

# *Spirit of 76*

*The Official Newsletter of Mensa 76, Fort Worth, Texas*

*Volume XXXVII, Issue 6*

*June, 2009*

## **THIS MONTH**

### **Values in Life, Law and Society**

Life is experience; law is logic; society is a congregation or a creation. Life and law both have values; values which they possess, create and inculcate. Values are the cause of civilization in society. What are these values? Basic values remain the same, but their manifestations may differ in time and place. American and Indian society have many things in common and, at the same time, both have their own specialties, too. Both have much to learn from each other.

Justice R.C.Lahoti, 67, has been in the legal profession for more than 45 years. He commenced his practice as a lawyer in the lowest rung of the judiciary. He remained a judge for nearly 17 years and retired from the judgeship after having held the highest judicial office possible – Chief Justice of India, the equivalent position to what Justice Roberts currently holds in the United States Supreme Court. Reading is his passion and traveling a hobby. He will be sharing his views on how values generate charm in life and the legal profession and what happens when they get lost or distorted.



## *Spirit of 76*

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Qualifications for membership may be determined by Mensa or by submission of properly certified prior evidence of qualification. We encourage anyone interested to submit inquiries to: American Mensa Ltd., Business Office, 1229 Corporate Drive West, Arlington, TX 76006-6103, USA; 817-607-0060.  
[www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org)

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*“The brain is a wonderful organ. It starts working the moment you get up in the morning and does not stop until you get into the office.”*

**- Robert Frost**

This is YOUR newsletter. That means you also get to contribute to it - your witty sayings, puzzles, erudite articles or artwork are all welcome.

**Mensa 76's website:** <http://mensa76.us.mensa.org/>

**NTM (Dallas Mensa's) website/calendar:** <http://www.northtexasmensa.org/>

**American Mensa's website:** <http://www.us.mensa.org/>

**To join Mensa 76's online forum contact list moderator Bill Melms, *tbil(at)***

**yahoo.com, then visit:** <http://www.lists.us.mensa.org/mailman/listinfo/mensa76/>

**To post to the forum (after you've joined):** [Mensa76@lists.us.mensa.org](mailto:Mensa76@lists.us.mensa.org)

## From the RVC

*by Roger Durham*

Now that all the campaigning is over and this year's National and International Elections are history, it's time to look forward to the Annual Gathering. If you have never been to an AG, you cannot imagine what an experience it can be. Think of the best Mensa activity you have ever attended, then multiply it by at least a factor of 10. If you've never been to a Regional Gathering, multiply it by 100. Think of it: 2000 of your fellow Ms all together in one place for 4 days! If you can't get away for the AG in Pittsburgh this year, you can start planning now to go to next year's AG in Michigan. Speakers, games, workshops, art, music, all kinds of entertainers, banquets, tours, non-stop hospitality... what more could one ask?

Well, actually, there is one more thing I could ask for - extending the party for another few days! Here's a thought: if we start planning now for 2010, we could arrange to charter a car or two on the train from San Antonio to Chicago, and then on to Detroit. In addition to San Antonio, you could board the train in Austin, Fort Worth, Dallas, Longview, Texarkana, or Little Rock. I've been trying to promote the idea of an Amtrak road trip to an AG for years now, and next year is the perfect location for a trip starting in Region 6. Think about it, OK?

For those of you who can't make it to the AG, I hope to see you at Lone Star Mensa RG in Austin over Labor Day weekend or at the North Texas Mensa RG in Dallas at Thanksgiving. Also, please take note that South Texas Mensa (San Antonio) is planning a Leadership Development Workshop (LDW) in October. If you want to learn how a Mensa group really works, please plan to attend. Thanks to a grant from American Mensa, it's free!

On a more serious note, some of you may be aware that American Mensa recently concluded a long-running lawsuit over unauthorized use of our name. While the jury did not choose to award us any damages, they did confirm our legal rights to use of our name and the British company we sued has changed the name of their product to eliminate the alleged infringement. If you have further questions about this litigation, a Q&A section has been posted on the AML website.

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## The Prez Box

by Dave Hodgson

It looks as though we'll have a ringside seat at the 2013 Annual Gathering. I spent the day last week with Mensa's Executive Director Pam Donahoo and the Convention and Tourist Board in Fort Worth. Nothing is signed yet, but everybody assumes that the 2013 AG will be in our town. Our club won't have to bear any of the expense, but there will probably be strong appeals for volunteers to work the desks.

Of course, that's a long way into the future, but planning these things takes time. I've attended a few AGs and they are worthwhile. They demonstrate that we are not just a little club all by ourselves, but rather part of a much bigger picture.

Meanwhile, we are moving right along with our SIGs and our programs. The results of Culture Quest will be announced soon - gloat or cry depending on what they show. See you all at Coors!

## Good Food, Great People



Mensa 76's May brunch had a nice turnout but it can only get better. Lucile's had excellent food and will be a likely candidate for future brunches as well. Come join the fun and enjoy the food with us. This month we will be dining at Yogi's Bagels on South Hulen. Bring as many folks as you want; don't be shy. See the calendar for more details and we'll see you there!

*“Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.”*

**- Abraham Lincoln**

## This Month in History

*by Shane Parkerson*

**June 4, 1989** - Chinese governments orders troops to open fire on unarmed protestors at the now infamous Tiananmen Square in Beijing.

**June 5, 1968** - Robert F. Kennedy is assassinated while leaving a fundraiser in California through the kitchen of the hotel at which he was speaking.

**June 6, 1944** - D-Day, the largest amphibious landing in history, begins as Allied troops storm the beaches of Normandy.

**June 13, 1966** - Supreme Court hands down ruling establishing the Miranda Rights for all citizens being detained by police.

**June 17, 1972** - Five men are arrested for an apparent burglary at the Watergate complex in Washington, D.C.

**June 25, 1950** - The Korean war begins as North Korean troops, led by Soviet-built tanks, cross the 38th parallel, launching a full scale invasion.

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## Meet the New Mrs. Newsletter Editor

On Friday, May 22, 2009, I became the husband to Nohelia Perez in a small ceremony in Arlington, TX. We have been together for nearly four years and finally became Mr. and Mrs. Parkerson. Join me in welcoming her to the Mensa 76 extended family and thanks to everyone for your well-wishes at this important step in our lives.



## Tales From Bush Country

by **Bobby Bush**

A few weeks ago a friend sent me a link to a video on YouTube. Here it is:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6-3X5hIFXYU>

The point of the piece was that the demographics of Europe and North America are changing quickly and that the birth rates of the traditional inhabitants of many of these countries have fallen near or below 1.3 children per family, which the speaker claims is a threshold for irreversible decline, meaning that white Christians are apparently as endangered as cheetahs, white tigers or snail darters. Obviously, the world's population isn't declining. Who is replacing us? The populations of all of those countries just happen to be leavened with one religious group that is reproducing at a rate of 8 children per family: Muslims.

The video alleges that within the next 30-50 years our grandchildren will be outnumbered, meaning that there won't be enough votes left to reject a Sharia-based reconstruction of each country's constitution. If what they're saying is true and they have all their facts right, the conclusions they draw seem plausible enough; however, as one of those who feels the majority is always wrong, I chose to follow the logic down a different path.

If you're reading this and you believe in an anthropomorphic Supreme Being, the odds are very good that your concept of the Almighty is rooted in Judeo-Christian tradition. Here's a question: if He is on our side, would He sit by and let this happen? I suppose there are historical precedents; He didn't seem to interfere very much when the people He declared to be His chosen ones were overtaken by the Babylonians, the Romans, or the Nazis and the Communists. I know these subjects are a bit touchy; I don't mean to offend, but I'm just telling you how it looks from out here.

Since I'm already on thin ice, I might as well ask another question you aren't going to like much: how do you know you're serving Him in the manner He likes best? What if the shift in the demographics is due to the fact that He really prefers being called Allah? What if He loves the ego boost He gets from being prayed to five times a day? Maybe He was sadly disappointed when the Jews quit executing adulterers (female only, of course) by stoning, and He's rooting for a comeback.

*(see next page)*

## Bush Country

(from previous page)

Back in my religious days, I knew I was on the right path because I could feel it in my heart. Isn't it an interesting coincidence, though, that the path that felt right to me just happened to be the one I was told was the only alternative from the time I was in diapers? It wasn't for nothing that the Jesuit boasted that if he could get the kid until he was seven they would have him forever. On the other hand, I've known many people who were on the path I was on who were the only members of their extended families that were headed that way. I don't mean to infer or imply that none of you readers are capable of weighing all the alternatives and making a reasoned choice just because our choices don't agree. Madalyn Murray O'Hair's oldest son certainly fell as far from that tree as it's possible to land, although I would be hard put to defend the proposition that his choice had nothing to do with how his mother raised him.

So in that light, let's reconsider Pascal's Wager. This historic first instance of decision theory basically suggested that one should behave as though there is a God because there is everything to gain and nothing to lose. A popular bumper sticker states a more or less valid inference from his statement: "If you're living as if there's no God—YOU'D BETTER BE RIGHT!" This makes sense as long as there is just one God; however, what if you get up there and my postulate (a lucky guess) turned out to be true, meaning that the head guy doesn't want to let you in because your soul is all nasty from all that bacon you've been eating? One could just as easily say "If you think there's no reason to pray five times a day—YOU'D BETTER BE RIGHT!" Hey, I'm just saying...

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## Join the MENSAnity

Our very own Vice Loc Sec invites you to join him on his new blog where you can experience "*Life through the eyes of a Mensa member. From the logical to the just plain insane, you will likely find it here. All bets and gloves are off. Enjoy.*" Check out Charles West's Mensanity blog at:

<http://mensanity.blogspot.com>

# JUNE 2009

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4 <i>7:00 pm</i> Denton Area Group	5	6	7
8 <i>6:30 pm</i> Board Meet  <i>7:00 pm</i> Monthly Meeting	9	10	11 <i>7:00 pm</i> Denton Area Group	12	13 <i>11:00 am</i> Mensa Brunch at Yogi's Bagels	14 <i>1:00 pm</i> Shoot SIG
15	16	17	18 <i>7:00 pm</i> Denton Area Group	19 <i>7:00 pm</i> Movie SIG	20 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	21 <i>2:00 pm</i> GeoSIG
22	23	24	25 <i>7:00 pm</i> Denton Area Group	26	27 <i>6:00 pm</i> TGIS(aturday)	28 <i>3:00 pm</i> Mensa 76 Book SIG
29	30					

**Want to know what's going on at the other end of the metroplex?**

Check out the **North Texas Mensa** calendar at

<http://www.northtexasmensa.org>

# JUNE EVENTS

## Every Thursday Evening

7:00 pm - **Hang Out Together.** Denton Area Mensans at the Jupiter House Coffee Shop, 106 North Locust Street, Denton. (Cross Streets: Between W Hickory St/E Hickory St and W Oak St/E Oak St, located on the east side of the square). Contact Dave Hodgson at 940 626 4451.

## MONDAY, JUNE 8

6:30 pm - **Mensa 76 Board Meeting.** Open to all members. Opportunity to ask questions and raise issues. Join us at the Coors location just prior to the monthly meeting.

7:00 pm - **Mensa 76 Monthly Meeting.** Free beer and coolers. You're invited to bring food to share. **No smoking** allowed at the facility.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 13

11:00 am – **Brunch.** For June we will meet at Yogi's Bagels at 2710 South Hulen. It's in the southwest corner of Hulen and Stonegate, which is the first traffic light south of the long bridge over Vickery / the railyards / the Trinity River. A weekend hangout with breakfast specials, free newspapers, and a large and varied menu. Call Suzanne Deats at 817 999 6894 (cell) or e-mail [suzdeats\(at\)aol.com](mailto:suzdeats@aol.com).

## SUNDAY, JUNE 14

1:00 pm - **Shoot SIG.** Please contact Bill Melms to let him know if you will participate. Contact him at [tbil\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:tbil(at)yahoo.com) or 817 246 0743.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 19

7:00 pm - **Movie SIG.** We're showing "Raising Arizona" with Holly Hunter and Nicholas Cage. Please bring a snack to share and whatever you want to drink.

*(see next page)*

## JUNE EVENTS *(from previous page)*

### SATURDAY, JUNE 20 *(continued)*

There are friendly cats and dogs in the house (they like lots of petting and will try to sneak a bite of whatever you're eating); smoking outside only, please. Vicki Page's house, 536 Bent Oak Dr., Ft. Worth, TX 76131. Call 817 847 9840 for directions. You don't have to RSVP, we'll be glad to see you.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Newsletter deadline. Please submit all info to Shane at [sasboo21\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:sasboo21(at)yahoo.com).

### SUNDAY, JUNE 21

2:00 pm - GeoSIG. For June, we will be attempting caches around the medical district in Fort Worth. There are lots of new caches in this area, some with trackables (GeoCoins and Travel Bugs) as well. If you are new to GeoCaching some join us and learn a game which is played in over 100 countries and on all the 7 continents. You don't have to bring anything with you, we will provide GPS units and cache description.

We will send you more detailed information as the event date nears, so please send confirmation to Ujjwal at [ulahoti\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:ulahoti(at)yahoo.com) or call 817 207 0693.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 27

6:00 pm - TGIS(aturday). Good company, conversation, and fun! Light refreshments and wine will be available along with board games, card games, and/or chess. Bring your drink of choice or something to share with the others. Last call at 9pm; stay until you're sober. RSVP to Ezra Christensen at [ezrac\(at\)symbioticcreations.com](mailto:ezrac(at)symbioticcreations.com) or call at 817 232 3838. 7561 Indigo Ridge Dr. Ft. Worth, TX 76131.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 28

3:00 pm - **Book SIG**. As for the Book SIG: no details were available at press time. One can find out from Judith if the gathering is planned and which book will be discussed. If it takes place, the meeting will probably be from 3-5 at Judith Ray's, 10137 Buffalo Grove Rd, FW 76108. Phone is 817 246 7778.

*What goes around the world but stays in a corner?*

*(Answer: a stamp)*



## Last Month's Fun

by Ujjwal Lahoti

Last Month's speaker was Ken Murphy who gave a very informative talk on cislunar space, which is the volume of space between the Earth and the Moon's orbit. Although Ken's day job is that of a banker, his passion lies in astronomy and he is currently the President of the North Texas chapter of the National Space Society. The main purpose of Ken's talk was to describe the cislunar space and the moon and explain how increased understanding of these can improve space exploration.

Ken touched upon various subjects starting with the Low Earth Orbit, which spans 100-800 km of the cislunar space and is currently home to the international space station and is touted to be the future home of the fuel depot as well as a free flyer platform; Medium Earth Orbit, which is primarily used by the military; and the Geostationary orbit, which is also referred to as the Clarke orbit after Arthur C Clarke, and is home to communication satellites; Earth Moon Lagrange 1; orbital mechanics, etc. He also talked about why it is far easier to put something in space from the moon than it is from earth, considering its low Gravitational pull that would require less energy to launch satellites.



He concluded the talk by discussing the Moon's composition and origin in detail, as well as how it compares to Earth's make up. He also touched upon how the resources of the Moon can be mined in the future to meet the shortfalls on Earth.

The talk ended with a Q&A session and a spirited discussion on the possibility of humans residing on the moon. For more details you can visit Ken's lunar library at <http://www.outofthecradle.net/categories/lunar-library/>. Ken also had some "Real-looking fake" samples of rocks from the Moon, for the Mensans to observe.

## Correction to Last Month's EYM

by Ujjwal Lahoti

### Comments from Users:

I had a typo in my last month's column. Total for each row/col/diagonal for order "9" Magic Square is 369 instead of 378. Greg Baviera caught this typo. And he also provided a formula for it:  $n(n^2+1)/2$ . He also provided correct solution for the Magic Squares.

Rich Conrow provided another solution to the April EYM number puzzle: Divide 1000 dollars into piles in such a manner that you can combine these piles to total to any dollar value up to a thousand dollars. The solution he came up with: 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 31, 63, 125, 250, and 500.

## Newest Mensa 76 Members

Photo by Ujjwal Lahoti



*From Left to Right: Susan Ishii, Sean Hosley, Greg Duvall, and guest/husband of Susan - Tim Ishii*

### FUN FACT:

There are 1 million ants for every person in the world!

*...and apparently they all live in my backyard...*

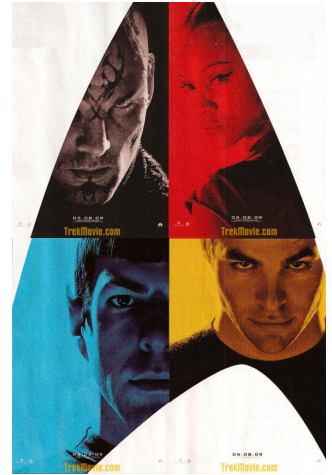
## Now That's Entertainment

by Shane Parkerson

In keeping with my desire to contribute my own little touch to the newsletter, I have decided that there is no better way to do this than to take some time discussing the things I enjoy in my spare time. I plan to use this section to discuss movies, music, books, and just about anything else I do that is fun. I also invite anyone else to contribute their enjoyable experiences with the rest of us by submitting it to me when they feel the need, [sasboo21\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:sasboo21(at)yahoo.com). This month I will be reviewing two of this Summer's blockbuster films; *Star Trek* and *Terminator: Salvation*.

### *Star Trek*

For someone who has seen most of the films of the previous *Star Trek* series, I can honestly say that I was not the least-bit disappointed with this "reboot" of the franchise. A combination of stunning special effects, riveting storylines, and solid performances creates a thoroughly enjoyable movie experience. The best thing about this film is its ability to please even those unfamiliar with the legacy of *Star Trek*. I would highly recommend this film to anyone and everyone. Go see it; you will not be disappointed.



### *Terminator: Salvation*

While I wish I could give the same amount of praise for the newest edition in the *Terminator* franchise; sadly, it is not the case. Anyone not familiar with the back stories established in the previous films will find themselves lost at times. As the credits rolled, I spent a considerable amount of time explaining the "whos" and "whys" of the film's plot to Mrs. Newsletter Editor and our friends. Also, although I am a fan of Christian Bale's work, I would have to say that the better performance was brought to the film by the relatively unknown Sam Worthington, as the man/machine Marcus Wright. While I can say that I enjoyed this film as a knowledgeable *Terminator* fan, the consensus amongst the group I attended with was that it confused and frustrated them more than it entertained.

Photo by Ujjwal Lahoti



## Mensa 76 Executive Committee 2009

### Voting Board of Directors, a.k.a. Executive Committee

Local Secretary	Dr. Dave Hodgson	940 626 4451	no email
Vice Loc Sec	Bill Melms	817 246 0743	tbil@yahoo.com
Scribe	Vicki Page	817 847 9840	wtxyellowrose@earthlink.net
Treasurer	Carlos Webb	817 346 3687	jolligirl57@sbcglobal.net
Member at Large	Hy Siegel	817 457 2665	hysiegel@hotmail.com
	Randy Farmer	817 460 3458	w8fn@tx.rr.com
	Ujjwal Lahoti	817 207 0693	ulahoti@yahoo.com

### Non Voting Appointed Positions or Volunteer Positions

Curmudgeon at large	Hy Siegel	817 457 2665	hysiegel@hotmail.com
Denton Area Coordinator	Dr. Dave Hodgson	940 626 4451	
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Gifted Children SIG2	OPEN		
Greeter 1	Leon Flusche	817 804 4238	leon.flusche@twc.state.tx.us
Greeter 2	OPEN		
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Webmaster	Bobby Bush	817 847 5365	anaax@charter.net

TIME VALUE

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## Directions to the Monthly Meeting

7:00 PM, the 2nd Monday of every month

We meet in the Hospitality Room at Coors on McMillan Parkway, just south of Meacham Blvd., one mile south of where NE Loop 820 meets I-35W.

**Southbound:** Exit I-35W at Meacham and go east (under the overpass). Take the first right, onto the new Mercantile Plaza Drive. Where it ends turn right, cross McMillan at the crossover, then turn into the Coors parking lot.

**Northbound:** Exit I-35W at Meacham and turn right at Coors.

**Come for free beer and coolers and non-alcoholic drinks, munchies (feel free to bring some, too), and lively fun - all at no charge!**  
**Feel free to bring a guest along.**