

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.

Advertising:

Borealis accepts only short, "classified"-type advertisements from individual members. Notices should be of a non-commercial nature and include contact information.

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.

Email submissions to:

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nmmborealis@yahoo.com

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

ON THE COVER: Fawn. Photo by Jim McDermott.

July Calendar

BRUNCH - Saturday, 9 July 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

The July Brunch will be held at the Cottage Café, 420 Munson, Traverse City. Our speaker will be **Richard Fidler** of the Traverse City Historical and Heritage Center. This should be an interesting presentation and discussion.

T.G.I.F. - Friday, 22 July 2011 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!

And, in August...

BOOK CLUB - Saturday, 6 August 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

The August book club selection will be *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese and presented by Bernie Hanchett. You can read a description of the book on page 8. Time to start reading!

Annual Picnic - 20 August 2011

It's not too early to mark your calendars for our annual picnic. This year, the picnic is on Sunday, August 20th, from 2 to 6pm, at the new marine shelter house at Elmwood Township Marina Beach on Rt. 22, Greilickville. Pete Turkus will be at the grill and we will be providing burgers, brats and dogs. Attendees are asked to bring a side dish or dessert and an RSVP form will in the August Borealis. Family and friends are welcome.

Member News

Happy July Birthday

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| 19 | Judith L Cools | 21 | Cherie Marie Gabriel |
| 20 | Wendy Jane Barker | 22 | Janet A Nerone |
| | S A Styles | | |

Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of continuous membership)

- | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 7 Years | Richard J Warden | 6 Years | Kimberly Lohr
L Schrock-Taylor |
| | | 1 Year | Sara L Quigley |

May 2011 Statistics

	<u>AML</u>	<u>NMM</u>
Total membership	48951	82
New and reinstating membership	518	1
Offers of membership	273	0
New members since April 2011	449	1
Reinstating members since April 2011	616	2

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 5/31/2011. If you would like to change the privacy releases on file, use www.us.mensa.org and click on "Member Login". Then click on "Profile Update" and "PDQ Update".

LocSec's Login

By Richard Hopfner, Local Secretary

This month, dear Mensans, I'm thinking of change.

Perhaps this is a natural time to think of such a thing, it is, after all just past the yearly crux of mid-summer; meaning to me at least, that though the high days of Summer have yet to be, already the year begins to slide backward to the short dark days of Winter. Change comes.

A book I'm reading, at the moment, brought this in an even more clarified way to me. The author is searching for the ideal or composite of the small American town he remembered from his youth and the family trips that he went on across the country. I'm sure he, as well as the readers here, knew and know how such a quest would go.

Change over decades would be jarring. Maybe the slight changes even more so than the large ones. If your instincts were developed in one environment, and that environment alters, then all of your reactions would be slightly off, or greatly, if the level of difference was greater. You could come "home," but it would be as a stranger in a strange land. And the ironic part of this book is that it was written in the time just before the time of data revolution and the Internet, so his sense of disenfranchisement would have been much more, I think, had he written it somewhat closer to now. Change accelerates.

So what can a person do in a world where everything can seem like it's in flux? A hard approach would be to raise your fist against the changing tides and say, "No! Not me, not ever!" A rock in the water, forcing the water to part. A soft approach would be to allow the tide to carry you where it is heading, and to not fight it. The first way may be satisfying to the rock in defiance, but in enough time, the water will wear the rock away. The second path would avoid being worn out by the stance, but to drift away could also be to lose grounding and identity.

I think that maybe a combination of the two ideas could be as good as a person could do in this world. To be able to ride the wave and not be crushed by it, but still have a foundation of solidness within to brace against randomness when you are in danger of losing yourself.

How on earth could one apply that in the real world? Well, for me it is to be an interested and self-educated observer of the change, even as it goes around, over, and through me. I could, and sometimes do feel very lost in a world that is ever faster and faster becoming unrecognizable, throwing my balance off. But then I remember how cool it all is to see as commonplace things that would have been fantasy in my own youth a few decades past. I might never swim with the native born in this ocean, but I can learn to swim in a fashion, and my own unique set of skills and experiences gives me an advantage of perspective, too. I'll sit down and watch and wonder about it all: Where are we? Where are we heading? Where is my place in all of this?

Change is now. If you can't embrace it, I hope you and I both learn to come to terms with it. It is the future that we will step, or be dragged into. And don't take it so seriously that you can't relax and laugh at it all.

I'll close with a laugh I had thinking about how Mensa is, and maybe something that says something about me being part of this place. I was reading about the Annual Gathering in Portland, Oregon. An event caught my eye. On a Saturday night, the Gen-X group was doing a rave. Which sounded great, and what made it even better? I noticed that there is a lecture before it, presumably on how to enjoy a rave or maybe rave etiquette. What's not to smile about thinking of a group of Mensans so seriously learning about how to rave?

Until next time, enjoy the change.



June Brunch
A small but interested group listens and discusses poetry with Fleda Brown, Professor Emeritus of the University of Delaware and presently instructing at Interlochen.
Photo by Jack Schultz

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.

BFXIQEVTL UFEHT EQ IHTFEUIQ

DIWTP EQ BRTF NBFDG MESSEBQ

LBSSIFP I GTIF IQL POTQLP RTFG

SEDDST BQ BNNEUT PYOSETP . -

ZBBLG ISSTQ

The answer will be in next month's issue.

Answer to last month's Cryptogram:

I admit it; I'm a hypochondriac. But I manage to control it with a placebo. --
Dennis Miller

reMark

By Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3

With much gratitude, I begin my second term as Regional Vice Chair for the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley Region of American Mensa. I am honored to continue representing Region 3 on Mensa's Board of Directors. I look forward to the next 2 years. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has served as a local officer, proctored a test, edited a newsletter, contributed to a newsletter, served on any Mensa committee, attended any Mensa function, read any Mensa publication, or done anything else that has supported Mensa. You have made my experience as a Mensan and your RVC wonderful and I thank you for your efforts. Please consider enhancing your Mensa experience by getting involved. In fact, you could be Region 3's next RVC. As much as I truly love what I have done and am doing, I will not be running for a 3rd term. Do consider serving Mensa in this most awesome way!

I had a great time visiting with Vandalia Mensans in Charleston, West Virginia, at the end of May. I was sorry that those who live in the Morgantown area were not able to join me for lunch. Next year!

As you read this column, I hope you are at the Annual Gathering in Portland, Oregon, where I am. I know I'm having an awesome time!

I am hoping to attend the RGs listed below (okay, so the December AMC meeting conflicts with the Cincinnati RG and that makes me not happy, but you go and enjoy!) and to visit those Region 3 local groups who do not have RGs during the coming months. With early deadlines for newsletters, I may not be able to announce my presence in advance, but I will do so by posting to the Yahoo and Facebook sites listed after my salutation. Sometimes I even make an unexpected appearance at a group's activity.

Register now for the following Region 3 events:

*July 29, 2011 - July 31, 2011 - Columbus Regional Gathering; The Write Stuff in Columbus, Ohio. Enjoy the pool, games, speakers and family track. Guests: NYT best-selling authors William H. Keith and Kenneth

Sewell. All meals included with registration; complimentary hot breakfast with room reservation. Ramada East Airport Hotel, 4801 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43213; 614/861-0321. Contact Julia at psibernaut@yahoo.com

*September 2, 2011 - September 5, 2011 - Western PA Regional Gathering; The Birds and the Bees in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Programs, Tournaments, Games, Food, Friends and Fun - pool and hot tub. Two catered meals included in registration. Radisson Hotel, Pittsburgh (Greentree), 412 922 8400 or 800 333 3333 ask for Western PA Mensa rate. Contact: Marty Flowers, auntkitti@aol.com WPAM website <http://wpam.us.mensa.org>

*December 2, 2011 - December 4, 2011 - Cincinnati Regional Gathering; Just for Your CAMusement! in Cincinnati, Ohio

I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

LLAP and Peace,

Betsy

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Facebook gp - <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=71515809887>

**Found on the internet – so it must be true,
The following are actual answers to a 6th grade history test:**

Solomon had three hundred wives and seven hundred porcupines.

Ancient Egypt was inhabited by mummies and they all wrote in hydraulics. They lived in the Sarah Dessert. The climate of the Sarah is such that the inhabitants have to live elsewhere.

Moses led the Hebrew slaves to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandments. He died before he ever reached Canada.

Johann Bach wrote a great many musical compositions and had a large number of children. In between he practiced on an old spinster which he kept up in his attic. Bach died from 1750 to the present. Bach was the most famous composer in the world and so was Handel. Handel was half German half Italian and half English. He was very large.

Beethoven wrote music even though he was deaf. He was so deaf he wrote loud music. He took long walks in the forest even when everyone was calling for him. Beethoven expired in 1827 and later died for this.

Cutting for Stone **Bibliomensans' Book for August** **By Abraham Verghese - 688 pages**

A sweeping, emotionally riveting first novel—an enthralling family saga of Africa and America, doctors and patients, exile and home. Marion and Shiva Stone are twin brothers born of a secret union between a beautiful Indian nun and a brash British surgeon at a mission hospital in Addis Ababa. Orphaned by their mother's death in childbirth and their father's disappearance, bound together by a preternatural connection and a shared fascination with medicine, the twins come of age as Ethiopia hovers on the brink of revolution. Yet it will be love, not politics—their passion for the same woman—that will tear them apart and force Marion, fresh out of medical school, to flee his homeland. He makes his way to America, finding refuge in his work as an intern at an under funded, overcrowded New York City hospital. When the past catches up to him—nearly destroying him—Marion must entrust his life to the two men he thought he trusted least in the world: the surgeon father who abandoned him and the brother who betrayed him. An unforgettable journey into one man's remarkable life, and an epic story about the power, intimacy, and curious beauty of the work of healing others.