

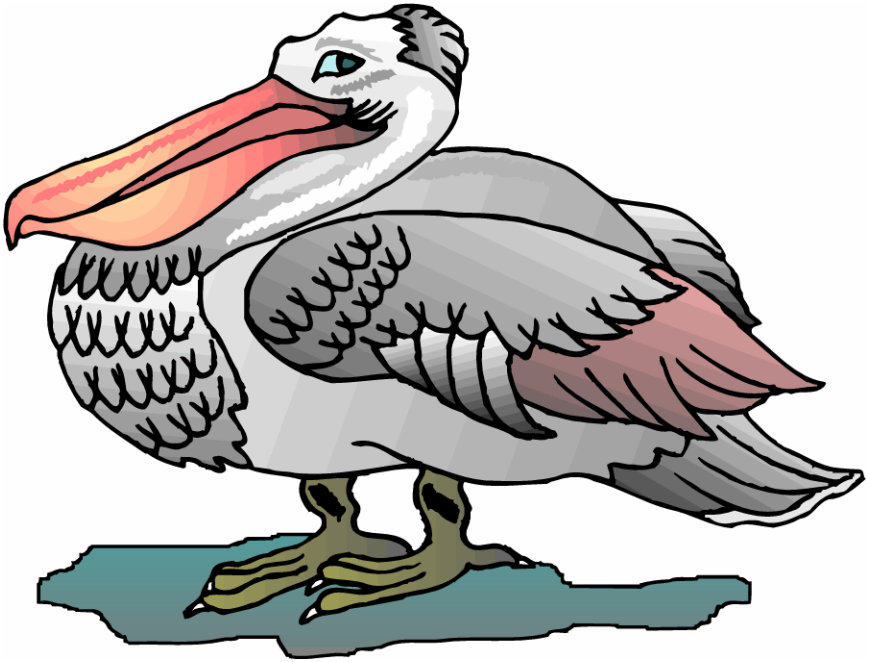


Tampa Bay Sounding

A Publication of Tampa Bay Mensa

Vol. 30, No. 12

January 2006



I RESOLVE...

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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WIDE GUY

Thomas George Thomas

THIS IS THE TIME OF year when many people make their New Year's Resolutions, and office

pools arise predicting how long people will keep those resolutions.

Of course the most common, especially after the holiday season of feasts and parties, is to lose weight. Theoretically, there's a very simple formula which doesn't require qualifications for Mensa to understand: Eat less, exercise more. Weight loss is so simple. (In theory.)

Even people who don't want to lose weight may make resolutions to become more active. After all, I don't know anyone who has resolved to watch more television. But it's easy to fall into old patterns, and Mensans can admittedly be a sedentary bunch, where the activities tend towards the *non*-active, such as dinners and discussion groups. Which is fine; these are fun, intellectually stimulating events. But we have many members who aren't participating because they have a preference to being on the move.

So why not make a resolution specific to getting more active? We're trying to develop more active events for the Calendar, starting with the Busch Gardens Outing which began last month. There's plenty to do in the park, and a lot of space to walk while talking and observing all the people and other animals.

Do you have any ideas for active events you'd like to host or participate in, such as bowling or dancing? Let us know if you've got any favorites in mind.

Even if you're not looking for activity *per se*, you could make an easy resolution to become more involved in Mensa this year. We have elections coming up, our Memorial Day RG, a World Gathering in Orlando, plus Games, Card and Trivia nights, a reading group, breakfast, lunches, dinner...

And even if you would rather not participate in a public venue, many of you have listed "Writing" among your Mensa interests. Make a resolution to write an article for the *Sounding*!

WELCOME TO TAMPA BAY MENSA!

William D Allen
 Lloyd Allan Cook
 Monica A Cutting
 Ronald Roy Dettmann
 Ernie Lawrence Hitte
 Patricia M Jankowski *
 Kyle C Lai *
 Rafael A Mendez
 Leland Wilson

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

KICK IRRATIONAL by Brian Lord www.KickComics.com



CRYPTOPOEM

Sylvia Zadorozny

OMNIOD ALGZARMA G EOLA RSRA,
 KIN JT OIRN'W MEOUYSJOR'W WGWNAU'W WSR
 EAOUZ O VSDGMAJOR, SR EGW KAON,
 WOT NS O ESIWAJOGZ GR ZSYRGRX WNUAAN
 NEON EA EOZ O KUSNEAU, YES EOZ O HUGARZ,
 YES FRAY YEAR NEA YOU YOW XSGRX NS ARZ.

--"UIJSUW" KT UAXGRODZ OUFADD

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Margaret Argudo, Jerry Merchant
- 2 John Wallace Hamilton, Mary Anna Muka
- 3 Ryan Kao
- 4 Betty Sue Taylor, Ronald Roy Dettmann
- 5 Lawrence Jay
- 6 Susanna Summerfield Shea, Col Rick David Craig
- 7 Glenn Edward Best, Federico Agnir
- 8 Patricia Arline Johnston
- 9 Stanley Pleban
- 11 Robert Sidney Quinn III, Helen Martin Parramore,
John Gove, Russell Brown
- 12 Julie Anderson, Partmiss Mojallal, David Bruce Goodrich,
Alonzo Cobb Jr
- 14 Robert Luckenbach, Ronald Baker
- 17 Marvin Ivey, Leland Wilson
- 20 George Zadorozny, Jessica Cameron
- 21 James Perry, Rowen Suarez
- 23 Theresa Hohmann, Patrick Rhodes
- 24 Brett Husselbaugh, Joni Michelle Fisher, Anthony Ferrara
- 25 Michelle Kurtz, Louise Catherine Kelly
- 26 Robert Young
- 27 Marsha Patterson Raymond, Gary Posner
- 28 K E Schneider, Patricia Oldfield, Robert John Murrin,
Ben Gronek
- 29 Lloyd Allen Cook
- 31 Leslie Shade Jr

JANUARY MENSAVERSARIES

38 Years	Maryl Brayton Curry
31 Years	Jerry Merchant
26 Years	Benito Enriquez
22 Years	Bonnie Wilpon
19 Years	Grant Clifford Logan
14 Years	Karen Hamlin
13 Years	Ryan Kennedy
12 Years	Ron Austin
9 Years	Patrick Bastien, Nelson Crowle, Steven Michael Graves, Roger Preslar
8 Years	Dave Bryant, Michael Allen Perry
6 Years	Martin Jenns, Robert Teasdale
5 Years	Devlon Buckner
4 Years	Ruby Leah Agnir, Alvin John Bedgood, Thomas George Thomas, Thomas Vena
3 Years	Susan Gardner, Mikael Magnusson, Barbara Jean Rambow, William Michael Schneikart
2 Years	Lloyd Allen Cook, James Joseph Dowling, Susanna Summerfield Shea, Robert Young
1 Year	Warden Beebe, Marston John Hawkins, Gene David Heath, John McDonald, Robert Pressner, James Rotunda, Noelle Stillman

** 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 A NEW YEAR AND time for new beginnings, so let's limber up with a little mental exercise. Can you identify the language of each New Year greeting and then number these by the order in which each country's capital greets the New Year? (*Answers on page 25*)

1. Gelukkig nieuw jaar! _____
2. Nouvelle année heureuse! _____
3. Glückliches neues jahr! _____
4. Καλή χρονιά! _____
5. Nuovo anno felice! _____
6. Ano novo feliz! _____
7. С НОВЫМ ГОДОМ! _____
8. Feliz año nuevo! _____

Now that your gray matter is warmed up and ready to go, can you think of any resolutions you'd like to tackle? There's the old stand-by, that most popular aspiration according to most surveys: lose some weight. Probably not a bad idea for many of us. But, how about this? Why not resolve to become more involved in local Mensa activities? If we haven't seen you at any events or you've recently been occupied elsewhere, perhaps you'd enjoy spending some time with us. We'd be happy to see you! Personally, I'm hoping some more physically active events will be scheduled. We really should take advantage of this beautiful (at least for nine months) climate. Guess that ties in with the most popular resolution after all...

We're still looking for three volunteers to form an election committee, so if you're interested, please contact me.

Registration for this year's RG, Sense and Mensability, is open. In fact, the sooner you register the better as the biggest discount ends shortly. Registration is \$65 until February 14 and will then go up each month until it caps at \$85.

Until next month,
Maxine



APPEAL FOR HELP: SCRIBE NEEDED

Dan Chesnut

IN OBSERVING TBM VOLUNTEERS OVER the years I have noticed that some enjoy long term commitments to a position while others are more comfortable delving into a job on a relatively temporary basis and then moving on to another task. I tend toward the latter category myself, having been Proctor Coordinator for a few years, Election Committee chairperson a few times (a very short time commitment), host for FSM and a few other events, and most recently, honcho for an RG. Actually, my most recent job is what I am doing right now: Recruiting you to be scribe for the ExComm for a period of one year and take minutes for us.

Please hear me out about this! At present, we have identified a problem with the work of taking minutes in that one of the members of ExComm has had to juggle meeting participation – which requires some concentration – with taking notes, and this is not fair to that member. In the past, the Scribe has been able to devote full attention to taking minutes while each member can participate fully in the meeting. It may seem like a small job, but the scribe is right in the middle of the key business discussions of TBM. It may seem a minor job, but is certainly not a thankless job.

ExComm meets six times a year, so we are asking for a commitment from you of only six meetings. At the end of your term, you may continue if you like, or you may move on to other tasks and we will thank you for your contribution. You may even – and I say this in all seriousness – find the ExComm interesting enough to want to join. Elections are in June. You can't tell from reading the minutes, but our meetings are never dull.

Please contact me at dchesnut@tampabay.rr.com or call **Maxine Kushner** at (727) 841-6043, and thank you in advance for your consideration of this much needed short term position here in Tampa Bay Mensa.

PHILOSOPHICAL QUOTATIONS

*Maxine Kushner**

New Year, new resolutions, reflections upon big ideas. Can you identify who said what? Answers on page 29.

1. Cogito ergo sum (I think therefore I am). _____
2. The good of the people is the chief law. _____
3. Science is the great antidote to the poison of enthusiasm and superstition. _____
4. The greatest happiness of the greatest number is the foundation of morals and legislation. _____
5. Poetry is more philosophical and more serious than history, for its statements are in the nature of universals, whereas those of history are singulars. _____
6. Out of the crooked tree of humanity no straight thing can ever be made. _____
7. All noble things are as difficult as they are rare. _____
8. No more things should be presumed to exist that are absolutely necessary. _____
9. There is perhaps no phenomenon which contains so much destructive feeling as 'moral indignation', which permits envy or hate to be acted out under the guise of virtue. _____
10. The State is not 'abolished', it withers away. _____
11. Truth is the cry of all, but the game of few. _____
12. The total effect of the culture industry is one of anti-enlightenment... the progressive technical domination of nature, becomes mass deception and is turned into a means for fettering consciousness. _____
13. The unexamined life is not worth living. _____
14. If a man will begin with certainties, he shall end in doubts; but if he will be content to begin with doubts, he shall end in certainties. _____
15. Every instant of time is a pinprick of eternity. All things are petty, easily changed, vanishing away. _____

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

THE TENTH STORY**(RVC COLUMN FOR REGION 10) – JANUARY 2006***Maggie Truelove*

HAPPY NEW YEAR! THAT SEEMS odd to say, as it is not yet Christmas when I am writing it. In fact, I am writing this from Arizona, shortly after the 4th quarter AMC meeting. One thing that was a point of concern to many of you at this AMC meeting was the motion to begin an "Angel Fund" at the national level. Those of you who communicated your feelings to me will be pleased to know that the motion failed. Even so, from time to time there are members unable to pay dues who would benefit from some assistance. These members may be elderly or those with unexpected medical or other catastrophic expenses. Many of these members are folks who have given many volunteer hours to the organization. Hopefully more of our local groups will take it on their shoulders to assist such members. I encourage you to consider this.

Project Inkslinger is gearing up for major involvement with restocking libraries around the gulf region when they are rebuilt. The national coordinator told the AMC that he knows that many local groups have an Inkslinger coordinator, but he doesn't have their contact information. To build this network, if your group has someone doing Inkslinger, please either let the national office know, or let me know and I will pass it on.

For National Testing Day, Region 10's results were disappointing. The region with the most candidates tested within the testing window tested more than 200. Region 10 tested the least of any region, with 53 candidates. I credit this poor showing to the fact that 1/3 of our groups were seriously affected by Wilma just before this testing. We will do better next year!

Many of our groups received a notice from National Office that it was time to review the bylaws and bring them into compliance with minimum standards as needed. Let me know if you need any assistance with this review and revision.

Next month is Valentine in Destin, Florida, up in the panhandle. Details are available on their website (Northwest Florida) and on the

Region 10 website (*region10.us.mensa.org*). And coming up in April is the next MindGames, this time in Portland, Oregon. Details are available on the national website.

Congratulations are in order for Howard Prince and the IT team at the national office. The website has received a national award for excellence. Kudos!

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

Dolores Puterbaugh, LMHC, PA

Licensed Mental Health Counselor
providing holistic, confidential
services.

801 West Bay Drive, Suite 416
Largo, Florida 33770
The Wachovia Bank Building

Member:
ICSPP, Mensa, TNS, ACA, SMHCA

Services include:

- Individual counseling
- Family & couples counseling
- Anxiety, depression, grief
- Stress, anger
- Personal growth/development
- Consulting/Coaching services

727-559-0863
puterbaugh@mindspring.com
balancedlifestylecoaching.com

0906

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

Robert J. Murrin

Stamps, Coins, Covers, Tokens
Militaria, Gold & Silver, Quohogs
Most Things of Value: Real or Imagined

(727) 345-8639
murrin@gte.net

P.O. Box 10100
St. Petersburg, FL 33733-0100

0106

NEW AND UPDATED WEB SERVICES

J. Howard Prince

IN AN ONGOING EFFORT TO bring members together online and around the country, we're happy to announce an expansion of the online member directory and improvements to online address and information updates!

- **MEMBER PROFILE**

(www.us.mensa.org/profile and www.us.mensa.org/PDQ)

If you haven't been to the Web site recently, we've updated the way we collect address and information changes. You may recall the days of updating your address online when you weren't really sure what address or phone number we had on file. By visiting www.us.mensa.org/profile or by clicking "Members," then "Member Profile," you'll have immediate access to your member information as on file at the National Office. This information includes address, phone and email, privacy releases, PDQ responses, and a few new fields -- related to your employment and education -- that we hope we can use to bring members together online.

You'll want to note that we standardize addresses and phone number formatting. Standardizing addresses maximizes discounts for Local Groups and national mailings. Also, note that updates received at the National Office via phone calls or the U.S.P.S. will usually post online within one business day of entry.

- **MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY** (www.us.mensa.org/directory)

We've transitioned the online membership directory to the new Web site, and with the transition, we've made a few improvements based on suggestions from members like you. If you've visited the directory before, you'll find that accessing released information is easier, and we've added searches by membership number (great when you need to verify information for gathering attendance or a local election), email address, occupation and interest!

Email addresses are now linked on the directory results pages, and if members provide Web site addresses, we'll link those there also. For those members who've chosen to release their Personal Data Questionnaire information, we're now displaying additional PDQ responses -- excluding the information we collect for statistical purposes only. As always, you can elect to not display information via your privacy releases on your "Profile Update" or via the PDQ.

****Please be aware that we provide the membership directory to facilitate personal, non-commercial communication between members and for the benefit of their Local Groups, a respective regional Mensa group, Special Interest Group or American Mensa, Ltd. Concerns regarding abuse of this information should be directed to OnlineAbuse@americanmensa.org.****

- **MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES**

I did mention "new" services, didn't I? Very shortly, we'll be debuting member biographies in the membership directory and the profile collection process.

Have you felt that the Personal Data Questionnaire responses didn't cover everything about you? We hope that the addition of member-provided biographies will help this along. By visiting www.us.mensa.org/bio or "Members," then "Profile Update," then "Biography Update," you'll have the opportunity to provide your own short biography and a paragraph about your involvement in Mensa. Also, you'll be able to upload a picture of yourself for other members to see on your directory results page!

If you decide that you don't want some information displayed in the directory, remember that updating your privacy releases is easy by visiting www.us.mensa.org/profile or www.us.mensa.org/PDQ. Look for your directory releases specifically.

If you have any questions or concerns about these new services, don't hesitate to let us know.

Best regards,

J. Howard Prince
Director of Operations, American Mensa, Ltd.
howardp@americanmensa.org 817/607-0060 x116

CALENDAR

January 2006

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.

January 4th & 18th - 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

January 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th - 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

January 7th & 21st - 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

January 11th & 25th - Wednesdays - 1:15 PM**MHunch (Mensa Humpday Lunch)**

Locations: ReeceCliff – Lakeland (2nd Wednesday)

Maxine's – Auburndale (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

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 Busch Gardens Outing 10:00 AM 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 3:00 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				

February 2006

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

January 12th - 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

January 14th - 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

January 14th - Saturday - 7:30 PM - \$2*Games Night*

Games & Pizza (to the tune of "Let It Snow!")

Oh, the games are quite delightful,
 And the Mensans so insightful,
 And the pizza tastes good, you know.
 Let us go, let us go, let us go!
 Oh, you're asked to smoke outdoors please.
 Petting cats is fine, just don't tease.
 Come and bring a friend or so.
 Let us go, let us go, let us go!

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

January 18th - Wednesday - 11:30 AM

Lunch Date with Vicky - Spring Hill

Jan. "Lunch Date with Vicky" will be at a "Mom & Pop" Italian restaurant in Spring Hill, "Guidos" on 7219 Forest Oaks Blvd., restaurant phone 352-688-1018. Reservations not needed, just show up & ask for the Mensa Table. They take cash, MC or Visa. No checks. Your Host will be Vicky Foust, entrepreneur, world traveler, & Queen of Chocolate.

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

January 22nd - Sunday - 3:00 PM

FSM

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 Thomas Thomas's house in Wesley Chapel.

Thomas Thomas - 813-994-3981 - FardleBear@aol.com
27647 Sky Lake Circle – Wesley Chapel (call for directions)

January 27th - 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

(calendar continued next page)

January 28th - Saturday – 7:00 PM*NTN Trivia (NEW LOCATION!)*

Location: Bilmar Station, 13150 N Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa, FL

NTN Satellite Trivia is a nationwide contest held in assorted restaurants and bars in our region. Three short rounds of five questions each are interspersed with breaks for conversation and socializing. **In 2006 we are moving** to a trivia-friendly sports bar called Bilmar Station in Carrollwood. Come join the party!

Thomas Thomas - 813-994-3981 – *FardleBear@aol.com*

2005 CAMPOUT*Chris Clement*

THIS WAS AS MUCH A science fair as a campout. **Chris Clement** collected data on a Peltier Junction (solid state) refrigerator/freezer module, **Caryn Nuzhet** tossed a Chinese boomerang that actually returned. I didn't know the Chinese were 1st with that, too! **Ted Dick** tried a standard Aussie one. We played with a big Fresnel lens, observed standing waves in a fast moving chain, wrestled with **Maryl Currie's** wire hoop tent, and learned about antlion "doodlebugs" from entomologist Caryn.

NOVEMBER FSM*Chris Clement*

PRESENT WERE TED DICK, CARYN Nuzhet, Maryl Currie, Sylvia Zadorozny, Richard Manno, Tom Handcock, Don Davis, Thomas Thomas and host **Chris Clement** with wife **Ginny**, who made sure food was good and plentiful. There was some uncertainty about starting time but things got underway at 2:30. We finished by 3:30 with so many participants. We listened to Bach, followed by traditional New Orleans Jazz. We discussed the Katrina disaster and related topics.

MINI MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AMERICAN MENSA COMMITTEE (AMC) - DECEMBER 3, 2005 – TEMPE, ARIZONA

APPOINTMENTS: **Ed Raper**, Gifted Children's Outreach Coordinator; **Alan Baltis**, Local Group Funding Task Force Chairman; and **Henry Miller**, Local Group Premises Feasibility Task Force Chairman. Committee Chairs appointed were: **Dr. John Sheehan**, Name & Logo; **Bob Beatty**, Structure Review; and **Dave Remine**, Hearings Review.

A new volunteer position was created for a National Events Hotel Consultant to assist in hotel consulting and negotiations, if requested by a group interested in hosting a national Mensa event. This position will be effective April 1, 2006.

The bid of the Denver Consortium to host the 2008 Annual Gathering in Denver, Colorado July 2-6, 2008, was accepted, subject to the receipt of Host and Hotel Contracts acceptable to the Executive Committee.

AMC members who are not members of the Mensa International Board of Directors (IBD) will be funded for two additional days in order to attend the official IBD meeting and activities at the World Gathering in August, 2006.

For the purposes of reporting income and expenses, local groups that exceed the IRS threshold for nonprofit organizations (currently \$25,000) in annual gross revenue shall be included in the financial activity of AML, for annual reporting to the IRS. Local groups that have been granted a separate IRS filing status shall report this activity to the IRS as required and also provide a copy of the IRS form to the Mensa national office. In the event of a local group hosting a national event (Annual Gathering, Colloquium, or other activity), it shall be included in the financial activity of AML or the Mensa Education and Research Foundation.

Policy for internet communications was amended to remove the ban on electronic versions of member directories for Local Groups, provided these are only available for download via the secure web site under the auspices of Internet Services.

The AMC will hold an annual planning session each year in Arlington, Texas, at the fall AMC meeting, beginning in 2007.

Proposed amendments to the Bylaws of American Mensa, Ltd. that will enable electronic voting will be submitted to a special referendum of the members.

The next meeting of the AMC will be March 24-26, 2006, in Greenville, South Carolina.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Vasiliauskas, Secretary, AMC

SENSE AND MENSABILITY

Sylvia Zadorozny

On Memorial Day weekend, (May 26-29), Tampa Bay Mensa will host its 2006 Regional Gathering (RG), entitled "Sense & Mensability" (Jane Austen may be turning over in her grave). If you register early you can save money, so make plans now to join in the fun!

We already have some programs lined up (and several other possibilities pending confirmation), but there's still room for more. If you have, or know of, a program or presentation we might use for the Regional Gathering, please contact RG Honcho Sylvia Zadorozny at sylviachocolate@juno.com or call 813-855-4939 (leave a message if you get the machine).

Indulge your Senses during a chocolate orgy, tai chi, wine tasting...

Discover hidden Mensabilities in a talent show, treasure hunt, etc....

Relax in 24-hour Hospitality, games rooms, heated pool, sundeck...

Although our Regional Gathering theme involves the senses, we're not limiting it to the traditional five – hearing, sight, taste, smell and touch. For instance, the tai chi presentation might represent "sense of balance", ESP would be the "sixth sense", and then there's "sense of humor", "common sense", "sensitivity training", "a sense of accomplishment", even "non-sense"! (You get the idea.) And Mensabilities could encompass all sorts of abilities of Mensans. Let's be creative!

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

Scene: Office of the Abbess, convent of St. Rupert, Spring 1147, six months after previous scene.

ACT II, Scene 2

Enter Hildegard, 49, and Eleanor of Aquitaine, 25, wife of Louis VII of France, en route to Palestine with him, as part of the Second Crusade.

Hildegard: I am so pleased that you could stop here, Your Highness. Our accommodations are very simple, almost Spartan, I fear.

Eleanor: *Quand on fait la Croisade, tous les lits sont agréable. Comprenez-vous?*

Hildegard: *Oui*, I understand. *Mais, je ne parle pas votre langue.*

Eleanor: *D'accord.* You are here at Bingen how many years?

Hildegard: Less than a year. That is why everything is so primitive. I sincerely hope that you will not be exposed to the horrors of warfare in Palestine. Are you not somewhat afraid?

Eleanor: One must accompany one's husband whenever possible, wherever he goes. Not only out of duty, but also to help him resist the temptations of the camp-followers. And, in addition, I have a troop of amazon cavalry that I must lead.

Hildegard: I think you are very courageous. Some of the lands between here and Palestine are not well ruled. It is dangerous to travel through them, even though the kings are supposed to be Christians.

Eleanor: I am not more brave than you, Hildegard. So far, I am enjoying the excitement of this expedition. Even when one has much money and power, Paris can be dull.

Hildegard: I wish that I could visit Paris some day. I have heard that there is a group of scholars there, striving to establish a university, like the one in Bologna.

Eleanor: That is news to me. I know only the nobles, and the tradesmen who want to sell me clothing and jewelry. What do these scholars do? Never mind, I know. They write long manuscripts that other scholars read and criticize.

Hildegard: Yes, you are correct, Your Highness.

Eleanor: *Je m'appelle Aliénor.* You wish to be one of those scholars, rather than an abbess, *n'est-çe pas?*

Hildegard: Yes, Aliénor. I would like to be able to travel, like the male clerks. However, I can write and receive letters. I just received a good reply from Pope Eugenius. He has granted me permission to copy and distribute my essay, *Scito vias Domini.*

Eleanor: Send me a copy. I will get a tutor, so that I can read it. I love poetry, but many of us in the court are far from literate. I am not asked to judge the quality of scholarly work. I am only expected to produce a crown prince. *(Pause)* I see that the nuns here are wearing white veils and tiaras. In other convents, I have seen only black clothing, and no jewelry at all. *Pourqoui?*

Hildegard: Our girls are all virgins. They come from noble families. Their dowries have enabled me to acquire this place and maintain it. My visions tell me that they deserve to dress in this fashion.

Eleanor: Are there no applicants of lower station?

Hildegard: Many are called, but few are chosen. It is not right to mix aristocrats and plebians. There is a definite hierarchy in the church, as there is in nature. One does not mix fish and fowl, or sheep and goats. Too much diversity leads only to jealous comparisons and conflict.

Eleanor: *Bien dit*, Hildegard. Some of us are born to lead, and others to follow. It is a pleasure to see these young girls dressed as brides. Here is *un petit cadeau* for you. (*Hands over a jeweled and embroidered court dress.*)

Hildegard: Aliénor, this is beautiful. *Merci beaucoup.*

(*Enter Richardis*)

Richardis: Excuse me, I was unaware that you had a visitor.

Hildegard: (to Eleanor) This is the finest nun in Rupertsberg, Your Highness. Her name is Richardis. I would be lost without her help.

Eleanor: *Enchanté. Comment ce va?*

Hildegard: Richardis, please show the Queen to my chamber. I will sleep in the dormitory with the novices tonight.

(*Exeunt Eleanor and Richardis*)

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

ANSWER TO DECEMBER CRYPTOPOEM

Consider the poor hippopotamus:
 His life is unduly monotonous.
 He lives half asleep
 At the edge of the deep,
 And his face is as big as his bottom is.

ANSWERS TO LOCSEC QUIZ (PAGE 7)

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|-----------------------|------------|
| 1. Gelukkig nieuw jaar! | Dutch | 5. Nuovo anno felice! | Italian |
| 2. Nouvelle année heureuse! | French | 6. Ano novo feliz! | Portuguese |
| 3. Glückliches neues Jahr! | German | 7. С Новым годом! | Russian |
| 4. Καλή χρονιά! | Greek | 8. Feliz año nuevo! | Spanish |

FOURTH FRIDAY MADNESS – NOVEMBER 25

Phoebe McCann

'Twas the night past Thanksgiving and all through the bar
 Many Mensans were ent'ring from sidewalk and car.
 As led to our table, **RICHARD MANNO** was talking
 About baptism while all of the rest were still walking.
 Did we who were Catholic remember, quoth he,
 From the Baltimore Catechism baptisms three?
THOMAS THOMAS said yes, there was water and blood,
 And "by desire" for those who were good.
 By water is dunking or pouring we knew.
 By blood is martyrdom suffered by few.
 But "desire," we asked, what could that be?
 It's for those before Christ so they couldn't believe,
 and those.....

Oh, phooley, this is too much like work. Enough already.

SYLVIA ZADOROZNY rolled her eyes in despair and **KATHY Z**
 was heard to moan into her salad. **TERRI ELSTON** was also
 moaning but it was because there were no beans in her soup! Two
 waitresses were huddled over my entree trying to decide if it was
 spaghetti with meat sauce or marinara. **CARL HAMMEN, TOM**
HANDCOCK and **DAN McCANN** were their usual quiet selves.

DELPHINE JENNESS and I said that if our former pets weren't
 going to be in heaven, we didn't even want to go anyway, baptism
 or no baptism. As for me, I certainly don't want to go to heaven if
 it's a place where people who bomb Jews spend eternity having
 sex with virgins on satin cushions. On the other hand, I don't
 want to sit around playing the harp all day either. Maybe they'll
 have a piano and guitar and lots of great books and films.

Speaking of films, Delphine recommended "The Station Agent,"
 "Stage Beauty" and "Million Dollar Baby." At the time I couldn't
 think of the name of it, but my current favorite is "Ladies in
 Lavender" with Judi Dench and Maggie Smith. ANYTHING with
 Judi Dench is always wonderful. "Tea with Mussolini" is an oldie
 but goody.

Just finished reading a kind of "what if" book about the Kennedy assassination the theme of which was ... suppose Kennedy had survived the shooting? It's called Promises to Keep. Very good read. Am currently engrossed in Robert K. Tannenbaum's funny and exciting police drama The Enemy Within.

For those of you who love good films and books but hate paying full price, may I direct you to www.half.com ? It's an off-shoot of EBAY but has only books, movies, TV series, video games and game systems and is not an auction. The prices are so low as to be virtually unbelievable. Furthermore, you can sell your own stuff there as well. Read it, keep it in good shape and re-sell it. How can you lose?

Since we've touched on the subject of heaven, I'll close with a cartoon that was in the "St. Pete Times" a week or so ago. Two cannibals are talking in the jungle with a volcano steaming in the background. One cannibal says to the other, "Am I the only one, or would you feel better if we invented an invisible, omnipotent being that controls our lives from inside the volcano?"

And Richard exclaimed e're he strode out of sight, "Baptism by meatball. To all a goodnight!"

Phoebe McCann

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ANSWERS TO "PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTIONS" QUIZ (from page 9)

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. René Descartes | 6. Immanuel Kant | 11. George Berkeley |
| 2. Cicero | 7. Benedict Spinoza | 12. Theodore Adorno |
| 3. Adam Smith | 8. William of Occam | 13. Socrates |
| 4. Jeremy Bentham | 9. Erich Fromm | 14. Francis Bacon |
| 5. Aristotle | 10. Frederich Engels | 15. Marcus Aurelius |

TBM BULLETIN BOARD

Some of you know that I am a 'wino' at heart. A local establishment in south Tampa is starting a series of wine dinners in January. They plan on two a month. They are to be three course dinners with 3 glasses of paired wines for \$35, plus tax and tip of course. I intend on trying a few/several and invite any interested parties to contact me if they wish to coordinate. Here are the links to more info:

Charlies Wine Cellar and Wine Bar

533 S. Howard - Next to Whaley's (813) 250-1967

email: wineguy@tampabay.rr.com www.charlieswine.com

Look forward to meeting a few other 'winos'.

Terry - wellsta@yahoo.com

SOFA: Light tan with blue abstract print \$80.00. SOFA: Solid chocolate brown, also \$80.00. Mensa ring may be considered for part payment.

Contact: Paul Sharp
(727) 461 4979 (voicemail)

This year's CultureQuest® will take place Sunday April 30th. Set your calendars and register your teams now. You can register online under Event Registration in the Member Resources area of the Web site at www.us.mensa.org/cq. CQ rules and application are available also.

For more information on CultureQuest®, contact CQ Chair Dennis Clinefelter at CultureQuest@us.mensa.org.

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 February. 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

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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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