



Tampa Bay Sounding

A Publication of Tampa Bay Mensa

Vol. 31, No. 3

April 2006



ANNUAL PICNIC - ST. PETE

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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LOCSEC'S REPORT

Maxine Kushner

HELLO TBMEERS!

THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS is renewals. Unless you've already renewed, or joined for multiple years or life, your membership year ended March 31. If you haven't had a chance to renew yet, now would be a good time. I renewed online, and it only took a few minutes.

https://secure.us.mensa.org/members/am_renew.php

Second order of business is the annual picnic. Due to Mind Games last April, we did not hold the picnic. It is back this year and in a new location, further south. We will gather at the VA park on Saturday, April 29. More information can be found in the calendar.

Third item is this year's RG, *Sense and Mensability*. We hope you will join us there. TBM's RG's are always very enjoyable. For information and photos of the hotel, follow this link: <http://www.ThatParrotPlace.com>

Fourth, we're still looking for a circulation officer and a third member of the election committee. Please contact us if you're interested.

Until next month,
Maxine

Dolores Puterbaugh, LMHC, PA

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WISE GUY

Thomas George Thomas

IT'S TIME FOR THE ANNUAL Picnic, and I hope you will take advantage of this great opportunity to become acquainted with your fellow Tampa Bay Mensans. Nearly 30% of our current membership are new, moved in, or reinstated since our last annual picnic in 2004, and we haven't met each other yet!

It took me a few dips into the pool to get involved in our local Mensa group. When I first moved to Tampa I attended the breakfast event and one of the dinner events, but in the process of getting settled in and acclimating myself to this sprawling city I didn't go to any more events for many months. At my first picnic a couple of years later I hung out on the sidelines a bit, but noted the wide range of friendly members; much more varied than either of my earlier experiences had led me to expect.

That year I met people discussing invention ideas and barbecue sauces, job hunting and game hunting experiences, board and party games, local municipal elections and other political subjects, and many other topics. These were all friendly discussions; those not interested wandered over to a different discussion. There were even people soliciting signatures for their nominating petitions for the upcoming TBM election (hint, hint).

This is a great chance to meet a wider breadth of our membership. For those who have come to one or two smaller events and felt that the people at that group represented TBM, this is an eye-opener. You'll probably meet several other people like you – parents and/or professionals, active and/or academic, young and/or single, etc. You may even meet that critical mass of like-minded members that allow you to start a new SIG!

Best of all, it's free! So join us for a fun time, become reacquainted with some old friends, or meet some new ones.

One other plug: We've got two Mensa qualification tests coming this month. Check the website (<http://www.tampa.us.mensa.org>) and tell your friends!

KICK IRRATIONAL by Brian Lord

www.KickComics.com



Tampa Bay Mensa's Regional Gathering

Sense & Mensability

May 26-29, 2006 (Memorial Day weekend)

Indulge your Senses with a Chocolate Orgy, Wine Tasting, Finger Painting, Tai Chi...
Discover hidden Mensabilities in an Improv Workshop, Treasure Hunt, Talent Show...
Learn from programs in Attention Deficit Disorder, Psychic Senses, Trash Bowl...
Meet Friends at Hospitality, Casual Games, pool & hot tub, ping pong & pool tables...

\$ Best Western All Suites Hotel \$
 3001 University Center Drive
 Tampa, FL 33612
www.thatparrotplace.com

All rooms are suites and include:

separate master bedroom and living room area with pull-out sofa
 wireless internet, two 25" cable televisions, and 2 telephones with voicemail
 microwave, fridge, in-room coffee, hair dryer, iron & ironing board

Special "MENSA" hotel rate is \$89 (+ tax) per suite for up to 6 people. (Bring your family or friends and split the cost of the room--double bed suites can sleep up to 6; king suites can sleep up to 4.) Last day to reserve at this rate is May 5, 2006.

Call 813-971-8930 or 800-786-7446 and mention "MENSA".

Sense & Mensability Registration Form

Prices: Only \$75 to 4/30/06
 \$80 to 5/20/06
 \$85 thereafter

Register early and save!
Meals included in registration!

Make check payable to:
Tampa Bay Mensa

Mail check to: Kathy Crum, Registrar
 7164 Quail Hollow Blvd.
 Wesley Chapel, FL 33544

Name(s): _____ Nametag(s): " _____ "

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

WELCOME TO TAMPA BAY MENSA!

Timothy James Caddell
 Leslie Case *
 Heather Chaudhry *
 Lee D DeCesare
 Richard E Duncan *
 Brian M Giordano
 Don Green
 Joseph Griffiths *
 Kaitlin Griffiths *

Maj George W Knickerbocker
 George R Martin
 Amy Mathes
 Carrie A Matteoli *
 Andrew H Maxim *
 James McCullough *
 Abdus-Sattar Abdul Nasser *
 Kenneth Dale Ravencraft
 Don Robinson *

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

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1 Susan Tharp
 2 Penny Ann Levin
 3 Sally Buffum Marnell
 4 Shoshana Shay
 5 Thomas William Reesor
 6 Sonya Horbelt
 7 Sylvia Zadorozny
 8 John Bailey, Brian Giordano
 9 Phoebe McCann, Bradley Price
 10 Gerald Thackham
 11 Joyce Liberty
 12 Peter Cohoon, Leigh Randall Freijo
 14 Steve G Van Kley
 15 Thomas R Buonomo
 17 Timothy James Caddell, Randall Greene
 18 Ryan Boyle
 19 Michael Becker
 21 Fred Wright Jr
 22 Kerry Lawson
 24 Talida Iancu
 25 Cindy Bethel, Gary Richard Blais
 27 Barbara Stetzko, Dr Lawrence Edward ("Bud") Urban
 28 Michael Mardis
 30 Gerry Alex Morfesis

APRIL MENSAVERSARIES

34 Years	Kathleen Marie Robinson
33 Years	Barbara Ray, Francis Wellman
32 Years	Peter Profiro
31 Years	Martha Miller Mallak
30 Years	Rush Miller
28 Years	Federico Agnir
27 Years	Keven Elizabeth McGinn, Edward Reasor
26 Years	Gerald Lundquist
25 Years	Jane Pattison, Duke Nordlinger Stern
24 Years	Phillip Grant Geisinger
23 Years	Frank Clarke
21 Years	Barbara Loewe
15 Years	Robert Allyn Frary, Mark Sawyer
14 Years	Lawrence Jay, Rafael Mendez, Kathleen Roulston Montemayor
12 Years	John Alfred Crandall, Gerard MacDonald
9 Years	John Kincaid, Bernard Joshua Spector, Erin Anne Wells
8 Years	Donald Mihokovich, Danielle Wingate
7 Years	Frederick Raymond, Linda Raymond, Joyce Simpson
6 Years	Dhyan Appachu, Sheila Moore, MSgt Joseph J Welch
5 Years	Robin E Burngasser
4 Years	Howard Berry, Lux Devoid, Patricia Tannuzzo Johnson Farnum
3 Years	Robert Morris Ayres, Elizabeth Genevieve Maguire, Dina Schlauch
2 Years	James Browning, Richard Mitchell, Chris O'Connor
1 Year	Mr Michael James Heckler, Robert A Hupp, Robert Parrish Kellenberger, Kevin Andrew Lawrence, Celeste Amelia Loar, Katherine Ogden, Diane Abrams Ross, Eric Scholz, Rowen Suarez, Thomas Szubka

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

EXPERIENCES AND IMPRESSIONS AT MY FIRST RG

Dan Chesnut

MANY OF YOU HAVE NEVER attended a regional gathering and may wonder what exactly they are like, and so for you, and for readers who may enjoy comparing your own experiences, I share mine with you.

I became a member of Mensa one May as one of TBM's regional gatherings was approaching, so it happened that my first ever Mensa event was that year's RG. It was out on St. Pete Beach and was called "Beach Bash." Registering for a weekend event with an organization I knew so little about was a bit of a plunge for me, but I like the beach and it sounded like fun at low risk. To be even more on the safe side, however, I chose to go home each night instead of staying at the hotel. More on that later.

I will never forget my notions of what to expect of Mensans, having only imagined for many years what Mensans would be like. Mensa is full of the most intelligent people there are. How would they act? What would they look like? What would they talk about? How would they react to me, should I ever get past merely looking around?

My primary preconception, albeit a facetious one, was that Mensans would be snowy haired, furrow browed academics rubbing their chins while pacing around looking downward in deep thought. At the very least they would be different from the usual beach hotel guests wearing shorts and flip flops.

What I found when I arrived at the hotel that first afternoon and went to the hospitality room was a bunch of people wearing shorts, flip flops – and name tags – grazing on snacks and, for the weekend as whole, participating in a wide variety of activities. No one rubbed their chin very much, and often then just to wipe away a cookie crumb or some pizza goo for the few who might have been overly enthusiastic in hospitality.

That RG was rewarding, motivating and positive, and made me want to attend again so much that I began to wish there were more than one each year. I found it easy to participate, as programs required only that I enter and sit down, and the games room had a big jigsaw puzzle being put together for anyone passing by to join in on. That's exactly what I did and in so doing made a friend with whom I spent part of the weekend and made arrangements to meet the next year. I met several local members that weekend, including some I made friends with over time, and yes that included at least some semblances of romance.

If there was anything wrong at that gathering it was my choice of staying at home each night and sort of testing the event to see how much I would like it. The first year I did stay at the hotel for the RG was much more rewarding. I think this was because of a better sense of camaraderie, being more easily able to choose to participate at odd hours at a moment's notice, and having more of a vacation feeling. By "holing" up with people I either knew or could connect with for a weekend and more or less making the rest of the world go away for that brief time, I gained a much better experience that brought me a lot of fun and good memories.

I remember coming home to my apartment building after having a great time at one of those early RG's and getting out of my car just as my upstairs neighbor was walking out. I was so jazzed up, and feeling so validated by the RG experience that I walked up to her, carefully drew her head toward me and kissed her on the forehead. Another year I was so enthusiastic about the armchair treasure hunt that I sat down when I got back home and immediately began designing one of my own. (I did not kiss it, but I am fortunate to have been asked to help write an armchair treasure hunt for this year's World Gathering in Orlando.)

I can't promise how excited you will be about an RG, but you won't know unless you try a few.

CIRCULATION OFFICER NEEDED

Maxine Kushner

Sylvia Zadorozny has enjoyed volunteering as our circulation officer, but she has many other commitments, including honchoing this year's RG. At some point in the very near future, she will handle circulation duties for the last time. We absolutely must find someone to handle this job.

So, what does the job entail? Every month, National sends labels for the newsletters. The Circulation Officer spends a few minutes sorting these. On FSM day, the CO brings the staplers, labels, P.O. boxes, and tape to the host's home. Several volunteers fold, staple, tape, and label the newsletters. The CO supervises and makes sure that newsletters are put in the correct boxes. FSM usually lasts about three hours. And even though we're working, it is also an enjoyable social occasion. The last duty is to take the newsletters to the post office within a few days after FSM. There is also a form that needs to be filled out once a year. Sylvia says the P.O. duties are not difficult, and, having attended many FSMs, I can attest that the work is not difficult, and a good time is had by all.

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

NEXT MONTH, MAY 26-29, MEMORIAL Day weekend, means one of the best Regional Gatherings around! Tampa Bay Mensa is putting on "Sense and Mensability" that weekend, and I for one am ready for an RG. I won't go into all the details here. You can find them all on the Region 10 website (region10.us.mensa.org), click on "upcoming region 10 events".

Recently a member of my local group wrote to the LocSec to complain that there weren't any activities in his area. I got involved and made some suggestions about how to host an event. I suggested that he go to the national member directory and find his Mensa "neighbors" by typing in nearby zip codes and then contact them. He did that. I suggested that he schedule a meal get-together at a nearby restaurant. He did that. To shorten a long story, 7 people had a great time at lunch and plan to get together again next month. The only reason I mention this is to remind all of us how easy it is to host an event on the calendar. It works!

I haven't seen many of you popping up on the Mensa Discussion Forums. It is a great place to meet and discuss things, without even having to get out of the bathrobe! <g> See you there! And if you don't see a topic of interest to you, just like hosting an event, start one!

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

The life you save – May Be Your Own!

We just moved to Florida, only to discover a health challenge.

My wife lowered her triglycerides by over 600 points, cholesterol 50 points, and weight by 17 lbs (now 118) and mine by 25 lbs.

See what she did! www.gocleanse.com/savealife

Call Mark 352-684-9705

CHOCOLATE ORGY

Victoria Foust

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I NEED you in *EVENING GOWNS AND TUXEDOS* to help *SERVE* Chocolate Goodies at the 2006 Regional Gathering on Friday May 26 at 9 p.m. at the "Chocolate Orgy".

We also need donated chocolate desserts, so bring your baked or bought chocolate items; cakes, pies, brownies, cookies, kisses, candy bars, etc.

Please email me at kfoust@tampabay.rr.com Let me know what chocolate item you are bringing and if you will be available to help serve.

Help make this event a big success!

Victoria, Queen of Chocolate

Ronald L. McDonald, Broker
Mensa Member 100172774
Chairman of Mensa SIG Entrepreneur Mentors

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CALENDAR

April 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 (813-732-2310) 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.

April 1st & 15th - Saturdays - 7:00 p.m. - \$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

April 5th & 19th - Wednesdays - 7:00 p.m.*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

April 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th - Thursdays - 12:30 p.m.*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

April 8th - Saturday - 11:00 a.m.*Busch Gardens Outing*

Note the new time (one hour later). The Crown Colony House doesn't open until 11:00 a.m., so that's the new time.

If you have (or want to buy) a Busch Gardens pass, come on out. 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 - 813-732-2310 - ronansan@gmail.com

April 8th - Saturday - 7:30 p.m. - \$2*Games Night*

No fooling, it's April, that time of the year
 When bunnies with Easter eggs hop far and near,
 The clocks all spring forward, it's tax time (oh dear!),
 And Mensans who like playing games gather here!
 I hope you can join us, but ask that you please
 Step outside to smoke, so that all breathe with ease.
 Three cats share my home (be forewarned if you'll sneeze),
 And no need to call up with RSVPs.
 So come out and play to compete or relax--
 I've all kinds of games, all piled up in high stacks.
 A card will determine your team--reds or blacks--
 Then join in the fun--playing games, munching snacks.

Sylvia Zadorozny - 813-855-4939 - sylviachocolate@juno.com

651 Timber Bay Circle West – Oldsmar (call for directions)

April 2006

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

May 2006

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

April 12th & 26th - Wednesdays - 1:15 p.m.*MHunch (Mensa Humpday Lunch)*

Locations: Mimi's – Lakeland (2nd Wednesday)

Elmo & Linda's Shady Oaks Café – Winter Haven (4th Wednesday)

MHunch is a series of lunches at various locations around the region. **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**April 13th - Thursday - 7:30 a.m.***Breakfast Gathering*

Breakfast Gathering, Village Inn at Walsingham Road in Largo, 7:30 a.m., 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

April 19th - Wednesday - 11:30 a.m.*Lunch Date with Vicky - Spring Hill*

This "Lunch Date with Vicky" will be at Anna Banana's Restaurant in Spring Hill, located in Mariner Town Square shopping center (restaurant address and phone number below). No reservations are necessary; ask for the Mensa table. Your Host will be Vicky Foust, entrepreneur, world traveler, and Queen of Chocolate.

Victoria Foust - 352-596-8242 – kfoust@tampabay.rr.comAnna Banana's Restaurant: 11061 Spring Hill Dr. –
Spring Hill - 352-688-0528**April 22nd - Saturday – 7:00 p.m.***NTN Trivia - Prime Time in Carrollwood*

Location: Prime Time Sports Grill, 14404 N Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa

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. We meet in Carrollwood at Prime Time Sports Grill, which puts the trivia games on a BIG screen! Look for the table with our mascot, Owlbert. Come join the party!

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

April 23rd - Sunday - 3:00 p.m.

FSM

This month's FSM is hosted by Maryl Curry in Dunedin. Everyone is encouraged to come help out. You can get your newsletter early! Hope to see you here.

Directions:

Take US 19 to Sunset Point. Go west to traffic light at Douglas Ave, turn right (north) to Union Street. Five houses north of Union Street (the Clearwater-Dunedin city line.) If you are proceeding north on Douglas Ave from Sunset Point, you are in Clearwater and the house numbers are in the 2000+ range. (The numbers start over at Union Street.)

From the north, find Main Street in Dunedin, proceed south on Douglas Ave - three blocks south of Dunedin Library - look for two story white house with garage and shiny metal roof. Park on "lawn".

NO SMOKING, PLEASE!

Maryl Curry - 727-733-1372 - marylc@earthlink.net

31 Douglas Avenue - Dunedin

April 28th - Friday - 6:00 p.m.*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

April 29rd - Saturday - 12:00 p.m.*Annual Spring Picnic*

It's time again for our Spring Picnic and Annual Meeting. All members and their guests are invited to War Veterans Memorial Park at Bay Pines in St. Petersburg. We will be in Shelter #2. TBM will be supplying hamburgers, hot dogs, and sodas, but feel free to bring a dish, dessert, or drinks. Note that no alcoholic beverages or firearms are allowed in the park. Dogs are allowed, and must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet. The picnic will run from noon to dusk, with the Annual Meeting starting at 3pm.

Directions from Tampa:

Take I-275 south into Pinellas County. Take Gandy Blvd (exit 28) west bound. This becomes Park Blvd. Continue west (sun to your left) on Park Blvd. about 6 miles and turn left at Seminole Blvd, just past Lake Seminole. Follow Seminole Blvd south about a mile. Take the right hand exit to Bay Pines Blvd, avoiding the exit to Madeira Beach. Drive about one mile on Bay Pines Blvd., past the VA Hospital, to the park on the right (south) side, just before a bridge.

Directions from northern Pinellas:

Take US-19 south. Take the ramp to Largo (SR-686) and bear left at US-19 N. Turn right and head toward E Bay Dr. Bear right at E Bay Dr. Turn left at Seminole Blvd. Follow Seminole Blvd south about a mile. Take the right hand exit to Bay Pines Blvd, avoiding the exit to Madeira Beach. Drive about one mile on Bay Pines Blvd., past the VA Hospital, to the park on the right (south) side, just before a bridge.

Information about the park is available at:

http://www.pinellascounty.org/park/23_War_Vets.htm

or by calling (727) 549-6165. If you have any questions about the picnic, please call:

Ronan Heffernan - 813-732-2310 - ronansan@gmail.com

War Veterans Memorial Park – 9600 Bay Pines Blvd. – St. Petersburg

April 29th - Saturday - 7:30 p.m. - \$2*Last Saturday Games Night*

Directions from Tampa and points south: Go north on Hwy 41. Six miles north of SR54, on the right-hand side, is a housing development called "The Groves Golf and Country Club". Turn into the development. After the guard gate, go to the first stop sign and turn right. Go to the next stop sign and turn right. Go one block and turn right onto Nectarine Place. Barbara's house is the second house on the left. Smoking is allowed outside, and there is one dog in residence.

Barbara Loewe - 813-968-3343

20810 Nectarine Pl. - Land O'Lakes

CALL FOR CANDIDATES TAMPA BAY MENSA 2006 ELECTIONS

Our annual TBM elections are in June, 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 four members of the Executive Committee will expire in 2006. These positions are currently held by Dan Chesnut, Kathy Crum, Richard Manno, and Sylvia Zadorozny. 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:

Pat Tuley (Election Supervisor)

10912 Carnelian Lane

Riverview, FL 33569

813-654-2259

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Your Name Here

(As of this writing, we are still in need of a third committee member – please contact Pat Tuley 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 Monday, May 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:

Pat Tuley (Election Supervisor)
10912 Carnelian Lane
Riverview, FL 33569

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE ELECTION

Ballots will be counted at the June 2006 Election Committee Meeting. The exact time and location will be announced in the June issue of the *Sounding*. Ballots will be printed in the June 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 June *Sounding*. Complete details of the voting method will be published with the ballots.

ANSWER TO MARCH CRYPTOPOEM

The codfish lays ten thousand eggs,
The homely hen lays one.
The codfish never cackles
To tell you what she's done.
And so we scorn the codfish,
While the humble hen we prize,
Which only goes to show you
That it pays to advertise.

--anonymous



***SENSE & MENSABILITY* RG UPDATE**

Sylvia Zadorozny

PLANS FOR *SENSE & MENSABILITY*, TAMPA Bay Mensa's Regional Gathering (RG), are progressing nicely. Several of us on the RG committee met at the hotel recently and learned that our hotel rep is working with her contacts at local attractions to see if they can send us any programs. In the meanwhile, here's a sample of sense-ational programs we already have lined up:

- Bonnie Wilpon, games maven, will have lots of tournaments and fun games to challenge or entertain us (sense of fair play).
- Victoria Foust, self-professed chocolate queen, is organizing a Chocolate Orgy, where we'll be served yummy chocolate confections in a formal atmosphere (sense of taste with a sense of decorum).
- Charles Godfrey, seasoned Tai Chi instructor, will lead us in morning Tai Chi exercises to get us moving and help our sense of balance.
- Michael Swiller, clinical nutritionist (DC, MS, CCN, DACBN), will present "Attention Deficit Disorder – Treatment Options" including symptoms, diagnosis, child & adult cases, and progress when untreated. (establish sense of self-control)
- Theresa Hohmann, teacher, will show kids how to race balloon boats in the swimming pool (sense of motion) and show kids (of all ages!) how to combine their artistic visual sense with the sense of touch during finger painting.
- Caitlin McDonald, actress, will conduct a fun Improv Workshop in the style of "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" (sense of humor).
- Terry Wells, wine connoisseur, will have us sampling fine wines, using our senses of smell and taste.
- We'll have a fun "Gong"-style talent show Sunday evening (this is Mensabilities, or maybe non-sense?).

Of course all this activity requires sensible sustenance. Your registration fee includes these meals (menu subject to change):

- Friday dinner buffet – salad with 2 dressings, southern fried chicken (white meat & dark meat), macaroni & cheese, collard greens, home-made mashed potatoes, country biscuits, unsweetened tea or lemonade, and peach cobbler for dessert.

- Saturday breakfast – pancakes or scrambled eggs & hash browns; breakfast sausage links; grits or oatmeal; toast, butter, fruit jellies; assorted cereals; milk, coffee, hot tea, and assorted juices.
- Saturday lunch either "on-the-town" or sandwiches in Hospitality.
- Saturday dinner buffet – salad with 2 dressings, meat or vegetable lasagna, breaded chicken parmesan, pasta with two sauces, Italian green beans, garlic bread sticks, unsweetened tea or lemonade, and double chocolate cake with chocolate frosting.
- Sunday breakfast – same choices as Saturday breakfast.
- Sunday lunch – sandwiches in Hospitality.
- Sunday dinner buffet – salad with 2 dressings, roasted sliced turkey, sliced glazed ham, sweet potatoes with brown sugar, corn bread stuffing, buttered corn, home-made mashed potatoes, brown gravy, cranberry jelly, dinner rolls & butter, unsweetened tea or lemonade, and key lime pie.
- Monday breakfast – scrambled eggs; crisp bacon strips; breakfast potatoes; fruit cocktail; toast, butter, fruit jellies; assorted cereals; milk, coffee, hot tea, and assorted juices.

Also, the Hospitality Suite will be open 24-hours a day for snacks and beverages.

This RG will be Tampa Bay Mensa's biggest event of the year. It's our group's main fund-raiser and THE place to meet other Tampa Bay Mensans.

Volunteer to be a part of it and become one of the "in" crowd. Simply email sylviachocolate@juno.com or call 813-855-4939 (leave a message) and let Sylvia know what you can do to help out. Thanks!

See you there!



FOURTH FRIDAY MADNESS – FEBRUARY 24*Phoebe McCann*

NEW MEMBER **LAUREN BYLSMA** ATTENDED. She is cute and appears shockingly young – she was carded in the lounge when we ordered wine before dinner! She is a graduate student and I think she said she's majoring in psychology. She managed to extract more information from **Thomas Thomas** about himself than I'd managed to do in many months. He grew up north of Denver and attended the University of Colorado. The company he was working for in New York moved their operations to Tampa. He had an apartment in Manhattan he was renting and he said he realized he could buy a nice house in Florida for less than he was paying in rent so he transferred to Tampa with the job.

We spoke of Ybor City. Thomas said when he first arrived in Tampa there used to be billboards advertising Centro Ybor that said, "More Culture... Less Subculture." He said, "Those guys just don't get it. Subculture *is* culture!" He asked Lauren why she'd chosen Tampa but the noise level was such that I didn't catch her reply.

The laughter at the other end of the table was so infectious; I was dying to be a fly on the wall! **Carl Hammen** has the greatest laugh and **Terri Elston** runs a close second. I think the male Terry – **Terry Wells** – must have been telling some great jokes down there. I heard my husband Dan McCann laughing a lot too and he doesn't tell jokes so I'm going to put the blame on Terry Wells. Dan did snitch on me though. Terri Elston said he told them I'd insisted on using my huge golf umbrella even though the rain had stopped because I didn't want the wind to muss my hair. (Too true, I'm ashamed to say.) She said he'd told them we have three sets of matching umbrellas; one in the car and two in the condo. Also true.

Somehow we got on the subject of theater tickets being so expensive in Sarasota, especially at the Van Wezel where Lily Tomlin recently had a one-woman show. Friends of ours and Dan and I wanted to go but the tickets started at \$49, and that was in the nosebleed seats. I don't know if you've ever been in that theater but the cheap seats are set at such an angle that you feel as though you're going to pitch forward into the orchestra at any moment. I've heard that it's been renovated so perhaps it's better now. I mentioned that the last time I'd been there was to see, "Il Trocadero." **Delphine Jenness** said she'd been traveling (I think in Canada) and saw a sign advertising a ballet that night. Not realizing what it was, she thought, "Oh, I like ballet!" and bought a ticket. When she discovered that it was huge men in drag in tutus and on point (on toe shoes), she had the same reaction I guess virtually everyone else does. It's hysterically funny and if you ever get the chance to see it, we both recommend it.

Don't know how we got on the subject of weight loss but I said that Dr. Phil had had a show where he insisted that men are attracted to women primarily by looks whereas women are equally attracted to voices. He proved this by blindfolding three extremely attractive young ladies who said they were visually motivated and sending them on dates with three young men. One of the men was completely bald. One was extremely obese. One was very short. All three complained that they could never get dates and in fact, could rarely even get up the nerve to ask women out. The women were very attracted to the men's voices and had a wonderful time on their dates and when asked, before they saw the men, if they'd like to see them again, all three said yes. When they saw the men, they simply couldn't believe it! These were men they never would have even considered dating under normal circumstances. I don't know if any of the relationships continued but Dr. Phil may follow up on it. I rarely get a chance to watch his show so let me know, please, if you hear anything. Thomas said he'd once had a relationship that lasted 8 months with a woman he'd "met" only by talking with her on the phone.

We also spoke at some length about the perils of driving in foreign cities/countries. The worst I'd tried were Naples, Italy and Puerto Rico. I think it was Carl said India was a nightmare because you're not only driving on the "wrong" side of the road but they drive 5 lanes of traffic on 3 lanes of road. Delphine said **Bonnie Wilpon** had been in Africa with someone who ran a red light and when she commented on it, he'd replied that red lights were just a "suggested" stop. People in France drive very fast but relatively safely and have bicycle lanes in the middle of the road which strikes me as sensible. I also appreciated the British signs painted on the curbs that said, "LOOK RIGHT!" which was obviously to alert pedestrians who drive on the right, not the way they do, on the left. (I still almost got hit, being a bit of a blockhead. The spirit is willing but the mind is somewhere else.) In Puerto Rico, I almost hit a pig which would have cost me a fine of \$600 and that was in the late seventies! Pigs provide the entire family food for many months and so are considered extremely valuable.

Terri Elston had just had to have her very elderly bob tailed kitty put down that day we were sorry to hear.

Carl, for some reason, said he thought Dan was a total prisoner of Phoebe and Terri sang, "Prisoner of love, baby."

The Flying Spaghetti Monster attended but nobody seemed to notice him except Thomas and me. He is going to be selling tee shirts and other paraphernalia and might even be willing to GIVE a tee shirt to someone who attends 4th Friday in full pirate regalia. Hmmm.

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THE TAMPA BAY PICNIC. IT'LL BE LOTS OF FUN!

Phoebe McCann, Empress of the Parallel Universe

MINUTES FOR TAMPA BAY MENSA'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - FEBRUARY 11, 2006

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

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Peggy Lachance (scribe).

The meeting was called to order at 4:11 pm.

The minutes were approved and we moved directly to reports:

LOCSEC:

- **Testing:** In March, we will be receiving an extra \$2.50 from national for each person tested, which will boost our revenues slightly. This windfall will be counterbalanced by a shortfall in proctors. The new certification requirements for proctors have been holding up new certifications. Existing proctors have until March 31 to recertify; the requirements and paperwork have proven to be daunting. Our existing proctors include Frank Clarke, who has just received yet another stack of papers to fill out. Rafael Mendez is another potential proctor who has not yet been certified. Barbara Counts has other obligations through April, so that it looks like May-June may be the earliest we can offer testing again.
- **National's Membership Promotion:** In April, National will examine prior evidence for free. There may be time to get a publicity release to local news media.
- **Election Supervisor/Committee:** Pat Tuley is the Election Supervisor. Peggy Lachance has volunteered to serve on the Election Committee. We will ask Kaye Ryan, who expressed an admirable interest in volunteering as scribe, if she will consider serving on this committee.
- **Picnic:** Phoebe McCann is handling the picnic arrangements. April 29 is the date for the Annual Membership Meeting, Picnic, and ExComm Meeting.

TREASURER: Kathy Crum presented the 2005 Final Budget Report. On a cash basis, TBM appears to have an overall loss of \$3,911.69 in 2005. However, because income and expenditures for Mind Games 2005 were spread over two calendar years (2004-2005), TBM has an overall gain of \$613.08 from year-end 2003 to year-end 2005. The new policy of reimbursing hosts for refreshments led to expenditures that were more than had been budgeted, but advertising income and proctor revenue were well above expected.

The 2006 Proposed Budget was presented. It includes an increased estimate for advertising income and proctor revenues. Interest income includes that of a \$10,000 CD which will come up for renewal soon, and we will be looking for better interest on that. Support from National remains the same, and subscriptions to the *Sounding* are expected to be the same.

Miscellaneous expenditures include the anticipated need to reprint member handbooks. Office supplies, miscellaneous postage remain the same as last year. Expenses for refreshments were set at the 2005 level. Scholarships remain the same at \$465. Printing costs and postage for the *Sounding* remain the same as 2005, but the net effect of the latest postage increase is not yet known.

The First National (Fifth Third) Checking Account with a balance of only \$100.15 had "dormancy fees" assessed incorrectly. This situation has been corrected, with the fees being restored. This account will be closed when the CD is moved to a different financial institution.

Thomas moved to accept the 2006 budget, Dana Groulx seconded, and the motion was approved with one abstention (Sylvia).

Kathy then presented the actual 2006 budget as of February 10, on which we were within expected ranges on all items. The RG'06 has already brought in 55% of that budgeted.

Richard Manno remarked how fortunate we were to have someone with Kathy's dedication to the budget, and everyone thanked her.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: There is a need for increased member-generated content submissions for publication in the *Sounding*. Thomas is thinking of reformatting the *Sounding*. Circulation is at its highest in the past year, but will temporarily decline in April until all dues are paid.

CIRCULATION: Due to other obligations, Sylvia cannot continue being Circulation Manager. Another volunteer must be found for this job, which is not taxing and requires only a limited once-a-month expenditure of time. Thomas will check with Office Depot to see how much they will charge to do the folding and stapling, which will reduce the job even further. Maxine will check on using a company that will do everything for us, from printing to mailing. A number of other local groups use this service and like it very much.

Dana Groulx will be hosting FSM on April 23rd. [Note: This has since changed. Please check the calendar for location of FSM.]

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR: Maxine suggested that individual letters be sent to new members by way of welcoming them, particularly for those

who do not have email addresses. She and Thomas will generate letters for those individuals.

GIFTED CHILDREN: Richard Manno reported that we were waiting for a call back to hear the results of a meeting held with Pasco County School Officials.

WEBMASTER: The Paypal account has been set up for the RG. Payments will need to be postmarked or paid via Paypal by the cutoff dates to get the discounted rate. There is a multi-tier discount in effect, so the earlier a payment is made, the better the discount.

A way to lower the cost of printing the *Sounding* would be to make it available online. If so, it would be advisable to password-protect the "membership content," and also names, addresses, and phone numbers of individuals mentioned in it. Thomas moved to protect the content of the Calendar and *Sounding*, Richard seconded, and it was approved with one abstention (Dan Chesnut).

2006 RG: The 2006 RG will be held on Memorial Day Weekend at the Best Western All-Suites Hotel near Bush Gardens (www.thatparrotplace.com). Sylvia Zadorozny, Vicki Foust, Richard Manno, and Theresa Hohmann met with hotel sales manager Heather Diczenco and checked out the facilities. Rooms have been updated recently, have microwaves, refrigerators, and internet connections, and include breakfast. Our package will include 3 dinners. The hospitality committee will only need to do lunch two days, with Saturday's lunch possibly on the town.

NEW BUSINESS: Sylvia reiterated the need to find a volunteer for Circulation Officer, so that she can spend more time honchoing our RG and coordinating Games/Tournaments for the World Gathering. It was suggested that she simply set a final date. Someone will have to volunteer, or the job won't get done!

NEXT EXCOMM MEETING: April 29, 2006 at the Annual Picnic

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

(Submitted February 20, 2006 by Peggy Lachance)

[Scribe's Note: Volunteering for these jobs is a great way to meet people and have fun, or, if you're shy, to meet not too many people and still have fun! It's normal for new members to think that you need experience, or some kind of knowledge, or a lot of free time, or to have been in Mensa for years, but that's not true! It's normal to think that there will be a "more qualified" applicant, but THERE WON'T BE! If you aren't sure, call or email us anyway so we can talk you into it!]

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IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES, please let us know four weeks in advance. Send your change of address, with membership number, OLD address, NEW address, and new/current phone number (even if it hasn't changed) to Tampa Bay Sounding, c/o American Mensa Ltd., 1229 Corporate Dr West, Arlington, TX 76006-6103.

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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.

SUBSCRIBE! — The subscription cost for local members is partially remitted from annual dues paid to American Mensa Ltd. *Tampa Bay Sounding* is available to other Mensans and to non-Mensans at an annual subscription cost of \$12.00. To subscribe, send a check, payable to Tampa Bay Mensa, to the Treasurer: Kathy Crum, 7164 Quail Hollow Blvd., Wesley Chapel, FL 33544-2525.

ADVERTISING POLICY: The *Sounding* offers free classified ads to Tampa Bay Mensa members for services, items for sale, jobs wanted/available, personals, etc. Ads should be no longer than 50 words. Classified ads need to be renewed on a monthly basis if you wish them to appear in consecutive issues. Tampa Bay Mensa and the *Sounding* are not responsible for the content of ads. All commercial ads are subject to the following rates: Full page - \$60; Half page - \$30; Quarter page - \$15. Members of Mensa pay half these rates.

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