

# Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



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 Borealis  
Northern Michigan Mensa

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

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# Northern Michigan Mensa

## Executive Committee

### VOTING MEMBERS

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At Large	Dwayne A. Bean		dwaynebean@gmail.com

### APPOINTED MEMBERS

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Web Contact	Priscilla Walmsley		pwalmsley@datypic.com
Scholarship Chair	- vacant -		
SIGHT Coordinator	Melissa J. Rennie	231-889-0892	renmeij@yahoo.com
Financial Overseer	Thomas Barnhart	231-946-3242	tom_barnhart@sbcglobal.net
Petoskey Area Subgroup			
Coordinator	- vacant -		

### OTHER MEMBERS

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	Susan A. Styles	231-264-6193	seas@umich.edu
	Melissa J. Rennie	231-889-0892	renmeij@yahoo.com
Regional			
Vice-Chairman	Betsy Y. Mark	734-434-5757	RVC3@us.mensa.org

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [www.nmm.us.mensa.org](http://www.nmm.us.mensa.org)

ON THE COVER: Summer Fun. This picture was taken at Rockport, an abandoned limestone quarry between Alpena and Rogers City. Photo by John Porter.

#### 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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month before the month of publication.

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

#### Email submissions to:

Stan Cain  
[nmmmborealis@yahoo.com](mailto:nmmmborealis@yahoo.com)

# August Calendar

## 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 in last month's Borealis.

## BRUNCH - Saturday, 13 August 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

The August Brunch will be held at the Cottage Café, 420 Munson, Traverse City. Our three college scholarship awards will be presented at this brunch, so please make an effort to be there to congratulate our winners.

## Annual Picnic - Sunday, 21 August 2011 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

This year, the picnic will be at Grelickville Harbor Park on Rt 22 northwest of Traverse City. See the full-page display on page 3.

**Note that last month's picnic announcement had the incorrect date of August 20<sup>th</sup> rather than the correct date of August 21<sup>st</sup>.**

## T.G.I.F. - Friday, 26 August 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!

# Member News

## Happy August Birthday

- |    |                             |    |                        |
|----|-----------------------------|----|------------------------|
| 1  | Mark L Banker               | 15 | Delberta Ruth Windiate |
| 7  | Brook E Anton               | 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)

- |                |                                |                |                            |
|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| <b>9 Years</b> | J Porter                       | <b>4 Years</b> | J S Miner                  |
| <b>8 Years</b> | Lynn A Durling                 | <b>2 Years</b> | Brenda S Irish Heintzelman |
|                | Margaret Ellen Gustafson       |                |                            |
|                | Carola 'Penny' Pollard Novarro | <b>1 Year</b>  | Brook E Anton              |

## Welcome to Northern Michigan Mensa

Eric Sanko

## June 2011 Statistics

	<u>AML</u>	<u>NMM</u>
Total membership	50016	86
New and reinstating membership	518	4
Offers of membership	273	0
New members since April 2011	449	2
Reinstating members since April 2011	616	5

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 6/30/2011. If you would like to change the privacy releases on file, use [www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org) and click on "Member Login". Then click on "Profile Update" and "PDQ Update".

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## Euphemistically Speaking

By Stan Cain

I read the newspaper headline the other day "TCAPS privatizes guest teachers" and wondered what a "guest teacher" was. Could it be those that we invite over to visit and have lunch (as we might do with our own guests)? In case you are also wondering, they are those we used to call subs or substitute teachers and they are to be employed by an outside firm to save Traverse City the cost of retirement benefits.

That got me thinking about the other jobs whose names have been changed in my lifetime. There are now "Administrative Assistants" instead of secretaries and "Custodians" instead of janitors. It seems as if the name changes have been designed to obscure the sometimes menial task that the person performs. (Continued on Page 8)

# !!! NMM ANNUAL PICNIC !!!



**WHEN:** Sunday, August 21st from 2pm to 6pm  
**WHERE:** Grelickville Harbor Park (on Rt.22 West Bay, next to the Marina and across from SubWay West)



Our own “Grillmeister” Pete Turkus will debut his new **MEGAGRILL** to cook up burgers, brats and hotdogs, and anything else that shows up. We will also provide iced tea, lemonade, and the usual condiments.

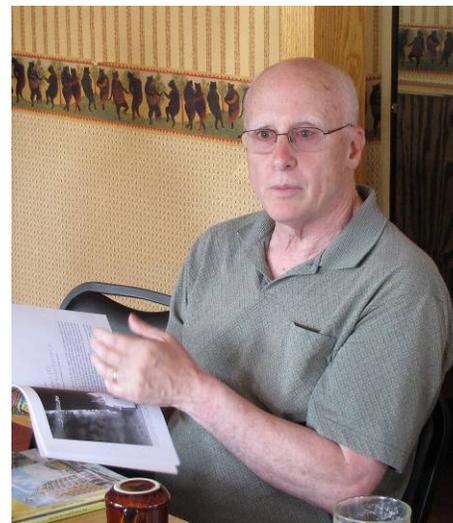


**YOU BRING:** A salad, side, or dessert

On Friday, August 5th, you will receive an email form to be RSVP'd by Monday, August 15th, stating how many people ( friends and family) will be coming and the dish you are bringing. If you do not have email, you can call me, Bobbi, at 231-932-1473.

**HOPE EVERYONE WILL COME !**

## July Brunch



Above, a good crowd awaits Richard Fidler – left – who spoke on historical events in Michigan and especially the Traverse City Area. Photo by Stan Cain.

Richard discussed several of his books including *Gateways to Grand Traverse Past*, which describes some of the currently existing historical places and tells the stories connected with them.

## 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.

DIJ OTNYRSOEH GOWN IJE DGN

EJXNA UYRVN RE NSJEJTRSH.

DGNF'YN DGN KRYHD DJ KRQLYN JLD

OAA JK DGN ARDDAN SGOYQNH JE

DGNRY UGJEN XRAA. --POF ANEJ

The answer will be in next month's issue.

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#### Answer to last month's Cryptogram:

Organized crime in American takes in over forty billion dollars a year and spends very little on office supplies. --Woody Allen

\*\*\*\*

## reMark

By Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3

CONGRATULATIONS REGION 3 AWARD WINNERS! What a phenomenal Region! At the 2011 Annual Gathering Awards Luncheon, the following winners were announced:

\*GOTYA: Class I - Southeast Michigan Mensa

\*Prolific Owl - in recognition of outstanding membership growth:  
Honorable Mention- Vandalia Mensa

\*Innovative Owl - in recognition of outstanding membership retention:  
Honorable Mention- Vandalia Mensa

PRP: NEWSLETTER AWARDS

OVERALL PRESENTATION:

\*Graffiti

Cleveland Area Mensa

Scott Vinick, Editor

OUTSTANDING NEWSLETTER (MEDIUM GROUP):

\*Graffiti

Cleveland Area Mensa

Scott Vinick, Editor

PRP: WEB SITE AWARDS

OVERALL PRESENTATION:

\*East Central Ohio Mensa

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

Richard DeMattia, Webmaster

MEMBER RECRUITMENT:

\*Western New York Mensa

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

Jaclyn McKewan, Webmaster

"MEMBERS ONLY" SECTION:

\*East Central Ohio Mensa

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

Richard DeMattia, Webmaster

OUTSTANDING WEB SITE (MEDIUM GROUP):

\*East Central Ohio Mensa

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

Richard DeMattia, Webmaster

WEB SITE OWL:

\*East Central Ohio Mensa

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

Richard DeMattia, Webmaster

PRP: CONTRIBUTION AWARDS

POETRY:

\*Heather Latham Miller, Dayton Area Mensa  
"Offerings At The Table: The Philosophers' Picnic"  
MPULSE, July 2010

CultureQuest Winners:

\*1st Place- MECCA - Tiffany Everett (Cincinnati)

\*2nd Place- Uncle Churd - Barbara McIntyre (ECOM)

\*10th Place- The Original Standard Deviants - Marty Flowers (WPAM)

\*13th Place- CAMarilla - Robert Villarreal (Cleveland)

I am pleased to announce that I have reappointed, and the AMC has approved, Misty Richmond, Cincinnati Area Mensa, as Assistant Regional Vice Chair. And, I have asked Guy Conti, Southeast Michigan Mensa, to serve as Region 3 Ombudsman. I am grateful to them for their willingness to serve Region 3 and American Mensa.

Register now for the following Region 3 events:

\*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

Unfortunately, I will not be making my traditional Labor Day weekend sojourn to WNYM, RAM and WPAM because I have to be in Arlington for the AMC meeting on September 8. I do hope to visit those groups at another time. And, I have to miss the Cincinnati RG because of the December AMC meeting. Argh!

I am looking forward to seeing you soon.  
LLAP and Peace,

Betsy  
Betsy Yvonne Mark  
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Region 3 Website - <http://www.region3.us.mensa.org/>  
Yahoo gp - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMR3/>  
Facebook gp - <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=71515809887>

## Euphemistically Speaking (Continued from page 2)

Although in the case of secretaries, there are still some very well paid secretaries in the top levels of U.S. government! Perhaps in some cases, the change in the nature of the job has justified the name change, since, again with secretaries, they often do much more than type letters and take dictation these days.

So how has this (shall I call it) "Status Creep" worked its way into our vocabulary? Has it been upper management deciding to increase the status of the job instead of offering a raise? Or, perhaps union bargainers hoping to create a new, more highly paid worker category?

Looking back through a longer time period, however, I found that this process has been going on for ages. The word *euphemism* is derived from Greek origins and was originally a word used in place of a religious word that should not be spoken aloud. Examples of their taboo words requiring use of a euphemism were names for deities, such as "Persephone" or "Nemesis".

Currently, euphemisms for God and Jesus, such as "gosh" and "gee", are used by Christians to avoid taking the name of God in a vain oath, which would violate one of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20).

So, it looks like this old process is continuing with other examples coming to mind such as the progression of euphemisms applied to physical handicaps and military mental injuries:

lame → crippled → handicapped → disabled → physically challenged → differently abled

shell shock (WWI) → battle fatigue (WWII) → operational exhaustion (Korean War) → posttraumatic stress disorder (Vietnam War)

Euphemisms can also recirculate words that have passed out of use due to negative connotations. For example, the word "lame" from above has been revitalized as a slang word meaning *not living up to expectations* or *boring*.

Well, I'm afraid you'll have to excuse me now, since all this writing has left me feeling a little indisposed.