

The

SCAM

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SPACE COAST AREA MENSA



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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.

Inside the Pocket Protector

Mike Moakley, Editor

Well, it is already June 1st, and I am still putting the finishing touches on this issue. Needless to say, it will be late by the time you receive it.

The most important topic to cover is the upcoming ExComm election. Enclosed with this issue is the ballot with only 4 candidates running for five ExComm positions. This means the ExComm will need another member. Could that person be YOU?

The Vote Count has been scheduled for June 30th, the details were not available in time to put together the Calendar, so here they are:

When: Thursday, June 30th at 6:30pm. (*Ballots must be in by 5:30pm*).

Where: Wynn Rostek's home at 3456 Willis Drive, Titusville FL 32796.

Although my info does not specify, there will be plenty of socializing as well.

So, you are encouraged to perform your civic duty and have fun in the process. Who can ask for better than that?

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.

"I'm so tired... I was up all night trying to round off infinity"-Steven Wright

I just finished a book titled, *"The Man Who Knew Infinity"* by Robert Kanigel. It is a biography of the incredible mathematical prodigy Srinavasa (his father's name) Ramanujan (his given name) Iyengar (name of his branch of Brahmin caste). It also explores the life of his friend and collaborator, Godfrey H. Hardy (who had said his greatest discovery in mathematics was Ramanujan).

They have made a movie that roughly follows the book. The Hindu genius is Dev Patel (of *Slumdog Millionaire* fame) and Jeremy Irons is mathematician Hardy. Unfortunately, it has not been released locally. What a missed opportunity for those of Fla Tech and of the high tech employees of the county to learn about an incredible mathematician. One whose work in abstract analysis and number theory has resulted in some of the technology we enjoy today.

Ramanujan who had been born in Madras, was a poorly educated, self-taught, but exceptionally bright young Hindu with a boring clerk job. He finally gained recognition from the leading British mathematician of the 1900s (Hardy at Cambridge University) when he sent some samples of his work and an introductory letter explaining his situation. Hardy, upon reviewing the numerous findings that Ramanujan sent from his notebooks, knew a genius when he saw one. After much behind the scenes work and effort with other supportive British and Indian contacts, Ramanujan managed to arrive at Trinity College Cambridge in 1913, at the age of 25.

There could be no two mathematicians with such different approach to their work. Hardy was called the "Apostle of Proof". He only believed that only by rigorous mathematical analysis and development of mathematical proof could mathematics be truly discovered. Ramanujan was the "Prince of Intuition", and arrived at his mathematical discoveries more by leaps of intuition and sudden inspiration. A devout Hindu, he claimed many of his discoveries in abstract mathematics were the result of dreams provided to him by the family goddess, Mahalakshmi of Namakkal. She would reveal scrolls of complex mathematical content that would unfold before his eyes and he would work feverishly during the day and night to write them down.

Whatever their respective beliefs, these two different style mathematicians in their five years of working together developed some of the most breathtaking findings in the field of analysis and number theory. Fortunately the book does not go into a lot of detail on their mathematical work (that would probably make the lay reader fall asleep and reduce the reading audience). But the author does give enough description of their work to make you appreciate what they accomplished. The book, at over 370 pages, can be demanding of your

(Continued on page 12)

In last month's SCAM I proposed a solution to the brouhaha about the use of public toilets by LBGT's. In the various media, it is noted that California and North Carolina have instituted laws restricting public toilets to use by people whose gender corresponds to that shown on their birth certificates. Other jurisdictions have also instituted similar laws.

My suggestion was to create unisex toilets, thus no one would be excluded from using a public toilet, nor would there be a requirement for guards at public toilets to check birth certificates and other ID's. In my proposal, I showed how existing male and female public toilets could inexpensively be converted to unisex toilets.

The main argument against the use of public toilets by LBGT's is; would you like your wife or daughter to use a toilet that would also be used by an LBGT? What would she see that she already has not seen? I have noticed in several main line movies scenes taken in public toilets where men are standing at urinals. That scene seems to be a required element in cops-and-robbers pictures. I have also seen a movie in which a man is shown sitting on a commode.

In the days before the invention of the automobile, when the majority of people lived on farms, every child grew up knowing that all male mammals have penises. They saw horses,
(Continued on page 11)



David

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*.

As a community of intelligent people, we members of SCAM should really be doing more than having an occasional social event and conducting monthly business meetings. We have an obligation to try to use our abilities to benefit other people.

And what better way to do that than to offer our knowledge and talents in support of furthering the education of students in Brevard County?

As the Director of SCAM's Gifted Student Program, I am trying to establish a program which would provide resources to both the Brevard County Schools and to individual gifted youngsters who need more than the school system can provide for them.

I have recently been in contact with the Brevard County Schools Gifted Student Coordinator to discuss how SCAM may be of assistance with their programs and we have tentatively established two areas in which we might participate in the next school year. The first is working with K-12 teachers who have gifted students in their classes, but do not have the time or resources to devote to individual learning for them. The second is participating as mentors in the AP Capstone Diploma Program, an innovative program that allows students to engage in the rigorous development of skills critical for success in college inquiry, research, collaboration, and writing. It allows students to design, plan, and conduct yearlong mentored investigation on a topic of their choosing.

Both of these initiatives obviously need YOU! Neither would require great amounts of time, only your expertise and your willingness to contribute to the betterment of children in Brevard County.

If you think you might be able to participate in helping Brevard County students, please contact me (my contact information is located inside the front cover of each issue of the SCAM).

SCAM needs to be more than just a social platform for high IQ people.

Next month is the election of your ExComm. At present, only four people have expressed an interest in being on the ballot. If you are interested in being on the ExComm during the next year beginning in July, please notify me or any board member and we will write you in. Chances are very likely you will be elected.

We really need more participation from the membership. We have a lot of exciting new things happening. According to Hank Rhodes, our appearance at the recent Nerd Fest produced at least one testing candidate. Additionally, George Lebovitz is actively pursuing the creation of a Gifted Children Program and is organizing a Space Coast Area Mensa (SCAM) Gifted Children Meetup. Also, we're always looking for new speakers for our Mensa Get-togethers, so if you have any ideas about good speakers, please let me or any board member know. We'd really appreciate any thoughts you may have.

During the next year, I'd like to try to quantify the benefits of your local membership. Everyone on the ExComm would like to make our local group better and more active. But we need to hear from the membership to know what you'd like your local group to provide. I encourage all members to sit in on an ExComm meeting and help us build a strong and active Mensa program here on the Space Coast. The next ExComm meeting will be held on June 7th at the home of Karen Freiberg (*address in the front of this publication*). I hope to see you there!

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.

June 2016

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

| | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------|--|----|--|---|---|
| | C.A.B.A.G.E. | | 1 | 2 |  | 4 GO! |
| 5 | 6 C.A.B.A.G.E. |  | 8 | 9 | 10 |  |
| 12 | 13 C.A.B.A.G.E. | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 GO! |
| 19 | 20 C.A.B.A.G.E. | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |  |
| 26 | 27 C.A.B.A.G.E. | 28 | 29 | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">VOTE COUNT!</div> | | |

SCAM Calendar of Events for June 2016

3rd - 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, June 7 at 6:00 pm. This is our monthly business meeting. See back page for location.

11th - 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. Hosted by: *Joe Janson, 338-5833.*

MENSA TESTING

June 18 at Central Brevard Library, 308 Forrest Ave., Cocoa. Please arrive by 9:45 am, as testing begins at 10 am. \$40 fee and photo ID required. Reservations encouraged but not required. Candidates must be age 14 or older. Next month's test will be held July 16.

25th - 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, mensatest@cfl.rr.com.

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 June 2016

WELCOME TO SCAM

Diane Roselli

WELCOME BACK!

Savannah Olivas

JUNE BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

2nd Bill Emmons
3rd Stacy Strickland
7th Margaret Bartlett
17th Jane Williams
17th Arthur Belefant
17th Charles Radley
17th Ellen Rogers
20th Thomas Moor
24th Sam Kirschten
24th Christopher Moss

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.

(Continued from page 5)

goats, sheep, and other farm animals. Urban children also saw horses and mules used for haulage and riding daily. Even today, dogs are not uncommon. In the olden days, outhouses were not always one-holers. Two and three-holers were not uncommon to be used by more than one person at a time. Students can go to museums to view Michelangelo's David and other statuary in all their glorious nudity. Or they can go to their church and see paintings of Madonna and Child, where the child Jesus is depicted to display His masculinity. Every woman who has engaged in sex knows about male anatomy. Every mother who has had a male child is exceeding familiar with male anatomy.



Madonna and Child

So, what is this obsession about LGBT's in public toilets? It is a maneuver to give LGBT's more political power, not to allay someone's sensibilities. Until we have unisex public toilets, let the LGBT's use whatever public toilet that they want. If they use the urinals in men's toilet, no one will see what they have not already seen. If they use the stalls in either the men's or women's toilets, no one will see anything.

In addition, unisex toilets could provide extra protection against abusers who would prey on children in public toilets. What potential abuser would act while an adult male or female is standing guard in the toilet or feel secure in his predilections knowing that a

male protector may be in one of the stalls.

(Continued from page 4)

time and may seem intimidating. However, it does have an interesting history about the two men, their countries, the environment and times they grew up in, and the landscape of the world before WWI.

One of the interesting anecdotes in the book discusses how Hardy, visiting Ramanujan in the hospital for his frequent health issues, took a taxicab to the building. Upon entering the hospital room, Hardy informed his Hindu colleague of arriving in a taxicab with number '1729'. Hardy remarked he thought that was a boring number and hoped it was not a bad omen. Ramanujan said, "No, it was a very interesting number. It was the smallest number expressed as the sum of two cubes in two different ways." That is:

$$1729 = 1 \text{ cubed} + 12 \text{ cubed} = 9 \text{ cubed} + 10 \text{ cubed}.$$

The generalization of this concept led to the study called the 'taxicab numbers': The smallest numbers that can be expressed as the sum of two positive algebraic cubes in 'n' different ways.

It is unfortunate that Ramanujan died so young (*age 32, from complications of TB and malnutrition*). Many mathematicians wonder what other great discoveries these two great mathematicians could have developed if they had the chance to work together for many years. India's state of Tamil Nadu celebrate his birthday of 22 December. The government of India produced a stamp to honor Ramanujan and has a building to honor him. There are also mathematical competitions that award money prizes to mathematicians (*younger than 32 years of age*) for work in the fields studied by Ramanujan.

Note: Ramanujan was discovered working as a Grade IV accounting clerk at Madras Port Trust. Einstein was somewhat 'discovered' from his work while employed as a patent clerk in Switzerland. I wonder how many brilliant men and women, working as 'clerks' in small offices, are waiting to be discovered?

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and I'm always interested in your feedback, which you can easily provide via those fora.

In keeping with this, I'm adding my Facebook contact information below my signature, so you can reach me there as well if you have questions or comments you would rather share privately.

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

Thomas George Thomas

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?

By the time this appears in the June newsletters, the AMC (American Mensa Committee) will have had a teleconference (held on Wednesday, May 18) to handle a number of housekeeping items including approving the minutes of the March AMC Meeting, appointing an assistant SIGHT Coordinator, clarifying the role of the Parliamentarian at AMC meetings, and other minor matters, plus a couple of larger items involving Annual Gatherings (funding of AG Chairs and setting discounted registrations for members). There was also a discussion scheduled to go over questions to be posed to National Candidates, and a proposed referendum for the 2017 ballot to amend the election schedule. Unfortunately, the deadline for this column happens before the meeting so I can't give you any details on what occurred.

Also, by the time this appears in the June newsletters, Tampa Bay Mensa will have held its Margarita Bay Regional Gathering, held as usual over Memorial Day weekend – this time in Tampa itself, near Raymond James Stadium. I expect that it was a lot of fun; I expect to attend, though the earliest I would be able to report on it would be in the July newsletters, over a month after the event has passed.

In both of these instances, the frustration of dealing with drawn-out deadlines comes to the fore. One of the organizational aspects I hold most important is communication, but the pace of communication in American Mensa has lagged behind most of the rest of the world. We still have rules which state that official business should be provided in local group newsletters, but not only does this get information to you after you could make any use of it, in some chapters it lags even longer, as they move (or have already moved) to bi-monthly or even quarterly publication.

The most practical way around this, although it runs the risk of disenfranchising some of our longest-term members, is to rely on social media to get information out in a more timely manner. Our Region has a Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/MensaRegion10/>) which as of this writing has 125 members, though I think part of that is because most people don't know it's there. There is also a Regional email list (to subscribe visit <http://lists.us.mensa.org/mailman/listinfo/region10>, though email is being used much less frequently due to the immediacy of other social networking structures.

I will still provide reports via this column, but I strongly recommend that anyone interested in keeping up with the most recent news and events around the Region use one of the two resources mentioned above. This will help to facilitate interactive discussion, which is in many ways preferable to the one-way communication that happens through this monthly report,

Minutes of the May 2016 ExComm Meeting

The ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955, on Tuesday, May 3rd 2016, called to order by LocSec Joe Janson at 6:02 pm.

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

Guests: Terry (Val) Valek and T(h?)eresa Janson.

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

Treasurer's Report: Not available at the time of the meeting.

Testing: Not available at the time of the meeting.

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

We finally received a response to the proposed bylaws submitted to National. They replied with a few non-critical mandatory changes, grammatical corrections, and some few recommended modifications which, again, did not substantially change the intent of our revisions. The changes were submitted to Wynn Rostek for review and incorporation into the next version we will submit.

The SCAM Gifted Student Program is off the ground! We have five parents who are interested in establishing some sort of program for their gifted child(ren), four of whom will be attending an organizational meeting on May 16th to help us determine what kind of program they would like to have.

Our participation in the Space Coast Nerd Fest, on April 16-17 was successful in attracting quite a bit of attention and interest and also in finding three of the parents mentioned above regarding the gifted student program.

We discussed the possibility of canceling future Red Ginger events since we are having difficulty identifying interesting speakers to attract SCAM members. However, after further discussion, the ExComm decided to perpetuate it on a monthly basis, even if it just affords an opportunity for members to get together for a nice dinner and conversation. We continue to look for interesting speakers and solicit suggestions.

Elections for a new ExComm will be coming up shortly and we anticipate publishing a ballot in the June issue of the SCAM.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, June 7th 2016 at 6:00 pm in the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 pm.