



The Constellation

Rochester Area Mensa

October, 2012

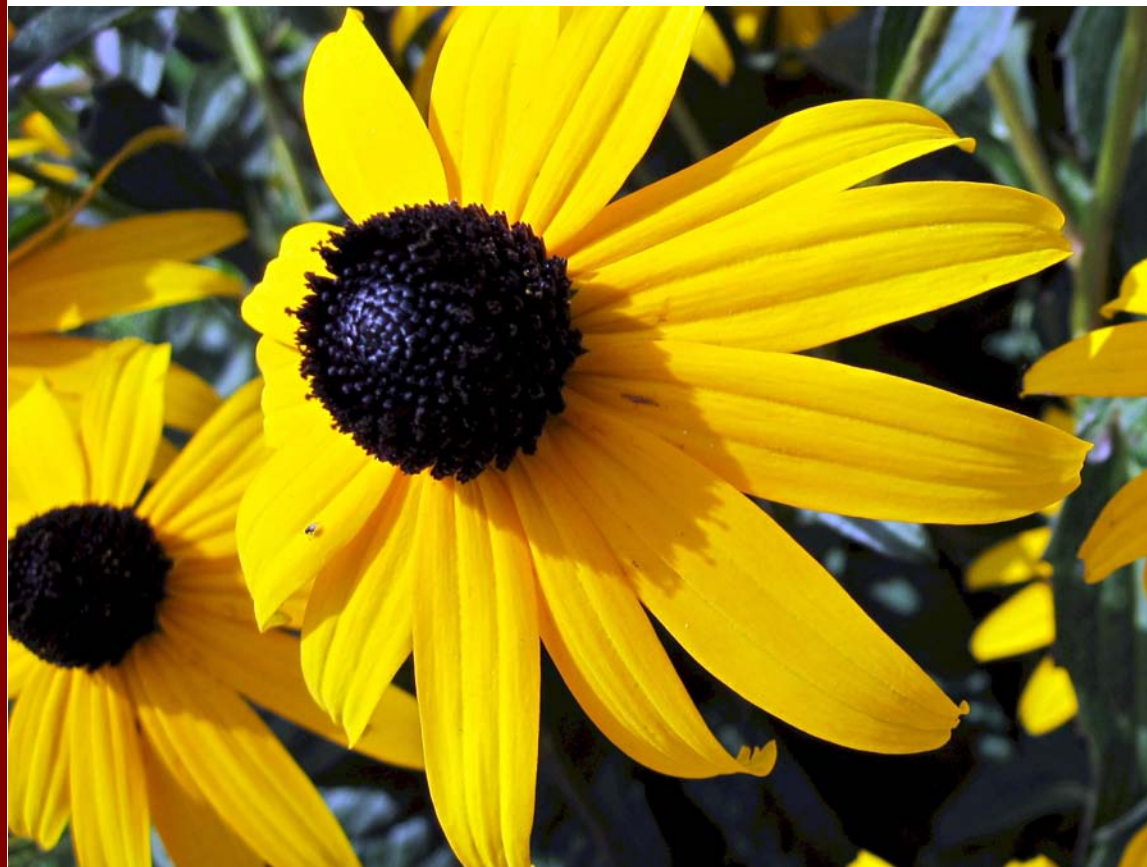
Short & Sweet

Hello to Everyone!

This month's column is going to be an interesting mix of unusual education, suggestions that we received from RAM members, and humor.

I had the misfortune of running into a couple of "challenges" with two different companies. One was a name everyone would know, the other probably not. One involved the company being unquestionably in the wrong. The other situation was a VERY well played out scam. Legally, I was told that for the second company there was probably nothing I could do (by both the credit card company and the bank). The reason I am telling you about them together is that the same tactics were successful in resolving BOTH messes. I got as much contact information as I could and then got comfortable with a telephone in front of the computer.

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Short & Sweet – Continued from Page 1

The famous company had only one line for customer service. I would leave a message and then immediately hit the redial button. The more phone calls I made, the more creative I got about how it would be in THEIR best interest to handle the situation in a fair way. Soon, the response I was waiting for popped up on my computer, followed by a phone call from the company. The second situation was more complex, because legally they COULD have caused problems for me. This organization had five customer service numbers. Again I got comfortable with the phone and started dialing. I just kept changing from line to line! I guess no one had ever done that to them before. When I did get to talk to an actual person, I was able to present the scenario backwards. By that, I mean that I pointed out that to me it would not cost very much, BUT, to them it represented endless days of me calling and emailing until they got it resolved in a reputable way! I told them to basically imagine a polite, soft-spoken, patient pit bull that was not going away! In both situations, they were counting on the consumer's desire for it to just be over! For those of you who are now afraid of your LocSec, please don't be! ☺ I assure you that the pit bull has only been used in the event of bad business dealings! The thing to remember is to put the pit bull back in the closet when you are done playing!

There was a very good suggestion from a fellow RAM member to start a car-pool type arrangement for Regional Gatherings. Betsy does a great job keeping us up to date on gatherings. Perhaps starting next month, we can have some sort of addition to the Web site. We will provide more information as it develops.

I was thinking about all those tests they had us take in elementary school to see about possible future careers. In one personal evaluation, I was told I should become a chicken farmer! By that time I was deep into playing classical violin, complete with orchestras, ensembles, and solos. Imagine my surprise after spending that much time seriously taking the exam to find out that I was NOT supposed to be pursuing a career in music! Instead, I could look forward to a future filled with chickens! I guess they messed up on that one!

Hope to see you soon,

Julie Stout

RAM LocSec

P.S. I appreciate your patience for my strange departing of wisdom. After considering it carefully, I came to the conclusion that I would want the insight in case I ever needed to use it! My sincere hope is that I am the ONLY RAM who will ever have to experience this, because you all know what to do now!

October RAM Events

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])
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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.

Fall Foliage Hike (Dinner Optional!) – Sunday, October 14, 2012 3:30 pm

Auburn Trail at Route 251 (Victor – Mendon Road) Victor, NY	bit.ly/5OZxaA We will be parking at FLCC Victor Campus
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Fall foliage viewing hike along The Auburn Trail in Victor, north / west of Route 251 near Route 96. We plan on taking a leisurely walk, about 2 to 2 ½ hours total, out and back, returning to the origin – which will be the parking lot of the FLCC Victor Campus. Followed by dinner (optional) at the India House Restaurant about 1/2 mile away. (Yep, we'll drive from FLCC to the India House!) Look for yellow balloon(s) on car(s) at FLCC.

Post-Hike Dinner (Hike Optional!) – Sunday, October 14, 2012 5:00 pm

India House Restaurant 7343 Route 96 Victor, NY 14564-9788	(Near Route 251) 585.742.2030 IndiaHouse.com
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Go ahead, work up an appetite hiking the trails, the India House Restaurant will satisfy your needs! Another more-or-less perennial RAM favorite, India House has quite an extensive menu and MANGO LASSIS!

MAG Tapas Night – Thursday, October 18, 2012 6:00 pm

U of R - Memorial Art Gallery 500 University Avenue Rochester NY 14607	585.276.8900 mag.rochester.edu http://bit.ly/NjNa62
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Our monthly gathering at the MAG – We'll have a chance to listen to live music and enjoy wine, beer, and tapas plates for purchase.

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October RAM Events (Continued)

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/>

Testing Day Dinner – Saturday, October 20, 2012 5:00 pm

Golden Ponds Restaurant
500 Long Pond Road
Rochester, NY 14612

585.723.1344
GoldenPondsPartyHouse.com

I don't think we've ever been to this location as a group but it was suggested by one of our members... so, we'll give it a try! A little pricey on a Saturday if you're not careful but the food and facility look good.

OktoberFest! – Thursday, October 25, 2012 7:00 pm

The Rohrbach Brewing Company
3859 Buffalo Road
Rochester, NY 14624

585.594.9800
Rohrbachs.com

A great German themed pub, and a RAM favorite for many consecutive Octobers. No RSVP required; look for the yellow balloon.

November RAM Events (so far!)*

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

Zebb's Deluxe Grill & Bar
1890 Clinton Avenue South
Rochester, NY 14618

585.271.1440
Zebbs.com

Running out of room guys-See you there! No RSVP, yes yellow balloon. 😊

reMARK by Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3 – October, 2012

Congratulations to the Region 3 finalists for the 2012 Publication Recognition Program. Program Chair Thomas George Thomas reported that judges reviewed hundreds of columns, newsletters, and Web sites to recognize these outstanding examples. I hope you will be reading of Region 3 winners soon. I will post the winners list to both the Yahoo and Facebook groups as soon as I am notified of them. Sign up now (see sites below) to get the news as it happens. Here are the Region 3 finalists.

NEWSLETTER FINALISTS

Calendar:

- Phoenix, Western Pennsylvania Mensa, Mariann Taylor, Editor
- Graffiti, Cleveland Area Mensa, Robert Villarreal, Editor

Overall Entertainment:

- MPULSE, Dayton Area Mensa, Pat Reising, Editor

Mensa Awareness:

- Phoenix, Western Pennsylvania Mensa, Mariann Taylor, Editor
- MPULSE, Dayton Area Mensa, Pat Reising, Editor

Outstanding Newsletter (medium group):

- Phoenix, Western Pennsylvania Mensa, Mariann Taylor, Editor
- Graffiti, Cleveland Area Mensa, Robert Villareal, Editor
- MPULSE, Dayton Area Mensa, Pat Reising, Editor

WEB SITE FINALISTS

Calendar:

- Dayton Area Mensa, www.dayton.us.mensa.org, Lawrence "Lonny" Burger, Webmaster

Overall Presentation:

- Dayton Area Mensa, www.dayton.us.mensa.org, Lawrence "Lonny" Burger, Webmaster

Overall Entertainment:

- Cleveland Area Mensa, www.cleveland.us.mensa.org, Bobbie Rooney, Webmaster
- Dayton Area Mensa, www.dayton.us.mensa.org, Lawrence "Lonny" Burger, Webmaster

Member Recruitment:

- Dayton Area Mensa, www.dayton.us.mensa.org, Lawrence "Lonny" Burger, Webmaster

"Members Only" Section:

- Cleveland Area Mensa, www.cleveland.us.mensa.org, Bobbie Rooney, Webmaster
- Dayton Area Mensa, www.dayton.us.mensa.org, Lawrence "Lonny" Burger, Webmaster

Outstanding Web Site (medium group):

- Cleveland Area Mensa, www.cleveland.us.mensa.org, Bobbie Rooney, Webmaster
- Dayton Area Mensa, www.dayton.us.mensa.org, Lawrence "Lonny" Burger, Webmaster

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CONTRIBUTION FINALISTS

Poetry:

- “QED,” Pat Reising, MPULSE, Dayton Area Mensa, June 2011

Puzzles and Games:

- “Bake Sale Baffler,” Jim Szirony, Graffiti, Cleveland Area Mensa, March 2012
- “Theme Quiz – School Daze,” Pat Reising, MPULSE, Dayton Area Mensa, September 2011

Continuing Item:

- “Foor Love of Food,” Niki Foor; MPULSE; Dayton Area Mensa; April, June, and November 2011

Register now for Cincinnati's Regional Gathering. 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! 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) \$70 through Nov. 24, \$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. 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 *Flowers Close Up with Bug*, Copyright © 2012 Robert Horner – a fall farewell to flowers, bugs, and all our summer-time friends. If you would like to suggest one of your own photos, send it in! Feel free to call or see the Web site for complete details.

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 October

Sherry A Cooke-lentilucci	Rochester	Reinstating
Timothy James McNelly	Rush	Reinstating
Laurie S Townsend	Rochester	Renewing

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

October RAM Member Birthdays

Steven D Oller	October 3 rd
John E Valentine	October 6 th
Joyce Ann Smith	October 8 th
Robert Fabinski	October 8 th
Barbara A Healy	October 10 th
Leslie Ann Phillips	October 13 th
Andrey G Nikolayev	October 21 st
Chad A Goulette	October 21 st
Christopher M Missick	October 26 th
Robert J Barbato	October 31 st

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

October RAM Member Anniversaries

David R Ballou	35 years with Mensa
Joyce Ann Smith	27 years with Mensa
Robert B Horner Jr	21 years with Mensa
Douglas R Conoway	21 years with Mensa
Marsha Witt Walton	21 years with Mensa
Larry Wirth	11 years with Mensa
Joyce Geier	5 years with Mensa
Andrea S Barber	2 years with Mensa
Brett Kinsler	1 years with Mensa
David J Mack	1 years with Mensa
Maureen A Shaw	1 years with Mensa
Ryan D Gregory	1 years with Mensa
Toby R Stroud	1 years with Mensa
Chad A Goulette	1 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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Treasurer: Jeff Gould	585.216.9017
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Proctor: Bob Horner	585.334.3746
Membership: Eric Murphy	585.503.7553
Gifted Children's Coordinator: Laurie Townsend	585.278.4524
Ombudsman: George Gerspacher	585.527.8529
SIGHT Coordinator: George Gerspacher	585.527.8529
Scholarship Coordinator: Steve Lindsey	
Webmaster: Bob Walton	585.377.1686

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.

