



# Borealis

## October Calendar

Bibliomensans next meet October 3 at 11:00 a.m. on Zoom not at B. C. Pizza

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BRUNCH - CANCELLED until further notice

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There will NOT be a picnic this year

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### Executive Committee

We are looking for volunteers to fill our vacancies and have an assistant for each position

#### VOTING MEMBERS

|                 |                 |              |                         |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Local Secretary | Gene Fry        | 231-668-1362 | gfry.cherokee@gmail.com |
| Deputy Loc Sec  | KC Mowrey       | 231-775-8785 | kcmowrey@charter.net    |
| Treasurer       | Richard Thibeau | 231-590-2052 | rthibeau@coslink.net    |

#### APPOINTED MEMBERS

|                     |                        |                      |                            |
|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Newsletter Editor   | Richard Thibeau        |                      |                            |
| Financial Overseer  | Vacant                 |                      |                            |
| Membership          | Bernie Hanchett        | 231-946-5177         | barneydulittle@hotmail.com |
| Program Chair       | Vacant                 |                      |                            |
| Scholarship Chair   | Kymberli Wregglesworth | (989) 733-4820       | kwregglesworth@oacsd.com   |
| Testing Coordinator | John D. Schultz        | 231--640-4569 (new#) | jsvoyageur@gmail.com       |

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Sherry McNamara will be hosting Bibliomensans meetings via ZOOM instead of in person. Contact her to get the invitation to Zoom ... [sherrymcnamara@hotmail.com](mailto:sherrymcnamara@hotmail.com)

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**Congratulations! Northern Michigan Mensa has earned Mensa's Prolific Owl Award for the highest membership growth percentage nationwide. Northern Michigan Mensa grew by 17.9% over last year.**

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## Bibliomensans

This is the schedule for the Bibliomensans' 2020 reading meetings. Anybody is welcome, whether or not they have read the book. If they are Mensans they are members of Bibliomensans. We meet at 11:00 a.m. on the first Saturday of the month at B. C. Pizza, at 3186 LaFranier Rd. in Traverse City. Zip code is 49686 (restaurant is at SE corner of Airport and LaFranier Rds.). Meetings are held in February, April, June, August, October, and December. In August we meet on the second Saturday of the month. The presenter introduces the book and then everybody goes around the table, voicing their opinion. After that the discussion is open. I am now the contact person, Heather J. Gruenberg-Seger, I can be reached at home: 231.932.9501. All other information on the book group link is still valid.

February -- Tara Westover's 'Educated', 334 pp. Heather Gruenberg-Seger is presenting.

April -- Rachel Carson's 'Silent Spring', 378 pp. in 1962. Jim McDermott is presenting.

June -- Steadman and Clark's 'Tethered Mercury', 288 pp. Sherry McNamara is presenting.

August -- David Grann's 'Killers of the Flower Moon', 359 pp. Stan Cain is presenting.

October -- Yuval Noah Harari's 'Sapiens', 498 pp. Heather Gruenberg-Seger is presenting.

December -- David Wallace-Wells' 'The Uninhabitable Earth', 320 pp. Jim McDermott is presenting.

**Sherry McNamara will be hosting virtual ZOOM meetings instead of in person. Contact her to get the invitation to Zoom ...  
sherrymcnamara@hotmail.com**



## News from the RVC3

John Voymas, Vice Chairperson, Region 3

JohnV.RVC3@gmail.com, 313.434.6750

### Pitchforks and Torches

Recently, as I was reading comments in the Mensa Connect communities and on Facebook, I had an image from the movie "Frankenstein" where the villagers are storming the castle with pitchforks and torches. What caused that image to be brought to the forefront of my mind? The responses from some of the members who had received the email that they had access to an electronic "badge" - either a Life Member badge or general Member badge. I wasn't sure whether COVID-19 isolation had caused some members to be ready to storm any castle or other stressors from the year 2020 have increased the sensitivity of some of us. I know for me, being laid off since the end of March hasn't been rosy and wonderful. Bills have to be paid. A new job has to be uncovered. I have found myself noticing more erratic drivers lately and this has been frustrating me since I prefer safety on the roads, so I guess I am not immune.

The National Office continues to work hard during these trying times. They had arranged with one of the major providers of badges and certifications in the electronic world to provide all current members of Mensa with an electronic membership "badge". This is the electronic equivalent of the physical membership card that we receive. In fact, an advantage of the electronic badge is that current membership can be instantly verified. In the past, I have had members express concern about former members, who may have nefarious intent, using their physical membership card to find out where events are being held so that they could attend even though they were no longer welcome. The electronic badge can reduce that risk. In the online/electronic world, badges and certifications are becoming common. The same week that I received the Mensa email, I had earned two I. T. certifications which included electronic "badges". I can use those in my job search to allow a potential employer to instantly determine whether I truly do have those certifications. Many companies today (including Microsoft and IBM) provide electronic certifications. If you use Facebook at all, you will notice that they use badges to identify "Rising Stars", "Authors", and prolific fans of certain pages. You may not have noticed the "Rising Star" or "Author" badge, but normally Facebook does ask you if you want the "fan" badge to show up when you post to a page. That one does require you to accept the badge just like the email from American Mensa via Acclaim by Credly asked if you wanted to accept your Mensa membership badge.

Yes, I agree that the National Office could have sent an email from American Mensa to all members informing them to expect the email from Acclaim by Credly. They had published articles in the July 21<sup>st</sup> Mensa Wired and then in the July 28<sup>th</sup> Mensa Leader emails. They had also added this service to the benefits and service section of the American Mensa website (<https://www.us.mensa.org/shop/benefits-and-services/digital-membership-verification/>). However, not everyone reads those two emails and members do not usually go to the benefits and service section on a regular basis to see what the latest and greatest is. So, an email from American Mensa, sent just before the badge email, would probably have reduced the concerns. All current members were sent the email that provided them with the opportunity to accept this new service and create a badge account with Credly because Credly had agreed not to charge their nominal fee for current members. Only future members (and those who declined the badge and then want one in the future) will incur a nominal cost to American Mensa. The badge service agreement is similar to the agreements with our Bulletin printer/publisher and the third-party which manages our elections. We provide the contact information for the specific use only. They cannot use this info to market anything to us and they cannot sell this info. American Mensa provides the bare information needed in order to have these services.

So, let's sit down and watch a couple of my favorite movies "Young Frankenstein" and "Young Einstein". Until I watched the latter, I did not know that young Einstein had discovered how to split the beer atom. :-)

Take care and have a wonderful month!

# Borealis

Northern Michigan Mensa

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