DECEMBER 2019

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 548



HEAD-LINE NO. 548 DECEMBER 2019
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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EDITOR'S COLUMN:

FROM MY BRAIN TO YOURS

by Sharon Plavnick

Readers, I'm writing this in November, during the run-up to Thanksgiving. You remember Thanksgiving, the holiday that used to herald the coming winter holiday season of peace on earth and goodwill to humankind. Plus gifts.

Somewhere along the way, Thanksgiving became an after-thought. The gift-buying frenzy now kicks into high gear right after Labor Day, sharing shelf space with Halloween costumes for people and their pets. Still, the food industry comes on strong with it's penchant for pumpkin-spiced everything.

Call me old-fashioned, but I still appreciate Thanksgiving as a strong reminder to take some time out to be thankful. This year it feels more important than ever to do so. I find it all too easy to be grumpy and full of complaints about the way the world operates. So right here, right now, I want to zone in on the opposite…the way the world makes me happy and grateful. Here's my top five:

1. Birds: all winter long, I get such pleasure from watching the antics of the birds who stay put in the little forest outside my window. The worse the weather, the more the birds flock to my feeders. So as much as I hate nasty winter weather, I also get a benefit from it.

2. Children: Having children in my life has always been important to me. So, I'm very grateful to have grandchildren, and I'm especially lucky to have the fun of taking each of them to Disney World when they turn 7 or 8. I have my last TWO trips to Disney World with granddaughters scheduled in the near future; one in January and one in May. What will I do next to show my gratitude for having these wonderful girls in my life? It's a big world out there with lots of possibilities. How grateful I am to be able to ponder this.

3. Brains still intact: Speaking of pondering, many of you know that I celebrated my 70th birthday by graduating from law school and passing the bar exam. I am exultant that my brain still works well enough to practice my new profession. Grateful doesn't begin to cut it.

4. Freedom to travel: The realities of aging brings some restrictions to many of us. Long ago, I decided that the perfect age was any age where an individual was old enough to do anything they wanted, but young enough to do anything they wanted. I can't do anything I want anymore as freely as I once used to, but I can still manage some kind of proximation of it. So I can't hike steep mountain passages anymore, but I can get to them and view them and at least hobble out to the overlooks to appreciate the grandeur that Mother Nature provides. Grand Canyon….I'm looking at you! You are at the top of my bucket list.

5. Friends: Life throws a lot of fruit at us, and if we're smart, we'll find the lemons to make lemonade. In my opinion, every acquaintance is a potential friend, and if that's not a glass of lemonade. I don't know what is. I'm grateful that my thirst is regularly quenched.

What about all of you? What are your top five? Drop me a line at sharonslp@ameritech.net



SAVE THE DATE: NEW YEAR AFTERGLOW

We will wine and dine at the new home of Karen Petersmarck, on Sunday, January 5th. We'll meet at 4, and eat at 5. We will cater it again this year, and it will be necessary to reserve your spot. Karen will be sending out written invitations; be sure to RSVP when you get yours. If by any chance it doesn't reach you, RSVP to Karen anyway, by December 31st. (petersm2@msu.edu or 517-449-1722) Karen's address is 2411 Sapphire, in East Lansing.

We're asking attendees to bring either an appetizer or a dessert to share.

And yes, of course we will entertain ourselves with our well-loved White Elephant gift exchange.

RVC 3 DECEMBER, 2019 Column

John Voymas

Almost winter! For some of you the snow has already fallen and the ski and snowmobile season has begin. For others, it is a reminder of why you look forward to retiring a bit further south. Each to their own. Holidays are upon us. May you all enjoy whichever holiday you prefer, whether gifts are involved or not. And then ... a new year will arrive.

The final RG of the year in Region 3, CAMaraderie 2019 is being hosted by Cincinnati Area Mensa from Friday, December 6 through Sunday, December 8, 2019, at the DoubleTree by Hilton on Kemper Road in Sharonville, Ohio. For more information go to https://cincymensa.org/RG2019/.

That same weekend, on Saturday, December 7, is the quarterly AMC board meeting in the Chicago area. These are open to the membership, so if you are in the area, please join us. This coincides with Chicago Area Mensa's monthly meeting later that evening.

It's not too soon to begin planning for next year's RGs and the AG. In March, Dayton Area Mensa plans on their regional gathering. The following month, Southeast Michigan Mensa will host one on Friday, April 17, through Sunday, April 19. For more information, check out the Events listing (under the ATTEND drop down) on the American Mensa website at https://www.us.mensa.org/.

The Annual Gathering in 2020 will be in Kansas City, MO from July 1—5. The day before, the Colloquium will focus on "Advances in Food Science", which I am looking forward to. For more info on these national events, the direct link is https://ag.us.mensa.org/.

Finally, the opportunity to share the Mensa Voucher Program (MVP) codes with family, friends, acquaintances ... even strangers ends at the end of December. Each Local Group has one code that any member can provide to any potential new member. This code can be used many times between now and December 31, 2019.

For example, in Southeast Michigan Mensa, the code is MotorCity19. When the prospective member goes to us.mensa.org and wants to purchase a test voucher (or submit prior evidence), they would enter this discount code during their purchase process. It would act just like a discount code at Amazon, subtracting the full cost of the Mensa Test

Voucher or Prior Evidence, resulting in a net cost of zero. The test voucher is then good for up to two years.

All members were emailed their Local Group's discount code around September 3, 2019. The email subject was "Invite a friend using your MVP code". If you don't find the email in your Inbox, simply ask another member what the code is for your group.

Happy Holidays!



A GATHERING OF GAMERS (AGOG)

AGOG is back! We're holding it Friday through Sunday, January 24-26, 2020 at the Westin Chicago North Shore – the same hotel where "WeeM" is held. Last year we had over 130 attendees enjoying 48 hours of board games. Be the first on your block to register!

Chicago Area Mensa has an extensive collection of games, including Mensa Select® winners and popular new games. Food is provided and we all have a terrific time. On a scale of 1 to 10, participants rated last year's event as 9.1. Comments included: "Best of its type" and "Totally tubular, dude".

Through December 15, you can register for the bargain rate of $55 for adult members, $35 for youth, and $5 extra for non-members. Hotel rates are $108 through January 10.
Register at http://chicago.us.mensa.org/agog/ –- we'd love to see you there!

Mid-Michigan Mensa Steering Committee Minutes

November 15, 2019 Wendy Carnegie, Scribe

PRESENT: LocSec, Bob Henderson, Secretary, Wendy, Sharon Plavnick, and Squire Jaros.

The meeting was called to order by LocSec, Bob Henderson at 7:10 PM.

Minutes of the November, 15, 3019 were reviewed. Sharon made a motion to accept the November minutes as printed. Motion was seconded by Wendy and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:
Bob announced that Roy Saper has agreed to perform the Annual Financial Review that is required by the National Office. A motion to have Roy perform the Annual Financial Review was made by Sharon, seconded by Wendy, and passed unanimously.

Sharon announced that plans for the "After Glo" are coming along well. It will be held January 5, 2020, at Karen Petersmarck's new home. Karen will be sending out invitations soon and requests that RSVPs be returned by December 31, 2019. As the event is being catered, members will need to RSVP to attend.

Bylaw changes were discussed. Wendy presented another revised edition of the bylaws. Board members are to review it, report any needed changes to Wendy. The plan is to have a final document ready to send by December 10, 2019.

NEW BUSINESS:
Sharon reported that she had down-loaded an app to help edit the Head-Line, but it kept crashing so she returned it. Wendy and Sharon will get together and discuss possible reformatting the Head-Line.

Wendy announced she will hold a Chili-Cook Off in February. The date and further information will be announced later.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

MEET A FELLOW MENSAN

MEET BARB FORD

Your first job? Your best job? Your dream job? Your worst job?

At an ice cream shop, and yes, I still love ice cream.
Massage Therapist.
Massage Therapist, Program Instructor.
Pharmaceutical Representative.

Pet peeve(s)?

People who say hateful things.
People who intentionally hurt others.
Mosquitoes.

Night owl or early bird?

Early Bird, but naps are good.

Favorite season?

Fall....College Football. Love Summer, too

Marriages/Divorces/Children

Widowed, no kids that I gave birth to.... but cool Step daughter, Jamie

Favorite travel experience

LOVE the Grand Traverse/Leelanau peninsula area

What you like best about being a Mensan

The TGIFs and members of MMM. I miss them.

Earliest childhood memory:

Learning to swim in a motel pool in Florida....I was 15 months old.

Something important you learned in HS: Gymnastics

Educational background

BA: Biology/Chemistry. MMA: Management.
Certificate: Therapeutic Massage.
Program Originator,Coordinator, Instructor: Therapeutic Massage.

Hobbies/interests

Cooking, reading, my pets

Favorite food(s)

Ethnic foods, Bread, Most everything, except fish. Yuk.

At the top of your bucket list

To walk the shores of Lake Michigan again...to look for Petoskey Stones and agates.

I want to give a special shout out to Barb, who continues to supply us with her monthly food column, even though she is no longer a member of our group. I remember when she was a weekly face around the Friday night dinner table, and when her column shows up each month, it's like an old friend has come to visit. Thanks so much, Barb.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Barb Ford

Do you ever find yourself in such a hurry in the morning you only have time for coffee? Then later regret you didn't take time for breakfast, and make bad choices…like vending machines, fast food, or a donut.
(Please understand I do very much love donuts.)

I have found a solution that works wonderfully. Rather tasty, and I don't get hungry for hours. Egg coffee. Yep. Before you say yuk, try it. Come on over, and I will make one for you. There are many ways to make it, but I have simplified the process.

I have a high speed Blendtec blender. Just like the one used by The Pioneer Woman, but I had mine before her show ever aired. Start by breaking one organic farm fresh egg into a small dish, to make certain shells don't get into it. Then drop the egg into the blender. Pulse ONCE, then add 8 ounces of **very hot** coffee. (I use my Keurig.) Immediately pulse TWICE, then pour it into a mug and GO! I usually just use a splash of cream in my coffee, but don't even need it with the egg. If you wish to add cream and sugar, make it your own. Really, the egg cooks instantly, and is thoroughly incorporated. Avoid pulsing too much, as it will be too foamy. I have also used a hand blender in a large mug with good success.

There are many cultures around the world that routinely incorporate raw eggs into coffee. You Tube has a lot of videos.

This quick egg coffee is also an excellent mid-afternoon snack…. perhaps with a splash of Irish Whiskey. For, um, medicinal purposes….

Try it. Your life may never be the same.

"My stomach whispered lunch and to hell with time.
I went to look for the liquid moral support of more coffee."

Peter Mayle





Happy Thanksgiving

DECEMBER 2019 CALENDAR

Fri. Dec. 6 **TGIF - Ozzy's Kabob:** 3536 Meridian Crossings Drive #260 in the Meridian Crossings Mall. Low-key venue for typical Middle Eastern fare such as chicken shawarma and okra stew.

Fri. Dec 13 **TGIF - Delhi Cafe:** 4625 Willoughby Rd, Holt, between Cedar St and Aurelius Rd. A Mensa favorite with good Greek and American food.

Steering Committee Meeting: to follow dinner.

Fri. Dec. 20 **TGIF - Meridian Mall Food Court:** 1982 W Grand River, Okemos. Panda Express, Cajun Cafe, A & W, and many other choices.

Fri. Dec. 27 **TGIF - Grand Traverse Pie Company:** 1403 E Grand River Ave, East Lansing. It's in the Brookfield Plaza at the corner of Grand River Ave and Hagadorn Rd. Service is cafeteria style, so bus your own dishes before you leave. Quiches, pot pies, pasties, sandwiches, wraps, soups, salads, and, of course, pie (best a-la-mode).

Fri. Jan. 3 **TGIF - Harrison Roadhouse:** 720 E. Michigan Ave, East Lansing. Good selection of pub-grub, other food, and beers.

Sun. Jan. 5 **MMM AfterGlow:** 2411 Sapphire, in East Lansing. A holiday party to close out the holidays! We will meet at Karen Petersmarck's new home at 4 PM and eat at 5 PM. See related article for directions and details. Bring a White Elephant gift!

Fri. Jan. 10 **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.

Steering Committee Meeting: to follow dinner.

Fri. Jan 17 **TGIF - Lucky's Steakhouse:** 3554 Okemos Rd, Okemos, formerly Gilbert & Blake's. Famous for their seafood, steaks, and prime rib with all the trimmings.

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