



The Constellation

Rochester Area Mensa

September, 2012

Short & Sweet

Hello to Everyone!

I hope that you enjoyed the end of your summer! We had a number of unusual gatherings this season. I understand that every member wants something different from his or her Mensa experience. I am optimistic that we can combine an interesting collection for everyone! As always, I welcome all suggestions.

I appreciate people's patience about the gifted youth program. I am currently in contact with another group in New York that has a very well developed program. I, of course, will keep you posted. One thing I would like to bring up as a subject for everyone involved to be considering: We have a combination of students who are home schooled as well as public and private schooled. An activity that might be of value to someone home schooled (like presentations, for example) would not be of interest to a person already in a traditional school setting. We will have to compromise on some activities.

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However, the information I have coming from the other Mensa group includes a vast number of resources. I am hopeful that we will be able to combine individual interests with social opportunities for our local members. Please remember, one doesn't have to be an actual member to participate in much of what we schedule.

As far as becoming a member is concerned, we will be having our annual October Testing Day next month. The particular information is included a few pages below, but for now I would like to pass along the date of Saturday, October 20th so that all interested individuals can save the date. The time is early afternoon. It is also possible that you may already have all necessary proof of IQ information. The National Mensa Website includes a listing of accepted exams.

I learned an important lesson yesterday. Debates are an interesting exercise in mental acrobatics! To be truly effective, both sides have to be open to communication with one another. If it is just two opposing sides talking at each other it doesn't accomplish anything! I got involved in a VERY lengthy (over 2 hours!) debate on the Internet with someone about a somewhat controversial subject. Of course if something is a boring, one-sided subject there would be no need for debates! I guess what I ended up coming away with was the appreciation that we live in this country that allows so many different opinions. After one has traveled to a number of other countries in the world that do not encourage freethinking, it makes me acknowledge Mensa as an intelligent organization, questioning society in itself. It is fascinating to me that some of the other countries included in Mensa International are those same places that keep people from speaking their mind! I know this from my own personal experience in travels around the world. Well, that was my deep thought for the day!

On a funny note I would like to share another one of my "unusual" perspectives on life. I will first say that I mean no disrespect to anyone, and people who know me realize that my brain has a way of being exceptionally ditzy sometimes! A number of years ago, a man I was dating brought up the subject of diets. My response was that basically I did not believe in them because everyone that was on one was overweight! As expected, he looked quite puzzled! (I seem to have that effect on people!) Please allow me to explain; I believe that everything in life should be done in moderation. If one places too much focus on any one aspect of his or her life, it frequently detracts from creating a healthy overall balance.

Hope to see you soon,

Julie Stout

RAM LocSec

September RAM Events**First Thirstday – Thursday, September 6, 2012 7:00 pm**

Don's Original / Marge's Lakeside Inn (Irondequoit)
4909 Culver Road 585.323.1020
Rochester, NY 14622 MargesLakesideInn.com

Both Don's Original and Marge's are at the end of Route 590 North. It is best to park at the boat launch then get a bite to eat at Don's Original across the street. (We usually eat at the outdoor picnic tables at Don's!) Wash it down with Marge's drinks while viewing the sunset over the lake. We plan to sit outside if possible so bring a sweater or light jacket. No RSVP required; look for the yellow balloon.

Max at the Gallery Tapas Night – Thursday, September 20, 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!**

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. Lately, we have been having lots of fun in the Gallery Store – have a look! No RSVP required; look for the yellow balloon.

Buffet Dinner – Saturday, September 22, 2012 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 \$23, excluding tax, drinks, and tip. (Regularly \$27.95) Look for the yellow balloon. Please let us know if you plan to attend. (You can call or email Julie or Terry.)

Diner Night – Thursday, September 27, 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.

October 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 / Laptop Night – Thursday, October 4, 2012 7:00 pm

MacGregor's
1129 Empire Blvd
Rochester, NY 14609

585.288.8630
MacGregorsGrillAndTapRoom.net
(Penfield [Formerly Froggy's])

SOMETHING NEW! This month we are going to try something just a little bit different. We are combining our regularly scheduled "First Thirstday" event with a new concept, a "Laptop Night!" Participation in the "Laptop" portion of the event is optional, but because MacGregor's has WiFi available, some of us are planning to bring our laptop computers and share tip and tricks that hopefully will benefit one and all.

MacGregor's has been described as "a beer lover's paradise" and they have an inviting menu of appetizers, soups, salads, sandwiches, and entrées as well. MacGregor's has been a long-time group favorite, but this is a different location, found at "the bottom of the hill" on Empire Boulevard, on the south side. We hope to see you there! No RSVP required; look for the yellow balloon.

RAM / Mensa Testing Day – Saturday, October 20, 2012 12:00 noon

Irondequoit Public Library
(Helen McGraw Branch)
2180 E Ridge Road
Rochester, NY 14622

For more information, contact
Julie Stout 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 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.

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 Irondequoit / Helen McGraw library is located just west of Wegmans on E. Ridge Road in Irondequoit, on the same side of the street. 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/>

reMARK by Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3 – September, 2012

It's almost fall, my very favorite season! I'm not crazy about hot or cold weather and the sun is definitely my nemesis. Yea for cooler days and nights.

Here's the news from the AMC (American Mensa Committee) held during the 2012 Annual Gathering in Reno. The complete minutes of the meeting can be found on the National Web site. We were given an update on our new marketing program about which you'll hear more in the coming months either right here or via a National publication. A task force is looking at revisions of our national by-laws, to address various perceived shortcomings in our organizational structure. A new pricing plan was adopted for Life Member dues. That plan will make Life Memberships a bit more costly for older members while making Life Memberships a bit less expensive for younger members. Watch for the announcements so that you can make the most of your dollars and join as a Life Member before or after the new plan goes into effect. At our September meeting to be held in Arlington, Texas, one of the agenda items will be to increase the dues. Of course, you'll hear more about that, too.

San Diego was given the bid for the 2016 Annual Gathering. 2013 will be in Fort Worth, 2014 will be in Boston, and 2015 will be right here in our own Region 3 in Louisville.

Beth Anne Demeter was appointed Membership Officer, and reappointed were Bob Bevard as Development Officer, Greg Timmers as Director of Science and Education, and Brian Reeves as Communications Officer. When their sponsor was unable to attend, several motions had been submitted for consideration at the Annual Business Meeting were withdrawn.

As you are reading this I hope it's during, if there is any, some down time while you are having a great time at Western Pennsylvania Mensa's Regional Gathering. If you're not there yet, you might be able to get there if you leave post haste! It's at the Doubletree (formerly Radisson), 101 DoubleTree Dr., (aka 101 Radisson Dr.), Pittsburgh, PA 15205, 800.445.8667. For info contact Jamie Fritz, chair at 412.612.0634 or jlongstreth@comcast.net.

Cincinnati Area Mensa is in an excited state (any of the energy levels of a physical system – like an RG committee) as you are invited to the HyperchaRGeD gathering. (Hypercharge: the quantum number equal to B [baryons] + S [strangeness] + C [charmed].) Gravitational attraction and radiant energy brings you to the Doubletree in Sharonville starting Nov. 30, and inertia takes you to a half-life of the event on Dec. 2. The natural frequency of this event is 30! Yes, the 30th Regional Gathering!

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Positronically assured of a periodic table of entrées, Quark's bar, luminosity in the programs, and momentum in the tournament track. Quanta rates are (all postmark dates) \$60 through June 1, \$65 through August 1, \$70 through November 24, and \$75 thereafter. Children under 5 are free. Ages 6-10 are \$15. Ages 11-20 are half the full rate. Partial rates are available at the door. Friday only = \$30; Saturday only = \$65. Saturday dinner and dance (after 5 p.m.) = \$40. No rollovers. Refunds must be requested by Nov. 29, 2012. Make checks payable to Cincinnati Area Mensa RG. Hotel: Doubletree, 6300 E. Kemper Rd., Sharonville, OH 45241; 513.489.3636; www.doubletree.com/hotels/CVGKRDT. Room rates (\$99) guaranteed until Nov. 15. S CD 10 and under, H RP 11/29/12 cutoff DT. Contact Cassie Ryle, 7270 West Chester Rd., West Chester, OH 45069; 513.755.6322; cassier@fuse.net.

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

About Our Cover and "Centerfold" Photos

This month's photo is *The Sun Sinks into Lake Ontario, 07/05/2012*, Copyright © 2012 Robert Horner, including a beautiful sunset – typical of Castaways – on an equally beautiful summer evening. Sorry if you missed this event but we hope you can 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.

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

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 Member As of September		
Dana K Barish	Wayland	Move In
Devin Caskie	Rochester	New
Robert Fabinski	Rochester	Reinstating
John Terrence Sheehan	Webster	Renewing

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

September RAM Member Birthdays	
Debra K Scorse	September 5 th
James Sullivan	September 8 th
Timothy Wright	September 9 th
James C Haefner	September 12 th
Mark Tiffany	September 13 th
Ryan D Gregory	September 22 nd
David J Mack	September 26 th
Dana K Barish	September 30 th

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

September RAM Member Anniversaries	
Drake Arthur Smith	24 years with Mensa
Dr David Merricks	10 years with Mensa
Maureen L Bills	9 years with Mensa
Stanley Bischooping	5 years with Mensa
Gaelen McCormick	2 years with Mensa
Terrence Redfield	2 years with Mensa
Lisa Betters Rothrock	2 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.

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.