Come Forth!
by Donald Henry Naff

With length’ning light and trickling stream;
In new-green bud and brand new bloom;
On infant paw and rapid wing;
Spring Comes!
My heart,
Entombed in Winter’s frozen dark,
Now Awakes,
Rejoices,
Sings!
OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS of MENSA ALASKA

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Vice President                    Don Naff       (907) 891-4111
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                                    nlg@alaska.net
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                                    amy@whinston.net
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                                    nlg@alaska.net
Ombudsman                         Sidney Kelley   sidneykelley@earthlink.net
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Testing Coordinator               Norma Gertson  (907) 338-5950
                                    nlg@alaska.net
Proctors                          Denise Yancey  Norma Gertson
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PLEASr NOTE:
For security reasons, Mensa Alaska uses your address on file with American Mensa. If you have changes to your address or to your other contact information please send them directly to:

AMERICAN MENSA
1229 CORPORATE DRIVE WEST
ARLINGTON, TX 76006

or, you can go to www.us.mensa.org/profile and make your changes there.

Polar Expressions is the official publication of Mensa Alaska. We highly encourage all members to submit news, announcements, articles, puzzles, pictures and letters to the Editor for inclusion! We do, however, reserve the right to edit for purposes of clarity and space, and to decide if or when a submission will be published. All submissions should be sent to the editor at the mailing address on this publication, or to the email address of the editor shown in the list of officers and board members. Please limit your letters/articles to not more than 250 words. Preferred media for contribution to Polar Expressions is via email in MS Word. Legible hardcopy also accepted. Material not bearing a specific copyright may be reprinted by other Mensa publications, providing that it is credited to Polar Expressions.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are the opinions of individual writers.
### Financial Information as of Mar. 31, 2018

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**Balance as of March 31, 2018**

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### Boardnotes

The Board discussed the scholarship program again, thanking all that judged and reiterating that our results cannot be published until the scholarships higher up the organizational scheme have been announced.

The Board discussed *Mensa Cares!*, the campaign by American Mensa to get out in the community and do good works, again. It was agreed “*Mensa Cares!*” tee shirts would be available to participants. Though word was not adequately spread to our membership, several of us did meet on Sunday, April 28th, and clean the banks of a section of C St. An article and photos follow in this edition.

It was acknowledged that many of our Alaskan Mensans are doing volunteer work. The Board would love to hear what you are doing to make your world a better place. Send pics and a description. We’ll include it in the Polar Expressions, and maybe other places, like the website.

### MENSA ALASKA EVENTS CALENDAR

**May 2018**

- **Wed, May 2, 2:00 pm, Tea & Talk, Summit Spice & Tea (3030 Denali)**
- **Sat, May 5, 9:00 am, Breakfast, Yes Bistro, 3801 DeBarr**
- **Sat, May 5, 5:30 pm, Games Night (SOC), Yak & Yeti**
- **Mon, May 7, 7:00 pm, Eagle River Dinner, Martin (907) 248-1250**
- **Tues, May 8, 5:30 pm, Board Meeting, Village Inn (midtown)**
- **Thu, May 10, 5:00 pm, Admissions Test, BP Energy Center**
- **Sat, May 12, 9:00 am, Breakfast, Yes Bistro, 3801 DeBarr**
- **Sun, May 13, 2:30 pm- Pot Luck (& maybe movie), at Martin’s**
- **Wed, May 16, 2:00 pm, Tea & Talk, Summit Spice & Tea (3030 Denali)**
- **Sat, May 19, 9:00 am, Breakfast, Yes Bistro, 3801 DeBarr**
- **Sat, May 19, 7:00 pm, Movie Night at Marie’s, Marie (907) 276-1528**
- **Mon, May 21, 7:00 pm, Eagle River Dinner, Martin (907) 248-1250**
- **Sat, May 26, 9:00 am, Breakfast, Yes Bistro, 3801 DeBarr**
- **Sat, May 26, 5:30 pm, Games Night (not SOC), Yak & Yeti**
- **Wed, May 30, 2:00 pm, Tea & Talk, Summit Spice & Tea (3030 Denali)**

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Note: Please always check www.mensaalaska.org or the Mensa Alaska Facebook page for the latest information.**

**Board Meeting:** Normally 1st Tuesday of month 5:30 PM, Village Inn, 1130 E. Northern Lights Blvd.. Changed to the 8th this month only. All members welcome to attend.

**Saturday Morning Breakfasts:**

Every Saturday morning from 9:00 to 11:00ish at Yes Bistro, at the intersection of DeBarr and Bragaw Rd.

**Eagle River Dinners:** 1st, 3rd and 5th Mondays of every month at 7:00 pm. Location changes regularly – contact Martin Oakes, (907) 248-1250 THIS MONTH ONLY

**Games Night:** 1st and 4th Saturdays of every month (through September) at Yak & Yeti Restaurant, 1360 Wq’ Northern Lights Blvd, 5:30 to 9:00. The food is great. Contact Amy Whinston for other info at amy@whinston.net.

**Admissions Testing:** The testing site is in the BP Energy Center; NOT the main building, but the two-story community building across from the Residence Inn - midtown. Call Norma for specific directions. 338-5950
Potluck at Martin’s: Second Sunday of each month. Bring a dish to share. Lots of conversation, movies, games, sort of anything goes. Scheduled for 2:30 to whenever. For more info, contact Martin at muskox@att.net

Movie Night at Marie’s: Third Saturday of each month through September (maybe October). Check with Marie for details and directions. 276-1528

Tea & Talk: Gathering open to all for a mid-week break, every other Wednesday. The Summit Spice and Tea Company is located at 3030 Denali St #2. Come join us for a break, and stay as long as you can.

**Upcoming Test Sessions for Membership**

BP has a community use operation on their campus at 900 E Benson Blvd. This is not in the main building; but located south of the main building is a two-story, mostly glass (to some a rather garish) lime green color structure, known as the BP Energy Center. It is best accessed off the New Seward Highway, turning right at the first intersection on the BP Campus. One can also access off Benson Blvd, and follow the road along the west side of the main building. At the intersection with access to the Seward Hwy, go straight on through the intersection and find the parking lot.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Testing Schedule</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 10, 2018</td>
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<td>5:30-8:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, June 14, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30-8:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, July 12, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30—8:30pm</td>
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The cost to take the test is generally $60, cash, credit card or check. You can also pay ahead of time by credit card at the Mensa web site, www.us.mensa.org and receive a voucher for payment. Candidates must bring a picture ID, and the voucher if that payment option is used. Anyone between the ages of 16 and 18 may test with parental consent and photo id or birth certificate.

Tell your friends, neighbors, co-workers, whoever might be interested in becoming a member, and have them contact Norma Gertson, 907-338-5950 or nlg@alaska.net to reserve a testing session place, or to find out more information about vouchers and fees and the use of other tests to qualify.

**Your Words in Print**

May’s prompt asked folks to write about their favorite signs of or their favorite things about Spring in Alaska. My own contribution in answer to this prompt is found in the poem I wrote on the cover of this edition. I received only one other response, illuminating an earthier viewpoint about our co-occupants of pretty well all the land in Alaska, the moose, in the form of a haiku:

**Pete Pritchard**—

*When the snows recede*
*We find how oft moose vis’ted*
*Poop piles and ferns mowed*

In the same down-to-earth vein of Pete’s poem, one of my favorite signs of Spring, being a bus rider and pedestrian, is the very first stretch of truly dry sidewalk I am able to walk on. Because of the paucity of written responses, I’ve decided to include photographic responses. The wonderful picture of Arctic terns on the front cover was taken by Martin Oakes at the Potter Marsh boardwalk on May 30, 2017. After digging through my own photos of Mays past, I asked Martin to submit some of his May photos and I’d choose. Because the choice was difficult, I’m going to add a few of his pics here. I hope more people will write about their favorite vacations they have taken or the one they most want to take for next month. In your writing, describe what you experienced…let your words be the equivalent of the much-loved (?) vacation slide show. I look forward to your contributions. Have a great month!—*Don Naff, Editor*
Mensa Alaska’s Facebook Site
To join our Facebook page, search for Mensa Alaska and click the “Join” button or contact an officer. This is the most-oft-updated source for info about our gatherings and happenings, and the best way to keep in touch!

Not sure this little one is passing its Mensa admissions test.
(Martin Oakes, May 30, 2017, Potter Marsh Boardwalk)

Eagle Family, one Parent off getting more food.
(Martin Oakes, May 30, 2017, Potter Marsh Boardwalk)

What do you do to make the world a better place?

Early Swimmer (muskrat)
(Martin Oakes, May 19, 2015, Chester Creek)
Mensa Alaska Participates in the “Mensa Cares!” event again for 2018. by Denise K. Yancey

6 members of Alaska Mensa met on a 45 degree cold, rainy, windy Sunday afternoon on April 29th, and spent 2 ½ hours cleaning up Anchorage, as part of its City-wide cleanup day! We filled 14 big garbage bags, one piece at a time, and got several car honks of appreciation by passing motorists who appreciated our efforts. Most of us did wear our “Mensa Cares!” T shirts. Jim and Don won the prize for most Mensa-like garbage pickup process by thinking it through and making it efficient and less back-breaking. (Editor’s note: The biggest problem we faced in doing this work was the wind. We were all carrying individual full-sized garbage bags in the bright orange color chosen by the Municipality for this annual cleaning project. The wind seemed perversely bent on blowing our bags out of our hands, closing them and blowing the opening out of reach every time we tried to put a piece of garbage we picked up into them. Jim and I were working close together in the bed of a ditch. Jim took a look at the struggle we both were having and asked me if I’d like to hold the bag open while he used his great picker-upper to get the garbage. I agreed, and using that form of teamwork increased our efficiency over what we had been doing by more than double.)