OCTOBER 2023

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 594



HEAD-LINE NO. 594 OCTOBER 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

As I write this, there is a looming deadline to pass a spending bill or else the government will shut down. I'm shutting down my brain to show solidarity. By the time you all read this, I hope the government and my brain will be fully functioning.

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 October 2023

by Robert Henderson, Loc Sec

It's still early for Thanksgiving, but I would like to express my gratitude for health, wealth, happiness, and Mid-Michigan Mensa! MMM is finally able to qualify new members this year, bringing new energy and ideas into our Local Group. If you haven't been to a TGIF dinner lately, please attend one the next convenient Friday evening and get to know some of our new members. . . The old-timers will also be glad to see you!

Fall is my favorite time of year. The heat and storms of summer are behind us, the changing colors beckon us to travel, and we look forward to several family holiday gatherings through the end of the year. I, for one, hope to get some model airplanes into the air without getting burned by the sun or bombed by mosquitos! Ginny has begun to harvest and dry or can the bountiful apple crop from our two trees. Dried apple rings and jars of apple sauce make good gifts for friends and family members alike!

Please check out the October MMM activities calendar and the articles in this month's Head-Line. I hope you enjoy solving math and word puzzles and answering trivia quizzes as much as I enjoy making them! We could also bring back crossword clues, word ladders, or anagram puzzles. . . Which puzzles do you like best? If you don't see them, just ask, or, better yet, you could create your own puzzles for MMM members to solve! Just send them to our hard-working editor or me to see them published in an upcoming Head-Line.

Mitchell's Musings - RVC3 Column October 2023
Lora Mitchell, RVC3

October brings many things to celebrate. For some people it's the end of searing heat. For others (like me) it's the best holiday- Halloween!

The real treat though is the hard work of our region's volunteers. This year, once again, several of our local groups were honored with Jewel Awards, and I'd like to recognize them here too.

- Diamond: East Central Ohio Mensa
- Sapphire: Cincinnati Area Mensa, Southeast Michigan Mensa, Mid-Michigan Mensa
- Emerald: Kentuckiana Mensa, Western New York Mensa

Kudos to these groups, their leadership, and many volunteers. If you'd like to know more about the award and how to help your group achieve recognition for the great things they do, please look at https://www.us.mensa.org/recognize/group-awards/local-group-jewels/. Activities range from the more complicated like having an RG or LDW to the simple like reporting the changes of local group officers to the national office. Getting more points can even be by entering a team in CultureQuest (who doesn't love Mensa level trivia!!). Points come from encouraging early renewals and contacting lapsed members, participating in MensaCares Service projects, and even by publishing this RVC Column that you're reading now!
Speaking of CultureQuest, many congratulations also to the three Region 3 teams who placed in the top 20. Let's toss confetti for The Barry Austern Memorial CultureQuest Team (Cincinnati Area Mensa- 11th place), Uncle Churd (East Central Ohio Mensa- 12th place), and Nerds N'at (Western

Pennsylvania Mensa- 13th place).
Finally, I'd like to give recognition to two members who won awards as individuals. Billie Lee, of Southeast Michigan Mensa, was a recipient of a National Service Award for her dedicated, mindful service to Mensa. Billie has previously served on the AMC, is on multiple national committees, and is a joy to work with. And also from Southeast Michigan Mensa, I'm pleased to share that Melissa Jenkins is the recipient of the National Gifted Youth Coordinator award for 2023. Melissa has done amazing things in her work with gifted youth and in the development of programming, and it's an honor to have her in our region.

This month, the hardest part of writing this column is realizing that there's so many more unsung heroes in Mensa who aren't given awards. So please also give a round of applause for your colleagues who host dinners, send out newsletters, organize gatherings, set up speakers, attend service projects, judge scholarship applications, and give of their time for us in other ways.

Thank you.

rvc3@us.mensa.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: FALL COLOR TRIP TO HOLLAND, MI

Hard as it may be to believe, some of our members have never been to Holland, so we have planned a Fall Color trip to introduce them to Holland and Lake Macatawa, and we hope others will enjoy going also. The trip is planned for **Saturday, October 14.** We plan to meet in front of the Barnes and Noble Bookstore in the Lansing Mall at 9:45 and car-pool, leaving at 10 AM. We should arrive at about noon, and we'll have lunch there. I suggest Boatwerks, which is directly on Lake Macatawa, but there are other less pricey options. After lunch we can explore the city and the vicinity, either as one group or in smaller groups, depending on what people want to see. Some options are: 1) Explore the downtown-there are nice shops and interesting casual statues. 2) Windmill Park. Unfortunately, the tulips will not be in bloom, but the park is an interesting reproduction of Dutch tulip fields, complete with a Windmill, which should be open, and a Dutch Village. 3) "Big Red" Lighthouse, at the junction of Lake Macatawa and Lake Michigan 4) Mt. Pisgah , a sand dune 157 feet high. It has a boardwalk and great views., especially n the Fall, but there are 230 (or 300?) steps to climb! ! 5) etc. etc. Please let Elizabeth know if you're interested in this trip, at 517-896-0478 .

Bob's Word Puzzle: Anagram Word Ladders

For each word given, find another word that has the same letters in a different order, then change the given word one letter at a time to reach the other word you found (its anagram). Each intermediate step must be a valid English word, but won't be another anagram of the first and last words.

1) PARIS, 2) SCAPED, 3) PASTS, 4) TRESS, 5) SHADES,
6) EDGER, 7) MOATS, 8) AMPLE, 9) GREYED, 10) SAMPLE.

Bob's Math Puzzle:
Can you think of a reason why one of the digits 1 through 9 might be more common among house numbers (street addresses) than the other digits? At least for their first digit, it is a well-researched phenomenon that one particular digit is the most common, appearing first in about 30% of most collections of street addresses and many other sets of physical measurements (e.g., river lengths)-- can you guess which digit it is?
Jeopardy-style Trivia

Can you name the subject of each answer below? You don't need to phrase each guess as a question!

1) WOMEN IN HISTORY: Arrested for voting in 1872, she died 14 years before the 19th Amendment
2) TITLED HEADS: Queen of France 1559-60; Catholic Europe considered her the rightful queen of England
3) WORLD HISTORY: In 1804 this country was the first black nation to gain freedom from colonial rule
4) SHOW BUSINESS: Rathbone, Roger Moore & Larry Hagman are among the many actors to play this role
5) U.S. PRESIDENTS: He won a second term with 525 electoral votes, the greatest number in any election
6) EUROPE: The Soviet army was welcome in this capital in May of '45 but not welcome in August '68
7) THE CALENDAR: The only day of the week named for a Roman god
8) TRAVEL & TOURISM: The city that boasts the tallest U.S. monument, completed in 1965
9) DANCE: Balanchine called him "the most interesting, inventive & elegant dancer of our time"
10) THE BIBLE: The first person in the Bible to be imprisoned
11) FOOD: By worth, the largest single grocery item imported into the U.S.
12) MATHEMATICS: The only Arabic number which cannot be expressed using Roman numerals
13) RIVERS: Mark Antony's journey to Cleopatra's Nile began on this river

14) THE ZODIAC: The only sign of the zodiac not symbolized by a living thing
15) FAMOUS FAMILIES: Members of this acting family starred in "Grand Hotel", the Dr. Kildare films, & "E.T."
16) U.S. STATES: This state was once an independent monarchy
17) ASTRONOMY: After the Sun & the Moon, the brightest astronomical object regularly seen
18) THE SUPREME COURT: He argued Brown vs. Board of Education, then became the first USSC black justice
19) WORLD GEOGRAPHY: It has almost as many people as all the other South American countries combined
20) U.S. PRESIDENTS: In the 1860 election for his first term, more Americans voted against him than for him

See Answers on page 7.

DISCUSSION GROUP

One of our members would like to remind everybody that there is a Virtual Discussion Group available, and all are welcome. They meet on Saturday afternoons at 2:00 PM, and discuss whatever is on anyone's mind.

A great many people join Mensa so they can talk to like minded people, and this seems like a great opportunity. Hope to see you there..
Weekly: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZIqde-prjMsGNcLfiKr9raAK6o7Z6GNrQR7/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGuqTksG9SdthuERpwAB4joM-vziFxdjY1esBnsKDIKcALXHbRNZYgpN_bC

Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86726108623?pwd=cUgyelF2K0ZLQzNWbVByZE9UMXpxdz09

OCTOBER 2023 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
Kathy Teshich, Membership Chair
101 members

BIRTHDAYS

Dale Arnold	Oct 6
Elizabeth Evangelista	Oct 20
Joy Rimpau	Oct 21
Richard Wentzel	Oct 21
William Tupy	Oct 23
Evan Linacre	Oct 25
Diane Mater	Oct 31

MENSAVERSERIES

John Abbott	5 yrs
Daivd Murley	7 yrs
Saif Fatteh	13 yrs
Robert Huston	17 yrs
Wendy Kassal	36 yrs

Answers To Puzzles

Math Puzzle Answer

Let's look at the highest house number on a street and note how many digits it has. 3 digits covers highest house numbers from 100 to 999, but how likely is each starting digit? House numbers 100 thru 199 will be found on many such streets, but the numbers 900 thru 999 will not be found at all among the many streets in which the highest house number is below 900. It seems the higher the first digit, the fewer houses will have it on average, and the same logic holds for streets with highest house numbers 4 or 5 digits long as well. We can infer that the most common first digit for this and similar sets of data is ONE!

If this sounds like hand-waving to you, don't take my word for it. . . Check out "Benford's Law" online for the fascinating story of its discovery and its uses to detect cheating. You can prove it for yourself by simply opening a phone book and counting the first digits on a page with street addresses. I got 25% "ones" in two trials and 40% "ones" on a third page, which had several hospital addresses on one block. What do you get?

Word Puzzle Answers
Word Puzzle Answers (your results may vary):

1) PARIS to PAIRS in 2 to 6 steps,
2) SCAPED to SPACED in 3 to 7 steps,
3) PASTS to SPATS in 4 to 8 steps,
4) TRESS to RESTS in 5 to 9 steps,
5) SHADES to DASHES in 7 to 11 steps,
6) EDGER to GREED in 8 to 12 steps,
7) MOATS to ATOMS in 9 to 13 steps,
8) AMPLE to MAPLE in 10 to 14 steps,
9) GREYED to GREEDY in 11 to 15 steps,
10) SAMPLE to MAPLES in 12 to 16 steps.

Trivia Answers

1) Susan B. Anthony, 2) Mary, Queen of Scots, 3) Haiti, 4) Sherlock Holmes, 5) Ronald Reagan, 6) Prague, 7) Saturday, 8) St. Louis (Arch), 9) Fred Astaire, 10) Joseph, 11) Coffee, 12) Zero, 13) The Tiber, 14) Libra (The Scales), 15) Barrymore, 16) Hawaii, 17) Venus, 18) Thurgood Marshall, 19) Brazil, 20) Abraham Lincoln.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Barb Ford

It seems I am always playing around with a new recipe idea. I love to browse through cookbooks and food magazines for inspiration. I particularly like to come up with new recipes for dishes that are good served in a meal, and also as a snack. My love for beans led me to invent this one. With a mildly spicy taste, and creamy texture, this recipe is universally enjoyed. It is easy to make, travels well, and is great served with corn chips. As a side dish, it loves to be served with seasoned rice. It can be made up the day before, and popped into the oven just before guests arrive. I hope everyone enjoys this one!

HOPPIN' BEAN DIP

Ingredients:
1 15 Ounce Can Pinto beans, well drained
1 14.5 Ounce Can Hoppin' John, well drained
½ t Cajun Seasoning (Find it in the specialty spice aisle)
½ C Bacon Crumbles
½ C Sharp Cheddar Cheese, plus a little more for the top of the dish
1/4/ C Sour Cream

Directions:
Place contents of both cans and Emeril's Essence in the food processor. Pulse until mixture is somewhat smooth. Add bacon crumbles, sharp cheddar cheese, and sour cream. Pulse until mixture is uniform. Place in a well greased glass baking dish, and top with a few tablespoons of sharp cheddar cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes, or until bubbly. Serve hot, warm, or room temperature, with your favorite corn chips.

"Pepper is small in quantity and great in virtue."

Plato

OCTOBER 2023 MMM Activities Calendar

Fri. Oct. 6: TGIF - Cancun Mexican Grill
1754 Central Park Dr, Meridian Township. Good Mexican food and great margaritas.

Fri. Oct. 13: TGIF - Coral Gables
2838 E Grand River, East Lansing, just east of Hagadorn Rd. An MMM favorite! Serves Greek foods, steaks, seafood, pasta, salads, sandwiches, pizza and more.

Sat. Oct. 14: Field Trip to Holland MI
See article on page 3 for details. Contact Elizabeth Evangelista to RSVP: 517-896-0478.

Fri. Oct. 20: TGIF - Asia's Finest (New Venue)
6443 S Cedar St, Lansing. Wide choice of delicious Chinese specialties, including Orange Chicken and Crab Rangoons.

Steering Committee Meeting: to follow dinner.

Fri. Oct. 27: TGIF - Bravo Italian Kitchen
2970 Towne Center Blvd, Eastwood Towne Center, Lansing. Upscale-casual Italian restaurant with a Roman-ruins ambiance serving pasta, grilled dishes, and pizza.

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