



# Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



**Volume 12 Number 6**

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

ON THE COVER: .Glacial Experiment #1. Photo by Stan Cain



Northern Michigan Mensa

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

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# April Calendar

## **Book Club - Saturday, April 5 2014 at 11:00 a.m.**

We will meet at BC Pizza, 3186 Lafranier, Traverse City. The April book club selection will be: **The Book Thief** by Marcus Zusak presented by Stan Cain. You can join us even if you haven't read the book.

## **Brunch - Saturday, April 12, 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 tell us how to take care of our headaches, backaches, and other bothersome ailments using our own fingers. **Leslie Friend**, reflexologist and our speaker, will be your friend, indeed.

## **The REAL Spring Celebration Dinner - Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.**

We'll meet at Agave Mexican Grill, 851 S. Garfield Traverse City (in the mall next to the PNC bank) for another go at a spring celebration dinner. (Hopefully, the snow will be gone by then. Last month, as you know, we still had winter for our spring dinner.) Agave has amazing Mexican food. First one there, grab a table in the back where it's quiet and we can talk.

## Member News

### Happy April Birthday

- |    |                     |    |                  |
|----|---------------------|----|------------------|
| 3  | Robert E Anderson   | 18 | Sandra L Belyea  |
| 7  | John Douglass Whyte | 18 | Alexandra Osetek |
| 10 | John G Swartout     |    |                  |

### Mensa Membership Milestones

(Years of Continuous Membership)

- |    |                           |   |                       |
|----|---------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 30 | Cherie Marie Gabriel      | 5 | John Robert Spraggins |
| 24 | Thomas Mac Neill Barnhart | 5 | Thomas C Remsperger   |
| 15 | Dr John D Schultz         | 2 | Cori Nielson          |
| 13 | Martha Barton             | 1 | Michael R Carey       |
| 8  | Kymberli A Wregglesworth  |   |                       |

## Members New to Our Group – Welcome!

Kathleen Cerasoli

<u>February 2014 Statistics</u>	<u>AML</u>	<u>NMM</u>
Total membership	54,848	81
New and reinstating membership	734	1
Offers of membership	208	0
New members since April 2013	3,143	19
Reinstating members since April 2013	3,101	24

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

The big discussion lately on the National LocSec list has been regarding the new plastic membership cards that were distributed recently to members. This card was different from those in the past in that it had insurance company advertising on the back. Many of the writers were unhappy that Mensa had chosen to make money in this manner. Some even said they were not planning to renew their membership! Others said they would never do business with that company if they had the opportunity. Some said they didn’t care and that thought it was fine for Mensa to make money this way as a means to keep from raising dues again. Aren’t we a diverse bunch?

Since I am a life member, there was no reason to send me a new plastic card since I already have an attractive, sparkly blue and white plastic card without advertising. I cut up the new card and wrote an uncomplimentary letter to the National Office (my first and only letter.)

This led me to start thinking about the role of advertising in our lives and how it is so pervasive. TV? Of course. Prior to movies? Yes, in most theaters. Billboards, the Internet, newspapers, robo calls? OK, we retaliate by closing our eyes, turning off the sound, hanging up, etc.

But what about our children? In schools there have been subtle ads accompanying educational TV programs broadcast on “free” TV sets. Free soft drink

machines plastered with “Coke” logos and many other examples. The problem with these is that our children, of course, have not developed the hard shells needed to, if not ignore the advertising, then at least, hopefully, put it in perspective and understand it for what it is.

So, Mensa says they need additional funds to provide us with all the great programs out there and to maintain the staff that runs the organization. There are some very nice Mensa programs and that’s why many of us are here. If you look around, you can certainly find something to interest you. However, there are many who don’t participate in any Nationally organized programs and just read their newsletters.

But, I suspect there is perhaps some fat and excessive overhead in the organization that has developed over the years when membership was growing and now that membership has decreased, is a drain on financial resources.

The following table shows how Mensa membership (both local and National) has varied in the last seven years.

**As of the end of February:**

<u>Year</u>	<u>National</u>	<u>NMM</u>
2007	52528	94
2008	53769	97
2009	55450	103
2010	55686	99
2011	55521	101
2012	54390	87
2013	54434	84
2014	53269	78

It looks like there was peak around 2010 for both groups. There could have been a relationship with the timing of the recession with a delay in response perhaps due to the fact memberships last from 1 to 5 years.

So, if you as an individual have a cash flow problem due to layoff, foreclosure, etc. you cut back on nonessential items in your budget. For many members, this could be Mensa dues which have also increased during this time frame. If you’re an organization like Mensa, it could be time to take a hard look at things that are perhaps not so essential that we need to sell more advertising space on yet another surface to maintain them.

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# News from the RVC3

## 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>>

Contact: [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>>

Contact: [semantics@sbcglobal.net](mailto:semantics@sbcglobal.net)

### **Columbus Area Mensa**

Ohio: A Capital Idea, August 1-3, 2014

Celebrating Ohio festivals and their foods.

We have 3x the space we had in 2013 !!!

Website and Facebook page coming soon.

Contact: [psibernaut@yahoo.com](mailto:psibernaut@yahoo.com)

## **Mensa Foundation News**

Scholarships: 97 Local Groups participated; 11,412 essays were received and processed by about 450 volunteers at the local level. Results are still pending regional and national judging.

Colloquium: Topics for the next two Colloquiums will be food and medicine. The order for these is undecided, but you heard it here first J

The Achieving Communications Excellence, or ACE program, replaces the Publications Recognition Program. Look for details to be released in March. Its purpose will be to recognize Local Groups that meet or exceed communications standards in all of these areas: newsletters, websites and social media.

The Nominating Committee is assembling soon. It's not too early to consider running for a Board position in 2015. Contact me if you need more information.

See you soon!

**Julia Ashley, RVC3**

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

614.448.6023

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Scan QR code for more information



Southeast Michigan Mensa  
**SEMManics 35**

May 2 - 4 2014

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

To get \$89 hotel rate, go to <http://goo.gl/JDvRhw>, and use group code 'SEM', or call 248-477-7800

Includes all meals, Chocolate Orgy, games room by Karen Smith, (2010 AG Games Room), tournaments, MensaBowl, Beer and Wine tasting.

**PRICES FOR CURRENT MEMBERS  
ALL OTHERS—ADD \$5.00**

\$80 – through 4/15/2014  
\$50 – Friday Only  
\$55 – Saturday Only  
\$90 – Weekend at the Door  
Children under 5 – free  
Children 5 - under 18 – ½ price

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name for ID Badge \_\_\_\_\_ over 21? \_\_\_\_\_

For non-members-name of Mensa sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Group \_\_\_\_\_ Member Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to know more about how I can lend a hand in the following area(s):

Hospitality  Speaker Shepherd  Registration  Contacting People  Publicity  
 Photographer  Setup/Tear Down  Shopping  Transportation  Other

# CQ News

NMM will be fielding one team for Culture Quest to be held on April 27th. The team will consist of KC Mowrey, captain, Julie Hill, Sue Styles, Bobbi Walker and Pete Turkus. KC has graciously offered to host the event at her home in Cadillac. Good luck to you all!

\*\*\*\*

## March Brunch



A sizeable crowd turned out to hear our speaker, Elizabeth Buzzelli present an interesting talk about her latest book, ***A Tough Nut to Kill***. She also discussed her relationship with crows and how their appearance at times seems to have had an influence on some of her previous books, especially the mystery series featuring “Dead” in the titles. Thank you Elizabeth.

Photos by Stan Cain

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## Quotes

The sun, with all those planets revolving around it and dependent upon it, can still ripen a bunch of grapes as if it had nothing else in the universe to do.  
Galileo

When a learned man errs he makes a learned error.  
Arab proverb

## Puzzle Page

These puzzles were taken from the ***Mensa Genius Quiz A Day Book*** by Dr. Abbie F. Salny.

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.

**Answer: 5931**

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?

**Answer: Dot likes a star. She only likes words that also spell words backward.**

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.

**Answer: ATTACK AT DAWN MONDAY using the first letter of each word.**

(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.

**PJC-GXGID PG IDC UCPUBC FTC FMFXJRI**

**CQCTHIDXJM FBB IDC IXLC. ~TPSCTI**

**OCJJCAH**

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

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### Answer to last month's Cryptogram:

Don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It is already tomorrow in Australia ~Charles Schulz

(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.)