WeemFest

Ready for

PRIME TIME

October 25–28, 2018

Hosted by

Chicago Area Mensa

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"...and I approve this message."



Notes From the HalloweeM Chair



I'm so glad you've tuned into WeeM 43: Ready for Prime Time. Pull up a comfy chair close (but not that close!!—do you want to ruin your eyesight??) and enjoy everything this week-end has to offer.

I can assure you that this RG is no vast wasteland! The cast and crew of the WeeM TeaM have put together a wonderful lineup of programming for your amusement. There's so much going on, you'd think it was Sweeps Week! If you're having a great time, please take the time to thank one (or all!) of the members of the WeeM TeaM, who will have lavender badges.

New this year is our Peace Force. Don't worry, they are a friendly group who will be checking badges, making sure that alcohol is consumed only by those over 21, and generally being helpful. You can tell them by their blinking peace signs. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to approach one of them.

Want to know how you can be a special guest star this WeeM? It's easy—just sign up for a volunteer shift! You'll get a lovely collectible pin and our undying gratitude for your help in making this event great.

I hope that you have such a great time that, come Sunday, you'll be as sad as I will when the credits roll on this great weekend. However, you can always plan to join us next year. Same Bat-Time, same Bat-Channel!

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Notes From the Program Chair

Welcome to WeeM 43!! Are you ready for PRIME TIME? I am delighted to welcome everyone, whether this is your first (prime?) time or if you are a 43-year seasoned WeeM expert. I have PACKED the schedule with events to suit every palate!

Glance at the picture on the next page. This may look like your old black and white fuzzy TV, but if you have a smartphone, this little black and white box will link you directly to the online PAAG! If there are *any* changes to the schedule, you'll find them here first!

As with each year, I have read your end-of-event comments and suggestions and tried to incorporate them into creating programming content for this year. Hopefully this helps you get the most entertainment out of your experience! Here are the biggest adjustments I have incorporated into the programming for this year:

- I have added more entertainment for your Thursday night enjoyment.

- I cut back on the Sunday schedule to allow everyone a little more time to recover and have time for their own personal "goodbye tour" of sorts.

- I did my absolute best to avoid having programs conflict with meal times, and reduced overlap as much as possible.

- I tried to keep the programs spread in such a way that similar presentations are not in direct competition with each other.

- I limited the amount of programming against the BIG events like the costume contest, both dances, Epicurean Experience, and Pretentious Drinking .

At the back of each speaker room, you will find short answer survey cards. As you attend presentations, please fill these out and drop them in the box located near registration. These comments help my speakers and me determine needs for next year's programming. As always, you can also use your daily printed PAAG to leave general programming comments. Let me know what you liked, and what you didn't! My goal is to make sure everyone here has a great time!



Sincerely,

Lacee Hudec, Program Chair

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Policies & Reminders

Before you enjoy the festivities, please review the policies and reminders that follow.

Name Badges: Your name badge is your ticket to all the joys and wonders of HalloweeM. Please wear it at all times. With a group as large and diverse as ours, the tags are the only way we have of knowing who belongs to the RG. Anyone without a name badge should be referred to registration or to an event host (designated by their lavender badges). Sorry, lost name badges cannot be replaced.

Smartphone, Tablet, and other E-Gear Users: Please be courteous by silencing your devices when at programs or events. If you don't know how to silence your device, please leave it in your room, lest you be mocked mercilessly. Wi-Fi is available in the hotel lobby. Scannable QR codes are posted near registration to allow you to easily download the program booklet and Program at a Glance (PAAG) in PDF form.



Program At A Glance (PAAG): The PAAG includes some updates to the program which were too late to make it into the program book. There may be signs posted at the programming rooms or near registration with information that is fresher still. We're confident you'll know what's up. Some events are age-restricted (usually 21+), and you may be asked to show proof of age. Finally, please note that a few events do not start and end on the same time boundaries as most.

Program Schedule: There are often intervals set between programs in the programming grid. Check the times listed carefully. The PAAG is the most up-to-date source with respect to error corrections, room changes, speaker cancellations, etc.

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About the Speakers: Please bear in mind that the speakers have donated their time and resources to be with us this weekend. Many of them are not Mensans and this is their first (and maybe only) exposure to the organization. Mensa's reputation depends on the actions and attitudes of each of us. If you enter or leave during a program, please do so quietly in deference to the speaker and other attendees. Show consideration, even if you disagree with a speaker. Unless a speaker requests otherwise, please hold questions and comments until the end of the presentation.

Alcohol and Youth: Illinois law, hotel rules, and Chicago Area Mensa policies are strict when it comes to underage drinking. The legal drinking age here is 21. Please do not be insulted if you are asked for proof of age. Anyone with a brightly colored "under 21" badge is not permitted to be in areas where alcohol is available. These areas are easy to spot in hospitality and in the program guide. Adherence to this rule has been stressed to all Hospitality gHosts. Even if you unwisely choose to allow your children to consume alcohol at home, you are NOT free to do the same at HalloweeM.

Dry-Erase Board: A dry-erase board will be available near the registration area for posting personal messages, program changes, and other announcements. Please re-cap the markers after use.

Decorations: Every year, we make a sizable investment of time and money in creating the right ambiance at HalloweeM. Please do not disturb or remove the decorations. Many of them are haunted. We cannot be held responsible for any paranormal activities if you remove the sacred monkey paw from its resting chamber.

Food and Beverages: HalloweeM food and beverages MUST remain in the Ravinia Ballroom. Since the games room is within Ravinia, bringing food and beverages there is permitted. However, please DO NOT take food or beverages into the other speaker rooms. Water is available outside most of the speaker rooms, if you become parched.

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Policies & Reminders, cont'd.

Volunteers/gHosts: HalloweeM is a big event. It takes a LOT of volunteers to make things run smoothly. Our volunteer staff (also known as gHosts) is always happy to accept new recruits. We need only an hour or two of your time; in exchange, you get a HalloweeM volunteer collector's pin (pictured on the next page) and a warm feeling deep inside. A volunteer grid will be posted near registration. Please sign up!

A break from the crowds: There is a nature walk along the river just outside the south door of the hotel. It's a great place for a breather.

Hugs: Yes, maybe, no? Colored stickers signify your hugging preference: yes, no, maybe so. Pick up a sticker for your name badge at the registration desk and check the stickers that others wear. If a hug sticker isn't on someone's badge, or if there is any doubt, please ask before hugging.

Harassment: HalloweeM will be a friendly and safe environment for our attendees. Unwelcome physical contact and other forms of harassment will not be tolerated. **Failure to comply with this policy may result in removal from the event without a refund**. If you have concerns or need to report misconduct, find someone with a blinking peace sign necklace, or, if you need immediate and direct intervention for your personal safety, go to the hotel lobby and request assistance from security at the front desk.



Late Check-out: When you check in, please let the hotel desk staff know if you need a late check-out time at the end of the weekend. Based on their expected vacancy level, they will do all they can to accommodate as many as they can.

Smoking: By Illinois state law as well as hotel policy, smoking is permitted outside the hotel in designated areas only.

Pet Policy: In keeping with Chicago Area Mensa's pet policy, no non-human animals are allowed in any event space (hospitality or speaker/meeting rooms) unless they are

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registered service animals. It is the obligation of the owner to provide proof of registration. Pets are still allowed in guest rooms.

Hotel kitchens and service corridors: Due to concerns from the hotel staff, **only** authorized volunteers will be allowed in the service corridors and hotel kitchens. If we are out of something and it needs to be replenished, please alert one of the hospitality volunteers or one of the event hosts who are wearing lavender badges. We reserve the right to revoke the badges of anyone who goes in these areas without permission.

Photo Booth Is Back! A photo booth will be available from 7:30 - 11:30 PM Saturday, in the front hall outside Pretentious Drinking. There will be props you can use to make your photo even more special. You will get a copy of your masterpiece, and electronic copies will be saved.

NEW as of LAST YEAR: There is a new coffee shop in the hotel, where the gift shop used to be. The hotel respectfully requests that it not be used as a thoroughfare/shortcut to the meeting rooms.

ALSO NEW as of LAST YEAR: Alcohol will **NOT** be available all night. Exact times will vary, but generally, alcohol will be unavailable between 2:00 AM and 10:00 AM.

Of Special Note: Volunteer Drawing

We're holding a drawing to reward our valuable helpers this weekend. Raffle prizes are gift certificates and other great prizes! You get a drawing ticket for each hour worked. As a twist, some of the less-popular volunteer assignments (like the middle of the night in Hospitality) are worth more than one ticket per hour. Those who signed up for shifts in advance will also receive extra tickets. The RG wins, our guests win, and, most important, you win! For major prizes, you do not need to be present to win. Minor prizes (less than $20 value) will only be awarded to those present.



All of our wonderful volunteers will get a volunteer pin, pictured here.

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WeeM Loves Kids!

Young Children

For kids 8 and under, we will again have activities and plenty of opportunities for supervised play all weekend long in Maple. To help cover the cost of the babysitters, parents who did not pre-register their child for babysitting will be charged $15 per day per child. ($40 for the whole weekend.) The Kids' Room will be open Friday after the kids costume parade until 11:30 pm, Saturday from 9:00 AM to 11:30 PM, and Sunday from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM. We will close the room for an hour during all scheduled meals (including Saturday evening) and will take "field trips" to some of the WeeM Programs that are especially good for kids. Look for signs outside the Kids' Room for up-to-the-minute details.

Little ones are welcome in the Kids' Room if they are able to play with a group of older children. While there will be two responsible adults with the children at all times, this is a popular program that draws a lot of kids and features plenty of "ages 3 and up" toys. If your children are not potty trained, parents are responsible for diaper changes. Snacks will be provided in the Kids' Room at intervals throughout the weekend, but you should pick up your kids and visit hospitality when the Kids' Room is closed for meal breaks or whenever you are hungry.

We will once again have a kids-only costume parade at 6:30 PM Friday before the adult parade. Bring your kids directly to the parade in costume. Kids do not need to be registered for babysitting to participate in the costume parade.

On Friday and Saturday evenings, we will be dimming the lights and showing movies to help the kids wind down. Kids can bring a pillow or favorite stuffed animal to cuddle with during movie time. Please label everything clearly with your child's name to avoid confusion.

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IMPORTANT: For the children's safety, a responsible adult must sign each child in and out of the kids' room *every time* the child leaves or rejoins the program. Parents must remain in the hotel at all times when their children are in the Kids' Room. If children prove to be uncontrollable or dangerous, their parents will be asked to remove them from the room and they will not be allowed to participate further.

If you have any questions about the Kids' Room, please contact Stacey Kirsch at 630-766-1289.

Tweens and Teens (12-17)

Participants under 18 years of age who are old enough to be unsupervised must register with a responsible adult or have their parents sign a release form at registration and provide contact information where a responsible adult can be reached *at the hotel* throughout the weekend.

Tournaments & Games

Game Room: Ravinia B

The Game Room will open Thursday evening and remain open around the clock until Sunday afternoon, even if there is a tournament. (These times will be posted.) We have a wide assortment to choose from. Please do not leave your small children unattended in the game room.

Tournaments: Ravinia A

The tournaments lineup is in the day-to-day listing of events. Please check the PAAG and sign-up sheets in hospitality (near Ravinia A) for details.

Massage Therapists

Deborah Knoll and James Martin will be doing chair massages in the vendor hall for much of the weekend. The cost is $15 (cash only) for a 15-minute massage. Sign up is recommended.

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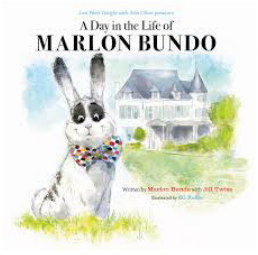
Book Sale



Find out what your fellow Mensans have read. Browse through donated book and non-book items, and take home some real treasures. We charge 50¢ per book or 3/$1, for paperbacks; $1 each for hardcovers or 3/$2.50; and $1.00/bag on Sunday. VHS and audio cassette tapes are $1, CDs are $2, and DVDs are $3. Books on tape or CD are $2. All proceeds benefit Curt's Café, which provides employment, life-skills training, mentoring, and more to at-risk young adults.

Due to the timing for the program book preparation, any last-minute changes to the schedule, or past-the-deadline submissions, will be reflected in the "Program At A Glance," which is available at registration.

Thursday

Early Morning to Late Afternoon

Setting Up

Mostly in the the Hospitality Area

Welcome! We're so glad you came to our RG! And you're so early! We don't officially open our doors until 3:30 PM, but you are more than welcome to roll up your sleeves and help out. There are dozens of things to do, and your help will be greatly appreciated. If you choose not to help out, please leave the sandwiches and beverages for those who are working, and don't be offended if we ask you to please get out of the way!

5:30 – 7:00 PM

Exploring the Tarot: Deepening Roots

Kelly Galanis

Willow



Discover more about yourself with an intuitive Tarot reading! Kelly and Tom Galanis have advised individuals using the Tarot for several years and offer fun and informative guidance on how to explore and learn the Tarot for use in daily life. Learn Tarot through a fun and engaging group

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5:30 – 7:00 PM, cont'd.

dialogue including a history of the Tarot, allowing for a deeper understanding of its rich roots and intriguing backstory. Using both traditional Tarot and contemporary decks such as Lenormand, Kipper, and Oracle, Tarot can offer guidance in everyday life. Learn how readings will benefit and guide you!

Behavioral Economics: A Science of Judgment and Decision Making, and Its Applications to One's Life

Victoria Fineberg

Birch

Behavioral Economics (BE) is a recent science combining psychology findings about persistent biases in human Judgment and Decision Making (JDM) with economics models. BE became highly popular after one of its founders, Daniel Kahneman, received a 2002 Nobel Prize in Economics. In this lecture, I will review BE basics, describe several experimental findings, and discuss the value of this knowledge in one's life.

Trauma Informed Care Basics

Lora Mitchell

Elm

Trauma Informed Care is an important way of how human services agencies work with people, but what exactly is it, and why does it matter in settings outside of human services? This program will give an overview of TIC and provide ways that it can help enrich nearly any workplace or interpersonal relationship.



6:00 – 7:00 PM

Sing-Along

Clyde Forrester

Ravinia A

Gather 'round for a sing-along! We'll try anything, really. Bring along your non-amplified instrument, or just your voice. Clyde will bring an acoustic bass and an electronic keyboard.

7:00 – 8:30 PM

Dinner

Hospitality

Build your own tacos/bowls, catered by Chipotle.

7:30 – 8:45 PM

GenY Meet and Greet

Henri Buccine-Schraeder

Elm

The GenY SIG is a party, put on by Mensa members born between 1976 to 1996, for everyone. Come to this session and meet other members and hear about what we do!

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9:00 – 10:30 PM

Strange Physics
Scott Beutlich

Birch

An introduction to the world of Subtle Energy and information shared at the 40 conferences held by the US Psychotronics Association. The current paradigm of physics cannot explain consciousness and the paranormal experiences that occur in our world. This talk will cover the phenomena of dowsing, auras, super consciousness, and much more.

9:00 – 11:00 PM

Whiskey Tasting Comes to America (21+)
Matt Crawford

Willow

This year, our tasting will feature six single-malt whiskies made in different regions of the United States, and information about the fast-growing US single-malt-whiskey industry. No humdrum dorm-drum doom dram, I deem!

9:00 – 12:30 PM

Social Deduction Games: Werewolves of WeeM, and More
Steven Rider & Jason Catena

Elm

Come play Werewolf! Also Secret Hitler/Trump, Dark Moon, Latitude 90: The Origin, Don't mess with Cthulhu, One-night ..., and other social deduction games, depending on player interest and number of players. New players welcome (we'll teach you how to play), and the more the merrier!

11:00 - 12:30 PM

Naughty by Nature: BDSM Connections (21+)
Boss & Naughty Baby



Birch

BDSM has become more of a buzz word in today's world, but it remains largely misunderstood by the masses. Join naturally naughty longtime kinksters BOSS and NaughtyBaby as they share a realistic, open, and honest discussion about the lifestyle. This is open to anyone who is curious, involved, or in between. You'll learn about how to connect with others, discover ways to start on the journey, and the most important factor in the BDSM world – strong communication. This is an open roundtable discussion and meet-and-greet session. Come join us on the dark side – there may even be cookies!

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Another reminder:
Due to the timing for the program book preparation, any late changes to the schedule will be reflected in the "Program At A Glance."

Friday

8:00 – 9:30 AM

Breakfast

Hospitality

Continental Breakfast - bagels & schmear, hot (microwavable) & cold cereals, fruit, yogurt, milk, coffee, and juices.

9:00 - 10:30 AM

Pro Patria- An American who fought for Italy in WWI

Marcella Bernard

Willow

Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori. With these words, Horace exhorted the Romans to fight against the Parthians. Wilfred Owen, in describing the horrors of the Great War, denounced Horace's declaration as "the old Lie." Bernardino Bernardini became a naturalized US citizen in 1908. In 1914, Bernardino decided to join the Italian Army. His parents reluctantly signed enlistment papers. He left a memoir built from journal entries made during his World War I service. The memoir was completed following his return. "Pro Patria" is the novel based on this diary/memoir.

Personal Income Tax Changes - How will they affect you?

Kristin Snowden

Birch

Did you know your federal income tax liability may shift dramatically in 2018 compared to 2017? Last year's tax overhaul significantly changed many aspects of personal income taxes. For example: more than 80% of people who itemized in 2017 will not have enough deductions to itemize in 2018. Whether you prepare your own returns or pay someone to do them for you, come learn about the fundamental changes effective in 2018 that will impact your personal taxes, and some strategies that may increase your after-tax income. Feel free to bring your 2017 return and follow along. (Not required.)

Isolated M Meet & Greet

Bryan Lundgren

Elm

The Isolated M SIG is a family which is scattered worldwide. We adopt, welcome, and engage with Mensans who seek a connection, a good laugh, and an entertaining newsletter. Check us out. You may even want to join (it's free), even if you are not isolated. Web site: isolatedm.com

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9:00 - 10:30 AM, cont'd.

How Safe is Your Personal Information Online?

Scott Smith

Michigan A



In this presentation, Scott Smith will examine what personal information is commonly found online, from search engines to sites aimed at putting all of your public data together in one report. Tips for how to minimize your exposure will be discussed.

Principles of Electromagnetic Pulse Protection

Mike McInerney

Michigan B

Modern electronic equipment is especially sensitive to electromagnetic pulses (EMP). Sources of EM pulses can be natural or manmade. Lightning and solar flares are natural sources, while EMP from a nuclear blast and intentional electromagnetic interference (IEMI) are manmade. The detrimental effects of these phenomena have been known for many years, and in the case of lightning and EMP, protection methods have been developed. This presentation will provide an overview of EMP sources, an introduction to the theory of EM protection, and tailored protection methods.

10:30 AM - Noon

Holocaust Postal History

Justin Gordon

Willow

In this presentation, based on the book "Holocaust Postal History: Harrowing Journeys Revealed through the Letters and Cards of the Victims," author Justin Gordon takes you on a journey through the Holocaust using correspondence written by the victims. While Holocaust philately does not provide answers to the major questions that still haunt us, it does, however, offer insight into the personal, unique journeys of victims of the Nazi onslaught. In many cases, an envelope or a postcard, as highlighted in this presentation, may be the only remnant of an individual's life.

Artificial Intelligence Promise & Peril

Lance Erlick

Birch

Stephen Hawking, Elon Musk, Bill Gates, and other big names in science and technology have expressed concern about the risks posed by AI (artificial intelligence). As an author of science fiction, your host has already written one novel and is planning sequels. Come join a discussion of the promise of AI, myths, threats, and what we should know about changes that will change our world.

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10:30 AM - Noon, cont'd.

M-Available Meet and Greet
Greg Holcombe

Elm

This is a meet and greet for members of M-Available - the SIG for Mensan singles and available people! Can you say 'I aM-Available' honestly? Then find your M-tastic match with M-Available! Whether what you seek is long-term or short-term, heterosexual or homosexual, monogamous or polyamorous, vanilla or kinky, loving or lustful, or whatever else, M-Available can help! M-Available's purpose is to help available adult Mensans find appropriate companions for one another.

Senescence is an Option: The Quest for Immortality
Barbara Barnett

Michigan A

Since the beginning of civilization, the rich and powerful have sought the Holy Grail--the secret of immortality. The quest continues today on both the fringes and in the mainstream (think PayPal founder Peter Theil). Join author Barbara Barnett on a journey through the sometimes-bloody history of this immortal quest.

A Psychophysiological Interpretation of Beethoven's Violin Concerto
Sander Marcus

Michigan B

A discussion of the first movement of Beethoven's Violin Concerto. Dr. Marcus feels that, in this piece, Beethoven got in touch with something in our physiology, and once you hear this interpretation, you will never hear this piece in the same way again. This interpretation relates to the physiology of relaxation. This is recommended for the average music lover who would like to increase his or her appreciation of this piece.



10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Legacies - Strategy Game Playtest
Brooks Jason

Ravinia A

Noon - 1:15 PM

Lunch Break

Hospitality

Baked potato bar, toppings, and sides; Mac & Cheese and soups.



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1:30 - 3:00 PM

Seeking Spiceland
Cynthia Clampitt
Willow



For most of recorded history, people searched for routes to southern India. Why? The world's most popular spices come from a small area at the tip of the subcontinent. The pursuit of these spices has had a tremendous impact on world events. However, today, tourists largely ignore this region, which is a pity. Southern India is a remarkable destination that is rich in history, beauty, gracious people, and wonderful food. Come learn a bit more about the spice trade, the place of southern India in world events, and the delights to be enjoyed by a traveler today.

Meeting of the Minds 3
Bob Finnegan
Birch

Thomas Jefferson, St. Augustine, Bertrand Russell & Byzantine Empress Theodora tell about their lives and argue about heresy, tolerance, & the nature of man.

Acrylic Art Pouring: Mess and Meditation
Tara Travia
Elm

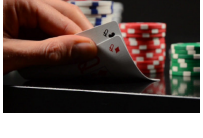
Paint pouring is easy and fun, and can be quite meditative. While the artist gets to choose the basic colors and techniques, the paint will ultimately have a say in the process. We have to surrender control and collaborate with the paint, which leads to letting go and a sense of freedom. Tara will teach basic techniques, some tricks, and how she lets go into the art to find joy. You will get to play and take home what you create. Paintings will take about 24 hours to dry. Wear something you don't mind getting paint on!

National Membership Officer Meet and Greet
Henri Buccine-Schraeder
Michigan A

Are you a Mensan with ideas about Mensa? Do you want to discuss your thoughts on improving the organization? What would you like to see more of in Mensa? What would you like to do to improve Mensa? Come to this discussion with the National Membership Officer and bring all of your ideas with you.

2:00 – 3:30 PM

Poker Tournament
Ravinia A



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3:00 - 4:30 PM

The German Jewish Exodus - How the Ungers came to America

Bernie Unger

Willow

Bernie Unger is a child of the Holocaust. Both of his parents emigrated independently from Germany to the United States via Latin America in a modern-day Exodus that is full of peril, impossible plot twists, and serendipity. This talk honors a promise to his father to keep the Exodus stories alive after the original Holocaust generation dies out. World economic and political backdrops are covered to show how decisions made in Washington, Berlin, and elsewhere translated into actual events in the narratives.

3:00 - 4:30 PM, cont'd

Understanding Surrealist Art

Christopher Kilgore

Birch

Surrealism was the most influential artistic movement of the 20th century, affecting abstract expressionism, pop art, magic realism, and advertising. Chris Kilgore will present a survey of Surrealist art and illuminate the movement's historical, political, philosophical, and psychological context. Chris will discuss Surrealism's greatest artists and the way in which their personalities, relationships, synergies, and conflicts influenced the movement's evolution. Important surrealist artworks will be analyzed in terms of their stylistic precedents, technical approaches, and thematic elements.

Triple Nine Meet & Greet

Bryan Lundgen

Elm

Bryan Lundgen will host a participative session where TNS members will be invited to share stories with interested Mensa Members. What meanings does TNS have for you? Do you have an interesting anecdote to share? What expectations/questions do Mensans have?

You Be The Investigator -- Unsolved Homicides

Leslie Bakke

Michigan A

Here's how it works: Cookie will present an Open Case (names changed when privacy required) and then hope that audience comments, questions, and observations will uncover the GOLDEN needle in the haystack that will lead to solving the case.

4:00 – 6:00 PM

Codenames Tournament

Jordan Weiss

Ravinia A

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4:30 – 6:00 PM

Bhutan. Land of the Thunder Dragon
Ruth Danielle

Willow

Is this the last Shangri-la? Gross National Happiness. World's highest unclimbed mountain. 100% organic farming. Polygamy acceptable; smoking illegal. Tourism limited and controlled. See and hear impressions, experiences, and stories from this exotic destination.

Zen of Nature photography
Melissa Rennie

Birch



Blending nature and photography into a total togetherness of the natural world, the body, and the mind. Whether in your own back yard, the local zoo, or immersing oneself in the great American landscape, how to use your camera to become one with all that nature has to offer.

Ask the Sexologists (21+)
Robert Berend

Michigan A

Ask the Sexologists is 100% question-driven by you! Submit your questions on sex, dating, sexual behaviors, or the things your "friends" do that you wonder about. From sperm to sadism, knots to kink, dating to despair, we're here with information, science, and humor to answer serious questions on sexuality. This has been presented at AGs and RGs many times over the last 20 years!

6:00 – 7:30 PM

Dinner

Hospitality



"It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" Dinner.

Please note – since the children's costume parade begins at 6:30, please allow families with children to eat first. Thank you.

6:30 – 7:30 PM

Kids' Costume Parade/Contest

Michigan A/B

All children are invited to show off their costumes for prizes. Come see some little ones who are so cute, it's scary! Kids registered for babysitting are welcome to wear their costumes to the Kids' Room for the remainder of the evening.

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7:30 – 9:00 PM

Adults' Costume Parade/Contest
Robert Stalzer, Emcee

Michigan A/B

It's one of the many things for which we are (justly) famous: costumes. Prizes will be awarded for Best Pun, Worst Pun, Best Traditional, Best Group, and whatever other categories strike the fancy of our judges, who are, as always, very open to bribes.

If you will be entering the costume contest, be sure to get a numbered ticket. Please SPEAK LOUDLY AND CLEARLY when you get to the microphone. The judges and the audience would like very much to hear the description of your costume.

9:00 – 10:30 PM

Hell's Ms Meet and Greet
Beth Weiss

Willow

A get-together of the 'Party SIG.' Stop by, learn who we are and what we do.

9:00 – 11:00 PM

Seven Wonders Tournament
Ravinia A

9:00 PM – Midnight

Friday Movie: "Ant-Man & the Wasp"
Robert Finnegan

Birch

Ant-Man (Paul Rudd) teams up with the Wasp (Evangeline Lilly/Michelle Pfeiffer). All the quirky humor of the first Ant-Man movie. Plus the best Blu-ray extras. 1 hour, 58 minutes, rated PG-13.

Social Deduction Games: Werewolves of WeeM, and More
Steven Rider & Jason Catena

Elm

Come play Werewolf! Also Secret Hitler/Trump, Dark Moon, Latitude 90: The Origin, Don't mess with Cthulhu, One-night ..., and other social deduction games, depending on player interest and number of players. New players welcome (we'll teach you how to play), and the more the merrier!

10:00 PM – Late

Friday Night Dance
Kenya Hitchens

Botanic

DJ Kenya is back to bring the party! From Halloween classics to oldies to pop to rock 'n roll, this dance floor will always have something to move you. Requests will be accepted and played based on song availability and danceability (yes, that's a word, 'cause we said so).

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Yet another reminder:
Due to the timing for the program book preparation, any late changes to the schedule will be reflected in the "Program At A Glance."

Saturday

8:00 – 9:30 AM

Breakfast

Hospitality

Continental Breakfast items plus hot breakfast specials: egg dishes, French toast bake, and breakfast meats.

9:00 – 10:30 AM

Auto Care 101: What's That Warning Light About?

Len Hiznay

Willow

You don't have to be an ASE Master Technician to understand many of the basics about these machines we use to get around on a daily basis. What's that "check engine" light about? What's all this fuss over "synthetic" oil? Len will answer these and many other questions about our 4-wheeled wonders. Bring your questions and your sense of humor, but leave your torque wrenches at home. Let's talk basic auto care in a language we can all understand.

Touring Washington DC

Alan Schmidt

Birch

I will provide descriptions, tips, logistics, and priorities on the tourist sites to see in Washington DC based on my touring there for the last five years.

Kids' Activity

Casarah Stark

Elm

Is Facebook Becoming Obsolete? A Mathematical Analysis

Anthony DeLegge

Michigan A

In 2007, Facebook overtook MySpace to become the #1 online social network in the world. In 2009, MySpace effectively became obsolete, but Facebook has continued its dominance up to today. Still, with many other social networks sprouting up, and with some recent negative news about Facebook, people wonder: when will Facebook's stay at the top end, or will it? We will attempt to answer this question by forming a mathematical model for how users enter, and leave, a social network, and fitting this model to how popular Facebook is in Google searches.

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9:00 – 10:30, cont'd.

Latin to Spanish, or Fun Linguistics Stuff I Learned in Grad School

Jennifer Murtoff

Michigan B

We often think of languages as static, constant, and unchanging, but they are very dynamic, lively things that are continually evolving. In this program, I'll cover some of the major shifts in Classical Latin that led to modern Spanish, whatever that is! We'll look at phonological, morphological, and grammatical changes, as well as foreign borrowings and other cool stuff.

9:00 – 11:00 AM

Logic Problem Tournament

Oriel Maximé

Ravinia A

You know the type: 5 people, with 5 different types of cars and 5 different pets, live on the same street... See how you rate against your fellow Mensans on these six, never-before-seen problems: three traditional and three less common. Best solver over the 90 minutes wins a prize and significant bragging rights!

10:30 AM – Noon

Writing & Publishing Science-Fiction Thrillers

Lance Erlick

Willow

Come share in a discussion of writing and publishing today with a writer of science-fiction thrillers, which are enjoyed by adult and young adult audiences. Your host will discuss his writing experiences, his experiences with traditional publishers, and then his experience over five years as a self-published author.

A Friendly Orange Glow: PLATO and the Dawn of Cyberculture on the Silicon Prairie

Alan Baltis

Birch



Long before what we know today as "The Internet," a prototypical online community flourished, centered on the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. Alan Baltis had the good luck to earn his Computer Science & MBA degrees there from 1977 -83, & was immersed in the PLATO community. Inspired by the publication of "The Friendly Orange Glow," we'll swing between detailed history & personal reminiscence as we discuss PLATO, plasma panels, modems, multimedia devices, TUTOR programming, online communities, multi-user games, hacking, instant messaging, blogging, virtual personae, & cyberaddiction.

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10:30 AM – Noon, cont'd.

Learn to Play Magic: The Gathering
Michael Bratkovich

Elm

Come and learn to play Magic: The Gathering. This was a Mensa Select winner in 1994. You will be provided free introductory decks for this event. Have fun learning how to summon creatures and sling spells in this popular trading card game.

When Ghosts Speak
Kerry Arquette

Michigan A

The voices of those killed in WWII Europe spoke to Kerry, insisting she tell their stories. She sets their experiences against the historical backgrounds in which they took place. Video, music, and art make this presentation moving and unforgettable.

Berlin, Germany
Sünnenwold Bernd

Michigan B

The presentation gives you the opportunity to get to know the German capital better. Bernd introduces briefly: 10 historical events, 10 interesting places, and 10 movies.

11:00 AM – 1:30 PM



Scythe Tournament
Matt Crawford

Ravinia A

Scythe combines a bit of exploration, economic development, expansion, and conflict. The tournament will have a preliminary round on Saturday and a final match on Sunday if there are six or more entries. You must know how to play beforehand, and there is a Chicago Mensa copy of the game in the game room you can practice with. Faction and Player Mat pairs will be drawn in advance and you may bid for your favorites. Winning bid amounts are deducted from your final score.

Noon – 1:15 PM

Lunch Break

Hospitality

Award-winning bratwurst from Ream's Market, or veggie dogs, toppings, and sides.

1:30 – 3:00 PM

Nothing
Timmy King

Willow

Seriously - this is an entire talk about nothing. We will explore the physical and metaphysical concept of nothingness throughout history. We will examine the smallest nothing imaginable, nothing that is infinitely large, and every nothing in-between. This is the perfect talk if you have nothing to do for an hour.

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1:30 – 3:00, cont'd.



The Return of the Vinyl Junkie

Mike Wolstein

Birch

Mike will share as much knowledge as possible regarding record collecting, the care, feeding, and sources of vinyl and hi-fi equipment, and what to expect to pay for records. He'll touch upon the resurgence of vinyl (after everyone said it was dead) in the early 2000s and its effect on collecting, and the values of records.

Roundtable: American Mensa's National Organization

Jon Gruebele

Elm

Please join members of American Mensa's Board of Directors (AMC) for a brief discussion of Mensa's national organization and its current status. Then we'll turn the session over to you. Want to ask questions about how Mensa spends your dues money? Have an idea about how to make Mensa better? It's all fair game. Here's your chance to learn about Mensa at the national level. More importantly, let your representatives on American Mensa's Board of Directors (AMC) know what you're thinking!

ImprovThis: The Three Pillars of Improv

Steve Duberchin

Michigan A

LIMITED ATTENDANCE: Due to the intimate nature of this session, attendance will be limited to ~20 people. Do you enjoy Improv Live on stage or on TV and wonder "How do they make it all work?" The answer is surprisingly simple, it's the Three Pillars of Improv. In this session, Steve Duberchin from ImprovThis will facilitate a fun workshop where you'll be up and improvising side by side with seasoned improvisers. We'll be exploring the three Pillars of Improv by playing in "games" and "scenes." Prepare to have a lot of fun, think on your feet, and maybe even learn something new!

1:00 – 2:45 PM

WeeM Pub Trivia

Kenya Hitchens

Botanic

Compete for bragging rights and meaningless trinkets in this pub style quiz! Teams of up to 5 people will play 6 rounds on a variety of topics. NOTE: this quiz is mostly harmless, but there may be some mature content. PLEASE arrive 15 minutes before start time to check in, as trivia will start promptly at 4 PM. No children under 13, please.

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1:30 – 3:15 PM

LEGO Improv
Clyde Forrester

Ravinia A

With a cup full of LEGO pieces, try to create something unique and wonderful.

3:00 – 4:15 PM

Gimme a Brake - On My Car, That Is!
Len Hiznay

Birch

We all know the importance of good braking for safe driving, but when the brakes need service, why does it have to be such a mystery? Are they just scaring us into a more costly repair than is necessary? Why can't someone explain it in simple terms so I know what to expect? Len will do exactly that. With some basic understanding, you will be prepared for what you might need and what questions you should ask. Let's eliminate the mystery and remove the anxiety of dealing with your car's brakes. Let's save that stress for when your kids start to drive. I can't help you there!



Photography 101
Judy Unger

Birch

The program will focus on how to improve your photo-taking abilities. It will cover basic camera settings and guidelines to improving your photo captures including: keeping it simple, depth of focus, the rule of thirds, lines & shapes, balance, framing, and avoiding mergers.



Improv Comedy Show: The BlueBees
Steve Duberchin

Michigan A

Join us as we present an improvised comedy about everything and anything. Maybe we'll do a long-form montage, or maybe we'll end up putting together a running order of short-form "games." We just never know what we'll be doing until we get on stage. We'll use your suggestions to improvise scenes that will have you thinking, laughing, and maybe even groaning. This will be a unique performance, as these scenes have never been performed before and most likely will never be performed again. Crazy Shades Of Blue and Queen Bees are Improv Comedy troupes, performing often in the Chicago suburbs.

3:00 – 5:00 PM

Game Theory 101
Oriel D. Maximé

Michigan B

What do election politics, reality television, and murderous pigeons have in common? Game theory -

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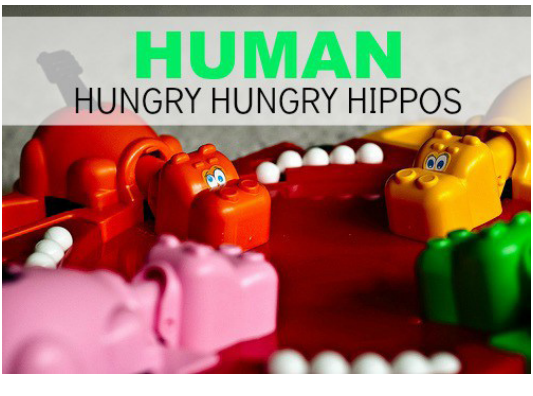
the study of conflicts of interest. Come enjoy this highly-interactive, no-math survey of key ideas and theorems of this fascinating science. This is (I mean it!) the last time this lecture will be given, so bring your curiosity and life experiences. Please plan to arrive on time or a little early for reasons that will become apparent during the lecture!

Human Hungry Hungry Hippos

Heather Booton

Botanic

You've seen the videos. You've heard the stories. Now is the time to experience the game in person. Join us for this energetic and fun event in which teams collect balls in a life-sized version of the classic children's game. All participants must sign a waiver or have an adult or guardian sign for them.



3:30 – 5:30 PM

Ascension Tournament

Ravinia A

Details available on the sign-up sheet.

4:30 – 5:45 PM

Sidestepping our Modern-Day Disease Epidemic

Peter Kraus

Willow

We are living in an era of rapidly rising disease incidence, with autoimmune diseases increasing at an estimated 19% per year. Find out why this may be occurring, what you can do to protect yourself, and to treat yourself if prevention fails. Hint: One piece of the puzzle involves the recent court ruling in a California liability case, finding that glyphosate, the active ingredient in the herbicide Roundup, caused the cancer of the plaintiff. P.S. I will provide a list of books and topics that you might choose from to give a talk of your own at next year's WeeM. I can't read them all!

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4:30 – 5:45 PM, cont'd.





Dick Biondi Documentary Film Prevue

Pamela Joy Pulice

Birch

"The Voice That Rocked America" is the first film about rock-and-roll radio pioneer Dick Biondi, one of the last of a dying breed of personality disc jockeys, who is known for his unique contribution to radio, his influence on the music of the 1950s, '60s, and '70s, and his extraordinary gift for connecting with people. At the heart of this story is the powerful connection between Biondi and his teenage audience, as told by former fan club president and mega fan Pam Pulice. This hour-long documentary is slated for PBS broadcast, Film Festivals, DVD, and streaming.

Not Your Mama's Foundation

Jane Hanson

Michigan A

Jane Hanson and Charlie Steinhice have been part of an exciting time for the Mensa Foundation and are partners in crime in establishing the new Graduate Fellowship in Gifted Education that will be offered for the first time this coming year. The Trustees wear their purple proudly and would love to share some of what we have been doing, as well as get your input and creative ideas.

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Dinner Break

Like the last several years, there will be no dinner served tonight, though light snacks will be available in Hospitality. There is a restaurant in the building, a couple within easy walking distance, and the hotel is mere minutes (by car) from Wheeling's famous "Restaurant Row" up and down Milwaukee Ave.

PLEASE NOTE:
The alcohol in Pretentious Drinking MUST remain in the Botanic Room. Please conform to this rule, and help us maintain our wonderful relationship with the hotel. Thank you.

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7:30 – 9:45 PM

Best of Nature 4
Bob Finnegan

Birch

Sir David Attenborough presents the latest evidence on how life evolved to dominate Earth, how life survived the Snowball Earth disaster, how Trilobites dominated life on Earth for 269 million years. Watch as a member of one of the first air-breathing animals crawls over David's fingers, and how Funisians introduced animal sex to the world.

The Epicurean Experience
Sue and Steve Davidson

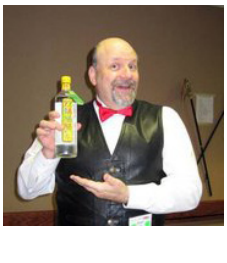
Michigan B

Have you ever seen an unfamiliar food or beverage on your favorite TV show and wondered what in the heck it tasted like? Now's your chance to find out! Come sample some goodies (and some maybe not-ready-for-prime-time goodies) featured in various TV shows and commercials throughout the years. Unfortunately (or is it fortunately?), durian will not be making a repeat appearance this year. Never fear, as we'll have an all-new variety of thematic, diverse, and sometimes bizarre foods and drinks to explore. Take a nibble of things you've never seen and/or heard of before…or perhaps you are familiar with, but were reluctant to try. This event is ALCOHOL FREE, so anyone not wearing an "under 21" badge should visit before partaking of Pretentious Drinking and show us your PD ticket (which we will not take, so you can still use it later). Please note: we aren't serving a meal, just samples and sips, so come for curiosity, not dinner.

8:30 – 10:30 PM

Pretentious Drinking **(21 and older)**
Alan Baltis and his Merry Band of Pourmeisters

Botanic



Liqueurs. The fancy stuff. Polished, cosmopolitan, perhaps even a bit snooty. The stuff you graduate to from beer and wine. You'd like to know more but, gosh, look at that price. What if that pricey potion isn't quite the palate pleaser you expected? Rejoice! As in years past, you can sample some truly amazing liqueurs—and your money's no good. Details are included in your registration package. We will supply a wide range of weird and wonderful concoctions from around the world. You can determine which you'd like to own, which should be left on the shelf, and which you should give to your arch-nemesis as a "thoughtful" gift. Obviously, you must be of legal drinking age to join us. Snobbish accents and extended pinkies optional.



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9:00 PM – Midnight

Saturday Movie- Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom

Bob Finnegan

Birch

Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom. Chris Pratt & Bryce Dallas Howard try to save dinos from a volcano on the island. Plus all the best extras. 2 hours, 8 minutes,



rated PG-13.

Social Deduction Games

Steven Rider & Jason Catena

Elm

Come play Werewolf! Also Secret Hitler/Trump, Dark Moon, Latitude 90: The Origin, Don't mess with Cthulhu, One-night ..., and other social deduction games, depending on player interest and number of players. New players welcome (we'll teach you how to play), and the more the merrier!

10:00 PM – Late

Saturday Night Dance

Theo Sparks and DJ That Guy John

Botanic

Please join M Theo Sparks and DJ That Guy John for a karaoke dance. The format of the dance will start out with a ratio of one singer to one bumper/dance song and will potentially change based on the number of singers that we have. If we have fewer singers, we will have more dance music. If we have more singers, the dance songs may be shortened. Also, singers, please try to think of the most danceable songs to sing to get those toes a-tappin'!

Yet still another another reminder: due to the timing for the program book preparation, any changes to the schedule will be reflected in the "Program At A Glance."

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Sunday

8:00 – 9:30 AM

Breakfast
Hospitality

Continental Breakfast items plus hot breakfast specials: egg dishes, French toast bake, and breakfast meats.

9:30 - 11:00 AM

Amazing Race - WeeM Style
Jill Sackett

Michigan B

Back for a sixth year, Amazing Race for Mensans is Where It's Happening on Sunday morning! Based on the popular TV show, teams of 2-4 competitors complete a variety of cerebral and/or light-hearted tasks on the way to the final "Pit Stop" and victor's bragging rights. Our version is designed for all ages and activity levels; no prior knowledge of the game is needed. Please see details and sign up in advance on the Amazing Race tournament sheet to secure your spot. Not on a team? No problem; we'll get you on one. Close out the weekend with over 30 of your fellow Mensans with a ton a fun!

10:00 – 11:00 AM

CAM Board Meeting
Michigan A

10:00 – 11:45 AM

Really Odd & Special 7
Robert Finnegan

Birch

Actresses do screen tests for Lois Lane, Princess Di smashes her husband over the head, the real Pussy Galore, Rod Serling pitches Twilight Zone, extraordinary juggler Michael Moschen.

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Awards and Announcements
Hosted by Heather Booton

Ravinia C/D/F

Find out who did and won what this weekend.

12:00 NOON – 2:30 PM

Scythe Tournament 2
Matt Crawford

Ravinia A

Final match!



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2:00 – 4:30 PM

Proctored Tests

Willow

Not a member yet? Here's your chance to qualify.

3:15 PM – Later

End of Sunday

Anyone with time to spare?

Just about everywhere

Time to clean up! Please pitch in and give us a hand. If you volunteer, you ***may*** go home with some unused food or beverages, but you will ***definitely*** go home with our thanks, and a collectable volunteer pin.

Presenter Biographies

Kerry Arquette

When Ghosts Speak (Sat.)

Kerry has written more than a dozen books, as well as articles for many national magazines. Her work is included in anthologies including "Chicken Soup for the Writer's Soul." Kerry is the author of "War Cries," her poetic collection of voices from the Holocaust. She is a popular speaker who tours the country with her "War Cries" presentation. With an MS in Criminology, Kerry has worked as a victim specialist for the Denver Police Department. She is also a certified death doula.

Leslie Bakke

You Be The Investigator -- Unsolved Homicides (Fri.)

Recognized global fraud/crime expert, licensed private investigator, author, journalist, speaker, instructor. Editor of "The John Cooke" publications and of "Fight Fraud America," speaker, instructor, hands-on investigator, prolific writer, recognized global fraud expert. "Dateline"? Yup. Maury? Yup, TBS? Yup. "20/20"? Yup. "Forbes"? Yup. Mensa stuff? AG Chair? Yup. Bulletin Assoc. Editor? Yup x 20 yrs. Nat'l Events Hotel Coordinator? Yup. AG Speaker Chair? Yup x 3. AG Hosp. Chair? Yup. Whole bunch else? Yup, yup, yup, YUP.

Alan Baltis

A Friendly Orange Glow (Sat.)

Alan Baltis is an alpha geek, an app/website/database developer, author, & speaker. He's a collector, with 100K+ comic books, magazines, books, puzzles, games, CDs, & LPs. He's been to 48/50 state capitols with his wonderful M wife, Colleen. He's in Ripley's "Believe It Or Not" for hugging 833 people in an hour. A Mensa member for 40 years, in for life. He won on Jeopardy in 2013, and his favorite color is orange, favorite food is deep-dish pizza, and his childhood hero is Doc Savage. Email alanbaltis@thesmartlife.com, friend him on Facebook!

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Barbara Barnett

Senescence is an Option: The Quest for Immortality (Fri.)

Barbara Barnett is author of the Bram Stoker Award-nominated novel "The Apothecary's Curse" (Pyr Books). Her new novel, "The Alchemy of Glass" (Pyr), is due out late summer 2019.Her book on the TV series "House, M.D., Chasing Zebras: The Unofficial Guide to House, M.D." is a critically-acclaimed and quintessential guide to the themes, characters, and episodes of the hit show. As an entertainment journalist, she has published in-depth interviews with Hollywood writers, stars, and producers.

Robert Berend

Ask the Sexologists (Fri.)

Robert Berend has a Ph.D. in human sexuality, and has attended conferences on the medical and psychological aspects of sexuality for over 20 years. Kathleen Cardona has a Doctorate in Public Health and was a peer sex counselor. She did academic research on adolescent high-risk sexual behaviors at Johns Hopkins. We've done "Ask the Sexologists" at conferences in the U.S. and Canada. Ask us! Ask the Sexologist on Facebook.

Marcella Bernard

Pro Patria - An American who fought for Italy in WWI (Fri.)

Marcella Bernard has worked as an advertising copywriter, commercial producer, and radio marketing specialist. She became tenured faculty and associate chair of the Radio Department at Columbia College, Chicago. Bernard received her MA in creative writing from Northwestern University's School of Professional Studies. She is a stage/voiceover actor who belongs to the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, Chicago Writers Association and Chicago Women in Publishing.

Scott Beutlich

Strange Physics (Thur.)

High school Physics teacher (34 years), College Board AP Physics program(14 years), US Psychotronics Association, the Science of Subtle Energy, member (40 years), Board member/Officer (25 years).

Heather Booton

Human Hungry Hungry Hippos (Sat.)

Heather Booton is not only an experienced and decorated Hungry Hungry Hippos Referee, she's also your fearless WeeM Chair. Winner of a Nobel Prize in meeting and RG planning, she surely wasn't the first to realize that you can write anything in these bios because almost no one reads them. Look for her around the event in her well-polished tiara, and remember the duck: calm on the surface, but paddling like hell underneath.

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Boss & Naughty Baby

Naughty by Nature: BDSM Connections (Thur.)

Soulmates, wondertwins, lovers, and best friends, Boss and NaughtyBaby are a married power couple who have explored kink for their entire 20 years together. They are frequent presenters on a number of topics in the BDSM community and love to support and help others discover their confidence in the bedroom and beyond.

Michael Bratkovich

Learn to Play Magic: The Gathering (Sat.)

Michael Bratkovich is a member of Chicago Area Mensa, and a lifelong nerd and gamer. Most days, he attempts to teach middle schoolers math, whether they want it or not. For this program, he is joined by friends and fellow nerds Tony Ciasto and Matt Sada.

Jason Brooks

Legacies - Strategy Game Playtest (Fri.)

Since Mensa Mind Games was in Chicago, Jason has spent all of his free time designing board games. With 8 games in flight, his strategy game, Legacies, has been a hit with dozens of playtesters and will be the first game to go to Kickstarter from Brookspun Games.

Henri Buccine-Schraeder

National Membership Officer Meet and Greet (Fri.), Gen Y Meet and Greet (Thur.)

Henri is the Membership Officer for American Mensa. She also serves on Central New Jersey Mensa's Local Board as the Membership Officer, as well as serving as the National Coordinator for the GenY SIG.

Cynthia Clampitt

Seeking Spiceland (Fri.)

Cynthia Clampitt is a writer, speaker, and food historian who has pursued her love of culture, history, and food in 37 countries on six continents. She has been writing and talking about food history for 30 years. She is the author of "Pigs, Pork, and Heartland Hog" (Rowman & Littlefield, 2018) and "Midwest Maize" (University of Illinois Press, 2015), and contributed major articles to the "Food Cultures of the World" Encyclopedia. She is an Illinois Humanities Council "Road Scholar."

Matt Crawford

Whiskey Tasting Comes to America (Thurs.)

Matt Crawford has been pouring for and propounding to first-day WeeMgoers since 2008. His formal education in whisky, and other Caledonian gustatory dares, began in Edinburgh in 2002.



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Sue and Steve Davidson

The Epicurean Experience (Sat.)

Sue and Steve are excited about presenting another edition of the Epicurean Experience. Sue is a 2nd grade teacher with Chicago Public Schools and is currently pursuing a culinary degree at Triton College, so not to worry, she knows what she's doing. Steve works for an insurance company and watches countless hours of Food Network programming and really likes food, so that's almost the same thing. They live in Chicago with their three cats, which, when it comes to eating, are only slightly less finicky than the average 2nd grader.

Ruth Danielle

Bhutan. Land of the Thunder Dragon (Fri.)

Ruth Danielle spent her career working her way through college, culminating in an M.M. in voice from Northwestern. Her longest job ever was with the Chicago Symphony Chorus; there have been hundreds of others. Chicago Mensa changed her life and prompted her to serve as an officer in the San Diego and Manasota groups. She's proud to be part of the Isolated M SIG heritage and a repeat WeeM costume-contest winner. She loves to travel and share her adventures through her presentations.

Anthony DeLegge

Is Facebook Becoming Obsolete? A Mathematical Analysis (Thurs.)

Anthony DeLegge is an associate professor of mathematics at Benedictine University, starting there in 2010. His research interests include epidemic modeling, social network modeling (which can be thought of as epidemic modeling!), and games and probability. His main professional goal is to get audiences excited and appreciative of mathematics!

Steve Duberchin (The BlueBees)

ImprovThis: The Three Pillars of Improv, Improv Comedy Show: The BlueBees (Sat.)

President, CEO of ImprovThis, Steve earned his MBA from DePaul University and has worked at Fortune 50 and Ad Age 50 companies. He found his true passion when he took his first improv class at the Second City Training Center in 2002. ImprovThis focuses on training people in communication and leadership skills through the use of the "Three Pillars of Improv" and Steve instructs teams how to communicate more effectively, grow their emotional intelligence, and create a positive corporate culture.

Crazy Shades of Blue and the Queen Bees are coming together to perform at 'Weem as the BlueBees!

Pamela Enzweiler-Pulice

Dick Biondi Documentary Film Prevue (Sat.)

Inspired by a special disc jockey who touched her young life in the sixties, Pam is currently producing and directing a documentary about him. Largely self taught, she came late to filmmaking and found her passion. Pam is a boomer who believes age can't stop a woman on a mission — and her mission is to bring the Dick Biondi story to the screen for all to enjoy.

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Lance Erlick

Artificial Intelligence Promise & Peril (Fri.), Writing & Publishing Science Fiction Thrillers (Sat.)

Lance Erlick writes science fiction thrillers. In the Rebel series, Annabelle Scott struggles with her conscience in a world turned upside down. In the Regina Shen series, Regina Shen tries to survive in a world after abrupt climate change leads to the Great Collapse and a World Federation. "Xenogeneic: First Contact" is about encounters with alien pilgrims aiming to take over Earth. His latest novel is "Android Chronicles: Reborn," about an advanced android who rebels against her creator.

Dr. Joe Ferrari

Procrastination: It's Not About Time (Sat.)

Rev. Dr. Joe Ferrari is St. Vincent DePaul Distinguished Professor at DePaul University, Chicago, and is considered the leading research scholar on the causes and consequences of chronic procrastination. A sought after motivational speaker, Deacon Joe is a Fellow in APA, APS, EPA, MPA, SCRA. DePaul awarded him the 2001 Excellence in Research + 2009 Excellence in Public Service; in 2016 ~ APA's 'Italian-American Distinguished Psychologist' award.

Victoria Fineberg

Behavioral Economics: A Science of Judgment and Decision Making, and Its Applications to One's Life (Thur.)

Victoria Fineberg holds a BS in Mechanical Engineering (Ukraine), an MSME (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign), and an MS in Cyber Security (National Defense University). She is a licensed Professional Engineer and a Certified Information Systems Security Professional. Victoria's Cyber Security MS thesis was on the topic of using Behavioral Economics in Cyberspace Operations. Victoria is passionate about applying BE principles to all aspects on one's life.

Robert Finnegan

Several programs, all weekend

Bob Finnegan is an avid film buff with an impressive collection of documentaries and information on a wide range of topics. Favorites include illusions, animals, disasters, and especially movies and moviemaking, behind-the-scenes footage, and movie-star insights.

Clyde Forrester

LEGO Improv, Sing-Along (Thur.)

Clyde has been a Mensan for over 30 years. He comes from a long line of tinkerers and ne'er-do-well musicians which led to his gravitating to music, computers, and LEGO.

Kelly Galanis

Exploring the Tarot: Deepening Roots (Thur.)

Galanis is The Red-Headed Diva, a professional socializer, creator of confidence, and speaker and educator of positivity. Highly in tune with premonition, sensation, and higher power, she has turned to reading tarot and helping guide others down their chosen path. By day she is a higher education administrator and social media diva. By night, she is an aspiring baker and intuitive mage. She has been with her brilliant Mensa husband, Tommy, for 20 years.

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Justin Gordon

Holocaust Postal History (Fri.)

Postal historian Justin Gordon has collected, exhibited, and lectured on the postal history of the Holocaust for over 40 years. He and his wife live in Skokie, IL.

Matthew Grob

The Paper Chase: A Comical Story of One Man's Race to Beat the Clock (Thur.)

Matthew Grob is multi-faceted, like a gemstone. If you hold him up to the light at a certain angle, you may be able to see your reflection. If you do, there will be six more weeks of winter. This story actually happened to him, and he has told it to many, including in a session at this year's Annual Gathering in Hollywood, Florida.

Jon Gruebele

Roundtable: American Mensa's National Organization (Sat.)

Jon Gruebele serves as Regional Vice Chair 4 on Mensa's national Board of Directors (AMC) and is a Proctor. He has also been a LocSec. A veteran of 35 years with an Illinois based Fortune 50 company, Jon has a wealth of experience in strategy development, process improvement, IT, and international marketing.

Jane Hanson

Not Your Mama's Foundation (Sat.)

Jane Hanson teaches Linguistics and English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln while Charlie Steinhice plots ways to become retired sooner-than-later from BCBS. Both are long-time Mensans, and regular donors (gasp!) to the Mensa Foundation. Jane received the President's Volunteer Award at the Gold Level last year for her work in Gifted Education. Charlie is taking notes and polishing his elevator speech!

Kenya Hitchens

Weem Pub Trivia (Sat.), Friday Night Dance (Duh.)

Kenya is an experienced DJ, with a side career that started promisingly 15 years ago emceeing wedding receptions and private parties, but then quickly spiraled downward to DJ'ing Mensa dances. She is eminently and definitively unqualified to host pub trivia, but she loves it so much that we let her run a quiz. Try to humor her; it makes her smile. Kenya would like to add that if you're ever in St. Louis, please check out her band at WhiskeyMoon.ROCKS.

Len Hiznay

Auto Care 101, Gimme' a Brake (Sat.)

My career history includes automotive technician, auto repair shop owner and retail auto parts store manager. As a lifelong "gearhead" and auto enthusiast, together with my son, we have owned and repaired go karts, motorcycles and too many cars and trucks to count. To me, a day spent in the garage is like a vacation. As an award winning member of Toastmasters International, I am thrilled to be invited back to your Mensa convention for my 4th year.

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Greg Holcombe

M-Available Meet & Greet (Fri.)

Life member of Mensa, and M-Available SIG coordinator

Christopher Kilgore

Understanding Surrealist Art (Fri.)

Christopher Kilgore, Mr. Mensa 2018, is a cognitive archaeologist and art historian from Houston. Chris has spoken at numerous RGs and AGs and at museums and universities in the United States, France, Britain, Spain, and Belgium. Chris has a BA and BFA from Rice University and an MA from the University of Houston, where he was the Art History Writing Fellow. At UH he also received the SuMo Art award for art historical writing, the Peter Guenther Memorial Award, and a Blain Endowment Scholarship.

Timmy King

Nothing (Sat.)

There is little you can say about Timmy King that hasn't already been said in a multitude of restraining orders. Perhaps Pope Francis said it best: "Timmy is a cross between Oscar Wilde and Neil Armstrong. Though he lacks in social skills and common sense, he more than makes up for it in his unfounded belief in his own self worth. Watching his presentations is like reading the combined works of an infinite number of monkeys typing randomly for an infinite period of time."

Peter Kraus

Sidestepping our Modern Day Disease Epidemic (Sat.)

Peter Kraus has been a program chair for Chicago Area Mensa since the age of 27. More recently, he has become an amateur medical and life sciences researcher, and even though Mother Nature had gotten about a 3.8 billion year head start on him, he feels he is beginning catch up to her and to understand at least some of her secrets. If you can't attend his talk, read "Incurable Me: Why the Best Medical Research Does Not Make it into Clinical Practice" by Dr. K.P. Stoller.

Bryan Lundgren

Isolated M Meet & Greet, Triple Nine Meet & Greet (Fri.)

Bryan is a lifetime Mensa member who joined the Triple Nine Society in 2012 and found a fun second home there. He is a retired electrical engineer who travels to about a dozen gatherings each year, so many of you know him.

Sander Marcus

A Psychophysiological Interpretation of Beethoven's Violin Concerto (Fri.)

Dr. Marcus is a Clinical Psychologist and Certified Resume Writer. He is the former Director of the Counseling Center at IIT, and has a long history as a counselor, consultant, writer, and speaker. He has co-authored two books on the psychology of underachievement, and has authored and co-authored dozens of articles on a variety of topics. Dr. Marcus is an amateur violinist with a lifelong interest in classical music.

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Oriel Maxime

Game Theory 101 (Sat.)

Oriel D. Maximé spend much of his spare time with computers, puzzles, and games, both theory and practice.

Mike McInerney

Principles of Electromagnetic Pulse Protection (Fri.)

Mike McInerney is an electrical/electronics engineer with a research background in electromagnetics and electrical systems. During his more than 25 years of experience, he has conducted many research projects related to electromagnetic pulse (EMP) protection. He is a technical expert for EMP protection and has participated in U.S. government projects such as the development of EMP military standards. McInerney is a Registered Professional Engineer and an iNARTE Certified EMC Engineer.

Lora Mitchell

Trauma Informed Care Basics (Thur.)

Lora Mitchell is in Human Resources at a Settlement House, and had a previous life as a Social Worker. She is better known in this group as the short, Minion-obsessed LocSec of Columbus Mensa.

Jennifer Murtoff

Latin to Spanish, or Fun Linguistics Stuff I Learned in Grad School (Sat.)

Jennifer Murtoff has a master's degree in Hispanic linguistics from Ohio State University. A wanna-be polyglot from age three, she has used her language abilities for medical translation, reading Roman inscriptions, teaching chicken-keeping classes, having a multi-cultural jam session in Ravenna, getting directions from a Swiss postal bus driver, editing a romance novel, chatting with Brazilians on a cruise ship, and ordering pharmaceuticals in Russia, Italy, Montenegro, and Colombia.

Melissa Rennie

Zen of Nature photography (Fri.)

Melissa has been a member of Mensa for 15 years and served on the 2010 AG committee. She has been photographing for over 35 years, beginning with her first camera, a Pentax K1000. Currently the majority of her camera time is dedicated to shooting local wildlife and visiting zoos across the country, often while attending Mensa 'Gs.

Jill Sackett

Amazing Race - WeeM Style (Sun.)

Jill is an Amazing Race fan, avid gamer, and occasional event-planner who's back for a sixth year of planning whimsical and cerebral challenges for her fellow Mensans, with devious input from former contestants. She is joined by a terrific team of fellow Amazing Race fans to help execute this annual event.

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Alan Schmidt

Touring Washington DC (Sat.)

Alan joined Mensa about 1974. He has a doctorate in chemical engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, has done industrial chemical engineering polymerization research & development, and in 2014 retired as an environmental engineer for Indiana. He has visited Washington DC many times over the last five years getting reacquainted and marrying Ruth, a friend from graduate school in 1981.

Scott Smith

How safe is your personal information online? (Fri.)

Scott Smith has over 25 years in the Information Technology field and manages a support team for an international investment management firm. He holds a MS degree in Management (Information Systems) from University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee.

Kristin Snowden

Personal Income Tax Changes (Fri.)

Kristin Snowden, MBA, CPA, is a manager at Wipfli LLP CPAs and Consultants in their health care group where she works closely with physician clients to efficiently manage and grow their practices. She brings direction and strategies for working through financial issues and strengthening their revenue cycle. She also provides tax preparation, planning and projection services. She develops long term relationships with her clients, working with them to increase their incomes and build their wealth.

Robert Stalzer

Costume Parade Emcee (Fri.)

Robert is returning to perform the job he was born to do. A true Renaissance man, when his penchant for random noogies derailed a promising career in the mortician field, Robert invented bubble-wrap filled with helium, and lighter packages resulted in lower shipping costs. (Ironic that his contract with the Bic lighter company shipping department ended so tragically.) (In Flint, Michigan, no less.)

Bernd Sünnenwold

Berlin, Germany (Sat.)

Born 1967 in Hamburg, West-Germany, Bernd has lived in Berlin for 32 years. He xperienced the fall of the Berlin Wall, and is interested in history, architecture, and movies. He is an attorney at law and works as a defense council and in immigration law.

Tara Travia

Acrylic Art Pouring: Mess and Meditation (Fri.)

Tara Travia is a licensed psychologist who has used meditative art to bring joy and peace to others. She has been making art quilts, jewelry, and other forms of art for 20 years. She strongly believes art should be available to all and that everyone has the capacity to create something original and beautiful.

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Bernie Unger

The German Jewish Exodus - How the Ungers came to America (Fri.)

Bernie is a Caltech and UCSB graduate, now retired with his wife, Judy, in Discovery Bay, CA after a career in Chemical Engineering. He spends his time trying hard to keep the boat docked in his backyard running and sea-worthy. Besides that, Bernie is a child of the holocaust who has documented and, in so far as is possible, validated the stories his parents told him.

Judy Unger

Photography 101 (Sat.)

Judy Unger has traveled around the world seeking out great photo opportunities, especially in wildlife photography. She has won photography awards in international competitions. A pro with Photoshop and desktop publishing software, Judy left the advertising industry in 1997 to teach computer graphics and digital photography with Orange County ROP and later traveled around the country with CompuMaster giving seminars on Photoshop and Graphic Design.

Beth Weiss

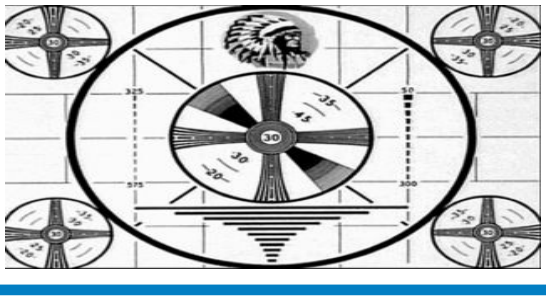
HELL's M's Meeting (Fri.)

Beth Weiss is the coordinator of the HELL's M's SIG and a Party Animal Hall of Famer. Her first WeeM was in 2002, where she met her now-husband Stan.

Mike Wolstein

Return of the Vinyl Junkie (Sat.)

Retired after 42 years in electronics engineering field, Mike has a passion for hi-fi sound and an interest in many types of music. Began experimenting with audio equipment and electronics in general around age 10; also became involved with music at the same time. Began collecting recorded music in the late 1950s.



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These are the people who will be wearing lavender badges. Please express any concerns, problems, or offers of thanks to them.

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!