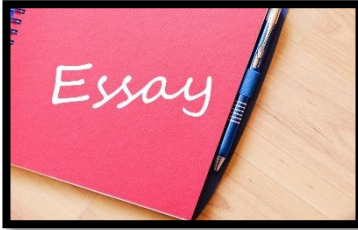


June-August 2020

Vol. 45, No. 4

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**Winning
Essays**



**Members Stories
& Pictures**



**Other Info &
Updates**



Election Ballot

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 Personal attacks and bigoted, sexist, hateful, or otherwise offensive material will not be published.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

Please visit Tampa Bay Mensa online at www.tampa.us.mensa.org and join our Facebook groups: "Tampa Bay Mensa" and "Regional Gathering for Tampa Bay Mensa."

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Note from the Sounding Editor

“Each night, when I go to sleep, I die. And the next morning, when I wake up, I am reborn.”

— Mahatma Gandhi

Folks, sorry it's been a couple of months since the last newsletter release. Things have gone very quiet in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel or postpone all live events, including social gatherings that have been the fabric of our local chapter for decades. However, we have a chance to be reborn from the ashes and emerge stronger and more flexible than before.

Frankly, we need input and suggestions from you. We have been experimenting with some local social events via Zoom and WebEx, as well as other social media platforms, but we have had limited success. We want to provide a great, engaging experience for you, during the quarantines, but we need feedback from you on what would work well, and which kind of online events would be preferable. Please reach out to me, or any one of our ExComm officers and let us know what would be exciting enough for you to carve time out of your nights and weekends to connect. We are here to serve you and make membership fun and fruitful.

Finally, please take a moment and look at the ballot included in this issue. It is election time, and we need to hear from you about who you want leading the local group. This year, we have several positions we need to fill and it's all based on your vote. ***For those who have opted for e-mail Newsletter delivery, you will receive an electronic online ballot.*** Just click the link and cast your votes. It's easy, secure, and anonymous. There is also room for you to make suggestions regarding the election or anything else on your mind that you want to contribute. For those who have opted for paper-based communications, there is a ballot in this Newsletter. Please cut it out, cast your votes, per the instructions on the ballot, and then fold it, place it in an envelope, and mail it to the address listed in the instructions.

Please take a few moments to make our local chapter a better place. Your input will be read, absorbed, and acted upon. Until next issue, be safe!

Rob Bradford

editor@tampa.us.mensa.org

LocSec Column

By: Art Schwartz

How can we adjust?

This is a question we have all been asking of ourselves lately. Even those who have been lucky enough to have stayed healthy and employed still seem depressed and anxious.

Everyone seems restless. Not having a definitive end date has made it much difficult. People are very resilient about difficult times when they have a sense when it's going to be all over.

In our personal life, we don't go out as much. For me going to the grocery store has become the center of my social life. My kids visit more often, which is good but am I paranoid to think they come to check that I don't have any symptoms?

In my professional life, it's meant working from home. I attend many virtual meetings. Are we over compensating for not seeing each other at the office? Since I work for hospital, in a non-clinical area, I have been very, very busy so no time to think about much except work.

So, Tampa Bay Mensa, as a social organization how do we adjust? We can't get together and we have to cancel our events

It has made us think differently. We have to move online. ExComm meetings are now online. This month we have started to have events, via Zoom, Online.

We had a book club meeting this week. Honestly to my surprise it was a lot of fun and I had the opportunity to meet new people from inside and outside our local group.

There is also a podcast group meeting online.

I urge everyone to get involved in an online group. If you don't see one that interests you, start one that does. If you have an interest, odds are there are others in our local group or somewhere in our region that share your interest.

Geography is not an issue when you go online.

If you have a way for us to get together online, let anyone on the ExComm know and we will help you make it happen.

We all have to adjust.

Art Schwartz
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RVC Region 10 Column

By: Thomas G Thomas

Because the 2020 Annual Gathering in July was cancelled, the American Mensa Committee (AMC) meeting has been rescheduled and will occur via a GoToMeeting teleconference on Saturday, July 11, 2020. The agenda is not available as of this writing, but should be available soon at <https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/meeting-reports/>.

The Annual Business Meeting (ABM) is also held each year at the Annual Gathering, so it has been tentatively rescheduled for Saturday, July 25. The ABM is where the AMC Chair (**LaRae Bakerink**), Treasurer (**Taz Criss**), Executive Director (**Trevor Mitchell**) and Foundation President (**Marie Mayer**) present their Annual Reports. It also provides a forum for member comments and votes on member-generated referenda for the 2021 election. All members are invited, and in fact we must have 100 member attendees to have a quorum to conduct business, but at this time I do not have the details on how this will be managed. Those should be available soon and will be announced via the Mensa Wired newsletter to members and on the website events calendar at <https://www.us.mensa.org/attend/calendar/>, among other places. I will also post the details on the Region 10 Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MensaRegion10/> as well as the various local group Facebook groups. We intend to have the ABM reports recorded for viewing afterwards, but I encourage anyone with an interest in the functions of the national organization to attend this meeting.

In other AMC business, there has been a recent change within the AMC ranks. **Alexander Huth** has resigned as Marketing Officer, and **Tabby Vos** has been selected to fill the role for the rest of the term. Tabby has an extensive volunteer history in Mensa, including chairing the "Pandemic" RG for Tampa Bay Mensa ***Sounding***

Metropolitan Washington Mensa, serving on the national GenX ExComm and chairing the national Elections Committee and 2020 Annual Gathering (which would have been amazing if extenuating circumstances had not forced us to cancel it).

On Tuesday, June 9, **LaRae Bakerink** released a [statement](#) on behalf of the AMC predicated by recent incidents demonstrating abuses of positions of authority, racism, and institutionalized inequality. These drew into focus not just incidents in the rest of the U.S., but also within American Mensa. Although our policy (ASIE* 1986-068) specifies that “bigotry and prejudice is antithetical to the nature of American Mensa”, these are frequently in evidence in online discussion groups and even in-person at events and gatherings. This has often been excused as, “Well, that’s just Bob being Bob”, but that doesn’t dilute the damage it does to the reputation of the organization, particularly with new members who encounter bad behavior in their first encounters and then never come back, and who then spread the word outside the organization that Mensa in an uninviting organization that tolerates bigotry, bullying and racism.

American Mensa has a long tradition of spirited debate – in fact, the Debate Rooms at Annual Gatherings are one of the more popular programs. But these debates have historically been civil. Recent events have seen our debates becoming somewhat less than civil – sometimes toxic – and the AMC is working to address some of these concerns going forward.

Some of the feedback we’ve received bears this out. While most has been supportive, some has been hostile – even threatening in a couple of cases. Nevertheless, the most important thing for those of us in the AMC to do before taking actions is to listen. If you have feedback, I look forward to hearing it.

The American Mensa Committee (AMC) met via GoToMeeting on July 11, 2020, with a real-time option for observers to view the meeting via YouTube. There was significantly more observance of this meeting than the usual July meetings held at Annual Gatherings, which have to compete with the wide variety of programming happening at the same time.

One section of the meeting is always an announcement of Actions Taken Between Meetings by the ExComm (the five nationally-elected officers plus one RVC selected by the RVCs). The primary items of note were the resolution of the cancelled 2020 Annual Gathering in Kansas City (rescheduled to 2024), a

temporary suspension of the print newsletter requirement due to the pandemic (because many groups need to meet in person to assemble and mail their newsletters), and a clarification that the “AMC Statement on George Floyd and Racism” was released to the general membership by the Chair without vote of the AMC.

There were three presentations at the meeting. The Treasurer’s report is part of every meeting, and this quarter some of the changes to our financial situation due to the pandemic were noted, including a drop in membership but also some resulting drops in expenses and efforts to find other areas in which expenses could be curbed. There was an update by **Jon Grubele** (RVC4) on the status of the Strategic Planning Committee, and a short discussion regarding establishing a national Code of Conduct (no motions or actions were put forth from this discussion).

The majority of the meeting was taken up with pros and cons of the motion to remove the official status of the two American Mensa Facebook groups by removing “American Mensa” from their titles and moving their ownership from AML to SIGs (Special Interest Groups). Response was mixed, and the motion to change the Facebook groups’ status passed with some dissent (including my own), but not before it was modified to include an implementation clause, which created a Task Force to recommend a plan to be voted on at the September AMC meeting. This Task Force has been titled the “Social Media Transition Task Force” and includes the two movers of the motion (**Billie Lee**, 2nd Vice Chair and **Lori Norris**, 1st Vice Chair), the Communications Officer (**Lora Mitchell**), the Membership Officer (**Stephanie Thornton**), the National SIGs officer (**Nancy Farrar**), and three RVCs (**Ian Randal Strock** (RVC1), **John Neemidge** (RVC6), and **Thomas George Thomas** (RVC10)). There will also be a representative from the active membership of each of the two Facebook groups (Firehouse and Hospitality), the selection of whom is still in progress as of this writing.

One side note: Although it is required by our ASIEs (Actions Still In Effect) to provide a forum for member discussion, this requirement is met by the Mensa Connect Communities (<https://www.us.mensa.org/connect/mensa-connect/>), and does not dictate that Facebook be used for this purpose. The change in status of the Facebook groups does not violate AML’s responsibility to its members as some have been claiming.

The mini-minutes for the July meeting, as well as copies of the presentations, may be found at <https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/meeting-reports/>. The Tampa Bay Mensa **Sounding**

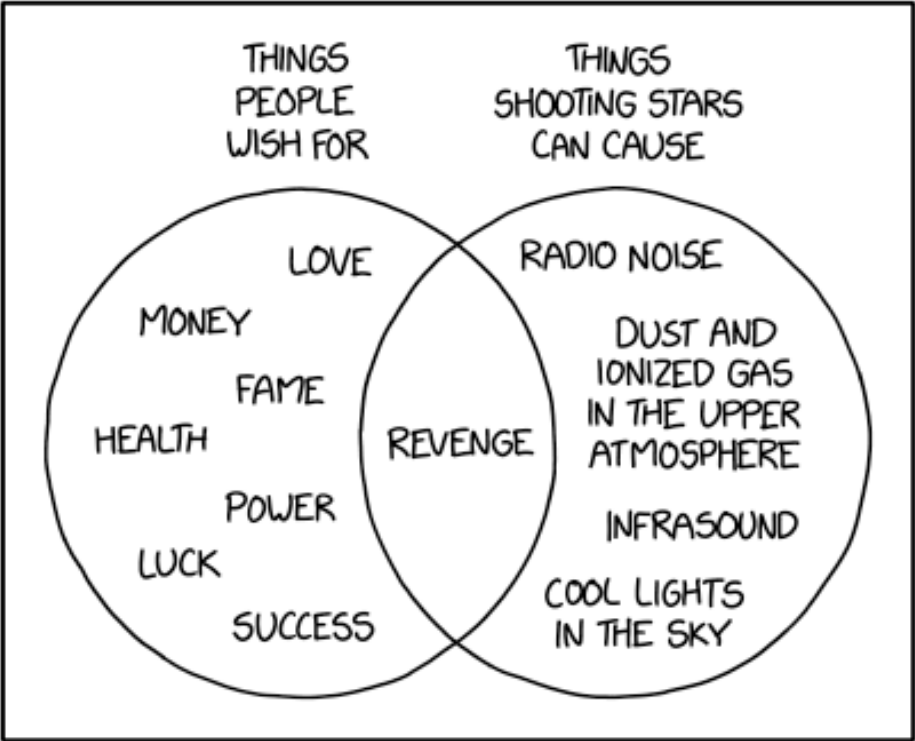
next meeting of the AMC will be via GoToMeeting on Saturday, September 12, 2020.

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

Thomas George Thomas

Email: RVC10@us.mensa.org

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



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Regional News & Announcements

Treasurer's Report

TAMPA BAY MENSA 2020 BUDGET REPORT

PRINTED 8/7/2020

Submitted by Kathy Crum, Treasurer

Note: 60% of the year has elapsed.

DESCRIPTION	2020 BUDGET	2020 ACTUAL YTD	ACTUAL VS BUDGET	NOTES
INFLOWS				
Advertising Income	0.00	0.00		
RG'20 Net Profit	0.00	(65.07)		
Interest Income	2.00	0.43	22% 7 Months	
National Support	6,800.00	3,936.25	58% 7 Months	
Proctor Revenue	350.00	185.00	53%	
Contributions-Scholarship	0.00	0.00		
Contributions-Teen SIG	0.00	0.00		
Contributions-Sounding	0.00	0.00		
Misc Income	1,613.00	0.00	0%	
TOTAL INFLOWS	\$8,765.00	\$4,056.61	46%	
OUTFLOWS				
Cost Of Proctoring	25.00	4.75		
Fees	50.00	0.00		
Games Weekend	50.00	0.00		
Gifted Youth Events	50.00	0.00		
Member Events	0.00	119.92		
Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	0.00		
Postage - Membership	40.00	0.00		
Postage - Misc	0.00	0.00		
Printing - Misc	0.00	0.00		
Office Supplies	50.00	0.00	0%	
Publicity	150.00	0.00		
Refreshments	1,200.00	280.00	23%	
ExComm Retreat	50.00	0.00		
Socials (4/year @ \$750)	3,000.00	1,098.51	37% 3 events	
Scholarships	600.00	0.00		
			3 issues,	
Sounding Printing & Postage	3,500.00	1,361.62	39% 5 months	
Storage Unit	0.00	0.00		
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	\$8,765.00	\$2,864.80	33%	
INFLOWS - OUTFLOWS	\$0	\$1,191.81		
IF RG '20 IS NOT INCLUDED IN BUDGET:				
TOTAL INFLOWS	\$8,765.00	\$4,121.68	47%	
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	\$8,765.00	\$2,864.80	33%	
INFLOWS - OUTFLOWS	\$0.00	\$1,256.88		

Local Member Submissions

Annual Essay Scholarship Winners

Please take a moment and congratulate our two essay winners, Arpan Bagui and Jessica Chloe Hubbard, for their fantastic and award-winning submissions!

By: Arpan Bagui



8-year old me loved computer science because I wanted to be the next Tony Stark, saving the day by programming robot creations. 17-year old me loves computer science because of its potential to revolutionize finance, saving the day by improving security and increasing economic opportunities.

I fall at the intersection between computer science and finance. I've created applications to find optimal tangency portfolios and statistical models to prescribe capital adequacy models. I've always loved the beauty of computer science as an art, as well as the social benefit it has had

on society. I've grown to appreciate the significance of finance as a tool to create opportunities for people and communities. And right at the crossroads of my two passions lies the blossoming industry of Financial Technology (Fintech) capable of bringing huge positive change to the world- a change I want to be a part of.

At this very moment, financial exclusion is one of the biggest obstacles in the way of poverty reduction. A survey by McKinsey Global Institute found that over 2 billion individuals and 200 million businesses lack access to basic savings and credit accounts in emerging economies, where there is the most untapped potential. At its core, the problem stems from traditional financial structures lacking the incentives to invest in regions with emerging economies. Centralized banking structures

require reliable federal institutions to manage interest rates and supply of currency, pre-existing infrastructure that provide individuals with access to the centralized system, and profitable clients that can pay back loans in order to be worthwhile pursuits. These are all requirements that most regions and emerging economies do not have. However, including these people into the financial system is necessary to develop these emerging economies and improve the standard of living for impoverished individuals. This is because savings and checking accounts are critical tools for wealth accumulation and financial stability that lasts generations. Without the inclusion of these people and businesses into the financial system, their communities will remain economically disenfranchised.

Blockchain infrastructure is one of the innovative technologies being pioneered at the forefront of Fintech which has the capability of resolving the security and accessibility issues that characterize the financial inclusion crisis. It involves the decentralization of traditional systems and improved transparency by integrating many security processes. I am particularly interested in expanding the frontiers of this technology while also spreading products involving blockchain to rural areas that benefit from these distributed systems.

Whatever university I end up in, I want to study computer science and finance to further the world of blockchain technology. Double majoring in these two subjects and pursuing an MBA to become comfortable with management and business practices will enable me with the skills necessary to be successful in the Fintech industry. Not only will I be able to contribute to proprietary creations that improve financial access, I will also be able to make ideas become reality by spreading these creations on the business side.

While I may not be saving the day the way my 8-year old self imagined, I hope to be preparing to make a difference in the world of Fintech, improving the state of the financial inclusion crisis while bringing financial interconnectedness to the world.

By: Jessica Chloe Hubbard



It is astounding how one simple, week-long experience can set the direction for a lifetime. Through an internship at Shriners Hospital for Children in Tampa, Florida, a veiled passion of mine was revealed. I interned there for a week in three different units. In each unit, I was able to serve and interact with disabled children. In the Physical and Occupational Therapy Unit, I helped a little boy learn how to hold a crayon, so he could color in his coloring book. I also helped him to learn how he could play with a small toy car, all with a deformed and broken wrist. In the Wheelchair Unit, I helped build new wheelchairs

and adjust current ones (for kids that were growing too big for their current chairs). In the Prosthetics/Orthotics Unit, I designed, shaped and molded an orthotic to help another young boy to walk. The joy expressed on a child's face as they have the opportunity to walk for the first time is indescribable. I now crave to inflict this type of uncontrollable, infectious joy to other children.

Due to my experience at Shriners, I have developed a deep and fiery passion for serving children in the medical field and intend to pursue this as my career. Shriners opened my eyes to the need for helping disabled/sick children. Not only does Shriners help heal a child's physical ailments, their employees are a constant source of emotional support and encouragement for each child. Sharing something as simple as a smile can lift these children's spirits exponentially and take their minds off of their pain levels, at least for a little while. This experience has enriched me and has left me incredibly eager to continue to serve and help heal children.

Thus, my primary goal for attending the University of Florida is far more than simply getting a bachelor's degree in Applied Physiology and Kinesiology and enabling me to pursue a career in the medical field as a Physician's Assistant. My goal is to expand all of my horizons-- to interact with people of different backgrounds /cultures and connect with them (no matter how young); to gain the needed skill sets to be an independent, productive member of society and to become a well-rounded woman who can balance all that life has to throw at her. I see my college experience as an expansion of my educational foundation and launching pad into the strong and successful woman I want to become. My college education is enabling me to set higher goals and achieve bigger dreams through the acquisition of

knowledge. The only hindrance I see is having sufficient funds to allow me to pursue these dreams. Through the aid of this scholarship, I will be able to turn my most heart-felt wishes into a reality.

A Thanks to Our Scholarship Judges

Linda Christina would like to publically thank our 10 local judges; Belinda Nemeth, Kyle Lai, Theresa Hohmann, Billie Noakes, Dean King, Keith Jones, Kim Margittai, Christopher Clement, Kathy Crum, and Barry Toole, for their outstanding contributions. Below is a copy of her letter to them.

Dear Mensa Foundation Scholarship Judges,

Now that our 2020-21 scholarship season has officially ended, a huge thanks is in order. On behalf of the Mensa Foundation Board of Trustees, I wanted to extend my gratitude to you especially.

I'm happy to report that 180 scholarship awards were given to meritorious applicants across the nation, with 18 of those awards to students in Region 10.

Winning essays may be published, some in part and others in their entirety, in our local and/or regional newsletters and in the *Mensa Bulletin*. In the meantime, you can find [the complete list of awards and the names of the students receiving them](#) on the Mensa Foundation's website.

These students would not have this good news had it not been for your timely support of the Mensa Foundation and your thoughtful work as a Mensa Foundation Scholarship Program Judge. The efforts of scholarship judges like you have enabled some applicants to afford an education they might not have otherwise, as you well know from reading their stories. You've also had a part in unleashing intelligence.

Thank you! I hope you'll consider serving as a judge again next season. I'll be in touch as September approaches.

Best regards,

Linda Christina
Scholarship Chair
Tampa Bay Mensa

Travel Travails

By: Ken Kaplan

I used to Travel. And I really do mean Travel with a capital T. Prior to my retirement, I worked for a very large corporation for whom I visited almost every state every year. Thirty days of paid vacation allowed me foreign trips during the summer, at Christmas-New Year, and during a confusing spring break schedule (in the evenings, I was attending one university in the DC area and teaching as an adjunct at two others; they all had different spring break weeks).

After my retirement, I moved from adjunct to full-timer with the University of Maryland's European Division and spent three years with UM-ED in one Asian and four European countries,, teaching a variety of subjects. Lots of fun!

Except for Canada and Mexico, I had never been outside the USA until July 1982. My wife graduated from college that year, so I took her on a celebratory trip to England and Wales. We managed to fight the entire Hundred-Years War during our two weeks in England. My interests were in Oxford, Cambridge, and Stonehenge; hers were in Harrod's, Marks and Spencer's, and the local pubs. It was our last trip together before our divorce.

The best part of the trip for me was shopping in a little men's clothing store on Bond Street which had a heavyweight Harris tweed fedora in my size on sale for 5 pounds. I was a hat wearer in those days, and finding that hat made up for all the difficulties of the trip. One major problem, I thought I had selected a destination which spoke the same language that I did. 'Twasn't so.

A year and a half later, I flew -- alone this time, thank God -- to Korea to spend Christmas with my daughter who had been stationed there by the Army. After New Year (American, not Korean), I flew to Hong Kong for a few days. I had been denied a visa for Mainland China because I hadn't applied properly. After gorging myself for three days on what I still consider to be the best tasting food in the world, I happened upon a building with a second-floor sign, "China Travel Service." I knew from my unfruitful efforts in the States that CTS was the official travel booking service of Mainland China, so I decided to spend a few moments to see about spending my remaining two days (until I had to catch a plane to Taiwan) with Mao and his merry men.

I had spent over a hundred hours on the phone with CTS in New York with nothing to show for it;. However, thirty minutes, 118 dollars US, and a very nervous 100-yuan bribe bought me two nights in Canton which included a second-class train ticket going, a hydro-craft ride returning, and transfers for my

two nights in a bastion of Chinese culture, the Hotel New York with English breakfasts included. I had been warned by the travel agent and was warned again by my transfer driver, "Don't go out of the hotel. It's very dangerous to go out of the hotel. Everything you could ever want is in the hotel." So, naturally, I dropped my bag in my room and immediately went for a walk around the block. Canton in January 1984 was the safest place I have ever traveled. It was a crime punishable by unspeakable horrors for a Cantonese to cheat a tourist or even to accept a gratuity from any foreigner.

After watching a monkey-drill exhibition by the Red Guard, and attending a Chinese opera in the Armory, I walked out to a major thoroughfare (it must have been major because it had the only English language street sign that I saw in Canton -- Beifang Blvd) to find a place to eat. A cultural note is in order: with the exception of big hotels, every restaurant has a kitchen which is open for viewing by the restaurant patrons; it is common for diners to look into the kitchen to see what the chef is preparing at that moment. Furthermore, the entire restaurant is usually just as open, covered by an awning, butting up against the house where the proprietors live, and bounded on the other three sides by low walls or hedges with an entrance way cut into the street-side hedge. That was certainly helpful to me because I neither read nor speak any Chinese dialect. Nonetheless, I have no problems ordering. I not only peek into the kitchen, I also walk around to look at what everyone is eating. When I see something that looks good, I grab a waiter, point to the lucky dish, and make a sign with a pair of chopsticks that means, "Please bring me an order of that."

At the first eatery to which I came, I saw nothing that I craved. The second on that block was small, only four eight-chair tables, one of which was occupied by seven persons, the owner/chef and his family. I looked over the hedge at them, and Pop looked up at me. I was about to move on to number three when Pop motioned for me to come on in. I don't think he was actually inviting me to join him and his family, but I figured, "What the hell, I may never get this chance again." So I walked in, tipped my hat to all of them (my 5-pound Bond St treasure), pulled out the eighth chair, put my hat under my seat, and picked up a pair of chopsticks. On the table was a veritable feast (an average meal for them), and I helped myself. I figured I had enough yuan in my pocket to handle the bill, whatever it was.

On the table were a large tureen of soup with both vegetables and noodles as well as soup bowls and spoons. I filled one of the bowls, and then, using both spoon and chopsticks, I attacked the soup. Pop and the three boys watched me closely; were they afraid that I would run away with their table

utensils? No! I should have realized that they were the preparers of this feast; therefore, they wanted to know how I liked the soup. So I made the gesture which has been the signal for a good job since gladiatorial times; I gave it a thumb up.

All four men immediately smiled and returned my salute. After that we communicated in our hastily constructed "thumb" language. After I took my rice (white), I opted for some fresh green beans from one of the four vegetable dishes. As I dropped the beans onto my rice bowl, all the men leaned forward and raised both their thumbs and their eyebrows. "Yes!" I exclaimed vigorously with my right thumb while simultaneously patting my stomach with my left hand. To make a long story short, all the food was marvelous. If I ever open my own Chinese restaurant, I shall return to Canton to entice Pop to be my chef.

The other vegetable dishes were a cruciferous mixture, something like succotash, and a cross between home fries and hash browns. All of them were loaded with garlic and absolutely delicious. The men and I did our thumb ritual for each new delicacy. Finally, I arrived at the three meat dishes, featuring chicken, shrimp, and pork. All of the men now moved to the edges of their seats; the big moment had come; how would I like the entrees?

The chicken had been cut up with all the usual suspects (veggies) and cooked in a white sauce with a little wine in it. Marvelous! I shot them an emphatic thumb and all four knuckles, and moved on to the shrimp. While I was in Hong Kong, I ordered shrimp dishes every day because they are fresh (often separated less than an hour from their watery habitat), they are cheap (about 2/3 the price of beef), and they are far beyond any seafood of any kind that can be bought in any other country in the world. Pop's shrimp in a red sauce with bacon bits was as good as anything I ate during my time there. Although the barbecued pork was so fantastic that I dropped my chopsticks and gave it two thumbs up. Years of watching Siskel and Ebert had finally paid off.

One of the sons came around to my chair and pantomimed his way through an explanation of the desserts. As I started on a lemon tart, the young man reached beneath my seat, extricated my prize chapeau, popped it onto his head, and returned to his seat, smiling like the Mad Hatter. He raised his eyebrows in the opening of our ritual; I gave him a thumb up because I couldn't figure out what else to do. The hat then made its way through the other two sons, to each of whom I waved with my thumb extended, and ultimately reached Pop. When he donned my prize fedora, he looked at me pleadingly, hoping apparently for at least as good a review as I had given his

sons. Feeling beneficent because of the great meal he had cooked, I gave Pop both thumbs and a smile which matched his own.

And then it hit me. "My God! Had I just given Pop my hat? Was he now expecting to keep it? Is this one of the things that I don't know about Chinese culture?" Still smiling, I walked around the table to his chair and congratulated him on the fine meal by rubbing my stomach appreciatively beneath a broad smile. When he looked at my left hand, I lifted my hat from his head with my right and planted it firmly on my own head.

Immediately i made the universal hand signal for "I gotta go now," followed by the sign for "How much do I owe you?" I was shocked to learn that my share of the feast was only two Yuan (about one US dollar) but not so shocked that I didn't quickly drop three singles on the table (50% tip, but it was worth it) and walk out toward my hotel. About 30 seconds later I heard someone running after me, and I thought "Uh oh, I'm in trouble now. I just hope I can find someone who speaks English."

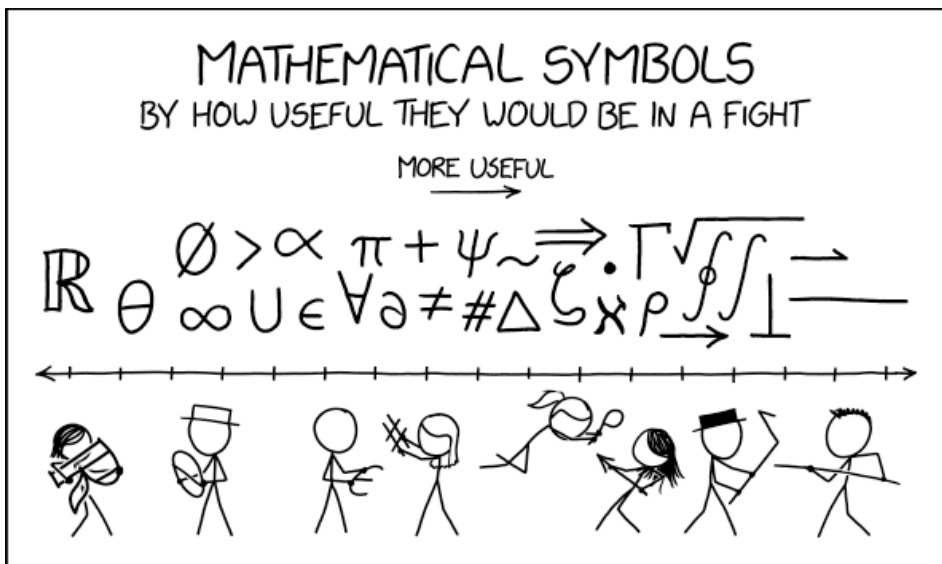
It was the first son who had tried on my hat. My first thought was that I had misunderstood the bill, that I owed more money, so I was reaching into my pocket, hoping I had enough, when Number One Son spouted a lot of Chinese at me, breaking the sound barrier as he went, and handed me one yuan. I learned later that night in the bar at my hotel that Chinese shopkeepers are not allowed to accept gratuities. I'd like to see the same system enforced in the United States.

All of this happened many years ago. My regret is that it predated my ability to capture these moments on my smart phone, especially when the men were trying on my hat. Nonetheless, simply remembering that evening still brings a smile to my face.

Keep it Funny

I absolutely love Randall Munroe. He is definitely a thinking-person's entertainer. If you haven't checked out his TED talks or read his books, you are really missing out. Since we are all locked away with limited social interactions, now is the time to rediscover the joy of books, and for that, I highly recommend "What If?". It is one of the few books that made me laugh so hard that my ribs hurt.

Below, I have included a few of Randall's comics from his multiple-award-winning website, xkcd.com. If you are ever in need of a laugh, mental stimulation, or even a lesson in the obscure uses of physics, it is a must for any Mensan. Enjoy a few of Randall's simple but hilariously-thoughtful comics!



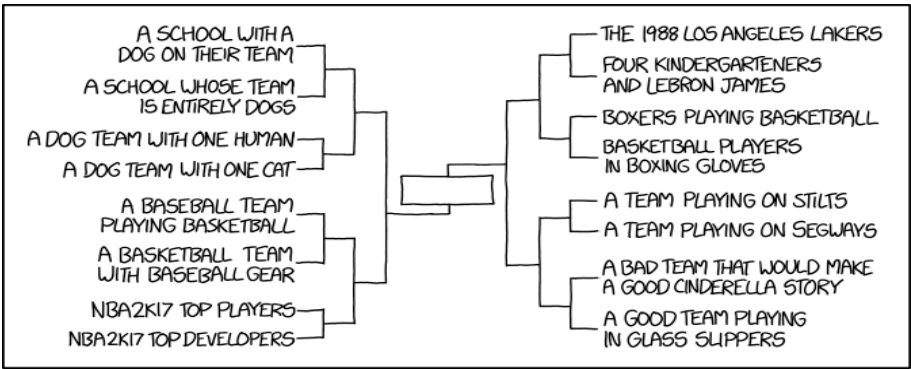
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COURTESY OF RANDALL MUNROE XKCD.COM



Since we may not have March Madness next year....



COURTESY OF RANDALL MUNROE XKCD.COM

CryptoPoems

By: Sylvia Zadorozny

May CryptoPoem Solution



Stay, stay at home, my heart, and rest;
Home-keeping hearts are happiest,
For those that wander they know not where
Are full of trouble and full of care;

To stay at home is best.

Weary and homesick and distressed,
They wander east, they wander west,
And are baffled and beaten and blown about
By the winds of the wilderness of doubt;

To stay at home is best.

Then stay at home, my heart, and rest;
The bird is safest in its nest;
O'er all that flutter their wings and fly
A hawk is hovering in the sky;

To stay at home is best.

~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, "Song"

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!

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	Status	Name	Status
Colin Anderson	Joined	Brooks Mason	Rejoin
Mariann Bell	Rejoin	Phoenix McKinney	Rejoin
Kurt Bolin	MoveIn	Rachael Mendelsohn	Joined
Yasmine Bouanani	Rejoin	Reagan Miller	Joined
Adam Brown	Rejoin	Helen Morrell	Rejoin
James Crum	Rejoin	Joel Morris	Rejoin
Angela Garner	Joined	Andres Reyes	Joined
Warren Hunnicutt	MoveIn	Diane Ross	Rejoin
Susan Hurt	Rejoin	Jaxon Schoonover	Joined
William Johnson	MoveIn	Brandon Shaw	Rejoin
Albert Kim	Joined	Christopher Vasilakis	Rejoin
Jessica Klein	Joined	Kristen Wegner	Joined
		Daniel Wild	Joined

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 with the subject “TBM Birthday Announcement” at least two months ahead of time, so it can be added manually.



Name	Birthday	Name	Birthday
Henry O'Neill	1-Jun	Marcia Fulvi	30-Jun
Stanley Wigman	3-Jun	Belinda Nemeth	1-Jul
Sarah Langevin-Gaspari	3-Jun	Christopher Vasilakis	1-Jul
James O'Neill	4-Jun	Angela Clem	2-Jul
Roger Zitman	4-Jun	Marc Wojcik	3-Jul
James Chevalier	4-Jun	Trevor Bisson	6-Jul
Peter Denman	5-Jun	Mary Reid	6-Jul
Bruce Whiting	7-Jun	Michael Neal	7-Jul
John Evan	7-Jun	Susan Wendt	8-Jul
Brandy Ray	10-Jun	Warren Hunnicutt	8-Jul
Eva Cunningham	12-Jun	Phoenix McKinney	8-Jul
Alex Brown	13-Jun	Brendan Welch	9-Jul
Douglas Bahringer	14-Jun	Richard Pasco	10-Jul
Dolores Puterbaugh	14-Jun	Gary Drake	10-Jul
Harry Richter	15-Jun	Albert Kim	11-Jul
Lisa Ling	15-Jun	Donald Mihokovich	14-Jul
Jason Revis	18-Jun	Audrey Hirst	15-Jul
Fernando Narvaez	18-Jun	Ryan Ferguson	15-Jul
Leonard Nugent	19-Jun	Cassandra Robertson	16-Jul
Keith Jones	20-Jun	Stuart Angelo	17-Jul
Brian Walkowiak	20-Jun	John Olmstead	19-Jul
Christopher Norat	20-Jun	Sherri Baker	22-Jul
William Amos	21-Jun	Richard Davis	24-Jul
Kelly Fessell	23-Jun	Mary Jones	25-Jul
Nicholas Colarusso	23-Jun	Devlon Buckner	25-Jul
Constantinos Scaros	24-Jun	Daniel Williams	26-Jul
James Bresette	25-Jun	Daniel Wild	26-Jul
James Goletz	26-Jun	Robert Bradford	27-Jul
Alexandria Noriega	26-Jun	William Gardner	31-Jul
Charles Gleason	27-Jun	Bonnie Wilpon	31-Jul



Name	Birthday	Name	Birthday
Kenneth Kaplan	2-Aug	Darrin Rosamond	15-Aug
Yuriy Zaynulin	2-Aug	Eliana Levine	15-Aug
Edmund Marks	4-Aug	Charlotte Walker	16-Aug
Jordan Hidalgo	5-Aug	Brian Thiel	18-Aug
Jean Morciglio	5-Aug	David DeVaul	19-Aug
Michael Clifford	6-Aug	Ralph Pritchard	19-Aug
Katherine Crum	7-Aug	Don Robinson	20-Aug
James Eddy	10-Aug	Bill Mecklenburg	20-Aug
Jason Taylor	10-Aug	Andrew Maxim	23-Aug
Bruce Toy	11-Aug	Terry Delia	25-Aug
Alex Obenauf	12-Aug	Charles Arant	26-Aug
Lance Meyerson	12-Aug	Francis Wellman	26-Aug
Jamie Heuer	12-Aug	Evelyn Thompson	27-Aug
J Blanton	12-Aug	Edward Roots	28-Aug
Rick Potter	14-Aug	Karen Squires	30-Aug
Shannon Browne	14-Aug	Robert Beverly	31-Aug

Mensaversaries

We are so happy to have such a great group of folks in our local chapter who have kept this group active and growing for years. Please help me to recognize and thank our members who are celebrating milestone anniversaries with us!



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Name	Years	Name	Years
Harry Callahan	50	Daniel Chesnut	26
Lawrence Aschoff	48	Lawrence Tipton	26
Martha Lyon	47	Gary Drake	25
Marilyn Hobbs	43	Scott Wilson	24
Raymond Celli	42	Maxine Kushner	23
Kurt Goebel	41	Sandra Hawes	23
Edward Roots	41	Tom Penkethman	22
Tom Maynard	41	M Walke	21
Marvin Ivey	39	Margaret Argudo	21
George Martin	39	Austin Rogers	20
Dorothy Butler	39	Cynthia Weatherby	18
Donald Forslund	38	John Reece	17
Barry Siegfried	37	Shoshana Shay	17
Paul VeHorn	36	Paul Levine	17
Thomas Riedhamme	35	Rea Rupani	17
Stuart Angelo	35	Rick Kralick	17
Caroline MacDowell	35	Kurt Weber	17
Keith Kelly	35	Kurt Weber	16
Victoria Foust	34	Damian Kondrotas	16
Mona Cafone	34	Jill Flansburg	15
Katherine Crum	33	Angela Clem	15
Marc Wojcik	32	Shahram Shams	15
William Amos	32	Karen Squires	15
Lewis Prichard	30	Steven Burden	14
Susan Entringer	28	Taylor Kurtz	14
Sandra Stroud	28	Jessica Helphrey	14
Jay Hines	27	Eloise Hurst	14
Richard Davis	27	Fred LePiere	14
Susan Dunlevy	26	George Brooks	13



Name	Years	Name	Years
Sinead Bolton	13	Grant Hathaway	8
Melissa Stephens	13	Rebecca Gaschler	8
Tyler Fernandez	13	Janice Rickert	8
Taylor Fernandez	13	William Bickner	7
James Gigliotti	12	Adam Scheiner	7
Frank Valenti	12	Alan Miller	7
James Kennedy	12	Isaac Dieter	7
William McNally	12	John Coppedge	6
Ronald Marlowe	12	Timothy Caddell	6
Audrey Hirst	12	Pamela Lamb	6
Alexander Koutsos	12	James Kelley	6
Timothy McCorkle	12	Steven Wilsey	5
Margaret LaChance	11	Keith Jones	5
Joshua Fullerton	11	William Tibbals	4
Evelyn Thompson	11	John Tibbals	4
Jessica Fullerton	11	Martin Hughes	4
Rudolph Deitrick	11	Felicia Zito	4
Thomas Bonner	11	Saundra Cunnagin	4
Braden Haggart	10	Shannon Browne	3
Nicholas Colarusso	10	Jason Taylor	3
Michael Metzler	10	Kori Warriner	3
Theophilos Klonaris	10	Skylar Strickland	3
Bill Mecklenburg	10	Richard Newel	3
Bruce Toy	10	Warren Hunnicutt	3
Jill Deen	9	Patricia Manea	2
Nadia Azzi	9	Jaclyn Rivera	2
Alexander Pidochev	9	Maximo Co	2
Kaylee Matteis	9	Kelly Fessell	2
Cameron Cook	8	Jonah Wolf	2
William Gardner	8	Kayden Tewari	2



Name	Years	Name	Years
James Clercx	1	Rachael Mendelsoh	1
Christopher Norat	1	Adam Brown	1
Colin Anderson	1	Jessica Klein	1
Diane Ross	1	Angela Garner	1
Phoenix McKinney	1	James Crum	1
Kristen Wegner	1	Brandon Shaw	1
Daniel Wild	1	Brooks Mason	1
Christopher Vasilaki	1	Mariann Bell	1
Jaxon Schoonover	1	Joel Morris	1
Albert Kim	1	Susan Hurt	1
Helen Morrell	1	Andres Reyes	1
Yasmine Bouanani	1		

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 . 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 and click on "Events" in the top ribbon.

To submit an event you would like to host, email event details to Belinda Nemeth at calendar@tampa.us.mensa.org 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>

Next ExComm Meeting

When: Sat, October 3rd, 12pm – 2pm

Where: Zoom online meetings, due to COVID-19

Tampa Bay Mensa Executive Committee meetings are open to all Tampa Bay Mensans. This month's meeting will be virtual, on Zoom. If you'd like to attend, please RSVP to Lisa Blair and she'll provide you with the details prior to the meeting.

Other Social Events

Jazz Festival Cancellation

Some of you may remember that in the last issue of *Sounding*, I wrote an article in which I discussed jazz concerts which are produced monthly by the Suncoast Jazz Society. I had plans to make *Sounding* calendar entries for the September and October performances. As president of the group, I have the authority to waive the admission fee, \$20, for the first concert attended by anyone who attends with me as a result of responding to the calendar.

However, after discussions with the musicians who were scheduled for these dates, i have made the decision to cancel the September and October concerts. We have left alive the possibilities of November and December, but frankly, I'm not overly optimistic. Even January and February are problematic.

I apologize to anyone whose hopes to hear some good live jazz I had raised. Believe me, you're no more disappointed than I am.

If any of you readers would like further clarification or would just like to talk with me about these concerts or jazz in general, please feel free to call me, Ken Kaplan, at 727-542-0645.

Podcast Discussion Apologies

When Wed, August 26, 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Where ZOOM Virtual

Description This month's topic is Apologies. Listen to a curated selection of podcasts on this topic from Podcast Brunch Club and meet to discuss. Podcasts are free to download. Contact Lisa Blair for more information and Zoom code if needed at jazzergirl@verizon.net or text 240 205 1684

Book Club

When: Mon, August 31, 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Where: ZOOM

Description: This is our online book club. We will meet via ZOOM to discuss our new favorite book(s). We will choose a new book for next month.

Newcomers are welcome. This Meeting we will talk about Agatha Christie's "The Mysterious Affair at Styles". For Kindle users, The Agatha Christie Premium Collection is on sale for \$1.99. It contains The Mysterious Affair at Styles, The Secret Adversary, The Murder on the Links, The Cornish Mystery,

If there is a book you would like to read and share with the group, please bring it up at our meeting. Please contact Art Schwartz at art.schwartz@baycare.org or text 813-924-1904 with any questions and to get the meeting sign on.

Ballot for 2020 Tampa Officer Elections

It's time for us to hear from you on the future of local chapter leadership. Just like our national elections, this is both a right and an obligation for you to make your voice heard and impact the direction we take going forward. Please take a moment to vote. ***If you have elected to have the Newsletter sent electronically to your email***, you will receive a secure web link to vote online. If you do NOT receive the Newsletter by email, then please use this ballot. Please only vote via one mechanism.

For those who have opted for printed Newsletters, below you will see a simple ballot with five nominees. You may vote for as many of the nominees as you want, so you can vote for just one, all the way up to all five. Once you have clearly marked your preferred nominees (with an "X" or a checkmark) and/or written in alternate candidates, please cut out this page and mail the ballot to our supervisor of elections, Bill Loring, at the following address:

Bill Loring
16613 Ashwood Dr.
Tampa, FL 33624

- ☐ Linda Christina (running for reelection)
- ☐ Lisa Blair (running for reelection)
- ☐ Katherine Crum (running for reelection)
- ☐ Arthur Schwartz (running for reelection)
- ☐ Dan Tabbert
- ☐ _____ write-in
- ☐ _____ write-in
- ☐ _____ write-in

Please write any other comments you have regarding the election, write-in candidates, or leadership ideas for the local chapter.

2018-2019 Tampa Bay Mensa Officers

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