OCTOBER 2021

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 570



HEAD-LINE NO. 570 OCTOBER 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've been cleaning out cupboards and drawers and files, and I stumbled on a file folder of poems I've written. A couple of them struck me as being worth sharing. So here's a poem I wrote during my teaching years.

ANGER

by Sharon Plavnick

Anthony says "This book is stupid!"
He sneers as he says it.
He laughs when I warn him about his outburst.
Now I am angry.

Jacob says "I don't have to do this work!"
He yells as he says it.
He yells more when I warn him about his attitude.
Now I am angry.

Lisa giggles her way through The Odyssey.
She laughs at the tender parts.
She giggles more when I warn her about paying attention.
Now I am angry.

Victoria doodles on her folder instead of reading.
She stares back at me when I look at her.
She doodles more when I warn her about staying on task.
Now I am angry.

I write a note to Victoria.
I tell her I like her and don't want to keep nagging at her.
She writes me back and tells me she is pregnant.
Now I am really angry.

What about all of you? Got any poems you'd like to share? 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 October 2021

by Robert Henderson, Loc Sec

Mid-Michigan Mensa has had good turnouts for both our Summer Anniversary Party in August and our recent TGIF dinners! Due to the effectiveness of vaccines against COVID-19, the pandemic is now confined mainly to those unwilling or unable to get vaccinated. MMM can finally begin to think about additional group activities to sponsor. Since we will need the Steering Committee to discuss and approve any new sponsored activities, I am recommending that we hold an in-person SC meeting after one of the TGIF dinners in November. If we can't achieve a quorum at an in-person Steering Committee meeting, we will schedule a phone call or Zoom meeting instead. In the meantime, please let me or any of the other MMM officers on the Head-Line masthead (inside the front cover) know what group activities you would like to either help organize or take part in.

The modern medical miracle of safe and effective vaccines poses a challenge to those who are convinced that COVID-19 is "no big deal" or that vaccines are "poisons." I suspect that some are victims of "motivated thinking" in that they are mentally invested in alternative medical practices that have not actually protected people from the pandemic. Others have put their trust in leaders and media influencers who have chosen to treat vaccination and mask wearing as a political litmus test.

Regardless of your politics, you are better served by knowing the facts that modern vaccines have been extensively tested for safety and effectiveness, and that cloth face masks have been proven effective at blocking the exhaled water droplets that can easily spread the COVID-19 virus. Sadly, most people would rather disbelieve scientific facts that threaten their worldview (and, by extension, their self-worth) than change their worldview to align with the facts. Hopefully, the pandemic's continuing toll among their family, friends, and opinion leaders will convince many to take precautions before they become its next victims.

PUZZLES

submitted by Bob Henderson

MATH PUZZLE

Suppose that every whole number from 1 to, say, 100 billion, is written out in formal English (e.g., "two hundred eleven," "one thousand, one hundred forty-two") and then listed in alphabetical order, ignoring spaces and punctuation. What's the first odd number in the list?

Bob's History Quiz

Name the decade of the 20th century in which the following events occurred for 5 points each. Give yourself another 5 points if you can remember the exact year. . . Can you score a perfect 100 points?

A) US drops atomic bombs on Japan
B) Bill Gates and Paul Allen found Microsoft Corp.
C) First sound movie released to theaters
D) Environmental goals set at Rio Earth Summit
E) Henry Ford founds Ford Motor Company
F) Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech
G) First televised sporting event
H) US hockey team defeats USSR at Winter Olympics
I) "Spanish" Flu Pandemic hits worldwide
J) Launch of first artificial satellite

See answers on page 6.

OCTOBER 2021 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

John Garrison, Membership Chair
108 Members

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Dale Arnold	**6**
Elizabeth Evangelista	**20**
Joy Rimpau	**21**
William Tuppy	**23**

OCTOBER MENSAVERSARIES

John Abbott	**3**
Michael Lutz	**3**
David Murley	**5**
Saif Fatteh	**11**
Robert Huston	**15**
Christopher Williams	**31**
Wendy Kassal	**34**

No members new to the group or moving out.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

All children are born colorblind. It is their parents and associates who teach them the difference between black and white. All Lives Matter

PONDER THIS IN OCTOBER

by John Garrison

A FORBIDDEN TOPIC

I have stated many times that I have 2 topics that I would never discuss. Religion and Politics. This month I will break my promise and discuss religion

A LITTLE HISTORY FIRST.

Many of you know me and my background. Here is an update for the rest of you. I was born in Detroit in 1943. My religion is Jewish. Our house was conservative and we didn't keep kosher. We observed all of the Jewish holidays. We never had a Christmas tree or celebrated Easter. In 1953 (because of my mother's health) we moved to Florida because of the warmer climate. I was in the 5th grade. My school teacher was the wife of a minister. I have no idea what denomination. Every school day we started class by reciting the Lord's Prayer. I had never heard it before but I quickly learned it. We then sang a few hymns. The only one I remember was "We are climbing Jacob's ladder." I had never had any exposure to the Christian faith. We then had a daily bible reading.

Not to many years ago our courts disallowed prayer in school. Their decision didn't affect me at all. I'm very open minded and have always had a thirst for knowledge. I knew what religion I was and I knew that there were a plethora of other religions.

Now ponder this. What is really wrong with religion in schools? If it hadn't been for Mrs. Grayden and our daily prayer, hymn singing and Bible reading I would not have been as well educated as I am today. The learning experience was great for me. And it wouldn't bother me if every school age child had the same experience that I did.

What say you fellow Mensans? Shall we bring back nondenominational religious studies in our schools as an elective subject or should we stay the status quo?

Any takers? 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.

PUZZLE ANSWERS:

Math Puzzle Answer:

For number formats X,XXX,XXX,XXX, or XX,XXX,XXX,XXX, or XXX,XXX,XXX,XXX, the first one to three X's can be anything from one through nine hundred ninety-nine. The lowest of these alphabetically are eight, eighteen, eighty, eight hundred, or eight hundred eighty, in which the letters after "eight" are blank, e, h, or y. However, we can do better by following the "eight" with a choice of million, billion, trillion, quadrillion, etc., of which the first alphabetically is "billion". We can conclude that the desired number starts with "eight billion."

The next three places can be written out as eight million, eighteen million, eighty million, eight hundred million, or eight hundred eighty million, of which eighteen million is the first alphabetically. This gives our number so far as eight billion eighteen million. The following three places can be written as eight thousand, eighteen thousand, eighty thousand, eight hundred thousand, or eight hundred eighty thousand, of which eighteen thousand is the first alphabetically. This gives the desired number as eight billion eighteen million eighteen thousand so far.

The final three places can be written out as eight, eighteen, eighty, eight hundred, or eight hundred eighty followed by one, three, five, seven or nine to make the whole number odd. Five is the lowest of these digits alphabetically, but it can only follow eighty, eight hundred, or eight hundred eighty. The first combo alphabetically is eight hundred eighty-five, so the final answer is eight billion, eighteen million, eighteen thousand, eight hundred eighty-five, or 8,018,018,885 expressed numerically.

History Quiz Answers:

A) 1945: US drops atomic bombs on Japan
B) 1975: Bill Gates and Paul Allen found Microsoft Corp.
C) 1927: First sound movie released (The Jazz Singer)
D) 1992: Environmental goals set at Rio Earth Summit
E) 1903: Henry Ford founds Ford Motor Company
F) 1963: Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech
G) 1936: First televised sporting event (Berlin Olympics)
H) 1980: US hockey team defeats USSR at Winter Olympics
I) 1918: "Spanish" Flu Pandemic hits worldwide
J) 1957: Launch of first artificial satellite (Sputnik)

WHAT ARE YOU READING RIGHT NOW?
by Sharon Plavnick

I'm not attending TGs at this time, so I haven't been able to survey others about what they are reading. I'd be glad to publish your titles, with or without a short commentary about them. Shoot me an email if you'd like to contribute.

I've hit pay dirt this past month, with TWO good novels that I devoured. The first is "The Children's Blizzard", by Melanie Benjamin, based on actual events that took place in 1888 on the Great Plains. The author shows us the reality of surviving (or not surviving) the blizzard by contrasting the way two different school teachers (who also happen to be sisters) respond to the cataclysmic event. I grew up, as many of us did, with the Little House series by Laura Ingalls Wilder. That's where my first understanding of a "blizzard" came from. That was definitely blizzard lite! While writing about the dynamics of blizzardry, the author also deftly tackles issues surrounding immigration, discrimination, and mis- and dis-information in the newspapers, as it pertained to that time period in history...and jarringly familiar today. This is also a story of courage, and the reality that our split-second decisions in life can easily have life-changing ramifications. I am only certain of one thing: if my life ever depends on my ability to get through an ordeal like this, I won't be one of the survivors.

The second is "Oona Out of Order", by Margarita Montimore. This has a time travel plotline, which is always a hook for me. On the eve of her 19th birthday, Oona begins an annual rite of "leaping" forward and backward in time. So when she is chronologically 19, she experiences being 53; when she then turns 20, she lives through her 27th year, and so on. The reason for the leap is never explained, so it does require a "leap" of faith to accept the contrivance as a way to move the plot along. I found it easy to accept, and just enjoyed the story as it unfolded. I would have happily stayed with this book to read EVERY single chapter of Oona's life, but the author, probably wisely, only takes the reader through seven pivotal years.

All the rest of you? Let me know at Sharonslp@ameritech.net.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
By Barb Ford

Power of The Naked Roast

Now that I have your attention…. Think of a different way to eat all the yummy vegetable bounty coming to us from late harvest gardens and farmer's markets. Many of my readers know I am a big fan of roasting veggies…plain with no seasonings. I encourage everyone to consider this method. So many benefits: it is easy, most folks are surprised how good they are and flavors are so concentrated, very little seasoning is required. Also, cleanup is a breeze.

Some pointers:
*Thoroughly wash all veggies
*Cut them into larger than bite sized pieces (they will shrink as they roast)
*Do NOT add seasoning or oil prior to roasting. Most times they turn out too salty doing this.
*They can be eaten hot, cold and room temp.
*A wonderful dish to take to a pot luck.
*Do not pick out charred edges. They add amazing flavor.
*Don't overcook them
*Roast on a sheet pan lined with parchment paper. Crumple it slightly.

Roasting time varies for different types of veggies depending on size and density. I typically roast most veggies between 375 and 400 degrees. I like to roast veggies at the same time I am baking my weekly bread. Why waste an empty rack?

My favorite method is to pour hot roasted veggies into a glass bowl with oil and my favorite seasonings. After mixing well, they can be served. Refrigerate the leftovers. They are always better the next day. I have learned to roast large batches. They are so yummy; folks will love them.

"A good cook is like a sorceress who dispenses happiness"
Elsa Schiaparelli

OCTOBER 2021 CALENDAR

Fri. Oct. 1	**TGIF - Klavon's Pizzeria & Pub:** 318 W Kipp Rd, Mason, just off US-127. Stuffed pizzas, calzones, burgers, and other casual eats in a sports-themed ambiance with TVs. No outdoor seating available. Wear a mask until you are seated.
Fri. Oct. 8	**TGIF - Bravo Cucina Italiana:** 2970 Towne Centre Blvd, Lansing, in Eastwood Towne Center. Upscale-casual Italian restaurant with a Roman-ruins ambiance serving pasta, grilled dishes, and pizza. No outdoor seating available. Wear a mask until you are seated
Fri. Oct. 15	**TGIF - Champps Kitchen + Bar:** 2800 Pryde Blvd, Lansing. Family-friendly sports bar with burgers and comfort food in a buzzy ambiance. No outdoor seating available. Wear a mask until you are seated.
Fri. Oct. 22	**TGIF - Coral Gables**: 2838 E Grand River, East Lansing, just east of Hagadorn Road. One of the best restaurants in East Lansing and a favorite of Mid-Michigan Mensa. Serves Greek food, steaks, seafood, pasta, salads, sandwiches and pizza. No outdoor seating available. Wear a mask until you are seated.
Fri. Oct. 29	**TGIF - Hibachi Grill & Sushi Buffet:** 5837 W Saginaw Hwy, Lansing, in Delta Center. Large selection of Oriental foods, with sushi, salad, and dessert buffets. No outdoor seating available. Wear a mask until you are seated.

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