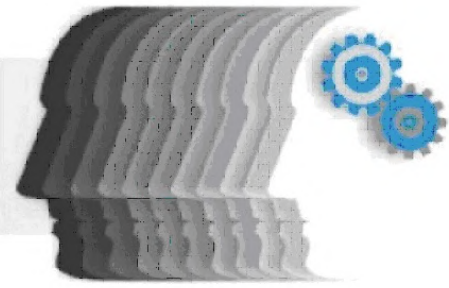


MInd





MInd
THE MENSA INDIA MAGAZINE



mensa

INDIA



THE MENSA INDIA MAGAZINE

Nov-Dec 2022

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In this issue:

Dear Mensans,

The cover photo is of a golden palm weaver by – Rupesh Sangoi from Mensa Mumbai.

In the MWJ section, winners of the photocup competition 2022 and the winning entries can be found.

Send in your articles and contributions in plain text format and pictures in high resolution .jpg format to: editor@mensaindia.org

Krishnan V. Iyer
Editor-in-chief, MInd

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On the cover:
Golden Palm Weaver clicked by
Mensa Mumbai member Rupesh
Sangoi

Disclaimer:
All contents in this magazine are opinions of the individual authors and contributors. Neither Mensa India, the society, its office bearers nor the editors are responsible for any content or views expressed.

Puzzles, Crossword & Quiz Corner

Solution to the previous issue's crossword

¹ Q	² U	I	³ N	T	⁴ E	T	⁵ T	E		⁶ A		⁷ A		⁸ M
	M		U		M		U		⁹ K	I	D	N	E	Y
¹⁰ O	B	S	C	U	R	A	N	T		R		T		S
	R		H		O		I		¹¹ A	S	S	I	S	T
¹² G	A	B	A	R	D	I	N	¹³ E		T		C		A
	E		E		S		¹⁴ G	N	A	R	L	I	N	G
¹⁵ S		¹⁶ Z		¹⁷ A		¹⁸ R		A		I		V		O
¹⁹ W	H	I	S	T	L	E	S	T	O	P	P	I	N	G
A		R		E		R		E		S		C		Y
²⁰ M	A	C	U	M	B	A	²¹ S		²² B		²³ E		²⁴ A	
P		O		P		²⁵ N	A	M	E	S	A	K	E	S
²⁶ L	O	N	D	O	N		R		H		G		A	
A		I		R		²⁷ T	E	R	A	F	L	O	P	S
²⁸ N	E	U	R	A	L		E		L		E		E	
D		M		L		²⁹ A	S	A	F	E	T	I	D	A

Writings & Meanderings

Harmony

Soft bells in the dark, like a mystic chime, take my heartbeats and make them rhyme, with the cosmic hum, pure, sublime, till I become one with eternal time.

Made of wool of many a kind in this rough rug, I suddenly find, a shahtoosh shawl, smooth and fine, glowing golden in the light divine.

The Truth I Am

My body, daughter of the earth, moves with the Earth. My mind is a whirling dervish, dancing a dance of ecstasy, faster and faster till an eddy forms and all escapes into nothingness, leaving me in a place beyond words, the body forgotten, the mind drained.

All is still and, in the calm, the universes silently expand in me, as All-That-Is becomes, all I can be.

Patterns

Learning to talk, learning to walk, the struggles of youth, then romance, followed by the mellowness of spiritual calm. First the dance of the body, then the prance of mind & heart and, finally, the warmth of the soul.

My Gods and demons churning away, past the problems, past the riches, till the nectar of immortality emerges. Sagar manthan, repeated in fractal patterns, again and again, on many canvases. The toil of life, the foil of love, and finally,.....finally, the magic elixir.

I tend the fields as the young grape starts in my vineyard, ripens, and then ends in my tavern, guided by the divine.

Writings & Meanderings

My Own Devil

Many an angel came calling when 'twas the Devil I went to meet. They tempted me with bribes of honey, and other things hard to beat. I told them, I wanted to meet the Devil, and I knew, who had made me had made the Devil, too.

They said "he is evil, he is bad, he'll make you like himself, impure." I asked if they'd met him themselves. and they said, "we have, for sure"

"Then you must know", said I, "That my devil's not the same as yours. Each one has a different devil, behind our names on these doors. Unless we meet our very own devil, we won't know who we are. That is why, my guardian angels, I must go that far."

And so I went on, to open the door with my name. There I found wealth & pomp, envy, shame, and fame. I kept looking half my life, for the Devil, all my own; till Wisdom came one day and said "he's only what you have sown."

At Midpoint

If I could touch a cobra's venom, and turn it into honey; if I could make a madman sane, or make death appear funny. If I could pat a hungry lion, and make it walk away, if I could make a blind man see, or make an atheist pray; and then, if this makes me happy, and others full of glee, I haven't reached near the end, there's a long way left for me.

For most things already are, as they ought to be. I can't write someone else's script, I can only see, and play my part, the best I can, in Act Two of three

Why?

I prefer to sit and drink with an old friend and recount my exploits while my lover waits on the other shore. I choose the familiar warmth of my body, the soft cooing of my mind, to what can be much more.

I mumble, and call it poetry, without thinking why. Then applauding wildly, pat myself on the back, so drunk am I. I stumble and think I dance like a ballerina. I prance and preen & look around, while inside me, echoes my lover's sigh.

*- Kishore Ashtana
President - Mensa Project Dhruv
Former President - Mensa India*

Pages From Mensa World Journal

From The ExComm



As one of the newest members of Mensa's International Executive Committee (I was appointed the proxy for American Mensa in May 2022), I'm taking this opportunity to reflect on what Mensa International means to me as a Mensa member.

Without the organisation I might have spent my entire life wondering what was wrong with me because I just didn't fit in. Without the organisation, I probably would never have met my husband or my vast array of friends. These friends include international friends met through SIGs (Special Interest Groups) and SIGHT (Service for Information, Guidance and Hospitality for Travellers) - both as a host and a guest – as well as at gatherings/events, and online during the pandemic.

Among my friends in American Mensa, many have enjoyed international events such as the European Mensa Annual Gathering, the Asia-Pacific Mensa Gathering, Silvensa, and other events around the world. American Mensa members participate in and/or host International SIGs and meet new friends through SIGHT.

Mensa on all levels (local, national, and international) is a volunteer-run organisation. While some National Mensas have paid employees (including American Mensa), most of the work is done by volunteers. I, as well as most of my friends, volunteer for the organisation in myriad ways. We do what we can to ensure that Mensa remains relevant and successful.

An ongoing need for most Mensa groups is the recruitment and retention of volunteers, including succession planning. One issue that I have personally seen is showing recognition and appreciation to our volunteers. The recognition that I appreciate most is when a member expresses their appreciation directly to me. A simple "Thank you for all you do" gives me a warm feeling. In turn, I make a conscious effort to thank volunteers whenever I can; in many situations volunteering is a thankless and under-valued job. While it is nice to be thanked by members, it is also important that the organisation continue to show its appreciation to volunteers through various means, including awards and other public recognition such as through publications.

Over the past year, an American Mensa Task Force researched the topic of volunteerism in and outside of American Mensa. The resulting report covers topics such as common problems, demographics, volunteer recruitment, general volunteer care and retention, volunteer management, and mistreatment of volunteers. After 38 pages of in-depth research and summaries, you will find more than 100 recommendations that can be implemented at both national and local levels. A PDF file of the report is available in the Mensa News section of the Mensa International Workplace. See the comments in the June 25, 2022 post by AML Communications Officer Robin Crawford who chaired that Task Force.

Since becoming a member of the International ExComm, I have attended two ExComm meetings via Zoom. During the pandemic, I participated in the virtual 2020 and 2021 International Board of Directors meetings. As I write this in August, I am looking forward to the October in-person meetings of both the ExComm and the IBD in Montenegro.

Pages From Mensa World Journal

It's never too early to begin planning for next year. American Mensa invites the global community of Mensa International to visit us in 2023. Our Annual Gathering will be held in July 2023 in Baltimore, Maryland – it's a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. In October 2023, the International Board of Directors is scheduled to meet in Dallas, Texas, and we are planning some fun and interesting events in conjunction with the meeting.

Lori Norris
Vice-Chair of American Mensa

What's In The MJW This Month

- on p3, Lori Norris, one of your ExComm members, shares with us what International Mensa means to her as a member.
- the Direct International Members' winning entries in the Photocup 2022 competition are brought to you by Therese Moodie-Bloom on pp4-5
- on p6, recent scientific research shows how threatening sights, sounds and smells transmit into a single message: be afraid.
 - the youngest member from Croatia, Emil Missoni, is profiled on p7.
- did you suffer from "temporal disintegration" during the Pandemic? Find out more - as well as reading two poems from the 2021 International Poetry competition - on p8.
- New links between musical training and cognitive ability have been found - read more on p9.
- Supplementally is on p11, the Officer Directory is on p11, and Therese's Teasers are on p12.

Happy reading!
Kate
Editor, Mensa World Journal

Read /download the full-colour MWJ at www.mensa.org

Kate Nacard, Editor

Pages From Mensa World Journal

Photocup 2022: What happens to the DIMs' entries?

Many countries hold a national Photocup Competition each year as a segment of the search for the Mensa International Photographer of the Year, and their results are published in the national magazines. But what happens to Direct International Mensa members (DIMs), or those from countries which do not hold an annual competition?

These members send their entries to the Photocup coordinator, and these entries are treated as if the DIMs make up a separate country. For the past three years this section has been judged by an Australian photo-journalist, Dale Wahren. This year, due to the large number of Direct entries (over 70, from Slovakia, Slovenia, India, Japan, Malaysia, Brazil, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Bosnia and Herzegovina), we have extended the DIMs judging panel to include Charles Couste from France, and Ranko and Vuk Rajovic from Serbia. (Dr Ranko Rajovic founded the competition in 2006.)

Wahren assesses the entries on artistic merit, technical ability and composition. Your photo should elicit some kind of emotional response from the viewer. The subject matter, as long as it fits within the chosen theme, is not so important. For example, a photograph of zebras, or unusual Himalayan flora, won't necessarily trump your neighbour's plain brown horse, or your own garden flowers. Wahren looks beyond the subject. The technical ability with which you take the photograph, and the talent displayed by your composition will trump the unusualness of the subject. The composition of your photograph could reveal everyday subjects in a new and unexpected light.

This year's winning Direct International Member entry in the 2022 Photocup competition is Cuban Emerald by Peter Radvani, Slovakia.

Therese Moodie-Bloom

Pages From Mensa World Journal

From The ExComm

From the Director of Administration, Isabella Holz



Dear all,

Twelve months ago, my preparations for the IBD meeting included the purchase of 90 kg of Christmas treats and assembling 50 gift boxes to thank the IBD members for their work during two COVID years without in-person meetings. I was quite nervous when tracking their journey all over the world, expecting to lose a few of them, but in the end I was very impressed when all boxes arrived at their destination, only one not in time for the meeting.

This year - writing this text just a few days before leaving for the IBD meeting - I am very happy I can pack my suitcase again (including a considerably smaller box of sweets :-)) and am looking forward to meeting the team in Montenegro - and I hope all our delegates and participants have a smooth and safe trip to Budva.

Welcome Letter

One of the items in my suitcase is an ad for our new welcome letter introducing the global Mensaverse. If you have just joined Mensa or are not familiar with the international part of our society check out bit.ly/MI welcome to learn more about our global reach, international SIGs and other online activities, our media channels and democratic procedures. Discover our thriving global community of approximately 145,000 members in about 90 countries whose ages range from 2 to 102. If you are an avid traveller you can also access our international event calendar and SIGHT programme on the website.

To stay up to date with the latest news, subscribe to our international newsletter by registering on mensa.org! You can also access our newsletter archive on bit.ly/MI_NL, e.g., to read a summary of the IBD meeting in the November issue. The welcome letter will also be updated regularly, of course, but does not cover such a level of details.

New members and IQ tests

I also pack my suitcase with country statistic charts - it was great to see lots of positive post-Covid developments (while 2022 still being quite a challenging year) for both members and people interested in joining Mensa. Well done to all the volunteers involved!

47% of the national groups achieved a growth in membership - in total a growth of over 6% compared to 2021. 41 countries have conducted over 2,324 IQ tests with 23,000 participants in 12 months. This is quite impressive bearing in mind that the reporting period covers Summer 2021 to Summer 2022. With 720 people from 35 different countries, the European Mensas Annual Gathering in Strasbourg, France, has set a new EMAG attendance record this August. The IBD Meeting in Montenegro had 198 participants.

IBD meeting report

In the next issue of the MWJ you will find a report about the IBD meeting and the results of our discussions. As usual, you can find the full agenda, country and officer reports and

Pages From Mensa World Journal

meeting minutes on <https://bit.ly/IBDdocs> (login required).

For volunteers, the country reports in the agenda are also a great chance to read best-practice guidance from other countries about:

- attracting, engaging and retaining members
- managing volunteers
- PR & marketing

The reports also include key contacts such as the national SIGHT coordinator, the marketing/PR officer or the Treasurer in case you want to reach out.

Our new volunteers

Thanks to 85 applicants from 30 countries for their time and effort! Our society could not function without your commitment and dedication. With the end of the IBD meeting, our new appointments take effect and by the time you read this text, their onboarding will be completed. By then, you should already have seen some contributions from our new team for internal communications.

I am quite excited to introduce our news team and improve our communication channels - not only the messages from our international officers to members but also increasing the interactions between our members, volunteers and the outreach from National Mensas to the global membership.

Floreat Mensa!

Isabella Holz
admin-mil@mensa.org

What's In The MWJ This Month?

- this month's issue brings you 15 pages rather than the usual 12. This is to accommodate the results of the Mensa International Poetry competition, 2022, and the Mensa International Photocup competition, 2022.
- the Poetry results are on pp4-5, and the Photocup results are on pp6-7.
- on p2, recent research looks at a potential way to tune the brain into learning mode, while on p3, our Director of Administration, Isabella Holz, brings us information on the global Mensaverse, statistics on new members and IQ tests globally, and thanks to volunteers worldwide.
- on p8, HK Mensan Michael Lai outlines HSP, possibly an up and coming social movement.
- on p9 is our Member Profile, and on p10 are the 2nd and 3rd place-winners in the 2022 Poetry competition.
- Learning and Remembering: the latest research is on p11.
- Supplementally is on p12, the Officer Directory is on p13, news of the upcoming MY-NY is on p14, and Therese's Teasers are on p15.

Happy reading,
Kate

Kate Nacard, Editor

Read /download the full-colour MWJ at www.mensa.org

Reprinted from the Mensa World Journal, December, 2022, issue 119, Editor Kate Nacard.

Pages From Mensa World Journal

International Poetry Competition 2022

I am delighted to report that the Mensa World Journal International Poetry Competition 2022 has again been an outstanding success! Congratulations to all members for their fine entries!

The theme this year was Nature - as was the International Photocup Competition's. Entries came from more than eighteen countries and all entries were graded and processed into a shortlist of seventeen by the original judging team of Mensan Therese Moodie-Bloom, publishing company executive Cassandra McLeod, Mensan and businessman Peter Tankard, and me, Kate Nacard. Many long hours were spent in processing the shortlist for the International Judging Panel. Thank you to everyone for your not inconsiderable time and effort!

The International Judging Panel who were asked to rank the top three of the shortlist of thirty were unanimous in their selection (read one of the judge's comment on p5). The 2nd and 3rd place-winners' poems are on p10.

1st place: Helen Ferguson (UK)

2nd place: Lorie Calkins (USA)

3rd place: Stephen Kent Roney (Canada)



and the winner,
Helen Ferguson

A curious mind and a love of logic puzzles led Helen to Mensa, and in 2018 she joined us. She enjoys the diverse articles in the Mensa World Journal and the brain teasers in her regional newsletter.

Originally a Falkirk 'Bairn', Helen studied Zoology at the University of Aberdeen. She now lives in Edinburgh, where she works in a veterinary referral hospital.

Helen is also a keen athlete - she swims daily and is often found running in Edinburgh's Pentland Hills. Poetry and creative writing have been lifelong interests, along with photography, painting and ceramic art, and she is slowly writing her first novel.

Thousands of seabirds, including northern gannets, live on the coastal cliffs and islands around Scotland, and Helen was inspired to write *The Gannet* after observing these seabird colonies during one of many days spent exploring Scotland's beautiful coastline.

Pages From Mensa World Journal

The Gannet

My feet.
Webbed. Clawed.
Cling to the rock face.
My eyes watch the horizon.
The deafening cries of my flock.
We squabble. We screech. We stink.
We are a wall of dirty white.
Beaks. Feathers. Guano.
I launch my muscular body from the cliff
And join my colony in the sky.
The ocean roars beneath me.
Wings wide, I beat the air.
The rock I call home shrinks behind me.
Wings tucked, I dive.
Like a missile I drop from the sky
Piercing the surface of the water.
The ocean swallows me.
I plummet. I plunge. I plunder.
Shoals dart by
Silver flecks of panic.
With stealth I fill my beak.
Scales. Flesh. Bones.
Fins tickle my throat.
I swim.
Up. Up. Up.
The sky draws closer.
I break the surface.
Join my gannetry.
Gulp
The salty air.

The Competition to find the Mensa International Photographer of the Year 2022

A resounding success again this year, there were nearly 1,000 entries from around the Mensa world! There were entries from countries including Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, India, Japan, Mexico, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, South Africa, Switzerland, and The United States of America.

Many thanks for their time and effort in judging the competition this year go to the International Panel of Judges: Vuk and Ranko Rajovic (Serbia), Mark Burgin (Australia),

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Charles Couste (France), and Björn Liljeqvist (Sweden).
Congratulations to the winners!

1st place: Peter Radvani (Slovakia) with Cuban Emerald
2nd place: Hanco de Neef (The Netherlands) with Pelican Dance
3rd place: Sasa Malezic (Serbia) with Passing By
4th place: Gilles Arbour (Canada) with Syrphidae
5th place: Ramon Carretera (Spain) with The Last Moment
(equal) 5th place: Matthieu Rivart (South Africa) with Northern Lights

Congratulations to Peter Radvani on being both the Mensa International Photographer of the Year 2022 and the Direct International Members Photographer of the Year 2022!

Peter is 36 years old and became interested in photography when he married.

He began by taking photos of people and then moved onto newborn baby and wedding photography - which is his profession at the moment.

He worked for many months in Venezuela and Cuba and developed a love for detailed wildlife photography. Peter has been a member of Mensa since 2016 and has two children, both boys, four and six years old.

Therese Moodie-Bloom



1st place - Cuban Emerald

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2nd place - Pelican Dance



3rd place - Passing By



4th place - Syrphidae



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