DECEMBER 2022

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 584



HEAD-LINE NO. 584 DECEMBER 2022
MID-MICHIGAN MENSA

Region 3 Vice-Chairman: Lora Mitchell
Email: RVC3@us.mensa.org

STEERING COMMITTEE (ELECTED BOARD)

Loc Sec:	Robert Henderson	517-676-3369	rlhenderson@peoplepc.com
Vice Loc Sec:	Elizabeth Evangelista	517-351-3645	evangel6@comcast.net
Scribe:	Wendy Carnegie	517-775-0648	w.carnegie@comcast.net
	Sharon Plavnick	517-285-8740	sharonslp@ameritech.net
	Squire Jaros	517-775-4833	llahcsramc@aol.com

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Dues Sub. Adm:	Elizabeth Evangelista	517-351-3645	evangel6@comcast.net
Gifted Youth Coord:	Your Name Here		
Membership:	Kathryn Teshich	517-281-7259	spartanovich@yahoo.com
Ombudsman:			
Proctor:	Your Name Here		
Program Director	Elizabeth Evangelista	517-351-3645	evangel6@comcast.net
Scholarship:	Wendy Carnegie	517-775-0648	w.carnegie@comcast.net
SIGHT Coord:	Dee Becker	517-349-3292	deebecker@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer:	Robert Henderson	517-676-3369	rlhenderson@peoplepc.com

HEAD-LINE EDITOR

Sharon Plavnick. 517-285-8740 sharonslp@ameritech.net
Circulation Manager Your Name Here

WEBMASTER

Robert Henderson 517-676-3369. rlhenderson@peoplepc.com

MMM WEB SITE: http:/www.midmichigan.us.mensa.org

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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

My big accomplishment this past month was to successfully complete what I expect is my last trip to Disney World ever. I first encountered Disney World in its second year of operation in 1973. My husband and I took several trips there; then we took our children several times over their growing-up years, and I've now taken all five of my grandchildren. Whew…my feet didn't know they could still walk 20,000 steps in a day! We did encounter a bit more adventure than we wanted when Tropical Storm Nicole roared in, and we were required to relocate from our cabin in Fort Wilderness for a night. We effectively lost two days of the trip because of this; one day to move ourselves to a hotel, and the next day to move ourselves back. But we ended the trip on a high note with a fun time at the Magic Kingdom for our final night. A good time was had by all, and that's the end of that chapter of my life.

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 2022

by Robert Henderson, Loc Sec

MMM's long-serving Ombudsman, Jack Rooney, passed away on November 8 (see Notice in this month's issue). He will be missed by everyone who knew him.

Jack shared his interests in language, literature, and politics with many of us, myself included. He regularly posted Facebook comments on current affairs, even when it was difficult for him to hit the little smartphone keyboard letters with his big fingers. His recommendations for viewing and reading were always informative and thought-provoking.

In his younger days Jack was a contestant on the "Quiz Kids" radio show. Even then he showed his gift of encyclopedic knowledge, and he forgot very little over the years. As a Culture Quest team member, he was the only one of us who could remember the names of all the countries on a map of Central America! To demonstrate the similar rhyme schemes of Homer's Iliad and Virgil's Aeneid, he was able to recite several verses of each from memory -- in the original Greek and Latin!

Those of us who fondly remember Jack are invited to join in a Celebration of Life to be held for him at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing at 11:00 AM on May 1, 2023.

Getting back to my ongoing series of columns describing the duties of each of our Local Group officers, perhaps the most important position of all in MMM is a Steering Committee membership. All decisions regarding MMM business are made by the SC after discussions with the other officers affected. The LocSec presides over SC meetings (scheduled monthly), and the Treasurer can veto any expenditures that compromise the financial integrity of MMM, but any plans for an MMM event or expense must be approved by the Steering Committee.

Wouldn't you like to have that kind of power? If you have thought about ways to improve the workings of Mid-Michigan Mensa to better benefit its members, just come to any Steering Committee meeting and tell us about them. . . better yet, you could have a regular seat at the table by joining the Committee! We still have a few vacancies, and current SC members have served a long time between elections. MMM would certainly benefit from considering your fresh ideas!

Mitchell's Musings - RVC3 Column December 2022

I don't know about you, but 2022 has been a rollercoaster year for me. My personal life has been extreme ups and downs.

Technology has been part of the big solution for me to manage this. I am writing this a few days earlier than I normally do, because no later than tomorrow morning I need to pack my laptop up and drop it off with folks who know more than I do, because my internal camera disconnected itself in the middle of a zoom meeting for the 3rd time. I am really, really annoyed. And I imagine you can relate when equipment doesn't do what you want.

Despite my annoyance though, I am thankful for the way tech had evolved and changed. I used a computer for the first time in 1977 using punch cards, in an exciting field trip for gifted students. My first computer was an Adam. I was in the first- ever programming class at my high school, learning BASIC and COBOL. I got my first email address in college, which was a random group of 6 letters and numbers followed by @grove.iup.edu although I rarely used it. And my first cell phone for work weighed about 8 pounds and came in a large messenger bag to carry with it. (My daughter thinks this is unfathomably archaic and kind of adorable in an old person kind of way.)

Now technology allows me to visit with friends in other countries, pay my bills, find my way to visit your chapters, and see the inside of my eyeballs. Don't even get me started on the way I can explore the universe from my couch.

Mensa connections have worked much the same way. Once upon a time, I had to drive 75 miles (each way!! But not always in the snow) to occasionally join WPAM member at dinner or games nights. Now from my comfy office chair in Columbus I can zoom with excoms, email an entire group with just couple clicks, and chat with people I've never met on Mensa connect/ io/ Facebook. If you're not connecting in multiple ways, you may be missing out on some great experiences and new friends.

If you do prefer the traditional in person way, I encourage you to host something fun for your chapter. Weekly dinners are nice, but they're sometimes the analog version of interactions. Pick an activity you'd want to share, a cool museum, or a science event, and invite others. Go to Cincinnati's RG in December.

Virtual and physical space are two different ways of exploring Mensa, and I am happy to be in both of them with you.

Lora Mitchell
RVC3@us.mensa.org

RIP

Long-time Mensa member Jack (John) Rooney passed away on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, in the Ingham Medical Care Facility on Dobie Road in Okemos. Jack was 90 years old, and had been ill for several years, but he was fully functional mentally right up until his death. He was always interested in politics, and he quipped to his daughter, Katelyn, shortly before his death, that he was determined to live until after the Mid-Term election, so that his vote would count. He passed one-half hour after the polls closed.

A "Green Burial" is planned for Jack in a private ceremony in Mid-November. A Memorial Service for the public will be held on May 1, 2023, which would have been his 91st Birthday (and which is also Lawyers' Day), at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing, 5509 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing.

While we have not been able to visit with Jack in person for several years, we will continue to miss him at Mensa meetings, and we join Katelyn in her grief. Jack was always there at our meetings, with a smile and an opinion. Farewell, Jack!

Condolences may be sent to his daughter Caitlin at PO Box 138, East Lansing, MI 48826 or caitimai@gmail.com. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the East Lansing Public Library, 900 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823

December Word Puzzle: Santa Anagrams

A nefarious Grinch has hacked Santa's database of good girls and boys and corrupted 30 of their first names! Can you rearrange the letters in each of the scrambled names below so that they read correctly?

Aaegln, Aaelmp, Aahhnn, Aahmrt, Aahnsw, Abbeir, Abehrt, Aceijk, Aceirr, Adderw, Adeflr, Adeglr, Adhlor, Aeenrs, Aehils, Aelrtw, Ahrrtu, Aiimmr, Ailous, Airstv, Beorrt, Ceikmy, Ciortv, Degilo, Deinsy, Eeggor, Eejmor, Ehjops, Eilmru, Eilorv.

Bob's Word Ladder Puzzles for December

Change one letter at a time to convert the first word into the second. Each step must spell a valid English word. Can you match my results? Check out the PUZZLES page on the MMM Website if you need help.

HATE to LOVE in 3 to 5 steps
SICK to WELL in 4 to 6 steps
FEAR to LOVE in 6 to 7 steps
BROWN to GREEN in 4 to 13 steps
SCARY to GHOST in 8 to 10 steps
SMART to MENSA in 7 to 12 steps
SPLIT to WHOLE in 6 to 15 steps
DREAM to SNORE in 9 to 14 steps
WITCH to SCARY in 9 to 15 steps
GHOST to WITCH in 10 to 17 seps
GREAT to SUPER in 8 to 22 steps
VIRUS to COUGH in 8 to 23 steps

Bob's Math Puzzle for December

Find the longest number you can using only the digits 1 and 2, with the condition that no sequence of 3 or more consecutive digits appears more than once in it. How many digits can your number have, at most?

See Answers on page 7.

DECEMBER 2022 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
Kathy Teshich, Membership Chair
110 members

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Charles Allison	Dec 3	Wendy Carnegie	Dec 5
John Abbott	Dec 6	Brian McGrain	Dec 6
Walter Syroid Jr	Dec 8	Brian Osbnorne	Dec 15
David Blandford	Dec 20	Daniel Johnson	Dec 25
Ronald Burl	Dec 30		

DECEMBER MENSAVERSARIES

Eric Horner	3 yrs
Robert Smith	3 yrs
Daniel Johnson	8 yrs
William Tupy	9 yrs
David Salsbury	12 yrs
Malachi King	13 yrs
Kenneth Bonifield	14 yrs
Clyde Creque	18 yrs
Richard Hobrla	18 yrs
Eric Sanko	22 yrs
Sharon Plavnick	29 yrs

Answers to Santa's Anagrams

Aaegln = Angela, Aaelmp = Pamela, Aahhnn = Hannah, Aahmrt = Martha,
Aahnsw = Shawna, Abbeir = Barbie, Abehrt = Bertha, Aceijk = Jackie, Aceirr = Carrie, Adderw = Edward, Adeflr = Alfred, Adeglr = Gerald, Adhlor = Harold, Aeenrs = Serena, Aehils = Sheila, Aelrtw = Walter, Ahrrtu = Arthur, Aiimmr = Miriam, Ailous = Louisa, Airstv = Travis, Beorrt = Robert, Ceikmy = Mickey, Ciortv = Victor, Degilo = Goldie, Deinsy = Sidney, Eeggor = George, Eejmor = Jerome, Ehjops = Joseph, Eilmru = Muriel, Eilorv = Oliver.

Solution for Math Puzzle:

First ask yourself how many 3-digit sequences are possible using only the digits 1 and 2. You have 2 choices for the first digit, two for the second digit, and 2 for the third digit, so you should be able to find 8 such 3-digit sequences (they are 111, 112, 121, 122, 211, 212, 221, and 222). You can start your number with any of these 8 sequences, but can you get each of the other 7 sequences to appear just by adding one digit at a time to your number? If so, your number can be as long as 3 + 7 = 10 digits! Can such a number be found?

Fortunately, it is possible. . . one example of a 10-digit number that meets these conditions is 2221211122, containing all 8 of the possible
3-digit sequences in this order: 222, 221, 212, 121, 211, 111, 112, and 122.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
By Barb Ford

My readers all know I am a bread baker. My favorite method is derived from Steve Gamelin, using his Poor Man's Dutch oven. Two identical bread pans, using one turned upside down on top of the other, and secured with clips. I have modified his original recipe, creating several types of bread. I love this method because it is easy and fairly foolproof. Recently, with the goal of adding fiber and flavor to my diet, I decided to incorporate bran. This was an instant winner. The product I rely on is Bob's Red Mill Wheat Bran. It is a quality and consistent ingredient. This recipe is meant to be a basic bran bread. Make it as written, or substitute out one cup of the flour for another flour, such as whole wheat, rye, or even a flavored bread mix. Any way you slice it, enjoyment is inevitable.

BASIC BRAN BREAD

Ingredients:
16 Ounces Warm Water
1½ t Salt
1¼ t Instant Yeast
1 T Extra Virgin Olive Oil
2 T Bragg's Organic Apple Cider Vinegar
3½ Cups Bread Flour
½ Cup Bob's Red Mill Wheat Bran

Directions:
In a large glass mixing bowl, place warm water, salt, yeast, oil and vinegar. Gently stir to combine. Add flour and bran to the edge of the bowl. Stir with a sturdy spoon. 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. Invert another bread pan on top. Secure with clips (Poor Man's Dutch Oven). 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 completely on an elevated wire rack. Slice and enjoy.

"Blues is to jazz what yeast is to bread—without it, It's flat."
Carmen McRae

Method adapted from: nokneadbreadcentral.com
YouTube Channel: ArtisanBreadWithSteve

DECEMBER 2022 MMM Activities Calendar

Fri. Dec. 2: TGIF - Coral Gables:
2838 E Grand River, East Lansing, just east of Hagadorn Rd. A favorite of Mid-Michigan Mensa. Serves Greek foods, steaks, seafood, pasta, salads, sandwiches, pizza and more.

Fri. Dec. 9: TGIF - Champps Kitchen + Bar:
2800 Preyde Blvd, Lansing, east of Eastwood Towne Center. Family-friendly sports bar chain serving burgers and comfort food in a buzzy ambiance.

Fri. Dec. 16: TGIF - Delhi Cafe:
4625 Willoughby Rd, Holt, between Cedar St and Aurelius Rd. A Mensa favorite with good Greek and American food.

Steering Committee meeting: to follow dinner.

Fri. Dec. 23: Happy Holidays!
There is NO TGIF scheduled for this Friday -- enjoy it with your families!

Fri. Dec. 30: TGIF - Cancun Mexican Grill:
1754 Central Park Dr, Okemos, near Wal*Mart. Good Mexican food and great margaritas!

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