

Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



Volume 9 Number 6

March 2011

 Borealis
Northern Michigan Mensa

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.

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
nmmborealis@yahoo.com

Northern Michigan Mensa

Executive Committee

VOTING MEMBERS

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Local Secretary | Richard R. Hopfner | 231-946-7204 | locsecnmm@gmail.com |
| Deputy Loc Sec | Erik A. Snyder | 989-370-0993 | easnyder@yahoo.com |
| Treasurer | Bernard Hanchett | 231-946-5177 | barneydulittle@hotmail.com |
| At Large | Judith W. Lindenau | 231-947-2050 | judith@judithlindenau.com |
| At Large | Dwayne A. Bean | | dwaynebean@gmail.com |

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| Publicity Chair | Bobbi Walker | | bobbiraw@att.net |
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| Scholarship Chair | Margaret Scott | 231-879-3140 | mjscott@localnet.com |
| SIGHT Coordinator | Melissa J. Rennie | 231-889-0892 | renmeij@yahoo.com |
| Financial Overseer | Thomas Barnhart | 231-946-3242 | tom_barnhart@sbcglobal.net |
| Petoskey Area Subgroup | | | |
| Coordinator | - vacant - | | |

OTHER MEMBERS

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Proctors | John D. Schultz | 231-275-6735 | nwoodpc@chartermi.net |
| | Susan A. Styles | 231-264-6193 | seas@umich.edu |
| | Melissa J. Rennie | 231-889-0892 | renmeij@yahoo.com |
| Regional | | | |
| Vice-Chairman | Betsy Y. Mark | 734-434-5757 | RVC3@us.mensa.org |

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

ON THE COVER: "Waiting for summer" Photo by Stan Cain

March Calendar

BRUNCH - Saturday, 12 March 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

The March Brunch will be held at the Cottage Café, 420 Munson, Traverse City. Our speaker will be Ann Worthington, a Wicca practitioner, who will tell us about Earth based religions. There will be a question and answer period.

Everyone is also welcome to attend the ExComm meeting at 10 a.m.

T.G.I.F. - Friday, 25 March 2011 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!

Member News

Happy March Birthday

| | | | |
|----|------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 3 | Margaret J Scott | 26 | Charles R Fricke |
| 15 | Brett A Pharo | 30 | Sherry Marie McNamara |
| 20 | J E Dasef | | |

Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of continuous membership)

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|----------------|---|
| 29 Years | William Earl Hagan | 7 Years | T L Slater |
| 24 Years | Harold William Smith | 3 Years | Bernard Hanchett Susan M Krause |
| 16 Years | L Corpe | 2 Years | Randall R Arnott Robert B Pierson |
| 11 Years | J A Thorne | 1 Year | Gary S Cools Judith L Cools Jessica Mary Sullivan Jane Fremouw Swanson |
| 10 Years | Charles R Fricke | | |
| 9 Years | Sherry Marie McNamara M K Shaw S A Styles | | |

January 2010 Statistics

| | AML | NMM |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-----|
| Total membership | 55521 | 101 |
| New and reinstating membership | 1004 | 0 |
| Offers of membership | 190 | 0 |
| New members since April 2010 | 2611 | 5 |
| Reinstating members since April 2010 | 3192 | 8 |

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 1/31/2011. 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".

Bibliomensans Reading List - 2011

Here is the list of Book Club selections for the remainder of the year. The club meets every other month and any member is welcome to attend.

2 APRIL 2011

Book: *Matterhorn: A Novel of the Vietnam War*

Author: Karl Marlantes

Presenter: Richard Hopfner

4 JUNE 2011

Book: *The Genius in All of Us: Why Everything You've Been Told About Genetics, Talent, and IQ is Wrong*

Author: David Shenk

Presenter: Jack Schultz

6 AUGUST 2011

Book: *Cutting for Stone*

Author: Abraham Verghese

Presenter: Bernie Hanchett

1 OCTOBER 2011

Book: *Tales of the City* (first of several volumes with similar titles)

Author: Armistead Maupin

Presenter: Heather Gruenberg

3 DECEMBER 2011

Book: *Dreamers of the Day: A Novel*

Author: Maria Doria Russell

Presenter: Jim McDermott

LocSec's Login

Greetings to all Mensans from the deepest part of Winter By Richard Hopfner, Local Secretary

This month, I've been thinking of technology and the impact that it has had in our lives, as well as the ongoing cultural shifts brought about by the ever-increasing speed of new developments. What brought me on this mental path? Why... an upgrade saga where, when what I wanted to do was one new activity with a limited number of items to accomplish that, my new "upgrade" has one small (almost unnecessary) item from the "original." It seems in retrospect that it was like an avalanche: Once the pebbles on top start rolling down, at the bottom of the mountain... Look out below.

Truth is that the best technology (Best? Or most invasive?) is completely transparent. We use it in wide areas of our lives, and slowly without realizing it, because it has been so helpful, we would have real trouble if it suddenly weren't there. I found that out when, for stretches of days (Days? How horrible, you might think. Maybe even not sarcastically. And if you think it wouldn't impact you yourself, give it a try for a few weeks. Give up your "connectedness" to technology or the fruits thereof.) when I had no computer: No instant gratification when questions popped into my head, no digital music collection, no emailing contacts, no community of friends available when I get home at 3 A.M. and my non-internet acquaintances would probably and distinctly not appreciate me calling them to ask, "What's up?" That's just off the top of my head, and I'm sure I could think of many more, especially if I had been cut off for longer.

So now, I breathe a sigh of relief, since the problems are mostly solved, but it still makes me wonder. Where exactly do I fit on the spectrum that runs between technophile and technophobe? I'm not precisely an early adopter of gadgets or a starry-eyed cheerleader for whatever trendy new toys are popular this week, but there was a real sense of being cut off from whatever community it is that I'm in fact part of.

Between the two extremes of love and hate is where most people would be, and while this sounds obvious, what makes the idea interesting to me is how incredibly varied the ways and directions that technology has

come to us and changed our daily life in doing so. Twenty years ago, digital music could have meant music you made with your fingers. Today, a library of many hours of music, stored digitally, can fit on a chip no bigger than a fingernail. How many people are attached to their cell phones to the point where they feel acute distress if they are taken away or unusable for a while? That same twenty years ago, cell phones were much rarer and for specialized uses; today they are ubiquitous. Does a person who is a technophile in one area more inclined to be so in a different one, or not? Would people that consider themselves against technology for whatever reason be drawn to an area that they maybe have never been exposed to?

As Mensans, we have a generally healthy curiosity. I hope that for the uncertain, or those reluctant to let technology gain more of a foothold in their lives than absolutely necessary, that they take another look at the many benefits that Mensa sponsors, collects, and directs to you, our members. When you read the Mensa Bulletin and see the S.I.G. lists, consider signing up for one that interests you. Or check out the Mensa homepage for new items that can change much faster than a printed publication. Dig around a little, and who knows what treasure you will find?

Until next time, be well, and if you have any stories of your love or hate of technology, share them either here or in person. I'd love to hear them. Maybe it would help me understand the world and myself a bit more.

Culture Quest Last Chance!

CQ will be held on Sunday, April 10th. Our application must be in before March 31st. Send your name and Mensa membership number to Bobbi Walker at bobbiraw@att.net or call 231-932-1473.

reMark

By Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3

Congratulations to **Julia Ashley** who has been recognized by The Mensa Education and Research Foundation and has been chosen for a 2010-2011 Trustee Award for her service as a Local Group (Columbus) Scholarship Chair since 2002 and a Regional Scholarship Chair since 2004. Julia, we are so very fortunate to have you as a member of Region 3.

As I write this, I am awaiting the blizzard and not too pleased about it. Even though I am retired and can stay home, warm and cozy, I really dislike having my option of going out taken from me without my permission. Guess I'll catch up on some knitting and TV. When you read this, I will be in Florida where, hopefully, there will be no snow.

Gotta remind you again about a few important Mensa and Region 3 happenings.

It's membership renewal time. Renew today! This is an election year and you want to be able to vote for those who will represent you on the AMC. Re-up as a Life Member and avoid the hassle of yearly dues. You can renew on-line:

https://www.us.mensa.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=MembershipRenewals&Template=/customsource/cfauthnet_sim/forms/renewal/renewal_1.cfm

I urge you to register for Dayton Area Mensa's RG -- 24 Karats! April 1-3, 2011. Information about this great RG can be found at http://www.dayton.us.mensa.org/index_files/RG.htm. Register for Southeast Michigan Mensa's RG, SEMMantics XXXII, The SEMMinal Event of 2011, April 29-May 1. Information about this great RG can be found at <http://localsemm.com/semantics/>.

Also, register for Mind Games to be held April 15 in Albany, NY: http://mindgames.us.mensa.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=PlayerRegistration&Template=/CustomSource/cfauthnet_sim/forms/mindgames/players_1.cfm

And, don't forget the Annual Gathering in Portland, Oregon: A Great Journey West, June 30-July 4;

http://www.ag2011.us.mensa.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=RegisterOnline7&Template=/customsource/cfauthnet_sim/forms/ag11/ag_1.cfm

The next American Mensa Committee (AMC) meeting is scheduled for March 26 in Atlanta. If you are traveling in that area, please join us. I will be driving there on my way home from Florida.

LLAP and Peace,
Betsy

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Yahoo grp - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMR3/>
Facebook grp - <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=71515809887>



Tough Traverse City Snow

No ropes or chains; this just seems to happen on our porch rail some winters. Photo by Stan Cain.

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.

UN GL R PLRO EIHONDNEILP ROO

UIRU HD CLMLDDRPB HD UN IRUL

DNTL NCL LODL'D UBEL NQ

UIHCZHCJ.-VHOHRT KRTLD

The answer will be in next month's issue.

Answer to last month's Cryptogram:

Holding on to anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at someone else; you are the one who gets burned. — Buddha

"You know you're getting old when all the names in your black book have 'MD' after them" - Harrison Ford

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN MENSA REGIONAL GATHERING

Join us!



SEMMantics XXXII: The SEMMinal Event of 2011

April 29, 2011 - May 1, 2011

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\$50 – Saturday Only
\$85 – Weekend at the Door
Children under 5 – free
Children 5 - under 18 – ½ price

<http://localsemm.com/semantics/>

Write your check payable to **SEMMantics**, including the information below. Mail to:

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3674 Oak Drive
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197
734-434-5757

BetsyYMark@aol.com

PayPal (semantics@sbcglobal.net)

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