



# Tampa Bay Sounding

A Publication of Tampa Bay (Florida) Mensa

Vol. 30, No. 5

June 2005



Mensa is an international society whose sole qualification for membership is a score at or above the 98th percentile on a standard IQ test. Mensa is a not-for-profit organization whose main purpose is to serve as a means of communication and assembly for its members. All opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors, and not necessarily those of the editors or officers of Mensa. Mensa as an organization has no opinions. Visit American Mensa at <http://www.us.mensa.org>.



*Tampa Bay Sounding* is the official newsletter of Tampa Bay Mensa. See the inside back cover for copyright information. Tampa Bay Mensa, which split off from Central Florida Mensa in 1975, serves Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando, and Sumter counties. Visit TBM at <http://www.tampa.us.mensa.org>, which provides full instructions on how to join *tbm-gm* and *tbm-discussion*, our two Yahoo Groups.



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## WISE GUY

*Thomas George Thomas*

Those of you who are reading this are the die-hards; another renewal deadline has passed and there were the usual lapsed memberships. With all the activity going on around the region, the question keeps coming up: What exactly is the purpose of Mensa? Why join or renew? What does the organization provide?

With a society as diverse as we are, that's a tricky question. There are those who suggest that we are gifted, and we ought to leverage those gifts as an organization to a noble purpose. But whose noble purpose? We may all measure up to the higher strata of intelligence by the various means of determining such things, but that's the only thing all of us have in common. We are liberals and conservatives, religious and atheists, specialists and generalists, young and o... experienced, serious and goofy, and all points in between and beyond. There's not much, if anything, that you'll get a random roomful of us to agree upon.

But the journey to that disagreement is fascinating. I've found that even when Mensans disagree, they are by-and-large able to articulate their positions clearly and state their considered reasons for holding them, and are more often than not open to hearing the reasons why others would think otherwise (even if they won't necessarily change their mind).

That social interaction is key to the success of a local chapter. We have many forums to facilitate this interaction – the games, books and food are merely an excuse to engage in what, in the end, seems to be our primary purpose as an organization: talking with each other.

But if you want weightier mental matters, don't despair! We're starting a Shakespeare group this month, and there's the AG with its smorgasbord of topics coming up.

And of course, if you would like to *contribute* something more serious to appear in the Sounding – well, that would be all right, too! Essays, prose, poetry, art, all are encouraged.

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Tice Estes, Richard Mitchell, Henry O'Neill
- 2 Edgar McGonigal
- 3 Elizabeth Row-Woolf
- 4 Roger Zitman
- 5 Ken Poynter
- 7 John Evan, Bruce Whiting
- 14 Douglas Bahringer, Delores Puterbaugh
- 18 James Brower
- 20 George Simms, Brian Walkowiak
- 21 Jack Amos, William Keller, William Trudel
- 22 Barbara Rambow
- 23 Meredith Craig, David Shahan
- 25 Don Greenwood, Katherine Ogden
- 26 Chris Hachey
- 28 Norman Cillo, Sheila Moore
- 29 Charles Place
- 30 Thomas Dohrman, Dennis Jauch

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## WELCOME TO TAMPA BAY MENSA!

- |                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Jaime L. Barnes             | Celeste Amelia Loar |
| Alonzo F. Cobb, Jr.         | Katherine Ogden *   |
| Michael James Heckler       | Diane Abrams Ross   |
| Robert A. Hupp              | Eric Scholz *       |
| Sean J. Jodoin *            | Rowen Suarez *      |
| Robert Parrish Kellenberger | Thomas G. Szubka *  |
| Kevin Andrew Lawrence       | Robert Teasdale     |

*\*= new member; others are moves in, preferences in, or reinstatements.*

**JUNE MENSAVERSARIES**

1 Year	Connor Grooms, Robert Johnson, Robert Luckenbach, Robert Mitchell, Gregory Rodriguez, Rea Rupani, Shoshana Shay
2 Years	Joseph Bohren, Tomas Burrows, Cynthia Weatherby
3 Years	Ann Basso, Debra Hartland
5 Years	Margaret Argudo, Richard Bachmann, Ben Gronek, David Gunn
6 Years	Russell Brown, Tom Penkethman
7 Years	Michael Cusumano
8 Years	Carole Mehlman
9 Years	Gary Drake, Frances McIntyre
10 Years	Dan Chesnut, Martha Ratigan
12 Years	Robert Murrin
13 Years	Stephen Poreda, Cynthia Trombley, Stephen Trombley
14 Years	Alan Kendrick
17 Years	Kathy Crum
18 Years	Leslie Shade
19 Years	Stuart Angelo, Julius Jahnke, Mary Reid, Thomas Riedhammer
20 Years	Dana Groulx
23 Years	Dorothy Butler
26 Years	Vivian Barnard, Raymond Celli
27 Years	Joseph Dunning, Marilyn Hobbs
30 Years	Carole Austin
41 Years	Thomas Reesor

\* *Mensaversaries come from the membership list provided by national Mensa; some may represent rejoin dates after a lapse in membership.*

## A New Time! A New Place!

Regional Gathering  
October 7-9  
Clearwater, Florida

German food! Bier! Musik!  
Friday night folk dance!  
Bring your Bavarian garb!  
Armchair treasure hunt.  
Contests. Games. Speakers.

More at: [www.tampa.us.mensa.org](http://www.tampa.us.mensa.org)

**Oktoberfest 2005 Co-Honchos**  
**Dan Chesnut and Dana Groulx**  
**(727) 434-0353, [dchesnut@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:dchesnut@tampabay.rr.com), AND:**  
**(813) 996-5552, [lemmiwinks@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:lemmiwinks@tampabay.rr.com)**

Oktoberfest 2005!



**Tampa Bay Mensa**  
*Spass Ohne Ende!*

### Holiday Inn Select Clearwater

3535 Ulmerton Rd. Clearwater, FL 33762

Rooms: \$89/night until September 23, then \$109.  
Phone: (727) 577-9100. Call direct for Mensa rates, else \$109.

Registration: \$70 in adv., \$80 door, Children's discount.  
Make checks payable to: Tampa Bay Mensa  
Mail checks to: Kathy Crum  
7164 Quail Hollow Boulevard  
Wesley Chapel, FL 33544

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt(s) (\$10 ea): \_\_ S \_\_ M \_\_ L \_\_ XL or \_\_ XXL (\$12 ea)

# of attendees: \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I want my Name Tag to read " \_\_\_\_\_ "

\_\_ Yes, I would like to volunteer (hospitality, presenter, etc.)

**SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT***Maxine Kushner\***This form of government means rule by:*

1. Androcracy \_\_\_\_\_
2. Aristocracy \_\_\_\_\_
3. Autocracy \_\_\_\_\_
4. Bureaucracy \_\_\_\_\_
5. Democracy \_\_\_\_\_
6. Doulocracy \_\_\_\_\_
7. Ecclesiarchy \_\_\_\_\_
8. Exarchy \_\_\_\_\_
9. Gerontocracy \_\_\_\_\_
10. Gynarchy \_\_\_\_\_
11. Hagiarchy \_\_\_\_\_
12. Kakistocracy \_\_\_\_\_
13. Kritarchy \_\_\_\_\_
14. Militocracy \_\_\_\_\_
15. Oligarchy \_\_\_\_\_
16. Pantisocracy \_\_\_\_\_
17. Paparchy \_\_\_\_\_
18. Patriarchy \_\_\_\_\_
19. Plutocracy \_\_\_\_\_
20. Ptochocracy \_\_\_\_\_
21. Theocracy \_\_\_\_\_
22. Timocracy \_\_\_\_\_
23. Technocracy \_\_\_\_\_

\*This information appeared in *Schott's Original Miscellany*.

**CALL FOR CANDIDATES****TAMPA BAY MENSA 2005 ELECTIONS**

Our annual TBM elections are in July, and Tampa Bay Mensa invites members to pursue a term on the Executive Committee of our Chapter. In accordance with TBM bylaws, the terms of five members of the Executive Committee will expire in 2005. These positions are currently held by Dana Groulx, Ronan Heffernan, Maxine Kushner, Barbara Loewe, and Thomas Thomas. These openings are for two-year terms.

Executive Committee meetings are held six times each year, and officers enjoy the satisfactions that come from being "in" on what is going on in the chapter, leaving their mark on these activities, and, of course, the great camaraderie that comes from associating with fellow members.

Interested members should contact members of the Election Committee to clarify any details of the election process. Candidates are responsible for fulfilling all requirements as prescribed in the bylaws of Tampa Bay Mensa, contained in the Member Handbook, and this Call for Candidates.

The Election Committee is composed of:

**Steve Poreda** (Election Supervisor)  
 10203 Waterside Oaks Drive  
 Tampa, FL 33647-3194  
 (813) 994-4791  
*Steve@Poreda.com*

Ellen Berry  
 455 Alt 19 S # 68  
 Palm Harbor, FL 34683  
 (727) 480-7938  
*eberry@rovingarts.com*

Your Name Here

(As of this writing, we are still in need of a third committee member – please contact Steve Poreda if you are willing and able to help!)

Members in good standing of Tampa Bay Mensa seeking seats on the Executive Committee in the upcoming election must provide to the Election Supervisor no later than Wednesday, June 15:

- 1) a nominating petition, and
- 2) a campaign statement.

Nominating petitions must contain the printed name, address, telephone number, and signature of the candidate, plus the printed names and signatures of five (5) members in good standing as defined by the bylaws of Tampa Bay Mensa. Campaign statements must be limited to 250 words. Note that, since campaign statements will be printed in the *Sounding*, they must comply with current editorial policy. Petitions and campaign statements must be mailed to:

Steve Poreda  
10203 Waterside Oaks Drive  
Tampa, FL 33647-3194

### GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE ELECTION

Ballots will be counted at the July 2005 Election Committee Meeting. The exact time and location will be announced in the July issue of the *Sounding*. Ballots will be printed in the July issue of the *Sounding*. Members who do not normally receive the *Sounding* will be mailed ballots separately, or will be provided their own copy of the July *Sounding*. Complete details of the voting method will be published with the ballots.

### CRYPTOPOEM

*Sylvia Zadorozny*

E XISSOHLA PAY MSEO EU UIS KPP

XPLAY EABEDQ HNZY QPGSUINZT UP YP.

BISZ NU MPOSY ING UP TP

PZ E BEAR UP EZY HOP,

IS OSCSOQSY NU, EZY BEARSY

HOP EZY UP.



## THE TENTH STORY

### (RVC COLUMN FOR REGION 10) – JUNE 2005

*Elissa Rudolph*

This is my last RVC 10 column. The next one will come from Maggie Truelove, my able successor. She will keep all of you on your toes, ready to answer questions, and guide you through tough times. My hat is off to her—you better be nice to her!

Seems just a short time ago, I was just getting to know you. And now, I might still get to know you, but as a plain vanilla member, rather than an elected official. Who knows how the race for Second Vice Chair will come out?

Five new games earned the Mensa Select® label during MindGames last month in Tampa. DaVinci's Challenge, Ingenious, Loot, Niagara, and Zendo all challenged the 160+ Mensans gathered to rate the games. Fifty-one entries were tried with five rising to the top. MindGames 2006 will be held in April in Portland, OR.

I hope you voted. By now, all ballots are in and counted. A new AMC takes office after the Annual Meeting in New Orleans. Plan to be there to welcome these willing volunteers.

Advance notice: National Testing Day will be held on Saturday, October 22. If your group has yet to respond to this idea, get moving and return your participation form by mid-July. Don't let your group be left out! This is such a great PR opportunity.

See you in the Big Easy?

**MensAGumbo**, July 6 – 10, in wonderful New Orleans.  
Laissez les bons ton roulet!

Elissa Rudolph, RVC10  
5054 Lakefront Blvd, Apt D  
Delray Beach, FL 33484  
*elissa12@bellsouth.net*  
561-496-0124

**LOCSEC'S REPORT***Maxine Kushner*

Monthly membership lists for groups all around the country show that about 20% of U.S. Mensans did not renew by the March deadline. That number holds true for Tampa Bay Mensa. Did you forget to renew? If so, it is easy to rejoin online (<http://www.us.mensa.org>). You wouldn't want this to be your last *Sounding*?

In other news:

- Treasurer Kathy Crum reported that Mind Games generated a profit of \$2,340.07.
- Planning for our Octoberfest-themed RG continues. Programs set up so far include a promising mix of serious and fun activities.
- I haven't made it to the Wednesday evening reading group yet, but several others have, and it sounds like a rewarding meeting.
- I went to NTN Trivia in New Port Richey last month, and participated in some very entertaining conversation. If you, like me, live in the northerly part of the TBM region, this is a great opportunity to spend some time with your fellow Mensans without having to drive long distance.

Until next month,  
Maxine

\*\*\*\*\*

What event is known as Alban Heflin, Alben Heruin, All-Couples Day, Feast of Epona, Feast of St. John the Baptist, Feill-Sheathain, Gathering Day, Johannistag, Litha, Midsummer, Sonnwend, Thing-Tide, and Vestalia?

The Summer Solstice.

This year's event occurs June 21 at 2:46 a.m. (EDT).

**THE RECLUSIVE RECLUSE***Sweet Joseph*

Cedric Wannabe, a ne'er-do-well drifter, discovered the way to line his pockets with gold was to go the "identity theft" route through the Internet. His first mistake was picking the odd name of "Sweet Joseph."

Sweet Joseph was in a safe house under the witness protection program for snitching on several Mafia "Dons." Why did Sweet Joseph snitch? It seems he flew several plane loads of high quality "coke" from South America to a small enclave in Morocco called SIDI IFNI. There were no customs laws in SIDI IFNI; however, it was standard practice to pay high officials 10% of the value of each shipment and 10% to the pilot. I kept accurate records of each shipment and figured they short-changed me \$14,000,000.14. I knew that once I blabbed on them my life would not be worth a plug nickel (no pun intended); thus my entry into the witness protection program.

Once the phony Sweet Joseph assumed my identity, he suddenly was fair game for the FBI, CIA, and the IRS for back taxes, and I was off the hook.

I changed my name to EOJ HCLEW (Gaelic origin), the same name as a distant cousin (14 times removed).

All of the assets of the Mafia bosses were seized, and as the snitchee, I received substantially more from the government than the \$14,000,000.14 owed me by the Mafia.

When the authorities found the phony Sweet Joseph, his body looked like it had been through a tree-trimming shredder. It took several coroners a week to perform the autopsy. Their reports covered 14 volumes of data, and they even invented new medical terms to describe some of the more traumatic injuries, which were published in the A.M.A.

**FOOTNOTE:** Sweet Joseph, now officially known as EOJ HCLEW, moved permanently to SIDI IFNI and bought the entire country. He has been entered into the Guinness Book of Records as the only person in the world to own his own country.

## EPILOGUE

Since "Sweet Joseph" no longer had to stay in hiding in a safe house, he decided that he would retain the name of EOJ HCLEW.

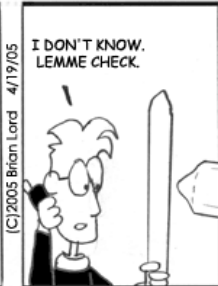
He figured that if he changed his name back to "Sweet Joseph" that he would be fair game for the Mafia "Dons." Even they knew that it was not possible for two people to have the odd name of "Sweet Joseph".

The cops found another piece of evidence linking Cedric Wannabe to the identity theft of "Sweet Joseph"--a label from one of his shoes (Haband Casual Joe, size 10 1/2 D). The label, in itself, is a perfect description of the modest, self-effacing "Sweet Joseph."

KICK IRRATIONAL by Brian Lord



KICK IRRATIONAL by Brian Lord



# MensAGumbo

Fun for Both Sides of Your Brain!

Laissez le bon temps roulez! The Annual Gathering 2005 will take over New Orleans July 6-10. Adult registration is \$90. Young Mensan registration is free for ages 4 and under, \$30 for ages 4-12 and \$50 for ages 13-20.

And what do you get for your money? Fun for both sides of your brain! Access to all the food, music and culture New Orleans is known for, plus the inimitable experience of spending a long weekend with more than a thousand of your favorite Mensans:

- Take high tea at the Longue Vue house and gardens.
- Tour the Stennis Space Center and the Southern Regional Research Center.
- Step back in time at two of the plantations on the River Road.
- Play golf to raise money for the Mensa Education & Research Foundation.
- Ride a Segway.
- See the largest hypnotic production show in the world.
- Hear the secrets of "the Canal Street Madam," the Countess Pontalba and the voodoo queens.
- Learn about baseball, fencing and tae kwon do; about reality, adult stem cells, digital forensics, ancient Egyptian measurement of the planet...

...And more activities are being added all the time. Don't forget about the full schedule of Leadership Development Workshops designed to make the jobs of Local Group officers easier. Workshops will focus on banking changes since 9/11, Web design, mailing newsletters and member privacy issues - and that's just for starters.

Check it all out for yourself at [www.ag.us.mensa.org](http://www.ag.us.mensa.org), and while you're there, register online. We'll see you in the Big Easy!

ANA, APS, PC-LM, USPCS-LM, USCS, FUN-LM, FSDA-LM, MPOS  
UPSS-LM, AAMS, AFDCS, MPPC-LM, PSS, PNC3-LM, MPHS

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balancedlifestylecoaching.com

## CALENDAR

June 2005

*Ronan Heffernan, Calendar Editor*

Mensa events are open to all Mensans, their spouses, and accompanied guests. A party at a private home is a private event, and who may or may not attend is at the complete discretion of the host. While kitty amounts are mandatory, hosts often spend far more than the specified amount. Donations excess of the kitty amount will be appreciated.

Ronan Heffernan (813-907-8147) is the Calendar Editor. Please e-mail your calendar event notices to [Ronan@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Ronan@tampabay.rr.com), or visit <http://tampa.us.mensa.org/cal> for complete instructions. Your deadline for the following month's calendar is the 12<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

**Hosts:** Please remember to mention any special concerns about your location, such as limited access for the handicapped, smoking restrictions, or presence of pets.

**Guests:** If you have special needs or restrictions, it is prudent to discuss them with your host before attending an event.

**June – 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> - Wednesdays - 1:15 PM**

*MHunch (Mensa Humpday Lunch)*

Locations: Various

MHunch is a series of lunches at various locations around the region. The day (Wednesday) and time (1:15 PM) are consistent, but there is a different restaurant for each lunch.

The June lunches will be held at Jimbo's in Lakeland on June 1<sup>st</sup>, Whistle Stop in Plant City on June 15<sup>th</sup>, and at Skeeter's in Lakeland on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Reservations are required to ensure adequate seating. Call or email for directions.

Merrell Fortner – 863-701-7109 – [mini@mindless.com](mailto:mini@mindless.com)



**June – 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> - Wednesdays - 7:00 PM***Erudite Lite Reading Group*

Location: Perkins - 612 N. Dale Mabry, Tampa

We meet twice per month (on the first and third Wednesday). Our meeting location has changed to the Perkins on Dale Mabry, just north of Kennedy. Bring along books you'd like to exchange or give away.

Check out our website: [www.rovingarts.com/eruditelite](http://www.rovingarts.com/eruditelite)Ellen Berry – 727-480-7938 – [eberry@rovingarts.com](mailto:eberry@rovingarts.com)

Perkins Family Restaurant - 612 N. Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa

**June – 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> - Thursdays - 12:30 PM***Lunch Bunch*

We meet at Piccadilly Cafeteria, on 11810 North Dale Mabry Highway (next to Barnes and Noble Bookstore), in Tampa. For directions, descriptions, and/or encouragement to attend, call:

Jim Perry - 813-837-3473 - [philart@gte.net](mailto:philart@gte.net)**June - 4<sup>th</sup> - Saturday - 7:30 PM – \$2***Games & Snacks*

It's June? So soon? How time did fly!  
 Another month just flew right by.  
 But there's no need to fret or sigh,  
 There's still time yet for you to try  
 Fun games of knowledge, words, or skill,  
 A little luck to add a thrill...  
 Then take a break for snacks that will  
 Help nourish brain cells--take your fill!  
 Note one house rule (please take in stride)  
 I must ask smokers, smoke outside;  
 And I have cats, though they may hide.  
 Please join us, here where I reside:

Sylvia Zadorozny - 813-855-4939 - [sylviachocolate@juno.com](mailto:sylviachocolate@juno.com)  
 651 Timber Bay Circle West – Oldsmar (call for directions)

**June – 6<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> - Mondays - 3:30 PM - \$2***Children's Game Day/Play Day*

For ages 0-10. Come join us. Bring your favorite games. For directions contact:

Linne Katz - 727-372-9438 - [LINNEKATZ@aol.com](mailto:LINNEKATZ@aol.com)  
 10037 Wheatland Road - New Port Richey

**June - 9<sup>th</sup> - Thursday - 7:30 AM***Breakfast Gathering*

Breakfast Gathering, Village Inn at Walsingham Road in Largo, 7:30 AM, 2nd Thursday of every month. Gather for food and conversation. Please call Lori Puterbaugh at 727-399-2419 for directions and so we have a headcount.

Lori Puterbaugh - 727-399-2419

**June – 16<sup>th</sup> - Thursday - 7:00 PM***Shakespeare SIG*

George Zadorozny and I will be launching a new Shakespeare reading group in June. Join us for our inaugural reading, when we'll warm up with some of the poems (*The Phoenix and the Turtle*, *Venus and Adonis*, etc.), and discuss approaches towards readings of the plays at future sessions. Call for directions so there will be enough copies on hand.

Thomas Thomas - 813-994-3981 – [FardleBear@aol.com](mailto:FardleBear@aol.com)  
 27647 Sky Lake Circle - Wesley Chapel

**June – 18<sup>th</sup> - Saturday - 7:00 PM***NTN Trivia*

Location: Buffalo Wild Wings, Gulf View Square Mall,  
 9409 US Hwy. 19 N., Port Richey, FL 34668

NTN Satellite Trivia is a daily and nightly nationwide contest (pretend that we annex Canada) for people who aren't satisfied with merely knowing more useless information than everybody in the

immediate vicinity. There's plenty of time between rounds to have philosophical conversations, witty repartee, or just impersonate the television character who was the subject of the last question. For more information about NTN, and the different games available, check out [http://www.ntn.com/hospitality\\_tech/players\\_corner/faqs.asp](http://www.ntn.com/hospitality_tech/players_corner/faqs.asp). We meet at a non-smoking family sports bar called Buffalo Wild Wings in the Gulf View Square Mall. Join the party!

Thomas Thomas - 813-994-3981 - [FardleBear@aol.com](mailto:FardleBear@aol.com)

### June - 24<sup>th</sup> - Friday - 6:00 PM

#### *Fourth Friday Madness*

Come party on down with us every fourth (not necessarily last) Friday at Olive Garden Italian Restaurant, 6700 US 19 N in Pinellas Park from 6pm to whenever. This is just southeast of Gandy Boulevard. The phone number for the restaurant is (727) 525-4339.

Phoebe McCann - 727-546-4030

### June - 26<sup>th</sup> - Sunday - 3:00 PM - FREE

#### *FSM*

This month we'll Fold, Staple, and put Mailing labels on our Mensa newsletters at Ronan's in Wesley Chapel. Everyone is encouraged to come help out. You can get your newsletter early! Hope to see you here.

DIRECTIONS: Take I-75 to Exit #275 (SR56, North of Tampa (this exit is north of the I-75/I-275 split, so you can take either Interstate north. After I-75 and I-275 merge, the next exit is #275)). Turn east onto SR56. Go to the stoplight and turn right (south) onto County Road 581 (same road as Bruce B. Downs, with a different name in Pasco County). Turn right at the next stoplight onto County Line Rd. Turn right into the second housing development (Northwood). Take the second right onto Breakers Dr. Our house (#27504) is on the right, at the sharpest part of the curve.

Ronan Heffernan - 813-907-8147 - [ronan@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:ronan@tampabay.rr.com)  
27504 Breakers Dr - Wesley Chapel

## ERUDITE LITE

*Ellen Berry*

Our reading group was graced with the contributions of authors Richard Feynman, Anne Rice, Armistead Maupin, James Gleick, Bram Stoker, Robert A. Heinlein, James A. Michener, and others during our last two meetings.

One particularly interesting discussion was an exploration of how communication has changed or improved in the last several centuries - globally, locally, and interpersonally. From the rapid growth of global telecommunications to new generations of the politically correct, we debated the merit of such changes in recent history.

Additional highlights included:

- An exploration of catatonia in *The Comforts of Madness* by Paul Sayer
- Sexual offender registration and the JonBenet Ramsey case as described in Lawrence Schiller's *Perfect Murder Perfect Town*
- A philosophical discussion: Can science alone answer the question "Who are we?" Are there concrete truths that apply in all situations, or are all things always relative?
- The *Myers-Briggs* personality assessment and personality types' influence on approach to life
- *Spy Handler*, a memoir of Victor Cherkashin, a KGB officer for four Cold War decades, which provides an insider's view of the KGB's prolonged conflict with the CIA.
- Exploring the repercussions of an American theocracy in *Revolt in 2100* by Robert A. Heinlein
- Marilyn vos Savant's "Ask Marilyn" column in *Parade* magazine

- James Gleick's *Genius: The Life and Science of Richard Feynman* and Feynman's participation in the investigation of freezing O-rings in the space shuttle Challenger tragedy
- *Five Quarts: A Personal and Natural History of Blood* by Bill Hayes explores the role blood plays in our lives, and in his life as a gay man in an enduring partnership with an HIV-positive man.

### Overheard During The Meeting

"I communicate therefore I am."

For a list of *Erudite Lite* recommended readings, and to find out more about the group and when we meet, visit our website: [www.rovingarts.com/eruditelite](http://www.rovingarts.com/eruditelite).

### FSM – APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2005

*Thomas George Thomas*

We had a small but talkative group come up to Wesley Chapel in April to get your Soundings prepared for you. First-time FoSMer Ronald Stich joined Sylvia Zadorozny, Richard Manno, Delphine Jessup and myself to discuss the usual potpourri of topics, including teaching experiences, the way different generations experience school, and the difficulties of parking in some Tampa neighborhoods -- even with only four guests, this was four vehicles, and we wound up playing musical cars in my driveway due to community restrictions on parking in the street! We also had cake and sang as we celebrated Richard's (mumble-mumble)<sup>th</sup> birthday. Soda and chocolate and other assorted snacks were also devoured as we separated, folded, stapled, taped and labeled the newsletter. This may sound like a lot of work, but in fact it's a good mindless diversion for the hands while we had the usual sparkling conversation enjoyed when Mensans gather. Come join us next time!

### ALTERNATIVE TO SOCIAL SECURITY PRIVATIZATION

*Reprinted from the April 2005 Manasota Mensa "4M"*

We often say we need to have an alternative ready to the President's proposals, instead of just opposing everything he says. Here's a response you can give to people on the issue of Social Security privatization:

#### INVESTING FOR RETIREMENT:

If you had purchased \$1,000 of Nortel stock in its halcyon days, it would now be worth \$49.

With Enron, you would have \$16.50 left of the original \$1,000.

With WorldCom, you would have had less than \$5.00 left.

If you had purchased \$1,000 worth of beer one year ago, drank all the beer, then turned in the cans for the aluminum recycling REFUND, you would have \$214.

Thus, the new investment advice is to drink and recycle... the 401-Keg Plan.

#### ANSWER TO MAY CRYPTOPOEM

Times have changed and so have breakfasts;  
 now each morning when I see  
 A dish of shredded something  
 or of flakes passed up to me,  
 All my thoughts go back to boyhood,  
 to the days of long ago,  
 When the morning meal meant something  
 more than vain and idle show.  
 And I hunger, oh, I hunger  
 in a way I cannot hide,  
 For a plate of steaming sausage  
 like the kind my mother fried.

--Edgar Guest

**SUMMER RERUN***REPRINTED FROM TAMPA BAY SOUNDING, NOVEMBER 1978*

IN THE BEGINNING, God created the singularity.

And the singularity was infinitely dense, and all that was and all that will be was compressed into that singularity; and darkness was upon the face of the universe.

And God said, LET THERE BE A BIG BANG, and there was a big bang; and from the big bang emerged matter and radiation.

And God saw the big bang, that it was ONE HELL OF A BIG EXPLOSION; and the evening and the morning were the first billion years, 16 billion years ago.

And God said, LET THERE BE HYDROGEN AND HELIUM AND LET THEM SWIRL RANDOMLY; AND LET SOME OF THE GAS SWIRL INTO REGIONS OF GREATER DENSITY; AND LET THOSE REGIONS OF GREATER DENSITY CONTRACT THEMSELVES INTO PROTOGALAXIES; AND LET THE PROTOGALAXIES CONTRACT THEMSELVES FURTHER INTO GALAXIES.

And when they had done so, God said, LET THERE BE STARS.

And the first stars began to form within the galaxies; and when the gases whereof they were made had sufficiently compressed, there began thermonuclear burning and lo, there was starlight. And the evening and the morning were the third billion years, 14 billion years ago.

And to assure that man would not quickly understand His great works, God gave the speed of light a finite limit of 300,000 kilometers per second, and to the atmosphere of the earth, when He got around to creating it, five billion years ago, He gave turbulence and distortion, and opacity to many kinds of radiation; and further to confound man's understanding, He placed throughout the universe quasars, neutron stars, black holes and other kinky peculiarities.

And He looked upon the work of His singularity approvingly and said, LO, IT IS A PUZZLEMENT.

AND IT WAS A PUZZLEMENT.

*Author unknown*

**POETRY FOR FUN (NOT PROFIT)***Sylvia Zadorozny*

I enjoy writing fun poetry. As many of you know, I also host a games night regularly and like to festoon my home with holiday decorations, changing them monthly when possible. Combining these hobbies led to my March sonnet invitation to games:

**GAMES & GOODIES, FRIENDS & FUN**

Though many of us don't have Irish names  
 And though the Emerald Isle lies far away,  
 This time my search for holidays for Games  
 Uncovered that this week's St. Patrick's Day.  
 So I've bedecked my house with shamrocks green  
 And little people (leprechauns) abound.  
 I hope that you will join this happy scene  
 Where games & goodies, friends & fun are found.  
 If you have allergies, I must confide  
 I have three cats which 'round the house may roam;  
 And I request that smokers smoke outside  
 (To breathe I need to keep a smoke-free home).  
 Oh won't you come, and maybe bring someone,  
 To share our games & goodies, friends & fun?

In response, Bud Urban, a dear old friend, gamester, and fellow poet, mailed me this lovely little poem:

**TRIOLET***by Bud Urban*

Sylvia tried a triolet.  
 Last month she tried a sonnet.  
 I hope to pick a violet  
 And pin it on her bonnet.  
 Sylvia *tried* a triolet.  
 (Last month she tried a sonnet.)

This sent me running to my dictionary to look up triolet. There I found the following:

**triolet**, *n.* a short poem of fixed form, having a rhyme scheme of *ab, aa, abab*, and having the first line repeated as the fourth and seventh lines, and the second line repeated as the eighth. [<F: lit., little trio]

A challenge! Naturally I now had to "try a triolet." I came up with the following:

### TRIOLET FOR BUD

A poet friend,  
He wrote to me

A verse to send  
A poet friend.

And in the end,  
I'm glad to be  
A poet friend.  
(He wrote to me.)

I proudly displayed my triolet to my daughter, then home from college on Spring Break. She promptly got out her latest Spanish assignment:

### (UNTITLED SPANISH POEM)

by *Katherine Zadorozny*

Veo el alba desde mi cuarto.  
Me encanta ver el amanecer.  
Aunque a veces no me gusta levantarme,  
Este día da placer.

Los otros levantan a las cinco  
de sus camas. Van a ver  
que tipo de café bebemos  
y cuando tienen que correr.

Yo no uso caféina.  
Despertar no es beber.  
Levanto sin alarma mía.  
Y miro al amanecer.

As she read it to me, I heard the rhyme and meter but, not being fluent in Spanish myself, I needed an interpretation. I found out it was a poem she'd written early one morning upon watching the dawn of day.

This prompted me to respond by reciting a poem I'd written back in high school:

The rosy red of rising sun  
O'er rolling roads does gleam.  
It shines on every rabbit run  
And glints on every stream.

It shines on everything in sight  
And keeps on shining, 'til the night  
When black will come to conquer white--  
No longer shall it beam.

And so it went. One poem led to another...

I wish our society valued poetry half as much as it does technology.



*"A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawnmower is broken." – James Dent*

**JUNE HOLIDAYS**

- June 1 – Clean Air Day (Canada)
- June 2 – National Rocky Road Ice Cream Day
- June 3 – Hunger Awareness Day
- June 4 – Donut Day
- June 5 – World Environment Day
- June 6 – D-Day Anniversary
- June 7 – National Chocolate Ice Cream Day
- June 8 – Ice Cream Day
- June 11 – King Kamehameha Day (Hawaii)
- June 12 – Race Unity Day
- June 13 – Shavuot
- June 14 – Flag Day
- June 15 – Electricity Day
- June 16 – Morticians Day (*for playing with electricity?*)
- June 17 – Violin Day (International)
- June 18 – Juggling Day
- June 19 – Father's Day  
Juneteenth
- June 20 - Ice Cream Soda Day (*June must be Ice Cream month*)
- June 21 – Summer Solstice
- June 24 – UFO Day
- June 25 – LEON Day (*NOEL spelled backwards – six months until Christmas*)
- June 26 – Baseball Day
- June 28 – Paul Bunyan Day
- June 30 – Meteor Day

**S.I.G.H.T. HOSTS/HOSTESSES NEEDED***Susan Anderson*

I've had a few requests lately for S.I.G.H.T. for June and I may not be here for the times people have specified they would like to be hosted.

Are there people in our group who would like to volunteer to be hosts for this worthwhile part of Mensa?

It doesn't take a palace or a mansion to host someone for a day or two or just be available for advice... a guest space or couch can sometimes be a great place for a Mensa traveler to feel more familiar with an area and come and enjoy for a few days, sometimes before and after an RG, for instance.

Often a guest will treat a host to a dinner out or some other small gift; I have "Buy-One-Get-One" coupon books for sharing these kinds of get-togethers.

A visiting guest can turn your ordinary days into a 'mini RG'!

Any place with friendly Mensa comrades can be a good landing spot for a traveling Mensan.

I don't have anyone right now on a host list. Please consider signing up and sharing this benefit of Mensa.

We can all make Mensa more interesting by sharing our experiences and knowledge and make new friends from all over. I especially enjoyed using some S.I.G.H.T. contacts when traveling in the UK a few years back and made life-long friends. You can conceivably travel all over the US and/or Europe making S.I.G.H.T. contacts.

Open your homes and minds!

Susie in Tampa  
Tampa Bay Mensa S.I.G.H.T. Coordinator  
[susie1000@aol.com](mailto:susie1000@aol.com)  
(see page 34 for contact information)

**MAY GAMES AND PIZZA***Sylvia Zadorozny*

On May 7, fourteen of us gathered in Oldsmar to enjoy a variety of games and pizzas: Bonnie Wilpon, Dana Groulx, Thomas Thomas, Barbara Loewe, Dan Chesnut, Delphine Jenness, new member Jack (?), George Zadorozny, Ellen Berry, Richard Manno, Steve Dorr, Jane Lockett, Kathy Zadorozny, and Sylvia Zadorozny.

The first arrivals (Bonnie, Dana, Thomas, Barbara, Dan, Delphine, Jack, Kathy, and Sylvia) started off in the living room with a new game from Mind Games called *Faces*. It came with pawns for eight players, which was how many people we had initially, but when a ninth arrived, we cleverly added a new "pawn" which was in actuality a tiny Mickey Mouse statue that I had on a display shelf. The game was fun for a while, but we forgot that we were supposed to switch back to the first set of rules part way through, and the play took much longer than it should have (it also might have worked better with fewer players).

While we were playing *Faces*, the others arrived and went to the kitchen to play *Brainstrain*, *Play It With Clay*, and *Guesstures*.

We broke for pizzas at some point during all this, enjoying four different varieties: vegetarian, ground beef & mushroom, ham & pineapple, and green peppers & mushroom.

After *Faces*, the living room group tried two more new games from Mind Games: *Famous People*, then *Last Word*. *Last Word* was interesting in that it had a random time generator, which negated the use of strategy in timing when to blurt out your answers. Finally the late nighters (early morning-ers?) finished with an old favorite, *20 Questions* (the board game version), chosen because, by then, players wanted a game that didn't require much thinking -- apparently even Mensan brains need a break once in a while!

**FOURTH FRIDAY MADNESS – APRIL 22***Phoebe McCann*

What a difference a place makes (sung to the tune of, "What a Difference a Day Makes.") We went from the Horse and Jockey Pub in South Pasadena to the Olive Garden in Pinellas Park and jumped from an average of 6 attendees (down to 4 the last time) to **SEVENTEEN!** It was such fun and the food was so much better.

Al (Court of Jesters) and Linda (pet sitter and many other things) Church had driven over from Land O' Lakes. Bob Topper had brought magnificent photos of his recent round the world tour. For the first time, he FINALLY made it all the way around. Beats the time he got dumped in Mexico when the ferry went out of business or the time his ship went bankrupt and stranded him in Fiji, I think it was. Sylvia Zadorozny and Diane "NoLastName" arrived together. Husband Dan and I were stuck at the far end of the table as always seems to happen and we have a tough time hearing what's going on. There was a considerable buzz though and a lot of laughter so it was obvious people were having a good time.

Frank and Norene Clarke were there and sat across from our neighbors Duane and Barbara Corn, who are thinking of joining Mensa. Bob and Linda Luckenbach were on our right... very nice people. Ronald Stich, Tom Handcock, Terry Wells and Thomas Thomas were at the far end of the table(s) (I think we ended up with 8 tables) so I never got a chance to talk with them.

I made the circuit of the table and took a survey. There were four people who would have preferred a different night but none of the four could come on the same





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*Tampa Bay Sounding* encourages submissions from all members. Submissions must be signed, but names may be withheld or pseudonyms used if requested. All letters to the editor will be subject to publication unless the author specifically requests otherwise. All material submitted will be considered for publication, but nothing can be guaranteed. Everything is subject to editing. Please keep the following guidelines in mind:

- Articles, casual essays, opinion pieces, poems, short stories, puzzles, and artwork are all encouraged.
- Personal attacks and bigoted, sexist, hateful, or otherwise offensive material will not be published.
- E-mail submissions are preferred, either embedded or in Word-readable attachments. Computer printouts and typewritten pages are fine. If you submit hard copy, please make sure your printer has enough toner or your typewriter has a fresh-enough ribbon. *Legible* handwritten submissions will be considered (but not given preference).

You may send your submissions by either of the following means:

- (1) E-mail — FardleBear@aol.com (Please indicate "TBM" in the subject area.)
- (2) U.S. Mail — Thomas G. Thomas, 27647 Sky Lake Circle, Wesley Chapel, FL 33543 (Telephone 813-994-3981)

**Unless otherwise specified in the calendar, the deadline for unsolicited contributions is the tenth day of the month.**

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