



The Constellation Rochester Area Mensa

February, 2013

Short & Sweet

Hi Everyone!

What represents real strength in a person's character? When I was much younger, it seemed to be determined by the volume of their voice or how much of a temper tantrum they were capable of displaying! I found both quite intimidating! On a trip through various countries in Asia, I got a different perspective on the whole subject!

During my trip to Asia, I was supposed be in charge of another particular person (the organization paid me with an Indian dinner in Tokyo.) As the trip progressed, it became very apparent that THEY had gotten a ridiculously good deal! This woman's behavior and mouth had me apologizing and bowing all over Asia! I learned to say, "I am sorry" in a number of different languages and learned the correct bowing

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technique for each country (they were all different!) I also got rather good at doing the apologizing and the bowing WHILE walking backwards! One time, it was even going up a flight of stairs backwards (Ironically, that was the Indian restaurant!!)

I found myself literally doing the maneuver in EVERY location we went! Somehow, she felt justified in making other people around her feel less important than she was; not a positive quality in an individual!! She was quite talented with raising her voice (in countries where people do NOT talk loudly) and creating rather impressive temper explosions!

I came to understand, by observing other people's reaction to her various displays, that a loud voice and aggressive behavior were in reality less impressive!! From that "interesting" adventure, I learned that you will be respected much more for being able to put the other person first, accept responsibility for any wrong things you have done (which everyone has!) and be humble. The simple truth is that none of us is perfect. (That is a difficult thing for some members of Mensa to accept!) The next time you are feeling omniscient or omnipotent remind yourself that it is NOT possible, and just get on with things...

I was left with one question: If the same scenario were to happen to me at my present age, how would I handle it?! I realized that I would most likely still act as the mediator and try to calm situations down. Visiting another country is very much like being a guest in someone's home; politeness and respect go a long way to create an appreciation for one another's differences as well as similarities.

Hope to see you soon,

Julie Stout

RAM LocSec

Just a Couple of Reminders

Saturday, February 2nd from 10 until 4, Barnes & Noble in Pittsford is hosting a benefit for Hochstein Music School. All items purchased under the school's name will result in a donation to the Hochstein Music School.

Saturday, February 16th from 11 until 6, Casa Larga Vineyards is hosting the 5th Annual New York State Ice Wine and Culinary Festival. The cost is \$49 per person pre sale, \$59 at the door.

Both of these events were considered to be "of interest" but are not actual RAM events. Think of it more as a matter of "You're on your own, have fun!" ☺

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

MacGregor's
1129 Empire Blvd
Rochester, NY 14609

585.288.8630
MacGregorsGrillAndTapRoom.net
(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.

Sunday Brunch – Sunday, February 10, 2013 12:00 noon

Simply Crêpes Canandaigua
101 South Main Street
Canandaigua, New York 14424

585.394.9090
SimplyCrepes.com

Join us for Sunday Brunch at Simply Crêpes in Canandaigua, where we can expect a quality dining experience, friendly courteous service, a relaxed and cozy environment, and meals containing fresh, healthy ingredients. The menu features a variety of items including oatmeal crème brûlée, crêpes Benedict, and a made-to-order crêpe station; the Sunday brunch is \$15.99 according to our most recent phone inquiry. A reservation is recommended, so please RSVP to Julie or Terry by phone or email no later than Friday, February 8; On Sunday, look for the yellow balloon.

MAG Tapas Night – Thursday, February 14, 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!

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.

February RAM Events (Continued)**RAM Youth Field Trip – Sunday, February 17, 2013 12:00 noon**

Wild Wings Nature Center (In Mendon Ponds Park)
27 Pond Road 585.334.7790
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472 WildWingsInc.org

To All Young Mensa Members:

I am Madelyn MacLaughlin and would like to invite everyone, but especially our younger Mensans and family members, on a field trip to Wild Wings. I am an 11-year-old 6th grader and have noticed that there aren't many trips specifically for younger Mensans, so I decided to organize this one hoping to meet other local Mensa kids! Wild Wings hosts birds of prey that have been injured and cannot be released back into the wild. There is also a trail next to the Wild Wings building that you can walk on (Birdsong Trail) and birds will eat from your hand! You can purchase the birdseed on site for a nominal fee. Check out their Web site! Hope to see you there!

~ Madelyn MacLaughlin

PS – We're considering even more fun (and food) afterward at Cottage Hotel of Mendon. It's at 1390 Pittsford Mendon Rd in Mendon, at the corner of Routes 64 & 251. Come with us; we'll decide together!

Annual Lunar Ski / Snowshoe – Saturday, February 23, 2013 4:30 pm

Hansen Nature Center 585.359.7044
Tinker Nature Park <http://bit.ly/10ZYLD8>
1525 Calkins Road
Henrietta, NY 14467 (AKA "Lunar Ski or Snowshoe Walk")

Space is limited and pre-registration is required; please call the park directly to secure your own registration. We will go on an early hike before sampling chili and other goodies provided by the park. Dinner followed by a guided moonlight hike looking for owls and other nocturnal creatures. A limited number of equipment rentals are available to early registrants if necessary, usually around \$2.00. Meet for our hike at 4:30 pm, chili dinner at 6:00 pm, followed by the guided lunar ski or snowshoe walk. Look for the yellow balloon; "RSVP" to the nature center directly.

International Food Night – Thursday, February 28, 2013 7:00 pm

Mamasan's 585.461.3290
2800 Monroe Avenue Mamasans.com
Rochester, NY 14618

There was a time when Mamasan's was one of the regular RAM hangout spots and "Come out and enjoy an evening of Asian cuisine at one of our traditional venues" was a common listing. Well... time to give it another try! 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.

First Thirstday – Thursday, March 7, 2013 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.

reMARK by Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3 – February, 2013

Happy Valentine’s Day!

It’s membership renewal time. I hope you took advantage of last year’s rates and renewed before January 1. I did hear from many of you about the increase in dues. Some renewed as Life Members – what a way to avoid ever having to get those renewal packets again! Some renewed for 3 or 5 years and some for 1 year. Some will renew at the new rates – the new Life Member rates may be even less for many! Some are still considering. Mensa means different things to each of us. Regardless of membership status, friends made are friends. I remember well when Ed (of blessed memory) was in law school and we had no money for luxuries. Mensa was not then, and never was before or since, a luxury. We remained members. I hope you decide to do the same.

I am already tired of winter - as I write this, we’ve all had too much snow. As you are reading this, I will have enjoyed a week in Florida – definitely not enough time away in warmth. Spring cannot come soon enough.

I hope you will be in Miamisburg as Dayton Area Mensa hosts DAMNations 26: Triskadeka Times Two (or times three because it's 2013!) (My last AMC meeting is the same weekend and I will be in Washington, D.C., wishing I were there.) Talks and presentations; games and tournaments; five meals by the famous Dayton Hospitality team; music and dancing; late-night conversations, and general silliness! Registration

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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 a free drink & hot buffet breakfast. See why it is #34! Registration rate through April 15 is \$80; \$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

More on DAMNations, March 22-24, 2013

Dayton Area Mensa Extends a Special Invitation to Parents of Grade School Age Children and Teens. DAMNations has built an exciting program not only for adults, but a parallel program for adults to enjoy with their children. Open the day with a Renaissance theatre performance followed by a bird of prey demonstration. Then it's off to watch robots and an award winning and nationwide acclaimed professor and author on... comic books. If the kids don't want to do any of these or Mom and Dad want to visit our other amazing lecturers, we have a kid's playroom.

The DAMNations Kids Room is strictly Off Limits to roaming adults. It will have an Xbox with age appropriate games, Legos, K'Nex, puzzles, art supplies, and kid food. It has a large bay window and is located right off the gaming area so you can watch your children while you play games.

(Registration information is included in Betsy's **reMARK**.)

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 February

Tony V Vecchiotti	Macedon	Reinstating
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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
Dr Paul Albert Spengler	February 18 th

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

February RAM Member Anniversaries

Verona S Bennetto	32 years with Mensa
Robert J Kalb	21 years with Mensa
Robert Cannan	6 years with Mensa
Barbara A Healy	1 year with Mensa
Douglas Geertz	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.

About Our Cover and “Centerfold” Photos

This month's photo is *A RAM Happy New Year*, January 3, 2013, Copyright © 2013 Loretta W., taken at our January First Thirstday at Sticky Lips Juke Joint on Jefferson Road in Henrietta. 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.

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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.