



The Constellation

Rochester Area Mensa

June, 2013

Short & Sweet

Hi Everyone!

This month I thought it might be interesting to contrast two of my experiences.

First experience: For anyone who doesn't know, I am directionally challenged! A number of years ago I was supposed to meet my best friend at The Lilac Festival. I was happy to find a parking spot that was within walking distance of Highland Park. However, I soon realized that I was lost (I know, I know!) After noticing a house with only the screen door closed, I approached to ask for directions. It was perfect for me, because there was a dog inside at the door. The man in the house was vacuuming, so could not hear me at the door. I explained to the dog that I needed him (her) to get the "human" of the house. The dog and I had a rather strange conversation back and forth with words and barking! At

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first the man inside responded by just telling the dog to be quiet. I encouraged the dog to keep barking (who seemed to be enjoying the whole experience because his (her) tail was wagging really fast!) Eventually, the man came to the door, and he was rather shocked to see me on his porch praising his dog! He was able to give me directions, and I took full responsibility for the dog's vocalizing! I briefly told him what I had done, and then told his dog that he (she) was a really good dog! Yes, I did end up finding the festival and my friend, but my unique way of obtaining directions was my most memorable part of the day!

Second experience: I was wrong! Three little words that all people in Mensa have a difficult time admitting! I got a valuable life lesson today. Everyone makes mistakes, even Mensans. I typically have a very good memory, but not today. The problem came about because I could not trust the person I was dealing with.

I have always been overly protective with people. If I sense that someone is being taken advantage of I switch into "mother lion" mode! This particular situation involved a former violin student's family in addition to myself. The businessperson I was dealing with was dishonest, which set me on edge from the beginning of our transactions. Unfortunately, I did something I rarely do: I reacted instead of taking the time to be fully objective about the whole situation. I presumed to know things without checking all the facts. I was impolite, inflexible, and unfair. I of course apologized "out the wazoo" and later took full responsibility for our misunderstanding. I am still digesting the lessons from that big mud puddle.

The overall point from that experience was that even if another person IS being dishonest, disreputable, and believes that they can get away with anything (which he did), I am still in control of MY actions. Just because someone is choosing to be a crooked jerk doesn't mean that I have to join the offending party in their pool of waste!

Hope to see you soon,

Julie Stout,

RAM LocSec

Planning ahead, so save the dates!

Upcoming dates for Rochester Area Mensa Youth (RAMY) Field Trips or events: Saturday, June 15 (This month, Scheduled for Wild Wings in Mendon Ponds Park); and Sunday, July 21 (Next month, Scheduled for the Civil War Reenactment at Genesee Country Village & Museum). Many exciting and worthwhile events for our younger Mensans are in the works – Stay tuned!

June RAM Events**First Thirstday – Thursday, June 6, 2013 7:00 pm**

Timothy Patrick's Irish Pub 585.385.4160
916 Panorama Trail South TPsIrishPub.com
Rochester, NY 14625

If you don't know your "Burgers Go Bragh" from your "Erin Go Brews" you'd better study up! This is a new venue for our RAM group, situated on Panorama Trail in Penfield, serving until 10:00pm. Interesting menu items include the Irish Onion Soup for \$4.95, which is billed as "The envy of France" and dinners for \$9.95 or less everyday. No RSVP required; look for the yellow balloon.

RAM Youth Field Trip – Saturday, June 15, 2013 10:00 am

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 taking a short hike around Quaker Pond afterward right there in Mendon Ponds Park. Come with us; we'll decide together!

Firefly Night – Friday, June 21, 2013 7:00 pm

Coal Tower Restaurant 585.381.7866
9 Schoen Place VillageCoalTower.com
Pittsford, NY 14534

Join us for dinner and a leisurely stroll along the Erie Canal... and fireflies! We will meet for dinner at the Village Coal Tower restaurant at 7:00 pm and embark on our firefly expedition at somewhere around dusk. Depending on group consensus, the walk will be about an hour or so and approximately one mile total. No RSVP required; look for the yellow balloon.

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June RAM Events – Continued from Page 3**MAG Tapas Night – Thursday, June 27, 2013 6:00 pm**

University of Rochester 585.276.8900
Memorial Art Gallery mag.rochester.edu
500 University Avenue http://bit.ly/NjNa62
Rochester NY 14607

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

July 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, July 11, 2013 7:00 pm

Castaways 585.323.2943
244 Lake Road CastawaysOnTheLake.com
Webster, NY 14580

Enjoy the most spectacular views and gorgeous sunsets on Lake Ontario while dining outside. Cozy evenings and incredible specials are what make Castaways a favorite dining spot all year long. Take Route 104 to Bay Road north, then left on Lake Road. No RSVP required; look for the yellow balloon.

RAM Youth Field Trip – Sunday, July 21, 2013 11:00 am

Genesee Country Village- 585.538.6822
Museum www.gcv.org
1410 Flint Hill Road
Mumford, NY 14511

Genesee Country Museum in Mumford has a Civil War reenactment on July 21, and WE'RE GOING! Our planned outing is from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm with a live battle at 11:30 am. We'll all want to be front and center for the battle, so we can meet at the gift shop at 11:00 am. No RSVP required but appreciated; look for the yellow balloon.

About Our Cover and "Centerfold" Photos

This month's photo is *The Flaming Cheese has Arrived!*, May 30, 2013, Copyright © 2013 Robert Horner, taken at our May excursion to the OPA! restaurant in Henrietta. Sorry if you missed it!

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).

reMARK by Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3 – June, 2013

This is it! My Swan Song! My last hurrah! The end of an era! It's been quite a ride. Yes, this is my final column as Regional Vice Chairman for The Great Lakes and Ohio Valley Region 3 of American Mensa. Like a roller coaster, these past four years have had their ups and downs, turns and twists, ins and outs. Region 3 has acquired many new members and we've lost some very dear ones. Many groups have taken on the challenge of updating their By-Laws. All groups have had fabulous meetings and events and parties and many have hosted RGs, mini-RGs and LDWs. Through it all, it has been my distinct pleasure to have been your representative on the American Mensa Committee. I've met new friends and further cemented relationships with old friends in every one of Region 3's local groups as I was privileged to visit all of them. You are truly the very best of friends and family. Thank you. Thank you to all who volunteered and helped me, to all who volunteered to help your local group in any way, to all who attended any Mensa event, to all who read any Mensa newsletter or the Bulletin, to all who continue to be Mensans. You are wonderful people and I am honored to be associated with you. It has been an honor, a privilege and a pleasure. Thank you.

As of the submission date for this column, elections are still happening and we won't know who our new RVC3 will be until after June 1st. Please welcome Julia or John as s/he begins her/his new adventure. Without question, Region 3 will be well represented on the AMC.

SEMMantics XXXIV was wonderful – just like all Region 3 Regional Gatherings.

Our next RG (July 26-28) is "It's the End of the World as We Know It...and We Feel Fine" to be hosted by Columbus Area Mensa, whose blurb on-line in Mensa's calendar of events states: Join us for food, games, speakers and a pint at our pub called Milliways. All RG events in the hotel, 12th floor. Waterpark passes optional. Hotel will charge one night's room & tax (deposit) at time of reservation. \$25 cancellation fee with 72 hours notice, forfeit deposit with less than 72 hours notice. Registration, including meals: until Jul. 1, \$75; after Jul. 1, \$80; Friday only, \$30; Saturday only, \$55; Kids 11-18, half price; 10 & under, free. Fort Rapids Indoor Waterpark Resort, 4560 Hilton Corporate Drive, Columbus, OH 43232, 614-868-1380. Web site: www.fortrapids.com Room rates are \$99 (\$159 w/ up to 4 park passes) and are guaranteed

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through July 5. Use reservation code Columbus Mensa. To register, make check out to "Columbus Area Mensa" and mail to: Columbus RG Treasurer, P.O. Box 292557, Columbus OH 43229. For more information, contact Registrar Julia Ashley at psibernaut@yahoo.com or 614-448-6023.

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 website, also.

Western Pennsylvania Area Mensa will be hosting an RG this year. Information will be posted as soon as it is available.

Thank you, again.

LLAP and Peace,

Betsy

Betsy Yvonne Mark, RVC3 | Ypsilanti, MI | 734.434.5757 | www.region3.us.mensa.org

May Victor Nature Hike

Member Recognition

This month – and every month – we would like to extend a sincere show of appreciation to those having anniversaries this month:

June RAM Member Anniversaries	
Joanne C Heckmann	26 years with Mensa
Richard A Kroll Esq	17 years with Mensa
Robert Kenneth Syme	10 years with Mensa
Karen E Lacomis-Cote	6 years with Mensa
Emily Ann Lucci	4 years with Mensa

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

June RAM Member Birthdays	
Jason J Nasca	June 1 st
Maureen L Bills	June 3 rd
Thomas P Szatko	June 8 th
Elaine J Milton	June 14 th
Richard A Hoppe	June 16 th
Andrew C Symonds	June 18 th
Karen E Lacomis-Cote	June 20 th
Joseph Fazio	June 27 th
Katherine Streeter	June 30 th

On behalf of all RAM members, we would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members AND returning members: Congratulations, welcome to the group, and we hope to see you at a RAM event soon!

New RAM Members As of June*		
Elaine J Milton	Rochester	Reinstating

* At the moment, our next RAM testing is scheduled for Saturday, October 12, 2013 in the basement room at the McGraw Branch of the Irondequoit Library. Please contact us with any questions! 😊

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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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.