

The
Constellation
Rochester Area Mensa

October, 2011



Short & Sweet

Hello Everybody!

I'm very pleased to see new faces at gatherings! The discussion night was especially interesting, not to mention fun, because I got to spray silly string when things got a little too heated. I would like to hear suggestions from anyone and everyone about what interests you and what would inspire you to come to a RAM gathering. Any and all ideas will be considered!

Obviously, we will continue all our favorite gatherings, but we are eager to add new events on different days, in new venues, and to try new activities. Please feel free to contact any of us with your thoughts.

Hope to see you soon,

Julie Stout

RAM LocSec



Rochester Area Mensa

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<http://Rochester.US.Mensa.org>

The thoughts and opinions expressed in this publication are not those of Mensa, which has no opinions. These are the submissions of members with the intent of generating thought and discussion on a broad range of topics.

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reMARK by Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3 – October, 2011

It's fall – my very favorite season! Although I do not look forward to the cold of winter, I love the cool that follows the heat of summer and the fabulous colors of autumn.

Last month I announced my appointment of Guy Conti as Region 3's ombudsman. Guy's contact info as listed in the on-line Mensa Directory is: Guy T. Conti, 8372 Barrington Dr., Superior Township, MI 48198. 734-418-8474 (gconti AT gmail DOT com). Guy's appointment was prompted by our National Ombudsman Dave Cahn's desire to have Region ombudsmen for every Region. Duties that I can foresee Guy, an attorney and mediator by profession and former Mensa Membership Officer, assume include assistance with the resolution of disputes that may be referred to me, complaints about me, problems between any number of Region 3 local groups, or anything that arises in groups that do not have their own ombudsman. Of course, I know no one in Region 3, including myself, will have to contact Guy. Our Region just isn't that kind of Region.

Speaking of ombudsmen, please check your local roster of officers. If an ombudsman is not listed, consider providing that service to your local group. You need not be one who attends all meetings; you just need to be someone who can listen to all sides of any issue and help facilitate a resolution acceptable to all parties. In addition, ombudsmen should not be voting members of their boards. If a mediator or arbitrator is listed and not also designated ombudsman, ask your board of directors to meet the minimum standard by-laws requirement that each local group have an ombudsman. Your mediator or arbitrator can be also designated the ombudsman and a simple motion, passed by your local board of directors, can facilitate that.

I know that Pittsburgh's RG was wonderful, it always is. I sure missed it. Hope to see you there next year.

Don't forget to register for the - Cincinnati Regional Gathering (See <http://www.region3.us.mensa.org/connections/events/AnnualEvents/RG-Cincinnati.htm>); Just for Your CAMusement! in Cincinnati, Ohio, December 2, 2011– December 4, 2011. It's promised that there will be no clowns. Registration: \$65.00 through November 24, 2011; \$70.00 from then after; Ages 5 and under are free; Ages 6 to 12 are \$10; Ages 13 to 20 are half-price; Friday only \$25; Saturday only \$60; Dinner & Dance on Saturday (after 5pm) \$35. For More Information Contact: Marty Meighen (nehram2 AT hotmail DOT com) 9113 Tag Drive Cincinnati, OH 45231.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

LLAP and Peace,

Betsy

Oh – And One More Thing!

As it turns out, I've found some extra room in the Constellation and I imagine at least some of you might have questions about the *Open House – Mini RG – Get-Away Weekend – Meet n' Greet – and Prizes* event. I'll try to answer a few here.

This started out with the simple concept of a Non-Costume Party, and that segment remains central to the event. We decided to book two adjoining rooms at a centrally located motel to accommodate our members and guests and to provide a setting where, well... okay – where we didn't have to tip anyone and be out by nine or ten o'clock. And with two rooms, we could have more than one conversation going on at once, without the usual benign but inevitable crosstalk.

We have expanded the scope to include two nights, and *voilà* – now we have an open house! This is good, for we will be able to meet more new faces, we believe, and have more time to discuss important issues such as deciding the fate of the world and all the other critical matters we attend to... and have lots of fun while doing it.

Two rooms with two queen-sized beds each means that we have accommodation for 8 to 10 people (must be a pullout or something). Some of us could be up all night talking or playing scrabble or whatever; some will crash wherever they happen to be. You are welcome to join us if you like, either way. Don't plan on sleeping in the tub; could be ice and beverages in the way!

Some people will bring beer or wine; you'll probably want to leave the kids at home for the later evening / overnight stuff. However, you can stay as long as you like or even get a room of your own. We have arranged special rates for those associated with the event and the staff will be happy to assign a room in close proximity if you like, of course subject to availability. (The reservation is under my name, Redfield, and we will be in Building "D" – rooms 316-318.

We are allowed free breakfast for those staying over, officially 8 or 10 of us (who counts?), where you can make your own Belgian waffles, eat scrambled eggs, bacon, the usual fare. (5:30 am to 9:30 am *sharp!*)

We will check in on Friday after 3:00 pm. Check out is by / before 11:00 am on Sunday. You know when the Non-Costume Party is. You know when breakfast is. Other semi-scheduled activities will materialize; we'll let you know. Running out of space again; cue the lightning round:

- Free Wireless High Speed Internet (bring your computer)
- Fitness Room on site (bring your sweats)
- Guest Laundry on site (bring detergent, especially if you bring sweats)
- Iron and Iron Board (Does anyone iron sweats?)
- Microwave, Refrigerator (bring whatever you like)
- Anything else – please call or email and ask or look for more info on the RAM Web site as available...

A Sign of Things to Come

Monroe County Public Safety Laboratory – Date and Time TBD

James Wesley is the Drug Chemistry Supervisor for the Monroe County Public Safety Laboratory (a.k.a. the new crime lab downtown). I have been corresponding with Jim to express our group's interest in arranging an exclusive tour with a highly qualified, expert tour guide. Jim spoke with his boss, Lab Administrator Janet Anderson-Seaquist, and today (Monday, September 26, 2011) she gave him the go ahead to book a tour for RAM members. These are the parameters that were discussed:

- It would be an exclusive tour and Jim Wesley is highly qualified;
- In mid to late November or beyond; in some ways, mid December to mid January would be good – we have some teachers in the crowd;
- On a Thursday or Friday Night, after hours;
- Around 6:00ish with approx 45 minute to 1 hour tour (plus or minus);
- Followed by dinner – We will make arrangements but please feel free to make any suggestions. Somewhere close by - perhaps within walking distance - would be nice (Jim Wesley will make suggestions also);
- Maybe the Dinosaur? Not sure how many would consider that walking distance... but it may be a possibility (I'll drive, thanks!);
- Jim will be our guest for dinner; members will be "Dutch treat";
- However, no cost or "admission" to our members for the tour;
- We'll probably try for a 7:30 dinner reservation if possible to allow time for getting there, wherever it is, and maybe a cocktail before dinner;
- We must require our members to RSVP because there is a strict limit of 25 people for this type of private, after-hours tour and one guide;
- Especially for a Thursday, we generally start breaking up by 9 or 9:30 anyway, so we wouldn't necessarily be out too late... However, certainly sometimes we and occasionally Jim, too, have been known to allow an interesting, enjoyable conversation to go on "forever" – as long as it's interesting and enjoyable!

For members who don't necessarily want to do the tour, or if we meet the maximum allowed, any of our members can join us for dinner. However, this also would be RSVP required. We'll need a firm count for the restaurant. If you want the tour and no dinner, also let us know.

The current next step is for Jim Wesley to examine his and the lab's schedule and determine which dates, if any, can be ruled out or ruled in. As mentioned, Jim also could be instrumental in helping us find a venue for dinner. In other words, we're *currently in negotiations*. ☺

Because participation is limited, once we determine a firm date and time, we will set a date and time to announce the date and time. (Sounds like doubletalk, doesn't it? Maybe even tripletalk! ☺) But seriously, once we announce the date and time, it will have to be first come, first served.

We'll keep you posted as things progress; meanwhile, you can read about Jim and his work in the NY Times (<http://nyti.ms/pNLncN>) and numerous other Internet sources.

News Flash! One Last September Event

International Food Night – Friday, September 30, 2011 6:30 pm *Don't be Surprised – This May Be Another Two-Fer!*

The International Buffet	585.368.9988
326 Greece Ridge Center Drive	No Web Site; See helpful review at:
Rochester, NY 14626	http://bit.ly/pMfQT6

Okay, this might be a little late but it's worth it – for a couple of reasons. First off, this may turn out to be a great place for gatherings as it is easy to find, easily accessible, has not one but *two* private rooms we might use whenever we have sufficient attendance, it has an ice cream bar, and – as far as I have been able to determine – it is never crowded (making it conducive to all those highfalutin conversations we have). ☺

Secondly, a **fairly credible rumor** has it that one of our own, **Mensan and notable author Cynthia Kolko, will be right next door at Barnes & Noble at 7:00 pm** promoting her most recent work, *Fruit of the Vine*. I have not had the pleasure of reading this book yet, but hopefully I will be able to ameliorate that condition following this event. Another highly credible rumor suggests that this is a novel you won't want to miss. (Read all about it at: CynthiaKolko.com)

International Buffet: Located on the west side of the Greece Ridge Center Mall, to the right of Barnes & Noble, to the left of entrance #5.
Barnes & Noble: Obviously, right next door; if you are able to find one, you've found both – *lucky you!* ☺

About Our Cover and "Centerfold" Photos

This month's photo is *Making a Splash*, 08/27/2011, Copyright © 2011 Terrence Redfield, taken at our Mensa Family Pool Party in late August.

Okay folks, we're just going to have to accept the fact that the cover and centerfold pics are always going to be about a month behind the times: We're heading into fall, the equinox was a few days ago, and we're still reminiscing about a pool party? Well, hooray for summer and let's hold on to it while we can! Look for a "fall-ish" picture next month!

Truthfully, the picture we use is open to all who care to participate, it takes a while to put this publication together, and we want our own, relevant photos. If you have attended a recent RAM event and would like to suggest one of your own photos, send it in! Here are the criteria:

It must be an original photograph submitted by anyone – RAM member or non-member – depicting anything of interest from a recent RAM event. (That reminds me – you are always welcome to bring along a family member or friend [or possibly two, or possibly more ☺] to any RAM event. No, you cannot send someone in your stead 'cause after all, we like seeing you anyway!) Call for complete details or see the Web site.

October RAM Events

First Thirstday – Thursday, October 6, 2011 7:00 pm

The Rohrbach Brewing Company 585.594.9800
3859 Buffalo Road Rohrbachs.com
Rochester, NY 14624

A great German themed pub, and a RAM favorite for many consecutive Octobers. No RSVP required; look for the yellow balloon.

Fall Foliage Viewing Hike – Saturday, October 8, 2011 1:45 pm

(Led / hosted by Genesee Valley Conservancy)
Wheeler Gully, Geneseo, NY 585.243.2190
Nations Road (Off Route 39) GeneseeValleyConservancy.org

Fall foliage viewing along Wheeler Gully led by Genesee Valley Conservancy. Walk approximately 3 miles, stream crossings may occur. Meet at bridge on Nations Road in Geneseo, approximately 1 mile from Route 39. Park on the side of the road.

A Hike & Dinner... A FALL TWO-FER IS BETTER THAN A TALL FOOFER:*

Post-Hike Dinner (Hike Optional!) Saturday, October 8, 2011 5:30 pm

Holloway House Restaurant 585.657.7120
29 State Street (Routes 5 & 20) TheHollowayHouse.com
East Bloomfield, NY 14443

All you can eat seafood and prime rib buffet at this historic 1808 stagecoach tavern located on Routes 5 & 20 in Bloomfield. Crab legs and homemade breads are just a couple of personal favorites! Great food with a guarantee that you won't walk away hungry; connect with a coupon and your cost will be about \$21, excluding tax, drinks, and tip.

"Foofer: Person with lack of interest. No intelligence what so ever. Talks to himself/herself in 3rd person point of view" (<http://bit.ly/oNYpUe>).

RAM / Mensa Testing Day – Saturday, October 15, 2011 12:00 noon

ABVI-Goodwill Store For more information, contact
Community Room Eric Murphy or Terry Redfield
50 Webster Commons Blvd (See back cover for contact info.)
Webster, NY 14580

Prior registration is strongly suggested but all are welcome. The Mensa testing fee is \$40; consider bringing cash if not prepaid. Testing begins promptly at 12:00 noon; candidates should plan to show up early. Two Mensa-approved IQ tests are administered, and passing either one will qualify the candidate for membership. (Continues on Page 5)

Venue Review: MAG Tapas Night

What a wonderful opportunity to learn lots of new things! Very quickly, we learned that U of R's Memorial Art Gallery consists of The Atrium, with great food and live entertainment; The Gallery Store, where we were able to amuse ourselves and pick up a few things; the art gallery proper, where you'd better not let them see you taking pictures; and numerous workshops where many eager minds – young and old alike – were learning all about art. (You can see *some pictures* on the Web site, but see below first.)

I hate to admit it, but I also learned that "cocas," at least in this context, are what could be described as slices of flatbread pizza with bacon, Parmesan, and garlic, sans the traditional pizza sauce... and even *kids* love 'em – two things I never knew! All of the food selections were *très chic*, served in reasonable portions, and reasonably priced. The bottom line on the food is that after having a late breakfast and no lunch, I was pretty much full on \$8 worth of Tapas... well, I did stop at Lugia's for ice cream on the way home, but in my own defense, that *was* at *someone else's* suggestion!

All in all, it was a great time taking into account the extraordinary cuisine, the musical accoutrements, the stimulating ambiance, and the warmth of good company. We liked it enough that we are going back in October – hope you'll join us.

– Terry Redfield

RAM Communication & Web Site Upgrades

Many of you may not even be aware that we have a prolific photographic profile of past RAM events dating back to July! (Yes, including the "picnic," but I couldn't fit it into the previous sentence...) Which is only natural, because the pictures were designed to be private. (Okay – I'll stop! ☺)

But seriously folks, we do have a "members only" portion of our Web site, where members can log in and view a record of recent events in which they have participated, or take a look at what they might have missed. Either way, it's available to you now as a RAM member.

However, we *are* serious about maintaining a modicum of security, so you will need to contact Terry Redfield, verify your membership, and receive the necessary log-in credentials. We may, from time to time include pictures of RAM events in our public Web site, but for now they are relegated to the "private stock" section.

Sorry about the temporary inconvenience this may cause, but we are revising many aspects of the RAM Internet presence one step at a time. Soon, many functions will be streamlined, so meanwhile, "pardon our dust" – we see no reason to make you wait.

– Sam

A Good Recipe

After reviewing a number of past Constellation issues, I've noticed that recipes have been relatively constant fixtures in the publication. Unfortunately, the timely sources of these recipes are not always available when we go to print, so for this month I'll submit a recipe we cooked up right here in RAM territory. Our recipe for a good time is aptly named "Not a Normal Pool Party."

Not a Normal Pool Party - Master Chef, Julie Stout

Ingredients:

- 1) Interested and motivated RAM Mensans;
- 2) Perfect weather;
- 3) A sparkling swimming pool;
- 4) A superlative Menu including Shrimp Cocktail, NY Strip Steak, Sautéed Mushrooms, Salt Potatoes, Veggie Tray, Fruit Tray, Home-Grown "Sun Gold" Cherry Tomatoes (courtesy of Sue Keller), Rosemary and Sea Salt Focaccia Bread, Garden Tomato & Basil Chips, and more;
- 5) Age-appropriate beverages (with BYOB on the side); and
- 6) A healthy dollop of AGTWHBA.

Steps:

- 1) Start with a great idea such as that provided by our "Master Chef," Julie Stout;
- 2) Enlist the help of a good sous-chef or two;
- 3) Shopping trip!
- 4) Buy some yellow balloons;
- 5) Remember: It's a pool party – just add water;
- 6) Show up!

Preparation Time:

Amazingly, it seems like it took no time at all!

"Cook" Time:

About five hours or a little more depending on taste; in this case we set the timer for roughly 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Serves:

About a dozen or so this time, with plenty of potential for more next time. Hope you can come to our next Mensa Family Pool Party, tentatively scheduled for some time next summer, and many interesting, exciting, and enjoyable RAM events between!

– *Terry Redfield*

October RAM Events, Continued

RAM / Mensa Testing Day – Continued

We will be attempting to contact all those who have expressed an interest in membership in early October. However, if you know of anyone interested, please have him or her contact us. The minimum age for any IQ test Mensa offers is 14 years. Again, prior registration and prepayment makes things a lot easier for everyone.

For those wishing to attend, the Webster ABVI / Goodwill store is located just off Ridge Road on Webster Commons Blvd, across from Target. We plan to have a Mensa poster displayed on the on door – no yellow balloons this time (Oops, sorry! ☺)

Don't forget that Mensa also recognizes some 200 or so standardized intelligence and IQ tests, so that may be an option for those who do not wish to participate in our October Testing Day. More information is available at <http://us.mensa.org/join/testscores/>

Max at the Gallery Tapas Night – Thursday, October 20, 2011 6:00 pm

University of Rochester	585.276.8900
Memorial Art Gallery	mag.rochester.edu
500 University Avenue	mag.rochester.edu/events/slider-tapas-night
Rochester NY 14607	(We liked this one – re-running as is!)

Max at the Gallery now offers a weekly Tapas Night. This event runs from 5:00pm to 8:00pm; we plan to gather at 6:00pm. We'll have a chance to listen to live music, enjoy wine, beer, and tapas plates for purchase AND, for anyone interested, you can visit the Gallery with half price admission (open until 9 pm). No RSVP required; look for the yellow balloon.

Diner Night – Tuesday, October 25, 2011 7:00 pm

Quaker Steak & Lube	585.697.9464
2205 Buffalo Rd.	http://bit.ly/nU0R88
Rochester, NY 14624	

Okay, here we go – we've decided to take the plunge: Quaker Steak & Lube – the first one in the area – has been open for a sufficient time and it's time that we check it out.

Actually, I am personally quite excited about it, because I recently discovered that they claim to feature really, really hot and spicy chicken wings. Their Atomic Wing Sauce is rated at 150,000 SHU – the Web site says you must sign a release form! The Triple Atomic sauce comes in at a whopping 500,000 SHU... Hmm, potentially lethal!

Don't worry, they also have steaks, steak & shrimp combos; ribs, sandwiches, "steakburgers," wraps, and flatbreads; salads, wings, combos, soups & chili. If you would like to preview the menu, see <http://bit.ly/qWSDno> No RSVP required; look for the yellow balloon. (Continues on Page 8)

October RAM Events, Continued

RAM Halloween Non-Costume Party – Friday-Sunday, October 28-30

Days Inn Rochester (Thruway) 585.334.9300
 4853 West Henrietta Road DaysInn.com OR
 Henrietta, NY 14467 <http://bit.ly/nrz9D9>
 "D" Building – Rooms 316-318 Check our site as time progresses

Open House – Mini RG – Get-Away Weekend – Meet n' Greet – Prizes

Due to an abundance of interest, we have expanded our **Non-Costume Party** to true multi-function status that will include Friday night, Saturday, Saturday night, and Sunday morning – Plus, we have an excellent book presentation on Sunday afternoon at the (relatively) nearby JCC. (See next item, below.) Let's make it a weekend!

We will be providing two adjoining rooms for two nights and parts of three days – plenty of space and time for meaningful conversation and various activities, most of which feature FUN as the primary ingredient. (Bring your favorite games if you like; you might not have time for them, however...) Many events planned but we're open to suggestion.

The **Non-Costume Event** remains a major segment of our weekend: Starting Saturday at 7:00 pm, everyone will wear a **numbered** "Hello, my name is:" badge. (Badges *and* numbers provided!) No costume required, any costume okay as long as you keep your face visible. After using **NO REAL NAMES** for three hours, at 10:00 pm, the contest portion of the event will involve your best guess at everyone's real name. At the end of the contest, the person with the most correctly guessed names will win the grand prize. "Official Rules" available at "check in" or posted on our site. Many more structured/unstructured activities and options.

The **1st prize** for our Non-Costume contest will be a **\$50 "Good Anywhere" gift certificate**. In addition, we will be giving away two books for runners up and, we'll have some great (new) CDs to give away. All said and done, no one will walk away empty handed.

More details will be posted on the Web site or call Terry for info.

Presentation: *Fruit of the Vine* by Cynthia Kolko JCC Book Fest – Sunday, October 30, 2011 1:00 pm

The JCC of Greater Rochester 585.461.2000
 1200 Edgewood Avenue <http://rjbf.org>
 Rochester, NY 14618 Book: <http://amzn.to/nXPxvo>

"Beautifully written. Caustically funny." – *Amazon...* referring to **Rochester Area Mensan Cynthia Kolko's** latest novel (Charles River Press; April 2011). Her presentation is a component of "Rochester's Own," which in turn is part of the roughly three-week-long Rochester Jewish Book Festival presented by The Jewish Community Center of Greater Rochester. "Rochester's Own" is a medley of four local authors starting at 10:00 am, culminating with Cynthia's presentation at 1:00 pm. This is a **free event** but **ticketing are required**. Complete ticket information is available at <http://rjbf.org/attend-an-event> I hope to see you there!

November RAM Events (*so far!*)*

**Attention fellow Mensans, please be aware:* We are continuing the practice of publishing at least the known events for the coming month ahead of time, usually at least the First Thirstday and whatever else is nailed down by the time we go to print. This is just a taste of things to come, so please be sure to refer to the RAM Web site, consult your Constellation issue for the next month when you get it, or give us a call or send an email if you have a specific question (or suggestion).

Community Read: *The False Friend* by Myla Goldberg JCC Book Fest – Wednesday, November 2, 2011 7:30 pm

The JCC of Greater Rochester 585.461.2000
 1200 Edgewood Avenue <http://rjbf.org>
 Rochester, NY 14618 Book: <http://amzn.to/nd7LeS>

Better Get Started NOW! Call it a lecture, call it a presentation, call it whatever you like: This event is heralded as JCC's 1st Book Fest Community Read, and represents a mild departure from the norm for our group. This is a public event where book clubs, individuals, and RAM members have been invited to join the discussion with the author to share views, interpretations, and opinions. (Mensans rarely are short on opinions, and we've been known to ask an insightful question or two; we should make a good showing! ☺)

But first, read the book... Admission to the Community Read with Myla Goldberg is \$8 for JCC members, \$10 for JCC non-members. However, the JCC is offering a package including both admission and your very own copy of *The False Friend* for only \$20.

First Thirstday – Thursday, November 3, 2011 7:00 pm

Buffalo Wild Wings 585.475.1240
 780 Jefferson Road <http://bit.ly/1unYT>
 Rochester, NY 14623-3232

Join us for a relaxing (yeah, right!) evening of deep-fried pickles and free trivia game consoles. We can compete against each other, against others in the local establishment, or across the country for, well... bragging rights, I guess! Full menu, full bar, pretty tasty chicken wings, too.

Located at the corner of Jefferson Road and Clay Road – enter from Clay, thank goodness for the traffic light! No RSVP required; look for the yellow balloon.

Stay tuned – More to Come – November, 2011

We are working on a number of additional events – the new and exciting as well as the comfortable and familiar – for the balance of November... Please let us know if you would like to have your event listed.