OCTOBER 2020

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 558



HEAD-LINE NO. 558 OCTOBER 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
Vice Loc Sec:	Elizabeth Evangelista	517-351-3645	evangel6@comcast.net
Scribe:	Wendy Carnegie	517-775-0648	w.carnegie@comcast.net
	Sharon Plavnick	517-285-8740	sharonslp@ameritech.net
	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
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:			
SIGHT Coord:	Dee Becker	517-349-3292	deebecker@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer:	Robert Henderson	517-676-3369	rlhenderson@peoplepc.com

HEAD-LINE EDITOR

	Sharon Plavnick.	517-285-8740	sharonslp@ameritech.net
Distribution Manager	John Garrison;	517-349-7313	MidMIMensa@aol.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.

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EDITOR'S COLUMN:

FROM MY BRAIN TO YOURS

by Sharon Plavnick

I am writing this the day after Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death. I feel a profound sense of loss; she has long been one of my icons and I fancied myself just a tad bit connected to her by a shared love of studying the law. The world has lost an amazing soul.

As we draw closer to what promises to be a hugely historical presidential election, I alternate between feelings of hope, of fear, of rage, and when all those feelings get to be too much, I feel numb. I know many people feel the same way, but possibly for different reasons. I hope that when I start writing December's column, I'll have a more cheerful outlook about the state of our world. I hope we all will.

And of course, we are still slogging our way through life trying to avoid catching the cootie-bug known as Covid-19. I'm staying out of restaurants for the long haul, so I won't see any of you for quite a while yet. Maybe next spring. I've had a few delightful chats with friends at parks, and with good weather luck, that can continue throughout October. Good luck, all my friends…stay safe; stay healthy.

What about all of you? 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 September 2020

by Robert Henderson

We are learning more and more about the Coronavirus: how it is transmitted, who is at risk, and new treatment options to reduce morbidity. Here in Michigan the average number of daily COVID-19 deaths has fallen into the single digits recently. Speaking for myself, participating in social events such as going out for dinner once a month with fellow Mensans (while taking appropriate precautions) would seem to add enough to my quality of life to be worth the risk. Your mileage may vary. . .

Based on feedback from the attendees at MMM's Summer Anniversary Party in August and our First Annual Fall Party in September, we plan to

schedule MMM dinners once per month until further notice. There is a private room at the Delhi Cafe that can accommodate our usual attendees even with social distancing, and we trust them to make sure that all their staff members are properly masked. See the MMM Events Calendar inside the back cover for further details. We look forward to seeing you there, starting this month on Ost. 8, which is a THURSDAY rather than our usual Friday. Do we need a new name for our TGIF dinners??

Two MERF Scholarships were awarded to applicants from our area who have returned to college this school year. . . Thanks again to the MMMensans who made the effort to read and judge the best essays from an initial pool of 47 applicants earlier this year! Unfortunately, we have had no volunteers for the vacant Scholarship Chair position among MMM's appointed officers, so we will not be participating in the MERF Scholarship Program for the 2021-2022 school year. Would any of you be interested in participating in this worthwhile program for the 2022-2023 school year? Neither have I heard from anyone who would like to participate in Mensa's Culture Quest trivia competition (being held online only this year), so MMM will be unable to compete again until next year. If you would like to join in MMM's trivia challenge to the other Mensa groups next year, please let me know!

On a more promising note, one of our members who was unable to get onto the MMM Facebook page suggested that he might have the time and skills to help with such MMM Webmaster responsibilities. I reached out to the Southeast Michigan Mensa Facebook Administrator, who wrote back to describe how easy it is to set up a group in Facebook. Maybe between us we can get MMM's Facebook page up and running again! Wouldn't it be nice to have another way to socialize safely with our fellow local Mensans? Please let me know if you would like to join this group, and I'll add you to the list of those who can view our page on Facebook!

RVC 3 OCTOBER, 2020 Column

John Voymas

Pitchforks and Torches

Recently, as I was reading comments in the Mensa Connect communities and on Facebook, I had an image from the movie "Frankenstein" where the villagers are storming the castle with pitchforks and torches. What caused that image to be brought to the forefront of my mind? The responses from some of the members who had received the email that they had access to an electronic "badge" - either a Life Member badge or general Member badge.

I wasn't sure whether COVID-19 isolation had caused some members to be ready to storm any castle or other stressors from the year 2020 have increased the sensitivity of some of us. I know for me, being laid off since the end of March hasn't been rosy and wonderful. Bills have to be paid. A new job has to be uncovered. I have found myself noticing more erratic drivers lately and this has been frustrating me since I prefer safety on the roads, so I guess I am not immune.

The National Office continues to work hard during these trying times. They had arranged with one of the major providers of badges and certifications in the electronic world to provide all current members of Mensa with an electronic membership "badge". This is the electronic equivalent of the physical membership card that we receive. In fact, an advantage of the electronic badge is that current membership can be instantly verified. In the past, I have had members express concern about former members, who may have nefarious intent, using their physical membership card to find out where events are being held so that they could attend even though they were no longer welcome. The electronic badge can reduce that risk.

In the online/electronic world, badges and certifications are becoming common. The same week that I received the Mensa email, I had earned two I. T. certifications which included electronic "badges". I can use those in my job search to allow a potential employer to instantly determine whether I truly do have those certifications. Many companies today (including Microsoft and IBM) provide electronic certifications. If

you use Facebook at all, you will notice that they use badges to identify "Rising Stars", "Authors", and prolific fans of certain pages. You may not have noticed the "Rising Star" or "Author" badge, but normally Facebook does ask you if you want the "fan" badge to show up when you post to a page. That one does require you to accept the badge just like the email from American Mensa via Acclaim by Credly asked if you wanted to accept your Mensa membership badge.

Yes, I agree that the National Office could have sent an email from American Mensa to all members informing them to expect the email from Acclaim by Credly. They had published articles in the July 21st Mensa Wired and then in the July 28th Mensa Leader emails. They had also added this service to the benefits and service section of the American Mensa website (https://www.us.mensa.org/shop/benefits-and-services/digital-membership-verification/). However, not everyone reads those two emails and members do not usually go to the benefits and service section on a regular basis to see what the latest and greatest is. So, an email from American Mensa, sent just before the badge email, would probably have reduced the concerns. All current members were sent the email that provided them with the opportunity to accept this new service and create a badge account with Credly because Credly had agreed not to charge their nominal fee for current members. Only future members (and those who declined the badge and then want one in the future) will incur a nominal cost to American Mensa.

The badge service agreement is similar to the agreements with our Bulletin printer/publisher and the third-party which manages our elections. We provide the contact information for the specific use only. They cannot use this info to market anything to us and they cannot sell this info. American Mensa provides the bare information needed in order to have these services.

So, let's sit down and watch a couple of my favorite movies "Young Frankenstein" and "Young Einstein". Until I watched the latter, I did not know that young Einstein had discovered how to split the beer atom. :-)

Take care and have a wonderful month!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Last month I included a letter from a Mensan who expressed many concerns about the badge program. I hope John's column above answers any lingering questions you might have had. I did have one reader, named Jeff, who wrote me in response to last month's column. He said *"I looked for more insight into the badge. Finding little and noting they were more interested in me joining than offering information I declined. It seems both Mensa and this company are attempting to leverage our reputations. I find that wrong on several levels."*

Thanks, Jeff, for participating in the conversation. The fact that this program raised this level of comment and concern from members says to me that at the very least, the National Office dropped the ball on providing background and a heads-up for members. But maybe they never dreamed it would raise this amount of concern. When I first received the notice, I viewed it as a take it or leave it offer. I chose to leave it, and that was the end of it for me. Didn't feel right or wrong; just felt unnecessary. Mensans can kick an issue around forever, but this is probably the end of any local discussion about it here in the Head-Line, unless anyone has something they want to say.

PUZZLE: THREE PRISONERS AND THEIR HATS
submitted by Bob Henderson

Three prisoners are told that at midnight, in the dark, each will be fitted with a red or blue hat according to a fair coin flip. The lights will then briefly be turned on, enabling each prisoner to see every other prisoner's hat color. After that, however, the prisoners will not be able to communicate in any way. Each prisoner will then be taken aside and given the option of trying to guess whether his or her own hat is red or blue, but he or she may choose to pass instead. All three prisoners will be freed if (1) at least one prisoner chooses to guess his or her hat color, and (2) every prisoner who chooses to guess guesses correctly.

The prisoners have a chance to devise a strategy before the game begins. Can they achieve a winning probability greater than 50%?

See answer on page 7.

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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

John Garrison, Membership Chair

115 Members

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Peter Wood 26

OCTOBER MENSAVERSARIES

Ingrid Nova	**1**
Alec Knox	**1**
Eric Lager	**1**
John Abbott	**2**
Michael Lutz	**2**
David Murley	**4**
Audrey Yoo	**4**
Saif Fatteh	**10**
Robert Henderson	**11**
Robert Huston	**14**
Wendy Kassal	**33**

No members new to the group or moving out.

MEMBERSHIP INFO

American Mensa has 124 groups totaling 46,037 members
Mid MI Mensa has 115 members and is ranked 99 out of the 124
The largest group is New York with 1825 members
The smallest group is Southern Mississippi with 49

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

All children are born colorblind. It is their parents and associates who teaches them the difference between black and white

Puzzle Answer:

Most of the time, some hats will be blue and some red. Arrange it so that any prisoner who sees two hats of the same color guesses that his or her own hat is the **other** color, while those who see both colors choose to pass. Then the prisoners win whenever both colors are present, which happens with probability 75% (six possibilities out of eight). If all three hats are the same color, the prisoners will all guess wrongly, but that will happen only 25% of the time.

MEET A FELLOW MENSAN

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you want this feature to continue, please respond to some of these. Don't overthink it…one or two sentence responses are just right. Skip any Qs that you don't want to answer. Please don't be shy. This is YOUR newsletter….please participate.

Send your response to: sharonslp@ameritech.net

- Your first job? Your best job? Your worst job? Your dream job?
- Pet peeve(s)? (No more than 3
- 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
- Favorite travel experience
- Hobbies/interests
- Favorite food(s)
- At the top of your bucket list

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
by Barb Ford
written on 9/08/2020

Interesting time we are living in. Extremes seem to be the norm now. Usually I publish a recipe, but this month I am asking everyone who reads this to consciously do something thoughtful and kind for someone today and every day. It seems people are quick to judge and react to others. Please remember each person you encounter is dealing with their own set of challenges. Just a smile or a sweet word may completely transform somebody's world. This is bigger than we know.

I have been observing the Schumann Resonance for a while, and for the past three years it has been wild. Normally 7.83Hz, it reached 68Hz this morning. This influences humans and animals alike. Some folks may struggle, and some may become euphoric. Some may experience a host of physical and emotional symptoms including pain, anxiety and even joy. Some sensitive people may choose to withdraw. The most important thing is to elevate ourselves and be kind to others. At the very least, try to say positive things, even if you do not feel it. For some, this may be a challenge, but please think about it. Watch the smiles you generate.

For my fellow sky watchers out there…has anyone else noticed weird things? I have for the past three years. Super weird lately. Otherworldly. Enough said here. Call me if you want to discuss it.

There are many things happening in the world now. Most I have agreed not to discuss. Soon, all will be known. There seems to be a thin veil between this world and the Other Side. Blurred lines and deceptions. Many souls we thought were gone shall return.

Things will get better, but for some folks it will get worse before we emerge on the other side. All will be well.

Welcome to The Great Awakening.

"How easy it is to make people believe a lie and how hard it is to undo that work again."

Mark Twain

"Peace can only come as a natural consequence of universal enlightenment."

Nikola Tesla

OCTOBER 2020 CALENDAR

Fri. Oct. 2	**TGIF -** CANCELLED
Thurs. Oct. 8	**TGI THURSDAY - Delhi Cafe:** 4625 Willoughby Rd, Holt, between Cedar St and Aurelius Rd. A Mensa favorite with good Greek and American food. We will have a private room with enough space for social distancing. Wear a mask whenever you are not seated.
Fri. Oct. 9	**TGIF -** CANCELLED
Fri. Oct. 16	**TGIF -** CANCELLED
Fri. Oct 23	**TGIF -** CANCELLED

Fri. Oct. 30 TGIF - CANCELLED

Fri. Nov. 6 TGIF - CANCELLED

Fri. Nov. 13 TGIF - CANCELLED

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