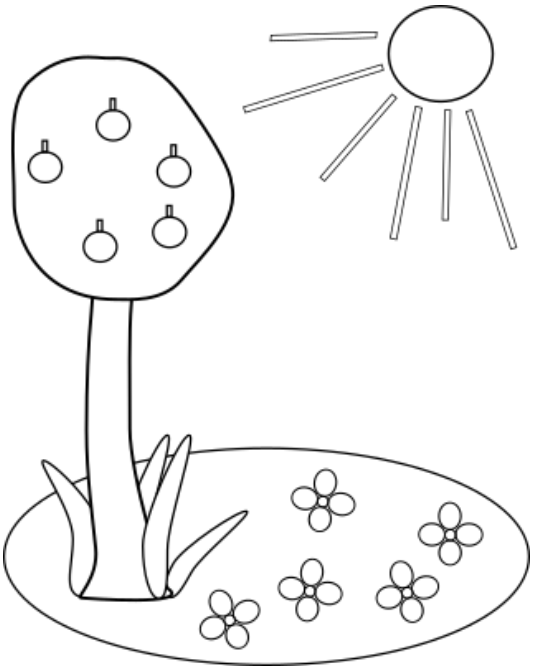
JUNE 2024

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa **Number 602**



HEAD-LINE NO.602 JUNE 2024
MID-MICHIGAN MENSA

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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

This month I'm pumping a great book to read: *The Ministry for the Future*, by Kim Stanley Robinson. This is a novel, yes, but only loosely. I saw Al Gore's presentation way back when warning us all about the impending climate changes heading our way if we didn't do something about it while we still could. This book brings those changes down to the human level, starting with a devastating heat wave in India that finally gets some attention on a global scale. A ministry is created to study and make recommendations about how to fix the planet. Many years of fumbling attempts are chronicled as life, and lives, are in ever dicier situations. I learned SO MUCH about economics, geology, politics, geo-politics, physics, eco-science, and so on. Every day I read a headline that takes me immediately back to that book. I rarely reread a book anymore…too many books; not enough time left on my own biological clock. But I find myself wanting to reread this one. I hope if anyone out there in MMM Land does read it, you'll let me know what you think.

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 2024

by Robert Henderson, Loc Sec

Greetings from sunny Ireland! We took a direct flight from Detroit to London Heathrow, caught a bus to Portsmouth, and cruised to Belfast.There we toured neighborhoods full of partisan murals and sad history, tasted Irish whiskey at the Old Bushmill's "Since 1608" distillery, and viewed amazing geology at the Giants' Causeway. Saturday we wandered around a quaint fishing village sampling the food and local crafts, but missed the harbor tour by boat. On Mother's Day we tendered into Galway and had a good bus tour of the Burrens, including the Cliffs of Moher and a delicious Irish pub lunch! I'll have more to report in the July Head-Line, so stay tuned. . .

Mid-Michigan Mensa will conduct another Mensa Qualification Test on Saturday, June 8 (see details on the

Calendar at the MMM Web page or inside the Head-Line back cover). Come meet the candidates who could become our newest members and let them know what you enjoy about your MMM membership. . . We hope to see you at some TGIF dinners as well!

If solving puzzles on your own is more your thing, this issue includes math and word puzzles as well as geography trivia. Feel free to send questions, comments, or your own puzzle creations to rlhenderson@peoplepc.com.

Mitchell's Musings - RVC3 Column June 2024

So this is the column that I have dreaded writing: my final, goodbye column. It's turning out generally very hard to write the things I want to. Some of them are easier than others, like noting that I have been thrilled to visit all the chapters in the region (except as of this writing, I'm missing Cincinnati, and I have time left since they're so close!!) I've met hundreds of new members, and their collective knowledge and personalities have made this job a joy.

I've done things I never expected. I'm Risk Management Chair, I am on the AMC Executive Committee as the RVC representative, and this year I became a voting National Representative to Mensa International. None of those things were true when my term started, and yet here I am.

There are still RGs in the horizon, and I hope to see you at the Dayton miniG on June 23rd or at the WPAM Pittsburgh RG in September.

I am also very pleased in that my successor, Rick Magnus, cares so very deeply about Mensa, and will be bringing good experience to the AMC itself.

My reasons for not running for reelection are around personal choices, and not the job itself. It's been such a honor to serve all of you, and I promise to remain involved. At renewal this year, I finally became a life member, which is

kind of funny after sending in my application 28 years ago. So I promise, you will still see me.

I'm sure you've noticed my trend of including quotes, and it started as a search to find just the right one, and I think maybe I found it. So thank you for allowing me to represent you the last three years.

"*How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.*" – A.A. Milne

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WEEKLY ZOOM GENERAL DISCUSSION GROUP

From Ken Lawrence

A list of suggested topics, as well as a chance to comment, is available on Facebook under M Saturday Discussion Group. Host Ken Lawrence can be reached at MVirtualDiscussionGroup@gmail.com for more information.

> Topic: Virtual Discussion Group open to all Mensans.
> Time: 2:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) every Saturday
> https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86726108623?pwd=cUgyelF2K0ZLQzNWbVByZE9UMXpxdz09
> Meeting ID: 867 2610 8623 Passcode: 1234

Additionally, Ken runs two other SIG meetings. One is a Brainstorming SIG, every Sunday at 9pm, eastern time: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82908600785?pwd=Kzl4YUhFbklwSnpCTTl4TDdHN0Jsdz09
More information can be obtained from MBrainstormingSessions@gmail.com or at the Facebook Group (20+) M Brainstorming | Facebook

Also Mensa Christian Bible Study SIG every Sunday 7pm eastern time. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86488880838?pwd=QUVUaFhPSjl0Tkt5V1pDZGlnRU5TUT09

Bob's Word Puzzle:

Have you noticed words that make a new word when you insert a letter into them? Some examples are pay / play, bid / bird, pat / past, and tag / tang. Note that the first and last letters remain the same.

I wondered how much longer one could make such a chain of words by continuing to insert a new letter to make each new word. Put on your thinking cap and see if you can get from a 3-letter word up through 4-, 5-, 6-, and 7-letter words by inserting 4 letters. Each new word must appear in an English dictionary. If you need a hint, you can start with words such as aid, ban, big, or brie (easier), but it's more fun to pick your own starting word!

Bob's Math Puzzle:

I wondered why television screen sizes are measured diagonally, which led me to a couple of puzzles:
A) If a TV screen is rectangular with integer sides and an integer diagonal, how small can its area be?
B) How large can it be? Bonus: how many times larger is this than the smallest area per (A) above?

Bob's Geography Quiz

1) Which country has the most lakes?
2) Which continent is in all four global hemispheres?
3) What two nations share the world's longest border?
4) Which country has the most pyramids?
5) What is the largest island in the world?
6) What is the smallest country in the world?
7) What is the longest mountain range on Earth?
8) What is the world's tallest mountain from base to peak?
9) Which nation has the largest population?
10) Which country straddles the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates?

See answers on page 6

JUNE 2024 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS
Kathy Teshich, Membership Chair
96 **members**

BIRTHDAYS

Ingrid Nova	June 2
Kevin Smart	June 4
Michael Rademacher	June 5
Richard Weingartner	June 9
Gail Wolfe	June 11
Mark Weiss	June 16
Kirby Craw	June 16
Paul Kassal	June 19
Matthew Carter	June 27

MENSAVERSARIES

Richard Wetzel	1 yr
Diane Mater	1 yr
A Beckon	28 yrs
Roy Saper	55 yrs

Answers To Puzzles

Math Puzzle Answer

A) The two edge lengths and the diagonal are the legs and hypotenuse of a right triangle. As Pythagoras told us, the square of the hypotenuse is the sum of the squares of the two legs, and the screen's area is the product of the long and short leg lengths. To make the short leg as short as possible, the longer leg must be as long as possible, which is just one unit shorter than the hypotenuse (the screen's diagonal).

If L is the length of the longer leg and L + 1 is the diagonal length, the shorter leg's length is the square root of (L + 1)^2 - L^2 = 2 * L + 1, which is the sum of the lengths of the hypotenuse and the longer leg. The first few right triangles this works for (in the order hypotenuse, longer leg, shorter leg) are (5, 4, 3), (13, 12, 5), (25, 24, 7), (41, 40, 9), (61, 60, 11), (85, 84, 13), (113, 112, 15), etc., which give screen areas of 12, 60, 168, 360, 660, 1092, 1680, and so on. These areas are the smallest for each given hypotenuse.

B) If we drop the requirement for integral side lengths, the largest screen area for diagonal D is D^2 / 2 for equal legs of length L = D / sqrt (2). As Pythagoras told us, D / L = sqrt (2) is NOT a rational number!

Word Puzzle Answer

. Aid, acid (or arid), acrid, acarid, ascarid
. Ban, barn, baron, baryon, baryton
. Big, bing (or brig), bring, baring, barking
. Brie, bride, bridle, brindle

Longer words can be reached. . . Can you find any?

Geography Quiz Answers

1) Canada, 2) Africa, 3) US and Canada, 4) Sudan, 5) Greenland, 6) Vatican City, 7) The Andes, 8) Mauna Kea, 9) India, 10) Iceland

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JUNE 2024 MMM Activities Calendar

Fri. June 7: TGIF - City Limits Sports Bar, Mason
801 Cedar St, Mason. Good American food like pizza and hamburgers with great service.

Sat. June 8: Mensa Qualification Test
Sat, June 8, 1:00 to 4:00 PM: Mensa Admissions Testing, CADL Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Rd, Okemos, south of Hulett Rd. Use entrance behind building. For more info, contact the test proctor at MensaProctor670@gmail.com

Fri. June 14: TGIF - Olga's Kitchen Lansing
354 Frandor Ave in the Frandor Mall, East Lansing. Soups, salads, and Olga's signature gyro sandwiches.

Fri. June 21: TGIF - Lucky's Steakhouse Okemos
3554 Okemos Rd, Okemos, just north of Jolly Rd. Famous for steak, seafood, and prime rib with all the trimmings.

Fri. June 28: TGIF - Coral Gables
2838 E Grand River, East Lansing, just east of Hagadorn Rd. An MMM favorite for years! Serves Greek foods, steaks, seafood, pasta, salads, sandwiches, pizza and more.

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