



Program Book

SuperWeeM

HalloweeM 31

Chicago Area Mensa's Regional Gathering

October 27-29, 2006
Sheraton Chicago Northwest

SuperWeeM



HalloweeM 31

Welcome to SuperWeeM! Put away your mundane alter ego and let your true secret identity show. Morph into Dancing-on-the-Table Girl, Logic Boy, or Captain Curmudgeon. Be yourself, the superhero inside.

We have speakers on the most diverse topics imaginable. Check out the secret identities or groan at the awful puns at our famous Costume Parade. Visit our huge Games Room, and compete in a tournament or just play for fun. Use the

Singles Mailboxes to meet your new favorite superhero. We have two dances, and our DJ takes requests. Or just kick back in Hospitality for great food and even better conversation.

Whatever your idea of a super weekend, I'm sure you'll find it here at SuperWeeM. If there's anything you need to make the longest weekend of the year enjoyable, just ask: look for our chairs with the yellow badges.

Happy Halloween!
Janet Century, 'WeeM Chair

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

We may not have super powers, but we definitely have a super lineup of programs and events for this year's SuperWeeM. We have programs on outer space, comic books, literature, squirrels, politics, trivia, fair trade, nanotechnology, disaster, music, photography, and far more. The programming is as varied as our membership. We hope you'll discover a lot to like and that you'll have a super time at HalloweeM this year.

You may find more than you can fit into one weekend. So, as you look over the schedule, let us know what you'd like to have us do again next year. We want you to keep coming back.

Remember, we are always looking for speakers and programs, so if there is something you'd like to talk about, let us know.

Cynthia Clampitt, Program Chair

PLEASE NOTE: All the fine-tuning we did to HalloweeM last year met with enthusiastic approval: instead of a Sunday brunch that costs extra, we'll have a hot breakfast buffet in Hospitality, open to all. The awards ceremony will run from 10:00 to 11:00. After a brief break for those who need to check out of their rooms, Sunday programming will resume at 11:30 and continue until 3:00. So, if you're not catching a plane, don't leave: there will still be lots of programs on Sunday.



There are 15-minute intervals between programs, so very few programs begin on the hour. Check times carefully.

Not everyone wants to dance—at least not all night—so we have several evening programs. Programming doesn't stop when the sun sets.

Before you start the festivities, please review the tips and reminders that follow. They'll help you and those around you get the most out of your HalloweeM experience.

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

Adults Only: Some programs contain material that is adult in nature. Admission to these events will be restricted.

Alcohol and Youth: Illinois law, hotel rules, and Chicago Area Mensa, Inc. policy are strict when it comes to underage drinking. The legal drinking age in Illinois is 21. Please do not be insulted if you are asked for proof of age. Adherence to this rule has been stressed to all Hospitality gHosts.

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

Bulletin Board: A bulletin board will be available near the registration area for posting personal messages, program changes, and other announcements.

Decorations: Every year we make a sizable investment of time and money in creating the right ambiance at HalloweeM. Please leave the decorations for future generations to enjoy.

Food and Beverages: HalloweeM food and beverages MUST remain in the hospitality suites.

gHosts: HalloweeM is a big event. It takes a LOT of volunteers to make things run smoothly. Our volunteer staff (also known as gHosts) is always happy to accept new recruits. We need only an hour or two of your time. In exchange, you get a HalloweeM volunteer collector's pin, an invitation to the Survivors' Party (volunteers only), and a warm feeling deep inside.

Hugs: To hug or not to hug, that is the question. Colored stickers signify your hugging preference: yes, no, maybe so. Pick up a sticker for your name badge at the registration desk and check the stickers that others wear. When in doubt, ask.

Kids' Track: Friday night, there is a separate costume parade and party for children (see "Kids' Costumes and Party" for details). During the day on Saturday, a number of kid-friendly events will be offered; visit the kids' room for more details. Saturday evening, there will be a pizza and pool party. In addition, parents and children are invited to use the toys, art supplies, and games available in the kids' room throughout the weekend. Parents are welcome to stop by and check out resources about Chicago-area gifted children's programs and schools.

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

Meal Tickets: A ticket for each meal ordered will be provided at registration and collected at the meal. **We cannot replace lost meal tickets.** Tickets will be available at registration through Friday night.

Name Badges: Your name badge is your ticket to all the joy and wonder of HalloweeM. Please wear it at all times. With a group as large and diverse as ours, the tags are the only way we have of knowing who belongs to the RG. Anyone without a name badge should be referred to a committee member. Sorry, lost name badges cannot be replaced.

Smoking: Smoking is permitted in designated areas only. This includes the smoking Hospitality suite and areas where the hotel permits smoking (such as the restaurant and bar). No smoking is permitted in the seminar sessions. Thank you.

Of Special Note: Volunteer Drawing

We're not drawing pictures of volunteers or asking volunteers to draw pictures: we're holding a drawing to reward some of our super-heroic helpers this weekend. If at least one person signs up for every volunteer shift by 7:00 P.M. on Friday, we will hold a drawing at Sunday's awards ceremony to give away a few super-duper \$50 cash prizes! You get a drawing ticket for each hour worked. As a twist, some of the less popular volunteer assignments (like the middle of the night in Hospitality) are worth more than one ticket per hour. The RG wins, our guests win, and, most importantly, you win! Help us fill up the volunteer schedule before 7:00 P.M. on Friday. Winners need not be present at the drawing.

Kids' Costumes and Party

This has been such a big hit that we're going to make it a tradition. There will be a costume contest for children before the adult event and a kids' party during the big event. See Friday night listings for details.



“Trust Me” Track Returns

Once again, we are offering the “Trust Me” track. Experts in a wide variety of fields will answer questions about their areas of expertise. The “Trust Me” track is not a series of traditional programs, but simply the opportunity to walk in, ask your question, and then go elsewhere. This track runs on Friday and Sunday. The information on the experts is interwoven with the other program listings.

All Weekend

Book Sale

Lake Michigan Room

Find out what your fellow Mensans have read. Browse through donated non-book items. Take home some treasures. Book sale proceeds benefit Chicago Area Mensa's philanthropic projects.

Games Room and Tournaments

Lake Superior Room

The Games Room will open Thursday evening and remain open around the clock until late Sunday morning. We have all the games from Mind Games 2004 as well as many newer and older games.

TOURNAMENT AND GAMES ROOM SCHEDULE

All tournaments and games will be in the Lake Superior Room. Sign up for tournaments and watch for last-minute additions to the lineup in the hall outside the Games Room.

FRIDAY

10:00 A.M.—4:00 P.M.

Dual Dungeon Duel

This is the FriPlay event advertised on the Web site. Walk-ins who arrive promptly can join (limited to 20 players). Two parties explore the same D&D environment, racing for an advantage in the final battle royale. There's a \$7 charge to cover lunch and beverages.

4:00 P.M.—6:30 P.M.

Life-Size “Kill Doctor Lucky”

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

11:00 P.M.—1:00 A.M.

Zombies!!!

Got brains? These fellas want to meet you, and they're nothing if not persistent. You don't have to outrun the zombies, you just have to outrun (or outwit) your fellow humans to reach the helicopter first and escape the zombie invasion.

SATURDAY

10:30 A.M.—12:30 P.M.

Logic Puzzles

Oriel Maximé reprises this HalloweeM classic with a brand-new set of puzzles to loosen your thought processes.

1:00 P.M.—2:00 P.M.

Poker Q & A with Quentin Ellis

Professional poker player (and voiceover talent) Quentin Ellis offers to prime you by sharing his knowledge and experience in an informal Q & A session immediately before the tournament.

2:00 P.M.—5:30 P.M.

Texas Hold ‘Em Poker Tournament

Scott and JC Chupack invite you to try your hand at the game that’s sweeping the nation—with no financial risk! Sign up by 1:30 for priority seating, or simply show up at 2:00. No entry cost. Prizes for the top finishers and for anyone who knocks Quentin Ellis out! Limited to 50 people.

8:30 P.M.—11:00 P.M.

Settlers of Catan Tournament

This is that game that began the “German Invasion” in 1995. Special tournament setup rules make the game faster: we will have two rounds of one hour each. You must be familiar with the game but will have plenty of time to learn it or brush up before the tournament.

Hospitality Suites

Arlington A and B (nonsmoking)

Room 1022 (smoking)

Snacks and beverages are available 24 hours a day in separate smoking and nonsmoking suites.

There will be hot food for these meals:

FRIDAY DINNER (6:30 P.M.—8:30 P.M.)

SATURDAY BREAKFAST (7:30 A.M.—9:30 A.M.)

SATURDAY LUNCH (11:00 A.M.—1:30 P.M.)

SATURDAY LATE SNACK (10:30 P.M.—11:30 P.M.)

SUNDAY BREAKFAST (7:30 A.M.—10:00 A.M.)

Note: No hot meal will be served Saturday evening in Hospitality, though there will be the usual snacks and beverages. If you want a real meal, tickets for the banquet will be available through Friday evening. Due to construction, the hotel offers limited dining options.

Food will be replenished every half hour during scheduled meal times, so there will be as much food for people at the end of the line as for those at the front. No need to rush or panic!

Kids’ Rooms

Headquarters Room

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

Massage Therapy

Room TBA (See update in registration area.)

Get the knots worked out, relax at the end of a busy week, or recover from spending most of the RG on your feet. Professional massage therapists offer a variety of options, from 15 minutes to an hour.

Singles Mailboxes

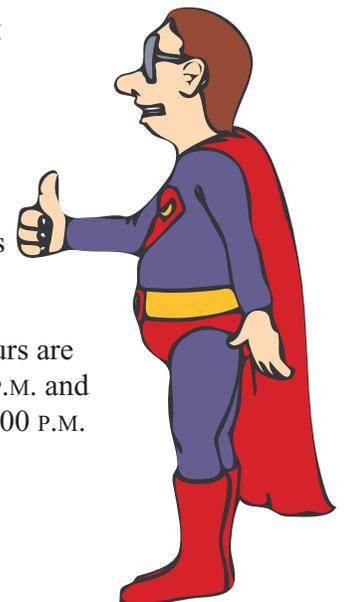
Arlington Room

If you’re single, post a bio, leave a message. If you’ve never done it before, don’t worry: there will be guidelines posted in the room. Read about what other singles are seeking and let them know what you want. Check back often: the room is available 24 hours a day.

WeeM Market

Lobbies and Book Sale Room

A variety of items will be on sale in our vendor areas, including fair-trade crafts, art photography, and jewelry. In addition, some of our speakers will offer their books for sale in HalloweeM’s marketplace. Come get a jump on your seasonal shopping. Hours are Friday 5:00 P.M.—8:00 P.M. and Saturday 10:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M.



All Weekend

All Weekend

Friday

For details on events and features that run all weekend long, including **tournaments** and Hospitality **food schedules**, see pages 5–7.

Note: For programs in the Michigan Room, walk through the book sale to the curtained area.

4:00 P.M.–5:00 P.M.

The Origins of Moral Evil in Religious Thought: A Comparative Study

Gerald Hiestand

Lake Huron Room

Serial killers, genocide, child abuse. What is moral evil and where does it come from? This seminar will discuss the explanations for moral evil given by the major religious systems of the world. In light of world affairs, special attention will be paid to Christianity, the dominant religious system of the western world, and Islam, the dominant religious system of the Arab world.

Trust Me, I'm a Magazine Writer

Nancy Shepherdson

Lake Erie Room

Nancy has been a magazine writer and author for nearly 20 years. Her work has appeared in a wide variety of national newsstand magazines, including *American Heritage*, *Boys' Life*, *Woman's Day*, *Continental* (the inflight magazine for Continental Airlines), *Pages*, *Sierra*, and *The Progressive*. She has taught her proven system for getting published in classes at the University of Chicago, the University of Denver, and Columbia College. Nancy is also an elected official of the Illinois Democratic Party.

4:00 P.M.–6:00 P.M.

Introduction to Metaphysics: Aura Cleansing and Planetary Healing

Ruth "Mama" Long

Lake Ontario Room

Ruth will cover intuitive electronic energy transference channels, aura cleansing via spiritual herbal bath, herbs and spiritual healing, 12 strand DNA, and metaphysical (spiritual) hypnosis. She will offer discussion and interaction, as desired.

5:15 P.M.–6:15 P.M.

How the Continents Were Formed

Gorden Bakken

Lake Huron Room

The belief in continental drift is widely accepted. However, theories of how the original continental land mass came into existence are rare. The theory presented here is new, based on the type of structural analysis techniques used to evaluate aerospace structures. Included in the lecture are theories on what made the continents split and move, what created mountains (both on the sea floor and land), and what causes volcanoes and earthquakes.

Trust Me, I'm a Coroner

Richard Keller

Lake Erie Room

Richard has been coroner in Lake County, Illinois, for two years, the first physician-coroner since the 1940s. The Coroner's Office conducts medico-legal death investigations, serving decedents who can no longer serve themselves, and cares for the living through education, advocacy, and program development seeking to forestall death. Richard's prior medical practice includes 20 years in emergency medicine, founding a free medical clinic in 1992 and acting as its Executive Director from 1999 to 2004, and founding an HIV primary care practice, where he was the lead physician from 1993 to 2002.

5:15 P.M.–7:15 P.M.

InQUIZition

Charlie Steinhice

Paramount Ballroom

Lively, often hilarious quiz-bowl competition described by one spectator as "College Bowl meets vaudeville." Charlie warns, "I have a buzzer system, and I'm not afraid to use it." The competition will be for teams of four players each. Be sure to sign up in advance if you want to participate (late entrants will be allowed to join if there is space available). However, you don't need to be a member of a team to attend or to enjoy the hilarity. The bigger the crowd, the better.

6:30 P.M.–7:30 P.M.

Optical and Other Illusions

Bob Finnegan

Lake Huron Room

Bob will use live demos and slides to show how your eyes and other senses can be fooled. He includes examples from nature, painting, architecture, and ads. Fun for adults and kids.

Trust Me, I'm a REALTOR®

Cheryl Bennet

Lake Erie Room

Cheryl has been a REALTOR in the metropolitan Milwaukee area for more than five years. She is one of the top producers at HomeSale Realty, a dynamic and fast-growing company. She can be reached at CherylLynnBennet@aol.com or 414-405-9305.

8:30 P.M.–9:00 P.M.

Children's Costume Contest

Paramount Ballroom

For children of all ages as well as their parents, aunts, uncles, friends, and other enthusiastic onlookers. All children are encouraged to show off their costumes, while adults are encouraged to come and cheer the kids on. Prizes will be awarded, with something for everyone. See "Children's Party" below for the party that follows their costume contest.

9:00 P.M.–10:15 P.M.

Costume Contest

Paramount Ballroom

It's one of the things for which we are (justly) famous: costumes. Mensan costumes range from weird to wonderful, elegant to outlandish, hilarious to enigmatic. Prizes will be awarded for Best Pun, Worst Pun, Best Traditional, Best Under Age 18, and possibly others, as inspiration strikes the judges.

Please SPEAK LOUDLY AND CLEARLY when you get to the microphone, so that everyone (including the judges) can hear and enjoy the description of your guise.

Children's Party

Headquarters Room

There will be games, videos, and activities, so your children can have fun while you go to the costume contest. This is NOT for infants and toddlers (no facilities for bottles or diaper changing). Ages three and older will have a place to play while hundreds of adults stampede through the "big" costume party.

Retrieve your children IMMEDIATELY after the costume party: there will be no one to care for them.

10:30 P.M.–1:00 A.M.

Friday Night Dance

Arlington B

Chicago Area Mensa's Howard Rothstein will be the evening's MP3-J, playing tunes the technology way. Because this is in Hospitality, you won't have to go far from food and drink to hit the dance floor. Of course, you may just sit and enjoy the music.

Note: Howard will stop playing tunes promptly at 1:00 A.M. We will provide a boombox for those who want to keep dancing, so bring your favorite CDs.

10:30 P.M.–11:30 P.M.

The Return of the Great Luke Ski

Luke Sienkowski

Paramount Ballroom

Dr. Demento's Most Requested Artist of the 21st Century, "the great Luke Ski" returns to Halloween! Luke will perform his past fan-favorite hits as well as songs from his new DVD, "The Ego Has Landed." Luke's material is decidedly Mensa-esque, with songs that range from gaming to Hamlet to Star Wars and beyond. Special guest vocalist: Carrie Dahlby.

Hell's M's

Skinner

Lake Ontario Room

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

10:30 P.M.–12:00 A.M.

Wine Sampling

Hospitality

This is not an official wine-tasting: you don't have to swirl the wine, squint at the ceiling, and spit it out. This is a sampling, an opportunity to try a variety of wines from a variety of vineyards, countries, and continents. Prepare your list of adjectives (nice oak, grass notes, fruit forward, hint of slate) to communicate your impressions to your fellow connoisseurs. Come prepared to delight in the fruit of the vine (while supplies last). Special thanks to Janice Ferri Esser for making this event possible.

10:30 P.M.—12:30 A.M.

Mensa Speed Talking**Cookie Bakke****Lake Michigan Room**

This new icebreaker invented by Cookie Bakke was a hit at the World Gathering. It's sort of speed dating adapted for Mensa conversation. You face another Mensan, a topic is announced, and you talk with that person for one minute about the topic. When time is up, Cookie bangs a gong, everyone moves to the next partner, and the process starts again. The questions are all over the place—medical ethics, politics, current events, emotional stuff, and so on. Cookie says it is very Mensan and very entertaining and is a great way to meet new people without having to commit to a real conversation. And who knows which conversations might continue after the program?

11:30 P.M.—?

Carnelli**Kent Nebergall****Lake Erie Room**

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

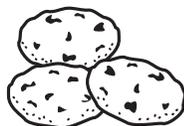
Sing-Along**Clyde Forrester****Lake Ontario Room**

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

HalloweeM Cookie Contest**Vicki Snavelly and Ro Sila****Arlington A**

Join us in Hospitality for our Third Annual HalloweeM

Cookie Contest. Judges will be chosen from among audience members who arrive a little early. Categories will be determined by the judges, based on the number and types of entries. Decisions of the judges are arbitrary, capricious, and final. Judges may, of course, be bribed with cookies. After the judging, we'll eat the results. And remember: if you want to judge, come early.



Saturday

For details on events and features that run all weekend long, including **tournaments** and Hospitality **food schedules**, see pages 5–7.

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

Note: For programs in the Michigan Room, walk through the book sale to the curtained area.

9:15 A.M.—10:15 A.M.

National Mensa Hour: Meet the AMC, 2007 Previews**Paramount Ballroom**

MEET THE AMC: Chat with members of the American Mensa Committee, including Chair Russ Bakke, a couple of RVCs, and other officers. Find out who is doing what in the organization. Stop by to say "hi," or stay to talk about Mensa.

AG PREVIEW: Chat with LeAnne and Steve Porter, the chairs for next year's AG in Birmingham. See a video presentation and pick up a flyer.

MIND GAMES 2007 AND COLLOQUIUM 2007: Pick up flyers and chat with organizers of Mind Games (Pittsburgh) and the 2007 Colloquium, "Aspects of Humor" (Chicago).

How to Take Better Nature Photos**Carol Freeman****Lake Erie Room**

Learn tips and techniques for taking better nature photos from award-winning nature photographer Carol Freeman. (Carol will also be selling some of her gorgeous images in the vendor area.)

It's a Dog's Life**Bob Finnegan****Lake Huron Room**

Bob offers a videotape presentation of all the crazy things that dogs do.

Chicago Newspapers: How They Twist and Bend News**Jim Bowman****Lake Ontario Room**

A columnist and reporter as well as author and historian, Jim knows Chicago papers from the inside. He will examine how the *Chicago Tribune* and *Sun-Times* continue in an old Chicago tradition, sometimes front-paging us to death, sometimes boring us silly, mostly with unhealthful

doses of political bias. Jim quotes Nelson Antrim Crawford: “In the United States there is no phenomenon more threatening to popular government than the unwillingness of newspapers to give the facts to their readers.” What’s a really smart person to do? Jim tries to answer that, drawing liberally from his really smart blog, Chicago Newspapers.

9:15 A.M.–11:15 A.M.

Introduction to Yoga: Body Awareness through Yoga

Ruth Soskin

Lake Michigan Room

The practice of yoga has been around for a very long time. It is a noncompetitive activity focusing on stretching and breathing through the practice of particular poses. Yoga increases flexibility and balance, builds strength and stamina, and promotes relaxation and calmness. Yoga provides an overall sense of physical and mental well-being. It can be your sole form of exercise or complement a regular workout routine. Notice the results immediately!

10:30 A.M.–11:30 A.M.

Heroic Archetypes in Comics

Alan Baltis

Paramount Ballroom

Seventy years of published comic books have created a modern mythology that rivals, nay, *exceeds* those created by ancient cultures such as the Greeks, the Norse, and the Egyptians. We’ll run through of all the different “kinds” of heroes that have appeared in American comic books, with copious examples and discussions of variations. We’ll talk about the Avatar, the Learned Man, the Noble Savage, the Avenger, the Man Without a Country, the Adventurer, the Caretaker, the shape-shifter, and dozens more. We’ll look at recurring themes throughout the years, examine reflections of current trends, and peer into the future. We’ll have a lot of fun discovering seriously cool stuff in those silly four-color comics!

Marketing Chance

Joan Zielinski

Lake Erie Room

Do you ever wonder why you feel compelled to buy another lottery ticket when you know the chances of winning are one in a million? Or one in three billion? Joan, who has a Ph.D. in marketing and impressive experience in the lottery

and gambling industry, will share insights of marketing the lottery, gambling, and horse-racing industries to consumers.

A Midwinter Mensan on Mars

Kent Nebergall

Lake Huron Room

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

Ten Thousand Villages: Business NOT as Usual

Vincent Donoghue

Lake Ontario Room

In a global economy marked by growing inequalities between rich and poor, Ten Thousand Villages works with talented artisans from more than 30 countries in an effort to correct some of those inequalities. Ten Thousand Villages provides vital, fair income to Third World people by marketing their handicrafts and telling their stories in North America. This income helps pay for food, education, health care, and housing. This workshop will introduce you to the fair trade principles that guide the work of Ten Thousand Villages. It will give you an opportunity to hear stories of how the lives of individual artisans have been transformed because of fair trade and the work of Ten Thousand Villages. You will learn how to be part of the fair trade movement. (Ten Thousand Villages is also sponsoring two tables in the vendor area.)

11:45 A.M.–12:30 P.M.

Lunch Break

No need to rush. Lunch will be served at half-hour intervals, so the last shall be served as well as those who arrive first. See the listing for Hospitality at the beginning of the program for serving times.

12:30 P.M.—1:30 P.M.

The Trivialities of Trivia

Sandy Wood

Paramount Ballroom

Sandy, a researcher and writer who has provided trivia for magazines, books, radio, TV, and board games, takes you on a journey through the world of crafting trivia questions. Take part in an animated discussion about the trivia and perhaps win a prize. Learn how game show question writers get it right (and occasionally wrong) when developing trivia material. Sure, it's a fun job. But if it sounds like an easy one, you're in for an eye-opening experience.

My Life Is a Soap Opera: Writing for

Daytime Dramas

Janice Ferri Esser

Lake Erie Room

Find out what it's like to write for daytime TV and to attend the Emmy Awards (and see one of Janice's four Emmys). Janice will talk about her experiences and answer questions from anyone who's been curious about this highly specialized, highly quirky little corner of the television world.

Squirrels: Are They the Mensans of Our Backyards?

Greg Bassett

Lake Huron Room

Designed to prove that squirrels are ANYTHING BUT "dumb animals," this presentation uses video footage and stories of Greg's experiences to demonstrate squirrel intelligence and something Greg calls "squirrel attitude." Special guest: Greg's pet squirrel, Happy.

The Judicial Confirmation Process: The Difficulty with Being Smart

John R. Lott

Lake Ontario Room

John, an economics, law, and politics researcher, and bestselling author, discusses the increasing problems surrounding the judicial confirmation process. Both Republicans and Democrats complain about the difficulty in getting judges confirmed when their nominees are up for confirmation. In a recently released paper, John examined all the District and Appeals Court nominations made from the beginning of Jimmy Carter's administration through the end of George W. Bush's first term, analyzing the length of the confirmation

process as well as the confirmation rates. John discovered that several patterns emerge from the data. It is taking longer for confirmation and, the more important the position, the longer confirmation takes. Many of the traditional *ex ante* measures of judicial quality, such as where judges went to law school or a nominee's American Bar Association ratings, add little, if anything, to predicting how well they will do on the bench. Which factors appear to affect the length of the confirmation process and how does the process differ at the Circuit Court and District Court levels? How do ABA ratings affect outcomes? These and other issues will be addressed during this examination of how judges do—or do not—get confirmed.

12:30 P.M.—2:30 P.M.

Fiendish Armchair Treasure Hunt

Jay Smith

Lake Michigan Room

A perennial favorite of the Halloween crowd, the Fiendish Armchair Treasure Hunt is a game where teams work with fiendishly clever, rebus-style clues to reveal geographic locations, garnering points in the process. Some teams get organized in advance, while others form on the spot. Everyone is welcome. Warning: this is an addictive game—it may change your life! The Sacred and Revered Judges for the Hunt include Jay Smith (the game's originator), Helen Kupper, Louise Howe, and Nadine McBeth.

1:00 P.M.—2:00 P.M.

Poker Q & A with Quentin Ellis

Lake Superior Room (Games Room)

Quentin Ellis

Professional poker player (and voiceover talent) Quentin Ellis offers to prime you by sharing his knowledge and experience in an informal Q & A session immediately before the tournament.

1:45 P.M.—2:45 P.M.

Nanotechnology: Coming Soon to a Store Near You

Frank Dolinar

Paramount Ballroom

"Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic."—Arthur C. Clarke. Nanotechnology seems like something between science fiction and magic. In reality, this emerging discipline is an anticipated set of manufacturing tools and technologies for engineering at the molecular level to produce

objects, materials, and devices that will have broad applications.

Pillow Talk: Feng Shui for Romance and Attracting Your Soul Mate

Frank Polancic

Lake Erie Room

Why hasn't your soul mate shown up yet? Frank, a relationship specialist, suggests that it is because your bedroom isn't aligned well enough with your heart's desire to attract him or her. No worries.

Once you discover what's blocking you, you'll rush into your bedroom, make a few simple changes, and soon be waiting for your soul mate with open arms. This lecture is designed for romantic individuals only.

Thinking Outside the Cube

Michelle Wojtaszek

Lake Huron Room

In today's society, thinking outside the box is no longer enough. As our environment evolves, we must update our thinking patterns to conceptualize the world in new ways. Michelle (yes, "THAT *Bulletin*" cover girl) provides a bit of neurologically nutritious Halloween brain candy through a spirited and interactive discussion of life, the universe, and everything as viewed through her singular brand of controlled cognitive chaos, peppered with colorful anecdotes and told in true hyperactive rock star-mad scientist style.

Phyllis, Night, Love, and God—A Cappella

Ravenswood Consort

Lake Ontario Room

The Ravenswood Consort sings music from the 1500s. The ensemble will perform sets of a cappella music around themes such as Phyllis (the all-purpose Arcadian shepherdess, an object of attention in many English madrigals), Night, Revels, and Love. The program includes secular and sacred works from the composers Byrd, Tallis, de Lassus, Brahms, Farmer, and others. As if Renaissance music weren't enough, they've thrown in a couple more modern pieces for extra fun.

3:00 P.M.—4:00 P.M.

Improv This! Featuring The Alan

Smithee Players

Paramount Ballroom

Improv This! provides a high-energy comedy show that is surprising and fun filled. The Alan Smithee Players use audience suggestions (and

sometimes even audience members) to create on-the-spot comic scenes that the entire family can enjoy. Once you've enjoyed the show, stick around to learn the secrets of successful improvisation. The players will offer an improv workshop directly following the show (see listing at 4:15). The more the merrier for the show, but the class will be limited to 30 people, so arrive early.

In Extremis, Part II

Bob Finnegan

Lake Huron Room

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

Self-Defense for Women

John Martin

Lake Michigan Room

Are keys in the hand a viable weapon? Does pepper spray drop attackers in their tracks? How about heel stomps, groin kicks, and eye gouges? Can a woman really defend herself against a large or strong man? Explore the myths and realities of physical self-defense in a Q & A-demo-training session. Come dressed for a workout if you'd like to learn some skills, or just watch and ask questions.

3:00 P.M.—5:00 P.M.

The DaVinci Code: Fact-Fiction Blends in Popular Literature Today

Joyce Markle

Lake Ontario Room

What is the role of "fact" in international thrillers? Are Dan Brown's sources fact or fiction? Why was he sued in England if he was incorporating only "historical" materials into his novel? How did the lawsuit affect the sales of his book AND his "source" book? What happened to the sales of James Frey's biography, *A Million Little Pieces*, when it was discovered to be heavily fictionalized? What is the public norm for blending fact and fiction? Does it affect government communications, too? We start with a look at the basics of how pop lit works, then focus on international thrillers. Without knowing the formulas for this kind of writing, discussions (and even trials) about *The DaVinci Code* will usually miss the point. We won't.

3:00 P.M.–5:30 P.M.

Sexy Fishbowl Forum

ADULTS ONLY

Cat Sterrett Thorstenberg

Lake Erie Room

Cat leads the group in a frank discussion about human sexuality and related topics. Completely participant driven, the forum uses the “fishbowl” method to select questions asked anonymously by participants and answer them frankly and genuinely. Get answers to questions that, heretofore, you’ve probably been able to ask only a few people. To foster frankness and trust, we’ll lock the doors 15 minutes after we begin, so please be on time. Confidentiality and discretion a *must*.

4:15 P.M.–5:15 P.M.

Improv Class

The Alan Smithee Players

Paramount Ballroom

In this workshop you will take part in improv exercises to introduce you to the secrets of successful improvisation. Come for the show and stay for the workshop! **Note: The class will be limited to 30 people.**

2006 Spaceflight Update

Kent Nebergall

Lake Huron Room

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

Bavardons en français

Janet Evans

Lake Michigan Room

Venez parler français avec d’autres francophones. Vous aurez la possibilité de jouer au Scrabble ou au Trivial Pursuit en français ou simplement de bavarder avec les autres participants. Vous êtes

debutant(e)? N’hésitez pas à venir pour écouter et parler si vous voulez.

6:00 P.M.–7:30 P.M.

Banquet

Paramount Ballroom

Enjoy Halloween’s formal feast. Banquet goes get not only a lovely, sit-down dinner, but the best seats for this evening’s entertainment. The banquet requires a ticket, purchased in advance. You can still buy one on Friday afternoon and evening at registration. After that, check the bulletin board to see if anyone is selling. The hotel’s sports bar will be open, and there will be snacks but no hot food in Hospitality.

7:30 P.M.–8:30 P.M.

Kaiju Daiko

Paramount Ballroom

Welcome to the Big Bang. If you’ve seen Kodo or other taiko-drum troupes perform, you know what to expect; if you haven’t experienced this thrilling Japanese art form, you’re in for a real treat. Taiko drumming is known for its precision martial arts-type movements, complex rhythms, and big drums that rattle the room. *Taiko* or *Daiko* is Japanese for “drum,” and *Kaiju* means “monstrous” “or mysterious.” *Kaiju Daiko* are the monster drummers who will engage the senses in an aural as well as visual presentation.

9:00 P.M.–11:00 P.M.

The Return of Pretentious Drinking

Alan Baltis, Gary Kryvko, and Their Merry Band of Pourmeisters

Arlington A

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. You must be of legal drinking age to join us. Snobbish accents and extended pinkies optional.

Sweets for the Sweet—and for Everyone Else, Too

Arlington A

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

9:00 P.M.–1:00 A.M.

Saturday Night Dance

Arlington B

Tonight’s dance extravaganza again offers proximity to food and beverages. Once again, Chicago Area Mensa’s Howard Rothstein will be the evening’s MP3-J—and he takes requests.

9:30 P.M.–11:30 P.M.

Schemes, Scams, and Flimflams: Investigator Training 101

Cookie Bakke

Lake Erie Room

With a duffel bag full of new fraud cases, Cookie Bakke (aka “The Queen of Fraud”) says she’ll present this long popular program “with a 2006 twist.” You may sit back and just learn and listen, or you can participate with questions, answers, getting “accidentally” dead so that your beneficiary can collect on your life insurance policy, being run over by an imaginary truck in a bogus auto accident, or being allowed to “Play (crooked) Doctor” in a not-so-imaginary multimillion-dollar health-care billing scam.

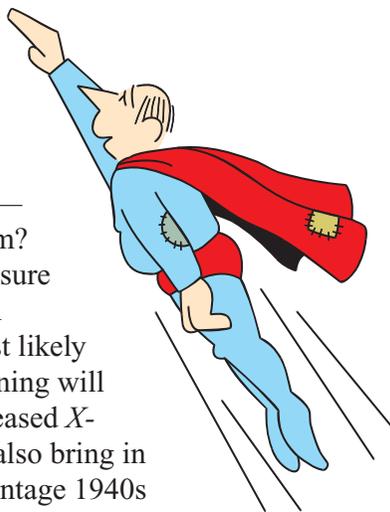
10:00 P.M.–?

Movies

Bob Finnegan

Lake Huron Room

Superhero movies—don’t you love them? Indulge in the pleasure of a favorite action character. The most likely choice for this evening will be the recently released *X-Men III*. Bob will also bring in his collection of vintage 1940s Superman cartoons. Times and selections will be posted outside the room.



Sunday

*****2:00 A.M.: Daylight Saving Time ends. Set your clock back one hour. It makes the night—and the RG—one hour longer!*****

For details on events and features that run all weekend long, see pages 5–7.

Note: For programs in the Michigan Room, walk through the book sale to the curtained area.

7:30 A.M.–10:00 A.M.

Breakfast in Hospitality

9:15 A.M.–9:45 A.M.

Non-Denominational Worship

Nadine McBeth

CC1-12

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

10:00 A.M.–11:00 A.M.

Awards

Paramount Ballroom

Find out who did and won what. It’s not always high entertainment, but it’s a good way to put names with faces. The service awards in particular introduce you to people who have worked, often behind the scenes, to make things happen in Chicago Area Mensa. Here’s the agenda:

- Game Tournament Winners*
- Fiendish Armchair Treasure Hunt Winners*
- Cookie Contest Winners*
- Volunteer Giveaway Drawing*
(if we qualified)
- Service Awards*
- Hell’s M’s “Party Animal” Winner*
- Future RG announcements*
(in order of event date)

11:30 A.M.–12:30 P.M.

Mensan and Libertarianism: A Natural Combination

Valiant Vetter

Paramount Ballroom

Mensa is an organization for bright people who like to think, preferring to extend themselves far beyond the “common wisdom.” Libertarians are people who prefer to reason their way through life philosophically and politically, refusing to settle for pre-digested or tried-and-failed “solutions” to society’s problems. What better combination than smart people who like to think and a political party that refuses to follow the herd mentality so prevalent in the country today?

The Key to Locks
Conrad Pomykala
Lake Erie Room

How does a master key work? Why are mechanical safe locks obsolete? Is lock picking as easy as it looks on TV? How do you rekey a lock? Can you REALLY open a bicycle lock with a ballpoint pen? Conrad, a locksmith at the University of Illinois, will answer these and as many other questions as time permits in a friendly chat with a slightly technical bent. He'll pass some samples around, too.

Trust Me, I'm a Tour Guide
Terry Hall
Lake Ontario Room

Terry Hall has been a certified tour manager and tour guide for 12 years. She has led student field trips and adult tour groups ranging in size from one to 280 on vacations all over the United States and to parts of Canada and Europe. She is a member of several travel professional organizations and represents the U.S. at international tourism conferences in exotic places every chance she gets. She loves sharing the adventure of travel with lots and lots of people. In her spare time, she is a C.P.A. and expert in financial evidence.

11:30 A.M.—1:30 P.M.
Kayaking (Sea, River, Whitewater)
John Martin
Hotel Pool

Ever dream of being the captain of your own oceangoing vessel? Wish you could travel remote rivers without a crew? Long to play in whitewater or surf? Explore the fast-growing sport of kayaking with some local kayakers. Various styles of kayaks will be on hand for your examination. Dress to get wet if you'd like to be closer to the action in the pool.

Stitch 'n' Bitch
Carol Metzger
Arlington B

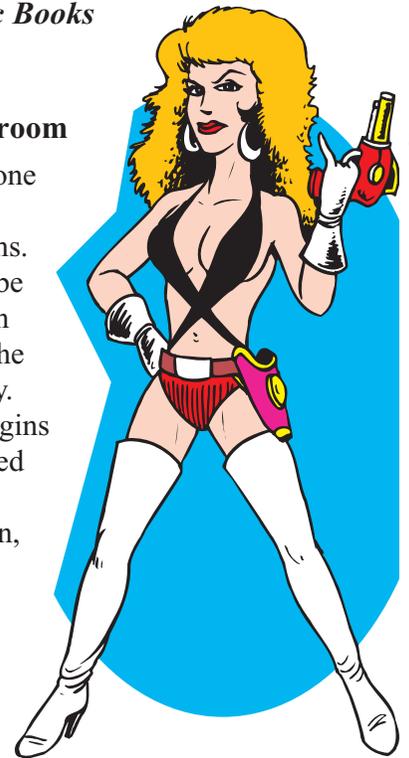
Carol invites you to play with her again, but this year you gotta bring your own toys along with your inner child. Although the Stitch 'n' Bitch format is currently associated with knitting, all kinds of needlecraft are welcome. We'll schmooze, admire each other's work, nosh, relax, and create. Look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

12:45 P.M.—1:45 P.M.
Trust Me, I'm a Federal Prosecutor
Omer Poirier
Lake Ontario Room

Omer has an A.B. in government from Harvard and a J.D. from Duke. He worked for "big evil corporate law firms" in Chicago for five and a half years, then for the Department of Justice. He spend 15 years as an assistant U.S. attorney, starting in Tampa and finishing in Hawaii. Omer worked many different kinds of cases, including bank robbery, alien smuggling, food stamp trafficking, bankruptcy fraud, bank fraud, and illegal possession of firearms. He also served as computer and telecommunication fraud coordinator. Since 2004, he has been working for the Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General, giving legal advice on criminal justice issues.

12:45 P.M.—2:45 P.M.
History of Comic Books in the U.S.
Alan Baltis
Paramount Ballroom

Comic books are one of the few native, American art-forms. Their history can be seen as a reflection of America's psyche in the 20th century. We'll learn the origins of world-recognized icons such as Superman, Batman, Captain America, and Spider-Man. We'll see the march of history as reflected in comics—wars, civil rights, technology. We'll see the gestalt of American hopes and dreams, fears and anxieties writ large—and in full color. We'll see the impact of government, of big business, of television, of the Internet. We'll marvel at the fact that all those comic readers in the '50s didn't turn into juvenile delinquents or communists. We'll discuss fascinating insights into a high-impact industry that few know much about.



2:00 P.M.—3:00 P.M.

Morocco Rocks

Cynthia Clampitt

Lake Huron Room

In March, in the company of fellow Mensan Barb Pohl, Cynthia headed for the exotic and fabled land of Morocco. It was everything she'd hoped—and vastly more than she expected. It was a land of incredible beauty, antiquity, variety, hospitality, and contrast. They traveled from Casablanca to Rabat, through Meknes and Volubilis, over the Atlas Mountains and into the Sahara, through Ourzazate and Ait Ben Haddou, and north again to Marrakech. It was a spectacular journey. See pictures, learn how to wind a desert turban, admire Touareg jewelry, hear about the food, and be amazed by the wonder of this fabulous destination.

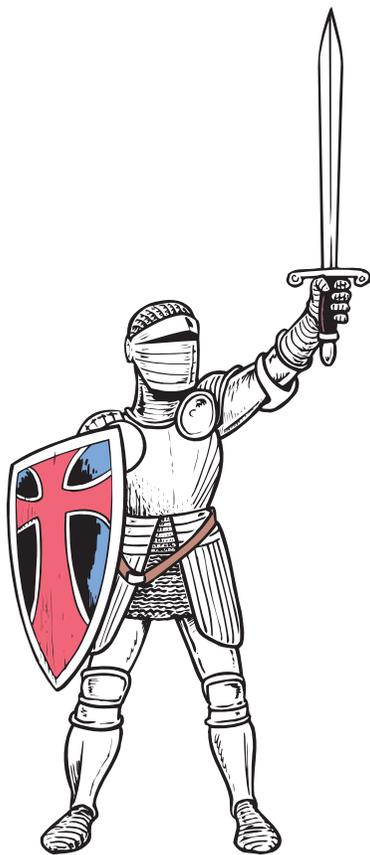
Sunday

2:00 P.M.—4:00 P.M.

Proctored Tests

Lake Erie Room and Lake Ontario Room

Not a member but want to be? Here's your chance. If you registered for HalloweeM, the extra \$10 you paid can be applied to the cost of the test.



3:15 P.M.—?

Time to clean up. As the adage goes, “many hands make light work.” Please pitch in and give us a hand. Remember, all volunteering is rewarded with a collectable volunteer pin and an invitation to the delightful Survivors' Party.

Thanks for coming. Hope to see you next year.

HalloweeM 31

Speakers' Bios

The Alan Smithee Players

Improv This! with the Alan Smithee Players, Improv Class (Sat.)

The various members of this improv troupe received their improvisational training in one way or another through Second City, Improv Olympics, the Annoyance Theater, Comedy Sportz, New Choice Improv, and many smaller seminars and training sessions. The Alan Smithee Players have performed at Second City, Comedy Sportz, the Chicago Comedy Company, and numerous bars, corporate events, private parties, and public festivals. Founding members Jim Christle, Steven Duberchin, Tobin Fraley (M), and Mike Hubble recruited Patty Burns, Jeff Garretson, and Aaron Wittenstein because of their better looks, stronger skills, and impressive street cred. Not all of the Players are able to come this weekend due to other commitments. We will draw straws to see who will attend, with the winners going to HalloweeM and the losers representing ImprovThis! in Las Vegas instead. <http://www.improvthis.com>

Cooke Bakke

Mensa Speed Talking (Fri.), Schemes, Scams, and Flimflams (Sat.)

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

Gordon Bakken

How the Continents were Formed (Fri.)

Gordon has a B.S. in mechanical engineering from Michigan Technological University and 40 years experience as an aerospace structural analyst of rocket engines, jet engines, and aircraft structures.

Speakers' Bios

Alan Baltis

Heroic Archetypes in Comics; Pretentious Drinking (Sat.), History of Comic Books in the U.S. (Sun.)

Alan aspires to be a modern-day Renaissance man. He is interested and reasonably knowledgeable in a wide range of topics. His comic book collection numbers about 40,000. He loves trying new pretentious liqueurs. He has developed commodity trading systems using genetic algorithms. He reads tons of books and magazines and watches lots of movies. He uses both Macintosh and WIntel PCs (preferring the Mac, of course: he IS a Mensan). He listens to a lot of music, loving progressive rock 'n' roll. He solves puzzles, plays games, cracks jokes, employs (and is employed by) memes. He thinks freedom is more important than safety. He loves his wife Colleen. He'll sleep when he's dead.

Greg Bassett

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

Greg is the president of The Squirrel Lovers Club, has 15 years experience hand feeding and interacting with the neighborhood wild squirrels, and has spent seven years living with his own indoor pet squirrel. <http://thesquirrelloversclub.com>

Jim Bowman

Chicago Newspapers: How They Twist and Bend News (Sat.)

Jim is a former *Chicago Tribune* columnist and former *Chicago Daily News* reporter. He writes for local publications, but specializes in corporate and institutional history. He has authored six published books and was coauthor of another. He is on the board of directors of the Midwest Writers Association and is the creator of a number of blogs, including Chicago Newspapers: <http://chicagonewspapers.blogspot.com>.

Cynthia Clampitt

Morocco Rocks (Sun.)

Cynthia is a writer, photographer, and culinary historian with 40 years of international travel experience (she started very young) on six continents. She also started the Chicago Travelers e-mail group.

Frank Dolinar

Nanotechnology: Coming Soon to a Store Near You (Sat.)

Frank began following the development of nanotechnology in 1986. Since then he has attended a number of conferences sponsored by the Foresight Institute in San Francisco and Washington, DC, and has given presentations on

nanotechnology for corporate seminars, business groups, technical groups, and classes at Michigan State University. He writes essays examining the history, current topics, trends, and implications of various technologies, including nanotechnology. Frank, who has a bachelor's degree in history of science and philosophy of science, is an application software development specialist at the Michigan House of Representatives.

Vincent Donoghue

Ten Thousand Villages: Business NOT as Usual (Sat.)

As educational associate for Ten Thousand Villages in Evanston, Vincent is responsible for coordinating sales away from the store and giving presentations to students, church groups, and community organizations. In 2005, he spent a week in Nicaragua learning about fair trade coffee and its impact on the lives of the producers. He also teaches theology, including human rights issues, at St. Scholastica Academy in Chicago. For 18 years he taught high school in places including Ireland and Zimbabwe. <http://www.evanston.tenthousandvillages.com>

Janice Ferri Esser

My Life Is a Soap Opera: Writing for Daytime Dramas (Sat.)

Janice is the winner of four Daytime Emmys (13 nominations) and two Writers Guild of America Awards. She has been a member of the writing team of "The Young & The Restless" (CBS), network television's number-one rated daytime drama, for more than 17 years. Recently named script editor, she has written scripts, breakdowns, and story; done background research on the social issues for which the show is famous; tracked storyline and character continuity; managed scheduling for the writing team; and edited her colleagues' scripts before sending them to the studio for production. She also serves as a union shop steward and the go-to person for obscure show history and backstory trivia.

Janet Evans

Bavardons en français (Sat.)

Janet has a master's degree plus 50 hours in French. She has taught French at every level, from beginning to third-year college. She lived in France for several years and has traveled extensively in francophone countries and francophone Louisiana. She is the founder and leader of les Bavards du Nord and is copresident of Alliance Française du North Shore. Janet

currently teaches French to adults.

Bob Finnegan

Optical and Other Illusions (Fri.), A Dog's Life, In Extremis, Part II (Sat.)

Bob, a Chicago Area Mensan, is an avid movie and video buff with an exceptionally large collection of documentaries and information on a wide range of topics, including illusions, animals, disasters, and, especially, movies and moviemaking, behind-the-scenes footage, and movie star insights.

Clyde Forrester

Sing-Along (Fri.)

Clyde has been a Mensan for nearly two decades. He says he comes from a long line of tinkers and ne'er-do-well musicians, which he believes is why it was natural for him to gravitate toward computers and music.

Carol Freeman

How to Take Better Nature Photos (Sat.)

Carol's work is exhibited in galleries and prized by private collectors. Her images have been published in the *Audubon Wildlife Calendar*, *Better Homes and Gardens Magazine*, and the best-selling *The Photoshop Book for Digital Photographers*, among others. Carol recently photographed 1,200 plants at the Chicago Botanic Garden for the creation of what is now the world's largest database of evaluation plants (www.eplants.org). She is sponsored by Nikon, which uses her images in its ads and publications, and was selected by Fuji Photo Film for its Talent Team 2000. Carol teaches photography classes privately and at the Chicago Botanic Garden, Morton Arboretum, and other gardens and nature venues. <http://www.carolfreemanphotography.com> for gifts, photo tips, and class info, or <http://www.flickr.com/photos/inbeautyiwalk> to see Carol's latest photos

Gerald Hiestand

The Origins of Moral Evil in Religious Thought (Fri.)

Gerald Hiestand is a pastor at Harvest Bible Chapel in Rolling Meadows, Illinois. He has undergraduate and graduate degrees in theology and serves as the director of the Society for the Advancement of Ecclesial Theology. Recent writings include "Augustine and the Justification Debates: Appropriating Augustine's doctrine of Culpability" (*Trinity Journal*, forthcoming). <http://www.iustificare.blogspot.com>

Kaiju Daiko

Taiko Drum Concert (Sat.)

Members of Kaiju Daiko have studied Japanese Taiko drumming in Japan and the United States. They have studied with members of Kodo (the world's premier Taiko drum group), including Yoshikazu Fujimoto, Eichi Saito, Leonard Eto, Miyauchi Sensei, Grand Master Seiichi Tanaka, Master Ukichi Takano, Moko Igarashi, and Aka Oni Daiko. Kaiju Daiko has held workshops and/or given performances for the Chicago Folk and Roots Fest, Detroit Concert of Colors, Field Museum of Natural History, American Airlines, Buddhist Temple of Chicago, Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, Chicago Jazz Festival, Sears Corporation, Harold Washington College, Loyola University, Beverly Art Center, Chicago Park District, Evanston Ethnic Arts Festival, and the Midwest Drum and Dance Festival. Current members of Kaiju Daiko are Emily Agustin, Chris Cobb, Kim Sour Eap, Bob and Kim DeVore, Mahsa Modarres, Scott Watanabe, and John Yost. http://www.drummingcircle.com/kaiju_daiko.htm

Ruth "Mama" Long

Introduction to Metaphysics: Aura Cleansing and Planetary Healing (Fri.)

Ruth is a metaphysical wellness counselor and certified clinical and spiritual counselor. She is a member of the National Federation of Hypnotists and is certified in hypnotism and past-life regression therapy. She is also a certified metaphysical hypnosis specialist, a colon hygienist, and a detox and dietary analyst.

John R. Lott

The Judicial Confirmation Process: The Difficulty with Being Smart (Sat.)

John, who has a Ph.D. in economics from UCLA, is a researcher in econometrics, law and economics, public choice theory, industrial organization, public finance, microeconomics, environmental regulation, antitrust policy, education, and crime. He was most recently a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. He has been a senior research scholar at Yale University's School of Law, law and economics fellow at the School of Law at the University of Chicago, the chief economist at the United States Sentencing Commission in 1988 and 1989, and a fellow of the Hoover Institute at Stanford University. He

has taught at the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business, the Wharton School, UCLA Graduate School of Management, Rice University Department of Economics, and Cornell University Law School. John has published more than 90 articles in academic journals, including the *Journal of Law and Economics* and the *Journal of Legal Studies*, and is a frequent contributor to major newspapers. He is the bestselling author of *More Guns, Less Crime* and *The Bias Against Guns*. <http://www.johnrlott.com>

Joyce Markle

The DaVinci Code: Fact-Fiction Blends in Popular Literature Today (Sat.)

Joyce is a professor of English at National-Louis University. She is the founder of the Graduate Writing Program and was its director from 1988 to 2004. She specializes in popular literature. A for-credit version of her presentation was taught at National-Louis in July, and a non-credit version was presented in Nowy Sacz, Poland, in June.

John Martin

Self-Defense for Women (Sat.), Kayaking (Sun.)

John has a B.S. from Northwestern University, but his passion lies in the martial arts. He is proficient in the ParaCombatives and Miyama-Ryu Ju-jutsu (Mokuroku ParaCombatives, Menkyo Miyama Ryu). John has been teaching ju-jutsu since 1980 from east coast to west coast, to women, civilians, and law enforcement personnel. John has 20 years experience canoeing; he transitioned to kayaking four years ago. He is British Canoe Union certified, an American Canoe Association instructor, and a guide/instructor for The Northwest Passage, an international outdoor adventure travel company in Wilmette, Illinois. <http://www.CombatArts.org>, <http://www.SeaKayakChicago.com>, <http://www.nwpassage.com>

Carol Metzger

Stitch 'n' Bitch (Sun.)

Carol will try to make art out of just about anything. Her current obsession is knitting with unexpected combinations of textures and materials. She has taught knitting classes at the Hyde Park Art Center and My Sister's Knits in Chicago. Two of her patterns are in the soon-to-be-released book, *One-Skein Wonders*, edited by Judith Durant (Storey Publishing, October 2006). <http://cfmdesigns.net>

Kent Nebergall

Carnelli (Fri.), Midwinter Mensan on Mars, 2006 Spaceflight Update (Sat.)

Kent is the son of a former test pilot and an artist, and has been an avid follower of space technology since Apollo-Soyuz, when he was seven years old. In 2004, Kent won the Kepler Prize for Mars Mission Design from the Mars Society, and was later part of Mars Desert Research Station Crew 32. He has done space technology presentations for Mensa, The Mars Society, Toastmasters, and several science fiction conventions in the Midwest. His Mars Society design papers were included in *On To Mars, Volume 2*, from Apogee Press, available at your local bookseller.

Frank Polancic

Pillow Talk: Feng Shui for Romance and Attracting Your Soul Mate (Sat.)

Frank is a widely recognized specialist on relationships. He is a noted motivational speaker and seminar leader on the subject of relationships and is responsible for creating the world's first Soul Mate Census. Frank is the author of *Why Wait? Create Your Soul Mate Now*, which has helped countless singles find their soul mates by following clear, easy-to-follow action steps that allow them to eliminate hidden obstacles and distractions, identify exactly who their soul mate is, and learn how to attract him or her. <http://www.createyoursoulmatenow.com>

Conrad Pomykala

The Key to Locks (Sun.)

Conrad Pomykala has been a Mensan and a locksmith since 1976. He works at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he has recently been programming and maintaining the 150+ computerized locksets installed on the campus biohazard labs, chemical storage facilities, and "high security" bathrooms. He has also taught specialized trade seminars to Chicago locksmiths.

Ravenswood Consort

Phyllis, Night, Love, and God—A Cappella (Sat.)

The Ravenswood Consort is a Renaissance and early music a cappella vocal group. The members of the consort are Steve Andrews, Greg Braid, Lisa Bassett, Dan Brantley, Michael Collins, Carol Donovan, Lon Ellenberger, Lucinda Leavett, Diane Percival, Barbara Schnitzer, and Liz Vasiljevic.

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

The Return of the Great Luke Ski (Fri.)

Luke writes, records, and performs comedy music, both parodies and originals, on pop culture subjects ranging from *Lord of the Rings* and *Star Wars* to *Spider-Man*, Keanu Reeves, and *Pirates of the Caribbean*. He's had a song in the top five of Dr. Demento's yearly "Funny 25" countdown every year since 2002, with songs such as "Stealing Like A Hobbit," "Peter Parker," and "Vader Boy," earning himself the title of "Dr. Demento's Most Requested Artist of the 21st Century." Luke's music has also been heard on *ManCow's Morning Madhouse* and various college and morning shows across the country. Since 1996, Luke has released six music albums, and this year released his first DVD, "The Ego has Landed." Luke's hilarious use of props and costumes while performing his parodies have made him a fan favorite at science fiction and gaming conventions all across the country, including GenCon Indy, Star Wars Celebration, GenCon SoCal, Dragon*Con, MarCon, Origins, MarsCon, ConVergence, Archon, CapriCon, and DucKon, as well as at college campuses around the Midwest. Visit his Web site for clips of his music, tour dates, and online art portfolio. <http://www.LukeSki.com> or <http://www.myspace.com/thegreatlukeski>

Ro Sila

Cookie Contest (Fri.)

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

Skinner

Hell's M's (Fri.)

Skinner is the founder and SIG coordinator of Hell's Ms. <http://www.hellsms.com>

Jay Smith

Fiendish Armchair Treasure Hunt (Sat.)

Jay, a Chicago Area Mensan, invented this popular HalloweeM event and continues to be the source of its deliciously puzzle-happy existence.

Vicki Snavelly

Cookie Contest (Fri.)

Vicki is a former HalloweeM hospitality chair, the one who had the gift of eliciting contributions of homemade goodies.

Ruth Soskin

Introduction to Yoga (Sat.)

Ruth is an independent training consultant with many years of corporate experience as a trainer, facilitator, and instructional designer in computer software, telecommunications, and "soft" skills. Ruth is also a certified hatha yoga instructor. Ruth knows the benefits that yoga brings to her life and she looks forward to sharing this at 'WeeM.

Charlie Steinhice

InQUIZition (Fri.)

Charlie coaches the quizbowl team at UT-Chattanooga. A veteran of academic and not-so-academic trivia competitions, Charlie was on the University of Tennessee team that won the 1991 ACF National Championship. When not playing Grand InQUIZitor, Charlie is a senior research analyst for BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, who struggles heroically to answer all the questions posed by his two daughters.

Cat Sterrett Thorstenberg

Sexyg Fishbowl Forum (Sat.)

Cat was a local Sexyg Coordinator in Chicago Area Mensa for six years. She has facilitated Sexyg Fishbowl Forums at RGs and AGs around the country for 20 years. Cat is a fitness trainer with a master's degree in exercise physiology.

Valiant Vetter

Mensa and Libertarianism: A Natural Combination (Sun.)

Val is a lifelong Chicago-area resident, is the state chair of the Libertarian Party of Illinois, and chair of the Libertarian Party of Chicago. He is also a system administrator for a large Chicago newspaper, commercial pilot, gardener, reader, Parliamentarian, singer, tinkerer, and mechanic. A recovering Republican, Val "discovered" libertarianism and the Libertarian Party during the 2000 elections, when he realized there had to be a better choice than simply "the lesser of two evils." He has since studied, researched, and adopted the entire LP platform. Val spends much of his "free time" working for the party, promoting libertarian ideals, and reaching out to John Q. Public to convince him that a change is necessary and that the Libertarian Party is the best available choice. <http://www.lpillinois.org>

Michelle Wojtaszek

Thinking Outside the Cube (Sat.)

Michelle, who recently completed her master's degree in psychology, has a special interest in experimental social and cognitive psychology. She has coauthored several publications in the field and is currently applying to doctoral programs. When she is not being a mad scientist, Michelle plays drums for a popular local heavy metal band, Abominatrix, and collects body art. She also works as a research assistant, private tutor, fine art model, and freelance artist and writer-editor. Michelle is LocSec for Mid-Hudson Mensa (NY) and former *Mensa Bulletin* cover gal. <http://www.verbalintelligence.org>

Sandy Wood

The Trivialities of Trivia (Sat.)

Sandy is the research editor for *mental_floss magazine*. He has also provided material for various media, including *Reader's Digest*, *CNN-Headline News*, and America Online. He is the coauthor of *The Snapple Aptitude Test* (Broadway Books, June 2006) and the upcoming *Pocket Idiot's Guide to Not So Useless Knowledge* (Alpha Books, December 2006). <http://www.answerauthority.com>

Joan Zielinski

Marketing Chance (Sat.)

Joan, who holds a Ph.D. in marketing, combines her background as the former executive director of the New Jersey State Lottery (two years) with extensive experience as a consultant for numerous lotteries in the States and Canada, the pari-mutuel and casino industries, vendors to the gambling industries, and Fortune 500 companies. She has published more than 20 articles on the lottery industry and has been a featured speaker for the North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries, Association of Racing Commissioners International, Racetracks of Canada, the University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program and its annual symposium, Harness Tracks of America, and the Washington Journalism Center.

Our Heroes



| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| LOCSEC | BETH ANNE DEMETER |
| HALLOWEEM CHAIR | JANET CENTURY |
| ASSISTANT TO MS. CENTURY | CHRIS EDWARDS |
| HOTEL LIAISON | BETH ANNE DEMETER |
| PROGRAM CHAIR | CYNTHIA CLAMPITT |
| TREASURER | CINDY OGILVIE |
| VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR | AMY KOZY |
| REGISTRAR | BILL HORMAN |
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| CHILDREN'S PROGRAM | LYNN COLLIER |
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| PROOFREADER | DARLENE BRILL |
| PHOTOGRAPHER | JOHN MUELLNER |
| WEBSLINGERS | BARB POHL AND ED POREMBA |
| AFTERGLOW PARTY | STACEY KIRSCH |
| LOGO DESIGN | ROBIN CRAWFORD |

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Thanks to Einstein Brothers Bagels and Intelligentsia Coffee (www.intelligentsiacoffee.com) for their generous food donations.



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Special thanks from Janet to our 'WeeM Team and the Sheraton's John Beery: you're the best!