



Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



Volume 11 Number 5

February 2013

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

nmborealis@yahoo.com

Northern Michigan Mensa

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

ON THE COVER: No words needed The sign says it all. See photos of other signs on pages 6 and 7. Photo by Jon Cain.



Northern Michigan Mensa

www.nmm.us.mensa.org

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"change delivery method" in the
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You'll get it faster, and in color!

February Calendar

BOOK CLUB - Saturday, 2 February 2013, at 11:00 a.m.

The February book club selection will be **A Tale of Two Cities** by Charles Dickens and presented by Stan Cain. (See the review on page 4.) Our meeting will be held at BC Pizza, 3186 LaFranier, Traverse City.

In addition, we will also be discussing the film **A Royal Affair** which was presented as part of the Bay Film Series at the Bay Theater in Sutton's Bay on January 13, 14 & 15. Plan to attend to discuss either or both of these works.

BRUNCH - Saturday, 9 February 2013 at 11:00 a.m.

The February Brunch will again be held at **Sleders Family Tavern**, 717 Randolph, near downtown in Traverse City. We will try to meet in their back room.

CELTIC NIGHT - Monday, 18 February 2013 at 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

For those of you who like Celtic music, we will be meeting at **The Filling Station Microbrewery**, 642 Railroad Place, Traverse City. One of our members, Judith Lindenau, will be playing along with others. Join us for music, pizza and beer!

T.G.I.F. - Friday, 22 February 2013 at 5:30 p.m.

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 February Birthday

14 Peter J. Turkus

26 Carol J. Crawford

Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of Continuous Membership)

33 Rufus S. Teesdale

5 Chase Philport

28 Robert A. Atallo

5 Sherry L. Saltes

12 Joan E. Dasef

5 Eric A. Snyder

8 James H. McDermott

4 Nancy Dady

7 Julie L. Hill

4 Brett A. Pharo

6 John G. Swartout
5 Heather J. Gruenberg-Seger
5 Robert Hawley

3 Matthew D. Stevenson
1 Kenneth F. Bryson

December 2012 Statistics	AML	NMM
Total membership	53,638	83
New and reinstating membership	495	0
Offers of membership	181	0
New members since April 2012	2,725	13
Reinstating members since April 2012	2,580	17

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 12/31/2012. 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".

From the LocSec

By Richard Thibeau

Check the calendar of events to see what event you can attend and then...attend! More people getting together at any of them makes for a better event and more opportunity to socialize for everyone there.

Puzzle Rock Responses

Several members wrote in with comments on the rock pictured in last month's issue.



Bobbi Walker noted that "It looks manmade and I have seen similar rocks used as anchors for small craft by several ancient civilizations."

Sherry McNamara thought that they were likely weaker limestone components that degraded over time and left the holes.

Your editor has seen the possible beginnings of such rocks in streams where small stones sitting on larger rocks were gradually wearing a circular depression as the flowing water kept them moving around.

Stay tuned.

reMark

By Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3

Happy Valentine's Day!

It's membership renewal time. I hope you took advantage of last year's rates and renewed before January 1. I did hear from many of you about the increase in dues. Some renewed as Life Members – what a way to avoid ever having to get those renewal packets again! Some renewed for 3 or 5 years and some for 1 year. Some will renew at the new rates – the new Life Member rates may be even less for many! Some are still considering. Mensa means different things to each of us. Regardless of membership status, friends made are friends. I remember well when Ed (of blessed memory) was in law school and we had no money for luxuries. Mensa was not then, and never was before or since, a luxury. We remained members. I hope you decide to do the same.

I am already tired of winter - as I write this, we've all had too much snow. As you are reading this, I will have enjoyed a week in Florida – definitely not enough time away in warmth. Spring cannot come soon enough.

I hope you will be in Miamisburg as Dayton Area Mensa hosts DAMNations 26: Triskadeka Times Two (or times three because it's 2013!) (My last AMC meeting is the same weekend and I will be in Washington, D.C., wishing I were there.) Talks and presentations; games and tournaments; five meals by the famous Dayton Hospitality team; music and dancing; late-night conversations and general silliness! Registration is \$60 by March 1, 2013; \$70 at the door. Ages 5-18 half price, under 5 free. MP (5): included. Checks payable to Dayton Area Mensa RG. Hotel: Wyndham Garden Dayton South, 31 Prestige Plaza Dr., Miamisburg, OH 45342; call hotel 937/434-8030. Room rates (\$83) guaranteed until March 15, 2013. CD 18 and under, H DT CP. Visit www.dayton.us.mensa.org or contact Karren Lehman, 7039 Monte Carlo Dr., Englewood, OH 45322; RG.Registrar@dayton.us.mensa.org.

Southeast Michigan Mensa will be hosting SEMMantics XXXIV, May 3-5. Chocolate Orgy & morning hike. MensaBowl, Mensalympics & tournaments. Top-notch speakers including John Blinke. Kid room/programs. Games by Karen Smith. Wine tasting & beer sampling. Hotel gives a free drink & hot buffet breakfast. See why it is #34! Registration rate through April 15 is \$80; \$90 on-site. Daily rates are \$50 for Friday and \$55 for Saturday. Children under 5 are free and children 5-17 are half price.

Make checks payable to SEMMantics, PayPal available to semman-
tics@sbcglobal.net. Hotel: Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, 37529 Grand River
Ave, Farmington Hills, MI 48335; www.HolidayInn.com; 248/477-7800.
Room rates are \$89 + tax and are guaranteed until April 1. Contact Larry Ar-
banas, 24565 Glen Orchard Dr., Farmington Hills, MI 48336; 323/642-7226;
larry@arbanas.org.
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 group - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMR3/>

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

A Tale of Two Cities
Bibliomensans' Book for February
By Charles Dickens - 304 pages

Against the backdrop of the French Revolution, Dickens unfolds a master-
piece of drama, adventure and courage featuring Charles Darnay, a man
falsely accused of treason. He bears an uncanny resemblance to the dissolute,
yet noble Sydney Carton. Brilliantly plotted, the novel culminates in a daring
prison escape in the shadow of the guillotine.

Bibliomans Reading List - 2013

Here is the list of Book Club selections for the year. The club meets every other month and any member is welcome to attend.

FEBRUARY 2

Book: *A Tale of Two Cities*

Author: Charles Dickens Presenter: Stan Cain

APRIL 6

Book: *The Round House*

Author: Louise Erdrich Presenter: Jack Schultz

JUNE 1

Book: *Infidel*

Author: Ayaan Hirsi Ali Presenter: Jim McDermott

AUGUST 3

Book: *Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History*

Author: S. C. Gwynne Presenter: Heather Gruenberg

OCTOBER 5

Book: *The Pirates of Somalia: Inside Their Hidden World*

Author: Jay Bahadur Presenter: Judith Lindenau

DECEMBER 7

Book: *Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age*

Author: Kevin Boyle Presenter: Bernie Hanchett

You will receive a 10% discount at Horizon Books for the purchase of one of these titles. If you also have an Horizon membership discount, then you will receive both discounts.

Signs of the Times

They are everywhere. Did you ever stop to think about the signs we all meet as we walk, drive, bike, swim and even sit and watch TV? Some are important. Some are annoying. And some even seem to have a sense of humor.

Below and on the cover are some shots of signs from around Michigan and around the world. Photos by Jon and Stan Cain.





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.

E KLPA L KZWWM. E KLPA XKA BZFJT'Y

JLFDAYX NZJJANXEZI ZR YAL YKAJJY. E UAAQ

EX YNLXXAFAT ZI WALNKAY LJJ ZPAF XKA

BZFJT. SLMWA MZH'PA YAAI YZSA ZR EX.

~YXAQKAI BFEDKX

(The answer will appear in next month's issue)

Answer to last month's Cryptogram:

In every work of genius we recognize our own rejected thoughts: they come back to us with a certain alienated majesty. ~ Emerson
