

The
Constellation
Rochester Area Mensa

February, 2012



Short & Sweet

Hello Everybody and Happy 2012!

I just received a huge package of activities to learn, see, and do around Rochester for the entire year! I have to check some of the costs, but am very excited about all of the options we have: Let's just say it cost over \$4.00 for them to send the envelope! Anyway, I will be doing quite a bit of calling to find out specifics of all the deals that look interesting. We will keep you updated as events and gatherings are scheduled.

We have a free building to use on the west side of the city. I volunteer at the Edna Tina Wilson Living Center on Island Cottage Road in Greece. I mainly do hospice and vigil care. Sometimes I just entertain people (and myself) with toys! I will refer to it as the Edna Tina to simplify things a bit.

Now, my goal is to find a free building on the other side of town. Perhaps I can find another nursing facility that (Continued on Page 2)



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

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needs volunteers! The Edna Tina is great because the rooms have cooking facilities and the staff is great! If anyone knows of a location that we could use for free (or low cost) please let me know. I would consider finding a nursing home in that area if someone knows of one. Another option would be someone's house. We used to have a NPR gathering (no particular reason!) They were always really fun and well attended.

Eventually, I would like to have potluck dinners, games, movies, and possibly even more debates (I still am well supplied with silly string to break up disagreements!) I am always open for suggestions!

I am wishing everyone a fantastic 2012! Don't be too hard on yourself if you are not successful in keeping your resolution. I've never known anyone who has! Instead, try doing it monthly, or even weekly if that makes it more possible to succeed!

Hope to see you soon,

Julie Stout

RAM LocSec

February RAM Events

First Thirstday – Thursday, February 2, 2012 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.

Diner Night – Thursday, February 16, 2012 7:00 pm

Sticky Lips Pit BBQ (Henrietta)
830 Jefferson Road 585.292.5544
Rochester, NY 14623 StickyLipsBBQ.com

This will be our first trip to the recently opened Sticky Lips “Juke Joint” in Henrietta. The award-winning menu includes “The Atomic Bomb Challenge” and more. No RSVP required; look for the yellow balloon.

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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 January 2012

Jason J Nasca	Rochester (Move-In)
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If you see any of these RAM members in the month of February, be sure to wish them a happy birthday:

February RAM Member Birthdays

Robert C Jackson	February 2 nd
Toby R Stroud	February 5 th
Lauren M Schieck	February 22 nd
Jamie Welch	February 29 th

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

February RAM Member Anniversaries

Robert J Kalb	20 years with Mensa
Eric Murphy	13 years with Mensa
Jody L Gascon	5 years with Mensa
Richard A Hoppe	5 years with Mensa
Robert Cannan	5 years with Mensa
Declan Ryan	1 year 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.

A Classic RAM Oops!

My apologies about having no January issue!

You know what they say about good intentions... This year's holiday season, work, family, end-of-year business matters, and so on *ad infinitum* conspired against getting the January Constellation out to you. While we have at least sometimes in the past combined the December and January editions (as well as the July and August editions), we really did want to have a complete set for 2012. Well, there's always next year!

Meanwhile, if anything of importance comes along we have email and, of course, we always try and stay a bit ahead. Feel free to contact any of the RAM officers with questions or comments.

– Terry Redfield

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Register now for 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, (248) 477-7800. 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. Send your registration checks (made out to SEMMantics) to Larry Arbanas, 24565 Glen Orchard Dr., Farmington Hills, MI 48336-1725.

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

Looking Ahead to the Coming Months

2012 Could Be a Very Good Year for Rochester Area Mensa

For many people, the beginning of each year is a time of reviewing, adjusting, and attempting to strive toward reasonable goals for the year ahead. Indeed, by February many people having given up on more than one “new year’s resolution” and have set their sights on next year already. (I know, I’m one of them... Did you read page 7!?! 😊)

We all have lives of our own; lives separate from our RAM involvement. Yet, belonging to and participating in our RAM family adds a dimension of its own and enriches life’s experience. Quite a few ideas have been discussed regarding our direction for 2012 and many provide excellent goals. As we venture further into this year, we invite you to voice your thoughts and ideas as well, and will strive to keep you informed.

I realize I have brought this up before but I think it is worth repeating, lest we forget. When I begin to question the reasons why we do what we do, I keep coming back to the guiding principles that define the essence of Mensa. I think we would do well to keep these ideals at the forefront of our thoughts and interactions:

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*

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Diner Night – Thursday, February 16, 2012 7:00 pm (Continued)

In addition, this establishment offers live music most Wednesday through Friday nights; on the 16th you have the opportunity to enjoy the “Folk Americana” stylings of the Jed Curran Band who will be hosting their CD Release Party. A \$5 cover charge will apply only to those who care to stay for the entertainment portion of the evening.

(Another) Dinner & Music Night – Saturday, February 18, 2012 8:00 pm

McKenzie's Irish Pub	585.334.8970
3685 W Henrietta Road	McKenziesIrishPub.com
Rochester NY 14623	myspace.com/TheRefillBand

Good food, good music, good company, lots of fun. Based in Lima, NY, Refill offers an eclectic mix of blues, classic rock, and metal. The show starts at 9 pm. We were here in October as part of our Halloween extravaganza... No RSVP required; look for the yellow balloon.

An Afternoon Swim – Sunday, February 19, 2012 2:00 - 5:00 pm

Naturist Rochester	585.244.1219
237 Vassar Street	NaturistRochester.org
Rochester NY 14607	

RAM member Rich Hauver is hosting a swim for fellow Mensans and neighbors on Sunday February 19th from 2 to 5 PM. Unlike the normal swims that are clothing optional (99% nude) this swim will be swimsuit required. In order to get the correct amount of snacks, Rich is asking for an RSVP e-mail to treasurer@naturistrochester.org no later than Friday, February 17th.

For the adventurous souls in the group, visit the Naturist Rochester Web site and check the schedule, pick a date and drop by – no reservation needed – for an evening of fun. Our policy is first visit is free and all we expect is that all attendees respect the other guests.

Max at the Gallery Tapas Night – Thursday, February 23, 2012 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	If you haven't been lately, give it a try!

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.

March 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).

First Thirstday – Thursday, March 1, 2012 7:00 pm

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

We first attended this restaurant several months ago and the general consensus was... THUMBS UP!

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.

Stay Tuned – More to Come – March, 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 March... Please let us know if you would like to have your event listed.

About Our Cover and "Centerfold" Photos

AH HA! We finally did it: a photo published the same month it was taken! This month's photo is *Hot Mama*, 02/02/2012, Copyright © 2012 Robert Horner, indicative of the fine fare enjoyed at Papa C's in Fairport. Papa C's certainly has become one of our eastside favorites – we hope you join us next time out!

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 – February, 2012

Well, that's an experience I hope I do not ever have to repeat! I wrote last month that I had attended the American Mensa Committee (AMC) meeting in Las Vegas the first weekend in December. That column was written a month earlier and that, most certainly, was my intention. However, at the last minute I had to cancel my trip. Not willing to leave Region 3 without a vote, I arranged to attend the meeting via a phone connection. I tried using the speakerphone, but was not able to hear very well, so nine hours of holding the phone to my ears except for two 15-minute breaks and an hour lunch break made for two very sore ears and one very tired RVC!

This was definitely not the way to be at a meeting! When it came time to vote, I raised my hand, but couldn't be seen. Then it was, "Betsy, how do you vote?" Had to "un-mute" to vote or to voice my opinion. There were presentations that I could hear, but not see. There were facial expressions that couldn't be seen. I know I missed out on the discussions held during lunch and the breaks. Other than the placement of my name placard next to the phone microphone, a cute picture of which was sent to me, the experience was just plain awful. Skyping might have made it a bit better, but not enough to ever get me to say that board meetings can be effectively conducted via conference call instead of in person.

In December I wrote to LocSecs asking for nominations to represent Region 3 on the National Nominating Committee. Self-nominations are welcome until February 24. I need your name, local group, and your Mensa biography. I will prepare a ballot to be distributed to Region 3 LocSecs on February 25. The 3 top vote getters will be presented for approval by the AMC at the March meeting. Remember that anyone serving on the NomComm or anyone living at that same address cannot run for a national office. The NomComm will decide its role (the primary role will be to find members to run for office – Chair, 1st Vice Chair, 2nd Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Regional Vice Chairs – but it may empower itself to pass judgment on those who seek NomComm endorsement) when it meets at the 2012 AG in Reno. NomComm members do NOT need to attend the AG. Looking forward to hearing from you soon!

Register now for Dayton Area Mensa's 25th RG, March 30 through April 1, with Karen Lehman, Registrar, 7039 Monte Carlo Drive, Englewood, OH 45322. The RG will be at the Dayton Grand Hotel (same great hotel, new name) (937) 461-4700) - \$82 + tax per night. RG rates are \$60 through 2/28/2012 and \$70 thereafter. Kids are ½ price and day rates are available. Check the following url for more info: http://www.dayton.us.mensa.org/index_files/RG.htm

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