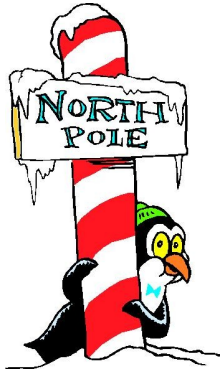
Neva-Mind

Northern Nevada Mensa
Volume 32, Issue 12 — December 2008



Chelsea Chen



All our dreams can come true,

if we have the courage to pursue them.

Walter Elias Disney 1901—1966



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robertjmcallister@earthlink.net

FIRST VICE-SECRETARY
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jsbach1630@sbcglobal.net

SECOND VICE-SECRETARY
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g-lockhart@sbcglobal.net

TREASURER
Carole Preisach 847-4431
vch.carole@gmail.com

PAST LOCAL SECRETARY
Ed Hanley 746-0741
ezyflyer@gmail.com

***NEVA-MIND* EDITOR**
Anna Wright 423-4694
pirsqrd@charter.net

APPOINTED OFFICERS

PROGRAM CHAIR
Richard Arbib
rarbib@earthlink.net

GIFTED CHILDREN COORDINATOR
Jennifer Sanches 867-3878

WEBMASTER
Anna Wright 423-4694
pirsqrd@charter.net

TESTING COORDINATOR
Gloria Dondero Pedro 342-9604
gloriasaul2003@yahoo.com

TEST PROCTORS
Carson City Volunteer needed
Fallon
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Bill Jacobsen 323-8990

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gwmarks@earthlink.net

AREA COORDINATORS
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Ken Wright 423-4694
strtwlkr2@charter. net
Elko County
Squy Wallace 480 710-1262
timelynote@frontiernet.net

***NEVA-MIND* DISTRIBUTION**
Robert McAllister 775 849-2269
robertjmcallister@earthlink.net

RG CHAIR
Ken Wright 423-4694
strtwlkr2@charter.net

REGIONAL VICE-CHAIR
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rvc8@us.mensa.org

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AND AREA COORDINATOR





Neva-Mind

Northern Nevada Mensa
Volume 32, Issue 12 — December 2008



Cover Credit:

A few months ago I had the good fortune to watch and photograph an amazing performance. I had no idea that the talented aerialist was actually one of us Mensans, too. Meet Chelsea (Chen) Teller, a registered nurse by trade and Dragonfly Aerials artist . Wow!

A Note from the Editor:

This is the time of year when we all begin to think about loved ones, the year past, and the upcoming new year. We here at Northern Nevada Mensa, and the *Neva-Mind*, wish you all the happiest of holiday seasons and a prosperous and joyful new year.

Anna ■

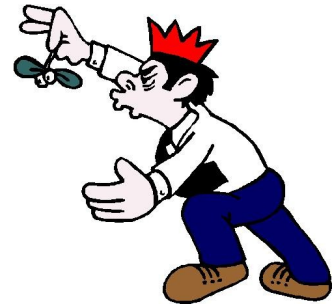


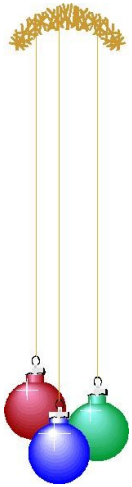
Maybe Christmas,

the Grinch thought,

doesn't come from a store.

Theodore Geisel
(Dr. Seuss 1904—1991)





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Without these people, how would we keep Northern Nevada Mensa running?

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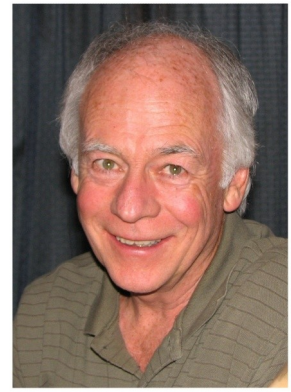
Welcome! Page 12

Happy Birthday! Page 17

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From the Loc-Sec

by Bob McAllister



In the course of each month, ideas occur to me for article material. There is never a paper or pen handy when this happens.

The deadline arrives and I beat up my short-term memory for not keeping better of a hold on the different ideas.

This month leaves me with writer's block.

So, some incomplete thoughts...

We used to use Carbon 14 for dating materials in archeology and paleontology. Now a much more efficient method uses isotopes from the element potassium. Our bodies host most of the elements in the panoply of the periodic table. Some more than others. As it turns out, though we sometimes consider ourselves "carbon-based," carbon doesn't play that big of a role in the dynamics of our genes. Potassium does. If a gene has a vital part of its makeup comprised of a potassium atom that is also an isotope, what happens when that isotope radioactively decays? Apparently our immune systems constantly find cells in our bodies that threaten to become or have become cancerous and eliminate them. It seems that, if one has the most robust system and has never been sick from anything in the course of their life and if one lives long enough having nothing else afflict them, eventually cancer could prevail, having been provoked by a decaying isotope.

Everything in the Universe seems to have a spin: everything from subatomic particles to whole galaxies. Electrons spin around atomic nuclei, satellites around planets, planets around stars, stars around galaxies. The Universe is expanding. The further something is from something else, the faster those two objects move away from one another. A limit to the speed of parting objects is imposed by the speed of light. That distance approximates twelve and a half billion light years. It isn't hard to imagine that at that distance, an event horizon is reached. Though it seems counter-intuitive, this would make the Universe universally limited in a size that would be approximately 25 billion light years away from any point in the Universe. Quantum physics seems to be counter-intuitive and still can be proven. Just a thought, but who knows? ■





PUZZLE PAGE *by Joe Kisenwether*

Odd Man Out

In this month's puzzle challenge, you are presented with twenty five lists of five words each. In each list there is one word which does not belong. Identify the odd man out and give the reason. For example, given the list: BLOOD, LOBSTER, PETROLEUM, RUBY, CHERRY the odd man out would be PETROLEUM – the only one that's not red.

Rules may also pertain to the spelling, pronunciation, or any other aspect of the word itself. For example, in the list: CIVIC, SMILE, LEVEL, RACECAR, TOOT the odd man out would be SMILE – the only one that's not a palindrome.

1. GOLD, SILVER, BRONZE, COPPER, TIN
2. WHY, BUY, YOU, ARE, SEA
3. SEATTLE, ATLANTA, BOSTON, PHEONIX, DENVER
4. WHALE, MOUNTAIN, ATOM, JUPITER, SKYSCRAPER
5. THERMOS, FRISBEE, POPSICLE, BUTTON, JACUZZI
6. RIDE, SCHOOL, POD, MURDER, SHELL
7. BEAU, COW, DOUGH, SEW, TOE
8. AARDVARK, SQUIGGLY, GRAMMAR, PROGRAM, WITNESS
9. INSECT, PUMPKIN, POSTMAN, TOOTHBRUSH, TUNA
10. CLEVELAND, WASHINGTON, SYRACUSE, JACKSON, LINCOLN
11. STAPLER, SKI, CHOPSTICK, EYE, MITTEN
12. CAMCORDER, BRUNCH, INFOMERCIAL, SPORK, FORMULA
13. FURNITURE, RICE, MONEY, FAN, BEEF
14. KIDNEY, WRIST, VANILLA, GREEN, JELLY
15. EISENHOWER, KENNEDY, NIXON, FORD, REAGAN
16. HOTSHOTS, BOURBON, TESTES, MEME, DODO
17. DOVE, WIND, TRAP, BASS, TEAR
18. PSYCHO, DICTION, TITANIC, VERTIGO, GLADIATOR
19. HEALTHY, SLEEPY, HAPPY, GRUMPY, BASHFUL
20. KNIFE, POKER, DJINN, PSYCHIC, HOUR
21. SCREWDRIVER, SIDECAR, GRASSHOPPER, HURRICANE, ARMOIRE
22. SOUSAPHONE, SANDWICH, BLOOMERS, WATT, PHOTOGRAPH
23. FLUSH, RAKE, PIXEL, CHIP, FLOP
24. DISGRUNTLED, INSIDIOUS, NONPLUSSED, INCOMPLETE, DISHEVELLED
25. VERTEBRATE, ERASER, STEWARDESS, LOLLIPOP, AFTERTASTE



⇨⇨⇨You can submit your answers and other feedback at NNMpuzzles@live.com

November Letter Rip *by Joe Kisenwether*

Answer Key:

1. CAPTIVE
2. KINFOLK
3. EXTREME
4. SUBJECT
5. TRANSFIX
6. EXTINGUISH
7. PILGRIMAGE
8. EQUILIBRIUM
9. SQUEEZE
10. HIJACK
11. HYPOCRISY
12. PSYCHOPATH
13. DEVELOP
14. GALAXY
15. SIGNIFY
16. FOXHOLE
17. LUMBERJACK
18. BUNGALOW
19. HEARTFELT
20. VENTRILOQUIST
21. WONDERFUL
22. COMMUNICATE
23. SUPERNATURAL
24. PLACEBO
25. MYTHOLOGY
26. TUMBLEWEED
27. MASQUERADE
28. ARITHMETIC
29. ENCYCLOPEDIA
30. MARSHMALLOW
31. WITCHCRAFT
32. PREDILECTION

We had two solvers submit answers this month. **Sandra Beckerman** got fifteen correct answers. **Jenny Beatty** got fourteen. Special thanks go out to Sandra for the idea behind puzzle number 25 this month. It is probably the most difficult of this month's puzzles so here's a hint; if you copy the five words from list 25 into your word processor, there's a good chance the answer will come to you. ■

Sudokugram

The rules of Sudokugrams 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 6

	E	**O**	
A		**T**	**U**
	S	**R**	**E**
R			

Letter Pool: **B R I L L I G**

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). 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.



see http://sudokugrams.com for more details and sample puzzles

Northwest Passages

by John Recht, Regional Vice-Chair



Ever since I became a member of American Mensa's board of directors I have advocated for improvements in our strategic planning process. Beneficial changes have come about in each of the years I have served, but at the fall meeting of the American Mensa Committee (AMC) we took a giant leap forward with the help of Tecker Consultants.

Over the course of the weekend we reviewed our vision, mission and values, assessed our progress, and refined our goals and strategic objectives. We then practiced developing strategies, setting priorities among the strategies and action planning based on our strategies. What all this is leading to is the implementation of a knowledge based governance strategy that will explicitly incorporate the framework of our strategic plan, and in our meetings it will help us avoid getting bogged down in discussions that do not make much of a contribution to solving the important issues facing American Mensa.

With the help of Mensa members, National Office staff, the Planning Committee and Tecker Consultants, the AMC will continue to refine the strategic planning process over the coming months until we meet again next March. Along the way we will practice our new focus on operating as a strategic board as we have dialogue on the major issues. As always I invite your comments and participation in the process. The Strategic Planning page on the AML web site will be a good place for you to keep tabs on our progress. Look for it in *Inside AML* under the tab for "AMC & Appointees." There will also be opportunities for discussion in the "Mensa Matters" section of the *AML Forums* (go to http://www.community.us.mensa.org/forums/ to find it). And if you wish to write to me directly, I would be delighted to hear from you; please contact me at rvc8@us.mensa.org.



The holidays have begun! On this Thanksgiving I wish to thank you all for being a part of my Mensa family, and I wish you and yours a happy and healthy holiday season. ■



In Memoriam: Wilson Bryan Key



Wilson Bryan Key passed away on Wednesday, October 8, 2008 from complications resulting from surgery. He was 83 years old. He was the leading authority on the subject of Subliminal Perception, having written five books on the subject.

He is lovingly survived by his wife, Debbie Key; daughters, Christina Cantrell, Lotis Kabigting and Bubut Pridgeon and caretaker, Kathie Hooper.

A military service was held at the VA cemetery in Fernley, Nevada on October 14, 2008.

He was a member of Mensa. A brilliant man who lived an amazing life. We will miss him always. ■

I'd like to add a **NEW EVENT** to the calendar:
The First (hopefully to become monthly)

Games Night at Joe's Place

Saturday, December 6.
5:00 PM 'til everyone decides to leave.
1047 Table Mountain Court
Sparks, NV
Contact: 775-338-6521 or NNMpuzzles@live.com

I've got a largish collection of board games, but if you want to play something specific Murphy's Law will probably be in effect, so please bring your favorite games with you (or call ahead to make sure I've got 'em). I'll provide snack food, and if there is interest we can place a group take-out order. Otherwise you're on your own for dinner.
Thanks,

- Joe Kisenwether ■





Program Listing:



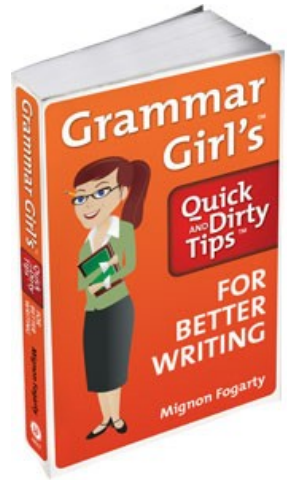
by Richard Arbib

Saturday, December 13
Time: Arrive after 6 p.m. Presentation at 7 p.m.
Topic: Author Mignon Fogarty speaks about her book, Grammar Girl's Quick and Dirty Tips for Better Writing.
Hosts: Donald and Laura MacGregor
Address: Skyline Villas Condominiums Clubhouse
3457 Skyline Blvd., Reno
Phone: (775) 826-5904
Potluck dinner. Bring a dish to share.
Directions: Clubhouse is between the tennis courts and the swimming pool. The condominium complex on Skyline Blvd. is one-quarter mile from South McCarran.

Mignon Fogarty's *Grammar Girl's Quick and Dirty Tips for Better Writing*. (from her web site)

Online sensation Grammar Girl makes grammar fun and easy in her print debut.

Are you stumped by split infinitives? Terrified of using "who" when a "whom" is called for? Do you avoid the words "lay" and "lie" altogether?



Grammar Girl is here to help!

Mignon Fogarty, a.k.a. Grammar Girl, is determined to wipe out bad grammar, but she's also determined to make the process as painless as possible. One year ago, she created a weekly podcast to tackle some of the most common mistakes people make while communicating. The podcasts have now been downloaded more than seven million times, and Mignon has dispensed grammar tips on Oprah and appeared on the pages of *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *USA Today*.

Written with the wit, warmth, and accessibility that the podcasts are known for, *Grammar Girl's Quick and Dirty Tips for Better Writ*ing covers the grammar rules and word-choice guidelines that can confound even the best writers. From "between vs. among" and "although vs. while" to comma splices and misplaced modifiers, Mignon offers memory tricks and clear explanations that will help readers recall and apply those troublesome grammar rules. Chock-full of tips on style, business writing, and effective e-mailing, Grammar Girl's print debut deserves a spot on every communicator's desk. ■



December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 GAMES NIGHT
7 Pearl Harbor Day	8	9	10	11	12	13 MENSA MEETING
14	15	16	17 LUNCH BUNCH	18	19	20
21 Winter Solstice	22 Hanukkah Begins	23	24	25 Christ-mas	26 Kwanzaa Begins	27
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve			

January meeting subject to be announced. Hosts are always needed for meetings. Volunteers please call Richard Arbib at (775) 685-2600



Third Wednesday Lunch

The lunch bunch meets a week early, on Wednesday, December 17. Join the group of 10 or so Mensans at 11:45 a.m. at Bangkok Cuisine. We'll attend the popular Reno Thai restaurant at its northwest Reno branch, 6170 Mae Anne Avenue, located in the shopping center at Robb Drive and Mae Anne, across the street from Raley's. For information, call Loren, 746-2938.



Welcome!

Karpagam Rajagopal (Fallon), **Anne Stewart** (Sparks),
and **Catriona Moody** (Reno)

and Welcome Back!

Chelsea Teller (Reno) and **David Britton** (Spring Creek)

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

Trivia Anyone?

Do you love trivia? You can get your daily dose from the Mensa National Website free! I received all of these questions (and answers) through my email by signing up on the Mensa URL link below. (You don't even have to be a Mensa member to subscribe!)

http://www.us.mensa.org//AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home

Then choose the Events tab, click on the green Culture-Quest® icon, and select Subscribe. It's easy!



1. What did they call the secret militant organization of Irish miners who worked in the Pennsylvania anthracite coal mines?
2. Who wrote "Mary Poppins"?
3. With what war would you associate Rose O'Neal Greenhow, *aka* Rebel Rose?
4. Name Adam Smith's economic treatise.
5. What do they call the weight a horse carries in a race?



(Continued on page 17)



November Mensa Meeting began with a Pot Luck dinner. There's always a tasty feast at Loren's home.



Our guest speaker, Dr. Robin James, gave a lively talk about health care and one of her specialities, clinical nutrition.



Gerry and Richard



Barbara and our hostess, Loren

Snapshots

November 15, 2008



Mary, Marilyn, and Richard



Join the Northern Nevada Mensa E-List

For community discussions and flash events that may not have made it to the calendar, please sign yourself up for the mailing list using your web browser: **http://tinyurl.com/5bz9x7** .

If you have trouble signing up via the web, you may also subscribe yourself via automated email by sending an email to:

northern.nevada.mensa-subscribe@codegnome.org

Thinking Green?

Save the paper. There are two easy methods to receive electronic versions of all your Mensa publications:

- You can either call the national office (817 607-0060) and dial extension 199 for member services, then specify to the staff member that you want to receive electronic versions of publications when possible, or
- You can go to http://www.us.mensa.org/profile (requires login) and check the box at the bottom of the page which reads "I would like to receive publications electronically if available. **I will not receive these publications via regular mail**." then click "Submit".



Get answers to your weather questions!

Colloquium 2009: Weather Or Not

The past, present & future of climate change

Feb. 27–March 1, 2009

www.colloquium.us.mensa.org



December Membership Drive: Home Tests are Half-Price

In December, American Mensa offers Home Tests for ½ price: $9 instead of the regular $18. This is a great time to purchase Home Tests to share with those who you think may be interested in Mensa, or to encourage friends and colleagues to purchase one. To purchase a ½ price Home Test, visit http://www.us.mensa.org/mht between Dec. 1 and Dec. 31. The Home Test does not qualify prospects for Mensa membership, but will give them an idea of how they will fare on the Mensa Admission Test.

Lauren A. Fernandez
Marketing Assistant
American Mensa, Ltd.
laurenf@americanmensa.org
(817) 607-0060 ext. 5542
www.us.mensa.org

Time is Running Out! Mensa Dues will Increase January 1, 2009

Inflation rates across the country have soared in the past year, and American Mensa has felt the impact throughout our budget. In the past year, expenses in areas including fuel, paper and postage have increased nearly 45%. We have balanced most of these increases by "tightening our belts" in every budget category, but a dues increase has still become necessary. Effective January 1, annual dues will increase to $59. Second family member rates will increase to $39, 3-year memberships to $160 and 5-year memberships to $260.

You may renew at the current rates until December 31, 2008.

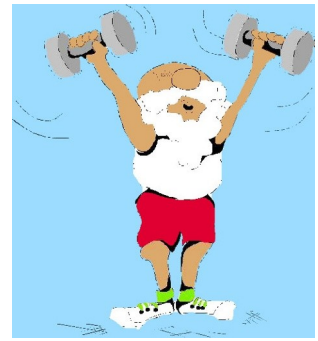
Visit www.us.mensa.org/renew or call 888-294-8035 ext. 199 to renew this year and lock in current rates for a 3-year, 5-year or Life Membership.



Heather Spillers
National Groups Coordinator
American Mensa Ltd.
817-607-0060 ext. 5528
heathers@americanmensa.org

Love all, trust a few. Do wrong to none.

William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616) ,
"All's Well That Ends Well", Act 1 Scene 1





American Mensa announces its newest member benefit - a Web-based career center that connects job seekers with prospective employers. Don't get lost on the commercial job boards; American Mensa's CareerLink is tailored just for you. Just visit http://www.careerlink.us.mensa.org and get started on your job search!

As a job seeker, you can:

- Manage your job search
- Access hundreds of corporate job postings
- Post an anonymous résumé
- Be notified by email of new opportunities that match your search criteria
- Take advantage of career coaching in areas including résumé development, salary negotiation and more
- Use the free "Ask the Expert" service
- Access the free library of content offering career advice with topics ranging from interviewing tips to finding the job that best fits you

As an employer, you can:

- Quickly post job openings
- Manage your online recruiting efforts
- Take advantage of advanced résumé searching capabilities
- Reach targeted and qualified candidate
- Browse résumés for free ■





December

2	John Clague	Zephyr Cove
2	Don Dixon	Carson City
7	Ted March	Fernley
8	Joseph Orzano Jr.	Reno
9	Sherey Gould	South Lake Tahoe
11	Harley Moe	Reno
16	Roger Moffitt	Reno
19	Robert McAllister	Washoe Valley
23	Josee Perrine	Carson City
24	Squy Wallace Jr.	Elko
27	Jude Moran	Sparks
28	Dr. Gerald Lockhart	Carson City
30	Jim Marks	Denio





*(**Trivia** continued from page 12)*

6. What newspaper ran the headline "Dewey Defeats Truman"?
7. Who ran against Dwight Eisenhower on the Democratic ticket in 1952 and in 1956?
8. What is the traditional gift for the 35th wedding anniversary?
9. What two islands make up one Caribbean nation?
10. What was Arthur Flegenheimer's nickname?
11. What playing card is called "The curse of Scotland"?
12. What former national monument off Florida's southern tip was used as a prison?



Hannukah celebrates the victory of the Maccabees or Israelites over the Greek-Syrian ruler, Antiochus about 2200 years ago.

From www.twinklebulbs.com/trivia.htm

HELP WANTED

Has anyone else read "*Wicked*"...(as defined by Wikipedia thusly)...

Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West, is a parallel novel published in 1995. It was written by Gregory Maguire and illustrated by Douglas Smith. Based upon the writings of L. Frank Baum, it is a revisionist look at the land and characters of Oz, best known from Baum's 1900 novel *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* and the 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz*.

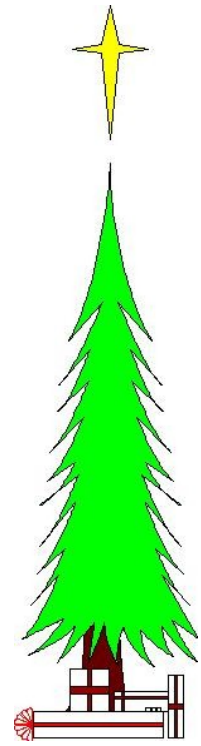
It is the basis for the Broadway musical *Wicked*. A sequel, titled *Son of a Witch*, was published in fall of 2005. A third novel, *A Lion Among Men* was released in October of 2008.

Need help understanding this phenom and how it became a musical!

Anyone else interested in starting a book group or on-line literary discussion, please reply to:

Anne Stewart

bunnyslippers4me@att.net





The first Christmas card was designed in 1843 by J.C. Horsley.

From: www.pubquizhelp.com/christmas/xmasfact.html

Solution to Puzzle 6

L	E	O	R
A	B	T	U
I	S	R	E
R	G	I	L

Letter Pool: **B R I L L I G**

Across: ROLE, TUBA, RISE, GIRL
Down: LAIR, BEGS, RIOT, RULE
Boxes: BALE, TOUR, RIGS, RILE
Note: Other anagrams like ABUT are okay

Answers: Trivia Anyone?

1. The Molly Maguires
2. P.L. Travers
3. American Civil War; she spied for the South.
4. "Wealth of Nations"
5. Impost
6. Chicago Tribune
7. Adlai Stevenson, both times
8. Coral or jade
9. Trinidad and Tobago
10. Dutch Schultz
11. Nine of diamonds
12. Fort Jefferson



Oregon Mensa: BeaveRG XII

May 1, 2009 — May 3, 2009

Brainstorm on the shore of the Columbia River across from Portland, Ore.! (Two states for the price of one RG!) Let us storm your brain with stimulating programs, game tournaments, bountiful hospitality, a teen room and a Friday tour. Registration $60 by 1/31/09.
Red Lion at the Quay,
100 Columbia St.,
Vancouver, WA 98660
For more information contact:
Steve Darnell
financialwizard2@comcast.net

Mensa-Speak

AG	Annual Gathering (Conference)
AMC	American Mensa Committee (National Elected or Appointed Officers)
AML	American Mensa Ltd. (National Office Employees)
ExComm	Executive Committee (Local Elected Officers)
LDW	Leadership Development Workshop
LocSec	Local Secretary (Local President)
M's	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)

"Wassail" comes from the Old Norse "ves heill" — to be of good health. This evolved into the tradition of visiting neighbors on Christmas Eve and drinking to their health.

Alabama was the first state to recognize Christmas as an official state holiday. this tradition began in 1836.

From www.corsinet.com ***Brain Candy***

Clearing up a common misconception, in Greek, X means Christ. That is where the word "X-Mas" comes from. Not because someone took the "Christ" out of Christmas.

From
www.christmas-celebrations.com/trivia.htm



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