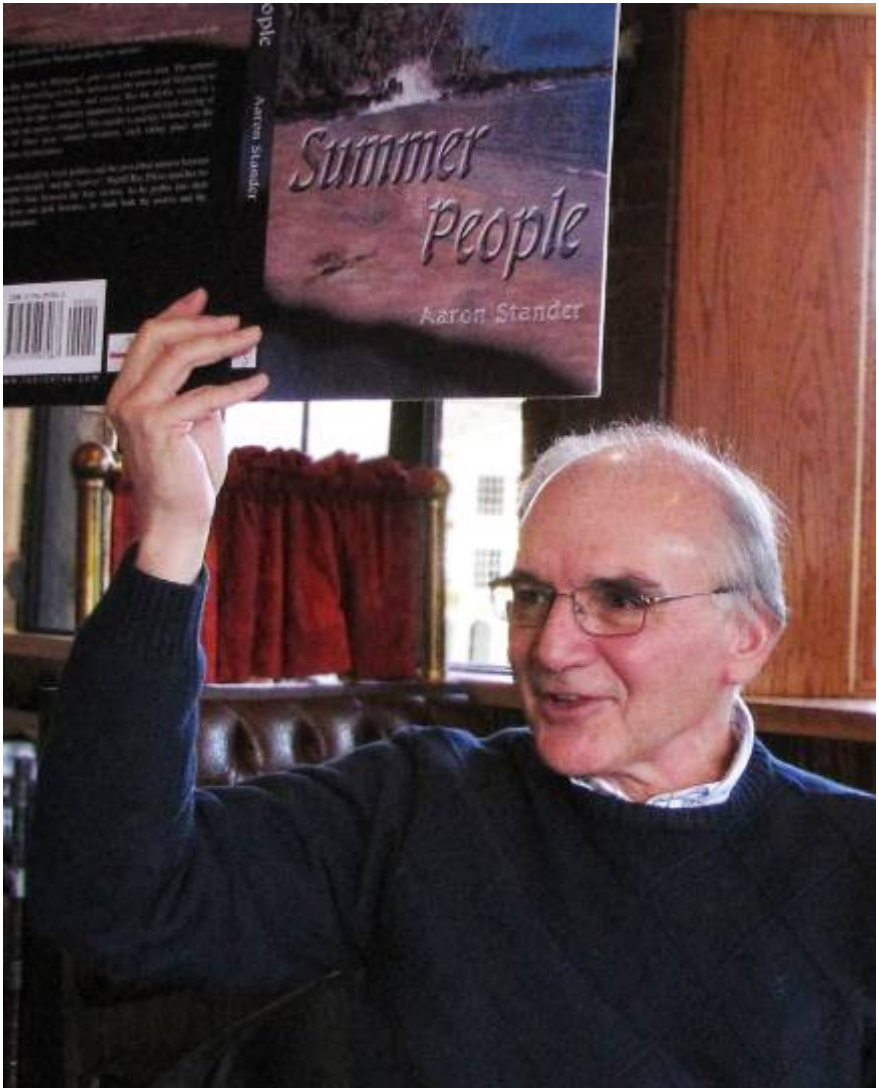




Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



Volume 10 Number 4

January 2012

 **Borealis**
Northern Michigan Mensa

www.nmm.us.mensa.org

Send address correction c/o
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You'll get it faster, and in color!

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

nmmmborealis@yahoo.com

Northern Michigan Mensa

Executive Committee

VOTING MEMBERS

Local Secretary	Erik A. Snyder	989-370-0993	locsecnmm@gmail.com or easnyder@yahoo.com
Deputy Loc Sec	- Vacant -		
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Publicity Chair	- Vacant -		
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Coordinator	- Vacant -		

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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: Aaron Stander discusses his writing while holding up a poster for his first book, "Summer People" at the December Brunch. Photo by Stan Cain.

January Calendar

BRUNCH - Saturday, 14 January 2012 at 11:00 a.m.

The January Brunch will be held at the Cottage Café, 420 Munson, Traverse City.

HIKE – Sunday, 22 January 2012 at 2:00 p.m.

Come with us on our first hike of the winter (assuming hardy souls will want us to have a second!). We'll check out the trails (hopefully tramped down by those who precede us) in the hilly part of the Grand Traverse Commons in Traverse City. Jack Schultz, our intrepid "outdoors promoter," will lead the way. Enjoy the hardwood forests, the views from on high, and some fresh air. We might even adjourn to have hot chocolate, coffee, tea, or a cappuccino and some goodies in the cafeteria at Munson Medical Center afterward. Starting point will be the parking area on RED DRIVE, just south of the Greenspire School and across from the TBA Conference Center. We'll start promptly at 2 o'clock and go until we're tired enough of getting winded, tired, cold, or all of the above. Questions? Call Jack at 231-640-4569 or email jsvoyageur@gmail.com.

T.G.I.F! Friday, 27 January 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

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 January Birthday

16	Nancy Dady	24	Michael B Cardwell
17	Richard B Thibeau	27	J D Gerndt
21	Erik A Snyder	30	Donald L Curtis
21	Perry W Stafford		

Mensa Membership Milestones
(Years of continuous Membership)

10 Years	Aaron Stander	6 Years	Susan Lynne Pitzer
9 Years	Melissa J Rennie	5 Years	J L Patton
8 Years	M T Daunter	2 Years	E Monahan

<u>November 2011 Statistics</u>	<u>AML</u>	<u>NMM</u>
Total membership	53042	89
New and reinstating membership	544	0
Offers of membership	323	0
New members since April 2011	1963	4
Reinstating members since April 2011	1837	8
Members leaving		1

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 11/30/2011. If you would like to change the privacy releases on file, use www.us.mensa.org and click on "Member Login". Then click on "Profile Update" and "PDQ Update".

December Brunch



A good group was on hand for our December brunch, which featured Aaron Stander, who discussed how he started writing and who told us about many aspects of the writing and modern publishing business. Photo by Jack Schultz.

NMM 2012 ExComm

By Brenda Irish Heintzelman

I come before you as a newly elected member of the Executive Committee. As of this writing, assignments have not yet been made as to who will hold what position so, for all I know, I could be your next LocSec, or perhaps a member at large, which may actually be more fitting, that is until my thyroid returns to normal and I begin to burn calories again. Take comfort in knowing, I will refuse to be your treasurer or secretary, since my attention span is about as long as the few minutes of sunshine on any given winter day in northern Michigan.

Either way, I'm excited to be here, happy to serve, and anxious to bring some of my energy to Northern Michigan Mensa. Up until now, my involvement has been limited to monthly Pizza Hut Meetings with the Maryland Mensans in Frederick, while I attended Hood College, and more recently, upon returning to my hometown of Traverse City, to the monthly brunches at the Cottage Café (featuring thyroid supportive foods such as the chocolate fountain, strawberries, and éclairs). So, I want you to know, I'm happy to be included in the Executive Committee and will strive to learn what I'll need to know in order to serve you well.

Let's begin. Here is what I know so far, from Wiki, no less... "Mensa (play /mɛnsə/; Latin: [mensa]) means "table" in Latin, as is symbolized in the organization's logo, and was chosen to demonstrate the round-table nature of the organization; the coming together of equals."

"The coming together of equals" ...Hmm... I like that.

What Wiki doesn't tell us is that the Mensans I've met so far have been both interesting and friendly. Together, we laugh, we problem solve, and we challenge each other intellectually. Perhaps most noticeable to me, we just seem to get it. You know what I mean, we get it. We get it that it's okay to hold two conversations at once. We get it that there is really no such thing as over analyzing the people who surround us, or the world in which we live. We get it that we're different. Collectively, we get it that our differences are okay, and that what we share is valuable.

We appreciate jokes without references to gender, race, religious affiliations, or hair color. We understand that non-Mensans sometimes like to laugh at us, and we're okay with that, of course, because we've already analyzed why they like to laugh at us in the first place. We get it when it's smart to include our Mensa memberships in our résumés and we get it when it's sometimes better not to wear our Mensa sweatshirts in public.

We get why Mensa was founded. And, we get why some people blush when we ask if they've heard of us. We get it that others may think we're snooty, and we get it that non-Mensans sometimes think we're nerds. We like to read, we like to write, and we like to talk. We publish our own books and we run our own businesses. We tend to question our physician's I.Q. and we find ourselves considering whether or not our pilot is suffering from sleep deprivation.

Do you remember the first time you were called a know-it-all? I do. If you're like me, you may have thought, "well, technically I do not know it all".

Never get behind a Mensan in line. At the library, we average seventeen books per visit (this statistic was just pulled from thin air based on my last visit to the public library). At the grocery store, we leave our cart full of items on the conveyor belt as we rush to the back of the store for the one item we drove to the grocery store to purchase in the first place. Heaven help the poor souls behind us at the bank as we stand there balancing our accounts with help from the friendly teller.

Yeah, we're geniuses alright.

So, this is what I know so far, we're a pretty weird bunch, a good weird, and we're right on when we're thankful to belong to such an interesting group of forward thinking, open minded, sometimes nerdy bookworms who share in the propensity to verbally claim the obvious.

Sadly, some of us have known ridicule, some of us have struggled to understand why we're so different, and some of us have suffered miserably at the hands of the 98% who sometimes don't seem to get the way we think, the way we speak, or the way we act. Tragically, before joining Mensa, some of us may have even felt that we were rather dim or emotionally challenged or weak when all too often we found ourselves not fitting in.

Well, at Mensa meetings, we do belong.

At Mensa meetings, you will not be ridiculed or shunned. You will not be laughed at or called a know-it-all. At Mensa meetings, you are welcomed and encouraged to share your thoughts and ideas. (At Mensa meetings we actually know the difference between thoughts and ideas.) At Mensa meetings, your life experiences will be appreciated and your opinions will be heard. In short, at Mensa meetings, you are free to be yourself.

Therefore, as we begin 2012 together, a new year full of opportunities and fresh starts, new books to write, speeches to give, businesses to open, mini Mensans to raise, and new Mensans to meet, please join me in appreciating our differences, welcoming each other's opinions and ideas, and celebrating the mere fact that Mensa is exactly where each and every one of us really does fit in. If you have been missing out on the pizza nights, the chocolate fountains, the trivia games, or the book studies, please make 2012 the year that you give yourself the gift of attending our monthly meetings. We're smart, we're kind, and we're interesting people. And, we want you to join us each month with your special gifts, insights, and even your quirky sense of humor because, at Mensa, we get it. I hope to see you at the next meeting! Happy New Year!

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.

EF' MF YPAO YP ADXF FXFMS OTS TB DL DY EFMF

PJM ATBY.BP YPOTS D UTXF TK THHPDKYQFKY YP

NF TJYPHBDFO. -- FMQT NPQNFRG

The answer will be in next month's issue.

Answer to last month's Cryptogram:

A lifetime of happiness! No man alive could bear it: it would be hell on earth.
--George Bernard Shaw

reMark

By Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3

Happy New Year! May it be healthy, prosperous and wonderful in every way for each and every one of you and your loved ones.

I know that all who attended the Cincinnati Regional Gathering had a fabulous time; wish I had been there.

Watch for notices of the postings of minutes of the AMC meeting that I attended that same weekend. If you haven't joined the Region 3 Yahoo or Facebook groups where I post such information, as well as Region 3 and National News, please do so.

I know that it's not news to many, but even though there are still 18 months remaining in this term, I want everyone to know that this will be my last term as Region 3 Vice Chairman. I have loved representing the very best of Regions on the American Mensa Committee; it's been an honor and a pleasure. I encourage you to consider succeeding me. Time lines being as they are, in July, those National Nominating Committee members present will meet in Reno at the Annual Gathering. Announcements about receiving endorsement from that committee will be forthcoming. I am happy to discuss your desire to serve Region 3 and American Mensa in this special way.

I haven't traveled much recently, and this year will not be making my sojourn to Florida as I have in the past. I do plan on visiting each local group at least one more time during my last 18 months in office. Last year's traveling really wore my suitcases and me out.

Register now for Dayton Area Mensa's 25th RG, March 30 through April 1, with Karen Lehman, Registrar, 7039 Monte Carlo Drive, Englewood, OH 45322. The RG will be at the Dayton Grand Hotel (same great hotel, new name) (937) 461-4700) - \$82 + tax per night. RG rates are \$60 through 2/28/2012 and \$70 thereafter. Kids are ½ price and day rates are available. Check the following url for more info: http://www.dayton.us.mensa.org/index_files/RG.htm

Register now for SEMMantics XXXIII RG, May 4 - 6, 2012, to be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, 37529 Grand River Avenue, Farming-

ton Hills, MI 48335, (248) 477-7800. Registration: \$65 - through 1/31/2012, \$75 - through 4/15/2012, \$45 - Friday Only, \$50 - Saturday Only, \$85 - Weekend at the Door, Children 5 - under 18 - 1/2 price, Children under 5 - free. Send your registration checks (made out to SEMMantics) to Larry Arbanas, 24565 Glen Orchard Dr., Farmington Hills, MI 48336-1725.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

LLAP and Peace,

Betsy

Betsy Yvonne Mark

rvc3@us.mensa.org

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Region 3 Website - <http://www.region3.us.mensa.org/>

Yahoo group - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMR3/>

Facebook group - <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=71515809887>
