42nd Annual HalloweeM



Hosted by Chicago Area Mensa

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"The ships hung in the sky in much the same way that bricks don't."



Notes From the HalloweeM Chair



I'm glad you hitched your way out to this unremarkable hotel on a planet orbiting a small unregarded yellow sun in the uncharted backwaters of the unfashionable end of the Western Spiral Arm of the Galaxy to join us this weekend. I'm sure that you packed your towel.

Once again, the hoopy froods on the WeeM TeaM have put together an out-of-this-world weekend for you, with excursions, games, programs, tournaments, and more! The TeaM truly has a Heart of Gold. They will be wearing lavender badges, so if you're enjoying yourself, please take the time to thank one (or all!) of them. This weekend is The Answer, but if you're looking for a question, or if you have one, please ask one of the TeaM.

While we have a great hospitality program, we can't run WeeM on bistromathics. Instead we rely on volunteermathics. One of the great effects of volunteermathics is the more you volunteer, the more attractive you become! Please consider signing up for a shift this weekend. All volunteers will get a commemorative volunteer pin, and those volunteering more than 2 hours will get a towel with "DON'T PANIC" written across it in large friendly letters. Remember if there is something that needs to be done, we can't just slap an SEP (Somebody Else's Problem) field over it!

Have a great time this weekend and enjoy yourself to the fullest, because before you know it, Sunday will be here and you'll be saying, "So long, and thanks for all the fish."

Heather Booton, HalloweeM 42 Chair

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Notes From the Program Chair

Welcome to WeeM 42: WeeM, The Universe, and Everything!

I hope you enjoy the programs that I have lined up for this weekend. We have several new presenters slated alongside a few classic returns. There should be a little something for everyone, from our youngest attendees to those who have seen and done everything for the last 42 years!

Last year I asked for suggestions and critiques, and I took the recommendations to heart. You may notice that I have made a few accommodations! I was extremely careful to avoid offering any programming during meal times, and I also paid special attention to make sure that similar programs weren't competing against each other. Additionally, I attempted to schedule programs with the same beginning and end times whenever possible to make it easier to avoid scheduling conflicts. It made the schedule a little denser in some areas, but I am confident you'll find the level of programming appropriate and enjoyable! I can't help you if you still feel like you need a clone to attend multiple tracks simultaneously. I'd be remiss in my duties if at least 5 people didn't come up to me to complain that they couldn't decide between two concurrent programs. That's a problem I'm happy to encounter, because the alternative is worse than finding out the planet is being removed to make way for an interstellar bypass.

I have made a small addition this year in the form of short answer surveys! Please fill out a survey at the end of each program you attend and drop it in the box at registration. I aim to improve programming a little bit each year, and your input is highly valued!

So grab your towel, my intrepid hitchhikers, and see what WeeM has in store for you!

Sincerely,



Lacee Hudec

2017 WeeM
Programming Chair

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Policies & Reminders

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

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

Smartphone, Tablet, and other E-Gear Users: Please be courteous by silencing your devices when 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 #WeeM42 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 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 to show proof of age. Finally, please note that a few events do not start and end on the same time boundaries as most.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Policies & Reminders, cont'd.

Volunteers/gHosts: HalloweeM is a big event. It takes a LOT of volunteers to make things run smoothly. Our volunteer staff (also known as gHosts) is always happy to accept new recruits. We need only an hour or two of your time; in exchange, you get a HalloweeM volunteer collector's pin (pictured on the front cover) 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 lavender 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.

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.

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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 lavender badges. We reserve the right to revoke the badges of anyone who goes in these areas without permission.

Photo Booth Is Back! A photo booth will be available from 8 - 11:00 pm Saturday, in the front hall outside Pretentious Drinking. There will be props you can use to make your photo even more special. You will get a copy of your masterpiece, and electronic copies will be saved in case we need to undermine your future Senate bid. (Just kidding.)

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

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

Of Special Note: Volunteer Drawing

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

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WeeM Loves Kids!

Young Children

For kids 8 and under, we will again have activities and plenty of opportunities for supervised play all weekend long in Maple. To help cover the cost of the babysitters, parents who did not pre-register their child for babysitting will be charged $15 per day per child. ($40 for the whole weekend.) The Kids' Room will be open Friday after the kids costume parade until 11:30 pm, Saturday from 9:00 am to 11:30 pm, and Sunday from 9:00am to 1:30 pm. 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.

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.

Paracord bracelet making is available as well. Contact Jason Catena for details.

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

If you have any questions about the Kids' Room, please contact Shannon Woodill at 630-303-3506.

Tweens and Teens (12-17)

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

Tournaments & Games

Game Room: Ravinia B

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

Tournaments: Ravinia A

The tournaments lineup is in the day-to-day listing of events. Please check the PAAG (and posted flyers in the tournament room) for details.

Massage Therapists

Deborah Knoll and James Martin will be doing chair massages in the vendor hall for much of the weekend. Cost is $15/15 min. massage. (Cash only.) Sign up recommended.

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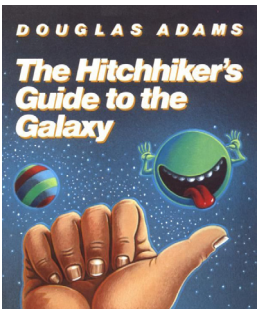
Book Sale



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

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

Thursday

Early Morning to Late Afternoon

Setting Up

Mostly in the the Hospitality Area

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

5:30 – 7:00 PM

Really Odd & Special #6

Robert Finnegan

Birch

More rare and interesting video shorts. A farmer waters his crops with his tears, intricate wooden devices imitate waves and a hummingbird, actors who played "Star Trek" captains talk about their takes on the role.



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7:00 – 8:30 PM

Dinner
Hospitality

Build your own tacos/bowls, catered by Chipotle.

8:30 – 10:00 PM

Scotch Tasting
Matt Crawford

Willow

Welcome to the tenth annual tasting on the opening night of HalloweeM. Your host has prepared a very special sampling of single malts. Please bring a story about how you were introduced to Scotch whisky, or how you introduced a friend to it. Na gabh dragh!

Douglas Adams Biography
Robert Finnegan

Birch

A biography of the author of "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy."

Five Simple Self-Care Techniques
Sabrina Schottenhamel

Michigan B

This interactive workshop will encourage you to care for yourself in the most simple yet effective ways! These techniques don't take a lot of time or money! Wow! Now that's Simple! During this workshop you will be guided through: Simple Self Massage Techniques, How to Slow down and be Mindful, Breathing Techniques, and Meditation Variations. Please come wearing comfortable clothes so you can sit on the floor and/or move around easily, have fun, and leave feeling totally in control of your Self-Care routine! This simple workshop is packed with power!



9:00 - Midnight

Social Deduction Games
Jason Catena

Birch

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

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10:00 – 11:30 PM

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

Matthew Grob

Birch



In 2009, on a weekend that saw wind chills fall below zero, 800 Jewish people were attending a conference at a resort in the Catskills when the heat went out. Among the many challenges that arose was the need to procure disposable plates and cutlery to feed those cold people – all within the two hours left before sunset. What followed was a frenzied race that proved to be a great story filled with twists and turns, suspense, and a lot of laughs. This story, which also includes a slide show and info about the Jewish laws governing the Sabbath and keeping kosher, was a hit at this year's AG.

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

Friday

8:00 – 9:30 AM

Breakfast

Hospitality

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

9:00 - 10:30 AM

Entries from Hitchhiker's Guide

Robert Finnegan

Birch

All 24 absurd guide entries (mostly animated) from the 1981 BBC TV series of "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy." Babel Fish, Deep Thought, Milliways Restaurant, Vogon poetry, the 3 Arks, and more.

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10:00 - Noon

Coloring for Grownups
Carol Metzger

Ravinia A

Adult coloring books remain popular, although perhaps the peak has passed. Fortunately, I stocked up on great books while I could, so I can share them with you. Hundreds of coloring pages, artist-quality colored pencils, markers, and tools, and an educational handout about techniques, color theory, and pigment characteristics will all be provided. Bring your own task lamp and coloring stuff if you wish.

10:30 AM – Noon

Risk Terrain Modeling Q&A
Henri Buccine-Schraeder

Willow

Risk terrain modeling (RTM) is an approach to spatial risk analysis that is used to identify risks that come from features of a landscape and model how they co-locate to create unique behavior settings for crime and other risky behaviors. Come hear about the basics of this innovative method used in police departments all over the world by one of the experts in this methodology. This will be followed by an interactive discussion about the adaptability of the method, previous policing interventions and the appeal of RTM across a variety of disciplines.

Leadership Lessons from the Street
Eric Shipman

Birch

What do first responders have in common with high-performing leaders in the business world? Both have to remain calm under pressure. Both must deliver in the clutch and make critical decisions on the fly. Both must motivate and empower their teams in an ever-changing environment. Learn how you can apply these tough lessons on leadership and teamwork learned while working the street to your own leadership.

Vogon Poetry Contest
Lora Mitchell

Elm



Vogon poetry is, of course, the third worst in the universe. On no account should you allow a Vogon to read poetry to you. So instead, we are going to attempt to recreate the dubious art of Vogon Poetry in a hilarious contest, with prizes. The number of poets will be limited to 12, but audience participation will be critical in determining the best (or worst!) Vogon in the group. Hopefully no members of the audience will die of internal haemorrhaging during the recitation.

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10:30 AM – Noon, cont'd.

Being an Actor in Chicago
Emily Bialas

Michigan A

Ever wondered what it's like to be an actor in Chicago? Curious about how to get on TV, either as an extra or in a speaking role? What is SAG and how do you join? Just want to come and hear stories of a seasoned background actor and model? Come prepared with questions, as Emily will leave the last portion of the presentation for Q&A.

Gen X Meet and Greet
Tracey Guice

Michigan B

Details in PAAG.

Noon - 1:15 PM

Lunch Break

Hospitality

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

1:00 - 3:00 PM

Poker Tournament

Ravinia A

Details on the sign-up sheet, or the PAAG.

1:30 - 3:00 PM

Practical Artificial Intelligence: Facts & Fallacies
John Wood

Willow

Science fiction and inflated doomsday predictions have gripped the culture's imagination as to the dangers and opportunities of AI and machine learning. Jump into the deep end with a data science practitioner to discuss the current state of AI in a corporate setting, discussing some of the basic philosophy, mathematics, and big data methodologies that underpins the current incarnation of machine learning. Explore the tricks developers employ to create the guise of a ghost in the machine.

Nature's Best #3
Robert Finnegan

Birch

The best selections taken from the BBC Nature series, most narrated by Sir David Attenborough. The most dramatic, the most beautiful, the most interesting, the most bizarre scenes, all in Blu-ray high definition. Explore the alien worlds of the Twilight Zone & the Dark Zone, get within arm's length of a flying goose, and watch a frozen frog come to life.

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1:30 - 3:00 PM, cont'd.

Your Duty-Free Allowance of Retsina
Lora Mitchell

Elm

Are you familiar with Retsina? Douglas Adams refers to it in his books, providing an inside joke to those in the know about one of the most unusual wines on Earth. Hopefully, you'll be squawking "a new pleasure" with a bit of the history and tasting of Retsina. (21+ for samples, please.)

Agile in Software - and Agile in the Real World
Beth Weiss

Michigan A

Agile is the new buzz word. Agile and its accompanying Scrum framework are all the rage. But what is Agile, how has it changed software development, and how does it apply to non-software projects?

My Uncle Went to Earth . . . and What Happened Next!
Sergio Rivera

Michigan B

Sergio Rivera discusses his varied background and his first published book, "My Uncle Went to Earth, and All I Got Was ..." in which a young alien helps his kind to establish a settlement on Earth, fighting against human prejudice, fears and hostility.

3:00 - 4:30 PM

Velocity Banking
Jim Santopadre

Willow



Velocity Banking is a revolutionary way of managing the money you already make to pay off debts faster than you ever thought possible.Velocity Banking allows you to create more leverage, puts your money to work 24/7, and can super charge your wealth building efforts.

The Joys of Poland
Ruth Danielle

Birch

Two trips, six weeks. Historic cities. Lovely forests. Fascinating people. UNESCO sights. All crammed into an hour.

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

Firehouse Meet and Greet
Laura Smith

Elm

Join your favorite vixens and villains, IRL. Online we may fight to the death, but in person we have fun like there's no tomorrow. This is your chance to meet and greet the other FHosers. Perhaps that hot fireman is even coming!



Getting from Science Fiction to Useful Science & Technology
Frank Dolinar

Michigan A

Science fiction authors do not generally craft stories as predictors of the future. It may turn out that science fiction readers trained in the sciences are inspired by the fiction they have read. This presentation is an informal conversation about how science fiction origins have apparently inspired science & technology; discussion of the current state of the art; thoughts about where these inspirations might be going; and how we can participate in enhancing our possible future(s).

3:30 - 4:30 PM

M-Available Meet and Greet
Greg Holcombe

Michigan B

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

4:00 – 7:30 PM

Overcooked Tournament
Oriel Maximé

Ravinia A

Based on the "Overcooked" video game (look it up!). Form teams of four and find out if have what it takes to staff the kitchen at the Big Bang Burger Joint. After a 30 minute orientation, each team will come back individually for a 15 minute experience. How well do you coordinate, communicate and cooperate under hectic conditions?

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4:00 - 5:30 PM

Kill Dr. Lucky

Botanic

Details on the sign-up sheet, or the PAAG.

4:30 - 6:00 PM

Digital Asset Information: What Can Executors Do when Usernames and Passwords Die with the Testator?

Fredrick Weber

Willow

The average person has roughly 26 different digital accounts that can only be accessed electronically with a username and a password. These accounts provide access to everything from shopping to banking to social media to email to airline miles and other loyalty programs, some of which have real economic value. At death or disability, it may be difficult or impossible for a fiduciary to access digitally stored information that will be needed to settle the estate. Further, attempts by fiduciaries to gain access to critical digital asset information are fraught with legal and ethical landmines.

It's All About the Communication, Stupid!

PD Wadler

Birch

Healthy relationships are all about communication. Learn techniques discovered by relationship experts like Dr. John Gottman for improving all of your important relationships: romantic, family, business, social.

Rainbow SIG Meet and Greet

Elm

Come meet and greet LGBTQs, Allies and friends from Chicago, the Midwest, and all over the country. Sponsored by Chicago Area Mensa's Rainbow SIG.



San Diego Comic-Con: A Journalist's-Eye View

Barbara Barnett

Michigan A

Each year, 15,000 people descend on San Diego for Comic Con International (AKA SDCC), the largest pop culture gathering in the world. Movie studios, TV networks, publishers and toymakers bring out their latest and greatest, side by side with artists, graphic designers, and (more to the delight of fans) cosplayers. Barbara Barnett has donned her press badge and attended for the past five years, interviewed the stars, been to the parties, hazarded drones, monsters, and zombies to cover SDCC. Join her at this year's WeeM as she takes you through the journalist's looking glass and into Comic-Con.

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4:30 - 6:00, cont'd.

Singles Fishbowl

Michigan B

Do you have questions for the opposite sex you are afraid to ask? Questions are anonymously dropped in a fish bowl and the emcee asks the crowd. Be prepared for a hilarious look at all topics dating, sex, and single life. Prizes for best questions (while supplies last). Adults only, due to sexual content.

6:00 – 7:30 PM

Dinner

Hospitality

Chicken, veggie burgers and sides.

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

6:30 – 7:30 PM

Kids' Costume Parade/Contest

Michigan A/B

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

7:30 – 9:00 PM

Adults' Costume Parade/Contest

Robert Stalzer, Emcee

Michigan A/B

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

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

9:00 – 10:00 PM

GenY Meet & Greet

Henri Buccine-Schraeder

Botanic

The GenY SIG is for Mensa members born on or between the years of 1976-1996. Come to this session to meet the other "don't-call-us-millennials" that comprise Mensa. Hear about the super secret AG activities for GenY-aged members, get involved in organized and impromptu shenanigans and learn the location of our very own party suite. (You'll receive the official invite at this session.) If you can't make it, never fear. Approach and introduce yourself to any GenY member at the AG and see if you can get the lowdown. Or you know, just join the Facebook Group GenYMs.

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9:00 – 10:30 PM

Hell's Ms Meet and Greet
Willow

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

9:00 – 11:00 PM

Seven Wonders Tournament
Ravinia A

Details available on the sign-up sheet.

9:00 PM – Midnight

Friday Movie: "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. II"
Robert Finnegan

Birch



Chris Pratt & Zoe Saldana are back leading the inter-species team of space warriors. Plus the best extras from the Blu-ray. PG-13, 2 hr, 16 min.

Social Deduction Games
Jason Catena

Elm

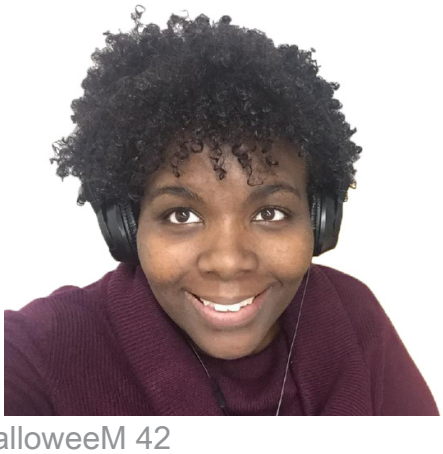
Come play Werewolf! Also Secret Hitler/Trump, Dark Moon, Latitude 90: The Origin, Don't mess with Cthulhu, One-night ..., and other social deduction games, depending on player interest and number of players. New players welcome (we'll teach you how to play), and the more the merrier!

10:00 PM – Late

Friday Night Dance
Kenya Hitchens

Botanic

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



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

Saturday

8:00 – 9:30 AM

Breakfast

Hospitality

Continental Breakfast items plus hot breakfast specials: egg dishes, french toast sticks, and breakfast meats.

9:00 – 10:30 AM

The Historic Al. Ringling Theatre in Baraboo, Wisconsin

Bryant Hazard

Willow

The Al. Ringling Theatre located in Baraboo, Wisconsin, was built in 1915 by the oldest of the famed circus brothers. Styled after the opera house at Versailles, the theater is one of the first "Movie Palaces." This slide show and commentary presents the history of the theater from ground breaking to the present. "America's prettiest playhouse," as it was called, had decayed over the years but was saved from the wrecking ball by volunteers and supporters. The theater finally got restored in 2015, one hundred years after it was built.

The Identification, Education, and Fostering of the Gifted Child

Casarah Stark

Birch

This lecture will cover assessment tools used to identify giftedness, educational options, and suggestions, as well as the fostering of the gifts your gifted child possesses. Please join us for this exciting and informative talk!

Does My Vote Really Count? The Mathematics of Voting

Anthony DeLegge

Michigan B

Controversy erupted after Trump won the 2016 election; namely, he lost the popular vote, but still won the presidency. This caused many to call for an end to the Electoral College and to create a more fair way to elect the president. But, is using the popular vote any better than the Electoral College? Are there other methods of voting that are more fair than the Electoral College? This presentation will look at different election methods from a mathematical perspective, including the Electoral College, to determine the most "fair" way to elect someone.

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9:00 – 11:30 AM

Logic Problem Tournament
Oriel Maximé

Ravinia A

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

10:30 – Noon

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

Willow

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

Backwards, In High Heels, and a Cape: A History of Women in Comic Books
Alan Baltis

Birch

Comic books have been published in the USA for 80 years, developing a fascinating modern mythology. Loaded with heroes & villains, monsters & miracles, they have both reflected the times & portrayed ageless archetypes. The success of blockbuster movies based on comics has catapulted characters out of their brightly-colored niche into stardom. We'll blaze through a couple dozen Maids of Might & Sisters of Steel, discussing why some have become famous (or infamous). We'll celebrate Wonder Woman, Supergirl, Batwoman, the Black Widow, & yes, Squirrel Girl. Join us for superpowers and spandex!



Mensa at the National and Regional Levels: A Roundtable Discussion
Jon Gruebele

Elm

Join American Mensa Regional Vice Chair 4 Jon Gruebele to discuss happenings in American Mensa. He represents nine north central U.S. local groups on Mensa's Board of Directors (AMC). Please join us for this roundtable discussion about concerns, your ideas on improving the organization, and especially any thoughts about increasing our membership.

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10:30 – Noon, cont'd.

Procrastination: It's Not About Time
Dr Joe Ferrari

Michigan A

Still procrastinating? Well, it's not that you are lazy or unmotivated, or a perfectionistic, or have some genetic defect. In fact, you may be one of 20% of people who are CHRONIC PROCRASTINATORS. See, everyone procrastinates, but not everyone is a procrastinator. This program is presented by the leading U.S. researcher (APA's 'go to' person) of the causes and consequences of Chronic Procrastination. Rev. Dr. Joseph Ferrari, DePaul University, provides enjoyable and educational insights (and, sells his book for only $10). Come, learn that procrastination is NOT about time.... and show up early!

Improv for fun and profit!
Steve Duberchin

Michigan B

Have you ever wondered what makes improvisational theater work and how those skills could be applied to your everyday life? This highly participatory workshop will demystify improv's inner workings as we have fun doing things like improving teamwork skills, learning to be successful in a chaotic environment, thinking creatively in the moment, and much more. This workshop is limited to the first 20 people who sign-up or show up.

Human Hungry Hungry Hippos
Heather Booton

Botanic

You've seen the videos, now come try it out for yourselves! This human-sized board game is fun for all ages, so bring the kids. It's every bit as fun as it looks in videos, and then some! Participants should expect some level of physical activity. Everyone will need to sign a waiver to participate, and minors MUST have a guardian sign for them.



Noon – 1:15 PM

Lunch Break
Hospitality

Selection of chilis for both carnivores and vegetarians, baked potatoes, toppings, and sides.

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1:30 – 3:00 PM

Gimme a Brake - On My Car, That Is!

Len Hiznay

Birch

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

Wishful Drinking

Robert Finnegan

Birch



Carrie Fisher's one-woman HBO special from 2010 where she hilariously described her crazy life & family with slides, charts & props. The self-described "Bipolar Poster Child" shows that laughter is the best defense in life. Adult topics & language.

Book Discussion: "Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy"

Stephen Metzger

Elm

It's our 42nd WeeM, and since 42 is the answer to Life, the Universe, and Everything, I was encouraged by many Mensans to try a book discussion of "Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy." So let's gather 'round a table and talk about one of most widely known SF titles ever! And maybe create Vogon poetry!

Short form improv comedy - Crazy Shades of Blue

Steve Duberchin

Michigan A

Crazy Shades of Blue is returning to 'WeeM to bring you a fun, improvised comedy show where we'll take your suggestions and turn them into hilarious scenes. If you made it to our workshop, you'll get to see us put everything we talked about there into practice as we do some fun make-'um-ups on stage. And who knows, you might even be the star of a scene!

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1:30 – 3:00 PM, cont'd.

Cyber Security - the Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Leo Doyle

Michigan B

Cyber terrorism is a threat to all of us whether we know it or not. It can happen almost anywhere, any time. Leo will present some recently declassified events and talk about the dark underbelly of the Internet where there are no rules, no laws, and organized crime and gangs meet to do their business. People don't ordinarily see and can't find this "Deep Web" without special software. He will give some tips on how people can be safer as they use the Internet.

1:30 – 3:30 PM

LEGO Improv

Clyde Forrester

Ravinia A

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



Euchre Tournament

Botanic

Details available on the sign-up sheet.

3:00 – 4:30 PM

Brain Energy Metabolism: Implications for Alzheimer's Prevention and Treatment

Peter Kraus

Willow

Scientific research has provided a new understanding of how the brain uses energy. Glucose is a well-known energy source for brain cells, but the brain does not utilize it efficiently in those with Alzheimer's. An alternate source which is manufactured in the liver, called ketone bodies, is being explored for its therapeutic effects for a wide range of neurodegenerative disorders. Interestingly, it is possible for individuals to control the brain's use of these two fuels. We will explore the book: "Alzheimer's Disease - What if there was a Cure? The Story of Ketones" by Dr. Mary Newport.

The Return of the Vinyl Junkie

Mikey Wolstein

Birch

We will discuss record collecting and how it's returned in full force; the care, feeding, and sources of vinyl and hi-fi equipment, and where to find and what to expect to pay for recordings. We will also discuss types of music that are collectible and their approximate value, and briefly discuss history of phonograph records. I'll show samples of jacket art and play clips of early, scarce recordings by artists who later "made it big."

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3:00 – 4:30 PM, cont'd.

Hands-on Craft: Making Paracord Bracelets

Jason Catena

Elm

I will provide paracord and teach you how to make a paracord bracelet! Individual instruction as needed, to make a cobra-stitch bracelet, from one 10' length of cord, woven around a doubled 2' cord. My usual design does not include a buckle, but fastens via knot-and-loop. I have a lot of different colors, so you can choose your own! Same idea as my demonstration in previous WeeMs.

Cybersecurity in a Connected World

Nick Espinosa

Michigan A

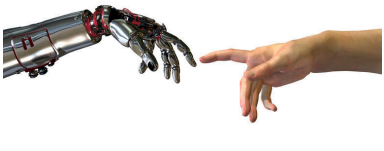
Nick Espinosa will inform, and possibly disturb, us with his important message regarding minimizing risks to our privacy, data, and business operations in our connected digital world, while enjoying the benefits of our technology. A live hacking demonstration is included!

Artificial Intelligence

Lance Erlick

Michigan B

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



3:30 – 5:30 PM

Ascension Tournament

Ravinia A

Details available on the sign-up sheet.

4:00 – 6:00 PM

Weem Pub Trivia

Kenya Hitchens

Botanic

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

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4:30 – 5:00 PM

AG Preview
Teresa Gregory
Michigan A

The 2018 AG will be held in Indianapolis July 4-8, 2018 at the award-winning JW Marriott hotel in downtown Indy. Come for a short preview of why this AG will be one you won't want to miss. And if that's not enough, there MAY be door prizes involved.

4:30 – 6:00 PM

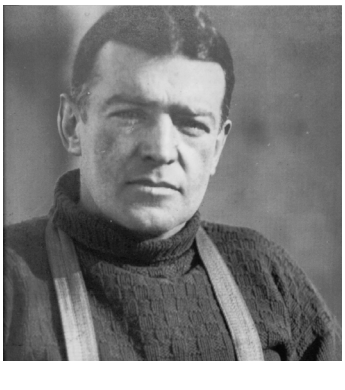
The Mathematics Behind TV Game Shows
Anthony DeLegge

Willow

Countless people dream of being asked to "Come On Down!" and/or to spin the wheel and buy a vowel. But, just because one gets picked to play on a game show doesn't mean he or she wins that new car or all that money! As it turns out, many successful game show winners have more than luck on their side: they have math! This talk will demonstrate how mathematical knowledge can help a contestant on game shows maximize their winning potential.

Sir Ernest Shackleton
Kenneth Levine

Birch



Ernest Shackleton, an Antarctic explorer, is most well known for his Endurance Expedition of 1914-1916, which has been called the greatest survival story of all time. This program covers the biography of Ernest Shackleton and his four expeditions to Antarctica. Slides include images of actual photographs from these expeditions, as well as photos taken by Ken from several of these locations.

Kid's T-Shirt Activity
Elm

Details available on the sign-up sheet or PAAG.

3D Printing on a Budget
Leo Doyle

Michigan B

Is it really possible to get started in 3D printing for less than $150? Master gadgeteer and consummate cheapskate Leo Doyle will entertain and enlighten us with a scintillating introduction to 3D-printing. He will talk about building his open-source printers, using open-source software, lessons learned, and will bring samples to show.

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6:00 – 8:00 PM

Dinner Break

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

7:00 – 8:30 PM

Learn to Lindy Hop

Debra Sylvia

Botanic

In this brief introduction to the Lindy Hop, (a.k.a. Swing Dance), Debra Ann Sylvia, with some help from local Mensan Steve Rider, will guide you through the basics of what has been called the United States' only original folk dance. Wear comfortable shoes; we do NOT recommend sneakers or similar "grippy" soles.

7:30 – 9:00 PM

The Epicurean Experience

Sue and Steve Davidson

Ravinia A

Don't panic! It's all edible, we promise! Come sample some goodies (and maybe not-so-goodies) both featured in and inspired by the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. We'll have an all-new variety of thematic, diverse, and sometimes bizarre foods and drinks to explore. Take a nibble of things you've never seen and/or heard of before…or perhaps you are familiar with, but were reluctant to try. This event is ALCOHOL FREE, so anyone not wearing an "under 21" badge should visit before partaking of Pretentious Drinking and show us your PD ticket (which we will not take, so you can still use it later). Please note: we aren't serving a meal, just samples and sips, so come for curiosity, not dinner.

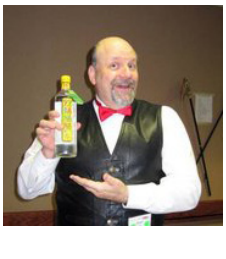
PLEASE NOTE:
Access to the alcohol in Hospitality will be cut off a bit before, during, and a bit after Pretentious Drinking, to facilitate set-up and clean-up.

8:30 – 10:30 PM

Pretentious Drinking

Alan Baltis and his Merry Band of Pourmeisters

Ravinia C-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

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8:30 – 10:30 PM, cont'd.

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.

9:00 PM – Midnight

MOVIE: Wonder Woman

Bob Finnegan

Birch

The origin movie of first big female super hero, plus the best extras from the Blu-ray. Starring Gal Gadot & Chris Pine. PG-13, 2 hr, 21 min.



Social Deduction Games

Jason Catena

Elm

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

10:00 PM – Late

Saturday Night Dance

Theo Sparks and DJ That Guy John

Botanic

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

11:00 PM – Late

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

Sunday

8:00 – 9:30 AM

Breakfast

Hospitality

Continental Breakfast items plus hot breakfast specials: egg dishes, french toast sticks, and breakfast meats.

9:30 - 11:00 AM

Meeting of Minds 2

Robert Finnegan

Birch



Teddy Roosevelt, Thomas Aquinas, Thomas Paine & Cleopatra discuss their lives & argue about heresies, the nature of women, slavery & other topics. One of the few available episodes from Steve Allen's award-winning series. A great deal of interesting information presented in an entertaining way.

Writing & Publishing Science Fiction Thrillers

Lance Erlick

Michigan A

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

Amazing Race - WeeM Style

Jill Sackett

Michigan B

Back for a 5th and final year, Amazing Race WeeM Style is Where It's Happening on Sunday morning! Based on the popular TV show, teams of 2-4 competitors complete a variety of cerebral and/or light-hearted tasks on the way to the final "Pit Stop" and victor's bragging rights. Our version is designed for all ages and activity levels; no prior knowledge of the game is needed. Please sign up in advance on the Amazing Race tournament sheet to secure your spot. Not on a team? No problem; we'll get you on one. Close out the weekend with over 30 of your fellow Mensans with a ton a fun!

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10:00 – 11:00 AM

CAM Board Meeting
Willow

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Awards and Announcements
Hosted by Heather Booton
Ravinia C/D/F
Find out who did and won what this weekend.

2:00 – 4:30 PM

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

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

Alan Baltis

Backwards, in High Heels, and a Cape, Pretentious Drinking (Sat.)

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

Barbara Barnett

San Diego Comic-Con: A Journalist's Eye View (Fri.)

Barbara Barnett is author of the Bram Stoker Award-nominated novel "The Apothecary's Curse" and "Chasing Zebras: The Unofficial Guide to House M.D." Barbara is also executive editor of "Blogcritics" Magazine. She has been a featured speaker and panelist at numerous professional writers' conferences, fan conventions, and Mensa's HalloweeM. She has just finished drafting her new novel "Apothecary's Curse: The Alchemy of Glass."

Emily Bialas

Being an Actor in Chicago (Fri.)

Emily has been acting and modeling in Chicago for the past two years. She has been seen on shows such as "Empire" and "Chicago Med," as well as multiple Netflix series and Blockbuster movies that will be released in 2018.

Heather Booton

Human Hungry Hungry Hippos (Sat.)

Heather Booton is your fearless WeeM chair. She's been a dedicated member of the WeeM team for 8 years, and chair for 4. This year she's also bringing you the Human Hungry Hungry Hippos game.

Henri Buccine-Schraeder

Gen Y Meet and Greet, Risk Terrain Modeling (Fri.)

Henri Buccine-Schraeder is a research coordinator at Rutgers Center on Public Security and is a current Ph.D. student at Rutgers University. Her research interests include sex offender policy, policing interventions, and spatiotemporal analysis. Henri is also the Membership Officer for the AMC, the National Coordinator for GenY, and the Region 2 GenY Co-Coordinator.

Jason Catena

Making Paracord Bracelets, Social Deduction Games (Thur., Fri., & Sat.)

Stephen Rider and I moderate Werewolf, and run many other social-deduction games, at monthly and yearly CAM gatherings. Last year at WeeM, we presented a review of the mechanics and play of various social-deduction games. Jason also has lots of practice making paracord bracelets, and teaching kids to make them.

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Matt Crawford

Scotch Tasting (Thurs.)

Matt Crawford has been pouring whisky for, educating, and amusing opening-night WeeM-goers since 2008. He does some other stuff, but this is the main thing. His formal education in whisky began at a banquet in Edinburgh, where he also made the acquaintance of a haggis.

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.

Ruth Danielle

The Joys of Poland (Fri.)

Ruth Danielle is currently the Honcho of Isolated M. Other Mensa achievements are winning HalloweeM Costume Contests and being awarded a Hugging Trophy at the Tampa RG. She travels when she can. You can view her video, "Ruth Unravels" on YouTube.

Sue and Steve Davidson

The Epicurean Experience (Sat.)

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

Anthony DeLegge

The Mathematics of Voting, The Mathematics Behind TV Game Shows (Sat.)

Anthony DeLegge, Ph.D, is an associate professor of mathematics at Benedictine University in Lisle, IL. His research interests include modeling the spread of disease through a population, along with ways to slow or stop the spread, and games and probability. He is also a huge game show fan, and got to fulfill a lifelong dream by being a contestant on the game shows "Wheel of Fortune" and "The Chase."

Frank Dolinar

Getting from Science Fiction to Useful Science & Technology (Fri.)

Frank Dolinar: software geek; science fiction addict; author of articles on history & implications of technology in society. Speaker of complete sentences (given the opportunity). Enthusiastic amateur space nut. MS in Predictive Analytics from Northwestern University (2016).

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Leo Doyle

3D Printing on a Budget, Cyber Security - the Good, the Bad and the Ugly (Sat.)

Leo Doyle is head of the Cyber Defense Force for the city of Indianapolis, part of the IMPD Homeland Security Bureau. He also serves as a subject matter expert to the mayor, governor, and members of Congress. He has a degree in electrical engineering and an advanced degree in computer science. He first programmed a computer when he was 13 and has been involved in computing ever since. Leo started the first commercial Internet company in Indiana in 1992 and was a professor at Purdue.

Steve Duberchin (Crazy Shades of Blue)

Improv for Fun and Profit!, Short-Form Improv Comedy (Sat.)

Steve earned his MBA from DePaul University, but he found his passion when he took his first class at the Second City Training Center in 2002. He's been through many of Chicago's best Improv programs, including ComedySportz, Laugh Out Loud Theater, and New Choice Improv. Steve has performed everything from bar-prov to headlining on the main stage, and he's run the gambit behind the scenes as well, doing things like sketch writing, directing, coaching, and stage managing.

Lance Erlick

Artificial Intelligence (Sat.), Writing & Publishing Science Fiction Thrillers (Sun.)

Lance Erlick writes science fiction thrillers for adult and young adult readers. He wrote the Rebel series, which explores Annabelle Scott following her conscience in a world turned upside down. He wrote the Regina Shen series, after abrupt climate change leads to the Great Collapse and a World Federation. Outcast Regina Shen tries to survive a storm and Federation agents pursuing her for her genome. "Xenogeneic: First Contact" is about encounters with alien pilgrims aiming to take over Earth.

Nick Espinosa

Cybersecurity in a Connected World (Sat.)

Nick is the Chief Security Fanatic of Security Fanatics, CIO, nationally-recognized keynote speaker, author and radio show host on 101.3 FM WHIW. He is also a member of the Forbes Technology Council and a regular contributor to Forbes.com. He sits on the Board of Advisors for Roosevelt University's Center for Cyber and Information Security, where he is helping to develop an NSA-approved Cyberwarfare curriculum.

Dr. Joe Ferrari

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

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

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Robert Finnegan

Several programs, all weekend

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

Clyde Forrester

LEGO Improv, Sing-Along (Sat.)

Clyde Forrester has been a Mensan for over 30 years. He comes from a long line of tinkerers and ne'er-do-well musicians which led him to gravitate toward music, computers, and Lego.

Teresa Gregory

AG Preview (Sat.)

Teresa Gregory and Jan Pfeil Doyle have traded off being LocSec of Central Indiana Mensa for over 10 years. In a streak of (additional) questionable sanity, they applied to co-chair the 2018 AG in Indianapolis and were appointed. Now they're on a quest to show the world that Indy has more than corn and race cars.

Matthew Grob

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

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

Jon Gruebele

Mensa at the National and Regional Levels: A Roundtable Discussion (Sat.)

Jon Gruebele is American Mensa Regional Vice Chair 4, former LocSec, long time Proctor, and a life member. He represents nine north central U.S. local groups on American Mensa's Board of Directors (AMC). Jon's background is in international marketing, IT, and management. He's a process and quality improvement expert.

Bryant Hazard

The Historic Al. Ringling Theater (Sat.)

Bryant Hazard is a volunteer at the Al. Ringling Theatre who has been involved with the venue since 1993.

Kenya Hitchens

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

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

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Len Hiznay

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

Former auto mechanic - 8 years. Former auto repair shop owner - 6 years. Currently General Manager of an Advance Auto Parts retail store - 5 years. As a lifelong "gear head" and auto enthusiast, together with my son, we have owned and repaired go carts, motorcycles and too many cars and trucks to count. To me, a day spent in the garage is like being on vacation. An award winning member of Toastmasters International, I am happy to return for my 3rd year as a presenter at HalloweeM.

Greg Holcombe

M-Available Meet and Greet (Fri.)

Life member of Mensa, and M-Available SIG coordinator.

Deborah Knoll

Massage Therapist (All weekend)

My name is Deborah Knoll, but Dee is just fine! I have been doing massage therapy since 2004 and esthetics/skin care since 2010. My passion for massage therapy came from wanting to help people in a therapeutic and beneficial way. I believe there are many benefits to massage such as increased circulation, relief of chronic pain, stress reduction, flushing toxins out, aiding in the healing process of injury/recovery, and balancing the mind, body, and spirit. Each client is treated as an individual and will experience a customized massage that is most beneficial for them. Some of the techniques or type of massage I specialize in are Swedish, Deep tissue, Sports, Pregnancy, Hot stone (geothermal therapy), Myofacial release, and Reiki. I am state licensed and am always continuing my education to learn more about this growing field.

Peter Kraus

Brain Energy Metabolism (Sat.)

Peter Kraus has served as the monthly gathering Program Chair for Chicago Area Mensa, having selected something in the neighborhood of 300 speakers during his tenure. Now, as program co-chair, he has spent time researching medical issues. Surprisingly, there appear to be two subsets of research - one which seems to be promulgated by the commercial interests, and another (that is not featured in the major media) which contradicts, or supplants, the research of the commercial interests.

Kenneth Levine

Sir Ernest Shackleton and the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration (Sat.)

Ken developed an interest in the history of Antarctic exploration during his first trip to Antarctica in 2001. This and subsequent trips included the Geographic South Pole, South Georgia Island and McMurdo Sound. He has examined Antarctic exhibits in the U.K., Ireland, Norway, Australia and New Zealand and has an extensive library on this subject.

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James Martin

Massage Therapist (All weekend)

My name is James Martin, but most people call me Jim. I graduated from the Chicago School of Massage Therapy in 1997. My massage expertise include: Swedish, Deep Tissue, Lomi Lomi, Myofacial Release, and Sports Massage. Certified in Myofacial Release since 1999, I am a Deep Tissue Specialist who can easily handle the needs of clients requesting deeper treatments as well as those looking for a more relaxing experience. I am state licensed and enjoy learning about new techniques by keeping up with continuing education and constantly going with the flow in this changing field.

Oriel Maxime

Overcooked Tournament, Logic Problem Tournament (Fri. & Sat.)

What to say that you don't already know? I'm your garden variety geek, with a special love of puzzles, games, and hectic cooperative experiences. Come out and see this year's experiment, or complete in the yearly Logic Problems Tournament. Otherwise, I'll catch you in the games room!

Carol F. Metzger

Coloring for Grownups (Fri.)

I'm an artist with a background in science and anthropology. I make art out of just about anything. Painting, drawing, beadwork, metalwork, decoupage, knitting, quilting, dyeing and other fiber art. It would be difficult to name a craft I have not tried at least once. The ones I am good at are knitting, beading, and works on paper or canvas.

Steve Metzger

Book Discussion of Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy (Sat.)

I have coordinated book discussions of Futures and Fantasies (the local SF&F SIG) for at least 20 years in Chicago Area Mensa.

Lora Mitchell

Vogon Poetry, Your Duty-Free Allowance of Retsina (Fri.)

Lora Mitchell is a slightly odd, but generally pleasant, Mensa member from Columbus, Ohio. Professionally, she is in Human Resources, which has led to her secret knowledge of alcoholic beverages.

Sergio Rivera

My Uncle Went to Earth... and what happened next! (Fri.)

Sergio Rivera, originally from Madrid, Spain, has had careers in real estate, marketing, and hospitality, from Spain to Italy, France to Miami, and now owns a small Latin restaurant in Gurnee specializing in healthy natural Mexican and Latin American favorites. His recently-published first book examines the relationships between Earth's inhabitants and visitors/settlers from an alien world. He is a father to three sons, grandpa to three amazing kids, and he loves dancing!

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Jill Sackett

Amazing Race - WeeM Style (Sun.)

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

Jim Santopadre

Velocity Banking (Fri.)

Like you, Jim Santopadre has never been satisfied with just being another cog in the machine, so he set out to find his niche. With successes as a contractor, manager, sales professional and entrepreneur, Jim's path inevitably led him to real estate investing. Possessing extensive knowledge of the construction/rehab field, a solid business education and hands-on experience in both small business and the corporate world, real estate investing was the obvious choice.

Sabrina Schottenhamel

Five Simple Self-Care Techniques (Thur.)

Sabrina Schottenhamel is a licensed massage therapist and speaker. Sabrina shares her message through massage therapy, presentations, and workshops. A few of her speaking topics include; Three Keys to Unlock Your Speaking Abilities, The Productivity Push!, and Five Simple Self-Care Techniques. Her goal when she speaks is to share her joy and passion, and to help you improve your quality of life.

Eric Shipman

Leadership Lessons from the Street (Fri.)

Eric Shipman is a suburban Police Commander with almost 25 years of experience. His assignments have included patrol, investigations, gangs, narcotics and command. He is a graduate of DePaul University, Northwestern University's certificate program at the School of Police Supervision, and the prestigious FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Robert Stalzer

Costume Parade Emcee (Fri.)

Robert is returning to perform the job he was born to do. Having mastered English, he has turned his attention to the invention of a new musical scale, measureed in degrees Kelvin. Robert possesses what is generally regarded as the world's most complete collection of fog.

Casarah Stark

Identification, Education, and Fostering of the Gifted Child (Sat.)

Casarah Stark holds an MA in Child and Adolescent Psychology, MS in Applied Psychology, is currently completing an MS in ABA and a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, with a specialization in Neuropsychology.

Rob Swenson

Five Simple Self-Care Techniques (Fri.)

Member of M-Available and Single M's.

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Debra Sylvia

Learn to Lindy Hop (Sat.)

Debra Ann and Steve Rider were both bitten by the swing dance bug of the late 1990s, dancing multiple times a week for several years. Debra Ann has both taught and performed in various troupes, and is excited to be returning for a second year, sharing her skills with Mensa.

PD Wadler

It's All About the Communication, Stupid! (Fri.)

PD is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist in private practice in Chicago with over thirty years of experience helping individuals and couples have better relationships.

Fredrick Weber

Digital Asset Information (Fri.)

Fred Weber leads the Estate Settlement Services Practice for Northern Trust Company's Central Region. In this role, Fred manages the team that handles all aspects of complex, death-related administration of estates and trusts when the Northern Trust Company acts as a fiduciary for a client who has died. Fred earned his B.A. from the University of Minnesota and his J.D. from DePaul University College of Law, and is licensed to practice law in Illinois.

Beth Weiss

Agile in Software--and Agile in the Real World (Fri.)

Beth Weiss is a Certified Scrum Master, a Professional Scrum Master, and a Certified Business Analysis Professional - as well as a Mensan who likes to party and play games. She met her husband at HalloweeM in 2002.

Mike Wolstein

Return of the Vinyl Junkie (Sat.)

Retired after 43 years in electronics engineering, Mike has a passion for hi-fi sound and music. He began enjoying popular music and collecting vinyl in the late 1950s.

John Wood

Practical Artificial Intelligence: Facts & Fallacies (Fri.)

John Wood has been a practitioner in data science for the last 4 years, deploying machine learning algorithms for analysis on client interactions and financial data for TD Ameritrade and, more recently, LiquidMetrix (whose clients range from bulge-bracket investment banks to the largest hedge funds/ pension funds).

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Not Speakers









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is brought to you, with pleasure, by

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Epicurean Experience.....Sue & Steve Davidson
Logistics Coordinator.....Casey Carraher
Decorations & Recycling..... Angela Fontes
Soc. Ded. Games...Jason Catena, Stephen Rider

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

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!