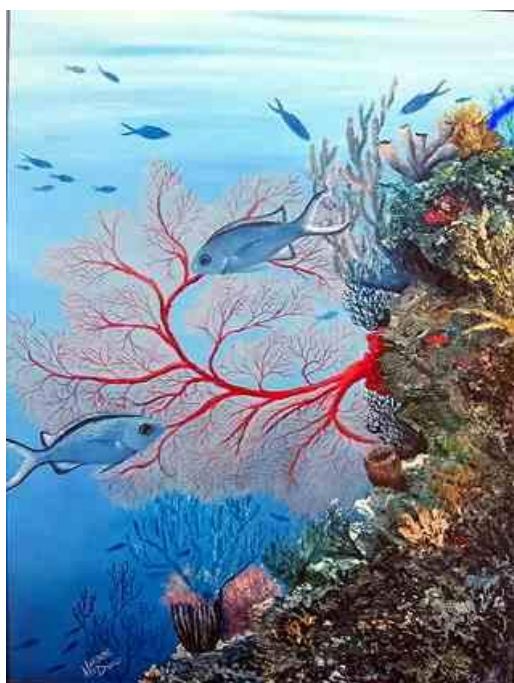


PensaMensa Newsletter

December 2006

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Thanks to Marianne McDonald for sharing Cayman Trench, left, and Celebrate, below, both oil paintings. Her paintings are exhibited at Quayside Gallery and Blue Morning Gallery in Pensacola, and may also be seen on her web site, www.mariannemcdonald.com

This is our Christmas present to you, along with the membership list. It's sorted by zip code and doesn't include phone numbers or email addresses. If you can't find a member's number in the phone book, call or email John Mochan or Bob Ulrich or me to get it. Information that you have instructed National not to share with other members has not been printed. Many Mensa groups publish membership lists annually, and we believe this is a good way for our widespread and diverse group to connect with members in their area.

10th Annual Holiday Party

**Saturday, Dec. 16, 2 p.m. at
641 Merioneth Ct., FWB**

This is always one of the biggest turnouts of the year, so please come and enjoy the company. It's a great chance to mingle and meet new people. The basics will be provided, but it's a pot-luck event, so please bring something in the way of food and/or drink to share and join the party. All members and their families and friends are welcome.

Directions: Take either Beal Pkwy or Eglin Pkwy to Racetrack Road, north off Racetrack on Mooney Road, left on Merioneth Drive, left into the cul-de-sac that is Merioneth Court. It may be necessary to park on Merioneth Drive, as parking is limited.

"M"embership News

by **Bob Ulrich**

The group membership total continues to march slowly upward toward the only psychological total of 200. In October we added 2 members to raise our number to 197. Unlike the last couple of months the relocation factor did not hurt us, as 2 Mensans moved from our area and 2 relocated to Northwest Florida.

As I type this, I once again do not have all my historical membership records with me. Like a few months ago I am on the laptop away from home. This time my location is slightly more exotic. It is early in the morning and I am sitting on a deck chair on a cruise ship in the North Atlantic Ocean. I downloaded the monthly membership report while on board a couple of days ago, and I will use some down time to create this column and get it to Bobbye, our newsletter editor, in time for publication. If time permits I may be able to add a paragraph at the bottom with more historical details after I get home on November 19th or 20th. I do intend to write a brief travel article about our trip to Rome and the cruise back, so look for that in a future newsletter. Anyway, as mentioned above the group had 2 move-ins, 2 move-outs, plus 1 member reinstating and 1 brand new to Mensa member. The 2 members who left our area were **Stephen Fairbairn** going from Niceville, FL to Burke, VA, and **Alex Nieto** who moved from the Navarre area with his military parents to somewhere overseas. Stephen actually notified our local group of his move a few months ago but the news finally reached the National Office.

The 2 people joining or possibly rejoining us in this area are **Kermit Hemmert** who comes to us from Houston Texas to Pensacola, FL and **Olest Carver Byrd** who relocates from Blairsville, GA to Panama City, FL. Mr. Byrd was a member of our local group in the past. Adding to our roster total also are **Ed Magowan** who rejoins after a short absence and new member **Chris Ann Jones** in Pensacola. So welcome back or welcome to the area or welcome to Mensa, whichever applies.

Bobbye has asked in the past and continues to look for new member biographical information to use in short welcome articles in this newsletter. So anyone who has been in our local for a year or less either

as a new member or a relocating member is welcome to and asked to send Bobbye a short or even long article about yourself for newsletter publication.

ExComm Minutes

by Heidi Daniels

The Executive Committee Meeting was held at Heidi Daniels' house on November 18, 2006. The meeting was called to order at 2:10 PM. Attending were: John Mochan, Jerry Gilbert, Martha Porter, Heidi Daniels, Mary Ann Mochan. John Mochan moved and Jerry Gilbert seconded that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as published in the newsletter.

President: The yard sale held in November made \$190.30 Big items left over will be listed in the newspaper to sell or stored for the next garage sale.

Vice President: We are looking for a "ghost writer" for the GenX article for a few months. If you are interested in hosting an event and writing the article for a month contact Heidi Daniels hsdaniels@gmail.com.

Membership: See details in Membership Officer's Report.

Treasurer: All funds have been transferred to Compass bank. See following Treasurer's Report.

Publications Officer: No report.

NEW BUSINESS: We received 2 more registrations for a total of 9 paid registrations for the RG. The RG tentative schedule has been updated and is on the website. Next month's meeting will be Saturday, December 16 in Fort Walton Beach during the Annual Holiday Party. Adjourned at 2:31PM.

The Tenth Story

RVC Column for Region 10

Some years ago I had a period of being disillusioned with Mensa and considered not renewing my membership. I wasn't happy with the way things were going, and I grumbled and grouched around a bit, and thought I would just walk away. But I never did. Instead, I thought about all the good things that have come from my membership in Mensa, most of which centered around the many friends and relationships Mensa has given me, along with the good times spent with those friends. They were important to me - important enough that they were much larger than whatever issues were making me unhappy at the time.

And I am still a member. We will soon be receiving notices that it is time to renew our membership, and I think that this is the time I will finally opt for a life membership. I have been paying dues for 25 years, after all, so I guess I will stick with it. I hope the rest of you are planning to renew, as well.

I don't have a lot to say this month related to official Mensa. The AMC met in Rhode Island in October. I could tell you what things were decided at that meeting. But that shouldn't be necessary, since the complete minutes of the meeting are there for you to read on the national website. I will say that there has been a concerted effort to save money. Go read about it on the website, if you are interested.

I will keep this short this month. This will give your editor extra space to include writings from within your local group, hopefully.

And at the risk of being politically incorrect, I wish you all the Merriest of Christmases and the Happiest of New Years.

Maggie Truelove, Regional Vice Chair, Region 10 > 3333 Honeysuckle Lane, Orlando, Florida 32812;
407-855-9078; truluvs@cfl.rr.com; rvc10@cfl.rr.com; rvc10@us.mensa.org

Treasurer's Report

by **Jerry Gilbert**

All funds are now in Compass Bank. Last statement balance 17 Oct 06 - \$4,078.62

Expenses:

Rent for testing room \$25.00

Ad for yard sale \$11.40

Dec. newsletter advance \$261.65

Total (\$ 298.05)

Income:

Mensa group funding \$363.77 (two months)

RG applications \$70.00

Yard sale \$190.30

Total \$624.07

Current balance -\$4,404.64

Calendar

Where no specific phone number is given, call 850-585-3194.

Friday, Dec. 1, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. First Friday in Pensacola, L-o-n-g Lunch at Scenic 90 Café, 701 Scenic Highway, Pensacola. Drop in for a long visit if you can, a short one if you can't. As you enter the restaurant, go to your right and to the rear.

Saturday, Dec 2, 10 a.m. Jewelry Making at Moondance, Unleash your creative side or if you don't keep it on a leash then just arrive at Moondance. We will be taught the art of making earrings, bracelets, necklaces, and who knows what else by the artisans on staff. Moondance has over a million types of beads ranging in color and style from simple to funky including crystals and semi precious stones. This is a family friendly event so bring the kids. Moondance is located at 1100 West Garden St., downtown Pensacola. Contact Heidi

Daniels, 433-1465, hsdaniels@gmail.com

Saturday, Dec. 9, 11:30 a.m. Second Saturday in Panama City. Lunch at Chef Imondi's Downtown, 448 Harrison Avenue, Panama City.

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 6 p.m. Supper Club in

Pensacola - Hall's Seafood (920 E Gregory St downtown Pensacola) Call Dan Murray on his cell phone, 455-6339, after 7 p.m. or on weekends please.

Saturday, Dec 16, 2 p.m., Annual Christmas Party in Fort Walton Beach – At Bob and Joanne Horne's, 641 Merioneth Ct NE. Contact Bob Horne, rhorne@cox.net or 315-0255. This is our best-attended event of the year. Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy the holiday season with all your Mensa friends!

Saturday, Dec 16, 2 p.m. ExComm Meeting in Fort Walton Beach – During the annual Christmas Party. Special attention will be on planning for our 5th annual Regional Gathering in February.

Tuesday, Dec 19, 5 p.m. - ? Happy Hour at Maguire's Pub, just east of the Destin bridge on the north side of Hwy. 98. It's a brew pub, good food, reasonable prices, and very popular - that's why we're going on a Tuesday. Dave Howard is our coordinator - he and Tehane will be there at 5 p.m. Please call 897-5702 or e-mail davehoward01@earthlink.net

Friday, Dec 29, 11:30 a.m., Last Friday in

Shalimar. Lunch at Shalimar Cheers Pub, 1270 North Eglin Parkway: their # is 651-2740. It's at the back of a yellowish office building immediately north of the courthouse, turn at the red-and-yellow sign and go through the parking area all the way to the back and to the right.

Saturday, Dec. 30, 2:00 p.m. Newsletter

Assembly and Games - at the home of John and Mary Ann Mochan, 616 Overbrook Drive. FWB. Bring a snack or beverage, enjoy John's brownies, fold, staple, mutilate and stamp and get your newsletter early. jmochan@cox.net or 850-585-3194.

Tentative January Events: Jan 5, Lunch,

Pensacola; Jan 9, Supper Club, Pensacola; Jan 13, Lunch, Panama City; Jan 19, Happy Hour, TBD; Jan 20, ExComm, New Year's Party, Pensacola; Jan 26, Lunch, Shalimar; Jan 27, Newsletter/Games Day, FWB

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Photography SIG. Dan Murray in Pensacola (455-6339) found out there was no camera club anywhere near him, so he started one.

Pinochle SIG. Contact Bob Mundorff in Navarre at (850) 939-5882 or pinochledd@aol.com .He will coordinate dates/times/schedules and is willing to host the games. For beginners too.

Shooting SIG. Contact Bob Mundorff in Navarre at pinochledd@aol.com or 939-5882 to go shooting during the week at the Escambia River Muzzleloader's range - modern small arms allowed.

ValenTime!

Mark your calendars now

February 9-11, 2007 (3 p.m. Friday thru noon Sunday) at the Holiday Inn, 1020 Hwy 98 East, Destin, FL.

A great program is shaping up - pack your most outrageous t-shirt for the Wit T-shirt Contest, your pirate costume, and your GPS - or just come on down and we'll outfit you!

All your favorite events are scheduled along with some new treats, and the best RG cuisine anywhere.

And you can take our smiling dolphins home with you on our 5th Anniversary t-shirt! Pre-order to be sure your size is available and waiting for you. Registration is \$40 per person if paid by Feb 1, \$45 per person at the door, or \$20 per person for Friday night, \$35 for Saturday, and \$10 for Sunday. Please make checks payable to Northwest Florida Mensa. Name(s)

Address _____

Phone _____

Email: _____

Please mail this form to: Registrar — ValenTime
616 Overbrook Drive, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547-3528

Contact: John Mochan - (850)-585-3194,
jmochan@cox.net

Room rates APPROXIMATELY \$75—\$108 depending on Gulf View. Double occupancy. Add \$10 per extra person. Call the hotel at (877)-837-6181 or (850)-837-6181 and tell them you are with the Mensa group.

Visit us at: nwflorida.us.mensa.org

Northwest Florida Mensa Members

By zipcode, as of 10/31/06

Addresses are omitted when the member requested that this information not be

published. To change your information status, contact the national office. Check the phone book or call the membership chair, president, or editor for phone numbers.

Webmaster's Note: Membership information available in the print version was removed for web publication. Please contact a Northwest Florida Mensa Officer for membership information.

Seven Trivia Questions

Dr. Dan Finley, Brain Bowl Coach & Health Sciences Professor, Gulf Coast Community College, Panama City.

Dr. Dan invites you to submit a guest trivia question to dfinley@gulfcoast.edu for possible inclusion in future columns.

1. What does the term “hoi polloi” mean?
 2. The word “savanna or savannah” describes what geographic feature?
 3. What would one call a mixture of potassium perchlorate, titanium and dextrin that is molded on a rigid stick or wire designed to produce a dazzling visual display?
 4. Name the important battle of the Hundred Years’ War in which a smaller English army defeated a much larger French army on August 26, 1346. The key to the English victory was the development of the longbow, which proved superior to the crossbow.
 5. Identify this 1936, 50-inch tall, bronze statue by Sylvia Shaw Judson that is the image of a young girl wearing a simple dress and a sad or contemplative expression, with her head tilted to the left. She stands straight, her elbows propped against her waist as she holds up two bowls out from her sides. This statue was seen on both the book cover and in the movie, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*.
 6. Who is the author of the 1892 short story, *The Yellow Wallpaper*?
 7. In Herman Melville’s first novel, *Typee*, what is in the sack suspended from the ceiling in the room where Tommo and Toby are held prisoners by the cannibal natives?
-

Editor's notes

and news from all over

During the month of December, American Mensa will be running a "Holiday Bonus" promotion. In December, all home tests sold online will be \$13 instead of the regular \$18 (Great holiday gifts!) As a bonus, if the home test is returned by the end of January, the test taker will receive a coupon for \$5 off the Mensa Admission Test.

From Catherine Barney,

MarketingDirector@AmericanMensa.org;
www.us.mensa.org

News from all over

Phillip Woolley was recently appointed to the Windstorm Damage Mitigation and Energy Advisory Committee. The committee meets periodically to consider all aspects of energy, storm-related damage and citizens' advice to prevent catastrophic damage, and includes engineers, builders, city and county officials and citizens. Woolley is a Realtor with Exit Realty of Pensacola, with 26 years of experience.

Do more, find friends in the online member directory provided by AML. Visit

www.us.mensa.org/directory for addresses (including email), occupations, interests; or update your statistical information and privacy releases at www.us.mensa.org/profile. You will need your membership number (on your mailing label on this newsletter) and the password from the current issue of the Mensa Bulletin (if you have a problem with this, call Membership Officer Bob Ulrich, 939- 6870).

Good reading: Freakonomics by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner, and **Marley and Me** by John Grogan. The cover of *Freakonomics* said it better than I could: "In an age of too much wishful, faith-based conventional wisdom on the right and left, and too much intellectual endeavor squeezed into prefab ideological containers, *Freakonomics* is politically incorrect in the best, most essential way. Levitt and Dubner suss out all kinds of surprising truths. . .with a fearless disregard for whom they might be upsetting. This is bracing fun of the highest order." And, "Steven Levitt has the most interesting mind in America. . ."

I laughed out loud on page after page of *Marley and Me - life and love with the world's worst dog*, then wept at the predictable conclusion of the story. But *Marley and Me* is light years beyond being just a story for dog lovers: it is a reflection of our humanity and the joys, sorrows, ups and downs of life, skillfully observed and told with unrelenting honesty by an exceptionally fine writer. Even if you don't like dogs, I predict that you will like Philadelphia Inquirer columnist John Grogan more and more with each page.

Officers of Northwest Florida Mensa

President: John Mochan (850) 585- 3194; 585-5067; 616 Overbrook Dr., Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547-3528; jmochan@cox.net

Vice President: Heidi Daniels (850)433- 1465; 221 Cevallos St. Pensacola, FL 32503; hsdaniels@gmail.com

Treasurer: Jerry Gilbert (850) 862-4800; 700 Trowbridge Ave., Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547

Membership Officer: Robert Ulrich (850) 939-6870; 7025 Pro Am Ct., Navarre, FL 32566; bulrich@mchsi.com

Editor: Bobbye Sikes Wicke (850) 862- 2874; P.O.Box 252, Mary Esther, FL 32569;

Northwest Florida Mensa Home Page: <http://www.nwflorida.us.mensa.org>

Arbitrator/Mediator and Test Proctor: Steve Brumm (850) 747-3233; Panama City, FLAD4WT@aol.com

Gifted Child Coordinator: Jonathan Miller (850) 939-9785; 8214 Riverside Landing Way, Navarre,

FL 32566; jonathan.miller7@mchsi.com

Panama City Coordinator: George Chancellor (850) 874-0154; 7523 Coleridge Road, Panama City, FL 32404; georgec584@aol.com

S.I.G.H.T Coordinator & Test Proctor: Mabel Loesch (850) 433-2358; 2140 E. Scott St., Pensacola, FL 32503-4957; mloesch@bellsouth.net

Test Proctor: Joanne Horne (850) 315- 0255, 641 Merioneth Ct., Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547; johorne@cox.net

Webmaster: Jill Russ (850) 678-9169, 12 Corbin Ct., Niceville, FL 32578; jillsruss@yahoo.com.

Milestones

Mensaversaries: As of this month, the following Mensans have maintained continuous membership in American Mensa Ltd. for the years shown. These anniversaries may not accurately reflect the total number of years in Mensa if a break in membership for one or more years has occurred.

Russell Taptich - 25

Robert Mundorff - 23

Archibald Hovanesian - 14

Linda Campbell - 12

Larry Caley - 9

Basil Fossum - 9

William Browning - 8

Richard Engelland - 8

Donald Hines - 8

Milton Rogers - 8

Donald Kornegay - 7

Zacharie Wilde - 6

Scott Kaufmann - 5

Shirley Branan - 3

Colby Van Atta - 3

Kristen Augustine - 2

Jonah Johnson - 2

Cameron Pouncey - 2

Jonathan LeMoel - 1

Tara Taylor - 1

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

Bill Campbell - 12/5

David Dunlap - 12/5

Chris Jones - 12/5

James Lambert - 12/9

Lauren Smith - 12/16

William Graham - 12/17

Laura Dolly - 12/19

Morrie Beitch - 12/20

Kristen Augustine - 12/21

John Mochan - 12/27

If your birthday isn't listed, it's because it is not on the membership roster we get from the national office each month - and that's because you instructed National to withhold it. Please go to us.mensa.org and change your listing (or write to the address in your Mensa Bulletin, or call them). We promise not to tell anyone how old you are.

Answers to Seven Trivia Questions

1. Hoi polloi is Greek for “the many,” some mistakenly believe it means the elite or the snobbish, but it has a quite opposite meaning, i.e., the common people or the masses.
 2. Derived from the Taino word “zabana,” a savannah is a treeless plain especially in Florida. It also refers to a tropical or subtropical grassland containing scattered trees and drought-resistant undergrowth.
 3. A sparkler, sometimes called a “snowball”
 4. Battle of Crecy [KRAY-see]
 5. The Bird Girl
 6. Charlotte Perkins Gilman
 7. Shrunken heads
-

Précis

Fraser Sherman

The places on which history turns ... 109 EAST PALACE: Robert Oppenheimer and the Secret City of Los Alamos, by Jennet Conant (whose father actually worked at Los Alamos) focuses less on the technical side of the Manhattan Project than the personal: Oppenheimer defying predictions he was too intellectual and mystical to run the science team, Richard Feynman's antics (cracking open safes and leaving mocking notes inside), the frequently rough conditions of life in Los Alamos, unexpected security leaks (such as physicists elsewhere noticing how many reference materials had been sent from libraries to somewhere in New Mexico) and the wild side (rumors of WACs selling sex on the side). Entertaining.

END OF DAYS: Fundamentalism and the

Struggle for the Temple Mount by Gershom Gorenberg is a look at how Christian and Jewish extremists have fixated on replacing the Dome on the Rock with the Temple as a way to “nudge the hand of God” and kick off the End Times (while Muslims anticipate the same thing as the Jewish antichrist's opening gambit) ever since the Six-Day War put Jerusalem under Israeli control (“When the conquest of Jerusalem didn't bring the Messiah, many decided it was because the Temple was still under Muslim authority.”). Very good at showing how much of a potential powder keg this is, how the millennialism behind it endures despite an

unbroken string of failed prophecies and how dubious Christian fundamentalist support of Israel is (“Any time Israelis go against the End Times script in ways that benefit themselves, some of their Christian supporters feel outraged.”). Well done.

Nonliving things have gender too

1. Ziploc Bags - They are male, because they hold everything in, but you can see right through them.
2. Copiers - They are female, because once turned off, it takes a while to warm them up again. It's an effective reproduction device if the right buttons are pushed, but can wreak havoc if the wrong buttons are pushed.
3. Tire - Male, because it goes bald, and it's often over-inflated.
4. Hot Air Balloon - Male; because to get it to go anywhere, you have to light a fire under it, and of course, there' s the hot air part.
5. Sponges - Female, because they're soft, squeezable and retain water.
6. Web Page - Female, because it's always getting hit on.
7. Subway - Male, because it uses the same old lines to pick people up.
8. Hourglass - Female, because over time, the weight shifts to the bottom.
9. Hammer - Male, because it hasn't changed much over the last 5,000 years, but it's handy to have around.
- 10 - Remote Control- Female - Ha! You thought it would be male. But consider this. It gives a man pleasure, he'd be lost without it, and while he doesn't always know the right buttons to push, he keeps trying.

Taken from a table card at Hyman's Seafood Restaurant in Charleston, SC by Charlotte/Blue Ridge Mensa's Idiom.

Guns vs. Doctors

A lesson in logic

Doctors: (A) The number of doctors in the US is 700,000. (B) Accidental deaths caused by physicians per year are 120,000. (C) Accidental deaths per physician is 17.14%. (Statistics courtesy of the US Department of Health and Human Services)

Guns: (A) The number of gun owners in the US is 80,000,000 (yes, that's 80 million). (B) The number of accidental gun deaths per year, all age groups, is 1,500. (C) The number of accidental deaths per gun owner is 0.001875%. (Statistics courtesy of the FBI)

So statistically, doctors are approximately 9,000 times more dangerous than gun owners. Remember, guns don't kill people -- doctors do.

Fact: Not everyone has a gun, but almost everyone has at least one doctor. Please alert your friends to this alarming threat. We must ban doctors before this gets completely out of hand. Out of concern for the public at large, the statistics on lawyers have been withheld for fear the shock would cause people to panic and seek medical attention.

This little tidbit was found in the July 2005 issue of Magnloquence (Lehigh Pocono Mensa - Eastern Pennsylvania and a bit of New Jersey), and in the September 2005 Mentally, the Newsletter of Tallahassee Mensa.

Editorial Policy

PensaMensa welcomes your articles and artwork!! Submissions must show name, address, phone, and may be edited for clarity and space. Please enclose an SASE if you want your material returned. Deadline for submission is the 15th of each month.

PensaMensa is the official newsletter of Northwest Florida Mensa. Opinions expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of any Mensa group or its officers. Mensa is a not-for-profit international society, whose sole requirement for membership is a score at or above the 98th percentile on any of a number of standard IQ tests. Please contact one of the Test Proctors (see Officers) for testing in Northwest Florida.