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WeeMter Wonderland

39th Annual

October 30th - November 2nd

Hosted by Chicago Area Mensa

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Vortex *This*



Notes From the HalloweeM Chair



It's the most wonderful time of the year! WeeM time, that is!! I hope that our WeeMter Wonderland thrills and delights you every much as sledding, presents, and hot cocoa did when you were younger. I also fervently hope that the weather does not join us in the spirit of the event. We chose this year's theme before "polar vortex" became a household phrase last winter. We're just that hip here in Chicago.

In addition to the holiday theme, this WeeM is exciting because it's my first time as chair. It's been a long and interesting ride, but I couldn't have done it without the help from all the great volunteers on the WeeM team. They've put in a lot of hours to make this event what it is. You can find them by the Blue Badges they'll be wearing, so if you're having a particularly good time, please be sure to let them know that you appreciate them as much as I do.

So whether it's your first WeeM or your 31st, have a very Merry WeeM, and happy RGing!

Heather Booton, HalloweeM 39 Chair

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Notes from the Program Chair



Greetings and welcome to our wondrous weekend! This tract is your crystallized guide to the dazzling days and nearlywinter nights of HalloweeM 39: WeeMter Wonderland.

New this year is the Haunted House on Friday night. There will be an initial run for the younger children, followed by a full-on frightfest. We are also continuing the Epicurean Experience that has been a big hit. Those over 21 must show, but not surrender, their Pretentious Drinking ticket for admittance. And this year we have *two* dances. Look for posted signs, because the hotel is giving us an extra ballroom to use.

Our keynote presentation this year is by Joel Schorn, a Chicago architecture and history buff known to many of you from previous HalloweeMs. This year he'll be giving us "From the Cheyenne to the Levee: The Golden Age of Chicago Vice."

Programming kicks off on Thursday with some top-notch presentations. (Let us know through the feedback forms if you want even more Thursday sessions in the future.) Several SIGs have meet & greet sessions scheduled. They welcome interested persons, not just current SIG members, so give them a look-in. There will be an improv show after the keynote on Saturday, a couple of musical events, a group reading of The Tempest, and lots of knowledge to be shared.

Games are in Ravinia B, as usual. There's a fairly packed tournament track, mostly in Ravinia A, and a strong film and video program in the Birch Room. Volunteers will be bringing in popcorn from time to time.

Speaking of which, statistics show that HalloweeM volunteers have 39% more fun and are curiously popular. Do be one!

Are we there, yeti?

Matt Crawford, Program chair

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Policies & Reminders

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

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

Smartphone, Tablet, and other E-Gear Users: Please be courteous by silencing your devices when in programs or events. If you don't know how to silence your device, please leave it in your room, lest you be mocked mercilessly. Wi-Fi is available in the hotel lobby. Scannable QR codes are posted near registration to allow you to easily download the program booklet and Program at a Glance (PAAG) in PDF form. Twitter users can use hashtag #WeeM39 for your tweets about the weekend; you can also direct message any concerns or issues to @ ChicagoMensa. Follow @ChicagoMensa for potential last-minute updates, photos, or other fun info throughout the weekend.

Program Schedule: There are often intervals set between programs in the programming grid. Check the times listed carefully. The Program at a Glance is the most up-to-date source with respect to error corrections, room changes, speaker cancellations, et cetera. Programming doesn't stop when the sun sets. We have several evening programs scheduled, and social activities often extend past midnight.

Program At A Glance (PAAG): The PAAG includes some updates to the program which were too late to make it to the program book. There may be signs posted at the programming rooms or near registration with information that is fresher still. We're confident you'll know what's up. Some events are age-restricted (usually 21+), and you may be asked

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to show proof of age. Finally, please note that a few events do not start and end on the same time boundaries as most.

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

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

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

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

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Policies & Reminders, cont'd.

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

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

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



Hugs: 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 check the stickers that others wear. If a hug sticker isn't on someone's badge, or if there is any doubt, please ask before hugging.

Harassment: HalloweeM will be a friendly and safe environment for our attendees. Unwelcome physical contact and other forms of harassment will not be tolerated. If you have concerns or need to report misconduct, find someone with a blue badge, or, if you need immediate and direct intervention for your personal safety, go to the hotel lobby and request assistance from security at the front desk.

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



Smoking: By Illinois state law as well as hotel policy, smoking is permitted outside the hotel in designated areas only. We will do our best to ensure that the staff provides adequate waste cans and ashtrays. Thank you.

Pet Policy: In keeping with Chicago Area Mensa's pet policy, no non-human animals are allowed in any event space (hospitality or speaker/meeting rooms) unless they are registered service animals. It is the obligation of the owner to provide proof of registration. Pets are still allowed in guest rooms.

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

Of Special Note: Volunteer Drawing

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

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’WeeM Loves Kids!

Young Children



For For kids 8 and under, we will again have activities and plenty of opportunities for supervised play all weekend long in Maple. To help cover the cost of the babysitters, parents who did not pre-register their child for babysitting will be charged $12 per day per child. ($30 for the whole weekend.) The Kids’ Room will be open Friday from 4:30pm to 11:30pm, Saturday from 9:30am to 11:30pm and Sunday from 9:30am to 2:30pm. We will close the room for an hour during all scheduled meals (including Saturday evening), and take “field trips” to some of the WeeM Programs that are especially good for kids. Look for signs outside the Kids’ Room for up-to-the minute details.

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

We will once again have a kids-only costume parade at 6:30 PM Friday before the adult parade. Bring your kids directly to the parade in costume. Kids do not need to be registered for babysitting to participate in the costume parade. Our babysitters will be available to walk any brave kids through our new Haunted House (with the lights still on) while the judges deliberate, and then will return to the Kids’ Room for more fun activities for the rest of the evening.

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

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

If you have any questions about the Kids' Room, please contact Kim at 224-715-7044 or Joel at 224-392-4639.

Tweens and Teens (9-18)

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



We will NOT have a designated "Tween" area in Hospitality this year, as kids of all ages are encouraged to explore all the programs and experiences WeeM has to offer (with the exception of the few age-restricted events). Look for our "Fun under 21" flier at the registration desk for a list of programs that may particularly appeal to the younger crowd. Drop by the Epicurean Experience Saturday after dinner for an alcohol-free zone with lots of interesting edibles to sink your teeth into.

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All Weekend

Tournaments & Games

Game Room Ravinia A

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

Tournaments

The tournaments lineup is in the day-to-day listing of events. A short summary follows. As always, check the PAAG in the event of last-minute changes.

Thursday: Kill Dr. Lucky, 7 Wonders

Friday: Euchre, Catan, Movie Mash-ups

Saturday: Poker (Texas Hold'em), Logic Tournament, Wink, Werewolf

Sunday: The Amazing Race, LEGO Improv

Book Sale

Find out what your fellow Mensans have read. Browse through donated book and non-book items, and take home some real treasures. We charge 50¢ per book or 3/$1, for paperbacks; $1 each for hardcovers or 3/$2.50; and $1.00/bag on Sunday. VHS and audio cassette tapes are $1, CDs are $2, and DVDs are $3. Books on tape or CD are $2. All proceeds benefit Chicago Area Mensa's philanthropic projects.



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As always, we're starting on Thursday—with some great speakers on some very hot topics, but the pig roast has been replaced by a Meditteranean Feast. (Who knew pigs could get legal representation? We sure didn't. In addition to discontinuing the pig roast, and a not-insignificant swill settlement, the court order stipulates that we must say "Four legs good, two legs bad!" in the program. Done.)



But that is just the beginning. There are local excursions and, of course, our famous multi-track programming throughout the weekend. For gamers, there are tournaments and the 24-hour games room, and of course there will be a great kids' track, plus a dance, costume parade, 24-hour hospitality suites, book sale, and vendor area.

Do note that we have a lot of programs in the evening, so don't figure that dinner signals the end of the day's learning or entertainment opportunities.

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

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

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Thursday

Early Morning to Late Afternoon

Setting Up

Mostly in the the Hospitality Area



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

3:30 – 5:00 PM

Tournament: Life-Size Kill Dr. Lucky

Matt Crawford

Ravinia A

"Kill Doctor Lucky" can be seen as a prequel to the game of Clue. Players maneuver through the rooms and hallways of Stately Lucky Manor for the opportunity to do away with their host, Doctor Lucky, without leaving witnesses. But he's not called "Lucky" for nothing! In this life-size edition, you are your own game piece on a floor plan of the Lucky mansion. No experience is required. Each game takes less than an hour.

4:00 - 6:00 PM

Movie: "Scrooged"

Jean Danielson

Birch



A classic Christmas comedy movie, "Scrooged" is a wonderful watch for all ages. High-spirited hijinks on Christmas Eve put Frank Cross (Bill Murray) in a ghostly time warp in this hilarious take-off of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." Cross is mean, nasty, uncaring, unforgiving and has a sadistic sense of humor - perfect qualities for a modern-day Scrooge. Before the night is over, he'll be visited by a maniacal New York cab driver from the past, a present-day fairy who's into pratfalls and, finally, a ghoulish, seven-foot headless messenger from the future.

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4:30 – 5:45 PM

Travel the World with the SIGHT Program

Jeudi Juetten

Elm

Mensa's SIGHT Program is one of the most interesting and rewarding services Mensa offers as part of membership. As an international service, SIGHT allows members to enjoy the company and hospitality of Mensans from around this country and from more than 40 other countries around the world. SIGHT is also quite underutilized and often misunderstood. The National SIGHT Coordinator will share what the program is all about and answer questions, so more Mensans can enrich their travels with SIGHT.

5:30 – 7:30 PM

Dinner

Hospitality

A Before heading into the cold of the WeeMter Wonderland, let's take a gastronomic Mediterranean cruise. Save room for the baklava!!

6:00 – 7:15 PM

Robert Moog & his Music Synthesizer: Its History, How it Works and How it Changed the Music World

Bryant Hazard

Elm

A brief history of electronic music and the instrument that Robert Moog invented in the early 1960s that was so unusual. The Moog synthesizer generated sounds that no one had ever heard before. Classical, jazz, and rock musicians quickly started experimenting with the Moog because it delivered a fresh new sound that fit right in with that era. Do you remember when "Switched On Bach" was released and what a shock it was back then? This talk will explain and demonstrate how the Moog came to be, how it works, what made it so different, and where the Moog is today. After the presentation you are welcome to try out the Moog and the Theremin.

6:00 – 8:00 PM

7 Wonders Tournament

Glenn Sutton

Ravinia A

Come play this popular game! Experience with the game is ideal but not critical. (Come 15 min. early for a quick demo.) Tables will be split to distribute participants as evenly as possible. After each complete game, the winner from each table will move on to the next round. The winner of the tourney will receive a "7 Wonders: Catan" board signed by all the participants!

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Thursday, cont'd.

8:30 – 9:45 PM

I work at Amazon: Ask Me Anything!

JC Chupack

Elm

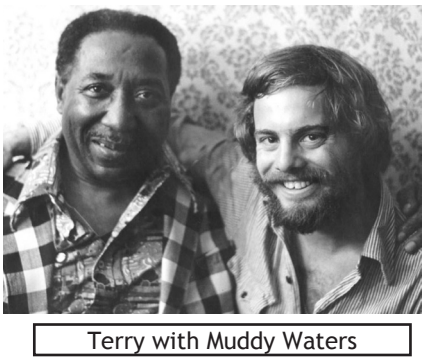
Is Amazon really okay with those crazy reviews? What went into making the Amazon Fire phone (and why didn't it do this other thing I wanted)? What's Jeff Bezos like in person? How does Amazon know what I want to buy before I do? JC Chupack will answer these and any other questions you have, as well as sharing fun anecdotes and trivia related to Earth's most customer-centric company.

8:30 – 9:45 PM

In the Belly of the Blues

Terry Alan Abrahamson

Elm



Terry with Muddy Waters

Mixing personal photos and stories from his Rock & Roll Hall of Fame memoir with rare music and video, Grammy-winning songwriter and 2014 Chicago Blues Hall of Fame inductee Terry Abrahamson takes you back to the British Invasion, where his Blues baptism led to a life of making music and memories with Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker, B.B. King, Clarence Clemons, George Thorogood, Johnny Winter, Joan Jett and more. Totally interactive, Abrahamson's high-energy, often hilarious "Blues Love Fest" puts you onstage and backstage with the legends whose music changed the world.

10:00 – 11:15 PM

Scotch Tasting

Matt Crawford

Willow

Our seventh annual Scotch tasting visits the western islands of Scotland, and explores how the whisky's taste and nose change with its maturity. Please join Matt and his two lovely and gracious assistants as we sample two whiskies of different ages from each selected distillery.

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Friday

7:30 – 9:30 AM

Simple Breakfast
Hospitality

9:00 - 10:15 AM

Preserving Memories with Scrapbooking
Morgan Vogt

Willow

Scrapbooking is more than just putting photos in an album - it's about persevering memories of those people and moments that matter most to you. Even better, you don't need to have a lot of time or be a creativie genius to do it. I'll show you how a scrapbook can come together quickly and simply and explain the different types of scrapbooking available. You'll learn how you can preserve memories for you and your family so you have something beautiful to cherish together.

The History of Science Fiction
Barbara Barnett

Elm

What does the 2600 B.C. legend of Gilgamesh have in common with the latest NYT Bestselling sci-fi techno-thriller, or next year's post-apocalyptic summer blockbuster hit? The Gilgamesh story is a quest for immortality, a classic premise for science fiction, whether it centers on the Philosopher's Stone or cracking the genetic code that unlocks eternal cellular regeneration, and it is the opening salvo in the enduring genre that is science fiction. Join author Barbara Barnett for a lively discussion of the genre from its beginnings through the present, from literature to film, television, radio and music.

10:30 - 11:45 AM

Natural Horns - History and Demonstration
Lisa Taylor and Liz Deitemyer

Willow

Lisa and Liz will demonstrate and discuss a variety of natural horns that are predecessors of the modern French Horn. The discussion will include acoustic principles, mechanics, materials, literature, geographic origins, and performance settings. You will get to hear instruments including the alphorn, conch shell, didgeridoo, shofar, posthorn, dragon-headed trumpet, and pocket horn.

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10:30 - 11:45 AM, cont'd.

M-Available Meet & Greet
Rob Salkin

Elm

Are you an available adult (18+) and into smart people? If so, come meet your M-tastic match with M-Available! We'll start with an overview of the M-Available SIG (mavailable.org; MAvailableSIG@gmail.com) and end with a no-pressure, fun icebreaker activity so you can meet as many people as possible during the allotted time. Worst case, you meet a lot of people. Best case, you find the partner you've been looking for!

The Apocalypse is Coming (To a Theater—or TV screen—Near You!)
Barbara Barnett

Michigan A

More formulaic than a CBS crime procedural, disaster movies still pull us in. Even when they take themselves seriously, they sometimes fall victim to self-parody. But occasionally, calling out from within bad science and worse acting (and even worse special effects), the best disaster flicks have something to say (and perhaps a grain or two of truth). Join TV/Film Critic (and admitted disaster movie whore) Barbara for a lively discussion of the genre; the classics and the classically bad.

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

Lunch Break

12:30 - 2:30 PM

Euchre Tournament
Kim Kohler

Ravinia A

This is a traditional trick-taking card game requiring cooperation between partners. However, in our variant, you will have a new partner each round. We'll play three rounds. Experience with Euchre is expected; rules will NOT be taught. All ages welcome.

1:00 - 2:15 PM

Income Taxes - Myth vs. Reality
Susan Woodill

Willow

Why does my cousin's neighbor's uncle's dog get a bigger refund than I do? My situation is EXACTLY like this guy I work with - he got $10,000 back. How come I'm only getting $536? My "friend" says he deducts fill-in-the-blank (sunscreen, cake mix, breast implants, etc.), why can't I? There are a lot of rumors, myths, and misconceptions about preparing your taxes. You are in complete control

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1:00 - 2:15 PM, cont'd.

of your refund (or balance due). While taxes can be dry & boring, this discussion won't be. There will be plenty of time for Q&A if you dare.

Viewing of the Award-Winning Documentary "Consider the Conversation"

Viki Kind

Birch

The award winning documentary, "Consider the Conversation," is a remarkable, thought-provoking film that looks at many of the issues we will all face at end-of-life. When you picture the last minutes of your loved one's life, do you see strangers straddling the patient on a bed, pushing on the patient's chest, while the family waits outside the door? Or do you see a time with family and friends gathered around the bedside, with words of love being expressed, music being played, or prayers being said? Watch the film and then join the discussion.

GenY Meet & Greet

Dwight D. Deeth

Elm

Mensa is social, and GenY is connected, so come party with the cool kids and say hello to your fellow M's born between 1976-1996!

Science Fictional Aspects of Today's Science

Frank Dolinar

Michigan A

Join Frank for a wide-ranging conversation about some striking (and sometimes controversial) areas of contemporary science and technology. This presentation will take a very general look at analytics, nanotech, the private space program, and stem cell research, explore how they may relate to each other, and examine a (hypothetical) composite of the future these fields suggest.

2:30 - 3:45 PM

Yo Ho Ho and a Bottle of Rum

Cynthia Clampitt

Willow

Ever wonder why rum is associated with those pirates of the Caribbean? Food historian Cynthia Clampitt shares the reason rum arose where it did and when it did, as well as how pirates got involved, but also explains how rum was involved in uniting the 13 Colonies, why it was one of the issues that led to the American Revolution, how it also led to a revolt in its next home after the Caribbean: Australia, and how it affected culture and history after that.

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2:30 - 3:45 PM, cont'd.

Great Films
Vicky Edwards

Birch

The Great Books Foundation promotes a method of investigating ideas called "Shared Inquiry." For this program, we will share discussion of a short reading, see an Academy-Award winning short film, and then discuss our reaction to the film as it relates to the reading. This presentation is not a talk about great films, but rather demonstrates of a method of participating in an egalitarian discussion about issues ranging from the frivolous to the significant.

Writing Science Fiction & Getting Published Today
Lance Erlick

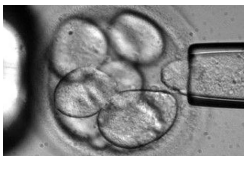
Elm

Have you wondered about the writer's life? Thought of getting published in today's environment? Your host will walk you through his experiences as a science-fiction writer for young adults. He will then take you through his attempts to get 'traditionally' published, and his experiences with self-publishing.

Adipose Derived Autologous Mesenchymal Stem Cell Clinical Applications
Dr. Alex Cummings

Michigan A

The hope of regenerative therapy represents a new paradigm shift in the science and art of medicine. In this relatively new field, where even the nomenclature is evolving, clinicians working with basic science researchers strive to accelerate clinical application modalities. The rich harvest fields of adipose tissue provide an abundant source of low morbidity cell tissue for practitioners to harness and the proliferation and differentiation capacities of these adipose derived autologous mesenchymal stem cell have demonstrated their value for various patient treatments. In this review, the basic science and theory of cell based regenerative medicine will be presented and clinical data will be reviewed.



3:00 – 4:00 PM

Movie Mash-Ups
William Meyer and Kim Horger

Ravinia A

Back for a second year, MovieMashups is a game for anyone who likes movies, whether casual or a die-hard fanatic. Teams collaborate to try to

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3:00 – 4:00 PM, cont'd.

guess the MovieMashup title based on the clue. Clues are formed by taking two movies that share a word in their title, and then mixing up the actors, roles, plots, and any other aspect … this mixed up information is turned into one description of both movies.

4:00 – 5:15 PM

The Best of David Copperfield 1
Robert W. Finnegan

Birch

The best illusions of magician David Copperfield, culled from his TV specials of the 80's & 90's.

You Can Get Anything You Want
Brian Reeves

Elm

Arlo Guthrie told us in song that "you can get anything you want at Alice's Restaurant." While "anything you want" is not exactly realistic, there are negotiating techniques you can use to increase your chances of getting the things you want at work, in your relationships and when dealing with your everyday financial world. You'll learn about trading air, the power of Balkanization and more.

Analytics & the Evolution of Watson
Frank Dolinar

Michigan A

Since IBM's Watson Cognitive Computing system's introduction in 2011, it has become the "popular culture embodiment" (for want of a better term) of analytics. Watson continues to be developed and applied to different problems, but like most technology, Watson is simply magic to the vast majority of people who know of it. This presentation will discuss the continuing evolution of the Watson platform and offer insights into the capabilities and limitations of analytics.

Meet the Candidates

Michigan B

As usual, many of the candidates for elective office in American Mensa are here at HalloweeM. Those that can will make themselves available for your gentle questions. This is not a debate or any other structured confrontation.

5:30 – 7:30 PM

Dinner

Hospitality

Head over to Hospitality for a meal, but please, no need to rush, or try to fill and balance eight plates, as food will be replenished often.

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6:00 – 8:00 PM

Settlers of Catan

Ed Barta

Ravinia A



In The Settlers of Catan, players try to be the dominant force on the island of Catan by building settlements, cities, and roads. On each turn, dice are rolled to determine what resources the island produces. Players collect these resources (cards) - wood, grain, brick, sheep, or stone - to build up their civilizations to get to 10 victory points and win.

6:30 – 7:30 PM

Kids' Costume Parade/Contest

Michigan A/B

All children are invited to show off their costumes for prizes. Come see some little ones who are so cute, it's scary! While the judges deliberate, any kids who are brave enough can go for a group walk through the Haunted House with all the lights on before returning to the ballroom for prizes. Kids registered for babysitting are welcome to wear their costumes to the Kids' Room for the remainder of the evening.

7:30 – 8:30 PM

Adults' Costume Parade/Contest

Steve Davidson

Michigan A/B

It's one of the many things for which we are (justly) famous: costumes. Prizes will be awarded for Best Pun, Worst Pun, Best Traditional, Best Under Age 18, and possibly others, as inspiration strikes the judges. Bribes for the judges are encouraged.

If you are entering the costume contest, be sure to get a numbered ticket. 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 get-up.

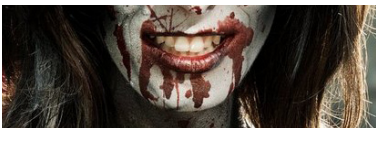
8:00 – 11:15 PM (APPX.)

Haunted House for Stronger Nerves

Joel Kohler, Chief Builder

Willow

The kids are gone. Your turn. C'mon in...



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8:30 – 10:00 PM

Really Odd & Special 3
Robert W. Finnegan

Birch

Robert presents another collection of rare and interesting videos, such as Walt Disney doing Mickey's voice, Norman McLaren live shorts, Sid Caesar doing Beethoven, operatic snail sex, and surreal Donald Duck.

Bill Shipper, the Singing Analyst
Bill Stanek

Michigan A/B

Come hear Bill Shipper's comedy songs in this live mini-concert. With witty titles such as "Tears on My Spreadsheet," "My Lover Loves Liver," and "Dirty Data," Bill's clever lyrics poke fun at the economy, the corporate world, people's food habits - and then confuse it all with love. Bill's catchy tunes in a folk/bluesy style will have you smiling for days to come.

10:00 PM – 11:15 PM

Hit Movie: "Captain America: The Winter Soldier"

Birch

The superhero fights an old friend and a conspiracy within his own team. This film features Chris Evans, Samuel L. Jackson, Scarlett Johansson, and Robert Redford. Running time 2:16, plus the most interesting of the Blu-ray extras. (PG-13).



Gifted African American: The Relationship between Self-efficacy, Familial Support, Educational Attainment, Income and Life Satisfaction
Kalena Peterson

Elm

The representation of African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans and other minority groups in gifted programs has remained at low levels for decades. Research focused on gifted minorities represented less than two percent of existing literature in previous years, and even less on African Americans (Ford, 1994). Research has identified a unique experience among gifted minorities that often leads to negative outcomes such as high dropout rates, internalized distress, increased susceptibility to destructive environmental variables, and low levels of success in pursuit of secondary education (Reis,

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Friday, 10:00 PM – 11:15 PM, cont'd.

Colbert, & Herbert, 2004). There is a great need to identify protective factors that may contribute to positive outcomes for this population and reduce risk factors. This study explored the relationship between self-efficacy and familial support in outcomes (level of education, income, and life satisfaction) for gifted African Americans.

10:00 PM – Late

Friday Night Dance
Kenya Hitchens, DJ

Check PAAG for location

Featuring the music of Johnny Winter. And Edgar Winter. Maybe.

Moog & Theremin Hands-On Demonstration
Bryant Hazard

Michigan A/B

Drop in during this time to try out Bryant Hazard's Moog synthesizer or Theremin. See the Thursday program entry for more about the Moog.



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

Still another reminder:
Set your clocks back tomorrow:
We get an extra hour of WeeM!

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Saturday

7:30 – 10:30 AM

Breakfast
Hospitality

9:00 – 10:15 AM

Movie Flubs 2
Robert W. Finnegan

Birch

More flubs from famous movies, including "Toy Story," "Pinocchio," "Jurassic Park," "Return of the Jedi," and "The Little Mermaid."

The Invisible Scars of Emotional Abuse
Jennifer Murtoff

Elm

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." All of us have heard this rhyme as kids, but is it really true? Over time, hurtful words and actions can undermine our self-esteem and slowly chip away at our very core: our personhood. Emotional abuse can be more harmful than physical abuse; it is a subtle form of control and manipulation that is not easily seen. Learn the signs of emotional abuse and ideas for recovery.

TED at Twenty: Why Smartfolk Should Love "Ideas Worth Spreading"
Alan Baltis

Michigan A

TED began as a conference for leaders in the Technology, Entertainment, & Design fields to get together and share their passions and insights in crystallized 18-minute presentations. Over the last two decades, TED has expanded and evolved into one of the world's premiere vehicles for the dissemination of Big Ideas. Major TED conferences are held all over the world, and independent TED meetings showcase local leaders in dozens of major cities. Thousands of videos are available at TED.com, and have been curated into topic-specific Netflix bundles. Come learn the origins, history, highlights, and future of this fantastically influential meme machine.



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9:00 – 11:45 AM

Logic Tournament
Oriel Maxime

Michigan A

How fast can you solve these original logic problems?

9:00 – 1:00 AM

Poker Tournament
Michael Armstrong and Steve Davidson

Ravinia A

No Limit Texas Hold'em.

9:30 – 10:45 AM

Iron Chef: Hospitality
Michael Collins, Marie Porter

Hospitality

Come test your skills at ad hoc haute cuisine. The competitors in the 5th-Annual Iron Chef Hospitality will have one hour to create a three-course meal from whatever food they can find in hospitality supplies, including leftovers from previous meals. Some small additional ingredients may be brought in from the outside, but all preparation must take place at the event. Judges will include Marie Porter (Fantasy Cake creator), and Michael Collins. Contact Marie or Michael if you are interested in competing or acting as a "mystery judge." If you don't feel up to being a head chef, we can try to place you on a team. Everyone is welcome as a spectator. Allez cuisine!

10:30 – 11:45 AM

Return of the Vinyl Junkie
Mike Wolstein

Birch

Mike will share as much knowledge as possible regarding record collecting, the care, feeding, and sources of vinyl and hi-fi equipment, and what to expect to pay for records. He will also discuss types of music that are collectible and approximate values.

Hells M's

Elm



Have you ever wondered what all of those black tee shirts are all about? Attend the meeting for current and potential HELL's M's and find out. You will learn out what is going on with the party SIG. If you don't already know, you will find out what we are, how we got started, and what we do. HELL's M's: Don't forget to vote for PARTY ANIMAL - results will be announced on Sunday.

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10:30 - 11:45 AM, cont'd.

Auteur Theory or, the 100th Monkey
Sonja Foxe

Michigan A

The murder of Christopher Marlowe in the spring of 1593 has prompted resolution from a plethora of literary detectives. I believe Marlowe was leaking state secrets on stage as evidenced through a close reading in "Faustus" which suggests that Marlowe knew the inside story of the ransacking of John Dee's library and laboratory in 1587 by colleagues of his in the nascent Her Majesty's Secret Service. Dee, of course, was the original 007. Interested? Come by to learn more.

Shinkendo Demonstration
Trevis Crane

Michigan B

Shinkendo and Bojutsu are the beautiful arts of Japanese sword and staff. Through extensive training and historical research, Shinkendo founder Toshishiro Obata created a system of martial arts that uses authentic Samurai teachings and techniques, which lead to both practical ability as well as an understanding of classical martial arts. Shinkendo is steeped in the traditions of the Samurai, physical training, proper Bushido etiquette, and philosophy.

Political Ads: All the Best of the Best

Statewide

We searched high and low for the very best of the best of the seemingly ubiquitous political ads. The uplifting, the positive, the kind that not only make you want to vote, but work for the campaign. Radio and TV, print and online, mailers and robo-calls, red and blue. You know what we came up with? Zip. Nada. Bupkis. Vote, please, but don't base your decisions on ads.

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

Lunch Break.

Hospitality

1:00 – 2:15 PM

Travel to Extreme Latitudes - The North and South Geographic Poles
Ken Levine

Willow

Although tens of thousands of tourists travel to Antarctica each year, few have reached the South Pole. As of January 2003, the time of Ken's trip, that number was fewer than 500. Ken will show slides and discuss his trips to both geographic poles. There will be briefs discussions of the historic attempts to reach each pole. Learn what it is like to visit the poles as a tourist.

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1:00 – 2:15 PM, cont'd.

WeeMter Wonderland Movie: Elf



Jean Danielson

Birch

Buddy is an overwhelmingly funny and good-hearted elf. As an orphan, he was adopted by Santa. Later on, he learns his biological father is a New York executive. He seeks out his father to show him what Christmas is, what it means, and to show that Santa truly exists. Starring Will Farrell, Zooey Deschanel, James Caan, Bob Newhart and Ed Asner. (97 minutes, PG.)

Improv Warm-ups

Steve Duberchin

Elm

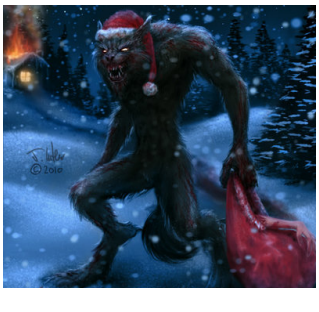
LIMITED ATTENDANCE: Due to the intimate nature of this session, attendance will be limited to the first 20 people to sign up or show up in the room. Have you ever wondered if you have what it takes to be an improviser? Do you watch them on TV or on stage and wonder how they make it all work? Even if you haven't ever thought about these things until this very moment, join the cast of Crazy Shades of Blue in this experiential workshop and see what makes improv tick! This is not a lecture where you just sit and watch; you will be up and improvising side by side with seasoned improvisers. One of the secrets of Improv is: Don't think, just act! And while you are in action, we'll be looking at other secrets that make Improv work by playing group games and scenes. Prepare to have a lot of fun, think on your feet, and maybe learn something new through all the laughs!

Werewolf Tournament

Joel Kohler

Ravinia A

Something odd is happening in Miller's Hollow. (Beyond the expected oddity of werewolves eating everyone.) For some reason on this night, people's spirits are persisting, even going so far as to take part in town debates! And if that isn't weird enough, all of the clocks in town seem to be running fast, causing sunset to fall with startling speed, and giving the werewolves unprecedented time to continue feeding. Come to town tonight and take part in the Werewolf tournament.



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2:30 – 3:45 PM

Do You Want To Wear a Snowman? (Kid's T-Shirts)

Kimberly Kohler

Willow

This year's Kids' Track TShirt Project is a WeeMter Wonderful Snowman shirt. Kids will be brought over from the babysitting room individually to work on their own WeeM souvenir shirt. This program is for paid Kids' Track participants only.

Never Talk to the Police

Marc Wolfe

Elm

A general presentation regarding your constitutional guarantees and why you do not have to "roll over" and do what you're told just because the police tell you to. We will address the current propaganda that "if you haven't done anything wrong, you have no reason not to talk to the police."

3:00 – 3:50 PM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

From the Cheyenne to the Levee: The Golden Age of Chicago Vice

Joel Schorn

Michigan A/B

Whether it was in the lowest dives of Bed Bug Row, or among the ornate glories of the famous Everleigh Club, few periods in the history of Chicago vice can match the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries for its colorful figures and brazen activities. Sex, booze, crime, and corruption, 19th-century style--come hear all about it!



4:00 – 5:15 PM

Living in the Age of Complexity

Hal Snyder

Willow

Stephen Hawking said that the 21st century would be the century of complexity. Today's political, social, and economic systems are evolving at an ever-increasing pace as connections and interdependencies multiply. We are deluged with information. Yet planetary support systems are finite and strained. In this talk, we will take a tour of evidence and ideas around complexity, look for patterns, and explore ways to adapt and find inspiration.

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4:00 – 5:15 PM, cont'd.

World Travel on a Budget
Jennifer Murtoff

Birch

For those people who enjoy traveling abroad, hotels, airfare, and tour packages can add up. This presentation offers ideas and suggestions for travel on the cheap. Suggestions and ideas from the audience are welcome.

Bill Shipper (The Singing Analyst) Sings for the Children
Bill Stanek

Elm

This program will be divided: 30 minutes or so for the littlest kids, an intermission, then another 30 or so for the 'tweens and teens. Kids' Track participants will be brought to this program from the Kids' Room, but Tweens, Teens, and the young at heart are encouraged to attend on their own as well.

Crazy Shades of Blue - An Improvised Comedy

Michigan A/B

Crazy Shades of Blue is back at HalloweeM with a new show! Join us as we present a completely new, improvised comedy for Weemter Wonderland. What will it be about? Well... to fit this year's theme, our show will be about whatever you imagine! We'll use your suggestions to improvise scenes that we have never played before, and in all likelihood will never be performed again. So come ready to have fun, laugh, and shout out suggestions!



Tournament: Wink
Vicky Edwards

Ravinia A

Y"Wink" (aka "Murder" aka "Killer") is a simple game that also allows you to socialize with the people around you -- but if someone you're talking to winks at you, you're "dead." It begins with the deal of a card, which marks you as a murderer or a potential victim. Watch the eyes of the other players to try to figure out who is who; if you let your guard down and start chatting,

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4:00 – 5:15 PM, cont'd.

you might have a great conversation or you might end up "dead" and out of that round if the killer winks at you. We'll play as many rounds as the hour allows.

5:15 – 7:30 PM

Dinner Break

Like the last several years, there will be no formal banquet this year, and it should also be noted that no meal will be provided in Hospitality, though the usual snacks will be available. A list of area restaurants will be provided to those who inquire at our registration desk or in the hotel lobby. The section of Milwaukee Avenue upon which the hotel is situated is known as "Restaurant Row," and it is famous for its variety and quality. You won't have to go far for a great meal.

7:00 – 8:15 PM

Poetic Biomes

Lynelle Kirkwood

Willow

Bring out your inner Walt Whitman in this interactive Science/Poetry/Music presentation which features live harp music. Create unique free-verse poetry while learning about the earth's diverse biomes (environments) via video and original music. Mini hands-on harp demo to follow! This program is accessible to ages 9-adult, and 'tweens are especially welcomed.

Robin Williams: An Evening at the Met

Robert W. Finnegan

Birch



Robin Williams performs live and uncensored in his 1986 HBO special. A great talent, the likes of which we shall never see again.

Strategic Success through SMARTER Goals

Rob Salkin

Elm

Whether in business or your personal life, goals are important. We'll explore a way to better set goals, make progress towards goals, and be sure goals are being met as well as what to do if they're not. You'll even hear a little about what American Mensa is all about. There won't be a quiz, but you will be setting at least one personal or professional goal that you may optionally share with others. This entertaining and informative program might just change your life!

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7:30 – 9:30

The Epicurean Experience
Joel Kohler

Ravinia A

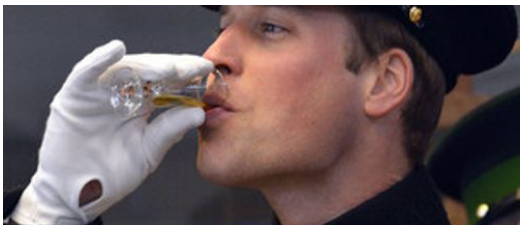
Countries and cultures across the globe all have their own ways to celebrate the winter season, but just like in America, what's a Holiday party without FOOD? Come sample our international Winter Holiday goodies and celebrate WeeMter around the world. No bugs this year, but plenty of wintery edibles and drinks to chase away the chill. This event is ALCOHOL FREE, so anyone not wearing an "under 21" badge should visit before partaking of Pretentious Drinking and show us your PD ticket (don't worry - we won't take it from you). Please note, we aren't serving a meal, just samples and sips, so come for curiosity, not dinner.

8:30 – 10:30 PM

Pretentious Drinking and Music
Alan Baltis and his Merry Band of Pourmeisters

Ravinia D-F

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



8:30 – 9:45 PM

Behind the Movie Screen
Robert W. Finnegan

Birch

Filmmakers and actors describe the special things they did to make famous movies, such as "Psycho," "Spartacus," Terminator 2," "King Kong," and "Aliens."

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8:30 – 9:45 PM, cont'd.

"The Tempest" – a Casual Group Reading

Beverly Flechsig

Elm

In recent years we've met Beatrice & Benedick, Henry & Katherine, Richard and his victims, and the Dromios. Now we'll meet Prospero as we sight read "The Tempest." No huge waves, egotistic directors, or little old usher ladies whispering "hush." I'll have extra copies, but please bring your own if you have one. The code below will link your device to several sources from which you can download this play.

10:00 PM – 12:30 AM

X-Men: Days of Future Past

Bob Finnegan

Birch

Two generations of X-Men fight to save the world. Starring Ian McKellen, Patrick Stewart, Hugh Jackman, Jennifer Lawrence and Halle Berry. Running time 2:11 plus the most interesting of the Blu-ray extras. (PG-13.)

10:30 – Late

Dance

Michigan A & B

Sing-Along

Clyde Forrester

Elm

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

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

Sunday

7:30 – 10:30 AM

Breakfast
Hospitality

9:30 - 10:15 AM

Amazing Race - WeeM Style
Jill Sackett
Michigan B

Due to your enthusiastic response to last year's inaugural event, Amazing Race for Mensans is back, bigger and better! Based on the popular TV show, teams of 2-4 competitors complete a variety of tasks, some cerebral, some light-hearted, on the way to the final "Pit Stop" and victors' bragging rights. Our version is designed for all ages and activity levels. Please see details and sign up in advance on the Amazing Race tournament sheet to secure your spot. Not on a team? No problem; we'll get you on one. Close out the weekend with a ton of fun!

10:00 – 10:45 AM

CAM Board Meeting
Elm

10:00 – 12:30 AM

Social Crafting
Carol F. Metzger
Ravinia D

Carol invites you to indulge in creative play with her and each other. Bring your toys and your inner child. All kinds of portable craft are welcome. We'll schmooze, admire each other's work, nosh, relax, and create. Look for Carol on a comfy sofa in Hospitality not too far from the coffee.

11:00 – 11:30 AM

Time to check out of your hotel rooms.

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11:00 AM – 12:15 PM

Vehicle to Vehicle Communications
Arthur David Cartwright

Willow

Approximately 80% of vehicle crashes involving unimpaired drivers can be addressed with connected vehicle technology. Modern vehicles, particularly autonomous vehicles, will need to perform complex tasks with limited onboard processing in an unreliable communications environment. Ants are able to collectively complete complex tasks with minuscule brains, no overarching control, and very limited communications. This presentation will cover an analysis of harvester ant communication methods and derive examples of how these methods could be applied to automotive Vehicle to Vehicle communications.

Alzheimer's Disease: Causes and Potential Cures
Peter Kraus

Birch

As Mensa members, the last thing we want to think about is the possibility of losing our abilities to think. Yet Alzheimer's disease (AD) presents us with just that prospect. Work by the neurologist J. Miklossy provides evidence that the majority of AD cases result from bacterial infection. Researcher Pam Maher of the Salk institute finds that Fisetin, an over-the-counter supplement, prevents AD in transgenic mice. Come find out what the latest thinking is on how this illness is caused, what can be done to prevent it, and what you can do to promote research on the subject.

Chicago Sunday Assembly
Ben Zalisko

Michigan A

Sunday Assembly is a godless congregation that builds relationships, community, and celebrates life. Our motto: live better, help often, wonder more. We are not a church. Rather, we provide the community and service often found in churches without the dogma, doctrine, or deities. A radically inclusive organization, Sunday Assembly has no central tenets. We embrace an open exchange of ideas, and our focus is to serve the godless community. All are welcome.

Awards and Announcements
Ravinia C/D/F

Find out who did and won what. The service awards, in particular, introduce you to people who have worked, often behind the scenes, to make things happen in Chicago Area Mensa.

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12:30 – 1:45 PM

Power Vegetable Gardening
Mark Lyons

Elm

Take part in the backyard gardening hobby that's growing in popularity, and experience the joy of harvesting power crops of healthy, delicious, sweet, crunchy vegetables! This presentation reviews the basic techniques of vegetable gardening. Everything from site selection, soil preparation, and seed starting through fertilization, watering, pest control, and harvest will be covered. Both new and experienced gardeners will learn something they can use.

Lego Improv
Clyde Forrester

Ravinia A

Given a random set of Lego bricks, try to build something inventive and creative from them. There will be awards in many categories. All ages are welcome to participate.

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Proctored Tests

Willow

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

Mystery Shopping (aka "Pay Me To Have Fun!")
Jonathan & Susan Stoltze

Elm

Do you eat out? Like Ice Cream? Change your car oil regularly? Go to movies? There are many legitamate Mystery Shopping Companies that would like to hire you as field agents to do these things for them and they do NOT charge any sign up fees. They will reimburse your expenses and usually pay you to fill out an online evaluation of these and other goods and services. Come learn how to find these companies and sign up to work for them.

3:15 PM – Later

Anyone with time to spare?
Just about everywhere

Time to clean up!

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

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Presenter Biographies

Terry Alan Abrahamson

In the Belly of the Blues (Thurs.)

Born on Chicago's West Side, Terry Abrahamson has spent a lifetime making history. He's written Grammy-winning music with Muddy Waters, was the first white playwright to have his work performed at Chicago's DuSable Museum of African-American History, wrote the TV commercial that killed Morris the cat, penned the only eulogy to get laughs at Johnnie Cochran's funeral, created George Thorogood and the Destroyers' first vinyl recording—the official fight song of the 1974-75 Boston Celtics, and wrote his generation's most resonant piece of political satire for Hustler magazine.

Alan Baltis

TED at Twenty (Sat.)

Alan Baltis is interested in just about everything, and by sleeping a little less & firing a few more synapses than your standard-issue human being, he's managed to earn a merit badge or two on his way to getting The Full Tesla. He creates apps, databases, and websites, he solves puzzles, plays games, watches movies, hikes trails, drinks pretentiously, and loves live comedy/music/theater. He collects comics, books, magazines, CDs, and knit vegetables. He finally got to attend a TED conference in Cleveland this year, and wants to share the TED love with all his Mensa friends.

Barbara Barnett

The Apocalypse is Coming & The History of Science Fiction (Both Fri.)

Barbara Barnett is publisher/executive editor of "Blogcritics" Magazine. She covers pop culture and science fiction genre TV and film. She holds a degree in biology with a concentration in biochemistry and genetics, and a graduate degree in environmental policy. She has just completed her first sci-fi/gaslamp fantasy novel, "The Apothecary's Curse."

Arthur David Cartwright

Vehicle to Vehicle Communications (Sun.)

Art Cartwright began pursuing his PhD at Clemson University's International Center for Automotive Research in Greenville, SC, shortly after retiring from the United States Air Force. Art is a prior-service officer commissioned through Officer Training School. He is a lifetime member of Mensa and a self-proclaimed Regional Gathering Junkie.

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JC Chupack

I work at Amazon. Ask me anything! (Thurs.)

Former WeeM Chair JC Chupack relocated to Seattle to work for Amazon in February of 2013. She is a senior product manager in the Appstore team. She has worked on Kindle Fire, Fire phone, Fire TV, and several other launches during her tenure with the company. As a long-time fervent Amazon customer who now works there, she looks forward to sharing insights into the company's peculiar culture as well as trivia and anecdotes.

Cynthia Clampitt

Yo Ho Ho and a Bottle of Rum (Fri.)

Cynthia Clampitt is a writer, geographer, and food historian. She has written textbooks for every major educational publisher in the U.S., including the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and National Geographic. She is the author of the award-winning travel narrative, "Waltzing Australia:--and it was in Australia that she first became aware of the international impact of the rum trade.

Trevis Crane

Shinkendo Demonstration (Sat.)

Sensei Trevis Crane has taught Shinkendo and Bojutsu with the Sojokan Dojo through the Arlington Heights Park district since 2009. Sojokan Dojo is a member dojo of the International Shinkendo Federation, based in L.A., led by Kaiso (founder) Toshishiro Obata, who holds elevated ranks in various martial arts and has set multiple records in target cutting and test cutting.

Matt Crawford

Scotch Tasting (Thurs.)

Matt Crawford hasn't been drinking his whisky 35 years for nothing, although by hosting this yearly event he comes pretty close. He has been pouring for, educating, and amusing opening-night WeeM-goers since 2008.

Crazy Shades of Blue

An Improvised Comedy (Sat.)

Crazy Shades Of Blue is an Improv Comedy troupe from the Chicago suburbs performing in a similar fashion to "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" Other troupe members: Lee Furnish, Sue Pontarelli, Jon Corso, Jeff Quaglia, Mike Olifirowicz.

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Dr. Alex Cummings

Stem Cell Clinical Applications (Fri.)

Dr. A.J. Cummings has practiced clinical medicine for over two decades and has dozens of medical publications and presentations. He teaches medical procedures at both the national and state level and is an active member of his community where he has served as the president of his county medical society and on the board of directors for multiple years as well as serving as a Delegate to the Illinois State Medical Society.

Jean Danielson

Scrooged (Thurs.) & Elf (Sat.)

Jean Danielson loves all kinds of film, from Vincent Price's "The Last Man on Earth" to the South Korean New Wave Film "The Host." She has seen "Shawn of the Dead" over 100 times, and then stopped counting. She believes films reflect humanity's complexity, joy, malaise, passion and questioning. In this tradition, holiday films can be deeply expressive.

Steve Davidson

Costume Parade MC (Sat.)

In the grand tradition of his heroes Gene Rayburn, Richard Dawson, and Bob Eubanks, Steve is making his debut as the emcee of this year's Costume Contest. Given that he has never done anything remotely like this before, he requests that you take it easy on him and practice your fake uproarious laughter ahead of time in case his jokes don't go over so well.

Dwight D. Deeth

GenY Meet & Greet (Fri.)

Dwight Deeth has been a member of Mensa for 6 years, a local coordinator for northern Wisconsin/ Minnesota for 2 years, and a GenY his whole life.

Frank Dolinar

Analytics & the Evolution of Watson, and Science Fictional Aspects of Today's Science (Fri.)

Frank is a consultant and software developer by trade, and a science-fiction addict since childhood by lucky accident. He is a published author of articles on the history and implications of technology in society, and a Mensan since the turn of the millennium.

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Vicky Edwards

Great Films (Fri.)

Vicky Edwards had a passion for reading and films as a child, and was fortunate to take an experimental film course in her senior year of high school. She later taught English and film studies for 18 years at that same suburban Chicago high school. She is currently teaching courses in Great Films at College of DuPage.

Lance Erlick

Writing Science Fiction & Getting Published Today (Fri.)

Lance Erlick was a Mensan years ago, before life took him on the road. Now he writes young adult science fiction. In his "Rebel" series, he challenges our traditional social norms to explore the effects of a world that discriminates against males.

Robert Finnegan

Several events, Fri. & Sat.

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

Beverly Flechsig

"The Tempest" - Group Reading (Sat.)

Beverly Flechsig serves Mensa of WI as its Proctor Coordinator. She also hosts monthly play readings and board-game marathons in the Milwaukee area. (CAM members are invited!) Her experience in the theater is limited to pianist and choir-director gigs for local and high school productions.

Clyde Forrester

Sing-Along (Sat.)

Clyde Forrester has been a Mensan for over 25 years. He comes from a long line of tinkerers and ne'er-do-well musicians, which led him to gravitate toward computers and music.

Sonja Foxe

Auteur Theory or, the 100th Monkey (Sat.)

A Mensan off and on since 1986, Sonja is an astrologer and an Oxfordian, which earns one a goodly share of sharp elbows at the official Academe. She was eccentrically educated in public schools in New York, at the University of Chicago, and CCNY.

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Bryant Hazard

Robert Moog and his Music Synthesizer (Thurs.) & The Hands-On Demo (Fri.)

Bryant Hazard is an amateur keyboard player (let's be frank, a sloppy musician) who has spent too much of his spare time playing around with pipe organs, harpsichords, pianos, electronic organs, electric pianos and synthesizers. He pays for all these toys by developing software for a living.

Jeudi Juetten

Travel the World with the SIGHT (Thurs.)

Jeudi Juetten, a ten-year Mensa member, is currently the American Mensa National SIGHT Coordinator, Public Relations Office of Chicago Area Mensa, and Assistant RVC 4. She has served in several capacities, including General Representative and Treasurer.

Viki Kind

Viewing of the Award-Winning Documentary "Consider the Conversation" (Fri.)

Viki Kind, a Mensa-for-life-member, is a clinical bioethicist, medical educator and hospice volunteer. Her award winning book, "The Caregiver's Path to Compassionate Decision Making: Making Choices for Those Who Can't," guides families and professionals through the difficult process of making decisions for those who have lost that capacity. Viki provides bioethics consultation and support for many hospitals in the Los Angeles area.

Lynelle Kirkwood

Poetic Biomes (Sat.)

Lynelle Kirkwood is a Chicago-area freelance harpist and teacher. She has performed at many different venues including the Ravinia Festival and Symphony Center, and with groups ranging from the Lyric Opera of Chicago to the Utah Symphony. Most recently she has taught Academic Writing and ESL at the College of Lake County, and as a certified teacher now aims to specialize in Gifted Education.

Peter Kraus

Alzheimer's Disease: Causes and Potential Cures (Sun.)

Peter Kraus is the long-time program chair (now co-chair) for Chicago Area Mensa. Over the past 35 years, he has arranged for over 300 lectures for the local monthly meetings. Contracting Lyme disease 4 years ago stimulated his interest in its connection to other chronic illnesses.

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Ken Levine

Travel to Extreme Latitudes (Sat.)

Ken, a Mensa member for over 25 years, developed an interest in polar travel and the history of polar exploration on his first trip to Antarctica in 2001. He has visited the Antarctic continent on two subsequent occasions. He traveled south of the Antarctic Circle twice and has reached the Geographic South Pole. He traveled north of the Arctic Circle 4 times, including the Geographic North Pole.

Mark Lyons

Power Vegetable Gardening (Sun.)

Mark Lyons has been an avid vegetable gardener since childhood. Mark received a BS in Agriculture from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and an MS in Agriculture from Purdue. His success in these endeavors, fueled by his love of gardening and his strategic consulting skills, led Mark to develop Green Thumb At Your Service.

Carol F. Metzger

Social Crafting (Sun.)

Carol F Metzger Carol is an artist with a science degree, and will try to make art out of just about anything. Her current obsession is knitting with unexpected combinations of textures, materials, and shapes. She has taught knitting classes in and around Chicago.

Jennifer Murtoff

World Travel on a Budget (Sun.)

Jennifer Murtoff is a freelance editor, writer, translator, chicken consultant, and musician who enjoys learning about various and sundry topics related to herself and her world. Her goals include learning to play bagpipes, owning a little house with chickens in the backyard, and traveling to Papua New Guinea to see the birds of paradise. She enjoys esoteric topics, bad puns, and good food.

Kalena Peterson

Gifted African American: How Self-Efficacy and Familial Support Impact Outcomes (Fri.)

Kalena Peterson, PsyD, received her doctorate in clinical psychology from the Adler School of Professional Psychology this year. She is currently a post-doctoral fellow at the Cook County Sheriff's Women's Justice Program. Kalena has a broad range of experiences in working with minority

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children, adolescents, adults, and families in the school, forensic, and primary care settings with various social, emotional and behavioral concerns.

Brian Reeves

You Can Get Anything You Want (Fri.)

Brian Reeves has had a varied career. He began as a lawyer, served on the bench, co-owned an international adoption agency, and is now a mediator. He has written about and frequently speaks about negotiation techniques. Brian lives in Palm Beach, Florida, and he is married to the former Allison Stallings of Chicago Area Mensa. (He met her at 'WeeM.) Brian is Mensa's former Communications Officer and current Secretary.

Rob Salkin

M-Available Meet & Greet (Fri.)

Rob Salkin is a GenX/Y Mensa life member living in Albany, NY who attends as many Mensa events as possible in his spare time. Rob holds graduate degrees in business, law, and computer science. He recently started working for the court system in New York as an applications developer.

Jill Sackett

Amazing Race (Sun.)

Jill is an Amazing Race (AR) fan, avid gamer, and occasional event-planner who had so much fun designing and running the inaugural Amazing Race for Mensans last year that she's doing it again. She is joined by a terrific team of fellow AR fans to help execute this second annual event.

Joel Schorn

Chicago Vice (Sat.)

Joel Schorn is an architectural docent, writer, and editor in Chicago. He is pleased to present at HalloweeM for another year.

Hal Snyder

Living in the Age of Complexity (Sat.)

Hal Snyder is an information systems architect at Orbitz Worldwide and has worked on fault-tolerant, concurrent digital systems for over 20 years. He has had prior careers as professor of mathematics and computer science at Roosevelt University, and as a physician.

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Bill Stanek

Bill Shipper the Singing Analyst (Fri. & Sat.)

Bill Stanek (AKA Bill Shipper) is a Mensan and folk singer from Memphis, where he has been making audiences laugh and sing along for over 15 years - whether on or off his corporate job. Bill Shipper's CD "Dirty Data" has been played on folk-music radio stations from coast to coast.

Jonathan & Susan Stoltze

Mystery Shopping (Sun.)

Jonathan is a Science and Math teacher at Fossman High School in Chicago. Susan is an office manager for a company in downtown Chicago. They have been mystery shoppers for almost five years. They are still amazed that companies will pay them, and/ or reimburse their expenses, for doing things that they would do anyway.

Lisa Taylor and Liz Deitemyer

Natural Horns - History and Demo (Fri.)

Lisa Taylor and Liz Deitemyer are professional French Horn players in Chicago. They have degrees from the Peabody Conservatory, the New England Conservatory, and Indiana University. They perform in a variety of settings, from classical orchestras to rock bands.

Morgan Vogt

Preserving Memories with Scrapbooking (Fri.)

Morgan Vogt has been preserving her own memories for over 15 years and has been teaching scrapbooking classes of all kinds as a consultant for over five years. She currently teaches a variety of paper-crafting classes for all experience levels and regularly posts artwork on her blog in the hopes of inspiring others to create.

Marc Wolfe

Never Talk to the Police (Sat.)

A licensed attorney for over 30 years, Marc has conducted over 1,000 different motion hearings on the subject matter being addressed. Marc is a native Californian lucky enough to attend the John Marshall Law School in Chicago, and the Denver University in Colorado. He is licensed to practice in both State and Federal Courts, and is an active member on the ISBA Criminal Justice and Corrections and Sentencing Committees.

Mike Wolstein

Return of the Vinyl Junkie (Sat.)

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Mike began enjoying and collecting popular recordings in 1960. He retired from electronics engineering after 40 years, with a passion for hi-fi sound and many types of music.

Susan Woodill

Income Taxes - Myth vs. Reality (Fri.)

Susan has been doing taxes for over 30 years, is an Enrolled Agent and holds a Master of Science in Taxation. She teaches classes on complex topics to other tax preparers and has never lost an argument with the IRS. Yet. Some of her specialties include investments, multi-state returns, and dead people. Each spring, after April 15th, she returns to her children and reminds them that they do, in fact, have a mother and that she still expects them to do their chores!

Ben Zalisko

Chicago Sunday Assembly (Sun.)

Sunday Assembly was founded in the UK in 2012, and has since spread across the globe. The Chicago chapter began hosting monthly assemblies in December 2013, and since then, has continued to grow. Email us at ChicagoSundayAssembly@gmail.com and join our Facebook page: facebook.com/SunAssemblyChgo to receive updates about assemblies, small group activities, service projects, and volunteer opportunities.

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And especially,

ALL of the volunteers.

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HalloweeM 39

is brought to you, with pleasure, by

Chicago Area Mensa's
WeeM Team

WeeM Chair, Hotel Liaison ..... Heather Booton
Ottomans.....Lacee Hudec, Rae Goodman
Program Chair .....Matt Crawford
Hospitality Chair ..... Lisa Slankard
Snack Wenches ... Susan Woodill, Rhonda Peek
Beverages & Program Book.....Dave Gudjonis
Game Warden .....Ed Barta
Volunteer Coord.....KenyaHitchens
Volunteer Coord.....Megan Bratkovich
Logistics Chair/Vendor Coord .... Rae Goodman
Registrar..... Bill Slankard
Treasurer/Room Matching ..... Allison Stallings
Children's Program .....Kim Kohler
Decorations, and the above ..... Joel Kohler
Tournaments.....Deb Johnston
Book Sale Chair..... Teresa & Robert Little
AV Chairs ...Craig Logan & Damian Christianson
T-Shirt Coordinator ..... Margaret Lynn
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Logo Design & Pins..... Robin Crawford
Pretentious Drinking.....Alan &Colleen Baltis
Publicity ..... Jeudi Juetten
Excursions/Speaker Seeker ...Cynthia Clampitt
Costume Contest MC .....Steve Davidson
Pretentious Music.....AngelaSalvaggione
Haunted House Creepifier ..... Jason Catena
Email Aliases..... Stacey Kirsch

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

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