

Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



Volume 4 Number 10

July 2006

 Borealis
Northern Michigan Mensa

www.nmm.us.mensa.org

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American Mensa LTD.
1229 Corporate Drive West
Arlington, TX 76006-6103

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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: The lighthouse at Big Sable Point near Ludington.
Photo by Stan Cain

Northern Michigan Mensa

July 2006 Calendar

MOVIE CLUB - Saturday, July 1, 2006 - 2:00pm - We will meet at LaSenorita located at 2455 N. US 31 S (near Sam's Club), Traverse City for the discussion portion of our meeting.

The movie for discussion this month will be announced on 23 June 2006. Sherry McNamara will post the title on the webpage and will send everyone an email reminder. If you don't have email, you can call her for the movie title (933.9272). The movie will be shown at Horizon Cinemas, 3587 Market Place Circle, Traverse City. Movies change following the last showing on Thursday night, so don't wait until Friday the 30th of June, as it may not be the same movie that we will be discussing.

BRUNCH - Saturday, July 15, 2006 - 11:00am - 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. This month's brunch has a very special addition! We will be presenting the scholarship to our local essay contest winners! Please join us in welcoming them to this event and congratulating them on their efforts. Please Note: This event is on a different date this month due to conflicts with the Cherry Festival.

EXCOMM MEETING - Friday, July 28, 2006 - 5:00pm - We will meet in the Horizon Shine Café, located in the lower level of Horizon Books, 243 E. Front Street, Traverse City. All members are welcome to attend.

TGIF - Friday, July 28, 2006 - 6:00pm - 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.

BOOK CLUB (AUGUST)

For those of you thinking ahead, the Bibliomensans book club book for August will be *The Quiet American* by Graham Greene.

(Ed. Note: The list of books for the rest of the year can be found on the Northern Michigan Mensa Events web site: www.nmm.us.mensa.org.)

Scholarship Winner Announced By Dorothy Vogel

This year, we had 3 scholarship winners in the essay contest. One winner was the recipient of the local award and the other two won national awards. The 3 winners are Monica Schmit, Marie Sweetman, and Sara Karpinski.

There were applicants from Beulah, Cedar, Elk Rapids, Frankfort, Interlochen, Lake Leelanau, Leland, Manistee, Suttons Bay, Thompsonville, and Traverse City. Scholarship information was sent to many of the local high schools and notices were placed in the print media last fall. This was a great response and will hopefully continue to grow in the years ahead.

Contestants wrote an essay that described their career, vocational, or academic goals. The essays were to include a goal statement and specific information on experience or steps taken toward the goal. Local judging began in January and continued with regional and national judging done by late May. Our local judging was done by Joan Dasef, Patty Paternel, and Priscilla Walmsley. Their time and efforts were invaluable to the success of the program. When regional and national judging finished in late May, there were over 150 scholarships awarded.

Monica Schmit, of Cedar, is the 2006 winner of the Northern Michigan Mensa Local Scholarship Essay Contest with a prize of \$500. Monica is pursuing a nursing degree at Northwestern Michigan College after 20 years in the workforce. Her career thus far has included social work in Peru and inner-city Detroit. She would like to work in a community-based health clinic.

Marie Sweetman, of Thompsonville, won the Grosswirth-Salny Scholarship from the Mensa Education and Research Foundation. This award is for \$500. Marie is pursuing an English degree at the University of Michigan. Her goal is to be an author.

Sara Karpinski, of Traverse City, won the Diana Mossip Memorial Scholarship from the Mensa Education and Research Foundation. This award is for \$300. Sara is pursuing a nursing degree at the Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. She would like to specialize in neonatal intensive care.

All three winners have been invited to be our guests at the July 15 brunch at Cottage Café. Please consider attending so you can have a chance to meet them.

Scholarship Chairperson Needed

By Sherry McNamara

We are looking for a Scholarship Chairperson to take over from our current chairperson, Dorothy Vogel. Dorothy has done a fabulous job these past two years. In addition to overseeing the selection of the first two winners of the NMM local scholarship, Dorothy has set up a methodology for running this program successfully. But, Dorothy is ready to pursue some other interests and has decided to step down from this position.

This program is run concurrently with the Mensa Education and Research Foundation scholarship. The Scholarship Chairperson is responsible for notifying all the local high schools of the scholarship. Application for this scholarship requires the applicant to write an essay no longer than 550 words. All local essays are forwarded to the chairperson who is in charge of coordinating a group of three judges to read the essays. This group of three ranks each essay by assigning specific points to a set of predetermined criteria. The contest deadline is mid January of each year with the finalist being announced in June.

Dorothy is willing to assist the new chairperson by passing on her computer files and preparation materials. This consists of the letters she uses to notify all the local high schools, etc. The busiest time for this position is during the school notification process and then providing copies to the three local judges. While this is an important position it is one that has a limited time commitment each year. We need to have someone in place as soon as possible. If you are interested in this position, please call me at 933.9272 or 922.4603, or you can email me at kikiwon@hotmail.com.

June Brunch

By Stan Cain

Many thanks to Judy and Gary Cools for hosting our brunch on June 10th at their charming home in Ludington. In addition to the Cools, there were 5 others in attendance. Present were Carol Crawford, Jim McDermott, Stan and Dorothy Cain and Ruth Dimmit - a friend of the Cools. Not in attendance were any of our "Southern" members from such places as Ludington, Onekama, Manistee and others. You missed a good opportunity to meet some of your fellow Mensans without driving to Traverse City where many of the local group's activities are held.

Weight Loss!

By Stan Cain

Well, if you think the newsletter has lost weight in the last month, you're right! Recent submissions have been from a few faithful, talented writers, but I know that there are many of you out there with at least one interesting story to tell the rest of us. Perhaps you could tell us about a great vacation trip or maybe something about your field of expertise? There are very few jobs from which we can't learn something useful.

I'm reminded of one of my first jobs which was in a grocery store where one of the chores was to bundle up flattened cardboard boxes and tie them with heavy twine. One of the old hands bet me he could cut the twine with his bare hands. It was tough stuff and I was sure he couldn't do it. Of course I lost because there was a way to do it by twisting the twine around your hands and pulling in a certain way. I still occasionally use this trick when faced with cutting some string when a knife is not handy.

So, if you think you have something more interesting than **that** to write about, let's hear it!

Brain Teaser

Submitted by Margaret Scott

What does this series represent?

4 8 12 2 1 7 6 3 5 11 10 9

(Puzzle answers will appear in next month's issue)
