

# Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



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 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:

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[nmmmborealis@yahoo.com](mailto:nmmmborealis@yahoo.com)

# Northern Michigan Mensa Executive Committee

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

ON THE COVER: October's windstorm driven waves break over the Frankfort Lighthouse. Photo by Stan Cain

## December Calendar

### **BOOK CLUB - Saturday, 4 December 2010 at 11:00 a.m.**

We will meet at the Cottage Café, 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City, in Dick's Den (to your right as you enter). The book for discussion will be ***Run For Your Life*** by James Patterson and Michael Ledwidge. The presenter will be Jim McDermott. All are welcome to join us even if you have not read the book. A description of the book appears below.

### **BRUNCH - Saturday, 11 December 2010 at 11:00 a.m.**

We will gather at The Cottage Café, 420 Munson Avenue, Traverse City, in Dick's Den, which is to your right as you enter.

### **T.G.I.F. - Friday, 17 December 2010 at 5:30 p.m.**

This is our monthly, Friday get together to unwind and chat. 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! **Note new day this month to avoid Christmas weekend conflict.**

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### ***Run For Your Life***

by James Patterson and Michael Ledwidge  
416 pages

A calculating killer who calls himself The Teacher is taking on New York City, killing the powerful, the arrogant, the don't-give-a-darnst-about-anyone rich. For some New Yorkers it seems that the rich were getting what they deserve at last. For New York's social elite, it is a call to chaos and terror. The Teacher's message to the wealthy is clear: remember your manners or suffer the consequences! Detective Mike Bennett is assigned the case. Managing the pressure from his Commissioner, the Mayor, and the New York media would be enough for anyone, but Mike also has to care for his 10 children-who are all under 12 and who all have the flu! Detective Bennett discovers a secret pattern in the Teacher's lessons-and realizes he has just hours to save New York from the greatest disaster in its history. From the #1 bestselling author who introduced readers to Alex Cross and the Women's Murder Club-comes the continuation of his newest, electrifying series. *Run for Your Life* is his most heart-stopping thriller yet.

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## 2011 Program Preview

by Bobbi Walker, Program Coordinator

### REGULAR EVENTS

#### MONTHLY BRUNCHES:

For 2011, we will try to have a speaker each month who will give an informational or educational lecture on a subject of interest.

#### CULTURE QUEST:

**Program is now paying the entry fee for each team. Entry deadline is March 31st, so there will be more details in the February *Borealis*. We need all the help we can get!!**

#### SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:

Scholarship applications are due in January. Volunteers for judging essays are needed and appreciated. Our local scholarship winners usually are presented with their checks at the August Brunch.

#### ANNUAL PICNIC:

We usually hold the picnic in August. This year it will be at the new marina shelter in Greilickville. Details in the August issue.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### INLAND SEAS:

The best price (\$32.00 each) is dependent on our getting at least 25 participants and the whole ship to ourselves. The sailings begin about June 13th, but we have to get our reservation in early! **MORE IN THE JANUARY *BOREALIS*.**

#### FIELD TRIP:

We would like to have at least one trip during the warmer weather. Some of the places under consideration are: Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids; Frankenmuth, to include the Prime Outlet Center and other places of interest in the area; Saginaw, to various places like the Japanese Center or the Greek Festival. Details later.

#### TRAVELING GAB FEST:

A small casual get-together, just to chit-chat, at an area restaurant in different places in the NMM territory, on different days and at different times.

**QUARTERLY DINNERS:**

We would like to have a casual get-together at an area restaurant or a potluck, in the early evening on a weekend.

**HALLOWEEN PARTY:**

This year's affair turned out very nicely, so we're going to do it again in 2011.

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# Member News

## Happy December Birthday

- 8 Stanley D Cain                      28 Patrick Sullivan
- 11 Robert Hawley                    31 Brian S Kelly
- 14 Norma Hastings Feeley

## Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of continuous membership)

- 22 Years** Peter J Turkus                      **4 Years** V L Carpenter
- 16 Years** Mark L Banker                    **2 Years** D Anderson
- 9 Years** Wendy Jane Barker              **2 Years** B G Halliday

## Welcome Back to Northern Michigan Mensa

Beau Begeman

October 2010 Statistics	AML	NMM
Total membership	53252	101
New and reinstating membership	593	1
Offers of membership	N/A	0
New members since April 2010	N/A	5
Reinstating members since April 2010	N/A	8

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 10/31/2010. 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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# NMM Halloween Party

Many thanks to Kurt Bowden and Nancy Dady for hosting a great costumed get together at the end of October. Prizes were given for best food and costume.



## The Winners...

Fingers, Eyeballs and little Mummies prepared by Jim and Sharon McDermott took the prize for best spooky food, while below left, Sherry McNamara walked off with the prize for best costume.



## And the Rest...



Above: Judith "Pumpkin Pie" Lindenau and Richard Hopfner. Right: Dorothy Cain and Nancy Dady. Photos by Stan Cain and Judith Lindenau.



## 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.

**FHR'E LH GPHXRF ZGWARL EVN CHPYF HCNZ**

**WHX G YAMARL. EVN CHPYF HCNZ WHX**

**RHEVARL. AE CGZ VNPN QAPZE. —**

**DGPJ ECGAR.**

The answer will be in next month's issue.

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#### Answer to last month's Cryptogram:

I have never known a person to live to be one hundred and be remarkable for anything else.—Josh Billings

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## Guest Editor Notes

By Sue Styles, Guest Editor

Since we rarely have much in *Borealis* from the northern portion of our geographical area, I thought I would comment on a recent visit there.

My husband planned a "surprise" weekend away for us in October, staying in Paradise in the eastern U.P. Being a planner, I'm not very good with surprises, so I found out the location about 5 days before we left. I hit the internet right away – what would we do up there besides visit Tahquamenon Falls? I assumed there were tons of things to do.

Not exactly. I think the name of the town is more memorable in its own right, than for the long list of attractions nearby. But what Paradise may be missing in quantity, it makes up for in quality. And everything is closer together than it has seemed from my previous visits to the U.P.

We were pleasantly surprised by everything there was to see at Whitefish Point, just 12 miles to the north. In addition to the shipwreck museum, there is a lighthouse and lightkeeper's residence to tour, a display about the U.S. Life Saving Service (sort of a precursor to the Coast Guard), and a migratory bird observatory. I was intrigued to learn that most shipwrecks at the point were not due to storms, but to collisions. The relatively narrow passage from Lake Superior proper into Whitefish Bay and the St. Mary's River used to see 300 ships a day passing in one direction or the other, without the type of communication tools we enjoy today. That's just a small part of all we learned there.

On our way back to Paradise, we stopped at Centennial Cranberry Farm, the last operating cranberry farm in the U.P. The sights here vary depending on the time of year, but it was a nice place to visit.

Next, we went horseback riding at one of the best riding stables I have ever been to. I'm not an expert rider at all, but I've gone to more stables than most people I know. The horses at Wild Ridge Riding Stable were alert, responsive, and well-behaved. My husband actually enjoyed riding this time, and not just because our guide talked hunting with him for most of the ride. The fall forest and the off-trail (off-piste?) riding were very enjoyable for beginners as well as more experienced riders.

Last, but not least, we spent a fair amount of time at both the Lower and Upper Tahquamenon Falls. Neither of us had been there in 30-35 years, and while it's pretty safe to say the falls haven't changed, I'm sure the facilities have been upgraded. There are miles of beautiful trails, paved and unpaved, and rental boats you can take out on the water near the Lower Falls. There is even a restaurant at the Upper Falls with excellent micro-brew beer.

The strangest thing about our weekend in the U.P. was that we saw people from our area everywhere we went! The couple that took a picture of us at Whitefish Point lives less than 5 miles from us (near Elk Rapids), and at Tahquamenon we ate dinner with a couple from Traverse City. There were a few things we recognized as being things that wouldn't happen below the bridge, but it was refreshing in a way, to know that not everyone is as up-tight as what the TV news would have us believe. We met nice folks and saw some nice places. And isn't that the point of a weekend getaway?

One obvious point here is, "this is the U.P. Don't expect everything to be on the internet." I didn't, really, but given the small size of the town relative to places like Sault Ste. Marie, Newberry, Manistique, or Marquette, I didn't want to expect too much. It turns out when you relax and go with the flow, you find just enough.

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## reMark

**By Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3**

Writing reMARK is really hard right now. It's the end of October and since September's end I have been in the hospital, in rehab, or stuck at home following my knee replacement surgery. Feels like a lost month. Since joining Mensa in 1982, I don't think there has been a month sans Mensa events for me. This is it! I hope it is the last. I did sneak out for a local dinner and it was wonderful – made me realize how much Mensa means to me. Being involved in Mensa activities is fun, intellectually stimulating and challenging, and enjoyable. If you aren't taking advantage of those Mensa events in your local group area, I do encourage you to do so now. And, remember that you are welcome at

Mensa events everywhere. When traveling be sure to check out activities happening in the local group of wherever you might be.

The American Mensa Committee met in Arlington, Texas, the weekend of November 12th. Because of deadlines, my report will be in January's reMARK, however, I will post the happenings to both the Region 3 Yahoo and Facebook groups as soon after the meeting as I can. Please join one or both of those groups so that you can keep up with what's happening on the National front. If you prefer, I would be happy to send what I post to you in a personal e-mail. Just let me know.

I am really looking forward to Cincinnati's Regional Gathering December 3-5 and hope to see you there. If you didn't pre-register, walk-ins are always welcome; the program and attendees are always the very best. It's the last Region 3 RG of 2010. The next one will be Dayton's 24 Karats! April 1-3, 2011. Information about this great RG can be found at <http://www.region3.us.mensa.org/connections/events/AnnualEvents/RG-Dayton.htm>. It will be fabulous and your presence will make it even better. Following that will be Southeast Michigan Mensa's SEMMantics XXXII, April 29-May 1, 2011. I would be delighted to take your registration -- \$65 till January 31.

In January on my way to Florida, as I did this year, I hope to join Kentuckiana Mensa at their monthly gathering and to have dinner with Bluegrass Mensa the following evening.

I wish you a wonderful holiday season and a safe beginning of winter. And, let me be the first to wish you a Happy New Year. May it be healthy, prosperous and wonderful in every way for each and every one of you.

LLAP and Peace,

Betsy

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