MARCH 2023

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 587



HEAD-LINE NO. 587 MARCH 2023
MID-MICHIGAN MENSA

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The Head-Line is the monthly publication of Mid-Michigan Mensa. Annual subscription rate is $5.00 for members and is paid through American Mensa, LTD. The annual non-member rate is $10.00 and is limited to current members of other Mensa groups. Office of Publication is 3369 Harper Rd; Mason MI 48854.

EDITOR'S COLUMN:

FROM MY BRAIN TO YOURS

by Sharon Plavnick

My body is still basking in balmy Florida sunshine. My heart and soul are home where I belong while all my friends and neighbors are still trying to process the senseless shootings at MSU. Can these events ever really be processed? I don't see a way to make sense of a society where violence lurks around every corner. My brain is feeling stuck in sadness.

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 March 2023

by Robert Henderson, Loc Sec

Happy spring! We haven't had a very cold winter, but it still feels good to see it coming to an end. . . With a bit of luck, we can put this past winter's losses behind us and make some new spring beginnings instead.

Who likes trivia contests? Mensa members, of course! I know a few of our Local Group members who play Pub Trivia at their favorite watering holes at least once a week. If this describes you, you may also enjoy participating in Mensa's annual Culture Quest competition. This year I plan to register a team by the end of March for the annual competition to be held at the end of April. We will met in a member's home for 90 minutes to answer as many of the questions in the Culture Quest packet as possible (no peeking!), then send them in for scoring.

Please let me know whether you would like to compete on this team or even form a second team of 5 or fewer local Mensa members. The Steering Committee has already authorized payment of the $50.00 registration fee, meaning that it will cost you nothing to participate! Cash prizes will be given to the Local Group teams with the highest scores. . . Do you have the knowledge to put an MMM Culture Quest team over the top this year?

Mid-Michigan Mensa has also participated in another competition with cash prizes over the past few months: the Mensa Foundation Scholarship Contest. Two teams of MMM judges have read and scored 55 essays by local college students in order to determine which of them made a good enough case to be sent on for the awarding of

scholarships. This year, I plan to keep track of the local winners so that we can see the results of our judging efforts and let them know whom to thank for deeming their essays award-worthy. AML is holding MMM money earmarked for local scholarships, so it will be gratifying to see that it's being put to good use.

Mitchell's Musings - RVC3 Column MARCH 2023

"The key to change is to let go of fear"- Roseanne Cash

During the month of January, I was on medical leave from work due to surgery. (Before you ask, I'm OK now). During this time my workplace went through 3 major changes: a new CEO, a construction issue that will put back the opening of our new building by an entire year, and a transition from google platforms to Microsoft that did not go smoothly. You can imagine how my first day back went.

I had just under 5k unread emails in my inbox. I'd previously only spent a few hours with my new boss, and it was really hard to start figuring out what types of changes she was going to want to make in the areas that fall into my supervision and what had already happened in my absence. The IT guy who was handling the transition with the outside vendor reports to me, and he was so stressed that he had literally shaved his head. My most understaffed department hadn't hired a single person, despite having dozens of candidates sent to them. And my "new" laptop has been with the vendor since early November, and is still not available. I tell you this not because I want you to pity me, but because change is hard. My second day was much easier because I had a chance to digest, prioritize, and take a deep breath.

It became really clear that most of the initial breakdowns I was seeing were not because of incompetence, but plain old communications and learning curves. One staff was getting really frustrated because he was communicating things the way HE would want to be told, without taking into account a difference in knowledge base. Another was reacting entirely out of fear of an unknown, but was too ashamed to admit they didn't know a thing. A lot of plans were made based on one set of assumptions, and WHOOPS something else is happening, and 15 paragraph explanation emails somehow didn't help everyone's state of mind.

This is a pretty extreme example of it, but emotions get heavily tied to managing change. Change happens in Mensa too. I'm not talking

necessarily these kinds of big scale things, although they can and do happen, but anything that takes us out of our comfort zones can create an emotional reaction. Every new process, communication tool, new leader, new volunteer signals change. As the gifted 2% we are able to make connections between things faster and easier than most people, and so our ability to adapt can be a superpower, if we are willing to use it and then to communicate to others in a way that they will get it, instead of the way we process it.

Speaking of change—Dayton Mensa has had to make a last minute location change for their March 24-26 RG from Miamisburg OH to Sharonville OH. Kudos to them for their flexibility to continue to offer a great event. And SEMMantics at will be held virtually Saturday April 15th to increase accessibility to members. Much more fun than doing taxes!

Lora Mitchell
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March Theodore Talk

" **The Societal Foundations of National Competitiveness ".**

This virtual event will take place on Zoom March 26 at 2:30 p.m. Central Time (3:30 Eastern, 12:30 Pacific, 7:30 GMT).

ABSTRACT
Nations rise and fall, succeed or fail in rivalries, and enjoy stability or descend into chaos because of a complex web of factors that affect competitive advantage. One critical component is the package of essential social characteristics of a nation. The ultimate story of the Cold War is that the United States was simply a more competitive society than the Soviet Union: more energetic, more vibrant, more innovative, more productive, more legitimate.

The RAND Corporation undertook a 15-month study, supported by the Office of Net Assessment in the Pentagon, to search for shared qualities of nations which enjoyed success in the international system. Through analysis of comparative studies of historical eras and trends, historical case studies, and the findings of issue-specific empirical research historical case studies, the resulting report explores how seven characteristics of a society determine its competitive standing and distinguish dynamic and competitively successful nations.

If the history surveyed in this report provides an accurate guide to the future, fate of the United States in today's rivalries will not be determined solely, or even in significant degree, by the numbers of its weapons or amounts of defense spending or how many proxy wars it wins but by the basic characteristics of its society.

Dr. Michael Mazarr, Senior Political Scientist at the RAND Corporation, applies the seven leading characteristics that affect national standing to the United States to create a snapshot of where the country stands. That application provides some reason for optimism. The United States continues to reflect many of these characteristics, and the overall synergistic engine, more than any other large country in the world. However, multiple trends are working to weaken traditional U.S. advantages. Several, such as the corruption of the national information space, pose acute risks to the long-term dynamism and competitiveness of the nation, raising the worrying prospect that the United States has begun to display classic patterns of a major power on the far side of its dynamic and vital curve.

Register for this presentation at https://tinyurl.com/mvwuppjj.
You must register for each lecture with an email address associated with your Zoom account. If you don't have one, you can sign up for a free Zoom account at https://zoom.us/signup.

Theodore Talks take place on Zoom the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m. CT.
A list of future Theodore Talks can be found on the Mensa National Events Calendar at https://www.us.mensa.org/attend/calendar/, or by viewing the January issue of the Mensa Bulletin. The article on the 2023 Theodore Talks begins on p. 26. The PDF for the magazine can be found here:
https://cdn.coverstand.com/28885/770839/b31f233c57e663919d0e24eaaf61c9f62f52e902.pdf

Questions? Contact Brad Lucht at TheodoreTalks@MAMensa.org.

Bob's Word Puzzle for March: Word Loops

The two five-letter words ERROR and ORDER (and back to ERROR) make a loop: the last two letters of each word are the first two letters of the next. The three five-letter words EDEMA, MAVEN, ENDED, and back to EDEMA make a similar loop.

Can you find longer loops of 5-letter words? I found examples for 4, 5, and 6 words. Can you do as well, or even better?

Bob's Math Puzzle for March:

You may remember that a prime number can be divided evenly only by itself and 1, but have you ever heard of a "pseudo-prime" number? That is a number that seems like it might be prime, but it is actually a product of two primes. For the puzzles below, neither prime factor should be 3, 5, or 7, because it is so easy to find that they divide evenly into the pseudo-prime. Can you find the largest pseudo-prime numbers that are less than:

A) One thousand?
B) Ten thousand?
C) One hundred thousand?
D) One million?

Bob's Trivia Quiz

How many of these 15 questions can you answer correctly? If you can get ten or more right, ask Bob about joining this year's MMM Culture Quest team (it's free!). Team registrations are due by March 31.

1) In what country is the Rialto?
2) Which state has no counties?
3) What is a young swan called?
4) How many acres are there in a square mile?
5) Which state entered the Union first?
6) Who said "knowledge is power"?
7) What mineral is known as Fool's Gold?
8) Who was the "March King"?
9) Which of Popeye's friends was fond of hamburgers?
10) Who was the Greek goddess of beauty?
11) In what city and state is Dartmouth University located?
12) What is a drum major's hat called?
13) What was the name of Henry Hudson's ship?
14) Who wrote the opera "Carmen"?
15) How did Socrates die?

See Answers on page 7.

MARCH 2023 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
Kathy Teshich, Membership Chair
115 members

BIRTHDAYS

Jeffrey Buchhop	Mar 2	Steven Spitzley	Mar 18
David Brown	Mar 4	Michael Bohde	Mar 24
Roderick Baltzer	Mar 5	Thomas Korkoske	Mar 26
Eric Sanko	Mar 17	Frank Dolinar	Mar 26

MENSAVERSERIES

Larenzo Langone	1 yr	Eric Laverty	14 yrs
Carol Scot	4 yrs	Keith Shaw	14 yrs
Ian Smith	7 yrs	John Paduch	17 yrs
Jennifer Feasal	8 yrs	Roberta McCall	23 yrs
Kobe Hixon	10 yrs	Brinton Butler	23 yrs
Neal Forss	12 yrs	Elizabeth Evangelista	48 yrs
Kathleen Kohagen	13 yrs	Michael Knowlton	48 yrs

Answers To Puzzles

Bob's Word Puzzle Answers

4 words: ERRED, EDEMA, MAJOR, ORDER
5 words: AWARE, REFER, ERRED, EDEMA, MACAW
6 words: MAPLE, LEVEL, ELUDE, DEFER, ERRED, EDEMA

Math Puzzle Answers

A) 989 = 23 X 43
B) 9997 = 13 X 769
C) 99983 = 13 X 7691
D) 999997 = 757 X 1321

Trivia Quiz Answers:

1) The Rialto is a central area of Venice, Italy.
2) Louisiana is divided into parishes rather than counties.
3) A young swan is called a cygnet.
4) There are 640 acres in a square mile.
5) Delaware was the first state to enter the Union.
6) Francis Bacon said "knowledge is power."
7) Iron pyrite is known as Fool's Gold.
8) (John Philip) Sousa was known as the "March King."
9) (J. Wellington) Wimpy was fond of hamburgers.
10) Aphrodite was the Greek goddess of beauty.
11) Dartmouth University is in Hanover, New Hampshire.
12) A drum major's hat is called a Shako.
13) Henry Hudson sailed in the Half Moon for the Dutch as well as the Hopewell and Discovery for the English.
14) (Georges) Bizet wrote the opera "Carmen."
15) Socrates was sentenced to die by poison (hemlock).

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
By Barb Ford

My favorite things to cook include soup and bread. Incorporating various seasonal ingredients spark my interest and creativity. I love to find a base recipe and change it up with what I have on hand, or what might be on sale at the grocery. It is not usually my custom to highlight a brand, but once again, Bob's Red Mill is the star of the show. I have always had extremely good luck with any product sporting the Bob's Red Mill label. Look up the company for its story.

Recently, I discovered Bob's Red Mill Whole Grains and Beans Soup Mix. This has everything I absolutely love, along with excellent quality. This mix does not contain any seasonings. Just high-quality beans and whole grains. This is not a quick soup to make, but it is easy. Planning is vital.

The night before, rinse the bean and grain mix and soak it overnight. The next morning, I like to give it another rinse and start the cooking by covering the soaked mix with liquid about one and a half inches above it. I add all my favorite seasonings and herbs at this point, except the salt. Bring to a boil, then cover and simmer for a least a couple hours. Add liquid if needed. Chopped veggies can then be added, along with salt to taste. After the veggies are cooked, turn the burner off and leave covered for 30 minutes before serving. Fresh herbs brighten up this hearty soup. Leftovers may need extra liquid when reheated. This soup freezes extremely well.

A 26 ounce package contains about a quart (4 cups) of dried beans and whole grains. This is enough to make four nice batches of soup.
As far as seasonings are concerned, this mix can be adapted to any taste. Get wild with whatever ethnic cooking taste suits your fancy. Every culture I can think of includes some form of beans and whole grains. And veggies. Don't forget to add lots of your favorite veggies. Enjoy this product. Make it a family favorite.

"Do you have a kinder, more adaptable friend in the food world than soup?"

Miss Manners (Judith Martin)

MARCH 2023 MMM Activities Calendar

Fri. Mar 3: TGIF - Asian Taste
132 S Cedar St Mason, kitty-corner vs. the Speedway Station. Wide choice of delicious Chinese specialties, including Crab Rangoons and Orange Chicken.

Fri. Mar 10: TGIF - Bravo Italian Kitchen
2970 Towne Center Blvd, Lansing, in Eastwood Towne Center. Upscale-casual Italian restaurant with a Roman-ruins ambiance serving pasta, grilled dishes, and pizza.

Fri. Mar 17: TGIF - Olga's Kitchen
354 Frandor Ave in the Frandor Mall, East Lansing. Soups, salads, and Olga's signature gyro sandwiches.

Fri. Mar 24: TGIF - Lucky's Steak House
3554 Okemos Rd, Okemos, just north of Jolly Rd. Famous for steak, seafood, and prime rib with all the trimmings.

Fri. Mar 31: TGIF - Soup Spoon Cafe
1419 E Michigan Ave, Lansing. Wide menu selection, including vegan choices, and, of course, soup.

TGIFs are on Fridays. We meet at about **6 PM** and order soon after 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