

The
Constellation
Rochester Area Mensa

April, 2013

Short & Sweet

Hi Everyone!

As the Rochester Area Mensa Youth program (RAMY) continues to gain momentum, we would like to invite RAM members of all ages to come out and participate. This includes both RAM member parents with children, and our younger RAM members and their families. This is our latest installment from RAMY member Madelyn MacLaughlin:

“On March 24th, the Rochester Area Mensa Youth group went maple sugaring. What started as a short hike became a fun experience as we learned about early settlers tapping trees and the long involved process to make maple syrup. We learned that it takes a lot of sap to make a small amount of syrup! Our trip ended with a scrumptious pancake breakfast with *really* fresh maple syrup!”

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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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Intelligence is a tricky thing; I think the person I agree with most was Albert Einstein. I found some intriguing information on a number of Facebook sites, including quotes connected to him that he did not make (like someone signing a piece of phony artwork). His most admirable qualities remind me of a beautifully multi-faceted gem. Even though he was obviously a genius, he maintained an objective distance from his own abilities. In many cases, his open mindedness kept him under constant watch from a number of sources (including our own government!) He used his fame to promote a balanced world of nondiscrimination in all aspects of life. Coming from an individual with that IQ, his opinions were even more impressive! He felt that arrogance gave some people the feeling that they are always right – THEY ARE NOT! One of his beliefs that fascinated me involved his scientific view of religion. He believed that it made no sense to be an atheist, because it slammed the door closed on any possibility for NO reason. Being agnostic made more sense to him because it left the possibility of faith open. Now, this is definitely going to get me into trouble... What if you have actually had religious experiences?! Wouldn't it be just as bad to slam the door in denial (like an atheist?) I believe that Einstein would want EVERYONE to keep an open mind. Just because you personally haven't experienced something doesn't mean it does not exist!!

Members of RAM that have families have an exciting chance to mold our youth program! We need suggestions for our Facebook site, as well as interests, event ideas, and pictures for our site! Facebook was chosen because it seems to be popular and working through families would unite the younger group. Being a Suzuki violin teacher, I have worked with genius children from age 3 on up; having taught many genius children, I have an interest in occasional parent classes. I can pass along factual insights in addition to opening a parental forum! I even have valuable information to share about gifted young people! Now for the big secret: Some of us adults need the information too (YUP... me included!!!)

Hope to see you soon,

Julie Stout

RAM LocSec

RAM Youth Program (RAMY)

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 (robincmac@msn.com).

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 April		
Mark Sullivan	Geneseo	New
Colleen S Kelly	Rochester	New

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

April RAM Member Anniversaries	
Connie L White	33 years with Mensa
Kathryn M Schenck	32 years with Mensa
Kevin Skerrett	11 years with Mensa
Robert J Barbato	11 years with Mensa
Joshua F Allen	9 years with Mensa
James G Dietrich	9 years with Mensa
Wilbur James Kellum III	8 years with Mensa
Cynthia Erdmann	7 years with Mensa
Katherine Streeter	5 years with Mensa
Thomas P Szatko	5 years with Mensa
Catherine R Fay	5 years with Mensa
Anna Nicchitta	4 years with Mensa
Sanjay Hiranandani	4 years with Mensa
Cynthia Kolko	4 years with Mensa
Cameron Sen	2 years with Mensa
Michael Edward Goodhue	1 years with Mensa
Dirk Dunbar	1 years with Mensa
Pierre E Dorancy	1 year with Mensa
Christopher M Missick	1 year with Mensa
Dr Candace Jo Mayo Farnham	1 year with Mensa
Joseph Fazio	1 year with Mensa
Kyle Xiao	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.

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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!

Exciting RAMY Events



See <http://bit.ly/12AwqB4>

We went to the Royal Ontario Museum and saw the gem exhibit. We saw many interesting things: There were huge waves of copper, blocks of diamond, bright yellow sulfur, deep purple sparkly amethyst, crystals of quartz, and most remarkable of all, a gem called a cerussite, rarer and more shiny than diamond, that was 898 carats. It's the largest cut stone of it's kind! In addition to gems, there was a dinosaur exhibit w/T Rex, pteranodons, and many of their friends. The "bat cave" had hundreds of bats on display, with interesting facts about how beneficial they are at controlling the insect population. Next time consider joining our upcoming adventures!

~ Madelyn MacLaughlin

Member Recognition

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

April RAM Member Birthdays

Brian O'Keefe	April 1 st
Annabeth W McCorkle	April 4 th
Terrence Redfield	April 10 th
Robert F McKeever	April 11 th
Robert L Walton	April 12 th
Drake Arthur Smith	April 14 th
Newton Green II	April 21 st
Karen M Velyk	April 22 nd
Jeff Gould	April 23 rd

April RAM Events

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

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.

Wine Tasting – Saturday, April 13, 2013 7:00 pm

Wright Residence Scottsville Spirits and Lottery
18 Pecos Circle 3892 Scottsville Road
West Henrietta, NY 14458 Scottsville, NY 14546

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

Another new and exciting event for RAM - We are having an evening of wine and refreshments hosted by fellow Mensan Tim Wright, guest speaker David Principino of Scottsville Spirits, and Rochester Area Mensa. Although the wine and appropriate wine tasting fare will be provided, you are free to bring a "dish" to pass if you are so motivated. (Cheese & crackers, you say?) **RSVP REQUIRED**; please contact Tim or Terry.

MAG Tapas Night – Thursday, April 28, 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!

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.

"Trillium" walk at Kraai Preserve – Sunday, April 21, 2013 2:30 pm

Kraai Preserve
Norsen Road
Newark, NY 14513

<http://bit.ly/10vCTNP>

This walk is timed to coincide with the annual blooming of trilliums in a typical year. The expected blooms are just about ½ mile from the parking area, with additional trails available for those who wish to do more hiking. Footwear should have good traction in potentially wet or muddy conditions! Consensus of participants will determine *après Kraai* activities.
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April RAM Events, Continued

"Trillium" walk at Kraai Preserve – Continued

DIRECTIONS: Take Route 88 north from Newark. Turn east on Mud Mills Road, then north on Welcher Road. Norsen Road is a left at a bend in Welcher Road. Trailhead is at the dead end of Norsen Road. The trail winds through the woodland parallel to Ganargua creek. No RSVP required; just look for the yellow balloon.

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

Strasenburgh Planetarium 657 East Avenue Rochester, NY 14607	www.rmssc.org 585.271.4320
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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. Hope to see you there!

About Our Cover and "Centerfold" Photos

This month's photo is *A Scrumptious Spoonful*, March 24, 2013, Copyright © 2013 Scott MacLaughlin, taken at our RAM Youth outing at the Cumming Nature Center in Naples. Sorry if you missed it!

May 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, May 2, 2013 7:00 pm

Buffalo Wild Wings 780 Jefferson Road Rochester, NY 14623-3232	585.475.1240 http://bit.ly/1unYT
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Join us for an exciting evening of mental gymnastics including deep-fried pickles and free trivia game consoles. We can compete against each other, against others in the local establishment, or across the country for, well... bragging rights, I guess! Full menu, full bar, pretty tasty chicken wings, too.

Located at the corner of Jefferson Road and Clay Road – it's probably easiest to enter from Clay, thank goodness for the traffic light! No RSVP required; look for the yellow balloon.

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May RAM Events (so far!)*, Continued

RAM Youth Field Trip – Sunday, May 19, 2013 11:00 am

Susan B. Anthony House 17 Madison Street Rochester, NY 14608	585.235.6124 SusanBAnthonyHouse.org
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Home of "The Lady with the Alligator Purse!" Come take a tour of the house, learn about an important part of American history and Susan B.'s part in the women's right movement, and visit the gift shop where you'll find a lot of goodies. We checked: Our yellow balloon is welcome!

reMARK by Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3 – April, 2013

Snow! I am writing this at my sister's. My home has been without power since last night and I just might get power tonight – a better prediction than that given this morning, which had me powered by tomorrow night. It's cold and I wish I were in Florida or New Mexico or any place warm.

I know you had a fabulous time in Miamisburg at Dayton Area Mensa's DAMNations 26: Triskadeka Times Two. I so wish I could have been there. Region 3 has the very best regional gatherings and I do hope you will treat yourself to them.

It's time to register for Southeast Michigan Mensa's SEMMantics XXXIV, to be held 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, MensaBow!, 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.

Mensa's next Annual Gathering will be in Fort Worth, Texas, July 3-7. Information can be found at <http://ag2013.us.mensa.org/>. It's going to be a great party! You may register for the 2013 Colloquium, Between Science Fiction and Science, which is being held July 2, immediately preceding the AG. That information can be found on the AG Web site, also.

Columbus Area Mensa and Western Pennsylvania Area Mensa will be hosting RGs this year. I'll post information as soon as it is available.

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