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January 2016



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A Publication of Tampa Bay Mensa

Tampa Bay Sounding



**A Publication of
Tampa Bay Mensa**

Tampa Bay Sounding (USPS 305-830)
Tampa Bay Mensa
5001 Terrace Palms Cir Unit 101
Temple Terrace, FL 33617

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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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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- Personal attacks and bigoted, sexist, hateful, or otherwise offensive material will not be published.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.

Welcome to Tampa Bay Mensa!

* Robert Carter

* Dominic DeWeese

Ryan Duran

Charity Everett

William Forister

Donald Hill

* Sydney Jacobson

Pamela Lamb

* Lici LeVitre

Patrick Manders

Lauren Poling

* New members.

January Birthdays

01/01 Margaret Argudo, Jerry Merchant
01/02 Mary Muka
01/04 Betty Taylor
01/05 Lawrence Jay
01/06 Rick Craig
01/07 Federico Agnir, Brian Luther, Joseph Mohr
01/08 Ronan Heffernan
01/09 Stanley Pleban
01/11 John Gove, Helen Parramore, Robert Quinn
01/12 Michele Mourer
01/13 John Means
01/14 Edwin Smith
01/15 John Kane
01/17 Marvin Ivey
01/20 Jessica Ciccarelli, Daniel Trivin
01/21 Clifton Butts, James Perry
01/23 Gregory Cowsert, Theresa Hohmann
01/24 Brett Husselbaugh, Darius Vunck, Carrie Webb
01/25 Louise Kelly, Michelle Kurtz, Joseph Robbio
01/26 Melissa Stephens
01/27 Jill Deen
01/28 K Schneider

Calendar of Events

January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6 » Reading Group	7 » Lunch Bunch	8	9 » Games Night
10	11	12	13	14 » Lunch Bunch	15	16
17	18	19	20 » Reading Group	21 » Lunch Bunch	22	23 » Whimsy Museum
24	25	26	27	28 » Lunch Bunch	29	30
31						

For updated event information, check our online calendar: <http://tampa.us.mensa.org/cal>

January 2016 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.

January 6 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

January 7 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

January 9 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

January 14 12:30pm Lunch Bunch

January 20 7pm Reading Group

January 21 12:30pm Lunch Bunch

January 23 1pm Whimsy Museum

Location: Marietta Museum of Art and Whimsy, 2121 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.

January 23 Saturday 1:00 PM FREE (Joint event with Manasota Mensa, this time in Sarasota). MONTHLY MUSEUM JUNKET returns to Marietta Museum of Art and Whimsy, 2121 North Tamiami Trail in Sarasota. We had a fabulous time on our visit last January, and now they are reopening after construction with more delightful and quirky art, an enlarged sculpture garden at the new parking lot (a block north at 2229) and a museum store. We'll meet at the front door by 12:55 as they are only open for three hours, and we want to have some time for checking out the cafe and relaxing in the garden. RSVP to Ruth Danielle, 941-685-0680 or ruth-danielle@hotmail.com.

January 28 12:30pm Lunch Bunch

Mensaversaries

48 years	Mary Sanchez
42 years	Daniel O'Neal
36 years	Benito Enriquez, Bruce Perry
32 years	Bonnie Wilpon
31 years	James Bailey
29 years	Grant Logan
24 years	Karen Hamlin
22 years	Ron Austin
20 years	Darius Vunck
19 years	Steven Graves, John Turnbull
18 years	Dave Bryant
15 years	Devlon Buckner
14 years	Ruby Agnir, Alvin Bedgood, Thomas Thomas, Thomas Vena
13 years	Susan Gardner, William Schneikart
11 years	Chris Lettre, Robert Pressner, Jean Waters
10 years	Elizabeth Hapner, Jay Johnson, Corey Merenda
9 years	Ethan Hall, Stephen Morrill
8 years	Hillary Miller, Anitha Reddy, Thomas Sawyer
7 years	Samuel Brandon, Jordan Cash, Maureen Collins, James Gamble, Rebecca Sinnreich
6 years	Terry Delia, Hunter Keslar, Harrison Keslar, Jim O'Neill, Frankie Prather, Paul Sutcliffe, Doug Wilcock
5 years	Delaney Grootwassink, Kelly Hallisey, Alexandra Hamwey, Kelly Matera, David Schwartz, Carrie Webb, Daniel Williams
4 years	Aaron Dennis, Dennis Lowman, George Martin, Frances Pool-Crane, Lawrence Schear, Ian Wells
3 years	Trevor Bisson, Garrett Gross, Elizabeth Rafaloski Lane Augusta, Beau Blessing, Geoffrey Davis, David Dockery, James Eddy, Shannon Harp, Krysten Manley, Malvika Menon, Don Ridgway, George Zadorozny
2 years	Derek Andrews, Vivienne Cseh, John Gove, Patrick O'Neil, Thomas Prether, Jack Rutherford, Zachary Smith, Matthew Sullivan
1 year	Thomas Prether, Jack Rutherford, Zachary Smith, Matthew Sullivan

Note: Years are for continuous membership. Members who let their membership lapse start from the date of reinstatement.

Member Book Review

Jim Perry

Dan Jones's *Magna Carta: The Birth of Liberty*

Government must be governed. Social order cannot survive without it. That idea was the guiding principle behind Magna Carta. This book tells how Magna Carta came to be, almost day-by-day, in splendid if gruesome detail.

This book describes the natural and political conditions in England at that time. Life was brutal and brutish in Thirteenth Century Britain: disease was rampant, injuries often fatal, weather unpredictable; slaughter abounded; everywhere, every day of the year was like Friday, November 13, 1215, in Paris. And there was no law and order. Even Britain's aristocracy—some 200 barons—were always at risk of increasingly punitive taxes and King John's murderous assaults on their lands and homes to collect them. For John was a Plantagenet, French at heart, great-grandson of William of Normandy a/k/a 'William the Conqueror.' The Plantagenets had lost their family lands in France, and John was willing to do anything to the people he ruled in Britain to get back those French lands.

After sixteen years of the rule of King John, the barons had enough and began to cooperate in an effort not to overthrow him, but to harness him. Their campaign finally captured London and with it most of John's treasury, so the King, broke and exhausted, agreed (or feigned agreement) to meet at Runnymede June 15, 1215, and consent to a set of 63 terms. That agreement was Magna Carta, and copies were written and posted throughout the land; but within a month Pope Innocent III had condemned it as an unholy attack on a King (who ruled, as the Church saw it, by divine right), and John had returned to his murderous taxing ways and his plans for a foreign war.

Fifteen months after the event at Runnymede, King John died during a campaign against his barons and the French Prince Louis who had brought an army to England on the side of the barons. At John's death his son succeeded to the throne as Henry III, with William Marshal (the *only* baron who had never turned against John) serving as regent. Marshal led a successful campaign against Louis and the diehard barons, restored Magna Carta, and with it guided Henry so well that he reigned in relative peace for more than fifty-five years. The document did its job.

The story of Magna Carta's influence is a bit overwhelming. English history hums with the tension between every monarch's desire to do as the royal 'We' might please, and the stipulations of Magna Carta—revised, reissued, but always respected. And in the New World, our Declaration of Independence, our Constitution and Bill of Rights, echo Magna Carta. Compare our Sixth Amendment ("In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury") with clause 40 of Magna Carta ("To no one will we sell, to no one will we deny or delay, right or justice"). Compare our Fifth Amendment ("No person...shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law") with clause 39 of Magna Carta ("No free man is to be arrested, or imprisoned, or disseized, or outlawed...except by the legal judgment of his peers or by the law of the land"). The ideas are the same, and Magna Carta had them first. Even today's states' rights arguments echo Magna Carta.

Continued on page 10

Cryptopoem

Sylvia Holt Zadorozny

ICY EPNS PMY SCQMI,

ICY SOL P STPMU,

COLD ICAL XYIGYYL

ICY EPMU PLE EPMU.

BPI SLQGN BQQISYTS

IMPHU ICY BRQQM.

WARU XQIIRYS XOMSI

QOISAEY ICY EQQM.

ICY MAZYM AS

P BMQVYL TRPHY

CYRE SIARR XYLYPIC

ICY IMYYS QB RPHY.

ICY SUN AS RQG.

ICY GALE AS DMPN.



Cryptopoem (cont)

ICY MPEAPIQM

TOMMS PRR EPN.

~ KQCL OTEAUY, "KPLOPMN"

Answer to the December Cryptopoem:

*The night is long
But fur is deep.
You will be warm
In winter sleep.
The food is gone
But dreams are sweet
And they will be
Your winter meat.
The cave is dark
But dreams are bright
And they will serve
As winter light.
Sleep, my little cubs, sleep
-Jane Yolen, "Grandpa Bear's Lullaby"*

xkcd.org



Member Book Review (cont)

The United Nations Charter, and the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, now replicate and extend Magna Carta in the modern world. So let the author of this book conclude my review: “It is not only impossible but also probably fatuous to imagine that the men who stood in Runnymede in June 1215 imagined that the text they were thrashing out might, in eight hundred years’ time, be employed in the defense of the rights of the poorest and meanest citizens in countries in every corner of the world. But that is the way it turned out.”

The book has the text of the original Magna Carta, translated into modern English, in Appendix A. Appendix B offers brief biographies of the twenty-five barons appointed to enforce the Magna Carta of 1215. Appendix C displays a timeline of eight hundred years of history of the document’s influence. Sixteen pages of Notes, a five-page Bibliography, and an Index, are provided. I found the book to be exciting, illuminating, and satisfying. ■

Letter to the Editor

As a transplant in this beautiful land, I am always grateful to God for the men and women who unselfishly gave their time, risked their lives, stayed away from their families in patriotic love to keep this country as relatively free from the enemies of freedom and the brash defiance of the loving and peaceful reign of God.

My main charitable contributions, meager though they may be, have always been earmarked for those organizations that are committed to making the lives of our veterans comfortable and meaningful, in spite of whatever changes the wars have done to their bodies and minds. I believe that we who have come to this country need always to remember the huge gift that these men and women endowed us with their sacrifice. What if these include your sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, grandchildren, fathers, mothers and other loved ones? I don’t have any family that went to war; nevertheless, I can never deny that the unselfish kind of love that impelled these people to go to those war-torn places is overwhelming. Greater love has no one than this, said our Lord, that a person lays his life down for another.

Thanks again, brave ones. You are God’s blessing to all of us at all times, undeserving though we may be.

And to you all, MAY THIS NEW YEAR BE BETTER THAN THE LAST!

Fondly,

Ruby L. Agnir

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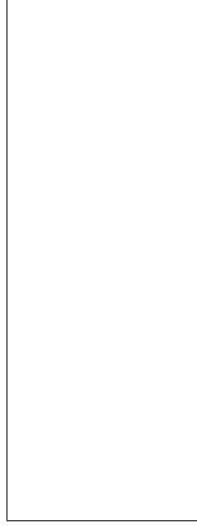
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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL