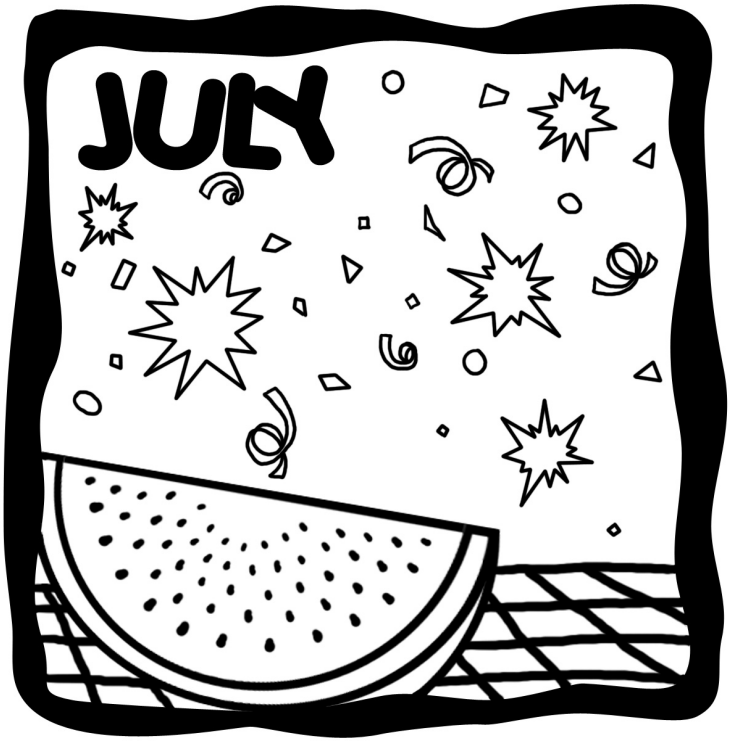
JULY 2020

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 555



HEAD-LINE NO. 555 JULY 2020
MID-MICHIGAN MENSA

Region 3 Vice-Chairman: John Voymas
Email: RVC3@us.mensa.org

STEERING COMMITTEE (ELECTED BOARD)

Loc Sec:	Robert Henderson	517-676-3369	rlhenderson@peoplepc.com
Vice Loc Sec:	Elizabeth Evangelista	517-351-3645	evangel6@comcast.net
Scribe:	Wendy Carnegie	517-775-0648	w.carnegie@comcast.net
	Sharon Plavnick	517-285-8740	sharonslp@ameritech.net
	John Garrison	517-349-7313	MidMIMensa@aol.com
	Squire Jaros	517-775-4833	IIahcrsamc@aol.com

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Dues Sub. Adm:	Elizabeth Evangelista	517-351-3645	evangel6@comcast.net
Gifted Youth Coord:			
Membership:	John Garrison	517-349-7313	MidMIMensa@aol.com
Ombudsman:	John Rooney	517-980-2657	rooneyjack312@gmail.com
Proctor:	John Garrison	517-349-7313	MidMIMensa@aol.com
Program Director	Elizabeth Evangelista	517-351-3645	evangel6@comcast.net
Scholarship:			
SIGHT Coord:	Dee Becker	517-349-3292	deebecker@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer:	Robert Henderson	517-676-3369	rlhenderson@peoplepc.com

HEAD-LINE EDITOR

	Sharon Plavnick.	517-285-8740	sharonslp@ameritech.net
Distribution Manager	John Garrison;	517-349-7313	MidMIMensa@aol.com

WEBMASTER

Robert Henderson 517-676-3369. rlhenderson@peoplepc.com

MMM WEB SITE: http:/www.midmichigan.us.mensa.org

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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

We all measure progress in the Covid-19 battles in different ways. But the fact that we are back to a print issue of the Head-Line, after two months of electronic copies only, marks a definite milestone in my book.

As I write this, for the past three months, we have all been doing some version of staying at home and social distancing when we have to go out. Some of us are feeling more comfortable now with going out and about a bit more; some of us are still limiting it to necessity only.

Personally, I'm finding that while I've lightened up a little bit (so happy to have had some grandchildren-in-person time), I'm content to let a lot still slide. I'll be forgoing indoor restaurants for quite a while longer. I'll be keeping my mask on in any indoor sojourn, and perhaps in the outdoors if the density of people gets uncomfortably close. I have no plans for travel until next year… and even that is a wait-and-see plan.

The good part is that I've worked my way into a feeling of comfort with the slowed-down pace. My days are feeling full even when I can't point to a single specific accomplishment. I find that for the first time in my entire life, I'm really living in the moment. Color me strangely contented.

What about all of you? If you want to respond to anything you read in this issue, send it along to me at: sharonslp@ameritech.net

LOC SEC COLUMN

Bob's Two Bits for July 2020
by Robert Henderson

This is a recent statement from the American Mensa Committee:

"Cognizant of our responsibilities as the elected and appointed officers of American Mensa, we reaffirm Mensa's Constitution, which states that 'Mensa encompasses members representing many points of view. Consequently, Mensa as an organization shall not express an opinion as being that of Mensa … or have any ideological, philosophical, political, or religious affiliations.'

However, we recognize that many of our members feel -- as do we -- the same outrage over the death of George Floyd, and all the other incidents of which his death was emblematic. We honor the public outcry and responses that are now changing the world. As Mensans, as human beings, we abhor racism, abuse of positions of authority, and institutionalized inequality. We recognize that such issues have been endemic to societies worldwide for a long time.

Mensa's Constitution states our purposes: 'to identify and foster human intelligence for the benefit of humanity; to encourage research into the nature, characteristics, and uses of intelligence; and to provide a stimulating intellectual and social environment for our members.' Further, it lays out our policy that 'Intelligence should be used for the benefit of humanity.'

We also echo our long-held policy that 'bigotry and prejudice are antithetical to the nature of American Mensa.' We welcome healthy conflict of opinion, but we take seriously occasions when those differences overflow into personal attack or abuse of any kind. We believe that Mensans, and people in general, can and should disagree without being disagreeable.

To that end, we pledge to work within the organization we lead to eradicate any such abuses of people. We have already begun work on making changes, but Mensa is a society of equals: all intelligent, all opinionated. We ask for our members' input on how we can make those changes positive for them and for the organization."

Bob's Two Bits on the above: In this time of social unrest, high income inequality, and world-wide pandemic, we crave some stability in our lives, some anchor to hold us firm. Rather than take our Mensa memberships for granted, we would do well to consider how our intelligence could be harnessed to reduce the daily toll of human suffering due to war, injustice, poverty, and illness. Philosophy and religion both teach us that a good way to assure our own happiness and fulfillment is by striving to make others happier, or at least less unhappy! An intelligent person is well equipped to find ways to pursue such goals. Someone who expresses racist opinions or commits hurtful acts due to bigotry or prejudice against members of any group is actively sabotaging this worthwhile effort.

An excellent use of intelligence is to learn from the experience of others. . . the only other options are learning from hard personal experience or not learning at all! An intelligent person enjoys learning for learning's sake and is familiar enough with past events to raise warning flags when the news reveals worrisome trends. When racism or fascism raise their ugly heads, let us be among the first to put them to shame by showing the world how much better off we are without them.

When intelligent persons need to make decisions that fall outside their own breadth of knowledge, they turn to trustworthy expert sources to obtain the most reliable information available. When the subject is a part of the natural world, the most trustworthy experts are the scientists who have made their field of inquiry a subject of intensive long-term study. This is not just scientism: science is a discipline conducted by scientists using methods such as peer review that tend to weed out false results. It also has another big advantage over many other claims of authority: scientists don't have to reinvent centuries of scientific knowledge when others have already run the experiments and published the results. There are several contentious areas of public policy that would be a lot less contentious if we all listened to the scientists who are most familiar with the subject areas and least likely to have personal or financial interests at stake.

Another hallmark of intelligence is to work to understand disagreements well enough to devise win-win solutions that leave both sides better off than before rather than assume that a gain for one party must represent a loss for the other. In the civil rights area, none of us is harmed when others gain the same rights that we enjoy. In the case of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were told that we had to choose between keeping our economy going strong and protecting our health and that of those around us. However, recent studies have shown that disease transmission can be reduced enough to stop the pandemic dead in its tracks if people consistently wear a cloth mask in public, whether they feel sick or not. A mask or face shield effectively blocks exhaled water droplets that can transmit the virus even from people showing no symptoms. Since there are relatively few economic activities that cannot be conducted either remotely or while wearing a mask, this is a win-win scenario. We can even enjoy dining out again if everyone does their part!

Note that the above is my personal opinion and is not to be construed as the official policy of either Mid-Michigan Mensa or American Mensa Limited.

RVC 3 JULY, 2020 Column

John Voymas

As this article is written for the July issue of your local group newsletter, my first thought is how I am missing being at the Annual Gathering in Kansas City. That has now been moved to 2024. Next year's gathering is a World Gathering. It has been fifteen years since the last one, which was held at Disney in Florida. That was my first national Mensa event. Next year, I hope to see many of you in Houston, August 24 to 29. Yes, it is later next year so that it is easier for our European members to attend during their annual "holiday" period.

Local group events continue to be primarily via Zoom and other web-oriented platforms. Some groups are now holding their monthly gatherings with speakers in a virtual fashion. This seems to increase attendance as it allows homebound members to join in. Groups like Chicago Area Mensa are publishing agendas which include social time, speaker time, and games room. Once larger in-person social events are allowed by Governors, I encourage the continued use of the internet in order to include more members than "in-person" alone would allow. Some places are using both Zoom and Facebook Live to reach more folks. To see how some Region 1 groups are engaging members, here is a report by Ian Randal Strock, their RVC https://www.us.mensa.org/featured-content/getting-together-during-quarantine-a-virtual-view-from-region-1/.

Speaking of Governors of our states, please follow their guidelines and executive orders. They do vary considerably. Here in Michigan, we can meet in groups of ten or fewer, must "socially distance", and must wear masks when inside a public building (e.g. stores). In most of the state, restaurants and bars are still limited to curbside, take-out, and delivery. Hair salons are still not allowed to be open even though some of us could use a haircut. My wife has lately been suggesting that we go to Ohio to get a much-needed massage. The states that surround Michigan seem to have moved forward more quickly than Michigan. In fact, Indiana has a billboard near the Michigan border that welcomes Michiganders to a "free-to-roam" state. Indiana has published a five-phase plan with dates and criteria. It is very specific but does include a

disclaimer that says that it could change. The Governor of Indiana must know what SMART goals are as the plan follows that approach - which provides hope to its citizens.

The next Regional Gathering (RG) in Region 3 is planned for Labor Day weekend, hosted by Western Pennsylvania Mensa (WPAM). However, that is in question and may be canceled. The Columbus Area Mensa RG in early October has been canceled. The Cincinnati Area Mensa RG is still on for December 4 - 6 but there will likely be changes for the safety of members and volunteers. American Mensa has published a list of recommendations for meetings which includes local group meetings and gatherings, youth events, and testing. It is on the Mensa home webpage under officer resources or go directly to it at https://www.us.mensa.org/featured-content/recommendations-for-meetings-in-a-covid-19-world/.

In this time of conflicting requirements, even among the states in our region, please be kind and respectful of one another. If someone is wearing a mask, they may have a personal health or family reason, so be kind to them. If they are not wearing a mask, please be kind to them. Even the World Health Organization (WHO) does not recommend masks for the general public but recommends masks for those who are elderly, health compromised, or have contact with those who are. However, WHO does mention that local governmental decisions should be followed. In all things, please be kind. Looking forward to seeing many of you in the not-too-distant future. Cheers!

R.I.P. Beth Hjertos 1968 - 2020

Submitted by Bob Henderson

(This obituary was inadvertently left out of the June issue. While Beth was no longer a member of MMM, some of you will remember her from TGs.)

Beth Ellen Hjertos died in Lansing, MI on April 19, 2020 at the age of 51. She was a former member of Mid-Michigan Mensa and served as our LocSec for a few months in 2016. She worked at the Tri-County Office on Aging as an RN, where her co-workers and former patients describe her as a very smart, caring, dedicated and hard-working nurse who will be missed. In her Twitter profile she described herself as a Registered Nurse, a poet, and a person on the autism spectrum. Beth's intelligence and unique viewpoint made for some interesting conversations. . . At one TGIF dinner she told us candidly about teaching a class for autistic children and coming to the realization that she herself was "just like them." We are not aware of Beth's friends outside of her work, and there was no obituary printed by either the Lansing State Journal or the the Skinner Funeral Home. If any MMM members have memories of Beth, we'd be pleased to share them with the readership

JUNE AND JULY 2020
MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
John Garrison, Membership Chair
110 Members

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Ingrid Nova	**2**	**Kevin Smart**	**4**
Michael Redemacher	**5**	**Richard Weingartner**	**9**
Gail Wolfe	**11**	**Wendy Kassal**	**13**
Mark Weiss	**16**	**Ronald Bardy**	**17**
Robert Smith	**18**	**Paul Kassal**	**19**
Zachary Brennan	**20**	**Igor Guro**	**27**
Matthew Carter	**27**		

JULY BIRTHDAYS

David Murley	**7**	**Kristen Kosloski**	**8**
Gary Gordon	**12**	**Charles Rose**	**13**
David Salsbury	**17**		

JUNE MENSAVERSARIES

Frank Dolinar	**21**	**Lawrence Beckon**	**24**
John Garrison	**33**	**Roy Saper**	**51**

JULY MENSAVERSARIES

Pamela Benzing	**4**	**Daniel Thompson**	**19**
Eleanor Keating	**30**	**Dawn Ramsey**	**33**
Jeffrey Buchop	**3**		

The national Mensa office has been taking some time off because of COVID19, so there is not a listing of new members, lapsed members, moved in and moved out. Hopefully we will have a complete listing next month. Please be safe.

MEET A FELLOW MENSAN
Meet Dr. Roderick Balzer, D.O.

First job: during college with Ma Brown Pickle; also road construction
Best and dream job: family doctor to 7000 patients; delivered 2000 babies.

Pet peeve(s): laziness and wasting talent

Night owl or early bird: definite early bird; even at 73 I only need 6 hours of sleep.

Favorite season: Fall…back to school… football… woods in full color.

Marriages/Divorces/Children: Divorced at age 40; never remarried. 3 daughters who are beautiful and industrious businesswomen.

Favorite travel experience: never traveled much…married to my practice. I took my mom to her native England in her later years, and met some very interesting relatives. Day and weekend trips here in Michigan.

What I like best about being a Mensan: knowing there are others who think like me and have had similar experiences in school and life. I refer often to a 2003 *Mensa Bulletin* article, *What Gifted Adults Say About Their Childhoods,* along with *The Top Ten Signs of Giftedness in Adults*, by Deborah Ruf. These should be republished periodically with her permission.

Something important I learned in high school: I learned how to budget my time. In addition to milking the cows every morning and evening (raised on a dairy farm), I started in 4 sports: football, basketball, baseball, and track. I was class president and National Honor Society president. This ability to utilize my time served me well in college and med school. My high school principal was my patient in his later life. He said, "I remember finding you in the gym locker room studying before the game."

Educational background: Graceland University in Iowa; College of Osteopathic Medicine at Michigan State University (I was in the first class of 1973.) 45 years in practice. Certified in family medicine, sports medicine, and gerontology.

Hobbies/interests: my hobbies and profession are one. I love to read; I'm a news junkie.

Top of my bucket list: Continue to do what I can for others as long as I can.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Barb Ford

Date of writing: June 09, 2020

So much is happening in our world these days. I have so many questions and thoughts, as do most folks I know. My usual observer's assessment is: "…things are not always as they seem…" There are always many sides to every story and every event that happens.

Regarding current times, many characterizations are being used. The Event, The Great Awakening, The Ascension. I am certain that all humans residing on Earth will see incredible things unfold in the extremely near future. I could write volumes about this but will keep this short and throw out names and concepts that have been on my recent radar. Do your own research. Special shout out to Juan, Raven, Charles, Greg and Don.

I have been thinking a lot about John Kennedy lately. Princess Diana as well. Are they alive? Nikola Tesla and his work will reemerge. These people and others might be connected.

I hear Buckingham Palace is empty and the Queen's crest has been removed. Bye, Liz, Chuck, William and Harry…. The rumors of a new and rightful King are coming in from all sectors and verified by important world leaders. Well, Holy Grail! King John III. Welcome, Mr. Hallett, we cannot wait to get to know you and see all the great deeds you will do. Your stories are intriguing. The British Empire and all the World will benefit as the Plan unfolds.

The United States, India, Russia and China: Working together? Yup.

Look to see these topics and names to hit the headlines. Quantum Grammar, GITMO, world economic reset, NESARA/GESARA, previously suppressed cures for diseases, photons, energy, anti-gravity, gold, ETs, space travel, time travel, Schumann Resonance, truth, new internet, tiffany blue, 17, 45, 46, 5D and FREEDOM. So. Much. More.

Souls throughout the Universe are envious of Humans who have front row seats to this amazing Event in Earth's timeline.

The best is yet to come. Buckle up, Buttercup! Get your popcorn.

Happy 4th of July. Enjoy the show.

JULY 2020 CALENDAR

All of July:

At this time we still have no TG's or other activities scheduled.
Even though restaurants have begun to reopen for indoor dining, they are not yet taking reservations for larger groups like ours. If that changes before the next issue of the Head-Line is sent, we will post it to the calendar on the MMM Website.

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