OCTOBER 2024

Head-Line

The Newsletter of Mid-Michigan Mensa Number 606



HEAD-LINE NO.606 OCTOBER 2024
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.

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EDITOR'S COLUMN:

FROM MY BRAIN TO YOURS

by Sharon Plavnick

I love these September days when there's a hint of fall crispness in the air, but the summer temps still linger most of the day. My newly-uncataracted eyes are looking out for signs of early color change, but so far I'm not spotting anything.

Let me introduce you to Phoenix Swope. She shadowed me last month in producing the Head-Line, and this month she is fully mirroring my movements. In effect, we're both producing duplicate copies of the pages that will be sent to the printer. If all goes well, and Phoenix doesn't change her mind, I'll have her tell you all about herself to you in this space next month.

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 October 2024

by Robert Henderson, Loc Sec

Happy Fall, Mid-Michigan Mensans! Summer has flown by quickly, and it's already time for pumpkin spice-flavored everything! Fortunately, our October TGIF venues also offer plenty of your other favorite fall flavors. Please check out this month's MMM Activity Calendar and pick a Friday evening to join us for a TGIF dinner! Note that we are rein-stating our previous 5:30 PM start time due to the earlier sunsets following the equinox.

Do you enjoy working with gifted children, playing games, or reading books? Let us know so that MMM can organize activities that will get you involved with like-minded Mensans in your area! If you have a presentation that would interest other Mensans, let me or our Program Director Elizabeth Evangelista know about it. We have enjoyed hearing from other members about their interesting travel experiences, etc. following our TGIF dinners in recent years, and we would love to hear your stories too!

Who would enjoy a weekly get-together on the west side? Just let us know the details and we will add it to the MMM Activities

Calendar for the following month. If you enjoy going out for lunch on Saturdays and think other Mensans might like to join you, let's make it official! Just make your own reservations (as needed) with your best estimate of expected attendance, and our Calendar Coordinator will spread the word for you!

October is a good month for your brainy friends to find out whether they might qualify for Mensa membership! We will try to set up another test venue further west this month, but still need suggestions as to when and where our Proctor could administer the qualification test from someone familiar with the area (it could help to have a local library membership). Otherwise, the drive to Okemos might discourage some likely prospects in western Michigan from registering to be tested, and we would miss our best opportunity to get to know them!

A GLOVe Letter from the RVC. Rick Magnus. October 2024

As I write this, the agenda for the September AMC meeting is being finalized; if you want to know what AMC does, reading AMC agendas and minutes is probably the best way to learn what AMC does. While the September meeting will be over by the time you read this, there are upcoming meetings in December and March. With the exception of executive sessions (used sparingly, for sensitive matters such as personnel matters), the meetings are streamed, and members can listen in. You can find links to meeting related materials on the AML website.

The Jewel Awards for 2023 have been announced. These awards honor local groups for successful operations. There are four levels of awards, Diamond (best in class), Ruby, Sapphire, and Emerald, and are awarded in five classes for local group size. Congratulations to these seven Region 3 groups for their awards, reflecting groups that are well-run:

East Central Ohio Mensa, Diamond, Class III
Cleveland Area Mensa, Ruby, Class II
Cincinnati Area Mensa, Ruby, Class III
Mid Michigan Mensa, Ruby, Class V
Southeast Michigan Mensa, Sapphire, Class II
Western Pennsylvania Mensa, Emerald, Class II

Western New York Mensa, Emerald, Class III

The full list is on the AML website.

There are all sorts of ways to participate in Mensa, at the international, national, and local level. Every local group needs volunteers; check the newsletter you're reading this in for information on who to contact if you'd like to get involved. The AML website lists 26 national committees, some (not all!) of which are eager to have new volunteer committee members. Contact me or a committee chair if you're interested in volunteering.

Chicago Area Mensa, in nearby Region 4, hosts a regional gathering at the end of October/beginning of November. After the Annual Gathering, it's one of the largest gatherings of Mensans in North America; if you're looking for a fun weekend with other Mensans, think about attending.

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=QUVUaFhPSjI0Tkt5V1pDZGlnRU5TUT09

GAME PAGE

Bob's Word Puzzle:

Can you swap two adjacent letters at a time to change each given word to the next (target) word? What are the fewest swaps needed for the following pairs of words:

3-letter words: BUN to NUB, DON to NOD, MAR to RAM?
4-letter words: DRAW to WARD, GULP to PLUG, PART to TRAP?
5-letter words: DEVIL to LIVED, PACER to RECAP, STROP to PORTS?

Note that intermediate results do not have to be real words.

Bob's Math Puzzle:
There's some interesting math behind this month's word puzzle. The minimum solution lengths to reverse words of 3, 4, and 5 letters were 3, 6, and 10 swaps of adjacent letters. Can you extend those results to word lengths of 6, 8, and 10 or more letters? As a hint, look at the number of swaps required to reverse even shorter words! This entire set of solution lengths is known as the triangular numbers (look them up!).

Bob's Trivia Quiz: Inventors

Name the inventors of the following items that we all take for granted these days:

1) The Barometer
2) The Cotton Gin
3) Smallpox vaccination
4) Wireless telegraphy
5) The aircraft Jet Engine
6) Safety elevator
7) The gasoline-powered auto
8) Basketball
9) The Helicopter
10) Modern air conditioning
11) Dynamite
12) Fast-frozen food
13) SCUBA apparatus
14) Electric battery
15) The Kodak camera
16) The World Wide Web
17) Movable type for printing
18) The Ballpoint Pen
19) The transistor
20) The electronic television

See answers on page 7

OCTOBER 2024 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Kathy Teshich, Membership Chair

193 **members**

BIRTHDAYS

Allan Sherwin	Oct. 5
Dale Arnold	Oct. 6
Michael Wall	Oct. 9
Michael Callahan	Oct. 12
M. Kimberly Rupert	Oct. 14
Nathaniel Williams	Oct. 15
Larry Sherman	Oct. 16
Elizabeth Evangelista	Oct. 20
Joy Rimpau	Oct. 21
Richard Wetzel	Oct. 21
Brad Wiley	Oct. 22
James Wirsing	Oct. 22
William Tupy	Oct. 23
Terrance Rose	Oct. 23
Evan Linacre	Oct. 25
John Abbott	Oct. 27
Diane Mater	Oct. 31

MENSAVERSARIES

Armaan Khan	1 yrs
Zee Aslam	5 yrs
Dakota Glasburn	5 yrs
John E Abbott	6 yrs
David Murley	8 yrs
Sarah Jones	9 yrs
Knowlan Randza	11 yrs
Chuck Skinner	12 yrs
Judyth Hakala	12 yrs
Saif Fatteh	14 yrs
John Abbott	16 yrs
Robert L Huston II	18 yrs
L Glen Caldwell	38 yrs
Caroline Perkins	39 yrs
Kary Scheiern	42 yrs
Patricia Dewey	58 yrs

AG 2025 is in Chicago!

“I’m vindicated!” says Daisy, Mrs. O’Leary’s favorite cow. She asks you to join her in Chicago from July 2 thru 6 for Mensa’s 2025 Annual Gathering (AG). Will she truly be absolved of the allegations made against her after the Great Chicago Fire? You’ll have to attend to find out!

The 2025 AG will be held in the downtown Chicago Hilton on south Michigan Avenue. The room rate is only $139/night for single, double, triple, or quad rooms. Yes, you saw that correctly! There will be free WiFi in hospitality as well as your sleeping room. Included in your $279 registration price, good until November 30, will be four breakfasts, three lunches, and snacks – all available in hospitality.

Come be part of Daisy’s herd as she explores the area around the hotel, located across from Grant Park, and also close to Buckingham Fountain, the Museum Campus (Shedd Aquarium, Field Museum, Adler Planetarium), and Queen’s Landing (where Queen Elizabeth II disembarked from her ship in 1959) on the lakefront. Milk your access to Chicago’s wonderful sights. This will be THE annual gathering people will be mooing, erm, talking about for years to come!

Details on tours, the Gala Dinner speaker and special events are still being pasteurized, homogenized, and separated, and will be announced on the website as soon as they are packaged.

AG and hotel registration will be available November 1 at ag.us.mensa.org. Daisy and our AG Team look forward to seeing you there!!

Karen Gruebele and Allison Reeves 2025 AG Co-chairs

Answers To Puzzles

Word Puzzle Answers

3-letter words require at most 3 swaps:
BUN - UBN - UNB - NUB, DON - ODN - OND - NOD, MAR - AMR - ARM - RAM

4-letter words require at most 6 swaps:
DRAW - RDAW - RADW - RAWD - RWAD - WRAD - WARD
GULP - UGLP - ULGP - ULPG - UPLG - PULG - PLUG
PART - APRT - ARPT - ARTP - ATRP - TARP - TRAP

5-letter words require at most 10 swaps:
DEVIL, EDVIL, EVDIL, EVIDL, EVILD, VEILD, VIELD, VILED, IVLED, ILVED, LIVED
PACER, APCER, ACPER, ACEPR, ACERP, CAERP, CEARP, CERAP, ECRAP, ERCAP, RECAP
STROP, TSROP, TRSOP, TROSP, TROPS, RTOPS, ROTPS, ROPTS, ORPTS, OPRTS, PORTS

Each target word is the reverse of the given word (this requires the most swaps).

MATH PUZZLE ANSWER

The minimum number of adjacent letter swaps required to reverse sequences of from 0 to 5 letters are 0, 0, 1, 3, 6, and 10 swaps. The pattern is to add the sequence lengths (0, 1, 2, 3, and 4) to get the number of swaps required to reverse the NEXT sequence! The logic is that adding a letter at the wrong end of a reversed sequence of N letters requires N more swaps to get the new letter to the right end of the sequence, so to reverse a word of 6 letters requires 10 + 5 = 15 swaps, 7 letters require 15 + 6 = 21 swaps, 8 letters require 21 + 7 = 28 swaps, 9 letters require 28 + 8 = 36 swaps, and 10 letters require 36 + 9 = 45 swaps. In general, the number of adjacent letter swaps S required to reverse a sequence of N different letters is S = N * (N - 1) / 2, the number of elements in a triangular array N - 1 on each side.

Trivia Answers:

1) Evangelista Torricelli
2) Eli Whitney
3) Edward Jenner
4) Guglielmo Marconi
5) Frank Whittle
6) Elisha Otis
7) Karl Benz
8) John Naismith
9) Igor Sikorski
10) Willis Carrier
11) Alfred Nobel
12) Clarence Birdseye
13) Jacques Cousteau
14) Alessandro Volta
15) George Eastman
16) Tim Berners-Lee
17) Johannes Gutenberg
18) Laszlo Biro
19) John Bardeen
20) Philo T. Farnsworth

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
By Barb Ford

For the Love of Stewed Tomatoes

I love tomatoes. Good thing, because my garden is producing like crazy at the moment. I am eating as many as I can, but need to preserve the rest for the upcoming winter. My constraints are: I no longer do any canning, and have a very small freezer in my refrigerator. I also detest peeling tomatoes. I found a solution last year that has blessed me many times over. I cut out the stems, quarter them and liquify them in my high-speed blender. Then I patiently simmer them down to a thick sauce or even to a paste. When cooled, I ladle them into quart freezer bags and freeze them flat. When needed, I can use the whole bag, or just break off a chunk for whatever dish I happen to be cooking. Nobody ever knows that the skins are in there! No waste, and all the goodness.

This year, I found myself craving stewed tomatoes. I set out to incorporate the blender technique into making stewed tomatoes. It worked like a charm, and they are absolutely delicious! My ingredients are very simple: I use what I have. This batch involves a chopped onion, a good amount of celery, sliced fresh okra and tomatoes. I season them to taste with garlic and an Italian seasoning blend. The amounts vary, according to the number of tomatoes I have to work with.

The technique is very simple, but takes a bit of time. First, I dice up an onion and the celery, and put them with desired seasonings in a big pot over warm heat. Then I clean and quarter my tomatoes. In a large glass bowl, I scoop out the tomatoes, reserving them until the end. The skins with meat on them go into the blender to be liquified. This becomes the cooking liquid for the celery and onion. Note: I also buzz up my overabundant harvest of cherry tomatoes in this step, when I have them. Simmering this concoction until the celery and onion are soft gives me time to enjoy a cup of tea and enjoy the aroma filling my house. It would make my Mom and Grandma proud. When the onion and celery are soft, I adjust seasonings and add the tomato chunks with sliced okra. Then I cover and turn the heat off. When everything is cooled down, the stewed tomatoes can be served immediately, or ladled into glass containers for the refrigerator to be used within a week. My favorite is to ladle them into quart Ziploc freezer bags to be frozen flat and enjoyed in the coming cold months. Imagine the killer chili that can be made in a snap with these stewed tomatoes! Oh YES.

"*What was paradise, but a garden full of vegetables and herbs and pleasure? Nothing there but delights."*

William Lawson

OCTOBER 2024 MMM Activities Calendar

Fri. Oct. 4: TGIF - Bravo! Italian Kitchen
2970 Towne Center Blvd, Eastwood Towne Ctr, Lansing. Upscale-casual Italian restaurant with a Roman-ruins ambiance, serving pasta, grilled dishes, pizza and more.

Fri. Oct. 11: TGIF - Coral Gables
2838 E Grand River, East Lansing, just east of Hagadorn. An MMM favorite for years! Serves Greek foods, steaks, seafood, pasta, salads, sandwiches, pizza and more.

Fri. Oct. 18: TGIF - Delhi Cafe
4625 Willoughby Rd, Holt, between Cedar St and Aurelius Rd. A Mensa favorite with good Greek and American food.

Fri. Oct. 25: TGIF - Tony M's
3420 S Creyts Road, Lansing. Family-owned Italian restaurant featuring pizza, pasta, burgers and salads.

Note: We will discuss plans for our Holiday Party at these dinners: we need to determine who will host it and when and where it will be held. Please feel free to email your MMM Holiday Party suggestions to Bob or Ginny as well!

TGIFs are on Fridays. We meet at about **5:30 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