

The

SCAM

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SPACE COAST AREA MENSA

Website: www.spacecoast.us.mensa.org

(All Area Codes are 321 except as noted)



Executive Committee

Local Secretary

JOE JANSON

4048 Judith Ave., Merritt Island, FL 32953

Phone: 338-5833

locsec@scam.us.mensa.org

Assistant Local Secretary

TC SHAW

405 Avocado Dr, Barefoot Bay FL 32976

Phone: (989) 701-5390 tcshaw@live.com

Recording Secretary

GEORGE LBOVITZ

1649 PGA Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32935

recsecretary@scam.us.mensa.org

Member-At-Large

KAREN FREIBERG

876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955

633-1636 member@scam.us.mensa.org

Treasurer

DENNIS LOGAN

285 Tangelo St., Satellite Beach, FL 32937

501-7547 treasurer@scam.us.mensa.org

SCAM Appointees

Proctor Coordinator

HANK RHODES

MensaTest@cflrr.com

Membership

GEORGE PATTERSON

Membership@scam.us.mensa.org

S.I.G.H.T.

KAREN FREIBERG

Sight@scam.us.mensa.org

RG Committee Chair

GEORGE LBOVITZ

SCAM Bylaws Committee

WYNN ROSTEK

wynn.rostek56@gmail.com

Publicity Committee Chair

GEORGE PATTERSON

membership@scam.us.mensa.org

Mediator

MICHAEL MOAKLEY

editor@scam.us.mensa.org

The SCAM Editorial Staff

Editor

MICHAEL MOAKLEY

808 Wisteria Dr., Melbourne, FL

32901

editor@scam.us.mensa.org

Webmaster

KAREN FREIBERG

633-1636

webmaster@scam.us.mensa.org

Assembly/Circulation

GEORGE PATTERSON

474-4075

Calendar

DOUG STARKE

633-1636

doug@starke.com

American Mensa Ltd.

**THOMAS GEORGE THOMAS,
RVC10**

37647 Sky Lake Cir.

Wesley Chapel, FL 33544-

7646 (813) 994-3981

RVC10@us.mensa.org

AMERICAN MENSA, LTD.

1229 Corporate Drive West

Arlington, TX 76006-6103

(817) 607-0060

AmericanMensa@mensa.org



All submissions must be received by the Editor before the 10th of the month preceding publication. Please allow extra time for mailed submissions, which may be typed or legibly handwritten. Whenever possible, we prefer submissions via e-mail. They may be in e-mail text or any of most word processing formats. All submissions should be sent to the Editor, whose contact information appears on Page 2.

IN MEMORY OF MIKE ZIELINSKI

Wynn Rostek

Dr. Mike Zielinski passed away Friday, March 4. Mike was an active member of Space Coast Area Mensa for many years. He frequently attended events hosted by others and loved to play Hand and Foot with the group. He also hosted quite a few dining events with his wife Ann. Mike had a presence online in several Mensa forums.

A native of Roselle, Illinois, he received a Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Wisconsin- Madison. He also held a Master's degree in Computer Science from the University of Central Florida.

A gifted programmer, his company Coding Zebra produced several Android apps.

Mike's self-deprecating humor and contagious laugh was heard wherever he went. Always the voice of reason, his remarkable curiosity and calm, reasoned discussions will be missed. It was truly a pleasure to have been his friend.

The SCAM sells classified ad space. SCAM members, non-commercial, no charge. Others: \$20 full page; \$10 half-page; \$5 quarter-page per month, we offer discounts for multiple insertions, and we can help with layout and design.

Subscriptions: SCAM members, included in dues; others, **\$10** for 12 issues.

Since before recorded history men have been trying to improve or change their athletic prowess, appearances, character traits, intelligence and gain a bit of courage where some were woefully lacking. Eating a lions heart should certainly add a bit of courage to a timid person and the brains of an owl---well! What could it hurt? That's one line of thought and totally forgetting that a lion chases little fawns and calves who's only defense is to run away—not much of a test for courage.

But men not only want courage, they want intelligence, manly vestments, endurance, good looks and any thing else it takes to sweep a pretty woman off her feet. They have tried digesting beastly organs, aphrodisiacs and surgery.

Some of this ju-ju just might work but their magic seems more on the side of hopes and dreams than on reality. But very soon these hopes and dreams are sure to become reality. It's only a matter of time.

Think Krispy! Or Crisper if you prefer.

A little helical clip here and there could make an Adonis of the nerd who couldn't buy a date with a fist full of fifties or make an Olympic hero of the same feckless feeble nerd who is still deciding which is the front and which is the back of his skivvies.

Well, changing a person over-night might be a bit of a stretch but designing one's offspring into a gift of mankind is a different story and pretty much a done deal. All one has to do is count all the nerdy, feckless, feeble, cowardly, head-jerk ugly traits and snip, then replace with the dream genes of your choice.

When your child is born he or she will be the envy of all who couldn't afford a snip. Naturally he or she will deny your parentage and possibly attempt to slap the ugly off your face for even suggesting it but, you will have the right to expand your feeble little chest and boast to your friends who won't believe you either.

But, hold on! Maybe your past, ugly to the bone, isn't forever after all. Maybe there is hope in the near future. Maybe a genomic snip will start a chain reaction in your physical makeup and by the time your child is old enough to know the meaning of vanity---viola! You will be your child's hero. Just like Sanford and Son, Al and Bud Bundy, Peter and Chris Griffin— Father and son or father and daughter--- a perfect way to pass on the perfection.

But, just where will we get these snippets of DNA perfection that will replace the, God must really hate me, throw-a-way genes?

Will it be from the animals and insects whose traits we so admire. Ants, pound

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When do you drink coffee? Obviously, whenever you want, however customs do vary from country to country. Europeans will have it for breakfast, even as breakfast, perhaps with a croissant, perhaps without. Formal dinners end with coffee. The Japanese drink it in the evenings, but not as part of a meal. Almost every one drinks it in the afternoon in a cafe and sometimes as a mid-morning break. In the Middle-East it is served to visitors whenever they come to visit. Outside the U. S. coffee is seldom a beverage that accompanies meals other than breakfast. Only Americans will drink it before, during, and after meals.

COFFEE WITH THE MEAL

*A gentlemanly gentleman, as mild as May,
Entered a restaurant famed and gay.
A waiter sat him in a droughty seat
And laughingly inquired what he'd like to eat.
"Oh I don't want venison, I don't want veal,
But I do insist on coffee with the meal.
Bring me clams in a chilly group,
And a large tureen of vegetable soup,
Steak as tender as a maiden's dream,
With lots of potatoes hashed in cream,
And a lettuce and tomato salad, please,
And crackers and a bit of Roquefort cheese,
But waiter, the gist of my appeal,*

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A Mensan in the Workplace?

Are you the Mensan at work? Do you work with other Mensans...or...are you the only one? If the latter is true, do your coworkers know you're in Mensa? What about your boss? What are your impressions and experiences at work? Do you have a leadership position? Do you serve in any kind of "support" (formal or informal) role? Does your status as a Mensan have a positive or negative impact on your work relationships? Finally, if preparing a resume, would you include your Mensa membership as an item (or would you state that you qualified to join Mensa)? Why or why not? Let's hear from you.

I t has been a while since I wrote a column. Has anyone ever wondered where the Editor's column came up with its – rather unique – title? Well, it started one day in early 2007. At that time, the Chairman of American Mensa was a gentleman by the name of Russ Bakke. Now, I had never met Mr. Bakke, but as Chairman, he published a regular column in the *Mensa Bulletin* (as all the Chairmen do).

From reading his columns, I inferred that one of the goals of his administration was to make Mensa more attractive to potential members. In his stated opinion, this had to be done by changing our image. For me, this raised quite a bit of concern. If you are reading this, you're familiar with Mensa. You already know that American Mensa has only one qualification for membership: An IQ score at or above the 98th percentile. Also, we have always been told that our members come from all walks of life.

In the February 2007 *Bulletin*, Mr. Bakke wrote:

"The vision of an average Mensan being someone with a pocket protector, a mechanical pencil, a ream of graph paper and too-short pants is being replaced with a savvy young adult who is witty, well-read and fun to be around. We want this metamorphosis to continue."

At the time, I regularly used a pocket protector (and a mechanical pencil) and I usually kept a supply of graph paper handy. As it seemed to me that I might now be an embarrassment to (his vision of) Mensa, I must admit I did not react too kindly. After an unsuccessful attempt to make e-mail contact with Mr. Bakke, I responded in my regular column in the April 2007 issue of *The SCAM*:

After quoting Mr. Bakke's words, I then responded: *"As if this was not enough, I recently received a survey (distributed to "officers") ... in the survey was a list of potential issues ... To my surprise one of the items on the list was 'too many weirdos'. Huh?! What, exactly, is a 'weirdo' and why would such a person be deemed a problem by Mensa?"*

I then questioned if Mensa would continue to welcome *all* people that met its sole membership requirement. Or has AML (American Mensa) now fallen into the "image trap"? As I (at least partially) fit the stereotype that our (then) Chairman wanted to eliminate, would Mensa now be *ashamed* of me?

When I first joined Mensa in 1984, I did so (besides just out of curiosity) because I was seeking occasional refuge from the world of the "average" (who seem to me to *always* be "image-conscious"). This state of

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On April 16th and 17th, the annual Space Coast Nerd Fest will be held at the Rialto Hilton in Melbourne. This year, your Space Coast Area Mensa chapter will be present in a booth at this very well-attended event. Our primary purposes in appearing there are for publicity and recruitment. We are looking for a few volunteers to stand at our booth. We can have up to 4 members at the booth at no additional cost. So if you would like to volunteer to stand with us, you should contact me directly. You can find all my contact info inside the front cover of this issue of SCAM. The Mensa booth will be outside under an easy-up pop-up tent. We are being advised by event management that since Nerd Fest is both an indoor and outdoor event, the crowd circulates freely throughout the event both indoors and outdoors.

We'll also have support from the American Mensa national office. National will be sending us literature, giveaways and sample tests. We'll have our Mensa banner and other supporting materials as well. It should be a fun couple of days and a great opportunity to spread the word about Mensa. So if you can spare a few hours to help out at the booth please contact me and let me know when you would be available. For more information, Space Coast Nerd Fest has a web site at www.spacecoastnerdfest.org where you can get more details about this extremely popular Space Coast event. I hope to see many of you come out to help support Space Coast Area Mensa and Space Coast Nerd Fest.

Best Regards,





Joe Janson
Local Secretary
Space Coast Area Mensa
321-338-5833

Our Regular Events:

- **C.A.B.A.G.E.:** Food Court at the Merritt Square Mall. Every Monday at 6pm. *Host: Karen Freiberg, 633-1636.*
- **GO!:** Books-A-Million, The Avenue, Viera. Every Saturday at 1pm. Hosted by the Space Coast Area GO Association. Contact George Lebovitz for more info: the.rokkitsci@rocketmail.com.

April 2016

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

| | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------|--|----|----|---|---|
| | C.A.B.A.G.E. | | | |  | 2 GO! |
| 3 | 4 C.A.B.A.G.E. |  | 6 | 7 | 8 |  |
| 10 | 11 C.A.B.A.G.E. | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 GO! |
| 17 | 18 C.A.B.A.G.E. | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |  |
| 24 | 25 C.A.B.A.G.E. | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

SCAM Calendar of Events for April 2016

1st - Friday 5:30 PM

FIRST FRIDAY AT HOOTERS SIG

Come join us for drinks, open discussion and food (latter two optional) at the Melbourne Hooter's, 877 S. Babcock Street. Hosted by: Dennis Logan, 501-7547.

EXCOMM MEETING

Tuesday, Apr. 5 at 6:00 pm. This is our monthly business meeting. See back page for location.

9th - Saturday 6:00 PM

MONTHLY MENSA GET-TOGETHER

Featured speaker this month to be announced. Please check our online Calendar for updates. Red Ginger Restaurant at Melbourne Square Mall.

MENSA TESTING

No testing is scheduled for this month.

Testing will resume next month. Please check the May issue for the testing date.

23rd - Saturday 5:45 PM

S.N.O.R.T.

Join us for some Japanese cuisine at The SCAM's best attended event at our new venue, **Hloki's**, 3200 NE Dixie Hwy. (US 1) in Palm Bay. It is about 2 miles south of US 192. Contact: George, 474-4075 for details.

Contact: Hank Rhodes, mentsatest@cfl.rr.com, for details.

Calendar Updates

ATTENTION SCAM MEMBERS!

Every effort is made to bring to you an accurate up-to-date Calendar of Events. However, last minute changes can and do occur past newsletter deadline. For up-to-date info, visit spacecoast.us.mensa.org and click on "Calendar".

Membership Notes for April 2016

WELCOME TO SCAM AND MENSA

Zachary Hessler

Isaiah Zaitz

WELCOME BACK!

Christopher Rawlins

Alana Salls

IN MEMORIAM

Mike Zielinski

APRIL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

| | | | |
|------|-----------------|------|--------------------|
| 3rd | Beth Rutenber | 21st | Richard Ward |
| 3rd | George Lebovitz | 21st | Carol Lane |
| 5th | Ryan Coennen | 23rd | Mary Ellen Donahue |
| 5th | Douglas Solomon | 24th | Donald Evans |
| 8th | Benjamin Miller | 24th | Raymond Bahr III |
| 8th | Adam Cherwinski | 28th | Clifford Miller |
| 11th | Debra Saltzberg | | |
| 19th | James Dace | | |



The "Fine Print" for Calendar Events:

Membership in American Mensa, Ltd. makes you eligible to attend SCAM social functions. Escorted and invited guests of a member or host are welcome. Adult family members of Mensans are encouraged to participate in SCAM activities, as are well behaved children. However, attendance at any social function in a **private home** is subject to the hospitality of the host. Compliance with published house rules is required, and "Kitty" payment is **not optional**. As a courtesy, notify the host if you plan to attend. Announced hosts should attend their events or arrange for a stand-in if unable. When reservations are required, you may not be able to participate if you fail to call.

S-Smoking; NS- No Smoking; SS-Separate Smoking Area; P-Pets in the home; NP-No Pets present; BYO_-Bring Your Own: _Snacks, _Drinks, _Everything.

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*Is coffee with, coffee with, coffee with the meal."
The water groaned and he wrong his hands;
"Perhaps the headwaiter understands,"
Said the sleek headwaiter, like a snobbish seal,
"What, monsieur? Coffee with the meal?"
His lip, drew up in scornful laughter
"Monsieur desires a demitasse after!"
The gentleman's eyes grew hard as steel,
He said, "I'm ordering coffee with the meal.
Hot black coffee in a great big cup,
Fuming, steaming, filled right up.
I don't want coffee iced in a glass,
And I don't want a miserable demitasse,
But what I'll have, come woe, come weal,
Is coffee with, coffee with, coffee with the meal."
The headwaiter bowed like a poppy in the breeze;
"Monsieur desires coffee with the salad or the cheese?"
Monsieur said, "Now you're getting warmer;
Coffee with the latter, coffee with the former;
Coffee with the steak, coffee with the soup,
Coffee with the clams in a chilly group;
Yes, and with a cocktail I could do,
So bring me coffee with the cocktail, too,
I'll fight to the death for my bright ideal,
Which is coffee with, coffee with, coffee with the meal."
The headwaiter swiveled on a graceful heel;
"Certainly, certainly, coffee with the meal!"
Oh, what a glow did Monsieur feel
At the warming vision of coffee with the meal,
One hour later Monsieur, alas!
Got his coffee in a demitasse.*

- Ogden Nash

(Continued from page 4)

for pound are much stronger than humans. Fleas can supposedly jump ten times their height. Eagles can see the smallest rodents a mile away and horses--they're not only fast.

Will we be able to mix and match at will? Do centaurs and griffins ring a bell? Will we be like the mad Dr. Moreau gone absolutely bonkers? Who's to say we won't be able to snip from anything and everything?

Just suppose that with a little snip from a flea Shaq could make a comeback by jumping 70 feet to the rafters of the arena. He still wouldn't be able to shoot but he could really wow the crowd with his jumping abilities. Then, being able to leap tall buildings with a single bound won't be a problem after adding a snip-pet from a spider, an ant, or a beetle. Then add the soaring ability and eye-sight of a majestic eagle and zowie! It's time to start thinking of a catchy alliterative or rhyming name.

Is there any of that indestructible material, such as Superman's uniform, left? Maybe just the hooker boots, the speedo, the cape and that giant 'S' for Shak and we've got ourselves a new superhero.

I haven't heard of Superman saving Metropolis lately so he might as well give up his jumpsuit.

Uh, oh! Just thinking about it, Shak hasn't really saved the city of Orlando lately either.

But, ever so soon Shaq's bouncing will not even raise an eyebrow. Beautiful people and heroes will abound. It looks as if the streets and skies are destined to be clogged with perfect people and super heroes but, beware I say!

Be alert and ever so careful---the slightest snip in the wrong place or the teensiest mistake and it could mean a lifetime as 'the Donald'.

(Continued from page 6)

affairs alarmed me that now I would belong to an organization of not-average people pretending to be “average”.

For my final question, I posed: *“Is AML losing its substance in favor of a “positive” image, thus succumbing to the world of the ‘average’ and banal? My pocket protector and I want to know.”*

Beginning with the May 2007 issue, I renamed my column *“Inside the Pocket Protector”*. To this day, my question still remains unanswered. Well, now you know.

Just as a postscript, back then, I was Editor of *The SCAM*, as I am today. An issue I did not touch upon then but would address now is that part of Chairman Bakke’s statement where the stereotype is being replaced with a “savvy young man”. At 61, I am no longer a young man, nor am I “old”. Many are considerably older than I am. In Mensa’s eyes, do we lose value as we age? I hope not.

Finally, I would like to thank Dennis Logan who will be taking over as Editor when his ExComm term ends. I anticipate my last issue will be in July. Please, let’s give Dennis our support. I am looking forward to seeing the August issue.

A Mensan in the family?

Are you the Mensan in your family? Or, is your spouse, child, parent or sibling the Mensan in your household? Are two or more (maybe all) in your household Mensans? If any of these apply, *The SCAM* is soliciting an article from *you*. All members of SCAM or family members are invited to respond. What are your impressions and experiences?

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(N.B. Subsequent to the meeting, Karen reached out to Terry [Val] Valek regarding the Treasurer's position and she has graciously accepted.)

The next Red Ginger event will take place on Saturday, April 9th. Joe is going to inquire with some of his contemporaries from the Cocoa Beach Chamber of Commerce to see if anyone is willing to be our speaker for the event.

George has contacted Nancy Howser, the gifted youth coordinator at the Brevard County School Board, and is trying to schedule a meeting with her to discuss ways in which SCAM can assist with resources we might have to offer and share with BPS gifted teachers.

Our SCAM web site needs to be more dynamic, interesting, and informative. Suggestions are actively solicited. Please contact any member of the ExComm (see the inside front cover of The SCAM for contact information) with ideas.

We had previously agreed to participate in the Space Coast Nerd Fest (April 16-17 at the Rialto Hilton near the airport), and are in need of volunteers. If you are able to help out, please contact Joe Janson.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, April 5th 2016 at 6:00 pm in the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

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¹ Contacted 5 candidates for the first time, 8 candidates for the second or third time; tested 0. Next test session will be Saturday, March 19th, 2015 at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa. Prospective candidates should contact us at men-satest@cfl.rr.com.

Minutes of the March, 2016 ExComm Meeting

The ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955, on Tuesday, March 1st, 2016, called to order by LocSec Joe Janson at 6:00 pm.

Members Present: Joe Janson, Karen Freiberg, Dennis Logan, and George Lebovitz.

Officer/Committee Reports (details may be found in the footnotes):

○ Treasurer’s report: The Treasurer's report was not available at the time of the meeting, ostensibly due to an issue with caps lock inadvertently being enabled, thus preventing the technologically challenged Treasurer from accessing the information. We are, however, slowly hemorrhaging money, since we have ongoing expenses and no real sources of income. It was suggested that we organize some sort of fund-raiser to bolster our depleting bank balance. Testing: Testing coordinator, Hank Rhodes, reported via email¹.

The minutes of the February, 2016 meeting as published in the SCAM were approved.

Joe reported that the bylaws have finally been submitted to national! It is unknown how long it will take to obtain feedback, so Joe will follow up periodically to try to ascertain status.

Mike Moakley, our current and long-standing SCAM editor, has made it publicly and patently clear that he will no longer perform this duty that he has done so well and for so long and that his final oversight will occur with the upcoming July issue. Yoiks! The ExComm desperately brainstormed for a capable replacement, proposing various names who, for one reason or another, would either not be available or not be suitable for such an onerous task. Suddenly, a quiet voice from the corner of the room was heard to say “I’ll do it.” We turned in amazement towards the ethereal sound only to find our very own Treasurer, Dennis Logan, as the utterer. Affirming that he would, indeed, take on this daunting duty, we briefly rejoiced until realizing that he could not be both Editor of The SCAM and an ExComm member. Allowing as how it was far more difficult to find a replacement editor than it would be to find a replacement treasurer, we rapidly accepted his offer. We must now find a new treasurer.

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