MAY 2023

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 589



HEAD-LINE NO. 589 MAY 2023
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	517-896-0478	evangel6@comcast.net
Scribe:	Wendy Carnegie	517-775-0648	w.carnegie@comcast.net
	Sharon Plavnick	517-285-8740	sharonslp@ameritech.net
	Ken Lawrence	248-660-3181	Lawrence1951@gmail.com
	Squire Jaros	517-730-2619	llahcsramc@aol.com

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Dues Sub. Adm:	Elizabeth Evangelista	517-896-0478	evangel6@comcast.net
Gifted Youth Coord:	Your Name Here		
Membership:	Kathryn Teshich	517-281-7259	spartanovich@yahoo.com
Ombudsman:			
Proctor:	Ken Lawrence	248-660-3181	Lawrence1951@gmail.com
Program Director	Elizabeth Evangelista	517-896-0478	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

JOIN Mid-Michigan Mensa on Facebook:
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.

The Head-Line is the monthly publication of Mid-Michigan Mensa. Annual subscription rate is $5.00 for members and is paid through American Mensa, LTD. The annual non-member rate is $10.00 and is limited to current members of other Mensa groups. Office of Publication is 3369 Harper Rd; Mason MI 48854.

EDITOR'S COLUMN:

FROM MY BRAIN TO YOURS

by Sharon Plavnick

I said goodbye to a dear friend this past month. Our longtime irascible rapscallion, Igor Guro, who was a regular at TGs for maybe forever, succumbed to cancer and passed away at home on April 6. I sat next to Igor by chance at my first ever TG back in 1993, and we became instant friends. My membership in Mensa changed my life in several profound ways, and it has brought cherished friendships that I continue to treasure. Igor will always live in my mind and heart, but damn, I miss him at the table on Friday nights. You can learn more about this amazing man through his obituary: https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/east-lansing-mi/igor-guro-11238700

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 May 2023

by Robert Henderson, Loc Sec

With COVID receding in the rear-view mirror and spring weather to look forward to, things are looking up at Mid-Michigan Mensa! We welcome back those members who have returned to Michigan from warmer climes and look forward to seeing more of all of you in the coming months. Please refer to the MMM Activities Calendar inside the back cover of this Head-Line, come to a TGIF dinner, and get to know us better!

Our Local Group has been limping along with several officer positions unfilled for several months (or even years). I'm pleased to be able to let you know that, as of April's MMM Steering Committee meeting, there are new names on the Head-Line masthead! The Steering Committee itself is finally up to its full complement of 6 active members, leading to a good discussion of various issues affecting MMM and the Head-Line (for details please see the April Steering Committee meeting minutes). We are also fortunate to have been contacted by a member who is willing to proctor local Mensa admissions test sessions as MMM's new Proctor / Admissions Chair / Testing Coordinator! We look forward to scheduling future test sessions (and eventually welcoming new members!) once the necessary ground work is done, including selecting test venues (free or rented) and ordering test materials from American Mensa. We already have a Proctor and a stopwatch. . .

As our lives return to something like their pre-COVID normal, MMM should be able to resume some of the group activities that we have put on hold for the past 3 years, including our annual MMM chili cook-off, in-person games sessions, or even a group trip to an escape room! Ken has suggested that we plan group visits to museums, nearby sports events, or local theatrical / musical performances, etc. Please forward your comments or suggestions to any of the MMM officers listed inside the Head-Line front cover, or post a message on the Mid-Michigan Mensa Facebook page. Activities that charge an admission fee will be subsidized by the MMM Treasury, with Steering Committee approval. . . What activities would you enjoy?

Member Ken Lawrence has invited all US Mensans to join him in a Saturday Zoom-Conversation SIG! Contact Ken at "MVirtualDiscussionGroup@gmail.com" for details on how to join a scheduled meeting or set up a new session. Thanks for the invite, Ken!

Mitchell's Musings - RVC3 Column May 2023

If you've been following my column over the last year and a half, you've noticed that I talk a lot about the importance of Mensa in my life, and I talk about how personal relationships are important in Mensa. They're why we have done so much better in stability than a vast majority of social/ service organizations, both in terms of finance and membership numbers. We are, at our root, a place we were find our people, make friends, feel connected, and gather together both in person and virtually through our local groups and SIGs.

So I'm happy to share with you that by the time you read this, I will have gotten married. And yes, to another member, and specifically to someone I was friends with for a decade before we started dating. We haven't told many people, but it is possible you already know because we're going to share with the world via social media on our wedding day, April 1st, aka April Fools Day.

I'm telling you this in my column not because I want you to celebrate my marriage to Karl (although that's cool) but because this is a really great example of how being active in Mensa can change your life. I know a lot of you are M&M couples, but not every impact is a big as marrying some guy you met at an RG, and it doesn't have to be. Life changes also happen in everything from friendships to professional networking to the excitement of knowing someone else is really into that esoteric, fun thing that you get excited about. You connect when you donate to the Foundation or judge a scholarship that is going to help change someone's trajectory. It's about finding that new, cool

restaurant. It's about being brave enough to try a thing even if you don't know anyone there yet. Members make suggestions or try a thing, and you never know where it is going to become a pathway.

And who knows, maybe you'll find yourself in the party room of Chinese buffet just outside Milwaukee, exchanging rings made of meteorite and dinosaur bone.

Lora Mitchell rvc3@us.mensa.org

"Mensa—where the odds are good, but the goods are odd."

GOING DIGITAL

At our most recent steering committee meeting, we discussed the problems we incur trying to keep our monthly bulletin…this very Head-Line…published and delivered reliably and on-time. It has become increasingly burdensome on a handful of people to get copies in the hands of our members who still want a printed version. Our efforts to recruit other volunteers to take the burden off these few has not been successful. At the same time, it has become easier than ever to upload the Head-Line to several different places online, and we think it's worthwhile to start heading ourselves in the direction of becoming a mostly digital-only publication.

With that in mind, we want to encourage every member of MMM to make sure that they have a viable email address listed on the National Mensa website. Not only will that ensure that we can notify you when the newest Head-Line is available, it also allows for fast, short email communication when a matter of time-sensitive importance crops up.

Go to the National Mensa site and log in to your account. Then check your profile and make sure you have an email address inserted there. If you are someone who doesn't want to allow your email to be publicly shown on the national site, be aware that you may be missing out on these communications. If you are someone who simply doesn't use email or the internet, please let us know so we can work together to figure out how to keep you in the loop. We will continue to have a printed Head-Line as required by our Mensa bylaws…but we may need to make some changes as time goes on.

Thoughts…concerns…questions? Respond to Bob Henderson
517-676-3369 rlhenderson@peoplepc.com

Mid-Michigan Mensa Treasurer's Report

Quarter Ending March 31, 2023

STARTING BALANCE	$8,048.20
INCOME	$292.76
AML Subsidy Dec. 2022	96.20
AML Subsidy Jan. 2023	97.90
AML Subsidy Feb. 2023	98.60
5/3 Bank savings interest	0.06
EXPENDITURES	$197.39
Head-Line:	
First-Class Postage	136.80
Supplies	10.59
Culture Quest Entry	50.00
ACCOUNT BALANCES	
5/3 Checking	$6,096.50
5/3 Savings	1,998.56
USPS Postage Account	48.51
ENDING BALANCE	$8,143.57

Save the date!

The Brighton Meet-in-the-middle is back, but on a different date: July 26th at 6:30 pm. Mensans from the Detroit area, Ann Arbor area, Northeast area and Lansing area will come together at our favorite place: Block Brewery in Brighton.

Bob's Word Puzzle for May:

I hope you have all enjoyed the 6-letter and 5-letter "word chain" puzzles in recent issues of the Head-Line. Those were relatively easy, but now let's look at 4-letter and 3-letter word chains that can be much trickier. As a reminder, the last two letters of each word must match the first two letters of the next word. For 4-letter words, short chains include mama (1 word), inch + chin (2 words), alto + tore + real (3 words), and dare + real + also + soda (4 words). Can you find longer examples for 4-letter words? For extra credit, how many 3-letter words you can chain together?

Bob's Math Puzzle for May: Fun with Fractions

The ancient Greeks were fascinated by the concept of proportion. They strove to find pairs of whole numbers in the ratio of the area of a circle to that of a square the same distance across, or the "Golden Mean" ratio of a pleasing rectangle shape's width to its height, as used in the design of architecture such as the Parthenon. The proof that the ratio of a square's diagonal length to its side length could not be expressed as a ratio of whole numbers came as a shocking surprise to them!

Thanks to Pythagoras, they knew that the square of the diagonal length was exactly twice the square of the side length, or D * D = 2 * S * S. Solving for the ratio D / S gives the square root of 2, an early example of an irrational number. This month's math puzzle is to find pairs of whole numbers for which the square of the larger differs as little as possible from twice the square of the smaller: examples include 3 * 3 - 1 = 2 * (2 * 2) and 7 * 7 + 1 = 2 * (5 * 5). . . how many others can you find?

Bob's Trivia Quiz

What 3-word phrase is written on Martin Luther King's gravestone?
What is Japanese sake made from?
Which country is the largest producer of vanilla?
What is the only fruit that has its seeds on the outside?
What metal is liquid at normal atmospheric pressure and temperature?
What U.S. newspaper is nicknamed "the Gray Lady"?
What country has the most vending machines per capita?
Which fruit floats because 25% of its volume is air?
What's the brightest star in the sky?
Carrots are a good source of which vitamin?
What is the driest continent?
Which US state has the longest cave system in the world?
What blood type qualifies as a universal donor?
What is the most abundant metal in the Earth's crust?
What is the most abundant element in the universe?
What was the predecessor to the United Nations?
A flamboyance is a group of what animals?
What is the largest lizard?
New York City comprises how many boroughs?
Which nuts are used to make marzipan?
Botany is the scientific study of what?
Tanks were used in battle for the first time in which conflict?
Squab is a name given to the young of which bird?
Which Italian fascist leader was known as 'Il Duce'?
If a male donkey is a jack, what is the female called?

See Answers on page 7.

MAY 2023 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
Kathy Teshich, Membership Chair
93 members

BIRTHDAYS

Linda Harrison	May 9
Robert Henderson	May 16
Graham Goble	May 19
Michael Haven	May 20
Richard Shaffer	May 21
Eric Roath	May 23
Joan Forgrave	May 26

MENSAVERSERIES

John Miller	2 yrs
Michael Haven	4 yrs
Charles Allison	36 yrs

MENSA TO BE IMMERSED IN VAN GOGH

From Elizabeth Evangelista, Program Chair

After a 3-year hiatus due to Covid, Mensa is ready to start on new adventures! Our debut excursion will be a trip to Grand Rapids to enjoy The Van Gogh Experience. This trip will take place on Monday, May 15th. We'll meet between 10:45 and 11:00 AM, in front of the Barnes and Noble bookstore at the Lansing Mall, and car-pool to the exhibit. Each person will have to order their own ticket. Tickets cost $29.90 for Seniors and $39.95 for Adults, and can be ordered on the following Website: https://vangoghexpo.com/grand-rapids/#facs We plan to attend the 1 PM exhibit, so order your ticket as soon as possible for that time slot. If you wish, bring a snack to eat before the exhibit, and we will try to find a near-by place to have a late lunch after the exhibit before we start home. Please RSVP to Elizabeth Evangelista at 517-896-0478-text is fine- or at evangel6@comcast.net. We look forward to having you join us for a fun day!

Answers To Puzzles

Bob's Word Puzzle Answers

Chain of five 4-letter words: veal + alto + tool + olla + lave
Chain of six 4-letter words: tool + olla + last + stop + opal + alto
Chain of seven 4-letter words:
seem + emus + user + erne + neon + only + lyse
Chain of eight 4-letter words:
zero + role + lean + ante + teal + also + soda + daze
Chain of nine 4-letter words:
mean + ants + tsar + arch + chin + into + tool + olla + lame
Chain of ten 4-letter words:
chop + opal + also + sore + reel + elan + ants + tsar + area + each
Chain of two 3-letter words: aha + hah
Chain of three 3-letter words: eat + ate + tea
Chain of four 3-letter words: tap + ape + pet + eta
Chain of five 3-letter words: ewe + wet + eth + the + hew
I found chains of up to 14 four-letter words. Can you do better?

Math Puzzle Answers

There are infinitely many pairs of numbers for which the square of the larger is only 1 different than twice the square of the smaller, including 17 vs. 12, 41 vs. 29, 99 vs 70, 239 vs. 169, 577 vs. 408, and 1393 vs. 985. This list can be extended easily: just find the next numbers in the two series 17, 41, 99, 239, 577, 1393, . . . and 12, 29, 70, 169, 408, 985,. . ., (hint: in both, each number is twice the previous number plus the one before that).

Trivia Quiz Answers:

Free At Last, Rice, Madagascar, Strawberry, Mercury, The New York Times, Japan, Apple, Sirius, Vitamin A, Antartica, Kentucky, O negative, Aluminium, Hydrogen, League of Nations, Flamingos, Komodo dragon, Five, Almonds, Plants, World War 1, Pigeon, Mussolini, Jenny.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Barb Ford

I am always on the lookout for a nice condiment sauce to enhance various dishes. A great sauce, in my book, is one that can be used on many foods. It helps when folks enjoy it and reach for more, or ask for the recipe. Today, I share two recent discoveries. The first is from my friend, Greg, The California Mountain Man. It is a traditional family favorite; one he enjoyed as a youngster. His Mom made a secret "Thousand Island Dressing," that is also a great dipping sauce. Greg makes it today with his own home-made Mayo. Yes, he has chickens to supply the fresh eggs needed. I made it with Duke's storebought, and it is truly yummy. This recipe and the one below it is based on approximate measures. They are both best made the day before and stored in the refrigerator. Make them your own by adjusting ingredient quantities.

GREG'S FAMILY SECRET THOUSAND ISLAND DRESSING

Ingredients: (Approximate measures)
½ C Mayo
2 T Ketchup
1 t Creamy Natural Peanut Butter
Combine ingredients until smooth. Refrigerate.

This next one, I discovered by chance while attempting to come up with a dipping sauce/aioli for my Spicy Chili Garlic potato wedges. First attempt was a winner.

SPICY CHILI GARLIC AIOLI

Ingredients: (Approximate measures)
½ C Mayo
1-2 t Vietnamese Chili Garlic Sauce
¼ t Cumin Powder
¼ t Smoked Paprika
Pinch of Garlic Powder
Combine ingredients until smooth. Refrigerate.

"I feel a recipe is only a theme, which an intelligent cook can play each time with a variation."

Madame Benoit

MAY 2023 MMM Activities Calendar

Fri. May 5: TGIF - Olga's Kitchen
354 Frandor Ave in the Frandor Mall, East Lansing. Soups, salads, and Olga's signature gyro sandwiches.

Fri. May 12: TGIF - Soup Spoon Cafe
1419 E Michigan Ave, Lansing. Wide menu selection, including vegan choices, and, of course, soup.

Mon. May 15: Excursion to the Van Gogh Experience in Grand Rapids. Carpool meets at 10:45am. Buy tickets in advance for 1pm entry. See article on page 6 for details.. Contact Elizabeth to RSVP 517-896-0478.

Fri. May 19: 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.

Fri. May 26: TGIF - (Okemos) Saddleback BBQ
1754 Central Park Dr, Okemos, specializing in hand-crafted, award-winning Southern BBQ with a unique Midwestern flair. Give it a try!

TGIFs are on Fridays. We meet at about **6 PM** and order soon after 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