HalloweeM 29
HalloweeM DreaMs

Local Secretary	Robin Crawford
HalloweeM Chairs	Janet Century Chris Edwards
Hotel Liaison	Beth Anne Demeter
Program Chair	Cynthia Clampitt
Assistant Program Chair	Susan Wilson
Treasurer	Cindy Ogilvie
Volunteer Coordinator	Amy Kozy
Advance Registrar	Janet Century
On-Site Registrar	Richard Mueller
Hospitality Chair	Michael Collins
Children's Program	Cynthia Ballew
Book Sale	Teresa Tucker Jay Allen
Vendors and Raffle	Robin Crawford
Foreplay and Friplay	Howard Rothstein
Beverages	Dave Gudjonis
Game Warden	Matt Crawford
Program Book DTP	Carol Metzger
Proofreader	Darlene Brill
Photographer	John Muellner
Webmaster	Matt Crawford
Logo Design	Robin Crawford
Afterglow Party	Stacey Kirsch
Decorations	Cindy Ogilvie

Thanks to Einstein Brothers Bagels and IntelligentsiA Coffee for their generous food donations, to Woodbridge Wineries for their donation of wines for Friday's wine tasting, to Le Titi de Paris in Arlington Heights for their generous contribution of gift certificates and a day in the kitchen (lunch included) with celebrated French chef Michael Maddox, and to Janice Ferri for her generous donation for Pretentious Drinking!

Special thanks from Chris and Janet to our 'WeeM Dream Team and the Sheraton's John Beery. You're the best!

HalloweeM DreaMs



October 29-31, 2004

Welcome to HalloweeM DreaMs, where we want to make your every dream (for a great weekend) come true. We have programs about the most diverse topics imaginable, and even some in which you don't have to wait until the end to ask your questions. If you want a more hands-on experience, try out Israeli dancing, jewelry making, or sword fighting. Visit our games room and compete (or just play for fun). Relax with some fresh popcorn in the movie room. Sign up for the Singles Mailboxes to try and meet a special someone. Or you can always just kick back in Hospitality with good food and great conversation. Whatever your idea of a HalloweeM DreaM is, we're sure you'll find it here! If there's anything we can do to make the longest weekend of the year enjoyable, just ask us.

Happy Halloween!
Janet Century and Chris Edwards,
RG Co-Chairs

HalloweeM DreaMs
HalloweeM 29

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

History or *Star Trek* beam,
Language, science, trivia team,
Art and games and chocolate cream,
Learning, playing—it might seem
As if you're living in a dream,
But no, you're just at HalloweeM.

If interesting programs on a wide range of topics is your idea of the perfect weekend, we think your dreams will be realized here. We cover food, crime, history, animals, science, art, games, language, dance, ideas, crafts, lifestyle—and we offer practical programs as well, including a history of disability, estate planning, Mensa test proctor training, and funeral planning. The programming is as varied as our membership. 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 (at least that's what we hope), 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 don't forget, we are always looking for speakers and programs, so if there is something you'd like to talk about, let us know that, too.

PLEASE NOTE: Last year, in response to the requests of many of our out-of-town guests, the timing of Sunday events was changed. We got very positive feedback on the change, so we are staying with the altered Sunday lineup. The breakfast buffet and awards ceremony will run from 9:30 to 11:30 on Sunday, with programming resuming at 11:45 and continuing till 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 has 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. 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 Chicago Area Mensa 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 posting 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, 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. Colored stickers signify your hugging preference: yes, no, maybe so. Pick up a sticker for your name badge at the registration desk, and make a point of checking the stickers 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 older. 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 will 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 for us to replace lost meal tickets. Even if you have not ordered 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.

News Flashes

Scholarship Raffles

New this year! In the book sale room you will see a display of more than a dozen items for our scholarship raffle. Items to be raffled include Balinese jewelry, a chain-mail headdress, a decorative hanging made from CDs, and truly fabulous gift baskets with themes such as Spa Day, World Cultures, Games, Fine Dining, Glass, Geek-Pride, NIBBLERS Brunches, and Taste of Wisconsin. Raffle chances are $2 each or six for $10. Tickets are placed in containers near the prizes that appeal to you, so if you win, you'll win something you want.

We will also be holding a special silent auction for a stunning sculpture, "Pink Slip," created in 1983 by artist Emily Kaufman. It is number 14 of a limited edition of 25 pieces. Mensan Kathleen Spaltro, a former trustee of the Mensa Foundation, donated the sculpture, valued at well over $1,000, to the foundation to benefit the Helen Kupper Scholarship.

All raffle proceeds go to support the Mensa Education and Research Foundation's Chicago Area Mensa Scholarship and the Helen Kupper Scholarship for students pursuing studies in music. The cost of raffle tickets is tax deductible; receipts will be available.

Winners will be announced at the dance and posted in the book sale room on Saturday night. The items can be picked up during book sale hours on Saturday evening or Sunday morning.

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 7:00 P.M.** on Friday, and if every volunteer hour is then worked by the attendee (or his or her substitute), 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 7:00 P.M. on Friday! Winners need not be present at the drawing.

Kids' Costumes and Party

New this year! We will have a costume contest for children before the "adult" event and a kids' party during the big event. See Friday night listings for details.

Two New Tracks

We have two new program tracks this year. A movie room will be open 24/7, with different Mensans presenting their favorite movies (see "All Weekend" listing for details). On Saturday only, we are offering a "Trust me, I'm a..." track: experts in a wide variety of fields will be on hand to answer questions in their areas of expertise. Just walk in, ask your question, and then go elsewhere. See Saturday's program listings for details.

All Weekend

Book Sale

Boardroom B



Find out what your fellow Mensans have been reading. Take home some treasures. View the raffle baskets, all filled with outrageous goodies, from CDs to spa treats to a day in the kitchen with a famous French chef. Proceeds from both the book sale and the raffle baskets go to the Scholarship Fund.

Games Room

Illinois Room

The games room will be open by 7:00 P.M. Friday, and will remain open, 24 hours a day, through the weekend. We have all the new games from Mind Games 2004, and many other favorites. And, as a bonus, the Illinois room is conveniently close to Hospitality.

Tournament Rooms

CC1-8 and CC1-9

There will be tournaments in chess, poker, euchre, and logic, and an in-hotel road rally. Most tournaments will be in conference rooms 8 and 9. Look for sign-up sheets and possible last-minute additions in the hall outside CC1-8 and 9.

Friday Tournaments

ROAD RALLY: This is an in-hotel walking road rally. It will kick off with an introduction to road rallies for the uninitiated, and segue to an indoor rally. Friday, 6:00 P.M., in room 8.

Saturday Tournaments

CHESS: This year, we have a chess tournament sanctioned by the United States Chess Federation (USCF) on Saturday, from 9:00 to 1:00, in rooms CC1-8 and 9. This is actually a USCF event: there is a $20 registration fee, all of which goes into the prize fund. You must also be a USCF member to play, although you can join (or rejoin) on the spot. Games will start promptly, so show up early if you need to join!

EUCHRE: This year's euchre tournament removes the luck of the deal by using "duplicate" play. Now it's down to your skill alone! 1:30 to 3:30, Saturday, in rooms 8 and 9. Sign up in teams of two. We need an even number of teams.

LOGIC: Chicago's own award-winning puzzle master Oriel Maximé always has a brand-new set of logic problems to delight and/or confound you. 3:30 to 6:00, Saturday, in room 9.

POKER: Texas Hold 'em. Try your hand at the game that's sweeping the nation, with no financial risk! 3:00 to 6:00, Saturday, in the Illinois room. Sign up by 2:30 outside room 9 for priority seating, or simply show up at 3:00 in the Illinois room.

Hospitality Suites

Woodfield I (nonsmoking)
Room 1022 (smoking)

Snacks and beverages are available 24 hours a day in separate smoking and nonsmoking suites. Nonsmoking-hospitality overflow is in the Chicago room, while all meal service will be in Woodfield I.

IntelligentsiA
FRESH ROASTED COFFEE

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 LATE SNACK (10:30–11:30 P.M.)

Note: No hot meal will be served Saturday evening in Hospitality, though there will be the usual snacks and beverages. If you want a real meal, tickets for the banquet will be available through Friday evening, the hotel offers several dining options, and there will be a list of some area restaurants available at registration, should you wish to dine outside the hotel.

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. No need to rush or panic!

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

Kids' Rooms

CC1-6

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

Massage Therapy

CC1-11

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.

Pool Tables

CC1-16

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.

Singles Mailboxes

CC1-4

If you're here and you're single, check out the mailbox room. Post a bio, leave a message. If you've never done it before and you're not sure how it works, don't worry: there will be guidelines posted in the room. Read about what other singles are seeking, and let them know what you want. Check back often: the room is available 24 hours a day.

Movie Room

Woodfield III

Big picture and theater-quality sound. Check the listing outside the room for films to be presented. Extended versions of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy will be among the varied offerings. Movies will run 24/7.

Vendors

Area Outside Hospitality

We will have several vendors showing and selling their wares in the area outside of Hospitality. Come get a jump on your seasonal shopping and support your fellow Mensans. Hours are Friday, 5–8 P.M., and Saturday, 10 A.M.–3 P.M.

Friday

Weekend-long events and features are described on pages 6–8.

Tournaments: See pages 6–7.

Hospitality food schedules: See page 7.

3:30 P.M.–4:30 P.M.

A Chicago Firehouse

Kiki Kruse

CC1-10

This is the story that started it all! Come hear the program that 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 across the street from 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!

3:30 P.M.–5:30 P.M.

How the Plot Works in a Mystery Novel

Kathleen Anne Fleming

CC1-12

This workshop will combine lecture, discussion, and a good number of writing exercises to help budding novelists understand how a mystery plot is constructed. The discussion and lecture will analyze the author's own works as well as the works of other authors such as Dashiell Hammett, Erle Stanley Gardner, and Georges Simenon to help writers further appreciate the classic mystery genre. This class is limited to 20 people, so please be on time if you wish to attend.

4:45 P.M.–5:45 P.M.

Icebreaker Fishbowl Forum

David Gumminger

CC1-10

A long-time Mensan favorite, the Fishbowl Forum has volunteers pull a slip of paper with a topic written on it out of a fishbowl and then speak extemporaneously for two minutes on that topic. Rather than focus on specific areas of knowledge, this evening's Fishbowl returns to the original general format. Because it serves as an icebreaker for those arriving early at HalloweeM, we hope it will spark conversations that will continue long afterwards.

Estate Planning
Rich Mueller
CC1-3

This seminar will cover mitigation of taxes by utilizing an estate planning strategy. This seminar will discuss the use of trusts, gifting, and estate tax exemptions.

4:45 P.M.–6:30 P.M.
The Wittig Report: The State of the Arts, 2005
Robert Wittig
CC1-5

Robert offers what he describes as "a rather wild but mercifully brief verbal presentation on the state of the visual arts." The discussion will cover art, craft, politics of art, galleries, dealers, the on-line art scene, etc., and will be followed by free time for Q&A and a chance to browse, pick up, touch, and look at Robert's paintings, drawings, etc. He usually brings a hundred or more examples, all new since the previous HalloweeM. In the course of the presentation, Robert also employs an overhead projector and a computer slide show, so this is a genuine multimedia event.

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

6:00 P.M.–7:00 P.M.
Napoleon's Coronation
Todd Fisher
CC1-12

Napoleon Bonaparte had a more meteoric rise than perhaps any other person in history. From profound obscurity far from the seats of power, he became the undisputed ruler of the most powerful country in the world. Even so, he was beset by enemies and was the target of numerous assassination attempts. In an effort to add additional legitimacy to his position, he agreed to become the emperor of France. The story of how events unfolded and the political machinations taking place behind the scenes—some humorous—will be covered in Todd's talk on this event, the bicentennial of which is celebrated this year.

6:00 P.M.–8:00 P.M.
Court: What Testimony Is Really Like
Karl Larsen
CC1-10

During this lecture and practical demonstration, Karl will offer some insight into the courtroom

process from the point of view of the witness. Differentiation will be made between "Expert Witnesses" and "Witnesses of Fact," including types of testimony and who can be a witness. As time allows, some mock testimony will be given by volunteers.

Intelligent Design
Neal Roys
CC1-3

Life, like all other continent effects, is caused by one or more agents: accident, natural law, and intelligent design. This program will look at William Dembski's mathematical "explanatory filter" and how it is used to infer that the cause of a general effect is natural, accidental, or intelligent. False negatives and false positives will be carefully considered. Then, if all goes well, attendees will be able to apply the explanatory filter to the effect we call "life."

7:15 P.M.–8:15 P.M.
Looking Back on Radio and Ahead to the Novel
Obie Yadgar
CC1-12

Many of you will recall Obie Yadgar from his years as the morning host at WNIB, Chicago's favorite classical music station until it was sold and its format changed. Obie will share memories of radio and thoughts about the state of classical music radio, along with a sprinkling of amusing stories and anecdotes about the lives of the great composers and musicians. In addition, Obie will read a chapter from the manuscript of his novel. Questions are welcome.

Movie Music Quiz
Bob Finnegan
Boardroom A

Come test your knowledge of movie themes. Bob will play excerpts of music from well-known movies. You get to identify the movies in which the tunes appeared, picking from a list of possible answers.

8:30 P.M.–9:00 P.M.
Children's Costume Contest
Paramount Ballroom

For children of all ages, their parents, aunts, uncles, friends, and other enthusiastic onlookers. If your child is too small to be comfortable in

huge crowds, or if you are worried about what little ears and eyes might take in at the adult costume party, there is now an alternative: a costume contest just for kids. All children are encouraged to show off their costumes, while adults are encouraged to come and cheer the kids on. Prizes will be awarded, with something for everyone. And see below for the children's party that follows the costume contest.

9:00 P.M.–10:15 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 Theme-Related, 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 that everyone (including the judges) can hear and enjoy the description of your guise.

Children's Party
CC1-6

There will be games, videos, and activities, so your child or children can have fun while you go to the costume contest. This is NOT for infants and toddlers, as we will not be able to take care of really young children (no facilities for bottles or diaper changing). But ages three and older will have a place to play while hundreds of adults stampede through the "big" costume party.

You MUST retrieve your child or children IMMEDIATELY after the costume party. There will be no one to care for them after the costume party is over.

10:30 P.M.–11:30 P.M.
Hell's M's
Skinner
CC1-12

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

Vine to Wine
Christine Blumer
CC1-10

Christine will offer an overview of winemaking, then will explain how to enjoy and properly taste wines. You will have an opportunity to try four wines, and will also taste different essences that isolate some of the flavors found in wines. Q&A follows. Tonight's wines are from California's Woodbridge Winery (www.woodbridgewines.com). Attendance is limited to 50. There will be a door prize. You must be 21 to participate.

10:30 P.M.–12:30 A.M.
From the First Call to the Last Shovelful of Dirt: A Behind-the-Scenes Look at Funeral Services
Joe Blake
CC1-5

This program will cover the purpose of funerals and ways to personalize a funeral ceremony. The history and reasons for embalming, as well as an overview of the process, will be given. Different kinds of caskets and outer burial containers will also be discussed. Time will be allowed for Q&A, as many people have questions about funerals and the care of bodies, but their only encounter with a funeral director is when planning the service for a loved one, neither the time nor place to ask.

The Bizarre Fate of a Test Tube Language
Robert Stalzer
CC1-3

The principal survivor of more than 1,000 "designed" languages, Esperanto is today spoken by more than two million people worldwide—few of whom live here. Despite its perception as an antiquated utopian toy in the U.S., its life overseas is as surprising as it is fascinating. Having previously rejected the language, Robert recently saw that 50 years of cognitive science, the rise of the Internet, European and superpower change, new histories, and the politics of language minorities had altered the landscape. Seeking the soul of Esperanto at its conference in China's capital, Robert discovered a magnetic tribe sharing its diverse culture among attendees from 50 countries, including a 23-year-old woman who is the first Esperantist from the new Afghanistan. With video, sound clips, and a live Esperanto speaker, you will tour Esperanto's weirdly-fascinating history: political correctness and Orwell, meme theory, the Nobel Prize, Wikipedia and the GPL, Pope John Paul II (he

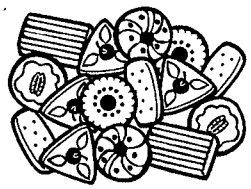
uses it), persecution by Hitler and Stalin, Chinese propaganda in Esperanto, notable parallels with Mensa, a Brazilian TV station, the Baha'i faith, and a recovered-after-30-years Esperanto movie starring William Shatner. Until now, nobody has seen an Esperanto presentation quite like this.

11:30 P.M.–?
Sing-Along
Clyde Forrester
CC1-12

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 till you run out of songs.

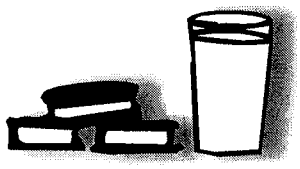
It's Witchcraft
Anne Lucas
CC1-10

An interactive, myth-busting presentation on the principles of witchcraft and a Wiccan lifestyle, accompanied by a brief history of Wicca.



HalloweeM Cookie Contest
Vicki Snavely and Ro Sila
Woodfield I (Hospitality)

Join us in Hospitality for our Second Annual HalloweeM Cookie Contest. Judges will be chosen from among audience members who arrive a little early. 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. And don't forget: if you want to judge, be early.



Saturday

Events and features that run all weekend long are on pages 6–8. **Tournaments** are on pages 6–7. **Hospitality** food schedules are on page 7.

ALL DAY
Makeup
Gail Haller
CC1-7

Stop by to make an appointment. Gail, an independent beauty consultant, will be offering consultations and makeup demos. Or come by to discuss business opportunities and the independence to be gained from being a beauty consultant.

8:15 A.M.–9:15 A.M.
Friends of Bill W.
CC1-10

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

9:15 A.M.–10:15 A.M.
Profanity: The Decline of Civility and the English Language
James O'Connor
Boardroom A

Profanity is one way people communicate and express themselves, but its excessive and indiscriminate use is contributing to the decline of civility and the dumbing down of the English language. With humor and common sense, Jim O'Connor explains how the spoken word went the opposite direction of technological advances in communications, and what that means for society.

Getting the Most Out of Your Digital Camera, Part 1
Roger Mattingly
CC1-12

Digital cameras are probably the second most complicated thing you own. Learn how to make better pictures by harnessing these complex cameras. What are those preset modes, A, S, P, and M, and when do you use them to enhance your pictures? Roger will explain .jpg, .tiff, and .raw file formats: which are for prints and which for the Internet. We will explore using the fill flash on your camera indoors and outdoors to create more polished pictures. What accessories can you add to increase your camera's picture-taking capabilities? Learn to use the LCD screen and

histogram on the camera back as a digital Polaroid and edit to keep only the best shots. Bring your camera, instruction manual, and problem pictures to learn to improve your digital photography.

Another Round of (Not!) Getting Away with Murder
Catherine Woytowicz
CC1-10

More fun with forensic science: casework featuring the work of the lab and maybe even a demo.

Trust Me, I'm a Computer Security Officer
Matt Crawford
CC1-15

Matt is in charge of technical measures for computer security at Fermilab, which has many thousands of computers directly exposed to the Internet. He has also served in an advisory role on computer security to the Department of Energy, the University of Chicago, and Mensa International, Ltd. Matt is ready to answer your questions about your own computer's security in this time of identity theft and other Internet security issues.

9:15 A.M.–11:15 A.M.
Myths and Realities of Self-Defense: For Women Only
John Martin
Paramount Ballroom

Are keys in the hand a viable weapon? Does pepper spray drop attackers in their tracks? How about heel stomps, groin kicks, and eye gouges? Can a woman really defend herself against a large or strong man? Explore the myths and realities of physical self-defense in a Q&A-demo-training session. Come dressed for a workout if you'd like to learn some skills, or just watch and ask questions if you prefer. This program is for women only.

Game Theory 101
Oriel Maximé
CC1-5

What do *The Weakest Link,* job performance evaluations, the electoral college, and murderous pigeons have in common? Game theory, the mathematical field that John Nash of *A Beautiful Mind* helped to build. This interactive, no-math introduction to the study of conflict requires no prior exposure. Bring your curiosity and strategic intuition. Warning: expect to participate.

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

Orientation for kids and parents at 9:30, with a day of exciting activities for kids (targeted at children aged 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.
The South American Table
Maria Baez Kijac
Boardroom A

Maria will speak about how the discovery of the New World affected the eating habits of the whole world. She will speak about the exchange of foods and ideas and the origins and evolution of the 10 Latin South American countries.

Creative Thinking Exercises
Darlene Brill
CC1-12

In this age of instant gratification, learn to tap into your creativity and get immediate results. You'll pick up techniques for brainstorming, generating ideas, and exploring them using easy-to-learn, three-minute, creative thinking exercises. Apply them to every aspect of your life: if you're stuck for an idea, if you want to invent or redesign a product, or if you just want a fun, stimulating, high-energy pick-me-up, join Darlene in this fast-paced, participatory workshop. (Be prepared to laugh!)

Human Spaceflight: Finally Going Somewhere?
Kent Nebergall
CC1-10

With the announcement that NASA will pursue a long-term program of exploration of the solar system, many questions have surfaced on how this can be done. We will examine what is known of NASA's new initiatives, compare them to new programs from other nations, and evaluate the technologies involved. At the end, we will discuss ways one can learn to be an armchair astronaut

or space vehicle designer, with tools that have recently become available.

Stretching Exercises
Skinner and Yvonne
CC1-3

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 is not strenuous, consisting of various non-aerobic stretching exercises designed to loosen you up. Or you can just veg out in Hospitality.

Trust Me, I'm a Pharmacist
Lisa Slankard
CC1-15

Lisa has been a registered pharmacist for 28 years. She has worked in hospitals, retail, home care, mail order, and a Coumadin clinic. She has published articles in *ChiMe* on natural products and other aspects of pharmacy. Lisa has a license to deal (legal) drugs and is available to answer questions about your pharmaceutical treatments.

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 the listing for Hospitality on page 7 for serving times.

12:30 P.M.–1:30 P.M.
Who Iced the Princes?
Dave Lloyd & Company
Paramount Ballroom

One of history's greatest mysteries and the subject of one of Shakespeare's most memorable plays is whatever happened to the two princes, nephews of King Richard III. In this audience-participation comedy, Richard III comes to Chicago to enlist the help of a homicide detective to solve the crime. After introducing the major suspects (and setting Shakespeare on his ear), the players ask the audience to vote on the guilty party.

History of Disability
Virginia Miller
CC1-12

Nearly invisible in the written text, historian Douglas Baynton noted, "Disability is everywhere in history, once you begin looking for it."

Currently, more than 750 million people in the world have some type of disability. Sadly, despite tremendous progress, particularly over the last 20 years, this group of people remains pervasively disadvantaged. This program will look at some of the events and legislation that contributed to the disenfranchisement of persons with disabilities, and will highlight those who made important contributions to disability rights and the accomplishments of persons with disabilities.

Discovering the Lost Crops of the Incas
Marjorie and Bob Leventry
CC1-5

Just what are the "Lost Crops of the Incas" and why were they lost? Discover what crops and foods gave the ancient Inca civilization its power. When the Spanish conquered the extensive Inca civilization, what happened to these crops that were lost to the modern world for centuries? Learn how our modern world can benefit from these ancient foods and how this can aid the indigenous descendants of the Inca people. You will also have a chance to try some of these healthful and delicious foods.

Trust Me, I'm a Personal Trainer
Cat Sterrett Thorstenberg
CC1-15

Cat received an M.S. in Exercise Physiology from the University of Illinois at Chicago, is certified by ACSM (American College of Sports Medicine), and ACE (American Council on Exercise), and is a professional member of NSCA (National Strength and Conditioning Association). She has more than 20 years experience with bodybuilding, strength training, and cardiopulmonary fitness and specialized in working with "special populations" (quads/paraplegics, elderly, obese, diabetic, hypertense, amputees, joint replacements), as well as average Americans. She'd like to note that she is not a nutritionist or dietitian, so she will talk about exercise and conditioning programs, not fad diets. Come and ask Cat your questions about your own exercise program.

12:30 P.M.–2:30 P.M.

Beyond the Bumper Sticker: Rethinking a Jewish Jesus ("Yeshua")!

Barry Budoff

CC1-10

There has been a great deal written and produced over the past few years having to do with the person Yeshua haNotzri (Yeshua the Nazarite). While much of it is interesting and some of it is humorous (although not intentionally), it rarely places him in the context of his culture and era. As a result, what is often seen is a blond-haired, blue-eyed, Aryan Jesus, spouting things that are wrapped in Aristotelian form or logic. This class will seek to at least provide the tools to reexamine that historical and cultural paradigm with the hope that a new understanding of Yeshua will emerge.

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, Louise Howe, and Nadine McBeth.

1:45 P.M.–2:45 P.M.

Israeli Folk Dancing

Jeff Subeck

Paramount Ballroom

If you have two left feet, bring them both! If you have never danced before, it's about time that you start. You will be on your feet in no time, experiencing the positive folk dance energy. Fun for the whole family: men and women of all ages. Bring comfortable clothing (gym shoes recommended) and lots of enthusiasm. Dance for your health! The Einstein Aging Study, summarized in the June 19, 2003, *New England Journal of Medicine,* found that dancing helps prevent dementia. Dancing was the only one of the 11 physical activities studied—including team sports, swimming, and bicycling—that benefited the brain.

Movie Flubs

Bob Finnegan

Boardroom A

Watch bloopers left in your favorite movies, including films from great series such as *Star Wars, Indiana Jones, Terminator, Die Hard,* and Disney animated classics.

Trust Me, I'm the Tax Lady

Colleen Baltis

CC1-15

Colleen has 29 years experience in personal income tax (Form 1040 and schedules) preparation, with additional expertise in retirement plans and investments. In addition to her tax skills, she once did 88 sit-ups in two minutes, was the City of Cleveland spelling champion in 2000, was voted second funniest, Fairview High School class of 1975, and sang in the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus the year the Cleveland Orchestra was voted best in the world. Coincidence? If you have some sticky tax questions, Colleen can answer them!

1:45 P.M.–3:45 P.M.

Crystal Medallion Jewelry

Sarah Beckley

CC1-12

Learn to create an elegant and unique jewelry set of a necklace, bracelet, and earrings with central medallions in crystals and pearls. The necklace and bracelet don't use any metal for their closure and never have a "wrong way around." Bead kits that include beads, thread, and needle will be available for purchase at the class for $10 to $25. However, everyone is welcome to bring their own beads. This pattern requires size 11 seed beads, 5mm freshwater pearls, and 3mm and 6mm sizes of bicone crystals. If you have scissors or a tape measure, feel free to bring them.

3:00 P.M.–4:00 P.M.

Save-A-Pet

Tracee Nurczyk

Boardroom A

Save-A-Pet is a not-for-profit, no-kill shelter dedicated to finding loving, quality homes for every cat and dog in its care. Pets are sheltered indefinitely. Save-A-Pet strives to create an environment that enhances both awareness of and support for the humane treatment of animals. Tracee will talk about the work of Save-A-Pet and introduce us to some of the animals they shelter.

An American Foodie in the U.S.S.R.
Catherine Lambrecht
CC1-5

Catherine spent considerable time in the U.S.S.R., from 1977 until 1990, with occasional visits since then. At first, she stayed in hotels, but eventually received permission to maintain an apartment in Moscow. Rather than mingling with the international community, Catherine made friends with local Soviets and saw life there through their eyes. While living in hotels, Catherine often begged invitations to people's homes, promising to purchase ingredients and prepare the dinner. Once she had her own apartment, Catherine had guests over for dinner nightly. Food was a pleasantly neutral subject when everyone worried about the KGB and had to think twice before speaking. Catherine will recall her experiences in the U.S.S.R.: eating in restaurants and in private homes, people's reactions to her foods, buying street food, and and shopping at farmers' markets with the locals. She will describe how Soviet Moscow was a shopper's paradise and will conclude with changes she has observed in subsequent visits.

Trust Me, I'm a Dentist
Janet Century
CC1-15

Janet has 18 years experience in dentistry. She is a general dentist with a special interest in, well, everything. She is a Fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry and has received advanced certifications in laser dentistry, implant dentistry, endodontics, orthodontia, and cosmetic tooth whitening. She is one of 16 dentists in Illinois to be granted proficiency in laser dentistry. She taught pediatric dentistry for 10 years at Michael Reese Hospital. If Janet doesn't know the answer to your dental question, she promises to find out.

3:00 P.M.–5:15 P.M.
Who Died and Left Him in Charge?
EJBoris
CC1-10

EJBoris will treat us to an enthusiastic and fascinating look at the kings and queens of England, how and why each succeeded to the throne, and how this influenced our democracy.

Sexyg Fishbowl Forum
ADULTS ONLY
Cat Sterrett Thorstenberg
CC1-3

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 have asked (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.
A Couple of Sets of Very Original Acoustic and Electric Music
The Band Ovadya
Paramount Ballroom

Ovadya's lead singer and songwriter describes the group's sound as "Neo-psychedelic, world-influenced jazz/rock with Middle Eastern and Celtic textures." Instruments include acoustic and electric guitars, saxophones, electric viola, bass, wind synthesizer, drums, percussion, and toys. Mensans who experienced their last HalloweeM concert loved the intelligent, original music of this talented group of musicians. This concert will not be as loud as the last one: they are going to play more acoustic this time, but it will have the same energy. Their current CD will be available for sale (and one was donated for the scholarship raffle).

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 Greg calls "squirrel attitude." (Program may include a visit from Greg's pet squirrel.)

Las civilizaciones precolumbinas de México
Gerry Robles
CC1-5

Una presentación de varias civilizaciones precolumbinas importantes, en español.

5:30 P.M.–6:00 P.M.
Cocktails
Paramount Ballroom

Wind down from your busy day. Ease into evening with something pleasant from the cash bar. You are welcome to come, whether you're attending the banquet or not.

Ovadya
Paramount Ballroom

More great music from this intelligent, neo-psychedelic, world-influenced jazz/rock band. See 4:15 listing and bio section for more details.

6:00 P.M.–7:30 P.M.
Banquet
Paramount Ballroom

Enjoy HalloweeM's formal feast. Banquet goers get not only a lovely sit-down dinner, they will also have the best seats for this evening's entertainment. The banquet requires a ticket, purchased in advance. (This year, tickets can be bought on Friday afternoon and evening; check at registration. If you forget until Saturday, check the bulletin board to see if anyone is selling tickets. Otherwise, without advance-purchase tickets, you will be unable to attend. However, the hotel has other dining options, and a list of local restaurants will be available at registration.)

7:30 P.M.–9:00 P.M.
Old-Time Radio Theater
Those Were the Days Radio Players
Paramount Ballroom

Even if you didn't live during the Golden Age of Radio, you have probably heard shows or seen programs about how the shows were produced. Tonight, a talented troupe of actors will recreate three vintage comedies from that golden age, as well as one newer radio comedy, using original scripts, complete with sound effects. The players will recreate a *Baby Snooks & Daddy* broadcast from November 1, 1946, a Burns and Allen broadcast, *It Pays to Be Ignorant,* and *Guy Noir, Private Eye* from *A Prairie Home Companion.*

9:00 P.M.–?
Saturday Night Dance
Chicago Room

This dance extravaganza offers something new: proximity to food and beverages. Chicago Area Mensa's Howard Rothstein (voted Mr. Mensa at the AG) will be the evening's MP3-J, playing tunes the technology way. There will be tables where you can chat, catch your breath, or just sit and enjoy the music, as well as a dance floor and plenty of room to dance.

InQUIZition
Charlie Steinhice
Paramount Ballroom

Lively, often hilarious quiz bowl competition described by one spectator as "College Bowl meets vaudeville." Charlie warns, "I have a buzzer system, and I'm not afraid to use it." The competition will be for teams of four players each. Be sure to sign up in advance if you want to participate (but late entrants will be allowed to join at the last minute if there is space available). However, you don't need to be a member of a team to attend or to enjoy the hilarity. The bigger the crowd, the better.

9:00 P.M.–11:00 P.M.
The Return of Pretentious Drinking
Gary Kryvko, Alan Baltis, Catherine Woytowicz
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. What if that pricey potion isn't quite the palette pleaser you expected? Rejoice! As in years past, you can sample some truly amazing liqueurs. This year, it's the same tune, but with a slightly different tempo: this time around, 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 archnemesis as a "thoughtful"gift. You must be of legal drinking age to join us. Snobbish accents and extended pinkies optional. This will be Gary Kryvko's farewell performance, so come raise a glass to one of the people who started this popular event.

And "Movies 24/7" Continues...
Movies
Woodfield III

Check the schedule to see what's on offer. Movies will run all through the night, with the second and third parts of *Lord of the Ring* starting later tonight.

2:00 A.M.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS. SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR. MAKE THE NIGHT—AND THE RG—ONE HOUR LONGER!

See pages 6–8 for events and features that run all weekend long. **Hospitality** food schedules are on page 7.

8:30 A.M.–9:30 A.M.
Friends of Bill W.
CC1-10

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 M's "Party Animal" Winner
Future RG announcements (in order of event date)

11:45 A.M.–1:45 P.M.
***The World of* Star Wars**
Bob Finnegan
Boardroom A

This presentation will feature the best extras from the recently released DVD boxed set of *Star Wars: Episodes IV–VI.* And from next year's *Episode III: The Revenge of the Sith,* see the new Darth Vader costume, how Anakin became Darth, and how the actors prepared for the battle between Anakin and Obi-Wan. You can also watch new interviews and never-before-seen behind-the-scenes shots from the first films.

Near Death Experiences: An Introduction to the Light
Dan Punzak
CC1-10

Many people who nearly died have reported being able to observe others from outside their bodies; some report going into a world of light and speaking to deceased ancestors, reviewing their life, or meeting beings of light. Their lives are usually transformed after such an experience. Dan believes these to be "spiritual" experiences and an indication of a life after death, but skeptics who believe them to be chemical or psychological reactions or a dying brain are welcome to attend.

Stitch 'n' Bitch
Louise Howe
CC1-7

Bring your needlework and join Louise and her friends for a relaxing hour or two as they stitch, chat, admire each other's projects, exchange tips and ideas, and, well, you know.

Kayaking (Sea, River, Whitewater)
John Martin
Hotel Pool

Ever dream of being the captain of your own oceangoing vessel? Wish you could travel remote rivers without a crew? Long to play in whitewater or surf? Explore the fast-growing sport of kayaking with some local kayakers. Various styles of kayaks will be on hand for your examination. Dress to get wet if you'd like to be closer to the action in the pool.

12:45 P.M.–1:30 P.M.
Proctor Training
Cindy Ogilvie
CC1-3

Interested in becoming a proctor for your local group but haven't been able to get to a Leadership Development Workshop or the AG? This session will give you everything you need to decide if you want to start the proctor process. (Minimum requirements include a bachelor's degree.) If your schedule permits, satisfy one of the proctor requirements by observing the administration of a proctored test, beginning at 1:45.

1:00 P.M.–3:15 P.M.
Kindergarten for All Ages (formerly Coloring Workshop)
Carol Metzger
CC1-12

Carol invites you to play with her artistic toys. Crayons, colored paper, drawing pencils, glue, glitter, and whatever else she can carry will be supplied. You bring your inner child. Real children are also warmly welcomed. (Children young enough to want to eat the supplies should be accompanied by a responsible adult, as some art supplies are toxic.) Extremely friendly workshop. Nobody cares if you stay inside the lines. Bring your own favorite tools if you wish. Limited to about 15 people at a time.

1:45 P.M.–3:45 P.M.
Proctored Tests
CC1-3 and CC1-5

2:15 P.M.–3:15 P.M.
Adventures in Shameless Self-Promotion
Kiki Kruse
CC1-10

Okay, you have that book on store shelves everywhere, but your work is only beginning. What's next? Come find out ingenious ways to get attention for your labor of love. Learn how the power of "thank you" can propel your writing career to new heights. Kiki is an expert in the art of shameless self-promotion. Learn how it's done!

3:15 P.M.–?

Time to clean up. As the adage goes, "many hands make light work." Please pitch in and give us a hand—and remember, all volunteering is rewarded with a collectable volunteer pin and an invitation to the delightful Survivors' Party.

Thanks for coming. Hope to see you next year.

Speakers' Bios

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 Lovers Club, has 14 years experience hand feeding and interacting with neighborhood wild squirrels, and has spent seven years living with his own indoor pet squirrel.

Sarah Beckley

Crystal Medallion Jewelry (Sat.)

Sarah has been making hand-crafted jewelry for more than 10 years. She focuses on creating unique beaded items that are delicate, whimsical, or both. Her company is called Iris Indra, to reflect the merging of Eastern and Western influences in her pieces. Teaching informally for several years, Sarah hopes to establish a regular teaching schedule in the near future. http://www.irisindra.com

Joe Blake

From the First Call to the Last Shovelful of Dirt (Fri.)

Joe is a Kansas-licensed embalmer and funeral director. He works in an independently owned funeral home in a town of 3,500 people in eastern Kansas.

Christine Blumer

Vine to Wine (Fri.)

Christine has been a wine consultant to Robert Mondavi Family of Wines, Remy Amerique, Mason Marques, and other Chicago-area suppliers, both to train staff and educate consumers. She develops and leads wine classes for Calphalon Culinary Center and Sur La Table and is the president and owner of WineDiva Enterprises, Ltd., an organization that develops and hosts wine events for private, corporate, and consumer clients.

EJBoris

Who Died and Left Him in Charge? (Sat.)

And to think that at one time he didn't know Bloody Mary from Mary Queen of Scots! EJBoris

says that his qualifications are "Mensa's best: an insatiable curiosity about the subject." His knowledge of British history is broad and deep, replete with the kind of wonderful anecdotes and trivia that are a delight to the hearts of Mensans.

Darlene Brill

Creative Thinking Exercises (Sat.)

Chicago Area M Darlene Brill has been a French translator, insurance claims administrator, personnel generalist, property manager, building rehabber, freelance author, and editor. She is fascinated by the way we think, especially when we make unexpected connections (creativity). Her exploration of creativity led her to share her knowledge through presentations on creative thinking exercises.

Barry Budoff

Beyond the Bumper Sticker: Rethinking a Jewish Jesus (Sat.)

Barry has been actively serving as a rabbi within the Messianic Jewish community for 20 years. He has also been involved in the leadership of two national organizations, serving on executive committees as Recording Secretary and General Secretary, as well as chairing their Judicial and Theology Committees. He has written a number of published articles for *Kesher* (academic theological journal) and *Messianic Judaism Today,* as well as a Messianic Jewish siddur. He is currently serving as the head rabbi of Congregation B'nai Maccabim in the Chicago area, and is on the advisory board of the Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations. http://www.bnai.org

Bob Finnegan

Movie Music Quiz (Fri.), Movie Flubs (Sat.), The World of *Star Wars* (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.

Todd Fisher

Napoleon's Coronation (Fri.)

Todd is Executive Director of the Napoleonic Alliance, a group dedicated to the study of the era of Napoleon that includes in its membership all major Napoleonic scholars in North America, as well as many amateur history enthusiasts. He is a frequent lecturer at historical events and will

appear soon on a Discovery Channel program on Waterloo. He wrote *The Napoleonic Wars* for Osprey Publishing. The book has become a primary text for undergraduate and graduate level general studies of the early nineteenth century. He is also the president of the Emperor's Press, a military history publishing firm specializing in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In addition, he is well known for his work in war gaming, having authored several popular rules sets and published many more. http://www.napoleonic-alliance.com

Kathleen Anne Fleming

How the Plot Works in a Mystery Novel (Fri.)

Kathleen is the author of three published mystery novels: *The Jazz Age Murders, Factory of Death,* and *The Demands of the Dead,* and has published numerous short stories in various literary magazines and short story collections. Kathleen also teaches a nine-part writing workshop and is an active member of Mystery Writers of America.

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.

Gail Haller

Makeup Consultations (Sat.)

Gail, an independent Mary Kay Sales Director, started her own home-based business two years ago. She has an MBA in Entrepreneurship and recognized a great business opportunity when it came knocking at her door! Gail enjoys enriching women's lives by offering the best-selling brand of skin care and cosmetics in the U.S. She also offers the business opportunity to help women gain independence and confidence—not to mention tax breaks—through owning their own businesses. Gail offers complimentary one-on-one consultations, gift basket services, and 24/7 shopping via http://www.marykay.com/GailHaller.

Louise Howe

Stitch 'n' Bitch (Sun.)

Louise is a freelance editor who enjoys doing counted cross stitch when she isn't reading mystery novels, doing genealogy, or playing Boggle. She is also a Sacred and Revered Judge for the Fiendish Armchair Treasure Hunt.

Maria Baez Kijac

The South American Table (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 has studied cooking in Spain and throughout South America. Maria serves as a judge for the International Slow Food Awards for Biodiversity and was the kitchen director for the PBS series *American Family Kitchen.* She is also the author of several cookbooks, the most recent being the highly acclaimed *The South American Table,* named the best Latino cookbook in the world at the Gourmand Cookbook Awards this year in Barcelona, Spain.

Kiki Kruse

A Chicago Firehouse (Fri)
Shameless Self-Promotion (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

Catherine Lambrecht

An American Foodie in the U.S.S.R. (Sat.)

Catherine imports and distributes optics from Russia and central Europe. When Russia was the Soviet Union, Catherine and her father exported analytical instruments to the Soviet Union and eastern Europe. Catherine (a.k.a. Cathy2 on www.lthforum.com) is an active member of the Culinary Historians of Chicago, ChicaGourmet, and the Southern Foodways Alliance. She has been best of show and champion in the pies division at the Lake County Fair, and has been a serious foodie for as long as she can remember.

Karl Larsen

Court: What Testimony Is Really Like (Fri.)

Karl has worked with the Illinois State Police for more than 25 years. After earning his Ph.D. in pharmacodynamics, he worked at ISP in toxicology. Karl teaches introductory forensics at several local colleges and universities and instructs at UIC in the Master's in Forensic Science program. He also instructs new forensic scientists in the topic of courtroom demeanor and performance. He has testified in courts more than 150 times as an expert in drug analysis and toxicology.

Marjorie and Bob Leventry

Discovering the Lost Crops of the Incas (Sat.)

Bob Leventry is the former president of a property and casualty insurance company and marketing firm. Marjorie Leventry is a registered dietitian and former nutrition instructor in the Illinois college system. In 1993, they changed direction and became Peace Corps volunteers in Ecuador. From this experience, they founded an import company to bring some of the "lost crops of the Incas" to the modern world. Today, they work with over 4,000 indigenous families who are growing these crops organically in the Andean highland of Ecuador. Their products include quinoa, the supergrain of the Incas, and other beans and grains promoted for their nutritional impact and healthful benefits to our modern diets. Their company, Inca Organics, has been featured in *The Atlantic Monthly, Chicago Tribune, Seattle Times,* and many other publications. Their Heirloom Quinoa Project was a 2002 Award Winner for Biodiversity from the International Slow Food Movement. They were featured speakers at the Chicago Humanities Festival in 2003. http://www.incaorganics.com

Dave Lloyd

Who Iced the Princes? (Sat.)

Dave tells us that his qualifications are that he is a Mensan and a member of the Shakespeare SIG, and believes himself to be clever.

Anne Lucas

It's Witchcraft (Fri.)

Anne is a fifth-generation Wiccan and an active Wiccan priestess.

John Martin

Myths and Realities of Self-Defense: For Women Only (Sat.), Kayaking (Sun.)

John has been the president of Combat Arts Institute (Palatine, Illinois) since 1987, and an instructor (ju-jutsu, jujo-jutsu, women's self-defense, law enforcement DT) for 24 years. He is a ju-jutsu instructor at Harper College and College of DuPage, menkyo in miyama ryu ju-jutsu, and mokuroku in paracombatives. In addition, John has 20 years experience canoeing, then transitioned to kayaking three years ago. He is British Canoe Union certified, an American Canoe

Association instructor, and a Guide/Instructor for The Northwest Passage, an international outdoor adventure travel company in Wilmette, Illinois. http://www.CombatArts.org

Roger Mattingly

Getting the Most Out of Your Digital Camera, Part 1 (Sat.)

Roger is the owner of Roger Mattingly Photography and president of Star Digital Imaging. He is a member of the American Society of Media Photographers and past president of the local chapter. His photography career stretches back to his tour as a war correspondent in Vietnam and Laos. He has worked as a freelance photographer since 1976 and became the president of Star Digital Imaging in 1995. http://www.digitalroger.com

Oriel Maximé

Game Theory 101 (Sat.)

Oriel, who can frequently be found in the games room at Mensa AGs and RGs, earned a degree in mathematics from an engineering school, where he also minored in physics and computer science. For a game-loving Mensan with a math degree, it's a small step from learning games to learning game theory. For the past 10 years, Oriel has studied game theory as a hobby and was surprised to see so many applications and reference points come to public attention in the past two years.

Carol Metzger

Kindergarten for All Ages (Sun.)

Carol's artwork has been featured in several group exhibitions, including shows at the DuPage Art League, College of DuPage, Woman Made Gallery, DiFalco Gallery, and Gallery 1633, and in one-person shows in Roselle, Schaumburg, and Woodridge, Illinois. She studied art at the Art Institute of Chicago, DuPage Art League, and College of DuPage. Oddly, her formal degrees are in the life sciences. Her most recent creative efforts involve renovating her vintage apartment and designing and constructing practical yet attractive storage solutions. http://members.ync.net/cfmason

Virginia Miller

History of Disability (Sat.)

Virginia Miller has 17 years experience working in the field of the disability. As Manager, ADA Administration for Sears, Roebuck and Company, she monitors adherence to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all Sears retail units.

Prior to working for Sears, Virginia worked for the University of Illinois at Chicago, Department of Disability Studies, Great Lakes Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center, providing technical assistance on all aspects of the ADA. She has served on various disability boards, including the executive board of the Chicagoland Business Leadership Network and Illinois ADA and has acted as facilitator for the Southwest Chicago Area Head Trauma support group.

Richard Mueller

Estate Planning (Fri.)

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

Kent Nebergall

Human Spaceflight: Finally Going Somewhere? (Sat.)

Kent is the son of a former test pilot and an artist, and has been an avid follower of space technology since Apollo-Soyuz, when he was seven years old. This past year he led one of five teams that finished the Kepler Prize contest in spacecraft design. Kent is currently involved with the Mars Society and helped plan its convention in Chicago this past August. He has also lectured both there and at three previous HalloweeMs on the subject of space technology.

Tracee Nurczyk

Save-A-Pet (Sat.)

Tracee is Director of Community Affairs for Save-A-Pet and is very active in presenting Save-A-Pet's mission to the general public. She coordinates all off-site presentations and shows for the organization, as well as on-site tours. http://www.save-a-pet-il.org

James O'Connor

Profanity: The Decline of Civility and the English Language (Sat.)

James is the author of *Cuss Control: The Complete Book on How to Curb Your Cursing* (Three Rivers Press) and the founder of the Cuss Control Academy. He has appeared on more than 90 TV shows and 500 radio programs, and has been featured in more than 400 newspapers and magazines on the topic of profanity. He is president of O'Connor Communications, Inc., a public relations firm, and is a frequent speaker at schools, associations and companies. http://www.

cusscontrol.com

Cindy Ogilvie

Proctor Training (Sun.)

Cindy is testing/proctor coordinator for Chicago Area Mensa, as well as the group's past local secretary, and current treasurer for HalloweeM. So I guess you could say she's involved.

Ovadya

A Couple of Sets of Very Original Acoustic and Electric Music (Sat.)

The members of the band have backgrounds and the music has influences that range all over the globe, from jazz and blues to rock to the Middle East. Members have played in bands from New York to Texas to the Midwest; some have recorded on major labels; all are pleased to be playing for Mensa, which they consider to be the demographic most likely to understand what they're doing. The band appears regularly at Chicago-area clubs and music venues, as well as outside the Chicago area. They have been featured on WXRT and played on radio nationwide. http://www.ovadya.net

Yvonne Porter

Stretching Exercises (Sat.)

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

Dan Punzak

Near Death Experience: An Introduction to the Light (Sun.)

During the day, Dan is an environmental engineer with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in the area of air pollution control. He has been a member of Mensa for 30 years. While Dan has not had a Near Death Experience (NDE) himself, he is on the board of directors and is secretary of an organization involved with NDEs, the International Association for Near Death Studies (http://www.iands.org). He has attended most of their conferences and had an article published in 1989 in their technical journal, *Journal of Near Death Studies.*

Gerry Robles

Las civilizaciones precolumbinas de México (Sat.)

Gerry is a native Spanish speaker with an interest in Hispanic history and extensive experience marketing to the Hispanic market.

Neal Roys

Intelligent Design (Fri.)

Neal has taught AP Calculus BC, for 10 years and Honors Pre-Calculus for 12 years at Adlai Stevenson High School in Lake County, Illinois. He has also taught Honors Advanced Algebra and been the school's Math Team coach. 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.

Ro Sila

Cookie Contest (Fri.)

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

Skinner

Hell's M's (Fri.), Stretching Exercises (Sat.)

Skinner is the founder and SIG coordinator of Hell's M's. He has been leading stretching classes with Yvonne Porter for Mensa since 1990. Skinner has studied martial arts and has been working out on a regular basis 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 has learned from staffing 29 New Warrior Training Adventures and from the half dozen other training events he has attended and staffed. http://www.hellsms.com

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—the one who had the gift of eliciting contributions of homemade goodies.

Robert Stalzer

The Bizarre Fate of a Test Tube Language (Fri.)

Robert's habitual study of languages changed when, following an MRI experiment to image his brain during language processing, he shifted attention to the cognitive apparatus that produces language in the mind. While his study of software engineering at DePaul spelled out the mechanics by which computers and even people comprehend their respective languages, a year of American

Sign Language at Columbia College changed his understanding of the real relationship between language and society. With a deepened knowledge of linguistic politics, Robert wanted to find out for Mensans the truth about an odd language that nobody seems to speak. This required learning the language and infiltrating Esperanto society. Robert is now a member of the Universal Esperanto Association and attended the Universal Congress in Beijing this year.

Charlie Steinhice

InQUIZition (Sat.)

Charlie coaches the quiz bowl team at UT–Chattanooga. A veteran of academic and not-so-academic trivia competitions, Charlie was on the University of Tennessee team that won the 1991 ACF National Championship. When not playing Grand InQUIZitor, Charlie is a senior research analyst for BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee who struggles heroically to answer all the questions posed by his two daughters.

Cat Sterrett Thorstenberg

Trust Me, I'm a Personal Trainer (Sat.), 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.

Jeff Subeck

Israeli Folk Dancing (Sat.)

Jeff has participated regularly in recreational Israeli folk dancing for more than 10 years, attending many of the biggest weekly sessions in the Chicago area, and has traveled throughout the country and to Israel to learn dances from the choreographers. He has been exposed to Israeli folk dancing since he was a child. He has both taught and performed dances.

Those Were the Days Radio Players (Chicago North)

Old-Time Radio Theater (Sat.)

In January 1992, radio host Chuck Schaden invited anyone interested in doing reenactments of the old-time radio shows to attend a meeting. It attracted a very large crowd. Six groups were formed based on geographic location, one of which became the Those Were the Days Radio Players, Chicago North. They have been performing ever since. Performing at HalloweeM

are Anita Miller, Lisa Albergo, Roger Badesch, John Albergo, Ara Mayian, Betty Mayian, Don Fisher, Pat McPharland, Scott Sumner, Barb Strauss, Sandy Westin, Linda Komosa, and Rene Camargo.

Robert Wittig

The Wittig Report: The State of the Arts, 2005 (Fri.)

Robert is a painter who has completed more than 1,000 paintings—and sold more than 500 of them. He is also a writer whose many initially self-published works have been picked up by various e-zines and print publications, including *American Psychologist*. http://www.robertwittig.com

Catherine Woytowicz

(Not!) Getting Away with Murder (Sat.)

Catherine is a Ph.D. chemist who teaches at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and is an AAAS Science & Technology Diplomacy Fellow at the U.S. Department of State. Catherine has also worked as a court-qualified narcotics analyst.

Obie Yadgar

Looking Back on Radio and Ahead to the Novel (Fri.)

Obie Yadgar has had a dual career as radio broadcaster and writer. You may recall Obie as morning host at WNIB, Chicago's favorite classical music station, before it was sold in 2001 and its format changed. He was also a combat correspondent with the U.S. Army in Vietnam. Currently Obie works in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as a freelance writer and voice talent. He has written two novels and is preparing the first novel for publication early next year.