A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away....

HALLOWEEM

Episode XLIV

MAY THE FOURS BE WITH YOU

The fours is strong with this one. Join the resistance for the Forty-Fourth annual HalloweeM celebration.

Oct 31st - Nov 3rd



Hosted by Chicago Area Mensa

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"It's a trip!"

Notes from the HalloweeM Chair



Welcome, and thank you so much for joining us at "HalloweeM 44 – May The Fours Be With You." This is no wretched hive of scum and villainy, but a rather welcoming crowd. In fact, we do serve your kind here!

In order to keep this group friendly and welcoming, our Peace Force will be continuing their efforts this year. You can identify them by their glowing star pins. They're here to check badges, make sure that alcohol is being consumed responsibly, and act as a friendly face in the unlikely event you have any problems. Please feel free to approach one of them if you need anything. There is a power that binds this RG together, and that's the power of volunteers! All of our WeeM TeaM volunteers can be identified by their purple badges and their WeeM TeaM ribbons. Please be sure to thank them for all that they do.

Of course, you can join this elite crowd from a more civilized era merely by signing up for a volunteer slot; sign-up sheets are located by the registration desk. Help us—you're our only hope. You'll get a great pin just for working a two-hour shift.

While I've got a bad feeling about this weekend ending entirely too soon, I know that you'll have a great time. As always, I appreciate you taking the time to join us, and appreciate any and all feedback about the weekend.

May the Force be with you. Always.

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Notes from the Program Chair

Welcome to WeeM 44!! May The Fours Be With You! I hope you will find a wide selection of exciting programs that fit your Jedi training schedule.

This is my 5th year (whaaaa??) as your spellbinding Program Chair, and everything you've heard about me is true. Once again, I am delighted to welcome everyone, whether this is your first time on Tatooine or you have been a WeeM Jedi Master for the past 43 years. I have carefully constructed a schedule that will surely please everyone! Here's a key to understanding the force behind programming: this has been a work in progress, and every year I try to make the process a little more streamlined. Each speaker submitted a speaker form online, and that information was made available on the Chicago Area Mensa Web site well before a single program was even scheduled! Next year, you can keep your eyes glued to our Web site to see what's on the docket well before I publish that first Program At A Glance (PAAG)! Speaking of the PAAG: on the next page there is an elegant weapon for a more civilized age… a QR code. That will link you directly to the most current version of the PAAG, including any room changes or cancellations.

Some of the changes I made last year were very well received, so I kept them:

- Thursday-night programming!
- Slow-down Sunday!
- Minimal programming overlap with meals!
- No programming against the BIG events!

At the back of each speaker room, you will find short-answer survey cards. As you attend presentations, please fill these out and drop them in the box located near registration. These comments help me (and my speakers!) determine needs for next year's programming. As always, you can also use your daily printed PAAG to leave general programming comments. Let me know what you liked, and what you didn't! If you'd like a **GREEN** option for submitting comments, please find a short survey at http://bit.ly/WeeM44Survey (case-sensitive).



My goal is to make sure everyone here has a great time! Yub nub!!

Sincerely,

Lacee Hudec, 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 lavender badges). Sorry, lost name badges cannot be replaced.

Smartphone, Tablet, and other E-Gear Users: Please be courteous by silencing your devices when at programs or events. If you don't know how to silence your device, please leave it in your room, lest you be mocked mercilessly. Free 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.

Program At A Glance (PAAG): The PAAG includes some updates to the program which were too late to make it into 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 most of the speaker rooms, if you become parched.

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Policies & Reminders, cont'd.

Volunteers: HalloweeM is a big event. It takes a LOT of volunteers to make things run smoothly. Our volunteer staff (The WeeM TeaM) is always happy to accept new recruits. In exchange for your time (2 hours or more), you get a HalloweeM volunteer collector's pin (pictured next page) 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: Yes, maybe, no? Colored stickers signify your hugging preference. 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. And please remember, even if the sticker is green, "NO" means "NO."

Harassment: HalloweeM will be a friendly and safe environment for our attendees. Unwelcome physical contact and other forms of harassment will not be tolerated. **Failure to comply with this policy may result in removal from the event without a refund, and police intervention, if warranted**. If you have concerns or need to report misconduct, find a member of the Peace Force, recognized by their light-up star pins. If you need immediate and direct intervention for your personal safety, 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 (including vaping and E-cigs) is permitted outside the hotel in designated areas only.

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 service animals. Pets are still allowed in guest rooms.

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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 7:30 - 11:30 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.

NEW as of 2017: 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/shortcut to the meeting rooms.

ALSO NEW as of 2017: 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 raffle to reward our valued volunteers. Volunteers will get a raffle ticket for each hour they volunteer. However, this year we are altering the deal. Certain "hyperspace" volunteer slots will double the rate at which you accrue raffle tickets. Hyperspace time-slots, such as dinner time and later hospitality slots, and logistics/runner slots, will be marked on the sign-up sheet posted near registration. Additionally, volunteers will receive double the normal number of raffle tickets for any slot they sign up for online before WeeM begins. If you're a Sith, you might be able to run an entire empire with only two people, but we Jedi need an entire order, so please sign up: the RG wins, our guests win, and you win! Volunteers do not need to be present at the raffle drawing to receive major prizes, but minor prizes (less than $20 value) will be awarded only to those who are on site during the awards ceremony. All volunteers who do a 2-hr. shift (or more) will get a volunteer pin, pictured here.



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WeeM Loves Kids!



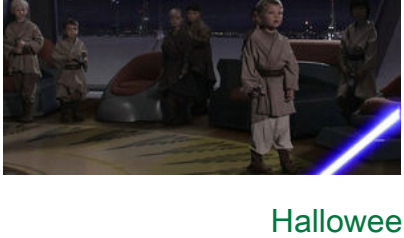


Young Children

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, from after the kids' costume parade until 11:30 PM, Saturday from 9:00 AM to 11:30 PM, and Sunday from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM. We will close the room for an hour during all scheduled meals (including Saturday evening) and will 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 must 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.



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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 Stacey Kirsch at 630-766-1289.

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 line-up is in the day-to-day listing of events. Please check the PAAG and sign-up sheets in Hospitality (near Ravinia A) for details.

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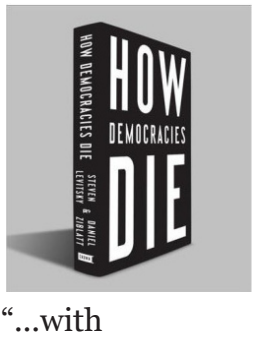
All Weekend & Thursday

Massage Therapists

Deborah Knoll and James Martin will be doing chair massages in the vendor hall for much of the weekend. The cost is $20 (cash only) for a 15-minute massage. Sign up is recommended.

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 are going to Breakthrough Urban Ministry's STEM program. Breakthrough supports people through education and youth development; workforce development; housing; health and wellness; and violence prevention, among other things. Check out their program Friday at 1:00 PM.



"...with thunderous applause."

Due to the timing for the program book preparation, any last-minute changes to the schedule, or past-the-deadline submissions (**there are several Friday**), 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 6:00 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!

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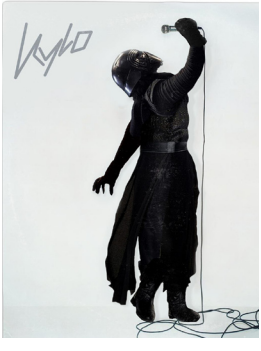
6:00 – 7:00 PM

Sing-Along
Clyde Forrester

Ravinia A



Gather 'round for a sing-along! We'll try anything, really. Bring along your non-amplified instrument, or just your voice. Clyde will bring an acoustic bass and an electronic keyboard.

How to Start or Stop What You're Doing!
Cat Sterrett

Elm

Ya know how you intend to clear off that desk, cut down on smoking, or start exercising? If you're like most people, you often put a goal on your TO DO List, and it goes undone for months -- or years -- 'til you feel like a failure. Why can't you just get it done? Citing the current research findings on behavior change, Cat will share lots of proven techniques to do just that! Those who choose to share struggles and triumphs may do so, and everyone will learn methods they can put to use immediately. You will leave feeling heartened and hopeful about your ability to change!



Missed the program? E-mail me for the handout with URLs and data. catsterrett@gmail.com

7:00 – 8:30 PM

Dinner

Hospitality

Catered by Pita Inn. Mediterranean foods, including assorted appetizers, entrees & sides. (Some foods GF, however, their kitchens are not GF certified.)

7:30 – 9:00 PM

Holocaust Postal History
Justin Gordon

Willow

In this presentation, based on the book "Holocaust Postal History: Harrowing Journeys Revealed through the Letters and Cards of the Victims," author Justin Gordon takes you on a journey through the Holocaust using correspondence written by the victims. While Holocaust philately does not provide answers to the major questions that still haunt us, it does offer insight into the personal, unique journeys of victims of the Nazi onslaught. In many cases, an envelope or a postcard, as highlighted in this presentation, may be the only remnant of an individual's life.

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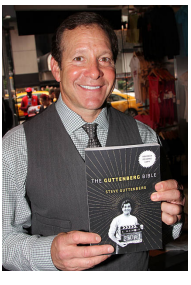
7:30 – 9:00 PM, cont'd.

Four Support People You Need for Self-Publishing

Marssie Mencotti

Birch



Before you embark on self-publishing your memoir or short-story collection, there are a few basic things you may like to know. Self-publishing is a simplified term. You need an editor (or two), a book designer (inside and out), a proofreader and maybe an outside expert to check your research. Then you need to get it into Kindle format and maybe create an audiobook. Marssie Mencotti completed her novel, "Pro Patria," one year ago. She would love to help you get some idea of what it takes to get your book up and running.

7:30 – 9:30 PM

Seven Wonders Tournament

Glenn Sutton

Ravinia A

Come play this popular game! Experience with the game is ideal but not critical. (Come 15 minutes early if you are not familiar with the game.) 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 prize!

9:00 – 11:00 PM

Whisky Tasting—The Final Frontier (21+ only)

Matt Crawford

Michigan B

This is the Last Supping, the twelfth and final consecutive Whisky Tasting. Whisky disciples are called to explore the edges and new frontiers of the whisky world, after which they are encouraged to go forth and carry on the tradition.

9:00 PM – 12:00 AM

Social-Deduction Games: Werewolves of WeeM, and More

Steven Rider & 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!

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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 (some GF), fruit, yogurt, milk, coffee, and juices.

9:00 - 11:00 AM

Kill Dr. Lucky

Matt Crawford

Ravinia A

Kill Doctor Lucky is a sort of prequel to the game of Clue. Rather than solve the murder, players compete to commit it. Players maneuver for the opportunity to do away with their host, Doctor Lucky, unwitnessed by the others. But the good Doctor is 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 required, and each game takes less than an hour. We'll play several times. If you miss the first game, show up for the next, or the next.

9:30 - 11:00 AM

Writing & Publishing Science Fiction Thrillers

Lance Erlick

Willow

Come share in a discussion of writing and publishing today with an author of science fiction thrillers that are enjoyed by adult and young-adult audiences alike. Your host, who has written and published 11 novels, will discuss his writing processes and his experiences with self-publishing and traditional publishers.

Self- Discipline - GYST (Get Your Shit Together) (21+ only)

Kevin and Katie Casey

Birch

Almost everything rewarding and amazing in life is attained through self-discipline. Great relationships, financial stability, health, and wellness. In this class, Kevin and Katie share how essential self-discipline is and provide tactics and tools to Get Your Shit Together. This is a blunt, hilarious, powerful class. Bring your thick skin and backbone, and come hear the message we all need to hear at some point in our lives. Time to stop the chaos and unnecessary suffering, and create an amazing life! PLEASE NOTE: THIS PROGRAM *MAY* LAST 2 HOURS, NOT 90 MINUTES.

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9:30 - 11:00 AM, cont'd.

Facing the Future
Scott Smith

Michigan A

Facial-recognition technology is changing our world. Advertisers and governmental agencies are using your face, whether you like it or not.

10:00 AM - Noon

Acrylic Pouring: Seeing Beauty in the Messiness of Life (Limited attendance!)
Tara Travia



Elm

Participants will create a unique work of art using the acrylic pour method. We will work on combining colors and working with this "flow" art. Life is messy and so is this art form, and in the process of making a mess, you will create something beautiful and unique, just like you! This class is hands-on and messy, please wear something you won't mind getting paint on. If you have a color combo in mind, let me know before the workshop and I can see about making sure we have those shades. You will take your art home at the end of the weekend: pieces take about 24 hours to dry.

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Autism and Alzheimer's: New Science on Causation, Prevention, and Treatment
Peter Kraus

Willow

The autism rate has gone from 1 in 10,000 in the 1980s to 1 in 36 today. Intellectual disability, meaning an I.Q. of less that 70, occurs in about 40% of autism cases. The pediatrician Paul Thomas, in his book "The Vaccine-Friendly Plan," explains that a modified vaccination schedule can reduce autism risk by 90%. Other research indicates that pesticide exposure can increase risk by 30 to 50%. Separately, there is evidence that most Alzheimer's cases are caused by chronic spirochetal infection of the brain, and that a repurposed drug, antabuse, is a specifically effective antibiotic.

Byronic Heroes Then and Now
Barbara Barnett

Michigan A

The "Byronic" hero is a classic literary archetype that has endured through the generations. Barnett will guide the audience (with plenty of opportunity for discussion) through understanding what makes this rather anti-heroic character intriguing both in classic literature and today's SFF in literature and film and all of pop culture.

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11:00 AM - 12:30 PM, cont'd.

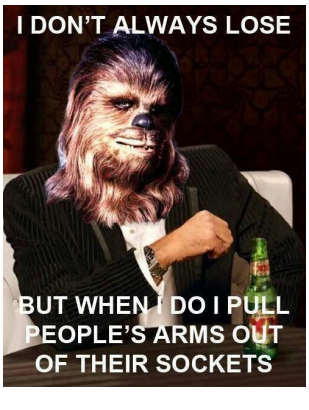
Science Time with Timmy - Episode 4

Timmy King

THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN MOVED TO SATURDAY, 2:30, IN MICHIGAN B.

An eclectic blend of all the things you want to know, without the hassle of actually studying the things you need to understand. In this episode, we start with a discussion of radiation, which leads to black body radiation, and (of course) Einstein's theory of Special Relativity (which Galileo first postulated in 1832). But we can't stop there. We need to continue to Einstein's General Relativity and the concept of SpaceTime. And, if time allows (pun intended), we will look into time dilation - and how time slows at or near the speed of light.

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM



Poker Tournament

Deb Johnston

Ravinia A

There's no entry fee for our traditional No Limit Texas Hold 'em Poker tournament. A little experience with Holdem poker is expected, and a healthy dose of luck is often required to win. All ages are welcome, and there will be a break for lunch.

Noon - 1:15 PM

Lunch Break

Hospitality

Award-winning bratwurst (GF) from Ream's Market, or Vegetarian Dogs (V), along with toppings, accompanied by sides.

1:00 - 2:30 PM

Journey Through Stroke & Dementia

Lance Erlick

Willow

On June 21, 2016, I received the call that changed my life. My brother had a stroke and needed my help. Then my mother showed signs of dementia and also needed help. Come join a discussion of the journey and challenges of becoming an unexpected caregiver, and what I've learned about stroke, dementia, and how to deal with taking responsibility for another person's life and care.



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1:00 – 2:30, cont'd.

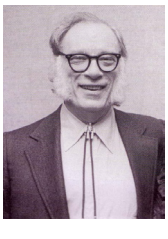
Chicago - Aviation's Incubator: How Chicago Shaped the U.S. Aviation Industry

Michael Haupt

Birch

Although aviation didn't originate in Chicago, more than any other city, it was Chicago, more than any other city, that nurtured the development of aviation in this country. Join us as Michael Haupt explores Chicago's long-overlooked role in shaping the aviation industry into a key part of the U.S. economy. Starting in 1910, the Chicago business community jumped into aviation with the same enthusiasm with which they rebuilt the city after the Great Fire. Over the next several decades, Chicago came to be called the "Air Capital of the United States."

A Centennial of Asimov



Ian Randal Strock

Michigan A

Isaac Asimov's business card read "natural resource," and he was. Author or editor of nearly 500 books, polymath, and science fictional icon, he was also a member of Mensa. January 2, 2020, will be the centennial of Asimov's birth. Ian Randal Strock worked with him for the last three years of his life and got to know him very well. Come hear tales of who he was, what he meant to science fiction, and what legacy he leaves.

A Community-Based Approach to Ending the Achievement Gap

Marcie Curry

Michigan B

Learn about Breakthrough Ministry's focus areas and key concepts to impact the East Garfield Park neighborhood of Chicago.

2:30 – 4:00 PM

M-Available SIG Meet and Greet (21 +)

Greg Holcombe

Willow

Come meet and mingle with your fellow M-Available SIG members! We will begin with a brief activity to get to know each other a bit; the rest of the time will be an unstructured environment for open-ended conversations with each other.

Star Wars Spoofs



Robert Finnegan

Birch

Great video parodies of "Star Wars" such as "Hardware Wars" and "George Lucas in Love," plus dozens of humorous clips from TV shows like "Robot Chicken" and "The Simpsons." Fun with Darth & Luke. From Bob Finnegan's vast collection.

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Wine Pairing 101 (21+ only)

Richard Poole

Elm

Do you get nervous when asked to bring a bottle of wine to a friend's dinner? Learn the art and science behind pairing wine and food (and sample typical wine types with cheese/chocolate) in this delicious and enlightening session of Epicurean delights! ***ATTENDANCE LIMITED!!!***

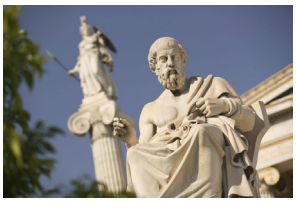


An Archaeology of Atlantis: Plato's Dialogues, Minoan Culture, and New Analytical Approaches

Christopher Kilgore

Michigan A

In Plato's dialogues, Atlantis is described as a circular island comprised of concentric zones of earth and water. A cosmopolitan city-state with a grand infrastructure, it supposedly exploded and sank into the ocean in a single day. Many modern archaeologists interpret Plato's tale as an oral tradition describing Minoan culture, which suffered a catastrophic volcanic explosion around 1,600 BC. Chris Kilgore will share new literary and iconographic parallels between ancient sources and modern cultures. Together, these suggest that cultural vestiges of "Atlantis" have survived to this day.



Social Media: A Multi-Generational Perspective

JD Gershbein

Michigan B

The force and ubiquity of social media are brought to bear on anyone who depends on an electronic device. These platforms have forever altered the ways in which people learn about the world around them and communicate with each other. Be it for love, friendship, or business, participation in the social networks satisfies the basic human need for community, and the behaviors exhibited on them reinforce the differences between each demographic cohort. How are Baby Boomers, Gen Xers, Millennials, and Gen Zers coexisting in an ever-evolving open system?



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2:30 – 5:00 PM

Legacies - Strategic Euro Game Playtest

Jason Brooks

Ravinia A

You are famous; one of the most well-known names of the early 19th century. That's not enough for you, though. You want to leave a legacy, with your name living far into the future. This strategic, mid-heavy weight euro challenges you to navigate events of the past, present, and future to cement your legacy. What kind of legacy will you create? How will YOU be remembered? Be one of the first to play the latest version of Legacies before it goes live on Kickstarter next month!

4:00 - 5:30 PM

GenX Meet and Greet (21 +)

Tabby Vos

Willow

Welcome to the GenX SIG! All Mensans born in the years 1961 through 1981 are eligible for membership. Come join us, and see what we are all about.

Name That Movie!

John Neemidge

Birch

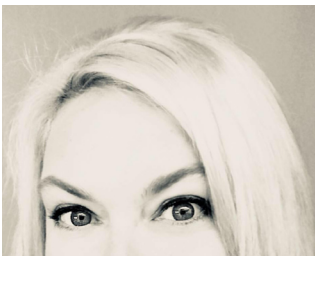
Name That Movie consists of short clips from about 40 movies. Each movie clip represents one or more themes. We ask that you identify each movie and the themes. Play as individuals or as a team of up to 5 people. We try to make each clip interesting on its own, so even if you don't know movies very well we hope the game will be entertaining. Clips (not the movies themselves) are chosen to be PG or G rated. We'll provide a key with information about each movie and themes at the end.

M-Pyre/Firehouse Meet & Greet

Laura King

Michigan A

Come join us to find out what M-Pyre & Firehouse are all about! This will be a casual M&G to come and hang out with friends new and old.



6:00 – 7:30 PM

Dinner

Hospitality

Italian Night. (Will include GF & V options.)

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

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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 like very much to hear the description of your costume.

9:00 – 10:30 PM

Hell's M's Meeting

Beth Weiss

Willow

HELL's M's are the party people! Come to our meeting and find out how to get an awesome attack-owl t-shirt. A motion to adjourn is always in order, but don't expect the first motion to be approved.

Really Odd & Special 8

Robert Finnegan

Birch

Special mechanical effects used in "Fantasia," nasty & nice piranhas, compare how famous actors looked when old & young. Helen Mirren talks about her first movie (age 24 with full nudity) plus more.

9:00 PM – Midnight

Social-Deduction Games: Werewolves of WeeM, and More

Steven Rider & 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!

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9:00 PM – Late

Friday-Night Dance with DJ Kenya
Kenya Hitchens

Michigan B



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).

10:00 PM – Late

Drunkards & Flagons (21+ only)
Nathaniel Arons

Ravinia A

D&F is the world's only fully featured easy-to-play Role-Playing Drinking Game. D&F debuted as a paid weekly event at Tokens & Tankards in Mount Prospect, IL. D&F is basically a night of drinking games with a plot! Play as the Hard-drinking Barbarian, the Bard, willing to finish his allies' drinks, possibly tipsy Wizard, skilled Fighter, hopefully steady-handed Ranger, sober Cleric, or the Human Bag-Of-Holding, in a game where each sip brings you one step closer to victory! NOTE: This is a 21+ event. This game involves actual drinking, moderate fantasy violence, and possible adult language and themes.

10:30 PM – Late

Friday Night Movie - "Toy Story 4"
Bob Finnegan

Birch

"Toy Story 4" - Probably the last Toy Story movie, with a scene that brought tears to the eyes of stars Tom Hanks & Tim Allen. Earned Pixar over a billion dollars worldwide. Rated G, run time = 1 hour, 40 minutes plus all the best extras. Blu-ray.



To Inquiry...
and Beyond!

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Saturday

8:00 – 9:30 AM

Breakfast

Hospitality

Continental Breakfast plus Hot Breakfast Specials: Scrambled Eggs (V); Egg, Sausage & Potato Bake; Waffles (V); and Breakfast Meats (bacon is GF).

9:00 – 11:00 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!

9:30 – 11:00 AM

Everything I Need to Know About Mensa I Learned in Scouts

Stephen Schneider

Willow

Exploration of how growing up in Scouts has led to a better life, including preparation for being a Mensan.

The Illinois Lottery: Has it Made "Anything Possible" for Our Students?

Anthony DeLegge

Birch

The state of Illinois began its state lottery in 1974. One of the most profitable state lotteries, it earns over $2 billion in revenue annually, with about 30% of that going to our state public schools. But, why is it 30%, specifically? And, how important is the lottery to the state budget-wise, especially since Illinois also has riverboat gambling? We will explore the history of gambling in Illinois, along with the mathematics behind how lotteries work and some of the ethical considerations when operating a state lottery, including its effects on education.

Publishing and Getting Paid in the Era of DIY and Kickstarter

Ian Randal Strock

Michigan B

You've written a book. Congratulations! Now what? Do you look for a traditional publisher? How? Do you self-publish it? How? And most important, how do you get paid for it? Ian Randal Strock has published several books traditionally, and a few more via more modern means. As the publisher of Fantastic Books, he's run several successful Kickstarter campaigns and will share hints and details on how to succeed, no matter which path you choose.

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9:30 – 11:00 AM, cont'd.

Trick Questions and Nooks and Crannies of US History

EJBoris [*sic*]

Michigan A

The title kind of says it all, doesn't it? See if you can guess the tricks. Check if you already know the obscure corners.

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Artificial Intelligence: Promise & Peril

Lance Erlick

Willow

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 researched and written three novels on this topic ("The Android Chronicles") and plans more. Come join a discussion of the promise of AI: myths, threats, and what we should know about developments that will change our world.



A More-or-Less Concise History of the English Language

Jennifer Murtoff

Birch

English is one of the world's most mystifying languages, especially when it comes to spelling and pronunciation! Take, for example, the words rough, trough, laugh, through, and tough. For a *lingua franca*, it's fabulously frustrating. After her 2018 WeeM presentation titled "Latin to Spanish," Jen had a request to expound on the various vagaries of the English idiom. In this presentation, she hopes to distill centuries of linguistic history into a concise and cogent summary of the wonders of our mother tongue.

Human Hungry Hungry Hippos

Heather Booton

Botanic

The fun, human version of the popular board game is back again this year! See the PAAG for more detais.



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11:00 AM – 12:30 PM, cont'd.

Isolated M Meet & Greet

Bryan Lundgren

Elm

Isolated M is about travel, humor, and a newsletter that has been knitting scattered Mensans together for 46 years. Members: Do you have a story for us today? Why did you join? What do you enjoy? How did you connect and feel like a member of this particular tribe? Potential members: Why are you curious about us? What are your initial impressions? Do you have expectations, or are just open to the universe of possibles?

ImprovThis: The Three Pillars of Improv

Steven Duberchin

Michigan A

LIMITED ATTENDANCE: Due to the intimate nature of this session, attendance will be limited to appx. 20 people. Have you seen Improv live on stage or on TV and wondered, "How do they make it all work?" The answer is surprisingly simple: it's the Three Pillars of Improv. In this session, Steve Duberchin from "ImprovThis" will facilitate a fun workshop where you'll be up and improvising side by side with seasoned improvisers. We'll be exploring the Three Pillars of Improv by playing in "games" and "scenes." Prepare to have a lot of fun, think on your feet, and maybe even learn something new!

Why Do Power Exchange – A Psychologist's Perspective (21+ only)

Kevin and Katie Casey

Michigan B



Kevin is a retired psychologist who spent many years providing relationship counseling. All those years of helping regular-style relationships continually highlighted the exceptional benefits and tools a Power Exchange relationship can offer. They will answer questions such as: Why should you consider entering into a Power Exchange relationship? How might a Power Exchange dynamic help avoid the challenges often faced in a regular relationship? How does a Power Exchange relationship change the way couples approach Entropy and Growth? Is this style realistic and sustainable? PLEASE NOTE: THIS PROGRAM LASTS 2 HOURS, NOT 90 MINUTES.

Noon – 1:15 PM

Lunch Break

Hospitality

Pulled pork or pulled chicken sandwiches; veggie burgers; baked potato bar with a selection of toppings.

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1:00 – 2:30 PM

What Car Maintenance Can I Still Do Myself?

Len Hiznay

Birch

As our cars get more fuel efficient and last longer, they are also getting more complicated and more computerized. But don't despair! There are still plenty of maintenance repairs and routine inspections that owners can do themselves. And when you can't do it yourself, how do you choose a technician? With a minimal amount of mechanical aptitude and a few specialty tools, consumers can still perform many recommended tasks to save money, stay safe, and feel the accomplishment of doing something yourself. Come on and let's get dirty!

The Best of Disney's True-Life Adventures

Robert Finnegan

Birch

Disney revolutionized nature films with his True-Life Adventure films, putting the vast talents of his giant studio into what had been a low-budget market. Clips not seen at the April Monthly Meeting include "Perri," square-dancing scorpions, a rhino stuck in mud, otters playing with gators and prairie dogs, and a squirrel riding a tortoise.

Roundtable: American Mensa's National Organization

Jon Gruebele

Elm

Please join members of American Mensa's Board of Directors (AMC) for a roundtable discussion about Mensa's national organization and current plans. We'll answer your questions, and probably ask you a few. Want to know how Mensa spends your dues money? Have an idea about how to make Mensa better? We'd love to hear your thoughts. This is your chance to learn about Mensa at the national level, and more important, let your AMC representatives know what you're thinking!

A Logical Journey

Ruth Danielle

Michigan A

What do you need to travel? An organized tour? An itinerary? Companions? Reservations? Visas? Guidebooks? Suitcases? Maybe not. Wandering alone while trusting serendipity led to this interesting three-month journey in 2018. Sri Lanka is an island the size of West Virginia with eight World Heritage sites. Then … India was close, just across the Palk Strait: colorful, tasty, inexpensive, with more friendly folks. And then … China appeared to be a logical next step. This is a testament to the theory that planning and money are not as necessary as a spirit of adventure when you want to see the world.

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1:00 – 2:30 PM, cont'd.

Wild Boar to Baconfest: Pigs in History and Popular Culture

Cynthia Clampitt

Michigan B

Pigs were the first food animals to be domesticated, and culinary traditions we still pursue (from sausage and bacon to hunting truffles) stretch back into antiquity. Pork was virtually the only meat available to most of Medieval Europe, and if you ask for meat in China, you will get pork. It is, in fact, the most commonly eaten meat in the world. Celebrated at fairs and looked to for medical research, pigs offer culinary delight and potential promise but also create some challenges. So the topic of pigs is as far-ranging as the pigs themselves.

1:30 – 3:30 PM

LEGO Improv Tournament

Clyde Forrester

Ravinia A

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



All-new
Colorado Edition!

2:30 – 4:00 PM

A History & Celebration of MAD Magazine

Alan Baltis

Willow



MAD has looked at the world through smart, satirical eyes for 70 years and influenced generations to distrust blowhards of all stripes. It introduced Fold-Ins, Spy vs. Spy, Drawn-Out Dramas, The Lighter Side, and Snappy Answers to Stupid Questions, and injected Alfred E. Neumann's gap-toothed grin into the world. We'll hit the high points of MAD history, check out famous MAD covers, and revel in the work of dozens of The Usual Gang of Idiots. Hear about Alan's visit to MAD's NYC offices in spring of 1978. Virtually every comedian of the last 60 years cites "Mad" as an influence & inspiration: come see why!

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."

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2:30 – 4:00 PM, cont'd.

The Return of the Vinyl Junkie
Mike Wolstein

Birch

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

Improv Comedy Show: The BlueBs
Steve Duberchin

Michigan A

Join us as we present an improvised comedy about everything and anything. Maybe we'll do a long-form montage or maybe we'll end up putting together a running order of short-form "games." We just never know what we'll be doing until we get on stage. We'll use your suggestions to improvise scenes that will have you thinking, laughing, and maybe even groaning. This will be a unique performance, as these scenes have never been performed before and most likely will never be performed again.

Science Time with Timmy - Episode 4
Timmy King

Michigan B

(See the full description of Science Time at the top of page 15.)

Magic The Gathering: For Beginners
Michael Bratkovich

Botanic

This is an introduction to the popular trading card game Magic the Gathering. You will receive a free introductory deck to use and play with. Come and have fun!

4:00 – 5:30 PM

Vegas Unmasked
Megan Edwards

Willow

Las Vegas is known widely for her fabulous persona and ribald behavior. That's fine with her, because you might not keep coming to visit if you saw what she looks like without makeup and feathers. In this illustrated talk, find out what Vegas is like underneath the stereotypes. Get the answers to questions you never knew to ask, like why are there so many flavors of SPAM in the supermarkets, and what is that strange-looking structure on the side of Sunrise Mountain? Bring your own observations, too, please!

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Sir Ernest Shackleton and the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration

Ken Levine

Birch

Ernest Shackleton, an Antarctic explorer, became well-known for his bravery and leadership. During his Endurance Expedition, his skills resulted in the survival and safe return of all 28 men from his ship, overcoming unimaginable odds. This program covers Shackleton's biography and his four Antarctic expeditions and includes interesting facts about other explorers. Slides will include actual period photos from these expeditions as well as Ken's personal photos taken at several of these locations.

Aquatic Nuisance Species: Asian Carp and their Migration to the Great Lakes

Mike McInerney

Michigan A

Bighead and Silver Carp are the primary Asian carp aquatic nuisance species. By outcompeting native fish, they are endangering the fishing industry. And because they are non-native species, they have few, if any, natural predators. The migration of Asian carp northward is a major risk facing the Great Lakes today. The presentation will cover Asian carp characteristics; history of Asian carp migration; the range of options and technologies to prevent movement towards the Great Lakes; and current dispersal methods such as electric barriers on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal.

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 of trivia 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 get your materials and the good seats. This is pub trivia, so bring your beverage of choice with you. No children under 13, please.

Telestrations Tournament

Ravinia A

Have you ever played Telephone? Pictionary? And have you ever wondered what it would be like if those two games met at a games convention and dated and fell in love and got married and had a game-child which they named Telestrations? Wonder no more.

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" up and down Milwaukee Ave.

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PLEASE NOTE:
The alcohol in Pretentious Drinking MUST remain in Botanic.
Please conform to this rule, and help us maintain our wonderful relationship with the hotel.
Thank you.

6:00 – 7:30 PM

Poly Smarts for Amorous Hearts (Making Relationships Easy, From A to MTINYTBYTIOK)

Leon Feingold

Willow

Polyamorous relationships conform to the needs and wants of the people involved, rather than socially-imposed restrictions. Leon offers insight through his journey in finding polyamory as the means to creating intimate, valuable relationships with multiple people. He will be screening his TED Talk video, then lead a discussion on on polyamory and related topics.

7:30 – 9:00 PM

The Epicurean Experience

Sue and Steve Davidson

Michigan B

Have you ever watched "The Empire Strikes Back" and thought to yourself, "Gee, I wonder what a weird assortment of food loosely themed after the 'Star Wars' franchise would taste like?" The better question, quite frankly, is, "Who hasn't thought this?" Well, wonder no longer: this is your chance to find out! Come sample this year's array of tids and bits and decide which ones are Jedi-worthy, and which ones deserve to be tossed into the Sarlacc pit. Enjoy some Bantha milk and other (non-alcoholic) beverages at our very own tribute to the Mos Eisley Cantina. (Just keep your hands above the table, Greedo.) As always, 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. Please note: we aren't serving a meal, just samples and sips, so come for curiosity, not dinner.

6:00 – 7:30 PM

Meeting of Minds 4

Bob Finnegan

Willow

Instead of 4 historical people debating each other, we have William Shakespeare being grilled by his own creations – Othello, Hamlet, Romeo, Juliet, Iago, Desdemona & the Dark Lady of the Sonnets, with much of the dialogue in verse!

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8:30 – 10:30 PM

Pretentious Drinking **(21 and older)**
Alan Baltis and his Merry Band of Pourmeisters

Botanic



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.

9:00 PM – Late

Social Deduction Games
Steven Rider & Jason Catena

Elm

Come play Werewolf! Also Secret Hitler/Trump, and other games. The more the merrier!

10:30 PM – Late

Saturday Night Movie - "Spider-Man: Far from Home"
Bob Finnegan

Birch

Probably the last Spider Man movie from Marvel. Earned them over 1 billion dollars worldwide. Takes place after Avengers: Endgame. Spidey helps Nick Fury save Europe from Mysterio (Jake Gyllenhaal). Rated PG-13. Run-time = 2 hours, 9 minutes plus all the best extras. Blu-ray.

Saturday Night Karaoke Dance
Theo Sparks and DJ "That Guy" Jon

Botanic

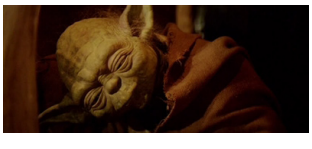
Join us for a fun night of music and dancing. If you wish to sing, please see either KJ Theo or KJ "That Guy" Jon at the booth, and we'll do our best to get you up as quickly as possible. Please remember that this is supposed to be a dance, so please make your music selections with that in mind. This way, we can all be responsible for having a great time!

2:00 AM – 1:00 AM

Sleep More

Everywhere in this hotel

Or play more double-deck elimination hearts: your clock has been set back!



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Sunday

8:00 – 9:30 AM

Breakfast
Hospitality

Continental breakfast plus hot breakfast specials … scrambled eggs (V); egg, sausage & potato bake; waffles (V), and breakfast meats (bacon is GF).

9:30 - 11:00 AM

Amazing Race - WeeM Style
Jill Sackett

Michigan B

Back for a seventh year, Amazing Race for Mensans is *The Place To Be* 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 TV show is needed. 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 over 30 of your fellow Mensans with a ton of fun!

10:00 – 11:00 AM

CAM Board Meeting
Willow

In order to best serve the people who elected us, we meet regularly, discuss things, vote on things, and decide things, always emphasizing and advancing the common good. Kinda what the U.S. Senate doesn't do.

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Awards and Announcements
Hosted by Heather Booton

Ravinia C/D/F (Hospitality)

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

Nathaniel Arons

Drunkards & Flagons (Fri.)

Nathaniel L. Arons is a game designer and former C.E.O. of Just Game L.L.C. Nathaniel has been involved in the creation of three games, and is an official play-tester for Dungeons and Dragons. Drunkards and Flagons is the first game created entirely by Nathaniel.

Alan Baltis

A History & Celebration of MAD Magazine (Sat.)

Alan is an alpha geek, an app/Web site/database developer, consultant, author, & speaker. Reader & collector of comic books (>40,000), tens of thousands of magazines, books, puzzles, games, CDs & LPs. Hiker & traveler, been to 48/50 state capitols & dozens of National Parks with his wonderful M wife, Colleen. Hugged 833 people in an hour, a world record at the time. 40-year & life member of Mensa. 2013: won on "Jeopardy," baby! E-mail him at alanbaltis@thesmartlife.com, friend him on Facebook.

Barbara Barnett

Byronic Heroes Then and Now (Fri.)

Barbara Barnett is the author of the forthcoming "Alchemy of Glass" (due out early 2020 from Pyr), the sequel to the Bram Stoker Award-nominated "The Apothecary's Curse." Barbara is an accomplished speaker, having appeared at numerous fan and professional writers' conventions and conferences, including the MENSA National Gathering in 2018. Her book on the TV show "House, M.D." is currently in print in four languages and is considered the quintessential guide to understanding the show & characters.

Heather Booton

Human Hungry Hungry Hippos (Sat.)

Heather Booton is not only an experienced and decorated Hungry Hungry Hippos Referee, she's also your fearless WeeM Chair. Winner of a Nobel Prize in meeting and RG planning, she surely wasn't the first to realize that you can write anything in these bios because almost no one reads them. Look for her around the event in her well-polished tiara, and remember the duck: calm on the surface, but paddling like hell underneath.

EJBoris [*sic*]

Trick Questions and Nooks and Crannies of US History (Sat.)

I'm filled with a variety of fascinating and utterly useless information. Previous: English royalty, English nobility ... and on and on (and on). Switching to US this time.

Michael Bratkovich

Magic The Gathering: For Beginners (Sat.)

Michael Bratkovich is a member of Chicago Area Mensa and a Magic the Gathering aficionado. When he's not pretending to have fantastical creatures fight other fantastical creatures, he's also a math teacher, husband, and father of two small children. Erik Feucht and Matt Sada are joining him in this program.

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Jason Brooks

Legacies - Strategy Game Playtest (Fri.)

Long-time Mensa member Jason Brooks has been designing games since Chicago hosted Mind Games in 2016. Jason's design/publishing company, Brookspun Games, is launching Legacies as its first Kickstarter next month. While the variety of Jason's designs runs the gamut, his favorite games are mid-heavy weight euros.

Kevin and Katie Casey

Self- Discipline - GYST (Fri.), Why Do Power Exchange? (Sat.)

Kevin and Katie have been in a Total Authority Transfer for 17 years, and are the recipients of the 2017 International Power Exchange title. Kevin is a retired psychologist and Katie is Yoda in a corset. They are both on the Science of BDSM Research Team. Their presentations mix humor, honesty, and practical strategies, helping people optimize relationships and personal growth. They are passionate about teaching, board games, and eroticism.

Cynthia Clampitt

Wild Boar to Baconfest (Sat.)

Clampitt has written about food history for 25 years and has researched history and food in thirty-seven countries on six continents. She is the author of "Pigs, Pork, and Heartland Hogs: From Wild Boar to Baconfest" and "Midwest Maize: How Corn Shaped the U.S. Heartland." In addition, she contributed articles to the "Food Cultures of the World Encyclopedia" and the "Encyclopedia of Chicago Food and Drink." She is a member of the Culinary Historians of Chicago and the Midwestern History Association.

Matt Crawford

Whisky Tasting—The Final Frontier (Thurs.), Kill Dr. Lucky (Fri.)

Matt has been fortifying and illuminating dispirited Thursday-night WeeM audiences for twelve years, and delivering other presentations on an occasional basis. By day, he manages projects at the Really Big Science Laboratory in Batavia. By night, he games and builds.

Marcie Curry

A Community-Based Approach to Ending the Achievement Gap (Fri.)

Marcie Curry is a Senior Director at Breakthrough Urban Ministries, a community organization located in East Garfield Park, a West Side Chicago neighborhood. Marcie holds a BA in Secondary English Education (1997), an MA in Educational Leadership/Organizational Change (2012), and an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership (2017). Marcie and her family have lived in East Garfield Park, where Breakthrough is located, for 19 years.



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Ruth Danielle

A Logical Journey (Sat.)

Ruth Danielle spent 25 years earning an M.M. in voice from Northwestern. Her longest job was with the Chicago Symphony Chorus; there were hundreds of other less interesting ones. Mensa changed her life: she became a local group officer and graduated to Honcho of the Isolated M SIG. She haphazardly wanders the world, shares her travel adventures through her presentations, creates jewelry, and still sings.

Sue and Steve Davidson

The Epicurean Experience (Sat.)

Sue and Steve are excited about presenting another edition of the Epicurean Experience. Sue is a 4th-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 4th grader

Anthony DeLegge

The Illinois Lottery: Has it Made "Anything Possible" for Our Students? (Sat.)

Anthony DeLegge, Ph.D, is an associate professor of mathematics at Benedictine University (Lisle, IL) since 2010. His research interests include epidemic modeling, social-network modeling, and games and probability. When not teaching, he is also a secret shopper for regional casinos and, despite knowing the odds, indulges in a Powerball or Mega Millions ticket now and then.

Steve Duberchin (The BlueBs)

ImprovThis: The Three Pillars of Improv, Improv Comedy Show: The BlueBs (Sat.)

President & CEO of "ImprovThis," Steve earned his MBA from DePaul University and has worked at Fortune 50 and Ad Age 50 companies. He found his true passion when he took his first improv class at the Second City Training Center in 2002. ImprovThis focuses on training people in communication and leadership skills through the use of the "Three Pillars of Improv" and Steve instructs teams how to communicate more effectively, grow their emotional intelligence, and create a positive corporate culture.

Two Mensan-based improv troupes, Crazy Shades of Blue and the Queen Bees, come together to perform at 'Weem as the BlueBs!

Megan Edwards

Vegas Unmasked (Sat.)

When research for a novel drew Megan Edwards unwillingly to Las Vegas, she expected to stay only as long as absolutely necessary: three weeks at the most. But Las Vegas changed her mind, and she's still there 19 years later. The author of 5 books, including 3 award-winning novels, Edwards is founder and editor of "Living-Las-Vegas.com," a contributor to Southern Nevada's NPR magazine, and a frequent speaker on what has become her favorite topc: fabulous - and fabulously misunderstood - Las Vegas.

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Lance Erlick

Writing & Publishing Science Fiction Thrillers (Fri.), Journey Through Stroke & Dementia (Fri.), Artificial Intelligence Promise & Peril (Sat.)

Lance Erlick writes science fiction thrillers. In the "Rebel" series, Annabelle Scott struggles with her conscience in a world turned upside down. In the "Regina Shen" series, Regina Shen tries to survive in a world after abrupt climate change leads to the Great Collapse and a World Federation. "Xenogeneic: First Contact" is about encounters with alien pilgrims aiming to take over Earth. His latest series, "Android Chronicles" (beginning with "Reborn") is about an advanced android that rebels against its creator and seeks to be treated as a human.

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 (Thur.)

Clyde has been a Mensan for over 30 years. He comes from a long line of tinkerers and ne'er-do-well musicians, which led to his gravitating to music, computers, and LEGO.

J D Gershbein

Social Media: A Multi-Generational Perspective (Fri.)

As a business psychologist, speaker, facilitator, and new media producer, J D Gershbein has educated audiences all over the globe on how to successfully leverage the social channels. He is widely regarded as one of the world's top LinkedIn strategists and a thought leader in the areas of personal branding, social networking, and social entrepreneurship. He has been featured on major television and radio news outlets and contributed written work to many of the top online business publications.

Justin Gordon

Holocaust Postal History (Thur.)

Postal historian Justin Gordon has collected, exhibited, and lectured on the postal history of the Holocaust for over 40 years. He and his wife live in Skokie, IL.

Jon Gruebele

Roundtable: American Mensa's National Organization (Sat.)

Jon Gruebele is in his second term as Vice Chair for Region 4 on Mensa's national Board of Directors (AMC). He's a proctor and former LocSec. A veteran of 35 years with an Illinois-based Fortune 50 company, Jon has a wealth of experience in strategy development, process improvement, quality, IT, and international marketing.

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Michael Haupt

Chicago - Aviation's Incubator: How Chicago Shaped the U.S. Aviation Industry (Fri.)

Michael Haupt is a recognized aviation historian, having made presentations on aviation history to numerous aviation and community groups, including an EAA AirVenture forum and the Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame. "Aviation Chicago Timeline," Michael's first book, is a product of his insatiable curiosity and research coupled with a fastidious attention to detail. The result is a fascinating history revealing many events which have long been forgotten.

Kenya Hitchens

WeeM Pub Trivia (Sat.), Friday-Night Dance (Duh.)

Kenya is an experienced DJ, with a side career that started promisingly 17 years ago emceeing wedding receptions and private parties, but then quickly spiraled downward to DJ'ing Mensa dances. When she started hosting Pub Trivia, she was eminently and definitively unqualified to do so. However, since then she has hosted pub quiz at numerous RGs and Mensa events, as well as become a multi-venue weekly quiz host for Geeks Who Drink.

Len Hiznay

What Car Maintenance Can I Still Do Myself? (Sat.)

My career history includes automotive technician, auto-repair shop owner, and auto-parts store manager. As a lifelong "gear head" and auto enthusiast, I have, together with my son, owned and repaired go karts, motorcycles, and too many cars and trucks to count. To me, a day spent in the garage is like a vacation. As an award-winning member of Toastmasters International, I am thrilled to be invited back to your Mensa convention for my 5th year.

Greg Holcombe

M-Available Meet & Greet (Fri.)

Greg Holcombe is a Life Member of Mensa and currently serves as the coordinator of the M-Available SIG.

Deb Johnston

Poker Tournament (Fri.)

Deb has been a Mensa member for over 20 years. She has been organizing tournaments for several years.

Christopher Kilgore

An Archaeology of Atlantis: Plato's Dialogues, Minoan Culture, and New Analytical Approaches (Fri.)

Chris Kilgore, Mr. Mensa 2018, is a cognitive archaeologist, art historian, and raconteur based in Houston. He has spoken at numerous RGs and AGs and has presented his original research in the United States, France, Britain, Spain, and Belgium. He is a featured lecturer in the *École Doctorale* of France's *Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle*, the world's oldest natural history museum. Chris received his MA in Art History from the University of Houston, where he was Art History Writing Fellow.

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Laura King

M-Pyre/Firehouse Meet & Greet (Fri.)

Laura has no qualifications to run a Meet & Greet. Come on in and join the train wreck that is bound to happen!

Timmy King

Science Time with Timmy - Episode 4 (Fri.)

Renaissance man, philanthropist, world-class athlete. None of these terms has ever been used to describe Timmy King. Founder of the Central Illinois Cicada Rescue Society, he and his associates have saved over 2 million cicadas from tragic and untimely death. Timmy has an uncanny ability to watch YouTube videos and repeat words and phrases that he does not understand. But don't let that frighten you: there are so many other frightening aspects to his presentations.

Peter Kraus

Autism and Alzheimer's: New science on causation, prevention, and treatment (Fri.)

Peter Kraus worked as an actuarial analyst before developing an interest in the evolution of thought and practice in the medical sciences. He also enjoyed playing the tuba as an amateur musician, until discovering (after some 40 years) that the tuba is generally assigned the LEAST interesting band part! Separately, as program co-chair for the Chicago Area Mensa monthly meetings, he enjoys lining up speakers/performers on a variety of topics.

Ken Levine

Sir Ernest Shackleton (Sat.)

Ken Levine first went to Antarctica in 2001. He subsequently developed a passion for the history of polar exploration. This and subsequent trips include the Geographic South Pole, South Georgia Island and McMurdo Sound. He has examined Antarctic exhibits in the U.K., Ireland, Norway, Chile, Australia and New Zealand. He has an extensive library of books and videos of polar history and the era called the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration. Ken loves to share his experiences and knowledge.

Bryan Lundgren

Isolated M Meet & Greet (Fri.)

Bryan is a Mensa Life Member and a retired automation engineer who enjoys national parks and attending RGs. He says, "The world needs more kindness, humor, human contact, and joy, served with humility. Isolated M is where anyone may practice these activities."

Mike McInerney

Aquatic Nuisance Species (Fri.)

Mike McInerney is an Electrical Engineer with a research background in electromagnetics and electrical systems. During his over 35 years of experience, he has conducted many research projects related to effects of electric fields on infrastructure, equipment, and fish. Since 2005 he has been conducting studies of barrier safety and effectiveness on the electric dispersal barriers located on the canal near Romeoville, IL. Mike is a Registered Professional Engineer.

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Marssie Mencotti

Four Support People You Need for Self-Publishing (Thur.)

Former tenured Associate Professor at Columbia College, Chicago, Marssie completed her MA in Creative Writing at Northwestern in 2017. She is currently a writer, actor, voiceover talent, and adjunct teacher of Voiceover Demo Production at Columbia College. Her novel "Pro Patria" was completed and self-published in 2018.

Jennifer Murtoff

A More-or-Less Concise History of the English Language (Sat.)

Jennifer Murtoff has a master's degree in Hispanic linguistics from Ohio State University. A wanna-be polyglot from age 3, she has used her language abilities for medical translation, reading Roman inscriptions, teaching chicken-keeping classes, having a multi-cultural jam session in Ravenna, getting directions from a Swiss postal bus driver, editing a romance novel, chatting with Brazilians on a cruise ship, and ordering pharmaceuticals in Russia, Italy, Montenegro, and Colombia.

John Neemidge

Name That Movie! (Fri.)

Geri and John Neemidge are long-time Mensans and have presented their 'Name That Movie' game at every LonestaRG, other RGs, and several AGs. They love all sorts of movies and enjoy finding new and different ways to tie them together to amuse and challenge game audiences.

Richard Poole

Wine Pairing 101 (Fri.)

Richard is a certified sommelier and has spoken at other RGs on the science and art of wine pairing.

Jill Sackett

Amazing Race - WeeM Style (Sun.)

Jill is an Amazing Race fan, avid gamer, and occasional event-planner who's back for a seventh year 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.

Stephen Schneider

Everything I need to know about Mensa I learned in Scouts (Sat.)

Stephen is not only a Mensan, but also an Eagle Scout. Blending these two life experiences has led to some unique life views.

Scott Smith

Facing the Future (Fri.)

Scott Smith has worked in Information Technology for the past 30 years. He heads worldwide support for an investment management firm with offices on four continents. His primary area of interest is cybersecurity.

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Theo Sparks and Jon Fesi

Karaoke Dance (Sat.)

Theo has been in love with music since she was very young. She has suffered for her art. Now it's your turn!

Jon Fesi has been running karaoke shows, trivia contests, and good times for more than a decade. Weekly, he hosts at least three nights of karaoke a week and one night of trivia. His shows have been voted the best in the Tri-Cities area (St. Charles, Geneva, and Batavia).

Robert Stalzer

Costume Parade Emcee (Fri.)

Robert is a former Loc Sec and a three-time chairman of HalloweeM. He and his family live within the boundaries of the Des Plaines crater, from which he periodically emerges to attend Mensa events. Since 2001, this is his ninth time emceeing the costume party.

Cat Sterrett

How to Start or Stop What You're Doing! (Thur.)

Cat is a Life Member and has been active in Mensa for 35+ years at the national and local level. She has been a certified Fitness Trainer for about as long, and recently got certified as a Weight Management Specialist. Her research forms the basis of this program on Behavior Change.

Ian Randal Strock

A Centennial of Asimov (Fri.), Publishing and Getting Paid (Sat.)

Ian Randal Strock is the owner and publisher of Fantastic Books (www.FantasticBooks.biz), formerly an editor at Asimov's, Analog, Artemis, Baen, SF Chronicle, and many more. He is the author of "The Presidential Book of Lists" (Random House) and "Ranking the Vice Presidents" and "Ranking the First Ladies" (Carrel Books). His short fiction has appeared in "Analog," "Nature," and several anthologies. He is also the RVC of Region 1.

Glenn Sutton

Seven Wonders Tournament (Thurs.)

Glenn Sutton is a Mensa member and gamer. He has been running the Seven Wonders tournament since 2013.

Tara Travia

Acrylic Pouring: Seeing Beauty in the Messiness of Life (Fri.)

Tara Travia is a licensed psychologist, meditation instructor, and artist. As an artist, she helps others explore creativity while letting go of a need for perfection. She believes art can be a deeply effective form of personal and shared meditation. Tara is also an active member of Metropolitan Washington Mensa, co-chair of MWM's Regional Gatherings (Pandemic RG) since 2016, and has served as Publications Officer for her chapter in 2018-2019.

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Tabby Vos

GenX Meet and Greet (Fri.)

Tabby Vos is an ExComm member of the GenX SIG. She also serves as the Annual Gathering Chair for 2020 (Kansas City), as RG Co-Chair for Metropolitan Washington Mensa's PANDEMIC, and as the National Elections Chair.

Beth Weiss

HELL's M's Meeting (Fri.)

Beth Weiss is the coordinator of HELL's M's, the Party SIG of American Mensa. She believes in great parties, engaging conversations, and ending world hunger. She'll be taking the Party Animal vote on Sunday (starting at midnight).

Mike Wolstein

Return of the Vinyl Junkie (Sat.)

Thanks to my dad, who was (among other things) a musician, I have been an all-around music lover and record collector for 60 years.

Leon Feinstein

Poly Smarts for Amorous Hearts (Sat.)

Leon Feingold, former President Of Greater New York, has also been a professional baseball player, polyamory advocate and advice columnist with POLYquality.com, and co-founder of the House of Good Deeds, a 501c3 not-for-profit dedicated to encouraging altruism as a way of life. He is currently working on his first book, with the working title matching this talk's.

Very Special Thanks to:

Teresa Tucker, CAM's very own "Word Nerd," has been proofreading many things, including the WeeM program books, for a very long time. Watch "Star Wars" without wincing, she cannot, when Yoda speaking, she hears.

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Fellow Mensan **Jimmy Sun**, of **Sunrise Digital**, 5915 N. NW Hwy., Chi., 60631 (www.sunrisedigital.us, 773-792-8880), for the best printing service we've ever had.

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Beverages Co-Chair.....James Krupa
Decorations Chair..... Megan Bratkovich
Social Deduction Games.....Stephen Rider
WeeM Minion.....Janet Kotash
Front Cover Design..... Kerry Gudjonis

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

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

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