NOVEMBER 2023

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 595



HEAD-LINE NO. 595 NOVEMBER 2023
MID-MICHIGAN MENSA

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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.

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EDITOR'S COLUMN:

FROM MY BRAIN TO YOURS

by Sharon Plavnick

The world continues to seethe around us. I recently saw a meme on Facebook that sums up how I feel: I want to wake up in the morning and find out that we have world peace. Wishing you all personal peace at least, and a Happy Thanksgiving.

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 November 2023

by Robert Henderson, Loc Sec

Today (Oct. 14) we had planned a group day trip to Holland, MI, but the fall weather has turned from delightful to frightful! Elizabeth plans to schedule another Holland day trip to coincide with their spring Tulip Festival -- watch for an Activities Calendar entry and an article in next May's Head-Line for details.

With the year-end holidays coming up, the MMM Steering Committee will be planning a holiday or post-holiday party when it meets on October 20. Ginny will look into possible venues and suggest one at the meeting, since she is not planning to host any more MMM parties. . . I hope that you all remember to thank her for all that she has done for MMM, including putting up with me!

The next day (October 21) we will be hosting a Mensa Qualification Test at the Okemos Library. October is Mensa Testing Month: group tests are only half price! We hope to interest several new prospects in joining Mensa and MMM. We can now do a better job of getting the word out since we have a Testing Coordinator as well as a Proctor for the first time in years! Watch for announcements in the Head-Line and the MMM Activities Calendar in case you would like to meet some prospects or observe a test session. . . I've enjoyed each one that I have attended!

With cold weather on the way, let's remember to winterize our homes and vehicles and/or plan to spend some time in warmer climes. . . Ginny and I plan to visit Milan, Italy early in November as well as the Eastern Mediterranean in late January. Rather than travel alone, we expect to have friends or relatives traveling with us to share the fun! We should

have plenty of photos to show around after each trip. . . Now we just have to get our new COVID shots and stay healthy long enough to go!

Mitchell's Musings - RVC3 Column October 2023

Lora Mitchell, RVC3

As I write this, I am going back and forth with doing some packing planning and hotel reservations for a couple of upcoming trips, between personal and profession. I know man people my age loathe required travel, especially if they've done a lot of it, Me, I love learning new things and connecting with culture (even if it's just Texas, Chicago, Wisconsin, or Florida). I completely missed travel during the worst of the pandemic.

I've realized this year that SIGs start feeling like travel for my Brain. Over the last few years, there's been a decrease in member involvement for in person, local group events, even though membership numbers of the organization itself have remained stable. I absolutely encourage every local group to continue having them though, and they still serve an important purpose.

However, online engagement continues to increase. Most of that is happening through our SIGs (Special Interest Groups). Today I counted 141 official SIGs, which is phenomenal. SIGs started in 1965 with the Gifted Children Study Group and Mensa Investment club, and is now everything from The ADR sig for mediators and practitioners to yuM for those who love food. Fan of cartoon princesses? Join Disnerd Ms. Looking for other gamers? Join VRrrrrM. Are you a quilter? There's SewSewSeaMs. Love motorcycles? How about M-Riders? We have 3 SIGs on Space, and there are faith based groups. There's Beer-Me, Con AtteMdees, and Global Risk Reduction. The reality is, one if the beauties of Mensa and our SIGs is you can connect to people with similar interest, even if you aren't geographically close to them. And if we don't have one you want, any small groups of members can start one in an easy process.

So, please pardon me while I go seek out the coordinator for a space exploration group I didn't know we had until today. And I hope you take a moment to connect to other members who share the same interests: they're looking for you, too.

Lora Mitchell, RVC3
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Mid-Michigan Mensa Treasurer's Report
Quarter Ending Sept. 30, 2023

STARTING BALANCE	**$8,271.32**
INCOME	**$379.86**
AML Subsidy June 2023	**139.45**
AML Subsidy July 2023	**141.00**
AML Subsidy Aug. 2023	**99.35**
5/3 Bank savings interest	**0.06**
EXPENDITURES	**$226.50**
Q-Test Advertising	**109.24**
Head-Line:	
First-Class Postage	**66.00**
Mailing Supplies	**21.18**
MMM Summer Party Supplies	**30.08**
ACCOUNT BALANCES	
5/3 Checking	**$6,377.49**
5/3 Savings	**1,998.68**
USPS Postage Account	**48.51**
ENDING BALANCE	**$8,424.68**

HOLLAND TRIP RESCHEDULED

Elizabeth Evangelista

Due to bad weather, the Color Tour to Holland (MI!) on October 14th was canceled. Mark your calendars for Saturday May 4th 2024, and we'll go to the Holland Tulip Festival instead.

Bob's Word Puzzle: Cryptic Clues

The clues below include a straight definition, but often contain a wordplay definition as well -- the answer word may also be found in an anagram, a subset of letters, or even a second definition. The number of letters in the answer is given, as well as some of its letters in their correct positions. Happy solving!

1) Skip in the Dolomites (4) _ _ I _
2) Tea-time talk? (4) _ _ _ _
3) A Scottish poet is ardent (5) _ U _ N _
4) Things for one to do (5) _ _ L _ _
5) River set back, going around bad actor (6) T _ A _ E _
6) Tree cultivated by Anna (6) _ A _ Y _ _
7) Only a bit biased (7) _ A _ T _ A _
8) Wine held out in capital city (3 + 5) _ _ W _ E _ H _
9) Oddly, Maine's not an American state! (9) _ I _ N _ S _ T _
10) Sea's inlets eroding main points (10) _ S _ E _ T _ A _ _

Bob's Math Puzzle:

An old Chinese legend tells of a turtle that was found with 3 rows of 3 characters on its shell: 8, 3, and 4, 1, 5, and 9, and 6, 7, and 2. This turtle was regarded as magical because each of the 3 rows, the 3 columns, and the 2 diagonals had the same sum! Squares with this property have been called magic squares ever since.

Can you do better than the legendary turtle and find a square array of 4 rows and 4 columns having 16 cells containing each of the numbers 1 through 16? Each row and column should have 4 digits with the same sum as the others. You can get bonus points if each diagonal also has the same sum as the rows and columns!

Jeopardy-style Trivia
Answer the 10 Final Jeopardy clues below. . . no need to phrase your response as a question!

1) THE FIRST MOVEMENT OF THE 1888 SUITE NAMED FOR HER IS TITLED "THE SEA AND SINDBAD'S SHIP"
2) THIS SMALL LAND'S AIRLINE ADVERTISES A "STOPOVER": 7 NIGHTS AT NO EXTRA TRAVEL CHARGE TO BREAK UP A BOSTON- BRUSSELS TRIP
3) AN ACCOUNT OF HER HISTORIC TRIAL NOTED, "IT WAS CONCEDED THAT THE DEFENDANT WAS, ON THE 5th NOVEMBER 1872, A WOMAN"

4) ON THE COMPLETION OF THIS IN 1937, ITS CHIEF ENGINEER WROTE, "AT LAST THE MIGHTY TASK IS DONE; RESPLENDENT IN THE WESTERN SUN"
5) IN 1913 THIS CLEANING ITEM WAS BORN WHEN ITS CREATORS NAMED IT FROM A WORD MEANING "BRIGHT" OR "SHINING"
6) AS A WORD USED IN SCRABBLE, THIS LONGEST-NAMED ONE OF THE 6 NOBLE GASES WOULD GIVE YOU THE HIGHEST SCORE
7) DUE TO DEVELOPMENTS IN 2012, THIS ANNUAL SUMMER CONTEST NOW LISTS NO WINNER FROM THE YEARS 1999-2005
8) AT ABOUT 100 MILES IT'S NOT ONE OF CANADA'S 100 LONGEST RIVERS, BUT IN THE 1890s IT BECAME PERHAPS THE MOST FAMOUS
9) THIS LAWYER FROM A FAMED 1960 NOVEL SHARES A NAME WITH AN ANCIENT ROMAN RENOWNED FOR HIS WISDOM
10) THIS LIVE-ACTION TV SHOW ABOUT A FAMILY DEBUTED IN 1965 & WAS SET IN 1997

Trivia Answers:

1) SCHEHERAZADE, 2) ICELAND, 3) SUSAN B. ANTHONY, 4) THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE, 5) BRILLO PAD, 6) KRYPTON, 7) THE TOUR DE FRANCE, 8) THE KLONDIKE, 9) ATTICUS (FINCH), 10) "LOST IN SPACE."

See Answers on page 7.

PASSING OF A MEMBER

One of the members of our group, Tom George Pascalenos, passed away on October 11th. According to his obituary, he was a lifelong Lansing resident, a graduate of Sexton High School and MSU, in Social Science. He taught at Jackson Community College and LCC, and then worked at the East Lansing Post Office for many years. He was a proud member of MENSA for over 45 years, and was also a lifelong member of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Lansing.

George was one of our members who chose not to actively participate in activities. He was quiet, thoughtful and curious, and he loved to travel. I never met Tom, but I wish I had, and I'm sure we all wish him a fond farewell.

From Elizabeth Evangelista

NOVEMBER 2023 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
Kathy Teshich, Membership Chair
103 members

BIRTHDAYS

Tucker Keatley	Nov 24
Peter Wood	Nov 26

MENSAVERSERIES

Kane Hanson	2 yrs
Tucker Keatley	4 yrs
Ronald Burl	7 yrs
Todd Eldred	11 yrs
Bryan Sayles	20 yrs
Richard Weingartner	20 yrs
Richard Shaffer	22 yrs
Matthew McNaughton	22 yrs
Karen Petersmarck	32 yrs
Walter Purvis	38 yrs
Douglas McCall	42 yrs

Answers To Puzzles

Math Puzzle Answer

A good place to start is to determine the total that each row and column should sum to. The numbers 1 through 16 average 8.5, so all 16 will sum to 136. If the 4 rows and the 4 columns each total 136, each row and column of 4 cells should sum to 34.

Another helpful hint is to have pairs of cells on opposite sides of the center of the grid sum to 17. If you start with 1 in the upper left corner cell, you can put 16 in the lower right corner. On the diagonal between them the numbers can be spaced evenly, giving 1, 6, 11, and 16 from upper left to lower right. The other diagonal can then be filled with 4, 7, 10, and 13, also spaced evenly. Finally, put the numbers 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 12, 14, and 15 in the remaining 8 cells, noting that pairs of cells reflected across the center of the grid should sum to 17.

Assuming that you have read this far, verify that each row and column of 4 cells totals 34. They will if you got the 4 rows (1, 15, 14, and 4), (12, 6, 7, and 9), (8, 10, 11, and 5), and (13, 3, 2, and 16). The 4 cells in each diagonal will also sum to 34!

Word Puzzle Answers

1) Skip in the Dolomites OMIT (DolOMITes)
2) Tea-time talk? CHAT (CHA = tea + T)
3) A Scottish poet is ardent BURNS (double def.)
4) Things for one to do SOLOS (done alone)
5) River set back, going around bad actor THAMES (TES around HAM)
6) Tree cultivated by Anna BANYAN (by Anna)
7) Only a bit biased PARTIAL (double def.)
8) Wine held out in capital city NEW DELHI (Wine held)
9) Oddly, Maine's not an American state! MINNESOTA (Maine's not)
10) Sea's inlets eroding main points ESSENTIALS (Sea's inlets)

Trivia Answers

1) SCHEHERAZADE, 2) ICELAND, 3) SUSAN B. ANTHONY, 4) THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE, 5) BRILLO PAD, 6) KRYPTON, 7) THE TOUR DE FRANCE, 8) THE KLONDIKE, 9) ATTICUS (FINCH), 10) "LOST IN SPACE."

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Barb Ford

In my world, any time of the year is a great time for hot soup. For me, it is the ultimate comfort food. When I was a kid, one family favorite was my Mom's Bean Soup; made from scratch, of course. I remember helping her sort, rinse and soak beans. She used Navy Beans and/or Great Northern Beans, probably whichever was on sale. This soup took at least 24 hours to prep and cook. There usually was a ham bone involved to impart smoky salty deliciousness in every bite. As an adult, I have prepared my share of scratch made bean soup, and concluded there must be an easier, faster, and yes, healthier way to make this. While Mom's Bean Soup was wonderful; I am no longer into the ham bone idea. I discovered a great ingredient that delivers the smoky full flavor of ham or even bacon. Smoked Paprika. Seriously. Another short cut that delivers flavor and texture is the use of canned Refried Beans. Be careful here, though. Many brands of Refried Beans contain lard or other animal fat. Purchasing vegetarian versions of canned Refried Beans will get around this issue. Here, I provide a basic recipe. You can make it your own by choosing the type of Refried Beans, and adjusting the spiciness to your own liking. Serve it with your favorite brand of hot sauce or chili sauce on the side. Once you make it, you may never soak beans again. It is so good, I think my Mom would have loved it. Especially how quick, easy and yummy it is.

Barb's Easy Vegetarian Bean Soup

Ingredients:

1 T Unflavored Coconut Oil, or Other Vegetable Oil
1 C Onion, Small Diced
1 Clove Garlic, Minced
½ C Carrot, Small Diced
1 C Celery, Small Diced
1/3 C Green or Sweet Pepper, Small Diced
4 C Vegetable Broth
1 t Ground Cumin
1 t Smoked Paprika
½ t Curry Powder
1 t Italian Seasoning
2 15.5 Ounce cans Vegetarian Refried Beans
1 t Apple Cider Vinegar

Directions: In a large Sauce pan, sauté onion in oil until translucent. Add garlic, carrot, celery and green pepper. Cook 5 minutes. Add vegetable broth and spices. Simmer 15 minutes. Add the refried beans and vinegar, stir gently until incorporated. Adjust salt, pepper and hot sauce to taste. Serve.

NOVEMBER 2023 MMM Activities Calendar

Fri. Nov. 3: TGIF - Blue Gill Grill
1591 Lake Lansing Rd, Haslett. A traditional American restaurant with a casual vibe, featuring seafood.

Fri. Nov. 10: TGIF - Hibachi Grill
5837 W Saginaw Hwy, Lansing. Unpretentious eatery boasting 250+ American, Asian, & Italian items on a buffet, plus hibachi dishes.

Fri. Nov. 17: TGIF - Asian Taste
132 S Cedar St, Mason, kitty-corner from the Speedway station. Wide choice of delicious Chinese specialties, including Crab Rangoons, Orange Chicken, and Dragon & Phoenix.

Fri. Nov. 24: TGIF - 1 North
NEW VENUE: 5001 W Saginaw Hwy, Lansing, west of Waverly. Features amazing Mid-Michigan foods and craft cocktails.

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