

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXVIII Number 9

September 2002

LAST CHANCE!
DON'T MISS:

LonestarRG

Aug. 30-31

IV

Sep. 1-2



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Advertising Rates and Policies

Non-commercial: Lonestar Mensa members may submit 2 per year at no charge. 4 line maximum, subject to editor's discretion as to date of publication.

Commerical: Business card sized (2" x 3") ads are \$10 for one month, \$25 for three months, and \$40 for six months. Publication may be delayed due to space considerations. Ads must be camera-ready, and should be submitted electronically if at all possible. We reserve the right to edit for content if necessary. Rates for other sized ads or other time periods are available upon request. The deadline for ad submission is 5 days before the general newsletter deadline.

Please submit ads to the newsletter editor.

A Word to the Wise

-by John Neemidge, President

First off — if you're reading this between August 30th and September 2nd (inclusive), put it down and get over to the Holiday Inn Northwest in Austin, if you haven't already, and take advantage of our biggest event of the year, LonestarRG IV. Walk-in rates are \$55 for the whole weekend, or \$15 for Friday, \$30 for Saturday or Sunday, and \$10 for Monday. See the ad in this issue for more information! There's so much to see and do, and so many people to meet, you won't want to miss out on it — I promise!

If you're reading this far, I assume it's before August 30th, after September 2nd, or you're at LonestarRG IV. We've got a great volunteer opportunity the weekend of the 14th and 15th — the Friends of the Austin Public Library Book Sale. We have a Mensa table to give out information about our local group to book sale attendees; we help out the Friends by straightening books and restocking, and by packing up after; and most of our volunteers seem to leave with plenty of books at bargain prices, as well. We'd love to see you there! Please see the article later in this issue for more information on when, where, and how to sign up to help.

Another way to volunteer is to get involved in running the local group. There are two different ways to do that this month — we need volunteers to be on our Nominating and Election Committees. These involve a few hours work over the next three months — to certify a set of candidates for the election, then conduct the election itself. Anyone participating on these committees cannot be a candidate for elected office, nor can they be a member of the current ExComm. Thus, we need volunteers who want to help out the group but aren't ready to hold an office. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact me as soon as possible!

Obviously, with elections coming, we need candidates for office. Several of our officers cannot run for their same positions in the coming year, but of course you're welcome to run for any position. We also will most likely have a larger ExComm this coming year — our bylaws stipulate that, if we exceed 400 members at the end of August, we add two Members At Large. Our July-end roster had 398 members. Member At Large is a great way to get involved as an ExComm member with no formal duties other than attending and participating in ExComm meetings. If you'd like to run for office, you have a few options. You can contact me, and I'll

put you in contact with the Nominating Committee; you can contact them directly — contact information will be in the October 'Dillo; or you can nominate yourself as a candidate at October's Monthly Meeting.

So, in order of events: come out to the RG and have a great time with your Mensa friends, sign up for and attend the Book Sale, and get involved with the group at the ExComm level, either by helping with the elections or by becoming a candidate. You'll enjoy yourself, help out the community as well as Lonestar Mensa, and find new rewards to your membership. See you there!

August ExComm Meeting Minutes

-submitted by Geri Neemidge

Attending: John Neemidge, President; Midge Kocen, Treasurer; Geri Neemidge, Membership Chair; Helen Siders, Member.

John convened the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

We discussed the group's finances. Midge has prepared a balance sheet which will be published in the newsletter this month. The group is in good shape financially. We can also expect reimbursement from the National Office for contacting lapsed members and for sending the newsletter out for the full mailing. Our postage and printing costs will reflect the added expense but the reimbursement should cover it.

We talked about the costs of the RG. We discussed the rate we charge as well as the price breaks and the total difference between the cost of registering early or at the last minute. It was agreed that more people might register early if there were a larger difference in cost to them. However - we do not want the RG cost to prohibit attendance, so it is necessary to hold the cost down. We do expect a large number of people to register on site. SynRG had a large walk-in contingent this year as well and we have heard from a number of people who are planning to attend but have not registered. It is helpful for planning for people to register in advance - but we will not be charging higher walk-in rates to try to facilitate this.

We discussed our local scholarship winner. We need to ask Kartik for the name as National has given the OK to release that information now. We will probably print her essay in the newsletter and we may award her \$300 at a monthly meeting.

John adjourned the meeting at 6:20 pm.

Raising the Boom

-by Barbara Bartlett

Well, Elvis Week has come and gone! It really doesn't seem like twenty-five years since his death. I believe that we all have "snapshot memories" stored in our mind. For example, some people remember exactly what they were doing on December 7, 1941 when they heard that Pearl Harbor had been attacked. We "boomers" remember all the details of where we were and what we were doing when Kennedy was shot.

I have heard some younger people say that the moment of the Challenger explosion is frozen in their minds. I imagine that all of us can recite the details of where we were and what we were doing on September 11. Well, I have a confession to make. I can tell you all about where I was and everything that was happening when I learned that Elvis Presley had died. It was devastating news to me, and I didn't even consider myself a "die-hard fan". I actually saw Elvis perform once. We went to Ft. Worth to the Will Rogers Coliseum and sat in what is commonly called the "nosebleed section". From that vantage point, Elvis looked to be about an inch tall! Still, there was a certain electricity in the air when he was on stage. I wouldn't trade that memory for anything!

Then, about a year ago we were traveling back from Nashville and had car trouble in Memphis. It became

obvious that we were going to have to stop and stay the night while having the car worked on. I began to read the brochures, and found the "Heartbreak Hotel" located across the street from Graceland. I knew where I had to stay!

The whole place was decorated in 50's/60's style. The lobby was decorated in purple and red and animal prints. An old television featured all Elvis movies. The music piped into the halls and the elevators was all Elvis music. You selected and ordered food from the menu in the dining room with names like Elvis' Favorite Fried Chicken, Midnight Peanut Butter and Banana Sandwiches, and Mrs. Presley's Sweet Potato Pie.

In celebration of Elvis Week, I sought out one of those recipes. Here is a recipe for that legendary Peanut Butter and Banana Sandwich:

Peanut Butter and Banana Sandwich

- 3 tablespoons peanut butter
- 2 slices light bread
- 1 banana — mashed
- 2 tablespoons margarine — melted

Mix soft peanut butter and mashed banana together. Toast bread lightly. Spread peanut butter and mashed banana on toast. Place into skillet with melted margarine; brown on both sides.



2001-2002 MERF Scholarship Essay Contest

-by Kartik Jayanarayanan

The Mensa Education and Research Foundation (MERF) sponsors an annual essay contest and awards various scholarships to the winning entries. The contestants submit a 550-word essay that describes their career, vocational, or academic goals. The essays are then judged on local, regional and national levels, and scholarships are awarded at each level. By mid-January of this year, the local Lonestar Mensa group received 67 essays from high school and college-going students in and around Austin (including San Marcos, Bastrop, Florence, etc.).

Essays were judged with emphasis on persuasiveness, specific information on steps taken toward the goal,

grammar, spelling and punctuation. Many thanks to John and Geri Neemidge, Kelly Wagner and Margaret Wofford for judging the essays at the local level for our group.

Amber Copeland, a student of Westwood High school, Austin was the local winner and will be awarded a certificate and a \$300 cash prize. She will be going to college for a degree in Education with stress on history, political science and social studies in order to become a high school teacher.

Michelle Marie Goodwin of Manor High school, Manor, Texas won the Diana Mossip Memorial Scholarship, which awards her a certificate and \$250. She wants to get her dual-B.A. in English Writing and Drama and pursue a career in Theatre.

Editor's Note: Amber's and Michelle's essays may be found on pages 5 and 6.

Local Scholarship Winning Essay

-by Amber Copeland

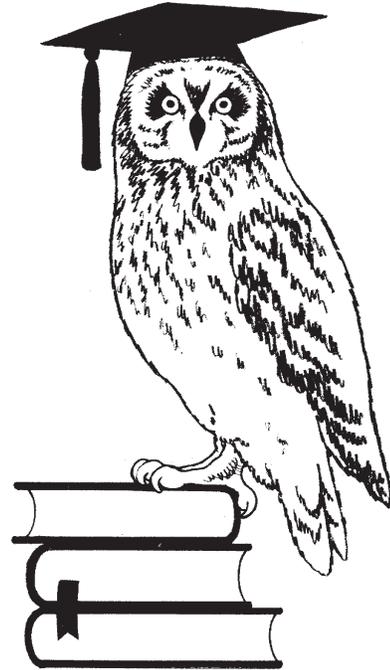
Growing up, I always knew that I wanted to become a teacher. My mom had been a preschool teacher and I could hardly wait for Take Your Daughter to Work Day so I could go along with her and spend the day helping her little students with the day's lessons and activities. For as long as I can remember I have strived to make a difference on the lives of those around me through community service, student council, and other numerous activities. I believe that becoming a teacher will enable me to continue to impact the people around me and that my past experiences will make it all possible.

In the fall, I plan to attend the University of Mary-Hardin Baylor in Belton, Texas. I chose this school because the School of Education there ranks as one of the best in the state. I believe that the professors and facilities there will help me to develop the skills and knowledge I will need to be the best teacher possible. History is my favorite subject so I plan to major in American History and Political Science. I hope to then be qualified to teach high school history. I want to teach at this level because I believe those are the students I can relate to and influence the most.

In order to prepare myself to achieve this goal, I have already taken many classes that will help me through college and to receive my teaching certificate. Throughout high school, I have taken numerous pre-AP and AP (advanced placement college level classes) that have shown me a slowed down version of how a college class works. By taking the test each spring over these subjects, I have received college credits and hours. I also have taken the ACT and SAT tests that have given me credit for college classes. By showing this dedication towards these tests and classes, I have placed out of entry-level classes and will therefore have more time to dedicate to studying in classes that relate to my major and job path. During high school, I have been active within my school's student council. The projects and leadership roles I have taken on as a result of this have shown me how to plan things and carry them out, which is a skill that will help me to lead my classes in the activities I plan.

I believe that I will be successful in reaching my goal because it is something that is very close to my heart. I cannot imagine not being a teacher and interacting with people on a day-to-day basis. I have noticed the skills that a teacher needs to be successful. They must be

caring and kind, but stern in enforcing deadlines and rules. They also must be organized with their lessons and patient with students that might work at a different pace than those around them. I believe that I hold all of these qualities and will be able to use them to achieve my goal of going through college and becoming a teacher.



Diana Mossip Memorial Scholarship Winning Essay

-by Michelle Marie Goodwin

My life long passion has always been writing. I have excelled in English and am constantly reading. I began by writing poetry and have since delved into other fields. My current work in progress is a one-act play which has allowed me to incorporate my second love. I joined my high school's theatre troupe as a freshman on a whim. I have since fallen completely in love with all that makes theatre a reality.

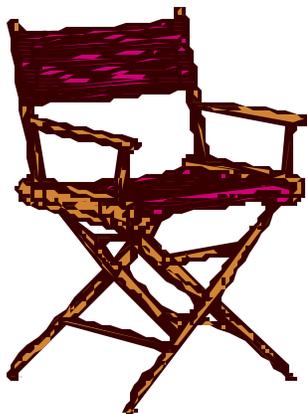
I plan to double major in college, with a major in English Writing and Theatre. My career goal is to become either a director or a playwright. In all honesty I would like to try my hand at both. My ultimate goal is to see my own show on Broadway. I think I would be equally happy to see my name next to Directed by or Written by.

I believe I am well on the road to success. I have dedicated my life and time to theatre. Currently I am working on a production of Moliere's *The Imaginary Invalid*. I am performing as Stage Manager and Assistant Director for the fifth consecutive show in my high school. I was the first sophomore entrusted with this role. I have

received “All Star Crew” awards for both shows we took to competition. The last competition piece advanced from Zone competition to the next level. We are looking to take this show farther. I am also a member of the International Thespian Society, a honorary dramatic society dedicated to the advancement of theatre arts in secondary schools. I have been named a Honor Thespian, one of only seven in my troupe. I have also performed as Secretary for my troupe for the last three years.

As an English major, my credentials would include four years of Advanced Placement English. In May I will be taking both AP exams offered in English. I am a member of my high school’s literary criticism team and will also participate in a U.I.L. competition called Ready Writing. I was on the staff of my school newspaper for three years, assistant editor as a sophomore and co-editor as a junior. I was forced to resign my position this year because the course conflicted with a required class. I am a member of the National Honor Society, am currently third in my class and will graduate on the Distinguished Achievement Plan, the toughest graduation plan available. I have completed twelve hours at the local community college, while maintaining a full schedule at my high school.

I understand that a double major will take extra effort and many hours of hard work. I am prepared to put everything into being successful. I believe my high school transcript proves that I am not one to take the easy way out. I have dedicated myself to taking the high road. I believe that my past record shows that I am destined to be successful as long as I never settle for being mediocre to for [sic] simply getting by. I have faced obstacles, like being a stage manager to a cast of upper classman and being enrolled in both college and high school courses. I have overcome these obstacles and pursued my goals. I refuse to give up and this is why I will be successful.



Taz Mania

-by Taz Waring

I’ve decided that there have been only three true geniuses on this planet in all of time. All three were inventors whose creations have inspired endless amusement for the most important consumer, namely, me. (And let’s just forget the fact that I have no money to buy anything, shall we?) <glares at the snickering peanut gallery>

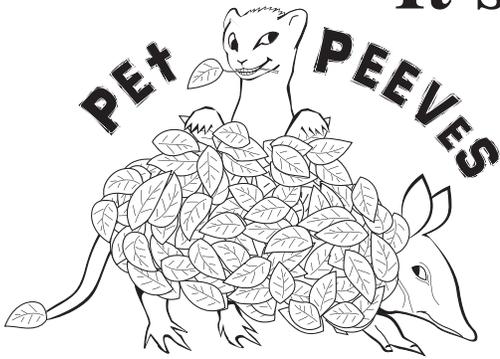
The first genius was a man named Richard James. He was attempting to create a spring that would steady sensitive shipboard instruments in 1943. He knocked some of the springs that had not been perfected off a shelf and found the way they slowly “walked” down the shelves amusing. I speak of none other than the inventor of the Slinky. I hope that none of you think that I mean the hideous idea of a PLASTIC <shudder> creation in the imitation of a Slinky. A true Slinky is made of metal and makes pretty noises as it slips down stairs or towers of blocks. If you do choose to be enchanted by a Slinky, you have officially been warned of the hazards. If you manage to tangle the Slinky, it takes hours to undo, and it is likely that the Slinky will never again flow as it once did.

The second genius is unknown. He or she is likely from ancient times, as this pastime has been handed down for generations. Just grab your grandmothers clothesline and you have a whole new range of games. Jump rope has become a sport in its own right in recent decades, whether it is through the Double Dutch competitions of the 70s or the recent dance/jump routines seen at national and international championships. And if you don’t feel like putting the work into learning routines or even jumping for extended periods of time (I suggest you do, as it’s excellent for your health), you can always use your rope to tie someone to something, which is, as we all know, a greatly amusing situation.

The third inventor is actually a group. The creation was made originally in WWII for the American GIs. It was a tool that had an amazing water-resistant quality that gave it a new nickname. I refer, of course, to TeenSIG’s own favorite toy...DUCT TAPE!!! Duct tape can be used for everything from the Ritual Day-Before-Admissions-Testing-Attack at the AG to a gorgeous (but unbelievably hot) prom dress. I will advise that in a pinch, lay a paper towel over the roll and it can be used as a temporary dog/cat food bowl. (Old camping experience, don’t ask.)

You now know 3 of the most amusing toys in the world. So get off your couch and go amuse yourself with a new toy.

It's Not Too Late!



LonestaRG

LonestaRG IV: Pet Peeves
Aug. 30-31, Sep. 1-2, 2002
Austin, TX

- Speakers on pets, favorite pet peeves, and more
- Pets welcome!
- Games and contests
- Costume Dance
- Abundant hospitality, with meals, fresh-baked bread, veggies, snacks, soda, beer, wine, and more
- Late-night pool & hot tub
- Discussion room
- Game room
- Scholarship raffle
- Goodies and Prizes
- And much more!

Take a rest from your labors! LonestaRG moves to what we hope will be our permanent home, Labor Day weekend, with everything you've come to expect from us and more. Bring the whole family – we have discount rates for children. Our hotel (the same as last year) offers such amenities as: free parking, indoor/outdoor heated pool, hot tub and saunas, discounts at Arboretum area shops, coffee makers and hair dryers in every room, and many others. For more information, including preliminary programs, attendee information, photos of the raffle quilt, pictures from last year's RG, and more, see the web page at <http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/lonestarg.htm>. Don't Miss Out!

Walk-In Rates are \$55 for the whole weekend, or \$15 for Friday, \$30 for Saturday or Sunday, and \$10 for Monday.

Hello Region 6!

-by Dan Wilterding, RVC Region 6

An abbreviated offering this time around — hope you don't mind.

The deadline has now passed for those wishing to avail themselves of the NomCom route to national office (that includes RVC), still available is nomination by petition. We are again fortunate to have a contested race for RVC6 — as of this writing there are three candidates for that office, names & contact info to follow when officially released. Other offices available to those interested in running are:

Chairman
First Vice Chairman
Second Vice Chairman
Treasurer
Secretary

All of these currently have at least one candidate, one

office has two. As a society we are better served by having a choice when elections roll around, and much better served when members vote. Please vote when the time comes.

Currently in the works is an LDW to be held in Tulsa over the weekend of November 8th. Stay tuned for details and plan to be there if you are able; the Tulsa group (working with R6 LDW Coordinator Heather Miller and her crew) have put together a fine program. At least one LDW will be held in the spring, and possibly another; it all depends on responses, volunteers, and funding.

Comments, anyone?

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Treasurer's Report

-submitted by Midge Kocen

Operating Statement	2001 Actual	2002 Budgeted	2002 Act YTD
Membership			
Revenues			
Natl Subsidy	3,280.22	3,200.00	1,680.39
Newsletters	112.40	80.00	85.15
Subscriptions	40.00	30.00	92.17
Adm Tests	500.00	250.00	187.50
Mdse Sales	57.00	0.00	0.00
RVC Discret	0.00	0.00	0.00
RG	7,510.02	6,000.00	2,420.00
Functions	0.00	0.00	0.00
Advertising	0.00	0.00	80.00
Miscellaneous	142.70	0.00	0.00
Total Revenues	11,642.34	9,560.00	4,545.21
Expenses			
Newsletter			
Postage	690.86	800.00	289.25
Printing	2,410.45	2,200.00	661.69
Other	0.00	50.00	0.00
Parties			0.00
Food	0.00	0.00	0.00
Postage	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other	0.00	0.00	500.00
ExComm			0.00
Postage	0.00	25.00	0.00
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scholarships			0.00
Postage	0.00	25.00	0.00
Prntg/Copying	0.00	25.00	0.00
Awards	0.00	300.00	0.00
RG	4,396.55	4,500.00	0.00
Spkr Meals	55.68	100.00	0.00
Bank Fees	5.00	60.00	29.17
Proctor Expenses	42.61	0.00	0.00
Phone	101.40	100.00	0.00
Supplies	0.00	40.00	0.00
Total Expenses	7,702.55	8,225.00	1,480.11
Operating Profit/Loss	3,939.79	1,335.00	3,065.10

Balance Sheet	12/31/01	06/30/02
Cash Total	10,045.73	10,907.02
Petty Cash	0.00	0.00
Operating Fund	9,345.73	10,207.02
Scholarship Fund	700.00	700.00
Accts Rcvble Total	286.85	290.60
Natl Transfer	286.85	290.60
T-Shirts/Other	0.00	0.00
Prepaid Expenses T	297.28	408.03
Postage Account	297.28	408.03
Total Assets	10,629.86	11,605.65
Accounts Payable	1,409.70	0.00
RG Operations	975.95	0.00
Printing	433.75	0.00
Supplies	0.00	0.00
Equity	9,220.16	11,605.65
Scholarship Fund	700.00	700.00
Equity	8,520.16	10,905.65
Total Liabs/Eq	10,629.86	11,605.65

The statements above reflect the financial activity of Lonestar Mensa for the year 2001 and January through June 2002. The statements were reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee August 5, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,
Midge Kocen, Treasurer

Mensan Realtor

Austin area. Free referrals to other areas.

Shelley Sundermann
JB Goodwin Company
(512) 913-3108 (800) 900-9115
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**Happy
Birthday**



09/01 William J Hansen
Alan K Christensen
Derek D Veerkamp

09/02 George Palmer
Marvin Andrew Peercy

09/05 Joel Ogden
Justin Pehoski

09/07 Dan Allen Flanagan

09/08 Brian Orrick

09/09 Gary W Greif

09/09 Barbara Erskine Bartlett
John William Hall

09/10 David Wayne Dyer
Tara Elizabeth Pehl

09/11 Mr Michael Martino

09/16 Donald Allen Link
Harold V Morgan Jr
Khurram Qureshi

09/17 Ms Mary E Dougherty
Ms Dana Lynn Holland

09/18 Capt Howard A Konetchy
Rugh James Cline

09/20 George J Van Riper
Wayne Butterfield

09/23 John C Foster

09/24 Frederick Charles Bothwell III
Allen Vorwerk

09/25 Maj Jackson Daugherty
Beth Elaine Benton

09/26 Ms Lynn Herrick
Kathleen Holiman
Rory A Boatright

09/27 Mr William Richard Jones CCP
James Bryan Hill

09/28 Vaughn E Akins
Kim Brushaber

09/30 Frank Bozyan

Mind Games™ “Gathering”

Mind Games™ 2003 will be held April 11-13 in Houston, TX.

Gulf Coast Mensa is planning a weekend of fun (and work!) testing dozens of the year’s newest games. Each Mind Games™ participant will play games, fill out comment cards, and rank their favorite games; ultimately helping to name the 2003 Mensa Select® winners.

Register today to be part of the fun! Registration includes game participation, hospitality, Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch, and an entry for door prizes. The games will be played at the Clarion Inn on I-45, just ten minutes from Houston’s Bush Intercontinental Airport.

The Mensa room rate will be \$49 per night.

Registration fees are (postmark deadlines):

July 16 - October 15 \$55

October 16 - January 15 \$60

January 16 - March 31 \$65

No registrations on-site.

To register, visit mindgames.us.mensa.org or call 817-607-0060 x122 with your Visa or MasterCard.

For more information, contact Russell Thorstenberg at info@mindgames.us.mensa.org, or call 713-978-7711.

For hotel reservations, contact the Clarion Inn at 281-931-0101 and ask for the Gulf Coast Mensa rate.

Austin Public Library Book Sale Volunteers Needed

Once again Lonestar Mensa will be helping out the Friends of the Austin Public Library with their annual Monster Book Sale. Volunteering entails staffing an information table and talking to prospective members about Mensa, helping to keep the book sale tables in order, and helping the Friends to clean up after the sale. The volunteers at this event have always had a lot of fun and have gone home with lots of bargain books. The sale will be Saturday and Sunday September 14 and 15., at Crockett Center, which is a former Best Products store on Highway 290 just east of I-35. Please contact John or Geri Neemidge (512-310-7863, gneemidge@usa.net) if you can help out with this community service activity.

September Monthly Meeting

Most Mensans take voting very seriously and are well informed and perhaps opinionated about current election issues. Many of you probably know that the League of Women Voters is a seminal organization for getting out unbiased, nonpartisan information on current election issues. The November election is fast approaching. Therefore, we have asked the President of the League of Women Voters of Austin to talk to the group about important issues in the upcoming election.

The speaker at our September 9 meeting will be Mrs. Maxine Barkan, President of the League of Women Voters of Austin. Mrs. Barkan has chosen to speak on "Everything You Wanted to Know About the Electoral Process in Texas." She plans to discuss the League's positions on the electoral process, including campaign finance reform, judicial selection (she will bring copies of the Facts & Issues just published in the latest League study), League activities in getting out the vote, recent changes in Texas election laws, and the new electronic system for voting. She will also touch on the subject of voter apathy, and what we, as Mensans, can do to get informed people to vote.

Mrs. Barkan is a retired Registered Professional Educational Diagnostician who received her certification in that field shortly after it was established by the Texas Education Agency. She received her BA degree in Psychology from the University of Houston, and her MA degree in Special Education from Texas Woman's University. She was a faculty member of Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District, Houston, Texas, for 15 years. She taught children and youth with learning and emotional disabilities. She was one of the early certified educational diagnosticians in the state of Texas and the first diagnostician in the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District. She developed assessment tools to evaluate children's learning problems, supervised the district's diagnosticians, and chaired the multidisciplinary team evaluating and planning educational programs for children and youth identified as needing special services. In addition, she taught courses in special education for teacher certification for Lamar University in their off-campus programs. During her professional years, Mrs. Barkan was a member of the Council for Exceptional Children and the Texas Association for Children with Learning Disabilities. She was a founder and first president of the Houston-

Metropolitan Educational Diagnostician's Association and a member and past president of the Texas Educational Diagnostician's Association. Mrs. Barkan was an educational therapist at Sagamore Hills Children's Psychiatric Hospital, Sagamore Hills, Ohio, for four years where she was a member of a multidisciplinary team working with severely emotionally disturbed 14-18 year old boys.

After her retirement, Mrs. Barkan became involved in a number of volunteer activities, including working with the Capital Area Food Bank, where she helped salvage and distribute food to social service agencies and trained volunteers. She is a commissioner on the Austin Arts Commission and has served as vice-chair, chair, currently serves as parliamentarian, and is a member of the Executive Committee. A long time member of the League of Women Voters, Mrs. Barkan has held many positions of leadership. She is the current president of the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area. She chaired a study on the Transportation System of Austin in 1996-97 that resulted in the League's advocacy for transportation issues. She is a member of the League's Speaker's Bureau. She has represented the League on two citizen's advisory committees for the Capital Metropolitan Transit Authority. Most recently, she represented the League on the Travis County Citizen's Advisory Committee on Elected Officials' Salaries, and is on a committee for the County Clerk to help educate the public about the new electronic voting devices. Mrs. Barkan has also been an Election Judge or Alternate Judge for ten years. Mrs. Barkan has served as Advocacy Vice-President for the League of Women Voters of Texas. She chaired a study on the political campaign process in Texas, and as a result, advocates for the League in the Texas State Legislature on campaign finance reform, public financing of campaigns and electronic filing of reports. Most recently, she served on a committee that studied judicial selection in Texas. Mrs. Barkan was recently awarded the President's Award for outstanding service to the League of Women Voters of Texas, and was honored for her years of service as an Arts Commissioner in a City of Austin ceremony recognizing members of boards and commissions for their length of service. Mrs. Barkan enjoys quilting, sewing, classical music, and reading as hobbies. She is married with grown children.

Any Mensan interested in the upcoming elections should attend this meeting.

What's Happening in September

Thank Goodness It's Thursday

Central Market Café

Every Thursday 6:00-8:00pm

4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin (512) 206-1020

Meet us in the Café after work for fun, conversation & food. Prospective members welcome. Central Market Café is located in the Central Park shopping center on the east side of Lamar Blvd between 38th and 41st Streets. Central Market is the anchor store. Central Market Café is adjacent to Central Market on the south side. We meet upstairs.

LonestaRG IV: Pet Peeves

Friday, August 30 - Monday, September 2

Holiday Inn Northwest

Mopac and 183, Austin (512) 343-0888

See the advertisement on page 7 for details and directions.

ExComm Meeting

TBA-- contact John Neemidge by September 3

Contact John Neemidge at (512) 310-7863 to get an item on the agenda. All members welcome. Location and time TBA due to the Labor Day holiday and LonestaRG.

Monthly Meeting

Monday, September 9

Dinner - Souper Salad 5:30pm

6700 Middle Fiskville Rd., Austin

Meeting - Austin Public Library

University Hills Branch 6:45pm

4721 Loyola Lane, Austin

Take 183 to Manor Rd. exit; go west on Manor Road past the HEB; turn left at the next light, which is Loyola. The library is on the right, less than one block up Loyola.

Friends of the Austin Public Library Book Sale

Saturday and Sunday, September 14 and 15

Crockett Center

Highway 290, just East of I35, Austin

Contact John or Geri Neemidge at (512) 310-7863 or gneemidge@usa.net to volunteer. For more details, see the announcement on page 9.

Waco Area Mensa Get-Together

Wednesday, September 18 7:00pm

Barnes & Noble Café

4909 W. Waco Dr., Waco

Prospective members welcome. RSVP to Jerry Lenamon, (254) 399-9450.

Fold & Sticker

Thursday, September 26 (at TGIT)

Help us assemble the newsletter! See Thank Goodness It's Thursday for directions.

Potluck SIG & Games Night

Saturday, September 28 6:00pm

Kelly Wagner & Steve Harsch's Home

1001 E. Riverside, Austin (512) 443-9650

Theme: Eggs. Anything with eggs in it - from deviled eggs to egg custard. Please call ahead so we can avoid duplications.

Directions from Riverside Dr between IH35 & Congress Ave: the house is on the SE corner of the intersection of Travis Heights Blvd & Riverside Dr. There is a traffic light at the intersection. Park on Travis Heights & enter the house at the back door. Do not attempt to park on Riverside Dr.

Next Month:

October Camping Trip

-Coordinators: Rick Crabtree and Helen Siders

Mark Your Calendars for October 19-20 for a fun-filled camping weekend at Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area, about 15 minutes west of Belton. BLORA offers primitive tent camping at \$4/night. \$3 entrance fee. Water for the tent sites and hot showers are close by. There are RV sites with water and electric for \$12/night for those who would prefer that. There are also cottages at \$30/night for those even less hardy souls.

We are going Oct 19-20 for the cooler weather, (lots of Yankees in LSM!), making it too late in the year to use BLORA's beach and water slides. Check the park out at <http://www.hoodmwr.com/blora.htm>.

Those who don't want to camp can still come for the day and enjoy the companionship of your fellow Mensans. There is fishing. The riding stables and mountain bike trails will be open. And there are several playgrounds for the kids.

There will be more complete information in this space next month. You may also e-mail Rick Crabtree at jrickcrabtree@hotmail.com. If you do not have e-mail, you may call Helen at (512)799-6985.

Halloween Party

Geri & John Neemidge's annual Halloween Party will be Saturday October 26th. More decorations than you can believe! Save the date!

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 LonestaRG	2 IV: Pet Peeves	3	4	5 TGIT	6	7
8	9 Monthly Meeting	10	11	12 TGIT	13	14 Library Book Sale
15 Library Book Sale <i>'Dillo Deadline</i>	16	17	18 Waco Area Mensa	19 TGIT	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 TGIT <i>Fold & Sticker</i>	27	28 Games Night
29	30					

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