



Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



Volume 12 Number 1

October 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

Executive Committee

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	Melissa J. Rennie	231-889-0892	renmeij@yahoo.com
Regional Vice-Chairman	Julia Ashley	614.448.6023	RVC3@us.mensa.org

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

ON THE COVER: A new tree grows from an old stump in Lake Dubonnet, west of Traverse City. Photo by Stan Cain.



Northern Michigan Mensa

www.nmm.us.mensa.org

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"change delivery method" in the
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October Calendar

BOOK CLUB - Saturday, 5 October 2013 at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet at BC Pizza, 3186 Lafranier, Traverse City. The October book club selection will be: *The Pirates of Somalia: Inside Their Hidden World* by Jay Bahadur and presented by Judith Lindenau.

BRUNCH - Saturday, 12 October 2013 at 10:30 a.m.

The October Brunch will be held at The Bay Town Kitchen (formerly the Cottage Café), 420 Munson Ave., Traverse City. Our speaker will be Linda S. Taylor - a reading specialist. Her topic will be **Failures in Reading Instruction**. We will meet in the far dining room. (See a more complete description of the presentation on Page 2.)

Tests for Mensa National Testing Month - Saturday 19 October 2013 at 9:00 a.m.

The Mensa Admission Test will be given at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 6726 Center Road, Traverse City. We will be giving the Mensa Test for those who wish to see if they qualify for Mensa membership. If you have any friends whom you think might be interested, let them know about this opportunity in our area. The test will cost \$40.00. Call Jack Schultz at 231-275-6735 for more information and to make a reservation.

T.G.I.F. - Friday, 25 October 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 October Birthday

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Michael R. Carey | 17 Thomas M. Barnhart |
| 6 Robert A. Atallo | 27 Breanna Blasius |

Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of Continuous Membership)

- 2 Breanna Blasius

Members New to Our Group – Welcome!

Robert E. Anderson

<u>August 2013 Statistics</u>	<u>AML</u>	<u>NMM</u>
Total membership	50,417	74
New and reinstating membership	459	2
Offers of membership	231	0
New members since April 2013	1,383	16
Reinstating members since April 2013	1,350	20

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 8/30/2013. 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”.

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Election Process Update

The election process is well under way. The Nominating Committee (NomComm) has been appointed and the three members on the committee are:

John D. Schultz	231 275-6735	jsvoyageur@gmail.com
Bernie Hanchett	231 946-5177	barneydulittle@hotmail.com
Tom Barnhart	231 946-3242	tmb@me.com

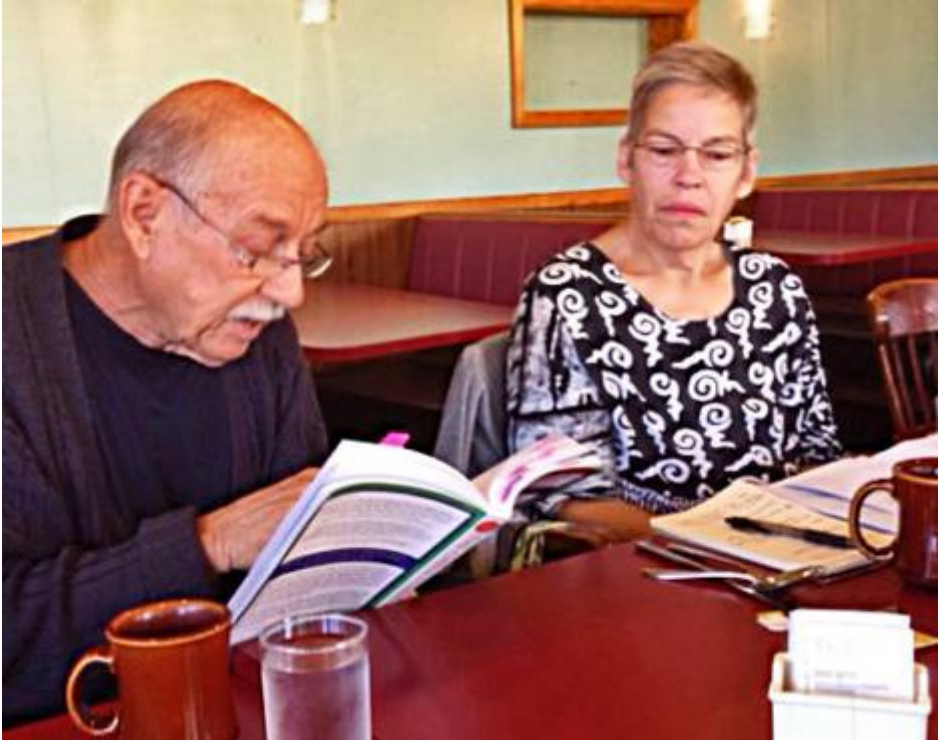
If you, or anyone you know, is interested in being nominated to run for a position on the Executive Committee for the 2014-2015 term, please let one of the members of the NomComm know.

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Failures in Reading Instruction By Linda Schrock Taylor - Reading Specialist

"Those who learn to read in today's classrooms do so in spite of the instruction, not because of it. Teachers no longer understand how to teach reading because Teacher Training professors no longer understand how to teach reading, either. The tools for reading and spelling are logical, consistent, and were once skillfully taught by minimally-educated mothers and by untrained teachers, many of whom were only slightly older than their students. Uncertified teachers developed America into a highly literate nation. The literacy rate

in Massachusetts was over 90% *prior to the creation of public schools* and the scores have been in freefall ever since. All states and many English speaking countries joined the great march to illiteracy, effectively damaging individual potential, undermining self confidence, and harming mental health.



September Brunch

Jalene Moore and Bernie Hanchett led a discussion of the Vegan diet during the September brunch. They pointed out that many authorities believe that this type of diet can lead to better health for humans as well as avoiding the slaughter of birds, fish and animals for food. They noted that this diet can provide for a more equitable sharing of food resources worldwide, since the food used to feed these animals could be directly consumed by humans. In addition, the use of petroleum based fertilizers and water for irrigation could be drastically reduced. The differences between Vegan and Vegetarian diets were also discussed. Photo by Judith Lindenau.



News from the RVC3

A Few of My Favorite Things...on the Mensa Website

Any member can access a good deal of information on the national website. You will need your member number (or registered e-mail) and password. Password assistance is available if you've forgotten or never logged in before.

Member Directory

From the home page www.us.mensa.org, choose the **CONNECT** tab, then the **Member Directory** option on the side menu. "Members may use this membership directory for personal, non-commercial communication with other members."

We have many fine newsletters in our region; however, it's often necessary to contact members directly to fill volunteer positions. Search the directory by First Name, Last Name, City, State ZIP Code, Country, Phone Number, E-mail Address, Region, Local Group, Interest or Occupation. I recently searched for members in my local group having an interest or occupation in education; now we have a new Scholarship Chair from that search. I've also searched the directory for members having an interest matching a scheduled program which increased attendance for the event. Exercise restraint, please. Using the directory to publish your personal blog will make you unpopular very fast.

Materials Request

Check with your local officers to see if there is already a supply of recruiting cards, bookmarks and brochures at hand. If not, consider ordering a supply for members to share at local libraries, book stores and with Mensa-ble friends. There are also posters, banners and displays available for public events. From the home page, choose the **LEAD** tab, then the **Local Group Resources** option, then the **Materials Requests** option. Select **Marketing and Recruiting**.

One of the newer options is the, "Candy Wrapper Thank You, 5.5" x 5.25" printable PDF document that will wrap around a standard Hershey's candy bar and can be given as prizes or promotional giveaways. Tag-line text reads: Thank you from the top 2% of our hearts."

Member Primer

From the home page, choose the **LEARN** tab, then the **Member Primer** option. There are some very well written tips on getting the most from your Mensa membership.

The **Help Your Group** page suggests a lot of good practices. Paraphrased: Attend three events (even out-of-town events) – different events attract different people and have different flavors; Anyone can set up an event – we are a do-it-yourself organization; and offer to help before you criticize. Read the full article on the web page.

There is also an amusing and helpful page titled: **Nobody's Perfect**. “Mensans are not as you would expect them to be.” The author points out that, “Mensans are usually bright, just not in every area.” Read more for special insight into our strange and wonderful members.

The **To New Members** page provides suggestions for either the introvert's approach or the extrovert's approach. It's not only good advice for your technique but helps to recognize behavior in other members who are unlike you.

UPCOMING EVENT

Prime Time - It's Cincinnati Area Mensa's 31st RG!, December 6-8, 2013

Check your Mensa Bulletin for more details or visit: www.cincymensa.org or Facebook <http://tinyurl.com/PrimeTime31>.

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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.

UHFLY TLBP MHEAHLVFM, UOZH TBL ABVFM,

XBKH TBL ABPBLBN. AXH OPKBLAFYA AXOYJ

OE YBA AB EABK GIHEAOBYOYJ.

~FUWHLA HOYEAHOY

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

Answer to last month's Cryptogram:

The only rules comedy can tolerate are those of taste, and the only limitations those of libel. ~James Thurber

Editor's note: Ruth had prepared a supply of these popular puzzles before her recent death. Borealis will continue to feature them while they last.