DECEMBER 2010

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 443



HEAD-LINE NO. 443 DECEMBER 2010

MID-MICHIGAN MENSA

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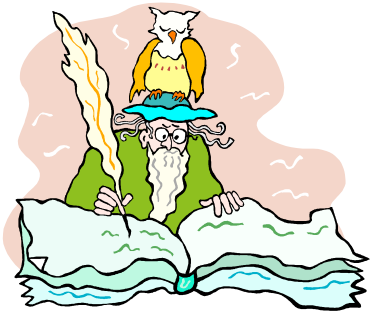
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Head-Line and Calendar items are due by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Camera ready contributions are appreciated, but not necessary. Calendar entries may be emailed, telephoned, or snail-mailed to the Calendar/TGIF Coord. Permission is granted to reprint material from the Head-Line in any Mensa publication, with appropriate credit, unless the material is copyrighted.

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WENDY'S WORLD

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. I did. Now I'm ready to finish my Christmas shopping, get the gifts wrapped, get the Christmas cards mailed, do some Christmas baking, and enjoy the season.

Long time member, previous Loc Sec, and present Proctor, Eileen Hatt is recuperating from surgery. She is staying at the Medical Care Facility and Rehabilitation Services of Ingham County on Dobie Road while she recuperates. She is ready for visitors. So stop by to say Hi and stay for a short visit.

I'm leaving the end of November for a 4 day Anesthesia meeting in Disney World. I return on December 2. We will have to listen to lectures from 7:00 AM till about 1:00 PM. Isn't that a bit much? However, we will than have the rest of the day to play at Disney World. I intend to play a lot. I also plan on doing some Christmas shopping. Hope I find some things.

Well, I'm finally retired. I've been going back and forth for awhile now between working and retiring, but finally decided, I was tired of working. The thought of getting to work by 7:00 AM and possibly having to take call (in-house) plus do OB was more than I could take. I will still do some locum tenans job--like a rent a nurse--if any come up.

I wish you all Happy Holidays, which ever you celebrate: Christmas, Chanukah, or Kwanza. So Happy Holidays to all and to all a good night.

See you next year.





Frankly Speaking

by Frank Dolinar, LocSec

It's near Thanksgiving as I write this, late as usual and depending – yet again – on Wendy's patience to get this month's message to all of you.

Our fund raiser was a modest success, with money generated for the Scholarship Fund, if not yet enough to offer a scholarship. Regardless, it was an achievement to be thankful for.

As we move into this year's holiday season, we all have reasons large and small to celebrate, as well as opportunities to share our joys and our sorrows.

One of my very small disappointments came from attending this year's model train show at the MSU Pavilion in mid-November. I was hoping that this would be the year I finally reverted to a childhood joy of acquiring a model train to set up at Christmas. But, I had to deal with sticker shock and – regretfully – postponed the anticipated purchase.

I'm looking forward to the annual Mensa Christmas dinner and its immediate follow-on, the unpredictable and always entertaining White Elephant gift exchange. I already have my "gift" selected. It will be interesting to see how many times it changes hands and what emotional state accompanies it home with its "recipient".

We hope for a good result. It doesn't always happen that way.

The search for a good result brings me back to considerations of the spirit of the season. What is it? Almost everyone will offer a different description. For me, it is a hope for understanding at every level of discourse, rather than endless disagreement.

Therefore, my wish for you at the holidays and into the future is that you all can celebrate your joys, share your sorrows, and listen to each other with understanding.

It's your Mensa.

Be Part of it.

reMARK, October, 2010

Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3

Writing *reMARK* is really hard right now. It's the end of October and since September's end I have been in the hospital, in rehab, or stuck at home following my knee replacement surgery. Feels like a lost month. Since joining Mensa in 1982, I don't think there has been a month sans Mensa events for me. This is it! I hope it is the last. I did sneak out for a local dinner and it was wonderful – made me realize how much Mensa means to me. Being involved in Mensa activities is fun, intellectually stimulating and challenging, and enjoyable. If you aren't taking advantage of those Mensa events in your local group area, I do encourage you to do so now. And, remember that you are welcome at Mensa events everywhere. When traveling be sure to check out activities happening in the local group of wherever you might be.

The American Mensa Committee met in Arlington, Texas, the weekend of November 12th. Because of deadlines, my report will be in January's *reMARK*, however, I will post the happenings to both the Region 3 Yahoo and Facebook groups as soon after the meeting as I can. Please join one or both of those groups so that you can keep up with what's happening on the National front. If you prefer, I would be happy to send what I post to you in a personal e-mail. Just let me know.

I am really looking forward to Cincinnati's Regional Gathering December 3-5 and hope to see you there. If you didn't pre-register, walk-ins are always welcome; the program and attendees are always the very best. It's the last Region 3 RG of 2010. The next one will be Dayton's 24 Karats! April 1-3, 2011. Information about this great RG can be found at http://www.region3.us.mensa.org/connections/events/AnnualEvents/RG-Dayton.htm. It will be fabulous and your presence will make it even better. Following that will be Southeast Michigan Mensa's SEMMantics XXXII, April 29-May 1, 2011. I would be delighted to take your registration -- $65 till January 31.

In January on my way to Florida, as I did this year, I hope to join Kentuckiana Mensa at their monthly gathering and to have dinner with Bluegrass Mensa the following evening.

I wish you a wonderful holiday season and a safe beginning of winter. And, let me be the first to wish you a Happy New Year. May it be healthy, prosperous and wonderful in every way for each and every one of you.

LLAP and Peace.

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2010
Wendy Carnegie, Scribe

PRESENT: Frank Dolinar, Elizabeth Evangelista, and Wendy Carnegie. ABSENT: George Harris, John Lorenz, and Eileen Hatt (Have a quick recovery Eileen.).

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes of the meeting of October 8, 2010 as printed.

OLD BUSINESS

PROGRAM: Frank Dolinar reported that we will need at least 10 people participating for us to have a tour of the cyclotron unit. Elizabeth and Frank will discuss this further and Elizabeth will schedule it when they agree. Also, Elizabeth has tentatively scheduled a presentation by a German prisoner of war held in America for January 28, 2011 instead of March.

NEW BUSINESS

ROOM FOR SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS: Frank reported that while he was researching something else, he found out that the Hannah Center in East Lansing has a room that will hold 20 to 30 people that they will rent out for $25 per hour. Hannah Center will set up the room with what ever we need; wi-fi, projector, etc. They will also advertise it on their calendar. This may bring some non-members to join us. To cover the cost, Frank suggested we charge $3 for members and $5 for non-members. It was agreed to give this a try. Elizabeth will schedule a presentation there soon.

HOLIDAY PARTY: Frank suggested that we specifically invite the new members from the last 3 months to attend the Holiday Party. We would send an invitation to them signed by the Loc Sec, Frank, and the Membership Chair, Wendy.

LIT SIG: The next Lit Sig will be at Pat Thuemmel's on December 5 at 2:00 PM. 1604 Barritt St., Lansing. 372-0057.



The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 PM.

Monthly Puzzle

Bob Henderson

If the counting numbers could be listed in alphabetical order, what is the first odd number that would appear in an English dictionary? It's surprisingly large.

Note that numbers are in base 10 as usual, and they must be spelled-out as they would be spoken, e.g. fifty-five comes before five, which comes before forty-five. Note that a number is odd only if its last digit is 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9, and not just because you think it looks peculiar!

Answer below.

THE 2010 HOLIDAY PARTY

We will be celebrating the Holidays on Sat. Dec.18 with our annual gala Holiday Party. It will be at the home of Elizabeth Evangelista, 5275 East Hidden Lake Drive, East Lansing. This is a sit-down dinner, and we will gather at about 4 PM and eat at about 5 PM.

Turkey, ham, potatoes and beverages will be provided; please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

After dinner we will have a exchange. This is really a exchange per se, and is laughs. The gifts can be expensive, and should have that you don't want, but (the cornier, the better).



White Elephant gift game rather, than a gift usually good for a lot of used or new, should not be definitely be something you somebody else *might* want They should be wrapped.

Please join us for a fun time.

The correct answer for the first odd number is:

Eight billion, eighteen million, eighteen thouthousand, eight hundred eighty five.

8,018,018885

THE FIRST CHANUKAH

By Uncle John

It was thousands of years ago that the eight Chanukah candles were first lit. Most people think of the sacking of the Temple and the miracle of the one-day supply of oil lasting eight days when they discuss the tradition associated with the lighting of the candles. Thus, the eight lights on the Menorah and the eight-day holiday. But that is not the truth. The following is the true account of the first recorded lighting of the candles.

It was back around the beginning of the first millennium. Our hero, Abraham Samuel Ginsberg was a nice Jewish boy. He had been raised in a kosher home. No traif was ever allowed to pass by the Mezuzah proudly hung on his family's front door. But Sammy wasn't happy. Oh, he was proud to be Jewish. He was also proud of his heritage. But he longed to sample some forbidden fruit. And that fruit was owned by a young shiksa named Mary Catherine Johnson.

Mary was obviously not of Sam's faith. She was of the Christian religion. Which sect or branch is not important, what is important is that Mary definitely wasn't kosher but Sammy wanted her in the worst way.

Sammy met Mary Catherine while they were both drawing water from the community well in the dusty marketplace in the central part of the city where they both lived. Sammy was 14. Already a man (he had been Barmitzvad). And Mary Catherine was a shy girl of 15 and already a woman (she had three older brothers). It was love at first sight, at least in Sam's eyes. He was smitten by this raven-haired shiksa with the sparkling eyes, shapely body (as well as could be imagined under yards and yards of desert robes) and the faint smell of camel dung that permeated her ever presence. He instantly knew that he had to have this woman for his very own. But how!

Sammy thought long and hard. He knew that Mary went to the well every day but that was all he really knew about her daily movements. He had to find out more about her so that he could conquer this desert flower. He started following her. He always kept a discrete distance behind her when she went home after drawing her daily allotment of water. He watched as she gathered dates and bananas from the palms. He watched her every movement. Finally, one day in December, his opportunity arose.

Mary Catherine had finished her daily chores and was sunning herself atop the great wall that surrounded their city. She had opened her robes so that her body could absorb more of the warmth of the suns rays. Sam

peeped, in awe at her great beauty. He had never seen a woman's undraped body before. He wanted Mary Catherine for his own.

He watched her climb down from the great wall and stand by its base. He casually walked over to this beauty that soon would be his and tried to strike up a conversation. "Read any good tablets lately?" was his opening remark. Then he thought, "what a fool I am. She is from a desert tribe that cannot read or write. Of course she hasn't read anything lately." Then he used an original line that he had oft heard used by his Uncle Moishe. "What's a nice girl like you doing leaning on a wall like this?" He followed it up with another question, "You come here often?" Mary smiled at him revealing pearly white teeth. Sammy nearly fainted when she parted her full ruby red lips to speak.

Before she could utter a word in reply a trumpet blast sounded. Sam knew that his buddy Josh was practicing again. Josh always stood by the wall and blew his horn. But this time Sam heard another sound. He heard the wall start to crack. Joshua's lamb ram sheep-horn had started to blow and Jericho's walls were tumbling down. Sam quickly grabbed Mary and huddled over her as the wall fell around them.

When the dust had settled Sam and Mary slowly looked around their prison. They were unhurt but surrounded by tons of rubble. Miraculously the wall had fallen all around them and made a cave like haven for them. They were alive and unhurt.

Mary looked at Sam and gently said, "Thank you for saving my life. I would like to reward you." Then she kissed him. One kiss led to another and then another. Sam was ecstatic. Here he was entombed with the girl of his dreams and she was kissing him. Soon after that first kiss Sammy forgot about the faint smell of camel dung and he really became a man.

That's not the end of the story. They were together for eight days until the town's people finally dug them out. By that time Sammy had fulfilled his fantasy concerning Mary Catherine many times over. They were safe and unhurt, although both were very tired and hungry. Sam knew that because of their religious differences that the two of them had been fortunate to be together for those eight days but that the future held nothing for them.

They never saw each other again but Sam never forgot Mary. Each year in December he would light eight candles as a remembrance to his eight-day entombment and the miracle of Mary Catherine. His descendants never knew why he lit the candles but they liked the tradition. Today's Jewish people continue to light eight candles in December. They think it is to celebrate some holiday regarding the sacking of a great Temple. But now we know the real truth.

Mid-Michigan Mensa Membership

Wendy Carnegie

December 2010

154 Members

MENSAversaries

33 Years Dean Nicolai
17 Years Sharon Plavnick
16 Years Mary Grzybowski
10 Years Timothy Howard
9 Years Jonathan Lelito
6 Years Richard Hobria
2 Years James Glessner
20 Years Diane Brush
12 Years Richard Daniel
12 Years Marc Daniels
10 Years Doug Nyberg
6 Years Clyde Creque
2 Years Edgar Bonifield

MENSA Birthdays

05 Wendy Carnegie
09 Brandi Hodor
15 Carole Eberly
18 Matthew Larsen
06 Brian McGrain
11 Charles Walton
18 Frederick Bies

New Members

Welcome
Albert Hur--East Lansing

Renewing / Reinstating Members

Welcome Back
Danalisa Radu

Moving In

Welcome

Deborah Frank from Farmington,MI
Mary Grzybowski from Farmington Hill, MI
Maria Koutsoukos from Minneapolis, MN
Charles Walton from Los Gatos, CA



Food For Thought

By Barb Ford

It seems as if we are always looking for an interesting new dish to fix for that wonderful parade of holiday visitors that come into our homes this time of year. I like to have something quick and easy to prepare that keeps for days and is effortless to transport to a friend's home for a spur of the moment invitation. As impossible as this might sound; I think I might have stumbled on a solution. This season, I have created a recipe for a tasty cheese spread. It is a mildly spicy alternative to the traditional cheese ball and everyone is sure to enjoy this new treat. My pimiento cheese recipe was so well received I twisted that concept a bit and came up with this one. Hopefully, it will become a go-to recipe that you can make year round. Make extra, because it will disappear quickly! I hope you enjoy it, and Happy Holidays!

BARB'S HOLIDAY CHEESE SPREAD

Ingredients:



8 Ounces cream cheese, softened

¼ t Onion powder

½ C Real mayonnaise

½ C Bottled picante sauce, medium or hot

3 ½ C Grated extra sharp white cheddar cheese

2 T Grated Parmesan cheese

Directions:

In a medium sized bowl, combine the cream cheese, onion powder and mayo. Stir until smooth. Add the picante sauce. Fold in the grated cheddar and parmesan cheeses until the mixture is uniform. Chill for a few hours before serving

Number Trivia

BY CHIAM GREENBERG

1. What is the distance between first base and home on a standard major league baseball diamond?

2. What is the weight of weakling who gets sand kicked in his face before he takes the Charles Atlas course?

3. What was the number on Henry Ford's racing car?

4. What is the registration number on TV's Startrek's U.S.S. Enterprise?

5. What was the registration number on Amelia Earhart's lost Lockheed Electra?

6. How many zeros are in a decillion?

7. How many years did Sleeping Beauty sleep?



Number Trivia Answers

1. 90 feet.
2. 97 pounds.
3. 999.
4. NCC-1701
5. NR 16056
6. 33 zeros.
7. 100 years.

The Washington Post's Mensa Invitational

The Washington Post's Mensa Invitational once again invited readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition.

Here are the winners:

1. Cashtration (n): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period of time.
2. Ignoranus: A person who's both stupid and an asshole.
3. Intaxication: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.
4. Reintarnation: Coming back to life as a hillbilly.
5. Bozone (n): The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.
6. Forploy: Any misrepresentation about yourself for the purpose of getting laid.
7. Giraffiti: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.
8. Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.
9. Inoculatte: To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.
10. Osteopornosis: A degenerate disease. (This one got extra credit.)
11. Karmageddon: It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.
12. Decafalon (n): The grueling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.
13. Glibido: All talk and no action.
14. Dopeler Effect: The tendency of stupid ideas to see smarter when they come at you rapidly.
15. Arachnoleptic Fit (n): The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.
16. Beelzebug (n): Satan in the form of a mosquito, that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.
17. Caterpallor (n): The color you turn after finding half a worm in the fruit you're eating.



AN INVITE FROM SEMM

Hello surrounding Mensans,

SEMM's winter BASH is an evening of games, food, and fun that is worth a bit of a drive. We welcome you to our BASH.

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN MENSA'S

Winter Bash



The coolest party of the year!



Saturday, January 15, 2011
6:00pm - 11:00pm

Berkley VFW Hall
3025 Coolidge (Between 11 and 12 Mile Road)
Berkley 48072

Plenty of free parking!

Salad ❁ Pizza ❁ Beverages ❁ Munchies ❁ Pool Table ❁ Dance Floor ❁ Darts

In advance through January 9:	At the door:
$12 for ages 12 and up	$14 for ages 12 and up
$6 for ages 11 and younger	$8 for ages 11 and younger
Children 4 and under: Free	Children 4 and under: Free

Please fill out form and mail with check made payable to SEMM to:

Harley Berger
7269 Creeks Bend Court
West Bloomfield, MI 48322

Any questions? Call 248.210.3563 or email: mensadetroit@gmail.com

To use PayPal, go to PayPal.com and click on the "Send Money" tab. Enter e-mail address: semmantics@sbcglobal.net and your payment amount. If registering more than one person, please enter each registrant name in the Comments section on the confirmation page.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Local Group: _____

Number of Tickets: ages 12 and over: _____ ages 11 and under: _____
$12 each *$6 each*

DECEMBER 2010 CALENDAR

Fri., Dec. 3	**TGIF: CHRISTIE'S BISTRO:** 925 S. Creyts Rd., Lansing. It's in the Lexington Lansing Hotel. We will have a private room.
Sun., Dec 5	**LITSIG:** Meet at the home of Pat Thuemmel, 1604 Barritt St., Lansing, to discuss *The Mermaid Chair* by Sue Monk Kidd. Conversation and snacks.
Fri., Dec. 10	**TGIF: OLD GREAT WALL RESTAURANT:** 4832 W. Saginaw, Lansing. Good Chinese food.
Fri., Dec 10	**TGIF: STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING:** After dinner at Old Great Wall.
Fri., Dec 17	**TGIF: BUDDIE'S PUB AND GRILL:** 3048 Lake Lansing Rd., East Lansing. It is In the Carriage Hills Shopping Center at Hagadorn Rd.
Sat., Dec. 18	**ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY:** It will be at the home of Elizabeth Evangelista, 5275 E. Hidden Lake Drive, E. Lansing. We'll gather at 4:00 PM and eat about 5:00 PM. See article on page 5.
Fri., Dec. 24	**TGIF: FINLEY'S AMERICAN GRILL:** 6300 S. Cedar St., Lansing. It's across Cedar St. from Meijer's.
Fri., Dec 31	**TGIF: LITTLE PANDA CHINESE RESTAURANT:** 5439 W. Saginaw Hwy, Lansing. It's across from the Lansing Mall.
Fri., Jan 7	**TGIF: GUERAZZI'S:** 156343 S. US 27, Lansing. Italian food. We will have a private room.
Fri., Jan 7	**SPEAKER:** Karen Petersmarck will speak on "New Developments in Improving Health Care" After dinner at Guerazzi's, at about 6:30. It is not necessary to attend the dinner to hear the speaker.
Fri., Jan 14	**TGIF: MITCHELL'S FISH MARKET:** 2975 Preyde Blvd., Lansing. It's in the Eastwood Towne Center. We will have a private room.
Fri., Jan 14	**STEERING COMMITTEE:** After dinner at Mitchell's Fish Market.

TGIFs are on Fridays. We meet around 5:30 PM and order around 5:45 PM. Try to get there by 6:00 PM, but you're welcome at any time. We will be in the non-smoking section unless stated otherwise. Come and get acquainted. All members and friends are welcome at the events above. Any member may schedule an event. Please remember: who, what, when, where, and why. The deadline to schedule an event is the 15th of the month before the event. You can contact elizabeth Evangelista, Calendar Coord., by regular mail: 5275 E. Hidden Lake Dr., East Lansing, MI 48823; by phone: 351-3645; or by email: evangel6@comcast.net