



Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa

Northern Michigan Mensa

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

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Carole M Eberly

December. 15, 1943 - June. 17, 2017

One of our local members, Carole Eberly passed away unexpectedly while on vacation in Mexico.



especially enjoyed attending Mensa AGs over the years.

Carole's varied career included journalism and education. Carole received her PhD in 1995 from MSU.

An obituary appeared recently in the Traverse City Record Eagle. A memorial reception will

Carole had been a member of Northern Michigan Mensa since 2013 but prior to that had been associated with the Mid-Michigan area group. Carole had served our group as Program and Publicity Chairs and was recently a member of the Executive Committee. She and her daughter, Jessica (also a Mensan)

be held at a later date. Email jsullivan49686@gmail.com for details.

APRIL CALENDAR

Book Club - Saturday, 1 April, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

The April Book Club selection will be ***The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*** by Robert Louis Stevenson and presented by Jack Schultz. The group will meet at BC Pizza, 3186 LaFranier Road, in Traverse City.

Brunch and Speaker- Saturday, 8 April 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

The April brunch will be held at The Cottage, 420 Munson Avenue at 8th Street, in Traverse City. We will meet in the separate room in the rear. Our speaker will be Dave Barrons, retired TV9&10 chief meteorologist, who will speak on weather, climate change and related subjects.

SPRING BREAK ON THE GULF COAST

By Ruth Minshull

The shuffling pace, the soft voices, the gentle laughter of the snowbirds is suddenly overshadowed by a new rhythm.

The beat picks up; the streets, walkways, condos and fast-food eateries all throb to the quickened pulse.

Kids tool around in open cars singing, laughing, calling to each other.

Supermarket aisles are jammed with carts, each surrounded by a pod of boys or a giggle of girls (never couples). The carts are half-filled with beer and soft drinks. Lengthy conferences take place about other items: chips, snacks, frozen meals, soups, and other fare of non-cooks.

Low-flying planes pass overhead towing banners that tout the merits of various hangouts. The ice cream truck slowly works its way along, blaring tinny music that punishes the ear with its discordant screech.

Meanwhile the beaches begin to undulate with clusters of bare-chested boys (wearing the mandatory knee-length trunks) tossing around balls as they call out husky jeers. At the same time, bikini-clad girls (three or four together) stroll by. The two genders appear to studiously ignore each other--but the observant eye will note that there's a lot of checking out going on.

Later, the trolling will be fruitful; they'll find ways to hook up. Because, of course, that's what it's all about. Connecting.

Universities in Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Ohio and Tennessee have spewed out their charges. There's a week of freedom ahead.

And it's party time!

As darkness replaces the brilliant sun, groups start to amass--in night-spots, in condos, on the beaches. The noise level reaches a new pitch; bursts of laughter increase; festivities heat up and rock on through the night.

Now and then the shrill scream of a siren pierces the thrumming beat.

The beefed-up police force is very visible, very busy. Cruisers patrol the streets, trying to anticipate the inevitable problems. There will be countless tickets written for speeding, assorted traffic violations and DUIs. There will be accidents. One young man will lose his life while trying to climb from one condo balcony to another. This happens nearly every year. Don't ask me why it is cooler to arrive by balcony than by stairway. To comprehend it, you'd have to be under 25 and under the influence.

Spring break time has arrived on the Florida coast.

Winter is over, and it's time for the oldsters to pack up their slippers and go home.

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Editor's Note: Some NMM old timers will remember Ruth Minshull, a long time member of Mensa, who contributed many short pieces to Borealis. In honor of Spring Break season, I am reprinting this one which appeared in the June, 2007 Borealis.

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