

Vol. 42, No. 1
February 2017



February

Welcome to Tampa Bay Mensa!.....3

February Birthdays.....3

RVC Column for Region 10.....4

Member Book Review.....5

Calendar of Events.....6

February 2017 Calendar.....7

Contest - Name the 2018 AG.....8

Mensaversaries.....9

The Curious Case of Seth Rich.....10

Cryptopoem.....11

Super-Intelligence and Puzzles.....12

On This Month in History: February.....13

Serial Fillers.....14

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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For full instructions on how to join *tbm-gm* and *tbm-discussion*, our two Yahoo! groups, visit TBM at

<http://tampa.us.mensa.org>

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- Personal attacks and bigoted, sexist, hateful, or otherwise offensive material will not be published.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

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Welcome to Tampa Bay Mensa!

* Robert Beverly	Adam Lerchenfeld	Devin Statham
* Benjamin Bryant	* Su'ad Macedonio	* Austin Stout
David DeVaul	* Jason Maranto	* Ethan Young
* Jacob Kesler	Richard Pasco	* New members.
Kathryn Korstanje	Hannah Rhodes	

February Birthdays

02/01 John Kincaid
02/02 Ronald Croft, Danny Taylor
02/03 Stephen Marcinek, Gerri Almand, Bradley McDonald
02/06 Patrick Manders
02/08 Claire Modarelli
02/09 Ronald Marlowe, Amy Ellinor, Charles Sumner
02/10 Robert Topper, Norman Urich
02/11 Robert Hupp, William Knowles, Charlyn Brodie
02/12 Ann Flynn, Harry Callahan
02/13 Robert Pressner, Beau Blessing
02/14 L Aschoff
02/17 Sandra Stroud, Jeff Villet
02/18 Carol Park, Patrick Lewis
02/19 Andrew Ford, Jackson Dolan
02/20 John Reece
02/21 Rudolph Trosin
02/24 Timothy Dixon, Wyatt Smedley, Jack Rutherford
02/25 Stephen Morrill, William Schneikart
02/26 Arthur Kelland, Gregory Pitts, John Woerner

RVC Column for Region 10

My last column went out on December 10, just hours before **Marc Lederman**, Chair of the 2017 Annual Gathering (AG) in Hollywood, FL, passed away at the age of 56. This was Marc's 13th term on an Annual Gathering Committee. Marc was a four-time recipient of the Chairman's Service Award and received the National Service Award in 2013. He was a Life Member who had served in several terms on the American Mensa Committee (AMC) as Regional Vice Chairman, Secretary, Membership Officer and Communications Officer, as well as many national committees.

There is no replacing Marc, though the groundwork he put in place for this upcoming AG is allowing us to continue with planning activities. He will continue to be listed as the official Chair of the AG, with **Heather Poirier** and **LaRae Bakerink** (First and Second Vice Chairs, respectively, of American Mensa) appointed as Co-Vice-Chairs to move us forward. They have both run successful AGs of their own, so we're in good hands. We have a dedicated team of members from our Region, including **Kris** and **Ryan Martin**, **Kay Klasen**, and **Jason Knight** from Broward Mensa, **Bonnie Wilpon** and **Sylvia Zadorozny** from Tampa Bay Mensa, and **Debbie Freeland** from Central Florida Mensa (among others) all working to put together the best event we can, in tribute to Marc. I look forward to you joining us at the AG on July 5-9.

I've written previously about the new Association Management System (AMS) being implemented at the national office to help us to improve our support of the membership and local groups. This was launched on November 11 with the initial impact being website login issues for a few members with invalid email addresses (which replaced the Membership Number as the login ID). Because only a small percentage of our membership visit the website on a frequent basis, this was manageable, and we generally had good feedback.

But then December rolled around, when the system was asked to do a lot more – and it turned out there were many problems that hadn't been accounted for, starting with the local group officer reports. These used to be supplied to a data coordinator for each group, along with functionally specific reports provided directly to various people such as the Membership Officer, Testing Coordinator, Editor, and of course the Local Secretary. Now they were only being supplied to the functional offices, in formats that they were not used to, and much of the support was cut out of the loop.

Unfortunately, this impacted more than just the individual officers involved, as it cascaded downstream to the members who received their newsletters late (or not at all), new members who were not welcomed and prospects who requested test sessions but did not receive responses.

While this has been incredibly frustrating to many of our officers, and by extension the members they serve, we're seeing a great deal of progress in solving the problems, and most of the reports are back in production. We're continuing to review the issues as they are brought to our attention and once these are resolved, the new system will give us a good baseline for many great steps forward in months to come. As we get through the growing pains as quickly as possible, we appreciate your patience.

Until next month (or until I see you online),

Thomas George Thomas

Email: RVC10@us.mensa.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thomas.g.thomas>

Member Book Review

Jim Perry

Margot Lee Shetterly's *Hidden Figures*

This is a story of America's aeronautical research effort, starting with the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics (NACA) formed in 1915 at Langley, Virginia, and transforming into the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in 1958. Full of detail that even I, a former professional pilot, never heard of, it makes clear that there was nothing automatic or easy about safe, fast flight in air or in space. It's a story that should interest anyone.

It's also a story of how America struggled to develop a space program to overtake the Russians, and it explains in some detail how complex the computations were that needed to be made, and how few people we had with the education and training necessary to make them.

This is also a story about 20th century America's effort to overcome segregation, a story in which the State of Virginia played an enormous role, parts of which I didn't know about until now. The book places these individuals, and their families and careers, in the context of the great civil rights movement, from the early days of A. Philip Randolph's Brotherhood of Sleeping-Car Porters to Little Rock's Central High School to the Greensboro sit-ins to the 1963 March on Washington and Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech. This story, too, should interest everyone.

Most of all, however, this is the story of a small group of young black women who happened to have training and skill in mathematics that qualified them to work at Langley during World War II. These women—in particular, Dorothy Vaughn, Katherine Goble Johnson, and Mary Jackson—responded to their government's urgent plea for workers, and wrought a revolution by taking jobs as "computers." Langley management placed them in a segregated office called West Computing. The stories of these individuals, from childhood onward, makes up the essence of the book: the reader gets to know them as individuals, dealing with every problem a wife and mother can have, along with every problem a black person will have at work and at home. The stories of the diligence, decency and patience of these women working their way out of West (Colored) Computing will absorb any reader.

The Langley Research Center was, for fifty years, one of the best places in the world doing research on propellers and other airfoils. Located near Norfolk, Virginia, it was conveniently near the Naval Air Station at Patuxent River and also to the political system at Washington, D.C. The Center earned three Collier Trophies for outstanding achievement in advancing aeronautics. Langley was where the laminar flow airfoil was designed, that made the P-51 Mustang the most effective fighter escort plane in the war. Langley was where supersonic flight was first analyzed. Langley was where the blunt nose and heat shield design for spacecraft returning from orbit originated. Langley was where Richard Whitcomb's "Area Rule" enabled supersonic aircraft to travel at Mach 2 and beyond. Langley was where the danger of wingtip vortices was discovered. After World War II, many of the activities originally located at Langley were farmed out to Huntsville, Greenbelt, and, finally, Houston; but Langley is where it started.

Continued on page 8

Calendar of Events

February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 » Reading Group	2 » Tampa Lunch Bunch@ Sweet Tomatoes	3	4
5 » TBM ExCom	6	7	8	9 » Tampa Lunch Bunch@ Sweet Tomatoes	10	11 » Oldsmar Games Night
12	13	14	15 » Reading Group	16 » Tampa Lunch Bunch@ Sweet Tomatoes	17	18 » Salon/Potluck
19	20	21	22	23 » Tampa Lunch Bunch@ Sweet Tomatoes	24	25 » TLC
26	27	28				

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

February 2017 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 the host in advance.

To add an event to the calendar, send an email with event details to AMLTBMcalendar@aol.com including the date, time, place, and host contact information. The deadline for an event to appear in the print newsletter is the 5th of the previous month, but the online calendar can be updated after the print deadline.

February 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

February 2 12:30pm Tampa Lunch Bunch @ Sweet Tomatoes

Location: Sweet Tomatoes on Dale Mabry just South of Bearss

For directions, descriptions, and/or encouragement to attend, contact: Dave Bryant at senseidave@msn.com

February 5 2:22pm TBM ExComm

Location: 11111 N 20th St, Tampa, FL 33612, USA

ExComm meetings are open to all Tampa Bay Mensans. This month's meeting is at Melissa Stephens's house in North Tampa near USF. Call 813-476-5405 or email

melissalstephens@gmail.com

February 9 12:30pm Tampa Lunch Bunch @ Sweet Tomatoes

February 11 7pm Oldsmar Games Night

Location: 651 Timber Bay Circle West, Oldsmar

We play fun board and table games. Snacks and sodas provided (\$3 kitty helps defray refreshment expenses). No pets. No smoking indoors, please.

Sylvia Holt Zadorozny 813-855-4939 sylviachocolate@gmail.com

February 15 7pm Reading Group

February 16 12:30pm Tampa Lunch Bunch @ Sweet Tomatoes

February 18 2pm Salon/Potluck

Location: 39248 US HWY N (Sun Valley, north of Klosterman near the Hampton Inn), Lot 161, Tarpon Springs, FL

We meet monthly on the third Saturday from 2-5 pm. The purpose of the Salon/Potluck is social and intellectual. Rod Merten 989-293-8854

rodneymerten@hotmail.com

February 23 12:30pm Tampa Lunch Bunch @ Sweet Tomatoes

February 25 2pm TLC

Location: 18244 Collridge Dr, Tampa, FL 33647, USA

It's time to Tape, Label, and Chat, as we prepare the next issue of *Tampa Bay Sounding for mailing*. Come help out and be one of the first to get the latest issue.

Lisa & Bryce Blair 813-907-2418 distribution@tampa.us.mensa.org

Contest – Name the 2018 AG

Hello! You may have heard that Mensa's Annual Gathering will be in Indianapolis in 2018. We are having a contest to help us come up with a catchy name. The winner will receive a free registration to the AG and acknowledgement in the program! We're looking for a word or phrase that captures the excitement of Indianapolis/Central Indiana. An example would be "Race to Indy"-- but we don't want to use that because we're so much more than racing (and corn!). Put your thinking caps on and come up with a winner! The contest is open to all members.

Send your ideas to Teresa Gregory at ag18tg@yahoo.com by Feb. 28, 2017. If there are duplicates, the first one received wins.

Teresa Gregory and Jan Pfeil Doyle, Co-chairs 2018 AG

Member Book Review (cont)

The first group of astronauts trained at Langley and trusted their lives to these black female "computers," at a time when those "computers" were forbidden by law to drink from water fountains or use restrooms or lunchrooms used by their white colleagues. The way these "computers" conducted themselves personally and professionally, working carefully and accurately while at the same time building their careers as professionals, earning permanent Civil Service status and promotion to "Mathematician" and even (in the case of Mary Jackson) "Engineer" while fighting to end workplace segregation by race and gender, is exhausting to read about. But the book conveys better than any review can hope to do, how they did it and how they felt about it while they did it. I recommend it.

The author is the daughter of a research scientist who worked at Langley. Her book included 45 pages of notes, a 10-page bibliography, and an 18-page index. *Hidden Figures* has been made into a movie starring Octavia Spencer, Taraji P Henson, and Janelle Monáe, which opened in Tampa January 5th. The movie is gorgeous. We recommend it. ■

Mensaversaries

45 years	Gregory Cowsert
43 years	Patricia Bowker
37 years	Susan Wendt
36 years	Delphine Jenness, LeGrand Jones
35 years	Edwin Kelley
34 years	J Blanton, James Norman
33 years	Robert Fisher, Henry O'Neill, Pamela Farnsworth
32 years	Patricia Johnston
27 years	K Schneider
26 years	Peter Forret
15 years	Carlos Hernandez, Max Epstein, Sharon Baugher
14 years	Sheldon Livingston, Keith Halbasch
13 years	Robert Miller, Barbara Stetzko
11 years	Thomas Quinlan, Joseph Griffiths, Abdus-Sattar Nasser, Brad Morse, John Mrsich, Don Robinson, Kenneth Ravencraft
10 years	Darrin Rosamond, Edmund Marks, Jeff Villet, Frederick Carlson
9 years	Karen Squires, Sherri Baker
8 years	Logan Libretti
7 years	Lilly Paggio, John Means, Ryan McKenzie, Elizabeth Strickland, Ryan Duran
6 years	Julius Jahnke, Gerald Thackham, Stephen Page, Brian Thiel
5 years	James Chevalier, Anelle Kloski
4 years	Arjun Tummala, Gregory Garbee
3 years	Michael Roglitz, James Dowling, Anastasia Hyatt, Edward Zellem
2 years	Elizabeth Iadarola, James Bates, Molly Shadrick
1 year	Sydney Smith, Anthony DiAngelus, Debra Faulkner, Jaydin Danco, James Hernon

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

The Curious Case of Seth Rich

Ronnie Dubs

It's very rare to be murdered at 4 AM. Statistics show this hour as one of least likely times for that to occur. Least of all a murder with no apparent motive, the victim found still in possession of all their properties – at least those we are aware of -- watch, jewelry, wallet, cell phone, all still with the victim. With so few people around at that hour, why wouldn't a criminal grab those things, unless they didn't need them?

Being in the inner circle of the DNC, with access to their database, and being a supporter of Bernie Sanders, it must have been very hard on Rich, knowing full well how everything was being rigged against his candidate from the start. Knowing that in the debates, Hillary Clinton was given the questions in advance – I know, had I been a Bernie supporter, that would have made me angry.

Curious that two gun shots are found in the back, when most robbers would have pointed their gun at your front side to demand your valuables. There are no shell casings found and the ballistics, the unique markings on the bullet from the firearm's barrel, match up to no other known DC homicides – almost like a professional hit, an assassination, let's say for the sake of argument.

Now WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has indicated that Rich was his mole in the DNC, allowing him to hack into their servers, exposing most of what we know about the Democrats Machiavellian treachery – plotting to deny Sanders and install Hillary as their party's nominee. Now Mr. Assange seems quite obsessed with revealing truth to power, and has put his own life at great risk to do so. With more credibility than the Obama FBI, why would he risk losing it and what would he have to gain from naming some random DC homicide victim as his source into the DNC computer system?

One must admit it quite curious, the lack of interest in the case by the US Department of Justice: no tracking down leads, no searching nearby video footage from this wealthy area of D.C. where nearly every building must have video surveillance. It's almost as if they already know who committed the killing but just don't care to identify them? One might assume the democrats themselves would be demanding action on this case, but as far as I know they haven't offered any reward money for information, although Julian Assange has.

A common misconception is that someone or some group of persons cannot be convicted based on circumstantial evidence, but you can, when all that evidence leads to one unmistakable conclusion. To me, the conclusion seems quite clear – that someone associated with the Democratic Party had Seth Rich murdered for facilitating the WikiLeaks hacking into their computer server. But for a Republican or Conservative to make that charge would draw the usual cries of partisanship and conspiracy, so they show little interest in pursuing the case. Neither do Democrats show any interest in the case. However, were I a Bernie supporter, you bet I'd be interested, and I'd be demanding an investigation, and perhaps an FBI interview of Mr. Assange would be a good place to start. ■

Cryptopoem

Sylvia Holt Zadorozny

RNHE EHEY WDI RNYUES GD GRE MNBUNZZ PATS,
PRABR ZBAEOGAZGZ BNTT GRE DONKEY?
AG ZDIOSZ TAUE GRE TNIKR DL N JNBUPNYS BRATS,
DY N REVBNG DO N RNYCDOABN.
JIG SD ODG ZOEY NG GRE MNBUNZZ PATS,
GREYE AZ CEGRDS AO RAZ REE-RNP,
LDY PAGR CNASEOTW JTIZR NOS NBBEOG CATS
GRE MEOOW-NZZ NOZPEYZ, ZREE-RNP.
~DKSEO ONZR, "GRE PATS MNBUNZZ"

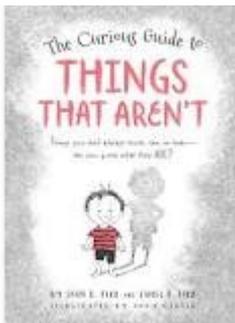
Super-Intelligence and Puzzles

John Fixx

Mensa was an important organization to my father, author Jim Fixx, when he was publishing his three books, including [Games for the Super-intelligent](#), in the 1970s and 1980s.

He would thrill to the puzzles and brainteasers that his fellow Mensa members would send him for inclusion in his books.

This book below would actually have been his first, a book for children to encourage early brain activity and knowledge acquisition, called [The Curious Guide to Things that Aren't](#). My father died without finishing this book, and so I was able to complete it and find a publisher.



Editor's note: John Fixx serves as headmaster of a private school (The Country School) in Connecticut, and his mother-in-law lives in St. Pete.

Interesting backstory article here: <http://www.courant.com/sports/hc-riley-column-john-fixx-book-1211-20161208-story.html> ■

On This Month in History: February

Emma Edmund

On February 11, 1990, Nelson Mandela was freed after spending 26 years in jail for his opposition to the South Africa regime. In jail, he became a symbol of freedom and the struggle against the country's white racist regime. President F.W. de Klerk renounced apartheid just 10 days earlier, and de Klerk unconditionally revoked Mandela's life sentence for treason and sabotage.

Birthdays in this month include Nicolas Copernicus on February 19, 1473, and Victor Hugo on February 26, 1802. Copernicus was a Polish astronomer who established the theory that the earth and other planets revolve around the sun. Hugo was a French novelist whose book *Les Misérables* was later turned into a Broadway musical.

Source: On This Day: The History of the World in 366 Days

Answer to the January Cryptopoeem:

*On Monday, when the sun is hot
I wonder to myself a lot:
"Now is it true, or is it not,
"That what is which and which is what?"*

*On Tuesday, when it hails and snows,
The feeling on me grows and grows
That hardly anybody knows
If those are these or these are those.*

*On Wednesday, when the sky is blue,
And I have nothing else to do,
I sometimes wonder if it's true
That who is what and what is who.*

*On Thursday, when it starts to freeze
And hoar-frost twinkles on the trees,
How very readily one sees
That these are whose—but whose are these?*

*- by a bear of very little brain,
from A. A. Milne's "Winnie the Pooh"*

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 WIND IN THE WILLOWS

By Kenneth Grahame

The Mole had been working very hard all the morning, spring-cleaning his little home. First with brooms, then with dusters; then on ladders and steps and chairs, with a brush and a pail of white-wash; till he had dust in his throat and eyes, and splashes of whitewash all over his black fur, and an aching back and weary arms. Spring was moving in the air above and in the earth below and around him, penetrating even his dark and lowly little house with its spirit of divine discontent and longing. It was small wonder, then, that he suddenly flung down his brush on the floor, said 'Bother!' and 'O blow!' and also 'Hang spring-cleaning!' and bolted out of the house without even waiting to put on his coat. Something up above was calling him imperiously, and he made for the steep little tunnel which answered in his case to the gavelled carriage-drive owned by animals whose residences are nearer to the sun and air. So he scraped and scratched and scabbled and scrooged and then he scrooged again and scabbled and scratched and scraped, working busily with his little paws and muttering to himself, 'Up we go! Up we go!' till at last, pop! his snout came out into the sunlight, and he found himself rolling in the warm grass of a great meadow.

'This is fine!' he said to himself. 'This is better than whitewashing!' The sunshine struck hot on his fur, soft breezes caressed his heated brow, and after the seclusion of the cellarage he had lived in so long the carol of happy birds fell on his dulled hearing almost like a shout. Jumping off all his four legs at once, in the joy

of living and the delight of spring without its cleaning, he pursued his way across the meadow till he reached the hedge on the further side.

'Hold up!' said an elderly rabbit at the gap. 'Sixpence for the privilege of passing by the private road!' He was bowled over in an instant by the impatient and contemptuous Mole, who trotted along the side of the hedge chaffing the other rabbits as they peeped hurriedly from their holes to see what the row was about. 'Onion-sauce! Onion-sauce!' he remarked jeeringly, and was gone before they could think of a thoroughly satisfactory reply. Then they all started grumbling at each other. 'How STUPID you are! Why didn't you tell him——' 'Well, why didn't YOU say ——' 'You might have reminded him——' and so on, in the usual way; but, of course, it was then much too late, as is always the case.

It all seemed too good to be true. Hither and thither through the meadows he rambled busily, along the hedgerows, across the copses, finding everywhere birds building, flowers budding, leaves thrusting—everything happy, and progressive, and occupied. And instead of having an uneasy conscience pricking him and whispering 'whitewash!' he somehow could only feel how jolly it was to be the only idle dog among all these busy citizens. After all, the best part of a holiday is perhaps not so much to be resting yourself, as to see all the other fellows busy working.

The rest of this story and thousands of other public domain works are available at www.gutenberg.org

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