

PensaMensa Newsletter

March 2006

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Photos in this issue are by John Mochan and Bob Ulrich - thanks, fellas, especially for putting them on a disk for me!

If you want to know what you missed at ValenTime, check inside for *Flapdoodle*, a report to be published in their newsletter by two of our guests from Piedmont Area Mensa (SC), both bona fide RG connoisseurs. And I promise this will be the last ValenTime news until next fall.

Have you signed up for electronic delivery instead of snail mail delivery of your newsletter? Please?

Please?

Would you like to see our membership list printed in the newsletter? Please weigh in on this issue.

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Above:ValenTime! Our servers and desserts were yummy: Mary Ann Mochan, Lorne Brumm, Heidi Daniels, Jo Horne, and Lynda Ulrich.

"M"embership News

by Bob Ulrich

Membership grew again in January 2006 by 3, giving us a new total of 203 M's in Northwest Florida Mensa. We had one departure as **Joe Adams** moved north to the cold and small state of Rhode Island (Johnston, RI to be exact) from Niceville. I bet he will miss the Florida sun.

We obviously had 4 additions to give us our net gain of 3, and 2 of them were relocations to here. Both of these new-to-our-area folks came from other parts of Florida. Suzanne McKnight relocated from way south Florida, **Big Pine Key**, to Panama City. Welcome to the area to both of you.

Robert Ignasiak Sr. decided to rejoin Mensa after being out for a while and we are all happy he came back. The 4th addition to the group is **Jasmine Bookwalter**, a brand new Mensan who resides in Panama City. Welcome back, and welcome to new members as well.

I have recently received a mailing from the National Office with my renewal information. My renewal is ready to go and I hope yours is too. If you are thinking of not renewing, please drop me or any other officer a note or e-mail or make a phone call to tell us why you are unsatisfied with your membership. I think that I speak for most if not all the active members in saying we enjoy our memberships and most of the other members we deal with.

One final note about the R.G. It was slightly smaller than in previous years but I think a good time was had by a vast majority of the attendees. There is a list of the Chocolate Orgy dessert contributors in another part of the newsletter and I just want to thank all of them again; the selections were bountiful, varied, and delicious.

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. Referred to as the "founder of British imperialism," who was the Jewish-born Christian who served twice as the Prime Minister of England, during the reign of Queen Victoria.
2. What is associated with the identification number NCC-1701A?
3. Before establishing a colony in America, what American founding father was imprisoned in the Tower of London for attacking the Catholic-Anglican concept of the Trinity?
4. Who is regarded as the founder of Quakerism?
5. What is the official name of the Quakers, and the year it was founded?
6. What does the name "Pennsylvania" mean?
7. What is Yogi Berra's birth name?

Notes from all over

Fraser unleashed. . .

After a couple of years doing nothing but dinner theater, Clint Mahle at OWC has once again lured me back into regular theater, by the time-honored tactic of offering a role I really,

Officers of Northwest Florida Mensa

President: Terri Culbertson (850) 377-5042 2717 Blackshear Ave., Pensacola, FL 32503; terriculbertson@hotmail.com

really like. The insanely, laughably jealous Ford in “Merry Wives of Windsor” is a wonderful role that I loved the first time I was in the show (in another part, back in college) so when Clint told me his Ford was going to be replaced, I succumbed ...

And so I find myself, for the first time since college, in a real theater rather than a restaurant or the Ft. Walton Beach civic auditorium. In the show, I play a jealous husband who decides to test my (completely faithful) wife’s fidelity by disguising myself and hiring the rogue Falstaff to seduce her. Complications ensue and Mistress Ford teaches both of us a lesson or two.

This is one of the largest speaking roles I’ve ever had, and learning lines was a hassle until a good friend (thank you, Laley!) suggested recording all my cue lines, then playing them back until I knew the right responses. It’s also unusually physical compared to most of my roles, with very fluid blocking, but I rather like not knowing exactly where I’m going to be moving or standing.

The show will take place March 8-11. So if you want a good laugh, come on out and see us.

~ *Fraser Sherman*

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ExComm Minutes

by John Mochan

The Executive Committee Meeting was held during the Fourth Annual ValenTime Regional Gathering on Feb 12, 2006. The meeting was called to order at 8:32AM.

Attending were: Terri Culbertson, John Mochan, Bob Ulrich, Bill Nichols, and Mabel Loesch.

OLD BUSINESS

President: We have three of our four Proctors recertified at this time. The deadline is March 31. We are trying to get Jennifer Clark certified soon as an additional Proctor in the Pensacola area. We have not formed a team so far for this year’s Culture Quest. If you are interested, please contact an officer for the form.

Treasurer: No report.

Editor: No report.

Vice President: We are continuing efforts on the Web site update.

Membership: We lost one member and gained three for a new total of 203!

Cryptograms

by Jerry Gilbert

Jerry’s taking a sabbatical, don’t know how long or what mischief he’s planning in place of his monthly torture sessions. If

Nominations Committee: Bill Nichols is joined by Mabel Loesch on the Nominations/Election Committee. They are seeking a third member. They also want to hear from all of you about potential candidates for President, Vice-President, and Treasurer for the election this summer.

>“*Yes, it’s OK to nominate yourself.*”

Mabel reports that John Mochan and Bobbye Wicke have finished judging the Mensa Scholarship essays. Mabel will complete the paperwork and mail the results to National this week.

NEW BUSINESS

The Regional Gathering was another HUGE success! The amount of fun have at an RG is always inversely proportional to the amount of sleep you get. And, boy, are we tired! 65 Mensans and their special others attended. A financial report will follow after Martha gets all the inputs on income and expenses from those involved.

Upcoming RGs are Mar 24 in Greenville, SC and May 5 in Birmingham, AL.

Another Garage Sale at the Mochans’ is planned for this Spring. Details to follow later.

Next month’s meeting will be Saturday, March 18, 2006 at 2:00PM at the Ulrichs’ house in Navarre.

Adjourned at 8:50.

you’re having withdrawal symptoms, write a letter to the editor or give him a call.

February answers:

ADVICE TO CHARTER BOAT CAPTAINS

1. In the event of a hopeless grounding, male passengers escort all juveniles to shore and seek shelter. Female passengers remain aboard and await further instructions from the captain.

2. Never entertain questions such as: Where are we, when will we be there, what was that noise, are we sinking? Answering these questions only breeds discontent.

Flapdoodle

by Mary Ann Cox and Vera Lawson



We have been back on the RG trail this month! At the ValenTime RG in Destin, Florida, Piedmont Area Mensa was represented by Stormie and Ike Kullman, Mary Ann and Bob Cox, and Vera Lawson. All five of us got there in time for the Chocolate Orgy this year, one of our real favorite events. There were enough elegant chocolate desserts to

satisfy even Vera and Mary Ann. Vera echoes Mary Ann's lavish praise of the famous bourbon balls. We love you,

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.

- 31 Fred Fuld III
- 26 Joe W. Adams
- 26 Joseph W. Weaver
- 25 Robert G. Horne
- 20 Darlene M. Owens
- 19 Thomas M. Stewart
- 18 William W. Graham
- 13 Eugene Hooprich
- 13 Artice L. McGraw
- 12 John Saltzman
- 8 Theresa Culbertson
- 7 Martha W. Porter
- 6 Robert W. Harder
- 5 W. Fred Bond
-
- 5 Jerry J. Gilbert
- 4 Dawn Murray
- 3 Ronald M. Hudspeth

Bill Boyington and Marya Bard! Once again the Northwest Florida group was kind enough to arrange for the breath-taking ocean view from the hospitality suite windows.

The programs were outstanding. Arthur Cartwright gave his popular presentation on alternate fuel vehicles. From Steve and Lorne Brumm we learned tips on how not to be a victim of crime. Dr. David Woodward taught us some interesting regional history. Over a Mexican lunch, he continued to entertain Arthur, Vera, and a Florida friend Cameron Pouncey. Fraser Sherman, one of our favorite Floridians, had a delightful program on Sherlock Holmes, once again dazzling us with his knowledge and charm. If you like hair-raising tales of the supernatural, you would have loved Murray Silver's program on ghosts of Savannah, Georgia. He is author of the book *Behind the Moss Curtain and Other Great Savannah Stories*. Mary Ann has an autographed copy.

We particularly enjoyed the Saturday night Pirate Dance, a new Destin event, which also included a rum tasting hosted by a handsome pirate and a gorgeous wench, Bob and Lynda Ulrich. Our Bob Cox won the prize for the best men's costume. We were so proud! There was a "Pi"rate Contest to see who could recite the longest "pi." Birmingham's Nick Sanford amazed all by rattling off "pi" to 71 decimal places! Vera could recite a few- blueberry, chocolate, cherry, pecan and apple. Don't you just love a smart aleck!

Vera and Mary Ann regret that they were both unable to stay awake to howl at the moon at midnight. We're sure that the event was as deeply satisfying as it has been in the past. We promise to do better next year.

John Mochan displayed his usual wit and flair when auctioning off the RG leftovers, The auction is one of the most festive events of the RG, and we came home with some great bargains. We were tickled that Mary Ann Mochan was chosen as "Party Animal" - a well deserved honor. Vera won a paper game prize. She was the first to turn in a completed Get Acquainted Grid. She thanks Bob Osterman from Ohio for his invaluable assistance. He signed the most difficult block because he had traveled more than 800 miles to the RG. Our Ike was acclaimed as the best male hugger.

Destin attendees are such wonderful people, and seventeen of them have already registered for our RG in March! It will be great to have these good friends in Greenville.

Vera's return flight from Destin had an unusual highlight. Arthur got on the plane's intercom and proposed to her,

- 2 Jack Bahm
- 2 Victoria Milner
- 2 Cathy Williams

Happy March Birthdays!

- 1 John Lewis Mohre II
- 2 Darci Lolley
- 5 Frederick Boswell
- 6 Frank M. Butler Jr.
- 12 Donald F. Kornegay
- 18 Cameron Pouncey
- 18 Fraser Sherman
- 18 David Woodward
- 24 Richard Hurt

Write your own caption. . .

for Jo Horne, Nick Sandford, Beth Brooks, and Bill Boyington.



Answers to Seven Trivia Questions

1. Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881)
2. It is the identification number for

right there in front everybody. He then kneeled in the aisle and gave her a ring. Of course, Vera said "Yes!" to a round of applause from the other passengers and tears from the flight attendant. It was definitely an exciting end to the ValenTime RG.

Till next time, Mary Ann and Vera

Calendar

Where no specific phone number is given, call 850-377-5042.

March 3, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 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, March 4, 2 p.m. GenX Bowling Bring the Brats - Cordova Lanes in Pensacola. Family friendly GenX event that will give the adults a chance to socialize without a babysitter! Child-free GenXers, this event is for you, too. Heidi Daniels, hsdaniels@gmail.com

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

March 17, 5 p.m. Third Friday - Happy Hour at Hog's Breath in Destin - two for one drinks from 5-7 p.m., half-price appetizers, and a real "pubby" feeling. The calamari were great and they have Stella Artois beer. 542 E. Hwy. 98 on the north side, west of the old Donut Hole. Dave Howard is our coordinator - he and Tehane will be there at 5 p.m. 897-5702 or davehoward01@earthlink.net.

Saturday, March 18, 2 p.m. ExComm and Open House at the home of Bob and Lynda Ulrich, 5025 ProAm Ct., Navarre. Bring fresh ideas and a snack or beverage to share. Directions/info: bulrich@mschi.com or 939-6870.

From the east: Hwy. 98 to north on Hwy. 87 (just after the Navarre Beach Bridge); turn left at the 2nd stoplight on CR 399. Go 3.4 miles to left on PGA Blvd. into Hidden Creek Estates; take 2nd left on ProAm Ct. to #7025. From the west: Hwy. 98 through Gulf Breeze to left on CR 399 N (about 3.7 miles past the stoplight at Lowe's). Go 6.5 miles to right turn on PGA Blvd., then

the Starship U.S.S. Enterprise from the Startrek series

3. William Penn, Jr. (1644-1713; his father was also William Penn)

4. George Fox

5. Religious Society of Friends, in 1652

6. "Penn's woods" or "Penn's forest"

7. Lawrence Peter Berra, 1925-present, got his nickname from a young friend in the Italian neighborhood in St. Louis, in which he was raised. According to his friend, Berra resembled a Hindu holy man, also known as a yogi. In 1958, the Hanna-Barbera cartoon character, Yogi Bear, was named for Mr. Berra.

Precis

by Fraser Sherman

Knowing little of Stradivari besides his name, I really enjoyed **STRADIVARI'S GENIUS: Five Violins, One Cello and Three Centuries of Enduring Perfection** by Toby Faber, which explains why Strads are the best (though the exact secrets are still unclear) and tackles the history of the title instruments such as the "Messiah" (so-called because it's mostly stayed on the shelf, so waiting for it to be played was like waiting for you-know-who). Into this, Faber weaves a story of the changes in music itself (most Strads have been modified as they have to be played in larger venues) and dealing and pricing of instruments (more and more of which wind up as museum pieces) and whether luthiers will ever figure out how to match Stradivari's

take 2nd left on ProAm Ct. To #7025.

March 21, 7 p.m. Third Tuesday in Pensacola. Dinner at Hunan's Chinese Buffet, 3102 E. Cervantes St.

(Hwy 90 E). Our early arrivals will stake out the best available area, generally past the cash register and to the left, but look for the Mensa logo or a newsletter. John Bolyard, 435-3169 or jbolyard@uwf.edu.

March 31, 12 noon, 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 north of the courthouse, on that side of the street. Turn at the red-and-yellow sign and go through the parking area all the way to the back and to the right.

April 1, 2:00 p.m. Newsletter Assembly and Games at the home of John and Mary Ann Mochan, 616 Overbrook Drive. Ft. Walton Beach. Bring a snack or beverage, enjoy John's brownies, fold, staple, mutilate and stamp and get your newsletter early. Maybe you'll win a game, too. Directions: jmochan@cox.net or 850-585-3194.

Tentative April events: April 7, Lunch, Pensacola; April 8, Lunch, Panama City; April 15, Open House and ExComm, TBA; April 18, Dinner, Pensacola; April 21, Happy Hour TBA; April 28, Lunch at Cheers, Shalimar; April 29, Newsletter/Games Day, FWB.

SPECIAL INTEREST

GROUPSCrestview Lunch Group. Call Lovic Thomas at (850) 682-4133 to arrange a lunch get-together.

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.

Piedmont Area Mensa invites you to the CAROLINAH RG and AMC Meeting in Greenville SC, March 24 - 26, 2006.

We will have a great program, great food and friendly people. All meals are provided including two by the hotel. This year we will be at The Phoenix, Greenville's Inn, a charming Inn in the Southern tradition. The elegant rooms are only \$69.00 plus tax, per night. Check it out on our web site and register today:

work.

THE FIRST EMANCIPATOR: The Forgotten Story of Robert Carter, the Founding Father Who Freed His Slaves, by Andrew Levy, tells how the title Virginia planter did what neither Jefferson or Washington accomplished by fleeing over 400 slaves during the course of a decade, despite opposition from Carter's peers, family and state government. Levy argues Carter's lack of fame comes from reasons including religious eccentricity (Baptist, then Swedenborgian after the Baptists dropped their anti-slavery stance), his lack of writing talent ("The Deed of Gift has the same sentiments as the Declaration of Independence, put into deathly dull prose.") and because we'd rather believe slavery was an insoluble dilemma for the founding fathers than accept that Washington and Jefferson could have freed their slaves if they'd been as resolved as Carter. A fascinating story, but Levy's prose is almost as stiff as Carter's was supposed to be.

The Tenth Story

RVC Column for Region 10

As previewed last month, we have taken another step into the 21st century; there is a new elist for folks in Region 10. To subscribe to the list, send an email to region10-request@lists.us.mensa.org with the word subscribe in the subject line. If you are already subscribed, you can send an email at any time to region10@lists.us.mensa.org to reach others subscribed to the list. This will be a good way for us to communicate with the rest of region 10 in an oh, so timely manner.

Book Signing March 18, 2 - 4 p.m, Pensacola

Bobbie Sikes Wicke will sign copies of *Justice Denied: the destruction of the life and legacy of the He-Coon*, and *Lost Lambs and Black Sheep: Parallel Lives*, at Barnes & Noble's Local Writers' event, 1200 Airport Blvd., Pensacola. Do stop by, if just to say hello and lend moral support! Or visit the web site at www.blacknbluepress.info.

Our speakers were brilliant. . .

Left, Murray Silver with Jim Harris



RG Withdrawal

by Heidi Daniels

OK, I have to admit that when I planned to attend my first RG in Destin I knew I would probably have a good time. I had no idea. I'm completely hooked. Addicted. Yes, I have already registered for the South Carolina RG in March and am probably going to the Brimingham RG in May. From

Are you planning to attend the WG? Wanna be a star? Daniel Gilmore is looking for a few good Mensans to perform at the WG in The Two Percent Show. Instrumentalists are especially encouraged to apply, and music reading ability is a huge plus. If you have a song, sketch or act that's both humorous and Mensa- oriented, that's even better. For details, or to volunteer, email Daniel at himself@att.net or call him at (206) 248-0100 [Be mindful of the time, please; Daniel is on the West Coast, in Seattle.] There is some interesting news from National about testing. Local groups will receive a bit of a bonus (20%) for every candidate they test during February and March. Instead of local groups receiving \$12.50 per test, they will receive \$15.00! It must be received at National Office by no later than the end of March. Testing fee is still \$30.00 To make it even sweeter, in addition to the test rebate, local groups also get \$1.00 extra for every new member that joins. That can really add up!

Last summer, there was a month during which having prior evidence evaluated was FREE! That was a good thing. The only problem was that there was no advance notice of this, and it was difficult to get the word out. Well, this time we have advance notice. Pass the word along to your friends that APRIL WILL HAVE FREE EVALUATION OF PRIOR EVIDENCE FOR MEMBERSHIP. It is a very good thing that we have the World Gathering right here in Region 10 this year, as there seems to be a developing shortage of Regional Gatherings. Central Florida Mensa didn't hold their usual RG in January. Reason? Not enough volunteers to put it on. Now I hear that Space Coast Area Mensa isn't holding their RG in October. Reason? Not enough volunteers to put it on. Let's all hope that this is a temporary situation, and 2007 will show Region 10 back up to speed with several wonderful RGs to

Friday registration to the, well, late check out on Sunday (a little too much wine perhaps?) I felt so comfortable, so myself, around all of these "strangers". I realized this is what Mensa is all about: getting together, meeting people you may never otherwise meet, laughing, playing games, listening to amazing speakers, howling at the moon, and downing a cocktail or two. So for all of you RG virgins, jump in! You won't regret it. If you are interested in going to an RG around the country shoot me an email and perhaps we can round up a group.

March events:

Bowling Bring the Brats - Saturday, March 4th @ 2:00 PM, Cordova Lanes in Pensacola. www.cordova lanes.com. Family friendly GenX event that will give the adults a chance to socialize without a babysitter! Child-free GenXers this event is for you too.

Bar Bingo - Tuesday March 14th 7:00 PM at Jack and Ron's downtown Pensacola. www.jackandrons.com. BINGO starts at 8:00 PM. 2-4-1 drinks until 8 with free munchies. Free shots for O69! Oh my, this isn't grandma's bingo!

NOTE: that the March Brews Brothers event has been rescheduled for April.

April events:

Brews Brothers (all Mensans welcome) - Saturday, April 15th @ 6:00 PM, Brews Brothers in Pensacola. www.brewsbrothersusa.com. 20 beers on tap plus a full bar and pub fare. Complete their International Beer Tour (100 different beers) and get a Brews Brothers mug and drink discounts.

JazzFest (all Mensans welcome) - April 1st at 12:00 PM. FREE Jazz festival held outdoors in Seville Square park downtown. Bring a picnic, beverages, lawn chair and relax. *Heidi Daniels - GenX Coordinator, hsdaniels@gmail.com*
The GenX group is comprised of all Mensans born between 1961 and 1981 whose sole purpose is to provide an opportunity to cavort with like-aged Mensans

keep us sane. Maybe this is a good time for some new people to step up to the plate and volunteer to put on these Regional Gatherings.

Maggie Truelove, RVC 10; 3333 Honeysuckle Lane; Orlando, Florida 32812; 407-855-9078; truluvs@cfl.rr.com

Thanks!

Many thanks to the members listed below who gave of their time and money to contribute items to the Friday Night 2/10 Chocolate Orgy. The buffet spread was once again truly awesome with many delicious choices. Many R.G. attendees were very impressed and expressed their thanks (and ate too much). Also thanks to the lovely ladies who helped serve.

~ **Bob Ulrich**

Marya Bard - Bourbon Balls

Terri Culbertson - Fudge

Heidi Daniels - Sock it to Me Cake with homemade Chocolate Frosting

Jerry Gilbert - Assorted Chocolate candies from Russell Stover, Nestle Turtles, and Whitmans

Joanne Horne - Chocolate Praline Cake
John Mochan - Brownies

Mary Ann Mochan - Buckeyes, Chocolate Heart Cake with Strawberries, and Chocolate Dipped Strawberries

Sue Nichols - Fudge and Chocolate Peppermint Cookie Sandwiches

Cameron Pouncey - Jumbo Chocolate Chip Cookies and Triple Chocolate Cookies

Cheryl Rothwell - Chocolate Fudge Torte and Chocolate Chip Cookies

Fraser Sherman - Brownies

Lynda Ulrich - Striped Delight and Truffles