JUNE 2019

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 542



HEAD-LINE NO. 542 JUNE 2019
MID-MICHIGAN MENSA

Region 3 Vice-Chairman: John Voymas
Email: RVC3@us.mensa.org

STEERING COMMITTEE (ELECTED BOARD)

Loc Sec:	Wendy Carnegie	517-775-0648	w.carnegie@comcast.net
Vice Loc Sec:	Elizabeth Evangelista	517-351-3645	evangel6@comcast.net
Scribe:	Robert Henderson	517-676-3369	rlhenderson@peoplepc.com
	Aaron Rabushka		arabushka@austin.rr.com
	John Garrison	517-349-7313	MidMIMensa@aol.com
	Squire Jaros	517-775-4833	llahcsramc@aol.com

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Calendar/TGIF:	Ginny Brunke Henderson	517-676-3369	gbrunkh@peoplepc.com
Dues Sub. Adm:	Elizabeth Evangelista	517-351-3645	evangel6@comcast.net
Gifted Youth Coord:			
Membership:	John Garrison	517-349-7313	MidMIMensa@aol.com
Ombudsman:	John Rooney	517-980-2657	rooneyjack312@gmail.com
Proctor:	John Garrison	517-349-7313	MidMIMensa@aol.com
Program Director	Elizabeth Evangelista	517-351-3645	evangel6@comcast.net
Scholarship:	Marvin Fouty	517-881-4959	mpkdev@aol.com
SIGHT Coord:	Dee Becker	517-349-3292	deebecker@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer:	Robert Henderson	517-676-3369	rlhenderson@peoplepc.com

HEAD-LINE CO-EDITORS

Wendy Carnegie 517-775-0648 w.carnegie@comcast.net
Sharon Plavnick. 517-285-8740 sharonplavnick@gmail.com

WEBMASTER

Robert Henderson 517-676-3369. rlhenderson@peoplepc.com

MMM WEB SITE: http:/www.midmichigan.us.mensa.org

'Like' Mid-Michigan Mensa on Facebook:
Mid-Michigan Mensa Facebook Group

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 812 Applegate Lane, East Lansing, MI 48823.

EDITOR'S COLUMN:
FROM MY BRAIN TO YOURS

by Sharon Plavnick

I just read an article about a looming shortage of helium, and how that is impacting the availability of party balloons. I remember using helium-filled balloons as a very inexpensive way to create centerpieces for my daughter's bat mitzvah party about 25 years ago. But now, a party balloon that used to cost 33 cents is two dollars, if it is even available at all. Apparently, lots of people are quite willing to pay much higher prices because balloons are so much more festive than flowers. Two bucks for a balloon may not sound like much, until you realize that the 50 balloons you need may deplete your entire decorating budget. And what if you need 500 balloons? Or 5000?

Furthermore, since helium is a crucial element in the use of magnets, a severe shortage would impact the use of MRIs for medical diagnosis, and magnets used in superconductors wouldn't run. We couldn't smash atoms anymore. The Goodyear Blimp would be grounded.

This is why we can't have nice things. Some researchers and companies are calling for a ban on party balloons. This feels like an all-too-familiar pattern to me. We recognize a potential problem, and if we take common-sense steps to monitor ourselves, we could resolve the problem with relative ease. Are party balloons fun, and nice to use? Sure! But are they a necessity? Of course not. In our highly charged political world, I can see this as yet another polarizing issue where common sense gets thrown under the bus, and the only way to resolve the issue is for government to eventually have to intervene with rules and regulations.

Let's not wait for that to happen. Let's self-monitor. If you can get away with fewer balloons, then do so. If you can substitute flowers, then do so; balloons no longer have such an economic advantage. If you can get creative with your own craft ideas, then do so. Pinterest is filled with ideas that others have collected; a few minutes browsing there will give you all kinds of decorating on a budget ideas that may be perfect for your event.

Thoughts? Opinions? Contrarian views? Let's hear it. You can reach me at sharonslp@ameritech.net

RVC 3 JUNE, 2019 Column

John Voymas

Congratulations to East Central Ohio Mensa (ECOM) on hosting a very successful Mind Games! Of course, they had help from surrounding local groups who provided many volunteers. The conference center and hotels were wonderful. There were several compliments on the quality of the meals provided by the venue. Outstanding job!

Two weeks after Mind Games, Southeast Michigan Mensa had an XL-ent RG, SEMMantics 40, at the Marriott Hotel near the DTW airport. Speaker topics included those on Happiness, Wealth, Butterflies, The Ringing Universe, and many others. As usual, Melissa Jenkins provided a complete Kid's Track from beginning to end.

Upcoming gatherings in Region 3 include the Columbus Area Mensa RG from July 19 to 21, Kaleidoscope - The Ever-Changing RG hosted by Western Pennsylvania Mensa near Pittsburgh over Labor Day weekend, and the Cincinnati Area Mensa RG from December 6 to 8. It has been a very successful 2019 with five local groups hosting regional gatherings. Many of these gatherings receive volunteer and committee support from other local groups. Working together Region 3 does achieve more!

By the time you read this, the American Mensa elections will be over and the elected members of the AMC (American Mensa Committee) will be preparing to travel to Phoenix to attend this year's Annual Gathering (AG) where the new board will be installed and have their first board meeting together. For about half of the AG, AMC members have their schedule planned for them. Each AMC member takes their volunteer responsibilities very seriously. They may not all agree with each other but they do care about Mensa.

There are several national committees that need members to volunteer their time, energy, and expertise. For now, send your interests to Chairman@us.mensa.org. In the near future there will be an online volunteer process where volunteer opportunities will be posted and where members can post their qualifications and interests. This will be available for both national and local group use.

As always, if you have any thoughts, suggestions, concerns, kudos, or anything else that you would like to share with me, I receive emails at RVC3@us.mensa.org.

SAVE THE DATE

Meet in the Middle will return on Wednesday, August 28th, at 6:30 PM. The location is Block Brewery in Howell. This is an opportunity to mingle with SEMM members.

MINUTES OF MAY 10 STEERING COMMITTEE

Due to lack of a quorum, the May steering committee meeting was cancelled.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The *Mensa Bulletin* is the national publication that we all receive as members of Mensa. If you read it cover to cover, you might have noticed the editor's "Tip of the Cap" column in which Chip Taulbee discusses the importance of recognizing the efforts and contributions of people who volunteer time and talent to make Mensa a responsive organization. Taulbee goes on to mention that a membership survey in 2017 reported that 58% of the respondees had volunteered in Mensa, in some way. The most common form of volunteering, he said, was to submit content for a print or digital publication.

Let me make it clear to every member of Mid-Michigan Mensa: this publication, the *Headline*, has room to publish your writing. Your poem, your puzzle, your book or movie or theater or music review, your opinion on any topic of interest to you. Your thoughts, your concerns, your questions.

Send your submissions to me, Sharon Plavnick, at sharonslp@ameritech.net.

Mid-Michigan Mensa Membership

John Garrison, Chairman

June 2019

116 Members

MENSA Birthdays

Happy Birthday to you.

2	Kimberly LeBrane	4	Kevin Smart
9	Michael Rademacher	11	Gail Wolfe
16	Mark Weiss	16	Paul Kassal
27	Igor Guro	27	Matthew Carter

MENSAversaries

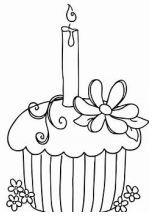
Congratulations on your years with Mensa.

50 Years	Roy Saper	45 Years	Marvin Fouty
32 Years	John Garrison	23 Years	A. Beckon
20 Years	Frank Dolinar	6 Years	John Forest
3 Years	Leon Volk	1 Year	Andrew Celeski

Renewing Members

Welcome back — We're so glad you renewed.

Michael Haven — Jackson
Kerry Haynor — Sunfield



BOOK TALKS

by Sharon Plavnick

This past month, I read a book I dearly loved. The title is *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry*, written by Gabrielle Zevin.

This is a fiction book about books, and about booksellers. But while the plot plays out in a bookstore, and delves into the important role that reading plays in so many lives, it is of course about so much more than that. It explores some of the universal themes that fiction often explores; love, and ties that bind, and secrets people keep when their good intentions go astray.

For me, it is almost always the characters in a story that sets a book apart from all the other stories. I want characters who draw me in and make me feel like they are people I want to spend time with, Sure, cliffhanger suspense keeps me engaged. Fast-paced adventure, or compelling philosophical ideas can keep me engaged. Unresolved mysteries with unexpected twists and turns can keep me engaged. Retelling of real history in a unique voice keeps me engaged. But underneath everything, there must be characters I'm invested in. I don't have to like all of them, but I have to want to make time in my life for them, even when some may be bad guys.

In this book, I found those characters. There are a few mysteries that pop up; there's just a bit of suspense as the story unfolds. There is a lot of gentle humor that plays out in the dialogue. But mostly there are genuinely interesting people who come across as mostly likeable in spite of their very realistic flaws.

This could be a very quick book to read; I could have stayed up just a bit later, and polished it off in just a few nights. But I found myself stopping each night while I still craved more, just to give myself the pleasure of keeping the characters in my life a little bit longer.

Alas, I finished. Now I'm searching for the next engaging book to dearly love. Any readers out there who want to propose one? I'd love to publish your review…a few paragraphs, or just a few sentences will suffice. Send your submission to me at sharonslp@ameritech.net

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

BARB FORDRecipes seem to follow trends. Lately, I have been seeing recipes for an old favorite of mine. Shakshuka, also known as Eggs in Purgatory, is basically eggs poached in a flavorful spicy tomato sauce. Simple sounding, but this is truly an amazing dish. With origins in North Africa, versions of this gastronomic delight have popped up in the Mediterranean and around the world. There are several variations in recipes. Some use fresh tomatoes and some use canned. I like to use whatever is fresh and plentiful. For this recipe, I list canned tomatoes for ease and continuity. I usually make an extra quantity of this versatile sauce to put aside for another time.

SHAKSHUKA

Ingredients:

1 T Olive Oil
1 Medium Onion, Diced
4 Cloves Garlic, Minced
1 Medium Green Pepper, Diced
1 t Ground Cumin
2 t Smoked Paprika
½ t Cayenne Pepper
1 t Ground Turmeric
1 28 Ounce Can Diced Tomatoes, Unsalted
Pinch of Sugar, Salt and Pepper to Taste
4 Large Organic Eggs
Crumbled Feta Cheese
Chopped Parsley and Cilantro

Directions:

In a large frying pan, sauté onion in olive oil until translucent. Add garlic, green pepper and spices, cook another 5 minutes until fragrant. Add tomatoes, cover and simmer 15 minutes. Taste and adjust the sauce for flavor, adding a pinch of sugar, salt and pepper to taste. Make 4 wells in the sauce and carefully crack the eggs into the wells. Cover and simmer until the eggs are cooked, but the yolks are runny.

Ladle into bowls and garnish with feta and fresh parsley and cilantro.

Bask in the compliments you receive.

THIS

PAGE

IS

WAITING

FOR

MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

SO

IS

THIS

PAGE

JUNE 2019 CALENDAR

Fri. June 7 **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.

Fri. June 21 **TGIF - HARRISON ROADHOUSE:** 720 E. Michigan Ave, East Lansing. Good selection of pub-grub, other food, and beers.

Fri. June 28 **TGIF - OLGA'S KITCHEN:** 354 Frandor Ave. in the Frandor Mall, East Lansing. Soups, salads, and Olga's signature gyro sandwich.

Fri. July 5 **TGIF - SULTAN'S:** 4790 Hagadorn Rd in Hannah Plaza, East Lansing. Delicious Middle Eastern food with great service.

Fri. July 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.

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