FEBRUARY 2019

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 538



HEAD-LINE NO. 538 FEBRUARY 2019

MID-MICHIGAN MENSA

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Mid-Michigan Mensa Facebook Group

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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EDITOR'S COLUMN:
FROM MY BRAIN TO YOURS

by Sharon Plavnick

I'VE GOT MAIL

Bless you, dear Reader! Gail Wolfe responded to my January column asking about inner and outer congruence. She states:

> I believe my inner and outer self are in complete congruence. The reason being I cannot hide my feelings. People can tell when I have negative feelings toward them even if I try to hide them. This can get me in trouble, but I think of it as honesty. I think I have always been this way so I guess it's there for the duration.

No poker face for Gail. But I'm sure her honesty works in her favor in her veterinary medicine practice. I am curious though about those times she's gotten into trouble.

Now that the ice is broken, I hope this will be another regular monthly column. Don't be shy, Readers. What's on your mind? Respond to a column. Ask a question about MMM. Ask a question about anything. Express an opinion. Go public or ask for anonymity; either way is fine.

Gail also expressed surprise at my Ameritech.net email address; she thought she was the only one left to have one. I am actually in the slow process of moving my email to a Gmail account. But I'm not quite ready to fully cut the AT&T cord. So for now, contact me still at: sharonslp@ameritech.net

February, 2019 RVC 3 Column

John Voymas

A new year is now in full swing and before you know it the season of Spring will be upon us. So far, this winter has been fairly mild, for some that's wonderful but for others who like to ski, snowboard, and snowmobile, this winter has been a disappointment. American Mensa is kind of like that: some members like the changes that have occurred in the past year or two, others would like to see a return to some of the old ways, while yet others have their own better idea of how Mensa should

February 2019 RVC 3 Column—Cont.

be run at the national level. However you lean, I encourage you to express your thoughts and opinions. Contact me, contact other members of the AMC, contact the national office staff (Becky Folger seems to do all that she can to service the local groups and the membership in a positive way.)

This is also the time of year when membership renewals are due. At the national level, we are doing what we can to avoid a dues increase. The annual amount of $79 can seem like a hardship to some. My local group of Southeast Michigan Mensa has a solution that has been working for us for several years. We have a dues subsidy program that covers part of the cost for members who are having financial difficulties. It is confidential: only the Dues Subsidy Administrator knows who has asked for help and they are the only person who is made aware of the individual's circumstances. The financial impact to our local group is minimal since only a very small number of members express a need for a dues subsidy.

This article may appear in your February newsletter, or if your local group needs to publish in the early part of the month, this will appear in your March newsletter. In the future, I will endeavor to provide this to your editor by the 1st of the prior month in order to have all sixteen newsletters in Region 3 be in sync. Let's all thank our local group newsletter editors for the hard work they do. Editors usually put in more time each month than even the local group Loc Sec / President. So, a hearty 'Thank you!" to the editors.

Upcoming events in Region 3 include the Dayton Area Mensa RG from March 29 to 31 in Sharonville, Ohio, Mind Games (sold out) from April 12to 14 in Wadsworth, Ohio, the Southeast Michigan Mensa RG from April

26 to 28 in Romulus, Michigan. Another event that I plan to attend is the OMG (Outdoor Mensa Gathering) which is hosted by Central Indiana Mensa the weekend of May 17 to 19 at Versailles State Park in southeastern Indiana.

Finally, if you would like to see Adam Savage speak at the AG banquet dinner, tickets are selling fast.

Well, as Porky would say "That's all folks!"

JOINING THE 21ST CENTURY

Did you know that you can receive the *Headline* each month as a digital-only subscription? This saves trees of course. It also saves wear and tear on our intrepid and overworked volunteers who make sure the paper copy gets delivered to you. And finally, it saves money. Added bonus: digital delivery is much quicker than snail mail.

Here's how to make the switch if you feel ready:
1. Log into the Mensa website: www.us.mensa.org
2. Go to your profile, and click on Communication Preferences.
3. The first box deals with both the Mensa Bulletin and the Local Group Newsletter. Click on Edit.
4. Change your preference from Print to Electronic. That's all there is to it. You should receive an email each month telling you that the Headline is ready to peruse.

You can also access the newsletter directly by logging in as above:
1. Click on the READ tab
2. Click on Local Group Newsletters.
3. Click on the appropriate filter to read the current month's issue, or to read older issues.

If you just want a quick look at the monthly calendar events, you'lll also find that on our own MMM site:

http://www.midmichigan.us.mensa.org/

Click on the Calendar tab. We update as soon as our wonderful scheduler makes the monthly reservations.

Mid-Michigan Mensa Steering Committee Minutes

Meeting of January 11, 2019

The January 2019 MMM Steering Committee meeting was called to order at 6:54 PM. Committee members Wendy Carnegie, Elizabeth Evangelista, Bob Henderson, Squire Jaros, and Aaron Rabushka attended the meeting.

Wendy advised us that plans to set up a table to pass out Mensa flyers at the Meridian Mall would cost us approximately $300. The Steering Committee decided to cancel the project for now. She will next look into

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Steering Committee Minutes—Cont.

having a table at the Lansing Women's Expo in February. If that helps to raise interest in Mensa we could also distribute flyers in another high-traffic venue this Fall.

Wendy also reminded us that she would be hosting a chili cook-off at her place on Sunday, Jan. 13. Several of us let her know what we planned to bring and share.

MMM member Mike recommended that our group members opt for digital delivery of the Head-Line on the AML site in order to reduce our group's monthly printing and mailing expenses. Others of us expressed concern that we would no longer get a hard copy of the Mensa Bulletin if we opted for digital delivery. Mike assured us that AML would send us an email reminder to view the digital copy each month.

It was moved, voted on and accepted that MMM would send a donation of $25 to Martin Luther Chapel in East Lansing to thank them for the use of their facilities for our annual Holiday Party on Saturday, December 8, 2018.

MMM Treasurer Bob Henderson reported that he had accidentally paid Center Point Press twice to print the November 2018 issue of the Head-Line due to confusion over whether the first payment had gone through. Bob will ask Joe Warren to check his records for last year and subtract any overpayment he finds from a future printing bill.

New Business: Nominations are due this Spring for the coming year's MMM officers and 3 of the 6 Steering Committee positions will be open.

Steering Committee Wendy plans to appoint a Chairperson for the nominating Committee. This person cannot be on the Steering Committee. Wendy also planned to review the current MMM by-laws to see if we could get by with fewer group officers.

There being no further MMM business to discuss, it was moved, seconded, and approved to adjourn the Steering Committee meeting at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully,
Bob Henderson, Scribe

Mid-Michigan Mensa Membership

John Garrison, Chairman

January 2019

128 Members

MENSA Birthdays

Happy Birthday to you

1 Squire Jaros
15 Gordon MacDonald
19 David Uhrmann
21 David Macak
25 Todd Eldred
3 Ngai Kin Wong
17 Corina Andorfer
19 Heidi Porter
25 Ian Clemente

MENSAversaries

Congratulations on your years with Mensa

45 Years Patrick Wolf
18 Years Doug McCall
8 Years Carol Duane
4 Years Charles Rose
1 Year Michael Healy
39 Years Joan Forgrave
9 Years Steven Sptiizley
4 Years Roderick Baltzer
2 Years Eric Roath

New Members

Welcome! We're so glad you joined us

Kimberly LeBane — Okemos

Mid-Michigan Treasurer's Report

Quarter Ending December 31, 2018

Bob Henderson, Treasurer

STARTING BALANCE		**$5,320.00**
INCOME		**318.01**
National Subsidy Sept. 2018	$104.15	
National Subsidy Oct. 2018	105.70	
National Subsidy Nov. 2018	108.10	
Savings interest	0.06	
EXPENDITURES		**466.73**
Holiday Party Catering	186.63	
Head-Line		
Printing SONDJ	196.02	
Postage ONDJ	82.08	
Money order fees	2.00	
ACCOUNT BALANCES		
Checking		3,072.85
Savings		1,997.54
Post Office		100.89
ENDING BALANCE		**$5,171.28**

FEBRUARY THOUGHT QUESTION

by Sharon Plavnick

By the time you are all reading this, I hope the government shutdown is over with. One side says if you aren't in favor of the wall, you are therefore in favor of open borders. The other side says no we aren't in favor of open borders, but we don't think a wall is the right answer.

I personally think open borders would be a fabulous thing for the entire planet. In our current age we have amazing technology that allows us to travel and communicate freely. I wish we could all learn to view ourselves as citizens of one world instead of as separate nations. It doesn't mean we have to be buddies with everyone. Here in the US, there are 50 states, and there are a lot of differences from one state to another and even within each state. Yet we are all able to travel freely from one state to another. What if Florida started telling Michiganders they could no longer be snowbirds. What if Texas kicked out all the exes? What if Washington decided no one could move there unless they had a firm job offer in hand from Boeing/Amazon/Starbucks? No one else need apply. What if Wyoming decided those gun-toting libertarian survivalists had the right idea and they built a wall around the entire state? We don't allow individual states to do that to our country. Why do we allow countries to do that to our world?

Where's the question, you are wondering. Here it is: Why should any one entity get to "own" any part of the earth? Why should any one entity get to "terrorize" another? Make a case for a global government, or make a case for continuing as we are. Or make a case for something in between. Or just think about it and ponder along with me.

I welcome your responses. You can ask for them to be published anonymously. Or you can ask that they not be published at all. Please flood the email box at sharonslp@ameritech.net with your thoughts.

BOOK TALKS
By Sharon Plavnick

I have two recently-read books to share with Headline readers.

The first is Home Fire, by Kamila Shamsie. I have belonged to a book club for many years, and this was our January selection. At the time of writing this review, we hadn't met yet, so I can only speak for myself.

The story revolves around three British siblings of Pakistani descent. Current political issues dealing with immigration and terrorism are predictably covered, but the author unpredictably and adeptly weaves these into a story about the tensions that occur when love conflicts with loyalty. There is sibling love, and especially that of twins; there is filial love; there is romantic love; there is love of country. The story kept me fully engaged, and I anticipate that there will be a lot to talk about in my book club meeting.

The second is more of a guilty pleasure. Certain book covers are always an obvious tip-off. It might be two Adirondack-style chairs positioned for obvious conversation. Or maybe it's just some hands or feet sticking out from under a sun umbrella. Sometimes it's a couple drinks with party straws plus beach towels. The reader is immediately on notice that the book is a) chick lit; b) a summer beach read; and c) it will take place somewhere on a coastline.

Elin Hilderbrand is a prolific writer of novels with this kind of cover. They always take place on Nantucket Island, and she always fits the profile above. But it's a mistake to dismiss her as just another shallow piece of froth. No, her books are not "serious" works of "literature," whatever that actually means. However, she has a serious knack for creating engaging characters and for placing them into situations that unfold like complex origami. In short, she is a compulsively-readable author. I know she will always get to a happy ending for almost everyone, but she will have teased out all the nuances of human dynamics at both their best and worst before we get there. Her latest offering, The Perfect Couple, is a perfect way to stay up late reading just one more chapter.

Remember readers, I sure would like to publish reviews from some of you. Send your submissions to sharonslp@ameritech.net

February 2019 Calendar

Fri. Feb. 1 **TGIF - Cancun Mexican Grill**: 1754 Central Park Dr., MeridianTownship. Good Mexican food and wonderful margaritas.

Fri. Feb. 8 **TGIF - Delhi Cafe**: 4625 Willoughby Rd, Holt, between Cedar St and Aurelius Rd. Good Greek and American

Fri. Feb. 15 **TGIF - Boston's Restaurant and Sports Bar**: 3301 Towne Centre Blvd, Lansing. Sports-themed bar serving gourmet pizzas, burgers, wings & more in a relaxed space.

Fri. Feb. 22 **TGIF - Hibachi Grill & Sushi Buffet**: 5837 W Saginaw Hwy, Lansing, in Delta Center. Large selection of Oriental foods, with sushi, salad, and dessert buffets.

Fri. Mar. 1 **TGIF - Harrison Roadhouse**: 720 E. Michigan Ave, East Lansing. Good selection of pub-grub, other food, and beers.

Fri. Mar. 8 **TGIF - Olga's Kitchen**: 354 Frandor Ave. in the Frandor Mall, East Lansing. Soups, salads, and Olga's signature gyro sandwich.
Steering Committee Meeting: to follow dinner.

TGIFs are on Fridays. We meet at about 5:30 PM and order about 5:30 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**, **Where**, **When**, and **Why**. The deadline to schedule an event is the **15th of the month before the event**. Contact Ginny Brunke Henderson, Calendar Coord. at: gbrunkh@peoplepc.com or 517-676-3369
Calendar event information can also be found on the Mid-Michigan Mensa website at http://midmichigan.us.mensa.org/calendar.html