DECEMBER 2021

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 572



HEAD-LINE NO. 572 DECEMBER 2021
MID-MICHIGAN MENSA

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Mid-Michigan Mensa Facebook Group

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 love the power of the printed word!

Last month I put out a plea for a volunteer to take over the Head-Line distribution duties, while John Garrison recovered from his damaging fall (See Bob's column below for an update).

Wendy Carnegie filled in short-term (thank you, Wendy!) so the November issue was delivered on time to a mailbox near you. And a day or two later, I received an email from a member stepping up and volunteering. Kathy Teshich is our hero of the day, so welcome her as she takes on John's duties as BOTH distribution coordinator of the Head-Line AND Membership Chair. We are so grateful to her for doing so.

Now let me elaborate a bit more on the desire for volunteers, specifically to fill up the pages of this newsletter. We print pages in units of 4. So this folded and stapled little booklet you are holding in your hand right now is either 4, 8, or 12 pages in length. It's almost always 8 pages, but occasionally we go over by a page and then I'm scrambling to fill up 3 more pages of content. As editor, I would prefer to fill those pages with contributions from members rather than digging around the internet to post some amusing (?) trivia of one sort or another.

In fact, I refuse to dig for trivia. Some months I feel motivated to produce my own content…I write a book review or I offer up a poem. But other months, I'm empty. That's okay; I give myself permission to be empty. That doesn't mean that pages have to be empty though. I know there are closet writers reading my words right now. Send me your stories, your poems, your huddled words yearning to be free. Send me your jokes, your recipes, your revelations, your wishes and dreams. Send me something. You have a voice…we'd all love to hear it.

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 December 2021

by Robert Henderson, Loc Sec

Long-time Mid-Michigan Mensa member John Garrison, who has held just about every possible Group office, had a serious fall early in October as noted in last month's Editorial page. Due to his apparently permanent brain damage, his wife Ellie has asked that he be relieved of all his remaining duties as MMM Membership Chair, Proctor, and Steering Committee member. I'm sure you will join me in thanking John for his many years of service to Mensa and wish him and Ellie the strength to cope with this challenging new period in their lives.

Much like last month, when Sharon put out the SOS for Head-Line distribution help, we need a few MMM members to step up their Mensa game and take on any of John's remaining responsibilities. Many thanks are deserved by member Kathy Teshich, who picked up the ball in response to Sharon's heartfelt plea: Kathy agreed not only to handle John's Membership duties, but also to get the hard copies of the Head-Line from the printer to the post office for distribution each month! That leaves only John's Proctor and Steering Committee positions to be filled by one or two of you among the MMM members reading this now.

The Proctor or Testing Chair's job is to conduct and publicize local Mensa admission tests. We have not had many applicants to test lately, so publicity probably needs to come first. Maybe you're the right person to come up with a creative way to motivate new Mensa applicants: for instance, others might want to join for the same reasons that you did! Why not give it a try?

The Steering Committee's job is to advise the Local Secretary and vote on business issues such as spending MMM Treasury money for the benefit of the Group. The only expenses that have been incurred lately have been to reimburse members for purchases of Group party supplies, for which Steering Committee approval was a sure thing. MMM receives a monthly stipend from the national Mensa organization that more than covers our newsletter printing and mailing costs. You might enjoy helping to decide how to spend the remainder on worthwhile activities such as testing publicity, testing facilities, and our annual Anniversary and Holiday parties! Let any of the officers listed inside the front cover know if you want a say in MMM business.

YET ANOTHER LOSS

I read the obits in the newspaper every day. It's been a habit since I was a teenager. Most days I breathe a quick sigh of relief…no one I know. But this month I am sad to report that I recognized a name. Phil Kline was an active member and regular face at the TG table back when I first joined in the early 90s. As time went on, his interests branched out, and at some point he stopped attending Mensa functions, and let his membership lapse.

Phil was 94 at his death, and I know he got his fair share and more of time on earth, but some light bulbs in my life went out when I read his name.

His obituary can be found at https://www.lansingstatejournal.com/obituaries/lsj075367
Or simply google Marion Phillip Kline; he'll pop right up.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION
by Some Member of Mensa

YOUR CONTRIBUTION COULD BE IN THIS SPACE.

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO FILL UP A WHOLE PAGE.

PUZZLES

submitted by Bob Henderson

Bob's Math Puzzle for December: Measuring with Fuses

You have on hand two fuses, each of which will burn for exactly 1 minute after either end is lit. They do not, however, burn at a uniform rate along their lengths. Can you nevertheless use them to measure 45 seconds?

Bob's Trivia Quiz for December

1) What is the highest mountain in India?

2) Who was best known for singing "God Bless America?"

3) What color are the hottest stars?

4) Who wrote the song "Sleigh Ride?"

5) What is an arbalest?

6) Who wrote "The Innocents Abroad?"

7) What comic strip gave us the adorable (and edible) "Shmoo?"

8) Who were the antagonists in the Punic Wars?

9) What book featured Mole, Rat, Toad, and Badger?

10) What language came from the Incas?

See answers on page 6

DECEMBER 2021 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Kathy Teshich, Membership Chair
110 members

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

5	Wendy Carnegie
6	John Abbott
6	Brian McGrain
8	Walter Syroid Jr
20	David Blandford
25	Daniel Johnson
30	Ronald Burl

DECEMBER MENSAVERSARIES

Robert Smith	2
Daniel Johnson	7
William Tupy	8
David Salsbury	11
Malachi King	12
Kenneth Bonifield	13
Clyde Creque	17
Richard Hobrla	17
Timothy Howard	21
Eric Sanko	21
Sharon Plavnick	28

PUZZLE ANSWERS:

Math Puzzle Answer:

Simultaneously light both ends of the first fuse and one end of the second fuse. After 30 seconds the first fuse will burn out and there will be 30 seconds burn time left on the second fuse. Immediately light the unlit end of the second fuse, which will burn out in only 15 more seconds with both ends burning. The time from first lighting the fuses to the second one burning out will be 45 seconds.

TRIVIA QUIZ ANSWERS:

1) What is the highest mountain in India?
A) Kanchenjunga

2) Who was best known for singing "God Bless America?"
A) Kate Smith

3) What color are the hottest stars?
A) Blue

4) Who wrote the song "Sleigh Ride?"
A) Leroy Anderson

5) What is an arbalest?
A) A large crossbow

6) Who wrote "The Innocents Abroad?"
A) Mark Twain

7) What comic strip gave us the adorable (and edible) "Shmoo?"
A) Al Capp's "Li'l Abner"

8) Who were the antagonists in the Punic Wars?
A) Rome and Carthage

9) What book featured Mole, Rat, Toad, and Badger?
A) The Wind in the Willows

10) What language came from the Incas?

A BYGONE ERA

By Uncle John

It was sometime in the 1880's in the old west that tragedy almost happened. Everyone knows that San Francisco is famous for its sourdough bread. But did you ever hear about the near miss that almost cost Frisco its bread heritage?

It was late November when Cyrus Bushmiller (A Frisco baker) was waiting for his delivery of bread making products. He had already received the flower, eggs, milk, etc from his supplier but not the much needed yeast. Without yeast he could not make dough rise. So he waited for the delivery. The yeast was scheduled to arrive on the Overland rail line by midnight. Cyrus eagerly waited. Little did he know that a blizzard had hit the Rockies and that his precious yeast was sitting on a sidetrack waiting for Old 99 to pass. Both the Overland and 99 were assigned to the same track.

99 was carrying a load of three piece Brooks Brother's suits to the fashion district in Denver. Mcguire's Department store was having a sale of top of the line merchandise and desperately needed the suits to complete its inventory.

Well 99 was headed in one direction and the Overland in the other. The train engineers were both in a hurry to get their goods delivered. They both took a chance by occupying the same track through Wolf Creek Pass. They were heading straight toward each other at breakneck speed. At the last second the Overland took a bypass and the trains sped past each other. A collision was prevented and the goods arrived at their destinations unscathed.

This only goes to prove that, "Yeast is yeast and vest is vest and never the trains shall meet."

(One of John Garrison's many contributions. Thanks, John.)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
By Barb Ford

I have been working on my own recipe for Pumpernickel Bread. After many delicious tries, I think I have it just right. Though this is my own recipe, I base the method on Steve Gamelin's. Check the information below to see his great website and videos. Keep in mind that this is a dense bread.

BARB'S NO-KNEAD PUMPERNICKEL BREAD

Ingredients:
14 Ounces Warm Water
2 T Whole Caraway Seeds (Soaked for 30 minutes in the water)
1¼ t Instant Yeast
2 T Blackstrap Unsulphured Molasses
1 t Dark Cocoa (Hershey's Special Dark)
1 t Instant Espresso Powder
1½ t Salt
2 T Bragg's Apple Cider Vinegar
1 T Extra Virgin Olive Oil
2½ Cups Bread Flour (All-Purpose is fine)
1 Cup Dark Rye Flour

Directions:
Heat large glass mixing bowl, and add the first 9 ingredients. Gently stir to combine. Add flour to the edge of the bowl. Stir with spoon handle. Scrape bowl to bring dough into a ball. Cover with plastic wrap. Proof in warm place (75 to 85 degrees) for 90 minutes. Stir to de-gas, scrape bowl, dust with flour, turn dough into greased 8.5"x4.5"or 9"x5" bread pan, cover with a tea towel. Proof for 30 minutes. Attach another bread pan on top with clips (Poor Man's Dutch Oven: see Steve's videos). Pre heat oven to 400 degrees. Bake 40 minutes with top on, then another 3-15 minutes with top off to crisp the crust. Remove bread from pan and cool on elevated wire rack. Slice when completely cooled. This turns out well every time and is delicious. Try it toasted. With butter. Lots of butter.

"It's a smell that arises from something as basic as wheat, as resourceful as the human hand and as powerful as fire."

Molly O'Neill

TURBO NO KNEAD BREAD nokneadbreadcentral.com YouTube Channel: ArtisanBreadWithSteve

DECEMBER 2021 CALENDAR

Fri. Dec 3	**TGIF - Grand Traverse Pie Company:** 1403 E Grand River Ave, East Lansing. It's in the Brookfield Plaza at the corner of Grand River Ave and Hagadorn Rd. Service is cafeteria style, so bus your own dishes before you leave. Quiches, pot pies, pasties, sandwiches, wraps, soups, salads, and, of course, pie (best a-la-mode). Wear a mask until you are seated.
Fri. Dec. 10	**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. Wear a mask until you are seated.
Fri. Dec. 17	**TGIF - Tony M's:** 3420 Creyts Road, Lansing. Family-owned Italian restaurant featuring pizza, pasta, burgers and salads. Come and enjoy the last TGIF of the year! Wear a mask until you are seated.
Fri. Dec. 17 and 24	**Happy Holidays. . .** See you next year!

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