

## PRELIMINARY – Program Description / Speaker Biographies SEMMantics 36

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### **John Blinke**

#### *Our New Solar System*

Remember when there were just nine planets, plus the asteroid belt? Our idea of what the solar system is like has changed. We'll talk about the newest view of our local solar neighborhood. John is an electrician and thermographer for Ford and hosts the Rochester Area Mensa science discussion group. John is science editor of the *Mensa World Journal* and *Mensa Bulletin* and is the recipient of a Mensa Service Award. He has spoken at numerous Mensa Regional and Annual Gatherings, as well as the World Gathering in Orlando. His spare time finds him enjoying model rocketry, flying a drone, and experimenting with his microscopes, telescopes, and Van Graaf generator, amongst others.

### **Doug Grosjean**

#### *Human Powered Vehicles*

Since the 1970s, human-powered vehicles, or HPVs, have evolved into streamlined two- or three-wheeled recumbent bicycles, sweeping all speed and distance records in bicycling with top speeds of over 80 MPH, and racing coast to coast in five days. Join Doug Grosjean as he discusses HPVs and shares one of his own. Doug became interested in human-powered vehicles while looking for a way to make his bicycle commute faster and easier. He has been car-free since October 2012. Doug currently works as a specialist (mechanic) in the Historic Operating Machinery department of Greenfield Village, and as a CAD designer at a fluid dynamics consulting firm. Doug is a member of the Michigan Human-Powered Vehicle Association (MHPVA), and his current daily driver is a carbon-fiber Quest XS velomobile, made in the Netherlands.

### **Candy Jones-Guerin**

#### *Social Media 101—The Basics of Social Media and Marketing for Small Business Success*

This presentation is a guide for small businesses or nonprofits who have been using social media marketing but need some tips to take them to an intermediate level and/or add new channels to their marketing efforts. This seminar will give you a closer look at the popular social media networks – Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, and Google+. We'll show you the benefits of using each, how other organizations are marketing with them, and some dos and don'ts of each channel. You'll also get tips on how to tell if your social media activity is working. Candy is the owner of WebWorld Advantage and a ConstantContact Area Lead Expert specializing in new marketing techniques. She has worked with local governments, non-profits and corporations in

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Japan, Germany, the Netherlands, Scandinavia, and Portugal, as well as in the United States and Canada.

### **Martin H. Leaf**

#### *Priming in the Media—An Emerging Danger*

As the technology of manipulation increases and viewer awareness of these techniques remains low, more and more manipulation by the media takes place below the viewer's level of awareness. This talk will touch upon the types of manipulation, priming, and some examples of promoting offensive ideologies without the viewer's awareness. This practice is threatening to everyone. Martin H. Leaf is a graduate of the University of Michigan and the University of Detroit Law School, where he was a recipient of the AmJur Award in criminal law. Martin works as a trial attorney in Keego Harbor and as Chairman of the HP Benson Foundation, Inc. The foundation's mission is to keep media free of unfair manipulation by the means of viewer education and lawsuits against media companies.

### **Bonnie Mulliner**

#### *Herbs 101*

This how-to experience will detail the uses of wild medicinal herbal infusions, such as dandelion oil and capsaicin for arthritis and lavender water for linens. Decorative uses of herbs will also be covered, as will how to recognize medicinal herbs during nature walks. The session will conclude with a tutorial on drying and preserving medicinal herbs. Bonnie Mulliner is a certified medical assistant who currently works as a triage assistant for the University of Michigan Health Services. Her interests lie in using natural remedies to avoid the side effects that accompany mass-market pharmaceuticals. She is also a Reiki master and an energy worker.

### **Sofia Nelson**

#### *Michigan Prisoner Reentry*

Roughly 1.8 million people in Michigan have criminal records. More than 40,000 people are incarcerated in Michigan's prisons at any given time. Nelson will discuss the various legal and social barriers faced by people returning to their communities from prison and jail. Sofia Nelson is a graduate of Yale Law School and an attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan.

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### **Paul Phipps**

#### *Homebrewing: From Grain to Glass*

This session will cover the basics of home brewing and how easy it is to get started in the hobby. We will discuss: 1) a step-by-step process; 2) ingredients that go into beer; and 3) the flavor contributions both techniques and ingredients make to the finished beer. Paul is a knowledgeable home brewer; in February, his brown ale was awarded first place in the home-brewing competition at Eternity Brewing Company in Genoa Township.

### **Harry Ringermacher**

#### *Is the Universe Ringing Like a Crystal Glass?*

We know the universe has been expanding since that discovery by Edwin Hubble in 1929. In 1998 it was discovered that its expansion has been accelerating for the last 6 billion years toward “the big rip”. In 2014 I have found that the universe is not only accelerating its expansion but also is ringing while expanding—in a sense, it is “breathing.” I’ll talk about my latest research on the expanding, accelerating, ringing universe. Dr. Ringermacher is a retired Senior Research Physicist from the General Electric Global Research Center. He is the chairman of the American Mensa Copper Black Creativity Award Committee and is the only Mensan to win the award twice.

### **John D. Speth**

#### *Neanderthals: Could They Walk and Chew Gum at the Same Time?*

Ever since their first discovery, Neanderthals have gotten a bad rap. But were they really dimwits or humans with mental capacities much like ours? Are they ancestors or failed experiments in human evolution? Our views are changing rapidly, with new insights from archaeology, biochemistry, and genetics. Though we remain far from consensus, the plot has thickened...John D. Speth holds an Arthur F. Thurnau Professorship (Emeritus) for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education; he is also Professor (Emeritus) of Anthropology in the Department of Anthropology and Curator (Emeritus) of North American Archaeology in the Museum of Anthropology at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor). Dr. Speth studies hunter-gatherers, past and present, New World and Old World. He is interested in the evolution of forager diet, subsistence strategies, and food processing technologies and, more specifically, in the ways that hunter-gatherers (and small-scale farmers) cope with seasonal and inter-annual unpredictability in their resources.

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### **Steven C. Stanford**

#### *Henry Ford: The Way He Worked Us*

What would it have been like to work for Henry Ford? This talk explores the impact of the moving assembly line on working at the Highland Park Plant and how the Five Dollar Day and the Sociological Department revolutionized factory work. We then go on to talk about the impact of unionization on the Ford empire and finally come to see how Henry Ford transformed work for all of us today.

Steve is an author and lecturer specializing in subjects involving the early auto industry. Steve serves on the board of directors for the Henry Ford Heritage Association, a group that promotes an accurate and balanced history about Henry Ford and his accomplishments. In addition, Steve is a member of The Society of Automotive Historians, The Early Ford V8 Foundation, The Michigan Historical Society, and the Michigan Society of Oral Historians. Steve operates H is for Henry Publications in Howell, Michigan.

### **James E. Trosko**

#### *The Imperative of Scientific Concepts of Human Nature To Solve Global Bioethical Crises*

Human beings are moral animals. However, today we have life- threatening global ecological, health, and psychological/social crises, due to the misuse of knowledge and technologies, caused by bankrupt philosophical and religious views of human nature that give rise to conflicting ethical values. New scientific views of human nature are required for universal use of knowledge and technologies. James E. Trosko, Ph.D. is a Professor-Emeritus in the Department of Pediatrics/Human Development, College of Human Medicine, Michigan State University. His current research interest is in how radiation and epigenetic chemicals can alter human adult stem cell numbers during development that might lead to chronic diseases later in life (Barker Hypothesis), and the use of adult stem cells, grown in three dimensions, for both drug discovery and toxicity safety assessment.