

The
Constellation
Rochester Area Mensa

January, 2013

Short & Sweet

Continued Happy Holidays Everyone!

It may seem strange to not address the recent tragic events in Newtown, Connecticut and right here in Webster but I have a very good reason for putting that aside for now. It goes without saying that we are all keeping all those affected in our thoughts and prayers.

Instead I thought it would be interesting to bring up a question or two. First, when do we realize our talents and uniqueness (aka weird stuff!)? I think the answer is different for everyone. Aside from one warped future career test that claimed I should become a chicken farmer, I seem to have always been musical. I was told that I would sing myself to sleep in my crib, which is no surprise considering the fact that I am still always singing in my head! Our perception of the world is greatly affected by our natural interests and gifts.

(Continued on Page 2)



Rochester Area Mensa

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

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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Short & Sweet – Continued from Page 1

One funny example of this happened to me with a computer company. They put me on hold (for well over an hour) while they were fixing the many things I had done to my poor machine! Even though I got supposedly switched from one company to another, the music was always the same!

Let me clear up the picture a bit: Their “music” consisted of a 7 beat (always feeling out of balance) vamp (a loop of music that just keeps repeating and repeating...). In addition, it had this oh-so-nice quality of never resolving before you were returned to the beginning of the loop again (a musical equivalent of tripping and feeling like you have never regained your balance!) I kept expecting to hear the Muzak change when I would be connected to a so-called separate company. Even when I caught on to the pattern and asked NOT to be put on hold, I would be hooked up to what would be a VERY effective torture for musicians!

After a few hours of me going through a large number of reactions to this previously unknown ancient torture, I was asked to give my impressions to the boss. It was actually comical because she was expecting me to talk about the work that had been done to my computer. All of my comments related directly to their choice of “being put on hold music!” My first comment to her was, “You must not deal with very many professional musicians, do you!?” She was silent for a moment while I tried to physically describe the reaction my brain had to their “Muzakful” version of “let me place you on hold” music! It actually should have been captured on video. (Even I could see my physical reactions as being extremely comical!) The funniest thing to me was I genuinely believe they did not intend to drive anyone insane as their company was fixing computers. I guess that was just an additional benefit!

Since then, I am ready for them: I set the phone down completely and walk away! If it is serious, they yell loudly enough so that I can come pick up the phone! Seriously, this 7 beat, unpleasant harmonic loop should be hidden away somewhere in case we ever have to torture people who are musically inclined!

The second question is when do we stop trying new things to discover additional interests or talents!? My quickest response would be NEVER! However, I am running out of space for this month, so let me know your thoughts, and hopefully we can revisit the topic next month!

Hope to see you soon,

Julie Stout

RAM LocSec

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

Craig E Daniels	North Chili	Move In
Susan J Behnke	Rochester	New

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

January RAM Member Birthdays

David Ramjattansingh	January 4 th
Michael Edward Goodhue	January 4 th
Larry Wirth	January 4 th
Dr David Merricks	January 5 th
Jack Mindy	January 6 th
George H Gerspacher	January 6 th
Karina Pinch	January 6 th
Catherine R Fay	January 8 th
Ellen A Hadley	January 9 th
Jeanne L Boise	January 9 th
Emily Ann Lucci	January 16 th

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

January RAM Member Anniversaries

Peter L Zavon	31 years with Mensa
Jack Mindy	12 years with Mensa
David Ramjattansingh	10 years with Mensa
Eugene Shkurko	10 years with Mensa
Timothy Wright	10 years with Mensa
Nancy Hauver Barrett	8 years with Mensa
Karen M Velyk	8 years with Mensa
Newton Green II	2 years with Mensa
Andrey G Nikolayev	2 years with Mensa
Rylan Blowers	1 year with Mensa
Joseph J Jacobs	1 year with Mensa
Annabeth W McCorkle	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.

reMARK – January, 2013 – Continued from Page 5

Dayton Area Mensa will be hosting DAMNations 26: Triskadeka Times Two (or times three because it's 2013!) Talks and presentations; games and tournaments; five meals by the famous Dayton Hospitality team; music and dancing; late-night conversations, and general silliness! Registration is \$60 by March 1, 2013; \$70 at the door. Ages 5-18 half price, under 5 free. MP (5): included. Checks payable to Dayton Area Mensa RG. Hotel: Wyndham Garden Dayton South, 31 Prestige Plaza Dr., Miamisburg, OH 45342; call hotel 937/434-8030. Room rates (\$83) guaranteed until March 15, 2013. CD 18 and under, H DT CP. Visit www.dayton.us.mensa.org or contact Karren Lehman, 7039 Monte Carlo Dr., Englewood, OH 45322; RG.Registrar@dayton.us.mensa.org.

Southeast Michigan Mensa will be hosting SEMMantics XXXIV, May 3-5. Chocolate Orgy & morning hike. MensaBowl, Mensalympics, & tournaments. Top-notch speakers including John Blinke. Kid room/programs. Games by Karen Smith. Wine tasting & beer sampling. Hotel gives free drink & hot buffet breakfast. See why it is #34! Registration rate through Jan. 31 is \$70; \$80 through April 15; \$90 on-site. Daily rates are \$50 for Friday and \$55 for Saturday. Children under 5 are free and children 5-17 are half price. Make checks payable to SEMMantics, PayPal available to semmantics@sbcglobal.net. Hotel: Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, 37529 Grand River Ave, Farmington Hills, MI 48335; www.HolidayInn.com; 248/477-7800. Room rates are \$89 + tax and are guaranteed until April 1. Contact Larry Arbanas, 24565 Glen Orchard Dr., Farmington Hills, MI 48336; 323/642-7226; larry@arbanas.org.

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 *Tim Tips a Big Glass*, 12/13/2012, Copyright © 2012 Robert Horner, taken at our Rheinblick Restaurant / International Food Night in December. 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.

January RAM Events**First Thirstday – Thursday, January 3, 2013 7:00 pm**

Sticky Lips Pit BBQ 830 Jefferson Road Rochester, NY 14623	(Henrietta) 585.292.5544 StickyLipsBBQ.com
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This is a return engagement to the 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.

MAG Tapas Night – Thursday, January 10, 2013 6:00 pm

University of Rochester Memorial Art Gallery 500 University Avenue Rochester NY 14607	585.276.8900 mag.rochester.edu http://bit.ly/NjNa62 If you haven't been lately, give it a try!
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This event runs from 5:00pm to 8:00pm; we plan to gather at 6:00pm. (The gallery itself remains open until 9:00 pm.) We'll have a chance to listen to live music, enjoy wine, beer, and tapas plates for purchase. No RSVP required; look for the yellow balloon.

RAM Post-Holiday Party – Saturday, January 19, 2013 7:00 pm

McKeever Residence 4 Chesfield Lookout Fairport, NY 14550	mckeever@rochester.rr.com 585.223.7788
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Ring in the New Year at our RAM post-holiday party, graciously hosted by Bob McKeever. As one of our favorite perennial events, it's certain to include plenty of food and fun! The McKeever's famous pulled pork and mac & cheese form the cornerstone of our menu; BYOB and 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 14th. We all hope to see you there!

International Food Night – Thursday, January 24, 2013 7:00 pm

Agave Mexican Grill 2820 W Henrietta Road Rochester NY 14623-2332	855.239.9327 AgaveMexicanGrillNY.com
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It's official! We're continuing our "International Food Night" theme with one of our newest favorites, the Agave Mexican Grill. Once again 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.

February 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.

First Thirstday / Laptop Night – Thursday, February 7, 2013 7:00 pm

MacGregor's	585.288.8630
1129 Empire Blvd	MacGregorsGrillAndTapRoom.net
Rochester, NY 14609	(Penfield [Formerly Froggy's])

SOMETHING NEW, AGAIN! This month we are going to try something just a little bit different, but also something that has worked well in the past: 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.

Stay Tuned – More to Come – February, 2013

We are planning on publishing a January Constellation edition to remind you of all events included in our busy holiday season schedule and to highlight any changes in the program. Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to have any additional events listed.

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reMARK by Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3 – January, 2013

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 know that all who attended the Cincinnati Regional Gathering had a fabulous time; wish I had been there, but again, the American Mensa Committee met that weekend and my presence was precluded. Watch for notices of the postings of minutes of that AMC meeting. If you haven't joined the Region 3 Yahoo or Facebook groups where I post such information, as well as Region 3 and National News, please do so.

Congratulations to Region 3 winners of the Publication Recognition Program awards:

Newsletter Awards

Outstanding Newsletter — Medium Group, MPULSE, Dayton Area Mensa, Pat Reising, Editor

Web Awards

Owl Award, Dayton Area Mensa, Lonny Burger, Webmaster

"Members Only" Section, Dayton Area Mensa, Lonny Burger

Outstanding Web site — Medium Group, Dayton Area Mensa, Lonny Burger

Contribution Awards

Puzzles and Games, Jim Szirony, Cleveland Area Mensa, "Bake Sale Baffler," *Graffiti*, March 2012

You still have one month to run for National Office as a Petition Candidate. Petition forms, Candidate Information Forms, and Acceptance of Nomination forms are available by contacting the National Office at Operations@americanmensa.org. You also can start an online, members-only petition via the Web site. All petition candidates should review the 2013 Code of Election Procedures before beginning the petition process. Members wishing to sign available online petitions may do so via the same link.

Candidate petition forms must be received by 11:59 p.m. central time on February 1, 2013. Send completed forms and petitions to Operations@americanmensa.org, fax to 817/649-5232, or mail to Elections, American Mensa, Ltd., 1229 Corporate Drive West, Arlington, Texas 76006-6103.

(Continued on Page 6)

