



February

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

February Birthdays.....3

RVC Column for Region 10.....4

LocSec Column.....5

Calendar of Events.....6

February 2018 Calendar.....7

About Birthdays.....8

On This Month in History: February.....9

True Story.....10

Mensaversaries.....11

Cryptopoem.....12

Serial Fillers.....14

We now have a **THIRD** Games Night!



There must be one near you. Go try it!

**A Publication of
Tampa Bay Mensa**

Tampa Bay Sounding (USPS 305-830)
Tampa Bay Mensa
11111 N. 20th Street
Tampa, FL 33612

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. Tampa Bay Mensa serves Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando, and Sumter counties.

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- Personal attacks and bigoted, sexist, hateful, or otherwise offensive material will not be published.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

Sanja Maneval
* Alexis Mariash

Scott Porter
Bradley Rhinelander
* New members.

February Birthdays

02/01 John Kincaid
02/02 Ronald Croft
02/03 Gerri Almand, Roy Jahnke, Stephen Marcinek, Bradley McDonald
02/06 Janet Darmanin
02/09 Ronald Marlowe, Charles Sumner
02/10 Linda Blades, Sue Anne Toms, Robert Topper, Norman Urich, Nathan Wheatley
02/11 Charlyn Brodie, William Knowles
02/12 Harry Callahan, Ann Flynn, Scott Schlimmer
02/14 L Aschoff
02/17 Michael Van Alsburg, Jeff Villet
02/18 Patrick Lewis, Carol Park
02/20 John Reece
02/24 Timothy Dixon
02/25 Amber Lea Kincaid, William Schneikart
02/26 Anthony DeLuna, Arthur Kelland

NEW EVENT: Spring Hill Games, Conversation, and Whatever!

Hi! I'm a former Chicago Mensan, recently returned to the fold and a Florida resident for about six years. Since it's a bit difficult for me to get to Tampa, especially for evening events, I figure the best way for me to get my Mensa fix is to host an event...and homemade yummys will be involved! I've picked an afternoon time slot, 1pm, on the third Saturday in February and March. Input from attendees will determine best date/time after that. See the calendar entry for details, or contact me: 352.616.8523 (cell) or joanne@jcgaddy.com. Hope to see you!!

Joanne C. Gaddy

RVC Column for Region 10

The American Mensa Committee (AMC) met via teleconference on January 16. This brief meeting involved the approval of the minutes of the December 2 AMC Meeting (now posted online), the official appointment of the Chair for the Community Services Committee (yours truly), the Transition Committee's report regarding a new Executive Director, and a vote on a motion to clarify the Duties, Responsibilities, and Authority of Regional Vice Chairmen for inclusion in the ASIEs (Appendix 26). This is the topic I mentioned in my column last month, and I hope it will be useful information for anyone interested in running for the position in the future, as I have heard many amusing misconceptions about what the RVC's role actually is.

The details of the agenda for this meeting are available on the national website at www.us.mensa.org/read/board-meeting-reports/ under the dropdown 2018-01-16 – Teleconference. The next in-person meeting of the AMC will be in Denver, CO on March 3, 2018. The agenda will be posted online at the link above on February 16.

CultureQuest registration opened on January 16, and there's still time for your Local Group to field a team (or three)! Last year, Central Florida Mensa and Tampa Bay Mensa both took money prizes, and maybe this year it's your turn. The deadline for registration is March 31, and remember, all members of your team(s) must also have renewed by that date! Rules and registration information can be found at <https://www.us.mensa.org/attend/culturequest/>.

Does your Local Group have a great Gifted Youth Coordinator? Nominations for Gifted Youth Coordinator of the Year are due on February 20. Information on this program is available at <https://www.us.mensa.org/recognize/group-awards/gy-coordinator-of-the-year/>.

And finally, with National Volunteer Week (Mensa Cares!) coming up on April 15-22, I'm starting to hear groups coming up with different programs they would like to create, from beach and road and park cleanup to library support to group home visits and other projects. Besides being a good way to give to your local communities, it's also great visibility and promotion for your local group. I'd love to hear what kind of creative ideas you could come up with! You're Mensa – and you're Brilliant!

Until next month (or until I see you online),
Thomas George Thomas
Email: RVC10@us.mensa.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/thomas.g.thomas
Twitter: @FardleBear

Do you know what's fun?

If you do, tell Lisa Blair or me! Lisa Blair (programs@tampa.us.mensa.org) is our program officer, and we are looking for A Few Good Ideas!

Events

If you have a hobby, interest, or activity you like, there is a good chance that some of the almost 700 members in Tampa Bay Mensa would also enjoy it. Let's do it together.

Has Tampa Bay Mensa done something in the past that we should do again?

If you were ever a member of a different local group, did they have a great event that we should do here?

What about other groups that you belong to? Did they do something fun that we can try?

What can we do that would make you get involved?

I have recently come up with a few good ideas for events:

- Escape room
- Bowling
- Horseback riding
- Visit to an animal sanctuary

Would you attend one of these? What else?

Tampa Bay Mensa is what we make it. No more, no less.

Renewal time.

It is time to renew your membership in Mensa. If you have questions, please contact any member of the ExComm. Our contact information is at the back of the Sounding.

Promo codes.

Several months ago, you received a promo code from the national office. This code allows a friend or family member to take the Mensa test for free.

This offer expires very soon, so:

PLEASE USE IT.

Let me know if you have any questions.

It's only for new test takers, not renewals of membership. If you don't have your code, please contact Becky Folger at the National office to get it re-sent to you (LocalGroups@americanmensa.org) . ■

Calendar of Events

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 » Tampa Lunch Bunch@ Sweet Tomatoes	2	3
4	5	6	7 » Reading Group	8 » Tampa Lunch Bunch@ Sweet Tomatoes	9	10 » Oldsmar Games Night
11	12	13	14	15 » Tampa Lunch Bunch@ Sweet Tomatoes	16	17 » Spring Hill Games, Conversation, and Whatever!
18	19	20	21 » Reading Group	22 » Tampa Lunch Bunch@ Sweet Tomatoes	23	24 » TBM ExComm Meeting » Tampa Games Night
25	26	27	28			

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

February 2018 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 the event details to calendar@tampa.us.mensa.org 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 12:30pm Tampa Lunch Bunch @ Sweet Tomatoes

Location: Sweet Tomatoes on Dale Mabry just South of Bearss

Sweet Tomatoes is an all you can eat salad & soup buffet. Show up at your convenience and join us in the private room off the dining area. Tell the cashier you are there for the Mensa lunch to receive a 15% discount. Non-member spouses or friends are included, too. There is no program for this very informal event, and the conversation is free flowing. Topics range, based on the interests of members, and the backgrounds of participants varies widely, making for interesting discussions. Members are respectful and genuinely interested in listening to each other. New members are always welcomed even if you can't be a regular. Hosted by Dave Bryant; please email him at SenseiDave@msn.com if you have any questions.

February 7 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 8 12:30pm Tampa Lunch Bunch @ Sweet Tomatoes

February 10 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 Zadorozny sylviachocolate@gmail.com 813-855-4939 (leave message)

February 15 12:30pm Tampa Lunch Bunch @ Sweet Tomatoes

February 17 1pm Spring Hill Games, Conversation, and Whatever!

Location: 4050 Ligonier Road, Spring Hill, Florida 34608

Come join me for Mensa fun in the afternoon! Snacks, soft drinks, and various homemade yummys will be provided (\$3 kitty helps defray expenses). I have some board games, playing cards (cribbage, anyone?), etc. Feel free to bring your favorites. My home is owned by two cats. Smoking outdoors or in the lanai, depending on group preferences. Parking on the driveway and grass. Looking forward to seeing YOU! RSVPs (definite or maybe) will help me plan the yummys. Call 352.616.8523 or e-mail joanne@jcgaddy.com .

February 21 7pm Reading Group

February 22 12:30pm Tampa Lunch Bunch @ Sweet Tomatoes

February 24 3pm TBM ExComm Meeting

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

Tampa Bay Mensa 's Executive Committee ("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 24 7pm Tampa Games Night

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

Come play fun board & table games - feel free to bring your favorites! Snacks, sodas, coffee, tea & dinner provided (\$3 kitty helps defray refreshment expenses). My large game room is on a separate AC and additional tables in the dining and living room areas. I have cats who stay in their bedroom, and two Great Pyrenees who will need a walk or backyard play session, but otherwise, will stay in their room until 10ish. (If you're interested in walking with us, they will love to meet you!) I also have some reptiles and my quaker parrots Jasmine and Lucky may make an appearance. No smoking indoors, please. Carpooling encouraged. Street and driveway parking available.

Call 813-476-5405 or email melissalstephens@gmail.com

About Birthdays

If you notice that your name is not in the appropriate monthly Birthday list, and would prefer to have it listed, you can update your settings at the US Mensa website.

Go to <https://www.us.mensa.org> and log in, then click on My Mensa > My Membership Profile at the top. This will take you to the main profile page. Then click on "My Communication Preferences" at the top right. In the "Member Directory" section, click the "Edit" link. There will be a check box called "Display birthdate online" which will un-block your birthday from the local data.

I'm not affiliated with HQ, so I don't know where else (y)our public information could be used.

Note: It appears this is impossible for members who are under 18. If you have an underage child who is a member, and would like his/her name to appear on the birthday list, please send an email to editor@tampa.us.mensa.org, with the subject "TBM Birthday Announcement" at least a month ahead of time, so I can add the name manually.

--The Editor

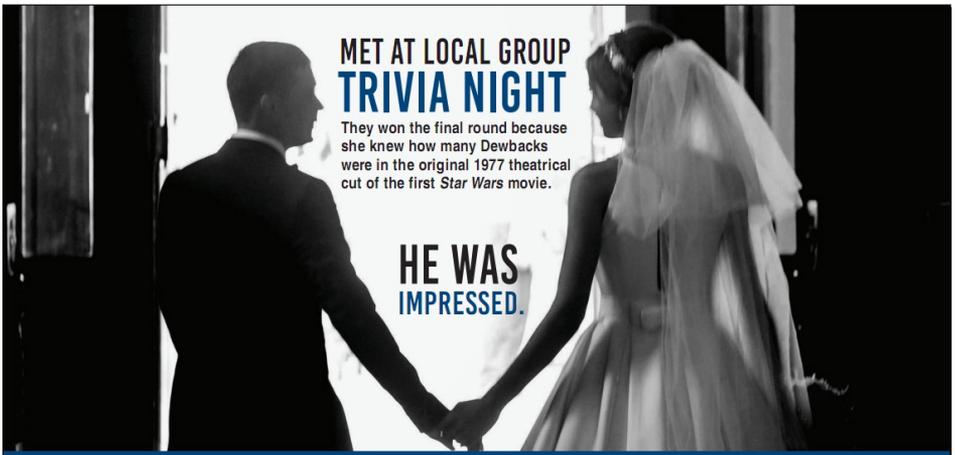
On This Month in History: February

Emma Edmund

On February 8, 1587, Mary, Queen of Scots was beheaded on orders of the Queen of England. Mary was found guilty of plotting to assassinate her cousin, Elizabeth I, and restore Catholicism in England. The only surviving child of James V of Scotland, Mary spent almost 19 years in prison until she was found guilty and executed.

Birthdays in this month include Matt Groening on February 15, 1954, and Nina Simone on February 21, 1933. Groening is an American cartoonist, writer and producer who created shows such as “The Simpsons” and “Futurama.” Simone was an American singer, songwriter, and musician whose famous songs include “I Loves You, Porgy” and “My Baby Cares Just For Me.”

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



**MET AT LOCAL GROUP
TRIVIA NIGHT**

They won the final round because she knew how many Dewbacks were in the original 1977 theatrical cut of the first *Star Wars* movie.

**HE WAS
IMPRESSED.**

**WHEREVER LIFE GOES
TAKE YOUR MENSA MIND ALONG.**

Renew your membership now.
Visit us.mensa.org/renew

 **MENSA**

Long, long ago in a kingdom far, far away... no, wait...

Well, it sure *was* long, long ago and it was a re-run of the movie, “Rainman” that made me remember it. The place where this occurred was in Gulfport, FL, where I used to host the Third Thursday Mensa dinner at the Horse & Jockey Pub, before it became the Fourth Friday dinner and moved to the Olive Garden. Some of you may have been just the proverbial gleam in your father’s eye, it was so long ago. At least 4 people that I know of, who attended that dinner, have long since gone to their eternal reward.

But I digress. During this meal, and let’s say it was May 12th just for the sake of this story, a woman happened to say, “I wonder what day November 25th falls on.” My husband Dan, without hesitation, said, “It’s a Tuesday.”

The woman who’d posed the question said, very sarcastically, “HA, HA, HA!” Dan said, “No, I’m serious. It really is a Tuesday.” Thus began a bit of a debate, so I whipped out my checkbook, which was the only source of a calendar I could think of, and sure enough, Nov. 25th that year fell on a Tuesday. Believe me, no one was more surprised than I, but I handed the calendar to the woman and showed her. She sort of cocked her head and said, “Okay, smarty-pants, how about August 4th?” Dan replied, “That’s a Friday.” Sure enough it was.

Needless to say, everyone there began peppering him with dates and he never hesitated and he was never wrong. People even tried dates into the following YEAR which was as far as my little calendar went – and once again, Dan never hesitated and he was never wrong. I said, “I knew you were an idiot, but I never knew you were a savant.” He was my husband... I could get away with saying that.

I’d completely forgotten that incident. After all, he went to his eternal reward (in a kingdom far, far away, God bless him) over 9 years ago. Then recently I saw that there would be a rerun of “Rainman” on TV and suddenly I thought, “I wonder if his kids knew about that.” I just had to call and ask. Not one of the three had had the least idea that he could do that. I guess none of them had ever needed to know what day a future date would fall on... or if they had, they’d never asked him.

Obviously (I hope), the days and dates in the above story were made-up, but the story was, as I always endeavor to make my submissions to “The Sounding,” absolutely true. ■

Mensaversaries

- 46 years Gregory Cowsert
44 years Patricia Bowker
38 years Susan Wendt
37 years Delphine Jenness, LeGrand Jones
36 years Edwin Kelley
35 years J Blanton, James Norman
34 years Robert Fisher, Henry O'Neill
33 years Patricia Johnston
28 years K Schneider
27 years Peter Forret
17 years Nathan Wheatley
16 years Sharon Baugher, Carlos Hernandez
15 years Keith Halbasch, Sheldon Livingston
14 years Mary Jarrett, Robert Miller, Barbara Stetzko
Joseph Griffiths, Brad Morse, John Mrsich, Abdus-Sattar
12 years Nasser, Thomas Quinlan, Kenneth Ravencraft, Don
Robinson
11 years Frederick Carlson, Edmund Marks, Darrin Rosamond, Jeff
Villet
10 years Sherri Baker, Rudi Loehwing
9 years Logan Libretti
8 years Ryan Duran, Ryan McKenzie, John Means, Lilly Paggio
7 years Stephen Page, Brian Thiel
6 years James Chevalier, Anelle Kloski
5 years Gregory Garbee
4 years Anastasia Hyatt, Michael Roglitz, Edward Zellem
3 years Elizabeth Iadarola, Sanja Maneval, Molly Shadrick
2 years Jaydin Danco, Debra Faulkner, James Hernon
1 year Zabeeh Babar, Mike Good, Tyler House, Tiffany Schilling

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

Cryptopoem

Sylvia Holt Zadorozny

O FISH EXH HE HMI MAGIC FEET,

RIVAXJI A WOPI FAJ OS DL MIAT,

AST VXH AST KIICIT A MAGIC FAST,

AST MEEBIT A RIPPL HE A HMPIAT;

AST FMIS FMOHI DEHMJ FIPI ES HMI FOSY,

AST DEHM-COBI JHAPJ FIPI WCOVBIPOSY EXH,

O TPEKKIT HMI RIPPL OS A JHPIAD

AST VAXYMH A COHHCJ JOCNIP HPEXH.

FMIS O MAT CAOT OH ES HMI WCEEP

O FISH HE RCEF HMI WOPI A-WCADI,

RXH JEDIHMOSY PXJHCIT ES HMI WCEEP,

AST JEDIESI VACCIT DI RL DL SADI:

Cryptopoem (cont)

OH MAT RIVEDI A YCODDIPOSY YOPC

FOHM AKKCI RCEJJED OS MIP MAOP

FME VACCIT DI RL DL SADI AST PAS

AST WATIT HMPEXYM HMI RPOYMHISOSY AOP.

~ FOCCOAD RXHCIP LIAHJ, "HMI JESY EW FASTIPOSY AISYXJ"

Answer to the January Cryptopoem:

*Felis catus is your taxonomic nomenclature,
An endothermic quadruped, carnivorous by nature;
Your visual, olfactory, and auditory senses
Contribute to your hunting skills and natural defenses.
I find myself intrigued by your subvocal oscillations,
A singular development of cat communications
That obviates your basic hedonistic predilection
For a rhythmic stroking of your fur to demonstrate affection.
A tail is quite essential for your acrobatic talents;
You would not be so agile if you lacked its counterbalance.
And when not being utilized to aid in locomotion,
It often serves to illustrate the state of your emotion.
O Spot, the complex levels of behavior you display
Connote a fairly well-developed cognitive array.
And though you are not sentient, Spot, and do not comprehend,
I nonetheless consider you a true and valued friend.
- "Ode to Spot", by Data (Star Trek, The Next Generation)*

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.

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES

By Lucy Maud Montgomery

Mrs. Rachel Lynde lived just where the Avonlea main road dipped down into a little hollow, fringed with alders and ladies' eardrops and traversed by a brook that had its source away back in the woods of the old Cuthbert place; it was reputed to be an intricate, headlong brook in its earlier course through those woods, with dark secrets of pool and cascade; but by the time it reached Lynde's Hollow it was a quiet, well-conducted little stream, for not even a brook could run past Mrs. Rachel Lynde's door without due regard for decency and decorum; it probably was conscious that Mrs. Rachel was sitting at her window, keeping a sharp eye on everything that passed, from brooks and children up, and that if she noticed anything odd or out of place she would never rest until she had ferreted out the whys and wherefores thereof.

There are plenty of people in Avonlea and out of it, who can attend closely to their neighbor's business by dint of neglecting their own; but Mrs. Rachel Lynde was one of those capable creatures who can manage their own concerns and those of other folks into the bargain. She was a notable housewife; her work was always done and well done; she "ran" the Sewing Circle, helped run the Sunday-school, and was the strongest prop of the Church Aid Society and Foreign Missions Auxiliary. Yet with all this Mrs. Rachel found abundant time to sit for hours at her kitchen window, knitting "cotton warp" quilts—she had knitted sixteen of them, as Avonlea housekeepers were wont to tell in awed voices—and keeping a sharp eye on the main road that crossed the hollow and wound up the steep red hill beyond.

Since Avonlea occupied a little triangular peninsula jutting out into the Gulf of St. Lawrence with water on two sides of it, anybody who went out of it or into it had to pass over that hill road and so run the unseen gauntlet of Mrs. Rachel's all-seeing eye.

She was sitting there one afternoon in early June. The sun was coming in at the window warm and bright; the orchard on the slope below the house was in a bridal flush of pinky-white bloom, hummed over by a myriad of bees. Thomas Lynde—a meek little man whom Avonlea people called "Rachel Lynde's husband"—was sowing his late turnip seed on the hill field beyond the barn; and Matthew Cuthbert ought to have been sowing his on the big red brook field away over by Green Gables. Mrs. Rachel knew that he ought because she had heard him tell Peter Morrison the evening before in William J. Blair's store over at Carmody that he meant to sow his turnip seed the next afternoon. Peter had asked him, of course, for Matthew Cuthbert had never been known to volunteer information about anything in his whole life.

And yet here was Matthew Cuthbert, at half-past three on the afternoon of a busy day, placidly driving over the hollow and up the hill; moreover, he wore a white collar and his best suit of clothes, which was plain proof that he was going out of Avonlea; and he had the buggy and the sorrel mare, which betokened that he was going a considerable distance.

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

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