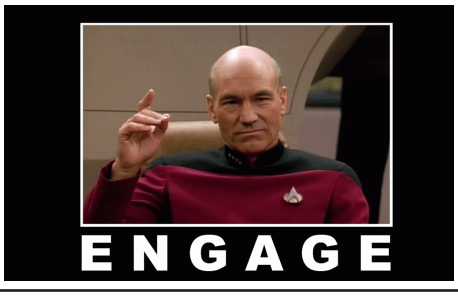


Hosted by Chicago Area Mensa



October 28-31, 2021

WeemProgram2021.indd 1 10/22/2021 11:21:32 AM



Notes from Heather Booton, HalloweeM Chair



Welcome! Thanks for joining us at "HalloweeM 45-The Vinyl Frontier." I'm truly glad you can attend this year. It's hard to believe that it's been 2 years since our last WeeM. The past 20 months have been challenging, and I'm so proud of the work that the WeeM TeaM has done to make this year a fun and safe event. Please be sure to thank them for their hard work. They can be identified by the purple WeeM TeaM ribbons on their badges.

I'm also very happy to see so many people signed up to attend. I'm eager to get back into in-person events, and I know that with the pre-cautions we have in place, we'll be able to do so in a safe way. Please make yourself familiar with our COVID policies and the new flow for food service in Hospitality. Flyers with details on this can be found at the registration desk.

Our Peace Force is back in action again. They are here to check badges, make sure alcohol is being consumed responsibly, ensure compliance with COVID protocols, and act as a friendly face in the unlikely event that you have any problems. They can be identified by their white hats. Feel free to approach them if you need anything.

We couldn't run WeeM without the help of great volunteers. To all of you who've already signed up for shifts—THANK YOU! If you haven't signed up yet, please consider helping out. Many hands make light work.

Given all that's been going on, there's so much I want to say about this year's RG, the challenges we've all faced, and how great it will be to spend time with this amazing group of people again. However, I'm also sure that we're all sick of hearing about "These uncertain/difficult/unprecedented times." I'll just say that I hope you have a great time at WeeM.

Live long and prosper.

WeemProgram2021.indd 2 10/22/2021 11:21:33 AM

Notes from the Program Chair

Welcome to WeeM 45: The Vinyl Frontier! It is SO GOOD to be back to hosting an in-person event, and as "normal" as I would like the schedule to be, I did have some tweaks and adjustments to accommodate in order to help make this a safer event for all of us. First off, we are operating on a slightly lower presentation load. I did not jam-pack the schedule, because that gives a little more time between some of the larger programs. I actually managed to give all of my speakers their first choice time slots! The tricky bit is trying to make sure there is always something interesting for everyone throughout the weekend, but without making everyone want to be in multiple places simultaneously! I tried... I really did! I do ask that you please be extra respectful to my speakers and volunteers - we all know that this has been a rather difficult 18 months, and I only ask for a little extra grace to those around you as we try to provide you with an event that will leave you with a full bucket and only positive memories.

I need to thank my amazing webmaster Barb Pohl for putting everything together on the website so that everyone had access to see program offerings before they were even scheduled! If you want to see the most updated schedule, I've created a bitly link to the Program-At-A-Glance (PAAG) for you: https://bit.ly/WeeM45PAAG This link will have the most up-to-date program changes, including changes or cancellations. As we get closer to the event, you will also be able to click on the links within the PAAG to get more information on each of the programs. There will also be printed versions of the PAAG available near registration. They may not be completely accurate with regard to any last minute changes, but they will be helpful to you throughout the weekend. Additionally, you may use your printed copy to leave me comments about your thoughts on WeeM 45. There will be a box near registration for you to leave your remarks.

In spite of the ongoing pandemic, we still have a robust schedule for each day of WeeM, although I definitely did cut down a bit on the Sunday programming as we are not getting that extra hour from daylight savings this year. Please do stick around for the announcements and awards, and remember to thank everyone that put in the time and effort to bring WeeM back to life this year!



Be safe, have fun, and in case you haven't already done it a thousand times... wash your hands.

Sincerely, Lacee Hudec, Program Chair

WeemProgram2021.indd 3 10/22/2021 11:21:33 AM

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 purple 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.

WeemProgram2021.indd 4 10/22/2021 11:21:33 AM

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. Food will NOT be permitted in the games room this year, but beverages are allowed. 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. **And friends, please, clean up after yourselves! Just like life: strive to leave the table better than when you sat down. If you drop something, don't leave it there. If something spills, contact a WeeM-Teamer or hotel staff. Thank you.**

WeemProgram2021.indd 5 10/22/2021 11:21:33 AM

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. (Please sign up for Hospitality in advance. Mealtime shifts begin 30 min. prior to posted meal times to allow for implementation of sanitation protocols.) In exchange for your time (4 hours or more), you get a HalloweeM volunteer collector's pin (pictured here) and a warm feeling deep inside. A volunteer grid will be posted near registration. Please sign up!



Of Special Note: Volunteer Drawing

We're holding a raffle to reward our valued volunteers. Volunteers will get a raffle ticket for every 2 hours they help. On our onsite sign-up board, certain volunteer slots will double (designated "warp-speed") or even triple (designated "trans-warp") the rate at which you accrue raffle tickets. Additionally, volunteers will receive double the normal number of raffle tickets for any slot they sign up for online, before WeeM begins. Logical, right? But wait - there's more! The very important Tear-Down slots will also be entered in a raffle of their own IN ADDITION TO the other raffles! NEW THIS YEAR: HalloweeM is modernizing! In addition to our on-site signup board, volunteers will be able to signup online from their phone or computer DURING WeeM! Volunteers do not need to be present at the raffle drawing to receive major prizes, but minor prizes (< $21 value) will be awarded only to those who are on-site during the awards ceremony.

So please, sign up. Just a few individuals can't do this alone; it takes a collective. The RG wins, our guests win, and you win!

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."

WeemProgram2021.indd 6 10/22/2021 11:21:34 AM

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 white hats. 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. Iguanas and cephalopods must be masked.

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 7:00 - 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. (Keep that in mind, if you're thinking about running for Congress or Supreme Court or something.)

LIKE THE LAST FEW YEARS: 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.

WeemProgram2021.indd 7 10/22/2021 11:21:34 AM

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.



WeemProgram2021.indd 8 10/22/2021 11:21:34 AM

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.

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 A & B

The Game Rooms 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 rooms: there have been reports of wild dingos maurauding (unmasked!) in the area.

Tournaments

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.

WeemProgram2021.indd 9 10/22/2021 11:21:34 AM

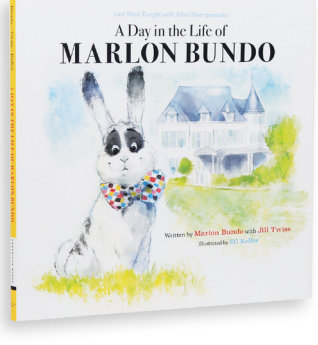
All Weekend

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

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 Bottom Line/Chicago, which provides services to high school juniors and seniors, and help to college students once they are there. Focused on first generation college students, they help HS students apply for colleges and financial aid and then make the choice of where to go to school. Once in school, they help the students in their DEAL model, (Degree, Employability, Aid, and Life.) They follow the students throughout their careers to make sure that they are making good choices in these areas. You can find out more at https://www.bottomline.org/.



Very Special Thanks to:

Fellow Mensan **Jimmy Sun**, of **Sunrise Hitek**, 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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WeemProgram2021.indd 10 10/22/2021 11:21:35 AM

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 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!

6:00 – 7:30 PM

Meet Your National Board of Directors (AMC)

Jon Gruebele

Elm



Jon Gruebele, your Region 4 Vice Chair, will moderate a discussion with any American Mensa Board of Directors (AMC) members attending 'WeeM. We'll be happy to entertain your questions, comments, ideas, complaints, suggestions, challenges, and whatever else you'd like to discuss. Please join us!

Seeking Spiceland

Cynthia Clampitt

River B

For most of recorded history, people searched for routes to southern India. Why? The world's most popular spices come from a small area at the tip of the subcontinent. The pursuit of these spices has had a tremendous impact on world events. However, today, tourists largely ignore this region, which is a pity. Southern India is a remarkable destination that is rich in history, beauty, gracious people, and wonderful food. Come learn a bit more about the spice trade, the place of southern India in world events, and the delights to be enjoyed there by a traveler today.



WeemProgram2021.indd 11 10/22/2021 11:21:35 AM

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Seven Wonders Tournament

Glenn Sutton

Michigan B



Come play & compete in Antoine Bauza's critically-acclaimed 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. Rounds have a time limit of 30 minutes each.

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.)

Please friends, make the effort to clean up after yourselves. Thank you!

7:30 – 9:00 PM

Magic and Demons in Jewish Lore and Law

Barbara Barnett



River B

Magic, demons, and all other things supernatural have been hovering about Jewish tradition from the time of the Bible. Join Barbara Barnett (who is a cantor (Hazzan) and member of the Jewish clergy) as she explores this little-known aspect of Jewish thought, which also just happens to be the subject of her latest novel!

Securing Your Artistic and Intellectual Property: Safe and Secure Photo and Document Storage

Karin Jones

Birch

Keeping your photos and documents safe in a world of hacks and fine print can be a challenge. Compare various websites and their fine print, including who now owns it after uploading, and what level of permanence is offered. This will extend to those sites that process old home movies and other sorts of outdated media. How do you keep your family memories, your creations, and your documents secured?

WeemProgram2021.indd 12 10/22/2021 11:21:36 AM

7:30 – 9:30 PM

Sexyg Fishbowl

Cat Sterrett & Steve Roberts

Michigan A



How do you invite someone to join you in a three-way? How do you introduce something kinky into your relationship? What is the upside/downside of an open relationship? The Internet may give you some ideas, but you can get practical information from people who've actually done it. Cat Sterrett and Steve Roberts will thoughtfully facilitate the discussion where you pose questions anonymously and the group answers them from various points of view. Adults Only!

9:00 – 11:00 PM

The Wonderful World of Whiskey or, Everything You Wanted to Know About Whiskey (But Were Afraid to Ask) (21+)

Lee Arhelger

Michigan B

Many people just don't know what whiskey is. We will explain how whiskey is different, and perhaps similar, to wine, beer, vodka, gin, brandy, tequila, and rum. We'll also explain that bourbon is a whiskey! Must be of drinking age. Must be vaccinated to attend. Max. attendence: 50.

9:00 PM – Late

Social-Deduction Games: Werewolves of WeeM

Stephen Rider

Elm

Are you a werewolf? If not, who is??? Come discover which of your friends is secretly harboring special dietary needs in this classic game of social deduction and cold-blooded murder. New players are welcome.



WeemProgram2021.indd 13 10/22/2021 11:21:36 AM

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

Friday

8:00 – 9:30 AM

Breakfast
Hospitality

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

Please friends, make the effort to clean up after yourselves. Thank you!

9:00 - 10:30 AM

MBTI - Myers Briggs Type Indicator
Stan Jones

River A

We live in a world of relationships. The challenge is to understand your specific personality type, and then to recognize and appreciate type differences in personal, business, and family relationships. This seminar focuses on the Myers-Briggs measure of personality and preferences, based on the work of Carl Jung. This course features a lecture, discussion, and individual type assessment with the Myers -Briggs Type Indicator.

10:30 AM - Noon

Nature's Best 5
Robert Finnegan

Birch

More of the best scenes from David Attenborough's many nature series. The most beautiful, the most interesting, the scariest.

Who Died and Left You in Charge? - Succession to the Throne of England
EJBoris



River B

The rules for who becomes the next monarch have not always been what they are now. Find out who came next, and why.

Noon - 1:15 PM

Lunch Break
Hospitality

Pub Burgers, Chicken Patties or Veggie Burgers (V), along with toppings, accompanied by sides.

WeemProgram2021.indd 14 10/22/2021 11:21:37 AM

1:00 - 2:30 PM

This Doesn't Ad Up – Spectacular Fails in Global Marketing

Kimberly Strickland

River B

Surely you have heard about the infamous, unfortunate story of Chevy marketing its Nova in Spanish speaking countries where the name means 'Won't Go.' Well, that one is actually an urban legend, but this program will touch upon lots of other true and truly epic marketing and branding fails from around the world. Enjoy some cultural blunders and a language faux pas or two and impress your friends at your next cocktail party or just relish in some good old-fashioned schadenfreude. Some adult language. (They started it.)







Illinois Railway Museum: Past, Present & Future

Ray Piesciuk

Birch

When it comes to railroads, Chicago has a richer and deeper history than anywhere else in the USA. Almost every family has at least one ancestor who worked in the railroad/ transit industry. From its humble beginnings, the Illinois Railway Museum has grown into the largest museum of its kind in the country, with the mission to educate the public about railway history. Former Museum President, Ray Piesciuk, speaks about the 70 year history of the Museum, highlighting key artifacts and the spirit of volunteerism, which is the backbone of the IRM.

Bird Brains: Flock Psychology

Jennifer Murtoff

Michigan A

Domesticated fowl are often written off as feather brained, hen pecked, or just plain chicken. But what do their behaviors really mean? Explore the dynamics of flock psychology and learn about what these underestimated barnyard fowl really think!

M-Available SIG Meet and Greet

Michigan B

Meet, mix, and mingle with your fellow romantically-available Mensans. A few brief opening remarks will be followed by unstructured time to get to know each other better.

WeemProgram2021.indd 15 10/22/2021 11:21:37 AM

2:30 – 4:00 PM

To Boldly See What Others Miss

Melissa Rennie

River B



Being aware of your surroundingss can lead to a connection to the natural world that most people miss. Having a camera to document your discoveries can result in amazing opportunities that you cannot experience elsewhere, discoveries that you can share with everyone.

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. His greatest success was his Endurance Expedition, 1914-1916, when his skills resulted in the survival and safe return of all 28 men from his ship, overcoming unimaginable odds. This expedition has become known as the greatest survival story of all time. The program covers Shackleton's biography and his four Antarctic expeditions, as well as interesting facts about other explorers on Shackleton's expeditions.

Firehouse SIG Meet and Greet

Susan Woodill & Andre Buisson

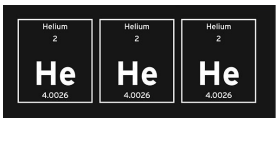
Elm

If you've heard of Firehouse, but you are not quite sure what it is, it's just a bunch of Ms that enjoy each other's company. If you are already a member, come meet some fellow Hosers in person. If you are not a member, come and say hello. We're harmless. I promise.

The Wonderful World of Pun Competitions – A Modest Travelogue

Gregg Siegel

Michigan A



Many of us like puns, but did you know that competitive punning is a real thing? This Mensan didn't either, but once he learned about it he jumped right in. Come see some of his performances—some successful, some not so much—at live and virtual venues around the world. He'll also challenge the audience with original pun puzzles, and discuss pun books, games and other fun pun stuff too. Yes, there is a world where puns are considered an art form, and inspire respect, not derision. Join us there.

NOTE: THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN MOVED TO 10:30 AM, SAME DAY, SAME ROOM.

WeemProgram2021.indd 16 10/22/2021 11:21:38 AM

2:30 – 4:00 PM, cont'd.

Cornhole Tournament

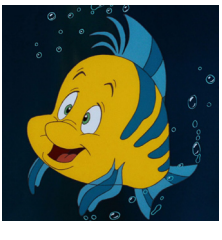
Michigan B

Come show off your bag-throwing skills. Games will be played with two teams of two. You are welcome to sign up with a partner, or we can get you a partner when the tournament starts. There is no one in charge of this event, so it may devolve into Australian-rules, full-contact, squid-hunger game, Mad Max mode. Bring shoulder pads and gasoline.

4:00 - 5:30 PM

Truncated Travels: Floundering in Florida

Ruth Danielle



River B

Can Florida's First City take the place of Athens, Greece? This desperate substitution turns out to be as much about the journey as it is about the destination. It is possible to be as disorganized in America as in Asia; it just costs a heck of a lot more. Henry Flagler's Key West journey started here, the first African-American settlement, historic hotels and houses, and the murder of the Mensa-qualified model add interesting sidelights.

You've Been Lied to about Physics (Because the Truth is Complicated)

Matt Crawford

Birch

This is not crank science, nor is it debunking of crank science. Rather, it is a rundown of some of the ways science findings have been distorted or simplified to the point of gross errors by popular media. From $E=mc^2$ to black holes in the laboratory, come and get the true stories.

Gen X Ms SIG Meet & Greet

Tom Schnorrenberg

Elm

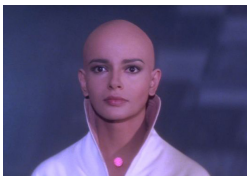
Welcome to the GenX SIG! All Mensans born in the years 1961 through 1981 are eligible for membership. Come join us, and see what we are all about.

Self-sufficient Ms - Carry-in & Seed Swap

Lacee Hudec

Hospitality (Ravinia C/D/F)

Pickled, canned, frozen, or foraged... share some of the bounty that you have made with other self-sufficient Ms. If you have (labeled) seeds to share, please bring those as well.



WeemProgram2021.indd 17 10/22/2021 11:21:38 AM

5:30 – 7:00 PM

Breaking the Big Tech Duopoly: How to Run a Smartphone Without Apple or Google

Stephen Rider

River B

Tired of having to choose which of two giant megacorporations you want to share all your personal data with? Do you just want to have a viable smartphone without Google or Apple peering over your shoulder? Come find out how to manage an Android-without-Google phone.

Michael Caine Teaches Class Acting in Movies

Robert Finnegan

Birch

With decades of experience, Michael Caine teaches young actors how stage acting differs from movie acting.

Gen Y Ms SIG Meet & Greet

Jennifer Morris

Elm

Join fellow members of the Gen Y Ms SIG to meet new friends, hang with folks you've known for years, and get more details on virtual and in-person SIG events! While Gen Y Ms is open to all, we are geared toward those born between 1976 and 1996. Come join our party! Please visit facebook.com/groups/GenYMs to join our active online presence. We look forward to meeting you virtually and at in-person events!

6:00 – 7:30 PM

Dinner

Hospitality

Meat and Veggie Lasagna or Chicken Tenders (GF) with sides.

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

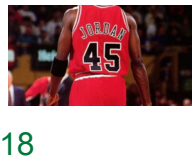
As always, make the effort to clean up after yourselves. Please leave the space in better shape than how you found it.Thank you!

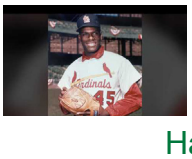
6:30 – 7:30 PM

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.







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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 – 11:00 PM

Curative Cocktails of the Past and Present, Both Proven and Alleged.

Nathaniel Arons

River A

Join me for a session of learning and drinking as we discuss and taste a night's worth of drinks both odd and delicious from different points in history. Each drink we will discuss was created specifically to heal or prevent one kind of illness or another. I will demonstrate the mixing of the drinks and we will discuss its invention and efficacy as we consume them. This event is meant for adults only, all participants must be 21 years old or older, fully vaccinated, and enjoy the drinking of alcoholic beverages. **Note: this program is limited to 20 people.**

Friday Night Movie: House of Games

Robert Finnegan



Birch

Pulitzer-Prize winning playwright David Mamet wrote and directed this film about a best-selling woman psychiatrist whose patient says he's going to kill himself because he has a huge gambling debt. She offers to help him and confronts the debtees, but she becomes fascinated by what they do and offers to pay them to teach her their tricks. That decision drastically changes her life. Learn about schemes like the fleur & the short con. Mamet is famous for writing about smart people and deep psychological subjects. Rated R for language. 1 hr., 37 min. plus interviews.

9:00 PM – Late

Social-Deduction Games: Werewolves of WeeM

Stephen Rider

Elm

Are you a werewolf? If not, who is??? Come discover which of your friends is secretly harboring special dietary needs in this classic game of social deduction and cold-blooded murder. New players welcome.

WeemProgram2021.indd 19 10/22/2021 11:21:38 AM

9:00 PM – Late, cont'd.

SmART Bar Beer, Mead, and Wine Exchange

Hospitality (Ravinia C/D)

Bring beer, mead, cider, and/or wine to share.





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 plus Hot Breakfast Specials: Scrambled Eggs (V); egg, bacon & cheese scramble; and Breakfast Meats (bacon is GF).

Please remember to clean up after yourself. Thank you!

9:00 – 10:30 AM

Magic: The Gathering Commander (EDH)

Michael Bratkovich

River A

Whether you have heard of it or not, there is a multiplayer way to play magic. Formerly called Elder Dragon Highlander (EDH), Commander is a 4 player free for all (usually casual) format. Bring your own deck or try out one of ours and be the last person standing to win a sense of being a winner!

Telling Your Story

Karin Jones

Birch

We all have a story to tell. Putting it in writing and making it accessible to those who want to read it can be a challenge. This session presents a way to proceed in a systematic, organized manner that can help you get started. There is also an opportunity for regular follow-up to keep you on track to finish. This can be used to tell your own story or those of your parents and grandparents. Just 30 to 60 minutes per week is all it takes. Get a jumpstart here in this session.



WeemProgram2021.indd 20 10/22/2021 11:21:39 AM

9:00 – 10:30 AM, cont'd.

The Servant Leadership Dynamic between Branch Rickey & Jackie Robinson: How They Changed Baseball and Our Country

Merle Branner

Michigan A



The term "Servant Leadership" was coined by Robert Greenleaf in 1970. In his essay, The Servant as Leader, Greenleaf stressed that if one wants to be a leader, one must be a servant first. He felt that leadership starts with the desire to serve others. One then makes a conscious choice that takes one on a journey to leadership. Jackie Robinson and Branch Rickey and their desire to break the color line in Major League Baseball is an example of Servant Leadership.

9:30 – Noon

Logic Problem Tournament

Oriel Maximé

River B

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 accolades and praise!

10:30 AM – Noon

5 Love Languages

Stan Jones

River A

Understand your love language for better and more meaningful relationships: Words of Affirmation, Quality Time, Receiving Gifts, Acts of Service, and Physical Touch.

Gimme a Brake – On My Car, That Is!

Leonard 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? 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 service advisor. Let's save that stress for when your kids start to drive. (I can't help you there.)

WeemProgram2021.indd 21 10/22/2021 11:21:39 AM

10:30 AM – Noon, cont'd.

ImprovThis: The Three Pillars of Improv

Steven Duberchin

Michigan A

Do you watch Improv live on stage or on TV and wonder "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! LIMITED ATTENDANCE: Due to the intimate nature of this session, attendance will be limited to ~20 people.

Noon – 1:15 PM

Lunch Break

Hospitality

Pulled pork or pulled chicken sandwiches; Mac & Cheese (V) and sides.

As always, make the effort to clean up after yourselves. Please leave the space in better shape than how you found it.Thank you!

1:00 – 2:30 PM

Human Hungry Hungry Hippos

Heather Booton

River A

(Of course. Where else would hippos be?)



A life-sized version of the popular board game, teams of 3+ will compete to see who can collect the most balls each round. This event is definitely kid-friendly. Come with lots of energy for this fast-paced and action-filled game. Spectators are welcome. All participants will need to sign a waiver or have one signed by their guardian.

Mental Illness and Employment

Emily Bialas

Michigan B

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, nearly one in five US adults live with a form of mental illness. The number of people reaching out for help only increased with COVID. In this discussion, Emily will talk about her stories of helping those who struggle with severe mental illness, such as Schizophrenia, Bipolar Disorder, Major Depressive Disorder, and more, and the obstacles and challenges she has overcome to help them find employment.

WeemProgram2021.indd 22 10/22/2021 11:21:39 AM

1:00 – 2:30 PM, cont'd.

Party on Safari: 16 Ms in East Africa
Beth Weiss

Birch

Sixteen Mensans went on the 'HELL's M's Party on Safari' in July. Join Beth for pictures and stories about the trip through Kenya and Tanzania, including video from the balloon safari over the Serengeti!

Whimsical M SIG Family Reunion
Ruth Danielle

Elm

Whimsical M SIG Family Reunion. Hear the stories and misadventures of isolated members and learn how the hedgehog came to be a new Mensa animal. Perpetrator Ruth Danielle fearlessly forbids feghoots at this event.

Debate without Hate!
Marty Jalove

Michigan A



Your kids will be introduced to building credible arguments in order to open minds. They will learn the art of emotional storytelling and how it connects to motivating others to contemplate change. They are about to learn the secrets of applied logic to encourage, coax, and convince others down a different path of thinking. This is all about "Learning while Laughing." The kids will have fun and be invited to participate in order to get the absolute most out of this session.

1:00 – 3:00 PM

Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament
Deb Johnston

River B

No limit tournament. Please come with knowledge of rules.

2:30 – 4:00 PM

Science Time with Timmy
Timmy King

Michigan B

Timmy wil talk about some aspect of science. Hopefully he'll touch on time travel, and use it to provide a program description for the physical program you now hold in your hand, before it is sent off to be printed.

WeemProgram2021.indd 23 10/22/2021 11:21:40 AM

2:30 – 4:00 PM, cnt'd.

Genealogical Gold in the DAR Database

Jane Gregga

Birch

Genealogical Gold in the DAR Database showcases the free digital resources of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). Little known to many genealogists, and rarely utilized by even the most skilled librarians, millions of records are available for public research.

Rainbow SIG Meet-and-Greet

Gregory Nigosian

Elm

Our traditional get-together with our members and allies, and those who simply have questions about us.

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. Crazy Shades Of Blue and Queen Bs are Improv Comedy troupes who perform often in and around Chicago.

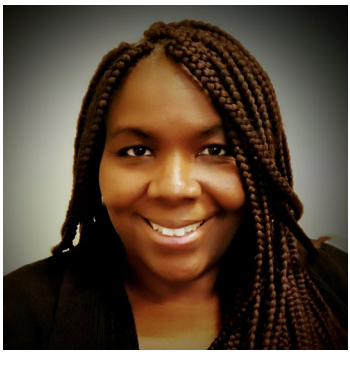
3:00 – 5:00 PM

Lagniappe Pub Trivia

Kenya Hitchens

River B

Compete with your team of up to 5 people in this pub style quiz! Win bragging rights and the chance to be the Brainiest of the Brainy. PLEASE arrive 10-15 minutes early and bring the beverage of your choice (this is Pub Trivia, after all). NOTE: one member of your team will need to download the TrivNow player app on their phone prior to the game.



WeemProgram2021.indd 24 10/22/2021 11:21:40 AM

4:00 – 5:30 PM

The Trans-Siberian Railroad for the Independent Traveler

Ken Levine

Michigan B



Ken, an avid traveler, has visited 7 continents and 80+ countries. He has traveled independently on 6 of those continents. Siberia was his 5th trip to Russia where explored 4 cities and Lake Baikal. His lecture includes photos as well as tips for traveling independently on the public railroad.

Scheduled Car Maintenance ~ What / When / Where???

Leonard Hiznay

Birch

My crazy neighbor changes his engine oil once a year. My car has 150,000 miles on it and the shop is recommending a trans flush. Should I? Considering all the systems on our cars, it's not easy to keep up with scheduled maintenance. Sometimes we think the car shop is just looking for ways to make more money. Let's look at the most critical systems we should worry about. Let's talk about "recommended" vs "required." Let's consider optional ways to reduce your maintenance costs and protect the manufacturer's warranty. It's really not that hard and I can clear away all the smoke and mirrors.

MythConceptions and More Trick Questions of US History

EJBoris

Michigan A

US History. Elucidations of some untruths. More trick questions. A few odd corners. See if you are more cognizant than the average bear. Try to guess the tricks. If you were here last time, you have some idea of what it's like; if not -Come On Down! - and find out.

4:00 – 6:00 PM

Clandestine - Strategy Game Playtest

Jason Brooks

Elm

Playtest a prototype of a new strategy game currently in development. Seats are limited! Exert your influence over the oblivious public while you strengthen and develop your secret society. This strategic mid-weight game from the designer of 'Legacies' leverages a unique mancala/rondel combination. Unearth relics, acquire secrets, and design glyphs through your clandestine actions in order to amass the most intrigue points.

WeemProgram2021.indd 25 10/22/2021 11:21:41 AM

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.

5:30 – 7:00 PM

What's Your BACON!

Marty Jalove

Michigan B



What's your BACON? What gets you up in the morning? What are your Monday mornings like? Do you look for excuses to avoid life, work, school, or relationships? Discover your Passion, Mission, and Evolution, and rewrite the road map of your life. Start looking forward to each and every day with new opportunities to do the things that you love. You were meant to be Happy. Let's start making it happen!

Rare LIFE Magazine LPs

Robert Finnegan

Birch

LIFE magazine used to have year-end issues on single topics. It also produced LPs and books related to the topic that were never sold in stores. I took 2 of the LPs and converted them to CDs. For the issue on U.S. presidents, the CD has recordings of presidential campaign songs from 1800 to 1960. One song was written by Irving Berlin. For the issue on cities, the CD has a unique collection of famous jazz & blues hits by famous artists like Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong & Count Basie. Printouts detailing track information on both titles will be available.

7:30 – 9:30 PM

The Epicurean Experience

Hieu Nguyen and John Bradford

Hospitality (Ravinia C/D/F)

We'll have an all-new variety of thematic, diverse, and sometimes bizarre foods and non-alcoholic 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.



WeemProgram2021.indd 26 10/22/2021 11:21:41 AM

8:30 – 10:30 PM

Pretentious Drinking **(21 and older)**
Matt Crawford, et. al.

Michigan A & B

Liqueurs. The fancy stuff. Polished, cosmopolitan, perhaps even a bit snooty. You'd like to know more but are too sensible to plunk down the price of an unknown beverage. Rejoice! As in years past, you can sample some truly amazing liqueurs—and your money's no good. Unlike years past, however, we will be making a few small changes for the sake of safety, chiefly related to cup handling. So come on by and sample our weird and wonderful distillates and decoctions from around the world. You can determine which you'd like to own, which should be left on the store 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 and this year a Covid vaccination or verified medical exemption is required. Snobby accents and extended pinkies remain optional.

PLEASE NOTE:

The alcohol in Pretentious Drinking **MUST** remain in Michigan A & B. Please help us maintain our wonderful relationship with the hotel. Thank you.

9:00 – 11:00 PM

Saturday Night Movie - "Black Widow"
Bob Finnegan

Birch

Scarlett Johansson stars as the female Avenger detailing her activities between the Avengers movies "Civil War" and "Endgame," plus her childhood trained as an assassin. Rachel Weisz also stars. Rated PG-13, 2 hours, 14 minutes plus Blu-ray extras.

9:00 PM – Late

Social-Deduction Games: Friends of Lawrence (Werewolves of WeeM)
Stephen Rider

Elm

Are you a werewolf? If not, who is??? Come discover which of your friends is secretly harboring special dietary needs in this classic game of social deduction and cold-blooded murder. New players welcome.

10:30 PM – Late

Mmmm! Chocolate Tasting and Swap
Lacee Hudec

Hospitality (Ravinia C/D)

Bring some chocolate to share, and sample some of the chocolate others have brought. NOTE: This is not meant to be a meal. Really. You know who you are. Restrain yourself.

WeemProgram2021.indd 27 10/22/2021 11:21:41 AM

Sunday

8:00 – 9:30 AM

Breakfast
Hospitality

Continental Breakfast plus Hot Breakfast Specials: Scrambled Eggs (V); egg, bacon & cheese scramble; and Breakfast Meats (bacon is GF).

9:30 - 11:00 AM

Amazing Race - WeeM Style
Jill Sackett

Michigan B

Now in its 8th 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 a ton of fun!

10:00 – 11:00 AM

CAM Board Meeting
Elm

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Awards and Announcements
Hosted by WeeM Chair Heather Booton

Hospitality (Ravinia C/D)

Find out who did and won what this weekend.

12:30 – 2:00 PM

Destination: Heartland History
Birch

The history of the Midwest is remarkable and surprising. Fortunately, people realized early on that it was worth preserving. Cynthia Clampitt will take us on a tour of destinations and events that reveal how a region famed for supplying food actually supplied so much more, including iconic images, legendary individuals, and inventions that would change the world. From prehistory to present, hear the tales and "visit" the museums, living-history venues, archaeological sites, historic towns, vintage farms, reenactments, and even restaurants that make the Midwest's past accessible—and fun.

2:00 – 4:30 PM

Proctored Tests
River A

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

WeemProgram2021.indd 28 10/22/2021 11:21:41 AM

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.

Presenter Biographies

Lee Arhelger

The Wonderful World of Whiskey, or Everything You Wanted to Know About Whiskey (But Were Afraid to Ask) (21+) (Thur.)

We have been tasting and drinking for years, both the good and the bad. However, we cannot agree which is which.

Nathaniel Arons

Curative Cocktails of the Past and Present both Proven and Alleged. (Fri.)

Former Herbal practitioner, nearly trained chef, occasional lush, and lover of historical oddities.

Barbara Barnett

Magic and Demons in Jewish Lore and Law (Thur.)

Barbara Barnett is an award-winning novelist and executive editor of Blogcritics Magazine. Her novel, The Apothecary's Curse, won the prestigious Bram Stoker Award for debut novel in 2017. The sequel, Alchemy of Glass, has won critical acclaim, and her non-fiction examination of House, MD, Chasing Zebras, has now been published in four languages. She is working on novel #3 called Goldfarb's Demons, an urban fantasy-near future novel that takes place on Chicago's North Side.

Emily Bialas

Mental Illness and Employment (Sat.)

Emily is an Assistant Program Director (in the Employment Department) at Thresholds, a Chicago-area non-profit that aims to improve the lives of those suffering from mental illness. She oversees four teams of Employment Specialists that work tirelessly to help their clients, all of whom suffer from severe mental illness, in reaching their education and employment goals.

Heather Booton

Human Hungry Hungry Hippos (Sat.)

Heather is your fearless WeeM Chair who remains convinced that no one actually reads these bios, so why not make stuff up? Heather spent 3 years doing close-up research with hippos in the Okavango Delta. As the sole survivor of the in-water team of 20 researchers, Heather realized how very, very hungry hippos could be, and then dedicated her life to playing this game as a way of educating the general population and as a tribute to her fallen comrades.

WeemProgram2021.indd 29 10/22/2021 11:21:41 AM

Merle Branner

The Servant Leadership Dynamic between Branch Rickey & Jackie Roosevelt Robinson: How They Changed Baseball and Our Country (Sat.)

Merle A. Branner: archivist and educator. MLIS, Dominican University, in Library and Information Science; MS, Pepperdine University, in Educational Computing; BFA, Art Center College of Design, in Photography. She's an Archivist at the Ruthie & Bill Katz Archives at North Shore Congregation Israel, and Technology Coordinator/Curriculum Developer at Queen of Angels School, Chicago. In 2010, she presented her paper to the Cooperstown Symposium, held at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY.

Michael Bratkovich

Magic: The Gathering Commander (EDH) (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.

Jason Brooks

Clandestine - Strategy Game Playtest (XXX.)

Jason is the designer and publisher of tabletop games including *Legacies*, which was successfully Kickstarted in 2019.

Andre Buisson

Firehouse SIG Meet and Greet (Fri.)

A retired Electrical Engineer and a fixture in American Mensa Firehouse SIG.

Cynthia Clampitt

Seeking Spiceland (Thur.) Destination: Heartland History (Sun.)

Cynthia Clampitt is a writer, food historian, and author. She has pursued her love of culture, history, and food, in thirty-seven countries on six continents, including southern India. Currently, however, she is focusing on the American Midwest and has a new book coming out in March on the region's remarkable history. Clampitt is a member of the Society of Women Geographers, Culinary Historians of Chicago, and the history section of the International Association of Culinary Professionals.

Matt Crawford

You've Been Lied to about Physics (Because the Truth is Complicated) (Fri.) Pretentious Drinking (Sat.)

Matt Crawford has degrees in Applied Math and Physics from Caltech and the University of Chicago. He has been a Mensa member since 1990 and recently retired from Fermilab.

WeemProgram2021.indd 30 10/22/2021 11:21:41 AM

Ruth Danielle

Truncated Travels: Floundering in Florida (Fri.)

Ruth Danielle spent 25 years in pursuit of her degree and decided to call it a career. Her ensuing retirement, with its resulting financial constraint, has inspired her to travel creatively (perhaps haphazardly). Wandering alone, she fantasizes sharing her travels and takes innumerable photos to foist upon others. When home in Florida, she gardens, creates jewelry, sings, meddles in her local Mensa group, and coordinates the Whimsical M international SIG. She's a proud costume contest winner and keeps hoping for a hugging trophy.

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.

The Queen Bs and Crazy Shades of Blue are combining forces again this year to bring you the improv stylings of The BlueBs. Together we have almost a century of combined improv performance experience and our players have been seen at almost every major improv venue in the Chicago area. If that's not enough to prove we're talented in our craft, at least it shows we're tenacious.

EJBoris

Myth-Conceptions / Trick Questions of US History (Sat.) & Who Died and Left You In Charge? (Fri.)

Has given talks at Speaker's Corner, London; The Domain, Sydney; Red Square, Moscow; and Tienamen Square, Beijing. Best actor, Parkland Conference. Published photographer. Appeared on national TV in Australia. Filled with a variety of fascinating and utter useless information. (C'mon, do you really care about my bio?)

Robert Finnegan

Rare LIFE Magazine LPs (Sat.) Nature's Best 5 (Fri.) Saturday Night Movie (duh)

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.



WeemProgram2021.indd 31 10/22/2021 11:21:41 AM

Jane Gregga

Genealogical Gold in the DAR Database (Sat.)

Jane M. Gregga is the Regent of the Eli Skinner Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). A member of the NSDAR lineage society for over 17 years, Jane loves to unfold new family connections. Her presentation has been well received at libraries and NSDAR chapter meetings. A retired marketing analyst, mother of three veterans, and grandmother of nine, she loves to tell the story of America through our incredible ancestors.

Jon Gruebele

Meet Your National Board of Directors (AMC) (Thur.)

Jon is serving his third term as American Mensa Regional Vice Chair. He's a former LocSec, longtime Proctor, and a Life Member. He has co-chaired Chicago Area Mensa's "A Gathering of Gamers" (AGOG) Regional Gathering, and he currently chairs both International and AMC Strategy Planning Committees. His background is in international marketing, IT, and management. He is a process and quality improvement expert.

Kenya Hitchens

Lagniappe Pub Trivia (Sat.)

Kenya is a New Orleans-born former St. Louis-based Geeks Who Drink host and a current member of Chicago Area Mensa who resides in North Dakota. Eventually, she will make it to the North Pole. Kenya writes all of her own trivia just for the sheer joy of watching geniuses turn red and pull their hair out while searching fruitlessly for meaningless answers. If you're a masochist, check out her games at facebook.com/lagniappetrivia.

Len Hiznay

Gimme a Brake – On My Car, That Is! & Scheduled Car Maintenance ~ What / When / Where??? (Sat.)

My career history includes automotive technician, auto repair shop owner, and auto parts store manager. As a lifelong "gearhead" and auto enthusiast, together with my son, I have 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 6th year.

Lacee Hudec

Self-sufficient Ms - Carry-in & Seed Swap (Fri.)

Lacee is an avid gardener, baker, bagpiper, and mom. Sometimes these things align to create some exciting ventures, and sometimes they pull her in opposite directions. In either case, life is never boring.



WeemProgram2021.indd 32 10/22/2021 11:21:41 AM

Marty Jalove

What's Your BACON? & Debate without Hate! (Sat.)

Marty Jalove of www.MasterHappiness.com is an International Personal and Professional Life and Business Coach. A euphoric optimist, persistently pursuing his passion of helping hundreds harness happiness. Marty enjoys connecting with groups and individuals, hoping to help them discover their "inner BACON"… their Passion, and teach them how to explode with excitement in their education, relationships, career, business, and every aspect of their lives.

Deb Johnston

Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament (Sat.)

Deb is a Mensa member.

Karin Jones

Securing Your Artistic and Intellectual Property (Thur.) & Telling Your Story (Sat.)

Karin is the keeper of seven generations of family photos. Keeping them both secure and accessible can be a challenge. Karin has worked with several of the cloud storage sites available. While she has been an ambassador for Forever.com for more than five years, she is also conversant in what is offered by the other sites and is happy to share the good, the bad, and the questionable. Karin is a retired Special Educator and long-time storyteller.

Stan Jones

MBTI - Myers Briggs Type Indicator (Fri.) & 5 Love Languages (Sat.)

Stan has had a varied career in multiple activities since leaving UCLA. He also went to the other school across town, which is considered an arch rival. Stan was born in Decatur, Illinois and came to California compliments of Uncle Sam. Later, he moved further west, to Hawaii, in 1999. He is a CPA, Cert. Assoc. Exec. and Cert. Speaking Prof. He was in politics, served as an Officer in the Army, and was a professor of Taxation & Law at several CA State Univ campuses. Stan married Karin Jones in Sept. 2019.

Timmy King

Science Time with Timmy (Sat.)

Timmy recently started working on winning his second Nobel Prize (having given up all hope of ever winning his first). Perhaps Pope Francis said it best: "Though Timmy lacks social skills and common sense, he more than makes up for it in his unfounded belief in his own self-worth. His presentations are like watching an infinite number of monkeys typing randomly for an infinite period of time."

Ken Levine

Sir Ernest Shackleton (Fri.) & The Trans-Siberian Railroad for the Independent Traveler (Sat.)

Ken, an avid traveler, has visited 7 continents and 80+ countries. He has traveled independently on 6 of those continents. Siberia was his 5th trip to Russia, where explored 4 cities and Lake Baikal. In Siberia, he rode public trains from Vladivostok to Moscow. His 3 trips to Antarctica included the Geographic South Pole. He has examined Antarctic exhibits on 4 continents. He has an extensive library of books and videos of polar history.

WeemProgram2021.indd 33 10/22/2021 11:21:41 AM

Oriel Maxime

Logic Problem Tournament (Sat.)

Oriel Maxime is a general-purpose STEM-y Mensan. He is a published Logic Problem creator, and has run this WeeM tournament for well over a decade.

Jennifer Morris

Gen Y Ms SIG Meet & Greet (Fri.)

The most recent former Coordinator for the Gen Y Ms SIG, Jenn (she/her) is a Life Member of American Mensa living in San Diego, CA. She serves as Assistant to the RVC-9 and as Scholarship Chair for San Diego Mensa and Region 9. Across these roles, she enjoys connecting with other members and helping them find their "happy place" in Mensa. Jenn enjoys a good dram of whisky, jigsaw puzzles, a pint of beer, and yelling for the Texas A&M Aggies during football season.

Jennifer Murtoff

Bird Brains: Flock Psychology (Fri.)

Jennifer Murtoff is a chicken consultant in the Chicagoland area, helping chickens understand their owners a bit better—and vice versa. Her services include presentations for schools and community groups; classes for chicken keepers; writing for magazines and blogs; and providing onsite and remote consultations. This fall, she will be participating as a guest in onsite visits with Purdue's poultry vet program. She is fluent in a few forms of human communication as well.

Gregory Nigosian

Rainbow SIG Meet-and-Greet (Sat.)

Coordinator of the Rainbow SIG in Chicago Mensa. We consist of people who are LGBT+ and our friends and allies.

Ray Piesciuk

Illinois Railway Museum (Fri.)

Ray Piesciuk has been volunteering at the Illinois Railway Museum for 26 years. Ray has served as President, Director, Managing Editor of the Museum's quarterly magazine Rail & Wire, Curator of the Trolley Bus & Motor Bus Collections, Recording Secretary, and serves on several committees. Ray's wife Julie is also an active volunteer. Although their full-time RV lifestyle doesn't allow them to be physically at the Museum as much as they'd like, they both still contribute regularly from the road.

Melissa Rennie

To Boldly See what Others Miss (Fri.)

Melissa J. Rennie has been a member of Mensa for 20 years, and an avid photographer for 40 years.

Stephen Rider

Breaking the Big Tech Duopoly: How to Run a Smartphone Without Apple or Google (Fri.) & Werewolves of WeeM (every night.)

Stephen is a life member of Mensa, and probably best known for his ongoing struggle with lycanthropy. He holds nightly support meetings throughout WeeM.

WeemProgram2021.indd 34 10/22/2021 11:21:42 AM

Jill Sackett

Amazing Race - WeeM Style (Sun.)

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

Gregg Siegel

The Wonderful World of Pun Competitions (Fri.)

Gregg Siegel has participated in more than 20 pun competitions and shows over the past 18 months. He is a freelance copywriter and a former freelance joke writer for several late night shows, comedians, radio programs, and magazines.

Robert Stalzer

Costume Parade Emcee (Fri.)

Robert often finds himself in another part of the world, behind the wheel of a large automobile, with a beautiful house, and a beautiful wife. But even if he questioned any (or even all) of the above, he can be sure that there is water at the bottom of the ocean. Am I right, or am I wrong?

Cat Sterrett

Sexyg Fishbowl (Thur.)

Cat Sterrett was Chicago Sexyg (Sex SIG) Coordinator for 25 years and facilitated Fishbowls at RGs and AGs all over the USA. She comfortably accommodates all LGBTQ++ sensibilities and warmly welcomes all participants. Steve Roberts has co-facilitated Fishbowls several times and believes in-person answers are superior to those you'd get on the Internet!

Kimberly Strickland

This Doesn't Ad Up – Fails in Global Marketing (Fri.)

Dr. Kimberly Strickland has her doctorate in Business Administration, an MBA in Marketing, and an MS in Technology Management. She teaches marketing to graduate students, who usually stay awake, at Wilmington University. She has spent her career in pharmaceuticals, supporting products and programs for rare diseases, and is active in the Young Hope Society, a philanthropic group of young leaders serving the bleeding disorder community. She is the National Membership Officer for American Mensa.

Glenn Sutton

Seven Wonders Tournament (Thurs.)

Glenn is an avid gamer, programmer, and project manager. He also volunteers extensively in his community, as well as at WeeM. He has run the 7 Wonders tournament at WeeM since 2013.

Beth Weiss

Party on Safari: 16 Ms in East Africa (Sat.)

Beth is the current CAM LocSec and an over-volunteerer. Beth is the coordinator of HELL's M's and a member of the Party Animal Hall of Fame. She met her husband Stan at WeeM in 2002.

WeemProgram2021.indd 35 10/22/2021 11:21:42 AM

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Chicago Area Mensa's

WeeM TeaM

WeeM Chair, Hotel Liaison ..... Heather Booton
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Hospitality Minion..... Lora Mitchell
Beverages & Program Book.....Dave Gudjonis
Beverages Co-Chair.....Ben Peek
Game Warden .....Ed Barta
Volunteer Coordinator.....Nat Arons
Vendor Coordinator..... Rae Goodman
Registrars ..... Lynn Collier,Theo Sparks
Treasurer..... Karen Gruebele
Tournaments Coordinator .....Deb Johnston
Book Sale..... Teresa Tucker & Robert Little
AV Chairs ..... Damian Christianson,
Peter Dudek, & Dave Schmidt
Peace Force Coordinator.....Art Sparks
Photographer ..... John Muellner
Webmaster.....Barb Pohl
Trucking Coordinator..... Clyde Forrester
Awards Chair.....Angela Fontes
Logo, Logistics, Front Cover.....Casey Carraher
Pretentious Drinking.....Matt Crawford
Excursions Chair.....Cynthia Clampitt
Costume Contest MC .....Robert Stalzer
Room and Ride Matching ..... Kris Petzinger
Epicurean Experience.....Hieu Nguyen &
John Bradford
Decorations Chair..... Megan Bratkovich
Social Deduction Games.....Stephen Rider
Cherished Advisors.....Al & Colleen Baltis,
Sue & Steve Davidson
CAM LocSec.....Beth Weiss

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

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

WeemProgram2021.indd 36 10/22/2021 11:21:42 AM