

Borealis

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 Borealis
Northern Michigan Mensa

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After mandatory items, priority in the newsletter is given to matters appealing to members of the group which relate to their membership in Mensa. The content of the newsletter 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. 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 when a person submits material with a restriction that it be published "as is or not at all". In such cases, it will include an editor's note stating it as such.

That a person has written and submitted something to the newsletter is not, in itself, sufficient reason for its publication. It is the editor's discretion whether to publish any submission, with the exception of mandatory items.

All submissions are welcome and encouraged. They may be sent via email or snail mail. They may be sent as attachments or in the body of the email.

Submissions requiring major editing are also welcome. If requested, the author may approve the editing before the article is published.

Photographs are also welcome. Please include a brief description of the photo, and the name of the photographer. You may also include an entire article to accompany the photo.

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ON THE COVER: Bonnie, a golden retriever puppy, in snow.
Photo by Jack Schultz

Northern Michigan Mensa

December 2006 Calendar

BIBLIOMENSANS – Saturday, December 2, 2006 at 12:30 p.m.

We will meet at the Cottage Café, 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City, in the Papa's Den. The book for discussion this month is *Freakonomics*, by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner. This group is open to all members; attendance can be each meeting, or only for those meetings that present books with which you have an interest.

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK AND GAMES NIGHT – Saturday, December 9, 2006 at 5:30 p.m.

Let's enjoy the Christmas spirit and a little holiday cheer together! Bring a dish to pass, your favorite drink, and a game to play. Sherry McNamara will be the hostess; her address is 1526 W. Silver Lake Road N, Traverse City. For directions call 231.933.9272

BRUNCH - Saturday, December 16, 2006 at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet at Cottage Café, located at 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City. We will hold our gathering in the Papa's Den, which is on the right as you enter the front door. (Date change from usual, due to the Christmas party.)

TGIF - Friday, December 22, 2006 at 6 p.m.

We will meet at Borders Books, 2612 Crossings Circle (Wal-Mart Plaza next to Toys R Us), Traverse City. We will gather in the café area. They have many beverages, pastries and cookies available.

Member News

Happy December Birthdays

- 11 John A. Thorne
- 14 Norma Hastings Feeley

Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of continuous Membership)

- 24 Years Patricia Lynne Paternel
- 18 Years Peter J. Turkus
- 12 Years Mark L. Banker
- 5 Years Wendy Jane Barker
- 1 Year Nathan W. Jason

Welcome to Northern Michigan Mensa

Preferencing into NMM

Mary K. Shaw

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 10/31/2006. If you would like to change the privacy releases on file, go to www.us.mensa.org and click on "Member Login". Then click on "Profile Update" and "PDQ Update".

Regional Vice Chair

Hello everyone! This is the second start to this column; the first being interrupted by an untimely snowstorm on October 12th. Now, we're no strangers to snow here in Buffalo, and two feet of it in a twelve-hour period usually poses not much of a problem. The exceptions are when it comes early in the season (especially the first snowfall of the year), when it is heavy, slushy snow, and when it is not forecasted. Combine all three exceptions and there is a problem. Half of the electric customers in this area lost power, some for ten days, although the storm only hit roughly half a county sized area. Virtually no tree escaped some damage, many splitting down the middle like some giant ax hit them. Numerous others were left with just a trunk - the side limbs and branches snapped off. Utility lines littered the streets and backyards, piles of debris lined the street curbs as people started cleaning up. The night of the storm, the branches snapping sounded like a skeet shooting range - irregular but constant booming. The next several days the prominent noise was non-stop chain sawing. All is well here, though. I was very fortunate in not losing my power, and only losing telephone service for four days. Some folks still don't have telephone service three weeks later.

When last I started to write this column, I popped open a Great Lakes porter (I have an affection for dark beers, porter, and stout), sat down at the computer, and composed about two lines when my lights flickered, the computer shut off, and my telephone service went off. The lights came right back on; the telephone didn't. I said to myself to wait till after the effects of the storm settled before continuing. So I did. Back to the Great Lakes porter for a moment. It's brewed right in our own region, in Cleveland. A very respectable brew. I know of the Great Lakes brewery in Cleveland, Genesee in Rochester, Iron City in Pittsburgh, Rolling Rock in Latrobe, Flying Tiger here in Buffalo, Stroh's if it's still made in Detroit, probably hundreds of micro breweries, any others out there in our region? Since I'm a fish fry and beer kind of guy, I always pay attention to local beers when I'm traveling.

Now the point of this column is supposedly to spread regional news so here goes. East Central Ohio hosted a warm and very enjoyable gathering the weekend of September 29th - October 1st. The programs were numerous, varied in subject matter, and very interesting. Everything from digital photography to blimps (Goodyear's fleet is based out of Akron). Great fun and as usual a hospitality room manned by volunteers who seemed never to go home. Thanks to all of you hard working members who made this event the success that it was. I had another rewarding experience on the way home by stopping at the Holden Arboretum. It reminded me of that song about cutting down all the trees, putting them in a tree museum, and charging a buck and a half to see them. It really was nice, with beautiful trails and a visitor's center that as an added bonus had the previous day's exhibits from the Cleveland Rose Society's Show still on display. That and taking the seaway trail and US Rte 20 home made for a perfect weekend.

Cincinnati has their gathering coming up December 1st through 3rd. The regulars at these regional gatherings don't need to be invited, but for anyone who has never been to one, give it a go. It's a rewarding way to spend a weekend, both educational and socially stimulating. The friendly atmosphere in any hospitality room makes pulling up a chair at any table and introducing yourself the right thing to do.

No news about the AMC meeting in Providence; I had to abort that trip. Yes, as timing had it, I was planning to leave the morning after our snowstorm. Leaving one's home when a Federal Natural Disaster Emergency declaration is about to be made is not the soundest course of action. Looking at the draft minutes, though, it seemed pretty tame.

Well, that about does it. Get out and enjoy our beautiful region. Don't forget to vote, in your local Mensa elections if you have them now and of course in your local and national elections. I really hope to hear your thoughts and concerns - I'm here for you. Till next time.

Dave Swanka

Twice Exceptional, Twice Challenged

By **Kathe Oliver**

Gifted children have to deal with many stereotypes. The most common stereotype is that gifted people are equally good at everything in school. They are expected to be “perfect” students in every way. If they don’t fit this stereotype they may be misidentified as having a learning disability (LD) or psychological/neurological problem even though their behavior is perfectly “normal” and rational for a gifted child. For example, the parents of bored and unchallenged gifted children who have disconnected from their classes are often told that their children should be tested for Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), while the parents of gifted children whose search for something interesting to do disrupts the classroom routine are often told that they should be checked for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

However, many gifted children are not “average” or “neuro-typical” in every way other than intelligence. Instead, their intellectual gifts co-exist with learning disabilities or other conditions which interfere with their ability to express their intelligence. They are extremely intelligent, but also have one or more complicating factor such as dyslexia, ADD, ADHD, or Sensory Integration Disorder (SID).

Too often these children have an unnecessarily difficult time in school, simply because many people find it hard to believe that a child with a learning disability of any type could possibly be gifted. They just don’t fit the stereotype. How could an intellectually gifted child have difficulty learning? Unfortunately, many gifted children do face these challenges.

Learning disabilities may manifest themselves differently in gifted children than in other children. Misdiagnosis is common, for LDs often mask intelligence and intelligence often masks LDs. In “Recognizing Gifted Children with Learning Disabilities” (<http://psas.bctf.ca/AEGTCCBC/conferences/Reports/GE96/recognise.html>), Dr. Linda Kreger Silverman writes:

High intelligence can complicate diagnosis. Many gifted children have learned to compensate so well for areas of weakness that they may appear average when they are really struggling. It is important to compare the child's weaknesses to his or her strengths and see if the discrepancies are significant, rather than to compare only with norms for average children.

Even psychologists who are very experienced in working with gifted children or with learning disabled children may have difficulty figuring out how best to help children with this combination of learning needs.

These children are given many labels. They may be called GTLD (Gifted and Talented Learning Disabled), or Multi/Dual Exceptional, or Twice Exceptional, or 2E/2e. It is very hard for these children and their parents and teachers to first find out what they are dealing with and then learn how to approach it.

The most recent research on 2E issues is usually found on the internet. When searching online, be sure to use all of the common synonyms and acronyms. This is time consuming, but looking under “2E” will lead to different articles than “GTLD”, and searching for “ADD” will not get exactly the same results as “Attention Deficit Disorder”.

Here are some resources to explore:

The Learning Disabilities Association of America offers little about 2E issues, but a lot about LDs. Its website is <http://www.ldaamerica.us/index.cfm>.

Despite the implications of its name, Smart Kids With Learning Disabilities does not specialize in G&T kids. However, they offer useful information at <http://www.smartkidswithld.org/index.html>

The Schwab Learning Website, <http://www.schwablearning.org/>, has information about LDs and attention problems. One of its articles is “Growing Up Gifted with ADHD”, written by a twelve year old girl.

Dr. Linda Kreger Silverman's one-page chart, "Gifted Children With Learning Disabilities", incorporating "Signs of Giftedness" and "Signs of Learning Disabilities" is available online at <http://psas.bctf.ca/AEGTCCBC/conferences/Reports/GE96/LearnDis.html>.

2e: Twice-Exceptional Newsletter is a bimonthly publication on 2E. Its editorial board includes the top names in 2E research and education. Don't miss its online resources page at http://2enewsletter.com/links_general.htm. To subscribe, go to the website and click on "to subscribe", call 1-630-790-2252, or write to Glen Ellyn Media, P.O. Box 582, Glen Ellyn, IL 60138-0582.

One issue of 2e: Twice-Exceptional Newsletter focused on the Montgomery County Public Schools in Maryland. This district is known for incorporating up to date research in its school policies, and many New Jersey teachers have visited its schools for training. Their 2E policies are published in A Guidebook for Twice-Exceptional Students: Supporting the Achievement of Gifted Students with Special Needs, a 51 page book available online at <http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/curriculum/enriched/gtld/docs/TwiceExceptional.pdf>. The Guidebook contains a lot of practical information for parents and teachers.

(Information given in this column is current as of the date when the column was submitted to *Imprint*. Websites and their contents are always subject to change. Mention of a website in this column does not imply endorsement by NNJM or American Mensa, Ltd.)

EDITOR'S NOTE: The preceding article was originally published in IMprint, the Newsletter of Northern New Jersey Mensa, November, 2006. The author is a member of American Mensa's Gifted Children Program Team.

ANSWERS TO MICHIGAN TRIVIA By Margaret J. Scott

(The questions appeared in last month's issue.
This month the answers are included.)

1. Where is the world's only marble lighthouse?
2. Approximately how many lakes are there in the state?
3. What coastline has been given the name "Graveyard of the Great Lakes?"
4. When the territory of Michigan was first created, what town was selected as its capital?
5. In which city are the home offices of Life Savers candy, Beech-Nut gum and Squirt soft drinks?
6. At what Detroit intersection was the first traffic light in the world installed in 1915?
7. On what date did the stars and stripes first fly over Michigan soil?
8. What is the oldest freshwater aquarium in the nation (opened in 1904)?
9. What is Michigan's largest fresh-market vegetable crop?
10. What is the nation's largest indoor/outdoor museum complex?

Answers:

1. Belle Isle (Livingston Lighthouse)
2. 11,000
3. Whitefish Point, on Lake Superior (remember the Edmund Fitzgerald? It was lost there and was a well-known shipwreck—but there have been many, many more lost in that spot during the last hundred years.)
4. Detroit
5. Holland
6. Woodward Avenue and Grand Avenue
7. July 11, 1796
8. Belle Isle Aquarium
9. Onions
10. Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village
