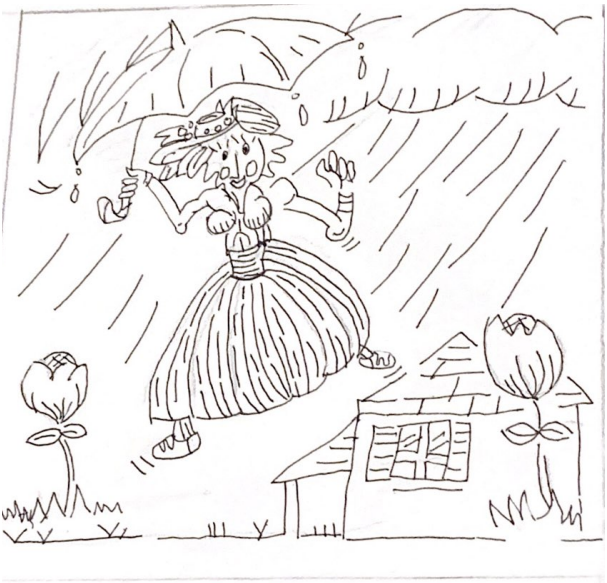
APRIL 2020

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 552



HEAD-LINE NO. 552 APRIL 2020
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

This is a tough one. When I started to think about this column, I was still enjoying myself in Florida for a short escape from winter. It was a lovely escape, and I had all kinds of thoughts about the pros and cons of becoming a snowbird next year. You were all going to be privy to my decision-making process.

By the time I was ready to actually write, things on the Coronavirus front had already begun to heat up. A week ago today we were at PF Chang's for the scheduled TG. The popular busy restaurant never got more than half full while we were there. We had a good turnout, and of course we discussed what to do about TGs for the foreseeable future. The governor's order to close restaurants had not occurred yet. We floated the idea of meeting in private homes for a while, but ultimately decided that as long as the scheduled restaurant was open, we were all adults who could make their own decisions about attendance.

Over the weekend, the steering committee revisited the issue through an email discussion. Predictably, we were divided. OTOH: this is an over-reaction; OTOH: if social distancing is going to work, we have to be consistent about applying it. By Monday, the order came through to close restaurants, and the rest is history unfolding as I write this.

"May you live in interesting times." So goes a Chinese proverb, I believe, and we surely do. I hope everyone is remaining virus-free through this ordeal, and I hope no one goes truly stir-crazy at the enforced isolation. I read that introverts are finding this easier than extroverts, but I think everyone is impacted in ways we don't even know about yet.

Stay tuned for the May issue. While it looks doubtful that the TG schedule will resume that soon, I don't want to close out any possibilities. In the meantime, if you have a few extra minutes in your busy schedules, please respond to the Meet a Fellow Mensan topics, so I get input for future Head-Lines. Send me your thoughts, opinions, book/movie/travel reviews, original poetry, or anything else I can publish

Send to: sharonslp@ameritech.net

RVC 3 APRIL, 2020 Column

John Voymas

EDITOR'S NOTE: Some of these RG listings have already cancelled. Keep checking the listed websites for updated into.

American Mensa begins a new membership (and fiscal) year on April 1st. If you are reading this before April 1, then you have a few more days to keep your membership current. If your local group prepares the newsletter one month out, then you may have already lapsed. This might be a good time to renew for three years or five years or even a Life Membership (which I did in 2005). Some of the benefits (like the Choice Hotels discount) can actually save an amount that covers the cost of annual dues.

This is also the time of year when the local group treasurer must submit their annual report to the national office. This is one of the requirements for a local group to qualify for a Jewel award.

The February 12th webinar to present the new electronic testing approach was postponed due to an issue with the preferred testing center. Hopefully, this can be resolved and rescheduled in the near future. I recommend that members of your local group attend this informative session, especially those members who are proctors, testing coordinators, membership officers, and Loc Secs. We are expecting this to open an additional pathway for prospective members to qualify to join American Mensa.

Southeast Michigan Mensa's Regional Gathering (RG) will be held from Friday, April 17 through Sunday, April 19. Info is at https://mensadetroit.com/semmantics/. 'Looking forward to seeing you!' there. This is a weekend of speakers, programs, and special events and includes a complete "Kids Track" the entire weekend.

The Annual Gathering (AG) is coming up soon. Since it will be in Kansas City, MO from July 1 – 5, travel may be more convenient than when we hold the AG on a coast. For more info on the AG and the Colloquium, the direct link is https://ag.us.mensa.org/.

Planning ahead … The Western Pennsylvania RG will be held over Labor Day weekend. This year, Labor Day is on Monday, September 7 (can't get any later than that!), so the event will run from Friday, September 4 thru Monday, September 7. Be on the lookout for details when they are announced. The WPAM website is http://www.wpam.us.mensa.org.

Columbus Area Mensa will host their RG from Friday, October 2 through Sunday, October 4 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Columbus-Worthington. More information will be posted on their website at http://www.columbus.us.mensa.org/.

For more information on other upcoming events, you can also check out the Events listing (under the ATTEND drop down) on the American Mensa website at https://www.us.mensa.org/ or check out the RG listings in the Mensa Bulletin.

STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES
March 20, 2020
Wendy Carnegie, Scribe

This meeting was postponed due to the social distance policies currently in effect. We'll get back to you with a scintillating wrap-up of our next lively Steering Committee pow-wow just as soon as we have one.

APRIL 2020
MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

John Garrison
Membership Chair
134 Members

APRIL MENSA BIRTHDAYS

9 Carol Scot
20 Richard Hobrla
29 Rona Landfield
19 John Paduch
25 Benjamin Misra

MENSAVERSARIES

1 Brett Dreyfus
10 Gregory Listig
14 Karen Petersmarck
29 Gail Wolfe
5 Walter Purvis
10 David Cushard
16 Gary Gordon
30 Patricia Thuemmel

THIS PUNNY LIFE

If I can't find a partner to purchase a boat with me, I guess I'll just have to float a loan.

Some people only go fishing for the halibut.

I heard that old accountants never die; they just lose their balance.

All of the musicians in the Stone Age band could play scales. Unfortunately none of them could tune a fish.

Passover has sometimes been called the days of wine and charosis.

MEET A FELLOW MENSAN
Meet ?????

Sorry….no one has responded to my requests recently. I'm fresh out of fellow Mensans for a while. Don't make me pester YOU.

Here's the drill:
Respond to as many topic headings as you want; omit any you don't want. Make up your own topics.

Jot down JUST A SENTENCE OR TWO. Yes, if you write more, I'll publish more. But it wasn't my intent to make anyone write a term paper, so keep it short and sweet. Leave us wanting more.

- Your first job/best job/worst job/dream job
- Pet peeve(s)
- Night owl or early bird
- Favorite season
- Marriages/Divorces/Children
- Favorite travel experience
- What you like best about being a Mensan
- Earliest childhood memory:
- Something important you learned in HS
- Educational background
- Hobbies/interests
- Favorite food(s)
- At the top of your bucket list

Send to Sharon Plavnick at sharonslp@ameritech.net

CHARLIE CHAN
By Uncle John

Warner Oland played the character Charlie Chan in many movies. Charlie was a detective who solved crimes with the help of his bungling number one son. Most people think Charlie was always a detective but he wasn't. He became a detective while practicing his hobby of wood carving. He enjoyed looking for a wood thief so much that he gave up wood carving in favor of detecting. So a legend was born.

It all began when Charlie was commissioned to hand carve a chess set out of various woods. The king and queen were to be out of mahogany, the bishops maple, the knights oak, the rooks teak and the pawns pine. Charlie made the pawns first because pine is a soft wood and the easiest to carve. He then carved the kings and queens. He liked the feel of working with mahogany and really enjoyed carving it. Then he did the knights and bishops.

He was proud of his wood carving skills and really did a great job. He was all set to finish the set and carve the rooks when he discovered that someone had stolen his teak wood.

In Charlie's neighborhood there lived a petty thief well known to everyone. Charlie suspected him of stealing his wood but had to prove it. He started investigating the lad. He discovered the urchin walked on two clubbed feet. All of the toes were curled up making the feet resemble ursine feet. Charlie also discovered that the boy spent so much time outside that he sported a deeply tanned face. Now that Charlie had his suspect he started his search.

He checked around his work area. In the dirt below a partially opened window he found smudged footprints. The prints didn't look human but resembled prints made by a bear. Charlie knew he had to catch the thief and he knew that it was the neighborhood boy with the clubbed feet.

Charlie enlisted the local police and the local newspaper. Who summed the theft up by printing the following headline, "Famous detective searching for bear foot boy with teaks of Chan."

MOVIE TRIVIA

By Chiam Greenberg

EDITORS NOTE: Thanks to John Garrison for helping to fill up this issue. I don't know who Chiam Greenberg is. I'm thinking it should at least be Chaim. At any rate, thanks to Chiam/Chaim, and to John.

1. Name the fourth Marx Brother who costarred with Groucho, Chico and Harpo in their early films.
2 . What four time Oscar winner starred opposite John Wayne in the 1975 film, Rooster Cogburn?
3. What immortal comedy team filmed the Babes in Toyland operetta in 1934?
4. What versatile star portrayed the unforgettable Joan Crawford in Mommie Dearest?
5. Name the talented actor-singer-songwriter who played opposite Barbra Streisand in A Star is Born.
6. We all know that Roy Rogers rode Trigger in all his movies but can you tell me the name of Dale Evan's horse?
7. this French "sex kitten" shocked audiences in 1955 in And God Created Woman has turned animal activist. Name her.
8. Name the actor and actress who played opposite each other in My Little Chikadee.

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Zeppo
2 Katherine Hepburn
3. Laurel and Hardy
4. Faye Dunaway
5 Kris Kristofferson
6. Buttermilk
7. Bridget Bardot
8. Mae West and W. C. Fields.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
By Barb Ford

There has been so much turbulence in the world lately. People have been behaving in a troubling pattern for some time now. Divisiveness and hateful actions have gone way too far. Simple social manners and respect for others are becoming rare. Neighbors harass neighbors. Vicious hatred has fully infiltrated into politics. I cannot listen to it without a visceral physical reaction. What is happening to us? How do we cope? I, for one have become an isolated individual. My anxiety, colon disease, lymphoma and a couple other things have turned me into a recluse. I am very alone. I only venture out about once a month for a few groceries and essential errands. Yesterday, the World Health Organization declared Covid-19 a global pandemic. Well, great. Since it has been nearly a month since I procured fresh groceries, I had to make a pantry assessment. Not good, but I would find a way to manage. Then the most amazing thing happened. My friend, and angel, Jackie, brought me bags of fresh veggies!! I cried at this monumental kindness. It meant everything to me. She really is an angel. Now I can make it for a few more weeks.

Jackie also brought me a wonderful treasure; her compilation of her Grandma Coletta's family stories and recipes. Grandma Coletta immigrated from Italy as a young girl. Jackie gave me permission to tell her story and share some of these gems with my readers in the future. Stay tuned. I cannot wait to immerse myself into this book.

Though life is busy and challenging for everyone, please take a moment to think about someone in your life who may have a need for kindness or something you can provide. Even a phone call to say hello. What may seem small to one person may mean the world to another.

Jackie really blessed me today, and I am so grateful for her kindness.

APRIL 2020 CALENDAR

Well, this is pretty bleak, isn't it. Obviously, as long as Governor Whitmer's order to close restaurants is in effect, we won't schedule any TGs. The Steering Committee discussed possibly holding gatherings in members' homes, but we've opted to honor social distancing policies for now, just to be on the safe side. Let's all hope that May's calendar listings may include some gatherings again. Too optimistic? Okay, June. Stay well everyone, and eventually we will get together and argue about whether the restrictions were an overreaction. It's an argument we'll never settle, but that never stops Mensans.

Fri. Apr. 3 TGIF – CANCELLED until further notice

Fri. Apr. 10 TGIF – CANCELLED until further notice

Fri. Apr. 17 TGIF – CANCELLED until further notice

Fri. Apr. 24 TGIF – CANCELLED until further notice

MAY TGIF – CANCELLED until further notice

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