JANUARY 2024

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 597



HEAD-LINE NO. 597 JANUARY 2024
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

Happy new year, everyone. Buckle up your seatbelts and take all small children by the hand. This promises to be a history-making year, one way or the other. I'm hoping for one way in particular, but we're not supposed to mention those particulars, so I'll leave it to each of you to figure it out for yourself. In the meantime, enjoy everything you can possibly enjoy, stay as healthy as you possibly can, and be as kind as you can be.

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 2024

by Robert Henderson, Loc Sec

Happy New Year. . . I hope that all of us in Mid-Michigan Mensa enjoy a happy and healthy 2024!

This seems like a good time to take stock of Mid-Michigan Mensa's activities over the past year. First, we are sad to have lost an inactive member (Tom Pascalenos) as well as an active spouse (Al Wolfe, who could always be counted on for good advice and humorous stories at our TGIF gatherings). MMM gained a Proctor in 2023 (Ken Lawrence) and with his help tested and admitted two new members, one of whom (Rich Wetzel) stepped up to become our new Testing Coordinator.

MMM members judged applications for Mensa Scholarships and had two local applicants go on to win at the national level! American Mensa Limited also recognized our group with a Sapphire Award for excellence in 2022-2023. We published a monthly newsletter every month last year, thanks to our wonderful Editor (Sharon Plavnick) and the

efforts of our printer (Joe Warren, who carried on despite a break-in that trashed his business and personal belongings). Last, but hardly least, Ginny Brunke deserves everyone's thanks for selecting and reserving **52** TGIF venues. For all of our blessings in 2023 I am very grateful, and hopeful that they will continue through 2024!

This issue of the Head-Line includes tricky new word and math puzzles as well as a quiz with questions from Edition 6 of Trivial Pursuit. Trivia fan Wendy Carnegie played this game with me and found it quite difficult, so I selected only questions that I had already heard of before playing it. Can you get all fifteen answers right? A pentagram (five-pointed star) is the framework for the word and math puzzles, but you won't have to summon a demon to solve them: patient trial and error should work just fine. Let me know if you have any luck!

Mitchell's Musings - RVC3 Column January 2024

Lora Mitchell, RVC3

NOTE TO READERS:

Lora was out of the country and did not get a column out in time for this issue. She will be sending a combined January/February column which will be published in our February issue.

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Bob's Star-Crossed Word Puzzle

Can you think of a way to fill a crossword puzzle grid with the five words WELD, DART, TOES, SLAB, and BROW so that each letter appears in two crossing words? Hint: Think outside of the box! Maybe the words don't cross each another at right angles??

Bob's Math Puzzle: Pentagram Puzzler

Draw a five-pointed star in five straight lines without lifting your pencil from the paper. The lines will each meet at two corner points and two crossing points. Note that the pentagon inside also has 5 corners, giving a total of ten points where two lines meet. Can you label these ten points using only the numbers from 1 through 12 without repeating any number? The four labels on each line must add up to 28. Hint: the two omitted numbers can be 2 and 6.

Bob's Science Trivia Quiz

1) What fast-growing plant do Hong Kong contractors use for scaffolding?
2) What growths can be removed using duct tape?
3) What medicine brand is generically methylphenidate?
4) How many teeth does an adult platypus have?
5) What Native American grain did French trappers call "crazy oats"?
6) What's the most common metal found in antiperspirants?
7) What body part contains the incus, malleus and stapes bones?
8) What 3-D device did Crates of Mallus invent in 140 BCE?
9) When did the Great Barrier Reef originate as a single polyp?
10) Which has more genes: a human, a gerbil, or a rice plant?
11) What disease causes the most new cases of blindness in adults?
12) What Asian plant is widely used to ward off insects?
13) What tiny hairs sweep foreign particles up from your trachea?
14) What did astronomer Fred Whipple describe as "dirty snowballs"?
15) What Dallas outfit demonstrated the first integrated circuit in 1958?

See answers on page 5

JANUARY 2024 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
Kathy Teshich, Membership Chair
108 members

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
Eric Horner	Jan 30

MENSAVERSARIES

Roderick Baltzer	1 yrs
Graham Goble	3 yrs
Pooja Mudigonda	3 yrs
David Blandford	3 yrs
Joy Rimpau	8 yrs
Dale Arnold	14 yrs
Mark Weiss	16 yrs
Joseph Werner	22 yrs
Thomas Korkoske	38 yrs
Kevin Smart	49 yrs
Wendell Proudfoot	?? yr

Answers To Puzzles

Math Puzzle Answer
Here is one of several possible solutions omitting labels 2 and 6. . . Starting with label 1 at the top point, the four points on the horizontal line below it can be labelled 4, 11, 5, and 8. The two lower lines can have their 4 crossing points labelled (4, 9, 3, 12) and (8, 10, 3, 7). This labels all 10 points using numbers 1 through 12, less 2 and 6. Labels 3, 4, and 8 are listed twice because they appear where two of the lines cross.

Word Puzzle Answer
If you draw a five-pointed star without lifting your pencil from the paper, you will also have drawn a pentagon inside it. The five star points and the five pentagon corners then make a crossword diagram on which to place the ten different letters that make up the five given words! If you start with the W at the top star point, put E and L to its lower right, and then D at the lower-right star point, that line will spell "WELD." Proceeding with the A and R on the line to the left and up, then a T at the top left point, this line will spell "DART." The letters O, E, and S can be added on the horizontal line from there to the right star point, spelling "TOES." The letters L, A, and B can be added on the line from there to the lower left star point, spelling "SLAB." Finally, the letters R, O, and the initial W will already be on the line from there back to the top, spelling "BROW." Since each letter appears in two crossing words, it's a "crossword" puzzle if you can think outside of the box!

Science Trivia Answers
1) Bamboo
2) Warts
3) Ritalin
4) Zero
5) Wild rice
6) Aluminum
7) The (inner) ear
8) The globe
9) 8,000 years ago
10) A rice plant
11) Diabetes
12) Citronella
13) Cilia
14) Comets
15) Texas Instruments

TED TALKS AGAIN!

The title of the January Theodore Talk is, "**Kansas City BBQ**". This virtual event will take place on Zoom January 28 at 2:30 p.m. Central Time (3:30 Eastern, 12:30 Pacific, 8:30 GMT).

ABSTRACT
Are you attending the AG in Kansas City this year? Of course you are! And once you're in town you are going to want to eat some BBQ. But where should you go? And what should you eat?

Better get schooled first, because there are over 100 places to eat BBQ in Kansas City. Most are joints, but there are a few restaurants (they have tablecloths!) and at least one has a classically trained chef.

We're talking burnt ends, brisket, ribs, pulled pork, sausage, chicken, turkey. Oh mama!

And the sides! You haven't lived until you've had some cheesy corn or BBQ baked beans with burnt ends. Plus potato salad, coleslaw, mac 'n cheese, seasoned fries, sweet potato fries and my favorite, jumbo onion rings.

Guiding you on this BBQ journey is Jill Wendholt Silva, Kansas City's James Beard award-winning food editor and writer. She will discuss the history of BBQ in Kansas City, the different styles of BBQ (wait, what, there are different styles?), and maybe, just maybe, we'll discuss some of the best places in town to chow down. But bring your napkins, because it is going to get messy!

Register for this presentation at **https://tinyurl.com/5t4mk2mt**.

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**.

Even if you can't attend the live Theodore Talk, as long as you register in advance you will receive a link to the Zoom recording of the event. All Theodore Talks have Closed Captioning enabled.

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*.

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

Have you ever dreamed of Mars?

The fourth planet from the Sun, has captivated humanity's imagination for centuries with its rusty red color, mysterious atmosphere and potential for extraterrestrial life. From Edgar Rice Burroughs' fantastical tales of John Carter and Dejah Thoris to NASA's Mars missions, our understanding of the Red Planet has evolved and expanded over time.

Burroughs' books introduced readers to a fictional world of Martian civilizations, canals, and creatures. While the science in these stories is fiction not fact, they ignited a fascination with Mars that endures to this day.

As technology advanced, scientists began to study Mars more closely. NASA's Mars missions, such as the Mars Pathfinder and Mars Exploration Rovers, revealed a lot about the planet's geology, atmosphere, and history. Through these missions, we learned that Mars once had flowing water on its surface, which means there may have been conditions that could have supported life.

Today, NASA's Mars project continues to explore the planet with the Perseverance rover, which will search for signs of ancient microbial life and collect samples for future return to Earth. While the High Arctic Mars Project located on Devon Island, a mountainous, Mars-like Arctic island spanning 21,331 sq. mi., with a 6,300-ft. ice cap and Haughton Crater, a 20 km diameter meteorite impact crater, investigates what will be necessary to have a viable colony on Mars.

Our understanding of Mars has come a long way since the days of Burroughs' but for many of us the allure of the Red Planet remains just as strong as when we first read those romantic stories.

Pascal Lee is the director and co-founder of the NASA Haughton-Mars Project. Dr. Lee will be talking about international efforts that will lead to humans landing on Mars on January 14, at 2:30pm, at SFRMs January Speaker Presentation. You can register for the Zoom event at

https://livepresentation.link/SignUp

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Barb Ford

The Holidays are over and a brand new year dawns. Some of us like to celebrate any little old thing, and others wish the end of year festivities had not passed so quickly. Whatever group you fit into, you may enjoy making some of your own "cheer." This is a home-made take on that Irish Cream Liqueur that starts with a "B." It keeps for a couple of weeks in the fridge, so you may want to invite some folks over to help you drink it. This time of year, my favorite way to have it is in strong decaf coffee on a cold evening. Just the thing to warm you up! If there is a January thaw, brave folks might like to try it over ice cream for an adult dessert. At any rate, it is easy to make and sure to impress your friends.

IRISH CREAM LIQUEUR

Ingredients:

1 C Irish whiskey (use the good stuff)

8 oz heavy whipping cream

1 can sweetened condensed milk (Eagle Brand)

4 fresh eggs

2 T Chocolate syrup

½ t almond extract

¾ T Real vanilla

Directions: Place all of the above ingredients in a blender and mix for about 30 seconds. Store the liqueur in an airtight container in the refrigerator. Keeps for about 2 weeks, but will probably disappear quicker than that! Enjoy!

JANUARY 2024 MMM Activities Calendar

Fri. Jan. 5: 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.

Fri. Jan. 12: 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.

Fri. Jan. 19: TGIF - Asian Taste
132 S Cedar St, Mason, kitty-corner vs. the Speedway station. Wide choice of delicious Chinese specialties, including Crabs Rangoon and Orange Chicken.

Fri. Jan. 26: 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