

Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



Volume 22, Issue 10

November 2022



Borealis

Northern Michigan Mensa

Send address corrections c/o

American Mensa, Ltd.

1315 Brookside Drive

Hurst, TX 76053

Borealis, the newsletter of Northern Michigan Mensa (Region 3, Group 496), is published under the auspices of its Executive Committee.

The newsletter contains mandatory items; the rest of the content shall appeal to the general membership of Northern Michigan Mensa.

The newsletter shall not include matters which are indecent, scandalous, libelous, or invade someone's privacy, nor shall copyrighted material be used without the permission of the owner. Ethnic, racist, sexist, or religious slurs shall not be printed. Bad jokes are allowed. Northern Michigan Mensa recognizes that the newsletter is addressed to both minors and adults; material printed will be appropriate for distribution to minors.

All matters submitted to the editor shall be subject to editing for content, style, and space limitations, except that if a person submits material with a restriction that it be published "as is or not at all." That a person has written and submitted something to the newsletter is not, in itself, sufficient reason for its publication.

Submissions are welcome! Members of Northern Michigan Mensa may send their original writing submissions to Borealis.

Please do not send the work of others unless such submissions include permission and release of copyright from the author.

Writing:

1. Writing you submit may be edited for length and clarity, but not content. This is the default editorial assumption.
2. If you don't want your work to be edited at all, you may submit it for publication "as is or not at all." It will not be edited in any way. If published, a note will indicate that it is wholly the work of the author.
3. You may also submit work that is rough and needs major editing. If you have written something but don't have time to polish and edit it, you can still submit it and, at your request, we will give it extra help.

All writing and letters may be submitted by email as an attachment or as the message body itself. Typed pages and letters can be mailed.

Photographs:

Photographs and other artwork can be submitted via email in JPEG, PNG, GIF, WEBP, or other standard formats. Flat art or photographs can also be physically mailed, but please do not send originals. Please label each piece submitted with your name and address.

Email: britajax@gmail.com

US mail:

Borealis
Heather Gruenberg-Seger
928 Kelley Street
Traverse City, MI 49686-3418

Bibliomensans - in-between chat

Wednesday, November 2, 2022, 6:30 PM

Bibliomensans meet and discuss books once every two months. (Our next book will be *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson, to be discussed on December 3). In between we gather to chat about matters Mensan and non-Mensan, life in the North, current events, and so on. Drop in to our Zoom meeting and join us. Contact Sherry McNamara for an invitation.

November 2, 2022, 7:30 PM

ALTAN IN CONCERT at Northern Michigan University
1401 Presque Isle Ave, Marquette, MI 49855

Saturday, November 26, 2022

Christmas Tree Lighting at Harbor Springs

Christmas Tree Lighting 6:00 PM

Other festivities last until 8:00 PM

Neighboring Area Regional Gathering

Sweet Carolina RG 2022

Join the Blue Ridge Mensans at the Sweet Carolina Regional Gathering in Charlotte Uptown, November 4-6, 2022. There will be something for everyone at this fun-filled event featuring games, a used book sale, gift basket raffle, meals and hospitality. Guest speakers will present on aerospace engineering, cybersecurity, and asteroid mining.

Happy November Birthday

- 3 Gary Cools
- 8 David Montgomery
- 21 Lindsey Lipke

Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of continuous Membership)

- 3 Years Jaeger Griswold
- 13 Years Richard Thibeau
- 16 Years Robin Stanley
- 17 Years Stephen Quick
- 28 Years Roger Meintz

Treasurer's Report

Northern Michigan Mensa (NMM) on 4/1/2022 had balances in the TBA Credit Union of \$4288.45 in a checking account and \$103.67 in a savings account.

For the first six months of the 2022-2023 fiscal year (4/1/22-9/30/22), for the checking account NMM received \$365.40 from America Mensa in dues rebates totaling \$365.40 and interest income from TBA-CU totaling \$0.63. During this same period, NMM paid expenses totaling \$110.10 for mailing labels and stamps.

NMM's total balances in TBA-CU on 9/30/22 were \$4544.38 in its checking account and \$103.67 in its savings account.

Submitted by John Porter, NMM Treasurer on 10/9/22.

Did you know I'm a dancer? It's funny, I didn't know I was one until I finally gave in to a (Mensan) friend of mine and came to classes with her. I figured taking up belly dancing in my 40's was a totally ridiculous idea, especially because I am not exactly slender or athletic. Or graceful.

Turns out, you don't actually need to be any of those. What you do need is a good teacher, hard work, and the freedom to make it your own...all while making connections with people who make you want to come back.

And when I perform in my beautiful sparkly turquoise-and-char-treuse costume, people don't see the safety pins or the hours/weeks/months of learning just HOW to do the thing. They just enjoy it.

Sound familiar?

Volunteering and being active in Mensa is very much like that. Everyone needs a good guide to show them the moves, but also be given the ability to make it fresh and new, and to do it in a new way within the confines of the music and the rhythm. And it takes dedication. Having the encouragement of people who believe in you makes any experience feel it is worth repeating. Things are often held together cosmetically behind the scenes, but the appreciation of those who know just how hard you worked is what makes much of it worthwhile.

So thank the volunteers.

I know I appreciate the way your moves make the organization look good, and I applaud you.

~Lora Mitchell, Regional Vice Chair 3

"We can't choose the music that life gives us, but we can choose how to dance to it." - Unknown

Why I Decided To Read Mensa Scholarship Essays

By Sherry McNamara

This year, I opted to help with reading and scoring the Mensa Scholarship essays. It was a situation where they really needed someone to help with the program and I volunteered at a time when I was easily swayed.

I have been a member of NMM since its inception. I have always known about the scholarship program and I have even been present on more than a couple occasions when we gave the lucky recipient their check from the NMM scholarship fund. Most years, I felt that I was too busy, that there would be too many essays to read, that it would take too much time, and that I was not sure I was fully qualified to judge their essays. However, this time I was intrigued and wondered what these students were thinking and writing so I agreed to take part in the grading process.

I found it very interesting to read the stories about the lives, dreams, and goals of the students. Some lived in situations that sounded quite tragic and economically difficult while it was apparent that others came from an easier and more privileged life.

In my opinion, each student had written to the best of their abilities. Some had goals that were, perhaps, unattainable and some had simple and straightforward plans with lots of determination. Some were doing things to help their families or to set examples for their siblings. Some were the first person in their family to go to college. I was emotionally moved by most of these essays; some of their stories are still floating around in my mind. I wish there were a way that we could check in with them in four years to see where their lives are at that point. I wonder if they reached their goals, if they succeeded, and if the world opened for them!

As soon as I finished my reading and scoring the essays, I contacted Kymberli Wregglesworth (former Scholarship Chair for Region 3) and asked her to put me on the list for next year. I would encourage all of you to give it a try. Like me, you might be surprised by the rewarding experience. I am really looking forward to doing this again!

ExComm Meeting Minutes

Tuesday September 13, 2022 | 11:00AM

The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

Attendees: Board Members Leo Hesting, John Porter, Jim McDermott, Heather Hollick. Founding member Sherry McNamara.

Testing and Increasing Membership

Jim McDermott, the current Admission Director, observed that testing is half price in October, which led Jim to explore testing options in Northern Michigan. It turns out that, with no testing proctors in Northern Michigan, the nearest testing site is in Ann Arbor. A discussion ensued on how we might acquire the minimum of two proctors required to hold testing sessions. Leo is considering becoming certified. A call will be put out to the membership to see if we can find other people interested in becoming certified as well.

John Porter noted that 60% of new Mensa members join using “prior evidence” i.e. some other test that is acceptable to Mensa.

General Discussion

We have published a Borealis every month, with one combined summer issue for July and August.

We do not have a program coordinator, and are in dire need of one.

Treasurer’s report

John Porter to provide brief report on bank activity for the last quarter.

Further discussion of recruiting options

John asked if any effort has been directed towards High School honor societies. He will research further.

Heather Hollick moved to adjourn. Jim McDermott seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:45.

Susan B. Anthony

by John Devoti

One hundred fifty years ago, on November 5, 1872, Susan B. Anthony voted illegally for Ulysses S. Grant for president. Four days earlier, she and 14 other women registered to vote when she convinced the election officials that denying her the vote violated the 14th Amendment and promised to sue them personally if they refused her. They argued that the New York Constitution prohibited voting by women, but Anthony quoted from the Constitution showing it had no such prohibition. On November 18, Anthony and the other women were arrested in New York. The trial was held the next June. In the trial, the prosecution simply argued that Anthony had registered and voted. It never quoted a law prohibiting women's voting. Despite this, the judge convicted Anthony and denied her a jury trial. He fined her \$100, which she refused to pay. The judge withheld imprisonment until the fine was paid, thus making any appeal on Anthony's part moot since she was not penalized for her "crime." She never paid the fine.

John Devoti is a member of Delaware Valley Mensa. Reprinted with permission.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton

by Leo Hesting

Somewhat earlier - on July 20, 1858 - 68 women and 32 men meeting in Seneca Falls, New York, signed the "Declaration of Sentiments" penned largely by Stanton. Among the women were Stanton herself, but not Susan B. Anthony - she and Stanton did not meet until a few years later. The topic of a woman's right to vote was hotly debated, with many in attendance feeling strongly that if this were to be included, the Declaration would be "going too far". Frederick Douglass is credited with urging its adoption - observing that without this practical step, the "sentiments" might, in the end, have no practical outcome.

Stanton was an great author. Besides the Declaration, her "Woman's Bible" continues to enlighten and inspire to this day.

Butternut Apple Soup

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 large leeks (white and pale green parts only), chopped
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 large potato, peeled and cubed
- 2 cups cubed butternut squash
- 1 cup diced carrots
- 1 Granny Smith apple, peeled, cored, and sliced 1/4-inch thick
- 1 quart vegetable broth
- 1/2 cup yogurt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- salt and pepper to taste
- 2 tablespoons chopped chives

Directions

Melt butter in a large pot over medium heat. Stir in leeks and onions, cook until the onion softens and turns translucent, about 5 minutes. Add potato, squash, carrots, apple, and broth. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to medium-low, cover, and simmer until the vegetables are soft, about 20 minutes.

Use a stick or immersion blender to puree the soup; or puree it in batches in a blender, then return it to the pot. Stir in yogurt. Season with nutmeg, salt, and pepper; simmer gently for 5 minutes. Ladle into bowls and garnish with chopped chives.

Early Oscar Buzz

by Linda Cocuzzi Richter

You're probably reading this near the end of October, and autumn brings some quality films that will win Oscar nominations. Check these out:

Martin McDonagh's *The Banshees of Inisherin*, featuring Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson, tells the tale of two men, friends for life, until one of them decides to pull the plug on that friendship. It was a Venice International Film Festival favorite, with the crowds raving about Farrell's performance as lead and many others showering credit on Gleeson. This film brought the festival crowd to its feet for a full fifteen minutes. Its expected release date is October 21.

Hitting theaters by Thanksgiving, Steven Spielberg offers us a gem that looks into the director's very soul. *The Fabelmans* tells the story of a Jewish family from Cincinnati that moves to Phoenix. Gabriel Labelle portrays Sammy Fabelman, a dreaming teen who creates scenarios in his home and films them, to his mom's delight. It was a favorite at the Toronto International Film Festival. The family includes Judd Hirsch as his Ukrainian Jewish grandfather, with Michelle Williams and Paul Dano as his parents. It's bound to garner plenty of tears and Oscar talk.

James Cameron is finally ready with *Avatar: The Way of Water*. With Sam Worthington as Jake Sully starring with the rest of the original cast in this sequel, there are a planet and two humanoid species to save. We learned in 2009 with *Avatar* that humans want to settle on the planet Pandora in order to mine an important substance. In order to survive within Pandora's ecosystem, the humans have been matched with genetically altered beings, but they remain on Earth. In the sequel, Jake now lives permanently on Pandora, facing a new stack of struggles and challenges.

Reprinted with the writer's permission from Braegen, the newsletter of East Central Ohio Mensa.

Elected Members

Local Secretary	Leo Hesting	231-465-5111	leo@pevex.com
Deputy LocSec	Heather Hollick	919-360-1532	heather@heatherhollick.com
Treasurer	John Porter	231-499-9662	porterjm17@gmail.com
At-Large	Jaeger Griswold	313-690-4867	jaegergriz@peoplepc.com
At-Large	Seeking volunteer		

Appointed Members

Membership	Jim McDermott	231-943-7792	jhmcdermott@yahoo.com
Ombudsman	Josh Ockert	231-288-0125	lee.ockert@gmail.com
Scholarship	Seeking volunteer		
SIGHT	Melissa Rennie	231-889-4198	renmeij@yahoo.com
Financial Overseer	Sherry McNamara	231-313-2769	sherrymcnamara@hotmail.com
Bibliomensans	Sherry McNamara	231-313-2769	sherrymcnamara@hotmail.com
Newsletter Editor	H. Gruenberg-Seger	231-932-9501	britajax@gmail.com
Graphics Editor	- Seeking volunteers		
Program Coordinator	- Seeking volunteers		
Publications Officer Pro Tempore	- Leo Hesting		
Website & Communications Coordinator	- Seeking volunteers		
Testing Coordinator, Proctor, Proctor Coordinator	- Seeking volunteers		

Regional Vice Chair Lora Mitchell 614-450-0170 rvc3@us.mensa.org

Check out our website: www.nmm.us.mensa.org

On the cover: Middle Island
by NMM member John Porter