

RNA News

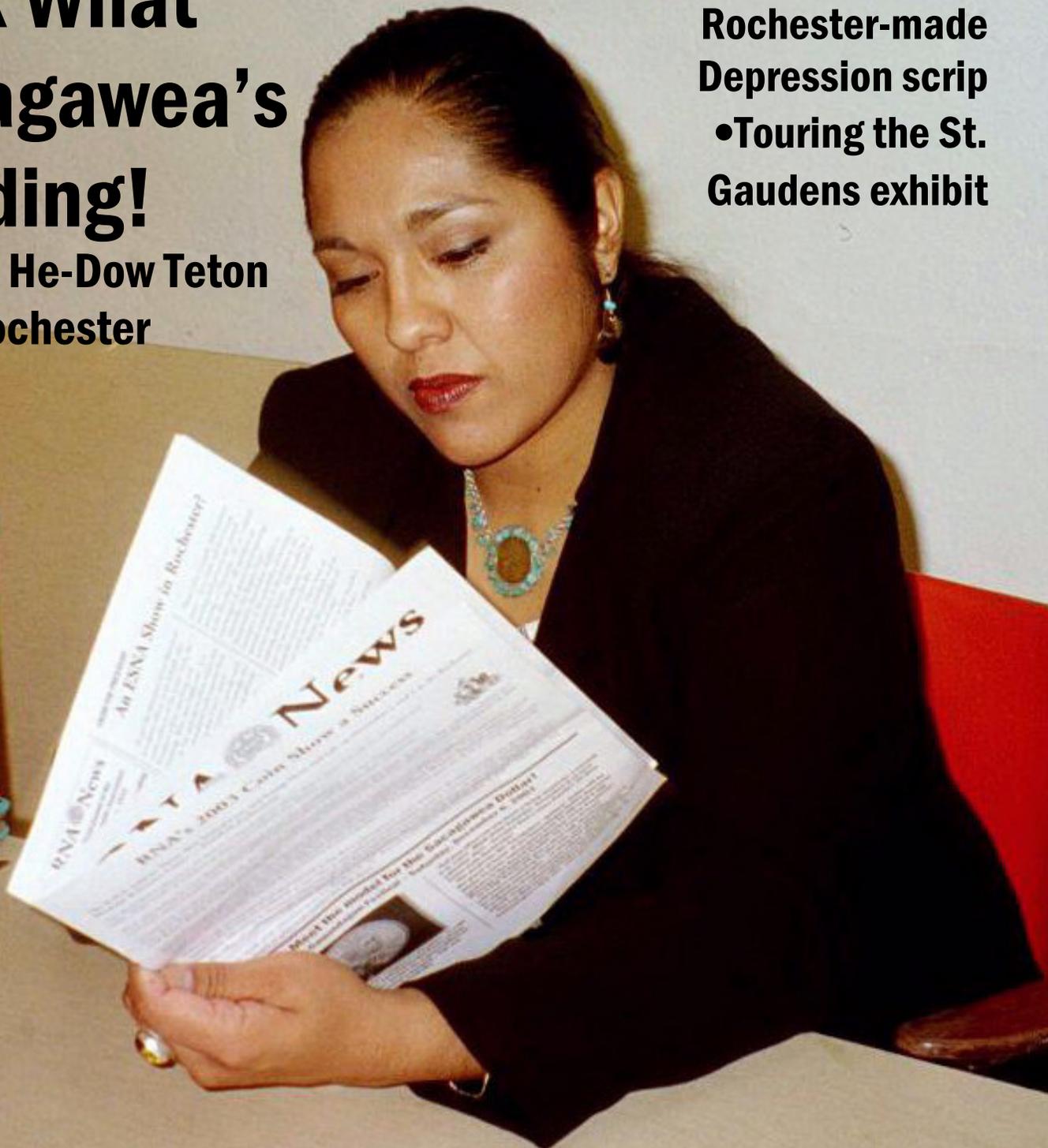


The official journal of the Rochester Numismatic Association

Look What Sacagawea's Reading!

Randy'L He-Dow Teton
visits Rochester

**PLUS: Gerry Muhl on
Rochester-made
Depression scrip**
•Touring the St.
Gaudens exhibit



January 2004

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Member 493

RNA News

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local coin club

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Member: American Numismatic Society,
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

A St. Gaudens Exhibit Tour

Happy New Year! This month's letter will be brief, thanks in large part to the strong support we've gotten this year from our membership!

Imagine how surprised I was when RNA News editor Scott Fybush actually came to me and said we have a BACKLOG of materials submitted by the members for publication! This is extremely exciting for me, and I hope that the materials will keep coming. I have to admit, I'm one of the worst procrastinators, and as I write this, Scott, if he were here, would be strangling me right now!

(Editor's Note: You have no idea how close this issue came to going to press with a blank space on most of page 3! And while there is indeed a small backlog of articles right now, I'm always looking for newsletter material. I can't do it all myself!)

We have several exciting events going on in the coming months, and in 2004, which I hope all members will participate in.

First and foremost, we have some very exciting speakers scheduled for the rest of the year. I think it's particularly interesting that we have had talks that are not exclusively numismatic in their content – Scott presented an overview on local radio history (*with a numismatic connection!* – Editor), and Clark King will be doing a presentation on the history of board games on March 18th!

Additionally, we have scheduled a group tour of the Augustus Saint Gaudens exhibit at the Memorial Art Galley. Sometimes called the "American Michelangelo," Augustus Saint-Gaudens invigorated and popularized American sculpture in the late- nineteenth century. His monumental public commissions helped shape the public identity of America as a unified nation-rather than a collection of immigrants-in the years following the Civil War.

The 72 works in this exhibition - sculptures, reliefs, cameos and coins - fuse European tradition with the simple moral tone that makes them uniquely American. Organized by the Trust for

Museum Exhibitions in cooperation with the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site. Sponsored by M&T Bank, with additional support from Sentry Group.

This tour is scheduled for **Saturday, March 13th at 2:00 P.M.** Cost is **\$7.00, \$5.00 for seniors (62 years or older), and free for MAG members.** I hope that everyone is able to make what will undoubtedly be an exciting guided tour. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to me by Thursday, March 11th via email at dag@rochester.rr.com or by phone at 585-738-0908.

Also, this month, as we only have one meeting scheduled, I hope that members can join us for a lunch on Saturday, January 24th, NOON at Nathaniel's Pub. Their address is 251 Exchange Blvd. If you would like to attend this lunch, please contact me by January 23rd.

Finally, although it's hard to think about summer in the middle of January, let's see that we have a huge turnout at the ANA convention this summer in Pittsburgh, PA. **The convention is scheduled for August 18th through the 22nd.** The RNA will arrange to hold a regular meeting, with a speaker presentation, as we did this past summer in Baltimore.

Once again, key ANA officials will be invited to attend – and I am busy putting together new goodie bags to impress upon the current board how interested Rochester is in hosting a 2012 show.

It is important to our bid for the 2012 ANA spring or summer convention that we show our strength in numbers – and that means RNA members coming to Pittsburgh this year and attending our meeting when it is scheduled.

For more information on the upcoming ANA conventions (including the National Money Show, March 26-28 in Portland, Oregon), visit their Web site at www.money.org.

David A. Gottfried

Collecting Rochester-Made Depression Era Banknotes

by Gerard Muhl

In March 1933, the newly inaugurated President Franklin D. Roosevelt needed to do something to reestablish the nation's trust in the banking system. Over 4,000 banks failed since the stock market crash in 1929 and people were unwilling to make bank deposits of even a few dollars. In fact, people were lining up to close accounts at an alarming rate.

With dwindling deposits, banks were forced to call loans and mortgages, thus impacting millions of more people. To stop this downward spiral, President Roosevelt ordered all banks in the country closed just one day after taking office. Federal bank inspectors were sent to every bank either to give their stamp of approval or to close weak banks forever. Citizen confidence began to return.

Incidentally, not one bank in Rochester failed during the depression. In fact, Mayer Jacobstein, president of the First National Bank of Rochester, even went to Washington at Roosevelt's request to give advice as to how the banking crisis should be handled.

On March 5, 1933, with all banks closed, how would commerce be carried on in the city? The night before, in a small room in the Powers Building, an emergency meeting of the Rochester Clearing House was called. William Durand, acting as chairman, called for suggestions as to how its many checks could be cleared daily without access to the banks. The suggestion was

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made and unanimously passed that the Clearing House would issue its own scrip to act as a medium of exchange for the interim. Frantic phone calls were made to Washington and Albany, and confirmation that the new currency would be legal was received the next morning. The Todd Company on University Avenue was called

upon to submit a prototype of the scrip on Monday morning; and by noon that day, over \$4 million of the new notes were ordered.

Under extremely

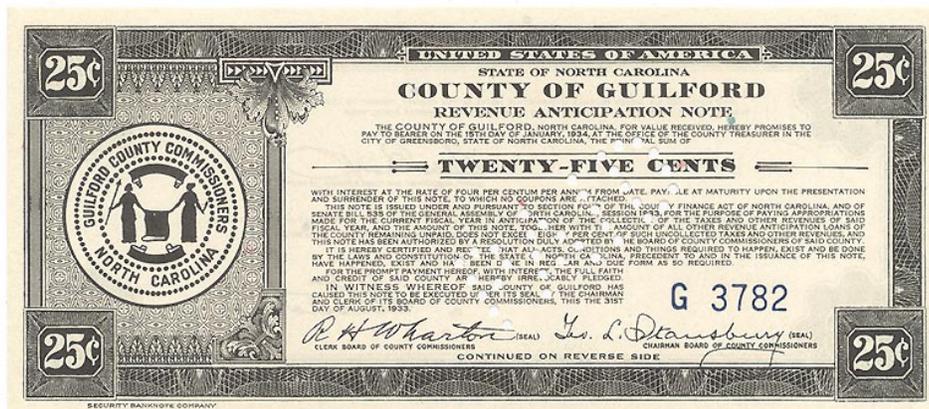
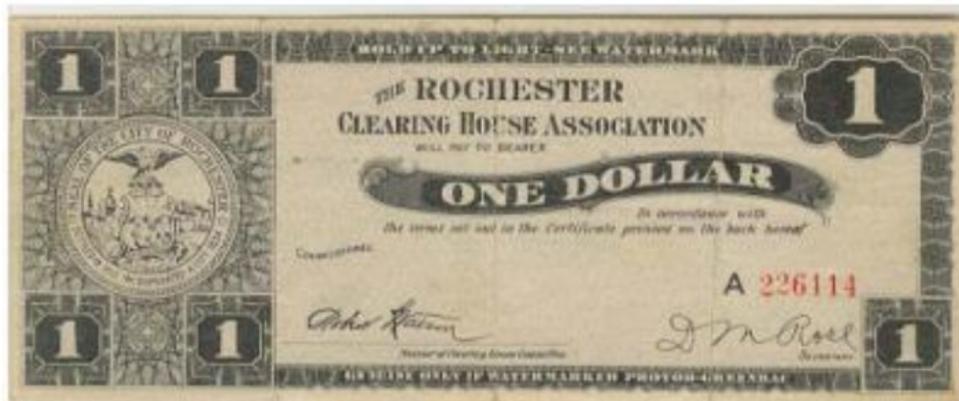
heavy security, scrip currency began arriving on March 7. By March 10, the City was able to meet its payroll in scrip. Merchants accepted it at par. The newspapers, however, were flooded with questions concerning the "funny money."

By March 14, all Rochester city banks were given permission by the federal bank board to reopen. By that time, \$4,750,000 in scrip had been issued

to the Clearing House. Redemption of the notes began immediately, and by August 26, 1935, only \$9,025 remained unredeemed.

Few people could afford to keep a ten or twenty-dollar note and thus those denominations are very rare today. The one-dollar and five-dollar notes are readily available. There are two varieties of the one-dollar note, with each variety showing different signatures.

Now here's a challenge. The Todd Works in Rochester



also issued depression scrip for 29 other municipalities across the nation. Some of these notes actually circulated, while others exist only as sample notes delivered to towns but never issued. The listing below is printed for those wishing to get a complete set of Rochester-made notes of the 1930s. Good luck in your search!

DEPRESSION SCRIP PRINTED AT TODD WORKS ROCHESTER

Alabama

1. City of Andalusia
2. Birmingham
3. Montgomery (payroll warrants)
4. Selma (clearinghouse notes)

Florida

5. West Palm Beach

Illinois

6. Joliet (clearinghouse)
7. Mt. Vernon (clearinghouse)

Massachusetts

8. Boston (treasury money)

Michigan

9. Adrian (city commission)
(public schools)
10. Grand Rapids (Board of Education)
(Tax Anticipation)
11. Holland (school tax)
12. Muskegon (sample only)
13. Saugatuck (Tax Anticipation)

New Jersey

14. Gloucester (sample)

New York

15. Binghamton (sample)
16. Jamestown (clearinghouse)
17. Rochester (clearinghouse)
(RG&E)

North Carolina

18. Gastonia (Tax Anticipation)
19. Guilford County

Ohio

20. East Liverpool (sample)
21. Girard City (sample)
22. Wellsville (sample)

Pennsylvania

23. Erie (clearinghouse)
(School district)
(Poor Board)
24. Uniontown (School Board)
25. South Union (schools)

Tennessee

26. Elizabethton
27. Johnson City

West Virginia

28. Morgantown

Wisconsin

29. City of DePere

Help needed with RNA medals, other exonomia

Jason Childers is seeking assistance for a catalog he's preparing, listing the complete medallic issues of the RNA over its 91-year history.

Wanted: Scans or digital images of non-presidential medals (obverse and reverse), RNA exonomia and varieties of presidential medals (silver, pewter, gold, lead, etc.)

Wanted: Short biographies of past presidents (1-3 paragraphs); please include any RNA positions held and awards received, significant positions and awards with the ANA and other clubs, occupation and any other information that you feel is pertinent. For deceased presidents, I am seeking birth and death years and other information.

Jason is also seeking non-presidential RNA medals for his own collection.

You can contact Jason by e-mail at paploo@frontiernet.net or by phone at 585-727-1825.

He hopes to have the catalog ready for publication, possibly in the *TAMS Journal* or as a private RNA publication, sometime in 2005.

An Afternoon with Sacagawea

by William D. Coe

On Saturday, December 6, my wife, Edie, and I attended the Ganondagan Native American Winter Festival in the Eisenhart Auditorium at the Rochester Museum & Science Center on East Avenue. We had our nine-year old granddaughter, Shelby Hewitt, with us. Most of the area was filled with tables offering Indian crafts. (Let it be known that I am not clued in to the proper use of the terms American Indian and Native Americans. Obviously, I mean no offense to anyone.)

We toured the exhibits, and Shelby found a necklace she had to have. All of the material was both desirable and of a high quality. Near the front door was a display of items to be given away at a drawing. We bought an “arm’s length” of tickets (for me, that was 17) and distributed them among the items. But RNA member Arthur J. Cohen had donated 20 uncirculated Sacagawea golden dollars, housed in standard 2x2 cardboard holders.

But wait! The holders had been autographed by the Shoshone-Bannock Cree Native American woman who is the model for the coin’s obverse - Randy’L Hedow Teton. Therefore, most (13) of our tickets went into the drawing for those coins. With my good luck, I surely would win one of the twenty coins (you could win only one coin)!

Did I tell you that the main attraction of the day was an actual live visit by Randy? Even though it was mentioned in the *RNA News*, only Tom and Cindy Adams, Arthur J. Cohen, Edie and I were in attendance from the RNA. How could all of you miss such a wonderful opportunity?

Even though there were a lot of craft tables in the auditorium, about half the space was reserved for chairs for an audience to view the storytelling on the stage. At 3 PM, Randy’L Hedow Teton was introduced. She is a small statured, attractive young woman. Her hair was long and braided. She wore a business jacket and slacks. Her necklace was a multi-aqua-stoned chain with a central motif of a Sacagawea coin.

Right away one could feel her warmth and enthusiasm. Rather than talk from the stage, she was right on the floor where the audience was seated. Tom Adams was seated in the front row, nearly touching distance from her. Her closeness added to her charm. She began to tell the story of how she was selected to be the model for the Sacagawea golden dollar obverse.

As you may remember, a call was made for sculptors and artists across the United States to submit designs. Among the many people wishing to participate was Glenna Goodacre. Apparently, Glenna “really gets into”

her work. She formulated several designs, but was not satisfied. To be more realistic, she decided to seek out a Native American girl with the same ancestry as Sacagawea – a Shoshone.

I apologize for not remembering the exact name, but Glenna contacted a Shoshone Indian organization in Idaho to see if they could lead her to a potential candidate. It just so happened that the lady who fielded the inquiry

said to herself, “I have a daughter who would qualify.” Actually, she had more than one daughter, but Randy was at a nearby school and could make arrangements to meet with Glenna. They discussed several possible poses. To work on the coin, they felt it had to be warm, inviting and authentic looking.

During this process, Glenna had borrowed an antique dress that might have been worn by Sacagawea. Randy fell in love with the garment and tried to acquire it for herself. Alas, it had to go back to its owners. Randy still pines for it, despite its high price.

The process was quite long – two to four years – for this to result in a design that Glenna was satisfied with, and then for it to survive the arduous selection process. Randy was thrilled when Glenna called to say that they had been selected to represent Sacagawea.

Then, of course, there was the long procedure of implementing the design into an actual coin. Glenna and Randy got to participate in the first striking and the many presentations and ceremonies involved with the introduction and promotion of the Sacagawea coin.



Shelby Hewitt, grandparents Edie and Bill Coe and Randy

In the question and answer period, I asked her if there was a live model and a selection process for the infant Jean Baptiste depicted in the final design. Much to our surprise, Randy confessed that the actual model for the infant was a Wal-Mart doll.

Randy spoke for about 45 minutes. Then it was announced that she would be available for individual discussion and autographs, but an hour later than originally scheduled, so Randy could see the feature film then playing at the Strasenburgh Planetarium, which was the

National Geographic large-format film *Lewis & Clark, Great Journey West*. So Edie, Shelby, and I trekked over to the Planetarium and were part of the audience that watched the film with her. It is a magnificent film!

Shortly after that, Randy did appear in the basement of the Eisenhart Auditorium - -the very room in which we hold our RNA meetings - to chat while autographing a variety of objects.

Tom and Cindy Adams got several items autographed. Tom told her he was a member of the RNA, and she was very cordial and accommodating. By the time Edie got a chance to tell her that she is the RNA Vice President, Randy was getting rushed for time, although Shelby got Randy's signature in her diary/journal.

Earlier, while touring the sales floor, I noticed that one dealer was selling Sacagawea dollars in appropriately designed plastic cases. I thought that I should buy a couple in case I did not win one of those 20 in the drawing. I had those with me to get her to sign. But her contractual agreement with the dealers said anything bought there to be signed would cost \$5 each. Hey, you don't get this chance often, so I went for it - one for me and one for Edie. In addition, she signed a Festival Special Guest Ticket for me.

After the autograph session, Randy was asked to be a part of the drawing program. Those still in attendance gathered in the lobby, and the drawings began. Randy drew several, then they asked the children to draw some tickets. Guess what. They decided to have the drawings for the coins last.

About midway through the 20 coins, Tom Adams won one of them. Then Tom, Cindy, Edie, and Shelby were all rooting for me to win one. They got to the twentieth coin and drew a name. Alas, it was not my name. I was destined not to win one of them. Maybe it was that number of 13 tickets? I was really glad that I had purchased the two that she autographed.

After all the drawings, Randy was still in the area. We got bold enough to ask her if she would pose with us for some pictures. By now, she recognized us as the RNA contingent. Again, she was very accommodating.

I would like to thank Marcheta Davidson for acting as Randy's personal assistant during her stay at the Eisenhart Auditorium. Marcheta is the lady who chaperones the building while the RNA meets. She also is the daughter of former RNA member Kenneth

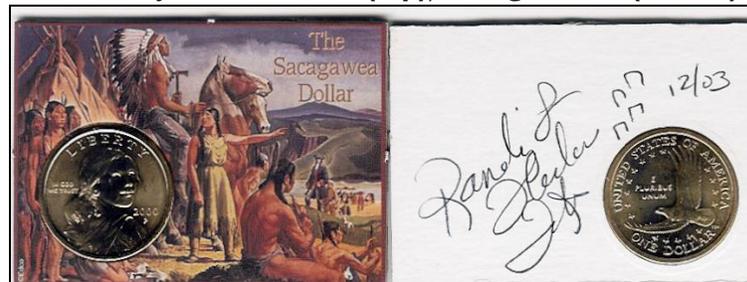
Willson.

As for me, I considered the whole event so very worthwhile. When we decided to attend, I did not fully expect that we would have the intimacy with Randy that occurred. To have met her and heard her story was indeed a privilege and a treat! She is a wonderful ambassador for her people and for all Americans.

Randy is now working to further the education and promote the culture of all Native Americans. Her home is in Idaho. The last we heard, there is a possibility that she may return to the Rochester area for another similar appearance. If she does, I wholeheartedly encourage you, especially coin collectors, to arrange to see her presentation.



RNA member Tom Adams receives his signed Sacagawea dollar from Randy'L He-Dow Teton (top); the signed coin (bottom)



The Calendar January-February

- **Thursday January 15 – 8 PM – Ira Stein** speaks on “The Rise and Impact of Registry Sets”
- **Friday January 16 – 7:30 PM – Rochester Junior Numismatic Association** meets at the RMSC- come teach (and learn a lot from) our junior members!
- **Saturday January 24 – NOON** – Social lunch, Nathaniel’s Pub, 251 Exchange Boulevard. Call David Gottfried at 738-0908 to RSVP
- **Thursday February 5 – 8 PM – John Tokoli** speaks on something numismatically bibliophilically inclined
- **Thursday February 19 – 8 PM – Doug Musinger** demonstrates the art of putting holes in coins
- **Friday February 20 – 7:30 PM – Rochester Junior Numismatic Association**
- **Thursday March 5 – 8 PM – Gerry Muhl** explains how to fill a newsletter with quality articles every month
- **Saturday March 13 – 2 PM – St. Gaudens Exhibit Tour, Memorial Art Gallery, 500 University Ave.** Details on page 3 and in the February and March newsletters
- **March 26-28 – ANA National Money Show, Portland, Oregon** Visit www.money.org for details

Regular RNA meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays of every month except July and August at the Eisenhart Auditorium of the Rochester Museum & Science Center, 657 East Avenue. Enter through the Eisenhart or Gannett School doors and follow the signs downstairs to our lower-level meeting room. All are welcome! Call Dave Gottfried at 738-0908 if you need a ride or directions.

RJNA meetings are held in either the ballroom of the Eisenhart Auditorium building or an upstairs classroom at the Gannett School; follow the signs posted on the building’s doors or call Steve Lanzafame at 288-1932 for more information.

The Calendar welcomes meeting notices from other area clubs. Send them to rnanews@fybush.com or PO Box 10056, Rochester NY 14610.

RNA News

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