



Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



Volume 10 Number 7

April 2012

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

nmbborealis@yahoo.com

Northern Michigan Mensa

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

ON THE COVER: Spring Trillium? Well, yes, but this one was from the end of April in 2006. But with our recent warm weather, there could be some up now at the end of March. Photo by Melissa Rennie.

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Northern Michigan Mensa

www.nmm.us.mensa.org

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April Calendar

BOOK CLUB - Saturday, 7 April 2012 at 11:00 a.m.

We will meet at Lil Bo Pub and Grille, 540 W. Front St., Traverse City. The April book club selection will be: *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption* by Laura Hillenbrand and presented by Jim McDermott. You can read a description of the book on page 6 of the March Borealis.

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

The April Brunch will be held at Sleders Family Tavern, 717 Randolph, Traverse City.

T.G.I.F! Friday, 27 April 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!

CULTURE QUEST - Sunday, 29 April 2012 at 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

We will be fielding a team of five members for this year's Culture Quest. Those participating are:

Richard Thibeau, Captain
Stan Cain
KC Mowrey
Pete Turkus
Roberta Walker

The team will meet at the home of Stan Cain. Team members should plan to arrive at least **15 minutes early** since the event starts promptly at 4:00. Afterward, at about 5:45 p.m., the team and any other interested members will gather at Stan's home for a pot luck, to hash over the results and relax. Soft drinks will be provided but BYOB. **Please R.S.V.P. to 231 938 1506 if you plan to attend the pot luck** or for directions.

Member News

Happy April Birthday
10 John G. Swartout

Mensa Membership Milestones
(Years of continuous Membership)

28 Cherie Marie Gabriel	8 Carol J. Crawford
22 Thomas M. Barnhart	6 Kymberli A. Wregglesworth
13 Dr John D. Schultz	4 Michael V. LaSusa
11 Martha Barton	3 Thomas C. Remsperger

February 2012 Statistics	AML	NMM
Total membership	55100	87
New and reinstating membership	730	2
Offers of membership	219	0
New members since April 2011	2659	4
Reinstating members since April 2011	3197	10
Members leaving		1

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 2/29/2012. 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".

THE SECRETS IN THE MARBLE

By Ruth Minshull

It was the year our company decided to redecorate the three floors we occupied in the magnificent old Detroit office building. On the level where I worked, the lobby had been modernized by adding a new reception desk, improved lighting, fresh carpeting. The final touch was the installation of huge custom-made mirrors between the six elevators. The mirrors added a welcome expansiveness to the area. However, their wide brushed aluminum frames created a jarring discord against the elegant black marble walls. Obviously something had to be done.

After some deliberation, the management hired two painters to make the mirror frames match the marble walls. First, the offending frames were painted black. Then gray, rust and white veins, of varying widths, were carefully laced throughout. Where a line in the original marble came up to the frame, it was met by a matching line that continued the vein through the black field. After the job was finished, the walls and the frames looked as if they had been carved from one solid piece of marble. The casual eye would find it impossible to tell where the painted work left off and the real material began.

As it turned out, the obvious improvement was only part of the story. Soon after the job ended and the painters had gone, one of our engineers let me in on a closely-held secret: the company had acquired more artwork than most of us realized. One of the painters, in a mad-cap salute to immortality, had artfully concealed two drawings in the seemingly random design on the frames. One was a Rubenesque nude, reclining in voluptuous splendor amid the wavering squiggles. The other was a curly-headed young boy, also nude, urinating – in the manner of the famous Brussels landmark, the bronze statue (*Mannekin Pis*) designed by Jerome Duquesnoy. Obviously one of our painters was more, much more, than just a maker of curling marble patterns. He was a true artist!

The drawings were each about four or five inches in size, and so skillfully integrated that they were virtually invisible unless one knew where to look. If you *had* discovered one by chance, you might presume it was an optical illusion or part of your own imagination--like

seeing objects in a cloud formation (or the Madonna's face in a pancake).

News of their existence spread discreetly through the lower echelons of our firm. By tacit agreement, none of us told anyone at the executive level. The paintings were not pornographic; they were classic art, cunningly concealed in the lines of the abstract motif. Still, we knew they would be considered far too risqué to be openly displayed in our conservative place of business. The bosses, had they known, would naturally have felt compelled to order the artwork painted over immediately. These cleverly concealed pieces were more than simple drawings. They represented a break-away, an act of playful defiance against conformity. Here was a paintbrush virtuoso artfully thumbing his nose at ubiquitous corporate stuffiness. How we loved it! As fellow guardians of The Secret we acquired a certain release ourselves--a vicarious independence -- as if we were all helping the artist make his rebellious mark.

So, belatedly, thank you Mr. Artist, whoever you were, wherever you are. You added an aesthetic richness to my life and that of many others. I loved your outrageous little works of art and --in my personal gallery of memories-- you have a place among the masters. I cherish the visual experience you gave us, as well as the delightful opportunity to help put one over on the management. I've kept your secret for more than sixty years. But it's time to tell your story. All the people are gone from the place now -- those who were privy to your impudence and those who were not. The lobby has probably undergone countless decorative reincarnations since then, so your work may be gone.

But the spirit of your artful rebellion lives on. Now and then I experience a ripple of pleasure as I relive cherished moments of standing in that imposing lobby waiting for an elevator -- I, a mere secretary, elbow to elbow with a pair of serious "suits". While the men made high-level small talk, I relished the vision of the hidden-in-plain-sight art on display directly in front of us. In such a situation, I would occasionally meet the eyes of another waiting "insider." We would exchange very small -- very brief -- smiles, then look away.

Hah!

reMark

By Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3

Thank you to all who volunteered to represent Region 3 on the National Nominating Committee. Because there were more than three of you, I held an election. LocSecs in our wonderful region selected Joel Anderson of Western Michigan Mensa, Lori Balster of Dayton Area Mensa and Katie Weihl of Kentuckiana Mensa as our representatives. They will be seeking candidates for Chair, 1st Vice Chair, 2nd Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Region 3 Vice Chair. Do let them know if you are interested in one of the positions. If you are interested in RVC3 and have questions, please contact me. I'm happy to share with you what the position entails. And, on the National Website there are handbooks addressing each of the positions on the AMC. Check them out.

Hopefully, while reading this you are attending Dayton Area Mensa's 25th RG or you have just had the time of your life there. I'm at the American Mensa Committee Meeting in Dallas.

Your next opportunity for the time of your life is to join me as I have already registered for and hope you will register now for SEMMantics XXXIII RG, May 4 - 6, 2012, to be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, 37529 Grand River Avenue, Farmington Hills, MI 48335, (248) 477-7800. Registration: \$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.

And, now for a plug for Mensa's Annual Gathering. Do register now for a fabulous time in Reno, Nevada. The website for the AG is: <http://www.ag2012.us.mensa.org//AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home14> I hope to see before then, but, if our paths do not cross before, then I hope to see you there.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

LLAP and Peace,

Betsy

Betsy Yvonne Mark

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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>

Join us!

**SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN MENSA
REGIONAL GATHERING
SEMMantics XXXIII**

May 4, 2012 – May 6, 2012

Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites
37529 Grand River Avenue
Farmington Hills, MI 48335



Call (248) 477-7800 for reservations

To register online:

<http://www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/farmington-hills/dtmi/hoteldetail?requestid=382708>

Enter group code SEM for our rates.

\$65 – through 1/31/2012
\$75 – through 4/15/2012
\$45 – Friday Only
\$50 – Saturday Only
\$85 – Weekend at the Door
Children under 5 – free
Children 5 - under 18 – ½ price

Make check payable to **SEMMantics** and mail to:

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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.

ONWWEXZLL EL NX EBNHEXNFQ GSXMEIESX,

JSFBZFAQ SJIZX NIIFERYIZM RQ IOZ

AEPEXH IS IOZ MZNM, XSK YLYNAAQ NI

IFERYIZM RQ NMYAIL IS GOEAMFZX, NXM

RQ GOEAMFZX IS NMYAIL. --IOSBNL LTNL

Answer to last month's Cryptogram:

The metric system did not really catch on in the States unless you count the increasing popularity of the nine-millimeter bullet. --Dave Barry



**Same Traverse City street scene showing changes from
The 3rd to the 26th of March. Photos by Stan Cain**