



**May 2020**

*Vol. 45, No. 3*

**Inside this month's issue:**



**Crypto Poems**



**Members Stories  
& Pictures**



**Other Info and  
Updates**

**Tampa Bay Sounding**

## A Publication of Tampa Bay Mensa



*Tampa Bay Sounding*

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.

## Submission Guidelines

*Tampa Bay Sounding* encourages submissions from all members. Submissions must be signed, but names may be withheld or pseudonyms may be 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:

1. Articles, casual essays, opinion pieces, poems, short stories, puzzles, and artwork are all encouraged.
2. Personal attacks and bigoted, sexist, hateful, or otherwise offensive material will not be published.
3. E-mail submissions are preferred, either embedded in the email or as Microsoft Word-readable attachments (including PDF). Legible hard copy pages, including handwritten submissions, will be considered (but not given preference).

You may send your submissions to: [editor@tampa.us.mensa.org](mailto:editor@tampa.us.mensa.org) (Please indicate "TBM Sounding" in the subject header.)

Unless otherwise specified, unsolicited contributions should be submitted by the tenth day of the month preceding publication.

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## Note from the Sounding Editor

I am not going to lie. COVID-19 sucks. It is amazing what has happened to our country and the rest of the world in just a couple of months. I have gotten used to doing absolutely nothing, locked away in my castle like a fairy tale princess. I miss the interactions with friends, dinners out, my weekly daddy-daughter brunch, visiting relatives, and just doing some of life's simple pleasures like going to the movies.

The year 2020 will forever be remembered as a turning point in society, politics, education, leadership (or lack thereof), and self-awareness. On the plus side, we have learned so many lessons as a species. Viruses pose one of the biggest existential threats to life, order, and peace. And they don't need to be too deadly to create this havoc. COVID-19 will probably stabilize long term at a 1.0-2.0% overall mortality rate, compared with really deadly hemorrhagic viruses, like Ebola and Marburg, which have fatality rates from the low 40's to high 80's. It turns out that this unceremonious little bug, which pales in comparison to the truly horrific cousins, may cause more death and destruction around the world simply because it spreads silently, without symptoms, and lets its host infect countless others before it's discovered.

I lost an old friend today to COVID. He was 88 years old, a Navy veteran of two wars, a father of four, grandfather of many, and even recently became a great grandfather. He tested positive more than 3 weeks ago and has been in the ICU ever since. We thought he had pulled through as he was up and around, eating on his own and Facetiming with his grandkids, but a few days ago, the virus resurged, and he succumbed to it over the weekend. He will be deeply missed by many, including me.

Every day, like many of you, I check the news for facts, figures, and commentary about the Coronavirus. Hoping for good news. Wishing for a miracle cure. Wanting our leaders to stop acting like children and start leading. And, of course, I always checked the daily tallies of new cases and new deaths. Even though I felt sympathy for those who passed, the numbers still felt like lifeless statistics, until now that it really hit close to home.

Goodbye, Chuck. R.I.P. COVID-19 sucks!

**Rob Bradford**

[editor@tampa.us.mensa.org](mailto:editor@tampa.us.mensa.org)

# LocSec Column

**By:** Art Schwartz

I know we are all being overwhelmed by the Covid-19 Pandemic. While I and my family here in Florida have been spared, I found out yesterday 3 of my relatives in NY have been stricken. Fortunately, none seem to be in life threatening conditions. My wife, my sons and I are all still employed and working from home.

I feel lucky. I know for many this has been an incredibly difficult time

The pandemic has of course caused Tampa Bay Mensa to cancel any events. I hope we will be able to get together soon. I am hopeful will be able to do a summer social. We all deserve a way to celebrate when this is over

Please try and keep in touch with other members via social media

Local Mensa elections for the board (ExComm) are coming up in June. You can still be on the ballot

Please contact Bill Loring and/or The Sounding Editor, Rob Bradford, if you would like to be on the ballot.

Art Schwartz

SR. Integration Analyst

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# RVC Region 10 Column

**By:** Thomas G Thomas

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the March meeting of the American Mensa Committee (AMC) was changed to a teleconference. Because I am writing this before the meeting, I do not have the results of the motions yet, but there were seven motions before the AMC. These include:

- A. To remove ASIE 7, Item N (equity restoration) in its entirety. The original purpose of this ASIE was to pay back the equity that was spent on a lawsuit over a decade ago, but since this has had to be modified every year, it has not had the intended effect. Rather than continue to adjust the ASIE every year, it is being removed and any net asset increases will be moved to equity.
- B. To appoint an Auditor. This is an annual motion that takes place during the March meeting together with the adoption of the annual budget.
- C. To adopt the 2020-2021 budget. This is also an annual action.
- D. To adopt the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan. This is an action taken every five years. The new plan focuses on Outreach (for membership growth), Value (for member retention), and Diversification of Revenue Streams (to hold down dues).
- E. Clarification of Official Local Group Meetings. Members have asked for more control of attendance at the meetings they host. While official meetings must be open to all members, the definition of an “official” meeting has been debated. This motion excludes Social events from the category of official meetings, even if included on the local group calendar or paid for, in part or in whole, by the Local Group.

F. Continuous Membership Lapse Repayments. This is the motion I wrote about in my column last month, and as expected, members have been vocal on both sides about this motion, along with disagreements about features within the motion (such as the charge for repayment of lapsed periods or the period of time allowed to be reclaimed).

G. Unabridged newsletters. This motion is to clarify what a local group is required to provide to the national office for their retention policies. In most cases it is not an issue, but some local groups have provided the national office with the minimum requirements while providing the members with significant differences between their print and electronic newsletters. This clarifies that the national office needs to be able to track what a local group communicates to its members for posterity and for future officers (such as my successor, whoever that may be).

The mini-minutes will be posted to

<https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/meeting-reports/> within a few days after the meeting. Please let me know if you have any questions.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on all of our lives, including our social lives and the events we provide for our membership. Several local groups have canceled their March events and expect to cancel April's events as well. Several Regional Gatherings (RGs) around the country have also been canceled or postponed. While decisions for events further out such as the Tampa Bay RG over Memorial Day weekend or the Annual Gathering in Kansas City in July have not been reached, the organizers are keeping informed with the health and safety of our members as a key focus. If

there is an event you are interested in attending, it is advisable to contact the host to ensure that it is still happening to avoid disappointment on both sides.

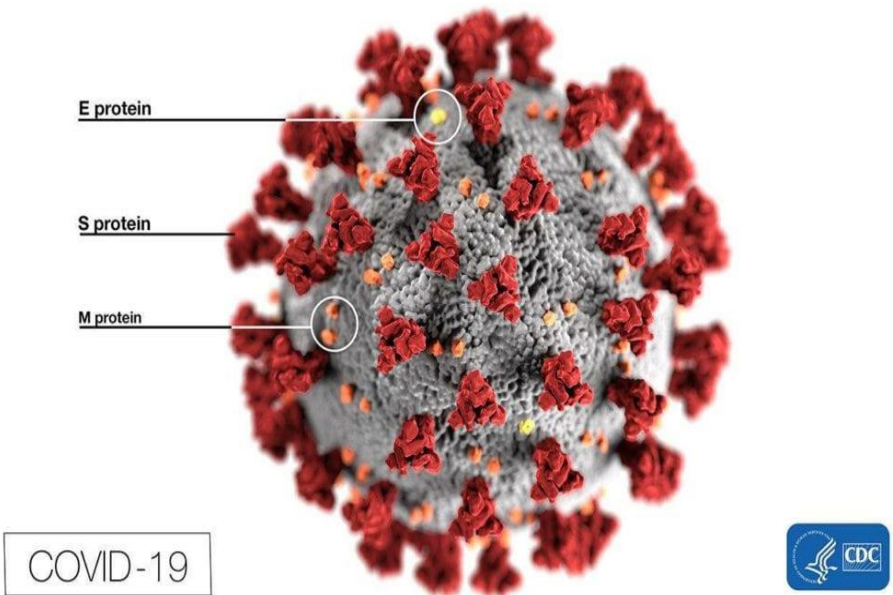
Until next month (or until I see you online),

**Thomas George Thomas**

Email: [RVC10@us.mensa.org](mailto:RVC10@us.mensa.org)

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

## A look at the enemy





# Regional News & Announcements

## Treasurer's Report

By: Kathy Crum



### Local Group Annual Financial Report

6. Please include the following summary financial activity.

Checking account balance as of April 1, 2019 9313.92

**Revenue and receipts April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020**

Dues and testing income from Mensa	<u>7474.70</u>
Events total income (RGs, etc.)	<u>2304.34</u>
Investment income	<u>                    </u>
Member contributions	<u>                    </u>
Other income	<u>200.00</u>
Other income	<u>                    </u>
<b>Total revenue &amp; receipts</b>	<u>9979.04</u>

**Expenses and payments April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020**

Advertising, PR & marketing	<u>249.55</u>
Awards	<u>600.00</u>
Bank/credit card fees	<u>                    </u>
Events total expenses (RGs, etc.)	<u>4323.32</u>
Newsletter (incl. postage, printing, etc.)	<u>3059.39</u>
Supplies	<u>1051.60</u>
Testing	<u>15.30</u>
Website	<u>                    </u>
Other	<u>637.23</u>
<b>Total expenses and payments</b>	<u>9936.39</u>

Checking account balance as of March 31, 2020 9356.57

# Local Member Submissions

## JAZZ IN THE TIME OF CORONA

By: Ken Kaplan

*So I asked Louis, "How can you manage that 10-pound weight on your trumpet?" He replied, "Because I am Arm strong."*

I must have been at really loose ends two years ago when I agreed to become the President of the Suncoast Jazz Society, a thirty-year-old group of otherwise-normal people who love to hear good jazz, especially live. It has been an exhausting yet singularly rewarding experience, filled with a kaleidoscope of musicians, venues, menus, and everything else that goes into putting on the best concerts in the Tampa Bay area. We do seven or eight a year, attracting the best jazz musicians in Florida (and some who come from California, New York, and Washington State), all of whom want to play before our enthusiastic audiences.

*I asked a top-notch reed player who was the best clarinetist of all time, "Was it Artie?" Offhandedly he replied, "Pshaw." So I continued, "How about Benny?" His response, "A very Good man." My sister loved Woody She said he was, "Her man."*

Those of you who understood the title have already figured out that this article is not a tribute to Gabriel-Garcia Marquez, and it is certainly not a love story. Unless you consider the title a tribute to my love for wordplay and corny jokes, even if, as in this case, the majority of the tribute is to the prosody of the words rather than their meaning or intent. There is, however, one similarity.

I am writing this article on March 21, about six weeks before the date on which you may be reading it. I sincerely hope by now that you will no longer be able to remember what was happening then in Tampa Bay. If you are so fortunate, I'll remind you: the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) had played havoc with our way of life, closing many businesses and beaches. Yesterday Gov. DeSantis shuttered all restaurants, including the one which was to have been the site of our April concert. Even as I write, I feel that his action was correct. In fact, I feel today that corona will be with us for quite a while. I hope I'm not right. I'm pretty sure that I can't wait fifty years as Florentino did in *Love in the Time of Cholera*.

Earlier today I cancelled our April concert. What concerns me is the probability that I may have to cancel some if not all of the fall schedule. Of even greater concern is the possibility that COVID-19 will cancel some of our members. I have lived long enough to have lost a number of friends, to say nothing of my parents and other family. I do not look forward to an acceleration of the process.

*I have lived long enough to remember when you actually had to win to get a trophy.*

We normally start our year in September because that's when our snowbirds begin to show up. We skip November because that's when our sister group, the Suncoast Jazz Classic, puts on a three-day festival. December is our combined concert, dance, and Christmas Dinner. We resume our normal schedule of one concert each month -- on the third Sunday -- from January through April, and then hibernate until September comes again.

*Did you hear about the big fight at the seafood restaurant? Lots of battered fish.*

Because we are able to attract the very best musical groups, shows such as ours would probably cost over \$60 per ticket at the Mahaffey or Ruth Eckerd, and up to \$150 at the Straz. We've been able to hold the line to an amazing \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. I guess it's fairly obvious that these are subsidized prices. We're an IRS 501 non-profit organization which receives donations from its grateful members.

*If a cow doesn't produce, is it a milk dud? Or an udder failure?*

What I plan to do is start by sponsoring two calendar events in the September-October *Soundings* -- September 20 and October 18, If corona is still with us then. I'm sure Sylvia will cancel them along with everything else. But if, please God, we're out of the woods by then, I'll make the following deals --

I can comp the first attendance of anyone who calls or emails me in response to the calendar entry. That means no admission fee.

If you come in both months, you'll have to pay the second time (more on that later).

You must contact me to obtain free admission. Please don't come to the box office and announce, "I'm a Mensan." That and four dollars will get you a beer, after you've paid normal admission.

These are not Mensa-hosted events. I can reserve at least one 8-person table for those who want to sit only with other Mensans. My guess is that you would have a lot more fun sitting with some of the Jazz Society members, talking

about jazz, music in general, and how Tom Brady is going to do this year (unless the season is cancelled by the virus).

*I hate it when I see a really old person and then realize that we went to high school together.*

If by now you're wondering why I've bothered with this article when I could easily have simply proceeded to the calendar entries. I'm trying to prevent misunderstandings. To reiterate --

In the 50s and 60s, many rock groups called themselves jazz bands to avoid the drug and thug connotations associated with rock. The bands who play our concerts are not rock groups. To be fair, some of the bands throw in a song or two that originated with the Beatles or the Beach Boys. I enjoy them but be assured: the majority of the music is Traditional Jazz.

The Clearwater Jazz Festival, on the other hand, is mostly rock with some country and a little jazz.

These are not Mensa events. With the possible exception of other Mensans, no one there will care that you're a Mensan.

This is not a place for recruiting new Mensans. If you come, please come for the music, not for Mensa activities.

If you like the music and want to return for subsequent concerts, please see me about becoming a member of the Society. The cost for an individual is only \$30/year; you get not only our mailings and schedules, but also a \$5 discount at each concert, and if you're interested, a half-price ticket for the November 3-day Festival. The family membership is a huge bargain -- \$40/year for as much as \$70 in discounts for our concerts and a half-price ticket for the Festival. Note -- Two or more people who live at the same address constitute a family.

*Truth in Merchandising: Require a squeaky toy in every breast implant.*

I'm looking forward to next season -- to the concerts, to meeting a lot of Mensans whom I haven't met, and to renewing acquaintance with Mensans whom I haven't seen in years.

Who would have thought when we changed our clocks that we'd be going from Standard Time to the Twilight Zone? -Ken Kaplan

## Reeling it in?

by Dolores Puterbaugh (also published in USA Today!)

Every parent knows it. Bend a teen's curfew or let a special occasion override the usual bath-and-bed for school-aged kids, and you are stuck. For months, every time you attempt to be a stickler about rules, they will push back. "It was OK for homecoming; why not for the prom?" "You let us stay up late on Thanksgiving; why can't we stay up late tonight? It's not a school night."

...and so I wonder about the months ahead. As I write this, it is April 2020. The COVID-19 adaptations and restrictions are in fervent swing. I have moved my therapy sessions, reluctantly, to all telehealth for as long as it is most prudent. It is week three, and I am sick of earbuds and more than a little bit sad. I miss the warmth of connection with clients; I also see that many clients are simply cancelling when perhaps a little coaching and encouragement would be quite helpful. The churches are closed and we regular worshipers, especially, are feeling the absence of community.

I wonder how we will adapt to the re-emergence of what "normal" will be post-COVID-19. One sure thing: our various levels of government will attempt to go back to the pre-COVID-19 rules where they have been bent, or eased, or thrown out the window. One question is, will post-COVID-19 America meekly acquiesce or will there be pushback from the public?

Restaurants are closed except for delivery and take-out. Rules have been eased and apparently your to-go order can be, "A shepherd's pie, the fish-and-chips special and two Guinness." Or perhaps the American classic, "Two rum runners, a plate of wings and a half-cup of stale peanuts." Will the happy customers who headed home with their dinner and aperitif on the back floorboard be satisfied when they can no longer pick up their favorite beverages to go?

Everything in the world of healthcare is heavily regulated. This includes telehealth. In the tele-mental health world, we cannot use Skype or Facetime; we are required to use special, HIPAA-compliant platforms. Under the current emergency situation, these strict rules have been eased at the national albeit not at my state level. I know someone who insists on using Facetime. He trusts Facetime. Suspicious of other programs and leery of identity theft, he

has thus far refused to sign up for the telehealth platform his therapist is using exclusively for telehealth during the COVID-19 duration. He is accustomed to going in person. If his therapist acquiesces for now and agrees to use Facetime, this man – and plenty like him – will be very unhappy the day Facetime is no longer legal. Will patients push legislators to revisit these questions? Will healthcare providers be sued if a data breach occurs and patient privacy is compromised during these trying times? One wonders how the dust will settle after COVID-19 has been largely contained.

All parents also know (or ought to know) not to threaten a consequence you really don't want to endure. Sure, it sounds great, "Fine! One more smart remark and no trip to the zoo!" Whoops...it turns out you were anticipating the zoo more than Junior, and now you are either grounded (bad idea) or you have to arrange a baby sitter and have Junior pay for it so you can go to the zoo (Love and Logic Institute-inspired solution!).

Can politicians use good parenting skills or will they throw power around like panicky parents? Wondering how they will reel us back in is one thing; post-COVID-19, how we will we reel them in? Having sensed, and used, great power – possibly exceeding their Constitutional powers in some cases – will they willingly surrender it? Will each year's flu outbreak be a cause for splurging with giveaways? Our county commissioners closed our beaches in a reflexive, feel-good rush. There was some comfort (for them) in doing something rather than nothing, despite its detrimental impact on people who want to do wholesome, fun outdoor activities with their families. Having done so, will future commissions be too ready to flex those beach-closing biceps?

Will government officials take a slice or two of humble pie? It has been less than a month since the mayor of a very large city minimized any danger, encouraging citizens to get out there and live their lives unless they were sick. For about two weeks his tune has changed and now nothing any other level of government can do will be enough to suit him. His city is suffering. Would the people there have endured much duress from COVID-19? No doubt; but the arrogance of placing politics over facts has cost them far more than we yet can know.

As regular readers know, I am more than a little libertarian. My post-COVID-19 wish list:

That families play, walk, bicycle, read and make art together even when there are other options again.

That our houses of worship overflow like Christmas and Easter – bursting with joy and gratitude even amidst grief and struggle.

That many people notice their great hunger for a more mature spirituality, growing in their desire to live out the “Go and do!” service values.

That communities, secular and faithful alike, develop closer ties and support one another in times of difficulty.

That the various levels of government sit back and assess the situation before they come in like a grumpy parent, threatening all sorts of consequences if we do not backpedal into various types of restrictions. That the same people will put their opinions aside and respond to information rather than personality.

That creativity and ingenuity lead to recovery as well as rejuvenation, rebuilding businesses and reshaping some to be better than ever.

That those who have been, in a sense, self-isolated by age, infirmity, lack of connectivity, etc. all along, will be less alone.

...and, on a lighter note, I'd like to have there be a bit more appreciation for us introverts. Being able to find comfort in solo activities comes in handy during a pandemic.

## **Coping with Corona**

By: Don Robinson

My wife and I both volunteer at a local hospital. She's a chaplain's aide and I'm a cart driver. The chaplain's aide visits many patients on three floors and the walking adds up to a couple of miles. There's also a lot of paperwork to complete. I drive the golf cart and ferry visitors and patients back and forth from the hospital to their vehicles in parking lots near and far. I'm outside for four hours and the fresh air is invigorating. I can hear the birds sing in the trees adjoining the hospital property. Life is good. This was not to last.

On March 11, we reported to work and saw that the main entrance to the hospital was closed to all human and vehicle traffic. Every visitor and non-emergency patient would now be routed in and out of the rear entrance. This was the first sign of trouble brewing. As the afternoon progressed, the drivers got word from some of the people inside that the virus had just been declared a pandemic.

On March 16, my wife received a text from the Volunteer Coordinator at the hospital saying "Wednesday, March 18 would be the last day for all volunteers at the hospital." We both went in to volunteer on March 18 and things had tightened down with even more security procedures. At the rear entrance to the hospital, there was a long table just inside the automatic doors with three nurses sitting there. They were handing out forms to be completed and taking the temperature of everybody coming in to visit a loved one.

Instead of the three drivers on our shift, I was now the only one driving a golf cart. The other two drivers were snowbirds and they had evidently left for their northern homes while the getting out was still good. The parking lots were mostly empty and the afternoon activity was light. At the end of my shift, I went inside and spotted the Volunteer Coordinator talking to two women volunteers at the welcome desk. She said that more than likely, none of us would be back for six months going into September.

Other than seeing our grandson at his birthday party in March, we haven't interacted with people face-to-face in almost two months. I go outside to exercise by walking around the subdivision and then sit in my driveway to get some more fresh air and sunshine. It's a little strange to see younger working age people out walking and bicycling on the streets during the day but this is a chance for them to spend more time at home with the family.

The wife goes out to grocery shop once a week. She wears a mask and observes the social distancing rule in the store, but she tells me that it's maybe a 50-50 proposition for the shoppers wearing masks and staying six feet apart in Publix. She adds that a lot of shoppers don't pay any attention to the one-way aisles.

We're both retired so there hasn't been much of an impact on our daily routine other than not being able to see our grandson and daughter who live



nearby at least once a week. We've started taking drives through the countryside around sunset just to get out of the house and see life and people.

I'm old enough to remember when World War II ended and in conversation around the kitchen table, my parents and relatives would talk about the war and how bad the Depression in the 1930s was. A meal sometimes consisted of a potato and eggs. The rationing during WWII was also tough for people to get through.

The times we're going through right now are the strangest I've ever experienced in a long life. Even though my wife and I do not face the daily commute to work and the work day itself any longer, we still mentally feel the impact of remaining mostly confined to the house and not being able to freely move around and talk and otherwise interact with people. However, I'm optimistic that we as a nation will get through this.

## **Science - Hope and Reality**

By: Jerri Garretson

I grew up in an unusual household. Both my parents were scientists. My dad was an organic chemist who taught at a university, but also had a lucrative grant from a large company that supported "pure" research and his stable of doctoral students on their way to 29 patents. My mother was a medical technologist and microbiologist who at various times was in charge of a hospital blood bank or the biology labs for a university. She had us using a microscope to look at one-celled animals in pond water and dissecting dead animals and insects in our kitchen. We were blessed with a lot of medical and scientific knowledge our neighbors and childhood friends didn't have, and a deep respect for both scientists and the scientific method.

We were also apprised of the fact that not everyone with an M.D. or a Ph.D. was reliable, honest, ethical, or committed to rigorous research design. We were taught that scientific knowledge developed over time, and that when new things were learned, it was facts that counted, not beliefs. In other words, we not only grew up absorbing quite a bit of scientific knowledge but developed a thirst for more, even though none of their four children actually became a scientist. We were taught critical thinking.

This was our world as children, and kids don't realize there's anything out of the ordinary about their households unless they are confronted with the difference. One incident I remember well was when my best friend in kindergarten fell and scrubbed her knee while playing at our house. Mom insisted on washing it and applying antiseptic and a bandage. Sally said she should put the antiseptic in a ring around the wound so, "those crawly things can't get in." Mom saw that as a great opportunity for a lesson about bacteria, and we all got one.

It was a source of considerable dismay to our parents that there was a faction of our society that rejected science, but although we were aware of it, there was mostly a great deal of respect for science in the world I grew up in, and not just in our home. Even by people who didn't have much scientific knowledge or understanding, science was generally seen as the body of knowledge about the world, physical and living, and the key to a better life through new discoveries and inventions.

Imagine my surprise, then when I was in graduate school and doing seminar papers on the state of teaching science in K-12 schools. I read it described as "a little frill in the curriculum," in one published study that lamented how little science was taught in grades 1-8 and the resulting lack of interest in high school. Imagine my dismay to learn that in many schools, lower grade "science" lessons were an hour a week or less, and often taught by teachers who didn't understand the subject matter; not the fault of the teachers as they hadn't been taught it, either. By the second time I gave a seminar paper, my professor told me, "Jerri, climb on your soap box."

It seems that in the past several years, a larger and larger swath of our country has decided to reject science in favor of "belief," has decided to deny scientific findings if they either don't understand them, don't understand the evidence ("How can there be global warming? It snowed here last night."), or reject the premises outright. It bodes ill for people on this planet. The planet has been through everything from continental drift to major extinctions, meteor impacts to ice ages. The planet will survive, and will continue to change, but our place on it and the living standard of human beings may change drastically.

The downward spiral against science, particularly in the current administration, is more than dismaying; it is disastrous. Now that a pandemic

is actually upon us, our society is still split between those who respect science and medical knowledge and those who reject it, but most of us seem to be grasping at the hoped-for lifelines science may, eventually, be able to offer in vaccines and treatment. We daily see the battle, the signs that the "Virus is a Fake" and the pseudo-scientists offering everything from industrial bleach to vitamins and hot baths as cures, to scientists who are trying their best to find on ways to save our lives. On my Facebook feed people I thought had more sense post the most preposterous conspiracy theories; the virus is a hoax to cover up millions of deaths worldwide from 5G towers that have destroyed their immune systems.

This is not the first pandemic and it won't be the last. Science doesn't have all the answers on SARS-Co-V-2, but the only things that are going to save us are avoiding the virus, which many of us cannot do because of work, necessity, caregiving, living conditions; the virus mutating into a harmless form, which it doesn't show signs of doing; the development of an effective vaccine, which may be a long way off; or being lucky enough to get it and live through it without lasting disability, with hoped-for immunity. Yet, even science is not yet sure that having COVID-19 once will confer immunity. There is so much to learn, and I am immensely grateful that we have scientists and doctors who are rigorously researching the virus and how to save people from it.

But while I am rooting for the scientists, and listening to them, there is another side that concerns me as well. There seems to be a faction of society that want to practically make "science" into what amounts to a religion, investing it with the certainty of answers it does not have, and ethics about its uses that not all scientists or people share. Science is a method of studying the world. The resulting knowledge can be used for good, as we are focused on in the research on the virus, or it can be used for harm. My father corresponded with Albert Einstein about the atomic bomb in 1947 and supported Einstein's Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists. The knowledge of how to split the atom is scientific fact. The decision about how to use it is not science, it is in several other realms. The development of vaccines like the Saulk and Sabine polio vaccines show science in the service of humanity. The development of anthrax as a biological weapon is science in the service of evil.

I hope that society will embrace science as a method, and reject pseudo-science and poor research design. I hope that science will find a series of

antidotes to SARS-Co-V-2, from treatments to vaccines, and that they will all be used for the good of all mankind. I hope human beings will have the sense to do all they can to stop the spread of the virus until that day. I hope the scientific discoveries that are coming will spark renewed respect for science and better funding for research, but science can only give us knowledge, not control our behavior and beliefs.

## Corona and Cruises

By: Jerri Garretson



We Garretsons were on board the Allure of the Seas crossing the Atlantic when the travel restrictions from Europe were announced on March 11. As far as we know, the ship did not have any cases of COVID-19, and there certainly were no restrictions or social distancing practiced on board. This photo was taken during the 70s Party in the Grand Promenade. There was talk about the virus on board, but most of the 5,000 people were unconcerned and were planning further travel in Europe after disembarking in Barcelona on March 13th. We canceled ours but made it back to Florida by the skin of our teeth as

Barcelona closed down, flying to London, staying there a night because our Tampa flight was disallowed. We had to buy a whole new ticket into Miami.

The so-called rigorous screening there was a total joke. No test. No temperature taken. Nothing but asking if we had been to Wuhan, China, despite the virus spreading in Europe and countries closing. We got home by rental car and went into self-quarantine, grateful to be home.

## Pictures from the Spring Picnic

Submitted by: Sylvia Zadorozny















# CryptoPoems

By: Sylvia Zadorozny

Trying a new format this month to make it easier to work the puzzle.

R	E	S	T	,	R	E	S	T	S	E	A	Y	O	U	,	O	T	A	U	S	M	E	,	S	B	G	M	U	R	E	;			
A	Y	O	U	-	F	U	U	N	D	B	K	A	U	S	M	E	R	S	M	U	A	S	N	N	D	U	R	E	,					
H	Y	M	E	A	Y	R	U	E	A	S	E	L	S	B	G	U	M	E	A	U	T	F	B	Y	L	B	Y	E	L	A	U	M	U	
S	M	U	H	P	I	I	Y	H	E	M	P	C	I	U	S	B	G	H	P	I	I	Y	H	X	S	M	U	;						
				E	Y	R	E	S	T	S	E	A	Y	O	U	D	R	C	U	R	E	.												
L	U	S	M	T	S	B	G	A	Y	O	U	R	D	X	F	S	B	G	G	D	R	E	M	U	R	R	U	G	,					
E	A	U	T	L	S	B	G	U	M	U	S	R	E	,	E	A	U	T	L	S	B	G	U	M	L	U	R	E	,					
S	B	G	S	M	U	C	S	H	H	I	U	G	S	B	G	C	U	S	E	U	B	S	B	G	C	I	Y	L	B	S	C	Y	P	E
C	T	E	A	U	L	D	B	G	R	Y	H	E	A	U	L	D	I	G	U	M	B	U	R	R	Y	H	G	Y	P	C	E	;		
				E	Y	R	E	S	T	S	E	A	Y	O	U	D	R	C	U	R	E	.												
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Y	'	U	M	S	I	I	E	A	S	E	H	I	P	E	E	U	M	E	A	U	D	M	L	D	B	K	R	S	B	G	H	I	T	
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## March/April CryptoPoem Solution



An owl once perched in my tree  
At night (when most birds cannot see).  
But when the sun rose,  
He was found by some crows,  
And their caws caused the owl to flee.  
~ Sallie Wolf, "Great Horned Owl"

**Who? Sallie Wolf. Who? Sallie Wolf. Who?**

## Get Published

### **Tampa Bay Sounding loves and encourages submissions from all members!**

As Tampa Bay Mensa has a wide variety of members with fascinating photographs, hobbies, travels, careers, observations and life events, we know amazing articles are just waiting to be created. Take a risk, share your: articles, casual essays, opinion pieces, poems, short stories, puzzles and photographs of artwork. Members who are under 18 are also encouraged to submit with parental permission.

Have an idea for a program: a place to visit or a community event to attend? Our Programs Officer can help – and it can also appear in our Sounding!

## Get Elected!

### **Tampa Bay Mensa is Seeking Nominations**

Do you want to make a difference and shape the future of TB Mensa? Now is your chance. If you would like to serve as a member of the leadership team, please submit your name to appear on the ballot, which will be released in June. Please send your request to appear on the ballot to the Editor ([editor@tampa.us.mensa.org](mailto:editor@tampa.us.mensa.org))

# Welcome to New Members

Take a moment to seek out and welcome these new members at upcoming events. We always love to have new people joining or coming back to us!

Name	Type	Name	Type
James Bresette	MoveIn	Ross Nicholson	Rejoin
Robert Farabee	Rejoin	James Paradise	MoveIn
Gregory Garbee	Rejoin	Charles Stewart	MoveIn
James Goletz	MoveIn	Morgan Tyler	Rejoin
Alexander Huss	Rejoin	Paul Vaitkus	Rejoin
Kevin Miller	Rejoin	Shawn Wojnicz	Joined
Danielle Musry	Rejoin	Yuriy Zaynulin	Rejoin

## Birthdays



If you notice that your name does not appear in the appropriate monthly birthday list and you prefer to have it listed, you can update your settings at the American 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. **Note: This is not possible 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 our Tampa Bay Sounding editor, [editor@tampa.us.mensa.org](mailto:editor@tampa.us.mensa.org) with the subject “TBM Birthday Announcement” at least two months ahead of time, so it can be added manually.



### May Birthdays

Name	Birthday	Name	Birthday
Eloise Hurst	3-May	Donald Wolford	17-May
Edwin Tucker	4-May	William Loring	17-May
David Dockery	5-May	Michael Deloach	18-May
Jim Forsyth	5-May	Edward Zellem	19-May
Patrick O'Neil	5-May	Avishka Bommakanti	19-May
Linda Christina	6-May	Frederick Agnir	20-May
James Adam	6-May	Sandra Kischuk	20-May
Benjamin Bryant	7-May	Daniel Tabbert	21-May
Pratyush Kumar	9-May	John Turnbull	23-May
Lewis Prichard	10-May	Jimmy Buford	23-May
Sprague Owings	10-May	Rebecca Sinnreich	23-May
John Hurayt	10-May	John Copeland	27-May
Michael Gaeta	14-May	Christopher Orozco	28-May
Jaclyn Rivera	14-May	Sheldon Livingston	28-May
Elizabeth Hapner	15-May	James Kelley	30-May
Su'ad Macedonio	15-May	Barry Siegfried	30-May
Thomas Quinlan	17-May		

# Mensaversaries



Name	Years	Name	Years
Harper Thompson	1	Don Davis	15
Violet Barcelo	1	Keith Lussen	16
Michael McCue	1	Spencer Young	16
Paul Gilmore	1	Charles Godfrey	18
Kendra Wilson-Roberts	1	Geoff LeCain	19
Christian McGrath	2	John Cattell	20
Elizabeth Williams	2	Audrey Silver	21
Linda Blades	3	Anne Murray	25
Donald Wolford	3	Rick Craig	26
Elsa Gallo	3	Roland St Marie	29
Robert Charles	4	Janet Darmanin	31
Pratyush Kumar	4	Gerri Almand	31
Frederick Agnir	5	Emily Roesly	33
Paul Smith	6	Joanna Gili	33
Jim Hawkins	6	Sylvia Zadorozny	34
Edwin Tucker	7	Bruce Bohnker	36
Drew Meyerson	7	Christopher Clement	39
Joseph Nolan	8	Michelle Stencel	39
Logan Laxton	8	Stanley Wigman	40
Tristan Goodrich	10	John Evan	43
Edwin Smith	14	Allen Garber	50
Mary Lou Clark	14		

## Classified Ads

Don't forget. Most types of classified ads are free to members. If you have something for sale, or an announcement, or want to reach out to your fellow members for any reason, please send your posts to the editor, at [editor@tampa.us.mensa.org](mailto:editor@tampa.us.mensa.org) . Our only ask is that you keep them clean, respectful, and that they are for your personal benefit and not commercial in nature. We will accept commercial adverts, but there will be a charge for these.

## Calendar & Event Details

Events may be changed or updated after the Tampa Bay Sounding has been published. Our online calendar is updated and includes newest details & short-notice events. Please visit our web site for the most recent information about events at [tampa.us.mensa.org](http://tampa.us.mensa.org) and click on "Events" in the top ribbon.

To submit an event you would like to host, email event details to [sylviachocolate@gmail.com](mailto:sylviachocolate@gmail.com) including the date, time, description, place, and host contact information.

***NOTE: Due to the social distancing regulations necessary to mitigate COVID-19 spread, most standing calendar items will be postponed till further notice. Please regularly check the online calendar for details about events resuming. Of course, we will continue to keep you posted here as well.***

For updated event information, check our online calendar:

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

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### Next ExComm Meeting

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**When:** Sat, June 13th, 12pm – 2pm

**Where:** Likely thru Zoom online meetings due to COVID-19

Tampa Bay Mensa Executive Committee meetings are open to all Tampa Bay Mensans.

# 2018-2019 Tampa Bay Mensa Officers

## **Executive Committee**

### **Secretary**

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Jeanine Guerrero Ripoll

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