MAY 2019

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 541



HEAD-LINE NO. 541 MAY 2019
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

A BIRDS-EYE VIEW OF SPRING

As a Michigander almost all my life, I've come to know the arrival of spring as a gradual, two-steps-forward one-step-back kind of arrangement. March is still mostly winter, but spring sticks a toe in the water, testing it out. The first half of April still feels iffy, although it's clear that winter's weak attempts to stick around have no bite. The rest of April usually improves considerably, but it really has to be May before it feels safe to put away winter coats. And don't forget that the frost date in Michigan is May 15!

I spent the 19th spring of my life living in Hawaii. That was a revelation. I had arrived in Hawaii on Christmas Day, which was the exact day that the winter rainy season started in Honolulu. While every day was still warm and lovely for the most part, at least three times a day rain would fall for an hour or so. Very annoying when one's form of transportation was a motorcycle. I don't remember the exact date, but very early in April, the rain simply stopped showing up. Spring took its place. My world was suddenly and enormously and lushly spring. Overnight, the shades of green multiplied, and they were each a greenier shade than anything I'd known before. Leaves on trees were bigger and shinier. Flowers were exotic and exuberant. It was a spring awakening.

I returned to Michigan after that semester of college, and I've stayed here ever since. But this year, for the first time, I've been experiencing spring with a different pair of ears and eyes. This time I'm observing spring as a birdwatcher. Every day of March and April so far has brought a new awareness that spring has sprung, even when the temperatures are still in the chilly, almost frozen zone. On the day that I am typing this (April 7th) the woods behind my home are filled with song and chatter. I have lived with this woods for 20 years now, and I never heard it before. Now, I need earplugs to concentrate. I look out the window, and I see movement everywhere. A bird swoops in; a moment later he swoops out. Various tiny birds hop around the branches, trading places constantly. Two mourning doves are inseparable; the boy dove follows the girl dove wherever she pecks, and when she flies back to her favorite fallen tree

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EDITOR'S COLUMN CONTINUE

branch, he follows and parks himself six inches away. The vivid color of the goldfinches has returned in triumphant glory decorating the still-bare tree branches like ornaments. The woodpeckers create a cacophony of drumming in the woods; it sounds like a machine shop is open right behind me. A pileated woodpecker shows up every day now, like Ringo Starr in the band making music with the little downies and the bigger hairies and red-bellies.

To use a popular phrase going around these days, when it comes to spring time, I am woke. What about you, dear readers? What are your favorite signs of spring?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Thank you to Gail Wolfe in response to my article last month about INFORMATION OVERLOAD. Our wise doctor reminds us that:

> *There are legitimate websites for medical information, and then there are others. I often hear of misinformation people have found on the Internet. It is fine to look up questions one might have but with a skeptical eye. It is best to ask your medical professional to get the correct information.*

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

MENSA READERS TO MEET IN MAY

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,

We'll be discussing "A Sense of the World", by Jason Roberts. It's sub-titled "How a Blind Man Became History's Greatest Traveler", and we thought it looked interesting. Please join us for snacks and a lively discussion.

MINUTES OF APRIL 12 STEERING COMMITTTEE

The meeting was called to order at 6:24 PM following our TGIF dinner at Boston Market. Members Wendy Carnegie, Bob Henderson, Elizabeth Evangelista, and Squire Jaros attended.

The minutes of the March Steering Committee meeting were published in the April Head-Line. None of the members present asked for changes to them.

New Business: Wendy advised us that she had made copies of the MMM By-Laws to be reviewed by the Steering Committee. She plans to distribute them to the committee members in the May meeting.

Three of the six MMM Steering Committee positions are up for re-election this year. The incumbent officers have agreed to continue serving, and Sharon Plavnick agreed to serve in the At-Large position previously held by Aaron Rabushka. Another candidate will be needed if John Garrison chooses not to continue serving as an At-Large member. Since there is at most one candidate for each Steering Committee position, MMM members will not be asked to vote on them.

New business: Wendy agreed to write an article for the July Head-Line with details on this year's MMM Anniversary Party, to be held at 4 PM on August 4 at the Hendersons' home. Ginny is considering serving a chicken dish from GFS rather than grilling brats and hot dogs as in previous years. Attendees will be invited to bring their choice of a side dish and/or dessert.

Ginny also agreed to talk to Roy Saper about scheduling him to speak after an upcoming TGIF dinner to be held at Grand Traverse Pie Co. in June or July. Further details will be provided in the online MMM Calendar and in that month's Head-Line.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Henderson, Scribe

Mid-Michigan Mensa Treasurer's Report

Quarter Ending March 31, 2019

Robert Henderson, Treasurer

STARTING BALANCE		**$5,171.28**
INCOME		**337.76**
National Subsidy Dec. 2018	$108.95	
National Subsidy Jan. 2019	108.80	
National Subsidy Feb. 2019	108.95	
Head-Line Subscription	10.00	
Savings Interest	0.06	
EXPENDITURES		**171.61**
Donation to Holiday Host (MLC)	25.00	
Head-Line		
Printing FM	81.18	
Postage FMA	63.43	
Money Order Fees	2.00	
ACCOUNT BALANCES		
Checking		3,307.37
Savings		1,997.60
Post Office		37.46
ENDING BALANCE		**$5,337.43**

Mid-Michigan Mensa Membership

John Garrison, Chairman
May 2019

113 Members

MENSA Birthdays

Happy Birthday to you

1	John Rooney	9	Linda Harrison
16	Robert Henderson	21	Richard Shaffer
23	Eric Roath	25	Timothy Howard
26	Joan Forgrave	31	Michael Lutz

MENSAversaries

Congratulation on your years with Mensa

35 Years	John Rooney	30 Years	Rona Landfield
29	Joanne Sullivan	26 Years	Igor Guro
14 Years	Carl Helwing	5 Years	Jeffrey Ford
2 Years	Kristina Dombroski		

Member Leaving Us

So sorry to see you go. We'll miss you

Richard Daniel — Moving to Farmington Hills

New Members

Welcome. We're so glad you joined us

Brett Dreyfus

AUNT LOUISE'S CHICKEN

Submitted by Elizabeth Evangelista

Several MMM's recently had an opportunity to sample a family recipe handed down to Elizabeth. We are posting it here so everyone can partake if they wish. Elizabeth cautions that her approach is from the add-a-bit of this; add-a-bunch of that kind of cooking school.

INGREDIENTS

- 4 chicken breasts
- 4 slices of Swiss cheese
- ¼ to ½ C of wine
- 1/3 to ½ can Cream of Chicken soup
- 1-2 cups chicken stuffing mix
- ½ C more or less of butter

Put chicken in a flat pan. Place a slice of cheese on each breast.
Mix soup and wine and pour over chicken.
Sprinkle stuffing mix on top.
Melt butter and pour over the top.
Bake 30-45 minutes in moderate (350-ish degree oven)

May Holidays

May 1 — May Day
May 4 — Kentucky Derby
May 5 — Cinco de Mayo
May 12 — Mother's Day
May 16 to June 14 — Ramadan
May 26 — Indianapolis 500
May 27 — Memorial Day

WHAT TO SAY TO TELEMARKETERS

1. If they want to loan you money, tell them you just filed for bankruptcy and you could sure use some money.

2. If they start out with, "How are you today?" say, "I'm so glad you asked, because no one these days seems to care, and I have all these problems. My arthritis is acting up, my eyelashes are sore, my dog just died . . . "

3. If they say they're John Doe from XYZ Company, ask them to spell their name. Then ask them to spell the company name. Then ask them where it is located, how long it has been in business, how many people work there, how they got into this line of work if they are married, how many kids they have, etc. Continue asking them personal questions or questions about their company for as long as necessary.

4. Cry out in surprise, "Judy? Is that you? Oh my God! Judy, how have you been?" Hopefully, this will give Judy a few brief moments of terror as she tries to figure out where she could know you from.

5. Say "No" over and over. Be sure to vary the sound of each one, and keep a rhythmic tempo, even as they are trying to speak. Sing in an operatic voice if possible. Or a "Tiny Tim" falsetto. This is most fun if you can do it until they hang up.

6. After the Telemarketer gives his or her spiel, ask him or her to marry you. When they get all flustered, tell them that you can't just give your credit card number to a complete stranger.

7. Tell the Telemarketer that you work for the same company, and they can't sell to employees.

8. Ask them to repeat everything they say, several times.

9. Tell them it is dinner time, but ask if they would please hold. Put them on your speaker phone while you continue to eat at your leisure. Smack your food loudly and continue with your dinner conversation.

10. Ask them to fax the information to you, and make up a number.

11. Tell them you are hard of hearing and that they need to speak up . . . louder . . . louder . . .

12. Tell them to talk very slowly, because you want to write every word down.

Courtesy of
The Freeman Institute

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Barb Ford

A little over 10 years ago, I took up the "No-Knead" bread crusade. I experimented a lot and we enjoyed a variety of bread. Winston-Salem Journal Food Editor, Michael Hastings, even published one of my recipes. Through the years, I got away from it, but recently discovered a fellow on YouTube who is delightful to watch, and his simplified method really works. He came up with a "Poor Man's Dutch Oven" that I love. I am using my mother's ancient bread pans and am certain she approves from Heaven. Look Steve Gamelin up on YouTube. He has many variations of bread recipes, and books for sale, too.
Let's get cooking!

TURBO NO KNEAD BREAD
From: nokneadbreadcentral.com
YouTube Channel: ArtisanBreadWithSteve

Ingredients:
14 Ounces Warm Water
1½ t Salt
1¼ t Instant Yeast
1 T Extra Virgin Olive Oil
3½ Cups Bread Flour

Directions:
Heat large glass mixing bowl. Add warm water, salt, yeast and oil. Gently stir to combine. Add flour to the edge of the bowl. Stir with spoon handle. Scrape bowl to bring dough into a ball. Cover with plastic wrap. Proof in warm place (75 to 85 degrees) for 90 minutes.* Stir to de-gas, scrape bowl, dust with flour, turn dough into greased 8.5"x4.5"or 9"x5" bread pan, cover with a tea towel. Proof for 30 minutes. Attach another bread pan on top with clips (Poor Man's Dutch Oven). Pre heat oven to 400 degrees. Bake 40 minutes with top on, then another 3-15 minutes with top off to crisp the crust. Remove bread from pan and cool on elevated wire rack. This turns out well every time and is delicious.
Thank you, Steve!

*Steve says turning the oven light on will heat it enough to provide a good proofing place.

MAY 2019 CALENDAR

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.

Fri. May 17 **TGIF - Lucky's Steakhouse:** 3554 Okemos Rd, Okemos, formerly Gilbert & Blake's. Famous for their seafood, steaks, and prime rib with all the trimmings.

Sun May 19 **Book Club**: 1PM at home of Elizabeth Evangelista; 5275 E. Hidden Lake in E. Lansing. See page 2.

Fri. May 24 **TGIF - Ozzy's's Kabob:** 3536 Meridian Crossings Drive #260 in the Meridian Crossings Mall. Low-key venue for typical Middle Eastern fare such as chicken shawarma and a tasty okra stew.

Fri. May 31 **TGIF - State Room Restaurant:** 219 S Harrison Rd, East Lansing. High-end hotel eatery with a warm vibe offering seasonal American cuisine and an extensive wine list.

Fri. June 6 **TGIF - Tony M's:** 3420 Creyts Road, Lansing. Family-owned Italian restaurant featuring pizza, pasta, burgers and salads.

Fri. June 14 **TGIF - Delhi Cafe**: 4625 Willoughby Rd, Holt, between Cedar St and Aurelius Rd. Good Greek and American food.
Steering Committee Meeting: to follow dinner.

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