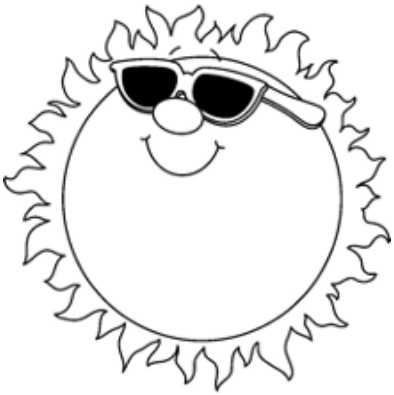
AUGUST 2024

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 604



HEAD-LINE NO.604 AUGUST 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.

The Head-Line is the monthly publication of Mid-Michigan Mensa. Annual subscription rate is $5.00 for members and is paid through American Mensa, LTD. The annual non-member rate is $10.00 and is limited to current members of other Mensa groups. Office of Publication is 3369 Harper Rd; Mason MI 48854.

EDITOR'S COLUMN:

FROM MY BRAIN TO YOURS

by Sharon Plavnick

Still waiting for a new editor to take over this job. I am underwhelmed with the number of hands raised so far. Have I mentioned that December will be my last issue, replacement or not? I would prefer to retire sooner though. By the way, everyone please notice that we have now incorporated members from the West Michigan group into our group. Welcome all you western mitten members! Any takers for this job?

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 August 2024

by Robert Henderson, Loc Sec

Happy August to you all! Mid-Michigan Mensa has grown a lot lately. . . American Mensa Limited has chosen MMM as the new home for most of the members of the disbanded Western Michigan Mensa group. If AML sends me their new address labels soon, this issue of the Head-Line will be their official welcome to MMM!

I hope you all get to try the puzzles and trivia quiz in this issue. The quiz will test your knowledge of notable women in the sciences. . . you may not remember them all, but their accomplishments are certainly worth remembering!

In case you missed or misplaced my earlier email sent via AML, please see the announcement and Events Calendar listing in this issue for your invitation to MMM's Summer Anniversary Party on Sunday, Aug. 4. Please RSVP to Ginny at Gbrunkh@peoplepc.com to let her know how many guests to plan for, any dietary needs, or issues such as allergies, etc. We hope to see you there!

On a sadder note, Elizabeth Evangelista recently lost her daughter Mary after months of hospice care. Please offer Elizabeth your condolences when you can.

A GLOVe Letter from the RVC. Rick Magnus. August 2024

As Regional Vice Chairman (RVC) for this region, I have two distinct roles. I am one of 15 voting members on the American Mensa Committee (AMC), American Mensa's Board of Directors (there are also 4 non-voting board members). I am also responsible for working with the 14 local groups in this region to ensure that AMC policies are carried out and that the groups thrive.

There are multiple ways members interact with Mensa, and almost all of them have something to do with one or both of my roles. Every member gets the Mensa Bulletin, and has access to the American Mensa (AML) website and the groups accessed through Mensa Connect. AMC sets the policies for these communication tools, but as RVC I have little to do with the operations of them; we delegate most of this to communications staff at the National Office, and appoint a Communications Officer to look for ways to optimize our communications networks.

Mensa has many Special Interest Groups (SIGs). AMC appoints a SIGs officer who coordinates our SIGs program; as RVC, I have little involvement unless AMC decides to change policies. After the print and electronic communication channels, the SIGs probably involve more members than any other program.

As a national organization, AML sponsors some events. The biggest one is the Annual Gathering (AG) held each summer. Mind Games®, an event that judges new table games, usually takes place in the spring, as does CultureQuest®, a significant contest. AML works with other Mensa organizations, including the Mensa Foundation and Mensa International, which also host events.

As RVC, my main area of action is dealing with the local groups. I'm responsible for ensuring that the groups comply with their bylaws (there is great diversity in the group bylaws, beyond minimum standards set by AMC), and respect the rights of all members. From there, the local groups each sponsor activities and have local publications and websites. I'm eager to support

the local groups, and very happy to step back and stay out of the way when the groups are functioning well.

Nearly everyone reading this is a member of a local group in Region 3. You can choose membership in any local group in American Mensa by notifying the National Office; in the absence of such a choice, you are defaulted to a local group based on your zip code. (The overwhelming proportion of our membership seem to like the local default, so we probably do a reasonably good job with the zip code assignments, but each member makes the choice by his/her action or inaction.)

As I finish this, I'm preparing to leave for this year's AG in Kansas City; I hope to have seen many of you there. We'll have a Region 3 get-together, where I'd love to have seen many of you, but I realize we all have multiple choices of what to do at an AG.

Join Us for MMM's Summer Anniversary Party

You are all invited to the 2024 MMM Anniversary Party on Sunday, August 4th! This year's party will be hosted by Dr. Gail Wolfe at 2298 Bennett Rd, Okemos. Join us at 4 PM with your potluck contributions (salad, dessert, munchies and dip, etc.) and we will provide hamburgers, buns and pop to be served at 5 PM. Gail says to bring your swimsuit and enjoy a refreshing dip in her pool!

Please RSVP to Ginny Brunke Henderson at (517) 676-3369 or gbrunkh@peoplepc.com and let her know if you have specific dietary needs, food allergies, etc. Also, please check the online MMM Activities Calendar at www.midmichigan.us.mensa.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

WEEKLY ZOOM GENERAL DISCUSSION GROUP

From Ken Lawrence

A list of suggested topics, as well as a chance to comment, is available on Facebook under M Saturday Discussion Group. Host Ken Lawrence can be reached at MVirtualDiscussionGroup@gmail.com for more information.

> Topic: Virtual Discussion Group open to all Mensans.
> Time: 2:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) every Saturday
> https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86726108623?pwd=cUgyelF2K0ZLQzNWbVByZE9UMXpxdz09
> Meeting ID: 867 2610 8623 Passcode: 1234

Additionally, Ken runs two other SIG meetings. One is a Brainstorming SIG, every Sunday at 9pm, eastern time: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82908600785?pwd=Kzl4YUhFbklwSnpCTTl4TDdHN0Jsdz09
More information can be obtained from MBrainstormingSessions@gmail.com or at the Facebook Group (20+) M Brainstorming | Facebook

Also Mensa Christian Bible Study SIG every Sunday 7pm eastern time.
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86488880838?pwd=QUVUaFhPSjl0Tkt5V1pDZGlnRU5TUT09

Bob's Word Puzzle:

Take two words such as PAVE and VENT for which the last few letters of the first word match the first few letters of the second word, then overlap the words and remove the matching letters (in this example, PA(VE) + (VE) NT = PANT). Can you find more examples in which the remaining (non-overlapping) letters combine to make a valid new English word?

Bob's Math Puzzle:

Can you draw lines of lengths 1 through 7 units (in that order) so that they connect end-to-end, forming a closed loop? Lines can only be vertical or horizontal, and the loop cannot cross itself. How big an area can the loop enclose?

Bonus: try the same with lines of lengths 1 through 8, 1 through 9, or 1 through 10 (hint: only one of these 3 loops is possible. . . Can you guess which one and why?)

Bob's Trivia Quiz: Famous women in STEM

1) What woman won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1903 for her findings about radiation?
2) What woman won a Nobel Prize for her discovery of "jumping genes?"
3) Who was the first woman to go into space?
4) What woman developed signal flares that are still used by the U.S. Navy?
5) Who was the first woman to win the Nobel Prize for mathematics?
6) Who invented signal hopping, a precursor to wi-fi, GPS, and bluetooth?
7) Who invented the first compiler?
8) Who has been nicknamed “the mother of the internet”?
9) What woman became CEO of leading personal genomics company "23 and Me?"
10) Who is the founder of Girls Who Code?
11) Who was the first computer programmer?
12) Who computed moon flight trajectories for the Apollo Program?
13) Who developed programming languages to control graphical user interfaces?
14) Which chemist’s contribution led to the discovery of the structure of DNA?
15) Which "hidden figure" verified early computer calculations for manned space flight?

See answers on page 7

AUGUST 2024 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
Kathy Teshich, Membership Chair
179 **members**

BIRTHDAYS

Jennifer Feasal	Aug 1
Dakota Glassburn	Aug 2
Ronald Frantz	Aug 4
Dardanella Becker	Aug 5
Brenton Wilburn	Aug 5
Stephen Thomas	Aug 6
William Deary	Aug 14
Thomas Slater	Aug 17
John Hunt	Aug 22
Marilyn Christenson	Aug 25
Michelle Foster	Aug 29
Kenneth Bonifield	Aug 29
Joseph Werner	Aug 30
Christopher Stimel	Aug 30
John Hayden	Aug 31

MENSAVERSARIES

Evan Linacre	1 yr
Peter Wood	2 yrs
Richard Rogers	2 yrs
Cameron Ilbrink	3 yrs
Jack Brewer	3 yrs
Jeffrey Buchhop	7 yrs
Evelyn Heslip	7 yrs
Gordon MacDonald	15 yrs
Charles Warren	16 yrs
Matthew Carter	20 yrs
Leonard Peterson	27 yrs
Thomas Allor	34 yrs
Wendy Carnegie	34 yrs
Dardanella Becker	43 yrs
Denise Valette	45 yrs

Answers To Puzzles

Math Puzzle Answer

Here is a loop that encloses 36 square units: Starting at any grid intersection, draw down 1 unit, then 2 left, then 3 up, then 4 left, then 5 up, then 6 right, and finally 7 down to return to the starting point. To verify, note that the horizontal lines add a net of (6 - 4 - 2) = 0 to the right of the start and the vertical lines add a net of (7 - 5 - 3 + 1) = 0 up from the start.

Bonus: only the loop of lengths 1 through 8 is possible. The two longer loops cannot be closed because the start and end points have different odd / even parity! Each odd length changes the parity of the end point, so there must be an EVEN number of ODD lengths to finish the loop with the same parity as the starting point.

Word Puzzle Answer

HAVE + VEND = HAND, CARPAL + PALE = CARE, PARES + RESIN = PAIN, SHINE + NEVER = SHIVER, SHONE + NEWER = SHOWER, PROSE + SEVEN = PROVEN, ROGER + GERMAN = ROMAN, JOHNSON + SONNY = JOHNNY, LEVER + VERSION = LESION, BILLFOLD + FOLDING = BILLING, COLLIDE + IDEATE = COLLATE, etc.

Trivia Answers:

1) Marie Curie, 2) Barbara McClintock, 3) Valentina Tereshkova, 4) Martha Coston, 5) Maryam Mirzakhani, 6) Hedy Lamar, 7) Grace Hopper, 8) Radia Perlman, 9) Anne Wojcicki, 10) Reshma Saujani, 11) Ada Lovelace, 12) Margaret Hamilton, 13) Adele Goldberg, 14) Rosalind Franklin, 15) Katherine Johnson.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
By Barb Ford

I believe in Angels. I believe they are God's army of protection for inhabitants of Earth. I know I have a legion of Angels helping me 24/7; and they can manifest in many forms, even animal forms. I'm blessed with so many Angels, I can send them out on special missions to help other people and situations. Just ask, and they are directed by God to help.

My favorite Angel story involves my Late husband, Gary. I am writing this to honor him on the 14th anniversary of his death, August 14th, 2010. An avid bird watcher, Gary's favorite North Carolina birds were mockingbirds. He used to sit on the patio and have conversations with them. It made me laugh, but he was so amused that he could interact with them. Gary was an extremely spiritual man, believing that when we pass from our lives on Earth, we go to The Other Side, aka Heaven where we are so much closer to God. Gary's, idea of Heaven was never of a place of pure rest, but rather one of enlightenment and service. He believed once we cross over into Spirit form, we can choose to help people still living on Earth. I believe he works with Angels to help a lot of us. He is busy, but never too busy to send me a sign.

This particular story happened the night he died. I was so distraught, having never experienced anything as traumatic as his passing. I could not sleep, so I decided to walk the dog in the middle of the night. As soon as we went outside, a mockingbird started frantically singing at us from a bush by the door. It followed us all the way up and down the driveway, flying from tree to tree. It was so loud, and close enough for me to hear its wings flutter. I knew in my heart Gary caused this bird to sing to us, and the Angels helped him do it. Bird lovers know that most songbirds NEVER sing at night, let alone fly next to you as you walk in the dark.

For weeks after Gary died, a mockingbird was usually waiting to sing to me during the many times I sleeplessly ventured out in the middle of the night. I still have mockingbirds that call to me in the yard, and even when I am out doing errands. I think he and the Angels feel I need to be reminded I am under their protection. This means the world to me. Sometimes I ask for help, and birds appear and linger so close I can speak to them. They are seldom afraid, and remain close, as if listening to and comforting me.

One other thing…Gary loved honeysuckle, one of the first fragrant blooms in the springtime. I often smell it in the frigid winter if I am walking in the yard, worried about one thing or another. It is always intense and amazing.

Whenever I see a mockingbird giving me special attention, or smell honeysuckle in the winter, I say hello to Gary and thank him for sending me a special Angelic greeting from Heaven. I just wish he were still here in the flesh.

AUGUST 2024 MMM Activities Calendar

Friday, August 2: 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.

Sunday, August 4: Summer Anniversary Party
hosted by Gail Wolfe at 2298 Bennett Rd, Okemos. Check recent emails or see related article in this issue for details. . . We look forward to seeing you there!

Friday, Aug. 9: 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.

Friday, Aug. 16: TGIF - Coral Gables
2838 E Grand River, East Lansing, just east of Hagadorn Rd. An MMM favorite for years! Serves Greek foods, steaks, seafood, pasta, salads, sandwiches, pizza and more.

Friday, August 23: TGIF - Tipsy Nickel, Mason
117 S. Cedar, across from Asian Taste. Good American bar food in a Bavarian ski lodge ambiance. Good food and large servings!

Friday, August 30: TGIF - State Room
219 S Harrison, in the MSU Kellogg Center. Casual upscale dining with seasonal American cuisine.

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