DECEMBER 2023

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 596



HEAD-LINE NO. 596 DECEMBER 2023
MID-MICHIGAN MENSA

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JOIN 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.

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

News Flash: For the past three years, December meant I started packing and preparing for a three month winter stint in Paradise (aka the Gulf Coast of Florida). As much as I have LOVED getting away from the dark and dreary winter in Michigan, I have decided for only good reasons to remain home instead. If anyone reading this has a yen to spend January, February, and March on Venice Island in Florida, for a very reasonable cost (well, reasonable is relative, but in the current market, the price of the condo we were staying at is a steal), let me know and I'll hook you up. It does require the full 3 month commitment. Meanwhile, hope to see you around this winter!!

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 December 2023

by Robert Henderson, Loc Sec

As shown in the last several Treasurer's Reports, the MMM budget has been running a surplus of about $50.00 per month. Our main income has been a monthly subsidy from AML based on our membership count, intended to cover the cost of printing and mailing our group newsletter, the Head-Line. Only about half of our members get printed copies, and the printer has not sent us a bill for several years, so we can afford to mail them first-class. However, I recommend that all members get the equipment needed to read the online electronic Head-Lines available on both the MMM and AML Websites, in case our budget situation changes. Not only can you read each issue at least a week ahead of its cover date, but you can read prior issues going all the way back to December of 2010!

Mid-Michigan Mensa membership fell from 154 members in 2010 to 103 in 2023, with a plateau from 127 members in 2012 to 126 in 2019. We lost more during the Covid pandemic, which curtailed many of our prior group activities. With Covid behind us, what new Mensa group activities would you enjoy?

One step to address our declining group membership is to conduct Mensa admissions testing, which MMM started up again in June.

However, our new Proctor has only been able to test 5 candidates so far, and only two of these have been accepted into Mensa. Fortunately, we now have a public Facebook page that reaches more people than our earlier ads, and several of its visitors have indicated further interest in Mensa. Thanks to new member Rich Wetzel for setting up and monitoring this page!

If you look over the masthead inside the front cover of each month's Head-Line, you will see a listing of our group officers, including several unfilled positions. We recently named a new Proctor and Testing Coordinator, who are doing their best to line up additional candidates for Mensa admissions testing. If you would like to do your part to help improve MMM, there are still opportunities in Web design, Steering Committee meeting minutes, Head-Line distribution, Gifted Youth coordination, Ombudsman, and Scholarship. Feel free to take on multiple officer positions - many need only minimal effort!

Mitchell's Musings - RVC3 Column December 2023

Lora Mitchell, RVC3

Happy Holidays! As I have noted before, according to the internet, there are 20 Global holidays in December. I hope all of them bring you joy and prosperity.

Some of my personal favorite parts of this season are the sweets, treats, and cookies. Don't get me wrong, I love my gummy bears in Halloween and my Cadbury eggs in the spring too. But there's something really special about the baking and homemade happiness that happens when people are connecting and sharing.

Because of this, I's like to share two of my favorite recipes:

POTATO CANDY:
1 potato
approx. 2 pounds confectioners' sugar
Peanut butter

Peel and dice potato, cover with water in a saucepan, and cook until soft. Drain, and mash potato. Add half of the sugar and mix in well. Add more until firm about workable. Spread more sugar on a flat surface, and roll out the potato mixture to about ¼ inch. Spread with peanut butter and roll up like a jelly roll. Place in fridge, chill until firm. Remove from fridge and slice into rounds.

REGION 3 MENSA CHAPTER

11 pounds volunteerism
27 cups hard work
3 scoops planning
5 bags fun
32 plates of food
10 glasses of cheer
4 tablespoons scholarship
5 kilos learning
pinch testing

Mix all together in a festive setting, and enjoy!

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YOU ARE INVITED!!

Come One, Come All to the 2023 Mid-Michigan Mensa Holiday Party!

Join us for food and fun on Saturday, December 16th from 5 to 9 PM at Martin Luther Chapel, 444 Abbot Rd, just north of East Lansing City Hall. We will start with a catered dinner and finish with our famous White Elephant Gift Exchange.

The dinner entree choices are TBD (RSVP to Ginny at gbrunkh@peoplepc.com to make your selection). Wrap a non-purchased gift that you won't miss (but that may still be of use to someone) and bring it to the gift exchange. When it's your turn to pick which one to take home, you may either open a wrapped gift or steal one that someone else has already chosen and unwrapped, so choose wisely!

Bob's Word Puzzle:

Take one of your initials and see how long a word you can find that both begins and ends with that letter. Can you find one longer than 10 letters? I found 10-letter answers for 20 of the 26 letters in the alphabet, but you may be able to do even better with your letter. . . If not, try another one!

Bob's Math Puzzle:
Take the 19 numbers 1 through 19 and arrange them in 5 centered rows of 3, 4, 5, 4, and 3 numbers: (3, 17, 18), (19, 7, 1, 11), (16, 2, 5, 6, 9), (12, 4, 8, 14), (10, 13, 15). What magical property does this arrangement have? For a hint, review the description of magic squares in November's math puzzle, and see if this hexagonal array has similar properties. . .

Jeopardy-style Trivia
For how many of these 15 Jeopardy-style answers can you name the subjects? Do your best, then check your results against the answers listed elsewhere in this issue.

1) Roll out the barrel-maker: Journalist who named his first son Wyatt
2) A pat of this is equal to about 1 to 1-1/2 teaspoons
3) A variation on one who trains birds of prey, author of "As I Lay Dying"
4) This kitchen measure is about the size of a baseball
5) Silent letter in a word for the side post of a doorway
6) British humorist who wrote about Bertie Wooster and Jeeves
7) 4-time Kentucky Derby-winning jockey from 1955 to 1986
8) Recipe word indicating to overfill the ingredient above the measure's rim
9) Silent 5th letter in a 6-letter synonym for mucus
10) 17th-century work in which Great-Heart and Old Honest rescue prisoners from Doubting Castle
11) Movie songwriter whose last name means "precious metal worker"
12) A small branch of an herb plant used to season stew, etc.
13) Silent letter in an old word for poisoning by toxins in spoiled food
14) French for just a hint of flavor, sounds like Mom announcing lunch
15) Sun's outer atmosphere, most visible during a total solar eclipse.

RIP Alan Wolfe

A number of us recently attended the funeral for Al Wolfe, beloved husband of member Gail Wolfe for 55 years. Gail and Al have been long-time frequent faces at TGs, and Al's offbeat sense of humor, as well as his thoughtful contributions to a wide range of conversational topics, will be sorely missed. Al died on November 2nd, of a heart attack, although he'd spent the past year having several serious health challenges. I had most recently seen Al at the anniversary party in August, and I was relieved then that his spirit and humor were quite intact. According to family members giving eulogies, that was true right up to the very end. Al, you will be missed!

Answers To Puzzles

Math Puzzle Answer
Note that the numbers in each of the 5 rows sum to 38. Then check the 5 diagonal rows sloping down to the right: again, each of them sums to 38! Is that magical enough yet? Not quite: there are also 5 diagonal rows sloping down to the left that each sum to 38! This is the only known magic hexagon (its 12 rotations and reflections aren't counted as separate).

Word Puzzle Answers
Here are 20 (mostly) common words each ten letters long that have the same first and last letters. For the other 6 letters I found only uncommon words or no words at all with the same first and last letters. How well did you do with your letter(s)? Could you find any words longer than these?

Anesthesia, breadcrumb, concentric, determined, experience, flameproof, gratifying, henceforth, illuminati, knickknack, liturgical, moratorium, navigation, octodecimo, penmanship, reconsider, statistics, throughout, worldview, and yearningly.

Trivia Answers
1) Anderson Cooper, 2) butter, 3) (William) Faulkner, 4) a cup, 5) jamb, 6) P. G. Wodehouse, 7) (Willie) Shoemaker, 8) heaping, 9) phlegm, 10) Pilgrim's Progress, 11) (Jerry) Goldsmith, 12) a sprig, 13) ptomaine, 14) soupçon, 15) corona.

REQUIRED STUFF

Statement of Ownership
Name of Magazine: Head-Line
Publisher: Mid-Michigan Mensa
Issues per year: 12
Frequency: Monthly
Cost per issue: $5.00

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Barb Ford

Cold weather is coming in, as well as cough and cold season. In the past few years, I have gravitated to natural remedies, with a focus on what I can make at home. Recently, I have come across several variations on a "cough syrup," and set about making one that suits my needs. Of course, feel free to change this up to your liking. There is a purpose to every ingredient, and this combination is surprisingly tasty as well as effective. The recipe can be doubled, but it is best made fresh. I do believe my Grandmother and Mother would have loved this one.
The ingredients have many properties. The following are relevant here.

Local honey is a natural antibiotic, and here it serves as a base to make the syrup. It coats the throat.
Turmeric is a natural immune stimulator as well as a pain remedy.
Cayenne pepper enhances the actions of the curcumin in the turmeric and is very warming to the throat.
Ginger is also warming and a soother for nausea and digestive upset.
Celtic Sea Salt replaces minerals, and enhances flavor.

HOME MADE COUGH SYRUP

Ingredients: Please use organic ingredients for this recipe.
3 T Local Honey
1 t Turmeric Powder
¼ t Cayenne Pepper Powder
½ t Ginger Powder
1 Pinch Fine Celtic Sea Salt

Directions:
In a glass container with a good seal, combine all the ingredients. Stir well. Refrigerate up to three weeks. Take ½ to 1 teaspoon as needed to ease a sore throat and cough symptoms. This home remedy works best if placed on the middle to the back of the tongue. Do not eat or drink anything afterwards for a few minutes to allow the ingredients to work. If desired, a teaspoon can be stirred into a cup of warm (not boiling) water and taken as a tea.

Please note: This home remedy is for helping mild symptoms and is not intended as a substitute for consulting a medical professional when indicated.

DECEMBER 2023 MMM Activities Calendar

Friday, Dec. 1: TGIF - Delhi Cafe
4625 Willoughby Rd, Holt, between Cedar St and Aurelius Rd. A Mensa favorite with good Greek and American food.

Saturday, Dec. 2, 2:00 to 4:30 PM: Mensa Admissions Testing
CADL Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Rd, Okemos, south of Hulett Rd. Use entrance behind building. For further details, contact MMM Testing Coordinator Richard Wetzel at Dick.Wetzel@gmail.com

Friday, Dec. 8: 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.

Friday, Dec. 15: TGIF - Tipsy Nickel Bar & Grill (New Venue)
117 S Cedar St, Mason, formerly Darb's Restaurant. Family-owned restaurant with good bar food and great chef's specials (Ginny recommends their seafood ravioli).

Saturday, Dec. 16, 5 to 9 PM: MMM Holiday Party
We'll meet at Martin Luther Chapel, just north of East Lansing City Hall, for a catered meal (call Ginny for menu options). After dinner we will meet in the Fireside Room for a White Elephant Gift Exchange. Bring something nicely wrapped that you no longer need but that might still be appreciated by someone else. If you don't pick a gift that you really like in the first round, you can steal a better one in the second round!

Friday, Dec. 22: TGIF - Asian Buffet (New Venue)
4920 Marsh Rd, Okemos, in the Meridian Town Center. Relaxed, family-owned buffet restaurant with a wide selection of American and Asian specialties, including sushi.

Friday, Dec. 29: TGIF - Cancun Mexican Grill
1754 Central Park Dr, Meridian Township. Good Mexican food and great margaritas.

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