



Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



Volume 11 Number 8

May 2013

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

nmborealis@yahoo.com

Northern Michigan Mensa Executive Committee

VOTING MEMBERS

Local Secretary	Richard Thibeau	231-590-2052	locsecnmm@gmail.com or rthibeau@coslink.net
Deputy Loc Sec	Pete Turkus	231-941-8321	petencheri@chartermi.net
Treasurer	Susan A. Styles	231-357-5233	seas@umich.edu
At Large	Erik A. Snyder	989-370-0993	easnyder@yahoo.com
At Large	Bobbi Walker		bobbiraw@att.net

APPOINTED MEMBERS

Editor	Stan Cain	231-938-1506	nmmborealis@yahoo.com
Financial Overseer	Richard Thibeau	231-590-2052	rthibeau@coslink.net
Membership	Richard Thibeau	231-590-2052	rthibeau@coslink.net
Ombudsman	Pete Turkus	231-941-8321	petencheri@chartermi.net
Petoskey Area Subgroup Coordinator	- Vacant -		
Program Chair	Pete Turkus	231-941-8321	petencheri@chartermi.net
Publicity Chair	Vacant		
Scholarship Chair	John D. Schultz	231-275-6735	jsvoyageur@gmail.com
SIGHT Coordinator	Melissa J. Rennie	231-889-0892	renmeij@yahoo.com
Testing Coordinator	John D. Schultz	231-275-6735	jsvoyageur@gmail.com
Web Contact	Vacant		

OTHER MEMBERS

Proctors	John D. Schultz	231-275-6735	jsvoyageur@gmail.com
	Susan A. Styles	231-357-5233	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: A Solar Glory and Brocken Specter in Haleakala National Park, Hawaii.. Photographed by Stan Cain. (See the story on P. 6)



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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"change delivery method" in the
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May Calendar

BRUNCH - Saturday, 11 May 2013 at 10:30 a.m.

The May Brunch will again be held at **Minerva's Restaurant** in the Park Place Hotel , 300 E. State Street, near downtown in Traverse City. We will meet in the small dining room. Our speaker will be Barb Smith, member of Occupy TC, and her topic will be "What we are doing, where we are going!"

T.G.I.F. - Friday, 24 May 2013 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!

And, coming up in June...

BOOK CLUB - Saturday, 1 June 2013 at 11:00 a.m.

The June book club selection will be: ***Infidel*** by Ayaan Hirsi Ali and presented by Jim McDermott. You can read a description of the book on Page 7.

Member News

Happy May Birthday

7 Harold A. Kranick
9 Julie Hill
19 Robin E. Wottowa

8 Aaron Stander
18 Kymberli A. Wregglesworth
22 Judith W. Lindenau

Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of Continuous Membership)

33 Suzanne L. Cook
13 Beau Begeman
10 Cynthia L. Dickson
1 Jon Paul Suchoski

5 Lavon Jonson
4 Mitchell D. Quaine
2 Dennis J. Olsen

Members New to Our Group - Welcome!

Alexandra Osetek

March 2013 Statistics	AML	NMM
Total membership	56,172	88
New and reinstating membership	1,018	3
Offers of membership	290	0
New members since April 2012	3,549	13
Reinstating members since April 2012	4,341	18

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 3/31/2013. 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".

reMark

By Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3

Elections! Send in your ballot today! Details on all the candidates are in this month's Mensa Bulletin. If you'd like my opinion on any of the national candidates, please contact me personally at RVC3@us.mensa.org. Following is the information sent to me by our two candidates running for RVC3. They are both highly qualified and either will represent our Region well.

Julia Ashley has held office in the Columbus Area Mensa as Local Scholarship Chair, Local Secretary, RG Chair and on the RG committee as Program Chair, Registrar and sometimes speaker. She pursued and received licensing from AML for the sale of Atlantis Chapter buttons for the purpose of scholarship fundraising. She also coordinated Mensa recruiting booth space at a large sci-fi convention (Marcon) for seven years and an international gaming fair (Origins) for three years.

Julia is the current Region 3 Scholarship Chair and has been appointed as the Program Chair for the 2015 AG in Louisville, KY. She received the Mensa Foundation Trustees Award in 2010.

John Voymas is currently LocSec of Southeast Michigan Mensa (SEMM) a role he has served in for the past two years. Prior to that John has been an Area Representative, RG Chair, RG Hospitality Chair, Winter Bash Chair, Summer Bash Chair as well as coordinated a Leadership Development Workshop in 2012. He also assisted on Hospitality at the 2010 AG and presented three workshops at the WG in 2006.

John brings extensive experience from outside Mensa including having served in the past as President of two Toastmasters chapters (one of which he founded), a District Division Governor in Toastmasters, an officer of a Parents Without Partners chapter, Treasurer of a local school board, and a member of a county School-to-Work board. His educational background is a BS in Business Administration with a Public Accounting concentration. He has worked in the IT field for the past thirty years, many as a business and technical analyst.

Please vote now!

Hopefully, you are reading this while attending Southeast Michigan Mensa's SEMMantics XXXIV. If you are not there, I'm, sure you could still make it. It's May 3-5 at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, 37529 Grand River Ave, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. If you stay at the RG hotel and your name is drawn at the Saturday night drawing, your hotel bill (no extras) will be paid in full! Registration rate is \$90 on-site. Daily rates are \$50 for Friday and \$55 for Saturday. Children under 5 are free and children 5-17 are half price.

Mensa's next Annual Gathering will be in Fort Worth, Texas, July 3-7. Information can be found at <http://ag2013.us.mensa.org/>. It's going to be a great party! You may register for the 2013 Colloquium, Between Science Fiction and Science, which is being held July 2, immediately preceding the AG. That information can be found on the AG website, also.

Columbus Area Mensa and Western Pennsylvania Area Mensa will be hosting RGs this year. I'll post information as soon as it is available.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

LLAP and Peace,

Betsy

Betsy Yvonne Mark

rvc3@us.mensa.org

3674 Oak Drive - Ypsilanti, MI 48197

734-434-5757 (Home) or 313-530-2055 (Mobile)

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>

SPRING BREAK ON THE GULF COAST

By Ruth Minshull (2009)

The shuffling pace, the soft voices, the gentle laughter of the snowbirds are suddenly overshadowed by a new rhythm.

The beat picks up; the streets, walkways, condos and fast-food eateries all throb to a quickened pulse.

Teens tool around in open cars singing, laughing, calling to each other.

Supermarket aisles are jammed with carts, each surrounded by a pod of boys or a giggle of girls (never couples). The carts are half-filled with beer and soft drinks. Lengthy conferences take place about other items: chips, snacks, frozen meals, soups – the fare of non-cooks.

Low-flying planes pass overhead towing banners that tout the merits of various hangouts. The ice cream truck slowly works its way along, blaring tinny music that punishes the ear with its discordant screech.

Meanwhile the beaches begin to undulate with clusters of bare-chested boys (wearing the mandatory knee-length trunks) tossing around balls as they call out husky jeers. At the same time, bikini-clad girls (three or four together) stroll by. The two genders appear to studiously ignore each other – but the observant eye will note that there's a lot of checking out going on.

Later, the trolling will be fruitful; they'll find ways to hook up. Because, of course, that's what it's all about. Connecting.

Universities in Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Ohio and Tennessee have spewed out their charges. There's a week of freedom ahead.

And it's party time!

As darkness replaces the brilliant sun, groups start to amass – in night-spots, in condos, on the beaches. The noise level reaches a new pitch; bursts of laughter increase; festivities heat up and rock on through the night.

Now and then the shrill scream of a siren pierces the thrumming beat.

The beefed-up police force is very visible, very busy. Cruisers patrol the streets, trying to anticipate the inevitable problems. There will be countless tickets written for speeding, assorted traffic violations and DUIs. There will be accidents. Chances are high that one young man will lose his life while trying to climb from one condo balcony to another. This happens nearly

every year. Don't ask me why it is cooler to arrive by balcony than by stairway. To comprehend it, you'd have to be under 25 and under the influence.

Spring break time has arrived on the Florida coast. New batches of celebrants will be coming in weekly until early April.

Winter is over, and it's time for the oldsters to pack up their slippers and go home.



April Brunch

Photo by Stan Cain

Attendance was good at our brunch featuring speaker Ryan McCoon (shown at far end of the table) from Endura Performance Homes.

Ryan talked about the plan to construct a number of single family homes on a plot of land at the corner of 8th and Woodmere in Traverse City. The joint project in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity, is unique since the homes would feature Zero Net Energy consumption. Ryan showed the details of the construction which would feature solar panels and highly efficient insulation all around. Having a home in which utility costs average zero for the year, would make the homes much more affordable for the lower income owners.

Solar Phenomena

By Stan Cain

The cover photograph was taken at about the 8000 ft level on Mt. Haleakala looking down into a cloud with the sun directly behind me. Wikipedia provides the following discussion:

A glory is an optical phenomenon that resembles an iconic saint's halo about the shadow of the observer's head. The effect is believed to happen due to classical wave tunneling, when light nearby the droplet tunnels through air inside the droplet and, in the case of glory, is emitted backwards due to resonance effects.

The angular size is much smaller than a rainbow, about 5° to 20° , depending on the size of the droplets. The glory can only be seen when the observer is directly between the sun and cloud of refracting water droplets. Hence, it is commonly observed while airborne, with the glory surrounding the airplane's shadow on clouds (this is often called The Glory of the Pilot). Glories can also be seen from mountains and tall buildings, when there are clouds or fog below the level of the observer.

Glories are often seen in association with a Brocken Spectre, the apparently enormously magnified shadow of an observer, cast (when the Sun is low) on clouds below the mountain the viewer is standing on. The name derives from the Brocken, the tallest peak of the Harz mountain range in Germany. Because the peak is above the cloud level and the area frequently misty, conditions conducive to casting a shadow on a cloud layer are common.

CultureQuest Wrap Up

By Stan Cain

Well, I think the consensus among the team members was that this CultureQuest had questions that were quite a bit different from the previous years. It may be that we had the right combination of backgrounds, but it seemed that we were able to answer more of the questions than before. Also, this time the questions involved more social, history and sports and fewer math and science questions than before. We were able to finish the test with about 15 minutes to spare and go back and attempt the questions that we had skipped on the first pass through. Since there is no deduction for wrong answers, we threw in some educated guesses.

Now, begins the wait to see how well we did. In the past, our teams have usually finished somewhere near the middle of the pack.



Culture Quest Team: (L to R) Julie, KC, Pete, Bobbie and Stan

Infidel

Bibliomans' Book for June
By Ayaan Hirsi Ali - 384 pages

Ayaan Hirsi Ali captured the world's attention with *Infidel*, her coming-of-age memoir, which spent thirty-one weeks on the *New York Times* bestseller list. Ayaan Hirsi Ali is one of today's most admired and controversial political figures. She burst into international headlines following the murder of Theo van Gogh by an Islamist who threatened she would be next; and she made headlines again when she was stripped of her citizenship and forced to resign from the Dutch Parliament.

Infidel shows the coming of age of this elegant, distinguished – and sometimes reviled – political superstar and champion of free speech – the development of her beliefs, iron will, and extraordinary determination to fight injustice done in the name of religion. Raised in a strict Muslim family, Hirsi Ali survived civil war, female circumcision, brutal beatings, an adolescence as a devout believer, the rise of the Muslim Brotherhood, and life in four countries under dictatorships. She escaped from a forced marriage and sought asylum in the Netherlands, where she fought for the rights of Muslim women and the reform of Islam, earning her the enmity of reactionary Islamists and craven politicians.

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.

RAFAP ACOVMJR—IGEP XPJARYN YG RGW RAA Y JW

MRY IGEP ARASJAN UJV V RGW KAVJAF A JW

MRIDGU . ~ AVKAPW DEKKMPY

(The answer will appear in next month's issue)

Answer to last month's Cryptogram:

We can be knowledgeable with other men's knowledge but we cannot be wise with other men's wisdom. ~Michel de Montaigne

PARAPROSDOKIANS

Submitted by Pete Turkus

(A figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently used in a humorous situation.)

If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

War does not determine who is right - only who is left.