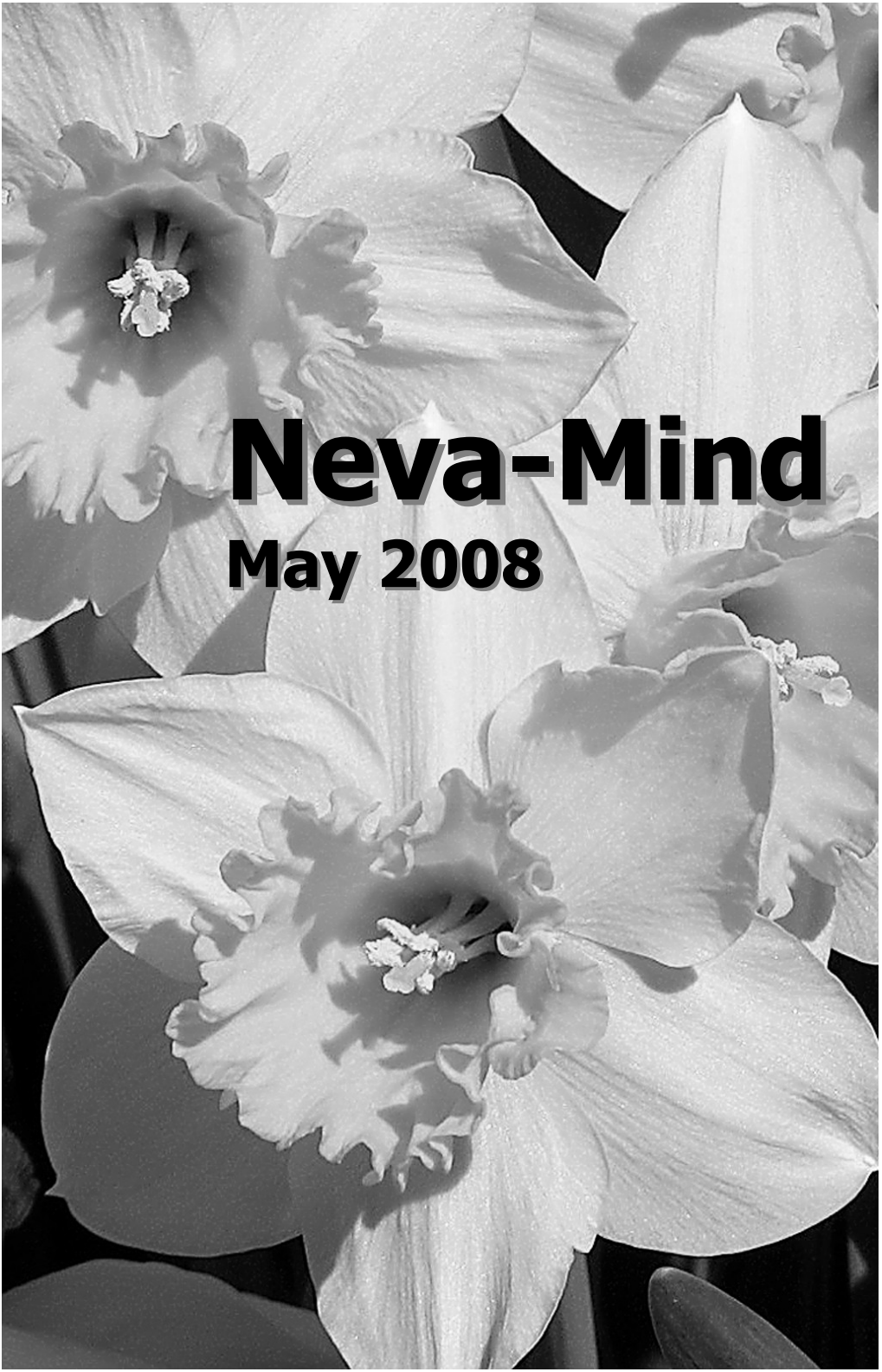

Neva-Mind
May 2008

Northern Nevada Mensa volunteers

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Local Secretary
Robert McAllister 849-2269
robertjmcallister@earthlink.net

First Vice-Secretary
Annemarie McTaggart 747-7636
tiger1@eschelon.com

Second Vice-Secretary
Gerald Lockhart 882-0868
g-lockhart@sbcglobal.net

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

Past Local Secretary
Ed Hanley 746-0741
ezyflyer@gmail.com

APPOINTED OFFICERS

PROGRAM CHAIR
Richard Arbib
rarbib@earthlink.net

GIFTED CHILDREN
Jennifer Sanches 867-3878

MEDIATOR/ARBITRATOR
Bill Jacobsen 323-8990

HISTORIAN
Gary Marks 331-7581
gwmarks@earthlink.net

GIFTED CHILDREN COORDINATOR
Jennifer Sanches 867-3878

TESTING COORDINATOR
Gloria Dondero Pedro 342-9604

WEBMASTER
Anna Wright 423-4694
pirsqrd@charter.net

PROCTORS
Carson City
Gerald Lockhart 882-0868
Gardnerville
Volunteer needed
Reno/Sparks
Annemarie McTaggart 747-7636
tiger1@eschelon.com

AREA COORDINATORS
Carson City
Volunteer needed
Churchill County
Ken Wright 423-4694
strtwlkr2@charter. net
Elko County
Squy Wallace (480) 710-1262
timelynote@frontiernet.net

***NEVA-MIND* EDITOR**
Loren Mac Arthur 746-2938
loren1015@aol. com

REGIONAL VICE-CHAIR
John Recht
rvc8@us.mensa.org

S.I.G.H.T. COORDINATOR
RECRUITMENT
SCHOLARSHIP
MEMBERSHIP
INTERIM TESTING COORDINATORS
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Neva-Mind

A publication of Northern Nevada Mensa
Volume 32, Issue 5



Cover photo by Anna Wright

With spring come daffodils and dreams of home grown tomatoes, corn, strawberries, days at the beach. Bring on summer!

June question

If you could change one decision in your life, what would it be?

How to reply:

You can e-mail your response to:
loren1015@aol.com

Or call her: 746-2938

Or write it down and mail it to her:

Loren Mac Arthur
6240 Stone Valley Drive
Reno, NV 89523

Deadline: June 10

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Mensa photographers receive credit….and, we'd like your answer.

From the loc-sec

by Bob McAllister



Random thoughts

In a recent reading, I've seen (read) that our (the USofA) heat requirements for our sometimes severe winters needn't go through massive, polluting influxes of energy induced solutions.

For perspective's sake, let me first make a comparison to another nation's/culture's solution to massive energy's demands.

During a relatively recent visit to Russia's Far East, it was interesting to see its solution to dealing with heat and water delivery solutions. The Amur River, in the Far East, was upstream from a relatively large (San Francisco-sized) urban center – Khaborovsk. Water was taken into a delivery system (upstream) and sent to a "heating" facility. It was delivered from there through a system of human-sized diameter pipelines (approx. three meters in diameter) for some miles to the city center. Most of the city consisted of high-rises and very few, though some, houses. The whole urban center (Khaborovsk), though, had their hot water delivered from this upstream "hot water factory." April (the time of the year of my visit), was devoted to an annual purge. Everybody's hot water delivery was shut down for a two week period. When it was re-started, it took a few days for the delivery to go from serious-coffee-ground brown to the usually accepted tea-brown quality of "drinking" water. (Most of the population bought and drank bottled water. My heavy drinking of their soda-infused water probably was what caused a kidney stone incident.) Except for the interim inconvenience of the two-week purge, the whole urban venue had big brother deliver the people's deserved dole.

And, here we are. Conveniences galore—for a while. The world's population crush will eventually impinge on our world-wide interdependency .

China (with its 2.4 billion population crush) will out-compete us for the

(See **Loc-sec** on page 10)

Pub crawling around

Editor's Note: *Our members toil to make Reno's October Regional Gathering a big success, but, hey, it's not all work. Planning for the Pub Crawl means, well, pub crawling. Led by Reno Ron and second in command pubmeister Patrick Wright, our intrepid members rallied forth into the heart of downtown Reno. Join them May 30 to see places you never thought you'd see. For details, go to* **Meetings** *on page 12.*

by Ron Wright

For our very first foray into the surrounding Pub World, we met on the patio of Brew Brothers in the Eldorado under the beacon of the traditional yellow balloon. Crawlmeister Reno Ron provided blinky lights for each participant, although I assassinated my first one trying to get it to blink.

Those who were hungry ate some food at Brew Brothers before starting our appointed rounds. The report on the chow was: acceptable but not impressive.

After giving a fair amount of time for all participants to arrive and join up, the Leader of the pack set off on a quick pace, obviously eager to get started and begin the research. No one got lost and the trek was easy.

My wife Anna and I had never been inside of the Bowling Center before, and I don't know that we ever would have if not for this Pub Crawl. That place is humongous! We took a quick walk around upstairs to check out the scene of so much pin-bashing excitement. I can honestly say that while bowling isn't a major part of my life, that place does have a certain energy all of its own. I can well understand avid bowlers wanting to bow down and kiss the lanes of this shrine.

The Cue & Cushion in the downstairs section of the Bowling Center is the most tricked out playground one could hope to come across. We all agreed that there is something for everyone in that establishment. I have never seen ping pong ROOMS before! People were playing inside of glass rooms, no kidding! Pool tables everywhere, plus table games like Foosball and air hockey, and that sliding kind of table top bowling game—plus, of course, the food and drink available. You gotta have that or it wouldn't be a Pub, right!?!

Leaving the Ten Pin palace, we walked a couple of short blocks to the area of the World Famous Reno Arch and paused to gawk in reverential awe at the beacon of commercialized money exchange. It has to be one of the most famous and most photographed creations known to modern man.

When we were gathered up and were ready to proceed, we entered Harrah's and wound the short distance around the right wall as you enter to the entrance of Ichi Ban. I was impressed with the dazzling decor. Now that is probably corny to you well traveled and Las Vegas spoiled readers, who have seen the real dazzle and glitz. But for this poor old redneck boy, it was so nice look-

town offers surprises

ing that I plan to take Anna there for dinner real soon.

Again I have to remark that I would never have known that this wonderful establishment was there, if not for this Pub Crawl. What great side benefits!

Out the door and on the march again, our troop navigated the streets of Reno for a very short distance to a lesser known and completely understated establishment, that I PROMISE you, I would never have entered, were it not for the guidance of Crawlmeisters One and Two. This is a glimpse of the real inner city drinking establishment. The place that a tourist would NOT enter on purpose, just based on looks alone. Yet we were safe and unmolested by drunks or dope fiends—although I'm not giving odds for later in the evening, as per the number of security and Reno PD on hand as the evening progressed. How often do you get to wander through the guts of a city with a hometown expert tour guide and catch a glimpse of the raw side of humanity with safety of numbers and a getaway plan? Doesn't this just beat the stuffing out of that fake "reality TV" baloney?

From the Second Street bar we walked around a couple more corners and actually walked the farthest to the last stop—away from the three casino complex—arriving at a place called 3rd Street Blues. The Pub is under new management; and the owner, Tim, seemed like a decent guy and knew Ron from making the arrangements to waive any cover charge. I see this place as a potential winner with its live music and close proximity to the Eldorado. Add to that a friendly owner and things could be sweet for us there.

We arrived back at the Eldorado and checked out a couple of potential ending stops inside the complex, before making our way to Rum Bullions at the heart of the Silver Legacy. Reno Ron, Anna and myself were the last to leave because we spent quite a while discussing scheduling for tours and fitting events together as seamlessly as possible. It is our goal to not only provide the absolute Best Gathering possible, but to do so in such a manner that it appears effortless and fluid.

Everyone make your plans now to attend this month's Crawl May 30 as we are going to be evaluating a new set of Pubs to put on the final list for October.

For those who are concerned, no one got drunk. In fact, Anna and I didn't drink any alcohol at all, and it was still fun! You do not have to drink to go.

The walk is NOT demanding physically, and there were only a few steps to negotiate on the whole trip. Smoke was not an issue for me, and a lot of you all know that I am allergic to cigarette smoke. Now in all fairness, it could be

(See **Pub crawl** on page 11)

If you could meet anyone from the past, famous or infamous, who would it be?

Barbara Day Reno

My great-grandfather, John Meehan. He was a stowaway from Ireland on a boat when he was 15. It was during the potato famine. He liked his whiskey, as the story goes. I bet he must have had some great stories.

Eucke Warren Sparks

More than anyone, Jesus. I've been a Christian since I was in my twenties and a Sunday school teacher for 13 years. Even studying there's so much we don't know. I'm not convinced a lot of people have it right. Even if it would lead to more questions, I'd like to sit down and see what this person was like.

Dr. William Jacobsen Reno

Gallileo, because he made these great discoveries.



Lee Green Reno

Guiseppi Verdi. I'm interested in anything Italian, and my mother came from the same town that he did—Busseto. I want to know if what my mother told me about him was true.

If you could meet anyone from the past, famous or infamous, who would it be?

Jim Marks Denio
Issac Asimov. He had not only one of the finest minds but the ability to pass on what he knew in general terms to anyone.





Annemarie McTaggart Reno
Hildegard von Bingen She was a German abbess and mystic who lived from 1098-1172. She had the gift of prophesy and recorded her visions in writing. But the main reason I'd like to talk to her is that she is the first woman composer whose music is still played today. She wrote songs, motets, all kinds of choral works. She was a poet and set her poems to music. She is considered the greatest woman of the Middle Ages. There is one museum in Northern Germany where they recognize the most important Germans. Only two women are there, Catherine the Great and Hildegard.

Cary Peterson Reno
James Madison. I want to see the thought processes that went into the making of the Constitution. A best guess (about what they thought)—that's not knowledge. How far have we strayed in the past 232 years?

Loc-sec (from page 5)

lion's share of available oil. Russia has an amount that contests that of the Mideast. America has a competitive amount—yet to be tapped. We have even more of an amount of coal—more competitive with respect to the rest of the world. All of this will send us (the world) that much more quickly down the toilet of pollution. Can this apocalyptic end be averted? Yes. Will it likely happen? Not likely soon enough.

Our (USofA) winters can, in some locales, be severe. The whole of our country has a source solution that can be tapped. Under our unique tectonic system of geology there is a solution. Tap down to near-magma and there is a heat source that is non-polluting. From flat Florida to rocky Maine. From east to west. Every state in the Union to some degree has a heat source that can be tapped at only the cost of drilling the access taps. Unlike geo-thermal sources of heat it is a source that will not dissipate in the foreseeable future.

One of the most viable of these state heat sources is Nevada. With that, we have the most days of uninterrupted sunshine than any other state in the nation. More than Arizona. More than New Mexico. More, per capita, than that large state—Texas. We have more than our share of wind (most notably in Washoe Valley). It's all going to waste. Nevada could be at an enviable forefront. And, all the while, we are paying nearly four dollars a gallon at the pumps. There is information that we are not experiencing a deficit of oil reserves, but, rather, we are experiencing a surfeit. How have we come to be led to this questionable juncture?

Under our unique tectonic system of geology there is a solution. Tap down to near-magma and there is a heat source that is non-polluting.

Something has made us not oil dependent, but oil addicted. While nuclear power has had bad press (sort of like our questionable, historic bad press with respect to wolves in our culture's history) in this country, other countries (Iceland, France & more) have had impressive successes with nuclear delivery. It can be safely delivered. Yes, it's not nice. Especially if not prudently handled, as in the former Soviet Union.

Someday, if we conduct ourselves in a non-suicidal approach, we conceivably can go from nuclear fission power to nuclear fusion power. When that happens, the whole of the earth's human population will be freed from want, totally. When will this happen? Apparently when we find a leader that will

be able to lead us from our herd culture (where are we being led?) to true independence.

Meanwhile, (further recent reading) we are in a quandary. Where is ostensible global warming taking us? There was a time when the term with respect to global warming was "run-away greenhouse effect," implying that it would be like a snowball effect – once started, difficult to stop, if at all.

There are observations that imply that we are going through a forty to fifty year cycle of cooling in our (the world's) climate. If we are affecting our ecology with heat pollution and a cooling system is ameliorating that by a natural cooling that will only persist for a few decades, heating will come down on us afterward with a vengeance. It may be prudent to err on the side of caution and not push our luck. This cooling cycle was determined by observing something that historically long had been observed and been dismissed. When the moon phase wanes, we still see the dark side of the moon. A crescent with a dark shadowy opposite side. This is "earthshine." Leonardo DaVinci figured out the significance of that shadowy side of the moon and, until now, no one bothered further with it. Now, it has been developed, observing the albedo of the light diffraction from earth to moon back to earth can show pretty accurately what it is that effuses from Earth. No multi-billion investigative system, just record that which consists of our albedo off of the moon, and we can calculate what is ecologically happening here. ■

It may be prudent to err on the side of caution and not push our luck.

Pub crawl (from page 7)

worse in future Pubs, but we'll just have to see as we go.

If anyone is concerned about safety, we had no problems whatsoever and I am sure that I can speak for everyone who went in that we never once felt threatened during the entire journey.

Here is a great opportunity to explore the city with a couple of excellent guides, who really do know every bar and casino in the downtown area like they live there full time. I learned a lot about the Biggest Little City in one short evening, and I invite all of you to join us to do the same May 30. We'll have a blast! ■

Many Mensa meetings in May

Saturday, May 17

May monthly meeting

Hans Frischeisen will give his slide show on his most recent bicycling trip through Asia at the May monthly meeting on Saturday, May 17. Arrive around 6 p.m. for the potluck dinner. Please bring a dish to share.

The meeting will be held at the home of Bob and Mary McAllister, 350 Old Washoe Circle in Washoe Valley. Directions: From the traffic light at the intersection of Highways 395 & 431 (Mt. Rose Hwy.), drive south 7.1 miles on 395.

When the highway divide ends, make an immediate left turn. (Coming from south on Hwy. 395 in Washoe Valley, turn right about 100 yards north of the Texaco station. Drive into Old Washoe Estates. At the gate, key in #9467 (don't forget the #). 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 juncture with Wild Life Way. Two story house. Grey with white trim. Lots of parking space.
Phone: (775) 849-2269.

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 Thai Chili

Meet at 11:45 a.m. Wednesday, May 28, at the restaurant, 1030 South Virginia Street in Reno. For information, call Loren at 746-2938.

Friday, May 30

Final Friday Pub Crawl

Join your Itinerant Pub Crawlmeister Reno Ron for a barhopping tour of the downtown area as we research which establishments to include in our Regional Gathering Pub Crawl. Meet at 7 p.m. Friday, May 30, on the Brew Brothers patio in the El Dorado Casino, located at 345 N. Virginia St. Look for the yellow balloon. Designed to help welcome newer and less involved members, but all are invited! 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.

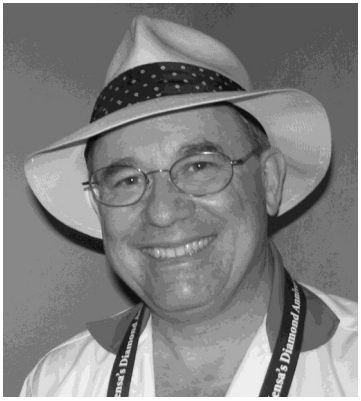
Saturday, May 26

Lunch and ice-skating at South Lake Tahoe

Join the Sierra Club for lunch at noon at Nikki's Chaat Cafe at South Lake

(See **Meetings** on page 15)

Northwest Passages



by John Recht
RVC Region 8

San Francisco was as beautiful as ever when the American Mensa Committee (AMC) arrived for our board meeting at the end of March. Whenever we were not hard at work in the Holiday Inn's windowless meeting rooms, we would gather in the hospitality suite with its glorious views of Nob Hill, downtown San Francisco, and San Francisco Bay.

While we visited with local Mensa members in the suite, we were treated to a delightful array of refreshments provided by our hosts, San Francisco Regional Mensa (SFRM). Many thanks to SFRM Board Member Michael Eager, who served admirably as the AMC Meeting Coordinator; to SFRM Scribe Susan Heimlich and SFRM Board Member Barbara Canup, who helped out throughout the weekend; and to SFRM LocSec Alan Winson for all his efforts. My fellow AMC members and I appreciated how much you all did to help make our stay comfortable, enjoyable, and productive.

As usual, the AMC meeting had a packed agenda. Here are some of the items the AMC discussed during the meeting, and what their impacts are likely to be:

Executive Director Pam Donahoo gave a report presenting the research that has been done on testing so far and the plans involving testing in American Mensa for the coming year. This led to a wide-ranging and thorough discussion by the AMC. The summary of the points raised during the discussion will be reviewed by the National Office and the Planning Committee, and recommendations for actions supporting our testing program in the near term will be forthcoming.

Dave Remine, Chair of the Hearings Process Review Committee, facilitated the next discussion. The recommendations of Dave's committee are intended to simplify and streamline the hearings process for the benefit of all Mensa members, while reducing the burden on the volunteers who serve on the Hearings Committee. Dave presented the alternatives under consideration by the committee, and asked the AMC for feedback. The responses from AMC members will help the committee make some key decisions as they continue with their work.

A third discussion item concerned the short-term goal of bringing American Mensa's business practices into the 21st century. I facilitated the discussion on behalf of the Planning Committee. The AMC generally agreed that new methods and new technologies would be at the heart of our efforts to communicate with members at all levels of American Mensa and Mensa International. We discussed a variety of new communication methods and how to use them: cell phones, forums on the Web, podcasts, YouTube promotions, electronic groups, and social networking sites will all be in the mix. At the same time, we noted that we have to pay attention to our business practices, clarify our relationships and protect what is integral to our culture. This is an area in which American Mensa will see a great deal of change and growth in the near future.

The last discussion item on the agenda brought TeenSIG Coordinator Alexis Wise to the table, and Alexis made a terrific impression on all present as she spoke about issues involving teens in Mensa. The discussion turned on current plans for recruiting and involving teens at the local and national levels, how TeenSIG can help, and what can be done to assure that issues relevant to teen Mensa members and prospective members will be addressed. What the AMC hopes to see as a result is better coordination among the various committees, groups, and individuals concerned with assisting teens, and new resources and opportunities for participation for teens in Mensa at all levels.

Under new business, the AMC considered the question of approval of the budget for the new fiscal year that began April 1. There was one provision in the budget that was closely questioned, and that was to provide $35,000 for a consulting firm to study the issue of governance in Mensa and to make recommendations for changes that would allow us to streamline our operations and to increase our efficiency. This question has been taken up by the AMC in the past and failed every time, yet it has kept coming back because in the judgment of the AMC there are great opportunities for improvement. A majority voted to keep the item in the budget, and Tecker Consultants was selected by the Planning Committee to conduct the study. There will be much more to come on this topic as Tecker begins its work, and I will discuss this effort in detail in upcoming columns.

The last business item that I will specifically mention here was the recommendation of the Finance Committee for a dues increase to $59 per year, effective with the 2009-2010 dues year. This, by the way, has nothing to do with the cost of the consultant, which will be a one-time-only expenditure of about 1% of the total budget for one year, and which, it is hoped, will be repaid by savings from improvements in our operations. The reason for the proposed dues increase was that we had reached the point in our revenue and budgeting cycle when the impact of the previous increase no longer allowed us to operate without dipping into our reserves. The Finance Committee also felt that a larger increase would be more acceptable than several smaller in-

creases. Any proposal for a dues increase must appear on two consecutive agendas, so this item was automatically carried over to the agenda for the July meeting at the AG.

There were quite a few other items on the agenda, but I haven't the space to go into them here. If you have questions or comments about what we covered at the AMC meeting, please email me at rvc8@us.mensa.org. In addition, please watch for new Web pages on the AML Web site that will discuss our strategic planning efforts in more detail, and which will talk about ways in which you could take part in planning Mensa's future. Finally, I hope to see you at the Oregon Mensa's RG during the first weekend in May, and I'll be happy to discuss all this in person. Hope to see you there! ■

Mensa's May birthdays

5	Mary Claire Weber	Reno
6	Cynthia Murphy	Dayton
23	Howard Beckerman	Incline Village
23	Ron Gendrich	Reno
23	Curtis Randolph	Reno
24	Frank Baird	Reno
28	Julie Kriss	Reno

Meetings (from page 12)

Tahoe, followed by ice-skating at the South Lake Tahoe Ice Arena. Nikki's Chaat Cafe is an Indian restaurant with both Indian and American food, and reasonable prices. Restaurant address: 3469 S. Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe (near Long's Drugs and Heidi's).

Then ice-skating (indoors) at South Lake Tahoe Ice Arena. Afternoon session 1-5 p.m. $9 skating + $3 skate rental. South Tahoe Ice Arena 1176 Rufus Allen Blvd. Contact: Richard Arbib (775)685-2600.

Saturday, June 14

Learn how your face reveals who you are

Mystic Ann will discuss fare readings— analyzing one's personality through facial features. Directions to Gerry Lockhart's house next month. ■