HalloweeM 30:



Program

October 28-30, 2005

Sheraton Chicago Northwest
Arlington Heights, Illinois

HalloweeM 30

Welcome to Xtreme ‘WeeM!

This is our thirtieth HalloweeM, or ‘WeeM XXX, and we want you to have 3X the fun! We have an Xtremely busy weekend planned. We have programs about Xtreme topics—check out In Extremis movie clips, Extreme Snowboarding, and Exxxercising with Music—but remember, those are just the tip of the programming iceberg: we have way more than XXX speakers scheduled this weekend. Visit our Xtremely large games room and compete or just play for fun. Sign up for the Singles Mailboxes to meet an Xtremely special someone. Or you can always just kick back in Hospitality with good food and Xtremely good conversation. This year, you’ll enjoy everything we’re famous for and more. We’ve reinstated the Friday night dance and we’ve taken Pretentious Drinking to a new Xtreme by adding a sweet table to the event. If there’s anything we can do to make the longest weekend of the year even more enjoyable, just ask us.

Happy Halloween!

Janet Century and Chris Edwards,
RG Co-Chairs



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

If interesting programs on a wide range of topics is your idea of the perfect weekend, this is the place to be. We have programs on space, science, food, music, fraud, sports, squirrels, movies, and more. The programming is as varied as our membership. We hope you’ll discover a lot to like and that you’ll have an XXXtremely good time.

You may find more than you can fit into one weekend (at least that’s what we hope). So, as you look over the schedule, let us know what you’d like to have us do again next year. We want you to keep coming back. Remember, we’re always looking for speakers and programs, so if there’s something you’d like to talk about, let us know!

PLEASE NOTE: We keep fine-tuning HalloweeM to meet the needs and desires of those in attendance. As a result, instead of a brunch that costs extra, on Sunday we’ll have a hot breakfast buffet in Hospitality, open to all. The awards ceremony will run from 10:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. Programming will resume at 11:15 A.M. and continue until 3:30 P.M. So, if you’re not catching a plane, don’t leave: there will still be plenty of programs on Sunday.

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

Not everyone wants to dance—or at least not all night—so we have several programs offered in the evening. Programming doesn’t stop just because the sun sets.

Before you get started with the festivities, please 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 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.

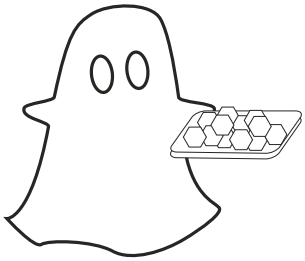
Parents: Even if you allow your children to consume alcohol at home, you are NOT free to do the same at HalloweeM. It's the law.

Bulletin Board: 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 (also known as gHosts) is always

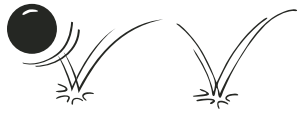


happy to accept new recruits. We need only an hour or two of your time. In exchange, you get a HalloweeM volunteer collector's pin, an invitation to the Survivor's Party (volunteers only), and a warm feeling deep inside.

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.



Kids' Track: Friday night, there is a separate costume parade and party for children (see "Kids' Costumes and Party" for details). During the day on Saturday, a number of kid-friendly events will be offered; visit the kids' room for more details. Saturday evening, there will be a pizza and pool party. Although these are the only formal kids' events, toys, art supplies, and games will be available in the kids' room throughout the weekend for parents to escape for some quality play time with their children.



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. We cannot replace lost meal tickets. Meal tickets will be available at registration through Friday night.

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 and areas where the hotel permits smoking (such as the restaurant and bar). No smoking is permitted in the seminar sessions. Thank you.

Of Special Note

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 awards ceremony. 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

This was a hit last year, so we're doing it again. There will be a costume contest for children before the adult event and a kids' party during the big event. See Friday night listings for details.

"Trust Me" Track Returns

This was a hit last year, so we again offer the "Trust Me, I'm a …" track: experts in a wide variety of fields will answer questions about their areas of expertise. The "Trust Me" track is not a series of traditional programs, but simply the opportunity to walk in, ask questions, then go elsewhere. Information on the experts is interwoven with the other program listings.



Saturday evening, from 6:00 to 9:00, kids are invited to join the Sacketts for pizza and swimming. See the program description for details.

All Weekend

Book Sale

Boardroom B

Find out what your fellow Mensans have been reading. Browse through donated non-book items. Take home some treasures. Proceeds from the book sale go to the Scholarship Fund.

Games Room

Illinois Room

The game room will open Thursday evening and remain open around the clock until late Sunday morning. We have all the games from Mind Games 2004 as well as many newer and older games. Tournament information follows; prizes will be awarded!

The Illinois Room is conveniently close to Hospitality. ***PLEASE do not take sticky, gooey, or greasy food into the game room, and keep all food off the playing surfaces!***

Tournament Rooms

CC1-8 and CC1-9

Most tournaments will be in rooms CC1-8 and CC1-9 on the first floor. Look for sign-up sheets and last-minute additions to the lineup in the hall outside. See program descriptions for when and where tournaments occur.

FRIDAY 7:00 A.M.–SUNDAY 7:00 A.M.
The Meta-Tournament

Illinois Room

This is a brand-new event for those who want a bit of friendly competition but don't want be constrained to a single game or miss their favorite events and programs. Awards will be given for the best players in word games, card games, quiz games, two-player strategy games, and multiplayer strategy games. The coveted "Randy" award will be given to the top all-around gamer. The Meta-Tournament will run for 48 hours. Your score increases when you play more games or play against more opponents; it never decreases. See the details in the Illinois Room and add a "TMT" sticker to your badge if you want to show your participation.

Friday, 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Duplicate Euchre Tournament

CC1-8 and CC1-9

John Massura reprises this event from last year. It removes the luck of the deal by using "duplicate" play. Now it's all down to your skill alone! Sign up on the list in the hall in teams of two (or advertise there for a partner). We need an even number of teams.

Saturday, 9:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Logic Puzzle Tournament

CC1-9

Chicago's own award-winning puzzlemaster Oriel Maximé always has a brand-new set of logic problems to delight and/or confound you. Unchain your left brain!

Saturday, 2:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.

Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament

Illinois Room



Scott Chupack and J C Smyth invite you to try your hand at the game that's sweeping the nation—with no financial risk! Sign up by 1:30 in the Illinois Room for priority seating or simply show up at 2:00. There's no entry cost, but there are prizes for the top finishers!

Saturday, 8:00 p.m.–10:30 p.m.

Duplicate Bridge Tournament

CC1-8 and CC1-9

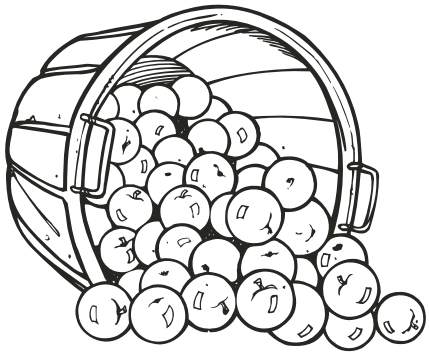
Veteran RG bridge director Thomas Blue, Jr., brings his popular event to Chicago for the first time. Sign up in pairs or advertise for a partner on the list in the hall.

Dance Dance Revolution

Chicago Room

Join a friendly competition Friday at 5:00 p.m. (there will be a prize), or just limber up your moves any time during the weekend.

All Weekend



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. All meal service will be in Woodfield I.

There will be hot food for these meals:

- Friday dinner (6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.)
- Saturday breakfast (7:30 a.m.–9:30 a.m.)
- Saturday lunch (11:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m.)
- Saturday late snack (10:30 p.m.–11:30 p.m.)
- Sunday breakfast (7:30 a.m.–10:00 a.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 also offers several dining options.

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!

Kids' Room

CC1-6

Games, art supplies, toys, videos, and other kid-friendly stuff will be available all weekend for a quiet place for parents to play with their youngsters. In addition, the Friday night children's party will take place in this room. There will be a listing here of special events for children during the day on Saturday.

Massage Therapy

CC1-11

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.

All Weekend

Singles Mailboxes
CC1-4

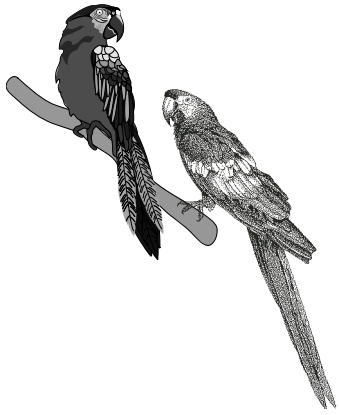
If you're single, check out the mailbox room. Post a bio, leave a message. If you've never done it before and you're not sure how it works, don't worry: guidelines will be posted. Read about what other singles are seeking and let them know what you want. Check back often: the room is available 24 hours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

Movie Room
Woodfield III

Big-picture and theater-quality sound. Check the listing outside the room for films to be shown. The theme for the movie room this year will be celebrating HalloweeM's thirtieth year, with other inclusions that are just good Mensa fun. Movies will run 24/7.

Vendors
Area Outside Hospitality

Several vendors will show and sell their wares. There will also be information about A Refuge for Saving the Wildlife, Inc. Come get a jump on your seasonal shopping (and see the parrots). Hours are 5:00 P.M.–8:00 P.M. on Friday and 10:00 A.M.–3:00 P.M. on Saturday.



Friday

For details on events and features that run all weekend, including **tournaments** and Hospitality **food schedules**, see pages 7–10.

4:00 P.M.–5:00 P.M.

Trust Me, I'm a Pharmacist
Lisa Slankard
CC1-12

Lisa has been a registered pharmacist for 29 years. She has worked in hospitals, retail, home care, mail order, and a COUMADIN clinic and is currently working at Dominick's pharmacy. She has published articles in *ChiMe* on natural products and other aspects of pharmacy. Lisa has a license to deal (legal) drugs and will answer questions about your pharmaceutical treatments.

4:00 P.M.–6:00 P.M.

Rescuing Versus Hoarding: How Do You Know the Difference?
Richard Weiner
CC1-10

Richard, executive director of A Refuge for Saving the Wildlife, Inc., a not-for-profit rescue organization specializing in birds, will give a rundown on the legal aspects of rescuing and hoarding and how to tell the difference.

5:15 P.M.–6:15 P.M.

Let Us Not to the Marriage of True Minds Admit Impediment: Five Tips for a Successful Marriage
Jack Berkemeyer
CC1-3

This presentation is intended for married couples experiencing the current cultural challenge to their marriage known as "time famine." If you have encountered the woes of "overscheduling," then come and enjoy hearing a few simple tips on how to stay connected and preserve that zing of intimacy in your relationship.

Trust Me, I'm a Self-Defense Instructor
John Martin
CC1-12

John has a B.S. from Northwestern University, but his passion lies in the martial arts. He is proficient in the ParaCombatives and Miyama-Ryu Ju-Jutsu (Mokuroku ParaCombatives, Menkyo Miyama Ryu). John has been teaching ju-jutsu since 1980, from east coast to west coast, to general audiences as well as to specialized groups such as women and law enforcement personnel. His focus is developing instructional courses and providing training using leading-edge educational methods and knowledge to achieve maximal transfer of useable and retainable skills and knowledge. John will answer your questions about how you can defend yourself and how to pursue further information on self-defense.
http://www.CombatArts.org

5:15 P.M.–7:15 P.M.
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." Four-player teams will compete. Be sure to sign up in advance if you want to participate (late entrants will be allowed to join at the last minute if there is space available). You don't need to be a member of a team to attend or to enjoy the hilarity. The bigger the crowd, the better.

6:30 P.M.–7:30 P.M.
Israel, the Middle East, and the War on Terror
Richard Hellman
CC1-10

This talk will expand beyond the conventional wisdom concerning the evolving U.S.-Israel relationship, U.S. policy toward Arab and Muslim nations, and the effects of development in the Middle East on the future of free nations and people worldwide.

Trust Me, I'm a Soap Opera Writer
Janice Ferri
CC1-12

Janice has been a member of the writing team of *The Young and The Restless* (CBS), network television's number one-rated daytime drama, for more than 16 years. She has written scripts, breakdowns and story, done background research on the social issues the show is famous for, tracked story line and character continuity, and now assigns her colleagues' scripts and edits them before they go to the studio for production. She also serves as a union shop steward, firefighter, and chief cat herder. Winner of three Daytime Emmys and one Writers Guild of America Award, Janice will be on hand to chat with anyone who's ever been curious about this highly specialized, highly quirky little corner of the television world.

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

For children of all ages and their parents, aunts, uncles, friends, and other enthusiastic onlookers. All children are encouraged to show off their costumes; adults are encouraged to cheer the kids on. Prizes will be awarded, with something for everyone. See "Children's Party" for details on the 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 Pun, Worst Pun, Best Traditional, Best Under Age 18, and possibly others, as inspiration strikes the judges.

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 for children three and older to enjoy while you go to the costume contest. This is NOT for infants or toddlers (no facilities for bottles or diaper changing). **You MUST retrieve your children IMMEDIATELY after the costume party: there will be no one to care for them.**

10:30 P.M.–1:00 A.M.
Friday Night Dance
Paramount Ballroom



The Friday night dance returns! Chicago Area Mensa's Howard Rothstein will be the evening's MP3J, 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.

We don't want Howard to burn out, so when he stops playing tunes, we will provide a boom box for anyone who wants to keep the dance going—just bring your own favorite CDs.

10:30 P.M.–11:30 P.M.
Scotch Tasting
Bob Hafenbrack

CC1-10

Bob returns with another informative program on Scotch. He offers a tasting of a range of fine malt Scotches, showcasing the best Scotland has to offer. **Attendance is limited to the first 40 people.**

Movie Music Quiz II
Bob Finnegan

CC1-5

Test your knowledge of movie themes. Bob will play excerpts of music from well-known movies. Identify the movies in which the tunes appeared from a list of possible answers. This is all new music, so it will be just as much of a challenge as last year's quiz.

Hell's M's
CC1-12

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

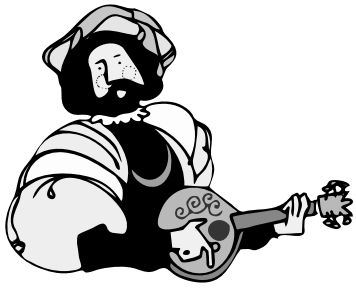
11:30 P.M.–?
Carnelli
Kent Nebergall

CC1-3

Play the word-idea association game invented by DC Ms Jan Carnell and Jim Lange, now a fixture at RGs across the country. Never played? Come and learn how. It's fun and it's addictive.

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.

HalloweeM Cookie Contest
Vicki Snavely and Ro Sila

Woodfield I (Hospitality)

Join us in Hospitality for our Third 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 the 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. Remember: if you want to judge, be early.

Saturday

For details on events and features that run all weekend, including **tournaments** and Hospitality **food schedules**, see pages 7–10.

During the day, there will be a number of children's programs. Times and events will be posted at the Kids' Room (CC1-6).

9:15 A.M.–10:15 A.M.

In Extremis

Bob Finnegan

Paramount Ballroom

Bob offers a program of the most extreme crashes, fires, natural disasters, animal encounters, and accidents caught on film. **Caution: Younger and more sensitive viewers may find that some of the scenes in this presentation are very upsetting.** (No humans or animals die, but the disasters are real.)

Did Someone Say S/he Needed Help? Volunteering in Your Community

Peggy Kozy

CC1-12

Ever wonder what you can do to help build your community? Being a change agent means that you need to "play well" with others. Creating a team is more than just divvying up the work. Learning to build your team can be fun!

9:15 A.M.–11:15 A.M.

Introduction to Yoga: A Participatory Workshop

Ruth Soskin

Boardroom A

Practicing yoga is very popular these days, even though it's been around a very long time. It is a noncompetitive activity focusing on stretching and breathing through the practice of particular poses. Yoga increases flexibility and balance, builds strength and stamina, and promotes relaxation and calmness. Yoga provides an overall sense of well-being. It can be your sole form of exercise or complement a regular workout routine. Notice the results almost immediately! Some exercises will be on the floor, so bring a towel or mat if you don't want to come into contact with the carpet.

The Extreme Sport of Snowboarding

Beth Anne Demeter

CC1-5

Ever wanted to learn to snowboard? Curious about the sport? Well, now's your chance … to learn about the sport, that is. As an "extreme" sport, snowboarding takes advantage of speed, physics, and a slippery surface to allow riders to fly through such tricks as the Misty Flip, Stalefish, and Chicken Salad. You will have the opportunity to learn (completely safely) what these are, how to do them, and whether you'd like to take up the sport. Discussion and video clips take you through the moves. In addition, we'll talk about the history of the sport, the construction of a snowboard, the sport's 1998 adoption as an official Olympic event, and the best ways to get started as a snowboarder.

Anthony Flew Versus Intelligent Design

Neal Roys

CC1-10

Do a Google search on "Anthony Flew Intelligent Design." The top item returned is the ABC News story, "Famous Atheist Now Believes in God." If you read the story and wondered (or if you haven't, but heard about it), come and find out about the elements of intelligent design theory that persuaded Dr. Flew to reject atheism.

10:30 A.M.–11:30 A.M.

Squirrels: Are They the Mensans of Our Backyards?

Greg Bassett

Paramount Ballroom



Designed to prove that squirrels are *anything but* "dumb animals," this presentation uses video footage, combined with stories of Greg's experiences, to demonstrate squirrel intelligence and something Greg calls "squirrel attitude." (Program may include a visit from Greg's pet squirrel.)

This Dress Will Not Change Your Life

Cynthia Murphy

CC1-3

Cynthia, a designer and expert seamstress, will share an anecdotal account of a 35-year career in the custom design-fashion industry.

11:00 A.M.–1:30 P.M.

Lunch

Food will be replenished at half-hour intervals, so the last shall be served as abundantly as those who arrive first. (No programs are scheduled between 11:30 A.M. and 12:30 P.M.)

12:30 P.M.–1:30 P.M.

2005 Spaceflight Update

Kent Nebergall

Paramount Ballroom

Time once again for our annual roundup of what the world's space programs have hidden on drawing boards and in distant skies. We will review the major discoveries in space for the past year and look forward to what human and robotic missions are expected to achieve in the year to come. There are currently more human spacecraft in development than at any point in history. There are so many advanced robotic probes scattered from the path to Mercury to the orbit of Saturn that the deep space communications antennas can barely handle all the traffic. Meanwhile, private human spacecraft and even a private space station are being prototyped by various companies in the desert in the American Southwest. (Well, it *is* the year 2005.) Come have a look.

Exxxercising with Music

Peggy Pannke-Smith

Boardroom A

Fun, low-impact, light-sweat workout to music ranging from Aerosmith's "Back Back Train" (Honking on Bobo) to Leon Redbone's "I Want to be Seduced," beginning with warm-up, going into some aerobic moves, some strength and balance, finishing with cooldown, abdominals, and yoga-like stretches. Wear loose clothing and appropriate shoes. Bring water and a towel or mat. For intermediate level adults or enthusiastic adult beginners with some class experience.

Creative Thinking Exercises

Darlene Brill

CC1-10

Throw away your crystal ball and turban! Get your hot new ideas here! 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!)

From Sashimi to Sagamite: Travel Books and Exotic Tastes

Robert Launay

CC1-12

Before the age of jet travel and international hotels, travelers to foreign places might not have been able to participate in or even understand subjects such as politics, religion, and private life. Whatever their personal preferences, they had no choice but to eat the food, so the authors of travel books wrote about it, from Marco Polo to the present day. These descriptions of exotic foods tell us as much, if not more, about the authors than about the foods themselves—not only the celebrated Venetians but, for example, a French Huguenot stranded among Brazilian cannibals; a Portuguese Jesuit in Japan; a French Franciscan among the Hurons; and an English buccaneer who traveled around the world jumping from ship to ship. You are not only what you eat, but how you tell the story.

12:30 P.M.–2:30 P.M.

Fiendish Armchair Treasure Hunt

Jay Smith

CC1-12

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, while 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.

Meet the AMC

CC1-5

Chat with members of the American Mensa Committee, including AMC chair Russ Bakke, as well as a couple of RVCs and other officers. Find out who is doing what in the organization. Just stop by to say "hi" or stay to talk about Mensa.

The Only Mensan in Iran

Robert Stalzer

CC1-10

Why go to a country that doesn't have diplomatic relations with the U.S.? Wouldn't the Mensa move be to stay safely away? On the contrary, navigating such an alien culture is a thrill for the traveler who can trust his homework over every instinct. The world's fifteenth-largest country isn't just diverse in culture and thought: parts of it would seem to make no sense at all. Learn what happens to your blood gases in a city of 15 million cars and no catalytic converters. Find out why the U.S. and U.K. replaced Iran's democratic government with a dictator in 1953. Count the number of times that the speaker broke the rules—but only according to the rules for breaking the rules. Drink wine, kiss a single woman at the airport, set off the metal detector at Khomeini's tomb, carry all of your money in cash, and discover that, yes, most Iranians do love America.

Two Jews, Five Judaisms: Jewish Pluralism Today

Rabbi Adam Chalom

CC1-12

There are more ways than ever to identify oneself as Jewish. Some complain that this is divisive, but in a consumer economy more options mean more possible connections. From traditionalist Orthodox Judaism to the more secular and cultural Humanistic Judaism, these groups may not always get along with each other, but what else is new?

1:45 P.M.–3:45 P.M.

Who's Afraid of the Big Bang?

John Blinke

Paramount Ballroom

The Big Bang idea of cosmology is currently the most popular notion of how the universe became the way it is. However, it is not perfect. This program will point out some perceived weak spots in the Big Bang Theory and will explain how it is supported by science.

3:00 P.M.–4:00 P.M.

Slow Food for a Fast Nation

Janine MacLachlan

CC1-10

Slow Food is an organization that celebrates the pleasures of the table prepared with local food from small farms. Learn about Slow Food's efforts to save tastes at risk of being lost due to standardization and mass production through the Ark of Taste and the Terra Madre (Mother Earth) worldwide gathering of farmers.

RUN 100 Miles? Heck, I Wouldn't DRIVE That Far!

Conrad Pomykala

CC1-12

Some normal-looking Mensans (an oxymoron?) have a terrible secret: just running a 26.2 mile marathon isn't enough. So, they join a small wacky bunch of humanity that gathers to race 50 or 100 uninterrupted miles, often living on Gatorade, "goo," and pretzels. Come learn the why-who-how-what of this crazy thing from a Chicago M who's done a few and lived to tell about it. No sweating required. Bonus topic: how to stair climb to the top of Chicago's John Hancock building in only 17 minutes.

3:00 P.M.–5:00 P.M.

The DaVinci Code *Success: What Does It Tell Us?*

Joyce Markle

CC1-5

Popular literature succeeds to the degree that it pleases its target audience. That makes success patterns excellent tools for social analysis and speculation. In addition: what does the cavalier blend of fact and fiction—in a fictional book slyly promoted as factual—tell us about today's intellectual climate? To what degree is today's public agreeable to manipulated information?

3:00 P.M.–5:30 P.M.

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 are *musts.*

4:15 P.M.–5:15 P.M.

Dark Matter, Dark Energy, and the Dark Force in the Universe

"Doc" Harry Ringermacher

Paramount Ballroom

"Doc" Harry will present a Cosmology 101-type course describing the recent findings of "dark matter" and "dark energy," which are invisible, can rip galaxies apart, and make up an astonishing 96% of the "stuff" in the universe. This program is a preview of Colloquium 2006, "Revolution in Cosmology." The Colloquium, hosted by Mensa of Northeast New York, will take place in September-October 2006. It will focus on the discoveries in astronomy and astrophysics that resulted from the recent images of the Hubble Space Telescope. World-renowned astronomers, astrophysicists, and physicists who actually made the original discoveries will explain these insights. In addition to the discussion of dark matter and dark energy, Harry will describe the speakers expected at Colloquium 2006.

World Gathering Preview

Marc Lederman

CC1-10

Come see an overview of the 2006 World Gathering, to be held at the Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, Florida, next August. This is your chance to hear the latest news on the World Gathering and have your questions answered.

Mozart and Other Good Guys

Obie Yadgar

CC1-12

A casual, user-friendly look at the history of classical music as we know it, spiked with a dose of humorous anecdotes.

6:00 P.M.–9:00 P.M.

Kids' Pool and Pizza Party

Jill and Joe Sackett

Hey, kids! The pool's open! Join us for swimming pool fun, including Marco Polo, funky relays, and much more. Changing facilities, locker storage, and towels are available. At halftime, we'll "stoke the fires" with pizza and desserts. The food is compliments of 'WeeM so there is no charge. Kids and parents are welcome. Parents may leave their kids but, while the coordinators are capable, there will be no lifeguard on duty and swimming is at your own risk.

6:00 P.M.–7:30 P.M.

Banquet

Arlington Ballroom

Enjoy HalloweeM's formal feast. Banquet goers get not only a lovely, sit-down dinner, but the best seats for this evening's entertainment. The banquet requires a ticket, purchased in advance. (If you didn't order in advance, tickets can be bought on Friday afternoon and evening; check at registration. If you wait until Saturday, check the bulletin board to see if anyone is selling tickets. The hotel has other dining options; there will be no hot food in Hospitality, but there will be snacks.)

7:30 P.M.–9:00 P.M.

Criteria, *a One-Man Sci-Fi Thriller*

Tim Mooney

Paramount Ballroom

Tim, whom many of you will remember from *Molière than Thou,* returns to HalloweeM with his latest theatrical triumph. *Criteria* (an Artistic Picks Finalist at the 2003 Seattle Fringe) carries us centuries into the future to a United States transformed by the unfortunate result of a Social Security Administration blind to the inevitable results of its policies. In the world of *Criteria,* your social security number is tattooed into the palm of your hand and racism has given way to the politics of numberism. Albert Gardner is a man raised under the radar of the social security system, brought up to live out a single purpose: the destruction and the conquest of "the Fives." *Criteria* has been described as "Huxley, Asimov, and Orwell as seen through the eyes of Woody Allen, Monty Python, and Molière."

9:00 P.M.–10:00 P.M.

Movie Flubs II

Bob Finnegan

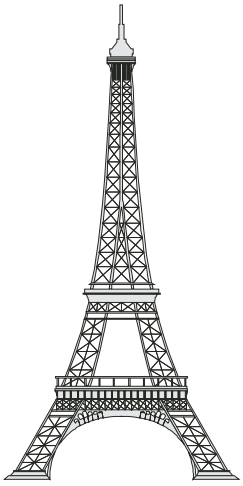
Boardroom A

Bob returns with more bloopers from your favorite movies, including all the *Lord of the Rings* and *Jurassic Park* films.

Cercle de Conversation

Janet Evans

CC1-12



Apprenez-vous le français? Avez-vous étudié le français au passé? Parlez-vous couramment? Venez parler avec d'autres personnes qui partagent votre enthousiasme pour le français. C'est un groupe pour tous les niveaux. Il suffit de vouloir écouter et parler. Il y aura des activités pour vous aider à faire la connaissance des autres. Il n'y a pas de conférence.

9:00 P.M.–11:00 P.M.

Schemes, Scams, and Flimflams

Cookie Bakke

CC1-10

Is it true that "A sucker is born every minute," or is the alarming rise in worldwide crime due more to the increasing creativity of crooks? Listen to "The Queen of Fraud" tell tales of some of the most egregious and downright ballsy schemes and scams of the past year. Insurance frauds, financial shenanigans, Nigerian letters, sweetheart swindles, bunco crimes … the list goes on and on and on.

9:00 P.M.–1:00 A.M.

Saturday Night Dance

Chicago Room

Tonight's dance extravaganza offers proximity to food and beverages, with a dance floor in the middle of overflow Hospitality! Chicago Area Mensa's Howard Rothstein will again be the evening's MP3J—and he does take requests.

9:30 P.M.–11:30 P.M.

The Return of Pretentious Drinking

Hosts: Alan Baltis, Beth Anne Demeter, Chris Edwards, Catherine Woytowicz

Host Emeritus: Gary Kryvko

Pourmeisters: Lee Berkovits, Kevin Kasday, Dave Plottel, Carolyn Pomykala, Conrad Pomykala, Janet Stephenson, Stan Ward, Beth Weiss

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 arch-nemesis as a "thoughtful" gift. Obviously, **you must be of legal drinking age to join us**. Snobbish accents and extended pinkies optional.



Sweets for the Sweet—and for Everyone Else, Too

Woodfield III

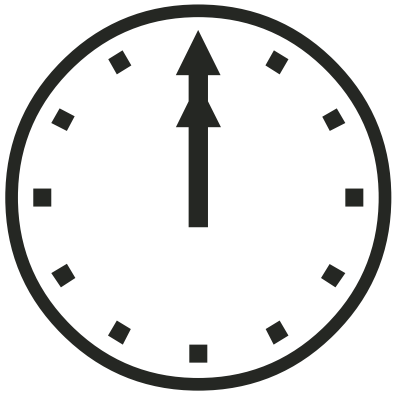
Indulge your sweet tooth at this sugar-full spread. Desserts, sweets, chocolates, cakes, and goodies galore will delight and entice you. So what are you waiting for? Dig in!

10:00 P.M.–Midnight

The Return of the Great Luke Ski

CC1-3

Dr. Demento's Most Requested Artist of the Twenty-First Century, the Great Luke Ski returns to HalloweeM! In addition to his previous hits, Luke will perform lots of new material from his new CD *unCONVENTIONal* (some songs featuring vocalist Carrie Dahlby), with new parody and original tunes about gaming, *Firefly/Serenity, Revenge of the Sith,* and the highly acclaimed parody epic "Grease Wars" (*Star Wars IV* to the music of *Grease*)! Be there and be square!



Sunday

For details on events and features that run all weekend, including Hospitality **food schedules**, see pages 7–10.

2:00 A.M.

Daylight Saving Time Ends

Set your clock back one hour. It makes the night—and the RG—one hour longer!

7:30 A.M.–10:00 A.M.

Breakfast in Hospitality

9:15 A.M.–9:45 A.M.

Nondenominational Christian Worship

Nadine McBeth

CC1-12

Share a few minutes of music, prayer, and a brief reading before diving into the day's activities.

10:00 A.M.–11:00 A.M.

Awards

Paramount Ballroom

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
- RG announcements (by date)

11:15 A.M.–12:15 P.M.

Complexity and Emergent Order

Alan Baltis

Boardroom A

The world is a complex, messy place and it's often said that everything tends towards entropy and chaos. Yet, from conflicting forces often emerge systems of amazing complexity, sophistication, order, and beauty. Come learn about complex adaptive systems—what they are, how they work, what conditions make them apt to form, and what things destabilize and perhaps destroy them. Come see what anthills and flocks of birds have in common with cities and stock markets.

Revel in our new understanding of how to model such systems—and how some things defy simplification. Marvel at how Douglas Adams had it right on that whole "42" thing!

Midwinter Mensan on Mars
Kent Nebergall

CC1-10

This past January, Kent was part of an international crew sent to the Mars Desert Research Station in Utah. This simulated Mars base is used by the Mars Society, NASA, and various university crews to realistically model the dynamics of human Mars exploration. The base is located in a section of the desert visually and geologically almost identical to Mars. The stories are numerous: from burst pipes to space suits to a reporter from *The Times of London.* Join Kent to hear about the adventures (and misadventures) of almost living on the Red Planet.

Trust Me, I'm a Locksmith
Conrad Pomykala

CC1-12

Conrad Pomykala has been a locksmith for 28 years and has been employed as such at the University of Illinois in Chicago for the latter half of that period. Recently, he's been programming and maintaining the 130 plus computerized locksets installed on UIC's "high security" bathrooms and the like. He has also done a number of hugely popular programs at past HalloweeMs about locksmithing. Come ask Conrad about everything from replacement keys to keeping people out to breaking in, as well as how locks work and what kinds of locks there are.

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.



11:15 A.M.–1:15 P.M.

Stitch 'n' Bitch
Carol Metzger

Chicago Room



Carol invites you to play with her again, but this year you gotta bring your own toys along with your inner child. Although the Stitch 'n' Bitch format is currently associated with knitting, all kinds of needlecraft are welcome. We'll schmooze, admire each other's work, nosh, relax, and create. Look for Carol on a comfy sofa not too far from the coffee.

12:30 P.M.–1:30 P.M.

The Titanic: *Buried Treasures*
Bob Finnegan

Boardroom A

New DVDs of *Titanic* are being released a week before HalloweeM. Among the supplements are 58 minutes of deleted scenes. Here's your chance to see those scenes (and perhaps a few of the other supplements, too).

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.) The training will take part during the first hour and will flow into involvement in the administration of actual proctored testing, beginning at 1:45 P.M.

Categorical Thinking: Cognitive Trickery and How to Avoid It
Michelle Wojtaszek

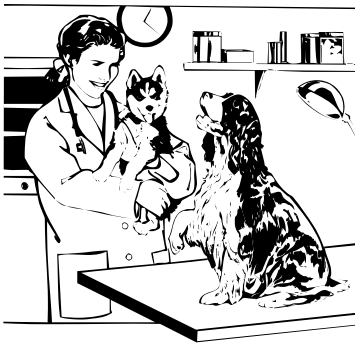
CC1-10

Categorical thinking is an automatic mechanism that allows us to shortcut and act fast, but it can also be quite maladaptive. Learn about how it works, theories about why it developed, and how it contributes to stereotyping. The brain doesn't come with an instruction manual, but that doesn't mean we can't learn to use it more effectively. Learn about the scientific research behind Michelle's response to "those letters." Question-and-answer period to follow.

Trust Me, I'm a Veterinarian

Janet Dornhoff

CC1-12



Janet has Bachelor of Science degrees in Honors Biology and Chemistry from the University of Illinois; she graduated from the U. of I. College of Veterinary Medicine 1998. She has worked at Country Court Animal Hospital in Buffalo Grove since 1999. Come find out what you need to know about health issues and treatments related to pets you have or are thinking of getting.

1:45 P.M.–2:45 P.M.

World Travelers

Cynthia Clampitt

CC1-10

This is an informal gathering for those who wish to discuss travel, share or pick up travel and destination tips, meet like-minded travelers, or connect with possible traveling companions. Tell us where you've been, what you've seen, and where you want to go next.

2:00 P.M.–4:00 P.M.

Proctored Tests

CC1-3 and CC1-5

Not a member but want to be? This is your chance. If you attend HalloweeM, the extra $10 for nonmember registration can be applied to the cost of the test.

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. Remember, all volunteering is rewarded with a collectable volunteer pin and an invitation to the delightful Survivor's Party.

Thanks for coming. Hope to see you next year.

HalloweeM 30 Speakers' Bios

Cookie Bakke

Schemes, Scams, and Flimflams (Sat.)

Cookie wears many hats. In her Mensa life, she's the Associate Editor of *Mensa Bulletin,* the co-editor of the "Letters" column, served as the Chair of the 2004 Las Vegas AG, and tries to keep the AML Chairman out of trouble. In her personal/work life, she has been dubbed "The Queen of Fraud" (avoiding it, not doing it), teaches cultural diversity to investigators and law enforcement personnel, writes for and publishes magazines, and is a professional speaker.

Alan Baltis

Complexity and Emergent Order (Sun.)

Alan has had a real problem with becoming world famous because he's never found any single thing that fascinated him beyond all others. So like many Mensans, he'll just have to settle for being eighth best at a couple dozen things. His loss is your gain: this modern-day Renaissance man draws from many fields of knowledge and a deep sense of humor to be a great explainer of Big Ideas like Complexity and Memetics and Flow. And hey—he just beat cancer, so he's got a LOT of enthusiasm for sharing all the knowledge he's accumulated! Questions or comments? Write to him at alanbaltis@mac.com.

Greg Bassett

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

Greg is the president of The Squirrel Lovers Club, has 14 years experience hand feeding and interacting with the neighborhood wild squirrels, and has spent eight years living with his own indoor pet squirrel.

Jack Berkemeyer

Marriage of True Minds (Fri.)

Jack is a licensed professional counselor who specializes in marriage enrichment, couple counseling, family systems, and anger and depression issues. He is a staff therapist at Central DuPage Pastoral Counseling Center (Carol Stream, Glen Ellyn) and serves as Director of Marriage Ministry at Old St. Pat's Church in the west loop. He received a Master of Arts degree in professional counseling from the Illinois School of Professional Psychology. He also holds Master of Divinity and Master of Education degrees.

John Blinke

Who's Afraid of the Big Bang? (Sat.)

John is the science editor of the American *Mensa Bulletin* and *Mensa International Journal.* For 15 years, he has created the popular "SuppleMentally" science column. He is widely known for the presentations he has made at RGs and AGs. Science is his lifelong passion. He has had every science-related hobby imaginable and keeps current on cutting-edge developments.

Darlene Brill

Creative Thinking Exercises (Sat.)

Chicago Area M Darlene Brill has been a French translator, ballroom dance competitor, insurance claims administrator, personnel generalist, property manager, building rehabber, freelance author, editor, and technical writer, and has eaten grasshoppers in Mexico. She is fascinated by the way we establish thinking patterns and how we break out of them (creativity). Her exploration of creativity compels her to share this knowledge through presentations on creative thinking.

Rabbi Adam Chalom

Two Jews, Five Judaisms: Jewish Pluralism Today (Sat.)

Rabbi Chalom's family background is a microcosm of the Jewish world. His mother comes from an Ashkenazi (east European) Yiddish Socialist and Reform Judaism background and was born in the Midwest, while his father comes from the Brooklyn community of Syrian Sephardic Orthodox Jews. They found their common ground in Humanistic Judaism and raised Adam as a Humanistic Jew at the Birmingham Temple, the founding congregation of Humanistic Judaism. Rabbi Chalom earned a B.A. from Yale University in Judaic Studies (1997), a master's degree at the University of Michigan in Hebrew and Jewish Cultural Studies (1999), rabbinic ordination from the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism (2001), and is currently completing his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan in Near Eastern Studies. (He recently performed the ceremony when HalloweeM chair Janet Century wed FriPlay chair and dance MP3J Howard Rothstein.)
http://www.kolhadash.com

Cynthia Clampitt

World Travelers (Sun.)

Cynthia is a writer, photographer, and culinary historian with nearly 40 years of international travel experience (she started very young) on five continents (she hopes to add a sixth in 2006). She also started the Chicago Travelers e-mail group. Cynthia loves talking about travel, meeting travelers, and gathering new information about future destinations.

Beth Anne Demeter

The Extreme Sport of Snowboarding (Sat.)

Beth Anne has been an avid snow-sports enthusiast all her life and has 14 years of snowboarding under her baggy pants. She is a certified instructor with more than 10 years of teaching experience and has helped develop and administer instructing programs in two states. She has served as the regional director for the United States Amateur Snowboard Association competitions in Ohio, along with competing in USASA events all over the country. Beth Anne hopes to share the sport of snowboarding with others interested in learning to ride or simply learning about the sport.

Janet Evans

Cercle de Conversation (Sat.)

Janet teaches French to adults. She taught French at the high school level for many years. She has lived in France for several years and is very active in French-speaking groups in the Chicago area.

Bob Finnegan

Movie Music Quiz (Fri.), In Extremis (Sat.), Movie Flubs (Sat.), *The Titanic* (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.

Bob Hafenbrack

Scotch Tasting (Fri.)

Bob is the General Manager of Binny's Buffalo Grove. He worked for Young's of London for 13 years, set up distribution in the United States for 15 breweries, and owned his own liquor store in Wisconsin. He has lectured extensively on beer both in the United States and in Europe.

Richard Hellman

Israel, the Middle East, and the War on Terror (Fri.)

Richard is an officer, legal counsel, and active member of key organizations concerned with U.S.-Israel relations, Mideast policy, and the rights of the Jewish people in the Diaspora. He has held major government posts, including Minority Counsel for the Senate Public Works Committee. He is an attorney-at-law and the current president of the Middle East Research Center, Ltd. Richard and his family lived in Israel from 1976 to 1983. He speaks frequently on behalf of Israel throughout the United States, Israel, and Europe.
http://www.cipaconline.org

Peggy Kozy

Did Someone Say S/he Needed Help? Volunteering (Sat.)

Peggy has owned and operated several businesses and understands that timing is everything. Her current business—creating and conducting workshops for non-profit agencies and organizations—allows her to help business owners create positive change within their organizations. She has worked with the Illinois Department of Insurance, Boy and Girl Scouts of America, Chicago and Bolingbrook Park Districts, College of DuPage, Diocese of Joliet, Village of Bolingbrook, Archdiocese of Milwaukee, and the American Red Cross.

Robert Launay

From Sashimi to Sagamite: Travel Books and Exotic Tastes (Sat.)

Robert has a B.A. from Columbia University (summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa) and a Ph.D. in social anthropology from Cambridge University. He has conducted extensive field work in northern Côte d'Ivoire and West Africa. He has written two books and numerous articles on the culture and history of the region. More recently, he has been engaged in research on European understandings of non-European peoples, especially from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries.

Marc Lederman

An Overview of the World Gathering (Sat.)

Marc is the Logistics Chair for the 2006 World Gathering. He is currently serving on his third AG Committee and as Region 2 RVC.

Janine MacLachlan

Slow Food for a Fast Nation (Sat.)

Janine is a freelance food writer, marketing consultant, and owner of the Rustic Kitchen cooking school. She teaches private group classes focused on stylish casual entertaining and frequently takes students to the farmers market to show them the rich experience when you buy food direct from the grower. She is co-leader of Slow Food Chicago and was contributing editor to *The Slow Food Guide to Chicago,* published this past fall by Chelsea Green. Janine is also dining columnist for *Conscious Choice* magazine and is constantly on the hunt for restaurants that buy from local growers and chefs who are cooking the way the way their grandmother taught them.
http://www.slowfoodchicago.org
http://www.rustickitchen.com

Joyce Markle

***The Da Vinci Code* Success: What Does It Tell Us? (Sat.)**

Joyce is a professor of English at National Louis University. She is the founder and was the director of the Graduate Writing Program from 1988 to 2004. She specializes in popular literature.

John Martin

Kayaking (Sun.)

After 20 years of canoeing, John transitioned to kayaking four 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.SeaKayakChicago.com
http://www.nwpassage.com

Carol Metzger

Stitch 'n' Bitch (Sun.)

Carol is an artist who has tried pretty much every medium except welding. Her current obsession is beaded knitting. http://members.ync.net/cfmason

Tim Mooney

***Criteria,* a One-Man Sci-Fi Thriller (Sat.)**

Tim is currently touring the United States with three one-man shows of his own creation: *Molière than Thou*, *Criteria*, and *Karaoke Knights: a One-Man Rock Opera.* Tim has been acting for almost 30 years. He morphed from actor to director, working with the Milwaukee Rep and the Seattle Rep, and teaching at Northern Illinois University and the University of Nebraska. He edited his own newsletter, *The Script Review,* for about seven years, aimed at matching theaters with playwrights, and introducing new works for production. He then spent five years as the Artistic Director of the Stage Two Theatre, which gave way to Tim's work on Molière, which brings us up to his current tour.
http://www.moliere-in-english.com/

Cynthia Murphy

This Dress Will Not Change Your Life (Sat.)

Cynthia has been an expert seamstress for 35 years. She completed the Harper College Fashion Design Program in 1986.

Kent Nebergall

Carnelli (Fri.), 2005 Spaceflight Update (Sat.), Midwinter Mensan on Mars (Sun.)

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. In 2004, Kent won the Kepler Prize for Mars Mission Design from the Mars Society and was later part of Mars Desert Research Station Crew 32. He has done space technology presentations for Mensa, The Mars Society, Toastmasters, and several science fiction conventions in the Midwest. His Mars Society design papers will be included in *On To Mars, Volume 2* from Apogee Press at your local bookseller in October 2005.

Cindy Ogilvie

Proctor Training (Sun.)

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

Peggy Pannke-Smith

Exxxercising with Music (Sat.)

For more than 10 years, Peggy has done aerobics, step, floor exercise, strength and balance training, and "yoga-like" stretches as well as abdominals five to six times a week. Not a professional, so don't expect perfection, just a fun workout.

Conrad Pomykala

RUN 100 Miles? Heck, I Wouldn't DRIVE That Far! (Sat.)

In the past—in his VERY spare time—Conrad got bored with running marathons, so he became an "ultrarunner," competing in 31-, 50-, and 100-mile footraces here and around the country.

"Doc" Harry Ringermacher

Dark Matter, Dark Energy, and the Dark Force in the Universe (Sat.)

"Doc Harry" earned his Ph.D. in Physics in 1980 from Washington University (St. Louis). He has been with the General Electric Research Center in Schenectady, New York, since 1997, working on infrared imaging and laser techniques. He has numerous publications and patents. "Doc" won the 2003 Mensa Copper Black award. His avocation is Einstein's theory of general relativity, on which he has published journal papers and recently won a $100,000 NASA research contract. He has presented talks at the 2004 AG and numerous RGs for many years to standing-room-only audiences.

Neal Roys

Intelligent Design (Sat.)

Neal has taught AP Calculus BC for 12 years at Adlai Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, 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.

Luke Sienkowski (a.k.a. "the Great Luke Ski")

The Return of the Great Luke Ski (Sat.)

Luke writes, records, and performs comedy music, both parodies and originals as well as sketches, on pop culture subjects ranging from *Lord of the Rings* and *Star Wars* to Spiderman and Keanu Reeves. Luke has enjoyed repeated success on *The Dr. Demento Show,* taking top honors with the number one most requested songs of both 2002 ("Peter Parker") and 2003 ("Stealing Like a Hobbit"), making him the first artist in 20 years to have the number one song two years in a row. Luke's music has been heard on *Mancow's Morning Madhouse* and various college and morning shows across the country. Since 1996, Luke has released six albums, the newest of which is *unCONVENTIONal*. Luke's hilarious use of props and costumes while performing his parodies have made him a fan favorite at many science fiction and gaming conventions, including GenCon Indy, Star Wars Celebration, GenCon SoCal, Dragon*Con, MarCon, Origins, MarsCon, ConVergence, and Archon, as well as at numerous showings of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* across the Midwest. Visit his Web site for clips of his music, tour dates, and online art portfolio.
http://www.LukeSki.com

Ro Sila

Cookie Contest (Fri.)

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

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.

Ruth Soskin

Introduction to Yoga (Sat.)

Ruth is an independent training consultant with many years of corporate experience as a trainer and facilitator in computer software, telecommunications, and "soft" skills. She also writes end-user training materials and job aids. Earlier this year, she added yoga to her repertoire of training offerings when she earned her certification in hatha yoga instruction. Ruth knows the benefits that yoga brings to her life. She looks forward to the opportunity to share this with Mensa at 'WeeM!

Robert Stalzer

The Only Mensan in Iran (Sat.)

A traveler whose goals determine his destinations for him, Robert never requires that his trips be easy or comfortable. After deciding to visit an Iranian friend—and reading thousands of pages of history, culture, and politics—Robert spent three weeks in the country that the State Department advises Americans to avoid. His introduction to all things Persian began when he was college roommate to an Iranian student during Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic Revolution.

Charlie Steinhice

InQUIZition (Fri.)

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

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 20 years. A fitness trainer with a master's degree in Exercise Physiology, Cat is also the national SIGs Officer for American Mensa.

Richard Weiner

Rescuing Versus Hoarding (Fri.)

Richard has extensive training and experience in the area of animal and wildlife rescue, behavior, and handling. He is the executive director of A Refuge for Saving the Wildlife, Inc., a not-for-profit rescue organization specializing in birds. His no-kill facility has found homes for more than 200 birds. He has published articles and provided programs on a range of wildlife issues and parrot behavior. Prior to this, he was lieutenant in the Glencoe Public Safety Department, where he was responsible for animal control, crime analysis, and arson investigation, among other tasks.
http://www.rescuethebirds.org/

Michelle Wojtaszek

Categorical Thinking: Cognitive Trickery and How to Avoid It (Sun.)

Michelle is a graduate student in psychology with an interest in experimental social and cognitive psychology. She has co-authorship on several publications in the field and is applying to doctoral programs. When she is not being a mad scientist, Michelle plays drums for a popular local heavy metal band, Abominatrix, and collects body art. She also works as a research assistant, private tutor, fine art model and freelance artist, and writer-editor. Michelle is LocSec for Mid-Hudson Mensa (New York) and a former *Mensa Bulletin* cover gal.
http://www.myspace.com/helle

Obie Yadgar

Mozart and Other Good Guys (Sat.)

Obie Yadgar has had a dual career as a writer and radio broadcaster. He has written for magazines and newspapers. His first novel, *Will's Music,* was published earlier this year and is available through his Web site. (He will have copies to sign.) Obie's broadcast career covers hosting a variety of classical music and jazz programs. He has worked for NPR as a talk-interview host. Obie lives in Milwaukee and works freelance as a writer and voice talent in Milwaukee and Chicago. He has a second novel in the works, as well as a book of humor. Obie is also a contributing essayist to WBEZ Chicago.
http://www.obieyadgar.com



LocSec	Robin Crawford
HalloweeM Chairs	Janet Century, Chris Edwards
Hotel Liaison	Beth Anne Demeter
Program Chair	Cynthia Clampitt
Programming Assistant	Cindy Ogilvie
Treasurer	Cindy Ogilvie
Volunteer Coordinator	Amy Kozy
Registrar	Bill Horman
Hospitality Chair	Michael Collins
Children's Program	Lynn Collier
Book Sale	Teresa Tucker, Jay Allen
Foreplay and Friplay	Howard Rothstein
Beverages	Dave Gudjonis
Beverage Assistant	Don McDonnell
Game Warden	Matt Crawford
Emergencies and Electronics	Conrad Pomykala
Program Design	Carol Metzger
Proofreaders	Darlene Brill, David Schmidt
Photographer	John Muellner
Webslinger	Matt Crawford
Logo Design	Robin Crawford

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