

Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



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November 2011

 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:

Stan Cain
nmmborealis@yahoo.com

Northern Michigan Mensa Executive Committee

VOTING MEMBERS

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

ON THE COVER: Fall colors. Photo by Jack Schultz.

November Calendar

BRUNCH - Saturday, 12 November 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

The November Brunch will be held at the Cottage Café, 420 Munson, Traverse City, in the Papa's Den, which is on the right as you enter.

T.G.I.F. Friday, 25 November 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, coming up in December...

BOOK CLUB - Saturday, 3 December 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet at the Cottage Café, 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City. The December book club selection will be ***Dreamers of the Day: A Novel*** by Maria Doria Russell, presented by Jim McDermott. All are welcome to join us even if you have not read the book. You can read a description of the book on page 8.

BRUNCH - Saturday, 10 December 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

The September Brunch will be held at the Cottage Café, 420 Munson, Traverse City. This month, our speaker will be **Aaron Stander** - Mensan and local author of five books, who will discuss his recent work.

Member News

Happy November Birthday

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|------------------|
| 13 | Kimberly Lohr | 16 | Robert B Pierson |
| 14 | Stephanie Quist | 26 | L Jonson |
| 15 | Richard R Hopfner | | |

Members Moving to Our Area - Welcome!

Timothy Brotherton

Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of continuous Membership)

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 41 Years | Ruth Minshull | 5 Years | Robin E Wottowa |
| 18 Years | Timothy Brotherton | 4 Years | Stephanie Quist |
| 10 Years | P Walmsley | | Jerome D Smith |
| 9 Years | Donald L Curtis | | Bobbi A Walker |
| | C K Hulse | 2 Years | Richard B Thibeau |
| 6 Years | Stephen H Quick | | |

September 2011 Statistics

AML

NMM

Total membership	51880	90
New and reinstating membership	417	4
Offers of membership	201	0
New members since April 2011	1300	4
Reinstating members since April 2011	1509	7

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 9/30/2011. 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".

Loyal Mensan Leaves Us

By Jack Schultz

Margaret Scott passed away on October 14 at age 72 after a long series of illnesses that made it difficult for her to join in on Northern Michigan Mensa activities in recent years, but she made every attempt to attend events whenever she could. She was a loyal member of our group, having taken the Mensa Admissions Tests back in December of 2002 and joining soon thereafter. Margaret took over the reins of the Scholarship Chair position and did a fine job of administering the Mensa Foundation Scholarship Program during the 2010-2011 year. She also greatly enjoyed participating in Bibliomensans, our book club.

For many years, Margaret worked as a legal secretary for one of Traverse City's prominent law firms until she retired a few years ago. Her three children lived in Grand Traverse County and all were able to help Margaret during the times of her various illnesses. Son Bill Scott and

daughter Christine (Scott) Tithof lived close to her. When she was unable to drive, they were able to help get her to medical appointments. Her other daughter, Holly (Scott) Henion, lives in Traverse City. We will miss Margaret very much for her sense of humor and thoughtful contributions to discussions.

NMM Election Procedures for 2011 Election

The Nominating Committee has nominated the following individuals for the five openings for voting members on the Executive Committee for the period 2012 and 2013:

Tom Barnhart
Nancy Dady
Brenda Irish Heintzelman
Richard Thibeau
Pete Turkus

According to the NMM bylaws, these nominations are hereby published in this November issue of our newsletter. Also, according to the bylaws, additional nominations may be made by petition signed by at least five members of the local group and delivered to the chairperson of the Nominating Committee NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 15. (Such petitions, if any, need to be conveyed to Jack Schultz by this date.) As of this posting, only five individuals have been nominated for the five vacant positions. The bylaws state that, if no additional nominations are received by November 15, then the five who have been nominated will be declared elected without the need for balloting by the membership. If one or more additional nominations are received by November 15, a ballot will be prepared and will be published in the December issue of Borealis. The mail ballots must then be returned to the chairperson of the Election Committee (Stan Cain) and received no later than December 20. Ballots received after that date will not be counted.

The chairperson of the Election Committee will certify the results of the election to the Local Secretary and shall have the election results published in the January issue of the newsletter. Any challenges to the election must be made in writing to the chairperson of the Election Committee and must be received by January 15. Any such challenges must be ruled on by January 31.

The outgoing Local Secretary shall notify the American Mensa Committee and the Regional Vice Chairman for Region 3 of the results of the election. The outgoing LocSec shall remain in office until the new LocSec has been elected by the voting members of the incoming Executive Committee. Any actions taken by the Executive Committee while a challenge is pending are not affected by the outcome of any such challenge.

Additional information: At its first meeting following the election, the incoming voting members of the Executive Committee shall elect from among themselves the new Local Secretary, the Deputy Local Secretary, and the Treasurer. The other two voting members shall be named as Members-at-Large.

Deep Wood Press Tour

In October, Northern Michigan Mensa was invited to tour Chad Pastotnik's quality letterpress printing facility, Deep Wood Press. Following a picnic lunch, Chad showed us around the buildings, explained and demonstrated his equipment and showed some examples of his fine work.



**Picnicking on Chad and Kathryn Pastotnik's front porch.
Photos by Stan Cain and Jack Schultz**



Deep Wood Press has continued the tradition of hand crafted printed items, bindings and book matter. With a foundation in fine art and a careful attention to craftsmanship and detail, the end result is more than a vehicle for information.

The books are printed via letterpress on fine papers and illustrated with quality artwork from original wood engravings, lino cuts and intaglio prints. These sheets are then bound by hand in traditional and contemporary book structures.

Chad Pastotnik quickly composes a line of type on his Mergenthaler Linotype machine - ca 1960.



A slug of type produced by the Linotype machine.



Chad describes some of his finished work.

LocSec's Login

By Erik Snyder, Local Secretary

Living in northern Michigan, we have the luxury of beauty all around us, especially in fall, and this one is/was no exception. In fact, this was one of the more spectacular fall color shows I can remember.

With the inexorable march of time, there are many certainties; one of which is change. Fall is one example. Another is that Richard Hopfner, Northern Michigan Mensa's Local Secretary for nearly the past two years, has taken a great job opportunity in Oregon, which was a change for him, our group, as well as for me, since I'm now in the position to be writing for the Loc Sec's Login.

Change will strike the Executive Committee yet again in another short month. Our current two-year term is coming to an end and a new ExComm will be voted in. Our Nominating Committee has come up with five individuals who have agreed to serve on the ExComm, and information about the election appears elsewhere in this issue of Borealis. All five of these members are fine candidates and, if no additional nominations are received, they will be elected by acclamation. If additional nominations are received within the time frame allowed, a ballot will be printed and you will be asked to choose the five you most want to have represent you for the years 2012 and 2013. If a ballot is necessary, then please consider taking the time to cast your vote in this election cycle and be an active part of the process. All too often, very few Mensans exercise their option to vote. After all, this is your organization; make of it what you will...and let your voice be heard.

As autumn marches on toward winter, we all have those last minute things we want to finish up before winter arrives in all its blazingly cold glory. In the meantime, I hope you will take a few minutes to consider NMM and how it will evolve under new leadership. Whoever is elected will appreciate suggestions from you as to how you would like to see NMM better serve its members.

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.

SF AEQ DTMQFVQ BZ VJQDWJK-GQZSFQG PBDJM, IQ

TQVBUQ MAWDFPQJK JBKDJ AB XQWZBWUSFP GDSJK

AWSRSD YFASJ YJASUDAQJK IQ TQVBUQ QFMJDRQG

TK SA. --WBTQWA EQSFJQSF

The answer will be in next month's issue.

Answer to last month's Cryptogram:

Some failure in life is inevitable. It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all -- in which case, you fail by default. --J. K. Rowlings

Dreamers of the Day: A Novel

Bibliomans' Book for December

By Maria Doria Russell, 288 pages

"I suppose I ought to warn you at the outset that my present circumstances are puzzling, even to me. Nevertheless, I am sure of this much: My little story has become your history. You won't really understand your times until you understand mine."

So begins the account of Agnes Shanklin, the charmingly diffident narrator of Maria Doria Russell's compelling new novel, *Dreamers of the Day*. And what is Miss Shanklin's "little story?" Nothing less than the creation of the modern Middle East at the 1921 Cairo Peace Conference, where Winston Churchill, T. E. Lawrence, and Lady Gertrude Bell met to decide the fate of the Arab world--and of our own.

A forty-year-old schoolteacher from Ohio, still reeling from the tragedies of the Great War and the influenza epidemic, Agnes has come into a modest inheritance that allows her to take the trip of a lifetime to Egypt and the Holy Land. Arriving at the Semiramis Hotel just as the Peace Conference convenes, Agnes, with her plainspoken American opinions--and a small, noisy dachshund named Rosie--enters into the company of the historic luminaries who will, in the space of a few days at a hotel in Cairo, invent the nations of Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, and Jordan.

Neither a pawn nor a participant at the conference, Agnes is ostensibly insignificant, and that makes her a welcome sounding board for Churchill, Lawrence, and Bell. It also makes her unexpectedly attractive to the charismatic German spy Karl Weilbacher. As Agnes observes the tumultuous inner workings of nation-building, she is drawn more and more deeply into geopolitical intrigue and toward a personal awakening.

Editor's Note:

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