SEPTEMBER 2011



Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 452



HEAD-LINE NO. 452 SEPTEMBER 2011
MID-MICHIGAN MENSA

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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

Wendy Carnegie,

My vacation in the Upper Peninsula was great. We saw almost everything we wanted to. Our first night, in St. Ignance, we spent the evening sitting around a bonfire, roasting marshmallows, and watching fireworks. It was awesome--a great start to the week! We went to Sault Ste. Marie, where we toured the locks and saw a couple freighters go through the locks--cool. That evening we took a dinner cruise on the St. Mary's River. We went upriver through the locks and back through the Canadian locks. The cruise was beautiful--dinner so-so. Next we took the Agawa Canyon Train trip--Beautiful! It's an 8 hour trip (114miles one way) from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario to Agawa Canyon and back. We had lunch on the train--not too bad. Beautiful scenery--lots and lots of trees.

We saw Tahquamenon Falls--Upper and Lower, which I had never seen. We took the Tunerville Trolley and boat cruise to see the Upper Falls. It was about a 1 1/2 mile ride on a small scale train, then we switched to a boat for a lovely cruise to view the Upper Falls. We stopped at Tahquamenon Falls State Park to view both the Upper and Lower Falls. Beautiful! We visited the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum and lighthouse at Whitefish Point near Paradise. We then traveled on to Munising where we took a glass-bottom boat cruise and saw 3 shipwrecks, dating from 1860 to 1926 at the bottom of Lake Superior. They were in 30 to 50 feet of water and I could see the timbers clearly--like they were just under the surface. The last wreck we saw was the deepest and we had a clear view of the captain's bath tub and toilet. Really cool. That evening we did a sunset cruise along Picture Rocks. It was awesome. The sky was overcast, but the sun did come out near the end and we saw the colors just pop. Breathtaking! We headed up to Copper Harbor where we visited Ft. Wilkins. It was built in 1844 to keep peace between miners and the local Native Indians. No fighting occurred and with the Mexican war looming, the soldiers were shipped south and by 1846 the fort was empty. It is one of the only remaining wooden forts east of the Mississippi and 16 buildings have been restored. In the summer, costumed "inhabitants" re-create military life on the frontier. We took the 10-mile route along a high ridge between Copper Harbor and Eagle Harbor called Brockway Mountain Drive. It's dubbed "the most beautiful road in Michigan" and is the highest paved road between the Rockies and the Allegheny Mountains.

We then headed south to US 2 then east on it along Lake Michigan, the southern shore of the Upper Peninsula. We did a quick trip into the Garden Peninsula to visit Fayette--the most famous ghost town in the Upper Peninsula and surely one

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Wendy's World--Continued

of the nation's most scenic ghost towns. It started as the site of a large smelting operation, converting raw iron ore from the Upper Peninsula mines into pig iron then sending it on to Escanaba. In the 1880s it boasted a population of 500, but depletion of the forests to fuel the furnaces, and more efficient steelmakikng methods shut the operation down and by 1891 the town died. We were able to make it home that night and a great week ended.

For those of you who missed the Annual Anniversary Party, you missed a fun time. There were only about 6 members present, but we had a good time. Frank was a great chef--the hamburgers were great. We played games, did some swimming--really just floated in the pool, and had great discussions. Don't miss it next year.

Have a great fall.

Till next month...





Frankly Speaking

by Frank Dolinar, LocSec

Where has the Summer gone?
Actually, it's worse than you think. I'm still planning my Spring cleaning. I just don't know for which year of future or past.

I'm off to the Pittsburgh this Labor Day to speak at the RG. Looking forward to a few days of travel.

The professional football exhibition season has started and as of Labor Day weekend, so has the Big Ten season. MSU has a pre-season ranking in the top 25 nationally. As a long-term season ticket holder, I'm looking forward to seeing this year's version of the Spartan football team.

The students are returning to East Lansing, somewhat like swallows to San Juan Capistrano.

As I write this, I'm in the midst of my own return to the classroom – several weeks of training learning how to use and configure a new (to me) application. Just for the record, being in the classroom is just as much "fun" as I remember.

It's part of working in information tech in the early 21st century, an environment where everyone seems to be a consultant of one form or another. There's always a new corporate decision, a new project, and/or something new to learn, even as we watch technology morph our tools, our culture, and – according to some studies – the way we think.

Our speaker program is gaining some traction and we're seeing a few more people in attendance for these once-a-month dinners. You're all invited, of course.

I don't have much else to say this month. I've been a bit busier than usual just lately. Which only serves to remind me that I and the other Steering Committee members can't do this all alone. So I'll remind all of you of something I mentioned last month. If you think you've got an idea to share, email the members of the board, come to a TGIF dinner and engage in an hour's conversation, or contact us via Facebook.

It's your Mensa.
Be part of it.

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reMARK, June 2011

Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3

Mark said it's not official till it's in the paper. This is the paper (real or electronic). It's official.

If, like me, you were not able to attend Columbus Area Mensa's Regional gathering at the end of July, we missed a fabulous weekend. Hopefully, we'll all be there next year.

I hope you are reading this at Western Pennsylvania Mensa's RG over Labor Day weekend. I know it's truly a wonderful weekend.

And, don't forget to register for the - Cincinnati Regional Gathering; *Just for Your CAMusement!* in Cincinnati, Ohio, December 2, 2011 - December 4, 2011

The following was written by Mel Dahl, RVC10. I asked and received permission to use it in this column. My only edit of his writing is the addition in brackets {}.

Mensa has just completed the most extensive survey it has ever taken of its members to determine member satisfaction and ask people what they want out of Mensa. In February 2010, surveys were mailed to 10,000 members (or about 17% of our 58,000 members). 1,379 people (14% of those surveyed, 2.3% of our total membership) responded. Since the responses were self-selected by those who chose to return the survey it is not truly a random sample. Nevertheless, it is the largest survey taken of our membership to date. The results were published in the June 2011 Report of the Local Group Services & Funding Task Force, chaired by Robin Crawford. This document is available on-line at Mensa's Web site, http://www.us.mensa.org

The survey contained predictable questions: Why did you join Mensa, and what were you hoping to get out of it, and did you get out of it what you were hoping to get out of it. The answers were mostly what one would intuitively have expected even without taking a survey. Previous surveys had given us the wholly unsurprising information that the more actively one participates in Mensa activities, the more likely one is to be

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reMark--Continued

happy with one's Mensa membership, and also that the biggest worry for local group leaders is the lack of volunteers. And if that's all the information that this latest survey had given us I'd probably file it away instead of devoting a column to it.

The thing that makes this survey particularly valuable, in my opinion, is the fact that every one of the 1,379 people who responded were given an open-ended question: What service(s) do you want from your local group that is not listed on this survey? And the recurring answer, over and over again, was: I live too far away from any activities; I wish I could get to local activities but they are an hour, two hours, three hours away from me.

In other words, we have a significant chunk of members who would like to attend local group events (and we know from earlier surveys that participation in local group events leads to increased satisfaction with Mensa membership) but live far enough away from the centers of their local groups to make it feasible for them to do so. The key to their satisfaction with Mensa membership is to make it easier for them to attend local group events.

In Florida {I ask you to substitute Region 3}, we have several local groups that are fairly tightly compacted and finding an event nearby should not be a problem. We also have other groups that are more spread out and, in looking at the calendars for those groups, I can see that someone living at one end of the local group area very well might not be able to conveniently attend anything offered by local groups.

So, I am asking two things. First, if you are a locsec/member of a local excom, please look at your calendar to see if all areas of your local group have events and, if not, please try to find someone willing to organize one.

Second, if you are a member who would like to attend local events but there is nothing near where you live, please consider organizing something yourself. I'm sure your local newsletter will be happy to give you space, and you can get email addresses for members in your area by going to the membership directory on our national Web site. If you need

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reMark--Continued

logistical assistance, talk to your locsec or talk to me. Let's see if we can broaden the areas that have local events.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

LLAP and Peace,
Betsy

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Monthly Math Puzzle

Bob Henderson

Mensans Alice and Bob play a game in which they take turns choosing a digit from 1 to 9. Neither player is allowed to pick a digit after it has already been chosen. The goal of the game is to be the first player to collect 3 digits that sum to 15, out of up to 4 or 5 digits that can be collected before there are none left. Can Alice (who chooses first) always win this game by making a smart choice in each of her turns, or can Bob always keep her from winning?

Answers on Page 12

Mid-Michigan Mensa Membership

Wendy Carnegie

September 2011

142 Members

MENSAversaries

Congratulations

26 Years	Linda Harrison	23 Years	William Deary III
21 Years	Julia Larson	13 Years	Brian McGrain
9 Years	Paul Kassal	9 Years	Randy Robb
4 Years	Kristen Shuler	1 Year	Casper Klauscher
1 Year	Danielle Merckling	1 Year	Anne Missavage

MENSA Birthdays

Happy Birthday

13	Saif Fatteh	16	Lynn Brown
18	George Harris	28	Danalisa Radu
28	Daniel Thompson	29	Jerry Daugherty

Renewing/Reinstating Members

Welcome Back--We're glad you're back

Wendy Crowley--Lansing
Melissa Kaekel--Lansing
Sheila McCoy--Lansing

Members Moving In

Welcome

Walter Purvis--Perry

Belated Get Well

Hope your recovery is coming along well

Mary Winter
Pat Thuemmel

Food For Thought

By Barb Ford

Last month, I warned everyone of the hidden dangers of house cleaning. As usual, I have realized I need to refrain from making such blanket statements. My mother always told me “Never say never.” She was usually right. It all started when I woke up in the middle of the night coughing up a hairball…

A few days ago, I finally broke down and decided that it was time to vacuum my bathroom. When cat hair floats by like tumbling tumble weeds when you walk through a room, it is time to take action. Actually, I thought I saw a mouse out of the corner of my eye, but with relief, I discovered it was just a bunch of fuzzy cat hair. On the up side, Mickey had great fun playing with it. As nice as it was watching the little guy enjoy himself, I felt I needed to take control and vacuum the bathroom floor.

I put on some closed toed shoes (yes, I do learn) and got the beastly vacuum out of the closet. As the cats and dog ran for cover, I suddenly thought of something I really needed to do first. (Avoidance behaviors are fairly normal with me.) I wanted to combine two bottles of an important prescription into one. Justification: reduce clutter whenever I can, especially if it can be done quickly and easily. Well, just as I was pouring the few pills left from last month into the new bottle, Mickey jumped on the vanity counter and head butted my hand in an affectionate gesture. All, I mean ALL of my precious Ativan flew into the air, landed on the floor and simultaneously mingled with the collection of cat hair and dust balls. **OMG!!!** You must know that this is a very precious prescription to me. It is the only thing that helps my chronic insomnia. Oops, TMI…sorry. I must get back to the story. Not wanting to call Walgreens to tell them what happened, and that I needed another prescription; (knowing my insurance would probably not cover it, and I sure didn’t want the pharmacists to think I was a druggie) I got down on my hands and knees and scooped up the pills. Picking out as much fuzz as possible, I deposited them back into the bottle. Well, you know the rest.

My new words of wisdom are endorsed by Rocky, my faithful dog. When things go wrong, most of the time you can blame it on the cat!

TC's Puzzles

TC Shaw

#171 He doesn't use
The name he was dealt
It might help knowing
Just where he will melt

#172 Use only fresh—stay away from the can
Don't start playing with loaded dice
The back burner is where she put wisdom
When she followed her inside advice

#173 No athletic talent—of which I am aware
No politics--no writing—no singing voice to share
The tabloids always mention—her ever changing flab
And the millions that she banks each year
With just her gift of gab

#174 What age must one acquire
Before the chase is done
When hopes of conquest are at end
The final race is run
It's been asked and answered
A million times before
You'll have to ask this older man
Perhaps he knows the score

#175 It didn't start at seventeen
Although he tagged the year
As one he would remember
With fondness and good cheer
He wasn't into boxing
Though he took some heavy blows
Strong-minded and determined
Is how the story goes
Through his years of high-life living
Many ideas would be heard
But something less than his way
Was seen as just absurd

Answers on Page 12

Diabologic: Paradigm Shift

by Frank Dolinar

Nanotechnology has had a twenty-five year climb from utter obscurity to overnight success. Nanotech news is sparking our imagination and encouraging many to think that nanotech may live up to being described as the "Industrial Revolution of the 21st Century".

Yet, even as this meme takes hold, another is making its way into our perceptions.

I've begun to see the acronym GRIN – Genetics, Robotics, Information Technology, and Nanotechnology – as an even better umbrella descriptor for 21st century tech.

Why? Because while there are growing distinctions in the principal areas of nanotech research that I'm aware of, and a fair bit of overlap in such research, the GRIN paradigm appears to be dense network of overlapping possibilities.

Gregor Mendel might recognize the intent of today's distant descendants of his fledgling forays into heredity, but he'd probably be startled by the protean and polymorphic forms of today's genetic science. In this context, genetics includes genomics, proteomics, the working of various forms of RNA, embeddable sensors, preventive medicine, health care based on an individual's genome, genetic therapies, and the possibility of human enhancement.

Isaac Asimov's short story collection "I, Robot" begins with a story of a robot purchased to be a nursemaid for a young girl. This theme is revisited with a twist in the recent Stephen Spielberg film "A.I.", with the teddy bear robot acting as a companion for the robot who think's he's a boy. Most of us are used to robots in factories, but see the Roomba as a vacuum cleaner instead of a robot. Domestic robots are coming, probably within the decade, as evidenced by Honda's work on the ASIMO robot. These aren't just physical devices. They're smart and getting smarter, with artificial intelligence software enhanced by computational hardware that is beginning to approach the density of the human brain. Personal versions of IBM's Watson are not impossible. How would you work with / use yours?

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Diabologic--Continued

Which leads to information technology. I've watched computers go from room-sized installations, to components in racks, to personal desktop systems, to laptop systems, to today's smart phones. The iPhone and its cousins are highly sophisticated and capable devices, combinations of computer, software, and network device that in their many guises are becoming ubiquitous and indispensable. Include instant worldwide communication, the Internet, music and video streaming, social networking, and home monitoring and security and you have a real game changer. Oh, yes, they also make phone calls.

Then there's nanotechnology. It's beginning to come to the attention of the general public with news about developments in areas as diverse as materials, energy, computers, and medicine. The more people know about nanotech, the more they will be motivated and able to contribute to guiding its future into paths that will be seen as beneficial.

Let's look at GRIN from a different direction.

Smart phones that listen to the biological sensors embedded in your body, evaluate the data, and inform your doctor at the sign of danger could save lives.

Smart household robots could take on the roles of housekeepers, cooks, repairmen, and/or gardeners. With EMT software, they could act as first responders in a medical emergency. With firefighting software, they could safely enter buildings where the environment could kill a human. With educational software, like the interactive book in Neal Stephenson's "The Diamond Age" or the robots in James Hogan's "Voyage from Yesteryear", such robots could be tutors, companions, and bodyguards for young children. [Klaatu, however, seems politically and socially unlikely.]

Recent news in nanotech enhanced solar pV suggests a future with abundant energy generated where needed and bought and sold across a smart grid upon demand, much like the way browsers bring us content on the Internet.

The combinations and permutations of GRIN seem myriad. Every new advance in any field included in this paradigm seems to ripple across them all, spawning further advances.

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Diabologic--Continued

And once again I can observe that the future is coming sooner than you think.

Don't blink.

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Tc's Puzzle Answers

#171 Eminem, #172 Martha Stewart, #173 Oprah,
#174 Methuselah, #175 Frank Sinatra



Math Puzzle Answer

Alice and Bob's digit-choosing game is easy to analyze when you consider this arrangement of the 9 digits:

8 1 6 3 5 7 4 9 2

This is simply a 3 by 3 magic square whose digits sum to 15 in each row, column and diagonal. Since these are the only eight ways for 3 different digits between 1 and 9 to add up to 15, Alice and Bob's game is equivalent to Tic-Tac-Toe! As you probably know from experience with that game, neither player can force a win against good play.

Local Author to Speak about Governor Swainson

Karen Petersmarck

On November 18, Judge Lawrence Glazer will join us for dinner at Guerrazzi's, and then speak to us about his new biography entitled *Wounded Warrior: The Rise and Fall of Michigan Governor John Swainson.*

Lawrence Glazer is well-equipped to write a thoughtful, accurate biography of a Michigan governor. He is a longtime insider to our state's government, having served as an assistant Michigan Attorney General, as chief legal adviser to Michigan Governor James Blanchard, and as a State Circuit Judge.

According to Glazer, "John Swainson lived a hell of a life, with spectacular highs and devastating setbacks. As a teenager in World War Two, Swainson had both of his legs blown off in a land-mine explosion. He served as Michigan's governor in the early 60's and as a Michigan Supreme Court Justice in the 70's, until he was indicted on federal charges of bribery and perjury."

In the book, Glazer takes a close look at Swainson's trial and his conviction. Glazer lays out the facts of the case, and tries to let the reader judge for himself or herself. Glazer admits, however, that he really doesn't feel that either the bribery or the perjury charge was proven. In fact, in a May 5 interview, Glazer told WKAR's Gretchen Millich that had he been on the jury, he would have voted to acquit.

In the same interview, Gretchen Millich asked Glazer "How could this happen to someone like Swainson? He was an experienced attorney, he was a legislator, he was governor, he was a justice and he was politically connected. How could this happen to him?"

Glazer replied, "For a person with all that experience, he was incredibly naive. There was a blind spot in his character. He wanted to help people. He would help anyone who asked him, anyone, no matter who they were, no matter how shady they were. He got involved with Harvey Wish, the bail bondsman who did him a lot of little favors. He carried things for

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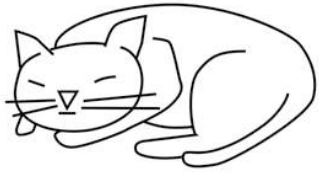
Governor Swainson--Continued

him, because Swainson had difficulty carrying things because he had to walk on these wooden stilts. Harvey Wish had a client who was a professional burglar, who had appealed his conviction to the Supreme Court. Harvey Wish convinced the burglar that if the burglar would pay him, Harvey Wish, $20,000, he would pass that money along to a friend on the Supreme Court and get his conviction reversed. What Harvey Wish didn't know was that the burglar was also snitching to the FBI on everything that he did in an effort to avoid prison, because if he went to prison he would be murdered."

Although Swainson never came back into the public eye, he made incredible comebacks before he died. "He came back from his depression. He came back from his bout with alcohol. He came back from being disbarred. He got his law license again and became a successful mediator. And he became very interested in Michigan history and was appointed to the Michigan History Commission by Governor Blanchard, which really completed his comeback. He loved that work and was elected president of the commission by its members."

The book, published by MSU Press and indexed by our own Dawn Martin (Frank Dolinar's better half), has won two awards so far. First, a 2011 Michigan Notable Book Award, as a high quality title reflecting Michigan's rich cultural heritage. In addition, it won the 2011 Gold National Award for biography from the Independent Publisher Book Awards.

Material for this article was taken from a May 5 WKAR interview. To read or listen to the entire interview, go to:
http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/wkar/news.newsmain/article/0/0/1798355/In.Michigan/



To Kill An American

Internet

You probably missed this in the rush of news, but there was actually a report that someone in Pakistan had published in a newspaper, an offer of a reward to anyone who killed an American, any American.

So an Australian dentist wrote an editorial the following day to let everyone know what an American is. So they would know when they found one. (Good one, mate!!!!)

'An American is English, or French, or Italian, Irish, German, Spanish, Polish, Russian or Greek. An American may also be Canadian, Mexican, African, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Australian, Iranian, Asian, or Arab, or Pakistani or Afghan.

An American may also be a Comanche, Cherokee, Osage, Blackfoot, Navaho, Apache, Seminole or one of the many other tribes known as native Americans.

An American is Christian, or he could be Jewish, or Buddhist, or Muslim. In fact, there are more Muslims in America than in Afghanistan. The only difference is that in America they are free to worship as each of them chooses.

An American is also free to believe in no religion. For that he will answer only to God, not to the government, or to armed thugs claiming to speak for the government and for God.

An American lives in the most prosperous land in the history of the world. The root of that prosperity can be found in the Declaration of Independence, which recognizes the God given right of each person to the pursuit of happiness.

An American is generous. Americans have helped out just about every other nation in the world in their time of need, never asking a thing in return.

When Afghanistan was over-run by the Soviet army 20 years ago, Americans came with arms and supplies to enable the people to win back their country!

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To Kill An American--Continued

As of the morning of September 11, Americans had given more than any other nation to the poor in Afghanistan .The national symbol of America, The Statue of Liberty, welcomes your tired and your poor, the wretched refuse of your teeming shores, the homeless, tempest tossed. These in fact are the people who built America

Some of them were working in the Twin Towers the morning of September 11, 2001 earning a better life for their families. It's been told that the World Trade Center victims were from at least 30 different countries, cultures, and first languages, including those that aided and abetted the terrorists.

So you can try to kill an American if you must. Hitler did. So did General Tojo, and Stalin, and Mao Tse-Tung, and other blood-thirsty tyrants in the world. But, in doing so you would just be killing yourself. Because Americans are not a particular people from a particular place. They are the embodiment of the human spirit of freedom. Everyone who holds to that spirit, everywhere, is an American.



SEPTEMBER 2011 Calendar

Fri., Sept. 2 **TGIF: JIMMY'S PUB:** 16804 Chandler Rd., East Lansing. It's 1 mile north of Lake Lansing Rd.

Fri., Sept. 9 **TGIF: GOURMET VILLAGE:** 4790 S. Hagadorn Rd., East Lansing. Good Chinese food. It's in the Hannah Plaza.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING: To follow dinner.

Fri., Sept. 16 **TGIF: GUERRAZZI'S**: 15643 S. BUS-127, Dewitt. It's south of the BUS-27/I-69 interchange. We will be in the North Room.

SPEAKER: John Barrie will speak to us about a project he has been working on it Central America; *Appropriate Technology: How New Technology Provides Opportunities in Low Income Countries.* It will follow dinner. It isn't necessary to attend dinner to hear Mr. Barrie.

Fri., Sept. 23 **TGIF: CLARA'S LANSING STATION**: 637 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

Fri., Sept. 30 **TGIF: WOODY'S OASIS**: 1050 Trowbridge Rd., East Lansing. Middle Eastern food. **NOTE**: This is a new location. It's now between Oodles of Noodles and the hotel.

Fri., Oct. 7 **TGIF: APPLE JADE**: 300 N. Clippert, Lansing. Chinese food. It's in the Frandor Plaza.

Sun., Oct. 9 **LIT SIG:** This month the Lit Sig will be reading *Arc of Justice* by Kevin Boyle. We will meet at Elizabeth Ayoub's, 6252 W. Walker Rd., St. Johns. Call 989-224-2608 with questions.

Fri., Oct.14 **TGIF: MITCHELL'S FISH MARKET:** 2975 Pryde Blvd., Lansing. It's in the Eastwood Towne Center.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING: To follow dinner.

TGIFs are on Fridays. We meet at 6:00 PM and order around 6:155 PM., but you're welcome at any time. 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: 517-351-3645; or by email:evangel6@comcast.net