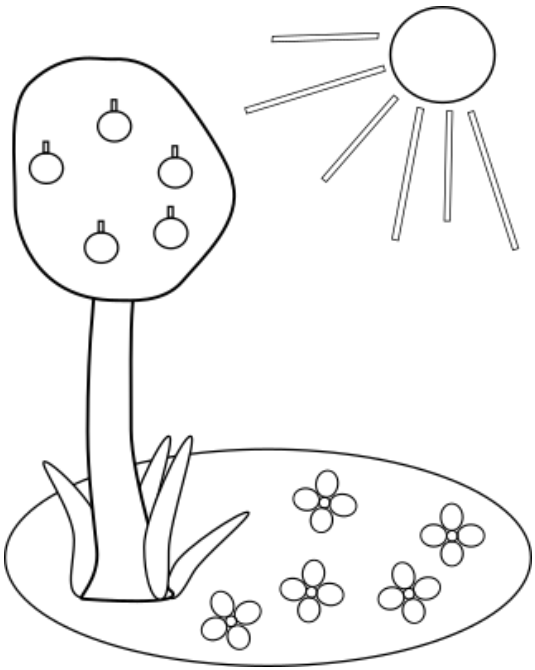
JUNE 2023

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 590



HEAD-LINE NO. 590 JUNE 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

I'm fresh from our field trip to the Van Gogh Experience in Grand Rapids. Seven of us made our way there and enjoyed being immersed in the world of Van Gogh, a tortured soul who made a huge impact in the art world…after his death, of course. Hope more of you will join us as we plan other excursions. Thanks to Elizabeth Evangelista for getting the ball rolling on this one.

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 June 2023

by Robert Henderson, Loc Sec

I hope that you have all been able to get out and enjoy our recent Spring weather! Ginny and I have been able to do lots of outside work lately. I would like to express my gratitude for not only the pleasant weather but also family, good friends, and especially those MMM members who have contributed their time, talents, and personal initiative to set up recent group events for our members!

MMM fielded a team of five Culture Quest competitors on April 30. Culture Quest is a trivia competition between Local Groups to answer as many out of 200 questions as possible within 90 minutes. I was amazed by the breadth of our team's cumulative knowledge, but we still need to find ways to save time in future CQ competitions. . . Our team didn't come close to answering all 200, but I'm sure we could have correctly answered many of those that we didn't get to if we had skipped earlier ones that we weren't so sure about.

In May, Elizabeth Evangelista and Sharon Plavnick organized a fun outing for MMM members to enjoy the immersive van Gogh Experience in Grand Rapids. This made a nice change from the last few years of COVID isolation! Hopefully, there will be an article in the July Head-Line to fill in those of us who couldn't make it.

This month we will finally resume testing prospects for Mensa membership, thanks to the hard work of our new Proctor / Testing Coordinator, Ken Lawrence. You can find details in the June Activities Calendar inside the back cover. . . Don't forget to let your brainiest friends know that this is their opportunity to join MENSA and enjoy it as much as you have! As Webmaster, I will add a note to the MMM Website home page directing interested prospects to the current month's Activities Calendar, including up-to-date qualification test info.

If you have ideas for an MMM group activity or just want to recommend a new restaurant for our weekly TGIF dinners, please let Ginny know at 517-676-3369 or gbrunkh@peoplepc.com. We appreciate your feedback!

Mitchell's Musings - RVC3 Column June 2023

Some months I struggle a bit with what to write, but this time I'm inspired by the fact that I am, simply, covered in dirt. Not metaphorically, but rather I have potting soil under my nails, smudges of compost on my shirt, and fertilizer on my pants. I'm not quite sure what is in my hair. See, I grew up on a farm in western PA, literally on a dirt road that was finally oil and chipped when I was in 4th grade. I've been in the city of Columbus for the last 23 years, and over time discovered that the saying is true -you can take the girl off the farm, but you can't take the farm out of the girl. So, I have beautiful seedlings of assorted brassicas, new varieties of cucumber, more tomatoes than is probably sane, and I still get excited by all the seed packets. I also couldn't do all this gardening without my patient husband, who learned about hardening off seedlings this year by carrying baskets of dirt-filled solo cups up and down the stairs from the indoor greenhouse he set up for me, all while trying to not fuss about the coir on the floor. We basically no longer have a back yard, but a tiny farm. It's a happy place for me, even though it takes hard work, just like Mensa.

I want to say thank you, again and again, to those of you who volunteered at Mind Games. The members of the National Office were impressed at the showing everyone made, and even people who were not formal volunteers helped in 1000 different small ways. And wear those Tye Die shirts with pride!

WPAM has their RG upcoming in September, Labor Day weekend, and is returning to the Greentree Doubletree.

My big news is that I'm excited to share that I am working with Alan Baltis, who arranged the original Brain Freeze event, to spread it across the region. To have a true regional event, we're asking LGs and individuals to celebrate Ice Cream (or gelato, or sherbet, or whatever) on August 5. Please join us!

Mensa is in my roots. I'm a second-generation member, and most of my friendships are with other Ms. I've learned so much about people relationships, developed my skills, and been able to hoe out some personal weeds. RGs are better than kelp to help me flourish, and virtual conversations on social media are essentially my sun. You help me grow, and I hope that you find opportunities in Mensa to grow as well.

Lora Mitchell, RVC3
rvc3@us.mensa.org

Bob's Word Puzzle for June:

Word Ladder Puzzle: Changing Colors

Starting with the first word in each line below, change one letter at a time until you reach the second (target) word. Each step must spell a valid English word. After you have done your best, see how your answers compare to those found by the online Word Ladder Solver (see link on the Puzzles page at the Mid-Michigan Mensa website).

Change RUBY to WINE in 4 to 6 steps
Change SOOTY to SNOWY in 4 to 7 steps
Change GOLD to NAVY in 5 to 7 steps
Change PINK to PLUM in 6 to 8 steps
Change EBON to SNOW in 5 to 10 steps
Change BLACK to WHITE in 7 to 10 steps
Change GREY to PINK in 5 to 13 steps
Change OLIVE to GREEN in 8 to 11 steps
Change AQUA to BLUE in 7 to 13 steps
Change HAZEL to PEACH in 8 to 14 steps

Bob's Math Puzzle for June

You may remember that the Greek letter Pi represents the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter, or 3.14159265358979. . . Some ancient Greeks were quite dismayed that Pi could not be expressed as a ratio of integers, but that hasn't stopped people from trying! Laws have even been passed requiring citizens to use some rational approximation of Pi in commerce, etc.!

You may also remember that a useful approximation of Pi is given by the improper fraction 22 / 7 = 3 1/7 = 3.142857. . ., but you can get much closer to the exact irrational value by using a ratio of two 3-digit numbers. Can you guess what that ratio is? Hint: the 6 digits involved are 1, 1, 3, 3, 5, and 5.

Bob's Trivia Quiz

Here are 25 Jeopardy-type questions. . . How many can you answer correctly?

1 Indiana Jones used the headpiece to the staff of this Egyptian sun god to help find the Ark
2 There's a 225-ton lady eternally greeting visitors at the entrance to this harbor
3 Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, she gets married to Ron & they have 2 kids, Rose & Hugo

4 In French a frere is this whether in the monastery or the family
5 Do you plead the fifth on ordering a side of chips & this mashed avocado dip from Chipotle?
6 Darwin Harbor was named in 1839 by John Stokes a surveyor aboard this ship
7 Your request for French fries has been overruled; I'm ordering you a Greek salad with kalamata these
8 Located at Windsor Castle, a locket contains the bullet that killed this admiral in an 1805 battle
9 On Dec. 16, 1773, the locals decided to give this harbor an unusual bit of pollution
10 In Swedish a brorsdotter is this
11 I concur with Justices Ginsburg & Sotomayor who ruled that this Nathan's specialty is a sandwich
12 A Song Dynasty ship sank along what's called the Maritime this Chinese trade route
13 About 400 miles at its widest point, this sea has harbors in Riga, Latvia & Klaipeda, Lithuania
14 In A Study in Scarlet, we are told that I took my MD degree from the University of London
15 Algonquin for beads, also a type of currency that could be used to declare war or to signal peace
16 John the Savage is a central character in this classic novel set in the year 632 AF (After Ford)
17 A very big blossom by this American set a record for a female artist when it sold for $44.4 million
18 These arteries that supply blood to the heart itself take their name from the Latin for crown
19 Stolen paintings recovered in 2014 included "Mexican Peasant" by this muralist
20 A full set of adult human teeth includes this many canines
21 A champagne reception greeted those who did this city's Gherkin Challenge stair climb for charity
22 Ratified in 1913 the 17th amendment gave the selection of these to voters
23 The Great Wave by the Japanese artist Hokusai inspired this 1905 piece of music by Claude Debussy
24 This long bone between the acetabulum & the patella can resist a force of 2500 pounds
25 The second-largest part of the human brain, it's involved with balance

See Answers on page 7.

JUNE 2023 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
Kathy Teshich, Membership Chair
94 members

BIRTHDAYS

Ingrid Nova	June 2
Kevin Smart	June 4
Michael Rademacher	June 5
Richard Weingartner	June 9
Gail Wolfe	June 11
Wendy Kassal	June 13
Mark Weiss	June 16
Paul Kassal	June 19
Kane Hanson	June 19
Matthew Carter	June 27

MENSAVERSERIES

Brian Osborne	1 yr
Frank Dolinar	25 yrs
A Beckon	27 yrs
Kenneth Lawrence	29 yrs
Roy Saper	54 yrs

Answers To Puzzles

Math Puzzle Answer

The ratio of 355 / 113 is 3.14159292. . ., which is the best approximation to Pi that you can make that uses a 3-digit numerator and denominator. More digits allow closer approximations, but this is the only fractional approximation that gives more significant digits of pi than the number of digits in the fraction itself!

The Indian math prodigy Ramanujan extended this process to something called continued fractions early in the 20th century. His formulae are still used to check out new computer designs and are behind the occasional news reports that the value of Pi has been calculated to the billionth, trillionth, or even higher-placed digit! I will share more on Ramanujan in next month's Head-Line.

Trivia Quiz Answers:

Answers to Trivia Quiz:

1 Ra
2 New York
3 Hermione
4 Brother
5 Guacamole
6 The Beagle
7 Olives
8 (Admiral Horatio) Nelson
9 Boston
10 Niece
11 Hot Dog
12 Silk Road
13 The Baltic Sea
14 (Dr. John) Watson
15 Wampum
16 Brave New World
17 Georgia O'Keefe
18 Coronary arteries
19 (Diego) Rivera
20 Four
21 London
22 Senators
23 La Mer
24 Femur
25 Cerebellum

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.

TED TALK

The title of the June Theodore Talk is, "The SS Aufseherin and the Gendered Perpetration of the Holocaust". This virtual event will take place on Zoom June 25 at 2:30 p.m. Central Time (3:30 Eastern, 12:30 Pacific, 7:30 GMT).

ABSTRACT
Throughout WWII some 3500 women served as guards in the Nazi concentration camp system. Though their work and responsibilities were the same as their male colleagues, their experience was not. As a female minority these women were often discriminated against, and they were expected to adhere to a male, military code of behavior exhibited by their colleagues. These factors ultimately greatly impacted the lives of prisoners.

Dr. Shelly Cline, Director of Education & Historian at the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education, will examine the experience of these women and how their gender impacted their work and the suffering of prisoners within the camps.

Register for this presentation at https://tinyurl.com/2p827n98. You must register for each lecture with an email address associated with your Zoom account. If you don't have one, you can sign up for a free Zoom account at https://zoom.us/signup.

Theodore Talks take place on Zoom the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m. CT.

A list of future Theodore Talks can be found on the Mensa National Events Calendar at https://www.us.mensa.org/attend/calendar/, or by viewing the January issue of the Mensa Bulletin. The article on the 2023 Theodore Talks begins on p. 26. The PDF for the magazine can be found here:

https://cdn.coverstand.com/28885/770839/b31f233c57e663919d0e24eaaf61c9f62f52e902.pdf

Questions? Contact Brad Lucht at TheodoreTalks@MAMensa.org.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Barb Ford

Last month, I published home recipes for my new favorite sauces. I mentioned one was designed to be served with Spicy Chili Garlic Potato Wedges. Several requests for the recipe ensued, so here it is. These are always a hit, served hot or cold. They are also amazing made with cubed potatoes, cooled, then tossed with the Spicy Chili Garlic Aioli to make a truly delicious potato salad. Add some bread and butter pickles and you are ready for first prize at any potluck. You are welcome. Enjoy this recipe.

SPICY CHILI GARLIC POTATO WEDGES

Ingredients:

3 lbs. Russet Potatoes (Scrubbed and cut into wedges, with skins)
3 T Organic Vegetable Oil (I prefer unflavored liquid coconut oil)
1 t Ground Cumin Seed
½ t Smoked Paprika
½ t Ground Chipotle Powder
¼ t Garlic Powder
¼ t Onion Powder
½ t Sea Salt

Directions:

In a LARGE bowl, combine spices and oil with a whisk. Toss with potato wedges until thoroughly coated. Turn out in single layers onto sheet pans lined with parchment paper. Bake at 400 degrees until tender. (40-50 minutes, checking after 30 minutes.)
Serve with Spicy Chili Garlic Aioli.

This recipe makes a lot, but after one taste, it will become clear it is NOT too much. Put these taters on the table, and get out of the way….

“The idea that a potato in the dining room can lead to a frolic in the bedroom is not as ridiculous as it sounds.”

Greg and Beverly Frazier

JUNE 2023 MMM Activities Calendar

Fri, June 2: TGIF - Cancun Mexican Grill
1754 Central Park Dr, Okemos. Good Mexican food and great margaritas.

Sat, June 3, 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon: Mensa Admissions Testing
Howell Carnegie Library, Colbert Room
314 W Grand River Ave, Howell, MI 48843
Use the Library's Clinton St entrance, then turn right. For further details, contact MMM Proctor Ken Lawrence at MensaProctor670@gmail.com

Fri, June 9: TGIF - Sultan's Restaurant
1381 E. Grand River Rd, East Lansing. Delicious Middle Eastern food with great service!

Steering Committee Meeting: to follow dinner.

Fri, June 16: TGIF - Pizza House
4790 S Hagedorn, in the Hannah Plaza, East Lansing. Good selection of American and Italian dishes, including, of course, pizza!

Fri, June 23: 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, June 30: TGIF - Delhi Cafe
4625 Willoughby Rd, Holt, between Cedar St and Aurelius Rd. A Mensa favorite with good Greek and American food.

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