

The
Constellation
Rochester Area Mensa

December, 2011

Short & Sweet

Hello Everybody and Happy Holidays!

We haven't scheduled quite as many activities over the holiday season. In January however, we have some special events planned: Mensa will be getting a tour of the new Monroe County Crime Lab 1/6/2012, and our post-holiday party will be on Saturday, January 21st!

The wine tasting and tour at Casa Larga was extremely fun and informative! I am sorry if you missed it. We may go back at some point, so you're likely to have another chance!

We also had a great Thanksgiving family style dinner at Holloway House! I received only positive comments from the ten members who enjoyed the atmosphere and the wonderful food (except for Danielle, who unfortunately doesn't care for turkey). However, she did get to take a full can of silly string home with her, so I think she was okay with the overall arrangement!
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Rochester Area Mensa

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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.

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Rochester Area Mensa also had an amazing two-day Halloween party! We had games of all levels of difficulty, including a silly string war! Terry persuaded Tops Markets to donate five amazing party platters. I won't ask too many questions about how he managed that one but we are looking forward to continuing and expanding the relationship with Tops and other local businesses.

Hope to see you soon,

Julie Stout

RAM LocSec

December RAM Events

First Thirstday – Thursday, December 1, 2011 7:00 pm

Papa C's Eastside Café 585.223.7463
303 Macedon Center Road PapaCsFairport.com
Fairport, NY 14450

Join us for a return to the Eastside – home of “The Pile-Up” and a Fairport favorite. No RSVP required; look for the yellow balloon.

Directions: From Fairport four corners (intersection of 31F and 250), take 31F east, make sharp left at traffic light (Turk Hill Rd/31F), then sharp right at next traffic light (Macedon Center Rd./31F), go about 0.8 miles. Eastside Café is on the right, the last business on a little strip road to the side. Turn off of 31F onto the strip road before you get to Eastside Café.

Food and Entertainment – Saturday, December 3, 2011 6:00 pm

Sheridan's Pub 585.271.7777
1551 Mount Hope Avenue SheridansPub.com
Rochester, NY MeyerandMcGuire.com

Sheridan's Pub is known for serving up great drinks, gourmet pub favorites (including traditional Irish fare), attentive service, and fun loving hospitality. The kitchen is open until 2 am every night, and parking is located across the street.

Meyer & McGuire are described as purveyors of classics, originals, and eclectic acoustic music at its almost finest, reflective of such greats as Jimmy Buffett, Bob Dylan, Willie Nelson, John Prine, and Jim Croce. They'll be entertaining the Sheridan's crowd from 7:00 to 10:00 pm.

With Sheridan's Pub and Meyer & McGuire combined, we have a great night planned and we hope to see you there! No RSVP required; look for the yellow balloon.

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Have a Blast at Mind Games® – Continued from Page 10

When you get your registration packet, you are handed the list of games. Everyone gets the same list, randomized order-wise, so that the first 30 games listed for each person are different. These are your “assigned” games for the weekend – the only games from which you are permitted to vote for the Top 5, which receive the Mensa Select® seal. Throughout the weekend, you are expected to play those 30 games; while you can play the rest of the games with your extra time, you don't have to.

As you play, you try to find the main features of the games. You can provide feedback to the manufacturers on all sorts of items. Some games will be quick to understand and play, while others take longer. There's the occasional dud in the mix, but you'll play many great games over the weekend, some of which you'll be so excited about that you decide to play again despite having many other games to play. These are some of the best moments in Mind Games – enjoy them.

At the end of the fun, frenzied weekend of play, we announce the Top 5 winners and then hold a games give-away. All of the games played throughout the weekend are repackaged, the names of the Mensans in attendance are randomized, and, in order, we get to select which game we want to take home with us – a nice perk of the weekend. If there are any games left over when we hit the bottom of the list, we work our way back up the list until all the games are gone.

For 2012, we are holding Mind Games in Herndon, VA at the Hyatt Dulles, a short hotel shuttle ride from Dulles Airport. Registration includes round-the-clock hospitality and all the games you can play. All meals from dinner on Friday through breakfast on Sunday will be provided, including two buffet dinners provided by the hotel.

The official start time where announcements happen is at 4pm on Friday, but, if you're trying to decide whether to come early or late, err on the early side. Registration will start around 9am, the games are fluffed (prepared) starting around 10am or so; once we've completely finished that process anyone who has already arrived is usually welcome to start playing. We're also looking into hosting some early gaming (not using the Mind Games entries) the night before. To find out additional important information, keep up with the happenings, and ask questions, find us on Facebook (search Mind Games 2012). To register for Mind Games, go to mindgames.us.mensa.org. To make your hotel reservations, go to <http://resweb.passkey.com/go/MensaMindGames2012>.

We'll see you in Herndon on April 20 when Mind Games 2012 officially begins!

*Jared Levine &
Jess Byron*

reMARK –December, 2011 – Continued from Page 9

Register now for the yet to be themed SEMMantics XXXIII RG, May 4–6, 2012, to be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, 37529 Grand River Avenue, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. Call (248) 477-7800 for hotel reservations. Registration: \$65 through 1/31/2012, \$75 through 4/15/2012, \$45 Friday Only, \$50 Saturday Only, \$85 Weekend at the Door, Children 5 - under 18 1/2 price, Children under 5 free. Includes all meals, Chocolate Orgy, "The Evolution of Charlie Darwin," constructing crosswords by James Tuttle & Peter Collins, and MensaSelect game winner Uncle Chestnut's Table Gype inventor Paul Nowak. Of course you expect me to tell you to send your registration fees to me. Sit down! I have finally passed the torch and a very difficult decision it was. I have relinquished my "I'll take your money" moniker. I am pleased to ask that you send your registration checks (made out to SEMMantics) to Larry Arbanas, 24565 Glen Orchard Dr., Farmington Hills, MI 48336-1725. Yes, if you see me I'll take your money for Larry.

I wish you a wonderful holiday season and a safe beginning of winter. And, let me be the first to wish you a Happy New Year. May it be healthy, prosperous, and wonderful in every way for each and every one of you and your loved ones.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

LLAP and Peace,

Betsy

Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3 | Ypsilanti, MI | 734.434.5757 | www.region3.us.mensa.org

Have a Blast at Mind Games®

by Jared Levine and Jess Byron, Mind Games co-chairs

Thinking about attending Mind Games®? You've heard about it, thought about it, maybe even checked out the website, but what is it really? Here's what you should know before you go.

Mind Games is a weekend-long event that has up to 300 people playing games that have been on the market for no more than one year, testing them out, providing manufacturers valuable feedback, and selecting the Top 5. Every year, Mensa solicits new games of all types (except video games) from the various game manufacturers, from big names to small independent outfits. There are approximately 60 distinct titles in any typical year, and we get to test them all out. Sometimes we're among the first to ever even see the finished version of a game.

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December RAM Events – Continued from Page 2

Max at the Gallery Tapas Night – Thursday, December 15, 2011 6:00 pm

University of Rochester Memorial Art Gallery 500 University Avenue Rochester NY 14607	585.276.8900 mag.rochester.edu mag.rochester.edu/events/slider-tapas-night If you haven't been lately, give it a try!
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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.

January 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 preview into the future month, 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).

Tour Event & Dinner – Friday, January 6, 2012 6:00 pm

Monroe County Public Safety Laboratory 85 W. Broad Street Rochester, NY 14614	We are still bouncing around several great ideas about where to have dinner after our tour. Look for more info and details next month.
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OKAY – We've set the date! We are very pleased to announce that our tour of the new Monroe County "Crime Lab" will be on Friday, January 6, 2012 at 6:00 pm. The tour is being conducted by our friend and forensic expert James Wesley, followed by dinner and plenty of relevant and lively conversation.

Because this is an exclusive private tour for interested RAM members and their friends or family members, we are limited to 25 tour guests. (Note: this is not a "children's" event – high school age and above only please.)

An RSVP is REQUIRED for this event and inclusion is on a first come, first served basis. However, the dinner following the tour will be open to all interested RAM Mensans. You will have a chance to meet and converse with Mr. Wesley even if you do not make the tour.

Please RSVP to Terry with number of guests and if you are interested in the tour, dinner, or both. Any additional details and/or updates will be included in the January Constellation, which you will probably have by December 28th. Contact info is on the back page or on the Web site.

January RAM Events – Continued from Page 3

First, umm, *Second* Thirstday – Thursday, January 12, 2012 7:00 pm

Cracker Barrel Old Country Store (Near I-390 & Hylan Drive)
2075 Hylan Drive 585.321.3230
Henrietta, NY 14623-4219 CrackerBarrel.com

PLEASE NOTE: Because our Crime Lab tour is scheduled for Friday the 6th, we are pushing our First Thirstday back by one week for this month.

The Cracker Barrel offers a casual dining family restaurant atmosphere as well as an old country store... one of our perennial favorites! No RSVP required; just look for the yellow balloon.

RAM Post-Holiday Party – Saturday, January 21, 2012 7:00 pm

McKeever Residence mckeever@rochester.rr.com
4 Chesfield Lookout 585.223.7788
Fairport, NY 14550

Ring in the New Year at our RAM post-holiday party, graciously hosted by Bob McKeever. We are still developing the menu (details in next month's Constellation) but it's certain to include plenty of food and fun – BYOB and if you like, bring a dish to pass. Chesfield Lookout is located right off High Street Extension east of Turk Hill Road in Fairport.

Please RSVP to Bob McKeever by or before January 16th. We all hope to see you there!

Stay tuned – More to Come – January, 2012

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

About Our Cover and “Centerfold” Photos

This month's photo is *Mile Marker 1.0*, 11/05/2011, Copyright © 2011 Terrence Redfield, superbly choreographed by Sue Keller and taken at our Ontario Pathways Hike in early November.

The picture we use for our cover and centerfold is open to all who care to participate. If you have attended a recent RAM event and would like to suggest one of your own photos, send it in!

The criteria are fairly simple: It must be an original photograph submitted by anyone – RAM member or non-member – depicting anything of interest from a recent RAM event. Other than a few editorial and/or technical details, that's pretty much it! Feel free to call or see the Web site for complete details.

reMARK by Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3 – December, 2011

I feel like Santa or Aladdin or a fairy godmother. I have been able to grant wishes of Region 3 members. What a feeling!

First is to publish the following announcement of Southeast Michigan Mensa's Name the RG competition:

NAME THAT RG COMPETITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Back by popular demand: Name our RG and win a free registration to the upcoming wonderful ___(your idea here)___ RG!

You will win a free registration for the 2012 SEMMantics Regional Gathering if you suggest the best name and theme for SEMMANTICS XXXIII, to be held the weekend of May 4-6, 2012.

We are announcing a competition, with all current members of Mensa eligible, to name a theme for our RG, the biggest event of the year. Ideas, double entendres, puns, feghoots, and other clever word plays are especially welcome, of course. Submit your suggestions by December 20th to Jean Becker. She will remove the name of the submitter and the RG committee will choose the most original, representative, and creative entry to name the RG and provide the theme for its activities.

All suggestions must be addressed via e-mail to Jean at JeanKBecker@gmail.com no later than the above-mentioned deadline, December 20, 2011. You can just submit the name, or you may explain the reason you think the name and theme are the best, up to a maximum of 250 words. Please place the words “SEMMantics name competition” in the subject line. Winners will be announced at the Winter Bash and in M-Pathy. Here's your chance to have it your way!

– Jean Becker

Second is to add the following games to the three overflowing Region 3 tubs now stored by Beth Weiss and Stan Ward for use at events within the Region. I am not a game player, save for FreeCell, but the one that I do love is Apples to Apples and I have ordered a crate! In addition, there will be multiple copies of Qwirkle, Qwirkle Cubes, and Wizard for tournaments and Big Boggle, Blokus, Ticket to Ride, and Five Crowns to bring pleasure to our gamers. Enjoy! Enjoy!

I hope you are attending **the Cincinnati Regional Gathering: Just for Your CAMusement!** in Cincinnati, Ohio, this first weekend in December. It's promised that there will be no clowns. Registration is \$70.00; 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, 9113 Tag Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45231 or just show up! I wish I could be there, but I am attending the AMC meeting.

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Member Recognition

On behalf of all RAM members, we would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members: Congratulations, welcome to the group, and we hope to see you at a RAM event soon!

New RAM Members as of October 2011

Ryan D Gregory	Williamson
David J Mack	Rochester
Chad A Goulette	Sodus
Toby R Stroud	Rochester
Maureen A Shaw	Webster
Brett Kinsler	Pittsford

If you see any of these RAM members in the month of December, be sure to wish them a happy birthday:

December RAM Member Birthdays

John W Roberts Jr.	December 1 st
Christopher P Muller	December 2 nd
Robert D MacArthur	December 4 th
Cathryn M Ciccolone	December 10 th
William Wellington Napier	December 12 th
Connie L White	December 19 th
Edward Dunn	December 22 nd
James G Dietrich	December 24 th
Christina M Olsowsky	December 28 th
Ronald D Heisey	December 31 st

And a special “tip of the hat” to those having anniversaries this month:

December RAM Member Anniversaries

John W Roberts Jr.	34 years with Mensa
Glen Dumas	25 years with Mensa
Bertram Gamory	12 years with Mensa
Roberta W McDermott	11 years with Mensa
Leslie Ann Phillips	10 years with Mensa
Karina Pinch	9 years with Mensa
Michael Domenic Tucci	5 years with Mensa
Kurt L Meichtry	4 years with Mensa
James C Haefner	3 years with Mensa
Grace Muszocki	3 years with Mensa
Carl Nielsen	3 years with Mensa

And if we've missed anyone: The past several months have been busy and full of events, unfortunately we do not have unlimited space in our printed newsletter, and AML is only now improving distribution of key info and stats. If we have overlooked anyone in any way for any reason, we apologize very sincerely and look forward to doing a better job with our member recognition efforts, both online and in print, in the future.

One Fanta-Stick Photo



Praying Mantis – 10/08/2011 Copyright © 2011 Robert Horner

Yep, pretty fantastic: Many photographers tried and many failed, but our own Bob Horner was able to capture a unique, extremely high-quality, and fairly rare photo of this praying mantis while on a hike with fellow RAM Mensans in October. (Umm, just to be clear, Bob was on the hike, not the praying mantis!) This one – and please feel free to comment because I am no entomologist – appears to be a pregnant female, making the photo consistent with our running theme of discussing things to come.

In reality, we are doing much more than just discussing things, although discussion is a prerequisite... positive change within Rochester Area Mensa is gaining momentum and with your help we will be able to sustain that trend throughout the subsequent months, years, and perhaps generations.

For a moment, we'll mount an attempt to get back to basics. Can you recite, from memory, the purpose of Mensa?

1. To identify and foster human intelligence for the benefit of humanity;
2. To encourage research into the nature, characteristics, and uses of intelligence;
3. To provide a stimulating intellectual and social environment for its members.

Let's try and keep *all three* of these ideals in mind while planning for continued growth and improvement in the coming year.

– Terry Redfield

Thanks to Our Halloween Party Sponsors

This October, less than a month ago as I am writing this, we held our first ever RAM Non-Costume Halloween Party and it turned out to be quite a success! Certainly, it provided some useful information that can and will be incorporated into planning future events, but everyone who attended had a good time, and everyone went home with something – anything from a \$50 universal gift certificate all the way to Silly String (as Julie might have mentioned!) ☺ Simply put, we had a ball!



Many thanks to our friends at:

One of the many things that contributed to the overall success of this event was the generous support of several sponsors. We are taking the time here to recognize two groups that were integral to that success: grocery retailer Tops Markets and musical group Gibbs & Main. Both of these groups made significant contributions and their participations was and is very much appreciated.

Thanks to Our Sponsors – Continued

The only difficult part about hosting this party was keeping the guests away from the food long enough to snap a few pictures of what Tops Markets had graciously donated.* To our friends at Tops: Everything was just wonderful and thank you!

*I apologize for not having a lot more photos from the party, but we were all having such a good time that taking pictures quickly became much less of a priority. However, on the opposing page, you'll see the mini-sandwiches, wraps, and croissants accompanied by the cheese and veggie tray and an assortment of scrumptious desserts... *before* we dug in! All photographed at the party and all ~\$200 worth enjoyed courtesy of our friends at Tops Markets!



Thanks also to Gibbs & Main*

Another highly appropriate and much appreciated donation came in the form of 2 CDs that were used as prizes for our RAM members. The music is described as a "collection of tangos and other music influenced by the rhythms of South America" and in case you missed it, the CDs are still available directly from the group's Web site at GibbsAndMain.com/store.html for \$15.00. Look for Gibbs & Main to appear on the RAM events calendar in the coming year.

*Gibbs & Main, formerly known as Quartsemble, is a group of local musicians who first and foremost make beautiful music but also become involved in the community through various activities such as their Kidsemble program (See: GibbsAndMain.com/kidsemble.html) and many others. They intrinsically have our support in all they do.

And Thanks to Our Loyal Members, Too!

While our sponsors are important, our members also are important. At our party, we made a point of recognizing and praising two of our RAM family members, Sue Keller and Bob Horner. Sue is an indispensable part of the team when it comes to coordinating our calendar and scheduling events. Bob is a long-time RAM member, always ready to pitch in and help with anchoring events, showing up with our indispensable yellow balloons, and capturing some of the most Fantastick pictures from RAM events (e.g. see page 5). Both Sue and Bob are valued and indispensable members of our RAM family!

– Terry Redfield