



The

Constellation

Rochester Area Mensa

November, 2011

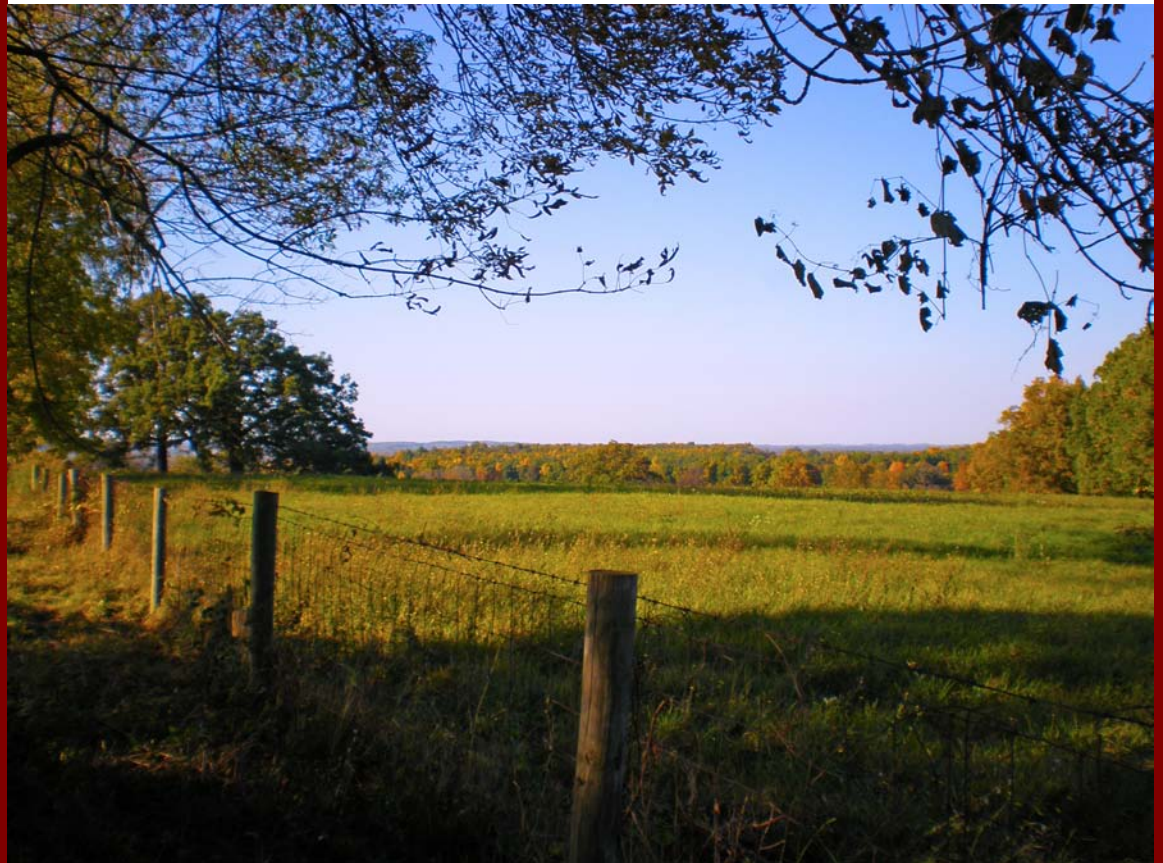
Short & Sweet

Hello Everybody!

I had a most interesting day today. I learned that we can turn bad days into good days. Furthermore, sometimes you learn more from the negative than the positive experiences in your life. I won't waste your time to give you all the details because I'm tired of thinking about it at all! Let's just say that I would have had a better time if I stayed home!

I realized that what happens sometimes is out of our control. For most of the members of Mensa, this is a big problem! We seem to have a large number of people who are extremely determined to make everything go their way. After completing this tiring day, I could go home and sit there feeling sorry for myself, or choose to do something I would love. After several minutes of consideration, I decided to take myself to one of my favorite restaurants. I then picked a very special combination

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Short & Sweet – Continued from Page 1

of all of my favorite foods. At one point, I actually threw my head back, my hands in the air, and yelled, "WOW!" I am very glad that I was one of only a few people in the place!!

That experience sort of reminds me of our Mensa group. We have almost 150 members. In the past, it has been frustrating. Every one of us is an amazing individual. I know some of you, and look forward to meeting all of you. I think that all members have talents that they could share, whether it be through their connections, their jobs, or themselves. Terry and I are doing our best to change things around.

I am going to ask a favor of you. Think of why you joined Mensa. Also, PLEASE let us know what you are interested in learning more about, or field trips, or anything. What would it take to get you to attend a gathering? Both Terry and I are excited to get ideas from you. In fact, there may be prizes awarded for your input!!

Hope to see you soon,

Julie Stout,
RAM LocSec

PS – It is wonderful to see the new faces coming to gatherings, so we must be doing something right!

November RAM Events

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

The JCC of Greater Rochester
1200 Edgewood Avenue
Rochester, NY 14618

585.461.2000
<http://rjbf.org>
Book: <http://amzn.to/nd7LeS>

We Hope You've Started and are Well On Your Way! 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.

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November RAM Events – Continued from Page 2**First Thirstday – Thursday, November 3, 2011 7:00 pm**

Buffalo Wild Wings
780 Jefferson Road
Rochester, NY 14623-3232

585.475.1240
<http://bit.ly/1unYT>

Join us for an exciting evening of mental gymnastics including 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.

Ontario Pathways Hike – Saturday, November 5, 2011 3:30 pm

Ontario Pathways, Inc.
Access via:
NY Route 96, east of Route 488
Phelps, NY 14532
OntarioPathways.org

Half Way Haus
2121 NY Route 96
Clifton Springs, NY 14432
315.462.9006

Ontario Pathways Hike with views of cascading waterfalls and vistas of Flint Creek. Parking area is on the south side of Route 96 just east of the Route 488 intersection in Phelps. "Easy hiking, generally level trail" rating by Richard and Sue Freeman, authors of *Take a Hike* (Footprint Press). To be followed by supper at the Half Way Haus tavern, 2121 Route 96, which is just west of Route 488. This is a comfortable, rustic tavern and the menu includes items such as burgers, breaded chicken breast and Philly steak sandwiches, pizza, and wings. In short, a perfect place to get a meal after an afternoon hike. Last chance for a hike before the end of Daylight Saving Time! *THIS IS A HIKE FOLLOWED BY DINNER!*

Wine Tasting Tour – Sunday, November 13, 2011 2:00 pm

Casa Larga Vineyards
2287 Turk Hill Road
Fairport, NY 14450

585.223.4210
CasaLarga.com

A professional tour guide will lead us through the process of producing award-winning wines – from vineyard to glass. View the vineyard, fermentation tanks, oak barrel room, and bottling line. The tour concludes with a tasting of 5 pre-selected wines at the Tasting Bar. Cost is \$6.00 per person for the tasting and tour; RAM is chipping in to cover a Gourmet Fruit and Cheese Tray for our group. Family members and friends (over 21) are all welcome. RSVP is very much appreciated; please call or email Julie or Terry.

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November RAM Events – Continued from Page 3

Holloway House Friends & Family Night – Tentative Event*
Wednesday, November 16, 2011 6:00 pm

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

This is not an "all-you-can-eat" special like the one we enjoyed in October; instead, it's a family-style turkey dinner where all tables get the same amount of food for one attractive price. The restaurant suggests four to six people per table, and whatever remainder there is goes home with you. For \$43.95, each table gets the famous homemade Holloway bread and rolls, tossed salad, a large platter of turkey with giblet gravy bowl, a bowl of mashed potatoes, a bowl of stuffing, and a bowl of vegetables. Cocktails and beverages are ala carte. Sorry, for Friends and Family Night no coupons of any type are allowed... As designed, it's already only \$7.33 to \$10.99 per person before drinks, tax, and tip.

* We are eager to give this event a try, but we've learned that for the Holloway House, reservations are essential and we need to show up on time with the anticipated number of guests. A final decision on this event as a RAM endeavor will be based on the number of responses by Friday, November 11th. Therefore, RSVP is REQUIRED; please call or email Julie or Terry. If we decide not to book the reservation as a group due to lack of interest, we will notify anyone who has expressed an interest. You can still go if you like; simply make your own reservation at your convenience.

Diner Night – Tuesday, November 22, 2011 7:00 pm

Slayton Place Restaurant 585.352.0260
54 Slayton Avenue Limited info available at:
Spencerport, NY 14559 <http://bit.ly/nX5oFp>

Several factors conspired to influence placing this excursion on the schedule: We have never been to this restaurant yet have an interest in going. Also, I found a 50% off coupon (\$30 certificate for \$15) for this restaurant. As some of you may know, that means that the first appetizer or two is already paid for. Also, we recently discovered a roundabout connection to the restaurant or in other words, "we know somebody!" 😊

The restaurant is located on Slayton Avenue, directly across the parking lot from the Spencerport Tops Market. We expect no problem finding a place to park on a Tuesday! With the air of a family diner, Slayton Place offers exceptional versions of classic menu items and generous portions. Favorites include seafood Diablo and chicken and artichoke French, and a fish fry available every day. Assuming that someone is having fun making a play on words, I wonder what the connection to "Peyton Place" might be. Hmm... No RSVP required; look for the yellow balloon.

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November RAM Events – Continued from Page 4

RAM Waterloo Premium Outlet Shopping Tour – Tentative Event* Friday, November 25, 2011 – Time and Details TBD

Waterloo Premium Outlets	315.539. 1100
655 State Route 318	http://bit.ly/qyzjcD
Waterloo, NY 13165	Check our site as time progresses

* This is an idea that seems to be gathering steam: Nothing is etched in stone yet, but let's put our heads together and see if we can fashion an outing that pleases and benefits everyone. The Waterloo Premium Outlet (and ostensibly almost every store) is having a Thanksgiving Midnight Madness event: They open at midnight on Thanksgiving (let's call it 12:01 am Friday) and stay open until 10:00 pm – 22 hours in all. Don't worry – no one has suggested that we stay for all 22 hours! ☺

RAM is a qualifying non-profit and/or membership-based organization (by way of AML) and it's possible that we qualify for free VIP Coupon Books from the outlet management company with a registered shopping tour party of 15 or more, and we also *might* have access to some limited but low-cost / no cost group transportation options – especially for those traveling from the west side of Rochester. Let's gauge our collective interest and I'll get back to you on that...

We would *not* be planning to shop as a group – that just doesn't work. We would arrive together, get some coupons if we qualify, go our separate ways to shop, maybe meet up for some grub, do some more shopping, and – if we can score any sort of group transportation – meet at a predetermined place and time to leave together. Anyone providing his or her own transportation could take an exit at any point, but would want to be present for an initial headcount and VIP coupons.

Therefore, we would have to establish 1) a starting time, 2) an ending time, and 3) the number of souls brave enough to take on Black Friday shopping and reap the concomitant rewards! Yes, this could be lots of fun but remember that a tangible benefit comes by way of strength in numbers... All we need is 15 or more committed shoppers and we're there! (And remember, for this and most RAM events, family members and friends are welcome when accompanied by a RAM Mensan.)

**If you are at all interested, email or call Terry. I'll be making a list...
WPOShopping@RochesterAreaMensa.org or 585.705.3329
(That's a temporary email address – after Thanksgiving, it goes away!)**

About Our Cover and "Centerfold" Photos

This month's photo is *Great Vistas Common*, 10/08/2011, Copyright © 2011 Terrence Redfield, taken at the Genesee Valley Conservancy's nature walk in October. We enjoyed the lovely 82° weather, probably the last of its type for this year! The view is looking roughly north by northwest from a vantage point on Nations Road in Geneseo, New York.

Fun, Fun, and more Fun – You Don't Want to Miss It!**RAM Halloween Non-Costume Party – Friday-Sunday, October 28-30**

Days Inn Rochester (Thruway)
4853 West Henrietta Road
Henrietta, NY 14467
"D" Building – Rooms 316-318

585.334.9300
DaysInn.com OR
<http://bit.ly/nrz9D9>
Check our site as time progresses

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

We certainly hope you have been following along with the evolving news and details about our RAM Halloween Weekend. All the latest info is here in this issue but let us know if you've missed anything or if you have any questions at all.

The **Non-Costume Event** remains the keystone 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. With the submissions tallied, 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**.

Accommodations

- RAM is covering the bill for two adjoining rooms for two nights, primarily to provide a venue where we can do whatever Mensans do and avoid paying a big tip and being kicked out by nine or ten o'clock.
- Mensans have been known to keep a conversation going until the wee hours, so an added benefit is that this venue is conducive to crashing / staying over even if it wasn't your original plan; if it is your plan, please let us know.
- Special rates are available if you want your own room. It's basically a 20% discount for anyone in our group even if they normally would not otherwise qualify. It comes out to \$55.99 per night plus tax.

Food

- Dinner Friday 7:00 pm: Dutch Treat Lehigh Restaurant (Next Door)
- Breakfast Saturday 8:30 am: FREE at the Days Inn, RSVP Required
- Lunch Saturday 2:00 pm: FREE Tony Pepperoni (at Days Inn, delivered)
- Dinner Saturday 6:00 until... Mostly Provided, bring a dish to pass if you like
- Breakfast Sunday 8:30 am: FREE at the Days Inn, RSVP Required
- Whenever: FREE Munchies!!!

(Halloween Party Details Continue on Page 8)

RAM Halloween Non-Costume Party – Continued

Alcohol

- Neither Rochester Area Mensa nor American Mensa, Ltd. will be providing any alcoholic beverages to anyone, and neither RAM nor AML encourages or endorses any irresponsible or illegal behavior. RAM will actively discourage any irresponsible or illegal behavior when it comes to our attention. If necessary, we will get you a room, call a taxi, or throw your car keys on the roof of the building! ☺
- Stated differently, you can BYOB if you like, but some guests will also bring beverages and might be willing to share...

Activities

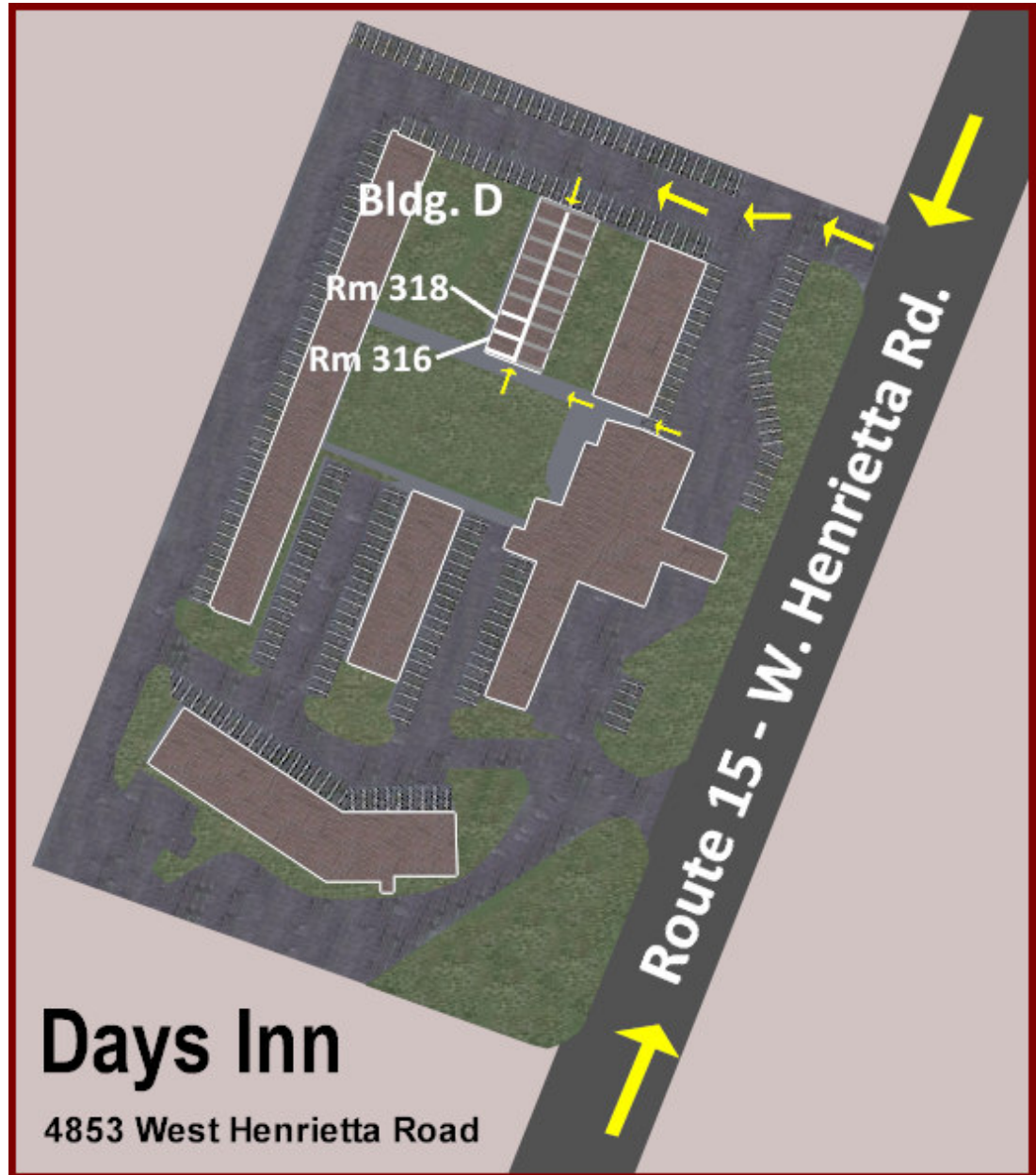
- Friday 7:00 pm Dinner
- Friday 8:30 pm Photo Shoot
- Friday 8:30 pm Concurrent Board/Business discussion
- Saturday 8:30 am: Breakfast
- Saturday 12:30 pm: SIESTA!
- Saturday 2:00 pm Pizza Party / Movie: Spooky Buddies
- Saturday 6:00 pm: Hospitality committee prep / set up
- Saturday 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Non-Costume Contest
- Saturday 7:00 pm – No promises, but we might have some surprise special guests
- Sunday 8:30 am Breakfast
- Sunday 11:00 am: Everybody out!
- Sunday 1:00 pm: Don't forget the JCC Book Fest with Cynthia Kolko
- Ongoing: Endangered Species Project
- Ongoing: Where in the World is Your Name It?
- Ongoing: Who's Who in RAM?
- Ongoing: 2012 Scholarship Program discussion
- Ongoing: Scavenger Hunt
- Ongoing: More Puzzles – Plus bring your favorites if you like
- Ongoing: More Games – Plus bring your favorites if you like
- Ongoing: More Discussions – Plus suggest a topic if you like
- Ongoing: Fun activities for Kids of all ages
- You might get to meet Sam
- You might get to meet a famous author
- You might get to meet a famous forensic scientist

Prizes

- \$50 "Good Anywhere" gift certificate
- Brand new, autographed book by a famous author
- Brand new book by a famous author, plus opportunity to get an autograph
- Brand new music CD by famous local ensemble
- Another brand new music CD by famous local ensemble
- Some of the puzzles you or your child solve might go home with you
- Special Mensa-themed buttons, bumper stickers, etc.
- Free YELLOW balloons for the kids ☺ (Other colors, too!)

RAM Halloween Non-Costume Party – Continued

No need to go to the front desk or anything – just park your car and find our rooms in the “D” building. Hope this helps but you can call or text when you arrive if you’re feeling a little lost!

**Unfortunately, we have one regret...**

Please note: The Days Inn does not have a swimming pool. Swimming never was a part of the plan; we have plenty of other activities to hold our attention. Trust me when I tell you that Julie and I thoroughly investigated several options but in the end we resolved to make the best of it with the plan that was already in place. Taken as a whole, we are sure this will turn out to be nothing more than a minor inconvenience for a handful of people and the planned events will more than compensate. Thank you for your understanding.

reMARK by Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3 – November, 2011

When the American Mensa Committee (AMC – Mensa’s Board of Directors) meets in Arlington, Texas, Don Drumtra, LocSec of Lone Star Mensa attends. What appears between the lines below was written by Don for his local newsletter. I have always wanted to share with you what happens during our meetings and Don has said it well. I have permission to use it here. Please, if you are ever where the AMC meets, do join us. Our next meeting is the weekend of December 2-4 in Las Vegas. Needless to say, it is the same weekend as Cincinnati’s Regional Gathering, and, to be honest, I’d much prefer to be in Cincinnati with you. If you have to be in Las Vegas, I would love to see you at the AMC meeting at the Tropicana.

“Who sets the policy and direction for Mensa? It is the International Board of Directors, responsible for high-level decisions regarding broad strategic guidance for national Mensa organizations. The Mensa founders, who were the de facto IBD members at the time, set down the three reasons for our existence listed on the first page of the Mensa Constitution.

“Closer to home is the governing body of American Mensa (AML)—the American Mensa Committee (AMC). As you might suspect, it develops policy and provides direction for Mensa in America. But what else does the AMC do? It is hard describe, but reading their minutes and reports on line might help us find out. We could also sit in on the AMC meeting at the Annual Gathering if we attended. (But then we might miss some of the interesting speakers we came to see.)

“What then? Well, once each year the AMC meets in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area near the National Office in Arlington. The meetings are open to all Mensa members and, with a few exceptions, visitors are invited to participate in most activities and observe most meetings; but we have to pay our own way. So instead of visiting the AMC at an AG, we could hop in our car or on a train and attend the meeting. I chose the latter on September 8. It was fun and enlightening and even though I was the only full-time visitor, I felt welcome.

“The first day of the meeting consisted of a leadership development workshop. The AMC is serious about leadership development and believes it is important to set the example for the rest of American Mensa members. The presenter was Jeffery Cafaude, a national award-winning facilitator of company executive leadership conferences. He bills himself as an Idea Architect.

“We began Friday with a continental breakfast at 7:30 AM. Jeff arranged us around five round tables with five participants each, and at 8:30 AM he began the workshop. We had one morning coffee break and then moved to the next room for a buffet working lunch, while listening

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to an outside auditor explain the results of the recent AML financial audit. The workshop resumed at 1 PM and went to 5:15 with one break. There was a meeting on testing from 5:30 to 6:30 that most of us did not attend. At 6:30 we reconvened for a buffet working dinner, with a presentation on testing by the AML Chief Psychologist, Dr. Frank Lawless. Dinner ended at 7:45, in time for the meetings of the Leadership Committee at 8 PM and Finance Committee at 9 PM. I was dead tired when the day's work was done at 10 PM. What about the National Office staff? They arrived before us and left after us, making sure all was ready, that we all got to the right place at the right time, and cleaning up after us.

“Saturday the continental breakfast was at 7:30-8:30 AM, the same time as the Membership Committee meeting. The meeting convened at 8:30 and ended in mid-afternoon with a working buffet lunch with multiple discussions. After the AMC Committee meeting there was a meeting of the RVCs. Saturday evening we gathered for dinner and to exchange war stories.

“On Sunday there was a working breakfast to wrap up the meetings. We all hung around the breakfast tables afterward, finally relaxing until we had to leave to catch our flights or other transportation home.

“What was my impression? Some have suggested that most of the meetings AMC members attend are nothing but parties. My experience was quite the opposite. Our AMC members worked from sunrise until after sunset each day conducting the essential business of Mensa. Why? They do not get paid for this. It must be for love.”

Register now for the Cincinnati Regional Gathering, (<http://bit.ly/nP9dR3>) *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.

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. I have much for which to be grateful. I wish all Region 3 members and their families and friends a very happy Thanksgiving. May your Thanksgiving be filled with all good things. I send you my very best.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

LLAP and Peace,

Betsy

Betsy Yvonne Mark
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Yahoo group - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMR3/>
Facebook group - <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=71515809887>

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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.