HalloweeM 28: Chicago's RG

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SPOT VOLUNTEERS: VARIOUS MENSANS (JUST LIKE YOU)

SHERATON CONFERENCE SERVICES MANAGER: JOHN BEERY

Thanks to Einstein Brothers Bagels and Intelligentsia Coffee for their generous food donations.

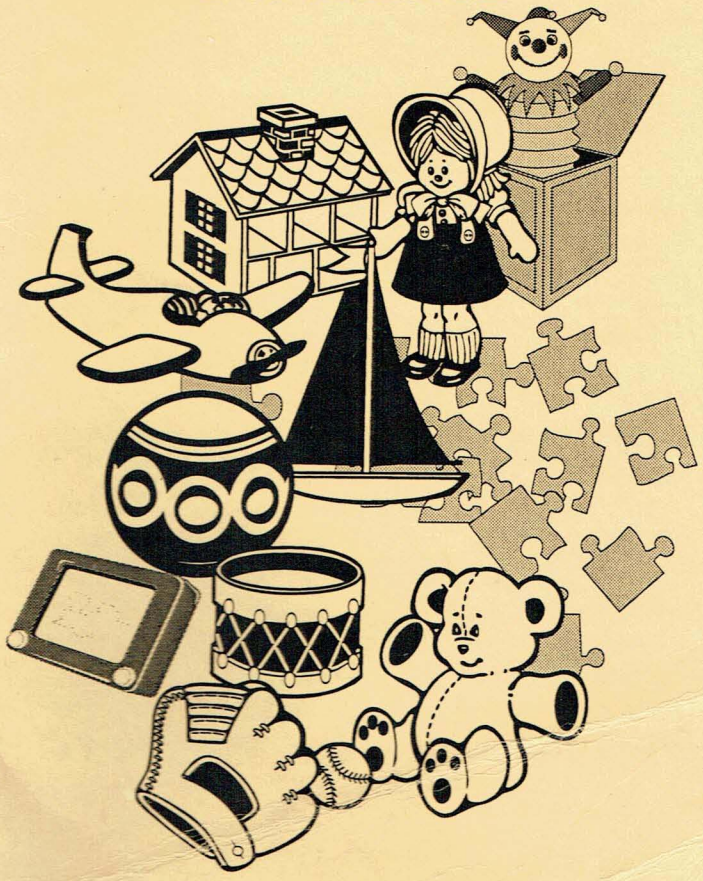
Special thanks from Robert to our Dream Team, Chicago's Board of Directors, and John Beery. Goodbye to the Sheraton and ... farewell, Janean.

HalloweeM 28

The World of Toys

October 31–November 1 2003

Assembly Instructions



HalloweeM 28: The World of Toys

Welcome to The World of Toys, possibly the only place in America where nobody advocates that toys play the tedious role of boosting your development. So, even the toys get a weekend to play. Also, because you've given us much Hospitality feedback, this year we're giving you more Hospitality "feed" back. Check the schedule for extended meal times and remember that, even at this RG, Jell-O is not a toy (above a certain temperature). Finally, consider signing up for our Volunteer Giveaway if you'd like to put $50 in your pocket while playing "RG Builder" and learning simple game theory. Sign up before the cutoff time Friday evening. Then go out—I mean stay in—and play.

Robert Stalzer, RG Chairman

Registration

THURSDAY	8:00 P.M.–10:00 P.M.
FRIDAY	3:00 P.M.–9:00 P.M.
SATURDAY	8:00 A.M.–8:00 P.M.
SUNDAY	10:00 A.M.–NOON

Welcome to HalloweeM, Chicago Area Mensa's Regional Gathering.

Old favorites and new discoveries come together in the programming "toy box." From rescue dogs to rocket science, needlework to networks, magic to Mensa to Middle Eastern Dancing, the programming is as varied as our membership. There are also more hands-on and participatory programs, as you requested. We hope you'll discover a lot to like at HalloweeM this year.

You may find that there is more than you can fit into one weekend, so, as you look over the schedule, think about what you'd like to have us do again next year and let us know. We want you to have a great time this year, and we want you to keep coming back. And remember, we are always looking for speakers and programs, so if there is something you'd like to share, let us know that, too.

PLEASE NOTE: In response to the requests of many of our out-of-town guests, the timing of Sunday events changed. The breakfast buffet and awards ceremony will run from 9:30 to 11:30 on Sunday, with programming resuming at 11:45 and continuing until 3:30. So, if you're not catching a plane, don't leave: there will still be plenty of programs after breakfast.

> *Because there are 15-minute intervals between programs, very few programs begin on the hour, so check times carefully.*

** Also, because not everyone wants to dance, or at least not all night, we have several programs offered in the evening. So don't think programming stopped just because the sun set. **

Before you get started with the festivities, we ask that you review the tips and reminders that follow. They'll help you and those around you get the most out of your HalloweeM experience.

About the Speakers: Please bear in mind that the speakers have donated their time and resources to be with us this weekend and are not paid for their efforts. 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 must enter or leave during a program, please do so quietly in deference to both the speaker and the other attendees. Show consideration, even if you disagree with a speaker. We're here to have a NICE TIME. Make us proud of you.

Adults Only: Some programs contain material that is adult in nature. Admission to these events will be restricted.

Alcohol and Youth: Illinois law, hotel rules, and Mensa of Illinois, Inc. policy are strict when it comes to underage drinking. The legal drinking age in Illinois is 21. Please do not be insulted if you are asked for proof of age. Adherence to this rule has been stressed to all Hospitality gHosts. **Parents:** Even if you allow your children to consume alcoholic beverages at home, you are NOT free to do the same at HalloweeM. It's the law.

Bulletin Boards: A bulletin board will be available near the registration area for the posting of personal messages, program changes, and other announcements.

Decorations: Every year we make a sizable investment of time and money in creating the right ambiance at HalloweeM. Please leave the decorations for future generations to enjoy.

Food and Beverages: HalloweeM food and beverages MUST remain in the Hospitality suites.

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, an invitation to the Survivors' Party (volunteers only), and a warm feeling deep inside.

Hugs: To hug or not to hug, that is the question. Pick up a button at the registration desk that signifies your hugging preference, and make a point of checking the pins that others wear. When in doubt, ask first.

Kids' Track: This has been a huge success since its debut at the 2001 HalloweeM. Gifted Children's Coordinator Cynthia Ballew has planned a day of delights on Saturday for kids seven and above. Though this is the only day with a formal schedule, games and other kids' stuff will be available throughout the rest of HalloweeM (there will be formal supervision only on Saturday). Visit the kids' room for more details. Saturday's events begin at 9:30 A.M. with an orientation session for kids and parents.

Late Checkout: When you check in, please let the hotel desk staff know if you need a late checkout 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.

Meal Tickets: A ticket for each meal ordered will be provided at registration. This ticket will be collected at the meal, so don't lose it. It will not be possible to replace lost meal tickets. Even if you didn't order any meals, feel free to attend the cocktail party before the Saturday banquet and the awards ceremony after Sunday breakfast.

Name Badges: Your name badge is your ticket to all the joy and wonder 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 a committee member. Sorry, lost name badges cannot be replaced.

Smoking: Smoking is permitted in designated areas only. This includes the smoking Hospitality suite, as well as any areas (such as the restaurant and bar) where the hotel permits smoking. No smoking is permitted in the seminar sessions. Thank you.

Volunteer Giveaway!

We're not giving away volunteers, we're giving away money to volunteers using a scheme that would make a game theorist blush. If attendees sign up for all of the available volunteer positions on the schedule before 6:00 Friday, and if every volunteer hour is then actually worked by the attendees (or their substitutes), we will hold a drawing to give $50 each to five of those volunteers at Sunday's breakfast buffet. You get a raffle ticket for each hour worked. As a twist, some of the "challenging" volunteer assignments are worth more than one ticket per hour. The RG wins, our guests win and, most importantly, you win! Are you game? Help us fill up the volunteer schedule before 6:00 Friday! Winner need not be present at the drawing.

All Weekend

MERF (Mensa Education and Research Foundation) Meeting Room

CC1-4

This room is set aside for officers of MERF and AMC to conduct their business. They will determine their own meeting times, as needed.

Book Sale

Boardroom B



Find out what your fellow Mensans have finished reading. Take home some treasures. Proceeds from both the book sale and the silent auction go to the Scholarship Fund.

Games Room

Woodfield III

A room stocked with a dazzling array of games and puzzles awaits you. Open 24 hours a day.

Tournament Rooms

CC1-8 and CC1-9

Try your hand at one or all of the following tournaments.

Friday: 6:00 P.M. Blokus (Mensa Select® game of 2003)

Saturday:

9:15 A.M. Scrabble

12:30 P.M. Logic Puzzles (with Oriel Maximé)

3:30 P.M. Euchre (Experienced players only, please)

7:45 P.M. Quoridor
Unscheduled experimental tournament of Duplicate Euchre: see Oriel Maximé for details.

And, as always, Hearts games until the wee hours of Sunday morning.

Hospitality Suites

Chicago Room (nonsmoking)
Room 1022 (smoking)

Snacks and beverages are available 24 hours a day in separate smoking and nonsmoking suites. In addition, nonsmoking-Hospitality overflow and most meal service will be in Woodfield I and II.

There will be hot food for the following meals:
Friday dinner (6:30–8:30 P.M.)
Saturday breakfast (7:30–9:30 A.M.)
Saturday lunch (11:00 A.M.–1:30 P.M.)
Saturday dinner (5:00–7:00 P.M.)
Saturday late snack (10:30–11:30 P.M.)

Food will be replenished every half hour during the scheduled meal times so there will be as much food for the people at the end of the line as there is for those at the front, so there is no need to rush or panic.

In addition, there will be fresh (cold) food for Sunday breakfast (7:30–9:30 A.M.). If you want hot food, you need to buy tickets to the breakfast buffet. And, of course, Sunday will also be leftover clearance day.

Kids' Rooms

CC1-6 and CC1-7

Formal schedule for Saturday during the day; games and other kids' stuff will be available all weekend.

Massage Therapy

CC1-11

Everyone loved the excellent massage therapists we had last year, so we invited them back. Come and get the knots worked out, relax at the end of a busy week, or recover from spending most of the RG on your feet. Professional massage therapists will offer a variety of options, from 15 minutes to an hour. A portion of the proceeds will be contributed to the Mensa of Illinois Scholarship and Gifted Children's Funds.

Pool Tables

CC1-15

AKA the Burton Spain Memorial Pool Hall in memory of the legendary pool-cue maker and Chicago Area M. Two pool tables will be available all weekend. See sign-up sheet outside the room for details and available play times.

Vendors' Area

CC1-16

During the day, browse through the offerings in the vendors' area. Treat yourself to a new toy, or get a head start on your holiday shopping.

Friday

For details on events and features that run all weekend long, including **tournaments** and Hospitality **food schedules**, see pages 5 and 6.

3:30 P.M.–4:30 P.M.
Icebreaker Fishbowl Forum
Cat Sterrett
CC1-10

A long-time Mensan favorite. Fishbowl Forum volunteers pull a slip of paper out of a fishbowl and then speak extemporaneously for two minutes on the topic they picked. This type of forum has been modified in many places to focus on specific areas of knowledge or interest, but the event in this time slot is a return to the original, general ideas forum. Today's forum will also serve as an icebreaker for those arriving early at HalloweeM. It will, we hope, start conversations that will continue long afterwards, or at the very least get you acquainted with a few other Mensans before the crowd gets too big.

4:45 P.M.–5:45 P.M.
Reinvent Yourself: The Next Step in Publishing
Kiki Kruse
CC1-10

Learn how to take your writing career to the next level. Many writers stop promoting themselves after their book hits store shelves. Kiki, an expert in the subject after two years of practice, shows you how to keep your name before the public while working on your next project.

Help Is Only an E-Mail Away
Paige Faulkner
CC1-3

Are you a local member or officer trying to figure out the services available from the National Office? Join Paige to learn about these services and the people who can help you make things happen locally.

4:45 P.M.–6:30 P.M.
Space Transportation
Kent Nebergall
CC1-5

Right now, four space probes are en route to Mars, the shuttle program is being revived, and the first private spacecraft are performing test flights in anticipation of winning the X Prize next year. Behind the scenes, space probes of unprecedented power are being readied for flight within a decade. Prepare for the headlines with a deep look at the paths of spaceflight and the travelers embarking upon them.

6:00 P.M.–7:00 P.M.
Computer Shoulders? Phone Neck? How to Undo What You Do to Your Body
Valerie Decker
CC1-3

During her 10 years of professional practice, Valerie has found that the body self-care information she received in her massage training is both invaluable and relatively unknown to the general public. In this workshop you will learn some basics of the musculoskeletal system, the true importance of posture and good body mechanics, how to prevent and self-treat some common overuse injuries, and what professional resources are available to help you with nagging problems. Valerie's goal is to entertain and enlighten you while empowering you to take charge of your body's well-being.

6:00 P.M.–8:00 P.M.
Magic Demonstration and Lesson
Diana McClure
CC1-10

Diana, a part-time magician and former magic shop owner, will amaze, bemuse, and confuse you with her demonstration and hands-on lecture on magic. Diana will actually TEACH you the art of magic. LEARN tricks you can do with everyday objects to fool your friends. SEE how basic sleight of hand and misdirection work. KNOW the hidden secrets of magicians. Receive personal instruction from one of the few women in the United States to have owned and run a magic shop. BRING playing cards (some will be available for purchase, but we hope most of you bring your own). Other supplies will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Spiral Dynamics
Skinner
CC1-12

Skinner explores Spiral Dynamics, a way of thinking about the complexities of human existence and bringing some order and predictability to the apparent chaos of human affairs. It provides a framework for tracking the evolution of world views and a scaffold on which to stand while analyzing situations and planning appropriate actions. Based on the original research and theory of Dr. Clare W. Graves, this point of view describes how waves of consciousness emerge and flow through individuals and groups. It describes bio-psycho-social systems along a continuum that forms an expanding spiral.

6:45 P.M.–8:15 P.M.
Mystery of the Messiah: From the Hebrew Bible to the Talmud
Derek Chong and Kristin Chong
CC1-5

Have you ever wondered where our modern notions of the Messiah originated? There is an age-old mystery that has puzzled readers of the Hebrew Bible for centuries: "Who will be the Jewish Messiah?" A factor complicating this mystery is the dispute over the names of the Messiah. Naturally, naming the Messiah is an ideologically charged activity because the Messiah's name will determine his role and function.

There is a fascinating pattern of messianic descriptions in the Hebrew Bible that hints at an early view of the Jewish Messiah. It is our contention that medieval rabbis recognized this picture of the Jewish Messiah, as is evidenced in certain Talmudic passages. Join us to see what these patterns are and how later readers picked up on these traces of the Messiah.

7:15 P.M.–8:15 P.M.
Visualize Yourself into Success!
Kathryn Andries
CC1-3

Learn to master the most powerful tool in the universe: your mind! In this interactive presentation, you will learn the language of your mind and how to communicate with it to obtain the best results. Visualization is a profound way to obtain what you want in life. You will learn why you have not been able to fulfill your desires, and techniques to overcome these stumbling blocks. The tools and exercises you will learn will empower you for the rest of your life.

9:00 P.M.–10:00 P.M.
Costume Contest
Paramount Ballroom

It's one of the things for which we are (justly) famous: costumes. Mensan costumes range from weird to wonderful, elegant to outlandish, hilarious to enigmatic. Prizes will be awarded for Best Toy, Best Traditional, Best Under Age 18, and possibly others. Of course, as always, there are prizes for the best and worst puns.

Please SPEAK LOUDLY AND CLEARLY when you get to the microphone, so everyone (including the judges) can hear and enjoy the description of your guise.

10:15 P.M.–1:00 A.M.
Costumed Dance
Paramount Ballroom

We provide a large dance floor, hot DJ with all the hits, and plenty of tables at which to relax and chat with your partner(s). You provide the dancing. Costumes are optional.

10:15 P.M.–11:15 P.M.
National IQ Test
Bob Finnegan
Boardroom A

If you missed the broadcast of the National IQ Test last June, or if you want to take it again, now's your chance. Watch a videotape of the show (just the questions and answers, no commercials) and see how you compare with the other participants. BRING A PEN OR PENCIL.

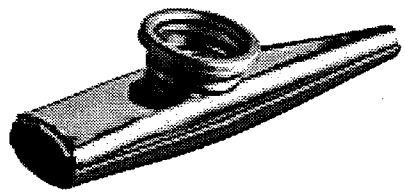
Hell's Ms
Skinner
CC1-10

Have you ever wondered about those black T-shirts or about the people wearing them? Attend a meeting for current and potential Hell's Ms and find out what is going on with the party SIG. If you don't already know, you will learn what Hell's Ms are, how they got started, and what they do. (**Note:** Hell's Ms: Remember to vote for "Party Animal" on Sunday. Results will be announced during the awards ceremony after Sunday breakfast.)

10:15 P.M.—12:15 A.M.
Ask the Sexologists
Robert Berend and Lisa Igram
CC1-12

Robert and Lisa are ready to answer ANY questions you have about sex. The Sexyg Fishbowl deals with opinions; no journal citations are allowed. Robert and Lisa have the opinions *and* the journal articles, and they have attended countless conferences on sex. You can submit your questions anonymously, or ask as they go. They hope to be funny and interesting as well.

11:15 P.M.–?
Sing-Along
Clyde Forrester
CC1-3



Gather 'round for a sing-along. Folk, filk, rock, blues, punk, show tunes—whatever you really love to sing. Feel free to bring a *non-amplified* instrument—or just your voice. Clyde will bring an acoustic bass guitar and an electronic keyboard. Sing 'til you run out of songs.

Cookie Contest
Vicki Snavely and Ro Sila
Hospitality Suite

Join us in Hospitality for the First Official Mensa Cookie Contest. Judges will be chosen from the audience. Categories will be determined by the judges based on number and types of entries. Decisions of the judges are arbitrary, capricious, and final. Judges may, of course, be bribed with cookies. After the judging, we'll eat the results. Put on your jammies and join us for milk, cookies, and bedtime stories. Persons wearing clothing other than jammies are also encouraged to attend.

11:59 P.M.–1:30 A.M.

The Chairman's Industrial Ball

(room number unavailable at press time)

In accordance with our theme, we'll have industrial music in the chairman's chamber (Robert's hotel room). Stop by for drinks. Rage Within the Machine.

12:15 A.M.–1:00 A.M.

Carnelli

Come play the word/idea association game invented by D.C. Ms Jan Carnell and Jim Lange, now a fixture at RGs across the country. Never played? Come and learn how. Facilitated by Chicago Area Mensan Kent Nebergall.

Saturday

For details on events and features that run all weekend long, see page 5.

9:00 A.M.–?

Chess Tournament

CC1-8 and CC1-9

Mark Thompson

Please join us for this new offering to the tournament schedule.

9:15 A.M.–10:15 A.M.

Covert Video Surveillance: One Tool for Discovering the Truth

Bill Kizorek

Paramount Ballroom

Bill will share with us three decades of experience in the world of private detectives and international intrigue. Bill once ran the biggest private surveillance company on Earth. His work primarily involved watching individuals who filed claims for physical disabilities to see if their allegations of disability were true. The discussion will also cover privacy concerns, technology, streaming video, and even the "dark" side of surveillance. Bill will be joined on the podium by John Powers, president of InPhoto Surveillance.

Chicago's Buckingham Fountain: The Prequel

Renee Huddleston

CC1-10

A long time ago, in a county far, far away ... people lived and died just as they do today. This session will focus on an American family from the 1800s and features a love story, inventions and discoveries, a tombstone, and a fountain. It's a great story of romance and devotion on the frontier of the Northwest Territory. The legacy of one member of this family is the fountain that graces Chicago's lakefront. Letters and other artifacts of this frontier family will also be shared.

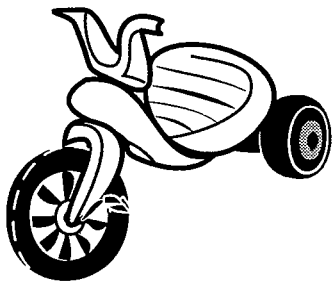
Shameless Self-Promotion

Kiki Kruse

CC1-3

In today's competitive marketplace, a book is often overlooked unless it is promoted. Join Kiki as she shares her tricks and tips for book promotion, starting when the book is first conceived. Her tireless efforts carried her book to a fourth printing in less than a year. Find out why the book editor of the *Chicago Sun-Times* affectionately calls her "Shameless." Kiki's animated talk will entertain as well as educate.

9:30 A.M.–4:30 P.M.
Kids' Track
Cynthia Ballew
CC1-6 and CC1-7



Orientation for kids and parents at 9:30, with a day of exciting activities for kids (targeted at children ages seven and up). Additional information is available in the Kids' Room. Games for kids are also available throughout 'weeM. Parents, please sign up for an hour to facilitate Kids' Track activities or informal play sometime during the weekend.

10:30 A.M.–11:30 A.M.
Getting Away with Murder (Not!) More to the Story ...
Catherine Woytowicz
CC1-10

Another in a series of talks about murder, crime, criminals, and the people who bust them. The audience will be given a choice of either famous cases and evidence or solving a crime with some evidence provided.

Stretching Exercises
Skinner and Yvonne
CC1-12

Skinner and Yvonne will lead a mid-morning exercise class to help you get stretched out and ready to party (and to help you recover from last night's partying). The program—not strenuous—consists of various non-aerobic stretching exercises designed to loosen you up. Or you can just veg out in Hospitality.

11:30 A.M.–12:30 P.M.
The South American Table: *Meet the Author*
Maria Baez Kijac
CC1-5

Charlie Trotter (who wrote the foreword) called *The South American Table* "a masterpiece." *Publisher's Weekly* declared this cookbook to be a "seminal work" and a "must have" for any serious cook. It has been called "the definitive word on South American food" and a "magnificent gastronomic exploration." This fabulous cookbook, with more than 450 recipes as well as stories, history, and geography, explores one of the world's lesser known cuisines: the home cooking of South America. Come meet author Maria Baez Kijac, talk about food, buy a book, get an autograph. Books (hardbound and paperback) will be available for sale, but if you have already bought the book, bring it along and get it signed.

11:45 A.M.–12:30 P.M.
Lunch Break

No need to rush. Lunch will be served at half-hour intervals, so the last shall be served as well as those who arrive first. See page 6 for serving times.

12:30 P.M.–1:30 P.M.
Chinese Basics: The Language in a Nutshell
Betsy Nees
CC1-10

Come learn about the uniqueness of Chinese and some basics of speaking and writing it. This class is great for anyone who is curious about Chinese and desires to know some background to the language and basics on how to go about studying it and speaking it.

An Engineer's Approach to Music Appreciation
David Stybr
CC1-12

Ever wonder how our diatonic scale originated? David will demonstrate that the pattern of our do-re-mi scale is due to good old physics, mathematics, and esthetics. Where do musical ideas originate and how are they developed? Which musical forms are best suited to which themes and provide the best balance? How does a composer decide upon the instrumentation or orchestration? As an engineer, Dave loves to figure out what makes things tick. With music as a serious hobby, it was only natural that he'd try to figure that out, too. The past few years of amateur composition have taught him more about music appreciation than four decades of concerts and recordings. He will share some of his musical discoveries.

12:30 P.M.–2:00 P.M.

Search and Rescue Dogs

Maria Ciavarella

Paramount Ballroom

During this presentation, participants will learn about the nature and function of search and rescue dogs. There will be a live demonstration using the dogs after the didactic portion of the program. The program will be given by members of Illinois-Wisconsin Search and Rescue Dogs.

Nature: Accident or Design?

Neal Roys

CC1-5

We will examine the scientific and mathematical basis for making a design inference. Then we will determine whether human DNA is the product of nature, accident, or design.

The Wittig Report: On the Interface between Life and Art

Robert Wittig

CC-3

On the one hand, there is "Art," and on the other hand, there is "Life," and somewhere in the middle they meet. Robert describes his work as occurring in "the place where traditional art, politics (international and art world), digital art, computer programming, social commentary, political cartooning, eBay, and a lot of other stuff meet.

This program will cover Robert's work for the last year in paint, print, and programming. Robert, a perennial favorite at this event, promises a "zany lecture, a computer slide show, an overhead projector, handouts of some recent articles, and some source code." He plans to keep the actual lecture mercifully short, so there is plenty of time for browsing the paintings (usually 100+, original pieces, all recent—don't be afraid to touch them) and some questions and answers.

Note: The presentation will be in American Sign Language and will be voiced by an interpreter.

1:45 P.M.–2:45 P.M.

Are Squirrels the Mensans of Our Backyards?

Greg Bassett

Boardroom A

Designed to prove that squirrels are ANYTHING BUT "dumb animals," this presentation uses video footage, combined with stories of Greg's personal experiences, to demonstrate squirrel intelligence and something he calls "squirrel attitude." (The program may include a visit from Greg's pet squirrel.)

Writing Can Be Murder

Denise Swanson Stybr

CC1-12

So you've always wanted to write a book, eh? Writing the book is only one step in a long process. Denise, author of the Scumble River Mystery series, will discuss her experiences as an author, how she decided to write her murder mystery series, her dealings with agents and New York publisher, and her plans. She will also autograph copies of her books. Denise believes that a good author writes what she knows. After witnessing the school principal and the town mayor duke it out in the parking lot, she realized that a school psychologist (her own vocation) would be the perfect amateur sleuth.

2:30 P.M.–4:00 P.M.

Fiendish Armchair Treasure Hunt

Jay Smith

CC1-3

A perennial favorite of the HalloweeM crowd, the Fiendish Armchair Treasure Hunt is a game where teams work with fiendishly-clever, rebus-style clues to reveal geographic locations, garnering points in the process. Some teams get organized in advance, others form on the spot. Everyone is welcome. Warning: this is an addictive game—it may change your life! The Sacred and Revered Judges for the Hunt include Jay Smith (the game's originator), Helen Kupper, and Nadine McBeth.

3:00 P.M.–4:00 P.M.

Seventy Years on Wall Street, or What Your Stockbroker Won't Tell You

Earl Zazove

CC1-5

Perhaps the best kept secret on Wall Street is that you don't have to know what the stock market's going to do in order to make money in it. Here's how, from someone who's been doing it successfully for decades.

Unusual Animations II
Bob Finnegan
Boardroom A

In this videotape presentation, Bob brings us a new collection of fascinating animated pieces by artists from a number of countries. These animated works deal with unusual topics or utilize unusual animation methods. Methods involve using yarn, beads, typewriters, puppets, and harmonic progressions. Topics include sex, dance, robots, evolution, primitive sounds, and protesting elephants.

Ghost Hunting 101
Christopher and Rachel Frye
CC1-10

An informative "how to" for beginning ghost hunters. Christopher and Rachel will discuss what you need to take along, how you should conduct the hunt, and some of the signs that indicate possible paranormal activity. This presentation will also focus on the different classifications of ghosts as well as discuss ways to properly document a haunting. A question-and-answer session will be provided at the end.

3:00 P.M.–5:30 P.M.
Sexyg Fishbowl Forum
ADULTS ONLY
Cat (and sometimes Mrs. Thorstenberg) Sterrett
CC1-12

Cat leads the group in a frank discussion about human sexuality and related topics. Completely participant driven, the forum uses the "fishbowl" method to select questions that participants ask (anonymously) and answer them frankly and genuinely. Get answers to the questions that, heretofore, you've probably been able to ask only a few people. To foster frankness and trust, we'll lock the doors 15 minutes after we begin, so please be on time. Confidentiality and discretion a *must.*

4:15 P.M.–5:15 P.M.
Martial Arts: It's Fun and It's Self-Defense, Too!
Jan Wood
Paramount Ballroom

Jan and some of her students will give a martial arts demonstration of Tae Kwon Do and sword skills. They plan a fun, interactive class in martial arts and self-defense.

Today, Web Surfer; Tomorrow, Web-Site Ownership
Beth Weiss and Sandy Johnson
CC1-10

Sandy Johnson is the SEMM Webmaster. Beth Weiss is the Region 3 WebSpinner. Together, they will tell you how to get your own domain name and get started with a Web hosting company. If you can surf the Web, use e-mail, and use a word processor, this talk will be at the right level for you.

Exquisite Corpse
Carol Metzger
Boardroom A

"Exquisite Corpse" is a collaborative art form/ game played by surrealists. We draw on a folded sheet of paper, passing it on after drawing one section. We do not see what the others drew until the final unfolding. You need bring only yourself but, if you wish, you may bring your favorite drawing or writing implements. For adults, and children old enough to follow instructions.

Coach Yourself to Optimal Health
Patrick Andries
CC1-5

Your thoughts directly affect your health spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically. You will learn why indecision can affect the throat and guilt can affect the kidneys. We will also consider many other common physical difficulties. We will discuss intuitive health analysis, which can help you make the changes necessary for lasting health. We will also discuss how a health coach can help you make the connections you need for healing and staying on course to health and wholeness.

5:30 P.M.–6:00 P.M.
Cocktails
Brasserie

Wind down from your busy day. Ease into evening with something pleasant from the cash bar.

Twisted Roots
Brasserie

Many of you will remember Lia Nicine McCoo's rich vocals from last year's blues duet. This year

she returns with musician and writer John Kimsey. Together, they will present a program of original music rooted in the American folk and blues tradition (acoustic guitar and vocals). Copies of John's recently released CD, "Twisted Roots," may be available. Feel free to come even if you're not interested in cocktails or attending the banquet.

6:00 P.M.–7:30 P.M.
Banquet
Brasserie

Enjoy HalloweeM's formal feast. The banquet requires a ticket, purchased in advance (when you registered, or if you were able to pick up a spare at registration). Seating is limited. If we're sold out, you may want to check the bulletin board in hope of scalping a ticket or two.

7:30 P.M.–9:00 P.M.
An Evening with Luke Ski
Paramount Ballroom

Enjoy an entertaining, intelligent, and generally hilarious evening with the Great Luke Ski, parody artist, Dr. Demento star, GenCon regular, and Fanboy extraordinaire. Who can forget the rap version of Hamlet from last year, the scathing "Keanu Man," or the song about standing in line to get Star Wars tickets? It's all hip, fast-paced, and fun—and if you love it, you can buy the CD.

9:00 P.M.–?
Formal Dance
Paramount Ballroom

The second dance extravaganza of the weekend. As always, there will be plenty of tables where you can chat, catch your breath, or just sit and enjoy the music.

9:00 P.M.–10:00 P.M.
Personal Financial Macro Asset Perspective
Richard Mueller
CC1-3

Rich will cover diversification of personal investments to include after-tax and pre-tax assets, types of investment vehicles, and risk categories.

9:00 P.M.–11:00 P.M.
The Return of Pretentious Drinking
Gary Kryvko, Alan Baltis, Catherine Woytowicz, Rob Foor, Conrad Pomykala
Hospitality Suite

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. And what if that pricey potion isn't quite the palette pleaser you expected? Rejoice! Tonight, for a reasonable cost ($1 per snort), you can sample to your heart's content. Alan, Gary, and Catherine 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.

9:00 P.M.–11:30 P.M.
Sex: Does It Bring Us Together or Push Us Apart?
Skinner
CC1-10

An ongoing discussion of issues around the topics of sexuality and sensuality. In this session we will discuss sex, how it brings us together, how it can drive us apart, and how different likes and dislikes can build or destroy relationships.

9:00 P.M.–MIDNIGHT
Movies
Bob Finnegan
Boardroom A

The Matrix Reloaded, released on DVD just in time for HalloweeM. Come see the film, and stay for the extra scenes and background.

We planned a class on jewelry making in this time slot. Janean Schepp of Milwaukee Mensa, the presenter for this program, passed away unexpectedly in mid-September. We would like to express our sadness at this loss and extend our sympathy to family and friends. She will be missed.

9:00 P.M.–1:00 A.M.
Quiz Bowl
Gary Smith
CC1-12

Is JEOPARDY! your idea of fun? Do you just love to get the answers before everyone else? If so, then Quiz Bowl, loosely based on the old *Quiz Kids, GE College Bowl,* and *Dr. I.Q.,* shows, is for you. The rules sheet-entry form is in your registration packet. Get together a four-person team, then deposit the completed entry in the box in the Games Room. Team playing times will be posted outside the meeting room. Spectators and cheerleaders are welcome to come and go at will. Teams must submit entries to Gary Smith by 6:00 P.M., Saturday.

11:59 P.M.–2:00 A.M.
Chairman's Ball
Room 1428

Final Blowout: HalloweeM is leaving the Sheraton and the chairman is retiring (after three years). Who cares what music we play? Uncork the champagne!

MIDNIGHT–1:30 A.M.
Rocky Horror Picture Show
Boardroom A

This outrageous, campy romp has become a standard feature of HalloweeM at midnight. R-rated, so underage viewers must be accompanied by a parent. Hosted by Kent and Theo Nebergall.

Sunday

For details on events and features that run all weekend long, see pages 5 and 6.

8:00 A.M.–9:00 A.M.
Friends of Bill W.
CC1-3

For those actively participating in a 12-step program. Not for observers or the curious, please.

9:30 A.M.–10:30 A.M.
Breakfast Buffet
Paramount Ballroom

For breakfast, you need tickets purchased in advance, but for the awards program (at 10:30), you need only to walk in the door.

10:30 A.M.–11:30 A.M.
Awards
Paramount Ballroom

Come and find out who did what and who won what. It's not always high entertainment, but it's a good way to put names with faces. The service awards, in particular, introduce you to people who have worked, often behind the scenes, to make things happen in Chicago Area Mensa. Here's the agenda:

Game Tournament Winners
Fiendish Armchair Treasure Hunt Winners
Cookie Contest Winners
Volunteer Giveaway Drawing (if we qualified)
Service Awards
Hell's Ms "Party Animal" Winner
Future RG announcements (in order of event date)

11:45 A.M.–12:45 P.M.
Mongolia: The Farthest Horizon
Cynthia Clampitt
CC1-10

Come enjoy a trip through Mongolia, from Lake Khuvsgul in the north to the Gobi in the south and across the vast expanses of the central plains where Ghengis Khan once marshaled his Golden Horde. Cynthia will guide you through last summer's trip to Mongolia, where she slept in *gers* (Mongolian felt tents), drank *airag* (fermented mare's milk), collected rocks, and attended the Nadaam Games, where the "three manly sports" have been contested since the days of the great Khan.

Know When to Hold 'Em, Know When to Fold 'Em: The Art of Origami
Annette Kandell
CC1-12

Origami is the ancient Japanese art of paper folding. We will learn to fold several simple forms and figures and explore more complicated and intricate forms.

11:45 P.M.–2:00 P.M.
Stitch 'n' Bitch
Shelley MacGregor
CC1-5

Bring your needlework in progress as well as completed projects to show off. Stitch and kvetch in the company of others who share enthusiasm for needle arts. Hostess claims no expertise in stitching, but holds a degree and several titles in bitching.

1:00 P.M.–2:00 P.M.
Toys in the Movies
Bob Finnegan
Boardroom A

In keeping with the weekend's theme, Bob treats us to a videotape presentation about toys in movies and in film shorts, from classic toys to killer toys to an alien made from a toy. Includes the *Toy Story* gang in new blackout skits and Peter O'Toole taking Bunker Hill with toys.

Generational Trends in Mensa
Pam Donahoo
CC1-3

Have some fun looking at the demographics of Mensa, some of the typical characteristics of the various generations, and the ways that we might address some of the concerns and needs of members in these groups. After all, Mensa members span six generations, with ages ranging from 30 to over 100. The impact of these changing demographics offers our organization some unique challenges.

1:45 P.M.–3:45 P.M.
Proctored Tests
CC1-10 and CC1-12

2:15 P.M.–3:15 P.M.
A Chicago Firehouse
Kiki Kruse
CC1-5

This is the story that started it all! Come hear the program Kiki presents at local libraries on the content of her book, *A Chicago Firehouse: Stories of Wrigleyville's Engine 78.* Ever wonder why Chicago firehouses have red and green lights? Come find out. This program covers the history of the most famous firehouse in Chicago: the one located across the street from famous Wrigley Field. Learn about the history of this house, the unique neighborhood she serves, and how Kiki managed to get Mike Ditka to provide the foreword to the book.

Learn to Snowboard
Beth Anne Demeter
CC1-3

Learn the finer points of the sport of snowboarding. Topics include what a snowboard is, whether you will be a good snowboarder, how to buy a snowboard, where to learn, who's the best instructor, whether you will get hurt, what those flippy tricks are that you saw during the Olympics, and the answers to other important questions. Beth Anne is a certified instructor with more than 500 teaching hours and 14 years experience. Balance boards will be provided for those who wish to attempt a simulation of the balance and coordination required for the sport.

3:15 P.M.–?

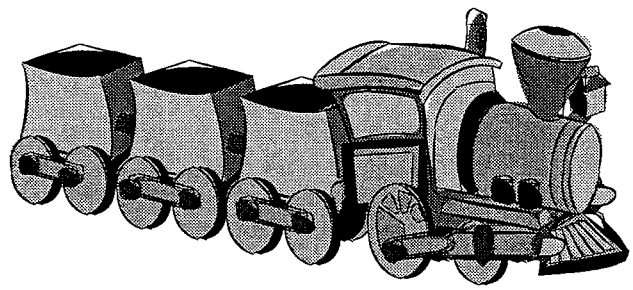
Time to clean up. (Feel free to pitch in and give us a hand—and remember, all volunteering is rewarded with an invitation to the delightful Survivors' Party.)

Thanks for coming. Hope to see you next year: HalloweeM 29 will be held at the O'Hare Radisson, October 29–31.

The HalloweeM Committee

"... when I was a little girl, my father bought me a beaded wire ball that I loved. I could collapse the toy into a flat coil between my palms, or pop it open to make a hollow sphere. Rounded out, it resembled a tiny Earth, because its hinged wires traced the same pattern of intersecting circles that I had seen on the globe in my schoolroom—the thin black lines of latitude and longitude. The few colored beads slid along the wire paths haphazardly, like ships on the high seas. The bronze orb that Atlas held aloft at Rockefeller Center—like the wire toy in my hands—was a see-through world, defined by imaginary lines. Even then I could recognize a powerful symbol of all the real lands and waters on the planet."

—Dava Sobel, *Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius*



HalloweeM 28 Speakers' Bios

Kathryn Andries

Visualize Yourself into Success! (Fri.)

Kathryn is the author of *Soul Choices: Six Paths to Find Your Life Purpose* and *Living Atlantis: My Year at the College of Metaphysics,* and a contributing author to *Interpreting Dreams for Self-Discovery.* She earned a B.A. in economics from the University of Michigan and a Holistic Health Practitioner degree from Body Mind College in California. She also completed extensive studies in the intuitive arts at the Berkeley Psychic Institute, the School of Metaphysics, and the American Federation of Astrologers. Kathryn is cofounder of the School of Intuitive Arts and Sciences where she teaches meditation and visualization.

Patrick Andries

Coach Yourself to Optimal Health (Sat.)

Patrick studied architecture at Oklahoma State University and music at the University of Oklahoma, and holds two degrees from the School of Metaphysics. Patrick has been teaching the master form of Tai Chi for more than 11 years. He applied the intuitive aspects of the mind and the traditional teachings of the martial art to develop a comprehensive system of self-mastery. Patrick has been interviewed on radio and television and written numerous magazine and newspaper articles on topics of metaphysics and personal development. He maintains a private health coaching practice and teaches at the School of Intuitive Arts and Sciences and District 211.

Cynthia Ballew

Kids' Track (Sat.)

Cynthia is the Gifted Children's Coordinator for Chicago Area Mensa. She has an educational and professional background in computer science and business, and has done volunteer work in children's education for more than 10 years.

Greg Bassett

Are Squirrels the Mensans of Our Backyards? (Sat.)

Greg is the president of The Squirrel Lover's Club, has 13 years experience hand feeding and interacting with the neighborhood wild squirrels, and has spent six years living with his own indoor pet squirrel.

Robert Berend

Ask the Sexologists (Fri.)

Robert has a Ph.D. in human sexuality from the Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality and is a member of the American College of Sexologists. He recently attended several major international conferences on human sexuality and sexology. As a financial planner, Robert has lectured around the world and, in 2000, predicted that the stock market was going to crash (before the dot.com bust). He credits his insights as a financial planner as the reason he returned for a Ph.D. in human sexuality, a topic he has presented at conferences and Mensa gatherings. His Ph.D. research is on "first dates, chemistry, and factors in first intercourse."

Derek Chong

The Mystery of the Messiah: From the Hebrew Bible to the Talmud (Fri.)

Derek is finishing a dissertation on Jewish interpretive practices in a modern orthodox congregation. His doctoral work in sociolinguistics and hermeneutics includes training in literary criticism, hermeneutics, discourse analysis, and biblical languages (Greek and Hebrew). He has taught communication and language courses at several post-secondary institutions.

Kristin Pedersen Chong

The Mystery of the Messiah: From the Hebrew Bible to the Talmud (Fri.)

Kristin has taught cross-culturally in Toronto and South Africa on the biblical genealogy of the Messiah. She is currently adapting a book on messianism in the Hebrew scriptures for English-as-a-second-language audiences. She has degrees in psychology and teaching English as a second language. She published a textbook on English idioms and a children's book.

Cynthia Clampitt

Mongolia: The Farthest Horizon (Sun.)

Cynthia is a freelance writer and photographer with more than 35 years of international travel experience. Her photography focuses on geography, culture, and nature, while her writing is primarily about history and food. She is best known in the local group as the writer of "Cheap Eats." For the column she wrote about her Mongolia trip, including a Mongolian recipe, visit http://www.chicago.us.mensa.org/features/cheats/200209.html.

Matt Crawford

Who Are These "Hackers" and What Do They Want with My Computer? (Sat.)

Matt Crawford has been involved in computer networking and security for more than 20 years (having sent his first two perpetrators to jail while still a graduate student) and is now in charge of computer security for Fermilab's network of roughly 10,000 systems. He has served on an advisory working group to the U.S. Department of Energy, organized an intercontinental incident response collaboration, and is active in development of new Internet and "grid" protocols.

Valerie Decker

Computer Shoulders? Phone Neck? How to Undo What You Do to Your Body (Fri.)

Valerie, a licensed massage therapist, has been practicing massage for almost a decade. She graduated from the Chicago School of Massage Therapy in early 1994. She is a Nationally Certified Massage Professional, a member of the American Massage Therapy Association, and has a certification in Orthopedic Massage. Her specialty is deep tissue/orthopedic massage and postural/overuse counseling. (But she can give a nice relaxation massage as well!) She is a member of Chicago Area Mensa.

Beth Anne Demeter

Learn to Snowboard (Sun.)

Beth Anne has been snowboarding for more than 14 years, since the sport was in its infancy and resorts were first beginning to allow snowboarding. She had skied since the age of six, but found snowboarding to be more exciting, dynamic, and versatile than skiing. Beth Anne began instructing at a resort in Ohio (Boston Mills/Brandywine Resorts) in 1993 and was eventually promoted to lead a team of 80 snowboard instructors. The BM/BW snowboard school taught more than 1,700 school-aged children and several hundred other interested would-be riders weekly. Beth Anne is a certified Level 2 American Association of Snowboard Instructors (AASI) instructor; she currently teaches at and is the coordinator of the snow sports school at Villa Olivia Country Club. Beth Anne also regularly competes in NASTAR- and USASA-sanctioned competitions.

Pam Donahoo

Generational Trends in Mensa (Sun.)

Pam is the Executive Director of American Mensa.

Paige Faulkner

Help Is Only an E-Mail Away (Fri.)

Membership Director Paige Faulkner has been on the National Office staff for almost seven years. In addition to being staff "morale officer" and resident Dallas Stars hockey fan, she oversees the membership department of AML, insuring that prospective and current members receive first-rate service and that benefits and services meet the needs and expectation of the membership.

Bob Finnegan

National IQ Test (Fri.), Movies (Fri. and Sat.), Unusual Animations II (Sat.), Toys in the Movies (Sun.)

Bob, a Chicago Area Mensan, is an avid movie and video buff with an exceptionally large collection of documentaries and information on movies and moviemaking, behind-the-scenes footage, and movie star insights.

Clyde Forrester

Sing-Along (Fri.)

Clyde has been a Mensan for nearly two decades. He says he comes from a long line of tinkerers and ne'er-do-well musicians, which he believes is why it was natural for him to gravitate toward computers and music.

Christopher and Rachel Frye

Ghost Hunting 101 (Sat.)

Rachel is the owner of Medea Video, a small production house that specializes in commercial, industrial, and educational videos. She has been working with digital video for over five years and is adept at all phases of production from writing to editing. See her work at www.medeavideo.com. Christopher is a student at Northern Illinois University, pursuing a bachelor's degree in English Teacher Certification. His academic interests, aside from English, include biology and chemistry. This is his first year in Mensa.

Lisa Igram

Ask the Sexologists (Fri.)

Lisa is a nurse and recently attended the International Congress of Sexology in Cuba.

Sandy Johnson

Today, Web Surfer; Tomorrow, Web-Site Ownership (Sat.)

Sandy has worked extensively in help desk and

user training and is the Southeast Michigan Mensa Webmaster.

Annette Kandell

Know When to Hold 'Em, Know When to Fold 'Em: The Art of Origami (Sun.)

Annette is perhaps best known to HalloweeM goers as an inventor—who can forget "Box 'o Therapy"?—but that's not all this local M does. Besides holding a full-time position as a paralegal for a large corporation, she participates in a wide range of activities, including martial arts, crafting, inventing, and community service activities.

Maria Baez Kijac

The South American Table: Meet the Author (Sat.)

Maria is a food writer, cooking instructor, and culinary historian. She was born and raised in Quito, Ecuador, and graduated from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. She has a degree in French cooking from Dumas Père and studied cooking in Spain and throughout South America. Maria serves as a judge for the International Slow Food Awards and was the kitchen director for the PBS series *American Family Kitchen.* She is also the author of several cookbooks, the most recent of which is the highly acclaimed *The South American Table.*

Kiki Kruse

Reinvent Yourself: The Next Step in Publishing (Fri.), *A Chicago Firehouse* (Sun.)

Kiki is the author of *A Chicago Firehouse: Stories of Wrigleyville's Engine 78.* Since it came out in May 2001, she has become quite the expert on book promotion, having spoken to the Midwest Writers Association and the Wisconsin Regional Writers' Association, as well as being asked to write a piece on book promotion by the *Chicago Sun-Times.*" http://www.achicagofirehouse.com

Cyndi Kuyper

Meet the RVC (Sat.)

Cyndi is the regional vice chair for Region 4 of American Mensa.

Steve Lentz

Stock Portfolio Enhancement through Option Trading

Steve is the Director of Education and Research at OptionVue Research in Libertyville, Illinois. An active trader, Steve researches market behavior and consults for OptionVue Research's Advisory service, which recommends several equity option trades every week. A graduate of UCLA, he also

is the program designer and associate for the emerging Commodity Trading Advisor (CTA) at OptionVue Research.

Shelley MacGregor

Stitch 'n' Bitch (Sun.)

Shelley has at various times dabbled in knitting, crocheting, embroidery, needlepoint, and bead embroidery as well as off-loom bead weaving.

Carol Metzger

Exquisite Corpse (Sat.)

Carol is a freelance artist and graphic designer living and working in Chicago, and a member of Mensa since 1987. She has shown paintings in various group and solo exhibitions in the city and suburbs over the past decade. From time to time, she contributes to the design and prepress needs of her local Mensa group.

Diana McClure

Magic Demonstration and Lesson (Fri.)

Diana became interested in magic just seven years ago. She started as a magician's assistant, then branched out into doing her own small shows consisting of close-up, walk-around, and parlor magic. She opened the Amazing Magic Shoppe in Phoenix, Arizona, on June 13, 1997 (a Friday). She is one of only a handful of women in the United States to have owned and run a magic shop. She also had the distinction of being the owner of the largest chain of magic shops in Arizona. In February 2003, she sold her magic shop business to a local magician to pursue other interests.

Richard Mueller

Personal Financial Macro Asset Perspective (Sat.)

Rich is NASD securities licensed, Illinois state insurance licensed, and variable contract licensed. He has an MBA in finance and has worked in personal financial analysis and planning for five years.

Kent Nebergall

Space Transportation (Fri.)

The son of a former test pilot, Kent has been immersed in aluminum things that go skyward since age three. At age seven, he became fascinated with spacecraft when Apollo-Soyuz was carried on the news each night. By age 13, he was reading post-graduate engineering descriptions of starship designs and playing with simple ones of his own. By 16, he was a student pilot. The

computer revolution took his life in a different direction, and he is now a technology analyst at a major bank. However, with the rise of the Internet, he has revisited his first love and studied space Web sites extensively.

Betsy Nees

Chinese Basics: The Language in a Nutshell (Sat.)

Having minored in Chinese at Miami University and lived in Taiwan for more than a year, Betsy brings to this program both a love of Chinese and experience in reading, writing, and speaking. She has taught Chinese workshops for all ages in the past two years, and continues to teach upon request.

Yvonne Porter

Stretching Exercises (Sat.)

Yvonne has led stretching classes with Skinner for Mensa since 1990. She works out regularly and has studied martial arts.

Neal Roys

Nature: Accident or Design? (Sat.)

Neal teaches AP Calculus BC, Honors Pre-Calculus, and Honors Advanced Algebra, and is Math Team Coach at Adlai Stevenson High School in Lake County, Illinois. He is coauthor of *Technology,* published by D. C. Heath, has published articles on mathematics and teaching, and speaks regularly at math conferences all over the country. He is also the Faculty Advisor for a philosophy discussion club called "TruthSeekers."

Ro Sila

Cookie Contest (Fri.)

Ro was crowned Cookie Queen at the Saint Louis RG (and the cookies weren't even chocolate!).

Luke Ski

An Evening with Luke Ski (Sat.)

Luke Ski is a musical parody artist and one of the stars of the *Dr. Demento Show.* He tours extensively and is a popular featured performer at numerous sci-fi conventions, including WindyCon and GenCon. He has been mentioned in Simpsons and Futurama comics, and songs from his latest CD, "Uber Geek," are climbing the charts on the "demented" airwaves. http://www.lukeski.com

Skinner

Spiral Dynamics; Hell's Ms (Fri.), Stretching Exercises; Sex: Does It Bring Us Together or Push Us Apart? (Sat.)

Skinner is the founder and SIG coordinator of Hell's Ms. He has led stretching classes with Yvonne Porter for Mensa since 1990. Skinner has studied martial arts and worked out regularly for most of his adult life. He has been actively involved in the Men's Movement since 1992 and is a Leader in Training with the Mankind Project, Inc. He brings with him the skills he learned from staffing 29 New Warrior Training Adventures and from the half-dozen other training events he attended and staffed. http://www.hellsms.com

Gary Smith

Quiz Bowl (Sat.)

Gary, a Mensan since 1974, originated the Quiz Bowl at HalloweeM many years ago to offer Mensans something more challenging than run-of-the-mill trivia contests. Gary has presented Quiz Bowl at other RGs and at two AGs. He wishes to give credit to the many people with whom he has interacted in his Mensa "knowledge competition" experience, especially Jim Draper, Sandy Topping, Rick Magnes, and Michael Mason, who have provided valuable insights and ideas that have helped improve Quiz Bowl.

Jay Smith

Fiendish Armchair Treasure Hunt (Sat.)

Jay, a Chicago Area Mensan, invented this popular HalloweeM event and continues to be the source of its deliciously puzzle-happy existence.

Vicki Snavely

Cookie Contest (Fri.)

Vicki is a former HalloweeM Hospitality Chair—and one who had the gift of eliciting contributions of homemade goodies.

Cat (and sometimes Mrs. Thorstenberg) Sterrett

Icebreaker Fishbowl Forum (Fri.);
Sexyg Fishbowl Forum (Sat.)

Cat was a local Sexyg coordinator in Chicago Area Mensa for six years. She has facilitated Sexyg Fishbowl Forums at RGs and AGs around the country for 19 years. Cat is a fitness trainer with a master's degree in exercise physiology.

David Stybr

An Engineer's Approach to Music Appreciation (Sat.)

David is a chemical engineer and computer engineer, but his lifelong hobby has been music. He founded the Classical Music SIG of American Mensa and coordinated it from 1985 to 1995. After an absence of eight years, Mensans prevailed upon him to revive the SIG and become the coordinator again, which he did in 2003. (If you love classical music, you might want to check out the Classical Music SIG. The newsletter, *Maestro,* comes out 10 times per year: US$2 annual dues for electronic version or US$10 for printed version. David Stybr, 21019 West Orangeblossom Lane, Plainfield, Illinois 60544-9346 USA; MaestroDJS@aol.com). http://www.DeniseSwanson.com/Stybr

Denise Swanson Stybr

Writing Can Be Murder (Sat.)

Denise is a school psychologist. Some years ago she discovered that the small town in which she was working had interesting secrets. Although she would never use confidential data, her professional insights led her to believe that a school psychologist would be the perfect amateur sleuth for a mystery series. *Murder of a Small-Town Honey,* with school psychologist Skye Denison, began the Scumble River Mystery series. The book was an Agatha Award nominee for Best First Novel of 2000. *Murder of a Sweet Old Lady* continued the series in April 2001, and was nominated for the Mary Higgins Clark Award. *Murder of a Sleeping Beauty* was released in April 2002, and *Murder of a Snake in the Grass* followed in April 2003. Watch for book five in November 2003: *Murder of a Barbie and Ken.* Penguin Putnam Signet extended the series to include books six and seven.

Ray Van Blarcom

The Art of Fireworks (Sat.)

Ray has more than 10 years experience setting up and firing professional firework displays.

Beth Weiss

Today, Web Surfer; Tomorrow, Web-Site Ownership (Sat.)

Beth is a Senior Software Engineer with Strategic Analysis, Inc., and the Region 3 WebSpinner.

Bethany Wenger

Middle Eastern Music and Dance as Art and Entertainment (Sat.)

Bethany has studied Middle Eastern dance and music since 1975. She continually studies by traveling to seminars regularly. She has performed in theaters and choreographed for a performing arts school and theater.

Robert Wittig

On the Interface between Life and Art (Sat.)

Robert is a painter in virtually all media, including digital. He is also a writer in the English language, storyteller/lecturer in American Sign Language, and programmer in the C, BASIC, and Perl languages. He explains that, while he has no formal credentials, his paintings sell, his writing gets published, and his programs run. http://www.robertwittig.com

Jan Wood

Martial Arts: It's Fun and It's Self-Defense, Too! (Sat.)

Jan has a fourth-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do and is the chief instructor of J. P. Wood Martial Arts. She also has a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice.

Catherine Woytowicz

Getting Away with Murder (Not!) More to the Story... (Sat.)

Catherine is a Ph.D. chemist who teaches at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and is an AAAS Science and Technology Diplomacy Fellow at the U.S. Department of State.

Earl Zazove

Seventy Years on Wall Street, or What Your Stockbroker Won't Tell You (Sat.)

Earl has been an active stock market investor since 1993. After about 30 years, he discovered what is perhaps the least known investment strategy on Wall Street and set up a small investment company to use it. His company now manages billions of dollars for investors both here and abroad, and quietly makes money for them regularly *no matter what the stock market does.* Earl coauthored the first book about listed stock options and was consulted several times before the Chicago Board of Trade opened its CBOE (the world's first option exchange). He has been published numerous other times, too, been written up in major financial publications, and been a featured speaker at investment seminars from coast to coast as well as in other countries. Earl has several college degrees, including an M.D.