



The Mensa Education and Research Foundation's New Web Site

The Mensa Education and Research Foundation proudly debuts its new Web site this week at <http://www.mensafoundation.org>.

Gathering input from donors, Mensa members and officers, and the Foundation Trustees themselves, the Foundation's Web team embarked on a mission to better profile and personalize the Foundation's mission to encourage and communicate excellence in intelligence around the world through its education, research and recognition programs.

Visiting the new Web site, you'll see that the menus have been revamped to highlight the Foundation itself, its programs (both national and international), the individuals it impacts, and, most importantly, how you can help the foundation achieve its goals. You'll read "Foundation Voices," the new Trustee blog that brings the people most involved with the Foundation to your browser. You'll learn about the Foundation's support of gifted youth through programs like Mensa for Kids Web site and about the Foundation's awards programs recognizing myriad aspects of intelligence. You'll (virtually) meet the people who've benefitted from the Foundation's efforts, like Colloquium speaker and Mensa member Jami-son Selby, who noted that "Colloquium offers access and ideas you can't replicate elsewhere."

If you haven't visited the Mensa Foundation Web site recently, there is no better time than now! Keep in mind, of course, that the Foundation's activities are funded only through donations from involved individuals like you. We hope you'll support the Mensa Foundation today.

COMMUNITY SYMPOSI-MS — Virtual Symposium Series

On the second Sunday of every month, American Mensa's online community hosts Community Symposi-Ms, our virtual symposium series, and all Mensa members are welcome! Participation is easy, but the opportunity to obtain new knowledge and perspectives could be profound.

The March Community Symposi-Ms was on "Making Matter Come Alive" where Dr. Lee Cronin, a Chemist at the University of Glasgow, talked of investigating inorganic biology. Watch the free 15-minute video at http://www.ted.com/talks/lee_cronin_making_matter_come_alive.html.

Plan ahead for the April 8 Symposi-M, which will discuss "Teach Every Child About Food" by the award-winning British chef Jamie Oliver. Watch the 21-minute video at http://www.ted.com/talks/jamie_oliver.html and then attend the live Mensans-only online discussion at 3 p.m. central on Sunday, in the General Chat room of the American Mensa online Community (<http://www.community.us.mensa.org>). Please note that, if you need login help, you will need to contact the National Office in advance during regular business hours.

Following the chat session, a dedicated online discussion thread will be created in the Events section of the "Mensa and You" forum in the Mensa Online Community to continue discussions and to allow those who are not able to attend the chat to participate.

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Looking for contributions from Wiregrass Mensa members!

- ARTICLES
- PHOTOGRAPHS
- STORIES
- ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME!

BARBARA HOOVER

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THE WIRE

An American in London



TIME TO RENEW
YOUR MENSA
MEMBERSHIP?
CONSIDER
BECOMING A
LIFETIME MEMBER!

MEMBERS CAN RENEW
ONLINE AT
[WWW.US.MENSA.ORG/
RENEW](http://WWW.US.MENSA.ORG/RENEW) OR BY CALLING
[888/294-8035 EXT. 199](tel:8882948035)
TOLL FREE DURING
REGULAR BUSINESS
HOURS. OUR MEMBER
SERVICES TEAM STANDS
READY TO ASSIST!

I was privileged to spend 10 days in London, England this month — a trip of a lifetime to visit my dear friend Zdenka. This is an excerpt from my little journal I kept of the trip.... hope you enjoy it!

Tuesday, March 13. On my own! To my surprise and joy, I ventured out successfully today with a minimum of questions to total strangers and very few missteps.

From the flat in Queensway near Kensington Gardens, I took the Tube to Paddington Station where I purchased a round-trip train ticket to Windsor Castle via Slough. The busy station was full of shops selling everything from perfume to 'piping hot porridge' to teddy bears.

My first thought on seeing Windsor Castle was "Wow!" It's huge! The original tower was built by William the Conqueror in 1080, and through the centuries has grown into a massive complex.

Happily, I had the foresight to get the headphones and attached myself to a guide for the outside tour. Ed was a lot more fun than the recorded tour inside the castle. What amazing history — the architecture, the furniture, glorious paintings! I just wish David could have been there with me. He would have loved it. Destin's a little young but would probably have loved the weapons and stories. It's hard for a 7-year old to absorb the immensity of it all, although there were several groups of small children being herded around by patient teachers holding hands and chanting, "March! 2, 3, 4...March! 2, 3, 4..."



It was rather a let down to finish the tour and wander outside by myself, to look back and realize I'd probably never see it again. If only I'd spent more time pouring over the history, reading all the little notes, taken more time to ponder and wonder. The good news is when you buy a ticket at Windsor Castle it's good for a year. The bad news is, I probably won't be back to England for a long time.

After wandering through some of the shops on the grounds looking for little gifts that weren't too big or fragile to bring home, I finally wandered out the Henry VIII gate into the little town full of more shops, bars, restaurants and tourists.

I thought about stopping for tea, but it's just not the same when you're alone. In fact, this may be the last major trip I take by myself. Some things just need to be shared!

~ Barbara Hoover



CULTURE QUEST
NOW!

Our Special Interest Groups are SIGNificant!

Mensa has always encouraged members to congregate around their special interests. Official recognition of Mensa's special interest groups began on Sept. 13, 1965, when the first two SIGs were recognized: The Gifted Children Study Group and the Mensa Investment Club. SIG growth exploded, from 23 to 106, during 1976 under

the leadership of Groups Officer Virginia Hourigan. The program expanded almost tenfold from 1975 to 1977 and reached a record 248 groups in 1980. The organization's formal SIGs policy was adopted in 1984.

In recent years the total number of active SIGs has varied between 130 and 160. The SIGs program has evolved along with the

Internet, now including many free online discussion groups. Many SIGs still offer a mailed newsletter and collect a small fee to help defray mailing costs. Some SIGs are open to non-Mensans, and many SIGs actively recruit Mensans internationally.



When you need to travel, now you know where to start. Enjoy your trips!

www.us.mensa.org/travel

Mensa casting opportunity for new reality competition

Casting representatives for a new ABC reality competition asked that we share this information with our members. While the validity of this organization and opportunity has been verified, Mensa has no control over nor involvement with the show itself or its production.

Are you a strategic thinker? Do you always have to come out on top, or at least argue your point? Are you the smartest person in the room and want people to know it? Would you like the chance to win \$250,000 by defeating others like yourself in this mind-blowing competition show for ABC?

We are currently on a nationwide search looking for dynamic, competitive, energetic and outgoing individuals to compete in a new and exciting reality show.

In-person interviews will be held in Boston. Please email David Polanzak your name, age, contact information, photo and a brief description of why you're perfect for this show.

If you cannot interview in Boston, you can still apply for the show! Simply email glass-housecasting@gmail.com and include a brief description of yourself, your contact info, and two recent photos.

For more information, use the following email addresses:

Boston: email Dave at dpo.casting@gmail.com

Phoenix: email Marc/Heather at marcandheathercasting@gmail.com

Austin: email Shawn at alycasting@live.com

Los Angeles: email Marc/Heather at marcandheathercasting@gmail.com

Please note:

- You must be at least 21 years old to participate.
- All submissions become property of producer.

~ Julie Boone

BE SURE TO LET
YOUR FRIENDS
KNOW NOW IS
A GREAT TIME TO
BECOME A
MEMBER OF
MENSA!

UPCOMING
WIREGRASS
EVENTS

March 31
AT 6:00
ASIA BISTRO,
MONTGOMERY, AL

APRIL 28TH
AT 6:00
LOCATION TO BE
ANNOUNCED

THE END OF
TIME ANNUAL
GATHERING

JULY 4-8
IN RENO, NV

2012 CultureQuest*
competition
Sunday, April 29
Destin, FL

THE WIRE

From The RVC by Bob Cox

Several members have stepped up to the plate for our region this past month. We now have a Region 5 Facebook page. Thanks to Lida Quillen of Upper East Tennessee Mensa. The Mensa Southeast Region Facebook page serves twenty local groups in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. Admin/LocSecs will be posting news, events and links of interest to all Mensa members in the region. In a few weeks, we will also establish a Region 5 group so that all Mensa members in the region can join in the fun. Check it out at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mensa-Southeast-Region/176946832406382>.

Each region needed three members to serve on the National Nominating Committee. Three of our members have volunteered. They are Dan Brown - Middle Tennessee Mensa, Nancy Campbell - Charlotte/Blue Ridge Mensa, and Lewis Gosnell - Piedmont Area Mensa. The committee will be appointed at the AMC meeting at the end of March. They will then be looking for members to run for RVC and other AMC elected positions. Charlotte/Blue Ridge Mensa has put in a bid to host the March 2013 AMC meeting. This will also be awarded at the March meeting.

Ken Mayo has taken over from Tim Joseph as LocSec of Triad Mensa. I was amused to find out Mr. Mayo is planning to host a "Cinco de Mayo" ExComm meeting and picnic for all members on May 5.

Registrations are pouring in for the Caralinh Regional Gathering PAMdemonium!!! A Party for the End of Time. It looks like it will be bigger and better than ever this year. The dates are May 18 - 20. Registration is \$65 until the end of April, with discounts for youths and first timers. The registration form is available at www.piedmontareamensa.org. Be sure to book your hotel room soon as rooms could run out as registrations keep coming in.

Have you started getting your teams together for CultureQuest*. The competition will be on Sunday, April 29. Registration and team changes must be received by March 31. Go to www.us.mensa.org/culturequest to download rules and registration forms. If you know the answer to two questions that no one else knows, you will be a valuable member.

Enjoy Mensa.



Granted, the Mayans never knew Douglas Adams or "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," but we think they would've appreciated his thoughts about the final phase of civilization, which can be summed up by the question, "Where shall we have lunch?"

When you register for The End of Time AG July 4-8 in Reno, your answer is a no-brainer: You're going to get The Meal Plan at the End of Time and enjoy the Friday Awards Luncheon, Saturday night banquet and show, and the Sunday Silver Rush breakfast buffet and raffle with all your favorite Mensans!

Information about the AG meal plan is now available in the Dining section at www.ag.us.mensa.org; the discounted cost for all three meals is \$93, or they can be purchased individually. Friday's luncheon features your choice of chicken Cordon Bleu, roast loin of pork or vegetarian lasagna; Saturday's banquet entices you to select between baked filet of salmon, center rack of pork, roast prime rib of beef or vegetarian pasta Primavera. The Saturday night dinner show will wow you with a Cirque-like presentation of belly dancing, rope climbing, old-time burlesque and a multiplicity of purely magical acts. And your meal ticket for Sunday's breakfast buffet earns you an entry into The End of Time raffle of more than 20 prizes valued up to \$250!

~ Howard Prince

Notes from your Local Secretary

You can get paid apps for free!

This may sound like a late night commercial, but it's actually true. You can download paid apps to your Android phone or tablet, iPhone, iPad, or iPod without charge, and without fear of violating copyright law. Note that unless you have an unlimited data plan you might want to make sure you're connected to a trusted wireless LAN before you start any downloads.



Android devices

For the android devices, there are several tools (i.e. android apps) that find and recommend free apps for your use. But the tool provided by industry giant Amazon provides one app per day with the price changed to free. Go to Amazon's home page at www.amazon.com. From there move to screen left and hover over Appstore for Android. That will show a list of options, and you'll select the one labeled Apps. Look to screen right and you'll see Get Started. There, you can specify your mobile phone number or email address, and Amazon will contact you with instructions on how to proceed from there. Note: you will need to change your Android device to accept downloads outside the Android Market, and Amazon will direct you in how to accomplish this.

The daily offering varies widely and has included popular games and puzzles, children's activities, business and productivity tools, recipe databases, and more. Apps they've made available for free have included: Bejeweled2 (normally \$2.99), Plants vs. Zombies (\$2.99 - an interesting animated strategy game), Mighty Grocery Shopping List (\$3.99), A Charlie Brown Christmas (\$6.99), Easy Money (\$9.99), and Quick Office Pro (\$14.99). Every day shows a new surprise, and the apps are yours to keep.

Apple devices

Like with the Android device, there are several tools (apps) that find and recommend apps for your use. But the two we'll discuss are Free App A Day (FAAD) and Game Channel. Each can be loaded from the iTunes app store. Search for FAAD or Game Channel. FAAD offers up to 5 apps per day with the price changed to free, though at times I suspect a few were free to begin with. Game Channel offers several at a time, and their offerings sometimes linger for a few days.

The daily offering varies, though both seem to concentrate on games. In the past, free offerings have included: Sprinkle (normally \$1.99), Tower Madness (\$2.99), Great Little War Game HD (\$2.99), and Marple (\$1.99, for those who like logic grid puzzles).

Conclusion

Now you can load up your smart phone or tablet with paid apps. If you find one you don't like, just remove it. No worries, you didn't pay for it anyway.



Asia Bistro has great lettuce wraps!

**BE SURE TO
SEND ME
PHOTOS,
ARTICLES,
STORIES AND
OTHER THINGS
FOR OUR
NEWSLETTER!**

BARBARA