

# Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



Volume 7 Number 5

February 2009

 Borealis  
Northern Michigan Mensa

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

**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.

**Advertising:**

At this time Borealis does not accept advertising from either members or non-members.

**Email submissions to:**

[nmmnewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:nmmnewsletter@hotmail.com)

**US mail:**

Borealis  
Stan Cain  
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# Northern Michigan Mensa

## Executive Committee

### VOTING MEMBERS

Local Secretary	John D. Schultz	231-275-6735	<a href="mailto:nwoodpc@chartermi.net">nwoodpc@chartermi.net</a>
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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: Wind and sun make a fantastic snow sculpture.  
Photo by Stan Cain.

# Northern Michigan Mensa

## February 2009 Calendar

### BOOK CLUB - Saturday, 7 February 2009 at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet at the Cottage Café, located at 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City, in the Papa's Den. The Bibliomensans book for February will be **The Road** by Cormac McCarthy, to be presented by Jim McDermott. Please plan to attend for another lively discussion! Note: See the book description on page 6.

### EXCOMM MEETING - Saturday, 14 February 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

We will meet, just prior to the Brunch at the Cottage Café, located at 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City. Ask at the front counter to find which room we will be in. The principal topic will be to consider and adopt a budget for the current year.

### BRUNCH - Saturday, 14 February 2009 at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet at the Cottage Café, located at 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City, in the Papa's Den, which is on the right as you enter the front door. Dee Blair, a noted columnist for the Traverse City Record Eagle, has indicated she would attend.

### TGIF - Friday, 27 February 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

This is our monthly, Friday get together to unwind and chat. We will meet in the Horizon Shine Café located in the lower level of Horizon Books, 243 Front Street, Traverse City. They have coffee, soft drinks, sandwiches, wraps and desserts available upstairs.

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## Membership List

In the past, we have published a membership listing in this issue of Borealis. This year, out of concerns for member privacy, we will not publish the list either in the printed or the online version of Borealis. However, all the same information is available to you in the online version maintained by the Mensa National Office at [www.us.mensa.org/directory](http://www.us.mensa.org/directory). This is in the member's only area so you will need to log in to access it.

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# Member News

## Happy February Birthday

- |    |                  |    |                |
|----|------------------|----|----------------|
| 14 | Peter J Turkus   | 25 | Jerome D Smith |
| 26 | Carol J Crawford |    |                |

## Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of continuous Membership)

- |                 |                                 |                |   |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|----------------|---|
| <b>29 Years</b> | P F Curtiss<br>Rufus S Teesdale | <b>3 Years</b> | Gary S Cools<br>Judith L Cools<br>Julie L Hill  |
| <b>14 Years</b> | John Douglass Whyte             | <b>2 Years</b> | Richard R Hopfner<br>John G Swartout  |
| <b>8 Years</b>  | J E Dasef                       | <b>1 Year</b>  | B Blasius<br>Heather J Gruenberg<br>Robert Hawley<br>C Philport<br>Sherry L Saites<br>Erik A Snyder |
| <b>6 Years</b>  | Louis O Isabell                 |                |   |
| <b>4 Years</b>  | Jim H McDermott                 |                |   |
| <b>3 Years</b>  | Jennifer L Cassidy              |                |   |

## Welcome Back To Northern Michigan Mensa

- |                      |                                 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Duane Anderson       | Bartholomew George Halliday III |
| Jane Fremouw Swanson |                                 |

2008 Statistics	AML	NMM
Total membership	54485	102
New and reinstating membership	1215	12
Offers of membership	213	0
New members since April 2008	3148	3
Reinstating members since April 2008	3081	9

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 12/31/2008. If you would like to change the privacy releases on file, go to [www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org) and click on "Member Login". Then click on "Profile Update" and "PDQ Update".

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## The LocSec's Login

By Jack Schultz, Local Secretary

### WINTER EXPECTATIONS

We've had what already seems like a long winter in northern Michigan. Not only did the snow arrive—to stay—early in December, it kept right on coming. In our 31 winters of living in the Traverse City area, I can recall only one other time when we had this much snow by early February. Usually there's a thaw in January or February that results in a nearly complete elimination of the snow pack. Not so thus far in the winter of 2008-2009.

So...what are you doing to cope with icy roads and blustery winds? Last month I exhorted you to get out and enjoy the beauties of nature in northern Michigan's winter. I've done some of that but I must admit that trudging through really deep snow does get to be a chore. And I keep hoping that my snow thrower won't give up the ghost each time I clean out our 350-foot-long driveway.

Mensa events keep right on being held, so I want to encourage you on three special fronts this month. On the first Saturday of February, our book discussion group will tackle, for its first book of this new year, Cormac McCarthy's novel titled *The Road*. Even if you haven't read the book, I know you'd enjoy hearing the discussion as others talk about it. Jim McDermott will be the lead presenter for this month. You don't have to be a regular at these book club gatherings; just come for brunch, sit back, and listen. (Join in, too, if you're so inclined.)

Of special interest will be our guest at the regular brunch in Traverse City on Saturday, February 14. Not only is it Pete Turkus's birthday and St. Valentine's celebration, but we will welcome local Traverse City gardener extraordinaire and newspaper columnist Dee Blair. Her regular articles about gardening in general and her own "Sunnybank" gardens in particular (on 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Traverse City) are always entertaining. Dee isn't scheduled to deliver a talk but she will happily engage in conversation. Her interests are very "Mensa-like" and eclectic. I'm sure you'll enjoy meeting her.

The first phase of the Mensa Education and Research Foundation annual scholarship competition is nearly over. Our panel of judges has been rating the 26 entries received from participants in northern Michigan. By the middle of the month, the essays that are rated highest will be sent onto the regional level and then, from there after additional judging, onto the national level. The high number of entries this year came from good publicity in the region and from contacts we made with nearly all the schools in northern Michigan. Award winners will be announced later this summer.

It's not too early to encourage each and every one of you who are not on multi-year memberships (or Life members) to renew your membership before the end of March. We're currently within two of setting an all-time record for membership at the end of Mensa's membership year. There were 102 members in NMM at the end of December, also a record for that month.

THINK SPRING!

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### Colloquium 2009 Weather or Not? From the AML Web Site

Hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts, floods, fires, higher temperatures — each season seems to bring at least one catastrophic weather-related event to this country. Do recent extremes make you wonder about the future of weather?

Weather is not only one of the fundamental processes that shape the Earth; it also shapes our lives and even the course of human history. We invite you to join the Mensa Foundation and members from around the world in Atlanta, North America's unofficial headquarters for weather watching, to take an in-depth look at this timely topic.

#### Reduced Rates:

The Mensa Foundation announces reduced rates for the 2009 Colloquium: *Weather or Not?*, to be held in Atlanta, GA at The Atlanta Marriott Perimeter Center from Feb. 27 - March 1. The Colloquium is open to both the public and Mensa members.

\*Two-for-one at the regular registration rate

\*\$99 Professional Rate

\*\$59 Saturday-only Student Rate

The Foundation will bring together well-known experts in the weather field for the weekend to engage attendees in examining the past, present and possible futures of climate change:

**Dr. Kenneth E. Kunkel**, Executive Director, Division of Atmospheric Sciences, [Desert Research Institute](#);

**Dr. Heidi Cullen**, Climate expert, [The Weather Channel](#), Senior scientist, [Climate Central](#);



**Dr. Noah S. Diffenbaugh**, Department of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences,  
Purdue University;  
**Dr. James E. Hansen**, Director, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies,  
New York;  
**Joshua Wurman**, Center for Severe Weather Research, Boulder, Colo.;;  
**Greg Holland**, National Center for Atmospheric Research.

Attendees can look forward to exciting sessions on topics such as:

**Hurricane Response to Climate Fluctuations and Trends:** Where we are and where we hope to go

**Running the Wrong Way:** Mobile radar observations of tornadoes and hurricanes

**The Threat to the Planet:** Dark and bright sides of global warming

**Extreme Climate in the 21st Century**

**Seeing Climate, Seeing Change**

**Winter Storms:** A Look at the Past and a Glimpse into the Future

For a synopsis of the presentations, please [visit http://colloquium.us.mensa.org](http://colloquium.us.mensa.org) and click on "Programs." Your Colloquium registration includes Friday dinner and Saturday lunch and dinner.

Please let me know if you have any questions. If you would like more information, please email Jill Beckham, Foundation Director at [Director@mensafoundation.org](mailto:Director@mensafoundation.org).

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## **BIBLIOMENSANS 2009 READING LIST**

FEBRUARY Presenter: Jim McDermott  
Book: *The Road*  
Author: Cormac McCarthy

APRIL Presenter: Richard Hopfner  
Book: *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid: A Memoir*  
Author: Bill Bryson

JUNE Presenter: Sherry McNamara  
Book : *My Stroke of Insight: A Brain Scientist's Personal Journey*  
Author: Jill Bolte Taylor

AUGUST Presenter: Jack Schultz  
Book: *Into the Desperate Country*  
Author: Jeff Vande Zande

OCTOBER Presenter: Margaret Scott  
Book: *The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl*  
Author: Timothy Egan

DECEMBER Presenter: Stan Cain  
Book: *Thin Ice: Unlocking the Secrets of Climate in the World's Highest Mountains*  
Author: Mark Bowen

NOTE: Into the Desperate Country can be purchased through author Jeff Vande Zande. The price is \$10.00 to NMM members for an autographed copy (cost is \$15.00 through the publisher). Jeff can be contacted via email at [jcvandez@delta.edu](mailto:jcvandez@delta.edu)

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## **THE ROAD** **February Book Club Selection** **By Cormac McCarthy - 287 pages**

A father and his son walk alone through burned America. Nothing moves in the ravaged landscape save the ash on the wind. It is cold enough to crack stones, and when the snow falls it is gray. The sky is dark. Their destination is the coast, although they don't know what, if anything, awaits them there. They have nothing; just a pistol to defend themselves against the lawless bands that stalk the road, the clothes they are wearing, a cart of scavenged food – and each other.

**The Road** is the profoundly moving story of a journey. It boldly imagines a future in which no hope remains, but in which the father and his son, "each the other's world entire," are sustained by love. Awesome in the totality of its vision, it is an unflinching meditation on the worst and the best that we are capable of: ultimate destructiveness, desperate tenacity, and the tenderness that keeps two people alive in the face of total devastation.

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**Northern Michigan Mensa**  
**Statement of Income and Expenses**  
**January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008**

	Budgeted	YTD	Remaining
<b>Income</b>			
National Office Allocation	\$950.00	\$1,038.00	-\$88.00
Testing Fees	\$300.00	\$90.00	\$210.00
Interest	\$35.00	\$48.17	-\$13.17
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,285.00</b>	<b>\$1,176.17</b>	<b>\$108.83</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Newsletter	\$450.00	\$318.17	\$131.83
Office/Incidentals	\$25.00	\$21.00	\$4.00
Activities/Programs	\$100.00	\$175.89	-\$75.89
Publicity	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
Scholarship	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Proctor/Testing	\$100.00	\$21.00	\$79.00
Stipend: Regional/National Events	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Membership	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Friend Fund	\$104.00	\$0.00	\$104.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,104.00</b>	<b>\$536.06</b>	<b>\$567.94</b>
<b>Total Income Less Expenses</b>	<b>\$181.00</b>	<b>\$640.11</b>	<b>-\$459.11</b>
<b>Friend Fund</b>			
Balance	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$30.00
<b>Donations</b>		\$535.00	
<b>Net Expenditures</b>		-\$1,175.11	

**Northern Michigan Mensa**  
**Bank Balance Reconciliation**  
**January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008**

	1/1/08	Net Chg.	12/31/08
<b>Checking</b>	\$3,941.94		\$5,216.38
Minus outstanding checks	\$48.13		\$147.82
Balance per books	\$3,893.81	\$1,174.75	\$5,068.56
<b>Savings</b>	\$101.93	\$0.36	\$102.29
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,995.74</b>	<b>\$1,175.11</b>	<b>\$5,170.85</b>

**Trivia Quiz**  
**Submitted by Margaret Scott**

Let's think about preparing for the Culture Quest program and see if we can answer questions about American trivia.

1. The largest piece of granite in the world is what tourist attraction near Atlanta , Georgia ?
2. The oldest living thing on Earth, a tree, is located in a western state. Name the state and the tree.
3. What state has the only diamond field open to the public?
4. What American humor author was born in 1835, the year Halley's Comet appeared, and claimed he would die seventy-six years later when the comet reappeared?
5. What TV sitcom star wrote the book, *Faith, Hope, and Hilarity*?
6. What word game played on a board was invented by Alfred Mosher Butts in 1932?
7. Faro, once called America's National Card Game, took its name from what?
8. The Jordanaires and the Blue Moon Boys were backup singers for what pop idol?
9. What was the significance of Glenn Miller's recording of the song "Chattanooga Choo-Choo"?
10. What oddly named Michigan city was named for a Greek fighter against the Turkish army?

Answers - next month.