FEBRUARY 2024

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 598



HEAD-LINE NO. 598 FEBRUARY 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

Sweet nothings to everyone!

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 February 2024

by Robert Henderson, Loc Sec

February Greetings, Mensans! I wish a happy and healthy month, Valentine's Day, and whatever other days are special to you this month! If not, at least it's a short one. . .

Our long-time Head-Line printer, Joe Warren, deserves your thoughts and/or prayers this month: he is suffering from heart failure and will need surgery before long. Adding to his troubles, a thief broke into his house and trashed the place in June. Since then he has had no computer or email, making it necessary to print a hard copy for him to duplicate each month. He could definitely use a break while he recovers!

One thing we can do to help Joe is to hire another print shop until he's back on his feet. ASAP Printing in Okemos has submitted a low bid and will be printing this month's Head-Line on a trial basis. Please let me know if you notice any changes in print quality as compared to previous issues. This will require MMM Steering Committee approval if we decide to keep using a new print shop, but paying them per their invoice each month will be more a business-like arrangement than continuing to rely on Joe, who hasn't sent us an invoice in years. . .

My wife Ginny would also appreciate your well-wishes this month: she is having shoulder replacement surgery on the 13th and faces a long recovery afterward. We will probably miss a few TGIF dinners over the next couple of months. Ginny would appreciate help in making the five TGIF dinner reservations for March. . . If you have any dinner venue suggestions for March, let us know as well!

AML is promoting February as Local Group Testing Month, so tell your brainy (non-Mensa) friends that now is a good time to contact me or our Testing Coordinator about joining Mensa! I've started handing out MMM calling cards to the other teams at my weekly pub trivia competition, especially when they score higher than my team. . . I tell them that they look like Mensa material to me, and who would know better than the

head of the local group?? If I can at least arouse enough curiosity for them to look up MMM and AML on the Web, we could end up with some interesting new members!

Mitchell's Musings - RVC3 Column Jan/Feb 2024

Lora Mitchell, RVC3

You may have noticed I missed my article last month; I apologize profusely. I anticipated having more internet reliability while out of the country, but… nope. I hope you didn't miss me too much.

In the meantime, I'm at my desk at the end of the workday, and am hoping everyone is staying warm for the winter. I actually am getting ready to head to my inlaws and work from there for the next week, so I needed to ensure that I have all my projects that require stuff like my printer/ scanner, or in person meetings, were done by this afternoon.
Unfortunately, when it comes to some of the busywork for my real job, I can be a procrastinator. Some things, sure, I had them under control or completed by a few days ago. But this one project has been hanging over me, some parts for weeks, others for literal months. At first, there were some technological issues that were completely out of my control that made it literally impossible. Then, there are interface issues that made it not exactly impossible, but insanely burdensome. And those parts on my end didn't move forward, more of it from both me and 2 people under my supervision for the project built up. When it was finally, technologically possible to complete—well, I got busy. I'd put in on my calendar, but it was the first thing I pushed aside when I needed to create time. Or I'd log in to the program, and get distracted. A 3rd person got added to the team, and I had to get him up to speed. And once, I just didn't feel like it, after all my cat wanted extra attention and I was tired. During all this, I know if I finished it, work would be better.

So then it started keep me up at night. It nagged at the back of my head. My external agency partner was in the same boat, and trusts me to get it all done, but I felt guilty anytime I talked with her about the similar projects we're dealing with, and complain about the horrid procedures we had to deal with.

Today, I got it done, or at least the bulk of it. I sat down with a diet pepsi, shooed my cat Lilith off my keyboard, and MADE it work. It look a whole 40 minutes, maybe even less to compile, type, and email. And it was totally not worth the stress I've been putting on myself. Next week I will sort through emails and grab the documentation still pending, save it in the files, and submit them.

I feel so relieved. Brains are funny this way.

And guess what—getting involved can be much the same way. We mean to do the thing: meet others for dinner, volunteer for a role, submit an article, read a bulletin, join a SIG online, pay our dues. We know that doing it is what we want to do, and we know the end result will be in our favor. We'll be glad we did. Just somehow we don't get to it.

Don't be like me. Do the thing. And you (and Mensa) will be better for it and you'll be glad you did. Even my cat would agree.

Lora Mitchell, RVC3
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Mid-Michigan Mensa Treasurer's Report
Quarter Ending December 31, 2023

STARTING BALANCE	**$8,424.68**
INCOME	**$307.41**
AML Subsidy Sept. 2023	**125.85**
AML Subsidy Oct. 2023	**89.40**
AML Subsidy Nov. 2023	**92.10**
5/3 Bank savings interest	**0.06**
EXPENDITURES	**$176.98**
Head-Line:	
First-Class Postage	**132.00**
MMM Winter Party Supplies	**44.98**
ACCOUNT BALANCES	
5/3 Checking	**$6,507.86**
5/3 Savings	**1,998.74**
USPS Postage Account	**48.51**
ENDING BALANCE	**$8,555.11**

Bob's Word Puzzle: Star-Crossed Word Puzzle

Write the five words from each line below along the five lines of a pentagram so that each word can be read clockwise around the center. Every word will start and end on one of the star's five points and share a letter with each of the other words where their lines meet. Good luck!

1) DUES, SALT, TOUR, REAP, PLOD
2) BRIG, DAUB, FIND, TURF, GNAT
3) DART, GRIM, TIES, MELD, SLAG
4) SNOW, TOAD, WAIL, DIES, LENT
5) LEAP, DIET, SOIL, PROD, TARS

Edible Literature Challenge

Can you come up with a funny (punny) book title that sounds like a great work of fiction, but has one modified word or syllable that changes the title subject to a food or drink? My best efforts include Tolstoy's "Banana Karenina" and Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabbage," but you can probably do even better! See the answers below for more punny groaners, and send me your best (or worst?) efforts!

Bob's Math Puzzle: Magic Hexagram

Draw a triangle with all 3 sides the same length and one point up, then draw another the same size with one point down and overlay the two triangles. You should end up with a 6-pointed Star of David with a hexagon inside it. Draw circles around the 6 points of the star and the 6 corners of the hexagon. This should give you six rows of four circles (with each circle on two different lines) for a total of twelve circles.

The puzzle is to fill in the 12 circles using one of each number from 1 to 12 so that the 4 numbers on each line have the same sum for each of the six lines. There are 80 distinct solutions, but each can be rotated or reflected for a total of 960 answers. Can you find one of them?

See answers on page 7

FEBRUARY 2024 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
Kathy Teshich, Membership Chair
108 members

BIRTHDAYS

Squire Jaros	Feb 1
Gordon MacDonald	Feb 15
Todd Eldred	Feb 25

MENSAVERSARIES

Carol Duane	7 yrs
Steven Spitzley	13 yrs
Brinton Butler	14 yrs
Joan Forgrave	35 yrs
September Peters	44 yrs

VIRTUAL ZOOM GENERAL DISCUSSION GROUP

Here is a way to spend your Saturdays. This group meets via Zoom to talk about whatever we want. We have discussed current events, philosophy, politics, genealogy, life experiences, and some of the things that Mensa is doing wrong. If you would like to suggest a topic, get an email with a zoom invitation, or have any questions or comments, email Ken Lawrence at MVirtualDiscussionGroup@gmail.com, or check out the Facebook page at M Saturday Afternoon Discussion Group

Ken Lawrence is inviting you to a weekly Zoom meeting.
Topic: Virtual Discussion Group open to all Mensans.
Time: 2:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) every Saturday
To join the Zoom Meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86726108623?pwd=cUgyelF2K0ZLQzNWbVByZE9UMXpxdz0
Meeting ID: 867 2610 8623 Passcode: 1234

Answers To Puzzles

Math Puzzle Answer
First, decide what the sum should be for the 4 numbers on each line. The 12 numbers from 1 to 12 sum to 78, so that they average to 6-1/2, meaning that each line of 4 circled numbers will sum to 26. Remember that number. . .

Starting with any of the 6 lines, you can put 1 at one end and 12 at the other. The middle two points should also sum to 13 (I tried 2 and 11) so that all four add up to 26. I tried using a middling number (6) at the third corner of that triangle. I put the 3 next to the 11 and 12 and the 4 at the adjacent corner. The line with 11, 3, and 4 needed an 8 at the other end in order to total 26. Then I put the 5 next to the 3 and 4, and then the 6 to complete the line 12, 3, 5, and 6, which again adds to 26.

I put the 7at the end of the line 4, 5, ?, ?, giving 4, 5, ?, and 7. The 10 had to go between the 5 and the 7 to make that line of four again add to 26. Finally, the missing digit 9 was put into the remaining (empty) circle, completing the last two lines of 4 numbers: 6, 10, 9, 1, and 7, 9, 2, 8. Each line sums to 26. . . Do yours?

Word Puzzle Answer
For each list of 5 words, draw a pentagram using five straight lines without lifting your pen or pencil from the paper (it should look like a 5-pointed star with a pentagon inside). Draw circles at the five points of the star and the five corners of the pentagon to get five crossing rows of four circles each.

To fill each row with a word, simply start at any star point and fill in a row of four circles with the letters of one of the words provided, reading clockwise. The word will end at another star point. Pick the word from the list that starts with that letter and put it on the next line of four circles reading clockwise, repeating until all ten circles are filled. Like magic, the last word will already be filled in for you (no incantations required)!

Literature Challenge Answers

The Wine in the Willows, The Prince and the Paw-Paw, War and Peas, Of Mice and Menus, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Mango, The Spy Who Came in from the Kohlrabi, For Whom the Bell Pepper Tolls, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button Mushroom, and the ever-popular Tequila Mockingbird!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Barb Ford

New year, new project. My readers all know I bake bread. Specifically, no knead bread. So many variations, so little time. I am always looking to improve my bread and the method I employ. Since my bread pans were either vintage, from the 1940's (Thanks, Mom) or the pans I last purchased are non-stick. Learning that non-stick may be convenient, but not so good for our health, I began seeking another way to bake bread. My cast iron Dutch oven is great, but way to heavy for my tired hands. I tried an unglazed covered ceramic baker I picked up at a thrift store, but it is a lasagna size and super heavy. It made great crispy bread, but the pan is so large, the bread turned out almost focaccia…. flat and not so tall. I experimented with placing a Corning Ware casserole dish INSIDE the ceramic baker, yielding a nice oval loaf. Again, the weight issue.

I began to research covered clay bakers designed for artisanal bread baking. Unglazed covered clay bakers simulate professional bread ovens that produce extremely crispy crusted loaves with wonderful soft interiors. I found several, but balked at the price of $100.00+. Undaunted, I kept searching. Then I hit paydirt. I found a site called breadtopia.com. They are a specialty site, devoted to supplying folks with a passion for baking bread. They commissioned a quality manufacturer to design and produce clay bread bakers worthy of putting their name on. They have a nice selection of shapes: long, round, domed, and the one I was looking for: oval (batard). It was in stock at a nice price of $54.00. Woot. I bought it on the spot, adding a new lame, for cutting designs in bread dough before baking, and a pair of Kevlar oven gloves for ease of handling. So far, I have only baked one loaf and it turned out fantastic. This clay baker is the perfect size and a weight I can manage. The gloves are awesome.

I am currently working on a new recipe (with variations) and technique that will be consistent and of course, uncomplicated. Soon, I shall publish the results of efforts in my personal Test Kitchen; aka, my Happy Place.

"Bread is like dresses, hats and shoes—in other words, essential!"
Emily Post

FEBRUARY 2024 MMM Activities Calendar

Fri. Feb.2: TGIF - Bravo! Italian Kitchen

2970 Towne Center Blvd, Eastwood Towne Center, Lansing. Ginny's favorite! Upscale-casual Italian restaurant with a Roman-ruins ambiance serving pasta, grilled dishes, pizza and more.

Fri. Feb. 9: TGIF - Cancun Mexican Grill

1754 Central Park Drive, Meridian Township. Wide choice of Mexican dishes and great margaritas.

Fri. Feb. 16: TGIF - Asian Taste

132 S Cedar St, Mason, kitty-corner vs. the Speedway station. Wide choice of delicious Chinese specialties, including Crabs Rangoon, Orange Chicken, and Dragon & Phoenix.

Fri. Feb. 23: TGIF - Olga's Kitchen

354 Frandor Ave in the Frandor Mall, East Lansing. Soups, snackers, salads, and Olga's signature gyro sandwiches.

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