



# Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



Volume 12 Number 4

February 2014

**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

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# Northern Michigan Mensa

## Executive Committee

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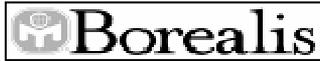
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### OTHER MEMBERS

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

ON THE COVER: The Eben Ice Caves - located in the Rock River Canyon Wilderness north of Eben Junction, about 15 miles west of Munising Michigan within the Hiawatha National Forest. Photo by John Porter



Northern Michigan Mensa

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

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# February Calendar

## **BOOK CLUB - Saturday, February 1, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.**

We will meet at BC Pizza, 3186 Lafranier, Traverse City. The February book club selection will be *Escape from Camp 14* by Blaine Harden and presented by Jim McDermott.

## **Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.**

Dinner at Panda North, 2038 S. Airport Rd. (Logan's Landing), Traverse City. It's time to celebrate the Chinese New Year, albeit five days late. First one there, please grab a table for us. Good, inexpensive Chinese, Japanese and Thai fare. If we get to it, Carole Eberly will share her experiences of living in Beijing where she was an editor at the China Daily. (Anyway for fried eel eaten from street vendors?)

## **BRUNCH Saturday, February 15, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.**

We will meet at the Bay Town Kitchen (formerly the Cottage Café), 420 Munson Ave., Traverse City. We will meet in the far dining room. Our speaker will be Ryan Sterkenburg, from the Northwestern Bank's Trust Department. With tax time coming up, he will tell us what you can throw out (maybe those bank statements from 1995 -- or maybe not) and what you should hang onto, as well as other things you need to keep the IRS off your case.

## Member News

### Happy February Birthday

14 Peter J Turkus

### Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of Continuous Membership)

29	Robert Alan Atallo	6	Erik A Snyder
13	Joan Elizabeth Dasef	6	Heather J Gruenberg-Seger
9	James H McDermott	6	Chase Philport
8	Julie L Hill	5	Brett A Pharo
7	John G Swartout	4	Matthew D Stevenson
6	Robert Hawley	2	Kenneth F Bryson
6	Sherry L Saites	1	Timothy Brotherton

<b>December 2013 Statistics</b>	<b>AML</b>	<b>NMM</b>
Total membership	53,269	78
New and reinstating membership	496	3
Offers of membership	227	0
New members since April 2013	2	18
Reinstating members since April 2013	2,151	22

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 12/31/2013. 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"

## The Loc Sec's Report

By Stan Cain

I am happy to be your LocSec for the next two years. Interesting and exciting things will be happening within NMM in the years to come.

During our first Executive Committee meeting on January 14th, we approved the list of appointed positions and a budget for the year (see p.6.) There are still a few positions available looking for people to fill them.

We have quite a number of members who live north of Elk Rapids for whom a drive to Traverse City is just too much for a one or two hour meeting. For a time in 2008-2009 we had a group meeting in Petosky with several well attended meetings This will take an energetic person to head up and re-organize this group which could again be a focal point for our northern members. I plan to send all the members in the outlying northern region a list of contact info for the other members in the area and you can see who your neighbors are. Let me know if you would like to organize a group in this area.

Also, we need an individual to handle the Scholarship Chair this year. Jack Schultz will be stepping down after finishing the judging for the 2013 entrants. This would be a good position for someone with an educational background or anyone interested in education

Another member is needed to handle the Culture Quest coming up on April 27th. The ExComm has again voted to fund the registration fees for one group of five members. If you think you're pretty smart (and who doesn't) and like

trivia games, this event is for you! Organizing the event involves handling the National Office paperwork, finding a group to make up a team and a quiet place to hold the event.

Our Book Club, the Bibliomans, has been organized again for this year by Sherry McNamara and the list of books is shown on Page 7. I can tell you that the first book, *Escape from Camp 14*, will keep you interested from the first page. The next meeting is on the 1st of February, so you will need to read quickly.

Carol Eberly, our new Program Chair, has been busy lining up some new events for February and beyond. Also, our long standing, but poorly attended TGIF meeting will be removed and replaced by some other evening events. You quiet members out there, please contact Carole with any new ideas for programs that you would like to see available

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## News from the RVC3

Mini-minutes have been posted for the American Mensa Board of Directors Meeting of December 7, 2013. Full minutes will be posted after review and approval of the Board.

The Board:

- Adopted a motion amending the previously-passed weapons motion changing weapons to firearms and adding clarifying language.
- Adopted a motion to pre-authorize steps to manage cash flow issues.
- Deleted the old handbook development process (in favor of the new online guides).
- Adopted a motion to distinguish Ombudsman from Arbitrator in Model Bylaws for Local Groups.
- Established a Regional Ombudsmen position.
- Adopted a motion to allow the Finance and Audit Committee to set AG registration rates upon consultation with the AG Chairs.
- Created a Local Group Revitalization Task Force.
- Appointed Clifton Larson Allen, LLP as American Mensa's auditor.
- Discussed creating a new Achieving Communications Excellence (ACE) program to provide local group recognition.

Changing the weapons ban to a firearms ban was approved. I voted against this motion for the same reasons I voted against the original motion in October. The topic continues to be a focus of discussion.

The motion to pre-authorize steps to manage cash flow was also of concern. Item H5 of the meeting agenda was as follows.

“Moved Finance and Audit Committee: Approval is hereby granted for the temporary use of monies from the Reserve for life members from December through March of each membership year, as needed, to meet cash-flow considerations associated with the annual membership renewal season.”

I chose to support it despite my reservations; we are responsible for paying our bills evenly throughout the year despite the dips and peaks in revenue throughout the year. The annual budget will be an important topic at the March Board meeting and deserves much attention to best manage our resources.

I would ask that everyone who takes interest in the actions of the Board, please make use of the posted minutes on [www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org) and related reports. A partial truth will travel faster and wider than the complete facts and makes a great dystopia, not a great Mensa experience.

**Julia Ashley, RVC3**  
**rvc3@us.mensa.org**  
**614.448.6023**

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## **THE BLUE HERON**

**(c) Ruth Minshull 2013**

Impatiently, I punched the OFF button and turned away from the television. Too much bad news, I thought. There must be some good things happening in the world. I stepped out on the deck of the Florida condo where I was staying. The sun, low on the horizon, spread its gleaming, image across the surface of the Gulf. I decided to take a short walk on the beach before night moved in. It had been a gorgeous autumn day, with a soft breeze gentling the brilliance of the water. An artistic arrangement of wispy clouds promised a spectacular sunset.

Despite the fact that hundreds of people lived in nearby buildings, I was the only person on the beach. I suppose they're all preparing for dinner, I concluded. Whatever the reason, I welcomed the uncommon solitude. I strolled west, hoping to see the blue heron. I had walked the beach many evenings around this time, and had often seen him (or her) standing in the same place. I didn't know why he was always there, but I always felt a thrill at the sight of this majestic bird.

When I reached the location, I scanned the entire area, but failed to see him. Well, maybe the heron has changed his agenda, I thought. Disappointed, I started to turn back. Then I saw him. He was standing so still in the dusky twilight—his long pale legs blending in perfectly with the background of white sand and sea grass—that he was nearly invisible.

Thrilled at the encounter, I remained motionless as we gazed at each other—I with pleasure, he with guarded tolerance. Our confrontation was interrupted by the sound of a sliding door. The heron turned expectantly as a man stepped out onto the second-floor deck of a nearby condo. With practiced care the man flung a small fish out over the railing. The heron caught it expertly and flapped off a short distance to gulp it down. Soon the bird returned; the man came out again and threw another fish. This time the heron grabbed it and flew off. The provider went inside and closed the door. Obviously this ended a nightly routine.

On my returning walk. I was buoyed by a sense of well-being. It was gratifying to know that here in this unremarkable place on the coast, an elegant feral creature had worked out an agreeable dinner arrangement with an alien life form.

I thought of my impatience with the newscaster earlier. Such diligent purveyors of bad news seldom tell us that between New York and Hawaii, Miami and Alaska, many millions of ordinary American people go about their lives, sharing smiles, sharing potlucks, trusting each other, lending a hand, kissing away a tear, helping a child launch a kite, giving hugs of comfort, holding doors open, cooking therapeutic chicken soup, loving one another.

Of course, the newscasters can't tell us about these people because they're not shocking; bleeding or dying. But it helps to be reminded, now and then, that there are heartwarming events going on around us—if we look for them in the right places. One such place is outside a certain condo on the Gulf coast, at dusk.

Editor's note:

Long time member Ruth Minshull wrote this article before her death in June 2013.

## NORTHERN MICHIGAN MENSA

### Executive Committee Meeting of 11 Jan 14 (Summary of Minutes)

Meeting at the BayTown Kitchen, Traverse City, called to order at 10:00A.M.

Elected Officers present: Stan Cain, Carole Eberly, Sue Styles.

Carole Eberly offered to take the Program Chair. and Judith Lindenau offered to take the Publicity Chair positions.

Following some discussion, the following position appointments were approved unanimously:

Newsletter Editor	Stan Cain
Financial Overseer	Richard Thibeau
Membership	Richard Thibeau
Ombudsman	Pete Turkus
Petoskey Area Subgroup	
Coordinator	Vacant
Program Chair	Carol Eberly
Publicity Chair	Judith Lindenau
Scholarship Chair	John D. Schultz (only until March 2014)
SIGHT Coordinator	Melissa J. Rennie
Testing Coordinator	John D. Schultz
Web Contact	Vacant

The following budget for 2014 was discussed and approved.:

#### **Income:**

National office allocation:	\$800
Testing Fees	150
Interest income	5

#### **Expenses:**

Newsletter	300
Office/incidentals	25
Activities/programs	200
Publicity	25
Scholarships	500
Procter/Testing	75
Stipend for Reg/Nat Events	50
Membership	100

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50A.M.

## **Bibliomensans Reading List - 2014**

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 1**

Book: Escape from Camp 14

Author: Blaine Harden

Presenter: Jim McDermott

### **APRIL 5**

Book: The Book Thief

Author: Marcus Zusak

Presenter: Stan Cain

### **JUNE 7**

Book: The Goldfinch

Author: Donna Tartt

Presenter: Judith Lindenau

### **AUGUST 2**

Book: A Superior Death

Author: Nevada Barr

Presenter: Jack Schultz

### **OCTOBER 4**

Book: Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with Britain  
in Its Darkest, Finest Hour

Author: Lynne Olson

Presenter: Sherry McNamara

### **DECEMBER 6**

Book: Men to Match my Mountains

Author: Irving Stone

Presenter: Heather Gruenberg-Seger

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## **Escape from Camp 14 Bibliomensans' Book for February By Blaine Harden - 224 pages**

Harden's harrowing narrative of the only known person born inside a North Korean prison camp to ever have escaped, exposes a hidden world, focusing on an extraordinary young man who came of age inside the highest security prison in the highest security state. Escape from Camp 14 offers an unequalled inside account of one of the world's darkest nations. It is a tale of endurance and courage, survival and hope.

# 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.

**JVKXH MXY NFRKXDSJ: AUMH VX HUD AFKXH**

**HUMH GMW UMEEDW? HUDW EKDEMKD HF MGGDEH**

**VH. HUDW EKFGDDQ HF VZEKFOD FW HUD**

**AFKXH. ~QMSD GMKWDIVD**

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

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### Answer to last month's Cryptogram:

First ask yourself: What is the worst that can happen? Then prepare to accept it. Then proceed to improve on the worst. ~Dale Carnegie

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.