

Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



 Borealis
Northern Michigan Mensa

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Borealis is published by Northern Michigan Mensa (3/496) once each month under the auspices of its Executive Committee.

After mandatory items, priority in the newsletter is given to matters appealing to members of the group which relate to their membership in Mensa. The content of the newsletter 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. 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 when a person submits material with a restriction that it be published "as is or not at all". In such cases, it will include an editor's note stating it as such.

That a person has written and submitted something to the newsletter is not, in itself, sufficient reason for its publication. It is the editor's discretion whether to publish any submission, with the exception of mandatory items.

All submissions are welcome and encouraged. They may be sent via email or snail mail. They may be sent as attachments or in the body of the email.

Submissions requiring major editing are also welcome. If requested, the author may approve the editing before the article is published.

Photographs are also welcome. Please include a brief description of the photo, and the name of the photographer. You may also include an entire article to accompany the photo.

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.nmm.us.mensa.org

ON THE COVER: A rhododendron pokes out of the snow, getting ready for spring. By Stan Cain

Northern Michigan Mensa

April 2006 Calendar

BOOK CLUB - Saturday, 1 April 2006 at 12:30 p.m.

We will meet at the Cottage Café, 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City, in the Papa's Den. The book for discussion this month is *Surfacing* by Margaret Attwood. This group is open to all members; attendance can be each meeting, or only at those meetings that present books in which you have an interest.

BRUNCH - Saturday, 8 April 2006, at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet at Cottage Café, located at 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City. We will hold our gathering in the Papa's Den, which is on the right as you enter the front door.

TGIF - Friday, 21 April 2006, at 6:00 p.m.

We will meet in the Horizon Shine Café, located in the lower level of Horizon Books, 243 E. Front Street, Traverse City. Coffee, soft drinks, sandwiches, wraps, and desserts are available for purchase.

CULTURE QUEST - Sunday, 30 April 2006, at 4:00 p.m.

Team Crawford - Carol Crawford - Hostess and Captain 938-3330

carolcrawford@charter.net

Stan Cain, KC Mowrey, Steve Quick, Don Hennig

Team Vogel - Dorothy Vogel - Hostess and Captain 947-1700

vogeld@chartermi.net

Margaret Scott, John Roney, Peter Turkus, Sherry McNamara

To eliminate any unnecessary work for our hostesses, please bring your own drink and a snack to pass. Please arrive about 15 minutes early to get settled in prior to start time, as we have to begin at 4:00 p.m. according to the rules of play. We will probably meet afterwards for dinner somewhere, but I have not yet made any reservations. I will keep everyone updated via e-mail.

Mensa Events



March Brunch - Photo by Jack Schultz.

Pictured from left foreground: Stan Cain, Tom Barnhart, Don Hennig, Ellen Monahan, Carol Crawford, Judith Lindenau, Dorothy Cain and Joanne Schultz.

ELLEN'S NEW HOME AND NINETY-NINE

By Sherry McNamara

Even though only a small group of us gathered at Ellen's home on Saturday, 19 March, we had a lot of fun!! In January, Ellen moved into a 1950's era home in the Slabtown neighborhood of Traverse City. But, upon entering the home it was hard to believe it was 50 years old! Granite countertops, two gas fireplaces, beautiful wood detailing, and an unbeatable cozy ambiance made this feel like a very warm and modern home.

The beginning of the evening was geared toward relaxing in the living room and having wonderful conversation while we had snacks. Then the group

gathered around Ellen's dining room table to play a card game called "Ninety-Nine!" It is a betting game, but we were lucky this evening as Ellen provided the all quarters for us to ante up. Ninety-Nine is an easy game to learn and we had lots of fun trying to figure out strategies. But, that was not easy to do since playing certain cards could reverse the direction of play, or immediately end the game, so players had to pay attention while they planned their next move. It was a delightful evening and I am looking forward to playing this game again as well as visiting Ellen's place in the summer when the flowers are in bloom!

Regional Vice Chair

A pinch, a smidgeon and a dash...

Hello Region 3:

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Linda Hathaway, and I have just been elected to complete Alan Baltis' 2005-2007 term as RVC for Region 3. My term of office will begin at the March 25, 2006 AMC meeting in Greenville, SC. Some of you may know me; others may not so I will give you a brief bio. I have been a member of American Mensa Ltd. continuously for over 26 years. I have served my local group as LocSec multiple times, Assistant LocSec, Treasurer, Secretary, Board Member, as well as RG Chair multiple times and RG Hospitality chair many times. I also served as RVC of Region 3 for the 1997-1999 term. I just recently completed reading 105 essays for the Regional Mensa Research and Education Foundation Scholarship content. I am on the committee for the 2007 Mind Games, which will be held in Pittsburgh. I am also leading the hotel negotiations to submit a bid for the 2009 Annual Gathering that hopefully will be held in Pittsburgh - the Steel City that will steal your heart. With all of this experience, I feel I am qualified to once again serve as your RVC.



On the personal side, I have one daughter, Beth, who is married and lives in West Virginia. I work as a project accountant/coordinator for MACTEC Engineering & Consulting where I am responsible for three offices (Hamilton, NJ; Plymouth Meeting, PA; and Pittsburgh, PA). This frequently involves travel to other offices for hands-on training and the care and handling of 23 project managers (quite a challenge), but one that I enjoy. I also run a home-based business creating spice blends to use in

cooking, barbecuing and entertaining (Linda Hathaway's SpiceAngel). Last, but certainly not least, in January, I married my life partner Dave Hunt in a quiet ceremony in Morgantown, WV. He has always been and continues to be my biggest supporter, best friend and "groupie."

In the upcoming year, I plan to do my best to visit as many of you and your groups as possible. I would like to listen to you and hope you will share your concerns, your successes and your hopes for Mensa. My duties as RVC will be dual. First and foremost, I am your representative on the AMC. In order to represent you, I need to hear from you. My email address is RVC3@americanmensa.org and my snail mail address is 215 Newton Square, Moon Township, PA 15108. Secondly, my duties as an AMC member include helping to shape the future of Mensa. I look forward to hearing your suggestions and comments and especially to serving as your RVC for the next 15 months.

Respectfully,
Linda Hathaway
Regional Vice Chairman, Region 3

SLOGAN PUZZLE

Submitted by Margaret J. Scott

Many of these slogans or "JINGLE" will sound familiar but how many of them can you match to their products?

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Be All That You Can Be | A. DOW |
| 2. M'M M'M Good...M'M M'M Good | B. United Way |
| 3. What the Big Boys Eat | C. U. S. Army |
| 4. We Bring Good Things to Life | D. Hallmark |
| 5. ...Let's You Do Great Things | E. A.T & T. |
| 6. The Heartbeat of America, Today's | F. Whirlpool |
| 7. Making Your World a Little Easier | G. Wheaties |
| 8. Double Your Pleasure, Double Your Fun | H. Chevy Truck |
| 9. Quality is Job 1 | I. Campbell's Soup |
| 10. You Are My Hero | J. DEERE (John Deere) |
| 11. The Right Choice | K. Doublemint Gum |
| 12. Nothing Runs Like a | L. General Electric |
| 13. When you Care Enough to Send the Very Best | M. UPS (United Parcel Service) |
| 14. We Run the Tightest Ship in the Shipping Business | N. FORD |

March Formula Puzzle Answers:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. North East | 8. Orphan |
| 2. Bush | 9. Parts of Speech |
| 3. Week | 10. Coins |
| 4. Face Cards | 11. United States Congress |
| 5. Armed Forces | 12. Winter |
| 6. 2 Decades | 13. Lone Star State |
| 7. New Year's Eve. | 14. Garden of Eden |
| | 15. Musical Comedies |

THE QUEEN AND I

by Ruth Minshull

Although I'm a WASP, I have never felt privileged or influential--and I have certainly never felt British. If I have any family pride at all, it's in the fact that my ancestors were among the earliest settlers in this country, rather than in the fact that they came from the UK.

While I disclaim any other Anglophilic leanings, I will admit that I have always been mildly interested in the queen.

This is because we are the same age. That is, we were born the same year--she a few months ahead of me (I think it shows a little around her eyes, too).

I never heard of Elizabeth until we/I were ten years old. That's when her uncle Edward shucked it all and ran off to play house with Wally, leaving his brother George to mind the throne. This put Princess Elizabeth next in line and brought her almost constant media attention as she grew up. I saw pictures of her at the races, riding horses, attending official functions, reviewing the troops.

Every time I heard or read about her I was fascinated by the fact that we were the same age (twins-across-the-sea) yet our lives were so different. Now and then I wondered what it would be like to change places. At first, the idea of being a princess seemed quite glamorous, but gradually I realized how little freedom she had.

In 1952, at the age of 26, her papa died and she had to quit playing around and settle down to the serious job of being the queen. *Now you've totally lost your freedom, Liz, I thought. Will there ever again be any joy in your life?*

She did get married and have children, but after a brief time-out she always had to go right back to that hard throne, the rubber chicken circuit, the meaningless ceremonies and, of course, those interminable troops that always seem to need reviewing.

For the rest of her life, her every moment seems to be planned for her. All schedules, all meetings, all menus must be cleared in advance with the proper authorities. There's no room for spontaneity in her life. She even has weights sewn into the hems of her dresses so they won't blow up and reveal too much of the royal legs. As an added precaution, no one is allowed to photograph her when she's eating. (Thus you never see a shot of her with a blob of lettuce stuck in her teeth.)

And people who meet her are expected to curtsy. She must end each day, her mind numbed by this throng of pates: healthy, bald, comb-overs, black-rooted blonds and white-rooted browns. Perhaps even the occasional errant wig, dislodged by all that bowing.

And there can't be much privacy. When she's not out nodding to the mobs she still has all those ladies-in-waiting--waiting around. And those footmen doing whatever footmen do.

Despite her enormous riches, she's missed out on some of life's most delectable experiences. I'm sure she can't eat a piece of fried chicken with her fingers--let alone a sticky sparerib, a hot dog, or a stringy slice of pizza. Has she ever had the messy delight of licking a dripping ice cream cone? Surely not--it's much too unqueenly.

Instead she must shake millions of hands, endure the palaver of toadying subjects, listen to countless boring speeches. She's never known the thrill of finding a hot bargain at a garage sale for two shillings. I doubt if she ever hears a raunchy joke or sits on the floor and sings with a gang of friends.

And, if she looks as if she has a chronic headache, think of what the regal head must support. If it isn't a weighty tiara or a jewel-encrusted crown, it's one of those hideous matching hats.

In the end, after all the pomp and stuff, what does she get out of being queen? She is never allowed to make any significant decision. She's merely a figurehead. As a child did she really want to be an artist? a hairdresser? a belly dancer? Unthinkable! Her job is to make nice to everybody, while the Prime Minister and the parliament actually run the country.

Since I have an extremely low tolerance for small talk (not to mention God-awful headgear) and I can't even imagine having to review those tiresome troops (Why *do* they need so much reviewing anyway?) I'm thankful that she's over there handling her job--while I get to be me.

BIRD FLU: Key Facts about Avian Influenza and Avian Influenza A Virus

by Boyd E. Chapin, Jr.

(Submitted by Margaret J. Scott)

Influenza A virus - also called "H5NI virus" - is an influenza A virus subtype that occurs mainly in birds. It was first isolated from terns in South Africa in 1961. Like all bird flu viruses, H5NI virus circulates among birds worldwide, is very contagious among birds, and can be deadly.

Bird flu viruses do not usually infect humans, but several cases of human infection with bird flu viruses have occurred since 1997.

Symptoms of bird flu in humans have ranged from typical flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat and muscle aches) to eye infections, pneumonia, severe respiratory diseases (such as acute respiratory distress), and other severe and life-threatening complications. The symptoms of bird flu may depend on which virus caused the infection.

Infected birds shed flu virus in their saliva, nasal secretions, and feces. Susceptible birds become infected when they have contact with contaminated excretions or surfaces that are contaminated with excretions. It is believed that most cases of bird flu infection in humans have resulted from contact with infected poultry or contaminated surfaces.

In 1997, the first case of spread from a bird to a human was seen during an outbreak of bird flu in poultry in Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region. The virus caused severe respiratory illness in 18 people, 6 of whom died. The World Health Organization (WHO) also has reported human cases in Indonesia. Most of these cases have occurred from contact with infected poultry or contaminated surfaces; however, it is thought that a few cases of human-to-human spread of H5NI have occurred. See www.who.org.

To date the spread of influenza A virus from person to person has been rare and has not continued beyond one person. However, because all influenza viruses have the ability to mutate, scientists are concerned that the influenza virus one day could be able to infect humans and spread easily from one person to another. Because these viruses do not commonly infect humans, there is little or no immune protection against them in the human population. If the influenza A virus were able to infect people and spread easily from person to person, an influenza pandemic could begin.

The current risk to Americans from the influenza A bird flu outbreak in Asia is low. The strain of influenza A virus in Asia and Europe has not been found in the United States. There have been no human cases of influenza A in the United States. It is possible that travelers returning from affected countries in Asia could be infected if they were exposed to the virus.

In February 2004, Center for Disease Control (CDC) provided U. S. Health Departments with recommendations for enhanced surveillance in the U.S. of avian influenza A. CDC currently advises that travelers to countries with known outbreaks of influenza A avoid poultry farms, contact with animals in live food markets, and any surfaces that appear to be contaminated with feces from poultry or other animals. CDC does not recommend any travel restrictions to affected countries at this time. See www.cdc.gov; www.who.org.

For good health, there are several organizations working together with WHO and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), www.nih.gov, on safety testing of vaccine seed candidates for influenza A and other subtypes of influenza A virus.

© 2005 Garan Lucow Miller, PC. Boyd E. Chapin, Jr., is a shareholder of Garan Lucow Miller, PC. He is a graduate of Wayne State University. Mr. Chapin's practice includes insurance defense, medical malpractice, and nursing home liability, and he has lectured extensively on medical/legal law.

Do you know someone you think is Mensa material? During the month of April, they can send in the results of any standardized intelligence test they've taken in the past, and we'll evaluate their scores for American Mensa membership for free. (There is usually a \$30 fee to review test scores.)

American Mensa accepts the results from more than 200 tests; a partial list may be found at www.us.mensa.org/testscores. To take advantage of this offer, your friends and colleagues should visit www.us.mensa.org in April and follow the instructions on the home page.
