APRIL 2021

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 564



HEAD-LINE NO. 564 APRIL 2021
MID-MICHIGAN MENSA

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EDITOR'S COLUMN:

FROM MY BRAIN TO YOURS

by Sharon Plavnick

I'm writing this column while still enjoying balmy Florida temps and breezes… I still think I'm in the perfect place. But when this issue arrives in your mailbox, I'll be back home in Michigan with all of you. I have mixed feelings about that.

Aside from the obvious weather advantages for me, I've just plain enjoyed the location and the people at the condo complex we are staying at. I look forward to returning here next year (contract already signed) and renewing and expanding friendships that have begun.

I love the constant presence of BIG birds…on the ground and soaring in the air. I love visiting a local eagle nest regularly and watching the fledgling eagles get ready to fly, and sometimes getting to see the parent eagles swoop in with a morsel to eat. I love that when we arrived here in late December there was plenty of green, and plenty of colorful flowers. It felt like spring then. But watching spring really arrive…through February and March…it's a daily discovery of new greens and new gorgeous flowers.

I love that a great sunset viewing is always just a few minutes away. Or a surf pounding body of water. Or a peaceful waterway. Or a mesmerizing bird sanctuary.

I have no desire to become a Florida home-owner. But I feel like I've found a home away from home.

Still…I'm looking forward to F2F re-connecting with longtime friends at home. I'm looking forward to putting my backyard bird feeders back up; sure hope my birdies will forgive me for leaving. I'm looking forward to playing at gardening in containers again. I'm looking forward to seeing my three Ann Arbor grandchildren in person again rather than on Zoom. (I think I'll have to wait for Denver kids to be vaccinated before I travel there again. We'll see.)

Anyway, if home is where the heart is, I'm grateful that I have multiple places to call home.

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 APRIL 2021

by Robert Henderson, Loc Sec

What online games have you enjoyed enough to keep playing them if and when pandemic restrictions are lifted? I will probably continue playing the same online games that I have played since before the pandemic. I enjoyed crosswords, double-crostics, and Scrabble when I was growing up, so I usually have a few games of "Words with Friends" in progress on Facebook. I have always had a retentive memory, so I enjoy playing "Quiz Planet" (also on Facebook). I used to love reading Martin Gardner's "Mathematical Games" column in Scientific American magazine, so I enjoy competing in online math puzzle contests such as the Museum of Mathematics' "Mind-Benders for the Quarantined." I never got very good at Pool, but in the past year I have enjoyed playing "8-Ball Pool" with my son on Facebook. Offline, I enjoy flying simulated model planes of my own design on my PC and building real-life versions to fly in my back yard, whenever Michigan weather cooperates. But enough about me. . . What have you enjoyed lately?

If and when we are all able to socialize freely again, who else would look forward to attending monthly MMM table game sessions? There are plenty of Mensa Select games such as Quirkle to choose from. . . What are your favorites? We'd love to play them with you!

Many of us are looking forward to resuming MMM's weekly TGIF dinners, but the consensus for now is that it would be safer to wait until outdoor dining is practical. In the meantime, Ginny and I will be happy to make plans to dine with any of our friends who feel comfortable dining indoors (we will take your word for it that you have been vaccinated). This could easily change if new COVID variants start to surge or dine-in restaurants are shut down again. . . Keep an eye on the MMM online Events Calendar for updates!

RVC 3 APRIL, 2021 Column

John Voymas

Did March come in like a lion and go out like a lamb? Will April showers bring May flowers? I sure hope so. I could use some spring. This has been one of the coldest winters in many years. Growing up in the Northeast (Waltham, Massachusetts), I do remember the really cold and snowy winters as a child. We always had winter break the last week of February - a full week off of school. I think that they did that because that's when we would get the blizzards and heavy snowfall every year. Kind of like pre-planning snow days by simply declaring a week-long vacation in advance. The downside was that my birthday always fell during that week, so I never did get to have a classroom birthday party.

As a young adult, I attended colleges in Utica, NY and Rochester, NY. Utica is in what is referred to as "the Snowbelt". The winters there were long and harsh. And with narrow streets, the piles of snow between the street and the sidewalk were like six-foot berms. One winter, our last snowfall was on Mother's Day. A winter could have about two hundred inches of snowfall - kind of like Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Buffalo is also famous for lots of snow. Fortunately, Rochester was slightly better compared to Utica to the east and Buffalo to the west.

The extreme cold temperatures in Texas recently are a periodic occurrence - just not at this level. This time much of the state had rolling blackouts and natural gas and water that could not reach people's homes. Natural gas has a small amount of moisture in it. Normally, that is not a problem, but with the really cold temps, the natural gas could not travel and hundreds of power generating stations and water facilities that depended on natural gas for their fuel could not function. I lived in Austin, Texas from August, 1982 to August, 1985. The winter of 1983 - 1984 saw some single-digit temps in December and three (small) snowfalls in January. Since many of the water pipes were in the ceiling, it was necessary to drip the faucets - unfortunately, in the complex that I lived in, many students who resided there had gone home for the holidays and many came home to find some serious water damage. The driving in January would not have been too difficult for those of us who had lived in

the North, but with local folks having little to no experience, my six mile drive home from work took three hours.

Since the voting period runs from April 15 to May 15, you will have a few more weeks to "meet the candidates" and to learn what they plan to contribute to American Mensa should they be the chosen one. You will find them on various Facebook groups as well as in the Mensa Connect Communities. Some will be coming to Regional Gatherings (RGs) in various parts of the country. I will be hosting a "Meet the Candidates" Zoom meeting on Saturday, April 10 at 1:00 PM. The information will be in American Mensa Events Calendar https://www.us.mensa.org/attend/calendar/. It will also be posted in the Region 3 Mensa Connect Community and the Region 3 Facebook page

Dayton Area Mensa just had their RG on March 26 - 28. This was a virtual event on Zoom. Western Pennsylvania Mensa is looking forward to once again hosting an RG during Labor Day weekend. Columbus will be having an RG in October. Hopefully, we can meet face-to-face at these two events. Details on these should be available on the national calendar of events

I plan on seeing some of you in real life over the next few months. I will have been fully vaccinated by the time you read this. Stay safe and prepare for a future of sunshine and gatherings!

PLEA FOR HELP

Barb Ford, who writes our monthly Food For Thought column wants to know if anyone out there in MMM-land knows how to detect and defend against malicious electronic harassment? She is having a rough time. Let me know if you can help her, and I'll connect the two of you.

PUZZLES

submitted by Bob Henderson

HISTORY PUZZLE:

Put these eight 20th-century events into chronological order:

A. First skateboard sold
B. "The X-Files" premieres
C. First Target and Wal-Mart stores open
D. First issue of USA Today
E. Opening of the Pentagon
F. Lindbergh's solo flight across the Atlantic
G. Bill Gates founds Microsoft
H. "Wizard of Oz" premieres

Hint: Each event occurred in a different decade.

See answer on page 10.

Bob's Word Ladder Puzzle

Starting with the first word, can you change one letter at a time to reach the second word?
All intermediate words must be in a standard English dictionary.

From SAD to JOY in 3 to 4 steps?
From DEAF to LOUD in 4 steps?
From SIGH to GASP in 5 to 8 steps?
From BLACK to WHITE in 7 to 10 steps?
From FROWN to SMILE in 8 to 9 steps?
From GROAN to LAUGH in 9 to 13 steps?
From TIMID to BRAVE in 10 to 16 steps?
From CODED to PLAIN in 9 to 19 steps?
From BLIND to SIGHT in 9 to 23 steps?
From WRONG to RIGHT in 11 to 24 steps?

For answers, click on the "Word Ladder Solver" link on the "Puzzles" page at the MMM Website.

APRIL 2021 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

John Garrison, Membership Chair
122 Members

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2 Keith Stewart
9 Carol Scot
19 John Paduch
20 Richard Hobrla
29 Rona Landfield

APRIL MENSAVERSARIES

1 Ian Clemente
6 Walter Purvis
11 Gregory Listig
11 David Cushard
15 Karen Petersmarck
17 Gary Gordon
30 Gail Wolfe
31 Patricia Thuemmel

IN MEMORIAM

Eileen Hatt

We are sad to report the death of longtime member, Eileen Hatt. Prior to her failing health issues, Eileen was a mainstay at Friday night TG dinners; those of you who didn't get to enjoy her wit and wisdom missed out on someone special. Her obituary can be found at:
https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/lansing-mi/eileen-hatt-9710228

Other Matters

American Mensa has 48,588 members in 124 groups. The largest group is Greater New York with 1930 members. The smallest group is Southern Mississippi with 54 members. Mid Michigan Mensa ranks number 99 with 122 members.

PONDER THIS

by John Garrison

Last month, I commented about the quantity of media portrayals on TV shows of both interracial couples and gay/lesbian couples. I specifically pondered about:

> Is the media going overboard in an attempt for social equality? I have no idea what the actual percentage of couples in the real world are of mixed race or sexual preference. Does anybody have an answer? As I said earlier, “I’m just curious”.

John received two responses to this.

1. Gail and Al Wolfe say: We agree with John Garrison's comments. It does look like the media is going overboard in an attempt for social equality.

2. Sharon Plavnick adds: I don’t offhand know the statistics either, and I guess I don’t care enough to go search for them. On the face of it, I tend to agree that the media probably does give the impression that interracial couples and same-sex marriages are more prevalent than what most of us encounter in real life. I think it’s safe to assume that people who live in larger cities can count more friends/acquaintances/colleagues in these categories than people in rural areas or very small towns. Likewise, it probably makes a difference which part of the country you live in.

But I also extended John’s question to ponder whether it matters. My own humble opinion is that I’m in favor of normalizing these kinds of family units to help counter the many decades of negative stereotyping that fed into discrimination for so long. In the end though, I watch a TV series because I enjoy the premise, the actors are good, and the dialogue moves the story along in an interesting way.

Anyone else care to join this conversation?

JOHN'S NEW TOPIC FOR APRIL

I can argue with anyone depending on the topic. My exceptions are Religion and Politics. We all have opinions on a variety of topics. What are your hotspots and what will you discuss and what won't you discuss. Please state your reasoning.

I have been writing this column for the last 6 months. I have covered topics ranging from time travel to super powers to racial issues. I have solicited replies but have only received a few responses. How about some group participation? Let's hear from you. I WOULD LOVE SOME MORE RESPONSES

Anyone else? Send your thoughts to John at midmimensa@aol.com or to me at sharonslp@ameritech.net and I'll publish them under John's byline.

WHAT ARE YOU READING RIGHT NOW?

What's everyone reading these days? I'd like to make this a monthly feature. I don't need an entire book review...just a title and author will do. If you add a sentence or two about it, that would be frosting on the cupcake. I will attach your name to your title unless you tell me you'd prefer to be anonymous.

I've finished "Olive Again" by Elizabeth Strout (the continuing adventures of Olive Kitteridge as she navigates old age); "The End of October" by Lawrence Wright (a pandemic tale not for the faint of heart); and "The Gown" by Jennifer Robson (a pleasant novel revolving around the creation of Queen Elizabeth's wedding gown).
I've just started "The Rationing" by Charles Wheelan, another pandemic novel. Yes…I'm a glutton for scaring myself silly.

All the rest of you? Let me know at Sharonslp@ameritech.net.
Or join us on Facebook and get the list in advance.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
by Barb Ford

Eating healthy is a very good thing, but finding good snacks is a challenge, and generally not so easy on the wallet. I love Larabars, so I decided to come up with a recipe to make something similar at home. For inspiration, I searched YouTube for fruit and nut bars. So many recipes, many not in English, but entertaining to watch. This type of dessert/snack concept seems to have originated in and around the Middle East. In India, this dessert is called Burfi. Some recipes are cooked, but all incorporate some form of dried fruit, nuts, seeds, and sometimes oil or ghee. The fruit to nut/seed ratios vary widely, so I began my own experiments to find what worked and tasted best to me. I had a great day in the kitchen.

Please note that the quality and freshness of ingredients in a recipe such as this really matter. I always search for organic ingredients. Fortunately, there are more options than ever. One of my favorite, most reliable and reasonably priced product sources has been Swanson. (www.swansonvitamins.com). They have a huge selection of organic foods, and stock almost every product made by Bob's Red Mill. I purchased nearly all products in this recipe from Swanson.

Flax meal is very perishable, so make sure it is fresh for this recipe. Golden flax seeds contain more desirable omega-3, and taste more buttery than brown flax seeds. The ground flax seed meal is more digestible than whole seeds, and are ideal for this recipe.

Feel free to switch up the fruits, nuts, and seeds to incorporate your favorites. Just keep the ratio as close as possible. I worked hard on it.

BARB'S FRUIT AND NUT BARS

Ingredients:
1 C Organic Pitted Dates
½ t Sea Salt (Best: Eden's French Celtic Sea Salt)
2 T Organic Unsulphured Coconut Shreds (Swanson)
3 T Organic Golden Flax Meal (Bob's Red Mill)
1 T Organic Unflavored Coconut Oil, melted

1½ C Raw Sliced Almonds, (lightly toasted)

Directions:
Lightly toast the sliced almonds, set aside to cool. Using a food processor, pulse dates until medium coarse. Add sea salt, coconut and flax meal. Pulse until just mixed. Add coconut oil and pulse until mixture appears uniform. Add almonds, and pulse until mixed. It should appear crumbly. Turn out the mixture onto parchment paper, and form into a log. Roll tightly in the parchment paper. Refrigerate a few hours, or overnight. Slice into discs and serve. This can be stored in an air tight container in the refrigerator for up to two weeks.

Puzzle Answer:

History Puzzle Answers:

F. 1927 (Lindbergh flies the Atlantic)
H. 1939 ("Wizard of Oz" premieres)
E. 1942 (Opening of the Pentagon)
A. 1956 (First skateboard sold)
C. 1962 (First Target and Wal-Mart stores)
G. 1975 (Bill Gates founds Microsoft)
D. 1982 (First issue of USA Today)
B. 1993 ("The X-Files" premieres)

ANIMAL CURIOSITY
By Uncle John

We have all been perplexed by the question, “What came first, the chicken or the egg?” The best answer that I have ever read concerned a child’s reaction to the question. A little girl in a Catholic school gave the perfect response to the conundrum when she replied “the chicken”. When her teacher asked her why the chicken she promptly replied, “Because God would never lay an egg”. Out of the mouths of babes.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Have you all noticed that a lot of bylines in our Head-Line go to John Garrison, Barb Ford, and Bob Henderson? I am grateful that they come through every single month to help me flesh out 8 to 12 pages worth of content. But I am certain there are others of you with something worthwhile to add. A poem, a recipe, a pondering, a book/TV/movie review. A few lines or a whole page or two. You send it; I'll (probably) publish it. (send to SharonSLP@ameritech.net)

THE WONDERS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

BY Charlie Fitzgibbons

(Thanks to John Garrison for contributing this)

I have always been fascinated by the way we use the English language. How could two words spelled the same have 2 different meanings? Take Polish and polish for example. One is a country (or nationality) and the other is what you do to your shoes or to a piece of silver. Weird huh? Below are a few for your enjoyment.

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was used to produce produce.
3. The dump was so full it had to refuse refuse.
4. He could lead the race if he could get the lead out.
5. The soldier decided to desert the dessert in the desert.
6. Since there was no time like the present, he decided that it was time to present the present.
7. I did not object to the object.
8. The insurance for the invalid was invalid.
9. He was too close to the door to close it.
10. There was a row among the oarsmen about the proper way to row.

BASEBALL TRIVIA

By Chiam Greenberg

(Thanks to John Garrison for contributing this)

1.The best pitcher award is presented every year and is called the Cy Young Award. What was Cy's real name? Hint; it was not Cyrus.

2.The Best hitter in baseball history was Ty Cobb, a former Tiger. What was his real first name?

3.How about the Dean Brothers. Great pitchers; they were nicknamed Dizzy and Daffy. Their real names?

4.Former manager of The Big Red Machine and the Tigers was Sparky Anderson. His name?

5.Yogi Berra. Hall of famer from the Yankees. Name him?

6.Another Yankee; Babe Ruth. His name?

7.Only one player in the major leagues has his first name imprinted on the back of his uniform. All other players have their last. Who is he and what does his name mean? (I know not all the teams put the player's name on the Jersey. I'm speaking in generalities).

8.Name the only father and son combination to play in the major leagues on the same team at the same time.

9.What is a pitcher's WHIP?

10.What team won the 1969 worldseries and what was their acquired nickname?

BASEBALL TRIVIA ANSWERS

1.Denton True Young. Cy came from a sports writer who after seeing young Denton throw said, "He throws like a cyclone."

2.Trick question; It was Tyrus Raymond Cobb.

3.Dizzy was Jay (or Jerome) Hanna Dean. Daffy was Paul.

4.George

5.Lawrence – sometimes called Larry.

6.George Herman Ruth.

7.Ichiro Suzuki. Translated in Japanese is Ichi – number one and ro – son. He was the first son born to his parents.

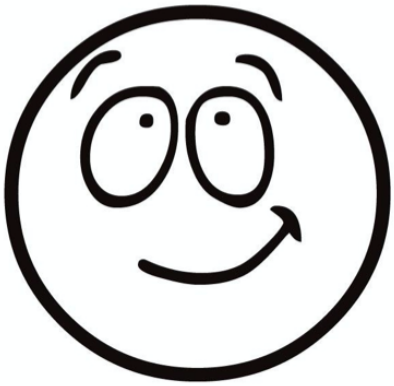
8.The Griffey's: Ken senior and Ken junior.

9.A statistic; Walks, Hits, per Innings Pitched.

10.The NY Mets. Called the Miracle Mets.

APRIL 2021 CALENDAR

MMM DINNERS ARE STILL CANCELLED BUT POSSIBLY WE'LL BE READY FOR OUTDOOR DINING SOON



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STAY TUNED

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