

Welcome Letter 2018

Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa StarGazers Regional Gathering

Welcome to GLAAM StarGazers RG 2018, taking place February 16-19, 2018 at the DoubleTree by Hilton San Pedro, 2800 Via Cabrillo Marina, San Pedro CA 90731 – 310-514-3344.



Planning for the Event

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.

Volunteers will receive raffle tickets upon completion of their duty. At the Annual Business Meeting on Monday, tickets will be drawn for three \$50 prizes (one per winner - if someone is drawn again, they may choose a non-cash prize), and many more tickets will be drawn for surprise items. If the volunteer will not be at the ABM, they may put their name on the back of the ticket for the \$50 prize draws. See the last page under Volunteer Raffle for the ways to earn tickets.

The Theme this year is **“NAUTICAL BUT NICE.”** Our speaker chair, Jerilyn, has arranged for several interesting speakers to follow the theme. Furthermore, on Saturday night, if you have any clothing or accessories that would add to the flavor of a Nautical but Nice time, you are encouraged to wear it or bring it along. And, if you've got it in you, feel free to talk like a Sailor or a Pirate!

On Sunday, people will have the choice of staying at the hotel to enjoy the RG activities, play games or chat with friends, or to use the Hop-on Hop-off San Pedro Trolley, which will run from Noon until 6:00 pm. The Trolley will go to Ports O'Call village (depending on how much construction is going on), the USS Battleship Iowa (fee), the LA Maritime Museum, several stops in Historic Downtown San Pedro, and the Craft Beer Tasting room at Brouwerijwest Brewery. Shops, Galleries, Restaurants, and other sites are available. Trolley travelers are requested to stay in groups. Why? Maybe you'll get to know someone new!

If friends have thought about taking the Mensa test, R/G Saturday morning is a good time. They must preregister at least a week ahead at dezlaw@aol.com . People testing can stay all day Saturday. See details below about Testing.

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

Go to www.glaam.org/rg/2018 to see the Schedule of Activities, Lists of Events, Games or Kids Track.

Transportation to the DoubleTree by Hilton San Pedro

- ✚ The closest airport to the hotel is **Long Beach Airport** (18 miles), followed by **LAX** (20 miles).
- ✚ Bell Cab or United Checker Cab are said to be reasonable, and Uber or Lyft are also available.
- ✚ There are several Shuttles that go from the airports. Some of the most common are:
primetimeshuttle.com
supershuttle.com
xpressshuttles.com

** Hotel shuttle goes only within a five mile radius of the hotel, not to the airports.*

Hotel Reservations:

Register for a guest room by calling the hotel room rep, Randa, 310-514-3344 x423.

Driving Directions:

Continue on the 110 south until it curves right and ends at a traffic signal intersection. Turn left onto Gaffey, then left onto 22nd St., and right at 2nd light onto Via Cabrillo Marina. Hotel is ¼ mile on the left.

Parking:

Parking at the DoubleTree by Hilton San Pedro is FREE.

On-Site R/G Registration and Check-in Times:

Friday 3:00 – 7:30 pm

Saturday 8:00 am – 4:30pm

Sunday 8:30 – 2:30pm

Pick up your badge, schedule, and other information at the **Registration Table**. Outside of these hours, let us know ahead or call Madeline (310) 569-8415 so we can get your badge.

RG Registration Rates:

To register onsite, please bring cash or check. (No electronic payment methods available.)








Full registration: **\$149.**

Two-day registration: Friday/Saturday **\$95** – or – Sunday/Monday: **\$85**

Youth 17 and under: Half price of any of the above

Sunday Kids' Track for 17 and under with 1 or 2 parents: **\$35.**

Activities at the RG that Require Extra Fees:

-  ● Pub Crawl - **\$5** van fee plus cost of your drinks
-  ● Delectable Sunday Brunch - **\$49**
-  ● Mensa Testing - *See Mensa Testing section* – **MUST BE PRE-RESERVED**
-  ● Any offsite meals, including the restaurant and bar at the hotel
-  ● Cheese Tasting - **\$8**
-  ● Books, CDs or other products sold by speakers
-  ● Tips for hotel staff

Dots and Stickers on the Badges:

Hug dots are available for attendees to place on their badges.

Green is "Accepts and gives hugs".

Yellow is "Ask first"

Red is "Please respect my personal space."

Blue "Dots? Who knows?"

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

Games:

Organized group games will include:

Carnelli, Colander, Encore, Lawyers' Games, The 3rd Semi-Annual Stratton Lindenmeyer Memorial Spelling Bee, Cards Against Humanity, Hyperghost-An Interactive Word Game, War No More, Lyric Snippets-A Variation of Name That Tune, and Werewolves & Villagers.

Boxed games will be available in the **Game Room**.

Game Room:

Games in the **Game Room** are someone's personal property, donated for the duration of the RG. Please treat the games gently and return all pieces to the boxes. Games may be taken to the lobby to play, as long as they are brought back complete and in good condition.

What to Bring:

- Dress 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 your treasures home.
- Bring your own water bottle and coffee mug to cut down on waste from disposables.

StarGazers' Lounge:

Beer, wine, and soft drinks will be available in the **StarGazers Lounge** 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 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.

Hospitality/Meals/Beverages:

Meals included in the registration fee include **Friday Dinner-- pizza, Saturday breakfast- Continental, Saturday Lunch -- Create-your-sandwich, Saturday Dinner -- Boston Market, Sunday Dinner- El Pollo Loco, Monday Breakfast- Continental**. Beverages (sodas, water, coffee, tea), **peanut butter and jelly, hummus, bread, fresh fruits and veggies, and sweet and salty snacks** will be available in **Hospitality**.

Please do not overload your plate so there will be enough for everyone.

***Sunday Gourmet Brunch with special guest speaker can be ordered for an additional \$49. The menu is on the GLAAM Website at: <http://www.glaam.org/rg/2018/brunch/>.

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

Contact Lee Stillman at LeeStillman@sbcglobal.net before Thursday, Feb 15th, with questions about dietary restrictions. If you have any dietary restrictions, come to the front of the line at the beginning of meals 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.

How to Meet People:

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

Speakers/Programs:

Most of the time we will have two or three 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.glam.org/rg/2018 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.

Mensa Testing:

The Mensa admission test will be offered on Saturday morning starting at 9:00am. SIGN UP at least one week IN ADVANCE by contacting Desiree Elliott at dezlaw@aol.com. Include the words "MENSA EXAM" in the subject line, or leave a message at 626-329-3979. Desiree will send you details. For more info, see <http://www.dfe.net/mensa.html>. There is a charge to take the Mensa test, payable by check or exact cash. Desiree Elliott, proctor, will supervise this test.

Recently, ALL members received a voucher to allow a friend to have free testing or a free prior evidence review. This is great opportunity for your friend to test for Mensa for **FREE** and enjoy Saturday at the RG for **FREE**. Out of area vouchers are welcome as well! Contact Desiree to make sure the voucher is redeemed properly for use during the Test.

Media Exchange:

Bring your unwanted media to the **Media Exchange Table** to swap with others: books, CDs, etc. Please do NOT bring textbooks or moldy/smelly books. You do not have to bring something to take something – If you see something you like, consider it yours. Leftovers will be donated.

Pub Crawl:

The **Pub Crawl** will be Friday night. It will start at the hotel bar, and go out to a selection of outside places. There is a \$5 fee to cover transportation. You must pay for your own drinks.

Recycling:

In the **Hospitality Room** and the **Upstairs StarGazers Lounge**, we will have bags to collect bottles and cans for recycling. The hotel staff cooperates in taking them away to a facility.

Volunteers:

Volunteers are always welcome. Greet members. Introduce speakers. Help out in **Hospitality**. Keep the **StarGazers' Lounge** open. Help set-up Friday or pack-up on Monday. The RG is conceived, created, and run entirely by volunteers. You will earn the committee's gratitude for helping out, and have a great chance to meet new people. This year, all volunteers will receive a raffle ticket for time and energy served. Ask about volunteering at **Registration**.

Annual Business Meeting:

GLAAM Bylaws require us to conduct an **Annual Business Meeting (ABM)**. It will take place Monday morning. This is an opportunity for members to ask questions of the Board Members regarding the past year. We will vote for **Hollywood Bowl Programs** for the 2018 summer. We will also draw the Volunteer Raffle tickets for prizes. The **ABM** is for all GLAAM members, including those who did not register for the R.G. Guests of members are welcome unless a majority of members present vote to exclude a particular guest.

Photography:

The **R.G. 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 unless it is restricted to your own child or you have written permission from their parent/guardian.

Wine and Beer sale:

Sale of leftover wine, beer and food items will begin at approximately 10:30 am Monday in **Hospitality**. Please bring cash.

Accessibility:

The hotel and the conference area are wheelchair-accessible. Service animals are permitted indoors.

Smoking:

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

Lost and Found, Meeting-ups:

Lost and found items and people should make their way to **Registration**.

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.

If you have questions, contact: Madeline Walker madeline@spidellspecialties.com

Stay tuned for more information about the GLAAM StarGazing R.G. 2019!