

Welcome Letter 2016
Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa
Star-Lite Regional Gathering

Welcome to GLAAM Star-Lite 2016, taking place February 12-14, 2016 at the Ayres Suites Ontario Mills Mall. We are running a smaller than usual event in hopes that many members will opt to go to the Mensa Annual Gathering in San Diego, June 29-July 3, 2016.

To get the most out of your experience, please take every opportunity to walk up to another RG attendee and introduce yourself! Volunteering is a great way to meet people, too.

ATTENTION!

If you are flying in, the Ayres Suites has a shuttle to and from the nearby Ontario Airport. LAX is 60 miles west of this Ayres Suites.

If you know people who have thought about taking the Mensa test, RG Saturday morning is a good time. They must preregister. If they attend the Mensa test, they can stay all day Saturday. See details below.

In the food rooms, please clean up after yourself. The hotel staff is not cleaning up after our meals, and our volunteers should not have to, either!

In the food line, please do not overload your plate (no mile high sandwiches!) There will be enough for seconds. Last year, people at the end of the line had nothing to eat. Please help make this work.

Some of our speakers will have their books or CDs available for sale and for signing. Please bring cash for the pleasure of purchasing these items.

Bring a smile and a willingness to say "Hi!" to a stranger who looks like they could use a friendly greeting. You can be an ambassador to new attendees – even if you are new yourself!

Location: Ayres Suites Ontario Mills Mall
4370 Mills Circle
Ontario CA 91764
(909) 481-0703

Driving Directions:

Take the 10 Freeway to N Milliken Avenue. Go north one block. The hotel is on the right. Do not get confused by the other Ayres behind the one on Milliken – they are separate hotels. Free parking available. Hotel shuttle is available to and from Ontario Airport.

Other Transportation to the Ayres Suites Ontario Mills Mall:

* Bell Cab or United Checker Cab are supposedly just under \$50 one way.

* There are also Uber and Lyft transports - drivers of private cars who pick-up and drop-off, apparently for a smaller fee than a regular taxi. Call ahead for arrangements.

* LAX Flyaway Bus picks up at each terminal and goes directly to Union Station. You can take a Metrolink train from Union Station to Rancho Cucamonga station. Walk 1/2 mile South on Milliken to the Ayres hotel. There might be a city bus available, or call the hotel to see if they would send the shuttle to that station.

* There are several Shuttles that will go from LAX to Ontario Mills Mall. The Ayres is on the SW corner around the rim of the Mall, facing Milliken Blvd. Upon request, they would possibly drop you at the hotel. Shuttles include:

shuttle2LAX.com - Shuttle 2 LAX - They talk about \$20 trips, but there might be a mileage limit
supershuttle.com - Super Shuttle
primetimeshuttle.com - Prime Time Shuttle
rrshuttle.com - Roadrunner Shuttle
goairportshuttle.com - Go Airport Shuttle

This list is not a recommendation, but shows some of what is available.

Hotel Reservations:

Register for your suite through Ayres Suites (909-481-0703) and mention MENSA. The guestrooms have free High-Speed Internet and flat screen televisions. There is a complimentary American breakfast on Saturday and Sunday for overnight guests. For those who check-in on Thursday, the hotel supplies a cocktail hour from 5-7pm, with beer, wine, hors d'oeuvres and fresh baked cookies.

On-Site RG Registration and Check-in Times:

Friday 3:00 – 8:00 pm

Saturday 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Pick up your badge, schedule, and other information at the Registration Desk as you enter the lobby.

If you will arrive outside of these hours, please let us know ahead of time or call Madeline at (310) 569-8415 so we can get you a badge.

Dots and Stickers on the Badges:

There will be a special sticker for Vegetarians which will help Hospitality direct you to the appropriate dishes during meal times.

Hug dots are available for attendees to place on their badges. Green indicates “Accepts and gives hugs”, Yellow indicates “Ask first” and Red indicates “Please respect my personal space.” The definition of Blue Dots changes from moment to moment.

RG Registration Rates:

To register onsite, please bring cash or check. Registration costs after January 31st and at the door:

- Full registration - \$89
- Half-price RG registration for ages 17 and under - \$44.50

Speakers/Programs:

Most times we will have one or two speakers presenting, plus games and other activities. Please fill out comment forms for each speaker to help us with future planning. To find out about the speakers, go to www.glaam.us.mensa.org, click on “Regional Gathering” for the drop-down menu, and click on Speakers.

Programs are subject to change. Please check with the Registration Desk for the most up-to-date schedule. We will try to start all events on time. Please be seated at the activity of your choice before the start time.

Activities at the RG that Require Extra Fees:

- Pub Crawl - cost of your drinks
- Mensa Testing - See Mensa Testing section – **MUST BE PRE-RESERVED**
- Any offsite meals, including restaurants in the Ontario Mills Mall
- Any books, CD's or other products sold by speakers
- Tips for hotel staff

Hospitality/Meals/Beverages:

Meals included in the registration fee include Friday dinner (pizza and salad), Saturday lunch (create-your-sandwich), and Saturday catered dinner. Full American Breakfasts will be available for overnight hotel guests. RG attendees not staying overnight may purchase breakfast at the hotel front desk if they want to. Beverages (sodas, water), peanut butter and jelly, bread, fruit, some fresh veggies, and sweet and salty snacks will be available in Hospitality.

Vegetarian items will be available at all meals. Contact Lee Stillman at leestillman@sbcglobal.net before Thursday, February 11th, with questions about vegetarian dining or other dietary restrictions. Vegetarians, please come to the front of the line at the beginning of each meal so we can meet your dietary needs. Please keep all food and drink, except water, in the Hospitality room and the StaRGazers' Lounge. This is required by our contract with the hotel.

StaRGazers' Lounge:

Beer, wine, and soft drinks will be available as part of your Registration fee. The hours will depend on volunteer availability. If you want the Lounge to be open, sign up to monitor the room. The Lounge Monitor will be responsible for minor set-up and clean-up, keeping the noise to a reasonable level, and keeping one eye on the safety of our guests. Beyond that, you get to relax, chat, and enjoy the atmosphere.

Volunteers:

Volunteers are always welcome. Even one or two hours is a tremendous help to us. Greet and introduce speakers, help out in Hospitality, keep the StaRGazers' Lounge open, or help break down and pack up on Sunday. Sign up at Registration. The RG is conceived, created and run entirely by volunteers. You will earn the committee's undying gratitude for helping out, and have a great chance to meet new people.

What to Bring:

- Dress for all programs is casual. As the conference rooms can be cool, bring a sweater or light jacket.
- The hotel has a pool and fitness center for use by hotel guests. Swim suits required.
- Bring items to place on the Media Exchange Table, and a bag to take home the treasures you find.
- We will be putting some of our boxed games on the Media Exchange Table for whoever wants them.
- Bring your own water bottle and coffee mug to cut down on waste from disposables.

Mensa Testing:

The Mensa admission test will be offered on Saturday morning starting at 9:00am Saturday. SIGN UP at least one week IN ADVANCE by contacting Dave Felt at feltdd@verizon.net and include the words "MENSA EXAM" in the subject line, or leave a message at 626-355-8315. Dave will send you details. For

more information, see <http://www.dfe.net/mensa.html> . There is a charge to take the Mensa test, by check or exact cash.

Mary Carney, proctor, will supervise this test. If you have friends who have been thinking of taking the test, let them know - this would be a good time, since they get to attend the RG the rest of that day.

How to Meet People:

The RG offers many opportunities for meeting people, including the New Member Reception and the RVC Rap Session, upstairs Hospitality, the Game room, and the Pub Crawl.

More ways to meet people:

- If you liked (or didn't like) a particular presentation, ask someone else what they thought of it.
- If you see an empty seat at a lunch table, sit down and introduce yourself.
- If you see someone sitting alone, sit down and introduce yourself.
- Hang out in the Game Room.
- For easy interaction, go to a game where everyone participates.
- Volunteer at Registration, Hospitality, the Lounge, or to introduce Speakers.

Media Exchange:

Bring your unwanted media to the Media Exchange Table to swap with others: books, CDs, VHS tapes, etc. Please do NOT bring textbooks or moldy/smelly books. You do not have to bring something to take something. Leftovers will be donated to charity.

We will be adding some of our boxed games to the Media Exchange Table for whoever wants them.

Annual Business Meeting:

GLAAM is required by our Bylaws to conduct an Annual Business Meeting (ABM). We will hold it on the Saturday morning of the RG. This is an opportunity for members to ask questions of the Board Members regarding the past year. Please note that this event is for GLAAM members only, and the meeting is open to GLAAM members who did not register for the RG.

Pub Crawl:

The Pub Crawl will be Friday night. It will take place in the Ontario Mills Mall, right behind the Ayres Suites. You must pay for your own drinks on the Pub Crawl.

The Pub Crawl is preceded by the Gen X/Gen Y Meet & Greet as well as other programs.

Game Room:

Games in the game room either belong to GLAAM or are someone's personal property, donated for the duration of the RG. Please treat the games gently and return all pieces to the boxes. The game room will be open whenever there is a volunteer to supervise it.

Games (see Program for schedule and details):

Organized group games will include: Not So Trivial Trivia, Carnelli, Joke-off, Name That Tune, Monopoly, Family Feud Mensa-Style, Singalong, Lawyers' Games, and Werewolves and Villagers

Other Games may include: Apples to Apples, Taboo, Encore, Anomia, Chess, Scattergories, Backgammon, Boggle, Palabra and more.

Photography:

The RG Committee may be taking photographs of the attendees for publicity/posting to the GLAAM website. Please let the photographer know if you do not wish to be photographed.

If you wish to take photos, ask permission of the people in the photograph first. Please do not take pictures of children at the RG unless it is restricted to your own child or you have permission from their parent/guardian.

Wine and Beer sale:

Sale of leftover wine and beer will begin at approximately 10:00 am Sunday in Hospitality. Please bring cash. Leftover food items will be up for grabs. See Lee Stillman or Craig Lancaster for details.

Accessibility:

The hotel and the conference area are wheelchair-accessible. Service animals are permitted indoors for people with disabilities.

Smoking:

The hotel interior is non-smoking. There are smoking areas outside.

Tipping:

Suggested tipping rates are: 15-20% of restaurant tabs, \$1-\$3 per bag to bellman/porter, \$1/round per drink, \$2-\$3 to housekeeper for each night of stay.

GLAAM RG 2017:

GLAAM RG will be back in full swing next year. If anyone has connections with a suitable hotel, please let us know.

Stay tuned for more information about the GLAAM StaRGazing RG 2017!

If you have questions, contact:

Madeline Walker madeline@spidellspecialties.com

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