

Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



Volume 9 Number 8

May 2011

 Borealis
Northern Michigan Mensa

www.nmm.us.mensa.org

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American Mensa LTD.
1229 Corporate Drive West
Arlington, TX 76006-6103

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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

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

ON THE COVER: An example of northern Michigan's unpredictable late April weather. Photo by Stan Cain.

May Calendar

BRUNCH - Saturday, 14 May 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

The May Brunch will be held at the Cottage Café, 420 Munson, Traverse City. There may be a speaker who will be announced via email and on the web site prior to the event.

T.G.I.F. - Friday, 27 May 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 May Birthday

7	Harold A Kranick	18	Kymerli A Wregglesworth
7	L Corpe	19	Robin E Wottowa
8	Aaron Stander	22	Judith W Lindenau
9	J L Hill	28	Marc Batway
9	Thomas C Remsperger	30	Michael H Lancashire

Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of continuous membership)

31 Years	Suzanne L Cook	3 Years	L Jonson
11 Years	B Begeman	2 Years	M D Quaine
8 Years	C L Dickson		

Welcome back to Northern Michigan Mensa

John Douglas Gerndt Perry W Stafford

March 2010 Statistics

	<u>AML</u>	<u>NMM</u>
Total membership	56670	102
New and reinstating membership	1440	2
Offers of membership	394	0
New members since April 2010	3263	5

Reinstating members since April 2010	4693	10
Members Leaving		1

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 3/31/2011. 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".

CQ Wrap Up

Five (no, make that four) members met at the house of your editor on April tenth, to match wits with the fiendish Culture Quest creators. The participants were Joan Dasef, Julie Hill, Bobbie Walker and Stan Cain. As usual, all of us came away humbled and thinking thoughts like "I used to know that!" and "I'm sure no one could possibly know that!" Out of the several times that I have participated in this event, it is the only time I remember that we just stopped before the time was up. There just didn't seem to be any more questions left that we could answer. We felt very below average. After it was all over, we adjourned to Ruby Tuesday for food, drink, and commiserative conversation.

The originally scheduled five, were reduced to four after KC Mowrey had a nasty fall shortly before the test and sustained many bumps and bruises. Fortunately, KC is well on the road to recovery and we wish her the best. We missed her!

Lifers!

According to data from the National office, Northern Michigan Mensa had 12 Life members (out of 102 or 11.8%) as of the end of March. Nationally, there were 6263 life members (out of 56670 or 11.1%), so we are just a little bit above average in that category.

As many of you must have noticed, there is a certain financial advantage to becoming a life member at certain points in your chronological age. So if you think you might like to stick around for a while and you have that tax refund in hand, check it out.

LocSec's Login

By Richard Hopfner, Local Secretary

Warmest spring greetings to all, even if the weather as I write this is too cold.

I've been thinking lately of how I heard about Mensa, and the feelings I have had about the group. The first is relatively easy. My mother was forever doing puzzle books, and one of the magazines that was around our home was "Games Magazine." Mensa has always advertised there, so from as long as I can remember, I've seen the name, and the association was good: This is something for people that are intellectually curious. Also, since the magazine had a definite playful humor, this became part of my idea of what Mensa would be like.

I have always been sad that my mother never tried to take the test. She had a close friend that was a member and who tried to get her to take it, but since she knew that you could only take it once, as given by Mensa, and since she felt that her math was too weak, she was afraid of it and never tried. That added a note of sadness to how I view Mensa, and more as she never got to see me try and pass it. As achievements go, it isn't a huge one to me, but still, I'd have liked her to have known that.

The other main formative influence on my thoughts towards Mensa was one man: Isaac Asimov. If you're familiar with this scientist, author, and illustrious former Mensan, you don't need me to detail his accomplishments. If you aren't, well.... He was one very interesting person. A writer who not only gained the highest fame through an epic lists of books written, both fiction and non-fiction, but also a scientist with a gift for explaining the complex in a graspable way, as well as a humorist, curious mind, and to imagine it... very humble and human nonetheless.

Whatever I know about science came from reading 'The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction.' Does that sound to you like a good place to rely on for your education in science? If you were skeptical about the quality of information learned here... well... you'd be mostly correct. Most of the time the literary quality was questionable, let alone the science. But you'd be wrong in one important way. When I started reading, from comic books to real books as a child, 'F&SF' was a bridge.

Interestingly, there was enough action, enough stories of different genres to capture my interest, and one very interesting monthly column, a non-fiction science essay by Mr. Asimov.

It was stealthy. Try to force someone to learn science, and you lose them. Add it to a pulp style periodical, and after you've read the "good" stuff, just maybe you'd turn to new ideas. I did. I learned some fundamentals there. Enough to want to know more and that is thanks to one Mensan. From Physics class as well as Chemistry, I remember nothing. It's a blank. From a Mensan's monthly column, I learned more than I could say. I'm sorry I came into Mensa too late to say "thank you" to him before he died. To be part of the same group that he was once active in is a good feeling in my mind.

Since then, my views have evolved somewhat, but it isn't the details that form the longest lasting marks, is it? My views were set long ago by conditions, random or not, and now I have them. I will see Mensa as an enclave of the bright and funny, whether wistfully separated from them as my mother chose, or a real example of the potential of one human with flaws and strengths that shows what is possible for us to think and be, as Mr. Asimov was; my views and affection for this place have been set since I was a kid.

May it live on in more minds, hearts, and feelings for a long time to come.

Until next time, be well and good health to you.

NMM Friend Fund

Perhaps not everyone is aware of the NMM Friend Fund. This fund is comprised of money donated by our members and is kept separate from the NMM operating monies. The purpose of this fund is to provide money for a renewing member, or new prospective member, who is unable to afford his/her membership dues. Transactions are handled confidentially by contacting any member of the voting ExComm. Please consider donating to this fund by contacting our treasurer, Bernard Hanchett.

Some Interesting NMM Activities Revisited

Over the years that I have been a member, we have had a number of activities and venues that that were a lot of fun, but haven't been repeated for a while. Here is a sampling.



TGIF at Cuppa Joe in Traverse City, January 2007.



Boat Trip, Tour and Hike on South Beaver Island, August 2003

Tour and Vodka Tasting at the Grand Traverse Distillery, November 2007



Winter Hike near Keystone Pond, February 2007

Canoeing on the Betsie River, July 2004



From Catherine Barney, Mensa National Office Marketing Director

Thanks to Mensa of Northeastern New York for hosting an exciting Mind Games this past weekend! About 300 Mensans gathered in Albany to play and rate 58 new board games. After tallying the votes on Sunday [April 17] morning, five new games have earned Mensa Select distinction. They are:

InStructures (Jane's Games, www.janesgames.com)
This is an exciting construction-themed game.

Pastiche (Gryphon Games, www.freddistribution.com)
Explore the paintings, palettes, and pasts of artists in this unique and challenging game for the whole family.

Pirate versus Pirate (Out of the Box Publishing, www.otb-games.com)
Pirates have discovered an island brimming with treasure; conquer the island by capturing the gold and silver, or by eliminating enemy pirates.

Stomple (GaZima Games, www.gazimagames.com)
Outwit your opponents by stomping their marbles before they stomp yours!

Uncle Chestnut's Table Gype (Eternal Revolution, www.eternalrevolution.com)
An abstract strategy game with a random element.

Editor's Note:

Due to space limitations this month, please read Betsy's column, **reMark**, online at the Region 3 web site - <http://www.region3.us.mensa.org/> Yahoo gp. - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMR3/> Facebook gp. - <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=71515809887>

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.

OGHS TMHS FRRJ HCDR WGQ ZGTTRL

M JUYIR CU DR. Y PCGTL HRR YS

FMHU'S M BRMT ZBCIRHHYCUMT OCV.

SERBR FMH VGSSRB CU YS. -

BCLURQ LMUWRBIYRTL

The answer will be in next month's issue.

Answer to last month's Cryptogram:

You can make more friends in two months by becoming more interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get people interested in you.--Dale Carnegie

Financial Report 2011

Northern Michigan Mensa
Statement of Income and Expenses
January 1, 2011 through March 31, 2011

	Budgeted	YTD	Remaining
Income			
National Office Allocation	\$1,050.00	\$250.41	\$799.59
Testing Fees	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Interest	\$50.00	\$0.48	\$49.52
Total	\$1,300.00	\$250.89	\$1,049.11

Expenses			
Newsletter	\$500.00	\$134.96	\$365.04
Office/incidentals	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
Activities/programs	\$500.00	41.05	\$459.95
Publicity	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
Scholarships	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$800.00
Proctor/testing	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Stipend for Regional/National Events	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Membership	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Friend Fund	\$88.00	\$0.00	\$88.00
Total	\$2,438.00	\$176.01	\$2262.99

Total Income Less Expenses	-\$1,138.00	\$74.88	-\$1,213.88
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	January 1, 2011	March 31, 2011
Checking	\$4008.46	\$4,083.34
Savings	\$103.67	\$103.67
Total	\$4112.13	\$4187.01

Submitted by Bernard Hanchett, Treasurer 2010-2011