallest groups, those five are all the officers and all or almost all of the volunteers. In the largest groups, they are members of the group's executive committee, almost always are in the highest offices, recruit almost all of the other volunteers who participate in delivering the local group's regular requirements and often hold lower profile but important roles (like proctor or testing coordinator). The Mensans that are among "the five" in a local group are usually not the only volunteers and they may/often do have skills that make their role perhaps a bit easier than for other Ms but what they do get from their participation is the rewarding experience described by the founders of Mensa. In a recent survey, Ms tended to be more satisfied with their membership the more they participated. This doesn't mean that everyone is cut out to be one of "the five" but, if you aren't, the five in your local group would greatly appreciate any help you might be able to provide. If you are one of "the five," thanks very much. If you aren't, let one of "the five" in your group know the kinds of skills you have, the kinds of things you enjoy doing and the times and places that would be convenient for you to help. Or take a look at the masthead in this issue of your newsletter. There 's likely to be a position marked "vacant" or "open" you can do.

The American Mensa Board has recently put together a group of volunteers called the Local Group Logistics Team. Its goal is to study the tools local groups have to do their group's monthly and other periodically occurring jobs. Some groups, especially the largest ones, have tools in place for these purposes. Intermediate and smaller groups may not have any volunteers who can easily do some tasks or tools that might make these tasks more tolerable and thus have a job that is (a) needlessly hard or time-consuming to do or (b) hard to recruit volunteers to repeatedly do. If you are a volunteer with such a task or if your job is to recruit volunteers for one, please let me know so we can get it into the mix of solutions sized to your group and get you help for it. If your group has a particularly Mensan solution to one of its regular problems, please let me know.

If you haven't gotten your registration for SFRM's RG yet, you will probably have received this newsletter in time to save yourself $10 off the full price if you get in by October 1. The title of the gathering is "Brilliance by the East Bay" and it will be held

from November 22 - 24. Note that RG attendees will be able sign up for a tour of the National Ignition Facility at Lawrence Livermore National Lab.

Next column, Assistant RVC8 Dana Spinney discusses Mensa Forums.

Harold Ward, RVC8, rvc8@us.mensa.org

Membership News! Northern Nevada Mensa tweets!!!



Join us on Twitter and get the latest NNM information including NNM news, event reminders, and last minute updates by following **NNM@ssmarticle**!
You can still join our growing Northern Nevada Mensa Facebook group! Sandra Lackovic

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Notes from Your ExComm

Minutes of ExComm meeting 14 September 2013

Present were Bob McAllister, LocSec; Ed Hanley, Immediate Past LocSec; Ken Wright, 1st Vice-Secretary; Gerald Lockhart, 2nd Vice-Secretary; and Anna Wright ,*Neva-Mind* Editor. Also present were Richard Arbib, Programs Chair and Sandra Lackovic, Membership Chair.

Meeting convened at 8:50 p.m. at the Olive Garden restaurant, Reno.

McAllister: Discussion of status of nominations.
Based on a report submitted earlier by Elections Chair, Mark Simkin, and new volunteers, it was determined that a full slate of candidates will be presented for election in November. Also welcomed were two other non-elected volunteers Alan Lattaner, new Webmaster, and Sandra Lackovic, new Testing Coordinator. Thank you!

Wright, A.: Discussion regarding elected officer job descriptions. No action was required.

Wright, A.: Motion to adjourn
Hanley: Seconded
Unanimous approval 9:03 p.m. Respectfully submitted, K. Wright

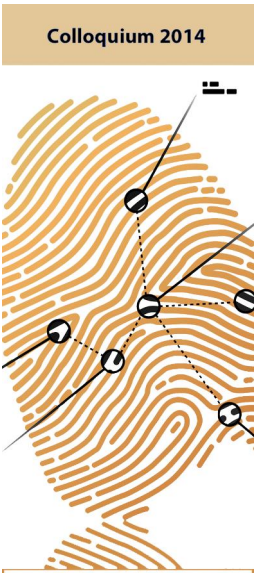




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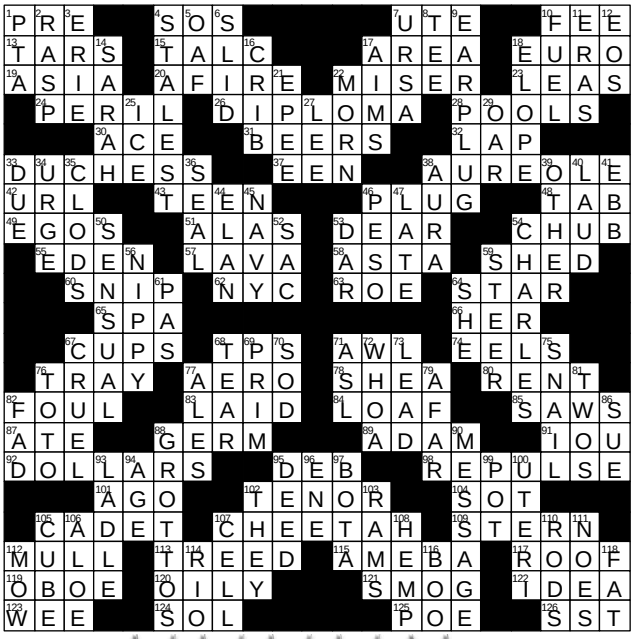
Puzzle Page answers:

1. The last names of Forrest Mars, Sr., son of the founder of the Mars Company, and Bruce Murrie, of the Hershey company, who had a 20% share in the product.
2. The Guy Fawkes mask.
3. SpongeBob SquarePants (It takes place in Bikini Bottom, which Nickelodeon says is below the Bikini Atoll)
4. Frankenstein's Monster. The grunting green guy is a Hollywood invention.
5. The heart — legend said the God of the Dead would weigh it against a feather to determine the worth of the deceased's deeds.
6. c) 1 in 5. Averaged over Europe, 20-25% of defendants in witchcraft trials were men.
7. Singing hard rock — those are the stage personae of the members of Kiss.
8. It kept one eye dark-adjusted so that if they needed to go below decks during the daytime they could still see.
9. He actually exists. There is no Igor in Shelley's novel.
10. You could make a case for each one:
    Superman: only one not born on Earth
    Batman: only one without innate "superpowers"
    Spiderman: only one from Marvel Comics instead of DC
    Aquaman: only royal, only one who lives under water, or only one who hasn't had a hit movie made about him.



MENSA Education & Research FOUNDATION

Little Words Mean a Lot answers:





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



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