MAY 2021

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 565



HEAD-LINE NO. 565 MAY 2021
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

Hi everyone! Your Roving Reporter/Editor is back in town, and happy to be here. It's a lovely day as I write this…not balmy, but a pleasant 57 degrees and even sunny. I'm on my patio, and the birds are twittering away in a glorious cacophony of sound.

Pandemic news is still front and center, and I for one don't think we can afford to let down our defenses just because we've been vaccinated. But that vaccine did allow me to feel comfortable visiting with my daughter on the way home from Florida, and exchanging a great big wonderful hug with her. Pretty soon, I'll be doing the same with my Michigan grand-children.

It looks like some of us will be venturing out to a TG soon. Ginny has scheduled us for outdoor dining on May 14th at the American Bistro. (See further details on calendar page.) I checked their website, and they state that tables on the patio are all 6 feet distant from each other. They are following the state health department guideline to limit those tables to no more than 6 people, so if there are more than 6 of us, we'll have to split up a bit. I'm feeling comfortable with table partners who have all been vaccinated. Now I'm setting my mental vibes for good weather on the 14th.

Even though the current numbers in Michigan are worrisome, I can't help but feel like a tiny bit of "normal" is resuming. Or maybe I'm just kidding myself….that's been known to happen on an occasion or two. Regardless, I am looking forward to whatever semblance of normal I can reasonably sustain. I'm sure you all are too.

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 MAY 2021

by Robert Henderson, Loc Sec

Let's try getting together for a TGIF dinner or two in May! Based on comments on our Facebook page, Ginny will make reservations for Friday, May 14th in the outdoor patio at Amer1can (sic) Bistro, 2328 Showtime Drive, Lansing, just north of Eastwood Towne Center. The usual restaurant mask-wearing and social distancing precautions will apply. Holding May's TGIF outdoors, and with most of us having been vaccinated, the risk of virus transmission should be minimal. If anyone is concerned about asymptomatic virus transmission, recent research has shown that the lack of symptoms in vaccinated persons is due to their minimal viral load, as is to be expected once the vaccine has primed their immune systems to attack the virus. See TGIF details on the MMM Events Calendar inside the back cover of this issue or online at the MMM Web page. If attendance is good and members agree on holding another TGIF in May, we will look at scheduling a different outdoor venue for Friday, May 28.

Our alert Head-Line editor (Ed.note: actually it was our alert Membership chairperson) noticed that several of you had let your Mensa memberships lapse. The MMM Steering Committee stepped up and contacted as many lapsed members as we could. . . As happens occasionally, a few of us had merely let the March 31 deadline slip by unnoticed and were planning to renew soon (if they hadn't already done so in April). Others told us that, since there had been so little MMM activity during the COVID-19 pandemic, they felt that they hadn't received much value for their dues. All I can promise is that we will resume activities such as TGIFs as soon as we can do so with a reasonable assurance of safety. Of course, you are still the best judge of whether that assurance is acceptable for a given activity.

Best wishes to all, Bob

RVC 3 MAY, 2021 Column

John Voymas

We are in the midst of the election season. The voting period runs from April 15 to May 15. There are several members running for national office. I encourage you to make an informed choice on who will lead American Mensa in the next two years. In Region 3, Lora Mitchell of Columbus Area Mensa will assume the Regional Vice Chair (RVC) responsibilities on July 1st.

The World Gathering (WG) is still planned for August 24 - 29, 2021 in Houston, Texas. There will be tours and fun things to do in the Houston area, but please be patient as these cannot be finalized until closer to the date. With COVID, great flexibility is necessary. At this time, the Gala Dinner with LeVar Burton is "sold out" but this may change if CDC guidelines allow for more attendees as we get closer to August. No promises but we can hope.

The WG will be preceded by the Mensa Foundation Colloquium "Advances in Food Science" on August 23. If this is a topic that interests you, I highly recommend purchasing tickets for this event. For more information on both the World Gathering and on the Colloquium, go to https://ag.us.mensa.org/.

Following closely after the WG, the next Regional Gathering (RG) in Region 3 will be hosted by Western Pennsylvania Mensa. This will be over Labor Day weekend so there will be an extra day of programs, fun, and friendship. It is expected to be in-person as long as COVID guidelines allow a gathering of our size. Columbus Area Mensa is planning their RG for October 15 - 17. Details on these should be available on the National Events Calendar.

Enjoy the spring weather!

Mid-Michigan Mensa Treasurer's Report		
Quarter Ending March 31, 2021		
STARTING BALANCE		**$6,497.58**
INCOME		**406.41**
AML National Subsidy Dec. 2020	$99.45	
AML National Subsidy Jan. 2021	106.70	
AML National Subsidy Feb. 2021	103.70	
MC Subscription to 2021 Head-Line	10.00	
Additional AML Subsidy in March	86.50	
Savings interest	0.06	
EXPENDITURES		**60.65**
Head-Line:		
Postage - Feb.	20.51	
Postage - Mar.	20.75	
Postage - Apr.	19.39	
ACCOUNT BALANCES		
5/3 Checking		4,793.21
5/3 Savings		1,998.08
USPS Periodical Postage Account		52.05
ENDING BALANCE		**$6,843.34**

PUZZLES

submitted by Bob Henderson

Logic Puzzle: Colored Cowboy Kerchiefs

Six colored kerchiefs are hidden in an opaque bag: one red, two yellow, and three green. Three cowboys sit around the bag in a darkened room and each pulls out a random kerchief. They tie them on so that they will each see the other two kerchiefs but not their own and then turn on the light. Abner says, "My kerchief could be any of the three colors." Barney says, "My kerchief could be any of the three colors." Clyde says, "I know which color I'm NOT wearing!" Can you determine the color of the kerchief that each cowboy is wearing?

See answer on p.8

Bob's "Wizard of Oz" Trivia Quiz

On which book was the movie based?
Who wrote it?
When did the movie version premiere?
Who starred as Dorothy?
What was Dorothy's last name?
What dog breed was Toto?
In which state did they live?
Who played the spinster, Miss Gooch?
Who played the head of the Lollypop Guild?
Who played the Tin Woodsman?
Who played the Cowardly Lion?
Who played the Scarecrow?
Who played the Wicked Witch of the West?
What product did she later pitch in TV ads?
Who was the daughter of the female lead?

Rather than give you my answers, I suggest that you ask the movie
fans in your life. . . If you get desperate, there's always Google!

MAY 2021 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

John Garrison, Membership Chair
96 Members

MAY BIRTHDAYS

John Rooney	1	Linda Harrison	9
Robert Henderson	16	Michael Haven	20
Richard Shaffer	21	Eric Roath	23
Timothy Howard	25	Joan Forgrave	26

MAY MENSAVERSARIES

Michael Haven	2	Kerry Haynor	2
Igor Guru	28	Rona Landfield	32
John Rooney	37		

WHAT ARE YOU READING RIGHT NOW?
List curated by Sharon Plavnick

What's everyone reading these days? I don't need an entire book review...just a title and author will do. If you add a sentence or two about it, that would be frosting on the cupcake. I will attach your name to your title unless you tell me you'd prefer to be anonymous.

I'm "enjoying" The Nightingale" by Kristin Hannah. It's hard to use the word "enjoy" in connection with a novel about the Nazi occupation of France. So let's clarify that I'm fully engaged in the gripping story.

Elizabeth Evangelista is reading
1) "The Bon Jour Effect" by Julie Barlow $ Jean-Benoit Nadau. How to speak French in France while avoiding Cultural Boo-Boos Amusing and informative! Written in English.
2) "Love in the Time of Cholera" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez This is a steamy classic about love in Columbia. Good reading.
3) Next in line: "The Book of Lost Names" by Kristin Harmel. It's a novel about a young woman who helps Jewish children flee the Nazis

(Editor's note: Do I detect some themed overlap in what we are reading right now?)

PONDER THIS IN MAY

by John Garrison

Many of you know that I am a mall Santa at Christmas time. If you don't know it I am going to tell Rudolph and he will drop a special present down your chimney. Now, on to this month's column.

Every year I sit in the mall for four to six weeks. I meet a lot of great children and their parents. A couple of years ago I got to be friends with some teenagers who hung around the mall. When I had down time they would congregate around me and we would have discussions about various topics. One day this boy, about fifteen or so, sat down next to me and he pulled out his cell phone. His actions prompted me to ask him a question. I'll repeat it here for you to ponder.

I said, "Look what you are holding in your hands. It is a technological wonder. 20 years ago if someone said that you would be holding a device that you could make and receive phone calls on. A device with a camera, a device that could tell time, a device that would let you access the internet, a device that you could read and send messages on etc… People would not have believed you and probably would have thought that you were crazy. But here it is in your hands. Now what do you think you will be holding in your hands twenty years from now and what will it be able to do?" He had no answer.

Do you?

Anyone else? Send your thoughts to John at midmimensa@aol.com or to me at sharonslp@ameritech.net and I'll publish them under John's byline.

MORE RESPONSES FROM MARCH AND APRIL

In March, I commented about the quantity of media portrayals on TV shows of both interracial couples and gay/lesbian couples, specifically about whether the media is going overboard in an attempt for social equality.

I received new responses to this.

From Elizabeth Evangelista:

I've been noticing for awhile now that a great many TV ads, as well as shows, feature mixed-race and same-gender couples Same-gender aren't in the ads yet, though. It seems to me that non-traditional couples are over-represented to the point where it seems to me to be pushing an agenda. I do think that the stigma should be eliminated, but I often feel that the message I'm being sent is that it's not OK to be in previously "normal" relationship-that is to say that same-race/ opposite-gender relationships are not OK. I'd much rather see a more balanced representation.

From Robert Henderson:
Here are some thoughts on John's recent topic for discussion. Like Dr. Seuss, we older folks grew up in a racist society and accepted it as normal. My first reaction on hearing that six of Seuss' books had been withdrawn by his publishing foundation for racist imagery was that Dr. Seuss was a hero to me for his liberal philosophy (ref. the morals of the stories "Horton Hears a Who" ,"The Sneeches", and "The Lorax", among many others). How could he possibly have been a racist as well? Upon further reflection, the related imagery was indeed racist, using stereotypes that remain common even today, and it takes nothing away from Seuss' other work that his own foundation (and not some PC police) made the moral decision to stop reinforcing racial stereotypes.

What lessons can we learn from the Seuss controversy? If you ask anyone if they are racist, they will be sure to deny it. However, we have all internalized the milieux we grew up in, and for many of us there were few or no people of color in our neighborhoods, and certainly none in most of the TV shows we watched as children. Seeing so many more POC in the media these days makes us wonder what has changed. . . surely it wasn't us!? That would be correct: America has changed, to the point that we are on track to become a majority non-white nation. If the thought of being in a minority fills anyone with dread, maybe it's because minorities in this country have been and still are being treated badly (think Asian-Americans in Atlanta). The only answer to the pervasive and endemic racism in our nation is for as many of us as possible to become actively ANTI-racist, for example, by protesting when we see minorities being denied the consideration, rights, and privileges that ALL Americans deserve. If South Africa could overcome apartheid, surely America can overcome the scourge of racism, no matter what discomfort we feel while new more respectful norms replace old hurtful ones.

Logic Puzzle Solution

Clyde can be sure that he's not wearing the red kerchief if he sees it on another cowboy, but that's no help: the third cowboy would also see it and know that he wasn't wearing it either! Fortunately, Clyde can also be sure that he is not wearing a yellow kerchief if he sees that BOTH of the others are wearing yellow. Since no one is wearing the red kerchief, and the other cowboys are wearing the two yellow ones, Clyde must be wearing a green kerchief!

MAY 2021 CALENDAR

Fri. May 7	**TGIF -** CANCELLED
Fri. May 14	**TGIF - Amer1can Bistro:** 2328 Showtime Dr, Lansing, just north of Eastwood Towne Center. We have 5:30 PM reservations for **outdoor** seating in their patio area. Face covering required when not seated. Call 517-676-3369 or visit midmichigan.us.mensa.org for updates.
Sun. May 21	**TGIF -** CANCELLED
Fri. May 28	**TGIF -** See updated calendar at midmichigan.us.mensa.org or call Ginny at 517-676-3369 after May15 for updates.

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