



Hosted by
Chicago Area Mensa
October 29–
November 1, 2009

Welcome to



Like every year, we've changed a few things and added more, doing our best to make it a long weekend of indulgences for your mind and for your body. Unlike recent years, after several years of attendees just getting the same 'ol WeeM that money could buy, we once again include the time change on Saturday night/Sunday morning, so we get more hours! Yay!!!

Thanks to the efforts of our wonderful 'WeeM Team, we are sure you will find everything you've come to expect from Chicago Area Mensa... and more. Relax, enjoy, and have a fabulous weekend. We're so glad you're with us!

Beth Anne Demeter & Robin Crawford
'WeeM Chairs

Once again, we're starting the programming on Thursday—and we've got some great speakers on hot topics. HalloweeM's famous multi-track programming again offers a wide range of topics (hunting ghosts, progressive rock, prosthetics controlled by your brain, Irish step dancing, owls, martial arts, visitors from Elizabethan England, behind the scenes at the Chicago Police Department, getting your book published, surviving the Holocaust, finding happiness, time management, nanotechnology, digital photography, word origins, chocolate, and so much more)—so you're certain to find much that is of interest. Of course, there will also be tournaments, games, a kids' track, dances, costumes, books, vendors—oh, and lots of food.

As always, we have a lot of programs after the sun sets, so don't figure that dinner signals the end of the day's learning and entertainment opportunities.

Please read the guidelines and rules that follow, so everyone can get the maximum

enjoyment out of the weekend, without any misunderstandings. We want you to have a great time, but we also want our speakers and volunteers to have fun.

You may find more to do than you can fit into one weekend. So, as you look over the schedule, let us know what you'd like to have us to repeat next year. We want you to keep coming back. Also, we are always looking for speakers and programs, so if there is something you'd like to talk about, let us know.

There is always the possibility of minor changes after the program booklet is printed, as cancellations do sometimes occur. The Program At A Glance (PAAG) chart, available in registration, will be more up-to-date, as it is not printed until the day the event begins. (If the PAAG disagrees with the booklet, the PAAG will have the more recent information.) If anything unexpected occurs during the weekend, information will be posted or announced as soon as we get it.

So take a little time to scan this booklet to find out all the delights we have planned for you. Then have a fabulous weekend. So glad you could join us.

Cynthia Clampitt
Program Chair

General Info of Note

As in the previous three 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 11 AM. After a brief break for those who need to check out of their rooms, Sunday programming will resume at 11:30 and continue until 2:00. 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.

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.

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 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 dinner banquet 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 outside the hotel only. We will do our best to ensure that the staff provides adequate waste cans and ashtrays. 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 7:00 pm 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 pm on Friday. Winners need not be present at the drawing.

All Weekend

Hospitality Suite

Snacks and beverages are available 24 hours a day.

There will be hot food for these meals:

- Thursday Dinner 7–8:30PM
- Friday Breakfast 7:30–9:30AM (COLD)
- Friday Lunch 11AM–1:30PM (COLD)
- Friday Dinner 6:30–8:30 PM
- Saturday Breakfast 7:30–9:30 AM
- Saturday Lunch 11AM–1:30 PM
- Saturday Late Snack 10:30–11:30 PM
- Sunday Breakfast 7:30–10 AM

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!

Games Room and Tournaments

Lake Superior Room—Games

*Lake Michigan Room Back Half—Tournaments—
Enter through the pool hall*

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 Schedule:

Thursday	10 PM–12 AM	Dominion Tournament
Friday	10 AM–12 PM	Kill Doctor Lucky
Friday	10 PM–1 AM	Boggle Tournament
Saturday	10 AM–12 PM	Logic Puzzle Tournament
Saturday	1 PM–5 PM	Texas Hold-em Poker

Book Sale

Perimeter of Arlington B—Hospitality

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.

WeeM Market

Arlington Ballroom Lobby

A variety of items will be on sale in our vendor areas. 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 5–8 PM, Saturday 10AM–3PM

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 15 minutes to an hour.

Coloring for Grown-ups

Carol F. Metzger

Hospitality

Throughout the weekend, crayons, colored pencils, and coloring books designed to appeal to adults and older children will be available in Hospitality for your coloring pleasure. Use whatever you like, but please leave the rest on the tables for the next guy. Feel free to remove your colored pages from the books and take them home. We'll also provide some blank paper for those who prefer to make their own drawings. Or the occasional game of *The Exquisite Corpse*.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exquisite_corp

Children's Programming

Younger Children (3-8, must be potty trained)

Headquarters Room (right outside Hospitality)

For kids who need some supervision, there is a complete kids' track, with scheduled activities in a controlled environment. There will be adults in this room at all scheduled times who will be taking the kids through creative activities and guided playtimes—it's a lot more than just inert babysitting. (More information and a complete schedule of events will be available at kids' room check-in.) All children must be signed in/out by a designated adult every time. **NOTE:** The kids' room is closed for lunch on Saturday and Sunday. Also on Saturday night the kid's room

will close at 5 so that we can take our own kids Trick-or-Treating. All parents are welcome to bring their kids across the street to do the same in our peaceful little neighborhood. (Literally across the street. Maps provided in the kids' room by request.) Stop by our bonfire for a special WeeM-guests-only treat!

Unless otherwise noted, children's events are in the Headquarters Room.

Friday

3:00PM–5:00PM—See schedule posted outside Kids' Headquarters Room.

5:30–8:00 PM—Kids Pizza Party

8:30–9:00 PM—Kids Costume Contest

Paramount Ballroom

Parents should expect to attend with their children if they need supervision. Separate contest for the kids, so they don't need to be intimidated in front of the big crowd later.

9:00–10:00 PM—Movies & Popcorn During the Adults Costume Contest. Supervised movies and fun. You **MUST** pick up your child promptly at the end of the Adult Costume Contest.

Saturday

9:00 AM–5:00 PM—See schedule posted outside Kids' Headquarters Room.

Sunday

9:00 AM–3:00 PM—See schedule posted outside Kids' Headquarters Room.

Thursday, Oct. 29

For details on events and features that run all weekend long, including tournaments and Hospitality food schedules, see pages 6–8.

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

4:45 PM–5:45 PM

Strategies for Surviving a Terrorist Attack

John Martin

Lake Erie

What will you do if a group of suicidal people enter the facility where you work, study, or play and begin killing or preparing for hostage siege? What will you do if it is a group of well organized and trained terrorists? What can you expect from facility management and law enforcement? What if you are on a bus, airplane, boat,

or train? What strategies might you employ to maximize your odds of survival? What can you do to minimize risk to you and others? Uncertain? Then attend.

6:00 PM–7:00 PM

Eating Righteous Fish: Pleasures and Challenges of Sourcing Sustainable Seafood

David Hammond and Mike Gebert

Lake Huron

Mike Gebert (Skyfullofbacon.com) and David Hammond (Chicago Public Radio, WBEZ) have developed several video and radio presentations around the topic of sustainable seafood. While working on these projects, they came to some conclusions about the pleasures and challenges of selecting fish that's not going to disappear any time soon. Gebert will present a short video he recently produced about sustainable seafood, and participants will receive handouts and guidelines that can be used to choose seafood carefully (so that some of it might be around for our grandchildren). The objective is not to preach the value of any specific approach to seafood purchases but to lay out the reasons why some have chosen to follow basic principles of sustainability when they select fish in a restaurant or grocery store. On hand will be some tasting samples of sustainable fish you probably haven't eaten before (e.g., Nunavut char, gar, and more)

7:00 PM–8:30 PM

Pig Roast

Hospitality

8:30 PM–9:30 PM

Thought-Controlled Prosthetics

Robert L. Parks

Lake Huron

This would be an interesting program during any time, but with so many of our valiant soldiers returning home with a need for prosthetic limbs, it is particularly relevant today.

8:30 PM–10:30 PM

Scotch Tasting

Matt Crawford

Lake Erie

Learn about the making and the history of "guid auld Scotch Drink," and taste and compare some of the classic malts.

9:30 PM–10:30 PM

Movie Flubs

Bob Finnegan

Watch mistakes that were left in your favorite movies. Includes flubs from *The Matrix*, *Harry Potter*, *X-Men* and *Spider-Man* series plus *Titanic*.

10:30 PM-???

Dance, with DJ Kenya

Hospitality

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.

Friday, Oct. 30

For details on events and features that run all weekend long, including tournaments and Hospitality food schedules, see pages 6–8.

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.

4:00pm–5:00 PM

Art and the Exploration of Space

Jim Plaxco

Lake Huron

An overview of the history of space art and its role in both science and science fiction, with emphasis on its role in promoting space exploration.

Who's Who of Owls

Mark Spreyer

Paramount Ballroom

To some people, owls are symbols of wisdom but to others their hoots are harbingers of death and doom. Join ornithologist Mark Spreyer as he reveals the truth about many of our North American owls. Owls' amazing hunting adaptations are explained. Slides and special feathered guests illustrate just who's who!

Meet the Triple Nine Society

Victoria Monroe

Lake Erie

Information and social opportunity for all interested parties, whether members of TNS or interested in considering becoming members.

5:15 PM–6:15 PM

Books into Films: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Vicki Edwards

Lake Huron

What makes a good film adaptation? What obligation does a filmmaker have to the original work? How many

books have you read that became great movies ... and how many times were you disappointed? By viewing some film clips, discussing the director's techniques, and reading passages from original works, we may discover the magic formula for "What works when making a film from a novel?"

Nano Intro: "Much Ado About Nano"

Frank Dolinar

Lake Erie

Nearly everyone who watches the news or reads newspapers or magazines has heard the word "Nanotechnology". Yet few understand what nanotechnology is or isn't. This presentation will introduce basic nanotech concepts and provide ways to think about them. We'll look at nanotech's growing capabilities and examine, in general terms, how they will affect our daily lives in the near future. Our nanotech future—with all its excitement and controversy—is coming sooner than you think. Don't blink!

Think you can't dance? Think again!

DJ Kenya

Paramount Ballroom

Ever feel left out of a dance because you don't know the latest dance moves (or even the classic ones)? Here is your chance to come learn various party dances in a pressure-free environment. Several different music genres will be offered, so there will be something for everyone. Come to learn, hone your skills, and have a good time, so that by the time you get to the actual dance that night, you can party like a rockstar!

6:30 PM–7:30 PM

Trust me, I'm a personal trainer

Clint Phillips

Lake Erie

Clint will present a basic overview of what one should do to achieve and maintain an appropriate level of fitness. He will also bring many handouts, and be available to answer any questions the participants may have.

The Existence of God and the Reality of Suffering: Are the Two Compatible?

Gerald Hiestand

Lake Huron

Central to any discussion regarding the existence of God is the question of theodicy: How a good God can be reasonably believed to exist in light of pain and suffering. Is God all-powerful yet not all good? Is he is all good, but not all-powerful? Perhaps he doesn't exist at all. This presentation will examine the question of theodicy, and suggest the presence of evil and suffering actually confirms the existence of the classical (Western) view of God.

6:30 PM–7:45 PM

Fine Wine for the Frugal Budget

Andrew Shults

Lake Ontario

You don't have to spend a ton of money to find a great bottle of wine. This program will explain what makes some wines better than others and teach you how to pick those amazing values among the many options on any store's shelves. You'll taste a variety of wines that demonstrate key strategies for selecting a bottle.

6:30 PM–8:00 PM

Mensa Speed Talking

Cookie Bakke

Paramount Ballroom

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?

8:30 PM–9:00 PM

Children's Costume Party

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.

9:00 PM–10:00 PM

Adult Costume Parade

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.

9:00 p.m- 10:15 PM

Children's Party

Headquarters Room

There will be videos and popcorn 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 PM–11:30 PM

Hell's M's Meeting

Skinner

Lake Ontario

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 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. Results will be announced at the Sunday Brunch.

10:30 PM–12:30 AM

Myths and Realities of Self-Defense, for Women Only

John Martin

Lake Erie

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? What if the big man is on top of her? 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 if you prefer.

This program is for women only.

10:30 PM–1:00 AM

Friday-night Dance (with or without costumes)

DJ Kenya

Hospitality

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.

Movies

Bob Finnegan

Lake Huron

X-Men Origins: Wolverine

Sing-Along

Clyde Forrester

Lake Ontario

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.

Friday/Saturday Saturday, Oct. 31

For details on events and features that run all weekend long, including tournaments and Hospitality food schedules, see pages 6–8.

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9:15 AM–10:15 AM

Bath Massacre: America’s First School Bombing, a true crime tale by writer Arnie Bernstein

Arnie Bernstein

Lake Erie

Arnie Bernstein is the award winning author of *Bath Massacre: America’s First School Bombing*. This is the true story of the first—and still most devastating—act of school violence in American history. On a horrific school day in May of 1927, a madman unleashed hundreds of pounds of explosives beneath a rural Michigan school, burned down his farmland, and blew up his automobile, killing himself and several bystanders. At the end of the day 38 children and six adults (including the killer and his wife) were dead. This forgotten tale in American history has been restored to its importance because of Bernstein’s exhaustive research, which included interviews with a handful of survivors of May 18, 1927.

Musical Instruction for Young Children

Jon Croskey

Lake Huron

Jon will be sharing his suggestions of “How to teach young children” primarily concentrating on the piano, music theory, and general musical instruction.

Relationships, Self Esteem, and Happiness

Karen Heart

Lake Ontario

Relationships, self esteem, and happiness are not only related but also reinforce each other. Whether they boost rather than diminish each other, however, is largely up to you. Learn the details of how they affect each other and how you can create a virtuous circle that promotes all three!

Playtime for Your Soul

Liz King

Paramount Ballroom

“Playtime for Your Soul” is a mirthful introduction to body-mind skills that encourage right brain activity, deep breathing, emotional release, and positive mood. If you are an adult who would like to hear about then experience new ways to “lighten up” and manage stress, please join us! With an open mind and a willing heart, you can learn to laugh, play and re-focus—without comedy or jokes—using creative self-expression, inventive role play and progressive relaxation techniques in a group setting.

10:30 AM–11:30 AM

The Path to *On the Job*: Murder, Reflection, and Where TV Cop Shows Fail

Daniel P. Smith

Lake Erie

Author, journalist, and lifelong Chicagoan Daniel P. Smith guides readers into the closed-door society that is the Chicago Police Department in his compelling debut work, *On the Job: Behind the Stars of the Chicago Police Department*. Sharing never-before-told stories of the toll the job exacts on the officers, their families, and their lives while interweaving a discussion of Chicago’s criminal landscape and police department culture, Smith discusses the personal experiences that led him to penning *On the Job* and the unique perspective he was able to achieve given his background. Includes a question and answer session.

10:30 AM–12:00 PM

Nano Intermediate: “Indistinguishable from Magic”

Frank Dolinar

Lake Ontario

The late Sir Arthur C. Clarke said, “Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.” Nanotechnology seems like something between science fiction and magic. I’m continuously challenged to understand the latest nanotech news and its implications. This session examines the current interdisciplinary state of nanotech, recent developments in Materials, Energy, Computers, and Medicine, and how it will affect our daily lives. Begin finding your way to a nanotech powered future, one small step at a time.

Ghosts: What They Is And What They Haint—The Search For Life Among Savannah’s Dead

Murray Silver

Paramount Ballroom

“America’s Leading Authority on Spirit in All Its Forms” answers the three most compelling questions about life and death: What happens when we die? What is a ghost? Why can’t we see ghosts?

Getting the Most from Your Digital Camera, Part One

Roger Mattingly

Tour of seven basic commands that allow you to take control of that complicated digital camera. See commands on screen from simple camera and key words to search for in your instruction book. We group audience by cameras, they leave much higher on the learning curve. Bring your camera and user manual for maximum benefit.

11:30 AM–12: 15pm

Lunch

Hospitality

Head for goodies—but no need to rush—food will be put out multiple times

12:30pm–1:30 PM

Stir up some excitement: Publish your own book

Helen Gallagher

Lake Huron

Infinite possibilities are open to you as an author. Learn what's involved when you stir up a steamy cauldron of 26 letters of the alphabet, and spill them out into a book of your own. Take the fright out of book marketing by learning dozens of 21st century shrew-d marketing secrets you can stir up at home.

Beyond Time Management

Maralyn Meshenberg

Lake Ontario

Start having time work for you instead of against you. Learn how to have the time to do the things that matter most to you. In this session we will identify elements of time management that either make you crazy or make you happy. You will walk out with better tools and abilities to manage the many time demands of your life. Regardless of your life situation you will find information, tools and strategies to stop wasting the one truly non-renewable resource you have: your time.

12:30 PM–2:45 PM

Martial Arts in the Movies—two martial arts experts analyze the action (2 hours)

John Martin and David Doney

“PG” (some violence)

Paramount Ballroom

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. David and John will select pivotal fight scenes for discussion, analysis and demonstration of the techniques used. Some violent content will be selected from these movies; individuals under 13 years of age are cautioned.

That We May Never Forget: Chronicling the Life and Experiences of a Child Holocaust Survivor

Paul Argiewicz and Deanne L. Joseph

Lake Erie

Paul Argiewicz was a young Jewish boy growing up in Poland when the Nazis came to power. Arrested by the SS at age eleven for stealing bread for his starving family in the ghetto, Paul was transported to a concentration camp. He spent the next four years of his young life in slave labor camps from Auschwitz to Buchenwald. Surviving the unfolding horrors of anti-Semitic violence against all odds, he lived to tell his story to the world. Now, after nearly seven decades, Paul's miraculous and heartrending tale has been made into a book. Sensitively and lovingly written by author Deanne L. Joseph, *Number 176520* launches readers into the depths of darkness and tragedy to be sure, but ultimately, into the heights of indomitable hope and triumph

1:45 PM–2:45 PM

Hospitality Workshop

Michael Collins

Lake Ontario

What does it take to feed over 500 people for a long weekend? Find out everything you need to know to run a medium-to-large RG's hospitality. Topics will include menu planning; food suppliers; placement of tables, chairs, and equipment; crowd control and flow; sanitation and food safety; volunteer issues; and set-up and take-down.

Movie Music Quiz 3

Bob Finnegan

Lake Huron

Listen to clips of music from famous movies, then try to identify the movies they come from. Or just enjoy hearing some of the most distinctive music made today.

3:00 PM–4:00 PM

Quiet Year at War: Reflections on War by a Vietnam Vet

John Wagner

Lake Ontario

In a war, when must one say “No!”? This question is certainly as gripping now as it was in 1970, when a young infantry sergeant in the United States Army was court-martialed for refusing to obey a direct order to participate in the invasion of Cambodia. Dr. Wager will read a short passage from his book *Quiet Year at War* (with accompanying photos) and discuss the issue of finding one's way through contemporary political issues of responsibility in war, our obligations to our country in time of war, and our understanding of the nature of military service.

Middle-Class Life in Elizabethan England

Kerri-Ellen Kelly

Lake Huron

First person portrayal of Elizabethan townspeople, in dialect and in character, discussing clothing, food, needlework/handcrafts and relevant historical information, with examples on display

Harlie Des Roches (aka: Sarafina Sinclair) will assist with the presentation

3:00 PM–5:15 PM

“Too Many Notes”—The Joys of Progressive Rock (& Variations Thereof)

Alan Baltis

Paramount Ball room

Progressive Rock is complex, bombastic, multi-layered, challenging, and defies easy description—just like Mensans. It's the marriage of rock'n'roll & classical music, often featuring keyboards & synthesizers, syncopation & odd time signatures, key changes & dynamics. It's Art Rock & Space Rock & Symphonic Rock. It's Ambient & Electronica & Techno. It's Emerson, Lake & Palmer, Genesis, Kansas, King Crimson, Marillion, Rush, Yes, & Zappa. It's Coheed & Cambria, Ozric Tentacles, Porcupine Tree, Spock's Beard. It's smart music for smart people. We'll revel in 40 years of history and development, listen to dozens of samples from Alan Baltis's extensive collection, jam on air guitars & keyboards, blow the doors off the room, and raise everyone's IQ by a few points. And wonder why in the world so little prog rock is in the Rock'n'Roll Hall of Fame. Please join us!

Sexyg Fishbowl

Michael Collins & Robin Crawford

ADULTS ONLY

Lake Erie

Michael and Robin lead 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 are a must.

4:15 PM–5:15 PM

Schemes, Scams, and Flim-flams

Cookie Bakke

Lake Huron

Back by popular demand. Come hear the latest report on what's happening in the criminal world of fraud. From Identity Theft to Nigerian Letters, from Swoop and Squats to Credit Card Scams, from Slip and Falls to

Gypsy Sweetheart Swindles, from Mortgage Fraud to the underside of the Life Insurance industry. Cookie, whose secret identity is Leslie Kim (Executive Director of www.fightfraudamerica.com), will take you through the steamy, slimy and occasionally sexy world of fraud and teach you how to protect your own ass(ets).

For Chocolate Lovers Only

Sash Munjal

Lake Ontario

Chocoholics and truffle fanatics rejoice! This is the session that will try to answer all your nagging questions about chocolate. What is it? Where does it come from? Why are some of us so addicted to it? What the heck is chocolate liquor anyways and why can't I get drunk on it? Why do some women claim that chocolate is more preferable than, er, ahem, romantic interludes so to speak? Is bacon flavored chocolate really worth the money? OK, perhaps not all of you had wondered about that last question but you're wondering now aren't you? Learn the answers to all of the above and a lot more. And oh yeah, learn how to make your own ganaches and chocolate truffles too!

6:00 PM- 7:30 PM

Banquet

Paramount Ballroom

Enjoy Halloween's formal feast. Banquet goers 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. [Tickets can be bought on Friday afternoon and evening: check at registration. After that, check the bulletin board to see if anyone is selling tickets. The hotel's restaurant will be open, and there will be snacks (no hot food) in Hospitality.]

7:30 PM- 9:30 PM

Some Interesting English Word Origins

Richard Stein

Lake Erie

Originally designed as an outline of a course for a Newberry Library Symposium which was never held, this session is sure to appeal to many Mensans.

7:30 PM- 9:30 PM

Music for the Mind

Ovadya

Paramount Ballroom

Original, neo-psychedelic, world & jazz-influenced acoustic and rock: MidEast/Celtic/ modal textures.

The Federal Budget Crisis and the Government's Financial Condition

David Doney

Lake Ontario

Drop in for a fact-based discussion of the U.S. budget crisis of 2007-2009. What are the causes? What is the

financial condition of the U.S. government? Where does Uncle Sam get his money and where does he spend it? What are the implications of growing deficits and debt? What are the key fiscal challenges facing the major entitlement programs, Medicare and Social Security? What are the pros and cons of various solutions? What are the long-term geo-political implications? What do the experts think should be done? How can America get back on track?

9:00 PM–11:00 PM

The Return of Pretentious Drinking
Alan Baltis and Gary Kryvko and Their Merry Band of Pourmeisters

Hospitality

Liqueurs. The fancy stuff. Polished, cosmopolitan, perhaps even a bit snooty. The stuff you graduate to from beer and wine. You'd like to know more but, gosh, look at that price. What if that pricey potion isn't quite the palate pleaser you expected? Rejoice! As in years past, you can sample some truly amazing liqueurs—and your money's no good. Details are included in your registration package. We will supply a wide range of weird and wonderful concoctions from around the world. You can determine which you'd like to own, which should be left on the shelf, and which you should give to your arch-nemesis as a "thoughtful" gift. Obviously, you must be of legal drinking age to join us. Snobbish accents and extended pinkies optional.

Sweets for the Sweet- and for Everyone Else, Too

Marie Porter

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.

9:30 PM–10:30 PM

Mensa Online Meet and Greet

Robin Crawford

Lake Ontario

See the faces behind the folks you connect with on-line.

**The Heterosexual American Male—
 A Primer for Women and Any Men
 Brave Enough to Show Up (Geared for
 Grownups)**

Scott Mochinski

Lake Erie

This presentation will give a broad but frank overview of the inner workings of the typical heterosexual American male mind. Discussed will be what we think, why we think the way we do, why we behave the way we do, and how best to interact with us so that everyone gets what they want. Women, don't sit around talking to each

other for hours on end trying to figure men out. Come right to the source and hear the true story, the inner secrets, right from the horse's mouth. Men, you are welcome to come but be prepared for all our dirty little secrets to be exposed. From this presentation we hope will come a better understanding of the male creature. This will be an open-forum presentation with plenty of opportunity for questions, comments, and complaints.

10:00 PM–1:00 AM

Movies

Bob Finnegan

Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen

10:30 PM- 11:30 PM

**All You Need Is Love (Geared for
 Grownups)**

Scott Mochinski

Lake Erie

Hal David and Burt Bacharach had it right when, in 1965, they put together, "What The World Needs Now Is Love." John Lennon had it right when, in 1967, he wrote, "All You Need Is Love."

This presentation will address all aspects of love; what it is, what it isn't, how to achieve it, how to live it, and why it really is all you need. This will be an open forum with plenty of opportunity for questions, comments and complaints from those in attendance.

11:00 PM–1:00 AM

Saturday Night Dance/Karaoke

Ted From Accounting

Hospitality

"Ted From Accounting" will be playing songs from the '60's through the Oh-oh's, from the Beatles and Cream to Oasis and Incubus. We'll throw a few originals into the mix, and we'll take requests if we like you (songs beginning with the letter "F": \$400 extra). The band would like it to be known that no animals were harmed in the making of our new CD, "Let's All Lie About Not Harming Animals".

Sunday, Nov 1

For details on events and features that run all weekend long, including tournaments and Hospitality food schedules, see pages 6–8.

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.

2:00 AM–1:00 AM

Daylight Saving Time Ends

Set back your clocks and get this hour all over again.
Spring about, Fall over, or something like that.

7:30 AM–10:00 AM

Breakfast in Hospitality

9:15 AM–9:45 AM

Non-Denominational Worship

Ed Littell

Lake Huron

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

10:00 AM–11:00 AM

Awards and Announcements

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

Volunteer Giveaway Drawing (if we qualified)

Service Awards

Hell's M's "Party Animal" Winner

Future RG announcements (in order of event date)

11:00 AM–11:30 AM

Time to check out of your hotel rooms

11:00 AM–3:15 PM

Stitch 'n' Bitch

Carol F. Metzger

Hospitality

Join us Sunday morning in Hospitality with your projects and conversation. We will knit, crochet, embroider, schmooze, whatever. Who knows, I might even bring my rigid heddle loom.

<http://www.newvoyager.com/rigidheddlelooms.html#harp>

11:30am–12:30 PM

Magic Tricks Revealed

Bob Finnegan

Lake Huron

Watch videos of the Masked Magician doing famous feats of magic and try to figure out how he does them. Then see him demonstrate his solutions. The stage magic, street magic and close-up magic tricks include

levitations, climbing through a closed glass window, a motorcycle disappearance and an elephant appearance.

Space Update 2009

Kent Nebergall

Paramount Ballroom

Another year into the twenty-first century, with space hotel prototypes in orbit, private rockets, a space station the size of a football field, Robots en route to Mercury and Pluto, more probes in between reporting home, and questions about the future. Even as we produce ever clearer views of the universe, the directions of human spaceflight are more deeply blurred than at any time in the history of NASA. We'll analyze both in detail, and hopefully arrive at some clarity about our universe and our steps into it.

A Celebration of the Life of Helen Kupper

Lake Ontario

Long-time Chicago Mensan Helen Kupper passed away on July 21 after a brief illness. Please join her daughters Beth and Susan, her son-in-law Steve, and her many friends in Mensa as we remember and celebrate the life of this special lady. Light refreshments will be provided at the conclusion.

12:45 PM–1:45 PM

Leading the Cat Herders: How to Manage Volunteers for Annual and Regional Gatherings

Robin Crawford and Beth Anne Demeter

Lake Erie

If you're at all interested in getting involved on a more significant scale for some of Mensa's major gatherings, this presentation is for you. Beth Anne and Robin will discuss some of the finer points of leading and managing volunteers, including the challenges (and related solutions) to producing Mensa's second largest gathering. This lecture is targeted toward offering pragmatic suggestions to leaders and managers of large teams. While practical experience will be shared in order to illustrate concepts, this is not intended to be a "share your volunteer war story" session.

The Funifesto

Jerry Karaganis

Paramount Ballroom

This talk is an examination of what makes video games fun, and what it takes to make fun video games (which is, surprisingly, not necessarily the same topic). Presented are a number of principles that have been used to hone interactive experiences through quite a number of published titles, including "The Conduit," "The Secret Saturdays," "Ben 10 Defender of Earth," Disney's "Haunted Mansion," and "Stitch: Experiment 626."

Urban Chicken Raising

Jennifer Murtoff

Lake Huron

An overview of the art of urban chicken raising for those who are interested in joining this new chic trend or for the curious who are just wondering what all the fuss is about!

2:00 PM- 3:00 PM

Irish Step Dancing

performed by the McNulty Irish Dancers

Paramount Ballroom

The dancers will perform the traditional dances of Ireland in both soft and heavy shoe. The dances will be both solo and combined group/team dances.

2:00 PM-4:00 PM

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 PM-?

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.

Thanks for coming. Hope to see you next year.

Presenter Biographies

Paul Argiewicz

That We May Never Forget: Chronicling the Life and Experiences of a Child Holocaust Survivor (Sat)

Holocaust survivor, historian, lecturer

Cookie Bakke

Speed Talking (Fri)

Schemes, Scams, and Flimflams (Sat.)

Cookie Bakke has Leslie Kim just like Clark Kent has Superman. When Cookie is being Leslie, she is the Executive Editor of The John Cooke Fraud Report (www.johncooke.com), the Director of Fight Fraud America (www.fightfraudamerica.com) -- the largest (fraud) public information site on the Internet -- and a popular speaker/teacher on the topic of fraud (both in the US and around the world.) Cookie also does a few things for Mensa

Alan Baltis

"Too Many Notes"—The Joys of Progressive Rock (& Variations Thereof) (Sat)

Alan Baltis contains multitudes, just not in a spooky MPD way. He's an alpha geek, an internet/database/iPhone/software development expert and consultant. He's a music lover with over 37,000 tunes on his media

server. He's a game player, a puzzle solver, a comic book collector, a joke teller, a hiker, a world traveler. He loves origami, mosaics, fractals and trompe l'oeil artwork. He doesn't drink a lot, but when he does, it's pretentiously done. He thinks 50 is the new 30, and he and wife Colleen just hit 7 years with nary an itch. Check out thesmartlife.com, his social network for Mensans and smartfolk. Email him at alanbaltis@thesmartlife.com

Arnie Bernstein

Bath Massacre: America's First School Bombing, a true crime tale by writer Arnie Bernstein (Sat)

Arnie Bernstein is the award winning author of Bath Massacre: America's First School Bombing. His exhaustive research included interviews with a handful of survivors of May 18, 1927.

Michael Collins

Hospitality Workshop (Sat)

Sexg Fishbowl (Sat)

Michael had no idea what he was in for when he volunteered to be Hospitality Co-chair in 2003. Many mistakes were made, and many lessons were learned. Now we have no idea how we could run 'WeeM without him. This will be his seventh consecutive year in the job.

Robin Crawford

Sexg Fishbowl (Sat)

Mensa Online Meet & Greet (Sat)

Leading the Cat Herders: How to Manage Volunteers for Annual and Regional Gatherings (Sun)

Robin is currently co-chair of HalloweeM as well as the national AMC Communication Officer. She leads several national committees and has served locally as LocSec, *ChiMe* editor, publications officer, Webmaster, AGOG chair, and a few other things as necessary.

John Croskey

Musical Instruction for Young Children (Sat)

Experience with musical performance since the age 6, after taking thousands of hours of lessons the student becomes the teacher. Jon has been teaching music for over 20 years and is classically trained in Vocal Performance. Most recently in the past 14 years he has been teaching Piano, Woodwind, and Voice to children of all ages. He also teaches pedagogy; the teachers at the Academy in Grayslake are required to take his pedagogy course prior to teaching for the academy. John co-wrote a beginner piano course named the "Miss Debbie Series."

Beth Anne Demeter

Leading the Cat Herders: How to Manage Volunteers for Annual and Regional Gatherings (Sun)

Beth Anne Demeter has co-chaired 'WeeM for the past two years. Beth Anne has also functioned as 'WeeM Hotel Liaison for six years and 'WeeM Volunteer Chair for three years, in addition to being Local Secretary

for Chicago Area Mensa for two years. She also led the team that stepped in at the last minute to help with the 2007 AG.

Frank Dolinar

Nano Intro: "Much Ado About Nano" (Fri)

Nano Intermediate: "Indistinguishable from Magic" (Sat)

Frank Dolinar began following the development of nanotechnology twenty-three years ago. Since 1992, he has given presentations on nanotechnology for general audiences and classes at Michigan State University. Frank is the owner of nanoSteps LLC, which provides nanotechnology seminars, workshops, and more technical presentations for corporations, business groups, and technical organizations. He writes essays under the masthead "Diabologic" examining the history, current topics, trends, and implications of various technologies, including nanotechnology. Frank is also a consultant for the Firefly Consulting Group in Lexington, Kentucky.

Dave Doney

Martial Arts in the Movies: Two Martial Arts Experts Analyze the Action! (Sat)

The Federal Budget Crisis and the Government's Financial Condition (Sat)

David Doney is a registered 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 CPA, MBA (in Finance) and is the Chief Auditor of a \$3 billion company. Dave is a primary editor for a variety of budget and financial crisis articles on Wikipedia.

Vicki Edwards

Books into Films: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (Fri)

Vicky Edwards has taught high school film classes for 15 years; she also taught literature for 22 years. She is an occasional discussion leader for her local film society, and has also written film reviews and features for publication. She will be co-teaching a college course, "Ethics in Film," this spring.

Bob Finnegan

Movie Flubs (Thu)

Movies (Fri/Sat)

Magic Tricks Revealed (Sun)

A Chicago Area Mensan, Bob is an avid movie and video film 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. The propensity toward tinkering has, of late, lead him to delve into the mechanics of the world's languages and writing systems.

<http://ccf3.home.mindspring.com/Unicode/unicode.html>

Helen Gallagher

Stir up some excitement: Publish your own book (Sat)

Helen Gallagher mixes left and right brain activities with expertise in both technology and the arts. She is owner of Computer Clarity and author of two recent books: Computer Ease, and Release Your Writing: Book Publishing Your Way, which is the subject of her conference presentation. www.releaseyourwriting.com

Mike Gebert

Eating Righteous Fish: Pleasures and Challenges of Sourcing Sustainable Seafood (Thu)

Mike is the co-founder of the LTHForum.com; a writer for the *Chicago Reader* and *Time Out Chicago*; and creator of *Sky Full of Bacon*. www.skyfullofbacon.com.

Dave Gudjonis

"Ted From Accounting" (Sat)

Dave Gudjonis (bass player) is a special education teacher, working with adolescents going through rehab at a nearby hospital. A Mensan for almost 30 years, he's also the editor of *ChiMe*, CAM's newsletter. All that and he keeps the HalloweeM drinks flowing, year after year after year...

David Hammond

Eating Righteous Fish: Pleasures and Challenges of Sourcing Sustainable Seafood (Thu)

Dave is a co-founder of the LTHForum.com; a writer for the *Chicago Reader* and *Time Out Chicago*; and the 848 Food Critic on Chicago Public Radio, WBEZ (91.5FM). www.dchammond.com

Karen Heart

Relationships, Self Esteem, and Happiness (Sat)

Karen Heart is a life coach and psychotherapist with diverse life experience. She has conducted university-authorized research on self esteem and behavior. Through her clinical training and research, she has perfected a simplified method of communication, called the Better Communication Technique, that empowers people to improve relationships, build self esteem, and achieve lasting happiness and inner peace. She holds a Masters Degree in social work, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and is also a proud member of Mensa. Karen has a new book out, entitled: *The Fine Print of Happiness: What no one has told you about improving relationships, boosting self esteem, and achieving lasting happiness*. <http://www.karenlifecoach.com>

Gerald Hiestand

The Existence of God and the Reality of Suffering: Are the Two Compatible? (Fri)

Gerald Hiestand is a pastor at Harvest Bible Chapel and the executive director of the Society for the Advancement of Ecclesial theology. Gerald has written a number of scholarly articles related to theology and doctrine.

Deanne L. Joseph

That We May Never Forget: Chronicling the Life and Experiences of a Child Holocaust Survivor (Sat)

Deanne is an author and teacher.

Jerry Karaganis

The Funifesto (Sun)

Jerry Karaganis has been a professional video game programmer for 22 years. He's also an international male model and Olympic bungee jumping star. OK, the last two are lies, but he does know a lot about how to make video games, which is the important part.

Kerri-Ellen Kelly

Middle-Class Life in Elizabethan England (Sat)

Kelly is currently in her fifth season as part of the cast of the Bristol Renaissance Faire, doing a first-person portrayal of a middle-class townspeople in Bristol, England in the late 16th century, with specific emphasis on Queen Elizabeth I's state visit to Bristol. In addition, she is also a member of the Society for Creative Anachronism, portraying the same character. Her particular Elizabethan interests are calligraphy/illumination, period foods and recipes, costuming, vocal music, and needlework/handcrafts.

DJ Kenya

Think you can't dance? Think again! (Fri)

The daughter of a Clear Channel on-air DJ/radio personality, Kenya learned how to run a studio control board at age 15. More recently, she was a mobile DJ for Complete Music and Video. Her two years of professional partying taught her how to get others to dance, relax, and most of all, have FUN!

Liz King

Playtime for Your Soul

Liz King MS, CLYL is a conduit of wellness information for, with and in diverse communities. She is a certified Laughter Yoga Leader who has been trained by Laughter Yoga USA, the American School of Laughter Yoga, the Dr. Kataria School of Laughter Yoga, and the World Laughter Tour. Liz leads a weekly laughter club and, with Rachel Sheinen of Toronto Canada, co-facilitates the daily 6 AM Awaken Call in Gaga Barnes' Laughter Yoga On The Phone program. Liz is also a "how-to" writer, adult educator and youth program developer who holds a master's degree in Science, Technology & Human Values. <http://laughtertopia.blogspot.com>

John Martin

Strategies for Surviving a Terrorist Attack (Thu) *Martial Arts in the Movies: Two Martial Arts Experts Analyze the Action! (Sat)*

Myths and Realities of Self-Defense: For Women Only (Fri)

John Martin has been training people to handle life-threatening violent physical assault for 29 years. He is an instructor (ju-jitsu, Jujo-jitsu (TM), tanjo-jitsu, women's self-defense, law enforcement) and the president of Combat Arts Institute (Palatine, Illinois) since 1987. He is a ju-jitsu instructor at Harper College and University of Illinois Chicago, Menkyo in Miyama Ryu Ju-jitsu, Mokuroku in ParaCombatives, and founder of CAI Ju-jitsu. <http://www.CombatArts.org>

Roger Mattingly

Getting the Most from Your Digital Camera, Part One (Sat)

Since 1976, Roger has been a self employed photographer shooting for corporate and commercial clients including Kraft, Abbott Laboratories, Ameritech, AT&T, American National Can, Brunswick, Northwestern University, Chemical Waste Management, Tenneco Automotive, Searle, and Blockbuster Video. He was a principal photographer for Chicago Botanic Garden in 1989-1995, generating a double page spread in *Chicago Tribune Magazine*. His dual background in photojournalism and illustration allows him to evaluate situations and offer a variety of suggestions to create visually interesting solutions.

McNulty Irish Dancers

Irish Step Dancing (Sun)

Confidence, teamwork, coordination, and excellence are just a few of the characteristics attained under the tutelage of Barbara McNulty. The McNulty School of Irish Dance, opened in 1971 in Naperville, Illinois strives to develop responsible respectful young people who happen to dance beautifully, using a combination of creative instruction, discipline, and praise that has worked for over 38 years. Barbara is recognized by *An Coimisiun* (the Irish Dance Commission in Dublin Ireland) and the North American and Mid-American Irish Dance Teachers Associations. The school has 14 Chicago area locations for both youth and adults as well as locations in Rockford, Bloomington, Twin Lakes, Wisconsin and Dubuque, Iowa.

Paulito Mendoza

"Ted From Accounting" (Sat)

Paulito Mendoza (guitarist,) is a software engineer for a major defense contractor in the northwest suburbs. Paulito also plays bass and keyboards.

Maralyn Meshenberg

Beyond Time Management (Sat)

Driven by love for humanity and her passion for learning, Ms Meshenberg began studying human potential while still in high school. Her strong focus on personal potential and workplace fulfillment led her to complete her coaching training with Coach University.

She began her professional coaching and consulting career 1989. In addition to being a Certified Graduate of Coach University, Ms Meshenberg holds a BA from Columbia College Chicago and a Master of Project Management degree from Keller Graduate School of Business.

Carol F. Metzger

Coloring for Grown-ups

Stitch 'n' Bitch (Sun)

Carol F. Metzger is an artist living and working in Chicago. Her current focus is textile art. Decades of knitting and designing for knitting led to beaded knitting, dyeing yarn, and now weaving. From time to time her work is available on Etsy, in the Illinois Artisans Shop, and at Woman Made Gallery. Her approach to art-making is somewhat less structured than it might be. Usually there is some sort of a starting plan, but seldom does a project adhere to it to the end. She remains throughout "absolutely nuts about strong color." <http://cfmdesigns.net>

Scott Mochinski

The Heterosexual American Male—A Primer for Women and Any Men Brave Enough to Show Up (Sat)

All You Need Is Love (Sat)

Being a heterosexual American male since his birth just over 44 years ago has given Scott great insight into this topic. He have been studying and trying to figure out human beings since he was 4. While he may not understand the first thing about women, he thinks he's pretty much figured out men in general. Scott considers himself to be THEE luckiest man on the planet because of the relationships he has fostered. Little ol' Scott has encountered the most fascinating people and because of this he finds himself constantly being happier than most everyone around him. Why? Because love is really all you need.

Victoria Monroe

Meet the Triple Nine Society (Fri)

Victoria has been a member of Mensa since 1997, and the Triple Nine Society since 1999. She has held various offices in both organizations over the years, and has made many positive connections through both. Their goal is to provide an opportunity for people to meet other members and potential members, and to encourage those who are interested to consider joining TNS as well.

Sash Munjal

For Chocolate Lovers Only (Sat)

Sash is a resident of the Toronto area and self-described chocoholic. Although he has his own business in the emergency power sector, dabbling in things chocolate and making chocolate confections is one of his passions. When he's not making chocolate, he's throwing chocolate tasting parties, sampling chocolate truffles made by others or testing the viability of a chocolate diet. Shockingly, after eons of diligent effort, the chocolate diet has yet to yield any weight loss for him, but, each person is different after all and if you would like to conduct your own experiments with

a chocolate diet, make it a point to attend his mouth-watering presentation on making chocolate truffles and all things chocolate!

Jennifer Murtoff

Urban Chicken Raising (Sun)

Jennifer Murtoff has been a avid fan of chickens since the fourth grade, when she started her south central Pennsylvania flock with two Leghorn chicks. Her grandfather kindly contributed a third, and by her college years, she had over 200 fowl: chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, quail, peafowl, golden pheasants, and a hand-raised pigeon. She has raised buff Orpingtons, Cochin bantams, silkies, Araucanas, barred rocks, Polish white crested whites, and cubalayas and will readily tell you the personality traits of the birds she's had. Since moving to the city, Jennifer's mission is to help city folks understand and appreciate these lovable fowl.

Kent Nebergall

Space Update 2009 (Sun)

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. In 2007, he won the MarsDrive Mars Sample Return mission design competition, which was judged by Chris McKay of NASA and Louis Friedman, the executive director of The Planetary Society. In 2008, his entry came in second in overall voting for the next major Mars Society project. He has done space technology presentations for the International Space Development Conference, The Mars Society, Toastmasters, and the Heinlein Centennial. He is also a NASA Solar System Ambassador. <http://www.marsworkbench.com>

Ovadya

Music for the Mind (Sat)

OVADYA is...

Linda Wolf (Vocals, electric violin, alto sax, effects, and bass) and M Hurley (Vocals, lead guitar, rhythm and "lhyth" guitars, bass, electric/acoustic mandolin, acoustic & electric guitars in multiple open tunings and effects, banjo, guitar synth, effects, bass). They have been on radio from Pubic Radio in Omaha to WXRT in Chicago; played from Starbucks to Shank Hall, WI, to opening for Eric Burdon and the Animals; and been written up from Cinnцинatti to Jerusalem, from *Guitar World* to *Illinois Entertainer*.

Robert L. Parks

Thought-Controlled Prosthetics (Thu)

Robert Parks is president and founder of Communications Programming Inc, a systems integration and custom programming firm, which has provided software architecture, design, and implementation services for over 25 years. Mr. Parks' expertise includes real-time programming, device and process control, data communications, systems integration, and financial transaction systems.

John Pelinske

“Ted From Accounting” (Sat)

John Pelinske (guitarist) is a homeless itinerant. The band found him after making a wrong turn on Lower Wacker Drive. He now busies himself as an account manager, and practices ballet in his free time.

Clint Phillips

Trust me, I’m a personal trainer (Fri)

Clint Phillips has been a professional personal trainer for over 12 years. He has been featured in the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Chicago Sun Times*, the *Chicago RedEye*, *Chicago Health and Beauty*, *Crain’s Chicago Business*, *Personal Fitness Professional*, *Experience Life*, *Vital*, *Maximum Fitness*, *The Army Times*, *Time Out Chicago*, the *Columbia Chronicle*, and *Windy City Sports*. He has taught classes for prospective personal trainers at Northwestern University, DePaul University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Columbia College. He also holds several State and American records for the bench press.

Jim Plaxco

Art and the Exploration of Space (Fri)

Jim Plaxco is a digital artist specializing in abstract art, algorithmic art, astronomical art and space art. He has extensive experience with both astronomical and planetary image processing. As a software engineer, Jim has authored his own graphics software for use in creating his digital art. Jim has judged art contests for both NASA and the National Space Society, is a frequent lecturer on space art and digital art, and as a NASA JPL Solar System Ambassador has used his artistic and image processing skills to create astronomical and planetary images using data from a variety of space missions to illustrate his educational presentations.

Andrew Shults

Fine Wine for the Frugal Budget (Fri)

Andrew is wine buyer and manager at Grand & Western Armanetti, one of Chicago’s largest independent beverage retailers

Murray Silver

Ghosts: What They Is And What They Haint—the Search For Life Among Savannah’s Dead (Sat)

At age 16, Murray Silver began promoting rock concerts in Atlanta. He parlayed these contacts into a career as a music journalist and tour photographer. His first book, *Great Balls of Fire: The Uncensored Story of Jerry Lee Lewis*, (Morrow, 1981), was turned into the major motion picture of the same title. His second book was the memoirs of Dr. George Nichopoulos, personal physician to Elvis Presley, and the man widely regarded to be responsible for the singer’s death. In 1988, mutual friend Richard Gere introduced Murray to His Holiness the XIVth Dalai Lama, whereupon Murray set aside the business of his life to assist the Tibetans in their struggle for independence from China. After receiving empowerments from the monks of the highest yoga tantras, Murray embarked upon a scientific study of paranormal phenomena. He is the

host of the PBS television program *Haunted South and Phantoms of History*, and recently appeared on The Travel Channel’s *Ghost Adventures with Zac Bagans*, and is a frequent guest on paranormal radio programs. His recently published memoir, *When Elvis Meets the Dalai Lama*, recounts his favorite stories of how he started out in the music business and ended up as a special assistant to the Dalai Lama.

Skinner

Hell’s M’s Meeting (Fri)

Skinner is the Founder and coordinator of HELL’s M’s SIG.

Daniel P. Smith

The Path to On the Job: Murder, Reflection, and Where TV Cop Shows Fail (Sat)

An award-winning, nationally published journalist, Daniel P. Smith teamed with Lake Claremont Press in 2008 to release *On the Job: Behind the Stars of the Chicago Police Department*, a book inspired by Smith’s roots in a Chicago Police family. A noted speaker, Smith has appeared on WGN-TV, Chicago Public Radio, Fox News, and WGN Radio as well as the History Channel’s “Our Generation” series. A 2003 graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he was also an accomplished track and field athlete, Smith lives in the Chicago area.

Mark Spreyer

Who’s Who of Owls (Fri)

Under Mark’s leadership, Chicago hosted the first nest of peregrines anywhere in Illinois in 37 years. In early 1995, after completing work on a 5,000 square-foot raptor exhibit with the Science Museum of Minnesota, Mark become Executive Director of the Stillman Nature Center in Barrington. He co-authored the life history of the Monk Parakeet, published in 1998, for the A.O.U.’s *Birds of North America* series. His articles on birds of prey and introduced species have appeared in various publications including *Birder’s World* and the *Journal of the Association of Avian Veterinarians*. Mark has worked as an ornithologist or naturalist in six states conducting raptor demonstrations for nearly 30 years. During his career, Mark has worked with the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, National Audubon Society, and Chicago Academy of Sciences. Besides running Stillman, Mark teaches Environmental Biology at the College of Lake County.

Dave Stapleton

“Ted From Accounting” (Sat)

Mensan Dave Stapleton (drummer) is a teacher, specializing in math. He recently moved back to this area from Virginia, and now teaches at a local high school. Dave also plays guitar and bass.

Richard Stein

Some Interesting English Word Origins (Sat)

As well as having a long-standing interest in the topic, Richard has some formal education in it. He is "ABD" (All But Dissertation) in Linguistics; and originally generated an outline of a course on this subject for a Newberry Library Symposium (which was never held).

John Wager

Quiet Year at War: Reflections on War by a Vietnam Vet (Sat)

Dr. Wager is a professor of philosophy at Triton College, where he has taught for 34 years. He has an M.A. and a Ph.D. in philosophy from Northwestern University. He served in 1969-1970 with the U.S. Infantry in Vietnam, and has written and taught on the ethics of war, most recently on an around-the-world voyage with Semester at Sea.

HalloweeM 34

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Halloween $\frac{3}{4}$

and

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assistance with the Sweet Table. Learn
more about her absolutely hardcore sugar
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☛ Janice Esser for her continued support
of Pretentious Drinking and other events.
Thanks for the drink, babe!