JUNE 2020

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 554

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HEAD-LINE NO. 554 JUNE 2020
MID-MICHIGAN MENSA

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'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

Nothing. I have nothing. I'm finding it hard to be perky and cheerful and upbeat and optimistic. My mom taught me that if I don't have something nice to say, don't say anything. I have found that a hard standard to abide by (so did she), but this month I'm going to listen to her. I'll let Bob and John and Barb do all the talking in this issue. You all…stay healthy.

If you want to respond to anything you read in this issue, send it along to me at: sharonslp@ameritech.net

LOC SEC COLUMN

Bob's Two Bits for June 2020

by Robert Henderson

Although MMM menbers won't be able to get together in person for a while yet, we can start to think about what group activities would interest the most members when Michigan's COVID-19 pandemic restrictions are lifted. Many of us have enjoyed MMM's regular TGIF dinners over the years, but these must remain on hold until dine-in restaurants are again open and the threat of contagion has been eliminated. Our LitSig (literature special interest group) will also have to wait unitil it is again safe for us to visit one another at home. If the lockdown has given you time to read some good books, I'm sure you will be welcome to discuss them when MMM's LitSig meets again!

One of the things I looked forward to when I joined Mensa was the opportunity to match wits with other members in regular game sessions. These are not practical to hold at restaurants following TGIF dinners, but we have held a few Sunday afternoon sessions at members' homes. Unfortunately only enough members have attended to play a typical board game, so many attendees didn't get to play their favorites. Perhaps the easy availability of all kinds of games over the Internet has spoiled us a bit? I used to love

playing Scrabble, but now I get my fill of crossword games by playing Words with Friends on Facebook. Trivial Pursuit is not as much fun when you have memorized the questions, or when they are so obscure that no one gets them! Nowadays nearly every bar has trivia nights, and online trivia games are as close as your cell phone. Mid-Michigan Mensa typically fields a team for the annual Culture Quest competition, a Mensa-wide trivia contest that really stretches our memories (Call Bob by the end of August if this sounds like fun to you). If MMM were to schedule monthly or quarterly game sessions, what sort of games would you prefer to play in person rather than online?

A few years ago a group of MMM's attended an "escape room" twice and afterward enjoyed dinner together at The Soup Spoon Café as we basked in the glow of a successful escape. This would be a good team-building activity if several of us were to express an interest. . . MMM would even pay half of members' entry fees! We could continue holding quarterly escape room sessions for as long as enough of us remain interested. . . What are your thoughts on this?

Believe it or not, some of us actually enjoy taking some time to keep MMM running smoothly. If you think you have any good ideas to share, bring them to our next Steering Committee meeting after TGIF dinners resume. . . better yet, volunteer to serve as a group officer! We can do great things as a team: for example, this spring we judged Mensa Education Research Foundation scholarship application essays as the first step in awarding MERF scholarships to deserving college students, including some from Mid-Michigan. Many thanks to our intrepid essay judges for stepping up to the challenge! Early next year I will ask for volunteers to judge a fresh batch of essays. . . Don't miss your chance to help decide which students are most deserving of Mensa support for their college educations!

RVC 3 JUNE, 2020 Column

John Voymas

How are you holding up in this new world? What has changed for you? What are you doing in order to have some sense of normalcy or a means to anchor yourself each day? I encourage you to have some routines from B.C. (Before COVID) that you are continuing to maintain. Whether it is doing crossword puzzles, reading, taking a walk, exercising, meditation, listening to music, it helps to have a calming aspect to your life each day.

Life for many of us will change. Some of us may end up in a different job or a new career. How we interact as members of Mensa will likely include some virtual get-togethers and on-line meetings. Some predict that restaurants will be significantly changed. How do you see your next event at a restaurant, a theater, a concert? When do you expect each of those to be allowed once again? What will be your first social activity - be it personal or Mensa-related? What gives you hope?

I had planned on visiting some local groups this spring, others groups in the summer or fall. That will, of necessity, be rearranged. With groups in Kentucky, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, it will be a challenge for me to figure out when to "stop by". Six states, six different Governors, with coordinated but separate plans on "re-opening" our lives. Hopefully by mid-summer, I can once again go on some road trips. I'll likely do two or three groups over long weekends. What event would you like me to join you at?

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. How will these change as we continue to take measures to reduce the likelihood of a second

wave? What changes do you see to games rooms? To Hospitality and meals? To programs and presentations?

What 21st century changes will now be accelerated? More distance learning? More working from home? Will there be a rebound to some of the older ways? More face-to-face gatherings? More conversations with friends around a campfire? How will movie theaters adapt?

We are Mensa. Let us create and innovate as we redesign our communities.

JUNE 2020
MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

John Garrison
Membership Chair

Due to unforeseen technical glitches, our membership chair has been unable to access the membership report for this month.

If you are having a June birthday, have a wonderful one!

If June is the anniversary month for when you first joined Mensa, we're sure glad you're still with us!

MEET A FELLOW MENSAN
ALWAYS WANTING MORE

I now have THREE responses saved up for our return to print issues. 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

NEW SIG TO JOIN

Whimsical M SIG's goal is to promote good feelings and friendship among Mensa members around the world by providing a compendium of Whimsy, Wit and Wisdom gleaned from Mensa publications and member contributions. Monthly newsletter (available electronically at no cost and in print at cost for $20/yr U.S. and $25/yr foreign) aims to delight and inform in addition to providing a friendly communications forum.

Send inquiries to WhimsicalM@outlook.com

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
By Barb Ford

I am a survivor. I have been through some unbelievable situations in my lifetime with regards to my physical and emotional health and the safety of my living quarters. I have adapted and made changes to my routine and been forced to find solutions to cope and ultimately thrive.

Over the past few years, for various reasons I am unable to venture out much. Through the solitude, I have discovered an inner strength that at times is quite spiritual. I have accepted the limitations of my physical issues and aging body. I hire help when I need to, despite not really being able to afford it. I do without many things most people consider essential.

Adapting to the interesting Covid19 pandemic has come easier to me than most folks. I am used to being alone and in my home for weeks at a time. I have a system of purchasing needed items online and have most everything delivered to my home. I bake my own bread, eat very simply and shop infrequently.

One thing I eat a lot of is cabbage. It keeps for weeks and is great for the digestive system. I also love pickles. One day, I thought I would try something new. I had just finished off a jar of yummy bread and butter pickles when an idea hit me. I added fresh chopped cabbage to the pickle juice in the jar and put it back into the refrigerator for a couple days. After shaking the jar periodically, I tried my “bread and butter” cabbage. It was great! Since then, I always throw sliced cabbage, onion, or carrot into leftover pickle juice. This makes me happy. Try it sometime.

Please keep safe as our country re opens and remember to be kind to folks you see. Everyone has challenges.
There are many people like me that you will rarely see, but we are still here.

By the way, can anyone out there explain to me the obsession with and subsequent shortage of toilet paper?
Seriously.

JUNE 2020 CALENDAR

All of June: At this time we have no TG's or other activities scheduled. If that changes before the next issue of the Head-Line is sent, we will post it to the calendar on the MMM Website.

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