**MAY 2020**

# Head-Line

**The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 553**

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# HEAD-LINE NO. 553 APRIL 2020
# MID-MICHIGAN MENSA

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

## STEERING COMMITTEE (ELECTED BOARD)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Loc Sec:** | Robert Henderson | 517-676-3369 | rlhenderson@peoplepc.com |
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| **Scribe:** | Wendy Carnegie | 517-775-0648 | w.carnegie@comcast.net |
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| | John Garrison | 517-349-7313 | MidMIMensa@aol.com |
| | Squire Jaros | 517-775-4833 | IIahcrsamc@aol.com |

## APPOINTED OFFICERS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Dues Sub. Adm:** | Elizabeth Evangelista | 517-351-3645 | evangel6@comcast.net |
| **Gifted Youth Coord:** | | | |
| **Membership:** | John Garrison | 517-349-7313 | MidMIMensa@aol.com |
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| **Proctor:** | John Garrison | 517-349-7313 | MidMIMensa@aol.com |
| **Program Director** | Elizabeth Evangelista | 517-351-3645 | evangel6@comcast.net |
| **Scholarship:** | | | |
| **SIGHT Coord:** | Dee Becker | 517-349-3292 | deebecker@sbcglobal.net |
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## HEAD-LINE EDITOR

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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.

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# EDITOR'S COLUMN:

FROM MY BRAIN TO YOURS

by Sharon Plavnick

I will be brief this month. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, we will be publishing as a digital-only format until the national office resumes sending us mailing labels, **and** it is safe for our Distribution Manager to pick up the printed edition and take it to the post office. Because I anticipate that this means a smaller than normal readership, I will withhold some of our original content until we resume printing paper copies.

On the plus side, since this is digital-only, I don't have to be concerned about length of articles and lay-out decisions.

This is a challenging time for everyone. It's important to find a plus side whenever possible. In the meantime, send me your thoughts, opinions, book/movie/travel reviews, original poetry, or anything else I can publish. It would be great to have a stockpile for the near future.

Send to: sharonslp@ameritech.net

# LOC SEC COLUMN

Bob's Two Bits for May 2020

by Robert Henderson

Greetings, Mid-Michigan Mensans! Every month our group submits a new issue of our "Head-Line" newsletter to be published online at the American Mensa Limited site. The AML submission form includes a box to check whenever the issue has a column by the LocSec. Starting with this month's issue I hope to be able to check the "yes" box more often. . . The hope is that this new column will raise interest in MMM among its members and encourage more of us to take part in group activities, especially once local restaurants have reopened for our TGIF dinners!

Let me start off by asking you a few questions that occurred to me recently: How did you find out that you were unusually intelligent, what was your first reaction to that news, and how has that knowledge affected the rest of your life? Take some time to think about it, then feel free to share any of your answers that might interest your fellow Mid-Michigan Mensans. To get the ball rolling, I will use the remainder of this column to answer the same questions about myself.

Almost as soon as I could read, I found that the local library was my favorite place to go! On the first day of 4th grade I sat there quietly and read the entire book for the semester's reading lessons. . . My teacher wisely decided from then on to send me out with a more athletic boy to throw a football around during reading class. Before long I was enjoying science fiction stories about plausible future worlds.

As an eldest child, I looked up more to parents and teachers rather than my peers. Back then teachers weren't expected to "teach to the test," so they were free to give me more challenging assignments when I had completed my normal schoolwork. They must have done a good job: when we grade-schoolers were given something called an "aptitude test," I was surprised and pleased to see that I had shown unusual aptitudes in dealing with both words and numbers. My guidance counsellor advised me that I would make a great accountant someday!

I had very little interest in becoming an accountant, but I had fallen in love with airplanes and dreamed of flying and designing them. I decided that my aptitudes would be best put to use by a career in aeronautical engineering, so that became the goal of my studies. It kept me motivated to do well in school and became a lifelong hobby as well: I still enjoy designing, building, and flying model aircraft.

As an idealistic young man, knowing that I had an exceptional brain made me feel the need to "fact check" the knowledge that I fed into it, believing in the computer concept of "garbage in, garbage out." I also took to heart the Biblical maxim "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him will much be required." I

resolved never to use my intelligence in ways that would knowingly harm others. Those beliefs have stayed with and inspired me since grade school, even when being true to them kept me from advancing my career at others' expense (I am sure I would have been a great example of the Peter Principle if I had "advanced" from engineering into management). I was happy to be the best engineer I could be, working regular hours and sharing quality time with my growing family. As a retiree now I am grateful for my excellent benefits and for plenty of time to enjoy family, friends, and hobbies, many of them still related to that "aptitude test" I took so many years ago!

## RVC 3 MAY, 2020 Column

John Voymas

What strange times we are in ... as I write this, the federal recommendation is to stay-at-home until April 30. Here in Michigan the current executive order was due to expire on April 13 (about three weeks after it was initiated). My wife and I had already begun staying at home on March 17, six days before the Governor's order. I am waiting to hear if Michigan will extend for another two weeks.

This is not the first crisis in the United States in the past century. A little over one hundred years ago, we were involved in the first World War (U. S. combat casualties over 53,000). Even before the war ended, the Spanish flu pandemic began. By the time that was over 675,000 Americans died, many of them soldiers serving in WWI.

Ten years later, in October 1929, the stock market crashed and the Great Depression ensued. On December 7, 1941 ("a day that shall live in infamy") we entered the second World War. During the next few years, rationing of goods became the norm in the United States. Another 418,500 military and civilians died from that war.

Polio and tuberculosis were health crises that impacted many families. As a young elementary school child, I remember being given the oral polio vaccine. In 1968, when I was fourteen years old, we had the Hong Kong flu pandemic, where 100,000 Americans died. HIV/AIDS has killed many.

On September 11, 2001, our country was attacked by terrorists and over 3,000 were killed within a couple of hours. Since then, we have had to deal with SARS and the Swine flu.

Now, we are dealing with COVID-19, which is especially dangerous for those who are over sixty years of age (even more so for those over eighty years old), and also those with serious underlying health conditions. As a respiratory virus, it enters the nose, mouth, and eyes, then breeds in the back of the throat, and "rides" nasal drainage into the lungs where it can develop into pneumonia (the actual cause of death in many cases). The health impact to those who are younger and healthier may be comparatively less but due to it being highly contagious, it behooves all of us who are in non-essential services to stay home. The sooner we do that, the sooner we can return to what may be a "new normal".

I am concerned that some do not take this seriously - the mother who allows her young daughter to run down the street and play with her friend, the person who drives to another state to pick up a family member, the kids at the playground who are playing together. To paraphrase a public service announcement about another family of viruses ... when you are in close contact with someone else, you are in contact with them and with everyone they have been in contact with, and with everyone those people have been in contact with. You do not have to be showing symptoms to be contagious. That is how easily it can spread ... and how easily it can be contained. Please stay at home unless you have an essential need that requires you to be elsewhere.

This has impacted American Mensa. Many local group activities have been canceled. The Dayton Regional Gathering (RG), scheduled in March, was the first major casualty in Region 3. The Southeast Michigan Mensa RG in April was canceled. Mind Games is postponed to later in the year. The March AMC board meeting, which was being hosted at Southern Nevada Mensa's first RG in twenty years became a teleconference meeting and the Southern Nevada RG was canceled at the last minute after Cookie Bakke had put in many hours of work planning that event. As I write this, the Annual Gathering (AG) is still planned for early July. I do hope that it can happen. I think we need

some sense of normalcy even if the attendance is significantly diminished.  Tabby Vos, the Chair, has even planned on light evening meals on Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday.  She has put a lot of work into coordinating this year's AG.

The next RG in Region 3 is over Labor Day weekend, hosted by Western Pennsylvania Mensa (WPAM). In October, Columbus Area Mensa will have an RG.  And to close out the year, Cincinnati Area Mensa will host their RG.

Take care of yourself. Stay home. Let's get past this pandemic together.

| Mid-Michigan Mensa Treasurer's Report | | |
|---|---|---|
| Quarter Ending March 31, 2020 | | |
| | | |
| **STARTING BALANCE** | | **$5,868.54** |
| | | |
| **INCOME** | | **357.61** |
| AML National Subsidy Dec. 2019 | $117.90 | |
| AML National Subsidy Jan. 2020 | 113.90 | |
| AML National Subsidy Feb. 2020 | 115.75 | |
| M.C. Head-Line Subscription | 10.00 | |
| Savings interest | 0.06 | |
| | | |
| **EXPENDITURES** | | **489.98** |
| Invitations to After-Glow Party | $116.10 | |
| Supplies for After-Glow Party | 96.03 | |
| Head-Line: | | |
| Printing ONDJF | 194.81 | |
| Postage JFMA | 83.04 | |
| | | |
| **ACCOUNT BALANCES** | | |
| 5/3 Checking | | 3,495.16 |
| 5/3 Savings | | 1,997.84 |
| USPS Periodical Postage Account | | 243.17 |
| | | |
| **ENDING BALANCE** | | **$5,736.17** |

# MAY 2020
# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

**John Garrison**
**Membership Chair**
**135 Members**

### MAY MENSA BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **John Rooney** | **1** | **Linda Harrison** | **9** |
| **Robert Henderson** | **16** | **Michael Haven** | **20** |
| **Richard Shaffer** | **21** | **Eric Roath** | **23** |
| **Timothy Howard** | **25** | **Joan Forgrave** | **26** |
| **Howard Stewart** | **27** | **Michael Lutz** | **31** |

### MENSAVERSARIES

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Michael Haven** | **1** | **Kerry Haynor** | **1** |
| **Kristina Dombroski** | **1** | **Jeffrey Ford** | **6** |
| **M. Rupert** | **8** | **Carl Helwing** | **15** |
| **Igor Guru** | **27** | **Rona Landfield** | **31** |
| **John Rooney** | **36** | | |

### RIP

We regret to inform our membership of the recent death of longtime member, Marvin Fouty, on March 31, 2020, succumbing to cancer. Marvin most recently has served as our Publicity Chair. Our condolences to his family.

A memorial celebration of life will be held later this year. Memorial contributions may be made to the Lansing Community College Foundation, 309 N. Washington Square, Suite 201, Lansing, MI 48933

**MEET A FELLOW MENSAN**
**ALWAYS WANTING MORE**

I am delirious with joy that two of our members have responded to this plea. I'm saving their responses for when we return to a printed Head-Line. Don't be shy, everyone else…send me your responses.

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

# 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 2020 CALENDAR

Fri. May 1 TGIF – CANCELLED until further notice

Fri. May 8 TGIF – CANCELLED until further notice

Fri. May 15 TGIF – CANCELLED until further notice

Fri. May 22 TGIF – CANCELLED until further notice

Fri. May 29 TGIF – CANCELLED until further notice

June: See June Headline or MMM Website for updates.
Keep your fingers crossed.

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