



The
Constellation
 Rochester Area Mensa
 April, 2012

(Not So) Short & (Typically) Sweet !!!

Hello Everybody!

Well, I find myself completely changing topics for this month's subject! I will try to stay as focused as possible, but considering it is me who is talking, you are going to have to grant me some slack. Originally, I was going to remind everyone about saving a bad day with rewarding yourself somehow. Personally, the great meal is my top choice! I got to do the wow thing and throw my head back again!

Okay, I finally admit that your Loc Sec is directionally challenged! It is quite ironic that I managed to find my way (with help of course) through many locations in Canada, Europe, and most countries in Asia. I was concerned (it takes a lot to get me flustered) in a very small area around Matsumoto, Japan. I decided to relax for a bit and sat down on the ground with my legs crossed. Within a couple of seconds, this big orange tiger cat curls up in my lap and starts making it clear he wants attention! Well, since I love all animals this seems perfectly natural. It happens all the time. As I sat there,

(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>

Short & Sweet – Continued from Page 1

enjoying the garden, a man came up and asked (in English) about my cat. After explaining to him that I was lost, and that the overly friendly cat was in fact not mine, I said that if he could point me towards Matsumoto Castle, I could find my way back to the Suzuki Violin School. I learned that the Castle was one of Japan's National Treasures, because it was the only wooden structure of that size that survived World War II. After politely explaining to my adopted cat that it was very nice to meet him, and thanked him for helping me to calm down, I had to be on my way. I see a GPS in the near future! Here I am, supposed to be intelligent, yet can spend 2 hours being totally lost, and then getting a flat tire! I was eating my WOW dinner at about 11:00 on Wednesday. I would rather have been playing pool with RAM!

I am very excited about our PK through college level program becoming more organized. I will be calling to get ages, interests, and what they are currently doing as far as basic activities. As I promised last month, this information will only be used to collect current interests for RAM to have a starting place for age and level appropriate events. Also, as a reminder, one does not have to be a member to attend gatherings. For now, I know that traditional school provides no challenge. My education was most unusual for the time. Basically, they would give self-study courses. After finishing them too quickly for the comfort of the teacher, they would find something else to occupy my time. I got to teach violin and music, special education, art, and one on one teaching for those students who were more comfortable coming to me than the teacher. I really got a laugh at our class reunion when I heard my name being shouted from across the room. It turned out to be the biggest bully that I helped understand things. I kept kidding him because he had developed manners and everything!

Finally, I have given this suggestion to many bright kids over the years. First, get the boring stuff for school done, or look further into the assignment. Remember that everyone becomes his or her own teacher eventually. The computer has a wealth of knowledge, and best of all, you get to pick any subject that your parents are okay with!

Really finally, keep a book of great, interesting, or curious ideas. I have had 2- and 3-year-old gifted students that were asked what they wanted to learn about each day, and then studied that subject. I was approached by a six year old (and his mom for help with his attitude) who was just stuck in a state of frustration. We came up with the idea to start a great ideas book. His grandfather from a country far away could not believe that an American teacher had made this suggestion. I also took him out by himself for a celebration brunch after things had improved!

Hope to see you soon,

Julie Stout,

RAM LocSec

More on Goal Setting, et cetera...

- Some of my goals when joining Mensa? If you asked me today my response would include: meet new and interesting people, go to new places, see new sights, engage in new activities, learn something.
- Our monthly Constellation is available on our Web site AND on the AML national Web site (<http://us.mensa.org>). For the AML site, you will have to sign in using your Member # or email, and your password. If you do not have your log-in info, the AML Web site is designed to help you. (I bet you've heard that before!) If you need help getting help, just let me know.
- The Mensa Home Test is available through our local group at discounted rates. If you are interested, again, just let me know.

– *Terry Redfield*

2012 RAM Election Results

Okay folks, hold on to your hats. The official results of the RAM 2012 Executive Committee election are that nothing has changed. Because no one decided to run against incumbents for any of our elected positions, and according to the bylaws of the organization, we are bound to maintain the *status quo*.

BYLAWS OF ROCHESTER AREA MENSA, ARTICLE V, Section 5: *"In the event there is a candidate for each elected office and only one candidate is identified for each office as of the closing of petitions, those candidates shall be declared elected without balloting."*

Now, in all fairness to our members, we should mention that 1) we still have an opening on the Executive Committee for anyone who is interested, and 2) we have a mechanism in place should anyone have an objection of any sort concerning the election results.

BYLAWS OF ROCHESTER AREA MENSA, ARTICLE V, Section 7: *"Any challenges to the election must be made in writing to the Chairman of the Electoral Committee and received by May 15. Any such challenges will be ruled on by the Ombudsman no later than May 31."*

So, if you are interested in becoming a RAM Executive Committee Member-at-Large, please contact me (Terry Redfield) or Julie Stout; if you have any objections to changing nothing, please contact Election Committee Chair Tim Wright. [Tim Wright is available by phone at 585.880.9868 or via email at twright8@rochester.rr.com]

And as long as we're posting pertinent quotes, *"If you choose not to decide, you still have made a choice,"* (Neil Peart Canadian Drummer for the band Rush b. 1952, See <http://bit.ly/HkrsLQ>).

[Complete RAM Bylaws are present and available on the RAM Web site; see: <http://rochester.us.mensa.org/bylaws.html> for the full text.]

Metropolitan Washington Mensa's RG: Matrix 4

Contributed by Jenifer Foster, Editor, Cap M

Metropolitan Washington Mensa's Regional Gathering
MATRIX 4: A RENAISSANCE AFFAIR
 Hyatt Dulles Hotel, Herndon, Virginia
 May 18 - 20, 2012



Get the Whole Picture!

What will be the most impressive part of MATRIX 4?

- The Fishbowl?
- The Chocolate Orgy?
- Three Tracks of Programming?
- A Children's Program Track on Sunday?
- The Royal Game Room (including new games from Mind Games)?
- The Royal Banquet?
- The two Royal Pool Parties? Or...
- The Fact That It's All Included!

Decide for yourself! You can learn an Irish dance, hear how to interview people to get solid facts, make better hypotheses by playing Black Box, earn more frequent flyer miles, get a free chair massage, write a short story, have your palm read, use your intelligence more successfully, hear why women were burned at the stake, explore the intersections of art/science/philosophy, trace the appreciation of Greco-Roman art to underlying mythological events, get first-hand knowledge of Vietnam-era policies that have led to today's seemingly intractable international crises, learn survival strategies for the upcoming urbanization crunch, evaluate professional predictions about the future and make your own prognostications, study how extreme ideologies like Nazism creep into the quotidian marketplace of ideas, pose anonymous questions to members of the opposite sex, meet fellow crafters for conversations and tips, or find out if you are smarter than a young Mensan...

Let's face it – all the parts are great!
 We're not leaving anything out!
 Experience it all – visit www.mwmrg.org to register now!

April RAM Events

First Thirstday – Thursday, April 5, 2012 7:00 pm

The Beale New Orleans Grille and Bar 585.216.1070
 1930 Empire Boulevard BealeStreetCafe.com
 Webster, NY 14580

Join us at "The Beale" – a New Orleans Grille & Bar (formerly The Beale Street Café) in Webster. The Beale has been a long-time favorite and recently transformed itself ever so slightly. See the news article at <http://bit.ly/wCwQOW> for ever-so-slightly more info. Enjoy Cajun food, drinks, and (we hope) those shiny Mardi Gras beads! Lots of free parking, too. No RSVP required; look for the yellow balloon.

International Food Night – Thursday, April 12, 2012 7:00 pm

Agave Mexican Grill 855.239.9327
 2820 W Henrietta Road AgaveMexicanGrillNY.com
 Rochester NY 14623-2332

It's official! We're returning to the "International Food Night" theme with a relatively new location, Agave Mexican Grill. We'll be able to explore and discover the flavors of Mexico including mouth-watering main dishes, burritos, vegetarian selections, and awesome combos. No RSVP required; look for the yellow balloon.

Food & Music McKenzie's Pub – Saturday, April 14, 2012 8:00 pm

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

Featuring "Refill" – Find 'em on Facebook at <http://on.fb.me/HHhuog>

This is "Refill" – one of our favorite party bands all revved up and ready to go. Based in Lima, NY, Refill offers an eclectic mix of blues, classic rock, and metal; this event is sure to be both entertaining and enjoyable. McKenzie's? Always good food, good music, good company, lots of fun. The show starts at 9 pm; we plan on gathering at 8:00 to grab a bite first. No RSVP required; look for the yellow balloon.

Billiards Night – Tuesday, April 17, 2012 6:30 pm

Six Pockets Bar - Grill - Billiards 585-266-1440
 716 Ridge Road East SixPockets.net
 Rochester, NY 14621 (In the Ridge Hudson Plaza)

This is our Six Pockets encore – same venue, new night. Six Pockets offers a full bar, a contemporary pool room, and a rustic dining room with a variety of menu items including finger foods, burgers, wraps, and even steak dinners. Six Pockets is located
 (Continued on Page 4)

April RAM Events – Continued from Page 3

Billiards Night – Tuesday, April 17, 2012 6:30 pm - Continued

in the Ridge Hudson Plaza, just east of Hudson. They also host various leagues throughout the week, so even if you're not playing you may get a chance to see some great players in action. According to establishment personnel (and I did call and check) we should have no problem getting a table for ourselves. No RSVP required; look for the yellow balloon.

Wine Tasting – Saturday, April 21, 2012 7:00 pm

Wright Residence 18 Pecos Circle West Henrietta, NY 14458	Scottsville Spirits and Lottery 3892 Scottsville Road Scottsville, NY 14546
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RSVP to Terry Redfield (contact info always on back cover or online) or Tim Wright by phone 585.880.9868 or email twright8@rochester.rr.com

Another new and exciting event for RAM - We are having an evening of wine and refreshments hosted by fellow Mensan Tim Wright, guest speaker David Principino of Scottsville Spirits, and Rochester Area Mensa. Although the wine and appropriate wine tasting fare will be provided, you are free to bring a "dish" to pass if you are so motivated. (Cheese & crackers, you say?) **RSVP REQUIRED**; please contact Tim or Terry.

Max at the Gallery Tapas Night – Thursday, April 26, 2012 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.

About Our Cover and "Centerfold" Photos

This month's photo is *Join the Fun*, 03/22/2012, Copyright © 2012 Terrence Redfield, taken at our Great Northern Pizza Night in March.

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 – April, 2012

Thank you to all who volunteered to represent Region 3 on the National Nominating Committee. Because there were more than three of you, I held an election. LocSecs in our wonderful region selected Joel Anderson of Western Michigan Mensa, Lori Balster of Dayton Area Mensa, and Katie Wehl of Kentuckiana Mensa as our representatives. They will be seeking candidates for Chair, 1st Vice Chair, 2nd Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Region 3 Vice Chair. Do let them know if you are interested in one of the positions. If you are interested in RVC3 and have questions, please contact me. I'm happy to share with you what the position entails. And, on the National Website there are handbooks addressing each of the positions on the AMC. Check them out.

Hopefully, while reading this you are attending Dayton Area Mensa's 25th RG or you have just had the time of your life there. I'm at the American Mensa Committee Meeting in Dallas.

Your next opportunity for the time of your life is to join me as I have already registered for and hope you will 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: \$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.

And, now for a plug for Mensa's Annual Gathering: Do register now for a fabulous time in Reno, Nevada. The website for the AG is: <http://www.ag2012.us.mensa.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home14>

I hope to see before then, but, if our paths do not cross before, then I hope to see you there.

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

Just a Thought (Discussion Welcome)

"One who consistently meets every goal is not setting his or her goals high enough!" (*Just another way of saying sorry for not having this edition out sooner... but we'll keep on tryin'!* ☺)

– Terry Redfield

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 March 2012

Douglas Geertz	Penn Yan	(New)
Barbara A Healy	Rochester	(Reinstating)

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

April RAM Member Birthdays

Annabeth W McCorkle	April 4 th
Terrence Redfield	April 10 th
Eric Murphy	April 11 th
Robert F McKeever	April 11 th
Robert L Walton	April 12 th
Drake Arthur Smith	April 14 th
Newton Green II	April 21 st
Karen M Velyk	April 22 nd
Jeff Gould	April 23 rd
Abigail Kennedy	April 24 th

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

April RAM Member Anniversaries

Connie L White	32 years with Mensa
Kathryn M Schenck	31 years with Mensa
Kevin Skerrett	10 years with Mensa
Robert J Barbato	10 years with Mensa
Joshua F Allen	8 years with Mensa
James G Dietrich	8 years with Mensa
Wilbur James Kellum III	7 years with Mensa
Cynthia Erdmann	6 years with Mensa
Katherine Streeter	4 years with Mensa
Thomas P Szatko	4 years with Mensa
Catherine R Fay	4 years with Mensa
Sanjay Hiranandani	3 years with Mensa
Anna Nicchitta	3 years with Mensa
Cynthia Kolko	3 years with Mensa
Cameron Sen	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.

May 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, May 3, 2012 7:00 pm

Lindburgers
2157 Penfield Road
Penfield, NY 14526

585.388.9420
LindburgersRochester.com

Choose from a huge variety of delicious burgers – a pairing of excellent food with a casual atmosphere! Located at the corner of routes 250 and 441 in the Wegmans plaza. No RSVP required; look for the yellow balloon.

RAM / Mensa Testing Day – Saturday, May 5, 2012 1:00 pm

ABVI-Goodwill Store
Community Room
50 Webster Commons Blvd
Webster, NY 14580

For more information, contact
Eric Murphy or Terry Redfield
(See back cover for contact info.)

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 1:00 pm; candidates should plan to show up early. Two Mensa-approved IQ tests are administered, and passing either one will qualify the candidate for membership.

We will be attempting to contact all those who have expressed an interest in membership in early April. 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 April Testing Day. More information is available at <http://us.mensa.org/join/testscores/>

(Continued on Page 6)

May RAM Events – Continued from Page 5

Stay tuned – More to Come – May, 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 **May...** Please let us know if you would like to have your event listed. **Even if you're just going to be out and about, we would like to hear from you!**

Timely Information

We always have the initial known events (e.g. First Thirstday) for the following month posted in every issue. For Instance, this is our April issue, and we are aware of the May First Thirstday and our May RAM/Mensa Testing Day, so both are listed in this edition of the Constellation.

In addition, the Constellation is published online in several convenient formats and on multiple Web sites. On the RAM Web site – rochester.us.mensa.org – you will find these:

- 1. Normal Print Layout** - This is arranged exactly the same as we use to print two pages per 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper, printed on both sides. If you would like to print your own copy, this is the one. Please keep in mind that the pages are arranged in logical order, not in numerical order. Once you print on both sides, fold, and collate they'll be in the right order. For the April issue, this will use three standard sheets of paper.
- 2. Larger Print Version** - This version is the one to use if you simply intend to read from the PDF or wish to print a copy with one page per sheet and no regard to printing on both sides. The font size is roughly 33% larger than the standard version. This normally will use twelve standard sheets of paper for April unless you actively decide to print both sides.
- 3. Larger Print Version, Offset** - If you want to produce a larger-print hardcopy and intend to use both sides, try this version: The pages are arranged with a 1/2" gutter on the bound edge of the page. The gutter alternates sides, allowing you to print two sides per 8.5" x 11" sheet. This is useful when you intend to staple pages together (as a booklet) or, for instance, if you want to use a three-hole punch to accumulate pages in a three-ring binder. Used as intended, this will use six standard sheets of paper.
- 4. The Centerfold, a printable April RAM Calendar** (Available as a .PDF) - Sorry to disappoint you; it might not be what you thought at first! Get our April Centerfold and stick it up on your refrigerator, your cubicle divider, your bathroom mirror, your computer screen, or your music stand... anywhere it might serve to remind you of upcoming RAM events.

– Terry Redfield

Good Wine Cheap (and good food to go with it) by John Grover

I will start to plant my lettuce in early spring, about six varieties in fact. And, it is time to think of the ways to turn all this produce into wonderful meals. Dinner salads are a staple in our house. We recently tried the recipe below and were very pleased with it.

The wine this month is the 2009 Claret from the Francis Coppola Diamond Collection and is produced in Geyserville, California. Yes, this is the same Francis Coppola of Hollywood fame. This "Claret" is a Bordeaux blend of primarily Cabernet Sauvignon and smaller percentages of Malbec, Petite Verdot, Merlot, and Cabernet Franc. This deep red wine is characterized by the taste of lush red fruits leaning toward dark cherry on the palate. It is aged in oak, but is not at all overpowered by that fact. The result is an elegant and smooth wine reminiscent of evening long dinners spent on the sidewalk cafes of Paris. This is great value for between \$13 and \$17 a bottle.

Rare Roast Beef with Fresh Herbs and Basil Oil (recipe adapted from version printed on foodandwine.com; original recipe from *Salad as a Meal* by Patricia Wells, a true cooking diva; this cookbook is available at Amazon.com)

Ingredients: 1 ½ pound, beef eye of round roast; ½ cup mix of finely chopped rosemary, mint and tarragon, 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil; and, salt and freshly ground pepper. For the basil oil: 2 cups fresh basil leaves, and a ½ cup of extra virgin olive oil (prepared basil oil is also available in many stores).

Preheat the oven to 475°. Generously coat the roast with half of the chopped herb mixture and season with salt and pepper.

In a large ovenproof skillet, heat 2 tablespoons olive oil over moderately high heat. Add the roast and lightly brown it on all sides, about 3 minutes. Remove any excess fat from skillet, return the meat to it and roast in the oven until an instant-read thermometer inserted in the center registers 110°, about 25 minutes. Transfer the roast to a cutting board and season again with salt and pepper. Cover loosely with foil and let rest for 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, bring a large saucepan of salted water to a boil and fill a bowl with ice water. Blanch the basil in the saucepan for 15 seconds. Transfer the basil to the ice water; drain well and squeeze out all of the excess water. Transfer the basil to a blender. Add the 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil and a pinch of salt and blend thoroughly.

Thinly slice the roast and drizzle each portion with 1/2 to 1 tablespoon basil oil. Sprinkle with the remaining 1/4 cup chopped herbs and serve. We served this beef over plates of a spring mix of lettuce tossed with the basil oil and seasoned with salt and fresh ground pepper.

I hope that you will contact me with your comments and your favorite wines at jgrover@berk.com. I will be happy to share them with the broader Mensa group.

John Grover is a member of Mensa of Northeastern New York. He lives with his wife Sharon in the Hudson Valley of New York.