Check Out The American Mensa Website at: http://www.us.mensa.org

Some highlights include:

Calendar of Events
Mensa Publications
Games
Mensa Programs
Special Interest Groups
Mensa Marketplace

Check out the Triad Mensa Mailing List online at: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/triadmensa/

~DEADLINE TO SUBMIT TO THE NEWSLETTER IS THE 15th OF EVERY MONTH~
LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

It’s been quite a time in my life since the last newsletter. At the end of January, just one week after being diagnosed with kidney failure, my beloved 10-year-old cat Bella passed away at home. I was devastated, to say the least, but in a way I found that having her go naturally and quickly was better for both of us than to have to watch her suffer or choose to end her life on my own. She was my first real pet, had been my constant companion for a decade, and will be forever in my heart.

Cherish your pets. Their lives are fleeting, compared to ours, but the love they give is enormous.

--Kimberly Lynn Workman

MARCH PUZZLE

Every time I come across a randomized floor pattern of rectangles and squares, I locate the bounds for the template. (It is usually a square arrangement that is repeated across the floor). This leads to a puzzle.

The floor in question is comprised of three types of pieces: 2x2, 2x1, and 1x1, and the template is 12x12. Supposing you want to design a template such that, other than individual tiles and the bounds of the template, no rectangles are formed. Can it be done? If so what is the arrangement, and if not prove it. I don't have the answer, so this time it is especially important you email answers to Mensa14.tile-puzzle.jim27106@dfgh.net

A hint and additional notes can be found on Page 9.

WELCOME TO MENSA

NEW MEMBERS:
Anthony 'Tony' Martin Greensboro n/a
James Roberts Mount Gilead jbroberts@carolina.rr.com

REINSTATING MEMBERS:
William Hutchins Denton n/a
Anita Kosinski Greensboro n/a

TRIAD MENSA

Regional Vice-Chair Baker Ring RVC5@usmensa.org 864-963-2335

ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Local Secretary/Chairman Edgar Jaynes ejaynes@triad.rr.com 336-545-7841
Deputy Local Secretary Kimberly Workman kimberlyFDR@yahoo.com 919-563-3694
Treasurer Brian Stumptig e2ipiand1@yahoo.com 336-383-2191
Member-At-Large David Roberts daverts@gmail.com 336-629-9658

APPOINTED MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Publications Officer Mandy McGehee akmcgehee@bellsouth.net 336-379-7235
Program Chair Jim Martinez mensa.sort-fun.jim27106@dfgh.net 336-233-8537
Membership Chair Ellen Muratori summerellen@yahoo.com 336-292-3754

OTHER OFFICIERS AND APPOINTEES:

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Scholarship Program Chair David Roberts daverts@gmail.com 336-629-9658
Testing Coordinator Ellen Muratori summerellen@yahoo.com 336-292-3754
Ombudsman / Mediator OPEN
Webmaster Brian Stumptig e2ipiand1@yahoo.com 336-383-2191
Webcrafter Lynette Shaul lynette2003@live.com 336-785-1867
SIGHT Kelvin Settle vweight@ymail.com 336-419-0687
Gifted Children Chair OPEN
Public Relations Chair Cody Jordan cody_jordan@msn.com 828-773-4928
Groups List Moderator Ken Mayo paverman755@yahoo.com 336-272-2722
M-Gen Y SIG Kimberly Workman kimberlyFDR@yahoo.com 919-563-3694

AREA COORDINATORS:

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Mocksville Barbara Ford bj5556@earthlink.net 336-592-6100
Winston-Salem Barbara Ford bj5556@earthlink.net 336-592-6100

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Any opinion express in TM, if not otherwise designated, is that of the Editor and not of Mensa.

Submit written and / or artistic contributions to Kimberly Lynn Workman by email: kimberlyFDR@yahoo.com or by snail mail: 7630 East Washington Street Mebane, NC 27302.
The Editor reserves the right to include / edit for space and content considerations. Unoriginal submissions must be properly acknowledged.

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FROM THE LOC SEC

In my general chemistry class at a local university, there are students of varying background and age (freshmen, sophomores, and juniors). When I took a poll of the class, they told me that the barriers they felt were about 60% chemistry and about 40% algebra. Figuring out what formula to use was slightly more challenging than figuring out how to write the formula and plug in the known factors. If extraneous factors were given, the challenge was significantly higher for them.

Many college students have learned how to think analytically, but certainly not all of them. Are they learning from each other, from their families and caregivers, or from schools? Take a moment to think about where you learned how to think, and when, and send me a note. Being able to think clearly is more important than ever in this world, and if the winter driving I witnessed in mid-February is any indication, this facility is still in short supply.

We may escape without further snow or ice this year, but in case we do not, please go to a nearby empty parking lot (preferably one without a lot of light poles in it) and practice some winter driving skills. A little practice will give you more confidence and better control over your environment. This is a learn-on-your-own experience. So was learning to walk. Is the best approach always a learn-on-your-own approach, with guidance as needed? This was the promise of a computer for each child in school. Has this promise paid off? Send me your thoughts!

~ Edgar Jaynes

MARCH BIRTHDAYS
Members noted with initials have indicated on their renewal form that their birthday not be revealed.

Happy Birthday to All!

01  Carole Dowell 11  Patrick Gillooly
01  Pamela Pelc 11  Robert Pelc
01  Judith Stutts 17  Max Harless
02  Amanda Tadlock 17  Rebecca Leigh
04  Michael Sherman 31  Paul Campbell
05  Tracy Cooke

CultureQuest® COMING SOON
Do you know who won the first Nobel Prize for Physics?

How about what musical art form originated in Italy about A.D. 1600?

Or maybe you know what herb is also known as "wild marjoram."

Then you might be ready for CultureQuest! While it might be considered a trivia game or competition, its intent has always been to promote and test cultural literacy. Facing questions that range from film to politics, from literature to geography, from music to history and farther afield, Mensan teams of up to five members gather in their neighborhoods on a single day across the U.S. and Canada and, for 90 minutes, compete for cash prizes and cultural literacy bragging rights.

Since its inception, more than 3,000 cultural questions have been answered by Mensan teams across the U.S. and Canada.

This year’s event is being held on Sunday, April 27th. If you are interested in joining the Triad Mensa team (or teams if we have enough participants!) Please contact David Roberts:

14  336-629-9658 (calls), 380-2392 (texts), or oxon06@gmail.com
As you know from the fact that my monthly articles are always accompanied by a group of photographs, photography is my favorite hobby. Several years ago I began using my photos to make greeting cards (birthday, anniversary, etc.) to send friends and family. Next thing I knew, some of those folks were paying me to make cards for them to send to their nearest and dearest.

When we began coming down here to the Rio Grande Valley in south Texas for the winter seven years ago, I began selling my cards at the craft shows which are big attractions during “the season” (January, February, and March). I’ve discovered that some of my favorite pictures are simply not conducive to card sales. I like them, but customers don’t seem to. You’ll see some examples in this month’s TM.
FOOD FOR THOUGHT By Barb Ford

When it comes to minor household tasks, sometimes I can be a procrastinator. Most of the time, this annoying habit only annoys myself, and nobody else even notices. For instance, the light bulb on my motion activated porch light has been burned out for weeks. I have not remembered to change it during the day, as it involves partially taking the fixture apart. Not really a problem, as I know my way around the screened in patio pretty well, and the yard light provides a fair amount of ambient light at night. Besides, I enjoy walking Rocky up and down the driveway for his night time walks in the dark. I like to observe the stars, moon, night sky, and such. No big deal. Or so I thought.

One night, a week or so ago, one of my outdoor cats, Tabby, was up on the porch eating his dry food that I always keep up there for them. When Rocky and I came out for our last walk of the night, we must have startled him, as he jumped off the porch and ran for the corner of the patio. Rocky went over to say hello, and I went over to pet the cat. As soon as I began to pet Tabby, my mind began to race…”Tabby, your fur is really coarse, WHAT have you rolled in? You smell kind of, well, awful. Wait, Tabby is in the garage…..Who am I petting? It's a POSSUM! AHH! Yuk! Eeeewwww.” Rocky reacted to my panic, and we went for a speed walk as I tried to figure out how to get the dang possum out of the patio. The door was propped open, but it was too much to hope that he would just leave on his own before we got back. He did. Sort of. He was sitting outside the patio door to greet us as we returned. I ignored him as best I could and rushed Rocky back into the house. I came back out with Gary’s famous Louisville Slugger baseball bat. Kiki, my other cat, must have tipped him off, as she was gazing at the possum’s backside waddling as fast as it could go towards my tree line. In a way, I was grateful. I really didn’t want to hurt the creature. I did spend the next couple of minutes calling out to him that he had better not ever come back, or he would be sorry, and so forth and so on.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

FROM THE RVC By Baker Ring

In the past couple of months, several local groups have seen new officers assume their posts. Ed Jaynes is the new LocSec in Triad Mensa, Catherine Waguespack is the new Asst. LocSec for Mensa in Georgia, Bob Oster is the new LocSec for Central Alabama, Kimberley Hutchinson and will serve as Treasurer for Chattanoog Mensa. Memphis Mensa has a number of new officers including: Andrew Greekop, LocSec; Lisa Baker, Asst. LocSec; John Cooke, Treasurer. I want to extend my thanks to all those who have served their local groups in positions of leadership.

In February I held a teleconference with many of the LocSecs in Region 5. This is a great way for us to share ideas and get to know each other a little. I’m hoping to do it again in a few months.

Don’t forget to register for the Carolinah RG! Piedmont Area Mensa’s “The Great Escape” will take place May 2-4 in Greenville, SC. ! For more information, contact Mary Ann Cox at: maryacraig@juno.com. Once you attend you will want to make it an annual event.

During the month of January – 17 of our groups grew by a total of 82 members! Congratulations to the following groups for exceeding last year’s membership numbers: Chattanooga, Middle Tennessee, North Alabama, and Piedmont Area. Other groups are very close.

Since January; 15 Scholarship Chairs have been reading essays for scholarships given out by the Foundation, as well as local groups. I would like to thank our local and regional scholarship chairs for their fine work. Next year, if you are asked to serve your local group as a reader, I hope that you will agree. This is one of the most important activities that American Mensa is involved in.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT ~CONTINUED~

The next morning, as I left the house, a possum was dead in the road right in front of my mailbox. A wave of guilt washed over me. Was my threatening voice the last thing he heard before he went to possum heaven, or wherever possums go after their earthly lifetimes? Well, after feeling sad for a week, I saw him again in the backyard, wandering around, looking for cat food. Sorry, bud, we aren’t leaving it out anymore. Your best bet is to move on to the next neighborhood. Oh, and watch out for cars when you cross the road.
WANT TO TAKE FREE COLLEGE CLASSES ONLINE?

The Canvas Network (Canvas.net) is one of many sites that offer Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC). Without paying anything, you can learn about things like constitutional law, songwriting, philosophy, accounting, nanotechnology, ethics, or even the social ramifications of comics books.

That's right, you can take a meta course on comics. From the same professor who last year taught about gender in comics, Christina Blanch of Ball State University will be teaching a five-month online course called Social Issues Through Comic Books and I will be in attendance. I can't wait to see what's in store.

Full course description: Are you a life long learner? Do you like comic books? Do you think it would be interesting to discuss social issues using comic books as a lens? Are you an educator looking for different methods to present your material? If so, this course is for you! From the creator of Gender Through Comic Books (aka the SuperMOOC), this six month course will examine current social issues through comic books while understanding how popular culture is shaped by it's surroundings.

We will read a variety of comic books including Scalped, Daredevil, Swamp Thing, and many more. While reading these books we will examine topics such as social inequality, the environment, government intervention, addiction, and information privacy. Using lectures, live interviews with academics and comic book professionals, discussion boards, and readings, we will learn about social issues and how they are presented in comic books and the impact that those books have had on the issues whether large or small scale. This will be more than a class - it's a formation of a community.

Dates: Mar 10, 2014 to Aug 18, 2014

To Sign Up or Learn More:
https://www.canvas.net/courses/social-issues-through-comic-books

Hope to see you there!

~ Kimberly Lynn Workman

MARCH-ING ORDERS by Max Harless

~ A certain exercise spa for women only is called Curves. Somebody should found one for men only. Call it Angles.

~ Grammar jammer: Do you buy sensitive toothpaste? What's sensitive about it? It should be called anti-sensitivity toothpaste. Doctors talk about the immune system. Immune is an adjective; the noun is immunity.

~ A rabbit-like animal is clothed by a hare dresser.

~ We were in a noisy bowling alley. We could hear a pin drop.

~ A mockingbird's songs are said to imitate those of other birds. Maybe they just makeup some of their songs.

~ Yogi Berra or Johnny Bench or Rube Walker or Roy Campanella had a twisted sense of humor: catcher in the wry. This pun was too easy.

~ In past years it was said that pictures don't lie. It had to be a simpler time because nowadays we have photo shop and other methods to falsify via photography. Or one might use these methods to create art, as seen in the Sechrest Museum at High Point University show of photo art by Merry Moore Winnette. It's too late now but it was well advertised.

~ My friend attended a concert of Chinese music. If it's anything like Chinese food, did she feel a desire to hear more of it a couple of hours later.

~ Author and critic Mary Ann Gwinn discussing the whaling industry on Nantucket Island states that many of these whalers were Quakers. On the face of it, it seems contradictory to Quaker's reputation as paceniks who abjure war and violence.

~ On Lake Erie, New York's second largest city sends out their charges for municipal services. You get a Buffalo bill.

~ I was watching a commercial featuring big strong body builders. Funny the accompanying music was a piccolo.

~ A desert dwelling fellow found his area to be boring. He said, "Nothing interesting ever happens in this neck of the woods."

~ How many magazines are published this way? The articles are written in February, the magazines are delivered in March, and publication date is April.
March 2014
Calendar of Events-Triad Mensa

GREAT TRIAD BARBEQUE QUEST
Wednesday, March 12th, 7:00PM
Directions: Please go to www.fuzzysbbq.com for directions and menu.
Contact: Bruce Ellington, wellington@triad.rr.com. 684-4806

GREENSBORO LUNCH
Wednesday, March 19th, 11:45AM-1:00PM
Where: K&W Cafeteria, 3200 Northline Ave Greensboro 27408-7616 (In Friendly Shopping Center)
Directions: From Wendover Ave. take the Friendly Shopping Center exit. Cafeteria is located in Signature Place, at the corner of Pembroke and Northline. In cafeteria, go thru the LEFT serving line. After leaving line, turn left and head towards other side of cafeteria. Bring friend. All are welcome!
Contact: Ellen Muratori, 292-3754 summerellen@yahoo.com

GAMES NIGHT IS IN GREENSBORO IN MARCH
Saturday, March 22, 7PM Onward
Where: Mandy McGehee’s house, 209 Kensington, 27403
Directions: From Wendover take the Market Street exit and head east (toward downtown). There is a traffic light at Chapman Street. Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church is on the corner. The second street after Chapman is Kensington Road. Turn right onto Kensington. 209 will be on your left about a block and a half from Market Street.
Notes: We play (and can teach you) Hearts, Ticket to Ride, Sequence, some Tetris game, Blokus, Rack-o, or whatever strikes the group's fancy. Bring a game for us to try.
Bring: Games, snacks, and munchies, BYO beverage. soft drinks, glasses, plates, napkins and such provided. No furry creatures present.
Contact: Mandy McGehee at 379-7235 with any questions.

MARCH TRIVIA By Ken Mayo
~ The pawnbroker’s symbol of three gold balls originated on the coat of arms of the Medici banking family
~ Under USDA guidelines at least 65% of a meatball must be meat
~ Sigmund Freud’s fee for one session of psychoanalysis in 1925 was, in U. S. dollars, $25, the approximate equivalent of $170 today
~ The term “brand name” originated when whiskey producers started to brand their names on the wooden barrels they shipped out
~ The type of apple used as a symbol for the Beatle’s record label, Apple Records, was the Granny Smith
~ A total of twelve U. S. Astronauts have walked on the Moon, starting with Neil Armstrong in July, 1969 and ending with Harrison Schmitt in December, 1972
~ Melitta Bentz of Germany invented the coffee filter in 1908
~ Until 1947 the U. S. Department of Defense was known as the U. S. War Department
~ Bob Keeshan, the original Captain Kangaroo, was also the first Clarabelle the Clown on the Howdy Doody Show
~ In 1914 it took 95 minutes to build a Model T Ford
~ Lake Tear of the Clouds is a small pond in the Adirondack Mountains of New York. It is also the origin of the 315 mile-long Hudson River
~ Utah is the U. S. state with the lowest per capita beer consumption
~ The town of Maggie’s Nipples is located in Wyoming
~ The transistor radio was invented by Sony in 1952
~ The highest source of pollution in Lake Ontario is the overflow from Lake Erie
~ Pooler Jones, Lazy Plate, Jayne Hill and Buckhorn are four of the many types of barbed wire
~ The only patented “uniform” or “costume” in the U.S. is the Playboy Bunny outfit
~ Including its possessions the U. S. covers eight time zones from Puerto Rico (Atlantic time zone) in the east to American Samoa (Samoa Standard time zone) in the west
MARCH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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ST. PATRICK’S DAY FACT

The holiday is celebrated on March 17. This is the feast day for St. Patrick, who is the patron saint of Ireland. He supposedly died on that day in 461 AD. In Ireland, it’s a national holiday.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Charlotte/Blue Ridge Mensa is hosting a Leadership Development Workshop March 28-30 in Charlotte, NC. You can check out the details on their website at: http://cbrmensa.org/ExCommMinutes/2014LDW.php

The LDW is being held in conjunction with American Mensa’s Board of Directors meeting. Just think – You can attend a great LDW as well as meet and mingle with your national and regional officers! And, more importantly, the officers get to meet YOU!

2014 TRIAD MENSA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

This year’s scholarship contest judging has been completed at the local level. I would especially like to thank our judges: Ken Mayo, Ellen Muratori, Walt Sperko, Brian Stumpfig, and Margaret Wolfe-Roberts. Particularly for our second-round judges, they came through on short notice during a week of heavy snow and ice and worked around my scoring form mix-up.

We had sixty-six entries from our area, almost twice as many as last year. In order to facilitate the judging process, we used a two-round evaluation that resulted in nominations for fourteen scholarships. The final nominee essays will be judged again at the regional and then national level, with winners being announced by June. We’ll have at least one local scholarship winner then- I’ll run an announcement here after we know, and will also send announcements to the local papers so that we can get some publicity. Thanks again to everyone for your help!

~ David Roberts

PUZZLE HELP

As written I have not solved it. You can start with a 2x3, move up to a 3x3, and then do the 3x5. Rebecca found a 9x4 solution. If anyone else gets obsessed by this please email me at Mensa2014.TMtpuzzle.jim27106@dfgh.net. I have the first page of a proof, but it is likely to be very long.