

March 2011 Constellation



Greetings, fellow Mensans.

Spring is just around the corner and for many of us, it is a most welcome time of year. Certainly Winter has its advantages, but for me, and I'm sure many of you, Spring is a very pleasant way to say goodbye to salt and snow and varying shades of gray. And with the arrival of warmer weather many of us will attempt to shed ourselves of a few pounds gathered to combat old man winter. And what better way to do that than walking. Or perhaps, hiking. Along a trail at the Cummings Nature Center in Naples. It's first on the list of events this month and it happens on the nineteenth, just a few days before the calendar arrival of Spring. I for one will be there, as will my wife. We might bring along a dog or two—they do love to hike and they do love people. I hope to see you there.

I was asked if I'd like to review one of my novels and I declined. I am, however, more than happy to talk about one of my twin brother's novels. (We're identical twins although we stopped wearing the same lederhosen at about age two). I really don't want to 'review' Terry's work, but I think *A Manhattan Ghost Story* is his best and highly readable. Stephen King thought so, too.

T.M. Wright, is the author of around thirty-two published novels. *A Manhattan Ghost Story*, was well on its way to becoming a major motion picture, they'd even paid Ron Bass a few million to write the screenplay. (My brother got far less for the rights). At any rate, the movie was never made but if you Google *A Manhattan Ghost Story*, the movie, *The Sixth Sense* will often pop up. Why? Because my brother's novel, written long before the movie, *The Sixth Sense*, was released, is very close in plot to that movie.

The novel is set in New York City, and what I particularly like about it is the attention given the main character. You learn to like the guy, and you want to spend time with him. Today's novels are highly character driven and if a character is well-drawn and interesting, you're willing to invest some time in his plight. Abner is beset by ghosts; they're everywhere. And they want his help. By the time that circumstance arrives, you're locked arm in arm with Abner and you're more than willing to read on. The writing itself is simple yet highly evocative, easily able to conjure up an emotion or a mood. And in a good ghost story, emotion and mood are vital.

The novel's been around a while, but it's still available and as I said, I think it's his best work.

Have a great March, and I hope to see you at the Cummings Nature Center.

Tim Wright, Editor, The Constellation.

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Yvonne Mark, RVC3
March, 2011

Congratulations to Julia Ashley who has been recognized by The Mensa Education and Research Foundation and has been chosen for a 2010-2011 Trustee Award for her service as a Local Group (Columbus) Scholarship Chair since 2002 and a Regional Scholarship Chair since 2004. Julia, we are so very fortunate to have you as a member of Region 3.

As I write this I am awaiting the blizzard and not too pleased about it. Even though I am retired and can stay home, warm and cozy, I really dislike having my option of going out taken from me without my permission. Guess I'll catch up on some knitting and TV. When you read this I will be in Florida where, hopefully, there will be no snow.

Gotta remind you again about a few important Mensa and Region 3 happenings.

It's membership renewal time. Renew today! This is an election year and you want to be able to vote for those who will represent you on the AMC. Re-up as a Life Member and avoid the hassle of yearly dues. You can renew on-line:

https://www.us.mensa.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Membership_Renewals&Template=/customsource/cfauthnet_sim/forms/renewal/renewal_1.cfm

I urge you to register for Dayton Area Mensa's RG -- 24 Karats! April 1-3, 2011. Information about this great RG can be found at http://www.dayton.us.mensa.org/index_files/RG.htm. Register for Southeast Michigan Mensa's RG, SEMMantics XXXII, The SEMMinal Event of 2011, April 29-May 1. Information about this great RG can be found at <http://localsemm.com/semantics/>.

Also, register for Mind Games to be held April 15 in Albany, NY: http://mindgames.us.mensa.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Player_Registration&Template=/CustomSource/cfauthnet_sim/forms/mindgames/players_1.cfm

And, don't forget the Annual Gathering in Portland, Oregon: A Great Journey West, June 30-July 4:

http://www.ag2011.us.mensa.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Register_Online7&Template=/customsource/cfauthnet_sim/forms/ag11/ag_1.cfm

The next American Mensa Committee (AMC) meeting is scheduled for March 26 in Atlanta. If you are traveling in that area, please join us. I will be driving there on my way home from Florida.

LLAP and Peace,

Betsy

Betsy Yvonne Mark

Email Betsy

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

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

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

A graphic featuring the text "March 2011" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The text is centered within a black, horizontally-oriented oval shape. The oval has a slight gradient and is set against a light gray background with a subtle white wave-like pattern at the bottom.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 
20	21	22	23	24 	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	April 7 	

Calendar of Events, March 2011

Saturday, March 19 - 12:30 PM

Join us for brunch at the 33rd Annual Maple Sugaring Weekend at Cumming Nature Center, 6472 Gulick Rd., Naples. Meet at 12:30 PM for pancakes accompanied by real maple syrup, sausages and beverage (\$10/person). See live turtles and numerous taxidermy displays and walk along the Pioneer Trail Sugarhouse Demo until 3 PM. Other scenic trails are open for hiking until 4:30 PM; parking lot gate is locked at 5 PM.

www.rmssc.org

Thursday, March 24 - 7 PM

Three times is a charm, so our international dining takes us to Rheinblick Restaurant, 224 S. Main St., Canandaigua (905-0950), where we always enjoy authentic German Cuisine, including mouth watering desserts! www.restaurant-rheinblick.com

Thursday, April 7 - 7PM

First Thirstday at Lindburger's Restaurant, 2175 Penfield Rd. at Rt. 250 in Wegman's plaza (388-9420). Choose from a huge variety of delicious burgers – a pairing of excellent food with a casual atmosphere!

Note: In the unlikely event that there is a problem with our reservation when we arrive, we may need to make a decision to move to another venue on the spot. We will wait a half hour before moving to allow for late arrivals, so try not to arrive later than this so you know where we are in the event of a move.

Don't see your favorite event or venue? Contact Kristin or Tim by March 25th to suggest a new one!

In Memoriam

It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of Mensan, **William, L. Quirk** on Thursday, January 6, 2011. Mr. Quirk was predeceased by his parents, David and Kay Quirk and sister, Debbie Quirk and his companion, Donna Fairchild. He is survived by his cousin, Mallory Ries; his extended family, Dan (Andrea) and Edmund (Teri) Lenhard, Evan, Andrew, Sydney and Emma Lenhard and several faithful friends. He was retired from Bausch & Lomb.

Mensa Foundation Award Nominations

Mensa Foundation is accepting your award nominations - especially if the best person for the award is yourself!

- The **Copper Black Award** is given for a Mensan's specific creative achievement that has been patented or otherwise demonstrated to be of practical value, or for an innovation that has been implemented, at least in part, to the advantage of persons other than the nominee. The award does not recognize achievements in the arts.
- The **Distinguished Teacher Award** recognizes a teacher, professor or instructor at any educational level who has had an especially positive influence on the education or life of a Mensa member or on that of a dependent. Nominations are accepted only from members in good standing of American Mensa, Ltd.
- The **Intellectual Benefits Award** recognizes a Mensan's application of intellectual abilities that result in tangible benefit to society. Innovative activities relevant for consideration include education programs for employees; client or business associate education programs; programs designed to educate the public; and intellectual research and development. These activities may be paid or unpaid. Consideration is given to the number of individuals impacted. Deadlines for the Copper Black Award for Creative Achievement and the Distinguished

Teacher Award are both Thursday, April 15, and the deadline for the Intellectual Benefits Award is Saturday, May 1. Make your nominations online in the Programs section at www.mensafoundation.org, or call 888/294-8035 ext. 5509 for more information.

Your presence needed at AG2011!

Are you going to the 2011 **Annual Gathering** in Portland, Ore.? If you are, don't forget about the program track of Leadership Development Workshops. Slots are still available if you would be willing to be a presenter at one of these important workshops. Please contact AG2011 LDW Coordinator Bob Cox at his email with the title and information on the subject(s) you would like to present.

There are also slots available for Meet & Greets for groups other than SIGs. Contact Bob to get yours on the schedule!

You say you haven't registered for the AG yet? Now is the time! Full adult registration is currently only \$90 for five days of programming, Hospitality, local sightseeing in the beautiful Pacific Northwest, and unlimited socializing. This rate will go up on April 1, so visit www.ag.us.mensa.org to sign up today!

New York State of Mind Games

Sign up for "A New York State of Mind Games®"! There's still plenty of time to sign up for "A New York State of Mind Games" (Mind Games 2011), which will be held in Albany, NY, from April 15-18, 2011.

MG 2011 will be at the **Best Western Sovereign Hotel**. Rooms are \$75/night (\$85 double), transportation to and from the airport and train and bus stations is free, parking is free, and a full breakfast will be provided free to hotel patrons.

Albany is a great destination in its own right, but it is also smack dab in the middle of other major destinations: New York City, Boston, Montreal, the Adirondacks, the Catskills, the Berkshires, the Hudson River Valley and more, so come for Mind Games and do some exploring while you're in the neighborhood!

Registration is \$75! We hope to welcome many new faces this year to Albany! (This is a reminder for this event).
