

The  
**Constellation**  
Rochester Area Mensa

March, 2013

**Short & Sweet**

Hi Everyone!

This is an article written for our newsletter by one of our younger Mensans, 11-year-old Madelyn MacLaughlin:

“On the February 17<sup>th</sup> trip to Wild Wings bird center in Mendon Ponds Park we got a fun private tour in the snowy 20-degree weather, and my fellow Mensans and I got to meet 15 unique birds of prey and even a bobcat! Some of the most unique and characteristic birds were Cody the Long-Eared Owl, with his big yellow eyes and long eye lashes; Hunter the noisy, talkative, blind Barred Owl; and of course Tara, the most famous and playful “bird of prey” in the facility. (She's actually a 20-pound bobcat!) I hope this trip could inspire other young Mensans to branch out a little and make some new friends. Pls consider joining us on our next outing!”

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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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## Short & Sweet – Continued from Page 1

I would like to bring up an extremely important issue: Decades ago, our Rochester Area Mensa group was much more involved because of available meeting arenas. For those of you who remember NPR gatherings (No Particular Reason) we met once a month at Mike Otto's house. Everyone brought his or her own contribution of food and drink to share with everyone else, and in addition, Mike (who enjoyed cooking) would come up with some appetizer to share. It became one of our most popular monthly events! :o) !

My volunteer duties at the nursing home will be changing, and I don't know how much flexibility we will be given to continue using the facility. I would love to have a list of possible members' residences for monthly gatherings! We could use a selection of homes so that we won't be using the same one every month! Our Mensa group would be certain to use a variety of locations, so that no one felt their house was being used too much. PLEASE consider allowing our Mensa group to use your home for occasional events – this would allow us to find an inexpensive location so that we might be able to put more money into the event itself. PLEASE HELP!!! :o) !

Hope to see you soon,

*Julie Stout*

RAM LocSec

## About Our Cover and “Centerfold” Photos

This month's photo is *An Afternoon with Feathered Friends*, February 17, 2013, Copyright © 2013 Scott MacLaughlin, taken at our RAM Youth outing at Wild Wings in Mendon Ponds Park. 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.

## RAM Youth Program

Are you a Mensan with children? Are your children among our younger members? As our program gets under way, look for new events geared toward our RAM Youth members, and consider becoming involved in planning, hosting, or attending our events. You could be missing out on a great time - join us next time out! Please contact Julie Stout (contact info within or online) or Robin MacLaughlin (robinmac@msn.com).

## Member Recognition

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

March RAM Member Birthdays	
Brett Kinsler	March 14 <sup>th</sup>
Tony V Vecchiotti	March 16 <sup>th</sup>
David R Ballou	March 17 <sup>th</sup>
Patricia Ann O'Leary	March 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Nathaniel D Sluk	March 28 <sup>th</sup>

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

March RAM Member Anniversaries	
Linda Gordon Ramacher	37 years with Mensa
Richard F Hauver	36 years with Mensa
Patricia Ann O'Leary	21 years with Mensa
Diane Wiley	21 years with Mensa
Heinz G Kepplinger	21 years with Mensa
George H Gerspacher	17 years with Mensa
Michael G Savage	13 years with Mensa
James F Scorse	11 years with Mensa
Ron Merritt	7 years with Mensa
Karen A Lindquist	6 years with Mensa
Edward Dunn	4 years with Mensa
James Daly	4 years with Mensa
Patrick Killen	4 years with Mensa
Timothy Alan Brinduse	4 years with Mensa
Debra K Scorse	3 years with Mensa
Ben Greenberg	2 years with Mensa
Richard Paul Moore	2 years with Mensa
James Sullivan	1 year with Mensa
Dr Paul Albert Spengler	1 year with Mensa
Shawn Van Dusen	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 – March, 2013 – Continued from Page 5

Southeast Michigan Mensa will be hosting SEMMantics XXXIV, May 3-5. If you stay at the RG hotel and your name is drawn at the Saturday night drawing, your hotel bill (no extras) will be paid in full! There will be a Chocolate Orgy & morning hike. MensaBowl, Mensalymphics & 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

## Planning ahead, so save the dates!

Upcoming dates for RAM Youth Field Trips or events: Sunday, May 19; Saturday, June 15; and Sunday, July 21. Many exciting and worthwhile events for our younger Mensans are in the works – Stay tuned!

## 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

Sean Kavanagh	Pittsford	Reinstating
Brian O'Keefe	Rochester	Reinstating
Keith Gutterman	Hilton	Reinstating
Kristin K Rulison	Rochester	Reinstating
Mark Spall	Rochester	Reinstating
Douglas A Fisher	Rochester	Reinstating
Jeff S Gutterman	Hilton	Reinstating
Richard A Hoppe	Rochester	Reinstating

## March RAM Events

### 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.

### International Food Night– Friday, March 22, 2013 7:00 pm

Sheridan's Pub                                      585.271.7777  
1551 Mt. Hope Avenue                      SheridansPub.com  
Rochester NY 14620                          *Irish Fish Fry!*

We would like to share one of our recently-discovered best kept secrets: The fish fry at Sheridan's Pub! Known for serving up great drinks, gourmet pub fare, attentive service, and fun loving hospitality. Parking directly across the street - on left hand side. Please let us know if you plan to attend, Sheridan's always gets crowded on Friday! RSVP required, give us a call or email, and still... look for the yellow balloon!

### Chili Cook-Off – Sunday, March 24, 2013 3:00 pm – until...

Wright Residence                                  585.880.9868  
18 Pecos Circle                                  twright8@rochester.rr.com  
West Henrietta, NY 14458

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

This event has been in the making for a while and some of our members are chomping at the bit, eager to have you taste a variety of award-winning chili. After much discussion, we have decided on the Wright residence as a venue for the event – it's certain to be a great time for everyone.

Several of our members have already thrown their hats into the ring, so if you are interested in participating directly (i.e. preparing and bringing chili) please contact our Event Chairman Tim Wright at your earliest convenience. Also, if you would like to participate in the unofficial beer tasting being conducted by some members, feel free to bring and share your latest discovery.

## March RAM Events, Continued

### RAM Youth Field Trip – Sunday, March 24, 2013 11:00 am

Cumming Nature Center (Extension of RMSC)  
6472 Gulick Rd <http://bit.ly/XfKH0r>  
Naples, NY 14512 585.374.6160

35th Annual Maple Sugaring Event  
(Meet at the main entrance to Cumming Nature Center.)

Come explore the science and lore of maple syrup production! Learn how a tree makes sap and different processing techniques of early pioneers as well as today's modern methods. Included in your admission price is a pancake meal, adults \$10 (5 pancakes, 2 sausages, pure maple syrup and a beverage); Children \$8 (3 pancakes, 2 sausages, pure maple syrup and a beverage). Demonstrations of syrup production go all day from 9AM-3PM. Pancake meal ends at 1PM. Admission price without pancake meal \$3 per person or a maximum of \$10 per family. For more info and specific driving directions, visit [www.rmssc.org](http://www.rmssc.org). Hope to see you there!

### MAG Tapas Night – Thursday, March 28, 2013 6:00 pm

University of Rochester 585.276.8900  
Memorial Art Gallery [mag.rochester.edu](http://mag.rochester.edu)  
500 University Avenue <http://bit.ly/NjNa62>  
Rochester NY 14607 **If you haven't been lately, give it a try!**

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.

## April 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, April 4, 2013 7:00 pm

Cracker Barrel Old Country Store (Near I-390 & Hylan Drive)  
2075 Hylan Drive 585.321.3230  
Henrietta, NY 14623-4219 [CrackerBarrel.com](http://CrackerBarrel.com)

The Cracker Barrel offers a casual dining family restaurant atmosphere as well as an old country store... one of our perennial favorites! No RSVP required; just look for the yellow balloon.

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## April RAM Events (so far!)\*, Continued

### RAM Youth Field Trip – Saturday, April 27, 2013 3:15 pm

Strasenburgh Planetarium [www.rmssc.org](http://www.rmssc.org)  
657 East Avenue 585.271.4320  
Rochester, NY 14607

**Join us for another exciting RAM Youth adventure!** Come watch Coral Reef movie on the big screen, appropriate for ages 5-adult. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$6 for children (ages 3-17), and \$3 for RMSC members. Visit the Web site for more details or to buy tickets online. We plan to meet at main entrance to planetarium at 3:15PM; program starts at 3:30. Possible food & fun afterwards, TBD. No RSVP required; just look for the yellow balloon.

## reMARK by Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3 – March, 2013

Here's hoping Spring comes in like a lamb and early!

It's membership renewal time. Renewals are due by March 31. Annual dues are \$70.00 unless specified in a multi-year or life plan. Memberships for additional Mensan family members are available for \$47.00/membership and may only be purchased in single-year increments. Additional Family Memberships do not include subscriptions to the *Mensa Bulletin* or to Local Group newsletters. Additional family members must live in the same household as a primary member and must be members of the same Local Group. You may pay on-line by using this link: <https://www.us.mensa.org/AML/?LinkServID=E29B963B-116B-4345-8777B6A0DB84D8E6> or you may also pay by check or money order by sending your payment (\$U.S.) to American Mensa, PO Box 916088, Fort Worth, Texas 76191-6088. Please include your member number with your payment. If you would like a renewal bill mailed to you, please contact a Member Service Representative at 888/294-8035 ext. 199.

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 is \$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](http://www.dayton.us.mensa.org) or contact Karren Lehman, 7039 Monte Carlo Dr., Englewood, OH 45322; [RG.Registrar@dayton.us.mensa.org](mailto:RG.Registrar@dayton.us.mensa.org).

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