

Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



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 Borealis
Northern Michigan Mensa

www.nmm.us.mensa.org

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Mensa:

Mensa's constitution lists three purposes: to identify and foster human intelligence for the benefit of humanity; to encourage research into the nature, characteristics, and uses of intelligence; and to provide a stimulating intellectual and social environment for its members.

Mensa accepts individuals who score at or above the 98th percentile on certain standardized IQ tests, such as the Stanford-Binet.

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 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.

Deadline:

The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month before the month of publication.

Submissions received after that time may be considered if time and space permit.

Advertising:

At this time, Borealis does not accept advertising from either members or non-members.

Email submissions to:

Stan Cain
nmmmborealis@yahoo.com

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.nmm.us.mensa.org

ON THE COVER: Looking up into the 10-storey light fixture in the lobby of the Hyatt Regency Dearborn Hotel – site of the 2010 Annual Gathering.

August Calendar

BOOK CLUB - Saturday, 7 August 2010 at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet at the Cottage Café, located at 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City, in the Papa's Den. The Bibliomensans book for August will be **City of Thieves** by David Benioff. The presenter will be Richard Hopfner. See the book description on page 9. All are welcome to join us even if you have not read the book.

MENSA SCHOLARSHIP BRUNCH - Saturday, 14 August 2010 at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet at the Cottage Café, located at 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City, in the Papa's Den. Due to a conflict of schedules in July, the scholarship awards are being presented at the August Brunch. Please make an effort to attend and support our winners, especially if you are in one of their fields of study; communications/journalism, biology/pre-veterinary and art/filmmaking.

In addition, Betsy Mark, RVC for Region 3, is planning to attend the brunch. This will be a good chance for us to meet and greet her.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER BOOK SALE - Sunday, 15 August, 12noon to 4p.m.

We will hold a book sale at Woodcreek Lodge, 501 Woodcreek Blvd. Traverse City. Those who wish to contribute books may bring them in from 10a.m. to noon, or you can bring them to the brunch the day before. The books will sell for \$1.00 for paperbacks and \$2.00 for hardbacks. All proceeds will go to the NMM Scholarship Fund.

DIRECTIONS: Woodcreek is located on the South side of Airport Road, East of the airport, near Three Mile Road. The sign in front is a big mallard. The lodge is straight ahead of you as you turn in.

NO TEXTBOOKS PLEASE!!!

T.G.I.F. - Friday, 27 August 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

This is our monthly, Friday get together to unwind and chat. We will meet at the Horizon Shine Café located in the lower level of Horizon Books, 243 E. Front Street, Traverse City. They have coffee, soft drinks, sandwiches, wraps and desserts available. Join us!

Just a Reminder...

The Northern Michigan Mensa **Annual Picnic** will be held **Saturday, July 31 from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.** at the Elmwood Township Park located at the intersection of Cherrybend and Lincoln roads. For more details, see the July Borealis.

Member News

Happy August Birthday

1	Mark L Banker	15	Delberta Ruth Windiate
8	Alan T Kohler	20	C L Dickson
12	Corinne Kass-Hillard Mowrey	23	Suzanne L Cook
13	Lynn A Durling	26	Susan M Kraus

Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of continuous membership)

8 Years	J Porter	4 Years	Karen Kennedy
7 Years	Lynn A Durling	3 Years	J S Miner
	Margaret Ellen Gustafson	1 Year	Brenda S Irish
	Carola 'Penny' Pollard Novarro		Heintzelman

June 2010 Statistics

	AML	NMM
Total membership	50531	96
New and reinstating membership	450	2
Offers of membership	264	0
New members since April 2010	763	3
Reinstating members since April 2010	972	5
Members moving out		1

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 6/30/2010. 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".

Agroovin' in Motown

The 2010 Annual Gathering

By Stan Cain

The 2010 AG will be remembered for many things: The 50th anniversary of Mensa in North America, the first AG to be organized by a SIG (the GenX SIG) and of course, great programs and tours and spirited conversations with other Mensans from the U.S. and Canada.

This was my second AG and I think I am becoming addicted. I try to get to as many of the speaker presentations as possible as opposed to the tours or game and puzzle rooms. Since I grew up in Detroit, the tours at this AG were not a high priority for me. However, that's the good thing about AGs: there is something for everyone no matter what your taste. There were eight of us (including spouses) from NMM in attendance. As you can see from the pictures on the following pages, there was a lot of fun involved at the AG.



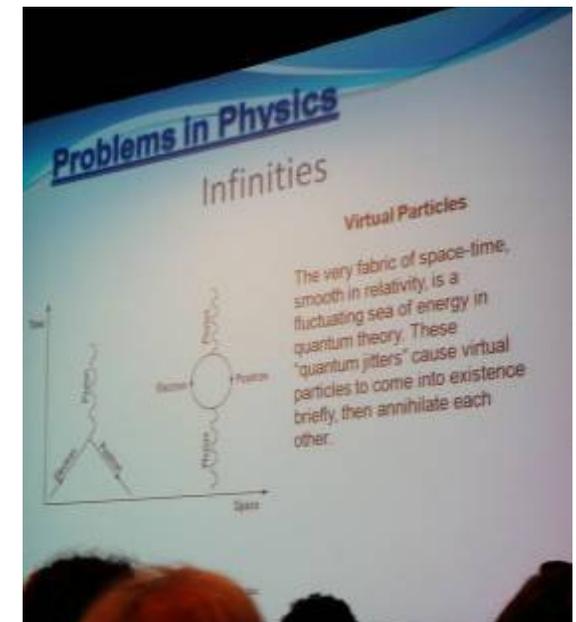
Shown above in the hospitality area are (L to R): Stan Cain, Dorothy Cain, Sharon McDermott, Jim McDermott and Melissa Rennie, who organized the programs for the Annual Gathering.



Above, at a humorous presentation are (L to R): Bobbi Walker, Jack Schultz, Dorothy Cain, Sharon and Jim McDermott.

But in case you think that it was all fun and games, check out the slide from Andrew Zimmerman Jones' presentation: "String Theory for Everyone"

As I said before, "something for everyone"!





Above - clockwise from the top: The hospitality suite, Alan Baltis (one-time RVC for Region 3) and his wife Colleen ham it up, some music by the Schmaltz Klezmer Ensemble and an example of fruit and vegetable carving by Genevieve Vang. Photos by Jack Schultz, Stan Cain and Melissa Rennie.



Clockwise from the top: The Gala dinner and dance on Saturday night, Cookie Bakke talks about "Schemes, Scams and Flimflams" and Maria Sawczuk - AG2010 Chair - addresses the crowd at the Gala dinner. Photos by Stan Cain.



Henry Ford's dam on his Fair Lane estate in Dearborn. This is near the Hyatt hotel, and was used to power an electrical generator in the 1920s.

MY FIRST ANNUAL GATHERING

By Jack Schultz

American Mensa celebrated its 50th anniversary this summer with an Annual Gathering held in the Detroit area (at Dearborn). It seems hard for me to imagine that it was 43 years ago that I joined Mensa and the organization was only seven years old at the time. My participation in Dearborn was the first national Mensa event that I've ever attended. The only other major event--even on a regional level--I've participated in was a Leadership Development Workshop in Columbus, Ohio six years ago with Sue Styles, Margaret Scott, and Melissa Rennie.

In the interest of others who may be wondering whether or not they should attend an AG or one of the many regional gatherings held throughout the country each year, my advice would be a resounding YES! Even though this joint AG with Mensa Canada ran for six days, I attended only three of the days; but that was sufficient for me to conclude that the time was well spent.

Talks, forums, business meetings, games, puzzles, and conversations galore were going on almost constantly. It was great to meet a lot of Mensa folks I've read about through the years and, of course, to meet many people I'd never met. In fact, I spent the majority of my time getting to know people and having great conversations on all sorts of topics. This was more important to me than spending an excessive amount of time in rooms listening to someone else talk to a group. Much of my socializing was done in the huge hospitality room, which was the convention hotel's main ballroom, and it was open 24 hours a day for everyone to wander through, sit at partially filled tables or even empty ones just waiting for someone to sit down beside you and engage in meaningful conversation. What a great time!

I made some good new friends and look forward to my next AG. In fact, I have already registered for the 2011 AG in Portland, Oregon. Of course, having a little Scottish blood in my background doesn't hurt; the registration fee is considerably less if you register for it yet during 2010!

The LocSec's Login

By Richard Hopfner, Local Secretary

Summer.

Long days, some too hot, some just fine, and all the events and all the allied events and activities that we've either waited for with anticipation through the long cold months, or breathe a sigh of relief when it's finally over and our schedules can return to their normal path.

Did you get a chance to see an air show, catch a night of fireworks, or buy tickets to watch a movie during Traverse City's film festival? If so, I truly hope it was or will be memorable, and if not, well, we have some Mensa events that I also truly hope will tempt you to participation.

First in my thoughts are books. Have you ever had the thrill of the chase in finding a long looked for book, or felt a quickening excitement in browsing through a used bookstore with all its rich sensory stimulation? (Okay, I know I'm odd. However, both the smell of new books and ink, or the unforgettable mustiness of older books, as well as the tactile experience of actually handling them in the real world cannot be denied by me.) This month (see the August Calendar) we will have an event where your fellow Mensans will submit their books for your perusal and the event's profits will go to the scholarship fund for NMM.

Next is this: In my mind, at least, one of the activities closest to the heart of summer is a picnic! Saturday, July 31, 2010 at 1:00 pm in the Elmwood Township Park will see our annual and celebrated yearly picnic! (Which, living close to it, I can personally attest to its perfect suitability for a summer's day picnic.) Whether you are a Mensa picnic veteran or newbie, a reliable attendee of this, or never been to one before, bring yourself and a dish to pass and join our fellowship for the day. We'll all be glad to see you, and you can renew acquaintances or even meet Mensans you haven't before. Come! Be happy!

And lastly, while I know it will be a stretch to finish by the time you get this issue of Borealis, this month's book club selection, *City of Thieves*, by David Benioff, is both a good summer read (Action! Adventure! Russian military insanity!) and will be presented by yours truly at our next meeting, August 7, 11 am, at the Cottage Cafe in Traverse City.

Haven't read it all, or won't have the time before this? No problem! Our book club has had some pretty lively discussions. You can join in that as well as hear about this book, and take it from me that books are a source of passion for many of us. Love the book or hate it, it's fun to be involved in. If you've never attended but have thought about it, this month would be a perfect time to begin. We'd love to have you.

Well, then, I'll return you to your normally scheduled summertime, and hope that it is a splendid one. As always, if you have any questions or comments about the mentioned events or anything else, give me or any of our listed officers a note or call and I'll do my best to see it satisfied.

Regards and good summer to you!

City of Thieves
By David Benioff
272 pages

From the critically acclaimed author of *The 25th Hour*, a captivating novel about war, courage, survival—and a remarkable friendship that ripples across a lifetime.

During the Nazis' brutal siege of Leningrad, Lev Beniov is arrested for looting and thrown into the same cell as a handsome deserter named Kolya. Instead of being executed, Lev and Kolya are given a shot at saving their own lives by complying with an outrageous directive: secure a dozen eggs for a powerful Soviet colonel to use in his daughter's wedding cake. In a city cut off from all supplies and suffering unbelievable deprivation, Lev and Kolya embark on a hunt through the lawlessness of Leningrad and behind enemy lines to find the impossible.

By turns insightful and funny, thrilling and terrifying, *City of Thieves* is a gripping, cinematic World War II adventure and an intimate coming-of-age story with an utterly contemporary feel for how boys become men.

Puzzle Page

CRYPTOGRAM Submitted by Ruth Minshull

The cryptogram consists of a simple substitution code. Each letter has been replaced by another. No letter represents itself, and substitutions remain consistent throughout the puzzle. For example:

ORAB AB ZK WLZSXHW GU Z YGIW.
THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF A CODE.

MWS YBFT DKXE GWKE B GWX MBJK RZ TWV

LBDD QMK QBRD B DKX? ZWVP. LBDDRFX B

QBRD B DKX GWKEF'Q YBIK RQ B DKX.—

BOPBMY DRFLWDF

The answer will be in next month's issue.

Answer to last month's Cryptogram:

The fact that you are willing to say, I do not understand, and it is fine, is the greatest understanding you could exhibit.— Wayne Dyer

LAST CALL FOR SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

By Jack Schultz

Our ExComm hasn't yet (to my knowledge) decided how much or even if it will contribute to the 2011 Mensa Scholarship Competition. For each of the past two years (and for other years in the past), three different individuals have won scholarships in this competition and we've been able to generate some worthwhile publicity for Northern Michigan Mensa in our region...as well as to do some good.

No later than September 1, there must be money in what is called the Northern Michigan Mensa Scholarship Fund. The fund is administered by the Mensa Foundation (actually called the Mensa Education and Research Foundation) and consists of monies sent in by individuals and/or contributed by our local group. The best way for anyone to contribute to this fund (and to be able to take a tax deduction for making such a contribution) is to make out a check directly to the Mensa Foundation and then mail it to:

Mensa Education & Research Foundation
c/o Jill Beckham, Director
1229 Corporate Drive West
Arlington, TX 76006-6103

Make sure you write on your check that this is for the following: NORTHERN MICHIGAN MENSA SCHOLARSHIP FUND. This will ensure that the contribution goes directly toward that fund. You will then be able to claim a legitimate federal and state income tax deduction on your 2010 income tax forms. (The Mensa Foundation is a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt entity, and contributions to such entities are allowable tax deductions.)

For more information, call (817) 607-0060, Ext. 123.

And remember, the deadline for receipt (at the Mensa Foundation) of your contribution is SEPTEMBER 1, 2010.

Finally, I personally am going to contribute the sum of \$200 to this fund. This will guarantee that a scholarship to someone in our local area will be awarded. It also will guarantee that the Mensa Foundation will award a \$300 scholarship to someone in our area who submits an entry into the

scholarship competition because the Mensa Foundation automatically designates a \$300 scholarship to all local groups that participate in the annual scholarship competition. Our book sale (described elsewhere in this issue of Borealis) will generate funds that will also go into the NMM Scholarship Fund (at MERF).

We have written earlier about this wonderful opportunity to support those seeking higher education and to allow our members to claim tax deductions; however, NO ONE has yet made a contribution to the Northern Michigan Mensa Scholarship Fund. I learned this by talking with Jill Beckham, Director of MERF, at the recent Annual Gathering in Dearborn. PLEASE GIVE SERIOUS THOUGHT TO THIS PROGRAM!!!



The Hyatt Regency Dearborn, home of AG 2010

Editor's Note:

Due to space limitations this month, please read Betsy's column, **reMark**, online at the Region 3 web site - <http://www.region3.us.mensa.org/> Yahoo group - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMR3/> Facebook group - <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=71515809887>
