



# Borealis

## April Calendar

Bibliomansans next meet in June at 11:00 a.m. at B. C. Pizza, at 3186 LaFranier Rd. in Traverse City.

BRUNCH - postponed

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### Executive Committee

#### 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	231-275-6735	jsvoyageur@gmail.com

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Due to the current virus situation, all local Mensa meetings, events, etc, have been postponed until further notice. Stay at Home orders are in effect into May sometime.

## 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.



## News from the RVC3

John Voymas, Vice Chairperson, Region 3

JohnV.RVC3@gmail.com, 313.434.6750

What strange times we are in ... as I write this, the federal recommendation is to stay-at-home until April 30. Here in Michigan the current executive order was due to expire on April 13 (about three weeks after it was initiated). My wife and I had already begun staying at home on March 17, six days before the Governor's order. I am waiting to hear if Michigan will extend for another two weeks.

This is not the first crisis in the United States in the past century. A little over one hundred years ago, we were involved in the first World War (U. S. combat casualties over 53,000). Even before the war ended, the Spanish flu pandemic began. By the time that was over 675,000 Americans died, many of them soldiers serving in WWI.

Ten years later, in October 1929, the stock market crashed and the Great Depression ensued. On December 7, 1941 ("a day that shall live in infamy") we entered the second World War. During the next few years, rationing of goods became the norm in the United States. Another 418,500 military and civilians died from that war.

Polio and tuberculosis were health crises that impacted many families. As a young elementary school child, I remember being given the oral polio vaccine. In 1968, when I was fourteen years old, we had the Hong Kong flu pandemic, where 100,000 Americans died. HIV/AIDS has killed many.

On September 11, 2001, our country was attacked by terrorists and over 3,000 were killed within a couple of hours. Since then, we have had to deal with SARS and the Swine flu.

Now, we are dealing with COVID-19, which is especially dangerous for those who are over sixty years of age (even more so for those over eighty years old), and also those with serious underlying health conditions. As a respiratory virus, it enters the nose, mouth, and eyes, then breeds in the back of the throat, and "rides" nasal drainage into the lungs where it can develop into pneumonia (the actual cause of death in many cases). The health impact to those who are younger and healthier may be comparatively less but due to it being highly contagious, it behooves all of us who are in non-essential services to stay home. The sooner we do that, the sooner we can return to what may be a "new normal".

I am concerned that some do not take this seriously - the mother who allows her young daughter to run down the street and play with her friend, the person who drives to another state to pick up a family member, the kids at the playground who are playing together. To paraphrase a public service announcement about another family of viruses ... when you are in close contact with someone else, you are in contact with them and with everyone they have been in contact with, and with everyone those people have been in contact with. You do not have to be showing symptoms to be contagious. That is how easily it can spread ... and how easily it can be contained. Please stay at home unless you have an essential need that requires you to be elsewhere.

This has impacted American Mensa. Many local group activities have been canceled. The Dayton Regional Gathering (RG), scheduled in March, was the first major casualty in Region 3. The Southeast Michigan Mensa RG in April was canceled. Mind Games is postponed to later in the year. The March AMC board meeting, which was being hosted at Southern Nevada Mensa's first RG in twenty years became a teleconference meeting and the Southern Nevada RG was canceled at the last minute after Cookie Bakke had put in many hours of work planning that event. As I write this, the Annual Gathering (AG) is still planned for early July. I do hope that it can happen. I think we need some sense of normalcy even if the attendance is significantly diminished. Tabby Vos, the Chair, has even planned on light evening meals on Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday. She has put a lot of work into coordinating this year's AG.

The next RG in Region 3 is over Labor Day weekend, hosted by Western Pennsylvania Mensa (WPAM). In October, Columbus Area Mensa will have an RG. And to close out the year, Cincinnati Area Mensa will host their RG.

Take care of yourself. Stay home. Let's get past this pandemic together.

# Borealis

Northern Michigan Mensa

1896 Carlisle Rd

Traverse City, MI 49696

