MARCH 2012

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 458



HEAD-LINE NO. 458 MARCH 2012
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,

As everyone knows, the groundhog saw his shadow February 2, so we will have an early spring. I hope that means that March will come in like a lion and go out like a lamb with spring thriving. The Vernal Equinox (First Day of Spring) is on the March 20 this year.

March has a lot of observances. It celebrates International Women's Month, Universal Women's Week (8-14), and International Women's Day (8). Frank, NanoDays are 3-23 to 4-1. The Iditarod begins on the 4th in Anchorage, Alaska. The Peace Corp Birthday is on the 6th. The 8th is Organize Your Home Office--one day I really should observe! The 9th is Barbie Day and then Ken Day is the 13th. Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, the 11th. Girl Scout Sunday is the 11th which begins Girl Scout Week and the 12th is the Girl Scout Birthday. The 11th is also Johnny Appleseed Day. The 14th is Potato Chip Day and Pi Day. On the 15th the buzzards return to Hinckly, Ohio. Don't forget St. Patricks Day on the 17th. On the 19th the Swallows return to San Juan Capistrano. The 20th brings Proposal Day and National Kiss Your fiancee Day, and of course, the First Day of Spring. International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is on the 21st. A day we really need, National Common Courtesy Day is on the 21st. Make Up Your Own Holiday Day is the 26th.

Again, don't forget that CultureQuest XXIII will take place on Sunday, April 29, 2012. For our newer members, CultureQuest is a trivia buff competition. It is timed (90 minutes) and taken at the same time across the nation. We usually have 2 teams (5 members on each team), but can have more if there is enough interest. You trivia buffs save the date and encourage others to join in. Contact Frank Dolinar, LocSec if interested.

Do you have old eyeglasses that are collecting dust? Don't know what to do with them? Well, here's a solution. Joanne Sullivan is collecting old eyeglasses and hearing aids. She is going to turn them over to the Lions Club. The Lions Club remakes them and takes them on missions to less fortunate places and people. Contact her at: 802 Searles Estates Dr., St. Johns, MI, 48879; phone 989-906-3521; and email bjosull@hotmail.com .

Till next month...



Frankly Speaking

by Frank Dolinar, LocSec

We seem to have survived the bulk of another Michigan winter – one which seemed to have a difficult time determining what kinds of weather to offer. Those of us who are long term residents of the state know that if we're dissatisfied with the weather, a bit of patience and a short wait will find nature serving up a change (though not necessarily an improvement) in the weather.

March brings the beginnings of Spring, St. Patrick's Day, and the NCAA Basketball Tournament. As I write this, our Michigan State Spartans own first place in the Big Ten rankings. But the season isn't over yet. Regardless, the team seems poised to do well in the Tournament.

There's another kind of tournament coming up for Mid-Michigan Mensa – our annual elections. As a group we have a smaller percentage of participation in our elections than voters in the national elections. Out of the approximately 150 members of our chapter, the steering committee is elected by about a double handful of participants.

That being true, I'd like to issue a challenge to increase participation, to generate ideas, and to make it a real election this year. Let's have at least two candidates for each position on the steering committee (look at the inside cover of the Headline). And let's also have some serious conversation among these candidates at our TGs or at specifically organized meetings.

As I've said before, a volunteer organization needs all the help it can get at every level of the organization. With elections coming up, it's time to ask yourself how you can help. We need that help starting now.

We look forward to hearing from you.

It's your Mensa.
Be part of it.

© 2012 Mid-Michigan Mensa

reMARK, March 2012

Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3

Treat each other with respect and kindness; others may have beliefs and opinions, goals and aspirations different from yours, but they have a right to share with you and to be heard. Listen and you will learn. Be gentle when you disagree – you have a right to disagree, but do not be disagreeable. Try something new, you may like it. Those are some of the lessons my dear mother shared with me before she passed away on January 28. I wish to pass them on to you. My Mensa family has been very kind to me and I hope you can be kind to one another.

Because I will be attending the spring AMC meeting, I cannot register for, but you certainly can register now for Dayton Area Mensa's 25th RG, March 30 through April 1, with Karen Lehman, Registrar, 7039 Monte Carlo Drive, Englewood, OH 45322. The RG will be at the Dayton Grand Hotel (same great hotel, new name) (937) 461-4700) - $82 + tax per night. RG rates are $60 through 2/28/2012 and $70 thereafter. Kids are ½ price and day rates are available. Check the following url for more info: http://www.dayton.us.mensa.org/index_files/RG.htm

I have already registered for and hope you will register now for SEMMantics XXXIII RG, May 4 – 6, 2012, to be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, 37529 Grand River Avenue, Farmington Hills, MI 48335, (248) 477-7800. Registration: $65 – through 1/31/2012, $75 – through 4/15/2012, $45 – Friday Only, $50 – Saturday Only, $85 – Weekend at the Door, Children 5 - under 18 – 1/2 price, Children under 5 – free. Send your registration checks (made out to SEMMantics) to Larry Arbanas, 24565 Glen Orchard Dr., Farmington Hills, MI 48336-1725.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

LLAP and Peace,

Betsy

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Yahoo group - http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMR3/
Facebook group - http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=71515809887

Logic Puzzle

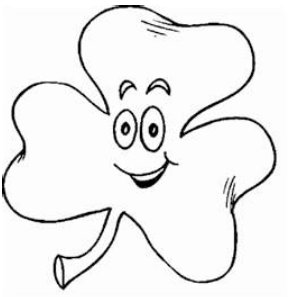
Bob Henderson

Some Mensans may have heard of the "Monty Hall Problem", as it was thoroughly explained several years ago in a book by Marilyn vos Savant, who had the world's highest measured IQ at the time. This puzzle is a good demonstration of how easily we misjudge conditional probabilities. . . Cognitive science tells us that most of us fear the loss of what we have more than we desire a chance to win as much, or even more, making it it hard to choose the best answer below!

You are a contestant on a daytime TV show and have just chosen to open one of three prize doors. There is a valuable prize behind one of the doors, but the other 2 conceal worthless gag gifts. The host, who knows which door has the prize, opens one of the 2 doors you didn't choose, revealing a gag gift. The host then asks whether you want to stick with your first choice or switch to the other unopened door. For your best chance at winning, should you stick, or switch?

Note: Assume that the door opened by the host was chosen completely at random, and that no one but you cares whether you win or lose. In posing you this new dilemma the host is simply boosting the show's drama level (and possibly ratings).

Answer on Page 10



Don't forget to renew your membership by March 31, 2012

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN MENSA REGIONAL GATHERING

Join us!

SEMMantics XXXIII



May 4, 2012 – May 6, 2012

Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites
37529 Grand River Avenue
Farmington Hills, MI 48335

Call (248) 477-7800 for reservations
To register online:
http://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?path=rates&brandCode=hi&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=DTTMI&_PMID=99801505&GPC=SEM

Includes all meals, Chocolate Orgy, "The Evolution of Charlie Darwin", constructing crosswords by James Tuttle & Peter Collins, and MensaSelect game winner Uncle Chestnut's Table Gype inventor Paul Nowak.

$65 – through 1/31/2012
$75 – through 4/15/2012
$45 – Friday Only
$50 – Saturday Only
$85 – Weekend at the Door
Children under 5 – free
Children 5 - under 18 – ½ price

Write your check payable to **SEMMantics,** including the information below. Mail to:
Larry Arbanas
24565 Glen Orchard Drive
Farmington Hills, MI 48336
323-642-7226
larry@arbanas.org
PayPal (semmantics@sbcglobal.net)

✂----------

Name_____

Name for ID Badge_____

Local Group_____

Address_____

City_____ **State**_____ **Zip**_____

Phone_____ **E-Mail**_____

I would like to volunteer for:
____hospitality _____speaker helper _____registration _____contacting people before the RG _____other

NOTE
To make reservations at the hotel online, enter the group code SEM for SEMM rates.

Mid-Michigan Mensa Membership

Deborah Frank

March 2012

145 Members

MENSAversaries

Congratulations

37 Years	Elizabeth Evangelista	37 Years	Michael Knowlton
35 Years	Philip LaFata	17 Years	David Uhrmann
12 Years	Roberta McCall	9 Years	Gail Burns
9 Years	Maria Dickinson	6 Years	John Paduch
3 Years	Eric Laverty	3 Years	Kerry Haynor
3 Years	Keith Shaw	2 Years	Christopher Grove
2 Years	Kathleen Kohagen	2 Years	Howard Lantzer
1 Year	Angela Boldrey	1 Year	Steven Dulan
1 Year	Kenneth Thomas, Jr.		

MENSA Birthdays

Happy Birthday

1	James Glessener III	20	Michael Dorman
21	Sarah Erwin	24	Michael Bohde
25	Mary Winter	26	Marie Bennett
26	Thomas Korkoske	30	Albert Hur

Reinstating Member

Welcome Back--We missed you

Jennifer Feasal from Lansing

Condolences

Our Sympathy to

Betsy Mark (Region 3 RVC) on the loss of her mother in January
Sharon Plavnick on the loss of her mother in February



Food For Thought

By Barb Ford

THE WONDERS OF THE HUMBLE PINTO BEAN

I have always enjoyed beans, and since moving to the South, I have come to adore them. Though I love all beans, the pinto has become my favorite. I just feel good when I eat these yummy beans! After looking into a few facts about them, I can happily state that I am onto something. Beans are an inexpensive nutritional super food. One cup of cooked pinto beans contain only 244 calories, over 15 grams of fiber (that's 62% of the recommended daily value), 15 grams of protein (31% of the daily value), and they are packed with nutrients such as folate, magnesium, and potassium to name just a few. All of these nutrients assist in lowering risk for cardiovascular events. Also, in addition to helping lower blood pressure, beans, a slow burning complex carbohydrate, will boost one's energy, stabilize blood sugar levels, and lower cholesterol. Now that so many healthy benefits have become common knowledge, this formerly food of poor-folk is showing up on the menus of the fanciest pricey restaurants! I'm just happy that something I like so much is actually good for me!

The universal joke about beans is the readily apparent problem of flatulence. My Dad used to sing a little ditty: "Beans, beans, the musical fruit. The more you eat, the more you toot. The more you toot, the better you feel, so let's have beans for every meal!" This is real, and can be a problematic issue if someone used to a low fiber diet attempts to enjoy them. Every cook has their own method of de-gassing beans. Generally, soaking them reduces the raffinose-type oligosaccharides (Sugars associated with causing flatulence). I take no chances with my method, and it seems pretty effective. After sorting and thoroughly washing the dried pintos, I pour boiling water over them, cool them down and do it again. After a final rinse, they are ready for the crock pot. Covered again with boiling water, I add smoked paprika, garlic powder, and dried onion.* On goes the cover and they cook on low all day. When the beans are softened, I add some ham bullion, salt, pepper and a little cooked crumbled bacon. After basking for another hour or so in this vat of goodness, they are ready to eat. YUM!

*Note: if salt is added too early in the cooking process, the beans will be tough, and take longer to cook.

TC's Puzzles

TC Shaw

#206
A warmer breeze is blowing
Trepidation is at end
The cold war is now over
Gone are blasts of cold north wind
Afternoon tea parties
Now replace the fears of yore
As she makes the campaign circuit
At the enemy's back door

#207
The turning point was Chicxulub
The family line was halted
Now Godzilla's son in drag makes good
Because they're so exalted

#208
The odds were good in Vegas
He was living on the juice
Then something laid a giant egg
It belonged to his pet goose

#209
It wasn't just a vacuum
That made the giant sound
He warned us that our union jobs
Would be latino bound

#210
His heart was ever turning
For a river of his youth
But that's vicariously distorted
If you want to know the truth
He was writing of a heartsick man
Who never meant to roam
But just to live with old folks
The ones he left at home

Answers on Page 10

Diabologic: Odds and Ends 2012

by Frank Dolinar

Part One: Orbital Trash

Apparently there are other people concerned with the issue of orbital debris. On February 15, 2012, a group of Swiss astronauts and university professors announced that they are working on a robotic spacecraft (a space "tugboat"), called CleanSpace One, intended to capture large chunks of debris, alter the item's orbit, and send it to burn up in Earth's atmosphere.

The design seems workable and as a research project it's relatively inexpensive, with a price tag of only $11 million US. At the moment, it can be thought of as a concept for an orbital Roomba. Gearing up to get a fleet of these tugs into orbit to do their job will cost more, of course, and take time. The hope is that governments and private industry will contribute to the effort.

The original story was published on the Mashable website – with a related video – and can be found at http://mashable.com/2012/02/15/cleanspace-one-robot/

Part Two: Faster-than-Light Neutrinos

Sometimes, the answer to a world shaking problem ends up being… mundane. This appears to be the answer in the problem of the faster than light neutrinos reported on September 22, 2011.

Neutrinos sent through the ground from CERN traveled 732 kilometers to the Gran Sasso laboratory in northern Italy arrived early, by a consistently measured 60 nanoseconds. Since neutrinos usually (okay, always) travel at the speed of light, these results suggested that the particles had traveled faster than the speed of light on their journey from the emitter (CERN) to the collector (Gran Sasso).

Didn't seem possible to anyone with any background in physics. But the results, as reported, were as mind-boggling as they were puzzling.

On February 22, 2012, five months after the original report, the anomalous results appear to have been caused by a faulty fiber-optic connection between a GPS unit and a computer, the fault causing the GPS timing signal to be late by – drumroll, please – approximately 60 nanoseconds. Upon fixing this connection, the researchers found no time discrepancy in new experimental results.

Continued on Page 10

Diabologic--Continued

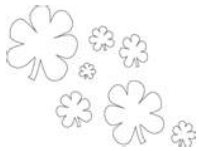
At a recent AAAS meeting in Vancouver, British Colombia, CERN's director of research, Sergio Bertolucci, made a humorous observation on what the results would be: "I have difficulty to believe it, because nothing in Italy arrives ahead of time."

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Answers to TC's Puzzles

#206 Sarah Palin
#207 Barney
#208 Howard Hughes (Spruce Goose)
#209 Ross Perow
#210 Steven C. Foster (Old Folks at Home) or (Suwanee River)



Answers to Logic Puzzle

Answer: To get the best chance of winning, remember that your original chance of choosing the winning door was 1 in 3. The subsequent actions of the host have NOT changed this probability: since there are 2 losing doors, he can ALWAYS show you one of them, even if you first chose the other. Since your first choice still has only 1 chance in 3 of being the winner, the OTHER unopened door has the other 2 chances in 3 of winning. Switching DOUBLES your chance to win!

- -

P.S. If anyone doubts this result, ask them how they would decide if they had first chosen one door out of 1000, then the host opened 998 other losing doors! Clearly, switching to the other unopened door would improve their winning chances.

Nano & G.R.I.N. – 21st Century Technology

Frank Dolinar is teaching a short course, "Nano & GRIN: 21st Century Tech" for the MSU Evening College (http://alumni.msu.edu/eveningCollege/), beginning Tuesday, March 13, 2012. See the course description below.

Nanotechnology – precision engineering at the molecular scale – has been described as the industrial revolution of the 21st century. Mimicking biological systems, such as DNA, researchers are engineering new systems with specific characteristics and functions:

- stronger, lighter, self-assembling materials
- more effective energy generation, distribution, and storage
- smaller, faster, and easier to use computers
- targeted, flexible, and effective medical diagnostics and therapies

Today, a broader concept – G.R.I.N. (Genetics, Robotics, Information Tech, & Nanotech) – is making its way into our perceptions. G.R.I.N. appears as a dense conceptual network, with each new advance spawning further possibilities.

This course will examine these topics, look at the benefits they'll bring to our lives, discuss how they might interact, and consider whether G.R.I.N. is a better descriptor for 21st Century Tech.

Further details of the time, place, and cost for this course are available on-line at http://alumni.msu.edu/eveningCollege/course.cfm?id=539



SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Scholarship Chair,
Joanne Sullivan

We have a winner! Unfortunately, we cannot announce it until after judging is completed at the Regional and National levels. Look forward to reading the winning essay in a Head-Line sometime this summer. Many thanks go to Frank Dolinar, Elizabeth Evangelista and Wendy Carnegie who pored over and judged the essays. Thanks also to Pat Thuemmel for hosting us at her home.

If you believe that this project is worth the time and effort we put into it, please let your Steering Committee know what you think. We are in jeopardy of losing the program for lack of funds. I am willing to continue as Scholarship Chair as long as we have funds available to present to a local scholarship. If you have an idea for a fund-raiser, let me know.

A SEDER FOR PASSOVER

John Garrison

Friday the 6th of April will be a special day for Mid-Michigan Mensa. We will have our TG at Brannigan Brothers Restaurant located at 210 S. Washington Ave. in downtown Lansing. This will be a themed dinner dedicated to Passover. You need not be Jewish to attend. All members, family, spouses, significant others, friends etc are invited. The cost for the Seder service and a complete multi course dinner is included in the $20.00 charge for adults and $12.50 for children. Remember that this includes the service and dinner. Taxes and tip are also included. The meal will not be kosher but will be kosher style. (Brannigans does not have a kosher kitchen) Everything will be home made and cooked on the premises. The proposed menu is as follows:

Matzo Ball soup	Assorted Veggies
Salad	Tsimmis
Gefilte Fish (horse radish optional)	Kugel
Broasted Chicken	Matzo

Wine and Beverages

Advance registration and reservations are required. You can prepay or pay at the door but we must have a head count. Please contact John Garrison for more information @ 349-7313 or MidMIMensa@aol.com by Monday April 2, 2012 to guarantee your place at the table. Seating may be limited.

March 2012 Calendar

Fri., Mar. 2 **TGIF: HOULIHANS:** 5732 W. Saginaw St., Lansing. It's in the Lansing Mall.

Sun., Mar. 4 **LIT SIG:** Meet at 1:30 PM at Mary and Dave Winter's home; 360 Centerlawn, East Lansing, to discuss *Tinker* by Paul Harding. Enjoy snacks and conversation.

Fri., Mar. 9 **TGIF: ALDACO'S:** 6527 S. Cedar St., Lansing. It's near the intersection of S. Pennsylvania Ave. and Cedar St. Good Mexican food.
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING: To follow dinner.

Fri March 16 **TGIF: CORAL GABLES:** 2838 E. Grand River Ave., E. Lansing. An old favorite.

Fri. March 23 **TGIF: FINLEY'S AMERICAN RESTAURANT:** 5615 W.Saginaw, Lansing.

Fri. March 30 **TGIF: GUERRAZZI'S:** 15643 S. US 127 (Bus. 127). We will be in a different room this time. The room is on the lower level, and, for anyone who has problems with stairs, can be accessed by a door on the same level at the northern end of the building (It's sort of around the end). We will be ordering off the menu, but dinner salads will be served to us instead of us going upstairs to the salad bar.
SPEAKER: Cheryl Beshada will speak to us about "Medical Hypnotherapy". After dinner, about 6:45. Join us for dinner or afterward to hear the speaker.

Fri. April 6 **TGIF: SEDER DINNER:** Brannigan Brothers Restaurant, 210 S. Washington, Lansing. $20/adults, $12.50/child; reservations by Monday, April 2, to John Garrison 349-7313 or MidMensa@aol.com. See article on page 12 for details.

Fri. April 13 **TGIF: DELHI CAFE:** 4625 Willoughby Rd., Holt
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING: After dinner.

Happy St. Patrick's Day