



The
Constellation
 Rochester Area Mensa
 August, 2013

Short & Sweet

Hello Everyone!

One's age is a funny thing: First of all, there are different ways to measure an individual's age. To name a few, we have chronological, behavioral, health, and maturity level!

Chronological seems very straight forward, but sometimes that isn't the case. For example, earlier this year a much younger man wanted to date me. At first, I explained to him that I was too old for him (which didn't help!) I decided to go with a more direct approach and just informed him that I will be 52! This amazingly enough did not discourage him either (he was in his late twenties!). The really funny thing was that I started to actually think of myself as being 52 already! It wasn't until last week that I realized I was going to be turning 52 in August!

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Rochester Area Mensa

Loc Sec: Julie Stout	585.225.3020
Deputy Loc Sec: Terrence Redfield	585.705.3329
Treasurer: Jeff Gould	585.216.9017
Newsletter Editor: Terrence Redfield	585.705.3329
Proctor: Bob Horner	c/o 585.705.3329
Membership: Eric Murphy	585.503.7553
Gifted Children's Coordinator: Laurie Townsend	585.278.4524
Ombudsman: George Gerspacher	585.527.8529
SIGHT Coordinator: George Gerspacher	585.527.8529
Scholarship Coordinator: Steve Lindsey	
Webmaster: Terrence Redfield	585.705.3329

American Mensa, Ltd.
 1229 Corporate Drive West
 Arlington, TX 76006-6103

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.

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

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(Remember me banging my head a lot in the boat!?) My point is this: It doesn't matter to me if I am 52 or 53 – Chronological age has very little to do with how you choose to live your life!

One's health can change your perception of age. If someone is lucky enough to be in good shape physically, it will help the person feel younger. The opposite is true as well. If a person has health problems, they can feel older than they actually are. We all have health issues. The trick is not allowing them to control your outlook (become adaptable.)

Behavioral and maturity level kind of go together in my opinion. Long ago, I made a very serious choice to keep my childlike view of the world. I value that above everything else. (Mischievous is highly recommended; we will address mischief another time!) My decision came about because I observed too many people changing over the years. For the most part, these changes took place gradually over a very long period of time. With some people, I have even heard the sounds of their voices and laughter change.

Confusion over one's age can be interesting. While teaching in Cleveland during my college years, I was supposed to teach at a local high school. I entered the building and came upon an extremely long line of students waiting to get into the building. I tried to explain that I was indeed a violin teacher, but since everyone around me was significantly taller and larger, they did not believe me! I finally just had to wait in line with the other students. I learned to always carry proof of your age after that particular day!

I think that the real secret to the whole age subject is to basically forget about it! People (especially women) seem to "forget" that they keep celebrating the same birthday age repeatedly! Getting older is only a problem if you make it one!

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

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

August RAM Member Anniversaries	
Andrea Fuehrer	22 years with Mensa
Karen Steiner	15 years with Mensa
Wayne C Strauss	9 years with Mensa
Darrell G King	7 years with Mensa
Robert Leopard	4 years with Mensa
Timothy James McNelly	1 year with Mensa

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

August RAM Member Birthdays	
Karen A Lindquist	August 6 th
Richard F Hauver	August 7 th
John H Lennon	August 9 th
Craig E Daniels	August 10 th
Brad Bovenzi	August 15 th
Robert Cannan	August 15 th
Or James J Wenskus Jr	August 17 th
Karen Steiner	August 23 rd
Julie Kathleen Stout	August 24 th
Eugene Shkurko	August 27 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 July*		
Gordon P Brown	Rochester	Reinstating
Newton Green II	Pittsford	Renewing
Frank W Alexander III	Dansville	Renewing

* As planned, 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: If we have overlooked anyone in any way for any reason, we apologize very sincerely and look forward to continuing to do the best job possible with our member recognition efforts, both online and in print.

About Our Cover and "Centerfold" Photos

This month's photo is *A Little Big Dragon*, 07/20/2013, Copyright © 2013 Suzanne Keller, taken at our Mensa Wade / Walk / Dinner at Ontario Pathways / Flint Creek in late July. And by "This Month's" we mean the one used as the background for the August calendar and on the cover of this issue, not to be confused with any other lovely photos found within.

The picture we use is open to all who care to participate, it takes a while to put this publication together, and we want our own, relevant photos. If you have attended a recent RAM event and would like to suggest one of your own photos, send it in! Here are the criteria:

It must be an original photograph submitted by anyone – RAM member or non-member – depicting anything of interest from a recent RAM event. (That reminds me – you are always welcome to bring along a family member or friend [or possibly two, or possibly more ☺] to any RAM event.) Call for complete details or see the Web site regarding submitting a photo for the Constellation.

Another great photo, one that did not make into last month's Constellation, is *Roll That Beautiful Sunrise Footage!* – June 5th, 2013, Copyright © 2013 Robert Horner, taken at, well... at sunrise! ☺ (Nice pic, Bob, but frankly it's a little too early in the day for me!)



Photo: *Roll That Beautiful Sunrise Footage!* 06/05/2013 05:26 © Bob Horner

RVC Julia Ashley – August, 2013

I'm your new Region 3 Vice Chair. Thank you for your support and hats off to my esteemed opponent and colleague, John Voymas. I've made two appointments: Katie Weihl, Region 3 Scholarship Chair and Betsy Mark, Region 3 Ombudsman.

Help Wanted -- Region 3 Webmaster. Please contact me if interested. I would like to see demonstration of prior work or your notes on improving our web site.

[UPDATE: Facebook, 9:19am Aug 3, 2013 - Julia Ashley posted in Region 3 - American Mensa: The Region 3 web site is live again thanks to our new webmaster, Leonard Dalenberg. Anyone else who wants to contribute may contact him through the site, www.region3.us.mensa.org]

I am also seeking a clever name for this column.

Congratulations to the ECOM Culture Quest Team, Uncle Churd, earning first place this year. Region 3 took five of the top 20 positions:
2nd Place: MECCA, Cincinnati Area Mensa,
9th Place: Burning River of Knowledge, Cleveland Area Mensa,
12th Place: The Original Standard Deviants, Western Pennsylvania Mensa
16th Place: Mental as Anything, Cincinnati Area Mensa.

Congratulations to Chairman's Service Award recipients from Region 3: Betsy Mark, Jean Becker, Mary Lee Kemper, and the Hell's Ms SIG. The Margot Award was given to Gary Skinner Porter in April before his passing and also recognized at the AG.

At the AG in Ft. Worth, the Board voted to revise and rename the Group of the Year Awards. The Name of the Award is now: The Local Group Jewels. The achievement levels will be (Lowest to Highest): Emerald, Sapphire, & Ruby with recipients to be awarded July 2014 and continuing each year thereafter. Chapters obtaining the highest points in their individual Classes will be specifically recognized separately as the Diamond Group for that year. The new program will help local groups measure their own progress and identify offerings and functionality they wish to maintain.

The Board also:

- Created the position of National Testing Officer to support Admissions Testing activities at the local level
- Created a Local Group Logistics Team to be charged with coordinating information, best practices, and technology templates for use by local groups should they so desire
- Created a Local Group Support Task Force to analyze areas of concern regarding support of Local Groups, including funding, and to develop policies in accordance with that analysis

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RVC Julia Ashley – Continued from Page 3

If you are on Facebook, you may join Region 3 – American Mensa for current news and events. Next up is Pittsburgh, PA 33 1/3 - the Long Play weekend, August 30 through September 2, Labor Day weekend! WPAM drops the needle and spins you four days and three nights of non-stop food and fun. That's 33 1/3% more than your average RG! Look forward to interesting speakers, themed meals, a sock hop, silent auctions, book sale, and games.

Full Registration:

- Postmarked thru Aug. 25, \$110 adult/\$55 child (ages 7-14)
- Aug. 26 and after, \$120/\$60

Single-day registrations are:

- Friday - \$35 adult/\$15 child
- Saturday - \$55/\$25
- Sunday - \$55/\$25
- Monday - \$25/\$15

Children 6 and under are free, and families of four or more receive an additional \$10 off for each child. To register, contact auntkitti@aol.com or send a check payable to WPAM RG with name, email, phone, address, and days attending for each registrant to Marty Flowers, 303 Diamond Dr., Moon Township, PA 15108

DoubleTree Green Tree
500 Mansfield Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15205
800-222-8733
Web site: <http://bit.ly/13ZV3fZ>

Room rates are \$94 and are guaranteed through Aug. 15. Use reservation code Western Pennsylvania Mensa. For more information, contact Jodi Chase at jodi.liv.strong@gmail.com or 412-867-8576.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia

Julia Ashley, RVC3 :: rvc3@us.mensa.org :: 614.448.6023

Electronic Communication

In last month's printed Constellation, some of you may have noticed that we were running low on toner toward the end, making the print a little faint. I figured this would be a good time to reiterate or perhaps even stress a few points:

- 1) Sometimes we may consolidate two months into one issue, as in the case of some of the summer or holiday editions.
- 2) We will continue to print and mail a hardcopy version of the Constellation every month, unless consolidated, for as long as we have members who want or need a printed copy.
- 3) Meanwhile, the costs of printing and mailing a hardcopy continue to rise, and if it weren't for a majority of our members already electing to make use of electronic versions of the Constellation we would be struggling to cover the costs.

We currently have at least a dozen members in our local group who have indicated to AML (aka "national" or American Mensa, Ltd.) that they would actually prefer to use the electronic version of the Constellation, but have failed to provide an email address or authorize release of their email addresses within the organization.

We cannot notify you or deliver to you via email without a valid email address and your permission to use your email address. You need to contact AML National directly to make sure they have the appropriate information and permissions to allow electronic communication.

All preferred notification methods, email address information, and permissions are managed through AML and propagated to the various group leadership personnel as needed. AML is very strict about what ANY personal information can or cannot be used for and overall I believe they do an excellent job.

Time For a Good Deed!

ATTENTION ANYONE WHO IS OR HAS BEEN A GROUP OFFICER: If in the past you have come into contact with Rosa Foster, the Membership Processing Coordinator at AML (National), this is for you. Rosa retired last month, and because of superior longevity with staffers, it's not often that AML gets to celebrate a retirement — especially one of 14 years! (Yes, they're busily vetting a replacement.)

If you had any regular contact with Rosa and value the service she provided to Mensa, Howard Prince (AML Director of Operations) asks that you please take a moment to send her well wishes on her retirement. The preferred email address for this is CongratsRosa@americanmensa.org

The responses will be compiled into a booklet to be presented to her at a staff function next week.

October – National Mensa Testing Day

RAM / Mensa Testing Day – Saturday, October 12, 2013 12:00 noon

Irondequoit Public Library
(Helen McGraw Branch)
2180 E Ridge Road
Rochester, NY 14622

For more information, contact
Julie Stout or Terry Redfield
(See back cover for contact info.)

Prior registration is strongly suggested but all are welcome. The Mensa testing fee is \$40; consider bringing cash if not prepaid. Testing begins promptly at 12:00 noon; candidates should plan to show up early. Two Mensa-approved IQ tests are administered, and passing either one will qualify the candidate for membership.

We will be attempting to contact all those who have expressed an interest in membership in September and early October. However, if you know of anyone interested, please have him or her contact us. The minimum age for any IQ test Mensa offers is 14 years. Again, prior registration and prepayment makes things a lot easier for everyone.

For those wishing to attend, the Irondequoit / Helen McGraw library is located just west of Wegmans on E. Ridge Road in Irondequoit, on the same side of the street. We plan to have a Mensa poster displayed on the on door – no yellow balloons this time (Oops, sorry! ☺)

Don't forget that Mensa also recognizes some 200 or so standardized intelligence and IQ tests, so that may be an option for those who do not wish to participate in our October Testing Day. More information is available at <http://us.mensa.org/join/testscores/>

Dollar Days and Testing Discount Promotions

In support of Mensa Membership Month and National Mensa Testing Day in October, AML has announced two distinct but related promotions:

1) *Anyone who takes the Online Mensa Home Test (MHT) in August or September, prints the MHT receipt, and brings it to an October testing session will receive \$18 off the price of the proctored admissions test.*

2) *In addition, AML will be offering the online MHT starting August 19 through September 15 for just \$1.00. On September 16th, the price for the MHT will revert to \$18.*

So, those who take the online MHT test in August or September, prints a copy of the MHT receipt, and brings it to our October testing session will receive the \$18 testing discount regardless of the price paid for the MHT.

You may want to share these two promotional discounts with any interested parties. There will be no special codes required on the Web site because the pricing for the online prep test will be \$1 for everyone during the three-week promotion. You can find the Mensa Home Test at www.us.mensa.org/MHT.

August RAM Events

First Thirstday – Thursday, August 8, 2013 7:00 pm

Wright Residence
18 Pecos Circle
West Henrietta, NY 14458

585.880.9868
twright8@rochester.rr.com

PLEASE NOTE: This is our penultimate Summer 2013 First Thirstday! Due to the limited number of Thursdays available this summer, once again we will hold our "First Thirstday" not on the first Thursday of the month, but on the second Thursday instead, as we did in July. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience. HOWEVER, as an added treat for everyone and just compensation for the inconvenience, we get to help Tim and Shirley break-in their new sunroom!

Entrée provided, bring a "dish to pass" along the lines of hors d'oeuvres or desserts. PLEASE, RSVP to Tim Wright or Terry Redfield as soon as possible. We need a head count so the sooner, the better.

Number 18 Pecos Circle should be familiar to at least some of us by now and it's still just as easy to find: Get yourself to the corner of West Henrietta and Erie Station Roads, head west to the first left, which is Yellowstone Drive, and Pecos Circle is the first left from Yellowstone. We will be exercising standard protocol, so look for the yellow balloon.

International Food Night – Tuesday, August 13, 2013 7:00 pm

Itacate Home Made Mexican Food
1859 Penfield Road
Penfield, NY 14526

585.586.8454
Itacate.com

To the best of our knowledge, this will be another maiden voyage for our RAM group. The appointed time is 7:00 pm as per usual but we know this particular establishment offers Happy Hour from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm and I wouldn't be surprised if some people decided to show up early to take advantage of their amazing margaritas! In any case, their menu is pretty amazing, too. The full menu is available on Facebook; search "Itacate-Penfield" and you'll find it in its own album under "Photos."

Itacate is located on Penfield Road (Route 441) just a bit east of Five Mile Line Road. (441 & 5ML = Penfield 4 Corners) It's on the south side of Route 441 with parking available behind the building. We will still be exercising standard protocol, so look for the yellow balloon!



August RAM Events – Continued from Page 5

MHT Dollar Days Promo – August 19 through September 15, 2013

At your home, or anywhere www.us.mensa.org/MHT
Special Promo Pricing We don't want you to miss it!

As mentioned elsewhere in this edition, AML is offering a time-limited \$1.00 special price on the **Online Mensa Home Test**. This could be fun for members as well as instrumental for prospective members. Passing the test does not qualify for membership but provides good practice! ☺

RAM Youth Field Trip – Friday, August 23, 2013 (Time TBD)

Corning Museum of Glass 607.937.5371
1 Museum Way www.cmog.org
Corning, NY 14830

We are in the process of ironing out the details of our Corning Museum of Glass trip scheduled for Friday, August 23rd. We selected a Friday because the Museum will be just a touch less busy and the trip should be a little easier to navigate.

Some members already have expressed an interest in the "Make Your Own Glass" projects, and because these are always on a first-come, first-served basis and should be paid in advance, it underscores the need to plan ahead.

Admission for adults is \$15.00; for children age 19 and under admission is free. (Various discounts available for college students, those ages 55 Plus, AAA members, and military personnel.)

RSVP required; we will explore the possibility of carpooling. Please call or email Julie Stout at 585.225.3020 or jks82461@hotmail.com - Julie is coordinating this trip.

Max at the Gallery Tapas Night – Thursday, August 29, 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 offers a weekly Tapas Night; this has become one of the staples in our month event calendar. The 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 a variety of beverages and tapas plates for purchase, AND, for anyone interested, you can visit the Art Gallery with half price admission (open until 9 pm). OR, you are welcome to join us in our regularly scheduled trip to the Gallery Store. No RSVP required; look for the yellow balloon.



September 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 known by the time we go to print. Please be sure to refer to the RAM Web site or give us a call or send an email if you have a specific question.

First Thirstday – Thursday, September 5, 2013 7:00 pm

Sticky Lips Pit BBQ (Henrietta)
830 Jefferson Road 585.292.5544
Rochester, NY 14623 StickyLipsBBQ.com

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, and don't forget to ask for / say hello to Loretta!

Stay tuned – More to Come – September, 2013

We are working on a number of additional events – the new and exciting as well as the comfortable and familiar – for the balance of September... Please let us know if you would like to have your event listed.