

Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



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Borealis

Northern Michigan Mensa

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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
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Northern Michigan Mensa - 2023 Meetings

These meetings are stipulated in the bylaws. Contact the Local Secretary or Deputy Local Secretary to find out how to join them.

Executive Committee (ExComm) - we meet via Zoom at 11:00, all NMMs welcome to attend.

- Tuesday, March 7, 2023
- Tuesday, June 6, 2023
- Tuesday, September 12, 2023
- Tuesday, December 5, 2023

Nominating Committee

- Tuesday, September 17, 2023 (First meeting)
- Tuesday, October 10, 2023 (Set candidate slate & report)

Bibliomensan meetings are open to all NMMs. We alternate between discussing a book, and just getting together for a chat. Contact Sherry McNamara for meeting details.

Wednesday, January 4, 6:30 PM - In-Between Chat

Saturday, February 4, 11:00 AM - Book: This Tender Land

Wednesday, March 1, 6:30 PM - In-Between Chat

Saturday, April 1, 11:00 AM - Book: Catch and Kill

Wednesday, May 3, 6:30 PM - In-Between Chat

Saturday, June 3, 11:00 AM - Book: The Greatest Evil is War

Wednesday, July 5, 6:30 PM - In-Between Chat

Saturday, August 12, 11:00 - Book: When Evil Came to Good Hart

Wednesday, September 6, 6:30 PM - In-Between Chat

Saturday, October 7, 11:00 AM - Book: The Boys from Biloxi

Wednesday, November 1, 6:30 PM - In-Between Chat

Saturday, December 2, 11:00 AM - Book: Freezing Order

Happy January Birthday!

Richard Thibeau 17-Jan
 John Phelps 19-Jan
 Erik Snyder 21-Jan
 Brian Maue 26-Jan

Mensa Membership Milestones (Years of continuous Membership)

3 years Kendall Kindzierski
 4 years Brian Maue
 8 years Lindsey Lipke
 11 years Heather Hollick
 17 years Susan Pitzer
 19 years M Daunter
 20 years Melissa Rennie

Rejoining Members

Welcome to rejoining members

Rejoined in October Gary McWhirter
 Rejoined in November Howard Konetchy

Contact Jim McDermott for more information, or to help.

As you know I usually write this column a little more than a month in advance, so I'm unable to predict right now what our December was like. That being said, I am going to have faith that it was busy but happy while you celebrate your winter holidays.

This past year has seen the loss of some members in our region who have made a tremendous impact on the grassroots of Mensa, including one who was important in my journey. But instead dwelling on the sadness and the memories, I see the changes they made and helped Mensa local groups to grow while they shared happiness with others. That makes me think of all of you, and the way you do the same. All of you who volunteer and dedicate time - whether it be big roles like Local Secretary or narrow and needed like the cleanup crew at monthly meetings - help move us forward.

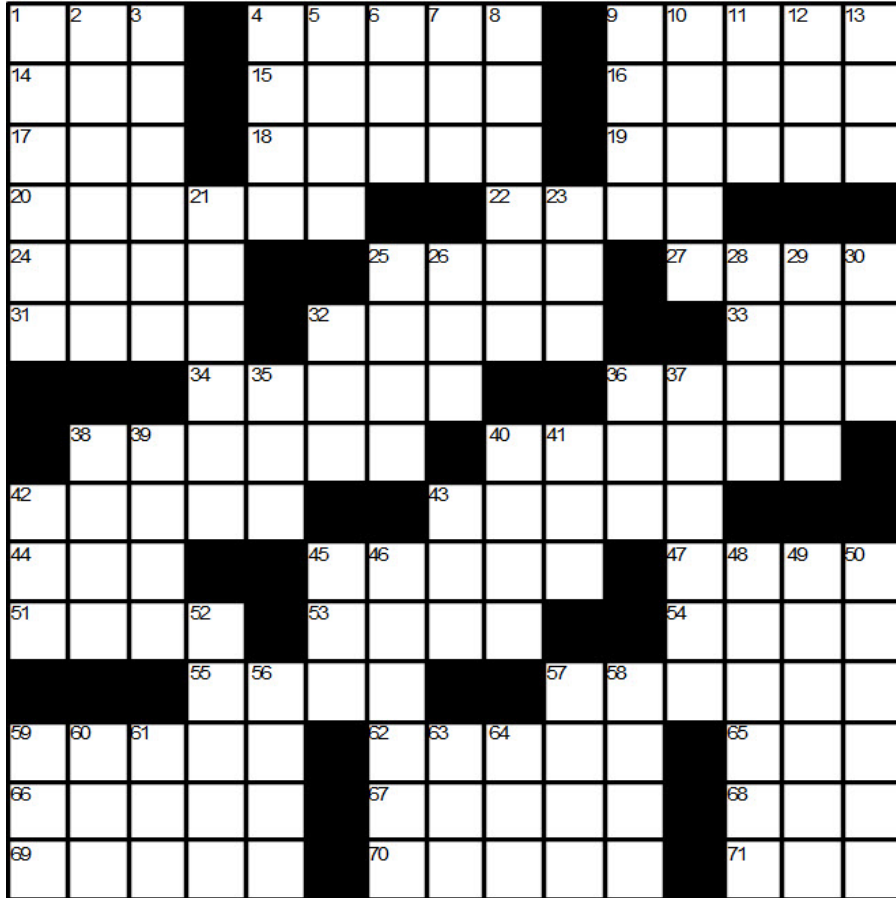
Speaking of volunteers, I want to give special recognition for 2 different groups of people. The first is Northern Michigan Mensa and their ExComm, officers, and other volunteers. This past year has led to some incredible revival of the group, with higher levels of engagement and focus. It is rare for a group to move forward with the speed and strength that they have, and I want to thank their dedicated leaders, with special thanks to LocSec Leo Hesting.

The second recognition is to the Scholarship Judges who are about to take on the task of reading and judging the Foundation scholarship applications. The Mensa Foundation Scholarship Program awards more than \$175,000 in assistance every year to college-bound students around the globe. Scholarships are awarded based solely on 550-word essays expressing applicants' academic and professional goals and how their personal experiences will help them to accomplish those goals. The essays can range wildly in their tone and goals, but every single one is given the care and evaluation by members like you who invest in the future by giving their time. If you have never tried it, I encourage you to reach out to your local Scholarship Chair, or our Regional Scholarship Chair Jamison, and volunteer.

And to all of you who make a difference in the world, inside and outside of Mensa, thank you for using your gift of intelligence as a gift to others.

~Lora Mitchell, Regional Vice Chair 3, RVC3@us.mensa.org

January Birthdays



- R. L. Turner

January Birthdays

Across	Down
1 Jan 15-Civil rights leader	1 Angora hair fabric
4 Hasten	2 Angolan capital
9 Parrot	3 Pet 4 Location
14 Paris affirmative	5 High school dance
15 Angry	6 Consume
16 Hawaiian 'hello'	7 Airport abbr.
17 Head apparel	8 River terminals
18 Entire	9 Female parent
19 Lady's title	10 Having wings
20 Hymn	11 Common fish
22 Not this	12 Expression of surprise
24 Notion	13 Jan 27- Austrian composer
25 Herr's wife	21 Milliner
27 Writer Bombeck	23 Drone 25 Tolls
31 Rave	26 Free of
32 Quake	28 Churn 29 Christ's mother
33 Lout	30 Furthest back
34 No longer wild	32 Jan 24-Victim of followers of Manson family
36 Circumvent	35 Brand of laundry detergent
38 Refines ore	36 Hindu title
40 Strangely	37 Ignite 38 Prune
42 Tangle	39 African country
43 Educate	40 PA port city
44 Lubricate	41 Jan 8-King of Rock & Roll
45 Supply	42 Distress call
47 Deceased	43 Pull
51 Skewer	45 Nightmare street
53 Sled	46 Ill 48 Spring holiday
54 Dress decoration	49 Veritable 50 Mojave
55 Peak	52 Fairy stories
57 Invited people	56 Surrender
59 Ransack	57 Fellow
62 Flowering herb	58 __ Major (Big Dipper)
65 Day of the wk.	59 Jan 9-37th President
66 Sounded like a cow	60 Note
67 Lower legs	61 Pro
68 Serving of corn	63 That girl
69 Care for	64 Can metal
70 Gossiper	
71 Jan 2-Yours truly	

New Beginnings

New year? Yes. New beginnings? Yes. New Year's resolutions? No. I've never wished to be thinner or smarter, though sometimes I have wished to be more patient. When I was a kid I think one year I vowed to get along better with my (five years' younger) brother. That probably lasted not very long. In 2021 my husband died and I just didn't feel like celebrating Christmas that year, so I worked. Well, I worked December 24. I've been a cashier at Meijer for just over a year now, and they're not open on Christmas, so I sat in my recliner and watched TV until six p.m. on December 25, when I decided I'd survived Christmas.

I wasn't sure how I'd feel in 2022, as our twelve-year-old dog had died in September, but I decided I did feel like celebrating Christmas a little. I bought myself some chocolate-covered potato chips (Better Made, still made in Detroit) and chocolate-covered popcorn (Pop-Kie's, made in Traverse City), and I took myself to the State Theatre to see 'The Polar Express'. It may sound hard to believe, but somehow I had managed to miss all showings and even all mention of that particular holiday movie up till then. (Since I'm writing this before I see it, I'll have to let you know what I thought the next time I write.) If you're familiar with the State Theatre in Traverse City, you know how special an outing there can be. If you're not, I'll save it for the next column.

Yes, the next column. I hope to begin a new chapter in life, one where I write something for the Borealis every month. Isn't that a New Year's resolution, you say? No. I've been meaning to do it since I took over editing this newsletter. Our layout editor and newsletter publisher do their thing every month, but I've been slacking off. It's too easy to blame it on working seven days a week (I also teach swimming lessons for our local YMCA). All I need is thirty minutes.

Sweet Potato & Lentil Soup

Ingredients

1 pound sweet potatoes peeled and chopped
 1 cup chopped peeled carrots
 1 cup onions, chopped
 1 cup celery, chopped
 1 red bell pepper, diced
 2 cloves garlic, peeled and finely minced or crushed
 1 1/2 cups green or brown lentils
 1 1/2 teaspoon coriander
 1 1/2 teaspoon cumin
 1 teaspoon curry powder
 1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika
 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
 1/2 teaspoon turmeric
 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
 2 quarts broth (vegetable or chicken)
 1/2 cup parsley, chopped fine
 - or -
 2 cups spinach, chopped
 (optional) 1/2 cup cilantro or parsley for topping at serving time

Directions

Pick through and rinse lentils.
 Combine all ingredients except parsley or spinach.
 Bring to boil, then simmer 2 hours or until lentils are soft.
 Set aside half the soup and blend the rest in a blender, recombine.
 - or -
 Blend the soup using an immersion blender, but don't blend completely - soup should be somewhat chunky.
 Add parsley or spinach, stir.
 Cover and allow to sit for 30 minutes. Soup will thicken and become very thick, like a stew or gumbo.
 Season with salt and pepper to taste.
 Serve warm with yogurt, warm pita bread, &/or parsley or cilantro.

Review - Discord for Mensans

Mensa Connect allows us to, well, connect with other Mensans, groups, and chapters. I use it; it's valuable for LocSecs and Publication Officers. But it feels dated. Nowadays we expect better user experiences.

So I paid attention to an email announcing a Discord service for Mensans. What is Discord? Apparently, "a free app that combines the voice chat aspects of services like Skype and Teamspeak with the text chat aspects of Internet Relay Chat and instant messaging services."

My experience was not positive and I recommend you avoid this Discord service, at least until and unless the forum is improved.

A security concern: the domain in the URL (<https://discord.gg/RfvnT7NKfH>) is not a Mensa domain. The ".gg" portion refers to the 'Bailiwick of Guernsey' - one of the Channel Islands - which are neither part of the UK or the EU, which means they're kind of an international no-man's land, known for shady offshore banks and money laundering.

Another security concern: to sign up I had to provide my birthday. This I never do online if I can avoid it. But, if there was a link between this service and Mensa NO, providing a fake birthday could foul things up. So I entered my proper birthday, gave my real email address, and found an old-fashioned and disorganized multi-colored screen. That provided nothing! After some searching I was told "Send your Mensa membership number to @Moderator to request access to Mensa-only channels".

Nothing explained how to do this. Trying several obvious things failed. Finally I located some moderators - one of whom replied that "so far the Mensa Discors [sic] server is in its early infancy". True enough.

Many messages, I couldn't send at all - stymied by captchas, then told "Your message could not be delivered" along with tech jargon.

A chat/communication service should *just work*. Instead, right now Discord works against the user. If you like being an "alpha tester", maybe this is for you. If not, or if you don't know what it means to be an alpha tester, skip it. Maybe try it again later, if the service improves.

Northern Michigan Mensa Officers

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: Winter am Achensee in Tirol.
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