

# 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.

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### Mensa Admissions Test

Saturday, April 29, 2023 5:00 pm, **Rolling Meadows, Illinois (!)**

Seriously, at present this is the nearest available Mensa test for many northern Michigan residents. Your LocSec and proctor-in-training, Leo Hesting, will be participating in (helping proctor) this testing session as part of an effort to establish a crew of NMM proctors. Eventually and hopefully we may see announcements like this one for tests here at home in northern Michigan. See article on page 8 for more information.

### ZOOMantics - Virtual Regional Gathering

Southeast Michigan Mensa (SEMM)

Saturday, April 15, 2023, 8am to 10pm

**As your neighbors** in Region 3 of American Mensa, we're excited to invite you to our upcoming virtual Regional Gathering titled ZOOMantics!

Please join us for a day filled with a variety of interactive sessions and the opportunity to meet and connect with other members. Whether you're interested in games, speakers, or simply catching up with friends, we've got something for everyone.

Our event will be hosted on Zoom, making it accessible to all members regardless of your location. All you need is an internet connection and a device to connect to the meeting. You can peruse our program schedule (at the below link) so that you can choose to attend whichever session appeals to you. There are three separate tracks: Hospitality (including chats, meets & greets, and themed discussions), Fun & Games, and Speakers.

Please register & get Zoom links at [mensadetroit.com/semantics](https://mensadetroit.com/semantics).

We look forward to seeing you online soon!

- Billie Lee, Southeast Michigan Mensa

## ExComm Meeting Minutes

Northern Michigan Mensa Executive Committee (ExComm)

Tuesday March 07, 2023, 11:00 - via Zoom

Attendees

Leo Hesting, LocSec

Heather Hollick, Deputy LocSec

John Porter, Treasurer

Called to order at 11:07 by Leo Hesting

Items for Discussion

- Annual financial report due April 30. Waiting for the March EOM statement from TBA CU.
- Two more rolls of stamps coming before the end of the month.
- Leo has 60 regional essays to grade.
- Leo has signed up to be a Mensa Proctor. Currently a Proctor in Training. Old issues of *Borealis* (15 years ago) will document prior testing and who proctored, assisted. Also Traverse City Record-Eagle used to publicize the testing sessions.
- New members.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Moved to adjourn by Heather Hollick. Seconded by John Porter. The meeting was adjourned at 11:47.

## From the Regional Vice Chair

Mitchell's Musings- April 2023

“Some people can't be fooled on April Fool's Day because they were fooled too many times during their entire lifetime.”

– Akash B Chandran

April is, in my humble opinion, the busiest month in the Mensa calendar. Our membership renewal date is April 1, Mind Games is mid April (this year April 20th is the official start although registration starts evening of the 19th), and CultureQuest us April 30th. To honor National Volunteer Month, most chapters hold their Mensa Cares events in April. Local Group annual financial reports are due April 30, as well as April 30 is also the deadline for award nominations. (Specifically for National Service, National Appreciation, Lifetime Membership, and Distinguished service). It's a real whirlwind for everyone. I have extra personal things happening in April, and I'm finding myself wondering if I will have a chance to slow down at all this month.

Self care become really important to all of us when there's a lot happening around us. Fortunately, Mensa can also be a source of that self care. I'm incredibly extroverted, and the friendships and bonds I have with other members are a real lifeline to talk things through when I'm feeling overwhelmed. There's fabulous online events when I want to feed my brain and learn things, and I take a lot of pride in the incredible difference that the Mensa Foundation is making the futures of so many people.

So don't be a Fool, make the most of your Mensa in April. (and don't forget to renew!!)

~Lora Mitchell, Regional Vice Chair 3

RVC3@us.mensa.org

## Happy April Birthday!

Joseph Bose	4-Apr
John Swartout	10-Apr
Alexandra Osetek	18-Apr
Sandra Belyea	18-Apr

## Mensa Membership Milestones (Years of continuous Membership)

1	Thomas Rasmussen
2	Leo Hesting
2	Mary K Monteith
4	Linda Schrock-Taylor
5	Peter Maginot
6	Joan Dasef
14	John Spraggins
14	Thomas Remsperger
17	Kymerli Wregglesworth
24	John Schultz
37	Jill Miner

## New Member

Amondeuz Duerod

Contact Jim McDermott for more information, or to help.

## April cryptogram

QOYQXGDRBIGAAM, BXOAGWT BF

G SOTBLS - FBKOT XLXGA BFAGWT

ERGE BF FAYHAM PLE FEOGTBAM

POBWQ IYWFLSOT PM FROOD.

TGCO PGXXM

Cryptogram hint: Mama Cass sang that she wished she were there.

## Raspberry Coffee Cake

I got this recipe from my most trusted source: my Mom. She and I are both zealous berry-pickers, and raspberries are my favorite. Every year in mid July, we drive up the road to Farmer Curtis' raspberry field, at least once a day, and pick. Each year we pick dozens and dozens of quarts of raspberries and relish eating them fresh (straight from the bush or the fridge), with cream and sugar, in pies and jams, and in this coffee cake. What we can't eat, we freeze so we can eat and bake with them year round. It makes for a much needed pick-me-up this time of year, as I watch the snow blowing horizontally out my office window, space heater hard at work.

### About the cake:

This cake is the ultimate stealth bomber—a culinary sleeper cell. Both the recipe and the cake itself appear quite pedestrian. It is baked in a 9x9" pan and is unadorned by glazes, crumbles, or even a dusting of powdered sugar. But do not be deceived! It is unlike me to rave over a cake that is so plain at face value, as I typically enjoy challenging myself with the most complicated and aesthetically impressive confections, but the delicious flavor and sensational texture of this coffee cake more than make up for its simplicity. While I can't guarantee that you won't eat the entire cake in one sitting (by yourself), I sincerely hope that someone will read this, make the cake, and be blown away by the stealth bomb.

Baking time: 30-40 minutes - Oven temp: 375 ° F

2 Eggs, separated

1 c sugar

½ c vegetable shortening

1 ½ c flour (all purpose, sifted)

1 t baking powder

1 t salt (kosher)

1/3 c milk

2 t vanilla extract

2 c raspberries – fresh or frozen\* \*\*

6 Borealis 

### Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 375° F & grease a 9 x 9" cake pan.
2. In a mixing bowl, combine egg yolks, sugar, and shortening and beat until thoroughly combined.
3. Sift dry ingredients together and add to the yolk mixture. Mix well, until reaching a consistent texture.
4. In a separate bowl, whisk the egg whites by hand until they get a little frothy—then add them to the mixing bowl. Mix on medium speed for 2 minutes.
5. Stir in milk and vanilla, mix gently until batter is smooth.
6. Fold raspberries into the batter by hand and pour into the prepared pan.
7. Bake for 30-40 minutes, until the top of the cake is golden brown and the center does not jiggle (test it with a toothpick)

\*Fresh raspberries are quite delicate, so be extra gentle when folding them into the batter. You can expect the batter to end up to be more marbled than if frozen berries are used.

\*\*You can use blueberries instead of raspberries in this recipe, but make sure to coat the blueberries in flour before adding them so that they don't all sink to the bottom.

### Why we need proctors

I used to belong to Rotary\*, which, like most general membership organizations, is pretty open; to get in, you just have to be a person of good character. Other organizations are, by design, not open - limiting membership by, for example, profession, sex, or race - the AMA, AAUW, NOW, and NAACP come to mind.

Mensa occupies a sort of middle ground: refreshingly open and diverse. In Mensa I interact with people of all types, backgrounds, viewpoints, personalities. There are out-of-the-boxers and rule-followers, men and women of all races, stripes, occupations, income levels, interests - we're all over the map. This "true diversity" is no accident; it's concomitant with our one defining characteristic: relatively high performance on a reliable test of cognitive ability.

But Mensa's not immune to the general decline in joining and volunteerism. And then there's the test. Many Mensans joined based on tests other than Mensa's own, but these are getting harder to come by. It's harder nowadays to provide results of tests given by employers or K-12 schools. With some exceptions (e.g. the military), it seems that cognitive assessment may be going out of style.

That's where Mensa Proctors (and Testing Coordinators) come in.

Currently, a search for local tests using Mensa America's web site yields a pretty offputting message: "There are currently no test sessions in your immediate area." With some (inordinate) effort you can find tests in Ann Arbor or Chicago - hundreds of miles away.

I figure I'll give proctoring a try, and so far I'm a proctor-in-training, working to get certified as a Mensa Proctor. My goal is to make it easier for other NMMs to become proctors.

I hope that other NMMs, and other Ms, will join the effort. Only if some of us step up to this task, can NMM survive.

\*A good group - I quit primarily for logistical reasons and to focus more on Mensa.

### Elected Members

Local Secretary	Leo Hesting	231-465-5111	leo@us10.org
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		
Proctor in training	- Leo Hesting		

Regional Vice Chair Lora Mitchell 614-450-0170 rvc3@us.mensa.org

Check out our website: [www.nmm.us.mensa.org](http://www.nmm.us.mensa.org)

Cover photo by NMM member Alexandra Osetek