MARCH/APRIL 2025

Head-Line



The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 611



MID-MICHIGAN MENSA

http://www.midmichigan.us.mensa.org

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LOC SEC COLUMN

Bob's Two Bits for March/April 2025

by Robert Henderson, Loc Sec

It may not look like it outside, but Spring is coming, which means it's almost time to renew your Mensa membership. . . you might even want to sign up for a life membership to avoid the annual reminders!

Mensa has several Springtime opportunities for us to help foster intelligence in ourselves and others. Culture Quest is a fun trivia test in which various teams from Local Groups nationwide vie for supremacy -- and cash! All we needed was for someone to form a team of fellow Mensans and send in an application with $50, which the MMM Treasury has always reimbursed. Mind Games is an opportunity to be among the first to try out and rate new board and table games: check the AML site for details. This is also the time of year to read and judge Mensa Scholarship essays, but again no one stepped forward in time to gather a panel of judges for this year's awards. I could send out more timely reminders, but it's up to us all as members to look for ways to contribute.

For those of us with a creative bent, Phoenix is also looking for Head-Line contributors. We can look forward to reading travel articles from one new contributor, and I plan to submit a travelogue for the April issue as well: Ginny and I will be spending half of February on a cruise to Central America and the Panama Canal! I even read a 600-page tome about the building of the Canal that reads like a novel, featuring several daunting engineering challenges (not to mention yellow fever and malaria) and how they were finally overcome.

MMM's social activities have been hampered by wintry weather, including a few last-minute cancellations. Things should start to warm up again starting this month. Make it a point to attend a few in-person and/or virtual gatherings and introduce yourself around. You might be inspired to host an MMM Game Night, read a book to discuss in Lit Sig, or spend time helping gifted children as an MMM committee chair. The one sure way to have local Mensa events is to organize with like-minded members and plan them yourselves! We will be happy to include them in MMM's monthly Activities Calendar -- just let Ginny know about them before the 15th of the previous month. I hope to see you there!

Bob's Word Play

Scrambled Definitions

Animated English teacher:	AlphaBetty Boop
Office game with crumpled paper:	WasteBasketball
Small, furry bullfighter:	ToreaDormouse
Aesop's race-winner:	The VicTortoise
Source of green power (and -backs):	WindMillion
Where Tarzan goes for a trim:	TarZanziBarber
Creamy African soup:	MozamBisque
Flying bullfighter:	AviaTorero
Danger Mouse wannabe:	DanGerbil
Companion dog from Glasgow:	Mascotch
Miscommunication:	Blunderstanding
Slow indoor court game:	BasketBalloon
Nocturnal bolt from the blue:	MoonLightning
Depressed military ID:	HangDogtag
Outdoor ad for flightless bird:	ShoeBillboard

Can you think of similar "daffy"-nitions? Send me your best!

Bob's Trivia Quiz

1) Who was the first president to have been born in the USA?
2) Who made Christmas a US national holiday?
3) Whose beloved horse was "Old Whitey"?
4) Who was the first president to serve non-consecutive terms?
5) Who signed the act creating the United States Marine Band?
6) Which first couple attended Napoleon‘s coronation in Paris?
7) Who was the first to write a biography of another president?
8) Who had turned down offers to play professional football?
9) Who was the 1st to throw the ceremonial 1st pitch on opening day?
10) Who was often mocked in the press for his unkempt appearance?
11) Who hired Louis Comfort Tiffany to renovate the White House?
12) Who was the only president to have been born on July 4?
13) Who met his wife in 5th grade, but married her in their mid-30's?
14) Who hated his official portrait so much that he later burned it?
15) Which first couple set the record for the longest marriage?

Bob's Math Puzzle
Number Maze

Start in the upper left corner and jump vertically or horizontally the circled number of squares. Repeat for the number shown on the square you land on until you reach the goal in the lower right corner. What is the fewest jumps that you will need to make?

3	2	2	3	3
4	1	2	2	1
1	3	1	2	4
4	3	3	3	3
1	1	2	3	GOAL

MARCH/APRIL 2025 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Kathy Teshich, membership Chair
200 Members

Birthdays

Jeffrey Buchhop	March 2
Sarah Jones	March 3
Roderick Baltzer	March 5
Boxin Sun	March 7
Jonathan Roshko	March 16
Eric Sanko	March 17
Steven Spitzley	March 18
Larry Sue	March 19
Sallie Schaaf	March 21
Charles Warren	March 21
Thomas Korkoske	March 26
Frank Dolinar	March 26
Amy Moore	March 30
Kenneth Lawrence	April 02
Kayla Morrish	April 08
Carol Scot	April 09
Jim Meurs	April 09
George Ferris	April 10
Renee Kulling	April 14
Cameron Ilbrink	April 18
Dean Vander Linde	April 19
John Paduch	April 19
Richard Hobrla	April 20
Knowlan Randza	April 22
Mary O'Connor	April 23
Hiroki Fujiwara	April 25

Mensavereries (March)

Ronald Frantz	1 yr
September Peters	2 yrs
Amy Moore	2 yrs
Larenzo Langone	3 yrs

Alfons Mueller	3 yrs
Anthony Case	10 yrs
Jennifer Feasal	10 yrs
Sharanya Pastapur	10 yrs
Kobe Hixon	12 yrs
Charles Walker	13 yrs
Neal Forss	14 yrs
Kathleen Kohagen	15 yrs
Alysia Appel	15 yrs
Eric Laverty	16 yrs
Benjamin Eavey	16 yrs
John Paduch	19 yrs
Terryl Jacht	19 yrs
Jill Redder	19 yrs
Roberta McCall	25 yrs
Terrance Rose	39 yrs
Michael Knowlton	50 yrs
Elizabeth Evangelista	50 yrs

Mensavereries (April)

Mark Crandle	1 yr
Catherine Beeman	1 yr
Jeremy Fett	1 yr
Raymond Weidenfeller	1 yrs
Michelle Foster	2 yrs
Ingrid Nova	3 yrs
Charles Guerreno	6 yrs
Gregory Listing	15 yrs
Jennifer McNamara	17 yrs
Gary Gordon	21 yrs
Mike Kolarik	34 yrs
Gail Wolfe	34 yrs
Patricia Thuemmel	35 yrs
Gregg Dimkoff	38 yrs
Kirby Craw	47 yrs
Mark Stewart	51 yrs

IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES

Fri. Apr. 4: TGIF - Delhi Cafe (Lansing)
4625 Willoughby Rd, Holt, between Cedar St and Aurelius Rd. A Mensa favorite with good Greek and American food.

Fri. Apr. 11: TGIF - Asian Taste (Lansing)
2975 132 S Cedar St, Mason, kitty-corner vs. the Speedway station. Wide choice of delicious Chinese specialties, including Crabs Rangoon and Orange Chicken.

Fri. Apr. 18: TGIF - Coral Gables (Lansing)
2838 E Grand River, East Lansing, just east of Hagadorn Rd. A favorite of Mid-Michigan Mensa. Serves Greek foods, steaks, seafood, pasta, salads, sandwiches, pizza and more.

Sat. Apr. 19 10:00 AM: Saturday Brunch - Cherie Inn (Grand Rapids)
Just west of Eastown, in the East Hills business district, this European-style cafe is one of West Michigan's best-kept secrets. Located at 969 Cherry St SE, Grand Rapids.

Fri. Apr. 25: TGIF - Outback Steak House (Lansing)
617 N Canal Rd, Lansing. Australian-style steak, chicken, and shrimp on the barbie!

TGIFs are on Fridays. We meet at about **5:30 PM** but feel free to join us at any time. Come and get acquainted. All members and friends are welcome at the events. Any member may schedule an event. Please remember to include **Who**, **What**, **Where**, **When**, and **Why**. The deadline to schedule an event is the **15th of the month before the event**. Please contact **Ginny Brunke Henderson**, MMM 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

VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES

MENSA VIRTUAL DISCUSSION GROUP
Ken Lawrence (MVirtualDiscussionGroup@gmail.com)

We talk about whatever anybody wants to talk about. Topics can be brought up ahead of time and commented on in the M Saturday Discussion Facebook Group

Time: 2:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) every Sa./M/W/F

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86726108623?pwd=cUgyelF2K0ZLQzNWbVByZE9UMXpxdz09
Meeting ID: 867 2610 8623 Passcode: 1234

MENSA BRAINSTORMING GROUP
Ken Lawrence (MensaProctor670@gmail.com)

Mensans like to express their views on how things should be in our organizations. While we do not have a way of implementing suggestions, we do have a forum for talking about them. (M Brainstorming Facebook Group)

Time: 9:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) every Sunday

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82908600785?pwd=Kzl4YUhFbklwSnpCTTl4TDdHN0Jsdz09
Meeting ID: 829 0860 0785 Passcode: 1234

BIBLE STUDY SIG
Ken Lawrence (VirtualChristianBibleStudy@gmail.com)

Religion has a longer intellectual history than science, and Newton published more about the Bible than he did physics. We evaluate the Bible from a Christian perspective, and you are welcome to join us. (Virtual Christian Bible Study SIG)

Time: 7:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) every Sunday

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86488880838?pwd=QUVUaFhPSjI0Tkt5V1pDZGlnRU5TUT09
Meeting ID: 864 8888 0838 Passcode: 1234



RICHARD'S MUSINGS

Richard Horvitz



In September 2023 I visited the historic site of Jamestown in Virginia and three presidential home sites in the Charlottesville area: Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe.

Jamestown

Jamestown was the first permanent British settlement in North America. An earlier attempted settlement on Roanoke Island off North Carolina coast in 1585-1587 did not survive. The fate of its settlers has long been a mystery. One theory is that they were assimilated by Indian tribes in the area.

Jamestown was first settled in 1607. The colonists had much difficulty with poor food supplies, disease, and hostile Indians. By 1619 it became the capital of the Virginia Colony. Slaves were brought to start tobacco and other plantations, and women were brought to marry settlers and start families.

The settlement was long plagued with hostile Indians, poor climate, and lack of a reliable supply of fresh water. It was abandoned in 1699 when the colony capital moved to Williamsburg.

For nearly 300 years it was thought the site of the colony had disappeared, having been washed away into James River. Excavations in 1994-1996 rediscovered the site of the original fort. The stockade walls and portions of the original buildings have been reconstructed on the site. There is a nearby museum which has exhibits on the history of the colony and reconstructions of the original fort and the three ships used by the first settlers.

A Presidential Trilogy



Three of first five American presidents (Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe) all lived in Charlottesville area. These three served consecutive 8 year (2 term) presidencies from 1801 to 1825. This has happened only once since then (1993-2017).

All three were well educated, and were prolific readers with large libraries. All three were pro-lific writers, with elaborate writing desks and large files of letters and papers. Jefferson and Madison both had scientific curiosities in their homes. Jefferson had telescopes and a vacuum pump. Madison had a static electricity generator.

All three interacted with one another during period leading up to Declaration of Independence and Revolutionary War. All were among the Founding Fathers, and continued to interact during time of establishment of the Constitution and the early history of the United States. Monroe was the last Founding Fathers president.

All three were slave owners. Slavery was an accepted part of Virginia society at that time. Slaves were property, just as much as horses or cattle. Slave families lived in cabins on plantation properties, and were given simple foods such as bread and salt fish. A common impression is that slaves were poorly fed, but well fed slaves would stay healthier and be better workers.

All three died on or near July 4. Jefferson and Madison were buried on the grounds of their homes. Monroe was first buried in New York City, but later moved to a tomb in a cemetery in Richmond. The grave of John Tyler is very near his tomb.

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)



…was a Renaissance Man. He was born into a plantation family, and studied law under private tutelage: he never attended law school. He was the primary author of Declaration of Independence, and a close friend of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and other Founding Fathers. He was active in Virginia and early United States politics, had extensive diplomatic experience, and served as Secretary of State under George Washington and as Vice President under John Adams.

He began building Monticello in 1768, and worked on enhancements to the house for most of his life. He collected a wide range of objects, such as fossils, Indian artifacts, and maps. He developed interests in fine wines and French cooking. He sent his kitchen staff to Paris to study this, and built a special stove in in the Monticello kitchen with a series of small hearths to cook delicate sauces and other foods over closely controlled heat.

He had 6 children by his wife, who died in 1782. He never remarried, but had a relation with a slave woman Sarah Hemmings. She was a half sister (same father) of his wife, and he had 6 more children with her. Second only to John Tyler in total number of children fathered. DNA studies on descendants in 2000 confirmed their ancestors were children of Jefferson and her.

Jefferson died on July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. John Adams died on the same day.

James Madison (1751-1836)



…was a rabble rouser. He was the smallest President, only about 5 feet 4 inches and 100 pounds. He had no children with his wife Dolly.

He was born into a prominent Virginia family, and attended the College of New Jersey (now Princeton) from 1769 to 1772. The tour guide indicated was it already a hotbed of anti-British sentiment by 1769: he made an analogy to Berkeley in 1969. Madison was an outspoken advocate against British rule over the American colonies.

Like Jefferson, he was active in Virginia and early American politics. He was actively involved in writing the Articles of Confederation, and in debates over the new American constitution. He was a strong proponent of religious freedom, and played a major role in writing and advocating for the Bill or Rights.

Madison died on June 28, 1836. His doctors wanted to give him stimulants to keep him alive until July 4, but he refused these and wanted to die in peace.



James Monroe (1758-1831)

…was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. He was orphaned as a teenager. He dropped out of college to enlist in the Revolutionary War army, and had an active combat career. He took a musket hit from the British, and carried the ball in his shoulder for the rest of his life.

He served in a series of Virginia and national political positions similar to other Founding Fathers, and as an ambassador to France and England. He was instrumental in negotiating the Louisiana Purchase. He served as Secretary of State and Secretary of War under James Madison. The Missouri Compromise (1819) and the Monroe Doctrine (1823) were major events of his presidency.

He died on July 4, 1831, five years to the day after the deaths of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.

He lived in his Highland estate from 1799 to 1825. He was a neighbor of Thomas Jefferson. His original house burned down in 1828, but other buildings on its site are still standing. The site of the original house was excavated in 2016, and is marked with foundation stones.



Answers To Puzzles

Math Puzzle

Like last month's puzzle, this one is easier to solve in reverse. . . Count squares vertically or horizontally from the goal until you reach a square containing the same number you have counted up to. Draw an arrow next to that number to indicate the direction to the square you just counted from, then repeat the process until you reach the starting square in the upper left corner. To verify, follow the arrows you just drew, each time jumping the distance indicated in that cell. If you need help, start at the circled "3" and make 21 jumps in these directions: DRU LDR LUR LLR DUD RDL RRR.

Bob's Trivia Answers:
1) Martin Van Buren
2) Ulysses S. Grant
3) Zachary Taylor
4) Grover Cleveland
5) John Adams
6) James Monroe
7) Herbert Hoover
8) Gerald Ford
9) William H.Taft
10) Abraham Lincoln
11) Chester A. Arthur
12) Calvin Coolidge
13) Harry S Truman
14) Theodore Roosevelt
15) Jimmy Carter.

OH, THE DISTANCE I'VE TRAVELED!

Brinton Butler

When I (suffered?) my last birthday, I was wondering just how far I'd travelled in the past year. I know I travelled across the surface of the earth a bit, but the earth also rotated 366.25 times during that year (with me hanging on for dear life!), and orbited the sun once. The sun is also rotating in the MW galaxy, but I didn't get around to calculating that.

So the radius of the earth is about 3960 miles, but I actually live closer to the 45th parallel so the radius there is about 71% of the radius at the equator, or 2,800 miles. The circumference at the 45th parallel is 17,584 miles. Since I do that 366.25 times a year, that makes 6,440,140 miles.

The distance to the sun is 93,000,000 miles, so in one year I would also travel 584 million miles around the sun. This gives a total of 590,400,000 miles in a year. Quite an accomplishment, wouldn't you say?

MOVING?
Send change of address information to:
AMERICAN MENSA, LTD.
1315 Brookside Dr. Hurst, TX 76053

POSTMASTER: Send address changes and returns to address above.

HEAD-LINE is a monthly publication of Mid-Michigan Mensa. Mensa is an international society in which the sole requirement for membership is a score at or above the 98th percentile on any one of a number of standard IQ tests. Mensa is a not-for-profit organization whose only purpose is to serve as a means of communication and assembly for its members. Mensa itself holds no opinions, no champions, no causes, and is not affiliated with any other organization. The opinions expressed herein are those of the author(s), and in no way to be construed as the opinions of Mensa. Office of publication is 3369., Mason, MI

Mail to this VIP (Very Intelligent Person)