NOVEMBER 2021

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 571



HEAD-LINE NO. 571 NOVEMBER 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

This month, I'm using this column to put out a plea for a volunteer. Normally I send the print version of the Head-Line to our printer on the 20th of each month. He contacts our distribution volunteer when it's ready, and that volunteer…our venerable member John Garrison…picks it up, slaps on the mailing labels and whatever else, and then delivers the bundle to the post office for mailing. It hopefully arrives in member mailboxes before the end of the month, although that can be an elusive target date since these are sent bulk mail.

This system has been working seamlessly for quite a while now, but suddenly we have a wrinkle in the seam. Actually it's more like the seam has been ripped wide open.

Some of you are aware that John suffered a bad fall early in October. One of the injuries from the fall included sustaining a brain bleed, requiring a craniotomy to treat the bleeding. As I write this, John is still in the ICU, and my last report from John's family is that he is still critical, and it is unclear how much recovery he will achieve. By the time you all read this, he may have been transferred to a nursing home facility.

Obviously we are all hoping for a full recovery…I, for one, treasure his acerbic sense of humor when he makes an appearance at a TG.

John was the Head-Line editor when I first joined Mensa in the early 90s. He has remained ever active with this newsletter, contributing many articles and stories, compiling the Membership Report each month, and more recently posing thought-provoking questions each month in his Ponder This column.

Well everyone…ponder this: the only way the Head-Line gets mailed out each month is if someone steps forward to take on the roll of Distribution. Wendy Carnegie is stepping in for the short-term (VERY SHORT term), but we need someone to step up for the longer-term.

Everyone please take extra good care of yourselves. None of us is guaranteed a healthy tomorrow. So make today count.

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 November 2021

by Robert Henderson, Loc Sec

Dateline Europe -- Ginny and I are in the middle of a trip to western Europe. It started with an overnight flight from Detroit to Zurich, in which I played several on-screen trivia games with fellow passengers. One of them later turned out to be our travelling companion!

We stayed at a nice hotel within walking distance from a small train station north of the main station in Zurich. The trains were clean, quiet, fast and frequent, perfect for getting to the Alpine scenery! Over the next week we enjoyed visits to Interlaken, Zermatt, and Lugano, where we met a friend from Milan. At each stop we rode a cog railway or cable cars to a nearby peak for spectacular views or took a boat cruise around the local lake. Everyone at the hotels, restaurants, and train stations was friendly and helpful, and most spoke enough English to answer our questions.

Switzerland has remained neutral for centuries, avoiding the wars that have plagued much of the rest of Europe. The centuries of peace and self-rule have allowed the Swiss to carry out long-term infrastructure projects such as their excellent train system with its thousands of miles of track (all electrified) and hundreds of miles of car and train tunnels through the mountains. Peace has had another big dividend: people worldwide have trusted Swiss banks to discreetly handle their savings and/or ill-gotten gains. We were told that the average Swiss household income is $120K per year, which is reflected in their high prices.

Another Swiss custom that has served them well is participatory democracy. Since the days of William Tell, the Swiss have decided major issues by taking a referendum of all eligible voters. The electorate is well-educated and community-spirited, resulting in decisions that benefit themselves. Their taxes may seem high to us, but they pay for free health care, free higher education, and modern infrastructure.

What does all this have to do with Mensa? I can only repeat the advice of Mark Twain that travel is prejudicial to all forms of ignorance and intolerance. For those times in which travel is difficult, you can get a good chuckle by reading Twain's "Innocents Abroad," which describes Americans visiting Europe (including Switzerland) a century and a half ago!

LOSING A FRIEND OF MID MICHIGAN MENSA
A tribute to Bob Barrie

Over the many years that I've been in Mensa, I've enjoyed the fact that we have always welcomed our members' friends and family to our weekly TG table. On any given Friday night, there is often a generous sprinkling of spouses, significant others, and good friends joining us. One such Friend of Mensa has been in regular attendance for many years now. I'm speaking of Bob Barrie, and it is painfully sad to report his death at this time. I do not have any details yet as to cause of death.

I think Bob's first appearance at a TG occurred when he was a speaker at one of our Quarterly Gatherings, somewhere around 20 years ago. (This is another volunteer position we'd love to fill…someone who arranges an interesting speaker to attend a TG and present a talk after dinner.) Bob was a gifted cartoonist, and he had entertaining tales to tell about how he got started in this avocation, and how he performed his craft. As a result of that talk, Bob formed lasting friendships with several of our members, and eventually became a regular part of our group. In recent years, one of his cartoons often showed up on the cover of this newsletter.

Rest in peace, Bob. You will be missed.

Word Ladder Puzzles

Change the first word to the second by replacing one letter at a time with a different letter. Each new word must appear in a standard English dictionary.

From BOOK to TOME in 4 to 7 steps
From PAPER to PRINT in 7 to 10 steps
From MENSA to SMART in 7 to 12 steps
From SMART to BRAIN in 6 to 15 steps
From BRAINY to CLEVER in 9 to 13 steps
From FRUIT to BERRY in 8 to 16 moves
From PAMPER to CODDLE in 11 to 16 steps
From BRAIN to MENSA in 9 to 19 steps
From APPLE to FRUIT in 10 to 19 steps
From BERRY to APPLE in 12 to 21 steps

Mid-Michigan Mensa Treasurer's Report
Quarter Ending September 30, 2021

STARTING BALANCE
$7,072.15

INCOME
$276.31

AML National Subsidy June 2021	92.65
AML National Subsidy July 2021	91.80
AML National Subsidy Aug. 2021	91.80
5/3 Savings interest	0.06

EXPENDITURES
$133.08

MMM Anniversary Party:	
G. Brunke (party supplies)	23.50
Head-Line:	
J. Garrison (office supplies)	65.63
Postage - August 2021 Issue	21.89
Postage - September 2021 Issue	22.06

ACCOUNT BALANCES

5/3 Checking	5,034.84
5/3 Savings	1,998.20
USPS Periodical Postage Account	182.34

ENDING BALANCE
$7,215.38

PUZZLES

submitted by Bob Henderson

MATH PUZZLE

Bob's Math Puzzle

Some tennis fans get excited when Venus and Serena Williams meet in a tournament. The likelihood of that happening depends on seeding and talent, so let's instead construct an idealized elimination tournament of 64 players, each as likely to win as to lose any given match. Assuming that Venus and Serena are among the 64, what is the probability that they end up playing one another in the final match?

Bob's Science Trivia Quiz

A) What inexpensive element largely replaced the germanium used in early integrated circuits?
B) What lightweight gas makes up 90 percent of Jupiter's atmosphere?
C) What tropical disease's deadliest form is caused by the protozoa Plasmodium Falciparum?
D) What's the northernmost species of penguin -- the emperor, Galapagos, or king penguin?
E) What element in bananas helps prevent muscle cramps, making them a favorite snack of tennis players?
F) What body part can be cleaned out using an Ototek Loop or Debrox drops?
G) What science fiction sage famously observed: "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic"?
H) What two words were combined to form the multistate computer data storage term "qubit"?
I) What B-word do doctors use for bone bumps on the big toe?
J) What genetics guru studied the traits of 28,000 garden pea plants?

See answers on page 7

NOVEMBER 2021 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

John Garrison, Membership Chair

EDITOR'S NOTE: Since John is not available to create a membership report this month, I am recycling this list from November of 2020. This means any new members since then would not be included - I apologize. This also means we are likely seeking a new Membership chairperson. Please let us know if anyone would consider doing this job.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

25	**Tucker Keatley**
27	**Peter Wood**

NOVEMBER MENSAVERSARIES

Ronald Bardy	**2**
Tucker Keatley	**2**
Ronald Burl	**5**
Dora Ivkovich	**9**
Jacob McDowell	**9**
Todd Eldred	**9**
Bryan Sales	**18**
Matthew McNaughton	**20**
Richard Shaffer	**20**

PUZZLE ANSWERS:

Math Puzzle Answer:

The pairing of the Williams sisters is only one of the possible pairings from among 64 players, which is (64 * 63) / 2 = 2016 possibilities. Under the given conditions, any pair of players is as likely to play in the final match as any other pair, so the answer is one chance in 2016.

Science Trivia Answers

A) Germanium
B) Hydrogen
C) Malaria
D) Galapagos
E) Potassium
F) The ear
G) Arthur C. Clarke
H) "Quantum" and "bit"
I) Bunions
J) Gregor Mendel

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
By Barb Ford

As wonderful as autumn is, I find myself fretting over the absence of farmer's market goodies. I have found a wonderful solution to keep the freshness of spring and summer green produce going strong all the time. Right on my very own kitchen counter. SPROUTS! I was a sprouter way before it was a trendy thing. Decades ago, my mom used to sprout mung beans (bean sprouts) for the legendary oriental delicacies she cooked for us. Through the years, I have sprouted various seeds to brighten up my meals. They are not only delicious, but packed with nutrition as well. This winter, I plan to use fresh organic sprouts as an essential part of my daily diet. My entire fall/winter produce supply is stored in a small storage bin!

Sprouting is easy, fun, and delicious. No matter where you live, you can sprout. Supplies needed are simple and economical. My preferred method involves a wide mouth glass quart canning jar, a screen lid, pure filtered water, seeds and a countertop. It is a wonderful way to involve kids in the kitchen, as they discover they can grow their own food. Watching dry seeds sprout and grow in a short time is an amazing thing. My favorites are organic broccoli, alfalfa, radish, red clover, Chinese cabbage and a variety of legumes. They are ready to eat in 3-4 days. There is nothing like fresh sprouts! A tiny farmers market on the kitchen countertop.

If anyone is looking to start sprouting, I have found an ethical and reliable company that can supply everything needed, including a lovely variety of quality organic sprouting seeds in several package sizes. Their prices are good, and customer service is excellent. They also have supplies and seeds for growing micro greens. If you are a home gardener, they have what you need for that, too. I recommend this company because I have researched many. I am a satisfied customer, and receive no compensation for my endorsement. They are simply awesome.

True Leaf Market: Certified Organic, Non-GMO seeds.
trueleafmarket.com
Check out their beautiful website, including Taylor, the warehouse cat.

"What was paradise, but a garden full of vegetables and herbs and pleasure? Nothing there but delights."

William Lawson

NOVEMBER 2021 CALENDAR

Fri. Nov. 5	**TGIF - Cancun Mexican Grille:** 1754 Central Park Dr, Meridian Township. Good Mexican food and great margaritas. Wear a mask until you are seated.
Fri. Nov. 12	**TGIF - P. F. Chang's China Bistro:** In Eastwood Towne Center, 2425 Lake Lansing Rd, Lansing. Upscale Chinese restaurant featuring Asian-inspired dishes made fresh every day. Wear a mask until you are seated.
Fri. Nov. 19	**TGIF - Delhi Cafe:** 4625 Willoughby Rd, Holt, between Cedar St and Aurelius Rd. A Mensa favorite with good Greek and Americanfood. We will have a private room with enough space for social distancing. Wear a mask until youare seated.
Fri. Nov. 26	**TGIF - Athenas Diner:** 3109 S Cedar St, Lansing. Good Greek and American food in a diner ambience. 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