



**ELECTRONIC EDITION**

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Night falls on North America in this photo by Astronaut Sunita Williams during the recent Hubble repair space shuttle mission. The biggest patch of bright light at the upper right is the Boston-Washington D.C. metroplex, Dallas and Houston stand out in Texas, likewise Miami and Tampa sparkle on the Florida peninsula, Mexico City at the bottom of the photo and it's still daylight in the northwest and across much of Canada.

# A Report Card for Your Life

By Dr. Marty Nemko

Every period in a person's life could be graded from

A: Makes the world much better to...

F: Makes the world much worse.

I believe that the higher a person's lifetime average grade, the more well-led one's life has been.

I use The Report Card (at this point, unconsciously) when I'm unsure how to spend my time. For example, if a friend invites me to go shopping or to her kid's Bar Mitzvah, instead of reflexively deciding, I might think, "Do I want to do something that would score higher on The Report Card?" I also use The Report Card in evaluating the most recent period of my life or my entire life so far.

*Objection: I don't want to be Mother Teresa.*

Response: You set your standards. If for some or even all your hours, you're satisfied with a grade of C (no negative nor positive impact on the world—for example, tending your flower garden)—so be it. Keeping The Report Card in the back of your mind merely keeps you conscious of your life's choices. It's a free tool to help you to live the life you want to live.

*Objection: I have too little potential for impact to bother with The Report Card.*

Response: Even the most mundane of us makes a difference—for example, how we treat the Trader Joe's clerk. And we Mensans have greater potential for good (and evil) than most.

*Objection: I don't want the guilt that keeping track would invoke.*

Response: If what you're doing deserves guilt, mightn't your being more conscious about your life choices help you to live a life you don't feel guilty about?

So if you feel The Report Card might have some validity, what would you guess your life's average daily grade is? Do you want to change it? If so, what do you want to do differently?

Or do you have a better approach to assessing the value of an hour or of your life? If so, feel free to submit it as a letter to the editor.



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*Dr. Nemko is a career and life coach. Reach him at [mnemko@comcast.net](mailto:mnemko@comcast.net). 500+ of his published articles plus the archive of his KALW-FM (NPR-San Francisco) radio show are free on [www.martynemko.com](http://www.martynemko.com).*

## 11th Such Honor in Last 12 Years

# The 4M Nominated for Owl Again

The 4M was nominated recently for “Best Newsletter” among medium-sized groups, making us eligible for an Owl award in the 2009 Publications Recognition Program. This is the 11th time your newsletter has been nominated in the last 12 years. We have won the Owl three times.

The 4M was also named as being among the top five newsletters in Member Recognition and Mensa Awareness categories.

Newsletters are published by 134 Mensa local groups. Almost all group newsletters are available for viewing on the Mensa national site at [www.mensa.us.org](http://www.mensa.us.org).

The 4M is truly a group effort, with regular and valued inputs from many including Nancy Heinrich, Don Brunner, Dwight and Marianne Gill, Keith Falkner, and Joe Venuti, plus occasional and thoughtful contributions by various others.

—Edgar Coudal, editor

## Mind Games Names 5 for Mensa Select Seal

Mensa members came together this weekend to play 48 hours straight of Mind Games. They played, voted and selected five games that will bear the Mensa Select seal. During the Mind Games competition, Mensa members play and rate new board and card games. The five games that rate the highest are named Mensa Select and may display the Mensa Select seal on their packaging. To learn about past winners, visit [www.mindgames.us.mensa.org](http://www.mindgames.us.mensa.org).

The 2009 winners are as follows:

Cornerstone - This is a 3-D strategy game requiring a steady hand and clever mind in order to build, climb and race to the top before it all comes tumbling down. [www.goodcompanygames.com](http://www.goodcompanygames.com)

Dominion - Players compete to create the best deck of cards by buying action (10 of 25 possible each game), treasure, and victory cards. The deck with the most victory points wins! Order phone: (505) 771-8813

Marrakech - Each player takes the role of a salesperson who tries to out-wit the others. Roll the dice, move Assam, and determine whether you must make a payment to lay a rug. [www.fundexgames.com](http://www.fundexgames.com)

Stratum - Following the layering laws each player tries to cover up their opponent's pieces. The player with most exposed pieces wins! [www.familygamesamerica.com](http://www.familygamesamerica.com)

Tic-Tac-Ku - An exciting twist on the age old favorite, Tic-Tac-Toe. The game has nine playing areas. Each player determines in which playing area his opponent may play. Object: win the most playing areas. [www.colorku.com](http://www.colorku.com)

—Lauren A. Fernandez, Marketing Coordinator, American Mensa, Ltd.

## The Tenth Story: RVC 10 Report

# Region Meet and Greet at the AG

I WANT TO THANK the voters of Region 10 for entrusting me with your representation on the AMC. My opponent is a good, decent and honorable man who would have done a fine job as RVC, and I'm sorry both of us couldn't have been elected. I plan to spend the next two years honoring the trust of those who voted for me, and earning the trust of those who didn't.

There's going to be a Region 10 meet and greet at the AG in Pittsburgh, and I hope many of you will stop by.

**National Election Results  
On P. 12. Former RVC10  
Elissa Rudolph elected  
new National Chair**

It's a great way to meet other Florida Mensans from outside your local group. There are still some Florida Mensans I haven't met yet, and I hope



to remedy that situation in part at the AG.

The AMC, Mensa's national governing body, will be meeting at the AG, and all members are welcome to come and observe. Most of the action in Mensa happens at the local group level, and sometimes it's easy to forget that Mensa is also a corporation with 50,000 members and a multi-million dollar annual budget. If you want to see the nuts and bolts of how Mensa is governed, please stop by the AMC meeting, at least for a while. (It's a six hour meeting so unless you have masochistic tendencies you probably won't want to stay for the whole thing.)

**NOMINATIONS have been announced for annual awards for local newsletters, and as is usual *The 4M*, the newsletter for the Manatee/Sarasota Counties group, is in line for several awards. Congratulations to editor Edgar Coudal and his group of volunteers.**

Finally, I plan to visit every local group at least once a year, and will start visiting local groups in September. If your local group is having an event that you would specifically like me to attend, please let me know. I look forward to meeting and visiting with many more of you as I travel throughout the state.

Until then, if anyone has any questions, problems, issues or (especially) good ideas, please let me know. Until next month,

—Mel Dahl, Region 10 Vice Chairman

## Discount on Mensa Admission Test in July

Do you have a friend or family member who should be in Mensa? Beat the heat and have them enjoy a few hours indoors taking the Mensa Admission Test. Any tests administered between July 1 - July 31, 2009 will be at the rate of \$35 instead of the usual \$40.

# FIELD NOTES - By Edgar F. Coudal

## Closing the Book

Joe Scarborough, host of “Morning Joe,” staunch conservative, house rightwinger for MSN BC, and unabashed apologist for all things Republican, perhaps wrote the cover blurb for the final book on George W. Bush’s two terms in office.



Morning Joe responded to a question by the splendid Deborah Solomon in the *NYTimes Magazine* June 7, 2009 by saying: “. . . Bush did three things. He destroyed the Republican majority, he crippled the American conservative movement, and he weakened the country. That’s a hell of a trifecta.”

## Wherefore Art Thou, Cesario?

The Public Theater opens its summer Shakespeare festival with *Twelfth Night*, and couldn’t have picked a more fitting show for the alternate community that is New York. It’s filled with girls dressed as boys and vice versa, people falling for the assumed genders, and is being promoted with *New York Times* ads proclaiming “Crossdressing in the Park!”

## Well Said

Phil Leitz listed the worst cars built in the last 20 years, noting of the 2007 Jaguar X series, “It was obnoxiously underbuilt, remarkably overpriced, and about as charming as a hernia.”

## Great Book Title

*I Loved, I Lost, I Made Spaghetti*

In her cookbook/memoir, Gialia Melucci commits each chapter to meals prepared for a different one of her drove of come and gone lovers. By name. No recipe for wedding cake.

## Can’t Resist

*(From the Mensa for Kids promotional material)*

This pirate was walking around with a paper towel on his head instead of the familiar black tri-corner.

So I said, “Dude, where’s your hat?”  
“Arrg, I got a Bounty on me head.”



Remember Commie poster art that implored the proletariat to build tanks, breed soldiers, kill Capitalists, and slam the Smirnoff? Today, Russia urges anglers to practice catch and release.

# The Funny Page

## Punny!

A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.

## Too True

A bear, a lion and a pig meet in the forest.

The bear said, "If I roar in the forests of North America, the entire forest is shivering with fear."

The Lion said, "If I roar on the great plains of Africa, the entire savannah is shivering with fear."

The pig said, "Big deal. I only have to cough, and the entire planet panics."



## Clean-up on Aisle 9!

Tabitha Darling of Fort Worth, a legally blind woman, is allowed to ride her Service Pony, Trixie, through a supermarket while she shops. The pony wears non-skid pink booties in the store, but no diaper.

Enough with the boring old Yield and Stop signs.  
How about some truly informative ones?





# Books, Mini-Reviews

Reviewed by Fraser Sherman

(Reprinted from *Pensa-Mensa*, newsletter of Northwest Florida Mensa)

## ***The Ruin of Robert J. Oppenheimer and the Birth of the Modern Arms Race***

by Priscilla J. McMillan

This is a gripping account of how Oppenheimer was stripped of his security clearance over his opposition and doubts about the H-bomb, his affiliations with Communist friends, and more importantly a variety of animosities both personal and institutional (for instance the Air Force wanting Oppenheimer gone because his proposal for tactical Army nukes challenged the USAF dominance of the nuclear arsenal).

McMillan's detailed account of "Oppie's" security review leaves little doubt that it was rigged, from the FBI wiretapping his attorneys to the board rewriting its opinion (to play up nonexistent disloyalties over the real issue, his views on the H-bomb, which some thought sounded like punishing him for offering an honest opinion) and she throws in several details I hadn't heard before (like the belief Oppenheimer was part of a covert scientific network called ZORC that wanted to gut the military in favor of a superscientific defensive shield).

Well done and absorbing.

## ***Red Moon Rising: Sputnik and the Rivalries That Ignited the Space Race***

by Matthew Brzezinski

This one is somewhat dryer than the first, but a great look at how history can turn on a dime. The birth of the Soviet satellite program brought about by missile whiz Korolev trying to distract Khrushchev from his failure to build a working ballistic-missile warhead; even after Sputnik went up, neither Korolev or Khrushchev grasped the significance to either human history or PR (so they were flabbergasted to learn the world now considered them an equal match for the United States).

Brzezinski also covers the American side and shows how any chance we had to be first in space ran afoul of interservice rivalry (the Army's superior rocketry lost out to a Navy missile program) and contractor self-interest (the board that picked the Navy had vested interests in supplying the technology).



## *The One Question to Ask Your Broker*

**I DON'T KNOW** how most people choose a broker, but it seems they do it very badly. How can I come to that conclusion when I know so few of them? They let him lose their money.

If anyone is going to have a say how a person's money is to be invested it should be a very serious and time consuming decision. It can't, or at least shouldn't, be because he is a relative or a friend of a friend or you answered some freebie advertisement.

The trouble is people don't know how to do what the industry calls "due diligence." This is what brokerage house tells you to do before stock is purchased in a company. Look at the balance sheet, study their income history, find out about the management, and see how the sector in general has been doing historically and many other nuances of finance.

As a technical analyst I don't pay attention to that sort of nonsense. All I want to know if the stock is going up. That's all.

There are more than a quarter of a million stock brokers in the U.S. When I owned a brokerage company I hired about 300 brokers. My conclusion is about 1%, yes one percent, of the stock brokers know what they are doing. They all have a smooth patter about the market, but few know how to protect customers' money.

### **DID YOUR broker ever suggest a stop loss order?**

It is outrageous that Wall Street allows its customers to see their account drop by 30, 40, 50% and more. For years the Buy and Hold Theory has been shown to lose money. An investment account funded in 1999 now has less money after 10 years.

Stop loss orders are discouraged by all brokerage houses. The broker is to keep the customers' money fully invested at all times even when the market is very obviously going down. Brokers even lose money in their own accounts. They have not been taught how to protect their assets. Money market accounts do not make money for brokerage companies so the customer is told the old saw "the market always comes back" – except when it doesn't.

Think about this – a 50% loss means the gain must be 100% to break even. Not much chance of that happening.

If you plan to have any money when you retire there is one question to ask your broker and you want a detailed answer in writing. Mr. Broker:

"What is your exit strategy?"

*Al Thomas's book "IF IT DOESN'T GO UP, DON'T BUY IT!" has become a classic. Copyright 2009. Williamsburg Investment Co. All rights reserved.*

## Book Review

### ***Magic, Mensa, and Mayhem*** by Karina Fabian

Humor, mystery, and fantasy combine to create an outstanding story in ***Magic, Mensa and Mayhem*** by Karina L. Fabian.

This was not going to be one of those STUC (Save-the-Universe Cases). Just an all-expense paid trip to Florida to chaperone a group of Magicals at a Mensa convention for Vern the dragon detective and his partner, the mage Sister Grace.

Well, someone forgot to tell the pixies. They start pulling their pranks. Then the Brownies start cleaning and organizing things they aren't supposed to and a hyped up elf who is behind the times might declare war on Florida. And as if that's not bad enough, there's a Native American Trickster who can change forms and a Valkyrie heroine of legend who has turned her attention to bodybuilding and fashion design, both of whom create a little chaos of their own.

So much for that cushy job!

If you are looking for a deep fantasy novel, this isn't it. ***Magic, Mensa and Mayhem*** is, however, one of the most uproariously funny books you'll ever read. Honestly, I laughed so hard that my husband thought I had found my decades-long missing sense of humor.

Fabian proves once again that she is a master storyteller. Who else could combine a dragon detective, a magical nun, a host of other bizarre characters and Oprah, and make it work so well? Available from Swimming Kangaroo Press.

—Reviewed by Cheryl C. Malandrinos

## July Birthdays

- |                                     |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2 Imo “Wanda” Rhyelle – Sarasota    | 20 Derrin Gottlieb – Sarasota     |
| 3 Dwight Gill – Bradenton           | 24 James Kuhlman – Nokomis        |
| 4 Peter Ray – Parrish               | 25 Stephen Johnson – Punta Gorda  |
| 4 Wasyl Lew – Venice                | 28 Steve Jakubaitis – Punta Gorda |
| 12 David Cable – Port Charlotte     | 30 Karen Shoemaker – Bradenton    |
| 13 Darlene Barclay – Port Charlotte |                                   |

## Membership Changes

Welcome back to renewing members **Claire Hendricks** and **Carl Hurst**, both of Sarasota. And farewell to **Richard Leary**, who has moved to Columbus, Ohio. Our group now numbers 250.

## Electronic Delivery of *The 4M* Available

**YOU CAN** receive an electronic full-color version of *The 4M* virtually identical to this print version, but delivered to members' computers as an Adobe Acrobat attachment to an email. This reduces print and mailing costs. To get *The 4M* electronically, send an email to [edgarc@aol.com](mailto:edgarc@aol.com)



## *Do not Bet on a Horse that is Bound to Lose!*

**Dealer:** South

**Vul.:** Both

**North**

♠ K 8  
♥ K 9  
♦ Q J 6 4  
♣ J 10 8 6 5

**South**

♠ A 5  
♥ Q J 4 2  
♦ A K 5 3  
♣ Q 9 3

| <b>Bidding:</b> | <b>South</b> | <b>West</b> | <b>North</b> | <b>East</b> |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
|                 | 1 NT         | 2 ♠         | 3 NT         | pass        |
|                 | pass         | pass        |              |             |

**Opening lead:** ♠Q

**THE BIDDING** is natural and the contract is normal. Sometimes a 3NT contract is a race. The defenders try to get five tricks before declarer can get nine, and that is the situation here. Declarer has the top two controls in the enemy's spade suit, but the defenders have the top two controls in dummy's long club suit. Having the opening lead, the defenders have the edge in the race to develop tricks.

If declarer attacks clubs, the defenders win the race, winning two top clubs and at least three long spades.

Declarer must seek another way to develop tricks, even a way that seems inferior to the club suit.

With two spades and four diamonds ready to cash, declarer must develop three heart tricks, and there is only one reasonable hope. South must win the first trick, then lead a heart. When West plays low, declarer must play North's ♥9, and hope it is not taken by the ten. If East has ♥10, then the game goes down about three tricks, but in that case 3NT cannot be made. If West has ♥10, declarer develops three heart winners and makes the contract.

It's always fun to finesse a ten-spot when 900 points are riding on the outcome!

## National Election Results

# Elissa Rudolph Elected Mensa Chair

Debra Henry, election chair, reports, “Survey and Ballot Systems, our election house for the 2009 board election and amendments, reported certified results this afternoon.

“These results include 5,969 returned ballots from 44,090 eligible members with a final participation rate of 13.54%. It is also worth noting that 2,285 ballots were submitted via Web voting and 3,684 paper ballots were returned via regular mail.”

The new chair, Elissa Rudolph, is a former RVC 10 and past 1st Vice Chairman. Her ex-husband, Ralph Rudolph, is a past national chair. The results with individual vote totals:

### **Chair:**

Elissa Rudolph 3837

Dave Swanka 1996

Elissa Rudolph is declared elected.

### **RVC 5:**

Nick Sanford 408

Bertie Clarke 110

Nick Sanford is declared elected.

### **1st Vice Chair:**

Dan Burg 3072

Cookie Bakke 2771

Dan Burg is declared elected.

### **RVC 7:**

Peggy Pannke-Smith 221

George “Bud” Martin 116

Peggy Pannke-Smith is declared elected.

### **2nd Vice Chair:**

Craig Thighe 2081

John Recht 3643

John Recht is declared elected.

### **RVC 9:**

Lynda Evans 143

Clark Jones 217

Art Mattson 387

Art Mattson is declared elected.

### **Secretary:**

Heather Poirier 3904

Guy Conti 1831

Heather Poirier is declared elected.

### **RVC 10 (Florida):**

Thomas George Thomas 197

Mel Dahl 270

Mel Dahl is declared elected.

### **Treasurer:**

Cyndi Kuyper 3461

Cary Chilson 2291

Cyndi Kuyper is declared elected.

Vice Chairman candidates in Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8 ran unopposed and were declared elected without vote.

Ten bylaw amendments were put before the membership. Each amendment required 2/3 of the voting membership to pass. You can find full text of these amendments online at <http://www.us.mensa.org/election>.

Amendments that passed were 1, 4, 5, 6 and 10. The other five failed.



# Puzzlements

An homage to Lewis Carroll , the grandest puzzler of them all

To gain mention here as worthy of your M wallet card, EMAIL your answers to the puzzles by the 15th of the month to edgarc@aol.com or POSTAL mail to Edgar Coudal, 5452 Azure Way, Sarasota, 34242 or PHONE (941) 349-9329.

## ***Minimum Moves Metamorphose Maker***

Last month, we asked you to get from BLINK to STARE in FOUR or fewer steps. One solution **SLINK STINK STANK STARK** was supplied by **Mark Broadus, Keith Falkner, Dwight Gill, Barbara Horton, Jim Kitchell, Marcy Moore, Sam Perkins**

This month, get us from **POEMS** to **NOVEL** in 7 or fewer steps.

## ***Anagram Angst***

The three teams you were asked for last month were:

**CHICAGO CUBS • KANSAS CITY CHIEFS • BOSTON BRUINS**

Getting them were **Darlene Barclay, Broadus, Falkner, Gill, Horton, Kitchell, Perkins, Hal Ralph**. Getting one was **Nancy Heinrich**.

Now, identify these four companies

**BIG ONE • ENERGETIC CALLER • UNKIND SUN DOT • STOIC FORM**

## ***Cryptological Craziness***

The answer to last month's puzzle is:

**A NEUROTIC BUILDS A CASTLE IN THE AIR. A PSYCHOTIC LIVES IN IT. A PSYCHIATRIST COLLECTS THE RENT. JEROME LAWRENCE.**

Getting it were **Barclay, Marlene Bischman, Broadus, Reni Cohen, Falkner, Gill, Heinrich, Horton, Moore, Perkins, Terri Tumlin** (Terri also got last month's but her name was omitted)

Now try this one:

**Z'B WC CSV WKV JSVUV MHHI SWG CWDVF**

**CSV RYWNV HM GVA ZF BL YZMV. ZF MWNC, Z'OV**

**EXGC SWI W BZUUHU RXC HOVU BL DZCNSVF**

**CWQYV. UHIFVL IWFKVUMZVYI**