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# DSA Newscast

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The official newsletter of the Dozenal Society of America

16 October 1201

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## ANNUAL MEETING, 1201

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*The Dozenal Society of America is a voluntary, nonprofit educational corporation, organized for the conduct of research and education of the public in the use of dozenal (also called duodecimal or base twelve) in calculations, mathematics, weights and measures, and other branches of pure and applied science.*

**L**AST ISSUE, WE PROMISED a dozenal thermometer; however, that will wait until November. Instead, we cover our annual meeting, held last weekend in Atlanta!

We had a great meeting. Beginning in the morning, we spent about two hours simply socializing and catching up with one another. The addition of two new members and their families was a great bonus for this.

We then proceeded through our board and membership meetings. After recognizing the great contributions of our former secretary, Jen Seron (#372), and noting that pressing personal business had for the last two years prevented her from acting in that capacity, we nominated Michael deVlieger (#378) to fill that position. He was approved by acclamation.

We also noted that the Board of Directors Class of 1203 included John Earnest (#250), who has long been a stalwart of the Society, but who has expressed his interest in being relieved of his position when a suitable replacement could be found. As such, August Ewert-Harpold (#556) was nominated, seconded, and approved by acclamation.

We received a report from president Donald Goodman (#398), indicating that the Society is in excellent health. He updated the membership on the status of the website and on the large number of our new members (over six dozen this year alone).

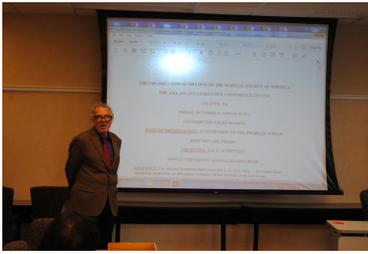
We further received a report from treasurer Jay Schiffman (#278), indicating again that the Society's finances are in good shape, though of course some additional cash flow from donations is always desirable.

Finally, we were able to proceed with the presentations, each of which was fascinating. August Ewert-Harpold (#556) presented her science project on Napier's bones, which won third place in the state of Florida this year. Ms. Ewert-Harpold built an entire set of dozenal Napier's bones, and demonstrated how to use them for some quite complicated arithmetic, including the extraction of square and cube roots. She was also able to show that, in dozenal, Napier's bones are at once more compact and more efficient than in decimal. Below, Ms. Ewert-Harpold demonstrates her set of Napier's bones with a practical problem.



*Click for Full-size Image*

Prof. Jay Schiffman (#278) presented a talk on "Which Repunits are Prime?" Expanding on some research that he and Gene Zirkel (#67) had done some dozen years ago, Jay explored repunits (repeating series of digits, such as 1, 11, 111, and so forth) in all bases from 1 to 100, to determine which were prime. This revealed some interesting properties and foundations for future work.



Click for Full-size Image

John Volan (#418) presented “Dozenal English,” an exploration of some of the many ways of speaking in dozens in the English language that have been proposed throughout the years, including presenting a system which he himself prefers. (Unfortunately, none of my photographs of this talk turned out decently; sorry, John! Rest

assured that, despite not being able to see a riveting still-frame of the presentation, it was very interesting.)

Michael deVlieger (#37ε) presented a fun, brief talk on anomalous cancellation, by which transparently incorrect cancellation of digits in fractions paradoxically yields the correctly reduced answer. E.g.,  $1ε/ε6$ , when the elevens are arbitrarily “cancelled,” becomes decimal  $\frac{1}{6}$ , which is in fact the correct reduction of the original. It was noted that this procedure rarely works, but that when it does, it can provide an interesting way to present proper fraction reduction to young students, and how important it is to follow the *correct* procedure, not just an easy one.



Click for Full-size Image

We then retired to a nearby Italian restaurant and enjoyed dinner together. All in all, it was a very productive meeting, providing great socialization, food for thought, and furtherance of the cause of dozenals. We hope more members will be able to join us next year!

## DOZENAL NEWS

### NEW CALENDARS RELEASED

It being that time of year again, we’ve released the new dozenal calendars for 1202 (decimal year 2018).

The first (the “wall calendar”) is a great conversation piece, to be hung for display (and, of course, for keeping track of dates). We’ve made it a bit cheaper this year by binding it with staples rather than a coil.

<https://www.lulu.com/shop/donald-goodman-dozenal-wall-calendar-1202/paperback/product-23377112.html>

The second (the “planning calendar”) is a thick, traditional

date-keeping book, containing a display of the prior, current, and following year; a section with each month displayed as a whole; and finally the bulk of the book, weekly displays (each week displayed on a two-page spread). Perfect for practical appointment- and date-keeping use.

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/donald-goodman-dozenal-planning-calendar-1202/paperback/product-23377133.html>

We offer these at cost, to make them as widely available as possible. Whether you like to use them practically, or just as a way to talk to people about dozenals, they’re a great investment for the coming year.

## SOCIETY BUSINESS

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As mentioned earlier, the DSA is an all-volunteer organization, and we pay no salaries. As a result, everything that we do comes out of the spare time of our members, time that they have to take away from their

families, jobs, or other obligations.

We all love dozenals and enjoy assisting the Society in educating people about them; however, as the Society expands and does more, we find ourselves in need of more help.

Fortunately, the Society has a large membership with a very broad range of pro-

fessions and experience. If you think you can spare any time or effort for the cause of educating the world about dozenals, please let us know:

[contact@dozenal.org](mailto:contact@dozenal.org)

You can help as much or as little as you’d like. Thank you.

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## POETICAL DIVERSION

### WE FEW, WE HAPPY FEW

He that shall see this day, and live old age,  
will yearly on the eve feast all he knows,  
and say, "Tomorrow is the day of Twelve."  
Then he will count his finger's segments, twelve,  
and say, "This day I learned to count aright."  
Old men forget; but this won't be forgot,  
that Twelve bears with it all advantages,  
and help'd us do such feats! Then shall our names  
familiar in his mouth as household words—  
Henry the Churchman, Beard, and Andrews, too,  
Terry and Seelbach, Zirkel and Pendlebury—  
be in their flowing cups freshly rememb' red.  
This story parents shall their children teach,  
and never will this day of Twelve go by,  
from this day to the ending of the world,  
but we in it shall be rememberèd.  
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;  
for he to-day that fights for Twelve with me  
shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile  
to now divide a thing by loathsome five.  
And all those decimal soldiers who have push'd  
that hateful Ten upon us shall be sham'd,  
and hang their heads in sorrow while our Twelve  
takes up its place, at mathematics' head!

## DONATIONS

Members, please remember that while dues are no longer required for membership, we still rely on the generosity of members to keep the DSA going. Donations of any amount, large or small, are welcome and needed.

A donation of \$16; (\$18.) will procure Subscription membership, and entitles the payer to receive both a digital and a paper copy of the *Bulletin* if requested. Other members will receive only a digital copy. To invoke this privilege, please notify the Editor of the Bulletin, John Volan, at [editor@dozenal.org](mailto:editor@dozenal.org)

As members know, we are a volunteer organization which pays no salaries. As such, every penny you donate goes toward furthering the DSA's goals.

It may be worth considering a monthly donation; say, \$3, or \$6, or whatever seems reasonable to you. This can be set up quite easily with Paypal, which is available at our web site.

Of course, if you prefer to donate by check, you may send them to our worthy Treasurer, Jay Schiffman, payable to the Dozenal Society of America, at:

Jay Schiffman  
604-36 South Washington  
Square, #815  
Philadelphia, PA 19106-4115

Remember, too, that the DSA is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization; as such, your contributions may be tax deductible under applicable law.

Thanks again for your assistance; it's your donations that keep the DSA going. We can't keep doing it without you.

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## FOR SALE

The DSA is pleased to offer the following for sale. These are all either at cost, or the proceeds go to the Society.

Item	Price (\$)
Dozenal Wall Calendar, 1202	9.05
Dozenal Planning Calendar, 1202	8.32
TGM: A Coherent Dozenal Metrology	8.00
Manual of the Dozenal System	3.46
A Dozenal Primer	4.50

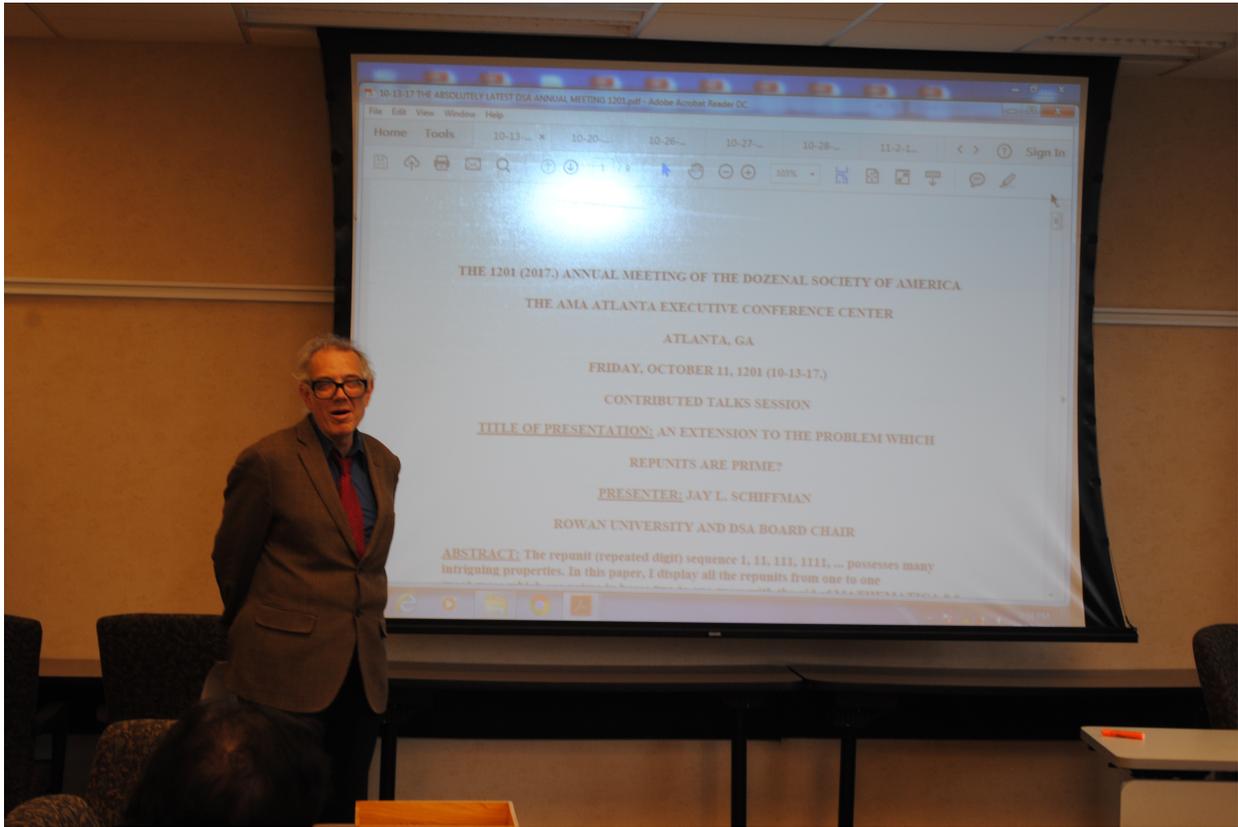
Prices are, unfortunately but by necessity, in decimal. If for some reason the links above do not work, simply go to: <http://www.lulu.com/shop/shop.ep>

and enter the appropriate terms. E.g., searching for “TGM dozenal” will turn up the TGM book.

We hope to offer other titles, and even some other items (such as dozenal clocks and the like), in the future.

EACH ONE, TEACH ONE





*Click to return*



*[Click to return](#)*