

*Welcome Letter 2017*  
*Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa*  
*StaRGazers Regional Gathering*

Welcome to GLAAM StaRGazers RG 2017, taking place February 17-20, 2017 at the Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel, 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank CA 91505 phone: (818) 843-6000

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.

**DISCOUNTS:**

"Bring a Guest" Discount: Refer another Full Weekend Adult Registrant who has not attended a GLAAM RG within the last three years, and we will pay you \$20 for each registered attendee (maximum of four) at the 2017 RG.

**ATTENTION!**

If you are flying in, the Burbank Marriott has a complimentary shuttle to and from the nearby Burbank Bob Hope Airport. LAX is 35 miles southwest of this Marriott Hotel.

If friends have thought about taking the Mensa test, RG Saturday morning is a good time. They must preregister a week ahead at [feltd@verizon.net](mailto:feltd@verizon.net). People testing can stay all day Saturday. See details below.

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! Please do not overload your plate (no mile high sandwiches!) There will be enough for seconds.

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

Go to [www.glaam.org/rg/2017](http://www.glaam.org/rg/2017) to see the Registration form, Schedule of Activities, Lists of Events or Games or Kids' Track Activities or Speakers, or even the RG Committee.

**Hotel Reservations:**

Register for your room by calling Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport (818-843-6000) or go to their web page at <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/burap-los-angeles-marriott-burbank-airport/> Click on Rooms.

**Transportation to the Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel:**

- \* Complimentary hotel shuttle is available to and from Burbank Bob Hope Airport.
- \* 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 LAX to Burbank Airport.

[www.shuttletoLAX.com/Burbank-Airport](http://www.shuttletoLAX.com/Burbank-Airport) - \$20 first person, \$14 for additional passengers

[www.primetimeshuttle.com](http://www.primetimeshuttle.com)

[www.1stchoicetowncar.com](http://www.1stchoicetowncar.com)

### **Driving Directions:**

Take the 5 Freeway to Burbank Blvd. Exit to the West. Cross Victory Place, and veer right at the fork onto Victory Blvd. Turn right on Hollywood Way. Go under the Amtrak bridge. The hotel is on the right. Enter the circular driveway for valet parking or to check in. Do not park in the “Daily Grill” lot – they will charge.

### **Parking:**

Valet parking is \$26 per day. Self-parking at the hotel is at the “reduced” rate of \$16 per day. Behind the hotel and further away on some blocks (always check parking signs!) is some free curbside parking. And to the north of the hotel, across Thornton Avenue, is the Airport Economy Parking Lot C for \$12 per day.

### **On-Site RG 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 behind the hotel’s registration. 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.

Full registration: \$169 after 1/31/17 and at the door.

Two-day registration: Friday/Saturday – or – Sunday/Monday: \$99

One-day registration: Friday only: \$59, Saturday only: \$79

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

Students with valid student ID: \$99

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
- Mensa Testing - See Mensa Testing section – MUST BE PRE-RESERVED
- Any offsite meals, including restaurants at the hotel
- Cheese Tasting - \$8
- Books, CD’s or other products sold by speakers
- Tips for hotel staff

### **Dots and Stickers on the Badges:**

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

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

### **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.
- Bring your own water bottle and coffee mug to cut down on waste from disposables.

### **Hospitality/Meals/Beverages:**

Meals included in the registration fee include Friday pizza dinner; Continental breakfast Sat, Sun and Mon; Sat and Sun lunch (create-your-sandwich), Sat Chinese dinner and Sun El Pollo Loco dinner. 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.

Vegetarian items will be available at all meals. Contact Desiree Elliott at [dezlaw@aol.com](mailto:dezlaw@aol.com) before Thursday, February 16th, with questions about vegetarian or vegan dining or other dietary restrictions. 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, the meal overflow room, and the StaRGazers' Lounge. This is required by our contract with the hotel.

### **Speakers/Programs:**

Most times 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.glaam.org/RG/2017](http://www.glaam.org/RG/2017) 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 9:30am. SIGN UP at least one week IN ADVANCE by contacting Dave Felt at [feltd@verizon.net](mailto:feltd@verizon.net). Include the words "MENSA EXAM" in the subject line, or leave a message at 626-355-8315. Dave will send you details. For more info, see <http://www.dfe.net/mensa.html>. There is a charge to take the Mensa test, by check or exact cash.

Desiree Elliott, 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.

### **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 to charity.

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

### **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. You must pay for your own drinks on the Pub Crawl.

### **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.

### **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. 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 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. Ask about it at Registration.

### **How 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 with people, sit down and introduce yourself.
- If you see someone sitting alone, introduce yourself.
- For easy interaction, go to a game where everyone participates.
- Volunteer at Registration, Hospitality, the Lounge, or to introduce Speakers.

### **Annual Business Meeting:**

GLAAM Bylaws require us to conduct an Annual Business Meeting (ABM). We will hold it on the Monday morning of the RG. This is an opportunity for members to ask questions of the Board Members regarding the past year. We will also vote for Hollywood Bowl Programs for the 2017 summer. Please note: this event is for all GLAAM members, including those who did not register for the RG. Guests of members are welcome unless excused by a majority of Mensa members who are present and voting.

### **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. The game room will be open whenever there is a volunteer to supervise it.

### **Games:**

**Organized group games** will include: Big Bang Theory Trivia, Carnelli, Colander, Encore, Family Feud, Karnak-An Original Interactive Word Game, Lawyers' Games, Lyric Snippets-A Variation of Name That Tune, Not So Trivial Trivia, Palabra, The 2<sup>nd</sup> Semi-Annual Stratton Lindenmeyer Memorial Spelling Bee, Taboo, and Werewolves & Villagers (Saturday for Adults, Sunday for Kids). Boxed games will be available in the Game Room.

### **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, beer and food items will begin at approximately 10:30 am Monday in Hospitality. Please bring cash. See Desiree Elliott 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.

**Stay tuned for more information about the GLAAM StaRGazing RG 2018!**

If you have questions, contact:

Madeline Walker [madeline@spidellspecialties.com](mailto:madeline@spidellspecialties.com)

Jay Friedlander [livesoutwest@yahoo.com](mailto:livesoutwest@yahoo.com)

Desiree Elliott [dezlaw@aol.com](mailto:dezlaw@aol.com)