APRIL 2019

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 540



HEAD-LINE NO. 540 APRIL 2019
MID-MICHIGAN MENSA

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EDITOR'S COLUMN:
FROM MY BRAIN TO YOURS

by Sharon Plavnick

INFORMATION OVERLOAD: TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING?

Used to be that when I was fixing to spend a lot of money on a major purchase (think appliance or mattress), I'd consult *Consumer Reports* and talk to the salesperson at Sears or wherever. Then I'd make a decision, usually right then and there in the store. Or if I needed information about a health concern, I made a doctor's appointment.

Nowadays, I consult Google about everything. I get stuck there for days on end. St. Bernards have to be sent to rescue me.

Imagine that I am concerned about flat feet. One website says these are THE TOP TEN BEST SHOES TO BUY IF YOU HAVE FLAT FEET** but another website lists two of those shoes as among the TOP TEN WORST SHOES for flat feet. What's a flat-footed person to do? Consult a podiatrist of course. There are at least 7300 podiatrist websites that contain articles advising the flat-feeted. One says to try physical therapy. Another says to walk barefoot as much as possible. A third suggests that a cortisone jab will solve your problem. Everyone mentions over-the-counter orthotics, but just try finding consensus about which brand of orthotics are the best.

In desperation, I head over to forums and message boards where people just like me talk realistically about what to do with our flat-as-a-pancake feet. Everyone has a different suggestion; ranging from using duct tape, to swallowing large capsules filled with sweat from the under-feathers of free-range chickens, to sleeping with magnets positioned under your feet. There is always the old cut-off-your-foot-to-spite-your-leg trick too.

I don't actually have flat feet. Substitute any foot problem, or any other concern. The dynamics are the same regardless of the topic.
Are today's modern search engines a blessing or a curse?

If you have thoughts you want to share, send them to me at sharonslp@ameritech.net

RVC 3 APRIL, 2019 Column

John Voymas

The quarterly AMC meeting was held on March 1 during the Central NJ Mensa Regional Gathering. The RG is aptly named “Snowball” and we did have some snowfall during the weekend. Central NJ Mensa bid to host the AMC meeting. In the coming year, there will be two quarterly AMC meetings that local groups can bid to host. The December meeting is usually the first Saturday in December and the March meeting is usually the first Saturday of March. Since both dates are the 7th, it may be a week earlier. I’ll let you know as soon as I find out for sure.

At this meeting, the AMC approved the budget for the 2019 – 2020 Mensa year. It projects to be in the black. Yeah! One item that was included is for a new avenue for member qualification. During this fiscal year, it will become available for candidates to test at a local certified testing center. This has become a very common method of testing for professional certification. Since it will become easier for people to test whenever they choose, I anticipate an increase in membership numbers. This is not a replacement for proctored testing but rather an additional option for potential new members.

The AMC did have to vote on the recommendation of the National Hearing Committee to expel a long-time member. Dan Gilmore from Region 8 has been expelled from American Mensa. These decisions are never easy. Having been on the Events Safety Task Force this past year, the AMC is now tasked with ensuring that members feel safe when attending events. Current societal standards of behavior will be expected.

In the past members may have been reluctant to report issues. In order to make it easier, there is a Bylaw proposal on this spring’s ballot that would modify the requirement that local group members equaling 150% of the number of local group ExComm members request a regional hearing to only requiring a minimum of two members to do so. This proposal came from the Event Safety Task Force, which included three RVCs. Please review the entire proposal and the Pro and Con statements. This change is up to you, the members.

The Southeast Michigan Mensa RG is from April 26 to 28 in Romulus, Michigan.The Columbus Area Mensa RG is from July 19 to 21, location to be announced soon.

I hope to see you at one of these RGs in Region 3 or perhaps you can join me at the OMG (Outdoor Mensa Gathering) hosted just over the state line in southern Indiana.

Oh, this year's Annual Gathering (AG) in Phoenix promises to be a "hot" time with "cool" people. See you there!



IN MEMORY

Our condolences go out to Elizabeth Evangelista over the death of her longtime significant partner and friend, Al Swartzell, on March 4. Some of you certainly remember Al as a fixture at our Friday evening TG dinners. Elizabeth said, "While he was able, Al's favorite thing in the world was attending Mensa dinners, and he made sure we never missed one. He was quite shy, and never talked much in groups, but he loved you all."

It feels like in the past year or so, more than a few MMM members have taken some direct hits, both to their own health or life, or to the health or life of a significant loved one. I don't know the exact age demographic of our group, but judging by our weekly dinners, we skew to the older side. Even though these kind of losses are inevitable as we age, I'm putting it out in the universe that we could use a moratorium for a good long while.

MINUTES OF MARCH STEERING COMMITTTEE

The March 2019 MMM Steering Committee meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM following our TGIF dinner at Olga's in Frandor. Members Wendy Carnegie, Elizabeth Evangelista, Bob Henderson, Squire Jaros and Aaron Rabushka were present.

Old Business: The Steering Committee did not meet in February. However, the January meeting minutes were published in the February Head-Line. They can be reviewed and approved in a later Steering Committee meeting.

Wendy confirmed that she currently has no plans to distribute Mensa flyers to the public due to the high cost of mall tabling. She hopes to revisit this issue before the annual Mensa Testing Month in October.

New Business: The Hendersons have offered to host the annual MMM Anniversary Party to be held on the first weekend in August. We would like to meet at 4 PM and eat at 5 PM. Let Ginny know if you have specific food requests or dietary issues. Further details and directions will be provided in upcoming issues of the Head-Line.

Wendy offered to host an MMM team for Mensa's annual Culture Quest general knowledge competition on April 28. Contact her for details if you wish to participate in this year's competition. It was moved, seconded and approved that we pay the $50 entry fee to AML from the MMM Treasury.

Elizabeth offered to look for interesting speakers for future TGIF meetings. We will select the affected dinner venues so that speakers can use whatever audio-visual aids they plan to bring. As usual, MMM will offer to pay for the speaker's meal if they choose to join us for TGIF.

The committee members moved, seconded and approved that we adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Henderson, Scribe

Mid-Michigan Mensa Membership

John Garrison, Chairman

April 2019

128 Members

MENSA Birthdays

Happy Birthday to you

1 Joanne Sullivan
19 John Paduch
25 Benjamin Misra
9 Carol Scott
20 Richard Hobria
29 Rona Landfield

MENSAversaries

Congratulations on your years with Mensa

29 Years Pat Thuemel
15 Years Gary Gordon
9 Years Greg Listing
4 Years Walter Purvis
28 Years Gail Wolfe
13 Years Karen Petersmarck
6 Wendell Proudfoot
4 Years Lawrence Ackerman

New Members

Welcome, we're so glad you joined us



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Barb Ford

Recently, while on a grocery shopping jaunt, I encountered an exceptional employee in the deli department. Judith was friendly, helpful and made me feel like a valued customer. As she assisted me in selecting a rotisserie chicken, she shared with me a wonderful spice combination from her native Sri Lanka. It sounded so good, I bought the spices. Following her instructions, I prepared the best chicken dinner! So tasty. Now, this spice blend will always be in my pantry. I use it on veggies, eggs and meats. Even buttered toast! It would be great on roasted nuts and or hot popcorn. I prepared shrimp in a butter sauce with this blend and served it with freshly grated turmeric. Delicious.

A word about spices: always use fresh spices. Even dried seeds or spices will not be as flavorful if they are over a year old. Some will even go rancid. Trust me, it is worth it to use fresh ingredients. This blend is so delicious, you will use it up quickly.

With Judith's permission, I am sharing this recipe with my readers.

Judith's Sri Lankan Spice Blend

Ingredients:

½ t Organic Cumin Seed
½ t Organic Coriander Seed
½ t Organic Fennel Seed

Directions:

Pre heat a skillet to medium high heat. Toast the seeds for a few seconds until they begin to give off a pleasant aroma. The seeds need to be moved constantly in the pan. Immediately remove the seeds from the pan, and grind finely in a spice grinder, or with a mortar and pestle. Sprinkle on food before serving.

Note: I usually prepare extra amounts of this delicious ground spice blend and store it in an airtight container. Best if used within a few days of toasting and grinding.



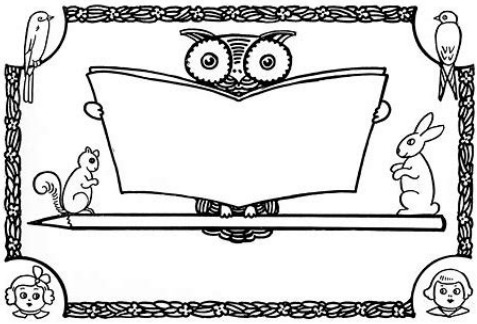
MENSA READERS TO MEET IN MAY

Elizabeth Evangelista

On Sunday, March 17th, the LITSIG met at the home of Wendy Carnegie to discuss "My Grandmother Asked Me To Tell You She's Sorry". We will be meeting again on Sunday, May 19th at 1PM, at the home of Elizabeth Evangelista. (5275 E. Hidden Lake Dr., E. Hidden Lake Dr., East Lansing.

We'll be discussing "*A Sense of the World*", by Jason Roberts. It's subtitled "*How a Blind Man Became History's Greatest Traveler*", and we thought it looked interesting. His name was known simply as the Blind Traveler — a solitary, sightless adventurer who fought the slave trade in Africa, survived a frozen captivity in Siberia, hunted rogue elephants in Ceylon and helped chart the Australian outback. Once a celebrity, a bestselling author and inspiration to Charles Darwin and Sir Richard Francis Burton, the charismatic, witty James Holman outlived his fame, dying in an obscurity that has endured — until now.

Please join us for snacks and a lively discussion



!Reminder!

Just a reminder that your Mensa membership might expire on March 31, 2019. So, don't forget to check your expiration date and renew if your membership has expired

Washington Crossing the Delaware

From *Presidential Trivia*
By Richard Lederer

In honor of our first president, here's a stately sonnet composed by David Shulman way back in 1936. Each line is an anagram of all the letters in the title, yet the lines are cast in reasonable meter and each couplet rhymes!

Washington Crossing the Delaware

A hard, howling, tossing, water scene;
Strong tide was washing hero clean.
How cold! Weather stings as in anger.
O silent night shows war ace danger!

The cold waters swashing on in rage.
Redcoats warn slow his hint engage.
When general's star wish'e "Go!"
He saw his ragged continentals row,

Ah, he stans\ds — sailor crew went going,
And so this general watches rowing.
He hastens — Winter again grows cold;
A wet crew again Hessian stronghold.

George can't lose war with 's hands in;
He's astern — so, go alight, crew, and win.



APRIL 2019 CALENDAR

Fri. Apr. 5	**TGIF - BRAVO CUCINA ITALIANA:** 2970 Towne Centre Blvd, Lansing, in Eastwood Towne Center. Upscale-casual Italian restaurant serving pasta, grilled dishes, and pizza.
Fri. Apr. 12	**TGIF - BOSTON MARKET:** 6435 S Cedar St, Holt, between Willoughby Rd and Aurelius Rd. Tasty ready-to-serve dishes. **STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING:** to follow dinner.
Fri. Apr. 19	**TGIF - Blue Gill Grill:** 1591 Lake Lansing Rd, Haslett. A traditional American restaurant with a casual vibe, featuring seafood.
Fri. Apr. 26	**TGIF - NEW ALADDIN'S RESTAURANT:** 300 N. Clippert St., East Lansing, in the Frandor shopping center. Good Middle Eastern/Lebanese food, including vegetarian dishes, with occasional belly dancing
Sun. Apr. 28	**CULTURE QUEST:** At Wendy' Carnegie's home, 1715 S. Crystal Cove, Haslett, MI.
Fri. May 3	**TGIF - CANCUN GRILLE**: 1754 Central Park Dr, Meridian Township. Good Mexican food and wonderful margaritas.
Fri. May 10	**TGIF - GRAND TRAVERSE PIE COMPANY**: 1403 E. Grand River Ave, East Lansing. It's in the Brookfield Plaza at the corner of Grand River Ave and Hagadorn Rd. Quiches, pot pies, pasties, sandwiches, wraps, soups and salads. And, of course, pies. (Best a-la-mode) **STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING:** to follow dinner.
Sun. May 19	**LIT SIG:** Meet at Elizabeth Evangelista's home, 5275 E. Hidden Lake Dr. At 1:00 P.M. See page 7.

TGIFs are on Fridays. We meet at about 5:30 PM and order about 5:30 PM 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