Neva-Mind

Volume 32, Issue 8 - **August 2008**



The song-birds leave us at the summer's close,
Only the empty nests are left behind,
And pipings of the quail among the sheaves.
- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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Neva-Mind

A publication of Northern Nevada Mensa
Volume 32, Issue 8



Cover photo by Anna Wright
This California quail (**callipepla californica)**
and its mate come for breakfast in my garden every morning.

Notes from the Editor

Does size really matter? This month's *Neva-Mind* has so much more that we are trying out a bigger size. And, WE'RE ON-LINE! There are certain advantages to wearing the webmaster and editor hats at the same time. If you've lost your latest issue of the ***Neva-Mind*** or just want to check your bulletin while you are cruising the internet, just drop by our own website: northernnevada.us.mensa.org.



The last option on the navigation bar "*Neva-Mind* Issues" takes you to our **NEW** "Members Only" pages. The log-in procedure is exactly the same as logging into the Mensa national website: use your e-mail address (or your membership number) and your password to pass through the gate. As time permits I will try to post previous issues of the *Neva-Mind* as well. And, as a future goal (when I figure out how to do it), I hope to offer Individual Member's Pages for those of you who would like to post your original art, prose, poetry, photography, recipes, or anything you've created to share with other Mensans.

Next issue we will present an incredible photo essay by our own Bill Kositzky showing the beautiful Black Rock Desert, with and without the Burning Man Event. If you've ever wondered what *really* happens at the Burning Man (not just the gossip or the hype) then make plans to attend the September Mensa regular meeting here in Fallon where Bill (fresh from his latest trip) will give a slide show presentation and talk about his experiences. You'll find the Mensa Special Interest Group (SIG) for the Burning Man Event: **Burning Mbers** at http://burningmbers.com

- - Anna

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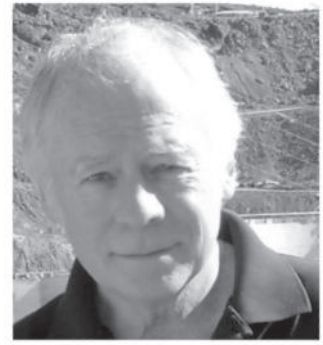
Volunteers
Without these people, how would we keep Northern Nevada Mensa running? **Page 2**

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Editor Anna Wright gives us a peek into the wildlife dining in her garden. **Page 3**

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From the Loc-Sec *by Bob McAllister*

Guilt by Association



At a recent Monthly Gathering, an issue of concern by some present was briefly broached: that of the concept "Ugly American." Our guest speaker assured us that it isn't really an issue around the world. Yet, our newspapers continually tell us that we're despised. Actually, my experiences in other countries in the world have shown me that pretty much where ever you go, average people are generally decent and friendly, much as in our country — just as was evinced by that guest speaker, a German national himself. People in many other countries seem to want to emulate us and to want to come here. So, as I've said before, it seems we can't believe everything that we're told.

I have, though, been very much embarrassed by other Americans while in other countries.

I have an affinity for languages. Though facility with being multi-lingual is looked upon in this country as something notable, it isn't really. Most people in most other countries speak two, three or more languages de rigueur and think nothing of it.

Allow me to digress a moment. When I was an infant, some where between two and three years old, still in a high chair and still just learning my first language, I recall an incident that, at first, threw me for a loop. My Scottish mother was feeding me a breakfast of that traditional Scottish staple, porridge (oatmeal). She thought it was great. I thought it rather bland, except when she would add a touch of a marvelous taste.

One day she gave the porridge to me plain, so I asked for that marvelous "sungon."

"Sungon?," she asked. "What d'ye mean?"

"You know, that stuff."

"Nae, uh dinae knoo what yer talkin' aboot. Show me where it might be."

I pointed it out in a pantry cupboard and she said, "Oh. That's syrup."

Syrup, I thought indignantly. Here I go to all the trouble to learn the words for things in this strange world and they go and change up the rules on me.

"Why don't you call it sungon anymore?," I asked.

She thought a moment and said, "Uch! I've been askin' ye, 'D' ye want some on? Some syrup on yer porridge."

(From the Loc-Sec continued from page 5)

Oh. Okay. My first remembered experience with the intricacies of language.

Anyway, I was chosen in the service to be sent to language school. They taught me Russian for a year and then sent me to Germany for a three year paid vacation in Europe. 'Twas good fortune. Another fellow, Ken, who went to the school with me was sent to the same duty destination. Our job was to sort of spy on the Soviets. When he announced to his superiors his intention to marry a young German lass, his Top Secret-Crypto clearance was immediately revoked.

Before that, though, a bunch of us supposed linguists went on a touring vacation. At one point, our group was on a barge tour down the Rhine River. The barge would pull into areas of different, very excellent wineries. A dollar would buy a very good bottle of wine. (The good old days.) One of our group, Dwojokowski, from New Jersey, having had a little too much wine and knowing that he was in a foreign country where no one would understand him, couldn't contain himself when a bevy of young (late teens-early twenties) girls came aboard. One, in particular, looked like she stepped on board from a modeling agency.

Dwojokowski exclaimed loudly, "Wow! Would I like to blank blank blank!"
They all turned in wide-eyed horror at us. Their matronly chaperone motioned subtly with her hand to her charges and said, "Come to the other side, ladies." They were British tourists. We, American tourists, tried to dissociate our selves from the dolt.
Later in the trip, there were just Ken and myself. After a long day of driving through southern Germany — Neuschwanstein Castle, Lake Constanz,— we found ourselves in Vienna. A quick registration at a hotel, a place to put away the car and a mad dash downtown to engage a tour bus.

A poll was taken of the sightseers as to which languages should be used to conduct the tour. English and Spanish were chosen. No more than two blocks into the tour had passed when a woman jumped up and interrupted the tour guide.

"Hey! Dat's not what I hoid. Dere's bettuh places down dis othuh street wheah you get bettuh deals!" (It may well have been New Jersey, again.)

She did this constantly and at one point went to the front of the bus, yelling,

"Drivuh. Stop de bus! My muddah has to go to the bat'room!"

Ken and I agreed to speak to one another in Russian. Maybe we wouldn't be adjudged as Ugly Americans by virtue of association.

After the tour came to a finish, we began to look for a restaurant. We hadn't had anything to eat or drink since visiting the castle in Germany. As we wandered through "restaurant row," smug in our being so not-Ugly American, we happened upon a Russian restaurant, the Zhar-Ptitsa. The Fire-Bird from Russian mythology.

(From the Loc-Sec continued from page 6)

We stepped in. Posh. Ramrod straight postures of all the diners. One diner was even wearing a monocle. Though we (the Americans) weren't dressed slovenly, those already dining seemed to be one step removed from coats and tails. We were seated. The table was already set with a quite expensive-looking cut crystal water decanter. The water glasses were also cut crystal. We ordered from the menu. The first dish was a very large salad on top of which was what appeared to be a succulent looking — perhaps crab apple? Being both hungry and thirsty after such a long day, I quickly snatched the morsel from the top of the salad and threw it whole (but deftly, after all this was a very nice restaurant) into my mouth. Much to my surprise, it turned out to be one of the hottest peppers I had ever tried. Since this was a nice restaurant, I didn't want to attract any undue attention and did my best to stifle my choking, though I believe that I did pretty much rattle the stopper to the water decanter. A quick pour and a quick gulp of — vodka! People began to notice me now, as I barely was able to keep from falling out of my chair and I did cough rather loudly. We weren't Ugly Americans, though.

After dinner, we decided to take in a night club. Again, a nice place and a cover charge. But, so what? We'd never likely again have a chance to enjoy the best. After a few drinks (we were well-behaved), we splurged ($25 was a lot in those days to mere military peons) and bought a bottle of champagne. The drinks effects began to mount and a sudden visit to the restroom was required by both Ken and myself. Arrows and signs directed us down this hall and down that around some corners and through a door. A self-closing, self-locking door that led to a back alley. We locked ourselves out, but went back to the front to re-enter, only to find that there was still that cover charge.

So, we went about finding our way to the hotel. Only after walking some blocks and losing all track of where the night club had been, did we realize that we had left a rather large unpaid bill back at the night club. But...we weren't Ugly Americans.

We continued on through Italy, the Mediterranean and back up through France where I continued not intentionally being an Ugly American, but this much has already taken up too much space. ♦♦♦

“Sometimes I wonder whether the world is being run by smart people who are putting us on or by imbeciles who really mean it.”

Mark Twain



Rocky Mountain High-IQ AG
Denver, CO, 1-6 July 2008 *by Ken Wright*

Getting there is half the .... What?

The first hurdle you always have to face is getting there. We booked on Southwest Airlines as they by far had the lowest rates. You do have to endure the cattle car boarding procedure, but you CAN help that situation by checking in online exactly 24 hours prior to flight time. Each minute thereafter puts you farther and farther back in the line.

If you are traveling alone and have no carry on, or one small enough to easily fit under the seat, it is no big deal. But, if you are traveling with someone, and/or have the maximum allowable size carry-on which needs stowed in the overhead, you had better not miss the 24 hour check-in. Overhead storage goes faster than seat availability.

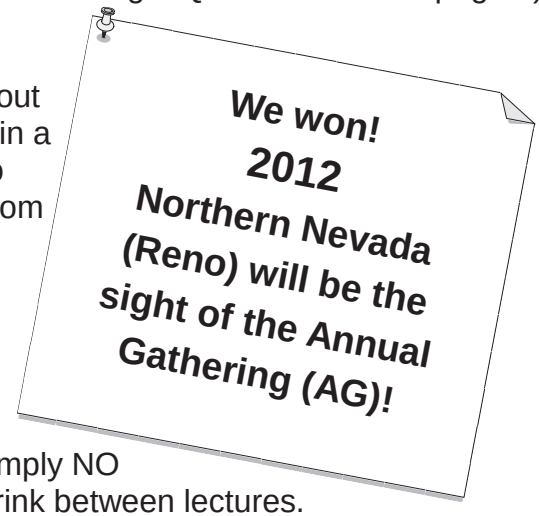
Having been unable to identify a smooth enough public transit route in advance for people dragging monster rolling stock, I elected to use Super Shuttle going to the Sheraton Downtown, formerly the Adam's Mark Hotel. As it turns out we COULD have ridden one bus from Denver International Airport (DIA) to the Market Street Station and then caught the free shuttle down 16th Street to the hotel. We would have saved some dollars, but it would have also been a lot more work. That being said, we do support and encourage the use of public transit wherever possible.

The Hotel of Gathering

The Sheraton Downtown, as the taxi and shuttle drivers called it, is an elegant property redone to look like a grand hotel from the early 20th century. The amenities and rooms were not antiquated or primitive, and were, in all aspects, quite comfortable.

The hotel staff was polite, attentive, and efficient. Quite a few were imported from other countries, as noted at the front desk where three absolutely charming girls from Russia helped us on numerous occasions. There was one young man who got a bit short and huffy with me when he had to repeat something because between his thick accent and my bad hearing, I could not understand what he said. Fortunately I was in a good mood and didn't gnaw his head down to shoulder height. In fact I did probably the best thing I could have done to get at him, I laughed at his petulance and left him with a red face.

(Rocky Mountain High IQ continued from page 8)



The Layout of the Gathering Areas

Herein lies the rub. The most complained about bone of contention, as it were, Hospitality, was in a completely different building which required two elevator and two escalator rides to get to and from the meeting rooms. The distance and difficulty, especially for those with physical challenges, was such that you either hung out in hospitality and missed presentations and doings in the main building, or you stayed where the scheduled activity was and didn't see much of hospitality and the free food/ drink, etc. There was simply NO quick "popping into" hospitality for a snack or drink between lectures.

What did we do? We stayed where the action was and only went to Hospitality when either everything was done for the evening, or in the rare instance where there was nothing being presented that we wanted to attend. And, two times we were allowed to present our case for the 2012 AG to be held in Reno before the Site Selection Committee and then the full AMC Board. In those instances we missed the start time or had to leave during a lecture and had some "down time" to fill.

Let me say, while I am thinking of it, that while I have always had the utmost respect for our National Leadership, I now have a deeper and more profound appreciation for the work and sacrifice that these people willingly do for us. The members of the AMC and their National Office staff spend literally the entire AG in meetings. They don't get to attend presentations or go on tours once the AG starts and are lucky to even get a break for meals, quite often having food delivered to the meeting room and continuing on. These are all volunteers and should get our utmost support and thanks. They have mine. Thank You!!!

The meeting rooms were conveniently located for the most part, with a couple of "Where in the world?" locations, which took some Sherlock skills to find. The program listing was in both the large AG booklet, and the ever popular and necessary, in my opinion, small foldable carry along which you could tuck into your name badge holder. This gets constant use in my observation and makes complex track and time management possible.

The Speakers and Subject Matter

If there is anything that I have learned about the "Programs" section of a Mensa

(continued on page 16)

Fourth Friday Pub Crawl

Friday, August 22

by Ron Gendrich

Pubcrawlmeister Reno Ron will be out of town the Friday before Labor Day, so we'll have our pub crawl on the Fourth Friday instead. Please join us for a barhopping tour of the downtown area as we research which establishments to include in our Regional Gathering Pub Crawl. Bring a friend and come have some fun! Meet at 7 p.m. Friday, August 22, on the Rum Bullions front patio in the Silver Legacy Casino, located at 407 N. Virginia St. Look for the yellow balloon. This is our next-to-last crawl before the RG, and we'd like to see you there! All are invited, and we need your input. The crawl should last about 3 hours and take in 3 or 4 bars. For information, call Ron at 219-6979, or email him at renoron2@yahoo.com.

August Monthly Meeting

Saturday, August 16

Time: Arrive after 6 p.m. Speaker at 7 p.m.
Potluck dinner: Bring a dish to share.
Speaker: Roman Marquez,
Martial Arts Instructor, Owner of Warriors Guild Martial Art School in Carson City
Topic: Roman Marquez will give a talk and demonstration about
Wing Chun Kung Fu, the martial art style of Bruce Lee.

Host: Gerry Lockhart
Location: 3349 Cortez Street Carson City
Directions: Take 395 through Washoe Valley into Carson all the way to Koontz (there is a light.)

Turn Left on Koontz. The second STOP sign says (to Saliman). Make a left at that STOP sign.

The very next street is KINGSLEY. (Turn left onto Kingsley.)

In two blocks you will see Cortez Street; make a right turn. Look for a white house on the corner of Calico and Cortez: 3349 Cortez Street. Phone: (775) 882-0868



August 2008



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2
3	4 **HDAR**	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 **HDAR**	12	13	14	15	16 **MENSA**
17	18 **HDAR**	19	20	21	22 **PUB CRAWL**	23
24	25 **HDAR**	26	27 **LUNCH BUNCH**	28	29	30
31						

HDAR: High Desert Attitude Reconsideration

Every Monday
Join Mensans for an evening of conversation and drinks starting around 5 PM at Crosswinds in the Airport Plaza Hotel, 1981 Terminal Way, Reno.

Fourth Wednesday lunch

The Lunch Bunch will eat at Opa Greek Cuisine, 1290 East Plumb Lane in Reno, on Wednesday, August 27. Meet at 11:45. The restaurant is located opposite Costco in Airport Square.
For information, call Loren at 746-2938. The menu includes dolmades, mousaka and other Greek dishes as well as pastas, sandwiches and vegetarian plates.

Wing Chun Kung Fu

--the Martial Art of Bruce Lee *by Richard Arbib*



I first started studying Wing Chun Kung Fu back in 1973 after watching Bruce Lee's movies, his most famous being ***Enter the Dragon***, released in 1973, the same year as his death. Although it has been 35 years since his death, his movies live on.

Wing Chun literally means "beautiful springtime." This style of fighting was invented by a woman, Ng Mui, a Shaolin nun in China approximately four centuries ago. Her student, another woman, was Yim Wing Chun, after whom the style was named. In turn, she taught her husband, a famous kung fu teacher, and the system went through eight generations of instructors to Yip Man, the grandmaster who taught the style to Bruce Lee. Before he became a famous movie star, Bruce Lee taught this martial art style in America in the 1960s, in Seattle.

Wing Chun is radically different from other martial art styles in several ways. Unlike some systems which employ long, ornate, and complicated movements, Wing Chun is simple and direct. The techniques are efficient with no wasted movements. All parrying and deflecting motions require the shortest movement possible. If unarmed self-defense systems were compared to different sword fighting styles, Wing Chun would be similar to fencing, specifically with a foil. Speed, not power, is the hallmark of Wing Chun. This is accomplished by short movements and also by simultaneous blocks and strikes, which allows the practitioner to accomplish a defense and a counterattack in one movement instead of two — thus effectively doubling the speed of a self-defense technique. Students of Wing Chun learn how to use their opponents' strength against them by practicing "chi sao" (sticking hands). This allows the Wing Chun fighter to react with incredible speed by touch during close-in fighting — and close-in fighting is the specialty of this system.

Despite its many advantages, Wing Chun is actually easier to learn than other martial arts, and students find they can defend themselves in a relatively short period of time.

Although I studied Wing Chun on and off for years in San Francisco, I just recently started studying under Roman Marquez a year ago at Sports West in Reno, where he has a class on Saturday afternoons. He also has his martial arts school in Carson City. At the monthly meeting, Roman Marquez will not only explain the concepts of Wing Chun, but also demonstrate the techniques with his assistant instructor, Kip. I will probably be in the demonstration as well. They always need a dummy to show how effective the techniques are.

Just in case anyone in the group has not seen Bruce Lee's movie, ***Enter the Dragon***, I will bring the video and we can watch some short clips of the best scenes from the movie. ♦♦♦

Do you have friends in the legal field who you think are Mensa material? If they have scored at or above the 95th percentile on an LSAT taken since 1982, or at or above a 662 prior to that year, they've already qualified for Mensa membership! During the month of August 2008, American Mensa will waive the $40 prior evidence fee for people who submit an LSAT score. If you know someone you think may have a qualifying LSAT score, please encourage them to submit their application and scores between August 1 - August 31 to take advantage of this offer.

LaurenF@americanmensa.org. Thanks!

SUDOKUGRAM

Logic and Language Linked!

A sudoku variation that truly combines logic and wordplay.

The rules of Sudokugrams (see http://sudokugrams.com for more details and sample puzzles) in a nutshell:

1. Fill in the empty squares with the letters in the Letter Pool, using each letter only once.

2. Make sure there are no repeating letters in any of the rows, columns, or heavily outlined 2 x 2 boxes.

3. Form twelve different sets of four letters in the rows, columns, and 2 x 2 boxes so that each set can be anagrammed (unscrambled) into a common, clean, non-capitalized word.

Puzzle 2

		M	
E	**C**	**A**	
R		**S**	**A**
W			**E**

Letter Pool**: T H I N K E R**

Sudokugrams is an American Mensa puzzle book by Alan Stillson and Frank Longo (Sterling Publishing, 2007). It's the first sudoku variation book to combine Logic (Sudoku) with Language (anagrams). *Sudokugrams* was reviewed in the March, 2008 Mensa Bulletin and will be presented in a program at the 2008 AG. Mensa Educational and Research Fund (MERF) gets a portion of the proceeds from all sales of *Sudokugrams*.

This puzzle published with permission of Alan Stillson.



Come play with us!

Register NOW and join in the first-ever RENO Regional Gathering!

This party will be October 3-5, 2008, at the Silver Legacy Resort in downtown Reno, Nevada. This fabulous three-casino property with 22 restaurants and entertainment around every corner is a great setting for the hottest Mensa ticket this fall.

Enjoy the Reno area....

*** Cruise the beautiful blue waters of Lake Tahoe!**

*** Explore historic Virginia City, home of the Comstock Lode and Mark Twain's old stomping grounds.**

***Tour a Nevada brothel and get the real scoop!**

Just few tasty tidbits from our menu…

*** Cutting-edge energy alternatives * Burning Man Festival**

*** Belly Dancing * Electric Cars * Healing Powers of the Mind**

*** Aboriginal Canadian Women in today's world * Salsa Dance Lessons**

*** Virtual tour and discussions of China and Tibet**

*** A delicious taste of chocolate * Percussion rhythms around the world**

*** The seven deadly sins (plus one!)**

And meet…* a fellow Mensan who trained his own service dog

*** a Donner Party survivor portrayed by local Chautauqua professional**

*** a Native American with a humorous view of American culture**

*** Motivational speakers to help you get more out of life**

June/July registration: $75

August/September and at the door: $90

Northern Nevada website http://northernnevada.us.mensa.org/

(Look for new presentations)

Haven't Got a Thing to Wear?

We've got our own Biggest Little Reno Gathering T-Shirts on order!

Get the first-ever Northern Nevada RG memento! The background is a tie dye with our own Regional Gathering logo (see previous page) screen printed in the center front. Colors of tie-die are white on blue or white on orange. You can pre-order yours (discounted!) with the order form below. T-shirts will also be offered for sale during the RG but the selections will be limited and the discount will not apply.

Size	Cost@	Quantity	Quantity	Total
Small	$18	Orange _____	Blue _____	
Medium	$18	Orange _____	Blue _____	
Large	$18	Orange _____	Blue _____	
XLarge	$20	Orange _____	Blue _____	
XXLarge	$22	Orange _____	Blue _____	
3X, 4X, 5X No tie dye. Available only as a **solid color.**	$22	Orange _____	Blue _____	
			Grand Total:	

Send checks to: Northern Nevada Mensa #893
c/o Anna Wright, Registrar
510 Michael Drive
Fallon, NV 89406

T-shirts will be available for pick up at the RG registration desk!

Or order on-line at **northernnevada.us.mensa.org**
and follow the links to On-Line Registration and then to Paypal.

(Please **DON'T register *again*** if you are only ordering t-shirts.)

(Rocky Mountain High IQ continued from page 9)
Gathering, it is to have a successful event you must create the situation that "I just can't decide which presentation I want to see more." Having the variety of topics and experts available to attend as your whim dictates has to be an opportunity that only Mensans get to partake of. I have never seen the like in various schools, conferences, or lecture symposiums that I have attended.

I am often asked what Mensans do, talk about, or learn at these conventions. We absorb input. The subject matter can range from Buffalo Bill to Astrophysics. From Advances in DNA research to Riding 8222 miles on a motorcycle. How to write a Mystery Novel to a Celebration of Coffee. From Ghosts who inhabit our world to Black Holes in Deepest Space.

The interests of Mensans are wide and varied, as is their knowledge of an equally wide variety of subjects. Because we "get" the jokes, the nuances, the subject itself in depth, speakers are more than willing to speak to our assemblage; in fact some seek US out for the opportunity to have such an audience.

It can be intimidating for some to face this group, being who and what we are, Mensans after all, but once the intro is over and the speaker gets past the first stutter or stumble point, they quickly find our attention and receptivity to be exhilarating. Or so I have been told; they are just fellow Mensans to me and we all have such a rapport that speaking to a Banquet Room full of them is like talking to folks at a table in Hospitality. There is a comfortable acceptance in our family of Mensa that makes speaking or asking questions easy. We don't judge, we learn.

How Were the Meals?

We attended three function meals; the Awards Luncheon, the traditional Saturday Night Banquet and the also traditional Sunday Brunch. Of the three I would say that the Brunch was the best because there was food that I liked and you could get more of it.

The Only Real Bottom Line: Would you, or will you, go to another AG or gathering?

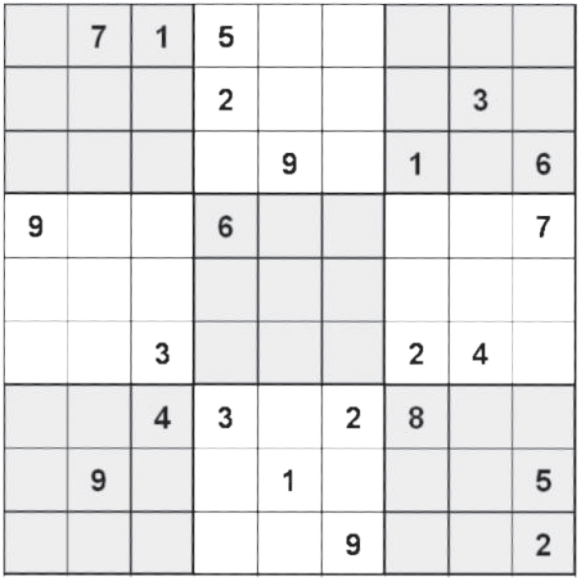
We are already registered for the 2009 AG in Pittsburgh and have our hotel reservations made.

To those who are skeptical, or fearful, of attending anything larger than a local meeting, it really is comfortable and welcoming at these gatherings. The people who attend are just like you, only different. You can be a part of the group and still be uniquely who you are. No one tries to trip you up or ask you difficult questions; there is no initiation of newbies. Even the painfully shy eventually relax and feel the buzz of the Mensa energy. It is ALL good.

Ken ♦♦♦

Trivia Anyone? (from Trivia Café)

1. One of the most popular TV shows of the mid 1980's was Cagney and Lacey. Who were the two stars of this show?
2. New England's largest city is, of course, Boston. New England's second most populated city is the second largest city in Massachusetts. Which city is this?
3. Truly mid-life: according to life expectancy charts in this country, which age is truly the mid-point of the average person's life? i.e. your life expectancy equals the number of years you've already lived?
4. What was the first state to enter the U.S. after the original thirteen?
5. What do these well known people have in common? Dan Aykroyd, Neil Young, Michael J. Fox, and Peter Jennings?
6. This word refers to a type of sofa, a type of overcoat, a brand of cigarettes, and a city in England. What is it?
7. In which three consecutive years did the Oakland A's play in the World Series, and who were their opponents?



Sudoku Challenge
By Anna Wright

8. What is the sum of the first one-hundred odd numbers, starting with 1?
9. This 1862 epic French work of literature was portrayed on stage and on film, as early as 1909 and as recently as 1988, starring Geoffrey Rush and Liam Neeson. What is the title of this work and who wrote it?
10. Sugar is made up of edible crystalline substances. Name them.

The cure for boredom is curiosity.
There is no cure for curiosity.
Dorothy Parker,
U.S. author, humorist,
poet, & wit (1893 - 1967)

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Have you something to submit to the *Neva-Mind*?

⇒ Original art, poetry, prose, or haiku?

⇒ Or that terrific photograph you took? (Caution: photographs of identifiable people must have permission to be published.)

E-mail me: editor@northernnevada.us.mensa.org
We'd love to receive your contribution.

PS: Unfortunately there's no guarantee that we can use all submissions. Sorry...





Solution to SUDOKU CHALLENGE

8	3	6	7	5	**9**	4	1	**2**
2	**9**	7	8	**1**	4	3	6	**5**
1	5	**4**	**3**	6	**2**	**8**	7	9
6	8	**3**	9	7	5	**2**	**4**	1
7	4	5	1	2	8	6	9	3
9	1	2	**6**	4	3	5	8	**7**
3	2	8	4	**9**	7	**1**	5	**6**
5	6	9	**2**	8	1	7	**3**	4
4	**7**	**1**	5	3	6	9	2	8

Answers to Trivia Anyone?

1 SHARON GLESS / TYNE DALY
2 WORCESTER, MASS 170,000
3 39 +/- 1
4 VERMONT
5 ALL BORN IN CANADA
6 CHESTERFIELD
7 1988, 89, 90 / DODGERS / GIANTS / REDS
8 10,000: 1+3+5+7+...+199 = 50*200
9 LES MISERABLES / VICTOR HUGO
10 sucrose, lactose, and fructose

(note: Answers were supplied by Trivia Café and may not necessarily be agreed on by other Mensan readers.)

Solution to Puzzle 2

E	**K**	**N**	**W**
A	**S**	**E**	**R**
H	**A**	**C**	**E**
R	**M**	**T**	**I**

Letter Pool: T H I N K E R
Across: TRIM, EACH, EARS, KNEW
Down: WIRE, CENT, MASK, HEAR
Boxes: CITE, HARM, WREN, SAKE
Note: Other anagrams like ACHE are okay

Northwest Passages



by John Recht, Regional Vice-Chair

As most of you know by now, the 2008 Annual Gathering (AG) in Denver was a huge success. Over 2,000 Mensans and their guests came to the Mile High City for a spectacular party despite hellish gas prices everywhere and high water in the Midwest.

What we found when we arrived was a perfectly situated hotel in a lively downtown area with lots to see and do nearby, and a well-organized and well-run AG that lived up to our high hopes and expectations. AG Co-Chairs Kim and Tony Jackowski, the rest of the AG volunteers, the National Office staff, and everyone else involved deserve a huge round of applause for giving us such a first-rate event, one that we will fondly remember as one of the best AGs ever.

For members in our region, what could be more exciting than an AG in Denver, you ask? While I have no doubt that the 2009 AG in Pittsburgh and the 2010 AG near Detroit will be splendid affairs, those of us in the Pacific Intermountain Region are already looking ahead to 2011, when American Mensa will come to Portland. And, beating the odds, Region 8 will host a second consecutive AG in Reno in 2012, as decided by the American Mensa Committee (AMC) at the meeting in Denver.

It isn't too early to climb on the bandwagon, folks! If you want to be part of the crew helping with the 2011 Portland AG, contact AG Chair Michael Meagher at 2011AGChair@comcast.net. For the 2012 Reno AG, contact Ken Wright at strtwlkr2@charter.net. And for an early warm-up for the 2012 AG, I recommend that you come to the Reno Regional Gathering (RG) this fall on October 3-5. Biggest Little RG information and registration are available on the Northern Nevada Mensa Web site at http://northernnevada.us.mensa.org/.

Now, back to the Denver wrap up: I put together the AG 2008 Leadership Development Workshop (LDW) program and I was very pleased with the result, with several hundred attendees at more than two dozen sessions. I am going over the feedback forms now, to help me plan the LDW sessions for the 2009 AG.

The AMC meetings in Denver also went well. In particular the presentations by Leigh Wintz of Tecker Consultants were extremely informative, and those in attendance were very impressed by Tecker's grasp of the current situation in Mensa. We expect great things to come of the effort to revise our governance structure, beginning with the development of a new strategic plan that addresses **the bigger issues** with which MENSA is struggling.

Please stay tuned for a lot more information about the Governance Project, and as always, I look forward to hearing from you on this or any other topic that you feel the AMC should attend to. Please email me at rvc8@us.mensa.org or talk to me at the upcoming RGs this fall in Reno, Sacramento, and San Francisco. Hope to see you there! ♦♦♦

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