

Halloween XXXII

October 26–28
2007



32 Bits
of Fun

Hosted by
Chicago Area Mensa

Welcome

Welcome to World Wide WeeM! We promised you 32 bits of fun, but I'm sure you'll find even more. We have speakers on the most diverse topics imaginable. Check out the great costumes 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 in our alternative to online dating. We have two dances, and our DJ takes requests. Shop the Book Sale and the Vendor Tables. Or just kick back in Hospitality for great food and even better conversation.

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

Welcome, and Happy Halloween!

Janet Century

'WeeM Chair

General Information

Illegal behavior will not be tolerated. You will be escorted out of the event, without a refund, if you engage in any illegal behavior

Alcohol and Youth Illinois law, hotel rules, and Chicago Area Mensa 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.

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

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.

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.

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 banquet dinner 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 public areas only. This includes the smoking Hospitality suite (Room 1022) 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 our not-so-bitty helpers this weekend. If at least one person signs up for every volunteer shift by 7PM 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 7PM on Friday. Winners need not be present at the drawing.

Program Notes

Like the previous two years, there will be a hot breakfast in Hospitality on Sunday morning instead of a Sunday brunch that costs extra. The Awards Ceremony will run from 10 to 11AM. After a brief break for those who need to check out of their rooms, Sunday programming will resume at 11:30AM and continue until 2PM. So, if you're not catching a plane, don't leave: there will still be lots of programs on Sunday.

Because there are 15-minute intervals between programs, 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.

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.

FriPlays

Start the fun early! This year we are offering four options. Bus tours leave at 8:30AM and should return before the first program at 4PM. All activities have limited number of spaces, so reserve early. Reservations must be accompanied by payment to maintain place on list.

Option #1: Taiko Drumming instruction

Option #2: The very cool technology labs at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Option #3: Star Wars Exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry.

Option #4: The Oriental Institute devoted to the study of the ancient Near East.



All Weekend

Hospitality Suites:

Arlington (*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 6:30–8:30PM

Saturday Breakfast 7:30–9:30AM

Saturday Lunch 11AM–1:30PM

Saturday Late Snack 10:30–11:30PM

Sunday Breakfast 7:30–10AM

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.

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; selections may vary. No need to rush or panic!

Singles Mailboxes

Lake Michigan

If you're single, post a bio or 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.

Massage Therapy

Room TBA (See room assignment and sign up sheet 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 30 to 90 minutes.

WeeM Market

Arlington Ballroom Lobby

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 5PM–8PM and Saturday 10AM–3PM

Book Sale

*Perimeter of
Arlington B near
Hospitality*



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

A Different Kind of Book Drive

This year at 'WeeM we will be doing something new: collecting books that Book Worm Angels will distribute to classrooms in Chicago public schools to encourage a love of reading. Please consider donating new and slightly used fun and general interest books for students in Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade. (No text or religious books please.) Look for the special collection box, probably near the Book Sale or Registration.

In over 100 of Chicago public schools, 60% or more at-risk kids are reading below grade level. Educators are convinced in-home reading substantially improves reading scores, but there's typically no history of reading at home for these kids, nor are there books at home. Kids aren't permitted to take books home from school, and libraries are inaccessible, in many cases because the kids have to cross gang territories to get to

All Weekend

the libraries and it's just not safe to be out.

Book Worm Angels, an Illinois 501(c)(3) corporation, is Chicago's only literacy program



providing in-classroom lending libraries to public elementary schools where the majority of students read below grade level. At the close of the 2006-2007 school year, the Book Worm Angels program is in 100 schools serving 58,000 children. Goals include expanding the program to all City of Chicago schools where 60% or more of the children read below grade level, then expanding to other cities.

For more information about Chicago Area Mensa's literacy program and this book drive, contact Carol Metzger, 773-933-7625, cmetzger@chicago.us.mensa.org. For information on the Book Worm Angels program, contact Michael Ban, Executive Director, 847-471-2665, mban@bookwormangels.org or visit www.bookwormangels.org

'Weem Loves Kids

Younger Children (3-8)

Must be potty trained

Headquarters Room (right outside Hospitality)

We have several age-appropriate programs for our younger guests. Most are free, but have space limitations. So that we have enough adults present, you must pre-register your child for ALL scheduled programs. Please check at the Registration Desk for availability. If there is a fee, payment will be required to hold the spot.

Any time there is no programming scheduled, the Kids' Room is available for unsupervised play. We would like to make this an enjoyable experience for children and their parents alike. It is important to remember that children and their behavior are ultimately the responsibility of their parents. The rules we are imposing are for your children's safety; we ask for your cooperation.

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Tweens (9–13)

Arlington Room (Hospitality)

Our pre-teens have their own unsupervised area set up in Hospitality where you can check in on them. There are limited scheduled activities; it's really just a place for them to meet each other and socialize. We'll make sure there are plenty of electrical outlets for hand-held electronic games.

Brief Summary of Kid-Specific Activities

This year we have specific areas and programming for different age groups; see the program schedule for times and descriptions.

Friday

7–8:30PM Kids' Halloween Party.

8:30–9PM Kids' Costume Contest

9–10PM Halloween Party II

Saturday

9–11:30AM Elementary Enrichment & Fun

12:30–1:30PM Squirrel Man

1:30–6PM Unsupervised play

6–9PM Pizza Pool Party

6–10PM Supervised play (Fee required)

Games & Tournaments

Game Room

Lake Superior Room

The Game Room will open Thursday evening and remain so around the clock until Sunday afternoon. We have all the games from Mind Games® 2004, a wide selection of newer “Euro-games,” and several new games appropriate to the season, including Zombies, Poison, Fearsome Floors, and Mmm ... Brains! Please do not leave your small children in the game room—games will also be in the Children's and Tweeners' spaces.

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And for those who know their corner pieces from their edge pieces, the Jigsaw Grotto will be open all weekend in the front half of the Lake Michigan room.



Our popular new Chicago event “AGOG” (A Gathering of Gamers) will be recreated in miniature starting Friday at 8:00 AM. We’ll order out for lunch around noon, so join us for “MAGOG,” a Mini-AGOG.

Tournaments

Lakes Michigan and Superior Rooms

Aside from Hold ‘em Poker in the Lake Superior room, tournaments and special game events will be in the Lake Michigan room. Many events have limited space, so head down early in the weekend and look for the signup sheets for your favorite tournaments! See the main program schedule for details.

Brief Summary of Tournaments

Friday

3–6PM Life-Size Kill Doctor Lucky

6:30–8:30PM Werewolves of Finsterwald

11:30PM Take My Punchline, Please!

Saturday

10AM–12PM Logic Puzzles

12:30–2PM Fiendish Armchair Treasure Hunt

12:30–4PM Texas Hold ‘Em Poker

2:30–4PM Return of the Werewolves

9–12AM The CAM CAM Jigsaw Challenge

Sunday

11:30AM– 2PM Settlers of Catan

All Weekend

Programs & Activities

WorldWideWeeM—the ultimate networking event—has something for everyone. We have programs on nanotechnology, Harry Potter, outer space, language, squirrels, manners, dance, disaster, classical music, computers, and far more. The programming is as varied as our membership. We think you'll get your full 32 bits worth 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

Due to the timing for the program book preparation, any changes to the schedule will be reflected in the Program At A Glance, which you'll receive at registration. Therefore, if there is a discrepancy between the two, the PAAG is the accurate one.



Unlike past years, HalloweeM will not be longer than any other weekend of the year (although it will seem that way). Do NOT set your watches back on Saturday night.

Friday

8AM–3PM

Mini AGOG

Games Room

Join us for a reprise of January’s “A Gathering of Gamers.” Players will send out for lunch around noon.

3–6PM

Life-Size Kill Doctor Lucky

Lake Michigan

Matt Crawford

“Kill Doctor Lucky” is a sort of 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, and each game takes less than an hour. We’ll play several games, with a prize for each winner. If you miss the first game, show up for the next, or the next, ...

4–5PM

Trust Me, I’m a Pro Gambler

Lake Erie

Scott Katz

Find out whether particular games are beatable, what strategies to use, how to best get comped in Las Vegas on your budget and where to get reliable information on your favorite topics online.

Speed Talking

Lake Huron

Cookie Bakke

This icebreaker is 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. The questions are all over the place—medical ethics, politics, current events, emotional stuff, and so on. It is very Mensan and 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?

5:15–6:15PM



Meet the AMC

Paramount

Russ Bakke

Nearly half the newly re-seated American Mensa Committee will be here, including the Chairman, several RVCs, and appointed officers. Find out who is doing what in the organization, get answers to your questions, or share your thoughts about Mensa.

Trust Me, I'm a Financial Advisor

Lake Erie

Agnes A. Roach, CFP®

Are you ready for retirement? Of course you're ready to stop working, but are you financially ready? (There's always that catch.)

Eat Well, Feel Well: Tips for Healthy Food Selection & Preparation

Lake Huron

Adrienne Felder

Healthful food should be nothing less than delicious, beautiful, and good for you. Spice things up in the kitchen with this discussion about selecting and preparing healthy ingredients. Chef Adrienne Felder will share health-supportive information and resources focusing on organic, whole, and seasonal foods pleasing to the palate and beneficial for the immune system. Learn techniques and tips to help streamline the cooking process and best preserve nutrients.

5:15–7:15pm

Searching for the Soul of Judaism

Lake Ontario

Barry Budoff

Judaism, like most faiths, has been challenged by modern movements and culture.

While this is nothing new, it is shocking to realize the extent to which these influences are affecting Jewish life and identity. Coming from a Traditional/Orthodox background, being a Messianic Jewish Rabbi has given me a unique opportunity to consider some of these societal/cultural pressures and with the view toward keeping Judaism from losing its "soul."



6–8pm

Wine Sampling

Hospitality

Kathleen Giesting and Spencer Wolff

Wine...subject of song, food columns, and arguments. Like most art, appreciation and enjoyment of wine is somewhat subjective. Join us for a few tips on tasting and evaluating wine. Then sample a few of our offerings...and maybe find a new wine to add to your cellar or your daily table. *Special thanks to Janice Ferri Esser for making this event possible.*

6:30–7:30pm

Everyone's a Lexicographer*Paramount***Erin McKean**

Lexicographers like to say that dictionary-making is an art *and* a science. With the advent of new online tools, almost anyone can contribute to lexicography ... come find out how you can, and why you'd want to!

Trust Me, I'm a Embalmer*Lake Erie***Joe Blake**

Few professions are surrounded by as much mystery as those surrounding the funeral industry. Joe will answer any questions you may have about the embalming procedure and the funeral business, based on his experiences and perspective from working in the business.

Mead, The Forgotten Brew*Lake Huron***Robert Andrus**

A hands on guide to brewing a simple fermented beverage. 3 simple recipes will be started and standard techniques and equipment discussed. open discussion during the demo and a private, non Mensa-sanctioned tasting will be scheduled after the Program.

6:30–8:30pm

Dinner*Hospitality*

No need to rush; there's plenty for everyone and the yummy Thanksgiving dinner items will be replenished regularly.

Werewolves of Finsterwald*Lake Michigan***Ed You**

The village of Finsterwald has a problem that's tearing them apart! Can they deduce the identities of the werewolves among them and bring them to justice? Join the struggle against lycanthropy. Each game is quick (and bloody) so drop in any time.

7–8:30pm

Kids' Halloween Party*Headquarters Room*

All ages—children 5 and under must be accompanied by parent. Costumes, cookies, crafts. Limit 15. FREE. **Registration required.**

8:30–9pm

Kids's Costume Contest*Paramount*

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.

9–10pm

Kids' Halloween Party II*Headquarters Room*

Ages 3–8 During the Adults' Costume Contest. Supervised movies and fun (must be potty trained). Limit 15. FREE. Registration required. **You MUST pick up your child promptly** at the end of the Adult Costume Contest.

Adult Costume Contest*Paramount***Scott Chupack-MC**

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, 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.

10:30pm–12am

Martial Arts in the Movies*Lake Huron***Dave Doney**

Learn more about the moves in the action movies you love – including *The Matrix*, *Enter the Dragon*, *The Protector*, *An Officer and a Gentleman*, *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* and others. Dave will select pivotal fight scenes for discussion, analysis and demonstration of the techniques used. Some violent content will be selected from these movies so individuals under 13 years of age are cautioned.

10:30pm–12:30am

Luke Ski in Concert*Paramount***Luke Sienkowski**

Dr. Demento's Most Requested Artist of the 21st Century, "the great Luke Ski" returns to HalloweeM! Luke will perform his past fan-favorite hits as well as songs from his new album *BACONspiracy*. Luke's material is decidedly Mensa-esque, with songs that range from gaming to Hamlet to Star Wars and beyond.

10:30–11:30pm

HELL's M's Meeting*Lake Ontario***Skinner**

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

10:30pm–1am

Dance*Hospitality*

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 1AM We will provide a boombox for those who want to keep dancing, so bring your favorite CDs.

11:30pm–12:30am

Cookie Contest*Hospitality***Vicki Snively and Ro Sila**

Join us for our Fourth Annual Halloween 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.

11:30pm–1:30am

Carnelli*Lake Erie***Kent Nebergall**

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

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

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.

11:30pm-?

Take My Punchline, Please!

Lake Michigan

Matt Crawford

The rules of the game are simple. When someone starts telling a joke, butt in with the punchline as early as you can. If you are the first, you collect a point. Then it's your turn to start a joke. If no one can get the punchline to your joke, you lose the point you just earned and the player to your left tells a joke. Simple riddles—question and answer—are not allowed. This eliminates every known lightbulb and knock-knock joke. A prize will be awarded after an hour or so of play, but the game will continue as long as the jokes hold out!

Saturday

7:30–9:30am

Breakfast

Hospitality

Fill up with a delicious hot meal before heading off to a stimulating day of programs and activities. Food will be replenished every half hour, so there's no need to rush.

9–11:30am

Elementary Enrichment & Fun

Headquarters Room

2nd-5th graders. Electronics, robotics, crafts and fun. Limit 8. FREE. **Registration required.**

9:15–10:15am

Introduction to Unicode

Paramount

Clyde Forrester

Languages other than English are becoming more common in the U.S. The Internet opens up communication channels to the entire world. The challenge is to communicate with other countries and other cultures. The Unicode standard provides a way to communicate in the printed characters of the worlds many languages. Clyde will attempt to explain what Unicode is, its history, what it is used for, why it is used, and how to use it.



9:15–10:15am

Musical Surprises

Lake Huron

Bob Finnegan

Creative ways of visually using music, from the imagination of such artists as Spike Jones, Disney, Ernie Kovacs, Benny Hill, Allen Funt, and others.

Saturday

The Web of Life: Threatened and Endangered species of Illinois

Lake Ontario

Carol Freeman

A Photographic journey. Learn about the flora and fauna of Illinois and the rich habitats they inhabit.

9:15–11:15am

Yoga

Lake Erie

Ruth Soskin

Start your day with yoga—better than a cup of joe! Yoga provides an overall sense of physical and mental well-being. It increases your flexibility and balance, builds strength and stamina. Yoga decreases your stress level and allows you to experience calm and relaxation. Feel refreshed and energized—enjoy the benefits of yoga immediately! (All levels welcome. Bring a yoga mat if you have one.)

10am–12pm

Logic Puzzles

Lake Michigan

Oriel Maximé

Chicago's own award-winning puzzlemaster has a brand-new set of logic problems to delight and/or confound you. Unchain your left brain!

10:30–11:30am

Web 2.0 Mass Collaboration and Emergent Coolness

Paramount

Alan Baltis

Many Web-savvy Ms will have heard about Web 2.0, but for once the latest buzzword may have more heft than hype behind it. Web 2.0 is a set of technologies and principles that make it easy for users to generate their own content, easy to comment on others contributions, and easy to rank and tag and slice and dice content such that the metadata about that repository is of ever-increasing quality and value. We'll tour some of the best



and best-known Web 2.0 sites, and discuss how such sites are a great opportunity for Mensans to share their smarts, learned opinions, and exquisite taste with the world.

Schemes, Scams, and Flim Flams

Lake Huron

Cookie Bakke

Fraud is everywhere! Watch television, read the newspaper, pay attention to email warnings. Cookie, in her not-so-secret identity of Leslie Kim, Girl Editor of The John Cooke Fraud Report, is a recognized global expert on the topic of fraud and fights a never ending battle for truth, justice, and a fraud-free America (or something like that). She's here to tell you what's going on, who is getting away with it and how/why you need to nail down all of your assets. If you behave, she'll even show you how the bad guys turn a single dollar into \$100.00 ... in about 40 seconds. Over and over and over.

Saturday

Moral Absolutes: Do they exist, and if so, can they be known?

Lake Ontario

Gerald Hiestand

In a volatile—indeed violent—age of competing religious truth claims, is it possible (or helpful) to speak of absolute moral truth? If so, can absolute truth be effectively known? Should we impose it on others? This seminar will explore the various conceptions of moral/religious truth and discuss the implications of each view.

11am–1:30pm

Lunch

Hospitality

More food! Everyone needs more food!

11:30am–12:15pm

Lunch break – head for goodies in hospitality—but no need to rush, as food will be put out multiple times

11:45am–12:30pm

Poker Questions & Answers

Lake Superior

Quentin Ellis

Are you a poker enthusiast? Do you consider yourself a serious student of the game? During this hour, you will have the opportunity to ask Quentin Ellis, a professional poker player, any questions you like about poker. Whether you are just beginning or already supplementing your income, this is an opportunity to ask someone already “in the trenches” questions about tactics, strategy, gambling theory, hand analyses (including situations relating to this weekend's tournament), playing for a living, or anything else related to poker. He may even answer you!

12:30–1:30pm

2007 Space Flight Update

Paramount

Kent Nebergall

Time once again for our annual roundup of what the world's space programs have hidden on drawing boards and in distant skies. We will review the major discoveries in space for the past year, and look forward to what human and robotic missions are expected to achieve in the year to come. Currently, there are more human spacecraft in development than at any point in history, and there are 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, a private human spacecraft hangs in the Smithsonian and a private space station is being prototyped in Las Vegas, with two early models currently orbiting Earth. Welcome to the twenty-first century. Come have a look.

Saturday

Squirrels: Are They the Mensans of Our Backyards?

Lake Huron

Greg Bassett

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.
Note for Parents: This program has been a hit with children in previous years and you may wish to bring your child. No supervision is planned for this event.

The Journey From Hunter To Hero To Sovereign To Wiseman

Lake Ontario

Skinner

As we move through life here are many different stages of growth and power we can experience. Each has its own positive and negative sides. Society also goes through stages. Many of those can be seen to repeat themselves. How can healthy choices be made without knowing where you stand in your life and where the world is in its growth? What skills and tools have we lost as people as the world has moved into the industrial and technological era? Come and hear about one way to find landmarks to help you know where you stand, both in your own life/soul and in the world.

12:30–2pm

Fiendish Armchair Treasure Hunt

Lake Michigan

Jay Smith

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.

12:30–2:30pm

Harry Potter and the Secret of the Giant Sales Figures

Lake Erie

Joyce Markle

Although the vivid imaginative fantasies that fill the Harry Potter books are delightful and extremely well done, the real reason for the history-making success and popularity of this series probably lies more in Rowling’s perceptive view of the psychological profile of her primary target audience—young-adult readers—and her ability to cater to their preferred world-view and their deepest psychological needs and wishes. Get a quick background in how genres of popular literature are psychologically ‘spun’ to their particular target audiences. Examine the patterns we see in the Harry Potter series and interesting similarities between some of the psychological formulas found in the Harry Potter series and patterns found in John Grisham’s domestic thrillers. Lots of handouts will be available. (This presentation should also be helpful to authors of YA literature.)

Saturday

12:30–4:30pm

Texas Hold’em Poker Tournament

Games Room

Scott and J.C. Chupak

Try your hand at the game that’s sweeping the nation—with no financial risk! Sign up by noon in the games room for priority seating, or simply show up at 12:30. There’s no entry cost, but there are prizes for the three top finishers, and a special prize for anyone who knocks out poker professional Quentin Ellis!

1:30–6pm

Unsupervised Play for Kids

Headquarters Room

Check postings at the Headquarters Room for more information.

1:45–2:45pm

Nanotechnology: Many Small Steps to the Future

Paramount

Frank Dolinar

Nanotechnology is a bit like a pun. You may have to think about it more than once before you understand it. After thinking about nanotechnology for 20 years, I have found myself continuously challenged to understand

the latest nanotech news and its implications. The presentation will introduce you to basic concepts and help you understand nanotech's growing capabilities. It will look at nanotech's promise and possible effects upon our daily lives. The future is coming sooner than you think.

Keep Your Elbows Off the Table

Lake Huron

Colleen Rush

The pomp and circumstance of eating in an upscale restaurant can intimidate the most savvy gourmand. Whether it's subtle table etiquette (like how to rest your fork and knife to signal "finished!"), sending back a funky bottle of wine, getting the best service, or talking your way into an overbooked restaurant, this program will teach you the ins and outs of fine dining. Get the know-how you need to handle sticky situations (think: spitting out GUFO-gross, unidentifiable food object) and the confidence that makes a great meal extraordinary.



Obie's Opus

Lake Ontario

Obie Yadgar

Obie will talk about his new book and sign copies. Obie's Opus is a delightful collection of anecdotes, stories and observation about the world of classical music he collected through the more than 30 years behind the radio microphone.

2:30–4pm

Return of the Werewolves

Lake Michigan

Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the Lake Michigan room, the werewolves rise up again! See Friday 8 PM listing.

3–4pm

In Extremis, Part III

Lake Huron

Bob Finnegan

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.)

Laugh & Learn about Personalities

Lake Ontario

Derek Boundy

Come for a laugh and learn session about the DISC personality. Gain a deeper understanding of why people do the things they do. This program is rated “G” and will be enjoyable for anyone between the ages of 8-118 years old. Derek will leave you laughing while you think “Now I know why people are so different...and I am glad for it.”

3–5:15pm

InQUIZition

Paramount

Charlie Steinhice

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.

Sexyg Fishbowl Forum—ADULTS ONLY

Lake Erie

Cat Sterrett

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.

4:15–5:15pm

Midwinter Mensan on Mars

Lake Huron

Kent Nebergall

In early 2005, 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 located 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.

Social Dance Lesson

Lake Ontario

Viki Kind

The DJ's playing and you want to dance, but you don't know how? That's okay. Viki will teach you some basic steps and moves to feel more comfortable on the dance floor.

4:30–5:30pm

GenX SIG Meeting

Lake Michigan

Trebor Lefebvre and Jeff Dommengo

Pizza delivered afterward, if enough demand.

6–7:30pm

Banquet

Chicago

Enjoy HalloweeM'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 restaurants will be open, and there will be snacks but no hot food in Hospitality.

6–9pm

Kids' Pizza Pool Party

Main Hotel Pool (not the water park)

Come join us at the hotel pool for pizza and, well, pool stuff. Minimally supervised. Younger children must have parental supervision. FREE. Parents must pick up their kids promptly.

6–10pm

Supervised Play for 3–8 Year Olds

Headquarters Room

Must be potty trained. Babysitting provided by the same sitters used at our Monthly Meetings. Limit 9. Cost \$13 per child. Registration required. **You must remain in the hotel if you use this service.**

7:30–9pm

Saturday Night's Big Event

Computer Geek: One Nerd's Search for his Soul Mate

Paramount

Scott Rose

L.A. actor/writer Scott Rose brings to the HalloweeM stage his critically acclaimed one-act play about a computer nerd looking for true love. Hear the funny tale of a computer nerd looking for his true love. Come

hear the painfully honest and hilarious stories about a shy boy who grew up more comfortable with computers than with women. Apple Computer spokesperson and computer programmer Scott Rose will share with you the details of his ill-fated love life, along with his surprising discoveries about what “true-love” means to a nerd. *The LA Weekly* said of the show: “Recommended... very funny and endearing one-person play... Rose relates his tale with an engaging wit and rosy-cheeked enthusiasm... hilarious... a winning piece.” Scott will be around for much of the weekend—don’t miss him and the show! Check it out at <http://scottrose.tv/>.

9–11pm

Pretentious Drinking

Hospitality

Alan Baltis and Gary Kryvko and Their Merry Band of Pourmeisters

Liqueurs. The fancy stuff. Polished, cosmopolitan, perhaps even a bit snooty. 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! Sample some truly amazing liqueurs—for free. 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. You must be of legal drinking age to join us. Snobbish accents and extended pinkies are optional.



Sweets for the Sweet- and for Everyone Else, Too

Hospitality

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.

9pm-?

Movies

Lake Huron

Bob Finnegan

Films being shown: *Transformers*—the only summer blockbuster out before Halloween; *300*—Spartans vs. Persians; *Planet Terror*—extended version of zombie movie from this summer’s Grindhouse; *Death Proof*—extended version of psycho movie from this summer’s Grindhouse; *Legend*—Ridley Scott’s fantasy movie with Tom Cruise (extended version with original soundtrack); *The Wicker Man*—the extended European version of the original, scripted by Anthony Schaffer; and *The Professional*—the extended European version of hit-man movie with Jean Reno and a very young Natalie Portman.

9:30–10:30pm

Foreskin Restoration for Fun and Profit*Lake Ontario***Ron Low**

Ron Low has been curious about what circumcised men might be missing ever since the issue was debated in the letters section of the *Mensa Bulletin* in the '80s. Flash forward 20 years; he has not only restored his own foreskin, he has helped over 8000 men undertake non-surgical restoration. In a lively and explicit audio-video format, Ron will tell you why men do it, how it is accomplished, and what the future holds for TLC Tugger, his family's foreskin restoration devices empire. *Note to parents: clinical but graphic photos will be shown.*

9:30–11:30pm

A Melancholy Hope: Songs of Faith and Despair—A musician's personal creative journey*Lake Erie***Ovadya**

M Hurley and band mate Linda Wolf make up the neo-psychedelic, world-influenced jazz/rock band known as Ovadya (which recently opened for Eric Burdon of the Animals). In this combination discussion/concert, M will talk about her personal journey studying primary sources in Israel, questioning G-d, being steeped in traditional Judaism as a non-Jew, and how this is worked out in songs. Then she and Linda will perform a few electric and acoustic songs live.

9:30pm–12am

CAM–CAM Jigsaw Challenge*Lake Michigan*

We have an almost unbelievably large jigsaw puzzle that could not be completed at the AG hosted by Central Alabama Mensa. Can Chicago Area Mensa do it? Come to the Jigsaw Grotto in front half of the Lake Michigan room and pitch in!

10:30–11:30pm

Ghosts: What They Is and What They Haint*Lake Ontario***Murray Silver**

America's leading ghost hunter and the host of *Southern Haunts* on PBS is challenged by physics to come up with a reason why some people see ghosts and others don't. Working with ministers of every faith, doctors and nurses who attend the dying and the dead, psychologists, psychiatrists, physicists and ophthalmologists, Silver has formed a new view of reality that explains the existence of paranormal energy and how we can learn to see it.

10:30–11:30pm

Late Night Snack

Hospitality

No one ever goes hungry at HalloweeM!

11pm–?



Dance

Hospitality

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

Saturday/Sunday

Sunday

7:30–10am

Hot Breakfast

Hospitality

Get the caffeine and fuel you'll need to carry you through yet another exciting day.

9:15–9:45am

Non-denominational Worship

Lake Ontario

Nadine McBeth

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

10–11am

Awards

Paramount

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)

11–11:30am

Time to check out of your hotel rooms.

11:30AM–12:30PM

Science vs. Religion: The Search for Truth

Paramount

Dr. Philip Hockberger

Back by popular demand, after his presentation on consciousness at a recent Chicao Area Mensa Monthly Meeting, Dr. Hockberger will help us learn how to develop a world-view and belief system that combines the best of both approaches. We will cover four topics in science that provide opportunities for finding common ground: cosmology, quantum physics, evolution, and neuroscience (consciousness).

Swing Dance Lesson

Lake Erie

Viki Kind

Learn how to swing dance. We will start with the basics. You don't need to bring a partner. Come join the fun.

Exertion

Lake Huron

Bob Finnegan

See the myriad ways that humans exert themselves in strange sports, stunts, and physical activities.

Trust Me, I'm a Lawyer

Lake Ontario

Jerome J. Ghigliotti, Jr.

Ask those burning questions about various areas of law, including landlord-tenant, insurance defense, family, personal injury (plaintiff and defense), aviation/air sports law, and probate.

11:30AM–1:30PM

Stitch 'n' Bitch

Hospitality

Carol Metzger

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.

11:30AM–2PM

Settlers of Catan Tournament

Lake Michigan

Matt Crawford

This is the game that began the "German Invasion" of new-style games in 1995. We will play a three-round, no-elimination tournament with a very special prize for the overall winner. Special tournament setup rules make the game faster. You must be familiar with the

game beforehand, but you have plenty of time to learn it or brush up in the game room before the tournament begins.

12:45–1:45pm

Waltzing Australia

Lake Huron

Cynthia Clampitt

The book *Waltzing Australia* covers Cynthia's first, six-month, solo journey around Australia, but that's not the only time she has "waltzed" around the land Down Under. Come see photographs and hear tales from a later trip, one that took her to a wilderness area so remote that the plants haven't all been named, as well as to other areas where adventures ranged from rescuing a joey to picnicking with parrots. (Cynthia picked this later trip to talk about because her book covers the first adventure so thoroughly.)

Proctor Training

Lake Erie

Cindy Ogilvie

Ever wondered what it really takes to set up and administer a proctored testing session? If you have a four year degree, an interest in being the first Mensan that potential members meet, and don't mind doing your volunteering in a quiet place off the beaten path, this session may be for you. Cindy will review the various proctor positions and the logistics of running a testing program. Proctor candidate forms will be available if you would like to start the certification process. If you have time, consider observing the proctored test session immediately following (one of the requirements of the certification process).

Sunday

12:45–2:45pm

Everything's Digital: Amazing Opportunities (and Some Problems)

Paramount

Alan Baltis

The increasing computerization and digitization of the world has had a vast impact on the creation, storage, distribution, and control of information and media. We'll discuss sampling, compression, encryption, steganography, copying, miniaturization, and the limits of human perception. We'll look at data, music, graphics, video, and little things like DNA and Life Itself. We'll discuss the economic, social, legal, moral, and philosophical dimensions and impacts of everything coming down to zeros and ones. All in an hour or two? This guy better talk pretty fast!

2-4pm

Testing

Lake Erie and Lake Ontario

Cindy Ogilvie

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.

3:15pm-?

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.

Speaker Biographies

Robert Andrus had a short but successful endeavor in the fermentation of Honey Wine.

Cookie Bakke is the Executive Editor of *The John Cooke Fraud Report* and of www.FightFraudAmerica.com. She speaks on and teaches "Fraud—the Big Picture" around the country and around the world. She eats bad guys for lunch. www.johncooke.com

Russ Bakke is the current Chairman of American Mensa Ltd.

Alan Baltis spends waaay too much time in front of his computers, but he figures if he shares some of what he learns, it kind of evens out the karmic balance sheet. Living in a world where everything's digital and everyone's connected creates incredible opportunities for smarties to contribute and influence the world towards a brighter future. Visit the coolest Web site in the world www.thesmartlife.ning.com (social networking for Mensans!) or just write him at alanbaltis@thesmartlife.com with questions or comments.

Greg Bassett 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>

Joe Blake graduated from the Mortuary Science program at Kansas City Kansas Community College and currently holds embalmer's licenses in Kansas and Missouri. He works in a central preparation

facility that serves fourteen funeral homes in the Kansas City metro area, personally embalming 250–300 bodies per year. He also dresses and does cosmetic work for some of the locations.

Derek Boundy has traveled countless miles delivering powerful life improvement messages, cultivating the energy of change. Personality Specialists Corporation is built upon the same philosophy he expounds to his audiences: hard work, common sense, fairness, commitment, and integrity. Profoundly affecting the lives of people, Mr. Boundy has written on personalities, personal growth, leadership, sales, faith, family, and success and has a client list that includes small and mid-sized businesses, Fortune 500 companies, churches, and non-profit associations. www.personalityspecialists.com

Barry Budoff is the Head Rabbi for Congregation B'nai Maccabim, located in Lake Bluff, Illinois. He has translated and published a Siddur (traditional Prayer Book for the Sabbath) and a Machzor (the same for the Jewish High Holy Days) and is working on a book to help people better understand and use traditional Jewish form/liturgy in their spiritual lives. Barry is a speaker at many conferences and have served as the General Secretary, Recording Secretary, and West Coast Regional Director for the Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations, an international umbrella organization for Messianic Jewish congregations and organizations.

Cynthia Clampitt is a writer, photographer, and food historian with forty years of international travel experience. She has visited thirty-five countries on six continents, but remains strongly associated with Australia, as the land Down Under has been the location of some of her favorite adventures and is also the subject of her book *Waltzing Australia*. <http://waltzingaustralia.wordpress.com>

Matt Crawford is Chicago Area Mensa's Game Warden, caretaker of what may be the largest local-group collection of games in all of Mensa. Formerly a mathematician, a physicist, an astronomer, and a computer security officer, he now wrangles petabytes of data at high speeds for Fermilab. By night, he wrangles games at high speeds on www.BrettspielWelt.de. His fastest game of Settlers took eight and a half minutes from start to finish.

Frank Dolinar began following the development of nanotechnology in 1986 after reading *Engines of Creation*, K. Eric Drexler's first book. Since 1992, he has given presentations on nanotechnology for classes at Michigan State University, corporate seminars, business groups, and technical groups. He writes essays examining the history, current topics, trends, and implications of various technologies, including nanotechnology. Frank is a software developer for the Michigan House of Representatives.

Dave Doney is a lifetime practitioner of martial arts. He holds a second degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do and Karate, in addition to having a personal interest in martial arts weapons and history. He enjoys action movies and likes science fiction almost more than many Mensans. In addition, he is a frequent speaker on business topics, specifically the fine art of internal auditing. What could be more intimidating?

Quentin Ellis plays poker for a living. Yes, really. No, you won't see him on TV. Poker has been his primary source of income since his former job quit him in 2003. Since 1998 he has invested many thousands of hours playing, studying, analyzing, contemplating, and cursing the game. He now plays full-time in the casinos of Las Vegas, where he currently resides. In fact, he is so sick of the game that he HATES talking about it; his "Poker Q&A" presentation is the only time all weekend that he is willing to talk about poker. So if you want to ask him a poker-related question, be there!

Adrienne Felder, MA, LCPC, is a professional chef and psychotherapist. As a chef, she specializes in whole foods and health-supportive cuisine. Adrienne trained at the Natural Gourmet Institute for Health & Culinary Arts in New York. She has cooked at Lula Café in Chicago and at retreats, including the Smith Farm Center for the Healing Arts in Washington, DC. She created her business, The Whole Bite, to share her passion for cooking, nutrition, and wellness through her cooking instruction and consulting services. Adrienne is also a local instructor for The Cancer Project.

Bob Finnegan, 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 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. <http://ccf3.home.mindspring>

Carol Freeman combines graphic design and photographic skills with an appreciation for the natural world. She has created a line of products showcasing her photography which include: calendars, posters, bookmarks, greeting cards, a postcard book, prints, and more, with a percentage of proceeds going to fund her Endangered Species Photography Project. Carol received a BFA from the University of Illinois, Champaign, in graphic design with a minor in photography in 1981. From 1990-2003 Carol owned and operated a successful

graphic design company, Freeman Design. Her work has been featured in dozens of national magazines and books. www.carolfreemanphotography.com. or www.flickr.com/photos/inbeautywalk

Jerome J. Ghigliotti, Jr. has been a lawyer in California for 14 years. Currently a sole practitioner, Jerry has a broad background in various areas of law, including family, landlord-tenant, insurance defense, personal injury (plaintiff and defense), aviation/air sports law, probate. He claims to be useless in tax and intellectual property, and to have only an academic knowledge of criminal law. Jerry started law school at age 40, which proves that any Mensan can be anything that s/he wants to be at any age in life.

Kathleen Giesting is a member of Southeast Michigan Mensa and a wine aficionada.

Gerald Hiestand is a pastor at Harvest Bible Chapel in Rolling Meadows, Illinois, and President of The Society for the Advancement of Ecclesial Theology. www.iustificare.blogspot.com

Dr. Philip Hockberger is Associate Professor in the Department of Physiology, Northwestern University School of Medicine. With a Ph.D. in neuroscience and post-doctoral work in biophysics, Dr. Hockburger has performed scholarly research at numerous universities in both the U.S. and Germany. He is published in nearly 50 journals, magazines, and in the proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. He is an elected member of a wide range of scientific societies and serves as editor for scientific journals and granting agencies. Raised Roman Catholic, Dr. Hockburger shares his knowledge and experience through his Adult Education series on such topics as “The Healing Power of Faith,” “Christianity in a Scientific World,” “How to Think About God,” and the presentation he shares with us this weekend.

“**Scott Katz**,” a Chicago Area Mensan, has had nine consecutive years of profit from gambling, making well over \$100,000 from playing in his spare time. Scott, an actuary by day, takes a mathematical and probability-based approach to the game. His current focus is blackjack tournaments and live poker, but in the past, he also specialized in counting cards at blackjack as well as video poker. Scott can answer your questions on whether particular games are beatable, what strategies to use, how to best get comped in Vegas and where to get reliable online information on your favorite topics.

Uiki Kind has owned a dance studio and been a choreographer for 14 years. Her specialty is teaching basic dance moves to those who have never danced before.

Ron Low was circumcised at birth and has been a foreskin restorer since 2001. He is the marketer of the world's leading brand of foreskin restoration devices and the host of "Circumspect" podcast series. Ron has been cited in the book *Everything you know about Sex is Wrong*, featured in the BBC documentary *Circumcise Me?* and in the 2007 documentary film *Cut*. www.tlctugger.com

Joyce Markle was a professor at National-Louis University for more than 25 years, where she taught contemporary literature and founded a professional writing program. Prof. Markle was one of the early specialists in "Popular Literature" beginning in the middle '70's, when core groups of interested professionals struggled to get studies in Popular Culture accepted as legitimate academic disciplines. Since then, she has taught Popular Literature topics as university courses and has also appeared as a guest-lecturer in various locals here and abroad, including Poland in 2006 and The Ukraine in 2007.

Oriel Maximé, who can frequently be found in the games room at Mensa AGs and RGs, earned a degree in mathematics from an engineering school, where he also minored in physics and computer science. For a game-loving Mensan with a math degree, it's a small step from learning games to learning game theory. For the past 10 years, Oriel has studied game theory as a hobby and was surprised to see so many applications and reference points come to public attention in the past two years.

Erin McKean likes to call herself a Dictionary Evangelist. She is Chief Consulting Editor, American Dictionaries for Oxford University Press, and the editor of *VERBATIM: The Language Quarterly*. She was the editor in chief of the *The New Oxford American Dictionary, 2e*, and is the author of *Weird and Wonderful Words, More Weird and Wonderful Words, Totally Weird and Wonderful Words*, and *That's Amore* (also about words). Previously, she was the editorial manager for the Thorndike-Barnhart Dictionaries at ScottForesman, a Pearson company. She has served on the board of the Dictionary Society of North America and on the editorial board for its journal, *Dictionaries*, as well as on the editorial board for the journal of the American Dialect Society, *American Speech*. She also serves on the advisory boards of the Wikimedia Foundation and XRefer. www.dictionaryevangelist.com

Carol Metzger 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 book, *One-Skein Wonders*, edited by Judith Durant (Storey Publishing, October 2006). <http://cfmdesigns.net>

Kent Nebergall 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, the Heinlein Centennial, and several science fiction conventions in the Midwest. His Mars Society design papers were included in *On To Mars, Volume 2* from Apogee Press. He is currently developing a Web site for aspiring spacecraft designers at www.marsworkbench.com.

Ovadya is now a duo. Only M Hurley and Linda Wolf remain, but with M still as writer, lead guitar, and lead vocalist, and Linda contributing her hot saxophone, electric violin, and vocals, the Mid-East/Celtic, jazz-influenced, hard rock of Ovadya is largely unaffected. Ovadya has a new CD (*Synaesthesia*) due out any minute and is enjoying nationwide press and radio play, as well as concert appearances. In addition to pursuing music, M Hurley has worked toward an MDIV (theology: Jewish/Christian studies), has lived in Israel (Jerusalem), and pursued informal studies in the Mea Shearim (Ultra Orthodox) tradition, all of which contributes to her vision as a song writer. Linda has jammed with Blues Queen Koko Taylor and played sax on an album with guitar legend Phil Keaggy. To learn more about Ovadya, their music, their influences, or performance dates, check their Web site: <http://www.ovadya.net>

Agnes A. Roach, CFP® is a graduate of Northwestern University and received Masters degrees from Yale University and the University of Chicago. With a financial planning career spanning 24 years, Agnes has been quoted by such media sources as *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Chicago Sun-Times*, *The Daily Herald*, *Chicago Magazine*, *Crain's Chicago Business*, *The Ladies Home Journal*, *For the Bride*, and *Chicago GSB Magazine*.

Colleen Rush is a full-time free-lance writer, and the author of *The Mere Mortal's Guide to Fine Dining: From Salad Forks to Sommeliers, How to Eat and Drink in Style without Fear of Faux Pas*. www.meremortalsguide.com or jujube.typepad.com

Luke Sienkowski (a.k.a. "the great Luke Ski") 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, 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 seven music albums and his 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 as well as at college campuses around the Midwest. Visit his Web site for clips of his music, tour dates, and online art portfolio. www.LukeSki.com or www.myspace.com/thegreatlukeski.

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

Murray Silver began promoting rock concerts at age 16 in Atlanta and in 1982, published his first book, *Great Balls of Fire: The Uncensored Story of Jerry Lee Lewis*, which was adapted to the big screen in 1989. In 1990, Silver co-wrote the autobiography of Dr. George Nichopoulos, personal physician to Elvis Presley. Their book, *Who Killed Elvis Presley?* turned into an international scandal. At His Holiness the Dalai Lama's request, Silver set aside the business of his life to write about Tibet and to sponsor tours of Tibetan Buddhist monks who perform their sacred chants and dances at colleges and museums throughout the United States. Silver is the author of a book of true stories about Savannah, and his memoirs, *When Elvis Meets the Dalai Lama*, has recently been published. Called "Savannah's Most Haunted Man" by *The South* magazine, Silver has been conducting a scientific study of the paranormal since 1998, using his hometown as his laboratory. www.bonaventure.com

Skinner is the founder and coordinator of HELL's M's SIG. He has studied the Martial Arts and has been exercising on a (semi-) regular basis most of his adult life. He has been actively involved in the Men's Movement since 1992. He is a co-leader in the Mankind Project, Inc. He is also a mediator at the Dayton Mediation Center and a facilitator for the Dayton Dialogue on Race Relations.

Jay Smith, a Chicago Area Mensan, invented the popular Halloween Fiendish Armchair Treasure Hunt and continues to be the source of its deliciously puzzle-happy existence.

Uicki Snavely is a former Halloween Hospitality Chair—the one who had the gift of eliciting contributions of homemade goodies.

Ruth Soskin is a certified yoga instructor. When she is not teaching yoga, Ruth develops and delivers corporate training on computers and professional development for her company, Trainology, Inc.

Charlie Steinhice 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 and struggles heroically to answer all the questions posed by his two daughters.

Cat Sterrett 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 21 years. Cat is a fitness trainer with a master's degree in exercise physiology.

Spencer Wolff is a member of Southeast Michigan Mensa and loves wine.

Obie Yadgar is best known to Chicago-area fans as a charming and entertaining morning host at the former classical WNIB. When not doing voice-overs, public speaking, or contributing essays to WBEZ, Chicago, Obie spends most of his time writing. His first novel, *Will's Music*, was published in 2005. His second book, *Obie's Opus*, is a delightful collection of anecdotes and observations about the world of classical music he amassed in his radio career.
www.obieyadgar.com

Notes

Notes

HalloweeM 32

is brought to you by
Chicago Area Mensa's

'WeeMTeam

HalloweeM Chair	Janet Century
LocSec and Hotel Liaison	Beth Anne Demeter
Program Chair	Cynthia Clampitt
Hospitality Chair	Michael Collins
Hospitality Ottoman	Roz Marcotte
Beverages	Dave Gudjonis
Game Warden	Matt Crawford
Volunteer Coordinator	Amy Kozy
Pre-registrar	Bill Horman
Onsite Registrar	Cindy Ogilvie
Chair's Advisor	Chris Edwards
Treasurers	Lisa and Bill Slankard
Children's Program	Christine Rosen
Tween Program	Owen and Lindsay Crawford
Book Sale Chair	Teresa Tucker
Book Sale Ottoman	Jean Cain
Foreplay	Michael Yancey
AV	Steve Levinthal and Craig Logan
Friplay	Kathleen Smith and Conrad Pomykala
Vendors	JC Chupack
Rental Coordinator	John Massura
Emergencies and Electronics ...	Conrad Pomykala
Program Book Production	Robin Crawford
Program Book Text	William Renz
Proofreader	Matt Crawford
Decorating and Recycling	Joel Kohler
MP3-Jay	Howard Rothstein
Costume Contest MC	Scott Chupack
Saturday Big Event Coordinator	John Fisher
T-Shirt Coordinator	Mikey Wolstein
Photographer	John Muellner
Webslingers	Ed Poremba, Marty Falatic
Afterglow Party	Stacey Kirsch
Logo Design	Robin Crawford
Chartaker	Howard Rothstein



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- **Janet Century** for donating her airline miles to offset the cost of the Saturday night entertainment.

And extra thanks from Janet to Chicago Area Mensa's **'Weem Team** and the **Sheraton Hotel:**

*You're **W.W.WONDERFUL!***