



Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



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Northern Michigan Mensa

Send address corrections c/o

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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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Bibliomensans - In-Between Meeting

Discussion Topic: The movie "Tár" starring Cate Blanchett

Location: Via Zoom

Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 6:30 PM

The Bibliomensans are having a good time discussing books; also enjoying our bimonthly "in between" chats. We thought it'd be fun to discuss movies. This month we'll be discussing the movie *Tár*, starring Cate Blanchett.

The movie seems to be drawing comment, and (sometimes guarded) praise from various sides of the (current) political spectrum, focusing as it does on timely issues. Brilliantly shot and acted, so realistic that many viewers wonder whether this is a true story.

Join us for our first Bibliomansan movie discussion! Contact Sherry McNamara for Zoom link & invitation.

Some time in May

Planning session - summer activities

Zoom meeting, time & date to be determined

NMMs have suggested restarting an NMM summer picnic. Or possibly more than one - anybody up for meeting in Paradise? That is actually in the odd portion of the U.P. that "belongs" to NMM.

Anyone interested, either in attending a picnic, or helping organize one, or suggesting other activities, please contact a board member. We'll get back to you. Meeting in May may give us time to pick some dates that NMMs have free.



From the Editor

Traffic court. I don't remember all the details; it's been just over twenty years. I got stopped for making a right turn on red, where for years such a turn had been legal but was no longer. I couldn't afford to pay the ticket right away so the nice policeman suggested that I wait to pay it and go to traffic court. If he didn't show due to being called elsewhere then I wouldn't have to pay the fine. (Does this sound accurate to anybody? It sounds odd to me.) I went to court, he did show, and I did pay the fine. By that time I could afford it, anyway. Was waiting a month to hear that story worth it? I apologize if not. Does it make it more story-like that after traffic court the policeman asked me a bunch of things about living in Traverse City, as he and his wife wanted to retire there/here? He did. I don't know where they ended up going, as that was the only time I ever met him, other than the original traffic stop, but that encounter began my time in Traverse City.

The other encounter which began my time in Traverse City was a panic attack. My then-boyfriend/later-husband took me to the emergency room because I thought I was having a heart attack. I wasn't. We did this three or four times over the course of our first six weeks in TC. The nice ER doctor who saw me on my last trip said, "I think you need a dog. You've been having panic attacks. You just moved here, you don't know anybody, there is far less cement up here than where you came from, and I'm going to write you a prescription, but I think you need a dog." I got the prescription filled, I got a doctor to oversee my general health and well-being, we also got a dog, and I never went back to the ER.

It may be small up here, compared to where I grew up, but I've gotten good care up here. I got good care down there, too. I guess I've been lucky. Or else I've just been persnickety enough to insist. Or both. I've had a lot of help along the way, for sure. Did Mensa help? I didn't know anything about Mensa until I was in my mid-twenties and worked with two members. They encouraged me to test/join but I never did – until I moved to Traverse City, and felt the need to meet more people. So here I am. Where are you?

From the Regional Vice Chair

If you've been following my column over the last year and a half, you've noticed that I talk a lot about the importance of Mensa in my life, and I talk about how personal relationships are important in Mensa. They're why we have done so much better in stability than a vast majority of social/service organizations, both in terms of finance and membership numbers. We are, at our root, a place where we find our people, make friends, feel connected, and gather together in person and virtually through our local groups & SIGs.

So I'm happy to share with you that by the time you read this, I will have gotten married. And yes, to another member, and specifically to someone I was friends with for a decade before we started dating. We haven't told many people, but it is possible you already know because we're going to share with the world via social media on our wedding day, April 1st, aka April Fools Day.

I'm telling you this in my column not because I want you to celebrate my marriage to Karl (although that's cool) but because this is a really great example of how being active in Mensa can change your life. I know a lot of you are M&M couples, but not every impact is as big as marrying some guy you met at an RG, and it doesn't have to be. Life changes also happen in everything from friendships to professional networking to the excitement of knowing someone else is really into that esoteric, fun thing that you get excited about. You connect when you donate to the Foundation or judge a scholarship that is going to help change someone's trajectory. It's about finding that new, cool restaurant. It's about being brave enough to try a thing even if you don't know anyone there yet. Members make suggestions or try a thing, and you never know where it is going to become a pathway.

And who knows, maybe you'll find yourself in the party room of Chinese buffet just outside Milwaukee, exchanging rings made of meteorite and dinosaur bone.

"Mensa - where the odds are good, but the goods are odd."

~Lora Mitchell, Regional Vice Chair 3 - rvc3@us.mensa.org

Spring

Four months of darkness,
 Bitter winds and blowing snow,
 Barren trees groaning against the endless cold:
 Rigid, lifeless corpses,
 Haunting memories of a world that was.

But when our hearts are finally frozen,
 Our hope is lost in the deafening silence of snow cover,
 And the world has surely perished,
 A miracle beyond imagination:
 Spring arrives.

Blankets of snow rise eerily,
 Reborn as phantom fog
 In the newly dampened air.
 The earth softens, subtly at first,
 Just enough to allow the faintest whisper of life.

That's all it takes for the world to change,
 For the endless dead and dark of night
 To shatter open in a riot of life.
 The sun grows bolder with each passing hour,
 Its rays getting stronger, light lasting longer.

Peepers emerge unseen,
 Singing their praise to the world reborn,
 Screaming their songs
 To the sparkling moon
 Calling creatures awake from their languishing slumber.

Slowly but surely,
 White turns to brown,
 And overnight, an explosion of green,
 Leaves unfurled, glowing verdant-
 A shade unique to the infancy of Spring.

The scent of freshly wakened earth
 And tender blades of newborn grass
 Assaults the senses.
 The smell of lanolin and lilacs
 Harmonize in the flawless lullaby of life.

The year's first robins herald in dewy mornings,
 And still-drowsy honeybees
 Glow in the lingering light of the setting sun.
 Chionodoxa ascend to their hard earned thrones,
 Tiny conquerors of the winter snows.

Thawing trees run sweet with sap,
 Tart rhubarb growing wild,
 And elusive morels hide in the heart of the forest,
 Blanketed in a sea of delicate trillium
 And fragile fiddle-head ferns.

Even the clouds grow hopeful,
 Rain giving root to the lush life to come.
 Colors contagious,
 Spreading with the wind,
 Painted across young wildflower wheat fields.

And in a few short weeks, the unimaginable has come to pass.
 Hearts have thawed with the melting ice;
 Crystal clear blue-green waters dance under the newborn sun,
 Exalting, a dazzling reflection, a joyous celebration:
 The raucous resurrection of life.

It's about now, in the UP at least, that I need some reassurance that the animals still exist, that the sun will reappear and melt the snow, and that the trees are, in fact, still alive and will soon be green again. I revisit this poem to bolster my faith in the magic and reliability of nature.

The Two Faces of Michigan

As the leadership of Northern Michigan Mensa is revitalizing our organization it might be beneficial to compare what makes the culture and characteristics of our area different from other areas in Michigan and elsewhere.

As a reference, look to the June 1979 issue of National Geographic Magazine. Noel Grove and James L. Amos, respectively the author of and photographer of “The Two Worlds of Michigan” focused on the opposing features of northern and southern Michigan.

The tempo of life in downstate Michigan was described and illustrated in scenes of urban activity very much at odds with scenes of rural, northern Michigan. What was portrayed in the article was, on one hand, urban congestion dominated by commerce, industry, development, and frenetic activity. This “busy-ness” of southern Michigan was contrasted with text and photos of the forests and streams, clean air & water, relaxed life styles, and visitors vacationing in northern Michigan about which Ernest Hemingway wrote.

In the article Hemingway’s sister was pictured at her home in front of a family photo intended to reflect the “love of the solitude of the north”. In the mid-1970s, I was fortunate to have visited “Sunny” Hemingway in her home on Walloon Lake near Petoskey. She graciously autographed the biography she wrote about her famous brother and spoke to me about how he personally valued our area for its naturally pleasing environment compared to the big urban centers in Europe and America. He was a resident of Petoskey during the first twenty summers of his life. In 1921 Hemingway spoke to his new bride as they looked over Little Traverse Bay “spread out below them, wide and blue and shining. ‘See all that’ [he told his bride]. ‘Talk about the beauty of the Bay of Naples! I’ve seen them both, and no place is more beautiful than Little Traverse [Bay] in its autumn colors.’ *

* <https://www.nytimes.com/1985/11/24/travel/up-in-michigan.html>

May Cryptogram

W FEMWRUB MSJM MSUHU JHU FE Q

QJMMUHWUN. W MSWFD MSJM’N ME

JGEWB REFVKNWEF, RJKNU WV MSUHU

PUHU, TEK PEKZBF’M DFEP WV NEXUEFU

PJN NMKMMUHWFA. “TUN, SUZZE W’B

ZWDU NEXU Q-QJMMUHWUN.” “PSJM

DWFB?”

“Q-QJMMUHWUN.”

- BUXUMHW XJHMWF

Cryptogram hint: The Wobblies

Happy May Birthday!

Harold A Kranick	7-May
Aaron Stander	8-May
Suzanne Lynn Priddle-Luck	8-May
Kenneth Maliq Louis	14-May
Kymberli A Wregglesworth	18-May
Robin A Stanley	19-May

Mensa Membership Milestones (Years of continuous Membership)

4	Mark Muniak
6	David John Hitts
15	David M Montgomery
43	Suzanne L Cook

New Member

Chase Philport

Contact Jim McDermott for more information, or to help.

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		
Proctor-in-training	- Leo Hesting		

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Check out our website: www.nmm.us.mensa.org

On the cover: Michigan Lily of the Valley
by NMM member Alexandra Osetek