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Spring Picnic

April 26th at John Chesnut Park
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- Personal attacks and bigoted, sexist, hateful, or otherwise offensive material will not be published.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:

E-mail: editor@tampa.us.mensa.org
(Please indicate "TBM" in the subject header.)
U.S. Mail: Ronan Heffernan, 27504 Breakers Dr, Wesley Chapel, FL 33544

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

Visit American Mensa at:
http://www.us.mensa.org

For full instructions on how to join tbm-gm and tbm-discussion, our two Yahoo! groups, visit TBM at:
http://tampa.us.mensa.org

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ADVERTISING POLICY: *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 *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.
Welcome to Tampa Bay Mensa!

Charis Barnard  
H Beaumont  
Robert Carpenter

Elizabeth Iadarola  
* Nathaniel Pierce  
* Molly Shadrick  
* New members.

April Birthdays

04/03  Paul Smith
04/04  Ted Carrier, Kenneth Kline, Shoshana Shay
04/05  Thomas Reesor
04/07  Marilyn Freeman, Sylvia Zadorozny
04/08  John Bailey, Bruce Bohnker
04/09  Mary Lou Clark, Donna Hamel, Phoebe McCann, Bradley Price
04/10  Gerald Thackham
04/12  Robert Carpenter, Peter Cohoon
04/13  Jared Siegrist
04/14  Lana LaForest
04/15  John Coppedge, James Gamble
04/16  Scott Kurland
04/17  Timothy Caddell, Robert Chiasson, Randall Greene, Michael Guilfoyle, Chris Lettre
04/19  Michael Becker
04/22  Kerry Lawson, Jay Myers
04/24  Talida Iancu
04/25  Gary Blais
04/26  Patrick Garrassant
04/27  Grant Dumas, Barbara Stetzko
04/28  Michael Sampson
04/29  Peter Grarup
04/30  Joseph Estaling
Volunteers and Events

One of the recurring themes heard in just about every Mensa local group is the need for more volunteers. Here in Tampa Bay Mensa, we’ve been fortunate to have wonderful dedicated volunteers who keep our group going, with a few volunteers even taking on multiple roles when needed. But too much work falling to any one individual risks losing that person to burnout. So some of us try to make sure no one individual carries too large a burden for too long.

Last year, Ronan Heffernan was not only Editor (the most time-consuming job in TBM), but also LocSec, Webmaster, host of the Reading Group, and ExComm member. To lighten his burden, this year I took on the LocSec job, Kevin Brawner is learning our website, and it looks like we might have a new volunteer for the editor position. I hope it works out and Ronan finally gets a well-earned break.

Another hard-working volunteer has been Art Schwartz. He’s currently Circulation Officer, as well as Deputy LocSec, Calendar Editor, and ExComm member. Unfortunately there’s a chance Art may have to move away for his real world job. So, just in case, we’re looking to train a replacement Circulation Officer. (His other Mensa jobs don’t really require training.) If you’re willing to help the group out here and learn a little about how the Post Office deals with periodicals postage, we’d love to hear from you.

Last month, long-running event Fourth Friday Dinner (formerly TGIF) was canceled, pending a new host. If you have enjoyed attending Fourth Friday Dinners, perhaps you’d like to step up to the plate (so to speak) as that event’s new host?

South Pinellas county may have lost Fourth Friday Dinner, but last month Hillary Miller tried something new out there: Galactic Bowling at Seminole Lanes. I made the trip and, even though I hadn’t bowled in years, I had a lot of fun! If someone wants to continue hosting midnight glow-in-the-dark bowling, I think this has the potential to become a regular event.

TBM will hold its quarterly ExComm-sponsored social event this month: our Spring Picnic. I rented a nice shelter right on Lake Tarpon, in John Chesnut Sr. Park in the Brooker Creek area, between Palm Harbor and Tarpon Springs. To get to our shelter (#9), you cross a wooden walking bridge over a creek with alligators! On the other side of the bridge, near the shelter, is a nice playground for little kids (not near the gators). Dogs are permitted in the park, and everything is handicapped-accessible. We’ll be grilling burgers and hot dogs for everyone, and we ask that you bring your own beverage and a side-dish or dessert to share. So come on over, bring your family along, and join in the fun! (If you’re new to our group, the picnic is a great place to meet other Tampa Bay Mensans in a relaxed atmosphere.)

Continued on page 14
Holes

My life is filled with holes.
   These holes are like windows.
   Windows through which I escape reality.
   Windows through which I escape responsibility.
   Windows through which I project dreams of better days.
   Windows through which my fears and inhibitions are shed.
   Windows through which I draw strength from my alter ego.
   Windows through which I form visions of respect and confidence.
   Windows through which self confidence is evident in its quiet shadow of positive direction.
   Windows through which memories of the past dance.
   Windows through which the dancers are evil, overpowering,
      forcing me into subservience for all that I cannot do or will not accept in life.
   Windows through which the warm and sunny days of success shine all too infrequently.
   Windows of happier times.
   Windows through which happier times turn to despair because the facade could not be maintained.
      Windows through which despair lives and projects it’s darkness on the souls of each of us.
   Windows where I can block out the warmth and the light of the sun, but I cannot shut out the cold
      that comes with the dark.
      Windows through which the sinking feeling of failure presents itself with a strangled feeling of
         helplessness.
   Windows through which I question my manhood and my sanity.
      Windows through which I am compelled to watch another day pass.
   Windows through which I must stretch another night into morning.
      Windows through which the fear of loneliness overcomes my sense of alone.
   Windows through which light is shed on my insecurities and shortcomings.
      Windows through which others are allowed to gaze upon me and pass judgment.
   Windows through which others watch me rage and perform outrageous acts so as to present a side
      of me that is not mine but one that I wish to express.
   Windows through which life’s distorted rays shine upon and confuse my tortured soul.
      Windows through which I bleed while others watch and pass judgment.
   Windows which I must board up from the inside to protect myself from the ravages of life.
      Windows which I have boarded up so that no evil can get in.
   Windows boarded up so that no light may penetrate my silence.
      Windows boarded up so that the curses of life are soundproofed.
So now all my windows are covered.
   So now I am alone in a windowless world.
So now I am alone in the darkness of thought.
   So now my soul is free to go nowhere.
Nowhere is safe, I know where I am and who I am with.

Continued on page 13
RVC Column for Region 10

Coming up in April, Central Florida Mensa will be running one of the most ambitious promotional events we’ve ever had in Region 10. On the weekend of April 10-12, they’ll be operating a booth at MegaCon, the Southeast region’s largest fandom convention. This is a marvelous targeted marketing opportunity, and since they have visitors from all over the state of Florida (and beyond), they’ll be talking up testing sessions in almost all of the chapters in our Region.

Later in the month, many of our chapters will be fielding CultureQuest teams on Sunday, April 26. Across the country teams of up to five members will compete in answering questions about cultural knowledge (not trivia), with cash prizes to the highest scoring teams. Want to get a taste of the questions? Go to www.us.mensa.org/attend/culturequest/culturequestion-of-the-day to receive a daily example from previous contests.

Northwest Florida Mensa held a strategic planning session in February, and Tampa Bay Mensa did the same in March, where members of their groups ran through a planning guide to determine strengths and weaknesses of several of the programs that are provided by the chapters. These sorts of self-evaluations are greatly beneficial, and help the groups to determine where they can best spend their resources. I hope that some of the other groups will also take advantage of this process.

Coming up on Memorial Day weekend, Tampa Bay Mensa will kick off the summer with their “Margarita Bay” Regional Gathering in Oldsmar, on the north end of the bay in Oldsmar. Last year’s RG was very well received, and this year they will be taking over the entire hotel! Visit www.tampa.us.mensa.org and click on the owl for details and to register. They also have a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/222609511232064/ where program updates are provided frequently.

Bookending the summer, Broward Mensa will be holding their “FloRanGe 2015 – Another Excuse to Eat Chocolate!” gathering on Labor Day weekend. They also have a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/M.FloRanGe/. More details will be provided for that event as it grows closer.

As I write this column, I am preparing for the American Mensa Board of Directors meeting, which will be (was) held in Indianapolis on Saturday, March 21. The reason that location was chosen was to give us an opportunity to tour the site of the 2018 Annual Gathering, but the main focus of the meeting is expected to be the 2015-2016 Budget. I expect to have more to report on that later.
April Mensaversaries

43 years  Kathleen Robinson
42 years  Barbara Ray, Francis Wellman
41 years  Peter Profiro
40 years  Martha Mallak
39 years  Rush Miller
37 years  Federico Agnir
36 years  Keven McGinn, Edward Reasor
35 years  Gerald Lundquist
34 years  Jane Pattison
33 years  Phillip Geisinger
31 years  Pat Winne
30 years  Barbara Loewe
27 years  Robert Bullard
23 years  Lawrence Jay, Kathleen Montemayor
22 years  Rosa Tattoli
21 years  John Crandall, Gerard MacDonald
18 years  John Kincaid, Erin Wells
17 years  Danielle Wingate
16 years  Linda Raymond
14 years  Robin Burngasser, Robert Chiasson
13 years  Howard Berry
12 years  Dina Schlauch
11 years  Chris O'Connor
10 years  Robert Hupp, Robert Kellenberger, Thomas Szubka
 8 years  Sheryl Brock, Marcia Fulvi, Steven Shapiro, Sara Thames
 7 years  William Beasom, Eduardo Buenviaje, Forrest Ford, Paul Mertz, Rosalynn Solomon
 6 years  Austi Critchfield, Linda Garrison, Kristina Soderstrom
 5 years  Lance Meyerson, Rachael Moore, Gregory Pitts
 4 years  Charles Arant, Victoria Black, Joseph Estaling, Brian Luther, David Woolley
 3 years  Walter Conrad, Don Delehant, Bruce Mesnekoff
 2 years  Stephanie Adelson, Leonard Parr, Victoria Prescott, Robert Summers

Note: Years are for continuous membership. Members who let their membership lapse start from the date of reinstatement.
FRIDAY
4pm - Registration Desk Opens (Lobby), Casual Games Room opens
5pm - Dinner (Lobby) and Hospitality Suite opens
6pm - Icebreaker Trivia (Kyle Lai)(SR)
7pm - Offbeat Travelers—Slovenia (Ruth Danielle)(SR)
8pm - Home Brew Demonstration (Jay Bartolet & Laura Peralta)(SR)
9pm – midnight - Karaoke (Sapir & Art Schwartz)(SR)
10pm - Poker Tournament (Kevin Brawner, Keith Brawner)(TR)
Midnight - Cards Against Humanity (scheduled game) (SR)

SATURDAY
9am - 3pm - Kids track (Melissa Stephens) (misc. room)
10am - How Not to be a Victim (Steve Shapiro)(SR)
11am - Tai Chi (Rowena Kinchley, Charles Godfrey)(SR)
11am - Splendor Tournament (TR)
Noon - Lunch—Cheeseburgers in Paradise (Ronan Heffernan, Art & Sapir Schwartz)(Lobby)
1pm - Sports Radio (Todd Wright)(SR)
1pm - 3pm - Settlers of Catan Tournament (Kevin Brawner)(TR)
2pm - Actor Mike Milhoan (SR)
3pm – 5pm - Lowry Park Zoo (both SR & games room)
5pm – 6:30pm - Dinner on the Town (out and about!)
6:30pm - Chocolate Orgy (Sylvia Z & Melissa Stephens)(Lobby)
7pm - 9pm - Trash Bowl (Charlie Steinhice)(SR)
9pm - Portugal (Keith Brawner & Andrea)(SR)
9pm - Set Tournament (Maran Fulvi or Kevin Brawner)(TR)
10pm - D&D (David Fleming)(misc. room)
10pm - THE Game (Vicki Abbott) (SR)
10pm - Mexican Train Dominoes (Sylvia Z)(TR)

SUNDAY
9am - Yoga (Lisa Blair)(SR)
9:30am - Dominion Lesson (Kevin Brawner)(TR)
10am-noon - Dominion Tournament (Kevin Brawner)(TR)
10am - Antarctica (Becky Sinnreich)(SR)
11am - Genetic Engineering (Steve Maranz)(SR)
Noon - Lunch (Lobby)
1pm - Boggle Tournament (Charles Godfrey) (TR)
1pm - Reverse Charades (Vicki Abbott) (Lobby)
1pm - Hypnosis (Christine Quinn)(SR)
2pm - Zookeeper (SR)
3pm – 5pm - Treasure Hunt (Jack Brawner)(Lobby)
5pm - Topic TBD (Dave Bryant) (SR)
5pm - Farkle Tournament (June Brascalla) (TR)
6pm - Dinner (Lobby)
7pm – 8:30pm - Fictionary Tournament (Sylvia Z) (TR)
7pm - Tarot (Kay Shapiro)(SR)
7:30pm – 9pm - Werewolf (Lobby)
8pm - The Cartoon that Won a Political Election (Larry Bush)(SR)
9pm - Crafts (Theresa Hohmann Shadrick)(SR)
9pm - Pente Tournament (Jack Brawner)(TR)
10pm - Double Deck Hearts (Sylvia Z) (TR)

MONDAY
9:30am - Lesson Ticket to Ride (Melissa Stephens) (TR)
10am - Ticket to Ride Tournament (Melissa Stephens) (TR)
10am - RVC Rap (Thomas Thomas) (SR)
11am - Awards Ceremony (Lobby), followed by
Noonish - Lunch

Throughout the weekend:
Scrabble Tournament (bracket)
Sudoku (Jacquie Brawner) (puzzles in registration packet, deposit in box in games room or hospitality)

Sometime during the weekend:
Testing in Conference Room
Tampa Bay Mensa proudly presents

Memorial Day weekend
May 22-25, 2015

The WHOLE HOTEL is reserved just for us!
Three days of friends, speakers, activities, demonstrations, contests, tournaments, 24-hour hospitality and games, and other fun stuff.
Meals included!

Programs (we’re adding more, but here are some we’ve already lined up):
• Lowry Park Zoo—new animals, and the zoo manager will speak on “Running a Zoo”
• ESPN radio host Todd Wright
• Actor Michael Milhoan (Field of Dreams, Crimson Tide, Third Rock from the Sun, etc.)
• Trash Bowl with Eileen Steinhice
• Home Brewing Demonstration (and taste testing!) with Jay Bertolet
• Treasure Hunt by Jack Brawner
• Dave Bryant and Steve Shapiro—topics still to be determined
• Antarctica travelog by Becky Sinnreich
• Hypnotherapy with Christine Quinn
• Tarot Cards by Kay Shapiro
• Arts & Crafts with Theresa Shadrick
• Kids’ Track on Saturday with Melissa Stephens
• Casual games and Tournaments with Kevin Brawner
• Frozen margarita/piña colada machines dispensing all weekend; non-alcoholic slushies too

Registration: Before April 25 $85; April 26 – May 20 $95; after May 20 $105.
Single day rate $40 (not available online). Children 12 & under, half price.
Please make check payable to "Tampa Bay Mensa", and mail registration checks to: Kathy Crum, Registrar; 7164 Quail Hollow Blvd.; Wesley Chapel, FL 33544.
Online registration, using PayPal, is available on the Tampa Bay Mensa website: www.tampa.us.mensa.org

Hotel: Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Tampa Northwest—Oldsmar
Address: 3990 Tampa Road, Oldsmar FL 34677.
Phone: 813-854-5080. (Important: mention you’re with “Mensa.”)
Rates: Standard King/Double Queen $79 plus tax; King/Double Queen Suite $89 plus tax.

Questions? Contact Jack Brawner at MadeiraVistaMgr@aol.com or Sylvia Zadorozny at sylviachocolate@gmail.com
## Calendar of Events

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For updated event information, check our online calendar: [http://tampa.us.mensa.org/cal](http://tampa.us.mensa.org/cal)
April 2015 Calendar

Except for rare cases that hosts will make clear, all events listed in our Calendar of Events, whether hosted in private homes or public venues, are open to all Mensans, their spouses, and accompanied guests.

While kitty amounts are mandatory, hosts often spend far more than the specified amount. Donations in excess of the kitty amount will be appreciated. If you have special needs or restrictions, it is prudent to discuss them with your host before attending an event.

April 1  7pm  Reading Group
Location: IHOP, 4910 West Spruce Street, Tampa
Read whatever you like and bring books you'd like to recommend, discuss, exchange, or give away.
Ronan Heffernan  727-537-6626  ronansan@gmail.com

April 2  12:30pm  Lunch Bunch
Location: Piccadilly Cafeteria, 11810 North Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa
We meet at Piccadilly Cafeteria (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 7  7:30pm  University Lecture Series at USF - Featuring Bill Nye - The Science Guy
Location: USF - Featuring Bill Nye - The Science Guy
Bill Nye the Science Guy is speaking at USF! Come for some cool science fun! Meet up to sit together, or join up afterwards for the book signing or to grab a bite and carry on the conversations. Admission is FREE for students, staff, and the general public. Please note, staff and general public will only be admitted 15 minutes prior to the event start time. Map, directions and parking info: http://msc.usf.edu/directions.php
In general, from FLETCHER AVENUE enter USF at Palm Dr. Turn left at USF Holly Dr. Turn right at USF Cedar Circle. There is a parking garage, lot, and handicap parking available. For more information about parking permits and policies, visit the Parking Services Website. Please RSVP by Facebook event page or to:
Melissa Stephens  MelissaLStephens@aol.com  813-476-5405

April 9  12:30pm  Lunch Bunch

April 11  7pm  Games Night
Location: 651 Timber Bay Circle West, Oldsmar
We play fun board and table games. Snacks and sodas provided ($2 kitty helps defray refreshment expenses). No smoking indoors.
Sylvia Holt Zadorozny  813-855-4939  sylviachocolate@gmail.com

April 15  7pm  Reading Group

April 16  12:30pm  Lunch Bunch

April 19  1pm  ExComm Meeting
Location: 12401 N 22nd St, Tampa, FL 33612, USA
Executive Committee meetings are open to all Tampa Bay Mensans. Come watch your leaders at work.
April 23 12:30pm  Lunch Bunch

April 26 noon  Spring Picnic (family friendly event)
Location: John Chesnut Senior Park, Palm Harbor, FL

It's time for TBM's Spring Picnic! Bring your family and enjoy a day at the park with Tampa Bay Mensa. We provide the burgers and hotdogs; you bring your own beverage and a side dish or dessert to share. We'll meet at Shelter # 9, in John Chesnut Sr. Park. (It's a beautiful spot, right by Lake Tarpon.) See you there!

April 30 12:30pm  Lunch Bunch

xkcd.org
Holes (cont)

Trust does not matter, there is no one here to mistrust.
Truth does not matter, there is no one here to deceive.
Fulfillment does not matter, there is no one here to realize an accomplishment.
Love does not matter, there is no one here to hold or to care for.
Integrity does not matter, there is no one here to lead.
Despair does not matter, it is of my own choosing.
Failure does not matter, there is no one here to pass judgment.
Success does not matter, there is no one here who cares.
Sorrow does not matter, there is no one here to see me cry.
Life does not matter, there is no one here to live it.
The window of life I could not control.
The vacuousness of dark requires no keepers, only participants.
Each participant lives in a windowless cell of his own choosing cloaked only in the hidden fears that torture his soul alone.
I am in my own cube.
In someone else’s hands I will not be responsible for my life.
I will wallow in failure because it is my chosen destiny.
I will avoid success because it would require effort.
The effort I save by not achieving, the more room I allow myself for self pity.
In life windows need washing. Washing requires effort, effort requires motivation.
Motivation requires self discipline.
Darkness requires nothing.
My life is darkness.
I cannot control the light.
I can control the dark.
Light is activities, challenges, exertion and failure.
Darkness is security, quiet, passive and sleep.
The challenges of the light are for the brave, the glory seekers, the adventurous.
I am tired, my adventures are memories.
I have earned my sleep.
Darkness is its own reward.
No one from the light can see me.
If I choose I can see into the light.
I choose darkness.
Darkness is security.
My life is filled with windows.
My life is filled with darkness.
My darkness is filled with sleep.
In my darkness I have no one to blame but myself—I won’t!
LocSec (cont)

Next month on Memorial Day weekend, Mensans from all over Florida and states beyond will join us at our Regional Gathering, Margarita Bay. We’ll have three days of speakers, contests, demonstrations, games, hospitality, and just hanging out with over a hundred of the smartest people around. Most of us, even if we live nearby, will be staying at the hotel, but you could drive back and forth if you prefer. Registration covers all meals (except Saturday dinner-on-the-town), along with 24-hour snacks, beverages, and frozen margaritas. This is our largest event of the year and is a great way to get totally immersed in the Mensa experience. Your family and friends are welcome to join us—the more the merrier! You can register on our website: www.tampa.us.mensa.org (Click on the owl.)

Lastly, June is when TBM holds its elections for ExComm. If you are interested in running for a position on our Executive Committee (and I encourage new candidates!), the deadline to submit your petition is April 15. Details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

That’s it for this month. I hope to see many of you at TBM events in the near future.

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xkcd.org

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Tampa Bay Sounding
Serial Fillers

To round-out the page count for publication, here is some not-quite-random public domain content. If you would like to submit articles, stories, etc. for publication, please see the Submission Guidelines on page 2.

THE ENCHANTED APRIL
by ELIZABETH VON ARNIM

It began in a Woman’s Club in London on a February afternoon—an uncomfortable club, and a miserable afternoon—when Mrs. Wilkins, who had come down from Hampstead to shop and had lunched at her club, took up The Times from the table in the smoking-room, and running her listless eye down the Agony Column saw this:

To Those Who Appreciate Wistaria and Sunshine. Small mediaeval Italian Castle on the shores of the Mediterranean to be let furnished for the month of April. Necessary servants remain. Z, Box 1000, The Times.

That was its conception; yet, as in the case of many another, the conceiver was unaware of it at the moment.

So entirely unaware was Mrs. Wilkins that her April for that year had then and there been settled for her that she dropped the newspaper with a gesture that was both irritated and resigned, and went over to the window and stared drearily out at the dripping street.

Not for her were mediaeval castles, even those that are specially described as small. Not for her the shores in April of the Mediterranean, and the wisteria and sunshine. Such delights were only for the rich. Yet the advertisement had been addressed to persons who appreciate these things, so that it had been, anyhow addressed too to her, for she certainly appreciated them; more than anybody knew; more than she had ever told. But she was poor. In the whole world she possessed of her very own only ninety pounds, saved from year to year, put by carefully pound by pound, out of her dress allowance. She had scraped this sum together at the suggestion of her husband as a shield and refuge against a rainy day. Her dress allowance, given her by her father, was £100 a year, so that Mrs. Wilkins’s clothes were what her husband, urging her to save, called modest and becoming, and her acquaintance to each other, when they spoke of her at all, which was seldom for she was very negligible, called a perfect sight.

Mr. Wilkins, a solicitor, encouraged thrift, except that branch of it which got into his food. He did not call that thrift, he called it bad housekeeping. But for the thrift which, like moth, penetrated into Mrs. Wilkins’s clothes and spoilt them, he had much praise. “You never know,” he said, “when there will be a rainy day, and you may be very glad to find you have a nest-egg. Indeed we both may.”

Looking out of the club window into Shaftesbury Avenue—hers was an economical club, but convenient for Hampstead, where she lived, and for Shoolbred’s, where she shopped—Mrs. Wilkins, having stood there some time very drearily, her mind’s eye on the Mediterranean in April, and the wisteria, and the enviable opportunities of the rich, while her bodily eye watched the really extremely horrible sooty rain falling steadily on the hurrying umbrellas and splashing omnibuses, suddenly wondered whether perhaps this was not the rainy day Mellersh—Mellersh was Mr. Wilkins—had so often encouraged her to prepare for, and whether to get out of such a climate and into the small mediaeval castle wasn’t perhaps what Providence had all along intended her to do with her savings. Part of her savings, of course; perhaps quite a small part. The
castle, being mediaeval, might also be dilapidated, and dilapidations were surely cheap. She wouldn’t in the least mind a few of them, because you didn’t pay for dilapidations which were already there, on the contrary—by reducing the price you had to pay they really paid you. But what nonsense to think of it . . .

She turned away from the window with the same gesture of mingled irritation and resignation with which she had laid down The Times, and crossed the room towards the door with the intention of getting her mackintosh and umbrella and fighting her way into one of the overcrowded omnibuses and going to Shoolbred’s on her way home and buying some soles for Mellersh’s dinner—Mellersh was difficult with fish and liked only soles, except salmon—when she beheld Mrs. Arbuthnot, a woman she knew by sight as also living in Hampstead and belonging to the club, sitting at the table in the middle of the room on which the newspapers and magazines were kept, absorbed, in her turn, in the first page of The Times.

Mrs. Wilkins had never yet spoken to Mrs. Arbuthnot, who belonged to one of the various church sets, and who analysed, classified, divided and registered the poor; whereas she and Mellersh, when they did go out, went to the parties of impressionist painters, of whom in Hampstead there were many. Mellersh had a sister who had married one of them and lived up on the Heath, and because of this alliance Mrs. Wilkins was drawn into a circle which was highly unnatural to her, and she had learned to dread pictures. She had to say things about them, and she didn’t know what to say. She used to murmur, “marvelous,” and feel that it was not enough. But nobody minded. Nobody listened. Nobody took any notice of Mrs. Wilkins. She was the kind of person who is not noticed at parties. Her clothes, infested by thrift, made her practically invisible; her face was non-arresting; her conversation was reluctant; she was shy. And if one’s clothes and face and conversation are all negligible, thought Mrs. Wilkins, who recognized her disabilities, what, at parties, is there left of one?

Also she was always with Wilkins, that clean-shaven, fine-looking man, who gave a party, merely by coming to it, a great air. Wilkins was very respectable. He was known to be highly thought of by his senior partners. His sister’s circle admired him. He pronounced adequately intelligent judgments on art and artists. He was pithy; he was prudent; he never said a word too much, nor, on the other had, did he ever say a word too little. He produced the impression of keeping copies of everything he said; and he was so obviously reliable that it often happened that people who met him at these parties became discontented with their own solicitors, and after a period of restlessness extricated themselves and went to Wilkins.

Naturally Mrs. Wilkins was blotted out. “She,” said his sister, with something herself of the judicial, the digested, and the final in her manner, “should stay at home.” But Wilkins could not leave his wife at home. He was a family solicitor, and all such have wives and show them. With his in the week he went to parties, and with his on Sundays he went to church. Being still fairly young—he was thirty-nine—and ambitious of old ladies, of whom he had not yet acquired in his practice a sufficient number, he could not afford to miss church, and it was there that Mrs. Wilkins became familiar, though never through words, with Mrs. Arbuthnot.

She saw her marshalling the children of the poor into pews. She would come in at the head of the procession...
Cryptopoem

Sylvia Holt Zadorozny

DRIP WET TIARBOT MCWBC MOSS
WF ECO EURF IF ECO DOSS;
DRIP WET DIAFEUWFT
WF ECO PIAFEUWFT,
WET RWSST UFH WET QWSST;
ECRIAQC PITT UFH ECKIAIQC VRUNO,
WE RAFT UFH WE BROOKT
DIR UMCWSO, EWSS WE TSOOKT
WF WET IMF SWEESO SUNO.
UFH ECOFBO HOKUREWFQ,
UMUNOFWFQ UFH TEUREWFQ,
WE RAFT ECKIAIQC ECO ROOHT
UFH UMUX WE KRIBOOHT ...

~ DRIP "ECO BUEURUBE ID SIHIRO"

VX RIVORE TIAECOX
Answer to the March Cryptopoem:

I went to turn the grass once after one
Who mowed it in the dew before the sun. ...
But he had gone his way, the grass all mown,
And I must be, as he had been, —alone,
“As all must be,” I said within my heart.
But as I said it, swift there passed me by
On noiseless wing a bewildered butterfly, ...
I thought of questions that have no reply,
And would have turned to toss the grass to dry;
But he turned first, and led my eye to look
At a tall tuft of flowers beside a brook, ...
I left my place to know them by their name,
Finding them butterfly weed when I came.
The mower in the dew had loved them thus,
Leaving them to flourish, not for us, ...

-Robert Frost
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