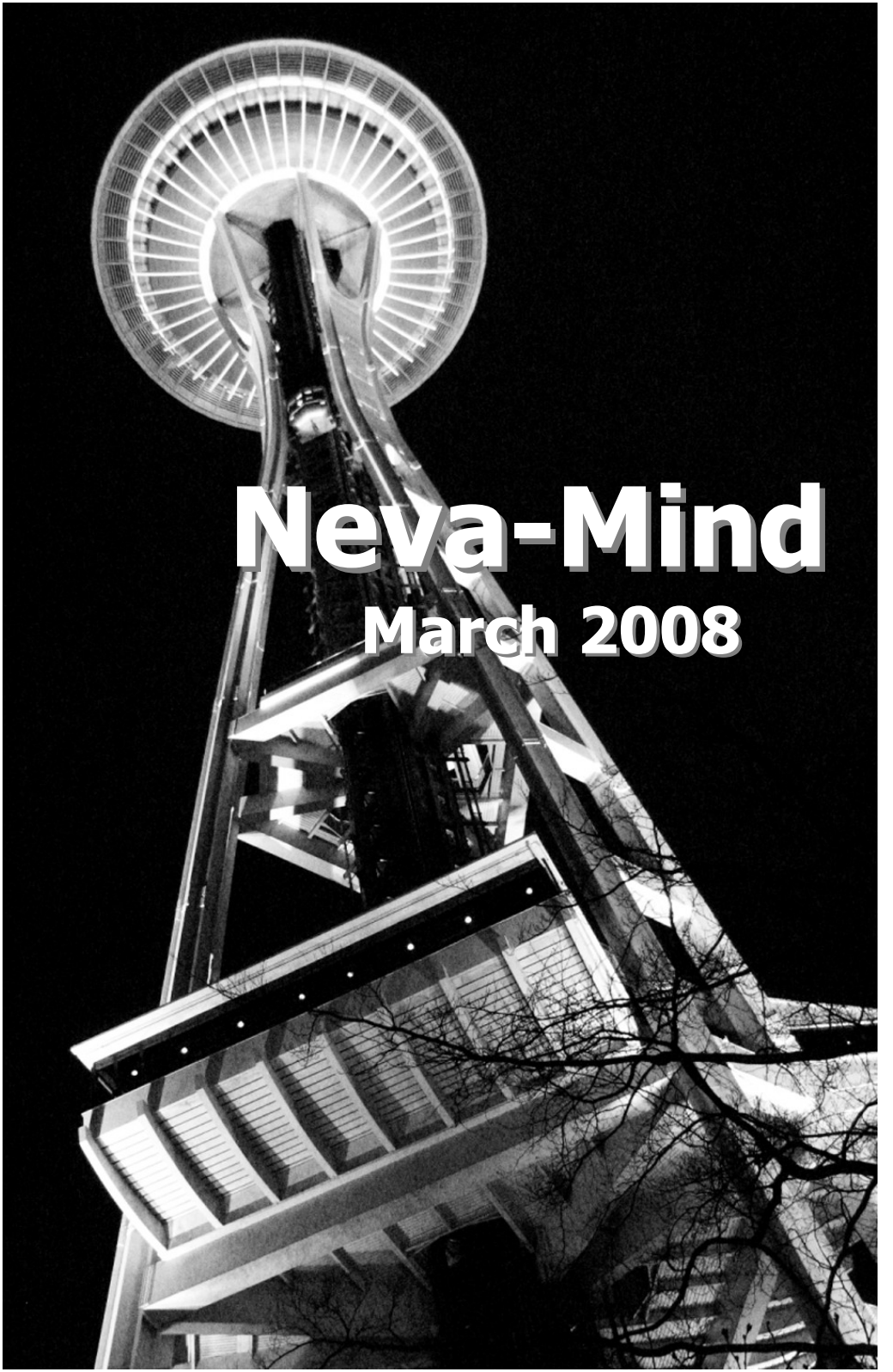


Neva-Mind

March 2008

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Neva-Mind

A publication of Northern Nevada Mensa
Volume 32, Issue 3

Cover photo by Anna Wright

While at the Seattle regional gathering, Anna took out her camera and caught this striking photo of the Seattle space needle.



Time to vote

Answers to the question of the month (If you could talk to any historical figure, alive or dead, who would you choose?) will appear in the April *Neva-Mind* since this month we vote for our group officers, and the ballot fills four pages. To vote, remove ballot from center of the newsletter, mark it, fold it, stamp it and mail.

Corrections (February issue)

Two dates were incorrectly listed in the February *Neva-Mind.*

The monthly meeting was held on our regular Saturday (very interesting talk by Joyce Immers on precious stones), February 16, not February 15 as listed.

The February lunch meeting was slated for February 27, not March 26 as listed.

We really don't like to confuse people, although that may seem difficult to believe.

features

Ken Wright
Come play with us page 5
Plans for RG shaping up.

Ken Wright
What don't you understand? page 8
2 + 2 = 4 (if you're smart)

ballot

Vote for your choice of officers
See center page of Neva-Mind.

columns

The editor says page 6
by Loren MacArthur
Northwest passages page 10
by John Recht

events

Monthly meet: get a date page 7
The ins and outs of matchmaking.
High desert attitude reconsideration page 7
Meet Mensans for drinks and conversation every Monday at Crosswinds.
Fourth Wednesday lunch page 7
Meet at Voila

in every issue

Volunteers page 2
These are the folks who keep Northern Nevada Mensa running.
Cover credit and corrections page 3
Mensa photographers receive credit ….and, we tell you when we mess up.

the end

Birthdays page 11

The Biggest Little Reno Gathering: come play with us!

by Ken Wright

Come play with us October 3-5, 2008, in Reno, Nevada. as we kick off our very first Regional Gathering with tours you won't believe and the games that you love to win. The fabulous Silver Legacy Resort in the heart of downtown is our playground and the fun never stops.

Tours being considered and booked are: an adults only brothel tour; a trip back in time to Mark Twain's old stomping grounds, Comstock/Virginia City; a cruise on the Tahoe Queen paddlewheeler; and guided or self tours of the National Automobile Museum and Nevada Museum of Art. Costs to book these tours depend on the number of people going, so please give us your input as soon as possible and we'll do our best to make it super affordable.

Sign up for the limited (30-40) seating Texas Hold 'em Tournament; attend classes on how to play your favorite gambling game; go on a Pub Crawl with the famous Reno Ron; listen to a wide variety of speakers on topics such as Alternative Energy, Burning Man, Electric Cars, Belly Dance, bicycle travel in foreign countries, and more.

Rather than having the Traditional Banquet and due to the abundance (22+) of fine eating establishments in this three-casino complex, we will be doing a "Dining Out" night on Saturday, with sign up sheets for those who wish to go as a group, and by doing that you will have the best choice of meals, for the best price.

Our Hospitality Suite will be open 24 hours a day and stocked with snacks and drinks of the finest variety, along with the best conversation to be found. We are working hard to arrange the fun, but we need YOU to Come Play With Us!

Registration is $60 until 5/31/08; June/July $75; August/September and at the door $90.

Reservations: http://www.silverlegacyreno.com/index_noflash.aspx

Room rate $99.99 SR/DR with "Mensa08" code.

* Rates quoted are for single/double occupancy. Each additional person is $10 per room, per night plus tax. Maximum four (4) people per room. Room rate guaranteed until 9/03/2008

* All rates are subject to Washoe County room tax, currently at thirteen and one-half percent (13.5%), subject to change.

* All rates are subject to a $3.00 per room, per night resort fee. This resort fee provides guests with round-trip airport shuttle service 19 hours per day, both covered valet and covered self parking, and unlimited local phone calls.

(See **Play with us** on page 11)



The editor says

by Loren MacArthur

In the early 1840s one of my ancestors found life unbearable in the small town of Parras, in the middle of the Sonoran desert in Mexico. She had come from Cadiz, Spain, and married twice. Both husbands died, and her in-laws treated her and her three girls badly, as the story goes. She put her kids in a cart and crossed the desert to the Pacific, where she boarded a ship for San Francisco. In the city, which was still an insignificant dot on the map, she bought one of the original Spanish land grants, which ran approximately from the Presidio south along the coast, including what is now Baker's Beach. She lived in town and hired out the running of the rancho.

This story has always fascinated me. A woman, doing that, in the 1840s. Our women have always been special. On the list I made long ago, my plan was to go to Parras and see if I could find the descendants of this woman, whose last name was de la Trueva, not a common Mexican name. If not, I might find family graves and, if nothing else, I could see where this part of my long ago family lived. I would not go until I could speak fluent Spanish, which is why I now sit four hours a week in the Spanish class of Sara Casler at the University of Nevada. I had studied Spanish for a year at Santa Monica City college some 33 years ago but forgotten most of it. The contrast between the two classes could not be greater and must say something about the advances in the teaching of foreign languages. This class is taught in Spanish, and we are expected to carry on conversations with classmates in Spanish. My former class was mostly written exercises with no great expectation the students would end up speaking Spanish.

A second difference I've noticed is in the attitudes of the students. Thirty-three years ago, we did not cut class. At UNR the students seem to attend at whim. Some, like me, never miss a class; others do. With constant lists of vocabulary and irregular verbs to memorize, not to mention obscure grammatical constructions explained, I cannot imagine how they cope. On the other hand, I have a lot of retrenching to do. I used to be good at taking tests (well, I'm in Mensa, aren't I?), but with the first Spanish test last month, I simply froze, finally able to crank out answers with enough mistakes to cause me total embarrassment. Let's assume I'll find my groove.

A wonderful opportunity is opening for someone. I'm resigning as editor of *Neva-Mind* on May 31. It's a job I've loved, but there are many other things I want to do. I'm hoping someone will take up the job and recreate the *Neva-Mind* according to their own vision, totally different from what I've done. Think about it, and next month I'll talk some more about the pleasures of the job. ■

Stamp

Mail to:

Mensa Election Committee
c/o Barbara Day
13455 Mount Whitney Street
Reno, NV 89506-1423

Ballot

Please remove this page from the *Neva-Mind*. Mark the candidate of your choice or enter a write-in candidate. Sign the ballot with your name and Mensa membership number. Fold the ballot in three parts (like a letter) with the address outside, close it with tape, put a stamp on it and mail. Ballots must be received by Monday, March 17.

Local Secretary

Robert Mc Allister _____ ☐

Write-in candidate _____ ☐

First Vice-Secretary

Annemarie McTaggart _____ ☐

Write-in candidate _____ ☐

Second Vice-Secretary

Gerald Lockhart _____ ☐

Write-in candidate_____ ☐

Treasurer

Carole Preisach _____ ☐

Write-in candidate _____ ☐

Member's signature and membership number:

_____

Fold first

March events planned for Mensans

Saturday, March 15

March Monthly Meeting

Jennifer Rose, president of It's Just Lunch, will speak on "Match Minus the Dot Com--Online Dating versus Matchmaking for Finding Romance."

The dinner meeting begins at 6 p.m. at Austin's Restaurant (food selections include: Prime rib, fire roasted salmon, super salads, steaks, fish, pasta, and all you can eat smoked ribs), 7671 South Virginia St. in Reno (cross street is Longley Lane). Great rustic atmosphere, and we get our own private room with enough space for over 25 people.

Every Monday

High desert attitude reconsideration

Join Mensans for an evening of conversation, drinks and popcorn starting around 5 p.m. at Crosswinds in the Airport Plaza hotel, 1981 Terminal Way at the corner of Plumb Lane and Terminal in Reno.

Fourth Wednesday

Lunch at Voila Too Restaurant

Meet at 11:45 a.m. Wednesday, March 26, at the restaurant, 522 California Avenue in Reno. For information, call Loren at 746-2938.

by Richard Arbib

Out of 169 members of Northern Nevada Mensa, approximately 40% are single, so this month's speaker and topic are particularly appropriate. Jennifer Rose is president of the national matchmaking service, which has an office in Reno. She'll be speaking about the differences between online dating and matchmaking and how to find romance if you're single—or keep it alive if you are part of a couple. Here's just some of the information about dating that is listed on the It's Just Lunch web site. Want to learn more? Come to the March monthly meeting.

- **Top cuisine choices for a first date:** 46% Italian, 19% Steakhouse, 16% Japanese, 11% Mexican, 8% French
- **Wednesday:** The best day for a first date according to 41% of singles.
- **110 Million:** The number of single adults in the United States.
- **76% of Men:** Prefer brunettes over blondes.
- **1 in 8:** The chance you have that a first date will call you for a second date after 24 hours have passed.
- **43% of Singles:** Have Googled someone on the Internet before their date.
- **15 Minutes:** The time it takes for a man to determine whether or not he wants to see a woman again.
- **One Hour:** The time it takes for a woman to determine whether or not she wants to see a man again.

What Don't You Understand ?

by Ken Wright

In the fall of 1970, my senior year of high school, my dad transferred from Miami, Florida to Augusta, Georgia. He went from being one of the "crew", to being the Boss. He was the Facility Chief at the control tower located on Bush Field, a very beautiful airport for sure, and an excellent career move... for him.

But for me, it meant leaving all the people that I knew behind, not graduating with my lifelong friends and leaving familiarity for the unknown. No more getting together with the cousins or any family. There were no relatives in Augusta. This would be my third high school in as many years, and I was through trying to make any new friends—before I even started.

The school year was just getting underway when I checked in at the office, but they had my transcripts there waiting and as the secretary went down her checklist of things to tell me and have me sign, she said, "Now y'all will have to earn 18 credits to graduate. My Word! Honey, will you look at this! This boy already has 24 credits." I could have taken "recess" as my major endeavor that year and still had 6 credits too many at graduation time . I did consider it, but decided against. I took four classes: math (?) , psychology, English literature and DECA (a work study program).

What kind of math I didn't know. The secretary said, " Honey, I don't know... it's just math. You know, with numbers and such..." I waited for the punch line, but it never came.

The math teacher was a young man of refined good looks, well dressed, about six feet four inches and athletic looking, with brown hair and according to the melting young ladies in the desks in front of him, more than passably handsome.

Mr. Mathews by name, and in just his second year of teaching and already wondering why he not gone into another line of work. It wasn't that he didn't like teaching—he loved it, but the students were more of a "challenge" than he had anticipated.

When the bell rang and roll had been taken, Mr. Mathews walked up and down the aisles handing a test paper to each student individually, which I wondered about. Why didn't he just hand them to the front row and have them passed back?

Later I would learn that at the first of the year the papers would get to the second, maybe third person back, and they wouldn't know what to do with them. I kid you not! These folks had me puzzled. I think lead paint consumption might have happened.

Mr. Mathews went over what he wanted us to do, three times, and so slowly that I was about to nod off waiting. All he said was, "Take this test so that I can see where each of you are in your math skills. Do all the questions, if you

can, and after you complete the last problem, put your pencils down on your desk and bring your test paper to me, and put it in my hands. Don't just lay it down somewhere." OK ALREADY! Geez!

I opened the test and almost busted up laughing, this guy is cool, what a gag he pulled on us! When I looked up to catch him grinning at us, he wasn't. In fact he looked grim, which was another puzzle to me. OK fine, if you really want me to add, subtract. multiply and divided regular old numbers, I can play along. It took all of two or three minutes to do. I walked up to Mr. M's desk and waited for him to look up from his papers so that I could hand him my completed test. Without even looking up, he said, "What Don't You Understand?" I said, "What?" not believing my ears. And then he did look up, with a sad and frustrated looking face that said it all to me, and repeated, slowly, **"What, Don't, You, Understand?"** He wasn't playing, he was serious!

I said, "I am done with the test Mr. Mathews, here it is, what would you like me to do now?" He looked at me like I was a Space Alien or something. He laid the answer key over top of it and went down the rows of answers, looked up at me with a quizzical look on his face and then checked it all over again. I didn't know whether to laugh or just scratch my head in amazement. This was just elementary school mathematics. Was it supposed to be hard?

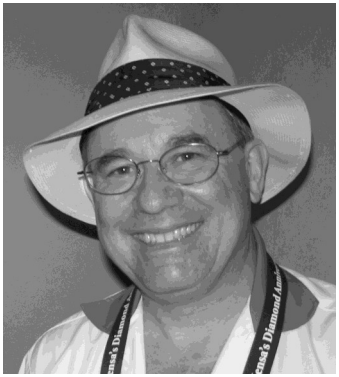
When I looked back at the class to see what was happening behind me, I found most of them staring at Mr. Mathews and myself, deeply engrossed in the "drama" unfolding before them. They weren't done with their tests yet. Some of them actually looked desperate and confused. What in the world is going on here?

Mr. Mathews apparently satisfied that I had indeed answered everything correctly, called my attention back to him and told the class to get back to work. Then he called me around to his side of the desk, where he had opened his grade book and laid it where we both could see it. I thought, what? Is he going to show me that he entered my grade for the test or what? This was getting to be a bizarre class already!

But that was far from what he had in mind. He drew a pencil line across the middle of the grade book and said, "You take the kids from here (Pointing at the line) down and I'll work on the others.

And that's just what we did, we split the class in two and had our groups face opposite ends of the classroom. There was a blackboard at each end. And we both taught General Math in that classroom the entire year. By the end of the year, almost all of the students could do that same test from the first day, in under five minutes. Some were still working on their names.

That was the most rewarding and satisfying class that I ever had in school, no exceptions. And Mr. Mathews decided to stick around for "one more year" and see if it worked out. Last I heard he's still there, still teaching math, and probably still scratching his head and wondering why he hadn't gone into another profession. ■



Northwest Passages

by John Recht

In my column last month I enthused about exercise as a part of my life, and just as it reached print I received word about a new study that suggests that there might be more of a benefit to regular exercise than I had imagined. According to a study published in the Archives of Internal Medicine on January 28, researchers have found that more active subjects might be biologically younger than less active subjects based on the length of the telomeres at the tips of chromosomes in their white blood cells.

The results of the study suggest that regular exercise may help to slow down your body clock, since telomere length helps govern cell division, and shorter lengths correlate with the aging of your cells. The most active group in the study, composed of subjects averaging more than three hours of exercise a week, had telomeres the same length as people who were 10 years younger but who averaged 16 minutes of exercise a week. The researchers found that the difference in telomere length held up even after adjusting the data to allow for differences in age, sex, genes, smoking, body weight, and socioeconomic status. That news cheered me considerably as I headed out the door in the rain for my next walk, I can tell you.

Naturally I would like to share the benefits of exercise with my Mensa friends, and I was delighted to hear from Oregon Mensa RG Chair Michael Meagher that there will be a room at BeaveRG XI: Power Surge reserved for active pursuits, like dancing and juggling. It's a great idea, and it's just one of many reasons to come to Portland from May 4-6. Visit http://www.oregon.us.mensa.org/rg/ for the latest info and for your chance to experience Mensa at its best, live and in person.

While you are exercising your finger on the mouse, here are a few more upcoming events that I recommend you click on: the 2008 Annual Gathering in Denver on Jul. 2-6 (ag2008.us.mensa.org), Colloquium 2008, Tracking Granny's Granny: The Genealogy Quest! in Salt Lake City on Sep. 12-14 (colloquium.us.mensa.org), and the newest RG in Region 8, Northern Nevada Mensa's Biggest Little Reno Gathering: Come Play With Us! on Oct. 3-5 (northernnevada.us.mensa.org). With all these terrific choices to get you moving, you can't miss...hope to see you there! ■

March birthdays

Cary Peterson	Reno	3
Peggy Clydesdale	Reno	4
Renee Torii	Reno	9
Jeffrey Milligan	Reno	12
Mark Pipes	Reno	15
Raymond Wieveg	Carson City	17
Laurie Meyer	Crystal Bay	19
Scott Kressmann	Reno	20
Brett Boge	Reno	23
Dr. William Downie	Carson City	26
Donald MacGregor	Reno	26
Olin McDaniel	Reno	30

Daffodils
That come before the swallows dare,
and take
The winds of March with beauty.

—William Shakespeare
The Winter's Tale

Play with us (from page 5)

Frequently asked questions: http://www.silverlegacyreno.com/faqs/.

Our Webmaster is working to make online registration possible, so please check our web site for updates. Northern Nevada website http://northernnevada.us.mensa.org/

You can print a registration form from the Northern Nevada website and send with your check (make checks payable to Northern Nevada Mensa) to:

Registrar:
Anna Wright
510 Michael Drive
Fallon, NV 89406-5726
(775) 423-4694

For more information contact Webmaster@northernnevada.us.mensa.org.

Northern Nevada Mensans : If you wish to know about the Reno RG and keep up with what's happening with it, contact Ken Wright at strtwlr2@charter.net and I will put you on our RG mailing list. ■