

# Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



Volume 5 Number 11

August 2007

 Borealis  
Northern Michigan Mensa

[www.nmm.us.mensa.org](http://www.nmm.us.mensa.org)

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**Borealis** is published by Northern Michigan Mensa (3/496) once each month under the auspices of its Executive Committee.

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: The Traverse City Cherry Festival. Photo by Stan Cain

# Northern Michigan Mensa

## August 2007 Calendar

**BIBLIOMENSANS - Saturday, August 4, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. (Note Changed Time for this month only).**

We will meet at the Cottage Café, 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City, in the Papa's Den. The book for discussion this month is *Night* by Eli Weisel. Stan Cain will do our presentation. This group is open to all members; attendance can be each meeting, or only for those meetings that present books in you have an interest.

**BRUNCH - Saturday, August 11, 2007 - 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.

**TGIF - Friday, August 24, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.**

Borders Books between Toys R Us and Home Depot, Traverse City. We will meet in the cafe area. They have many beverages, sandwiches, soups, pastries and cookies available.

**Mark your SEPTEMBER calendars!**

**ANNUAL PICNIC Saturday, September 8, from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.**

Our annual, family oriented event will be held at the pavilion in the Almira Township Park in Benzie County (just west of the village of Lake Ann). This is just about a week earlier than we held our picnic at Jill Daniels' home last September and it will serve as our 5th anniversary picnic. Details will be provided in the September Borealis.

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# Member News

## Happy August Birthdays

1	Mark L Banker	14	Vicki L Carpenter
9	Donald Chester Hennig	15	Delberta Ruth Windiate
12	Corinne Kass-Hillard Mowrey	20	C L Dickson
13	Lynn A Durling	23	Suzanne L Cook

## Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of continuous Membership)

5 Years	J Porter	4 Years	Margaret Ellen Gustafson
4 Years	Lynn A Durling		Carola 'Penny' Pollard Novarro

## Welcome Back to Northern Michigan Mensa

B Begeman

## June 2007 Statistics

	AML	NMM
Total membership	48181	83
New and reinstating membership	570	1
Offers of membership	247	0
New members since April 2007	1090	1
Reinstating members since April 2007	968	2

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 6/30/2007. If you would like to change the privacy releases on file, go to [www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org) and click on "Member Login". Then click on "Profile Update" and "PDQ Update".

## Mensa Testing Day is October 20, 2007.

The group in each GOTYA [Group of the year award] category that tests the most candidates during the MTD timeframe will receive a "Game Night Party Pack" with food and games for the group to share.

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# Regional Vice Chair

## RVC 3 Thoughts

A Good Summer to everyone! I hope this communiqué finds all members of the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley region enjoying the fine weather summer brings us in this area.

Let me begin by giving a sincere thank you to Karen Bujak, the great editor of the *Graffiti* in Cleveland. Due to time constraints (we've all been there), Karen had to give up being editor, but during her tenure as editor, the *Graffiti* was, in my humble opinion, one of the best newsletters published in Mensa. Thanks, Karen, and good luck to Kathryn Kerber, Cleveland's Loc Sec and new editor.

Another topic which I have been requested to mention is 2008's Scholarship contest. All groups should really participate, since only one volunteer is necessary to serve as a local chairperson, and a few more to serve as judges. If your group is afraid of missing the early August deadline, don't panic - submit your chairperson's info as soon as possible. Please feel free to contact our regional scholarship chair, Julia Ashley, at [psibernaut@yahoo.com](mailto:psibernaut@yahoo.com) for more information.

The first AMC meeting of this term came in like a lamb - fairly routine and without many contentious topics to discuss. Routine appointments were made, a Gifted Children's Program Award was authorized, an Annual Gathering Oversight Study Committee was formed, Portland, Oregon was awarded the 2011 AG, and anti-harassment guidelines were discussed. While I don't particularly like the idea of forming more committees, I voted *yes* on the AG Oversight's formation to hopefully deter any mishandling of AG planning such as that which occurred this year. I voted *no* to Heather Miller's appointment as Chair, since I feel this committee should be independent of the AMC. Too many of our existing committees are stacked with AMC members and are just not independent enough to be considered impartial. Trying to establish anti-harassment guidelines at the national level is futile unless local officers are willing to aggressively deal with situations; if this were done, it would render national guidelines unnecessary in the first place. All I can suggest is for local officers to use common sense and act responsibly when a member complains about being harassed by another member. Don't ignore it and don't let it fester - act quickly to let the offender know that his/her behavior is unwelcome, inappropriate, and will not be tolerated.

Lastly, the Birmingham AG went well despite of all the turbulence caused by the last minute change in management. The original chairs were fired by the AMC's Executive Committee (ExComm) at the end of June, which caused the same intensity of feelings as Sherman's march to the sea. I don't know any more of what happened than the average member, maybe less since I don't participate in forums, but I do know that a lot of bad feelings were created. We on the AMC are here to serve and support you, the membership. Our ExComm was established to simplify the administration of day-to-day items. Something has gone wrong with this arrangement. At our September's AMC meeting, I will be introducing a motion to redefine and limit our ExComm's authority so it can't circumvent the AMC. Wish me luck with this one because I anticipate a lot of resistance from those who won't want to relinquish their power, even though it was usurped in the first place.

As always, the above comments/opinions are my slant on things based on my knowledge and experience with the subjects. Your comments and ideas are welcomed by me and aid in formulating courses of action to be taken.

Bye for now, enjoy and live well!

Dave Swanka

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## Birmingham Alabama AG By Jim McDermott

The World Gathering in Orlando was the only gathering I had been to prior to the Annual Gathering in Birmingham and I was interested in seeing how the two would compare. Being a day closer in driving time was appealing because I do not enjoy flying. As it turned out, I drove a little over 1,900 miles round trip and used 38 gallons of gas, not bad mileage, in my opinion. The first full day I was pleasantly surprised when I went down to the hospitality room and found a breakfast buffet was set up, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, bagels, juice, etc. Orlando only had snacks and hard boiled eggs a couple of days.

Three of the presentations I enjoyed are listed below, and I will be bringing the program book to the next couple of TGIFs and brunches for anyone to look at to see what some of the other presentations were.

**Murderball: Smashing Stereotypes One Hit at a Time by Bob Lujano.** I had no idea what this was about, but soon found out it was Rugby played from

wheelchairs. Bob is a recreation specialist at Lakeshore Foundation and works with physically disabled kids. A 5-time U.S. Quad Ruby Association National Champion, he has been on the U.S. National Team for 8 years, winning gold and silver at the Rugby World Championships. The talk was about his coping with his handicap and his introduction to Rugby. His motto is "no arms, no legs, no problem".

**Time, Space and Knowledge: A New View of Reality by Murray Silver.** Silver is Savannah's best-known ghost hunter, having recently completed a segment on hauntings for the Travel Channel and a documentary for PBS, Haunted South, which will be televised this fall. His talk was about the ghosts remaining in Savannah, mostly from the civil war. One interesting problem in Savannah is the homes that cannot be sold because they are haunted also, they cannot be torn down because they are historical. They just sit vacant.

**Schemes, Scams and Flimflams by Cookie Bakke.** One in every seven people will have their identity stolen. If your identity is stolen, immediately contact the three credit bureaus and place a credit freeze on your accounts and not an alert. An alert will just notify you if someone is trying to open a new account in your name, whereas with a credit freeze, you will receive a PIN, and new accounts cannot be opened nor purchases made without giving your PIN first. [www.fightfraudamerica.com](http://www.fightfraudamerica.com) is a web site Cookie recommends.

The Orlando World Gathering had more speakers on a wider variety of subjects but I was not at all disappointed in Birmingham. The weather was good, the hotel was nice, speakers were good and other than being sick one day, I enjoyed myself and am looking forward to Denver in 2008.

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## AML News From Catherine Barney

### Two-year-old becomes Mensa member

SHE'S 2 and as clever as world's brainiest man. Her parents knew Georgia Brown was bright - after all, she could count to 10, recognized her colours and was even starting to dabble with French. It was only when Martin Brown, a self-employed carpenter, and his wife Lucy's bubbly little two-year-old took an IQ test that her towering intellect was confirmed.

Georgia has become the youngest female member of Mensa after scoring a genius-rated IQ of 152.

This puts her in the same intellectual league, proportionate to her age, as physicist Stephen Hawking. According to an expert in gifted children, Georgia is the brightest two-year-old she has ever met.

Georgia was crawling at five months and walking at nine months. By 14 months, she was getting herself dressed. "She spoke really early - by 18 months she was having proper conversations," Mrs. Brown, chief executive of a charity, said. "She would say, 'Hello I'm Georgia, I'm one'. She was putting her shoes on and putting them on the correct feet." Georgia was so perceptive that after seeing Beauty and the Beast she informed her parents: "I didn't like Gaston (the villain). He was mean and arrogant."

Educational psychologist Professor Joan Freeman applied the standard Stamford-Binet intelligence scale test to Georgia and was amazed to find this was too limited to map her creative abilities. To the amazement of the family, who live in Aldershot, Hampshire, Georgia scored 152 points on the IQ test, putting her in the top 0.2 per cent of the population. Those with an average IQ would score about 100 points in the same test.

Georgia was then invited to join Mensa, the High IQ society whose members have IQs in the top 2 per cent of the population. Georgia is one of only 30 Mensa members under the age of 10.

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### Smart Buys

American Mensa has teamed up with Amazon.com to create Smart Buys, an online storefront for all things found where Mensa and Amazon intersect. Books licensed by American Mensa and Mensa International? Find 'em here. Mensan favorites, recommended reading about giftedness and intelligence, and books written by Mensans? Hundreds of books have already been added, with more coming every month. Mind Games winners going back to the inaugural event? If Amazon's got 'em, so do we. And who knows what we'll find to add in the future?

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The store can be found by visiting [www.us.mensa.org/SmartBuys](http://www.us.mensa.org/SmartBuys)

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## Total Lunar Eclipse: August 28, 2007

The second lunar eclipse of 2007 will be a dandy for observers in central and western North America before and during dawn on this date. Totality runs from 5:52 a.m. to 7:22 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time. Observers near the West Coast will see the event in full, including all of the partial phases and the 90 minutes of totality.

For the eastern US and Canada and much of South America, the show will be cut short as the Moon sets and the Sun rises. The moon will enter the umbra and will start to visibly darken at about 4:51 a.m. For Traverse City, dawn begins at 5:12 a.m. and sunrise 7:01 a.m.

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## Mensans Participate in Garden Walk By Stan Cain

The Friendly Garden Club of Traverse City hosts its annual garden walk each year in July. This year, Jack Schultz and Ellen Monahan were involved.

Jack, who has his doctorate in Forestry, was at the arboretum on the grounds of the Old State Hospital. He conducted tours and pointed out some of the many interesting tree specimens located near Building 50. The trees have been labeled by the Friendly Garden Club and can be viewed by the public anytime.

Ellen made her lovely garden available as one of the eight on the tour. Her partially shaded garden had a number of hostas, other perennials and garden art.

