



At the MMPC planning meeting the representatives from each society constructed the presentation schedule, viewed all of the venues/facilities at the Rochester Riverside Hotel/Joseph A. Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center, toured the city, and discussed future meetings and society business as it relates to JMIH. Below is a report from our meeting, what to expect at JMIH 2018, and our experiences in the city of Rochester.

## I. Venue

### a. Positive and exciting

- i. *Convention center.* – The Joseph A. Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center is the perfect venue for JMIH presentations, meetings, and fun. Unlike some years, every room designated for oral presentations is more than large enough to seat all interested in attending the talk. Ample space to relax or socialize is also available outside of presentation/meeting rooms. Wifi is provided in our contract for the convention center and the hotel.
- ii. *Opening social at Seabreeze amusement park.* – Meeting goers will be bussed to the Seabreeze amusement park located adjacent to Lake Ontario for the opening social (12 July 2018). There are rides and games for all ages, including roller coasters, spinning rides, bumper cars, frog fishin', etc... David Green greatly enjoyed the teacup ride. For roller coaster aficionados, the third oldest roller coaster (Jackrabbit) in the country is located at the Seabreeze. Meeting goers should also bring a change of clothes if they plan on diving into the Seabreeze water park; there are locker rooms to change and lockers will be available (bring coins). Make sure you bring a towel (towel service is not available). Rides will be free for JMIH attendees, as is use of the waterpark (attendees will get a bracelet upon entering the park in exchange for a ticket included in the registration packages).

JMIH has a private pavilion at the Seabreeze where food and beverages will be served. Beer, soda, and food are all you can drink/eat; i.e., there will be no beer tickets! Food options include: chicken, Italian sausage, hotdogs, burgers, veggie burgers, and a variety of sides (gluten free buns will be available). The Seabreeze serves Pepsi products. The tentative beer list (all on draft) includes Sam Adams Boston Lager, Newcastle Brown Ale, a local summer pilsner, and a local IPA. The Seabreeze is a family oriented amusement park so alcoholic beverages can be consumed only at the JMIH pavilion.

- iii. *Closing picnic at Nazareth College.* – Those who sign up for the closing picnic will be bussed to the beautiful campus of Nazareth College (15 July 2018). The picnic will be held outdoors (weather permitting) and feature a night of socializing and the “garbage plate.” Some meeting goers might be thinking that a “garbage plate” sounds like some discounted food item that the local hosts planned to save money, but it is actually a Rochester traditional fare! The “garbage plate,” made famous by Nick Tahou Hots, stereotypically features “a foundation of baked beans and/or macaroni salad with either home fries or French fries. On top, a choice of two: cheeseburger, hamburger, red

hots, white hots, Italian sausage, chicken tender, haddock, fried ham, grilled cheese, or eggs.” – *Huffington Post*. Two drink tickets will be provided for the cash bar. Our local host, Brian Witz, is quite proud of his beautiful campus and new Science Building.

- iv. *No-host social*. – Similar to the meeting in Austin, Texas, a no-host social is scheduled for the first night of the conference (11 July 2018) and will feature an “open mic.” All kinds of instruments and a sound system will be available so that Kyle Piller can demonstrate his prowess on a variety of stringed instruments, as can you. A large cash bar is present in the ballroom where open mic night will be held.
- v. *Food/beverage*. – There are many good food options in the downtown Rochester area. For those who like Dunkin Donuts, Dustin Siegel found at least two within walking distance of the hotel/convention center. For those with a more refined palate, there are some nice Italian and German restaurants nearby. Alcohol and food prices are very reasonable in Rochester. Whether you like Genesee beer or not, the brewery is a great place for food and beer (yes, they offer more than just Genesee Cream Ale). The brewery is located adjacent to historic High Falls, which oddly enough features a waterfall. Free brewery tours are offered at the top of the hour, every hour, starting at 11am. Dinosaur BBQ was also highly rated by MMPC members and is a very short distance from the meeting hotel/convention center. Please note that there is a variety of restaurants within walking distance, but a city ordinance prohibits signage in the streets, so it might not be obvious what options are available at first sight. However, the local committee is preparing a list of their favorite restaurants and bars. Similar lists (and a street map) are available from the hotel. And there is always Google Map for those not technically challenged.
- vi. *Childcare*. – Adam Summers and Mollie Cashner organized childcare at the Rochester Riverside Hotel. If you are a member of ASIH/HL/SSAR, you should have received an informational email already. If you are not a member or did not see the email, the information is provided at the end of this report.
- vii. *Sites*. – If you are willing to take a short drive away from the city of Rochester, there are numerous sites to see. Many meeting participants will enjoy the Finger Lakes region and the nearby wineries. We suggest Red Newt Cellars because their wine bottles are adorned with red efts. Some meeting goers might also be interested in Niagara Falls, which is an 86-mile drive west on interstate 90. The Canadian side of the falls is much more picturesque, so if you plan on venturing to the falls be sure to bring a current passport.
- viii. *Guidebook*. – At JMIH 2017 in Austin, Texas, MMPC chose to use Guidebook as a green initiative to eliminate paper printing of the meeting schedule. To the chagrin of Dustin Siegel, post-meeting reviews of Guidebook were not positive. Thus, there will be no Guidebook at JMIH 2018 in Rochester, New

York. Paper copies of the meeting schedule will be placed in every participant's gift bag, similar to what has been done for decades. MMPC will look into other options for digital meeting schedules in the future. Kansas State University has created a simplified version of "Guidebook" that will be available for meeting participants.

b. Not so positive and a bit disconcerting

*Crime.* – Although Rochester has a lot to offer, we felt that it is important for us to be as transparent as possible about what we learned during our visit. We don't mean to be alarmists but we are obligated to report to you what we observed. In short, as is the case in many inner city areas, the area immediately surrounding the Rochester Riverside Hotel is a high crime area (<http://www.cityofrochester.gov/crimemapping/>). We highly suggest walking in groups of 3 or more anytime you leave the hotel or convention center. Limit your exploring to Main Street and Exchange Street. Exchange Street provides access to the Genesee Brewery (~ 15 minute walk) and Main Street provides access to East Avenue (a popular area with bars and restaurants). We suggest you avoid walking down St. Paul Street or Clinton Avenue.

*Hotel.* – During the MMPC site visit, we were surprised to find that the main meeting hotel (Rochester Riverside Hotel) is no longer branded as a Radisson Hotel chain. The hotel is currently owned by an investment group that is in its early stages of renovating the hotel. The Rochester Riverside Hotel was understaffed during our visit (only a small percent of the rooms were occupied by guests), but we have been assured that this would not be the case during our meeting. Because of safety concerns, hotel staffing issues, and general hotel maintenance (especially elevator repair work) the MMPC drafted a letter listing five issues we observed and sent it to numerous individuals at the hotel and conference center. We received a very detailed reply (verbally and written) listing their response to each item we identified as troublesome. We are confident that we can have a safe and enjoyable experience in Rochester. We were provided a detailed schedule of room maintenance/cleaning initiatives; security guards will be present 24/7 (four total; one lobby, one banquet space, one parking garage, and one roamer); two bell-hops will be available every day and three on 11 July 2018 (major arrival day) and 16 July 2018 (major departure day); and we were guaranteed that at least four elevators would be in working order by July. We are getting periodic updates on progress on the elevators. Rooms are also equipped with a safe to store valuables (smaller laptops will fit inside, too). On a positive note, parking is only \$4/day.

- i. *Food/beverage access.* – Numerous restaurants and bars within easy walking distance of the Rochester Riverside Hotel (and Hyatt). A hotel shuttle that will take you anywhere within a 3 mile radius surrounding the hotel for free. Uber is also present in Rochester. Also of note is that city signage laws make it

difficult to see some establishments from the street. Make sure you know where you are going before you venture out because it is sometimes difficult to stumble across restaurants/bars if you do not know what you are looking for.

- ii. *Downtown construction.* – We were informed that there may be construction around the Genesee River very near the hotel. Fortunately, this construction is a city project and thus we assume that it will be delayed until at least 2020. If it is not delayed, the only issues that will affect JMIH participants are traffic, noise, and outdoor terrace access at the convention center.

## **II. BUSINESS**

### a. Future meetings

- i. *JMIH 2019.* – The 2019 venue for JMIH is at Snowbird ski resort 45 minutes outside of Salt Lake City. Other societies have recently had meetings at Snowbird and have reported that it is a lovely venue. Shuttles will be provided for those who want to venture to Salt Lake City. Considering Snowbird is a ski resort, all meeting activities will take place at the resort. Childcare is provided by Snowbird in our contract. AES will be returning to JMIH in 2019.

## **CHILDCARE INFO:**

Dear Colleagues,

All of the JMIH societies participating in the meeting this summer at Rochester agree that child care is an important issue and they have stepped up to make it possible for parents to participate in the meeting at a very low cost. Sitting will be arranged on site by Preferred Sitters, a national company that has been handling this for SICB for many years. They will come to the meeting venue and set up a ‘camp’ with toys, games, and reading materials appropriate for the ages they are watching. The cost to parents will be \$5 per hour and sitting will be available from 7am to 10pm. Parents will need to get in touch with Christine Burk ([PreferredSitters@msn.com](mailto:PreferredSitters@msn.com)) about their childcare needs. This is key for planning purposes. Though drop-in child care may be available, it is not guaranteed. Get in touch early and work out the details of your particular child care situation.