

# PensaMensa Newsletter

February 2008

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Mary Ann Mochan, Mabel Loesch, Jill Russ, Cheryl Cullison, and Jerry Gilbert at the New Year Party.

**Photographer Jerry Bradshaw's caption:** "New editors hold forth about slipping dirty jokes into the Congressional Record."

**Don't forget to register for ValenTime! A flyer will be sent separately again next week, along**

**with a schedule of events.**

# ExComm Minutes

## by Terri Culbertson

2:45 - Meeting called to order. In attendance: John Mochan, Terri Culbertson, Jerry Bradshaw, Mary Ann Mochan, Mabel Loesch, Jill Russ, Cheryl Cullison, Jerry Gilbert, and Bobbye Wicke.

**Pres:** Welcome to Cheryl Cullison who will be taking over as our newsletter editor when Bobbye steps down in April. Many thanks to Bobbye for her years of putting together a fantastic publication for us each month. These are some big shoes to fill, but Cheryl is enthusiastic and ready for the challenge. At this point, the meeting digressed into a brief history of our local group and introductions to welcome our newbie. Official notes of interest: John will handle the necessary paperwork for the change with the national office and Bobbye and Cheryl will get together to start bringing her up to speed. Bobbye will remain at her post through the completion of the March newsletter to assist in the turnover.

**Upcoming events:** ValenTime RG in Feb, Denver AG in July, Colloquium on Genealogy in September, and Culture Quest in April. The group voted to pay the \$40 fee for local teams to participate in this year's CultureQuest Trivia Competition. We will have two teams for the April 27th event starting nationwide at 3pm central. If you are interested in participating on either team, please contact Mabel Loesch for Pensacola at [mloesch@bellsouth.net](mailto:mloesch@bellsouth.net) or Terri Culbertson for Panama City at [terriculbertson@hotmail.com](mailto:terriculbertson@hotmail.com). We must deliver the applications with team members by March so sign up ASAP!! Up to 5 members per team with an alternate. If we have more interest, we may create a 3rd team.

**VP:** Nothing to report from the snow slopes in NC where he was enjoying snowboarding with a friend. Though he did call in to say, "Hi."

**Membership:** Nothing to report from Bob who is out on a cruise with his lovely wife, Lynda. They did not call.

**Treasurer:** Taking in registration money for the RG. Will publish report elsewhere in this newsletter.

**Publications:** There was much rejoicing. Bobbye will be busy helping Cheryl through the transition. She will make up the fliers for the RG once the updated program is finalized.

**Old Business:**

Mabel reports that she has received the entries for the scholarship contest. John and Cheryl have volunteered as judges.

It's time for another Yard Sale. April 19th in FWB at the Mochan home. To be followed by the EXCOMM meeting at noon that day. Keep this in mind as you perform your spring cleaning and get your donations to John and Mary Ann. Please contact John at [jmochan@cox.net](mailto:jmochan@cox.net) (850) 585-3194.

We have 2 for 1 testing coupons for the month of February and have scheduled a testing session for Sunday morning at the RG in Destin. Please encourage any prospective members to join us and see

what the group is all about. As always, if someone can't make the pre-set testing time, please contact one of our local proctors to make other arrangements. They're listed on the inside cover of this newsletter.

### **New Business**

At the time of this writing, we're at 64 registered attendees with more arriving daily. The rest of the meeting was devoted to RG planning details and the EXCOMM was concluded at 3:40. (Sure save the long one for when the VP is gone.)

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## **"M"embership News**

### **by Bob Ulrich**

The total membership of Northwest Florida Mensa took another minor up tick in the last month of 2007 as we gained 3 members and lost none. Our new list contains 197 members, 1 fewer than we had at the end of 2006. This also represents a gain of 20 M's since April 2007 right after renewal date. In December, unlike many of the earlier months of the year, the Mensans who relocated moved into our area instead of out. Two of our membership gains were caused by relocations. **Gene Anderson** moved from Kingsport , TN to Fort Walton Beach. **Todd Ring** relocates to Pensacola from an out of the country military base. Welcome to our area to both of you and we hope your membership here is long and fruitful. . .

The 3rd new member is new to Mensa. **Lauren Holland** lives in Destin. As a younger member she can be a Mensan for a long time and we hope she is.

As you read this our Regional Gathering is fast approaching. I am sure there are references to this event elsewhere in this missive. If you are going to be anywhere near the hotel in Destin during the R.G. weekend ,please stop in. I am sure John is totally willing to let any member stop in and say hi, and get a brief feeling of the atmosphere at no charge.

Also FYI at Fridays dinner Lynda and I will not be serving chilli, but instead will provide spaghetti and (no meat) sauce and meatballs all served separately. I hope to see many of you there.

**Attention All Regional Gathering Attendees:** I need people to make or bring desserts (preferably chocolate) for Friday Night's Chocolate Orgy. Also needed are people to serve (usually women dressed in finery). Please contact me at [bulrich@mchsi.com](mailto:bulrich@mchsi.com) or 939- 6870 if you can contribute.

Thanks!

Bob Ulrich, Temporary King of Chocolate

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# Cryptograms

by Jill Russ

Easy Level

H GOFHOEO HC BUXOQ JRO NIP H GOFHOEOHC JRO  
ITOQHZIC SQOIT. BUXOQ HV AUUS LUQ PUY. HJ  
OCQHZROV JRO VUYF, VRIQBOCV JRO HCJOFFOZJ,  
ROIFV JRO VBHQHJ, ICS -- NROC BFIPOS NOFF,  
CUYQHVROV JRO NIFFOJ. ~FUY XQHAAOQ

**Challenge Level**

The Challenge Level includes the "space" as part of the cryptogram. In other words, the letter R might actually be the space, and a space might be a letter. The end of each line of the cryptogram is the end of a word.

QGURPG\_PRFD PQGODWPWGINNPZKOP YR

XGJDCPMGQDUPOGRP\_CGQPRFD

ACKNNKYOMDPG\_PWGICPGZOPXNYW

AIRP\_CGQPRFDPKODXRKRIEDPG

WGICPGXXGODORU

~NGIPJCKDSDC

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# The Tenth Story

## RVC Column for Region 10

I had an interesting email exchange recently with a Region 10 member, telling me that she had forgotten to renew in the spring, just realized it and renewed in December. She was a long time member and definitely wanted to maintain membership. But she was wondering why she hadn't been contacted by her local group to remind her to renew. She had been around long enough to know that local groups can be reimbursed for contacting members who haven't renewed. And her local group didn't do it.

This made me start wondering, so I checked with national office. I found out that sadly this past year only three of Region 10's twelve groups had participated in the program to be reimbursed for contacting non-renewing members. Now I am urging the local groups to participate in this program. The local group is reimbursed \$.50 for each lapsed member contacted. Since this can be done by phone call or email as well as snail mail, it can actually be a small money maker for the group. Technically I suppose this would fall within the realm of the membership officer's job description, but if your local group's membership officer is extremely busy, perhaps YOU could volunteer to help with this. And when you do, perhaps you could be the person whose contact helps someone decide to maintain their membership. (Yes, there have been short-term members who have told someone who asked that they didn't renew because they didn't feel like anyone in the group cared.) We are only at the beginning of the renewal period, which you need to do by April 1, so the time for the local groups to contact lapsed members isn't here yet, but this is a good time for a reminder so the LocSecs can be on the lookout for the information. I think it will be in the May mailing.

And speaking of renewals, officers and candidates for office, remember that you must renew your membership by April 1. I occasionally receive email requests from members asking for someone's contact information. I generally tell them how to use the member directory available to all of us on the national website. Do you know about it? The directory is in the "members only" section, and you must have your membership number and password to access it. Type in the person's name, and if they are a member, click on the name again to bring up their contact information - if they have agreed for it to be listed, of course. Take some time to visit the national website. There is a lot of helpful and interesting information there, available for you to use.

See you in Destin - or Tampa - or Denver!

**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

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# Cryptogram solutions

## Easy Level

I believe in poker the way I believe in the American Dream. Poker is good for you. It enriches the soul, sharpens the intellect, heals the spirit, and - when played well, nourishes the wallet. ~ *Lou Krieger*

## Challenge Level

Most of the money you'll win at poker comes not from the brilliance of your own play, but from the ineptitude of your opponents. ~ *Lou Krieger*

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# Calendar

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

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

**Tuesday, Feb. 11, 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.

**Friday, Feb. 15-Sunday Feb. 17: ValenTime!**

**Friday, Feb. 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, March 1, Newsletter Assembly and Games** at the home of John and Mary Ann Mochan, 616 Overbrook Dr., FWB. John will make brownies; bring your favorite goodies or beverage; fold, staple, mutilate and stamp, get your newsletter early and play games. Info: [jmochan@cox.net](mailto:jmochan@cox.net) or 585-3194.

## Tentative March Events:

March 7, Lunch, Pensacola; March 8, Lunch, Panama City; March 11, Supper Club, Pensacola; March 15, Happy Hour, TBD; March 28, Lunch, Shalimar; March 29, Newsletter/Games Day, FWB

Dan Mazzeo of Gulf Breeze is vetting the idea of a SIG for anyone having an interest in motorcycles (owning one is not a requirement). Contact Dan at [onegoodengineer@aol.com](mailto:onegoodengineer@aol.com) or

850- 206-4213.

**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.

## **And then there's. . .**

### **The Owlabama Blast**

#### **The Best of Region 5 (and Destin)**

**April 4-6, 2008**

**Alta Vista Hotel and Conference Center**

**Birmingham, Alabama**

Join us for the 21st annual Owlabama Blast - A relaxing good time is our goal. We are retaining the great karaoke and dance activities that you would expect from Birmingham. From Destin there will be a Chocolate Orgy. From Atlanta is the movie room. Huntsville supplied the idea for sex trivia. The gift exchange is from South Carolina. In addition to the best of each gathering, there will be a vendor and events room. The vendors are self-explanatory. The events will keep everyone supplied with activities the entire weekend. For participating there will be tickets given for raffles. You've never seen a regional gathering quite like this one will be.

Register at the end of January and save at only \$50 for a weekend of fun, hugs, laughs, conversation and great speakers. After that the rate is \$55 until the 1st of March; the rate at the door is \$60. Veterans get the standard \$5 discount.

For more information, write to Beth Brooks, 2217 Marion St., Hoover, AL 35226, or e-mail River\_Beth@yahoo.com.

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## **A Chess Problem**

### **from Lars Runar**

#### **Solution to January problem:**

1. - Qc1
  2. Rd1 Re1
  3. Re1 Qe1 Mate
- (Algebraic notation)

Sorry, but the new batch of chess problems didn't arrive in time to include them this month.

Reprinted by permission from Chess Training in 5333+1 Positions by Laszlo Polgar © 1994  
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# President's Page

by John Mochan

We had a great time at Happy Hour in Niceville at Perry's. Maybe you can make it to the next one. And the party at Mabel and Hal's in Pensacola had about 25 attendees. The food sure was delicious.

In the ExComm meeting we put the final touches on our plans for the Regional Gathering in Destin February 15 - 17. I have 62 people signed up so far and expect at least 20 more.

If you have published a book and would like to join in the book signing/sale, contact Terri Culbertson immediately to reserve a space.

This year we are having many events geared for your gifted children. Even if you can't spend the whole weekend with us, bring the kids with you and get a special one day rate of \$30 for adults and \$15 for children under 18 on Saturday. Plan to arrive early and stay all day. That's a real bargain for all the activities, food, and drinks that you'll get.

Hope to see you there!



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## 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:** Micah Butler (850)723-8305; 8196 Lode Star Drive, Pensacola, FL 32514; mjb28@cox.net

**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; bobwick@cox.net

**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 Coordinators:** Jill Russ (see Webmaster listing below for contact info), and Debi Dunkerley, 850-469-4602; 3941 McClellan Road, Pensacola 32503; davendebi@cox.net

**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;

# Israel, Egypt and Jordan - The Journey of a Lifetime!

## By Jim and Roberta Harris

**Politics:** Israel, Egypt and Jordan all claim to have secular laws. However, each uses either the Torah or the Koran for the basis of laws and for their daily lives. We sensed that if it wasn't in their Holy Book, it wasn't a law.

**Israel and Palestinians:** Our eyes were opened the day we hired a private taxi to do some exploring on our own. Our driver was an Arab and drove through all Israeli security checkpoints, barely slowing down. It was upon entering Bethlehem, a Palestinian Territory, that we noticed differences. There are massive concrete walls/fences along the major highway leading to Bethlehem. There is now only one way to enter and exit the city. In Bethlehem, both Christians and Palestinian Muslims live near each other, but again, each has their own part of town. We were treated like royalty by the shopkeepers who begged us to enter their stores. We shopped some and met the friendliest people, who asked us to tell our Government to intervene for peace between Israel and the Palestinians. Upon leaving Bethlehem, for the first time we were stopped and our passports were heavily scrutinized by the Israeli military. We learned from our Arab guide that the Israelis build condos and move into them, then claim they can't leave because they've settled. We also learned that Yasser Arafat is still a hero and deeply loved by the Arabs in Israel. A Palestinian cannot leave their territory without a specific travel visa that is also time limited.

**Egypt:** Very little along the lines of politics were discussed in Egypt. We were told that everyone gets along, education is high, etc. Several times comments were made by our guides about alcohol and that Muslims do not drink. Those we talked with seemed happy with Mubarak's leadership.

**Jordan:** Jordan borders on several warring countries: Israel, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Iraq. As such, it has several Palestinian and Iraqi refugees in their country. This is creating a hardship on the country in that Jordan has no national resources. Water is only available once a week and that is the best day to shower and shave. Also with the Iraqi refugees Jordan is experiencing inflation and housing problems.

**Our Take:** The Jews, Muslims and probably Christians in the Muslim countries will never have peace. We were greeted with very warmly in the Palestinian Territory and were told we are all brothers and must love each other. We appreciated hearing the Arab/Palestinian side of the conflict and concluded that because the Israeli government has closed off all areas of revenue for the Palestinians, the Palestinians are suffering. If however, they were more prosperous, they would be ready for war with Israel.

We have no doubt that there is great discrimination against the Christians in Egypt, and probably in Israel as well, but that was not as pronounced. Jordan is quite proud of its ability to get along well with all of the bordering countries - but we ask, "What does Jordan have that anyone would want?"

We loved our experience in the Middle East and are very pleased that we took this journey. After two weeks in Egypt and one in Jordan, we feel we've seen most of what we'd like to see. However, one week in Israel was not enough and if the opportunity ever arose for us to return to Israel, we'd leave on the first plane. We have barely covered all of our experiences and travels in the Middle East and, should you have any questions or want to hear what we've omitted, we'd love to discuss them more.

**Tourists' Questions:** Oftentimes when we've traveled, we felt that our guides thought Americans were not the brightest people. Maybe they're right, as below are a few of the questions we heard asked:

Q: Why should we visit the Cairo Museum? We have a wonderful museum back home!

Q: When we were in Israel, our guide there said the Dead Sea was falling by 5" a year. Is it falling that much here in Jordan? (To which our guide answered, very straight faced: No, here in Jordan it's rising by 5" a year!)

Q. What's a Fleshy Hen Hotel? (Asked by someone who couldn't read "Poultry Farm; Fleshy Hens Farmer".)

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## 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](mailto:dfinley@gulfcoast.edu) for possible inclusion in future columns.

Key West Community College Brain Bowl Coach Bill Smith and Valencia Community College Brain Bowl Coach Chris Borglum were the sources for question #3.

**Mea culpa:** In last month's column, I asked the question, "Name the only two states in which a woman has never been elected to a state or national office." Several Mensa members pointed out that Mississippi had elected a female lieutenant governor and Iowa had elected a female lieutenant governor and a female secretary of state. I should have been more specific. Iowa and Mississippi stand alone in never having elected either a state governor or a U.S. congressperson or senator who was female.

1. Antoine Dominique "Fats" Domino sold more records than any other African-American musician in the 1950s. What was his first Top-Ten crossover hit in 1955?
2. What is the origin of the term 'jukebox'?
3. What is the origin of Buffalo, New York's name?
4. What three states make up the Delmarva Peninsula?
5. GTO is an initialization for gran turismo omologato. What is the English translation of this Italian phrase?

6. What artist first recorded the song Hound Dog before Elvis Presley's famous 1956 rendition?
  7. What is the etymology of the phrase 'gung- ho'?
- 

## Editor's Notes

### by Bobby Sikes Wicke

This has been the most intriguing election since Harry Truman whupped "the little man on the wedding cake." I wouldn't dare make any Democratic predictions, but I predict McCain will carry Florida on Tuesday because of our large military contingent, his support of global warming solutions, and his support of Bush's policy on immigration.

Harry Truman said that a recession is when your neighbor loses his job; a depression is when you lose your job. I predict that after the stimulus package passes and is signed, there will be an immediate economic blip which will be long gone by the time those checks are received. Those checks will be largely spent to pay off current debts. Recessions are part of the economic cycle. We pull up our pants and get on with life.

While I'm having fun annoying my Republican friends, one more immigration comment: Hispanics (i.e., the Italian, Portugese and Spanish) got here first. And now they're back, stealing those service jobs we really wanted to do for ourselves. Historically, we've been through this many times with the "threats" from immigration waves of the Irish, Jewish, Italian, Chinese, etc., and those threats became blessings.

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## Eagle Pride at the Tournament of Roses

by James Russ

*James, shown above with dad Tom, is a 9th grader who plays clarinet with the Niceville High School band.*

Performing in the 119th Tournament of Roses Parade on New Year's Day was a big deal. Being a member in the Niceville High School Eagle Pride Band and marching in the event was an amazing experience!

In a flood of maroon and flashes of cameras, the Eagle Pride took over the Okaloosa Regional Airport on December 28st, 2007. We departed for California on our

chartered 747, which contributed to the fee of \$1700 per student. Times 277 kids, 29 chaperones, and 80 friends and family who also went on the trip? That comes to the enormous sum of 656,200 dollars! As you can guess we sold a lot of cookbooks. But there was way more to it than that. We scouted out many fundraising events specifically for the Rose Parade Trip this year. These included a drawing for a 7 day cruise, a "Pennies for Pasadena" change collection program, a Dodge Ball Tournament, a Golf Tournament, a Parent's Night Out, a Second Hand Book Sale, an Eagle Pride Cookbook and an Alumni Donation Campaign.

While we were in California, we had many fun and famous places to go like Huntington Beach, the San Diego Zoo, and Knott's Berry Farm Theme Park. We also had an amazing tour of the float barns where we saw many of the floats being created. In addition, the band performed our halftime show in the Tournament of Roses BandFest, went to Pantages Theater to watch the Broadway play "Wicked", took a jaw-dropping Tour of Beverly Hills and Hollywood, had a dinner and dance on the RMS Queen Mary, and, of course, marched seven miles in the Rose Parade on New Years' Day.

The Eagle Pride was one of only eight high school bands invited to participate in the Rose Parade. I know that just being invited to the Tournament of Roses was a great honor to our school and our city. Not only will the fact that the memories we made while we were in California stay with us for the rest of our lives, but the fact that we got a chance to honor our community really gets my heart racing!

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## Answers to Seven Trivia Questions

1. Ain't That A Shame, later covered by Pat Boone and other artists.
2. There are several possible origins. The Old English word "jouk" was incorporated in the Gullah language which is a Creole blend of Elizabethan English and African languages. Later spelled "jook", the word came to mean "dance" or to "act wildly or disorderly". The word then came to be used at small tea houses for blacks in the Deep South, known as "juke joints." "Juke" might also have been a slang term for sexual intercourse, creating the possibility that "juke joint" made reference to a brothel. In another early use of the word, a musical ensemble was known as a "juke band." When coin-operated machines were placed in "juke joints" in lieu of live entertainment, the term "jukebox" was born. Jukebox was a "southern word", with "automatic phonograph" being used elsewhere until Glenn Miller popularized the term in 1939.
3. The name Buffalo (NY) has nothing to do with the erroneously-named American bison. Instead, the name relates to the French phrase beau fleuve [boh-fluhv]. Early trappers and explorers named the area for a creek and its scenery, "beau fleuve" means "beautiful stream."
4. Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.
5. Gran turismo omologato translates as 'grand accredited touring.' 'Accredited' means that the car has been 'homologated' for car racing. To homologate a car model or component is to confer an official recognition.
6. Hound Dog, written by Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, was originally recorded by Willie Mae "Big Mama" Thornton in 1952. The Presley version is ranked #19 on Rolling Stone's list of "The 500 Greatest Songs of All Time." Hound Dog was also recorded by five country singers in 1953. Since

1953, Hound Dog has been recorded by more than thirty individual artists.

7. 'Gung-ho' is a phrase borrowed from the Chinese word 'gonghe' which is an adjective meaning enthusiastic. The phrase was coined by New Zealander Rewi Alley who worked in China in the 1920s. The first American thought to have used it was Marine Major Evans F. Carlson. It spread throughout the US Marine Corps and into American society when the phrase became the title of a 1943 film about the 2nd Raider Battalion's raid on Makin Island.

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## 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 of one or more years has occurred.

27 Henry Floyd Pruitt Jr.  
10 Suzanne Bratton  
8 Bryan Clark  
6 Richard A. Clinchy III  
6 Richard Henson  
4 Joseph Yates III  
3 George "Michael" Domning  
3 Linda Binion  
1 John Graham

### **HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!**

3 Lyle Kent Burkhart  
4 R.A. Isaacs  
5 George "Michael" Domning  
7 Steven Brumm  
9 Robert Prescott Keller  
12 David F. Howard  
14 Jennifer Watson  
19 Tara Taylor  
19 Suzanne K. Zoss  
20 Philippe Petit

*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](http://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.*

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## Kids Track Program at ValenTime!

**Thinking about coming to ValenTime this year, but don't know what to do with your kids? *Your problem is solved!***

This year, the Gifted Child Program has planned an exciting new "kids track" on Saturday just for

school-age kids! Now, when they register for the RG, kids can participate in supervised activities on Saturday in their own special Youth Room. Activities include:

- improv games
- science experiments
- "Odyssey of the Mind"-type problem solving activities
- craft activities
- a "Guitar Hero" marathon
- lots of games, games, games
- - maybe even a pool party in the indoor pool (accompanied by a parent)
- and much more!

Kids can register for the RG at the special rate of \$25 for the whole weekend, or \$15 for Saturday only. Parents, you can relax and enjoy Saturday knowing that your kids are supervised, out of the way, and having fun, too! So send in your registration form today

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## Précis

### Fraser Sherman

**The material in SUNDOWN TOWNS: A Hidden Direction of American Racism** by James Loewen is probably much more familiar to you than to me-while I was aware of the concept, Loewen's book is unsettling in showing how widespread the No Coloreds Aloud (or Jews, or Chinese as the case may be) was in the twentieth century and how they were formed and maintained through violence, ordinances and occasionally subtler tactics ("If a sundown town requires all its police live in city limits, that guarantees an all-white police force more inclined to support the exclusion."). Loewen also discusses how most Americans remain oblivious to the concept or incorrectly assume it to be a Southern Thing, whether because it's so widespread nobody thinks about it as unusual or in some cases through active avoidance of the topic, at least in polite company and Printed Legends. Rather downbeat reading, but good, though the discussion of sundown suburbs comes close to stock preachments (Suburbs Drain From Cities But Give Nothing Back).

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## Curmudgeon's Corner

### Feeling curmudgeonly? Send it in!

On TV crime shows, why do cops conduct searches with flashlights instead of just turning on the lights when they enter a home? Not only are the flashlight beams inefficient, but the cops always hold them right next to their heads, providing a good target for a perp lurking in the shadows.

# 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.