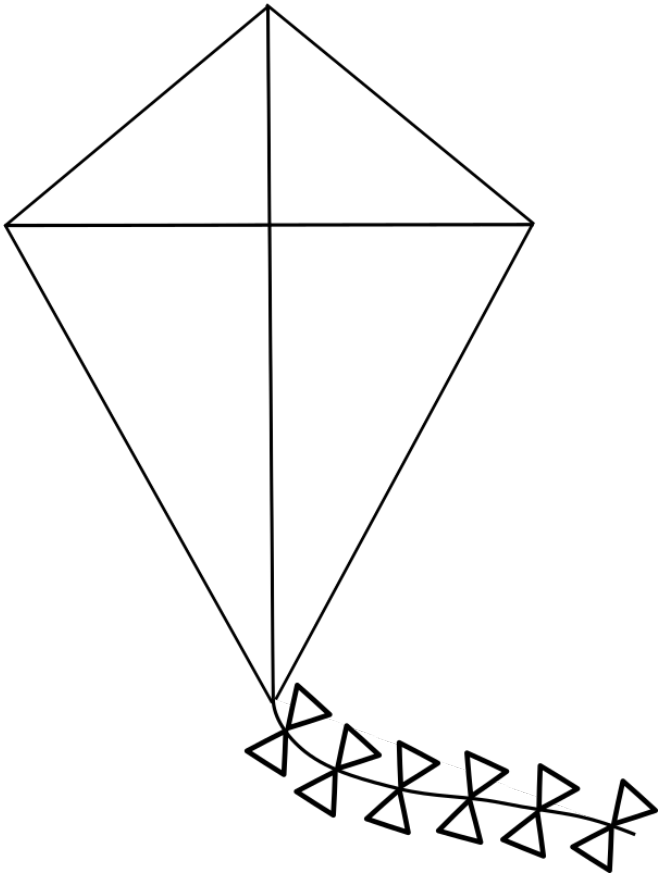
MARCH 2019



Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 539



HEAD-LINE NO. 539 MARCH 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

Lately, my brain has been fixated on cutting the cord. I'm referring to the constantly-growing presence of technology in my life, and the also-growing portion of my budget that it requires. In an attempt to bring it back down to a manageable number, I took the following steps:

1. Cancelled my landline. Thus ends a lifelong relationship with Ma Bell. I'm strictly a cellphone girl now. (Note phone number change on the inside front cover; it should read 517-285-8740)
2. Cancelled a 20-year relationship with Comcast Cable (now known as Xfinity).
3. Cancelled ATT U-verse Internet in favor of a one-year commitment with Xfinity for internet-only service. I'm hoping that when my promo rate jumps up $20 next year, maybe a new option or two will be available in my location. (Think LightSpeed, which recently announced that it's been bought out by MetroNet.)
4. Subscribed to Hulu Live as a replacement for cable TV. (Just one of a number of possible streaming alternatives. Others to consider are YouTube TV, Sling, and DirectTV Now.) This is in addition to Netflix and Amazon Prime which I already had.

My net savings each month rounds out to $120. Not too shabby. Frees up money to feed the birds and spoil grandchildren.

It occurs to me however, that cutting the cord is also a metaphor for events that go on throughout our life cycles. Teens cut the cord from parents as they mature into adults. Women have proverbially cut the apron strings for decades now. Midlife can bring desires to change employment ties. The realities of some medical conditions can require us to make life and death decisions about what cords to keep and what to cut.

Is anyone out there in MMM-Land willing to comment about cord-cutting in your own life? As always, I will report your comment anonymously if you prefer. Let me know at sharonslp@ameritech.net. Or call me at 517-285-8740.

RVC 3 FEBRUARY, 2019 Column

John Voymas

Some reminders …

Membership renewals are due by the end of March since our fiscal year runs from April 1 of the current year until March 31 of the subsequent year. If you do not renew by March 31, you will not be able to vote in the elections for AMC board members nor for the Bylaw proposals. You may want to consider a multi-year renewal. One decision can cover three years, five years, or a lifetime.

Which brings me to the second reminder ... our every-two-year election period when you can cast your votes is from April 15, 2019 to May 15, 2019. There are a few Bylaw proposals on the ballot. The first one ”Procedure relating to discipline of members whose conduct has been deemed to be harmful" is proposed by the Event Safety Task Force of which I am a member. There has been a number of requests from the membership for the AMC to "do something" about problem members and incidents that make attending a local group event or an RG (or even this past year's AG) at the very least uncomfortable and in some cases intolerable. Although Mensa encourages incidents to be resolved at the local level, we know that sometimes escalation is in order. One change that is proposed is that instead of requiring members equaling 150% of the number of local group ExComm members to request a regional hearing, we are proposing to lower that to two or more members who are willing to come forward to provide documentation and request the hearing. Before you vote on this please read the entire proposal as well as both the Pro and Con statements.

On a lighter note, CultureQuest® is scheduled for Sunday, April 28. Facing questions that range from film to politics, from literature to geography, from music to history and further afield, Mensan teams of up to five members gather in their neighborhoods on a single day across the U.S. and Canada and, for 90 minutes, compete for cash prizes and cultural literacy bragging rights. Last year, four of the top twenty teams were from Region 3 as well as the Teen Team winner.

Events in Region 3 include:

The Dayton Area Mensa RG from March 29 to 31 in Sharonville,

OhioMind Games (sold out) from April 12 to 14 in Wadsworth, Ohio

The Southeast Michigan Mensa RG from April 26 to 28 in Romulus, Michigan (maybe field a CultureQuest® team of members of different local groups that attend this RG)

Looking forward to seeing many of you at one or more of the gatherings.

SPEAKING OF THE DAYTON RG

Check out their website for all the pertinent information about this gathering. http://www.dayton.us.mensa.org./index_files/rg.html

MARCH 2019

Dayton Area Mensa

Presents:

DAMNations 31 FLAVORS

Dayton Area Mensa appreciates your loyal patronage. To thank you, we are offering DAMNations 2019 for the same price as DAMNations 2012. Enjoy!

Games and Tournaments
Crafts and Demonstrations
Talks and Presentations
All five meals included
Famous DAM 24-hr Hospitality
Not your mother's church social

March 29 – 31, 2019

Place Order Here
Melissa Shirley
309 Bending Branch Lane
Miamisburg OH 45342
(614) 562-5970
rg.registrar@dayton.us.mensa.org
www.dayton.us.mensa.org

Pay Here
Checks payable to Dayton Mensa RG
e-payment options available

	Full weekend	Friday	Saturday
Adults	$70*	30	50
Teens 13 thru 20	$50	25	40
Kids 6 thru 12	$35	20	30
Tots under 6	Free		

*After the Ides of March add $10.

Pick Up Here
DoubleTree Suites*
6300 East Kemper Rd.
Blue Ash OH 45241
(513) 489-3636
$109 per night + tax
until 3/4/19
Mention code DMN
*Note location for 2019

Registration Form for DAMNations 31 Flavors

Name	*Name on tag*	*E-mail*	*Age If <21*

Street Address _____ *Phone* (____)_____

City _____ *State* ___ *Zip* _____ *Local Group* _____

Mid-Michigan Mensa Membership

John Garrison, Chairman

March 2019

127 Members

MENSA Birthdays

Happy Birthday to you

2 Jeffrey Buchhop
5 Roderick Baltzer
18 Steven Spitzley
26 Thomas Korkoske
4 David Brown
17 Eric Sanjko
26 Frank Dolinar

MENSAversaries

Congratulations on your years with Mensa

44 Years Elizabeth Evangelista
19 Years Roberta McCall
10 Years Eric Laverty
9 Years Kathleen Kohagen
5 Years Mason Miller
4 Years Michael Haven
3 Years Ian Smith
24 Years David Uhrmann
13 Years John Paduch
10 Years Keith Shaw
6 Years Kobe Hixon
4 Years Jennifer Feasal
4 Maria Koutsoukos

Members Leaving

Sorry to see you go. We'll miss you.

Michael Dorman

New Members

Welcome. We're glad you joined us.

Sandra Callis — Eagle

DOUBLE DACTYL CHALLENGE

Steering committee member, Aaron Rabushka, sent in a double dactyl verse. Apparently, this is a thing! First, some vocabulary definitions:

1. The meter of a dactyl is long-short-short: example: merrily
2. A double dactyl is two long-short-shorts. Thus you get:
   Merrily merrily / Roll along scarily
3. A choriamb is one dactyl plus a stressed syllable.

The double-dactyl short verse form consists of one sentence containing 44 syllables, distributed over two four-line stanzas.
These are the suggested rules; feel free to vary from them if it works for you:

Line 1: a rhyming nonsense phrase of two words (aka double dactyl), 3 syllables each: ie higgledy piggledy; boom-chucka boom-chucka;

Line 2: an historic person's name; this is the topic of the poem. It helps if the name of the person you are writing about is naturally in the form of a double dactyl; ex: Hans Christian Andersen

Line 3: should be two dactylic metrical feet in length

Lines 4 and 8: should be choriambs (see above)… and they should rhyme on the stressed syllable.

Line 6 (but could be 5 or 7): has to be a six-syllable word which is a double dactyl.

Here is Aaron's version; he does not follow the above rules religiously, and his verse works well regardless:

huffing it, puffing it,
William the Conqueror
rolled over England in
ten sixty-six

scorning persuasion
the Briton's equation to
Billy's invasion was
"Yeccch, what a fix!"

Thank you for this, Aaron. Does anyone else want to give it a shot? Send your submissions to sharonslp@ameritech.net

CALLING ALL MMM LITERATI

by Elizabeth Evangelista

Taking advantage of a good day of this snowy winter, the LitSig met at Elizabeth Evangelista's home on January 27th to discuss Mark Sullivan's *Beneath a Scarlet Sky.* This "novel", based on a true story about a young Italian man who worked for the Resistance during World War II, evoked a lively discussion.

The next LitSig meeting will be held on Sunday, 3/17, at 1:00 PM (wear your Green everybody!) at the home of Wendy Carnegie. We will be discussing *My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry, by Fredrik Backman,* author of *A Man Called Ove.* Please join us for snacks and lively conversation.

Note: Remember readers, the *Headline* would like to publish reviews of books you've enjoyed and recommend. Send your submissions to sharonslp@ameritech.net.

NINE IMPORTANT FACTS

Submitted by John Garrison; from the internet, but no attribution

#9 Death is the number 1 killer in the world.
#8 Life is sexually transmitted.
#7 Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
#6 Men have 2 motivations: hunger and hanky-panky, and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eyes, make him something to eat.
#5 Give a person a fish and you have fed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe even years.
#4 Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.
#3 All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.
#2 In the 60s, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.
#1 Life is like a jar of jalapeño peppers. What you do today might burn your butt tomorrow .

FEBRUARY THOUGHT QUESTION

by Sharon Plavnick

INFORMATION OVERLOAD: TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING?

Used to be that when I was fixing to spend a lot of money on a major purchase (think appliance or mattress), I'd consult *Consumer Reports* and talk to the salesperson at Sears or wherever. Then I'd make a decision, usually right then and there in the store. Or if I needed information about a health concern, I made a doctor's appointment.
Nowadays, I consult Google about everything. I get stuck there for days on end. St. Bernards have to be sent to rescue me.

Imagine that I am concerned about flat feet. One website says these are THE TOP TEN BEST SHOES TO BUY IF YOU HAVE FLAT FEET** but another website lists two of those shoes as among the TOP TEN WORST SHOES for flat feet. What's a flat-footed person to do? Consult a podiatrist of course. There are at least 7300 podiatrist websites that contain articles advising the flat-footed. One says to try physical therapy. Another says to walk barefoot as much as possible. A third suggests that a cortisone jab will solve your problem. Everyone mentions over-the-counter orthotics, but just try finding consensus about which brand of orthotics are the best.

In desperation, I head over to forums and message boards where people just like me talk realistically about what to do with our flat-as-a-pancake feet. Everyone has a different suggestion; ranging from using duct tape, to swallowing large capsules filled with sweat from the under-feathers of free-range chickens, to sleeping with magnets positioned under your feet. There is always the old cut-off-your-foot-to-spite-your-leg trick too.

I don't actually have flat feet. Substitute any foot problem, or any other concern. The dynamics are the same regardless of the topic.
Are today's modern search engines a blessing or a curse?

If you have thoughts you want to share, send them to me at sharonslp@ameritech.net

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Barb Ford

It's March! This means winter is mostly behind us, and spring is on her way. The ancient Celtic people celebrated the Vernal Equinox and so do I. Who could not love the coming of spring? On March 21st, there will be 12 hours of daylight. This is the natural time of the year when chickens and wild birds resume laying their eggs. No wonder Easter is celebrated with eggs. The theme for the Vernal Equinox is balance. It is a time to consciously bring balance back into our lives as we emerge from winter. This spring season, I plan to get into the spirit by clearing out old stuff and bringing in fresh new energy and ideas.

Think about doing some of the things I have on my ambitious list:

Clean out closets, donate unused clothing and serviceable items.
Go through kitchen cupboards, donate pans and seldom used gadgets.
My garage. Organize, donate and discard unused items.
Put on a Queen album (loud) and clean my house.
Give the dog a bath.
Wash and clean out my car.
Sweep and scrub my patio and patio furniture.
Wash the windows.
Hire someone to pressure wash my home.

My friends are having a garage sale and have invited me to participate. I might be able to turn some things into quick cash. Sweet.

I have a game I play. I call it "10 Things." I go through my house every week and find 10 things I can donate to a charity. Making regular trips to drop off items I don't use creates space in my home and helps someone who can use what I donate. Furniture and larger items can be picked up. My personal favorite is Restore. I love what they do for the community. Another thing I like to do is make a conscious effort to fill my trash and recycling cans as full as possible each week. This helps me to take a hard look at the things in my home that need to be discarded or recycled. By the time summer rolls around, my personal environment should be in pretty good shape. I will be able to relax while listening to my Queen music collection. Rock on forever Brian, Roger, John and Freddie….

MARCH 2019 CALENDAR

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.

Fri. Mar. 15 **TGIF - Soup Spoon Cafe:** 1419 E Michigan Ave, Lansing. Wide menu selection, including vegan choices. MMM's have enjoyed eating there since our first Escape Room adventure.

Sun. Mar. 17 **LIT SIG:** 1:00 PM at 1715 S. Crystal Cove.. The book we will discuss is My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry, by Fredrik Backman. Come for snacks and lively conversation.

Fri. Mar. 22 **TGIF - Outback Steakhouse:** 4880 Marsh Road, across from Meridian Mall in Okemos. Australian-themed restaurant featuring great steaks, chicken, seafood, and their famous Bloomin' Onions.

Fri. Mar. 29 **TGIF - Delhi Cafe:** 4625 Willoughby Rd, Holt, between Cedar St. and Aurelius Rd. Good Greek and American food.

Fri. Apr. 5 **TGIF - Bravo Cucina Italiana:** 2970 Towne Centre Blvd, Lansing, in Eastwood Towne Center. Upscale-casual Italian restaurant serving pasta, grilled dishes, and pizza.

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