JANUARY 2023

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 585



HEAD-LINE NO. 585 JANUARY 2023
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

Is it my imagination, or does the new year roll around again at warp speed? If Mother Nature cooperates (big if!!), I will spend my NYE on the road between here and Florida, as we head south for our winter sojourn. None too soon, if you ask me. My grand-niece didn't ask me, and therefore planned her wedding for the very end of December; otherwise we'd already be in our winter abode. I hope everyone's end of old year and beginning of new year include happy plans. As usual, stay safe and stay healthy.

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 January 2023

by Robert Henderson, Loc Sec

I hope that you enjoyed a safe and healthy 2022 Holiday season and wish you all a happy and prosperous 2023. . . MMM looks forward to seeing more of you in the coming year as MMM officers, Mensa Scholarship judges, or in whatever other roles you might prefer! Please contact any of the officers listed inside the front cover to offer your services or to share your suggestions on how MMM can better serve its members.

The Mid-Michigan Mensa (MMM) Steering Committee had a productive meeting in December! I am hopeful that the meeting minutes will appear elsewhere in this issue, but I can share the highlights with you below.

The Steering Committee set MMM's 2023 Holiday After-Glow party for 3:00 PM on Sunday, January 8 at Elizabeth Evangelista's, 5275 E Hidden Lake Dr, East Lansing, MI

48823 (RSVP to Elizabeth at 517-351-3645), This is a potluck dinner, so let her know what appetizer, side dish or dessert you will bring. There will also be a White Elephant gift exchange: DON'T buy anything new to exchange, but if you have a gently used item that someone else might enjoy more than you do, wrap it up and bring it with you. We always have fun doing this, because later on we get the chance to trade the gift we received for someone else's gift that we like better!

The other big Steering Committee decision was to start sending out the monthly printed Head-Line newsletters as First-Class mail rather than as a periodical, which requires filling out annual and monthly USPS forms. We already pay about $24 monthly for periodical postage on 60 newsletters, so dropping them in a mailbox with First-Class stamps affixed adds only $12. Those of us who fill out the USPS forms think this is well worth doing!

Our Scholarship Vice-Chair (me) reported to the Steering Committee that MMM had received almost 20 (now almost 30) applications for the Mensa Research Foundation scholarship program. I expect to receive about 50 essays by January 15, when they will be assigned to our judges for reading and grading. We currently have only 2 panels of 3 judges each, so if you would like to help local college students achieve their educational goals, please let me know. . . Adding another judging panel would reduce the workload on all the judges!

Mitchell's Musings - RVC3 Column January 2023

2023 already? REALLY? You're kidding. How could I be writing a 2023 Column?
So then… Happy New Year.

As you know I usually write this column a little more than a month in advance, so I'm unable to predict right now what our December was like. That being said, I am going to have faith that it was busy but happy while you celebrate your winter holidays.

This past year has seen the loss of some members in our region who have made a tremendous impact on the grassroots of Mensa, including one who was important in my journey. But instead dwelling on the sadness and the memories, I see the changes they made and helped Mensa local groups to grow while they shared happiness with others. Thank makes me think of all of you, and the way you do the same. All of you who volunteer and dedicate time… whether it be big roles like Local Secretary or narrow and needed like the cleanup crew at monthly meetings…. Help move us forward.

Speaking of volunteers, I want to give special recognition for 2 different groups of people. The first is Northern Michigan Mensa and their ExCom, officers, and other volunteers. This past year has led to some incredible revival of the group, with higher levels of engagement and focus. It is rare for a group to move forward with the speed and strength that they have, and I want to thank their dedicated leaders, with special thanks to LocSec Leo Hesting.

The second recognition is to the Scholarship Judges who are about to take on the task of reading and judging the Foundation scholarship applications. The Mensa Foundation Scholarship Program awards more than $175,000 in assistance every year to college-bound students around the globe. Scholarships are awarded based solely on 550-word essays expressing applicants' academic and professional goals and how their personal experiences will help them to accomplish those goals. The essays can range wildly in their tone and goals, but every single one is given the care and evaluation by members like you who invest in the future by giving their time. If you have never tried it, I encourage you to reach out to your local Scholarship Chair, or our Regional Scholarship Chair Jamison, and volunteer.

And to all of you who make a difference in the world, inside and outside of Mensa, thank you for using your gift of intelligence as a gift to others.

Lora Mitchell
RVC3@us.mensa.org

WELCOME TO 2023 PARTY

Co-hosted by Elizabeth Evangelista and Karen Petersmarck
Date: Sunday January 8, 2023
Time: 3:00 PM
Place: Home of Elizabeth Evangelista
5275 E. Hidden Lake Dr.
East Lansing, MI. 488223
What will be provided: A baked chicken dish with stuffing, drinks.
What to bring: Please bring a dish to pass: a side dish, a dessert or an appetizer

And don't forget to bring a "cool" White Elephant for the Gift Exchange!

CHANGE IN START TIME FOR FRIDAY NIGHT TGIFS

The Steering Committee has decided to change the time for the TGIFs from 5:30 PM to 6:00 PM. It is hoped that this change will make it easier for members who are working to attend the TGs. This change will be effective starting at the first TG in February. The Committee looks forward to seeing more members on Friday nights!

BOB'S WORD PUZZLE: TAKE TWO

A lazy proofreader has left a pair of extra letters in each of the following 20 words. Can you remove the two extra letters and reveal the shorter words that the author had intended?

BALLOT, BARREN, BETTER, BLOSSOM, DARKEN, FEARED, JESTER, LONDON, MADRID, MARBLE, MARTIN, PALACE, RANCID, RAVING, RELIGHT, RUMBLE, SAMPLE, SLEIGH, STEAMER, TARGET.

Bob's Math Puzzle for January: Lab Partners

A chemistry class of 6 students is to be divided into 3 teams of 2 students each for their weekly lab sessions during the semester. How many weekly labs can be scheduled before any student is assigned the same lab partner for a second session? Of course, each of the 6 students will be assigned to only one team each week, and all 6 students will be scheduled to participate in each week's lab.

Bonus puzzle: If each lab team includes 3 different students from the class of 6, how many weekly labs can be scheduled before repeating any team of 3 for a second session?

Bob's History Quiz

Can you put the following events into chronological order? You will earn 5 points for each event that you can put into the correct order plus a bonus of 5 points if you can name the year in which it occurred. You're a history whiz if you can earn the maximum of 100 points!

A) Elisha Otis invents the elevator
B) The Salem Witch Trials
C) The first modern Olympic Games
D) Napoleon defeated at Waterloo
E) The fall of Constantinople
F) Lewis and Clark explore the West
G) Lindbergh flies across the Atlantic
H) The Great Fire of London
I) The Titanic's first (and last) voyage
J) The California Gold Rush begins

See Answers on page 7.

JANUARY 2023 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
Kathy Teshich, Membership Chair
110 members

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Michael Knowlton	Jan 13
Matthew McNaughton	Jan 16
Paul Billsen	Jan 17
Roy Saper	Jan 18
Clyde Creque	Jan 22
Brinton Butler	Jan 23
Eleanor Keating	Jan 29
Eric Horner	Jan 30

JANUARY MENSAVERSARIES

David Blandford	2 yrs	David Macak	14 yrs
Graham Goble	2 yrs	Mark Weiss	15 yrs
Pooja Mudigonda	2 yrs	Joseph Werner	21 yrs
Matthew Artuso	5 yrs	Thomas Korkoske	37 yrs
Joy Rimpau	7 yrs	Tom Pascalenos	43 yrs
Dale Arnold	13 yrs	Kevin Smart	48 yrs

Answers To Puzzles

TAKE TWO WORD PUZZLE ANSWERS:
BALLOT - AL = BLOT, BARREN - RE = BARN, BETTER - TT = BEER, BLOSSOM - SS = BLOOM, DARKEN - KE = DARN, FEARED - AR = FEED, JESTER - ST = JEER, LONDON - ND = LOON, MADRID - DR = MAID, MARBLE - RB = MALE, MARTIN - RT = MAIN, PALACE - LA = PACE, RANCID - NC = RAID, RAVING - AV = RING, RELIGHT - GH = RELIT, RUMBLE = MB = RULE, SAMPLE - PL = SAME, SLEIGH - LE = SIGH, STEAMER - AM = STEER, TARGET - GE = TART (other answers are possible).

Solution for Math Puzzle:

If 3 different teams of 2 students are scheduled for each week's lab, we just need to find out how many different teams of 2 are possible, and then divide that number by 3 to find the maximum number of weekly labs that can be scheduled without repeating any teams. For 6 students numbered 1 through 6, there are only 15 different teams of 2 possible: (1, 2), (1, 3), (1, 4), (1, 5), (1, 6), (2, 3), (2, 4), (2, 5), (2, 6), (3, 4), (3, 5), (3, 6), (4, 5), (4, 6), and (5, 6). Since 3 of these teams are scheduled for each week's lab, all of the possible teams will have been scheduled after 5 weeks (note that teams "1, 2" and "2, 1" are exactly the same team).

Bonus answer: Can you figure out how many different teams of 3 can be formed from the class of 6 students? If you can find 20 different teams of 3 students, then, since each weekly lab session will have 2 teams (net 6 different students) scheduled, all of the 20 possible teams will have been scheduled after 10 weeks.

Answers to Bob's History Quiz

E) 1453 The fall of Constantinople
H) 1666 The Great Fire of London
B) 1692 The Salem Witch Trials
F) 1803 Lewis and Clark explore the West
D) 1815 Napoleon defeated at Waterloo
J) 1848 The California Gold Rush begins
A) 1857 Elisha Otis invents the elevator
C) 1896 The first modern Olympic Games
I) 1912 The Titanic's first (and last) voyage
G) 1927 Lindbergh flies across the Atlantic

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
By Barb Ford

Tomatoes. Tomato soup, tomato sauce, tomato pie. Everything tomatoes. It makes me very happy to see a big bowl of tomatoes on my kitchen counter. They work with most everything I cook. Recently, I discovered a sale at my local grocery, and came home with a load of the precious orbs. After a day or so, I realized I needed to do something big with them or risk spoiled tomatoes. It had to be easy and it had to be flavorful. Roasting is my go-to method to achieve both objectives. This is the scenario that inspired today's method. It is a method. Quantities and seasonings are up to the discretion of the cook. This method is for small tomatoes.

Choose a glass oven safe baking dish that will accommodate one layer of the number of whole unpeeled tomatoes to be cooked. In the pan, gently toss tomatoes in a bit of high flash point cooking oil along with desired herbs and spices. I like to add a sliced onion. Refrain from adding salt at this point. Roast at 375 to 400 degrees until the tomatoes and onion are collapsed and caramelized. Cool enough to safely place everything into a high-speed blender or food processor. I used a tall glass bowl and a stick blender. Process to desired smoothness. Adjust seasonings. At this point, you should have a lovely thick sauce. Put it on anything you like. Meats, veggies and of course, pasta.

I had quite a bit left over, so the next day, I heated it up and added cream to make a delicious creamy roasted tomato soup. A bit of cheese and some fresh buttered toast created a heavenly meal experience.

Great meals do not need to be complicated. But they are best when thoughtful care is given to creating the most flavor from simple fresh ingredients. Remember, there is power in roasting good food. Maybe a little magic, too. A cook that masters roasting is a genius, indeed.

"Food is our common ground, a universal experience."
James Beard

JANUARY 2023 MMM Activities Calendar

Fri. Jan. 6: TGIF - Bravo Italian Kitchen:
2970 Towne Center Blvd, Lansing, in Eastwood Towne Center. Upscale-casual Italian restaurant with a Roman-ruins ambiance serving pasta, grilled dishes, and pizza.

Sun. Jan. 8: Holiday After-Glow Party:
3:00 PM at Elizabeth Evangelista's, 5275 E Hidden Lake Dr, East Lansing, MI (RSVP to 517-351-3645 if possible). This is a potluck dinner, so let her know what appetizer, side dish or dessert you will bring. There will also be a White Elephant gift exchange: DON'T buy anything new for this, but if you have a gently used item that someone else might enjoy more than you have lately, wrap it up and bring it!

Fri. Jan. 13: 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. Jan. 20: TGIF - Lucky's Steak House:
3554 Okemos Rd, Okemos, just north of Jolly Rd. Famous for steak, seafood, and prime rib with all the trimmings.

NOTE: NO Steering Committee meeting is planned this month! The next SC meeting will be held on February 17 after the TGIF.

Fri. Jan. 27: TGIF - Asian Taste:
132 S Cedar St, Mason, kitty-corner from the Speedway Station. Wide choice of delicious Chinese specialties including Crab Rangoons and Orange Chicken.

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