



# Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



**Volume 12 Number 5**

**March 2014**

**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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:nmborealis@yahoo.com)

# Northern Michigan Mensa

## Executive Committee

### VOTING MEMBERS

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### OTHER MEMBERS

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [www.nmm.us.mensa.org](http://www.nmm.us.mensa.org)

ON THE COVER: Northern Michigan. Winter. Photo by Stan Cain.



Northern Michigan Mensa

[www.nmm.us.mensa.org](http://www.nmm.us.mensa.org)

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# March Calendar

## **Brunch - Saturday, March 8, 2014 at 10:30 a.m.**

We will meet at the Bay Town Kitchen (formerly the Cottage Café), 420 Munson Ave., Traverse City. We will meet in the far dining room. Our speaker will be Elizabeth Buzzelli, a northern Michigan author of a series of mystery stories and others. Bring your questions!

## **Spring Celebration Dinner - Wednesday, 19 March, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.**

We'll meet in March at Harrington's By the Bay, 13890 S. West Bay Shore Drive in Traverse City. OK, it's a day before spring, but let's celebrate the return of warmth and the departure of snow. We deserve to say some goodbyes and good lucks to this one, big, rotten, nasty winter. First one there, grab a table for all of us. FYI - Harrington's has great fish and chips.

## **Mensa Test - Saturday 29 March, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.**

The Mensa Admission Test will be given at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 6726 Center Road, Traverse City. We will be giving the Mensa Test for those who wish to see if they qualify for Mensa membership. If you have any friends whom you think might be interested, let them know about this opportunity in our area. And, since many of us belong to other organizations with intelligent members, perhaps this would be a good time to let them know about this test. The test will cost \$40.00. Call Jack Schultz at 231-275-6735 for more information and to make a reservation.

## **And, coming up in April...**

### **BOOK CLUB - Saturday, 5 April 2014 at 11:00 a.m.**

The April book club selection will be: ***The Book Thief*** by Marcus Zusak presented by Stan Cain. You can read a description of the book on Page 6.

# Member News

## Happy March Birthday

1 Kenneth Bryson  
15 Brett Pharo  
17 Eric Sanko

20 Joan Dasef  
26 Charles Fricke  
30 Sherry McNamara

## Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of Continuous Membership)

32	William Hagan	6	Bernard Hanchett
27	Harold Smith	5	Robert Pierson
14	John Thorne	2	Joseph Walewski
13	Charles Fricke	1	Alexandra Osetek
12	Mary Shaw	1	Carole Eberly
12	Sherry McNamara	1	Susan Kraus
12	Susan Styles		

### January 2014 Statistics

	<u>AML</u>	<u>NMM</u>
Total membership	53,269	78
New and reinstating membership	496	3
Offers of membership	227	0
New members since April 2013	2	18
Reinstating members since April 2013	2,151	22

Membership directory information is based on data from American Mensa records as of 1/31/2014. If you would like to change the privacy releases on file, use [www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org) and click on "Member Login". Then click on "Profile Update" and "PDQ Update"

## The Loc Sec's Report

By Stan Cain

### Scholarship Chair

We still need an individual to handle the Scholarship Chair for the coming year. Jack Schultz will be stepping down after finishing the judging for the 2013 entrants. I participated as one of the three essay judges this year and found it fascinating to read the entries of the students and adults who had submitted them to be considered for one of the Mensa scholarships available. There are some very bright people out there who write clear and sparkling essays and some who write not so clear and sparkling essays. The role of the judges is to separate the one from the other. Please consider this opportunity.

### Web Contact

We also need someone to handle our website. Normally nothing is required of this individual and all runs smoothly. But occasionally, like last month, a glitch arises and the individual will be challenged to make a quick fix. We

have also accumulated a list of a number of things that would be nice to have changed or fixed when time permits. I **know** there are many of you out there who could handle this function so why not give it a try?

### **Culture Quest**

We need someone to organize Culture Quest coming up on April 27th. The deadline to have team member names turned in to National is March 31, 2014. If you have enjoyed participating in the past, please consider organizing this event for us.

Well, that about wraps it up for this month, but now, putting on my editor's hat, let me remind everyone that I would love to receive more photos, stories, etc for use in this newsletter. I know everyone has a blog these days and maintains a Facebook page, but, several of our most prolific writers have passed away in the last couple of years and it would be great if we could find some new members to replace them with Borealis submissions. What do you think?

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## **Our meeting with the financial wizard in February By Carole Eberly, Program Chair**

To all of you who couldn't make the February brunch meeting with our speaker Ryan Sterkenburg, from the Northwestern Bank's Trust Department, here are a few things you missed:

- When to move money from your IRA to a Roth.
- What you should know about tax exemptions and deductions.
- A trust is better than a will – **sometimes**.
- How you can take advantage of gift or estate taxes.
- Tax planning for stocks.
- Lower your taxes with the capital gains tax.
- And a whole lot more.

With a little luck, we may be able to get him to speak to our group again next year. If your money is important to you, you'll want to be there.

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# News from the RVC3

Mensa International's Leadership Exchange Ambassador Program, LEAP, finds and sponsors members with the drive to share the best practices they have developed in their local or national groups with other Mensans around the world. Application packages must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. Central time, March 1, 2014. Visit the website for more information <<http://www.us.mensa.org/lead/leadership-workshops/leap-program/>>.

Mind Games 2014, April 18-20, Austin, TX

The annual games weekend in which Mensans play, evaluate, and judge games released during the past year and currently available for sale. The top five games earn the Mensa Select seal for their packaging. Registration is \$95 through April 6. Details are at <[mindgames.us.mensa.org](http://mindgames.us.mensa.org)> and the February Mensa Bulletin.

Attention trivia buffs – the 2014 CultureQuest® competition will take place on Sunday, April 27. CultureQuest draws together teams from across the United States and Canada to compete for cash prizes and bragging rights. The winner last year was Uncle Churd (say it out loud...un-cul-tured) from East Central Ohio Mensa in Region 3.

There are two divisions:

**Classic** is open to all members regardless of age. Each team member must be a dues-paid Mensa (U.S. or Canada) for the 2014-15 membership year before April 1, 2014.

**In the youth division**, entrants must have been born after April 27, 1996. Only the youth division team captain must be a current Mensa member.

To register, visit <<http://www.us.mensa.org/attend/culturequest/>> and select "CultureQuest Registration" from the left menu. Online registration can be made until 11:59 p.m., Central time, on Monday, March 31.

National Award nominations can be made until the end of April. Nominate members whose service or achievements made a significant contribution benefiting American Mensa (as opposed to contributions to Local Groups, regions, SIGSs, etc., which may have their own awards programs). Direct nominations or questions to <[nationalawards@us.mensa.org](mailto:nationalawards@us.mensa.org)> or

National Awards Committee

c/o Art Mattson

700 E. Taft, #5

Orange CA 92865

BEAUTY is the theme for the 2014 Mensa International Photo Cup Contest. Rules and deadlines will be announced soon, so clean your lenses and focus on what



lies in the eye of the beholder.

## **UPCOMING RGs**

Dayton Area Mensa

**DAMNations 27 Fully Amended, March 21-23, 2014**

Website: <<http://www.dayton.us.mensa.org>>

Facebook: <<http://tinyurl.com/DAMNations27>>

Registration:

\$60 until 3/1/14

\$70 at the door

Children 16 and under are ½ price

Day rates available

Checks payable to Dayton Mensa RG

c/o Karren Lehman

7039 Monte Carlo Drive

Englewood OH 45322

[rg.registrar@dayton.us.mensa.org](mailto:rg.registrar@dayton.us.mensa.org)

Southeast Michigan Mensa

**SEMMantics XXXV, May 2-4, 2014**

Website: <<http://mensadetroit.com/semantics/>>

Facebook: <<http://tinyurl.com/SEMManticsXXXV>>

Registration:

\$80 through 4/15/14

\$90 at the door

Non-members add \$5

Children under 5 are free, 5 - under 18 are ½ price.

Checks payable to SEMMantics

c/o Larry Arbanas

24565 Glen Orchard Drive

Farmington Hills MI 48336

Or Paypal [semantics@sbcglobal.net](mailto:semantics@sbcglobal.net)

Looking forward to a great 2014!

**Julia Ashley, RVC3**

**[rvc3@us.mensa.org](mailto:rvc3@us.mensa.org)**

**614.448.6023**

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# The Book Thief

## Bibliomans' Book for April

### By Marcus Zusak- 576 pages

Zusak has created a work that deserves the attention of sophisticated teen and adult readers. Death himself narrates the World War II-era story of Liesel Meminger from the time she is taken, at age nine, to live in Molching, Germany, with a foster family in a working-class neighborhood of tough kids, acid-tongued mothers, and loving fathers who earn their living by the work of their hands. The child arrives having just stolen her first book—although she has not yet learned how to read—and her foster father uses it, *The Grave-diggers Handbook*, to lull her to sleep when she is roused by regular nightmares about her younger brothers death. Across the ensuing years of the late 1930s and into the 1940s, Liesel collects more stolen books as well as a peculiar set of friends: the boy Rudy, the Jewish refugee Max, the mayor's reclusive wife (who has a whole library from which she allows Liesel to steal), and especially her foster parents. Zusak not only creates a mesmerizing and original story but also writes with poetic syntax, causing readers to deliberate over phrases and lines, even as the action impels them forward. Death is not a sentimental storyteller, but he does attend to an array of satisfying details, giving Liesel's story all the nuances of chance, folly, and fulfilled expectation that it deserves. An extraordinary narrative.

## February Dining Out



A cozy group of us met at the Panda North Restaurant for dinner and conversation. The plan is to try a different restaurant each month. In March we will be meeting at Harrington's By the Bay. Join us!

Photos by Judith Lindenau.



## Puzzle Page

1. What is the four-digit number, no zeros, in which the first number is five times the last, the second is four more than the first and three times the third, and the third is two more than the last and two less than the first.
2. Dot likes pots and pans but not cooks. She likes straw but not hay; she likes sagas but not poems. Does she like a star or a planet?
3. The spy was captured easily, and his message proved to be so simple that the lieutenant saw its importance immediately. Here it is. What does it say?

Alice: Tom told Ann Carter Killy and Ted, David Attwood was not moving out now. David awaiting you.

(Puzzles continued on next page)

# Puzzle Page (continued)

## 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.

UJD' K XJLLS GIJHK KAR XJLNU MJYFDW KJ GD

RDU KJUGS. FK FV GNLRGUS KJYJLLJX FD

GHVKLGNEFG.

~MAGLNRV VMAHNB

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(Puzzle answers will appear in next month's issue)

(Oops - the answer to last month's puzzle was accidentally included with the puzzle, while the answer for January was omitted. Here are the two answers:

**January:**

People find ideas a bore because they do not distinguish between live ones and stuffed ones on a shelf. ~Ezra Pound

**February**

First ask yourself: What is the worst that can happen? Then prepare to accept it. Then proceed to improve on the worst. ~Dale Carnegie

Editor's note: Ruth had prepared a supply of these popular puzzles before her recent death. Borealis will continue to feature them while they last.