

Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



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 Borealis
Northern Michigan Mensa

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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 matters submitted to the editor shall be subject to editing for content, style, and space limitations, except when a person submits material with a restriction that it be published "as is or not at all". In such cases, it will include an editor's note stating it as such.

That a person has written and submitted something to the newsletter is not, in itself, sufficient reason for its publication. It is the editor's discretion whether to publish any submission, with the exception of mandatory items.

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.

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ON THE COVER: A field of mostly Large-flowered Trillium taken at the Treat Farm in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Photo by Jack Schultz.

Northern Michigan Mensa

June 2007 Calendar

BIBLIOMENSANS - Saturday, June 2, 2007 at 12:30 p.m.

We will meet at the Cottage Café, 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City, in the Papa's Den. The book for discussion this month is *Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger. Sherry McNamara will do our presentation. This group is open to all members; attendance can be each meeting, or only for those meetings that present books in which you have an interest.

BRUNCH - Saturday, June 9, 2007 at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet at Cottage Café, located at 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City. We will hold our gathering in the Papa's Den which is on the right as you enter the front door.

TGIF - Friday, June 22, 2007 at 5:30 p.m.

We will meet at Another Cuppa Joe at 1200 West 11th Street in old Building 50, Traverse City in the cafe area. They have many beverages, sandwiches, soups, pastries and cookies available.

Member News

Happy June Birthdays

- 6 Jennifer L. Cassidy
- 11 D. L. Waldron
- 19 Mel Melzer
- 23 William Earl Hagan

Mensa Membership Milestones (Years of continuous Membership)

- 21 Years J. Haberstroh
- 5 Years Corinne Kass-Hillard Mowrey
- 4 Years S. D. Cain
- 2 Years Judith W. Lindenau
- 1 Year Floyd Erin John Fitzsimmons

Welcome to Northern Michigan Mensa

Ronald J Coleman

April 2007 Statistics

	AML	NMM
Total membership	45513	80
New and reinstating membership	780	1
Offers of membership	344	0
New members since April 2006	366	0
Reinstating members since April 2006	414	1

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 4/30/2007. If you would like to change the privacy releases on file, go to www.us.mensa.org and click on "Member Login". Then click on "Profile Update" and "PDQ Update".

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Carol and Ken Crawford On the birth of their son, Sawyer Alexander Crawford. He was born on April 26, 2007 at 7:34 a.m. and weighed 8 pounds, 9.2 ounces. Carol is our Program Chair. Both are doing well.



May Wildflower Walk



Walkers at the Treat farm (but resting from left to right): Pete Turkus, Jim McDermott, Cheri Turkus, Mary Shaw and her friend Diane Larson, Sandy and Duane Bean and their children Karla and Peter.



Squirrel-corn (left) and Long-spurred Violet. Photos by Jack Schultz

RG Happenings!

By Stan Cain and Melissa Rennie

Northern Michigan Mensa had two members attending SEMMantics, the Regional Gathering in Troy, Michigan in May: your editor and Melissa Rennie. The meeting was well attended and had many interesting programs.

One program was a talk on current events by Jack Lessenberry – a lecturer at Wayne State University and a frequent contributor to The Record Eagle. He spoke about the current economic problems facing the State of Michigan and their causes and possible solutions (tough). He also gave his opinion of the possible presidential candidates for 2008 – he believes the current front runners (two in each party) may have too many problems to make them electable and so the nomination may go to others.



Additional programs included an informative talk on Power Point presentations, Mental Floss (a trivia magazine), poker play, wine tasting and others. And, of course, there was plenty to eat and drink, games to play (including Word Sport – a fast paced Scrabble-like game shown at left), lots of conversation and the popular Lingerie and Fashion show – something for everyone.

Saturday night, Melissa Rennie and 2010 Joint AG Chair Maria Sawczuk from Delaware Mensa, gave a presentation on the current state of preparations for the 2010 Joint AG to be held in Detroit.

Northern Michigan Mensa member Melissa J. Rennie has volunteered as the Program Chair for the 2010 Joint U.S-Canadian AG in Detroit, Michigan celebrating 50 years of North American Mensa. She has been working in that capacity since late November when a committee was formed by the national GenX SIG (special interest group) to submit a bid and give a presentation to the AMC meeting in January.

Although Mensa was founded in 1946 in England, the first American chapter of Mensa was not created until October of 1960 in New York City. It quickly grew in popularity. The 2010 Joint AG will be a celebration of the 50 years since the

founding of North American Mensa. The AG will be held from June 30 through the July 5th. Melissa has already been hard at work, including forming a subcommittee to work on acquiring speakers for the program.

There are three AGs between now and the AG in Detroit. These AGs include: 2007 in Birmingham, AL; 2008 in Denver, CO; and 2009 in Pittsburgh, PA. All the AGs will be held at the traditional time, around the Fourth of July.

The 2010 AG will offer 9 tracks including: Lions and Tigers and All Things Sports!; Motown Motion; History in Motion: Diverse Detroit; Politics and Borders; Mensa Gold; Cadillac's Pontchartrain; the traditional LDW (leadership development workshops) run by the National Office and AMC and the Kids' Trek, for the younger members and family of Mensa.



From left; Maria Sawczuk and Melissa Rennie.

SPRING BREAK ON THE GULF COAST

By Ruth Minshull

The shuffling pace, the soft voices, the gentle laughter of the snowbirds is suddenly overshadowed by a new rhythm.

The beat picks up; the streets, walkways, condos and fast-food eateries all throb to the quickened pulse.

Kids tool around in open cars singing, laughing, calling to each other.

Supermarket aisles are jammed with carts, each surrounded by a pod of boys or a giggle of girls (never couples). The carts are half-filled with beer and soft drinks. Lengthy conferences take place about other items: chips, snacks, frozen meals, soups, and other fare of non-cooks.

Low-flying planes pass overhead towing banners that tout the merits of various hangouts. The ice cream truck slowly works its way along, blaring tinny music that punishes the ear with its discordant screech.

Meanwhile the beaches begin to undulate with clusters of bare-chested boys (wearing the mandatory knee-length trunks) tossing around balls as they call out husky jeers. At the same time, bikini-clad girls (three or four together) stroll by. The two genders appear to studiously ignore each other--but the observant eye will note that there's a lot of checking out going on.

Later, the trolling will be fruitful; they'll find ways to hook up. Because, of course, that's what it's all about. Connecting.

Universities in Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Ohio and Tennessee have spewed out their charges. There's a week of freedom ahead. And it's party time!

As darkness replaces the brilliant sun, groups start to amass--in nightspots, in condos, on the beaches. The noise level reaches a new pitch; bursts of laughter increase; festivities heat up and rock on through the night.

Now and then the shrill scream of a siren pierces the thrumming beat.

The beefed-up police force is very visible, very busy. Cruisers patrol the streets, trying to anticipate the inevitable problems. There will be countless tickets written for speeding, assorted traffic violations and DUIs. There will be accidents. One young man will lose his life while trying to climb from one condo balcony to another. This happens nearly every year. Don't ask me why it is cooler to arrive by balcony than by stairway. To comprehend it, you'd have to be under 25 and under the influence.

Spring break time has arrived on the Florida coast. Winter is over, and it's time for the oldsters to pack up their slippers and go home.

GIFT PLANNING: Is It For You?

by Jack Schultz

Whether Mensa is your cup of tea or not, perhaps it's time you considered how you might lend financial support to some of the important interests you have in your life. During 2006, I participated in a 3-day training session at the Interlochen Center for the Arts to learn more about how one can help people decide if they want to contribute, not only to Interlochen but to any organization or institution they might favor. I'd like to share with you some of what I learned.

Each of us has "pet" special interests of one kind or another. They might include the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts, Big Brothers-Big Sisters, our churches, Interlochen, or even Mensa. Many opportunities exist for us to make small, direct contributions--such as "a dollar here, a dollar there"--as well as donations of our time. Such "gifts" are often the main lifeblood of organizations, and I wouldn't want to suggest anything that might steer contributors away from that sort of giving. On the other hand, some major enhancements to the programs might be possible if you considered other kinds of gifting.

For example, you might have an old life insurance policy that is paid-up or nearly so. Or you might own stock in a corporation that has appreciated handsomely over the years and on which you'd have hefty taxes to pay if you sold it. Giving some of those assets away to worthy causes might not seriously impact your net worth or what you plan to leave to your spouse or other heirs and beneficiaries when you reach the end of the line. Gifts of such assets can be made while you're alive or can be distributed through your will. Of course, as part of your estate--after you die--they may be subject to tax; if given prior to death, they are not part of your estate.

Another thing to consider is that you might make a commitment to an organization while you are living but not have that commitment honored until you are deceased. You could stipulate in your will--or in some other "advanced planning" document--that a payout could only be made after all other obligations are satisfied. You can even require that the amount is subject to some other condition.

Many organizations are able to honor you while you're still alive. A simple example might be where new windows are needed for renovation of an existing building. If you donated enough money to replace one of those windows, you might find your name on a plaque beside the new window. Scholarships and awards also can be made in the name of the donor, either while living or by a gift made in a will. We all know that some buildings bear the names of large

benefactors. In other words, there are many ways in which donors may make gifts. Many of those who give to special causes want recognition and they receive it; others may prefer to remain anonymous.

It's never too late--or too early--to think about how you might provide support for your special interests. Many sources of information about how to go about giving are available, either from the organization itself, or "online," or from individuals who can steer you in the right direction. The best thing to remember is: Tempus fugit.

Mind Games 2007

More than 200 Mensans gathered in Pittsburgh this April for Mind Games 2007. During the three-day event, members played and rated 59 board and card games. The top five games have earned Mensa Select distinction and may use the Mensa Select seal on their games. The winners are:

Gemlock (Pywacket, www.pywacketgames.com)

Gheos (Z-Man Games, www.zmangames.com)

Hit or Miss (Gamewright, www.gamewright.com)

Qwirkle (Mindware, www.mindwareonline.com)

Skullduggery (Outset Media Games, www.outsetmedia.com)

Mind Games 2008 will be held April 11-13 in Phoenix. To register, visit www.mindgames.us.mensa.org.
