

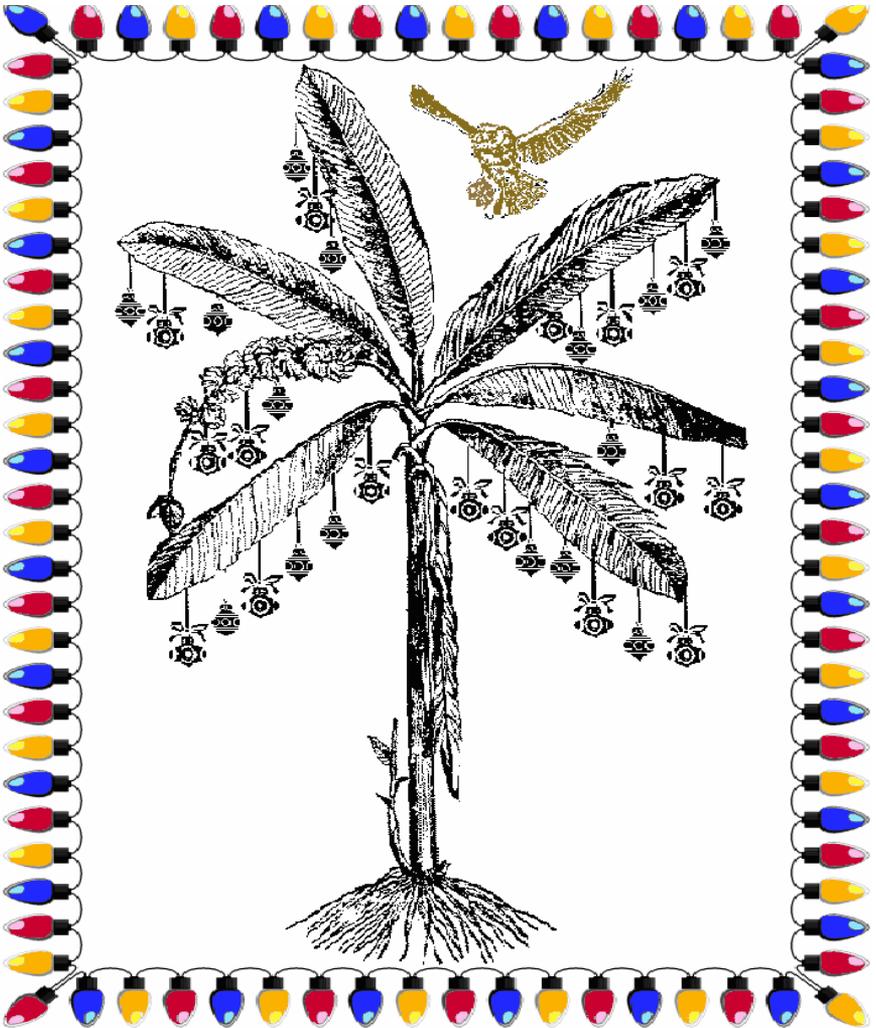


Tampa Bay Sounding

A Publication of Tampa Bay Mensa

Vol. 30, No. 11

December 2005



WARM HOLIDAY WISHES!

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 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

AS 2005 SPEEDS TO AN end, many good things have been accomplished in Tampa Bay Mensa. We've hosted a nationwide Mensan event (MindGames) which was highly successful thanks to the efforts of **Sylvia Zadorozny**. We've welcomed over 100 new Mensans, not including those who have moved into our chapter from other chapters – that's nearly a quarter of our present membership! We've worked with a local school district on a program to identify more gifted children, thanks to **Richard Manno**. The Erudite Lite reading group, which started a year ago this month, has settled in as one of the best-attended events on the calendar, under the sponsorship of hostess **Ellen Berry**. Ellen has also taken on the webspinner role, and the revamped Tampa Bay Mensa website (<http://www.tampa.us.mensa.org/>) now has a full year's archive of consecutive Tampa Bay *Soundings*.

One of the advantages to providing the *Sounding* online is the ability to offer features that cannot be provided in this print version – such as color photos! In the coming year, we hope to make better and increased use of online publishing.



To all of our new members of the past year, we hope you've seen some events that you'd enjoy. One bit of feedback we've received is a desire for more active events on the schedule. So there's an outing at Busch Gardens scheduled for December 10 (hosted by **Ronan Heffernan**), and kayaking on the afternoon of December 17 (hosted by **Tom Handcock**), preceding our Annual Meeting that evening (hosted by **Dana Groulx**). Are there activities *you* would like to host? All it takes to plan an event is to do what you'd want to do anyway (such as golfing, movies, a writer's circle, etc.) and place an invitation in the calendar! It may take a little while to get momentum, but some great friendships have been formed that way.



We wish you all a happy and peaceful holiday season!

SOUNDING BOARD

RE: Games and Goblin', (November issue):

"What do you get when you cross a brain surgeon with a bartender?"

How about... Someone who confuses a prefrontal lobotomy with a free bottle in front of me.

Jim Clack

WELCOME TO TAMPA BAY MENSA!

Bennett Andrews *
Derek Andrews *
Michael Becker *
Joseph B Daly *
Matthew G Eason
Alison Edwards *
Richard J Flynn
Jon R Ford *
Alexandra Lewis *
Luke Lewis *
Rick Morris *
Darryl Olenchalk *
Peter E Pisasale *
Andrew Sackman *
Dina Schlauch
Danny Ervin Taylor
Meg Van Buskirk

KICK IRRATIONAL by Brian Lord www.KickComics.com



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

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Dana Groulx
- 2 Raymond Cherubini Celli, Roger Preslar
- 3 Alvin Nienhuis
- 4 Betty Gorman, Robert Joseph Miller
- 5 Scott Davies
- 6 Susan Dunlevy
- 7 Barbara Counts
- 9 Dorothy Butler, Noel Davison, Marcus Reinhart
- 10 Larry Paradis
- 11 Elliott Loyless
- 12 Robert Alan Van Dyke, David Wilson
- 13 Michael Wenditz
- 14 Dhyan Appachu, Anthony Citta, Susan Lynch Entringer,
Ryan Kennedy
- 17 Dan Chesnut, James Clack, A Renee Foran
- 18 Geoff LeCain
- 19 Deborah Duvall
- 21 Alvin John Bedgood, H Kent Edie
- 23 Richard Bruckart, Noelle Stillman
- 24 Joe Jenkins, Joseph Earle Juston, Edwin Michael Kelley,
Keith Lewis Kelly
- 25 Rush Miller, Cynthia Lynn Johnson Weatherby
- 26 Allen Garber, Buddy Meyer
- 27 Richard George Bachmann, John Henderson
- 28 Don Alan Davis, Deanna S Dudney, Bryan Scofield
- 29 Frank Clarke
- 31 Robert Morris Ayres, William Lee Dennis, Les Milewski

DECEMBER MENSAVERSARIES

36 Years	Betty Sue Taylor
32 Years	Jean Cook Ainsley, James Klein
31 Years	Betty Gorman
28 Years	Mary Matthews
26 Years	John Emerson
24 Years	David Bruce Goodrich
23 Years	John Charles Beaumont, Ken Poynter
22 Years	Cathy Lynn Hansen
21 Years	Rodney James Sturtz Jr
18 Years	Leo Richard Reilly
17 Years	Matthew Lewis Snook
15 Years	Susan Anderson
12 Years	Michael Robert Clifford, John Henderson
8 Years	Maureen Brush
7 Years	Catherine Albaugh
6 Years	Michael John Garrett, George Hall
5 Years	Cindy Bethel, Ronnie Dubs
4 Years	Ryan McKeon, Dennis Wilcoxon
3 Years	Patricia Oldfield
1 Year	Glenn Edward Best, Jimmy Buford, Joseph Davis, Deanna Dudney, Stanley Galewski, Ian Ippolito, John Kotsch, Ramon Martinez

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

LOCSEC'S REPORT*Maxine Kushner*

Hello TBMers!

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE year, the weeks that we both look forward to and, sometimes, dread: the holidays. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Le Re'veillon, Los Posados, St. Lucia Day, Yule, Festivus, some combination, or none at all, these days are definitely different from the rest of the year. Serenity now! And in that vein, it wouldn't be December without the annual Holiday Party. This year's festivities will be at **Dana Groulx's** home on Saturday, December 17. It would be wonderful if some of you Mensans whom we have not seen in ages, or, perhaps, have never seen at all would make a point of joining us. All are welcome!

Looking over this month's news from National, I noticed that we had 21 new members last month. If we added that many members every month, we would increase our local membership by 50% in one year. That would be extraordinary! A great deal of credit goes to Testing Coordinator **Barbara Counts**. She has been testing regularly for months now, and it shows in our increasing numbers. Alas, if only we could figure out how to successfully encourage all you newbies (and the rest of you) to come out to, or host, more activities. With more activities on the calendar, there would be more things going on closer to all of us in our wide geographic area. We've tried to start an activity in New Port Richey (NTN Trivia), but if the only people who will go are (except for me) driving up from south central Pasco or Tampa/St. Pete, this event will end up moving to an NTN site in Tampa. Too bad, I'd really like to see at least one activity up here.

There's a little business to deal with soon. TBM holds elections for the ExComm every June. While it might seem a tad early to bring this up now, we are supposed to have an election committee of three in place by mid January. The time commitment for this committee is miniscule, and any of us on the ExComm can walk you through the requirements in a few minutes. If you would like more information, please contact me (contact info is on the Officer page).

Until next month,
Maxine

CAPITAL CITIES

Maxine Kushner

How geographically literate are you? Match these countries with their capitals. Answers on page 28.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Armenia _____ | 26. Lesotho _____ |
| 2. Azerbaijan _____ | 27. Liechtenstein _____ |
| 3. Bahrain _____ | 28. Macedonia _____ |
| 4. Bangladesh _____ | 29. Madagascar _____ |
| 5. Belarus _____ | 30. Mali _____ |
| 6. Belize _____ | 31. Mauritania _____ |
| 7. Benin _____ | 32. Mongolia _____ |
| 8. Bhutan _____ | 33. Mozambique _____ |
| 9. Botswana _____ | 34. Namibia _____ |
| 10. Burkina Faso _____ | 35. Niger _____ |
| 11. Burundi _____ | 36. Palau _____ |
| 12. Cambodia _____ | 37. Paraguay _____ |
| 13. Cape Verde _____ | 38. Qatar _____ |
| 14. Chad _____ | 39. Samoa _____ |
| 15. Comoros _____ | 40. San Marino _____ |
| 16. Djibouti _____ | 41. Senegal _____ |
| 17. Dominica _____ | 42. Seychelles _____ |
| 18. Ecuador _____ | 43. Sierra Leone _____ |
| 19. Eritrea _____ | 44. Sudan _____ |
| 20. Gabon _____ | 45. Surinam _____ |
| 21. Georgia _____ | 46. Tonga _____ |
| 22. Granada _____ | 47. Tuvalu _____ |
| 23. Kazakstan _____ | 48. Uzbekistan _____ |
| 24. Kyrgyzstan _____ | 49. Vanuatu _____ |
| 25. Laos _____ | 50. Zambia _____ |

1. Port-Vila
2. Minsk
3. Maseru
4. Ascunción
5. Bujumbura
6. San Marino
7. Dakar
8. Skopje
9. Djibouti
10. Baku
11. Freetown
12. Apia
13. Phnom Penh
14. Vientiane
15. Manama
16. Khartoum
17. Nouakchott
18. Libreville
19. Niamey
20. Belmopan
21. T'bilisi
22. Roseau
23. Nuku'alofa
24. Windhoek
25. Praia
26. Gaborone
27. Ouagadougou
28. Vaduz
29. Dhaka
30. Ulaanbaatar
31. Moroni
32. Porto-Novo
33. Bamako
34. Doha
35. N'Djamena
36. St. George's
37. Koror
38. Funafuti Atoll
39. Yerevan
40. Paramaribo
41. Tashkent
42. Maputo
43. Thimphu
44. Lusaka
45. Quito
46. Antananarivo
47. Astana
48. Victoria
49. Bishkek
50. Asmara



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

THE TENTH STORY**(RVC COLUMN FOR REGION 10) – DECEMBER 2005***Maggie Truelove*

IF REGION 10'S "NEW MEMBER" contest had been running for October, instead of August and September, the winner would have been... Tampa Bay Mensa! For the actual contest, they had 14 new members in two months. For October, they had 13 new members in one month. Congratulations to Tampa Bay again. You guys are doing something right.

The Region 10 website (region10.us.mensa.org) has been up and running since before November 1, as promised. On the website you can link to the websites of any of the other groups in the region. You will also find there each month the RVC column, which is in most, but not all, of the newsletters, notice of major upcoming events in the region (especially RGs, so don't forget to send me a PDF of your registration form), photos from events around the region (at this point, photos from Tampa Bay's and Broward's RGs during 2005), the newsletters for the groups who have sent them to me, and the first of, hopefully, many press reports within the region. Other things will be added as they come along, so if you have an idea of what you would like to see added, let me know.

Northwest Florida Mensa will be having their Gathering on the weekend of February 10-12, 2006. At the time of this writing, they have not sent me the information for the website. However, all the details are on their website - which you can access from the regional website. If you haven't been to the panhandle for a Gathering yet, you are in for a pleasant surprise. They are a small group, but they put on a terrific time!

If you haven't gone recently to the national website to see what's happening with the plans for the World Gathering, now might be the time to check it out. WG06.us.mensa.org You can check out the programs already booked, take a look at the Coronado Springs Resort - you can even register for the WG and book your room through the website.

If you are in one of our four south Florida groups, we hope you have all weathered the storm and are returning to normal.

I wish you all the warmest of holiday greetings, whatever your persuasion. For me, that means Christmas, my favorite time of year.

Maggie Truelove, RVC10
3333 Honeysuckle Lane, Belle Isle, FL 32812
rvc10@cfl.rr.com 407-855-9078

CRYPTOPOEM

Sylvia Zadorozny

NIXTALKG PFK BIIG FABBIBIPUOET:
FAT MASK AT EXLEMZ OIXIPIXIET.
FK MARKT FUMS UTMKKB
UP PFK KLDK IS PFK LKKB,
UXL FAT SUNK AT UT HAD UT FAT HIPPIO AT.

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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CALENDAR

December 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, or visit <http://tampa.us.mensa.org/cal> for complete instructions. Your deadline for the following month's calendar is the 12th 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.

December 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th - 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

December 3rd & 17th - Saturdays - 7:00 PM - \$2*Card Night*

Either bring a card game you like to play or we will play Hand and Foot (a type of Canasta, played with partners. It's great fun!) Please make sure that you RSVP at 727-734-9646 at least two days in advance.

Directions: From the North - Come South on Belcher Rd. After Curlew Road is a Traffic Light at Solon Road. Keep coming South – BEFORE you get to Main Street (580) there is a blinking light for a Fire Station. On your RIGHT (West) is Beverly Lane, into Forest Park Villas.

From the South: Go North on Belcher Rd. Just past Main Street (580) is a blinking light for a fire station- on your LEFT (West) is Beverly Lane, into Forest Park Villas.

After turning onto Beverly Lane, go to the second street: Rebecca Lane. Turn Right and go to 1542 (short street). Park on street.

Terri Elston - 727-734-9646 - TeriProfsr@aol.com

1542 Rebecca Lane – Dunedin

December 7th & 21st - Wednesdays - 7:00 PM*Erudite Lite Reading Group*

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

Ellen Berry – 727-480-7938 – eberry@rovingarts.com

Perkins Restaurant - 612 N. Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa

December 8th - 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

December 10th - Saturday - 10:00 AM*Busch Gardens Outing*

If you have (or want to buy) a Busch Gardens pass, come out and see if any fellow M's show up. Maybe there'll be some M's who want to ride rollercoasters, hang out and read or talk, or join with other parents in kids' activities. This will be a low-organization affair; just look for me in the Crown Colony House at an inside table overlooking the zebras (first floor) and we'll find out who's up for what.

Ronan Heffernan - 813-907-8147 - ronansan@gmail.com

December 10th - Saturday - 7:30 PM - \$2*Game Night*

(to the tune of "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas")

Have yourself a merry little games night, join us here tonight;
 Play fun games, then take a break and grab a bite.
 Celebrate a merry little games night, now that it's yuletide--
 But we'll skip the yule-log and keep smoke outside.
 We meet here in my Oldsmar home, where three cats may
 roam the floor.
 TBMs from around the Bay come to munch and play once
 more.
 Second Saturday we come together, both the old and new,
 To play games and maybe make a friend or two...
 It's Tampa Bay's own merry little games night crew!

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

December 14th - Wednesday - 11:30 AM*Mensa Brunch - Spring Hill*

Let's socialize! Do breakfast or lunch at "Steak N Shake" in Spring Hill. Location is 4305 Commercial Way, corner of Hwy 19 & Lake in the Woods Dr. Restaurant phone is 352-596-9388 No reservations necessary, just show up and ask for the Mensa table.

Victoria Foust - 352-596-8242 - kfoust@tampabay.rr.com

December 2005						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Lunch Bunch 12:30 PM	2	3 Card Night 7:00 PM
4	5	6	7 Reading Group 7:00 PM	8 Breakfast Gathering 7:30 AM Lunch Bunch 12:30 PM	9 <i>Sounding</i> submissions deadline	10 Busch Gardens 10:00 AM Games Night 7:30 PM
11	12	13	14 Spring Hill Brunch 11:30 AM MHunch 1:15 PM	15 Lunch Bunch 12:30 PM	16	17 Boat Parade / Spaghetti Dinner 2:00 PM Annual Meeting and Potluck Christmas Party 7:00 PM Card Night 7:00 PM
18 FSM 2:00 PM	19	20	21 Reading Group 7:00 PM	22 Lunch Bunch 12:30 PM	23 Fourth Friday Madness 6:00 PM	24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas	26	27	28 MHunch 1:15 PM	29 Lunch Bunch 12:30 PM	30	31 New Year's Eve

January 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Reading Group 7:00 PM	5 Lunch Bunch 12:30 PM	6	7 Card Night 7:00 PM
8	9	10 <i>Sounding</i> submissions deadline	11 MHunch 1:15 PM	12 Breakfast Gathering 7:30 AM Lunch Bunch 12:30 PM	13	14 Games Night 7:30 PM
15	16	17	18 Lunch Date with Vickie 11:30 AM Reading Group 7:00 PM	19 Lunch Bunch 12:30 PM	20	21 Card Night 7:00 PM
22 FSM 2:00 PM	23	24	25 MHunch 1:15 PM	26 Lunch Bunch 12:30 PM	27 Fourth Friday Madness 6:00 PM	28 NTN Trivia Night 7:00 PM
29	30	31				

December 14th & 28th - Wednesdays - 1:15 PM*MHunch (Mensa Humpday Lunch)*

Locations: Panera Bread – Lakeland (2nd Wednesday)
Kafe Kokopelli – Dade City (4th Wednesday)

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.

Due to the current gas situation, MHUNCH events away from Lakeland will be subject to cancellation if there is a lack of interest (that means 'yes' RSVPs!)...Your RSVP is important! Please either email or call me at (863) 701-7109 so we can save a seat at the table for you!

Merrell Fortner – 863-701-7109 – mini@mindless.com

December 17th - Saturday - 2:00 PM*Madeira Beach Boat Parade/Spaghetti Dinner/Kayak*

We will meet at 2pm at the Jungle Prada Boat Ramp (Park St., St Petersburg next to Saffrons Restaurant) for a kayak trip of about 8 miles. This trip is optional but fun. After the paddle we will have a spaghetti dinner and then watch the Madeira Beach Boat Parade from our dock (551 Crystal Drive, Madeira Beach). If you are not paddling, come to Kyle and Tom's house around 6pm. We'll provide the food and you bring your drinks Please RSVP for both events and we will give you directions if needed.

Directions for the supper: At the intersection of Gulf Blvd and 140th St. in Madeira Beach, turn onto 140th St. Proceed about five blocks and turn right onto Island Drive. Cross the scary bridge and at the "T" turn left onto Crystal Drive. Our home is about 2/10 of a mile on the right.

Tom Handcock - 727-395-0926 - tomhandcock@tampabay.rr.com

December 17th - Saturday - 7:00 PM - Free
Annual Meeting and Potluck Christmas Party

Are you new to Mensa or wanting to get more out of your membership? If so, come to the annual meeting. This is where you tell the ExComm what you would like to see happen in Tampa Bay Mensa. Tell us what you like and what you don't like. Come out and meet new people. The potluck dinner party will start immediately after the meeting concludes. Please bring either a main dish, snack or dessert to share. There will be plentiful conversations and most likely a game or two for those who are interested.

Directions: From points south (option 1): Take the Veterans Expressway/Suncoast Parkway to State Road 54. Head east on 54. Turn left (north) on Land O Lakes Blvd, which is US 41. Go north about 5 miles. Turn right into Wilderness Lake Preserve. Stop at the ranger station and give them my address. Stay on the main road for a little over a mile. Turn left into the Osprey Point subdivision. The first right is Cypress Tree Court. (option 2): Take I-275 north to Bearss. Exit to your right and get into the left turn lane. Turn left onto US 41. Stay on 41 and follow the directions for option 1.

From points north: Take the Suncoast Parkway to State Road 52. Head east on 52 until you reach US 41. Turn right on to US 41. Head south about 5 miles. Turn left into Wilderness Lake Preserve, then follow the above instructions. You may also take US 41 straight down from Brooksville, if you don't live near the Parkway.

You may also type my address into Mapquest. Don't use Yahoo maps, it gives you funky directions to my house.

Dana Groulx – 21416 Cypress Tree Ct., Land O' Lakes, FL 34637

December 18th - Sunday - 2:00 PM*FSM*

NOTE: This month's FSM is a week earlier than usual due to holiday schedules. Join us as we Fold, Staple, and Mutilate (or attach Mailing labels) to the *Tampa Bay Sounding*. You get a chance to socialize with other Mensans, as well as a peek at the next issue early! This month's FSM is at Sylvia Zadorozny's house in Oldsmar.

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

December 23rd - 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. RSVP to Phoebe McCann at 727-546-4030 or theboogiewoman1@yahoo.com.

Phoebe McCann - 727-546-4030 - theboogiewoman1@yahoo.com

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MINUTES FOR TAMPA BAY MENSA'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - OCTOBER 22, 2005

EXCOMM MEMBERS PRESENT: Sylvia Zadorozny (hostess & scribe), Maxine Kushner, Thomas Thomas, Kathy Crum, Ronan Heffernan, Dana Groulx, Barbara Loewe, Richard Manno, Dan Chesnut

EXCOMM MEMBERS ABSENT: none

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 pm.

PREVIOUS MINUTES: After heated discussion regarding a couple of ExComm members' proposed amendments to previous minutes and timeliness of printing the minutes in the *Sounding*, Thomas moved that the second half of the sentence under the heading "Reports" be stricken from the minutes, the first paragraph under the heading "New Business" be separated into two paragraphs, and in the future, Thomas will send any potential corrections to the ExComm via e-mail for review prior to printing in the next *Sounding*. Barbara seconded. The motion passed 8 to 1. Last meeting's minutes were approved as amended.

CAMP-OUT: This year's November camp-out on Chris Clement's property will be reimbursed the same as any other event at a member's house.

TREASURER: Oktoberfest lost money--the exact amount yet to be determined--mainly because of a record number of cancellations. This year we appear to be in the hole by \$3183.71, but this does not reflect Mind Games income which appeared last calendar year. Our overall balance is still higher than it was two years ago.

EDITOR: Thomas requested everyone please get anything you'd like in the *Sounding* to the editor by the deadline! We got another price break on the *Sounding* printing; thus, our printing expenses are down, even though the number of pages is up. It turns out we're not being reimbursed for sending the *Sounding* to other editors in our region; we'll continue these mailings through December, but then other editors can read the *Sounding* on-line instead. Thomas will make the corporate exchange newsletters he's been getting available to the ExComm. Dave Bryant's article

"West on I-10..." (October *Sounding*) was also printed in the *Mensa Bulletin*. The Publications Recognition Program has changed the cut-off for a large group to 550 members; Tampa Bay Mensa still just barely fits into the large group category.

CALENDAR: A TBM member has complained about calendar conflicts cutting down on event attendance; currently there is no restriction on event timing. Dan suggested the calendar grid mention the website.

CIRCULATION: A folder of postal regulations was provided by Dorothy at the reading group (she works at the post office). Another post office drop site will cost us \$60.

AUDIT: Because the checkbook was needed by the Treasurer to pay for Oktoberfest expenses, the audit was delayed.

MEMBERSHIP: New members have been contacting Maxine, who reported that Frank Clarke is happy to send out Crewe Lists and welcome letters to new members; Maxine will follow up.

TESTING: Barbara Counts held a testing session at Oktoberfest. She will hold another one in St. Pete on November 19. Frank Clarke's paperwork for proctor recertification has been submitted to Mensa's National Office.

WEB: We need to remove the Oktoberfest ad and put up new Regional Gathering information. Ronan will talk to Ellen Berry about this.

REGIONAL GATHERING 2006: Dan has lined up a hotel, but the paperwork hasn't yet been signed. He also prepared a time line; we'll need to send forms to Mensa's National Office in November. Sylvia has tentatively agreed to honcho, provided other people cover hospitality and games; she'll contact potential candidates for those positions.

NEW BUSINESS: Kathy wondered if we wanted to offer a reimbursement minimum for events. Thomas suggested we think about this and address it at the next meeting.

NEXT EXCOMM MEETING: December 17 at 3 pm at Dana's. The Annual Meeting and holiday party will follow at 7 pm and 7:30 pm respectively.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

**AMENDED PORTIONS OF THE MINUTES FOR TAMPA
BAY MENSA'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING -
AUGUST 14, 2005**

* **REPORTS:** Dan wanted to shorten reports in order to shorten the meetings.

* **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Richard wanted to suggest to National that for an additional fee National might hunt for previous evidence for people.
- Dana suggested using an agenda to avoid ill-advised last minute additions.
- **PAYPAL:** Richard was concerned that we get less money from PayPal than for cash; Dana pointed out that every company deals with this. Barbara thought we'd pick up extra registrations with PayPal. Sylvia suggested we could offer a discount for cash.

ANSWER TO NOVEMBER CRYPTOPOEM

You may not believe it, for hardly could I:
I was cutting a pumpkin to put in a pie,
And on it was written in letters most plain
"You may hack me in slices, but I'll grow again."

I seized it and sliced it and make no mistake
As, with dough rounded over, I put it to bake:
But soon in the garden as I chanced to walk,
Why, there was that pumpkin entire on his stalk!

--Robert Graves

HILDEGARD – A PLAY (PART THREE IN A SERIES)*Carl S. Hammen*

Scene: Rhineland, Germany, the garden outside the monastery of Saint Disibod, Autumn 1146. It is ten years since Jutta dies, and Hildegard became mistress.

ACT II, Scene 1

Enter Hildegard, 48, and Richardis, 36.

Hildegard: At last, I have found the location for our new convent. It is the old monastery at St. Rupert's Mountain, just across the river from Belgium.

Richardis: But Hildegard, that place was abandoned long ago. There is only a ruin there now.

Hildegard: We will rebuild it. If Abbot Kuno will release the dowries of the girls who want to move with me, I will hire skilled workmen from Bingen, and immediately start the renovation. And it will go rapidly, if he also sends Father Volmar to serve as provost, and help me with the planning.

Richardis: I doubt that will ever happen. You know that the Abbot really wants to keep you here at Disibodenberg. He is aware that the fame of your prophetic visions has spread. This fame has greatly enhanced the stature of his monastery. And I think that he would like to keep the money that the novices have brought.

Hildegard: If Kuno does not relent, and change his mind soon, I shall appeal to higher powers. This dream of a new convent must be realized, or I will simply sicken and die.

Richardis: *Ach! Nein!* Hildegard, please do not say that you will sicken and die. The thought makes me ill. I would wish to die with you.

Hildegard: Richardis, you are a dear friend. Do not worry. Only the good die young. And we are neither. What is that manuscript in your hand?

Richardis: I just remembered. A letter for you was delivered this morning. I will leave you to read it in privacy.

(Exit Richardis)

Hildegard: *(Alone, reads letter aloud, translating with difficulty.)* Dear Hildegard, I hope that you are in good health, and I hope that your writing and music are going well. *(Aside)* My Latin is so weak. I wish that he had written in English. *(Reads)* One of the brothers has returned from Rome. He said that Eugenius will go soon to the synod at Trier, and that he is expected to approve publication of your work. Is this true? *(Aside)* He knows more about my work than I know. *(Reads)* On my return to England, I found the country in a sad state under King Stephen. I stayed in the security of the abbey, attempting to translate some of the Arabic manuscripts that I had collected. Then Matilda and Geoffrey of Anjou invaded. The nobles chose sides, and lawlessness became even more common. I wanted very much to return to the Rheinland, and see you again, but travel without armed escort was impossible. *(Pause, aside.)* I suppose that is a valid excuse. *(Reads)* After some order was restored, I was asked to tutor Matilda's little Henry. Fortunately, he was a good student. I believe that, someday, he will be our King. I regret that my return is now indefinitely postponed. Farewell, my fair and wise lady. With all my love, Adelard. *(Hildegard sits, stares into space.)*

(Enter Richardis.)

Richardis: What was in the letter, Hildegard?

Hildegard: I long to tell you the truth, Richardis, but the letter is highly personal. Alas, I cannot speak about it now.

(Exeunt.)

(To be continued in next month's Sounding.)

FOURTH FRIDAY MADNESS – OCTOBER 28

Phoebe McCann

SHORTLY AFTER WE WERE SEATED at our table at the Olive Garden in St. Petersburg, it began to drizzle. Oddly, I didn't even notice it at first. The second or third time I felt a spritz I looked around me but no one else appeared to be aware of anything untoward. Again, I felt rain and this time I looked down and saw droplets on my blouse. Feeling somewhat like Alice, casting about for the Looking Glass, suddenly I noticed that **Bob Topper**, seated across from me, was grinning maliciously. Several others by this time were looking suspiciously at their clothing and each other. **Linda Luchenbach**, seated next to me, had obviously had a bird bath as well. Finally Bob displayed a water pistol and we all had a good laugh. He'd brought Halloween orange creamsicle lollipops for all so we found it easy to forgive him. **Dan** and **Phoebe McCann** had brought table decorations and goody bags full of various candies for everyone.

Bob Luchenbach is a computer consultant and flies a plane as well according to the photo on his business card. Linda has a pet sitting service called, "Happy Tails." They live in Trinity, FL so if you can utilize their services, by all means, give them a call (727) 375-2666. Bob was in a political frame of mind and informed us that in his opinion Scooter Libby did not "out" Valerie Plame as a CIA agent. Rather, he said, she'd been ousted from her agent's status by the CIA three years before and had been working a desk job as a secretary. He said Karl Rove was not a bad guy. I had to laugh when Bob Topper asked so if Bush is such a great prez, how come there has been record inflation during his "regime" (my word) whereas Clinton had balanced the budget? This brought about some foaming at the mouth from Bob L. who asserted that 1) Bush SENIOR had been responsible for balancing the budget and that Clinton had merely stepped in and taken credit for the work and 2) Clinton spent all his time spewing semen all over the oval office to the point where the junior Bush had to rip out the carpet, board up the closet and completely redecorate the room.

Thankfully we managed to get onto a gentler subject somehow. I'd been asked if I wanted someone to give him an elbow in the ribs because way back when I'd forbidden political and religious wrangling but I said that I'd backed off that stance. If people wanted to spend a meeting arguing instead of eating and just talking, who was I to put a damper on their spirits? I draw the line at fisticuffs.

Because Dan and I still go back to Vermont in the summer (he's from New York City but has managed to adapt) someone asked what people did as far as industry and for amusement. I said it's a dairy state so there are a lot of cows. There are also lots of sheep, goats, alpaca and llamas. Amazingly, llamas are bred to herd sheep. You can take a two-year-old llama that has never even seen a sheep, bring it to a farm and turn it loose in a pasture and it will round up every single sheep without any training whatsoever. It's a genetic thing, apparently. One llama can guard up to 200 sheep and there is no animal that would normally prey on a sheep (like a coyote, fisher cat, pack of dogs, whatever) that will even dare to take on a llama. A llama will kick it to death. If you think I'm kidding, look up llamas on the internet and you'll be amazed. They do have some unpleasant habits such as spitting on people they don't like but you can't have everything. They are members of the camel family, after all. I know a lot of women who have herds of sheep. Some of them even do their own shearing. They wash and dye the wool, then pick and card it, (some by hand although rotary carders are wonderful things to have) and then spin the wool to get it ready for knitting and crocheting. I've actually taken a short course in spinning and believe me, it's far more difficult that it looks. I had been contemplating buying a spinning wheel (around \$350 for a low end model) but then decided that since I wouldn't even be wearing the end product it just wasn't worth the effort or expense. Even the wool is expensive!

Moving right along, now that I've thoroughly bored you to death, **Nancy Smith** was there and I'm pretty sure it was her first visit. If not, I hope she'll (gently) correct me and give me her email so that I can put her on my reminder list for future visits. **Paul Sharp** supped with us as well and he was a newbie. We hope you'll come again too, Paul and give me your email. **Thomas Thomas** arrived a bit late but had a good excuse... gotta get that *Sounding* to the printer! Earlier in the day I'd had a call from someone named Jeff who had said he was coming but he was wearing his invisible cloak in honor of Halloween, apparently, because I didn't see him. Terri Elston must have been similarly attired because despite her positive RSVP, I didn't see her either.

Phoebe McCann

GAMES & GOBBLING – NOVEMBER 12

Sylvia Zadorozny

NOVEMBER'S GAMES & GOBBLING AT **Sylvia Zadorozny's** began with one of **Delphine Jenness'** favorite games, *Taboo*. **Ronan Heffernan** amazed us all by getting seven points twice!, but **Richard Manno** was "most improved" between rounds (don't ask what he got the first time). Universal guesser **Don Davis** looked exhausted and bowed out when *Taboo* was over, just as **Dana Groulx** arrived to take his place. **Barbara Loewe** suggested *Super Quiz*, and **Kathy Zadorozny** recorded teams' scores. Everyone was having so much fun that nobody noticed when the game should have been over several turns ago!

Next we split up to play *Nameburst* in the living room and *Boggle* in the kitchen. I was among the *Boggle* players enjoying being distracted by *Nameburst* clues we overheard, and we agreed to ignore penalties for challenges and non-words, ending the game after everyone shook the cubes once. We were about to start *TransAmerica* in the kitchen, but the living room finished *Nameburst* just then so we rejoined them for *Times Up*. **Bo Bruen's** tsunami became the definitive clue for (Tidalwave Monsoon) Vidal Sassoon throughout all the rounds of that game. **Dave Goodrich** had a hard time understanding **Thomas Thomas's** southern accent for "writer", and **Maxine Kushner's** chest-beating for "Me Tarzan, you ... Jane Fonda!" almost left her injured.

Finally, players requested a game that didn't require any thinking, and we decided on the board game version of *20 Questions*. One team proved that thinking wasn't required when several turns running they managed to pick "Lose your turn" on their first guess! It was 3 a.m. when we finished, so everyone headed out, a little sleepy, but smiling!

ANSWERS TO CAPITAL CITIES (from page 8)

1. 39	11. 5	21. 21	31. 17	41. 7
2. 10	12. 13	22. 36	32. 30	42. 48
3. 15	13. 25	23. 47	33. 42	43. 11
4. 29	14. 35	24. 49	34. 24	44. 16
5. 2	15. 31	25. 14	35. 19	45. 40
6. 20	16. 9	26. 3	36. 37	46. 23
7. 32	17. 22	27. 28	37. 4	47. 38
8. 43	18. 45	28. 8	38. 34	48. 41
9. 26	19. 50	29. 46	39. 12	49. 1
10. 27	20. 18	30. 33	40. 6	50. 44

KICK IRRATIONAL by Brian Lord

www.KickComics.com



TBM BULLETIN BOARD

I was wondering if anyone out there in Tampa Bay Mensa-land was interested in hosting our Fold, Staple, and Mutilate (or attach Mailing labels) event in January. FSM is usually scheduled for fourth Sunday of the month at 3 p.m., but it is subject to change if another time would suit you better.

Sylvia Zadorozny, Circulation Officer
 (813) 855 4939 (leave message)
sylviachocolate@juno.com

SECTIONAL SOFA: Solid chocolate brown, \$85.00. SOFA: Light tan with blue abstract print also \$85.00.

Contact: Paul Sharp
 (727) 461 4979

We have some T-shirts left over from Oktoberfest. They are bright yellow with the Oktoberfest logo surrounded by the words "Tampa Bay Mensa" "Oktoberfest 2005". Even if you did not attend, this is still a T-shirt that you would be proud to have hanging in your closet.

We have sizes S,M,L,XL,XXL,XXXL available. The shirts are only \$10 each and will help offset the cost of the RG.

To purchase a t-shirt, send a check to treasurer Kathy Crum (address in the Sounding) and indicate whether you want the shirt mailed, or if you want to pick it up. You can save a step by getting a shirt directly from Sylvia Zadorozny at her next games night.

Dana Groulx

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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 header.)

(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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