JUNE 2021

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 566



HEAD-LINE NO. 566 JUNE 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

I am still basking in the sheer enjoyment of joining with fellow Mensans and their various significant people on May 14th, at our first-but-not-last-TG of 2021. Altogether I think there were 16 of us dining on the patio at the American Bistro. We were gifted with perfect weather for the occasion.

I expected it to seem so momentous after all this time. And while it was, it was also just a bunch of friends picking right up where we had left off over a year ago. In short, we had good food and good company, and we're going to do it again; see the Calendar for details.

Hope to see more and more of you as we get out and about this summer.

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

Bob's History Quiz

Can you arrange these 19th-century events in their correct chronological order? You will earn 60 points if you put all eight events in their correct order and another 5 points each if you can correctly name the decade in which the event occurred. Can you earn all of the 100 points possible?

A) Chewing gum is invented
B) The Battle of the Alamo
C) The first U.S. oil well
D) The first modern Olympic Games
E) Napoleon crowned Emperor
F) The American Civil War begins
G) The California Gold Rush
H) The first newspaper photo

See answer on page 4

LOC SEC COLUMN

Bob's Two Bits for June 2021

by Robert Henderson, Loc Sec

Mid-Michigan Mensa has finally held our first TGIF dinner of the year! A total of 14 members and friends enjoyed good food and conversation on Friday, May 14 on the outdoor patio at American Bistro, just north of Eastwood Towne Center. Both the food and the service were excellent -- the servers even set up another table for us as members kept arriving after 5:30! The warm, clear weather was perfect for outdoor dining. Ginny took a straw vote as people were leaving and most of us agreed to meet again in 3 weeks at Lucky's Steakhouse in Okemos, which also has outdoor dining. There were even suggestions that MMM hold a second TGIF in June. . . Ginny has since made reservations for June 4th at Lucky's and again at American Bistro for June 18th, as shown on the MMM Events Calendar in this Head-Line and on the MMM Website (I will also post this info to the MMM Facebook page). For those planning to attend on June 18th, that would be the perfect opportunity to thank Ginny for all her efforts to find and reserve good TGIF venues for us over the past few years -- that one is on her birthday!

You may have noticed that we still ask that face coverings (masks) be worn until you are seated at your table, even though we will be dining outdoors and have (mostly) been immunized against COVID-19. If the pandemic continues to wind down, we can consider resuming indoor TGIFs in another month or two, whenever most of us feel comfortable in doing so. Of course, all bets are off if there is another surge of infections, which is still possible given that we have not yet reached community ("herd") immunity. Updates will be posted to the MMM Events Calendar and Facebook page any time that TGIF plans need to change.

I would love to see other events in addition to TGIF's listed on the MMM Events Calendar. How soon would you be comfortable hosting or attending events such as game sessions, SIG meetings, etc. You can add your two bits' worth on the MMM Facebook page all this month. . . See you there soon (virtually for now)!

RVC 3 JUNE, 2021 Column

John Voymas

Since this article is for the June issue, it will be my last official article as Region 3 Vice Chair (RVC). Lora Mitchell will begin her term on July 1. Please give Lora the support that she will need to be effective in her new role. Lora is a member of Columbus Area Mensa and has been very active in helping local groups in Ohio put on Regional Gatherings.

The American Mensa Committee (AMC) national officers will have been elected. The last day of voting is May 15, so if you read this before then, and have not yet voted, I encourage you to do so. This has been a very challenging time for American Mensa. There has been very little local group testing over the past twelve months. In fact, nationally, the vast majority of new members are either due to submitting prior evidence or having taken advantage of the new private testing option at a local testing center. Hopefully, local group testing can be more available as COVID restrictions are lessened. We do need additional members to become certified as local Proctors. Information on the process can be found at https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/certifications/proctors/.

As you know, the World Gathering (WG) is August 24 - 29, 2021, in Houston, Texas. Registration for local tours is now available. While some of the tours will take place before the WG; others are planned during the conference. Full details on how the WG will be modified in response to COVID will be announced soon (if not already). Hopefully, the United States government will loosen travel requirements for international travelers so that this can truly be a gathering of members of Mensa from around the world.

As I mentioned in a previous column, the WG will be preceded by the Mensa Foundation Colloquium "Advances in Food Science" on August 23. For more information on the World Gathering and the Colloquium, go to https://ag.us.mensa.org/.

In Region 3, the next Regional Gathering (RG) will be hosted by Western Pennsylvania Mensa. This will be over Labor Day weekend (September 3 - 6). It is currently planned to be in-person. The following month, Columbus Area Mensa is planning their RG for October 15 - 17. Details on these should soon be available on the National Events Calendar. Rounding out the year, Cincinnati Area Mensa normally schedules their RG the first weekend of December.

Although, I will no longer be your RVC, I do plan to visit some of your groups over the next year. And I do hope to see you at the World Gathering or at one of the RGs in our region.

Be safe. Be kind. And please respect one another.

PUZZLES

submitted by Bob Henderson

Bob's Word Ladder Puzzle

Can you form a ladder of words connecting the first to the second on each line below by changing one letter at a time in the number of steps shown? The first 3 are not too hard, the next 4 are quite tricky, and the last 3 are harder yet! You can check your answers by visiting the Puzzles page on the MMM Website and clicking on "Word Ladder Solver." Good luck!

1) From GLOOM to CHEER in 8 to 10 steps
2) From GREED to SHARE in 8 to 12 steps
3) From DOPEY to SMART in 9 to 13 steps
4) From DIRTY to CLEAN in 10 to 20 steps
5) From BITTER to SUGARY in 14 to 17 steps
6) From SICKLY to HEARTY in 11 to 20 steps
7) From GRUMPY to CHEERY in 9 to 22 steps
8) From WINTER to SPRING in 9 to 29 steps
9) From UPSET to HAPPY in 13 to 25 steps
10) From HATRED to LOVING in 10 to 29 steps

History Quiz Answers:

E) Napoleon crowned himself Emperor in 1804
B) The Battle of the Alamo was fought in 1836
G) The California Gold Rush was in 1848
C) The first U.S. oil well was drilled in 1859
F) The American Civil War began in 1861
A) Chewing gum was invented by Adams in 1872
H) The first newspaper photo was published in 1880
D) The first modern Olympic Games were held in 1896

JUNE 2021 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

John Garrison, Membership Chair
105 Members

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Kevin Smart	4	Michael Redemacher	5
Richard Weingartner	9	Gail Wolfe	11
Wendy Kassal	13	Mark Weiss	1
Robert Smith	18	Paul Kassal	19
Zachary Brennan	20	Igor Guro	27
Matthew Carter	27		

JUNE MENSAVERSARIES

Frank Dolinar	22	Lawrence Beckon	25
John Garrison	34	Roy Saper	52

MEMBERS NEW TO GROUP

Jeremy Fett - Mason – Moved in
Jeffrey Ford - Haslett – Rejoined

I can remember the days when Mid MI Mensa had over 200 members. We are currently at 105. As proctor and testing coordinator I get to meet all of our new prospects. Unfortunately we haven't had a testing session in over a year. If any of our current membership knows anyone who would be a good candidate for membership please have them contact me at MidMIMensa@aol.com so we can schedule a testing session. We need new blood – people.

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

Oh I despair! With so many of us gathered for the TG, I thought I'd have a ready supply of book titles to regale you with this month. But it turns out that only a paltry number of us feel the need to read a book as much as we need to breathe. So it's a short report.

I just finished *Simon the Fiddler*, by Paulette Jiles. This was a precursor to her newer novel *News of the World*, which I thought was an outstanding story and I'm eagerly awaiting the movie version to appear on one of my streaming apps. *Simon* also takes place in Texas during the aftermath of the Civil War, a time as turbulent in our history as times are right now. I highly recommend both books.

Elizabeth Evangelista has several books to recommend…*The Bonjour Effect; Love in the Time of Cholera; and The Human Stain.*

Bob Barrie is reading *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, by John Fowles.

And Celia Guro is reading *The End of Your Life Book Club*, by Will Schwalbe.

I thought I might have better luck if I branched out and asked about TV viewing. Gail Wolfe particularly enjoys *A Million Little Things* (as do I), and her hubby, Al, really likes *Blue Bloods* (as do I). Igor and Celia Guro are engrossed in *The Blacklist* and *Monk*.

So…pile it on me, peeps out there in reading and viewing land. What are you all reading or watching? Drop a sentence or two on me by email or by Facebook messages, or by text. Smoke signals? Carrier pigeon? Call me and leave a voice mail. Something. Anything!!!

Send to me at: sharonslp@ameritech.net; 517-285-8740; Sharon Cutler Plavnick on Facebook. This is so easy…just do it.

PONDER THIS IN JUNE

by John Garrison

When you drive down the road you see “Now hiring” signs everywhere. If you wonder why employers are looking for employees and can’t fill open positions the answer is obvious. Government entitlement. A person can sit home and collect government benefits and make more money than they could earn in the labor market. We currently offer social security, food stamps, unemployment insurance, section eight etc. to a great percent of our population who would rather sit home on their duff than work for a living.

Granted there are people who cannot work and really need the assistance but I wonder what would happen if entitlements were limited by time. For example, if we limit welfare to two years during a person’s lifetime how many of those now collecting would really seek jobs. How many on food stamps would be forced to improve their job skills in order to feed their families? How many collecting benefits could really survive if their benefits were limited?

No! I’m not being a hard ass but am trying to be practical. The bulk of our population should not rely on government handouts their entire lives. Just think about a solution. So now, PONDER THIS.

RESPONSE: from Sharon Plavnick

A perk of being editor of this newsletter is that I get to weigh in first on submissions. John, in your second sentence you say the answer is obvious. I say no, it’s not obvious at all. Reagan’s “welfare queen” stereotype was debunked ages ago. There are multiple valid reasons why someone who theoretically could work, doesn’t. Child care issues, physical and mental health care issues, transportation issues, housing issues, education issues...let’s fix all of those. Let’s pay people a true living wage, which varies considerably depending on where you live and how many children you may have. Even a single adult needs $14 an hour in Ingham County. (livingwage.mit.edu). Add in one child, and that figure doubles.

Bottom line for me is that I think there’s a role for government to play in providing for some degree of a social safety net. I think there’s a lot of room between nothing and everything to find a balance that is a productive use of our tax dollars. John, I think your views raise appropriate questions to ponder, but I also think there is no single simple solution to this problem.

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.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
By Barb Ford

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Do you love Bread and Butter Pickles as much as I do? During cucumber season, I love to make them from scratch with Chef John's recipe from Food Wishes. But truthfully, I am addicted to the Organic Bread and Butter pickles made by the Mt. Olive Brand, a North Carolina company. This type of pickle was named because during the Great Depression, they were eaten on bread and butter as a meal. Pretty tasty. I happen to love them right out of the jar.

I never let that yummy pickle juice go to waste. I use it in vinaigrette dressings, and have even used it straight over shredded cabbage. After it sits overnight, it is a great base for coleslaw. Sometimes I add some of the chopped pickles and add a teaspoon of mayo, super nice coleslaw.

My own Italian Fry sauce: Add equal parts marinara sauce and mayo to a teaspoon of Bread and Butter pickle juice. Mix and enjoy. This little sauce would also be great on sandwiches….

Lastly, I love to throw in some raw chopped veggies to the juice left in the jar after the last pickle is eaten. Whatever I have on hand….carrot sticks, sliced onion, cauliflower pieces, hot pepper slices and even celery sticks. Refrigerate for a couple days, and enjoy.

What are some of the ways you love Bread and Butter Pickles?

JUNE 2021 CALENDAR

Fri. June 4	**TGIF - Lucky's Steakhouse:** 3554 Okemos Rd, Okemos, famous for their seafood, steak, and prime rib with all the trimmings. We have reservations for 5:30 in their outdoor seating area. Please wear face covering when not seated.
Fri. June 11	CANCELLED
Fri. June 18	**TGIF -** American 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.
Fri. June 25	**CANCELLED**

Generally, if you need information, call 517-676-3369 or visit midmichigan.us.mensa.org 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