



Sept - Nov 2020

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Inside this month's issue:



**Leadership
Messages**



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 Personal attacks and bigoted, sexist, hateful, or otherwise offensive material will not be published.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

<i>Note from the Sounding Editor</i>	4
<i>LocSec Column</i>	5
<i>RVC Region 10 Column</i>	6
<i>Local Elections</i>	11
<i>Regional News & Announcements</i>	12
<i>ExComm Meeting Minutes</i>	13
<i>Mensa Scholarships!</i>	17
<i>Local Member Submissions</i>	18
<i>CryptoPoems</i>	34
<i>Get Published</i>	35
<i>Welcome to New Members</i>	35
<i>Birthdays</i>	36
<i>Mensaversaries</i>	38
<i>Classified Ads</i>	40
<i>Calendar & Event Details</i>	40
<i>2018-2019 Tampa Bay Mensa Officers</i>	43

Note from the Sounding Editor

Hey, Tampa Bay Mensans! Just a short note this issue to say that I'm thinking about all of you and hoping that you are surviving 2020. This will definitely go down as one of the worst years in recent history, and I know that a lot of you are probably struggling. So, stay strong, as 2021 has a lot of promise. Rather it be the end of all the political infighting, a vaccine for COVID, recovering job markets, or just a chance for more time with family and friends, let's hope that everything that was wrong in 2020 turns into something good and positive in 2021.

I hope that the end of the pandemic and political turmoil will also breathe new life into our local chapter. This last year has been a low point for events and interactions within TBM as well. As things get better, and restrictions begin to lift, I hope all of you will commit to reconnecting with the rest of the TBM gang and participate in upcoming events. I also hope that the end of despair will also bring more engagement with the newsletter. This old rag will get awfully boring without contributions from you. We would love to see your pictures, stories, essays, puzzles, etc. Please think about sharing with the rest of the community.

Finally, I have a call for help. After a little over a year as your editor, I have taken a new international job, that has me out of the country frequently, and is seriously constraining my free time to do things like edit this newsletter. So with great sadness, I must pass the torch to the next volunteer. If you would like to be the next editor of the Sounding, please contact me at editor@tampa.us.mensa.org or at bradfro@yahoo.com. It is easy, fun, and a great resume builder. If you are a high school or college student, imagine the strength of having Mensa Editor on your resume! For an investment of just 1-2 hours per month, it could return a lot in the way of college entrance or job searches! Please contact me, and I will personally walk you through what to do. It's easy and fun. Thanks!

Rob Bradford

editor@tampa.us.mensa.org

LocSec Column

By: Art Schwartz

How are you? How are you will? Are you coping? I wish I could be more upbeat, but this is overwhelming

Obviously, it has been a very difficult time for all of us. Part of what makes it so difficult is that there is no end date. If someone could tell us we just have to make it until this date and then it will be over, That would be a lot easier. We can put up with school because we know it over in June. We can put up with work because of knowing there is a vacation next month or there is retirement in a few years.

But not knowing when is a different animal.

I know I have been lucky. Neither my immediate family or I have lost our health or jobs. I am able to work from home which has helped me stay isolated. But also makes aspects of my job more difficult. Sometimes you need to have someone look over your shoulder or you need to get in a room with a group. We are laying people off and have a hiring freeze. So there are less of us but the work has not decreased so our workload has increased.

Another thing that has changed is my family dynamic. Sapir and I are used to worrying about our kids. Now it's our kids worrying about us. We are the old ones who can get it and not recover. One son has gone taken to shopping for us and told us to stay home, One son who has isolated from his social group because some of them are not taking the proper precautions

He is worried about that he could catch it and bringing it to us.

This would be a very good to share your experiences with your Mensa family. Tell us how you are, how your doing. Send a letter to the editor of the Sounding or post to Group's Facebook page.

It will help you and all of us feel better,

Art Schwartz

Art.schwartz@baycare.org

RVC Region 10 Column

By: Thomas G Thomas

SEPTEMBER 2020

The American Mensa Committee (AMC) met via GoToMeeting on Saturday, September 12, and the meeting was open to observers. There were several online watch parties as well as individual observers, and consequently a great deal of discussion online. Unfortunately, the AMC was firmly reminded after the meeting that we are not permitted to discuss specific details of the meeting beyond what was reported in the mini-minutes until the minutes come out (even though the meeting was widely disseminated), so I'll report as much as I am legally allowed, but not as much as has already been broadcast.

Early actions taken were the acceptance of the resignation of Region 9 Vice Chair (RVC9) Alton Hitchcock, and the appointment of a Regional Coordinator for Region 9, Rachel Kibler, who was recommended by the Local Secretaries of that Region (The "Far West" Region). Next was the routine approval of the Consent Agenda, which includes motions that were agreed upon prior to the meeting. The process allows for anyone to request an item be removed from the Consent Agenda if they object to or want to discuss one of the motions further. In this meeting, the approval of the minutes of the July AMC meeting were removed for discussion, and the motions to accept Officer and Committee Reports, appointing Action Committee members, and adoption of the 2021 AMC Election questions were all approved.

The July 2020 AMC minutes, having been removed from the Consent Agenda, required a separate vote for approval. However, this motion failed, so the minutes of that meeting will not be available until approved at the December 2020 AMC meeting. (Although unusual, there is precedent for meeting minutes not being approved. For example, I recall animated discussion of and failure to pass the minutes at one of the July AMC meetings during an Annual Gathering, years before I was elected to the AMC.)

After reports by the Treasurer and Executive Director, the AMC addressed six additional actions. We passed the recommendations of the Social Media Transition Task Force on the transfer of ownership of the Hospitality and Firehouse Facebook groups to their respective Special Interest Groups (SIGs), approved the creation of a Diversity Committee, added Electronic Testing to the Testing and Admissions ASIE (Action Still In Effect), approved a budget revision to include Electronic Testing, and passed an Affirmation that American Mensa follows the Mensa International Constitution. The sixth item, an update to the SIGs ASIE (Article 19, Section A), did not pass.

More details on what was included in all of these actions can be found in the Agenda posted on the American Mensa website at <https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/meeting-reports/>. This link also includes the mini-minutes and a video recording of the meeting as well as all of the officer and committee reports and presentations. I regret that the amendments to the motions (as noted in the mini-minutes) will not be available for reporting until the minutes are approved at the December 2020 AMC meeting, scheduled for December 12 (possibly in Arlington TX, unless meeting in person is still deemed unsafe). However, if you are interested, those details are available in the recording.

OCTOBER 2020

A special meeting of the American Mensa Committee (AMC) will be held on Saturday, November 14, 2020. The meeting will be virtual via GoToMeeting and live streamed via YouTube for members who are interested in observing. This will be a short meeting (1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Eastern Time, or noon to 2 p.m. Central Time). The meeting was requested by the Mensa Foundation in order to submit recommendations for additions to the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

The reason for the special meeting is that the Foundation is required to have no fewer than five [5] nor more than fifteen [15] Trustees, per Article VII of the Foundation Bylaws. At present there are five trustees on the Board, and if a

vacancy were to arise, they would be unable to conduct business until replacements were appointed.

While the Foundation Board of Trustees conducts the business of the Foundation, the voting members of the AMC comprise the voting membership of the Foundation (Article III, Section 1a) that appoints these Trustees. Appointments to the Foundation normally take place during the Annual Meeting, but the current Foundation Board felt it was important as a safety measure to appoint new Trustees before the next Annual Meeting, scheduled for August 2021 at the World Gathering in Houston.

At the time I'm submitting this column, no other motions have been proposed for the special meeting agenda, but this may change. The agenda for the meeting will be posted online at <https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/meeting-reports/> by October 20, and an email with a link to the livestream will be sent to all members (whose privacy permissions allow it) on Friday, November 13. As always, please let me know if you have any questions or input.

As noted above, your privacy permissions dictate whether you receive certain information via email. Some recent misunderstanding about these permissions led to a few members disabling all of their contact information, which means they no longer receive notification of important business such as the upcoming AMC meeting, or even notice of their local group newsletters.

To make sure that you receive the information you want – and only the information you want – you can set your preferences by logging in to the American Mensa website at <https://www.us.mensa.org/my-mensa/my-membership-profile/> and selecting “My Communication Preferences” from the Account Links on the upper right corner of the screen. You can opt out of promotions without opting out of event notifications. To get the notice of the upcoming AMC meeting, make certain that you check the box next to “National Events”. Make sure the email address that appears is correct, and you'll be all set.

You can also subscribe to e-Newsletters such as Mensa Wired, which can keep you up to date on items of note, such as the upcoming Mensa election timeline, which encompasses Referendum petitions (open through November 15) and candidate petitions (open from December 1 through January 31). I'll have more to say about the elections in next month's column.

NOVEMBER 2020

A special meeting of the American Mensa Committee (AMC) was held on Saturday, November 14, 2020 to approve new Trustees for the Mensa Foundation. The newly appointed Trustees are **Nguyen Pham** from San Francisco Regional Mensa and **Michelle Rakshys** from Mensa of Western Washington. Besides the business of the Foundation, an AMC motion was added to require that when a roll call vote is requested the record must include how each member voted. If no roll call vote is requested, only those who voted contrary to the end result (nays if the motion passed, ayes if the motion failed) are recorded, along with any abstentions. This motion passed.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the AMC will be held on Saturday, December 12, 2020. The meeting will be virtual via GoToMeeting and live streamed via YouTube for members who are interested in observing. As of this writing, the agenda has not been set, but will be posted online at <https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/meeting-reports/> on November 23, and an email with a link to the livestream will be sent to all members whose privacy permissions allow it on Friday, December 11. As always, please let me know if you have any questions or input.

By the time you read this, the Mensa International special referendum election will have ended. The purpose of the referenda was to make changes related to the recent passage to the International Bylaws changing the term of service for officers from two years to three years. (A similar term-of-office bylaw referendum is on the ballot for American Mensa in April.) The three referenda were: a) to limit the number of terms that could be served to two, b) to define how much of a term qualified as a full term, and c) to remove the

reference to appointing an election committee on even-numbered years. I don't have the results yet, but expect that they will be available in December.

Speaking of elections, the 2021 American Mensa Election process has begun. The Referendum Petition process ended on November 15, and AMC Candidate Petitions open on December 1. Anyone interested in running for a position on the AMC, including Regional Vice Chair, may gather petition signatures from December 1 through January 31.

In order to qualify for the ballot, a candidate for national office must obtain 250 signatures of members in good standing as of December 1, 2020, and a candidate for Regional Vice Chair must obtain 100 signatures of members in good standing from their Region. In a change from previous elections, petitions will only be accepted via the American Mensa Ltd. website, and potential petition candidates are required to create an electronic petition in the members' area of the website at us.mensa.org/election. Each candidate will receive a unique web address to be used in the signature collection process. Candidates must also complete an Acceptance of Nomination form, as well as a Candidate Information Form, both of which are available electronically via the website. Full details can be found at the 2021 Election Portal (<https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/elections/2021-election-portal/>). I also recommend reviewing the job descriptions for each office, which can be found in Appendix 28 (pages 193-201) of the Actions Still In Effect (ASIEs) at <https://www.us.mensa.org/asies>.

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>

Local Elections



Thanks to all of you who participated in the local elections this year, either by being on the ballot or by voting. We didn't have any big surprises. There were 5 seats that were open this year, and five candidates on the ballot, so barring any write-in winners or candidates receiving no votes, it was a much easier election than the national presidential election this year. I'm happy to announce that there did not seem to be any voter fraud, no illegal campaign contributions, no dead people voting, and no voter suppression. Therefore, I'm happy to announce that all five of our candidates were elected to serve on our local ExComm. Please congratulate our new and returning ExComm members. Below are the official results of the election:

Board of Directors <small>PLURALITY – 5 VACANCIES</small>		View comments
Art Schwartz	20 votes (18.2%)	
Lisa Blair	22 votes (20.0%)	
Linda Christina	23 votes (20.9%)	
Katherine Crum	23 votes (20.9%)	
Dan Tabbert	22 votes (20.0%)	

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>
Total revenue & receipts	<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>
Total expenses and payments	<u>9936.39</u>

Checking account balance as of March 31, 2020 9356.57

ExComm Meeting Minutes

TBM ExComm Meeting — August 8, 2020 — via Zoom

Meeting called to order at about 12:08 pm.

Members present: Art Schwarz, Lisa Blair, Kathy Crum, Sylvia Zadorozny, Jacki Nesbitt, Melissa Stephens. Also Thomas Thomas (RVC).

Absent: Belinda Nemeth, Linda Christina.

Resigned from ExComm: Theresa Hohmann Shadrick.

Zoom info went out to ExComm only, not all TBM officers, so editor Rob didn't get an invite. Art sent him an email just now, in case he can join us.

Reports

Scribe: The minutes of the June ExComm meeting were sent out just after the meeting. Lisa and Kathy sent a typo correction and an addition respectively, which were incorporated into the minutes. The amended minutes were then sent to ExComm members that same evening. No other changes have been received.

Treasurer: Detailed Treasurer's report was emailed to ExComm yesterday evening. (See Kathy's email for complete Treasurer's report.) Not a whole lot is going on. Financially we are ahead almost \$1200. Bank balance of \$13,600. With in-person meeting restrictions because of the virus, we haven't really done anything to spend funds on, so balance has been growing. [Here your scribe missed a little of the meeting, answering her phone and getting Melissa joined into the meeting.] Art: We will spend money later; haven't because of COVID. May have expenditures coming up soon.

Rob hasn't gotten many submissions. Art reminded him about elections. Bill Loren should be involved in that too. Art will call them or set up zoom meeting.

Testing Coordinator: Lisa: Don't have any sites right now. New psychologist. Want electronic testing. Has talked to Stephanie; several people asked about testing. Lisa sent email report: No sites. Information requests replied to. 72 on prospective list.

Scholarship: Linda is not here. No report.

Gifted Youth Coordinator: No events at the moment. Trying to figure out zoom group for kids.

Publicity: Lisa publicized our events in the Region 10 facebook group.

Program Officer: Book club and podcast group via Zoom. Got 12 people for book club and another 8 are maybes. Art said last book club event was fun.

Calendar Editor: Belinda was on vacation. Sylvia put events on calendar while Belinda was away.

Editor: Not here. Need another *Sounding* for current month.

Webmaster: No report.

Social media: No report.

Membership: At end of April had 568 members, 45 less than last year. Today 622 current members. 116 lapsed members; Lisa sent them email today. Lisa also sent an email report with the same information: 622 Members today compared to last year 640. 116 Lapsed, contact sent. New Member contact sent.

Deputy LocSec: Your Deputy LocSec began the last ExComm meeting, when there was some confusion about the starting time, until the LocSec joined us and took over as chair. Beginning the meeting is the only service this Deputy LocSec has been called upon to perform in the past few months, but as always she stands ready to fill in if necessary.

LocSec: The big challenge is how to provide value, stay viable until we get past COVID. Come up with virtual events. Looking for suggestions.

Community Services Coordinator: We got team forms for Miles for Moffitt. Five people have already signed up. This year there are virtual options. Lisa is coordinating t-shirts and possible small group in-person run.

Old Business

ZOOM—Zoom meetings are working out well for ExComm meetings. Thomas said some groups are having virtual RGs with Zoom presentations. Don't have details, but one in Texas. Lisa: Opportunity to share load and do cross-group events. Jacki: Trivia could be a big draw. If have someone willing to volunteer, good, but maybe contract with someone if not. Publicize via Region 10 facebook group.

Elections—Art will follow up with election supervisor and *Sounding* editor about election. Melissa tried to call Rob. Lisa called Bill Loring and left a message.

New Business

ExComm Vacancy—Typically we invite someone to join to fill in, but we can have 5 in the upcoming election, instead of 4, and fill vacancy that way. Consensus was that was a good idea.

Short break.

Jacki mentioned kayaking in Safety Harbor and saw bio-luminescence. This was a possible socially distanced in-person event.

Annual Meeting—TBM Annual Meeting is normally held at the Summer Social. Can we do it online? Send out Zoom notice? Unlikely will have over 100

people. Put out open call for Zoom Annual Meeting. Combine with ExComm meeting? Better not to if seeking volunteers. Week before ExComm.

Annual meeting: Noon, September 26. Raffle to encourage participation?
Lisa will work on it.

Next ExComm meeting: Noon, October 3 , via Zoom again

Coping with social isolation: Thomas asked how we were doing. Most of those present seem to be okay for the most part, but are feeling somewhat stressed by the COVID-19 situation and resultant isolation. One member is particularly stressed. It was nice to hear how others were coping.

Meeting adjourned at 1:31 pm.



Mensa Scholarships!



GET CASH FOR COLLEGE

THE MENSA EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FOUNDATION
IS OFFERING SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS OF ALL
AGES. MEMBERS OF MENSA AS WELL AS
NONMEMBERS CAN APPLY.

Visit [mensafoundation.org](https://www.mensafoundation.org) for details.

 **MENSA**
FOUNDATION

Attention! There are large endowments for four \$7,000 scholarships, one \$5,000 scholarships and a new \$600 scholarship.
https://www.mensafoundation.org/about-the-mensa-foundation/news/your-support-makes-higher-education-more-affordable/?_zs=60wna&_zl=OfgE2.

Scholarships are also available for Mensa members and their dependents. There are also scholarships specifically designated for adults returning to or continuing their college education.

I would like to add a request for volunteer judges. People can volunteer to participate in judging for an elimination round and/or a scoring round. Last

year we had one team who did only the elimination round, and 2 other teams who participated in the scoring round. Anyone wishing to volunteer can contact me at lmchristina@tampabay.rr.com.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Linda Christina

Local Member Submissions

SPAS MEA IN DEO EST (My hope is in God)

By: Dave Bryant

My fear is that there will be no place for me in heaven. There is no need for the skills I have in a place where evil does not exist. I have nothing to offer. My life has been spent learning about criminals and those who hurt others and bringing them to justice. As a young policeman, I physically fought those who endangered the weak. As my strength diminished, I used my mind to wrestle liars, to interrogate and persuade people to reveal the truth of their behavior and do things I knew to be right. Throughout I have passed on wisdom I have gained to others: especially those who protect their fellow man from those who prey upon them. But what is the role of a warrior in a place where there is no war? I hope God knows and has a plan for me.

SPAS MEA IN DEO EST

---Dave Bryant

Certified Forensic Polygraph Examiner

FDLE Certified General & High Liability Instructor

Specialty Areas: Firearms, Use of Force, Vehicle Operations, Interrogation

(813) 977-4700

Bless Her Fuzzy Little Heart

By: Sandra Kischuk

I DO SOMETHING. You re-DO it. Someone told me he REVISED the résumé I wrote for him. I thought I wrote it for him and he re-wrote it. I could be wrong. If he re-vised it, I must have vised it.

Another word for a workshop-type vise is vice (not to be mistaken for a bad habit, of which I have quite a few). If your cat has lice, you de-louse it to remove the lice. (But, who moved the lice in the first place, since we need to re-move them?) Is a de-vice something that removes a vice? Or is it the *process* of removing the vice. If you remove a vice from your workbench, do you devouse the workbench?

A Sire may be a courtly gent. If you de-sire a man, do you take away his royal medals? Or, if he is a sire because he has a dozen little brats, and you desire him, do you take away his children, his legal rights to a relationship with his children, or his means of performing the deed that made him a Sire and will continue to do so as long as he can still get the “rockets on deck”?

Most people who get a puppy today take it to the vet to get it “fixed,” or “neutered,” which sounds more . . . neutral. No dog wants to feel neutral, I guarantee: Dogs want to think they are special. So, let’s just tell Bowser he’s de-sired. He hears that and you almost assuage his perennial fear of being displaced by a cat. Could you imagine the trauma if the dog truly understood what just happened?

He comes home from the grand event and starts licking. Tastes funny. A little sensitive. Wait! Something is missing! He gets frantic. If he keeps licking, can he make it all grow back?

In the past, a Sire’s lady was a Madame. That term is now more frequently used for a woman who runs a house of ill repute, the pute part short, I would guess, for reputation. And yes, pute actually mean’s “pure, unadulterated.” So, re-pute, would be pure, done a second time, twice over, but ill turns it into a negative value – like voodoo magic – not just bad, but “super pure bad.”

If pute is purity, does de-pute mean “to take away or remove pute? It is not a straight and easy road we travel. To take away purity is to defile. “Filing” could

be a way to cleaning up your office records or smoothing your nails by grinding off the snags with a tool called a file.

Our good word, depute, means “to appoint or instruct (someone) to perform a task for which one is responsible.” In the case of Madame parceling out one of her “girls” to a client, that sounds about right. When the sheriff’s deputy (deput[iz]ed by the sheriff) shows up, they’re all getting arrested.

For dogs and horses, the female parent is a dam or a dame. Female cats don’t mess around. When they’re pregnant or lactating, they’re queens. In fact, female cats will maintain that they are always queens.

If I liberate my cat by putting her out of the house (which I would never do), would I de-liberate her when I forced her to come back in? Deliberate may mean “to think deeply about something, weighing the benefits and consequences.” And if that is what deliberate is, then liberate probably means I don’t think about things at all . . . which would apply if I were to put the cat out . . . but that’s probably a singular case.

Of course, the other meaning of deliberate is that whatever is deliberate is “on purpose,” as in: “She stomped on my foot. It was a deliberate attempt to break my toe.” To liberate, then, would be off purpose, which is kind of like an “off label” medication. When you take a pill for a purpose for which it is not intended, you liberate it from the narrow confines of FDA-approved uses. At least that one makes sense. Kind of.

If you strip the bark off a tree, you debark it. Debark a willow tree and you have the makings of aspirin, but I have never figured out how to debark a dog. It amazes me that they can bark for hours, and apparently never get sore throats. Dieffenbachia (dumb cane) in hamburger meat has crossed my mind more than once. My ears, and hopefully, the burger-monster’s throat, would finally get a rest. All that barking may be a dog’s way of complaining about throat pain. Dogs, unlike cats, never really learn to make logical connections.

That is why dogs so slavishly demand human attention. Their brains get stuck in a groove . . . they’re ADHD/OCD from the day they are born. “Oh! A human! Entertain me! Pet me! Squirrel! Squirrel! Aren’t you glad I’m here? If I run fast enough after that car, I could bite the tire.” “Throw the ball, buddy! Throw the effin’ ball! Why else were you put on this earth?”

One or two throws and a dog wants to lick you all over. I always have a hard time with that one because I saw where that tongue was just a couple of minutes before. Actually, I heard it first. When that slurping starts, it's best to distract the kids . . . "Eeeww, Mom! Bowser is licking himself again." Yes, years later, he's still trying to make it all grow back.

If you have the kind of dog who likes to lick (and what dog doesn't), they lick *that* a LOT. I can't think *that* part of their bodies needs to be cleaned every 15 minutes. I'm glad the kids just think it's gross and haven't figured it out yet. Dogs are second only to bonobos, I would guess.

Back to Bowser, who is so appreciative that I threw the ball. I start to lift my hands away from the approaching drooling, toxic tongue and drop them back down even faster. Ever try to deter a dog from nosing into your privates? Insistent buggers, wagging their tails as if to say, "I love you so much I just have to jam my nose into your crotch and get a good whiff." Or maybe he thinks it's my turn to get washed: He only wants to please and it's so good for him. He'll give my privates a cleaning since I can't seem to get my own nose down there. The only way you can get a dog to quit probing is by distracting him with something else. Maybe by introducing the dog to the person sitting next to you.

Can you tell a dog, "Go find something else to do?" Yes. But he probably won't listen. He's too "locked" in his compulsions. As an example: every time a dog goes to lie down, he'll find a spot, rotate three times around following his tail, and then drop. Makes no sense. Or maybe just two times. Every dog is different. Some are three-timers. Some are two-timers. But try to change them? That's a major trigger for deep neurosis. Can't stop a compulsion like that without serious consequences. Back when dogs lived in the wild, they circled to make a grass "nest." Now they just wear holes in the hardwood.

Another proof of dogs' inability to process information: Dogs eat . . . anything. And they don't stop. If there's food, it's there to be eaten . . . all of it. Roadkill, toxic garden plants, chocolate . . . I mean, chocolate can kill a dog, but that never stops any Bowser from testing his luck with "fallout," begging for it, or, if he's big enough, bellying up to the countertop to get that still warm chocolate cake. How many kids have missed their own birthday parties because they were sitting in the vet's office waiting for Bowser to get his stomach pumped?

Yep. Dogs love being the center of the family. I guarantee he'll do it again next week, given the chance.

If luck should have it that there is a cat in the house, a dog has it made. What dog does not love the best in fine, private dining – sticking his head in the cat box (where no one can see what he's doing) and scarfing down the goodies the cat left behind? Why would he do that? I dunno. Probably tastes like cat food marinated with some kind of canine wet-dream cannabinoid steak sauce.

Does the dog stop to think, “Hey, I’m taking crap from the cat?” Any other time the cat gives him crap, he ain’t happy about it. Maybe he’s gloating about stealing the cat’s buried treasure. Most cats don’t seem to mind this extra bit of housekeeping, unless Bowser catches them in the process of making their daily deposit. Kind of keeps balance in the house though. Bowser takes care of the cat box and goes out to do his business in the yard: the cat gets some peace during the day and takes the opportunity to appropriate the dog’s more commodious bed. Smart cat.

Anyway, it’s time for my own bed. I wonder if bed knows it’s time. The cat sure does. Comes 10 p.m. and she’s all in my face telling me to quit. Every night. Bless her fuzzy little heart. She knows what’s good for me.

Sandra Kischuk, Professional Writer, Editor, and Leadership Coach

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Hallowe'en Horror

By: Sandra Kischuk

Hallowe'en was just a day
To wear a scary mask,
And dress up in my father's
clothes,
To knock on doors and ask . . .

"Trick or treat," or "Help the poor."
I'd hold my bag up high
To capture sweets and other treats
. . .
People never asked me why.

They all just knew 'twas
Hallowe'en
And that is what we did,
For many years of growing up,
When I was just a kid.

Each year, as I grew older
And taller too, I know.
My costumes got less fancy
But still I had to go.

Sam and I would stay out late
When kiddies were in bed.
We'd find the homes with lights on
And howl to wake the dead.

"Trick or treat," we'd threaten
So they would know to come,
And answer to the calling,
Of the vagrant and the bum.

Then we'd run up to the next
house
And repeat our mournful cry,
Our pillowcases heavy,
Our spirits running high.

Then, Hallowe'en in '93,
We found, to our delight,
A street with houses brightly lit,
In the middle of the night.

Sam gave a whoop and then we
ran
To collect our rightful due.
The people gave us lots of treats
And they were costumed, too.

Dressed as ghouls and witches,
As vampires and as ghosts,
They gave HUGE amounts of
goodies,
They were most gracious hosts.

Then midnight came, the lights
blinked out,
We stood under a tree,
"This doesn't look quite right," said
Sam,
"Or is it only me?"

"I don't know where we are," I
said.
"I lost track, but that's not all.
"Deep within the shadows,
"Those dark houses look so small."

"I remember that one over there,"
Sam turned into the gloom.
We carefully retraced our steps
And bumped into a tomb.

The stone was hard and cold and
wet,
Dripping with the dew.
I looked at Sam, he stared at me,
Then, suddenly we knew.

The full moon rose behind a cloud,
And confirmed the view around,
What we had thought were houses
. . .
Tombstones spread across the
ground.

"If this is just a graveyard,"
Sam said, (I don't know how)
"Who gave us all these treats,
"Where are those people now?"

He held his bag up toward me,
His was full as mine I saw,
I perceived eyes glow behind a
stone . . .
They were angry, red, and raw.

"Run," I called, and turned away,
"We need to make it fast."

Behind me I heard footsteps.
Sam followed me, then passed.

Still footsteps came behind me
As I ran over a hill,
Then more eyes glowed ahead of
Sam . . .
Sam jumped, and fell, lay still.

A thousand dark and furry forms
Came flying from the trees,
Upon poor Sam, my closest friend,
Who struggled to his knees.

"Run," he yelled, "I'll stay behind
"So you can get away.
"Go warn our friends and family
"About what we saw today."

So cowardly, I turned away,
Sam's screams behind me shrill.
Tears streaming down my face I
ran,
My heart a frozen chill.

When I got to my front porch,
I saw Sam sitting on the stair
With his pillowcase of loot
And brambles in his hair.

"Geez, Sam, you scared me half to
death.
"I thought for sure you died.
"How ever did you get away?"
I hugged him and I cried.

"I'm fine," he said, "Don't worry,

"It was just a joke, it's true . . .
"Let's open up our bags," he said,
"I want to count our coup."

And by the yellow porch light,
He poured a pile of stuff.
It only took a second,
But it was more than enough.

I saw bones and worms and slimy
snakes,
And green fingers tipped with
claws,
Dead birds and mice and scraps of
fur,
And skulls with broken jaws.

I dropped my bag in horror,
As rotting flesh and staring eyes
Fell out and splattered on the
porch
To my gasps and sobbing cries.

"Butterfinger!" Sam squealed out
And grabbed some bloody meat . . .
.
A witch's green and pointy claw,
Which he began to eat.

"Sam, don't!" I hissed, "Can't you
see . . ."
"Tom, here's a piece for you . . ."
He turned toward the porch light,
It was only then I knew.

His eyes glowed red and angry,
And from his twitching lips,

Blood ran red and green and black
In gooey, shiny drips.

I ran inside my front door
And jammed the lock up tight.
I knew I'd lost my childhood friend
On that Hallowe'en night.

When I woke up in the morning,
I was sleeping on the floor,
Cold, and tired, and hungry,
Pressed up tight against that door.

I hoped it was a bad dream,
A nightmare past and gone,
I opened the door up slowly
And stared out at the dawn.

And there, upon the front porch,
Lay two rotten piles of slime.
I went to get a shovel
To hide the evidence in time.

I knew I'd missed my curfew,
And stayed out way too late,
Mom would be mad to see the
mess . . .
Cleanup couldn't wait.

Three garbage bags of stinking
flesh,
I felt frightened to disturb.
I struggled and two houses down,
I dragged them to the curb.

One year passed and one year
more

I never ventured out,
When the goblins came a'calling,
When the witches were about.

Six foot down and then,
The root just wouldn't sever,
And still it had no end.

I never saw poor Sam again,
I never wanted to,
But last week in the shrubs I found
What Sam once chose to chew.

An evil grows beneath my house,
I wait trapped at home in fright,
Mom still wonders why I stay
inside
Every Hallowe'en night.

It was long and green and bloody
With a bite mark red and raw,
And rooted deep within the earth
With a pointed, dirt-stained claw.

I know what's waiting out there,
I know what I've had to hide,
I buried youth and joy and bravery
The night my friend Sam died.

I dug into the hardened ground

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Why Hunt?

By: Roland St. Marie

Hunting is considered controversial now. Many people condemn it as immoral. Most of these people live in cities and have little interaction with animals except house pets, park squirrels, TV characters, or from occasional visits to zoos. They do not understand hunters and have no desire to try. Their opinion is based entirely on emotions. Many incorrectly believe that animals such as elephants, tigers and rhinos are being hunted into extinction because they confuse "hunting" with "poaching". Equating hunting to poaching is like equating shopping with shoplifting – one is legal consumption and the other is criminal theft. The fact is that legal regulated sport hunting has never caused any species to go extinct since game laws were established over a century ago. Furthermore, the funds from licenses and taxes on weapons has benefitted both game and nongame species. But that is not an argument for hunting, it's

an argument against anti-hunting. The question is, why do some people want to hunt?

I used to be an avid hunter. I loved to hunt. But I haven't hunted in 15 years and I never will again. I have no desire to ever kill another animal but I am completely supportive of those who do, as long as they engage in the sport in an ethical and sustainable way. It's important for non-hunters to understand that there are as many types of hunters as there is quarry to pursue. There are subsistence hunters, sport hunters, trophy hunters, upland bird hunters, waterfowl hunters, big game hunters, small game hunters, varmint hunters, shotgun hunters, bow hunters, muzzle loading hunters, rifle hunters, handgun hunters and much, much more. We are all very different. I decided to write this as an explanation of what hunting means to me. I don't believe it's necessary for humans to justify their hunting instinct any more than it's necessary for a bear to explain his. Like people, bears are omnivores designed by nature to instinctively consume both plant and animal matter. It's simply what we do because it's what we are. Yet, in our artificial modern society many people live separated from nature and sincerely don't understand why some people hunt. This story is my story and is only meant to explain my personal motivations and feelings for this activity. Hopefully those who disapprove of hunting will at least have a better understanding of one of its devotee's reasons. Most of us are not blood-thirsty monsters. But before the reader can truly understand how I view hunting you need to understand the context of my experience growing up in small-town America in the 1960s.

I was raised in a small New England town. My family was typical of the place and time. They were lower middle-class blue-collar workers but owned their own small house on an acre of land surrounded by woods and fields. There was a ridge about ½ mile behind us and a brook about a ¼ mile the opposite direction. My friends were the children of farmers, construction workers, factory workers and shopkeepers. One's father owned an insurance agency. Some of my friends' fathers hunted but most did not. Like my Dad they were too busy and too exhausted from trying to make ends meet and weekends were spent working on cars, house repairs and other chores, not stalking game. My father always owned a gun though. Most country folks do. A gun is a necessary tool for rural people who have to be self-reliant. In addition to its self-defense utility, a gun might be used to dispatch a rabid animal that appears on one's property, or to protect a chicken coop from a fox or raccoon, etc. And more than once my dad

potted a ringneck pheasant that decided to trespass in our yard uninvited. Pheasants taste good; like a cross between a chicken and a turkey.

When I was a child my parents had a garden in our yard and they used to can their own vegetables for the winter. I helped plant and weed the garden and often was sent out to harvest the vegetables. My mother would tell me to go pick some green beans, or squash, or peppers and tomatoes for dinner. It gave me a feeling of satisfaction to bring food to my mom that I picked myself.

There were a lot of wild blueberry bushes near our house. And a few scattered wild raspberry and blackberry bushes as well. All summer long we would pick wild blueberries. They were much smaller than the commercial varieties that you buy in the grocery store and the bushes were much lower than the convenient heights of U-Pick farms but they were plentiful and they were free. I had blueberries in my cereal for breakfast almost every summer morning and my mother made blueberry muffins frequently.

I had an uncle that lived near us who had a small farm. I visited him often. He grew corn and potatoes and other vegetables. But they also ate wild foods such as edible mushrooms. And dandelions. He loved dandelion greens. I always thought of dandelions as weeds but my uncle cooked the leaves of young plants that hadn't bloomed yet and sprinkled them with vinegar. Steamed dandelion leaves taste similar to other greens like turnip, collard and spinach greens. I began harvesting and cooking dandelion leaves too. My uncle also ate trout that he caught in the nearby brook. Supplementing our diet with foods that didn't come from a store seemed perfectly normal. I assumed everyone did it.

My parents worked hard but money was always scarce. I remember several years in a row where they earned extra money for Christmas by making Christmas decorations and selling them. We would walk up the ridge behind our house and pick holly, juniper, pinecones and anything else that looked nice. Sometimes we would weave them around wire circles and make hanging wreaths and sometimes my dad would cut down a birch tree and hollow out sections to fill to make centerpieces. The point was that utilizing resources from the natural environment around our house was as normal to us as eating, drinking or sleeping. We took what we needed from nature and left the rest.

One year when I was about 10 years old my mother and I went on a short 2-day vacation with my best friend and his mother to New York City to see the

American Museum of Natural History. Those who have been there will remember the dioramas. Three-dimensional scenes of the natural world are staged behind glass. Those dioramas may include wax models, backdrop paintings and various props but most also include taxidermy specimens. The taxidermy mounts imparted a realism that was impossible any other way. I found them fascinating. Another memory of that trip I will never forget is that the museum had a taxidermy mount of a Passenger Pigeon. I was always interested in wildlife and I knew that Passenger Pigeons were once the most abundant species of birds and became extinct. I had the opportunity to see an actual Passenger Pigeon more than half a century after they became extinct because someone had mounted it. After that trip I had a greater appreciation of taxidermy as a way of preserving and documenting important experiences and preserving them for others.

I was an only child and we lived more than a mile away from any playmates my age so until I rode a bicycle, I usually played by myself or with my dog. I spent a lot of time playing in the woods around my house. I was very comfortable in the woods and had the patience to wait quietly until the wildlife emerged. Forests and fields were not strange to me. I knew how to walk on uneven terrain so as not to twist an ankle, how to orient myself so I wouldn't get lost, how to avoid dangers like poisonous snakes, and how to recognize if a stream was safe to drink from. After I learned to ride a bike I often rode to the brook and went trout fishing. In all honesty I enjoyed the challenge of locating and catching the fish more than the fish themselves but I was always told that you didn't kill anything unless you were going to eat it. In the summer when school was out, I went fishing almost every day unless it rained. We ate a lot of trout.

So, it was natural that I would be interested in hunting. It was a logical next step in the progression of a rural kid maturing into manhood. The woods, waters and fields supplied fish, berries, mushrooms, dandelion greens, decorations for Christmas and the earth provided the nutrients for the vegetables we grew. Wild game was just another bounty of nature to be harvested and another challenge to master. As a freshman and sophomore in High School I used to run off my school bus, into the house, grab my shotgun and run out the back door and begin hunting as soon as I was in the woods. I began by hunting small game. My dad showed me how to skin or pluck and clean animals and birds but then it was up to me. The first thing I ever shot was a squirrel. After I skinned the rodent and looked at my prize it reminded me of a rat. We cooked it anyway.

The meat was tough and I didn't like it. I never shot another squirrel. Next was a rabbit. What I remember about that was that its entrails stunk worse than any other animal I've ever cleaned. No more rabbits.

But I didn't give up on hunting. I found that I loved bird hunting. Where I lived that meant mostly ringneck pheasants and ruffed grouse. Both those birds have white meat. They taste like chicken but aren't as moist; they're drier like a roast turkey. But I loved the excitement of the flush when they took off and the challenge of hitting them in flight. Once I got a driver's license and my own car, I drove myself to High School with my gun and hunting gear in the trunk. That was back in 1972 and '73 when kids like me considered their classmates as friends, not targets for a demented real-life version of a blood-spattered video killing game so no one freaked out that kids carried shotguns in their cars on campus during hunting season. Anyway, after school I would drive to good habitat and go hunting. Every day. Often, I went hunting alone but sometimes I would go with friends. That was fun. Even better is when my dad found time to go with me on a Saturday. He was so busy it wasn't often but on those special occasions we would start with a hearty breakfast at a restaurant all dressed up in our hunter orange clothing. It was a rite of passage that made a pimply-faced, gangly, teen-aged boy feel like a man.

I tried deer hunting. That was the preferred quarry of most of my friends who hunted. I went at least a dozen times in my life and never shot a deer. Most trips I never saw one. I've seen deer while hunting only 3 times and I never had a shot at a legal deer within range. I'm just as happy because I've eaten venison that's been given to me a few times and found it to be tough and gamey-tasting. So, I have no quarrel with anyone who wants to hunt deer; it just isn't my thing and I stopped doing it. I find it boring compared to the excitement of bird hunting and I don't like the meat. Of course, if you tell a non-hunter that you like to hunt, they always jump to the conclusion that you shoot deer and big game. And they usually say something inane like "You shoot Bambi?" in a childlike voice. It's just one of several predictable ways they reveal their preconceived biases and ignorant assumptions.

I honed my woodsmanship skills hunting. I didn't just walk through the woods. I carefully picked my way silently while simultaneously listening for the sound of a hoof stepping on a twig, or a grouse rustling dry autumn leaves, or the sound of an acorn being gnawed by squirrel teeth. Hikers, anglers, bird watchers

and other outdoor enthusiasts don't experience nature that completely. Only hunters do. But I will admit that there were sunny autumn days when my mind would drift as I walked through the woods and I would temporarily forget about hunting and imagine that I was Daniel Boone, or a member of the Lewis & Clark expedition, or an Indian brave stalking game for his family. Hunting could take me away and let me experience what it must have felt like to have lived those lives. For so many reasons the experience of hunting was soul fulfilling even on days where no game was seen and my game bag remained empty. It didn't matter, the experience was always worthwhile.

In Florida there are no ringneck pheasants or ruffed grouse so after I moved to the Sunshine State I sought other game. Since my preference is bird hunting, I tried pursuing bobwhite quail, marsh hens (rails and gallinules), ducks, wild turkey and doves. To illustrate to non-hunters the specialization involved, I own 4 shotguns. I have an ordinary 20-gauge improved cylinder pump for marsh hens and doves, a fast shooting short-barreled 20-gauge pump with florescent sight for quail, a 12-gauge pump for turkeys, and a 12 gauge semi-automatic for ducks. My opportunities for turkey were limited, a serious quail hunter must have a trained dog and marsh hens aren't challenging enough so I became almost exclusively a duck hunter. I love ducks. Waterfowl are beautiful, sleek and fast. There have been changes since I used to hunt but in Florida the limit for ducks used to be based on a point system. When the last duck a hunter shot put the aggregate point score at or above 100, the limit was reached. Abundant species were assigned low point values and less plentiful species were assigned higher point totals for conservation purposes. For some species like mallards where the males and females are distinctive there were lower point values assigned to the males to encourage sparing females. Some species may be closed to hunting entirely in years of low populations. This point system forced a duck hunter who wanted to maximize his bag limit to develop the skill to identify different duck species in flight, often in foggy weather, by identifying their body shape, size, wingbeat pattern, the sound of their calls and their coloration patterns and interpreting that data in the context of which species are likely using the particular habitat being hunted (some species like deep water, some prefer shallow water, some use salt water, some are exclusively fresh water, some use both, etc.). There are more than 2-dozen different species of wild ducks in North America. No non-hunter would bother to develop the skills to distinguish between them all and to learn their habitat preferences

to target just one or two. That is just one example where the sport of hunting requires keener knowledge of the natural world than one would otherwise acquire. I don't particularly like eating ducks but I've found some recipes that make them palatable for me. My own personal ethics force me to eat what I kill. Over the decades that I have hunted I have failed to eat just 4 birds that I killed because I decided to have them mounted instead so I could display them forever; like the Passenger Pigeon at the American Museum of Natural History.

But here in Florida I live in the city so going hunting takes more effort. Nevertheless, it was so culturally ingrained in me that I found a few like-minded friends and continued engaging in the sport after I moved here in 1977. As I said, I always ate what I shot but if anyone tells you that they hunt for food because it saves them money on groceries they are lying. There are very few places where subsistence hunting is still in widespread practice. In Alaska. On Indian reservations. Places like that. Otherwise the cost of wild game is much higher than buying meat in a supermarket. An ethical hunter eats what he kills but he doesn't kill to eat. The last time I went duck hunting in Florida was over 20 years ago. A friend and I trailered a boat from Seminole, Florida to Lake Okeechobee. In addition to the boat, motor, oars, life preservers, gasoline, duck decoys, etc. the gear that each of us brought included a shotgun and ammunition, wading boots, and full camouflage clothing. We also had to buy a state hunting license, a state Wildlife Management Area stamp, a state duck stamp and a federal duck stamp. We rented lodging for one night so we could hunt 2 days and we paid a fee to launch the boat. It was a weekend late in the season, the lake was very busy with boaters and the ducks were decoy-shy. We hunted for 2 days and each killed only a single ring-necked duck weighing about one pound. The cost per pound for that duck meat was many times more expensive than the finest imported Russian caviar. Wild game is usually healthier than grocery store meat because it's leaner and hasn't been fed antibiotics and other drugs but it's almost always much more expensive. Hunters do not hunt for food. Hunters do it for the experience. When one is hunting, they immerse themselves into nature more than they will in any other outdoor experience because you have to study your quarry, its habitat, its habits and the environment in which it lives to be successful. The time of year, the time of day, the weather, wind direction, the type of food and cover available to the animal, hunting pressure, the influence of other animals in the woods, conditions like drought, fire, moon phases and much more must be considered. The hunter has to be skilled. Only

hunters interact with nature so intensely. Hunters love the animals they hunt because they get to know them so intimately and so they care deeply about conserving the species. That may seem counter-intuitive to non-hunters but it's true. And the experience of pursuing one's quarry draws a hunter into places that he/she would never go otherwise and the ancillary experiences are worth the hunting trip even when the hunter returns empty-handed.

Part of being an ethical hunter is to take precautions to ensure that one kills their quarry cleanly, quickly and with minimal suffering. An ethical hunter should practice until he/she is a good shot and they should only fire when it's safe and their quarry is within effective range. Nevertheless, sometimes the animal suffers. That always bothered me. It's not often but if you hunt it happens. Killing a member of a species that is abundant doesn't bother me but causing it to suffer always leaves me feeling ashamed. I won't recite examples so as not to disturb the reader but I remember every one and I don't like those memories.

The last time I went hunting was in 2005 for my 50th birthday. I always wanted to hunt prairie chickens and pheasants in the Midwest so I booked a hunting trip to Nebraska for my daughter and I. I enjoyed the experience but my knees were beginning to become arthritic then and walking wasn't as easy as when I was young. I also felt an odd emptiness from killing the birds that was different and unsettling to me.

Because of my affinity for game birds I always had a desire to raise some, specifically pheasants. I wasn't able to do that but I did buy several California Valley Quail some years ago that I kept as a hobby. I enjoyed watching them and listening to their calls. I had an odd number and during breeding season the mated pairs began harassing an odd hen and so I had to remove her and put her in a separate pen by herself. It surprised me but she tamed down and used to come over to me to get her head scratched. I have had dogs, cats, reptiles and pet birds before but I learned from that little female quail that even wild gamebirds have feelings, emotions and are capable of learning behaviors. All life matters.

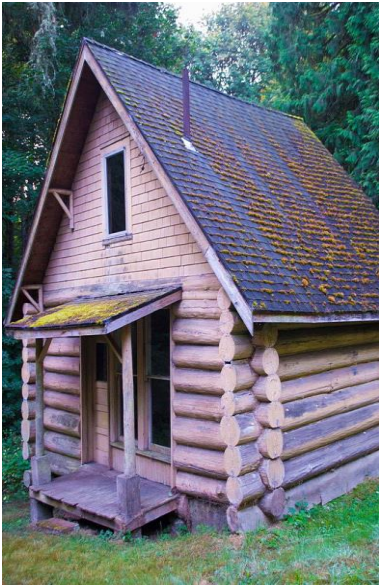
I believe that every form of life is a creation of God. And every being has just one life to live. A redwood tree might live for millennia and a Mayfly for just a day but when we intentionally deprive anything of part of its natural life, we should have a very good reason. It may seem silly but I won't intentionally step

on a cockroach if it's outdoors where it belongs. When I was young, I got the same satisfaction by obtaining my own meat through hunting that I got from picking wild blueberries, dandelion leaves, growing vegetables or catching fish. There is no shame in it. If it's morally okay for a wolf to kill a deer or a falcon to kill a duck why would a human have fewer rights? Hunting gave me bonding experiences with my father and I got to see things in nature that I would have missed if I hadn't been out hunting. No species went extinct because I removed a few individual members; in fact, my license fees probably increased game populations by preserving habitat and funding game departments. The animals I harvested were killed humanely and put to use. But I no longer have it in my heart to hunt. I would never criticize any hunter behaving ethically or try to deprive him/her of those experiences. I'm grateful for the hunting experiences I've had in the past but I personally don't want to kill any more animals. I've had enough.

CryptoPoems

By: Sylvia Zadorozny

June-August 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
Eme Rose Abbruzzese	MoveIn
Paula Cane	Rejoin
Joseph Davis	Rejoin
Rebekah Foley	Rejoin
Edward Galasso	Rejoin
William Geist	Rejoin
Kenneth Goff	Rejoin
Randal Gruberman	MoveIn
Anthony Kissel	MoveIn
Bruce Mesnekoff	Rejoin
David Mitchell	Rejoin
Rebecca Moretta	Joined
Sean Offer	Rejoin
Wendy Pressoir	Rejoin
Cheryl Reade	Rejoin
Michael Reid	Rejoin
Kiera Wells	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 with the subject “TBM Birthday Announcement” at least two months ahead of time, so it can be added manually.



Name	Birthday	Name	Birthday
Jay Hines	26-Sep	Thomas Latus	11-Nov
Kalin Palmer	26-Sep	Elizabeth Rafaloski	12-Nov
Sharon Baugher	27-Sep	Robert King	12-Nov
James Crum	1-Nov	Diane Ross	13-Nov
Lillian O'Neill	1-Nov	James Wilson	15-Nov
Jane Pattison	2-Nov	Craig Zanut	15-Nov
Irv Frankel	3-Nov	William Geist	15-Nov
Bryan Riddel	3-Nov	James Armstrong	16-Nov
Michael McCue	3-Nov	Andrew Bakker	23-Nov
Lawrence Bush	4-Nov	Thomas Gordon	23-Nov
Mary Matthews	6-Nov	Steven Ganci	23-Nov
Martin Seggelke	6-Nov	Robert Monts De Oca	26-Nov
Susan Anderson	7-Nov	John Cattel	27-Nov
Keith Lussen	8-Nov	Audrey Silver	29-Nov
Phil Schwartz	9-Nov	Jason Newberg	29-Nov
James Dolan	9-Nov	Roland St Marie	30-Nov

Name	Birthday	Name	Birthday
Sarah Sebastian	1-Sep	Debra Genovese	7-Oct
Barbara Ray	1-Sep	Paul Levine	7-Oct
Geoffrey Davis	2-Sep	Scott McInnes	8-Oct
Thomas Thomas	2-Sep	Daniel Holloway	8-Oct
Bruce Mesnekoff	2-Sep	Martin Hughes	10-Oct
Kristen Wegner	3-Sep	Keven McGinn	10-Oct
Timothy McCorkle	6-Sep	Paul Frappollo	11-Oct
Charles Brackx	6-Sep	Arthur Schwartz	11-Oct
Eric Harrison	7-Sep	Robert Farabee	12-Oct
Kyle Lai	7-Sep	Linda Raymond	12-Oct
Carlos Hernandez	8-Sep	Mike Hess	13-Oct
Mariann Bell	8-Sep	Peter Profiro	14-Oct
Kurt Goebel	8-Sep	Frank Valenti	14-Oct
William McNally	9-Sep	James Kennedy	15-Oct
Dennis Wilcoxon	12-Sep	Douglas Woolley	16-Oct
Tom Penkethman	13-Sep	David Mitchell	16-Oct
Brandon Shaw	14-Sep	John Martz	17-Oct
Kenneth Berg	15-Sep	Rodney Phillips	17-Oct
Chris O'Connor	15-Sep	Sean Ferraro	17-Oct
Mona Cafone	15-Sep	Douglas Linkhart	19-Oct
Charles Godfrey	16-Sep	Kathryn Nixon	22-Oct
James Norman	18-Sep	Ryan Duran	22-Oct
Richard Newel	19-Sep	Helen Morrell	24-Oct
Shahram Shams	19-Sep	Debborah Dabaj	24-Oct
Delphine Jenness	20-Sep	Dave Bryant	24-Oct
Rudolph Deitrick	22-Sep	Catherine Chopping	25-Oct
Constance Miller	22-Sep	Joel Morris	25-Oct
Margaret LaChance	23-Sep	Eriq Breland	25-Oct
Michael Goldsmith	23-Sep	Lawrence Tipton	26-Oct
Thomas Vena	24-Sep	Jacki Nesbitt	26-Oct
Michael Scioli	24-Sep	Damian Kondrotas	26-Oct
Marguerite Andrews	2-Oct	Ron Austin	26-Oct
Sheryl Hakala	2-Oct	Don Chase	27-Oct
Anne Murray	3-Oct	Adam Bentley	27-Oct
Karen Stowe	3-Oct	John Emerson	30-Oct
Martha Lyon	3-Oct	Lee Hargrave	31-Oct
Jacquelyn Wirsing	5-Oct	Robin Burngasser	31-Oct

Mensaversaries



Name	Years	Name	Years
Debra Genovese	1	Sky Muyskens	3
James Wilson	1	Kathryn Nixon	3
Emma Carr	1	Kenneth Gooze	3
James Armstrong	1	Robert Beverly	4
Elaine Ware	1	Kathryn Margittai	4
David Mitchell	1	Erin Chapman Carter	4
Kiera Wells	1	Thomas Scales	4
Joseph Davis	1	Heather Hanks	4
Bruce Mesnekoff	1	Jason Revis	4
Rebecca Moretta	1	Dominic DeWeese	5
Cheryl Reade	1	J Hayes	5
Michael Reid	1	John Prichard	5
Kenneth Goff	1	Michael Deloach	5
Edward Galasso	1	Peter Denman	5
Rebekah Foley	1	Kenneth Kaplan	6
Sean Offer	1	Victoria Black	6
William Geist	1	Alexander Black	6
Alfred Oliver	2	Ethan Buck	6
William Papaioannou	2	Kim Spragg	6
Catherine Dazevedo	2	Robert King	6
Daniel Tabbert	2	Finn Donegan	6
Joseph Mohr	2	Ashlynn Duffey	6
Deborah Dabaj	2	Alexis Duffey	6
Kailey Anderson	3	Brian Potter-Racine	7
James Johnson	3	Alex Obenauf	7

Name	Years	Name	Years
Alexandria Noriega	7	Ben Pethe	18
Jacquelyn Wirsing	7	Theresa Hohmann	18
Brighton Reed	8	Tammy Hicks	18
Emmerson Reed	8	Angel Onesty	18
Taylor Gregory	8	Thomas Johnson	19
John Copeland	8	R Stamm	19
Elizabeth Knowles	9	Allison Jirsa	19
William Knowles	9	John Martz	19
Sherri Crews-Cohen	9	Thomas Latus	20
Kendra Knapp	10	Constantinos Scaros	21
Lillian O'Neill	10	Charles Stewart	21
Ella Mendelowitz	11	Brett Husselbaugh	21
Pamela Colker	11	Lisa Blair	24
Garrett Cardwell	11	Louise Kelly	24
Genevieve Corrada	12	Roger Zitman	24
Douglas Woolley	12	Karen Payne	26
Allan Escher	12	Robert Bradford	26
James Paradise	13	James Goletz	27
Jason Newberg	13	Dennis Jauch	28
Linda Christina	13	Arthur Kelland	28
Martin Seggelke	13	Donald White	29
Christopher Orozco	14	Jim Forsyth	29
Timothy Dixon	14	Lawrence Bush	30
Eriq Breland	14	Denise Chezek	31
Neil Rupani	14	Tina Kay	34
Anthony Shun	15	Mitchell Drucker	34
William Dattisman	15	Elliott Loyless	35
Kenneth Berg	15	Kurt Bolin	35
Tom Warnes	15	Douglas Kinney	36
Kathleen Johnson	15	Juana Harper	36
Bradley Price	16	Diane Campo	38
Jamie Heuer	16	Kerry Lawson	39
Daniel Holloway	16	Stanley Pleban	39
Carol Park	17	Henry Morse	39
Fernando Narvaez	17	Monica Cutting	39
Scott Porter	17	Marylou Seigel	39
Micheal Oldenburg	17	Richard Flynn	40
Ronald Bone	18	Esther Talledo Snook	41

Name	Years
Harry Richter	42
Douglas Bahringer	43
Sally Siegel	43
Michelle Kurtz	43
Constance Wallace	44
Norman Urich	46
Nan Owens	47

Name	Years
William Loring	47
Lee Hargrave	50
Bernard Sigg	51
Leonard Nugent	53
Norman Linton	53
Bruce Whiting	56
Paul Frappollo	57

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 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:

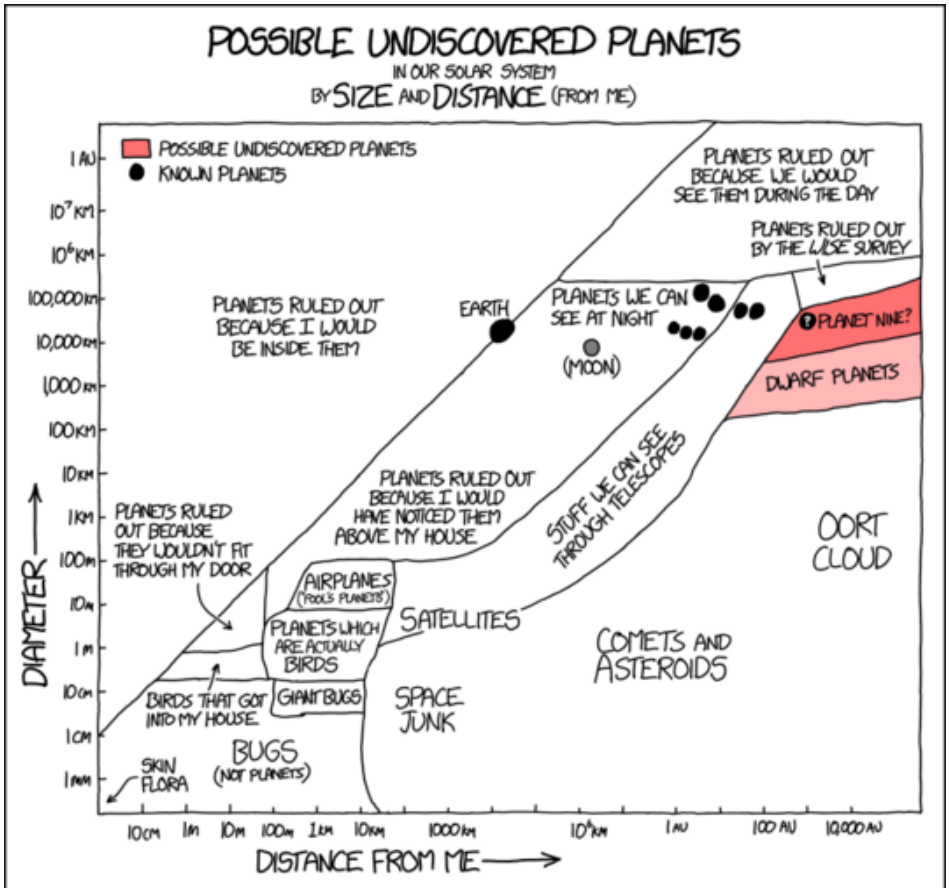
<http://tampa.us.mensa.org/cal>

Next ExComm Meeting

When: Sat, June 13th, 12pm – 2pm

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

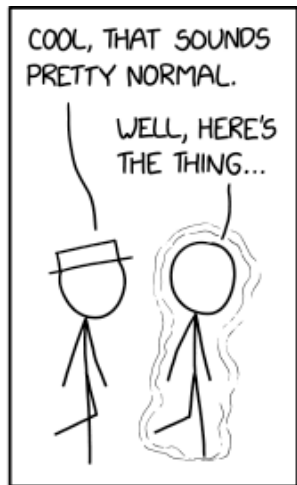
Tampa Bay Mensa Executive Committee meetings are open to all Tampa Bay Mensans.



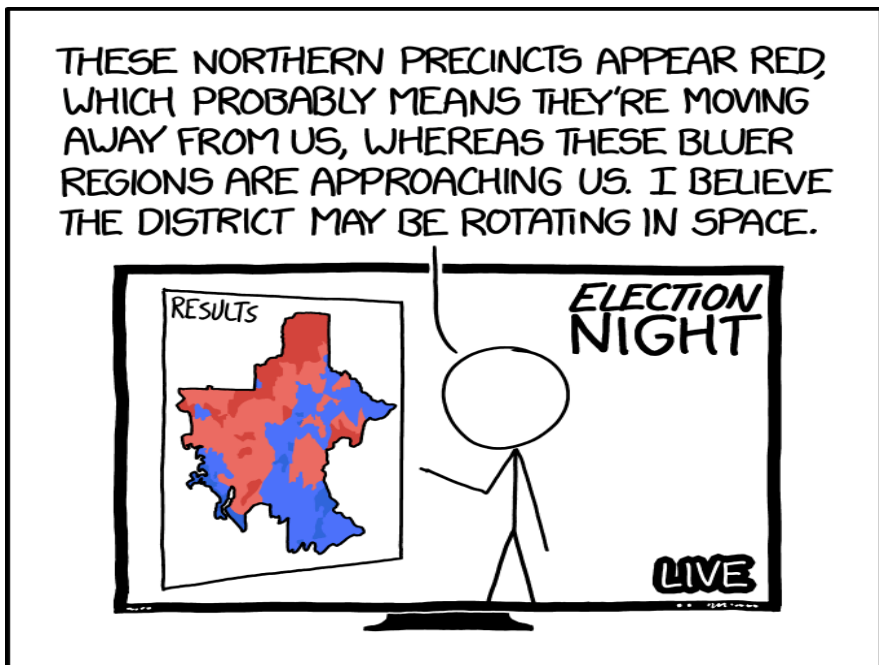
Courtesy of Randall Munroe, xkcd.com



IT'S STILL AROUND. I JUST BOUGHT A BOTTLE OF HAND SANITIZER FOR ONE BITCOIN.



Courtesy of Randall Munroe, xkcd.com



MY CAREER AS AN ELECTION ANALYST WAS SHORT-LIVED.

Courtesy of Randall Munroe, xkcd.com

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