

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

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December 2002

Season's Greetings To All



See y'all at the *Holiday Party!*

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2 Please submit ads to the newsletter editor.

A Word to the Wise

-by John Neemidge, President

Season's Greetings

Happy holidays to you all! December is both a quiet and very busy month for Lonestar Mensa. Quiet, because we don't have our usual Monthly Meeting, many members are away visiting their families, and so forth. Busy, because we have a great Holiday Party planned, Geri and I will be hosting a party on New Years' Eve, and many of our regular events do go on as well. It's also the time that ExComm positions change hands and when planning begins in earnest for many 2003 events.

The Holiday Party is shaping up to be a lot of fun, with a white elephant gift exchange, finger foods and desserts, holiday music, plenty of decorations, and more. If you haven't registered for it already, please send in your registration soon to Midge Kocen -- it definitely helps us plan the event. We hope many of you will be there! We also hope you'll be at our New Years' Eve party -- it's been a good time for everyone in previous years. I hope we'll see you there -- or perhaps at Games Night, or TGIT, or other events.

One of the most important things I can do as President is give my thanks to everyone else who makes Lonestar Mensa what it can be. First of all, the rest of the ExComm, each of whom gave many hours to the group. Dylan Warren served as our vice president. Although he's been very, very busy with his studies at UT, his efforts are greatly appreciated. Midge Kocen served as our treasurer, keeping track of our finances -- which fortunately continue to be positive. Karen Werner was our member at large -- and also our program chair, a position which took quite a bit of time finding and arranging speakers. And, finally, Geri Neemidge was our membership officer, contacting new members; she's also continued her many-year effort to maintain and improve the LSM web page, which is full of great information, pictures from events, links to member pages, contact information, copies of this newsletter, and much more, and she devoted large amounts of time and effort to most all of LSM's projects and activities over the year, most especially LonestarRG IV.

Speaking of LonestarRG IV, I'd also like to again thank everyone who made it a success, and most specifically the committee: Geri, Ray O'Connor, Midge, Janet & Mark Kres, Paula Beard, Kartik Jayanarayanan, and Walter Stewart, along with Kelly Wagner who put so much time

and effort into the Raffle Quilt. There are so many more people who volunteered their time, and I thank them all as well.

Next up, I'd like to thank the other group officers. First of all, Rachael Stewart has put many long hours into this newsletter, making it one of the best newsletters around -- and winning a special award this year for just that. Paul Anderson has continued his efforts as publicity officer, making sure our name gets out in the media. Jerry Lenamon has maintained the tradition of the Waco area part of Lonestar Mensa. Kelly Wagner has continued as Ombudsman, a position which has fortunately been little used. After many years, Larry Jensen stepped down as SIGHT coordinator, and Patricia McCormick stepped down from Gifted Children's Coordinator. Two fairly new members, Steven Vaughan and Michele Vaughan, have taken over these positions, and I want to thank them for their efforts. Sadly, Eve Nelson, our former testing coordinator, passed away during the year; her efforts were many, and she'll be missed. Sam Waring, who's held many positions within LSM, has volunteered to be our new testing coordinator, and set up our participation in National Testing Day. Helen Siders has volunteered to be our new circulation manager; she's also coordinated three highly successful picnics as well as a campout which was unfortunately undermined by bad weather. Kartik Jayanarayanan was our scholarship coordinator this year, and has already started work on the 2003 scholarship program. Kelly Wagner and Steve Harsch have continued to host our regular Games Night.

Many, many other people have contributed their time and efforts to this group over the year, and while I've limited my thanks above to those people who held offices in the group or planned regular events, I want to also thank everyone who's helped out -- by helping staff the table at the book sale, writing for the newsletter, working the grill at a picnic, holding tables at TGIT, suggesting speakers for Monthly Meetings, bringing special treats to potlucks, or anything else that's helped out. Your efforts are appreciated! If I left you out of this list, I apologize -- any omissions are my own fault, not a reflection on anyone else. And, if you'd like to see your name on this list a year from now, there's plenty of time and many opportunities to contribute -- contact Geri or I, or anyone else on the ExComm, to volunteer for an office, or contact Rachael Stewart if you want to put a new event on the calendar or contribute to the newsletter (and if you'd like help or advice, feel free to let Geri and I know about events you might be thinking of.

Howdy To

-submitted by Geri Neemidge, Membership Chair

◆ James McShan

James is 33 years old and has been married for over 8 years. He has both a daughter and a son. His daughter's name is Rebecca, she is in fifth grade and plays basketball very well. His son is 5 years old, is in kindergarten, and doesn't know what he wants to be when he grows up. James' wife's name is Alexandra and she is from Germany. He's done a little of everything including a 9 year stint in the US Army, a year of college in Canada, and inner city tutoring in Philadelphia. Currently, James is a full time student studying business, computers, and earning an education certification. He also runs his own business in the service industry coordinating casino tours to Louisiana. The family has three pets: a fish named Sparky, a dog named Pepper, and a cat named Princess. One reason James joined Mensa is for the bragging rights! However, he is also hoping to meet some alumni from UT that either graduated from there, teach there, or are involved in business.

◆ Jim Moore

Jim is single (never married) and has no children or pets. Currently, for the very short term, Jim is doing engineering, surveying, and auto-cadding for Broadwing Communications. He is also an ACE, and NSCA certified personal trainer but he claims to be a very out-of-shape personal trainer. As for hobbies, his current obsessions are playing fantasy football, and learning to play guitar. He decided to join Mensa just because he could but since he has joined he has found that there is much more about Mensa to be excited about and to get involved with. Jim is looking forward to meeting the local members.

◆ Cynthia Nelson

Cindy is married to Bobby Galvez and they have a twelve-year-old daughter, Dani, who's already been invited to take the SAT this year as part of a Duke University talent search program. They also have two black-and-white animals, a cat named Jane and a dog named Sadie. Cindy works for HQ Global Workplaces, the worldwide leader in office outsourcing, and she is heavily involved with the local Girl Scouting organization.



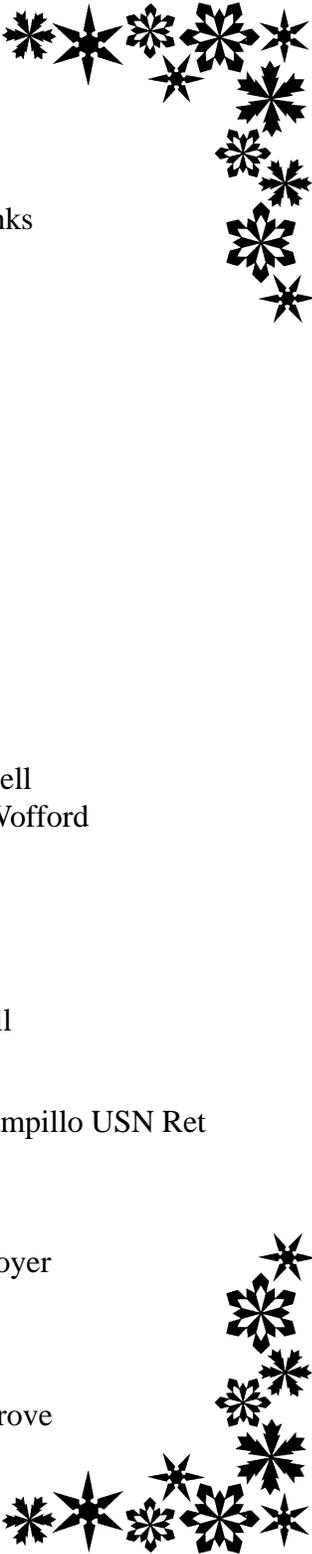
Member News

-submitted by Geri Neemidge, Membership Chair



Sankaran Kartik Jayanarayanan will wed Usha Ramachandran on December 9th in Chennai, India. Best wishes to the happy couple. The Neemidges will be hosting a party in honor of Kartik and Usha on Valentine's Day weekend.

December Birthdays

- 
- 1 Dr John L Fike
 - 3 Mr Erich Paul Adolph
 - 5 Mr Wayne William Banks
Mr Aarne Hartikka
Jeffery Lee Humphrey
 - 6 Walter R Barksdale Jr
 - 8 Mr Terry A Meyer
 - 9 Luiz Von-Paumgarten
 - 10 Mary Jane Lockhart
 - 11 Jane M Kominek
 - 12 Paul Heidenthal
Jeff Michael Hochman
 - 13 Heather Hall
 - 14 John Paliwoda
Dr John Edison Rockwell
Ms Margaret Patricia Wofford
 - 15 Nathalie L Waring
 - 16 Shelley Sundermann
 - 18 Eric Schiltz
 - 19 Ms Sue Ricket Caldwell
 - 23 Fred G Deats III
 - 24 LCDR Fred Grover Campillo USN Ret
Thomas C Haddon III
 - 25 Laura Christine Amos
 - 26 Mr Michael Clinton Moyer
 - 27 Cynthia Nelson
 - 28 Sonya L Palmer
 - 29 Mr Jack Vincent Musgrove
 - 30 Patti A Carr
Merlin D Darling
Mary L Hoane



Rachael, Jean, Brian & friend



David, Kartik & Boo, Sampson, Helen & Paige



David, Lise, Taz, Darcy, and Erich



Helen and Sampson

Pictures courtesy of Helen Siders

Mensans Enjoy Nov 09 Fall Picnic at Northwest Park in Austin

-by Helen Siders

A good time was had by Lone Star Mensans on a perfect fall day. Twenty-one people attended, including three babies between the ages of one and two. There were two beautiful and well behaved large dogs, a border collie and a rottweiler.

Mostly we stuffed ourselves with good food, chewed the fat and everybody got to know each other better. The kids played with the dogs. Chicken slow cooked on the grill. We were reminded, once again, why we love picnics.

Taz Mania

-by Taz Waring

Oh, the joys of being on deadline. Whether it is for this column or for my school newspaper, deadline means the joyful time of tearing your hair out in frustration.

When it relates to The Liberator, my school newspaper, deadline means a week of staying after school each day as well as coming in on both Saturday and Sunday. Though we have a staff of around thirty people, weekend workdays involve the same ten of us Section and Assistant Section Editors all coming in. We bond with each other over the pain of reading articles that are poorly written. We create amusing pictures in PhotoShop. We call to complain to Mr. Gatti's when they deliver our pizza two hours late. And most importantly, we swear at Macs that absolutely refuse to work properly for more than thirty minutes at a time.

The journalism room at Lyndon Baines Johnson High has about twenty computers in it. Every one of these computers is a Mac. They should all be linked to a network call Pub Shared (Publications Shared) that holds all the information for newspaper and yearbook. Around half of the computers have Pub Shared. Every one should have PageMaker, as that is the program both newspaper and yearbook use to create their pages. Three quarters of the computers have PageMaker. We have just bought a new InkJet printer that we can use to print full-size newspaper pages in color. Two computers will print. The computers have different word processing programs, ranging from three editions of AppleWorks to one of Microsoft Word. In order to get the paper together on deadline, all of the editors spend their time playing musical chairs in an attempt to place all of the stories. After the stories have been loaded, we get the joy of trying to make them all fit. If you have never experienced this true torture, I suggest you volunteer to edit an issue of any newsletter. It will drive you mad.

By the time the paper comes out, it's the end of the month, and I realize that I have missed the deadline for this column yet again. Ah... the life of a high school journalist.

Hello Region 6!

-from Dan Wilterding, RVC Region 6

Have you (or someone you know) ever had the thought that "If I were RVC I'd write a column about _____" and just not had the chance to write that column? Here is your chance. Please send me a column for publication in

the region's newsletters. I will not edit the contents (reserving the option of adding a small preface or end note), although the Editors may (as always) exercise their discretion. Depending on submissions this offer may be made more than once, although there is no guarantee that any particular column will be run. People that I've met or corresponded with stand no better (or worse) chance of being selected than anyone else, so please don't be shy -- get to writing, we're already pushing deadline!!

The preceding paragraph originally ran a bit over a year ago. The complete lack of response was surprising considering the audience -- I know for a fact that many of you have good things to say on topics that you know to be important. I know for a fact that the ability to express ourselves in a lucid and compelling manner is widespread in Mensa and that not all of us are too shy to see our names in print. What I don't know is why no-one chose to respond to the offer; would someone please enlighten me on that?

In the meantime, the following wish:

May you have health,
and happiness,
and good family and friends;
and may it last forever.

Comments, anyone?

Dan Wilterding - RVC6
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Election Report

-by Rachael Stewart, Election Committee Member

Lonestar Mensa's new officers are:
John Neemidge, President
Margaret Wofford, Vice President
Midge Kocen, Treasurer
Helen Siders, Member-At-Large
Janet Kres, Member-At-Large
Mark Kres, Member-At-Large

Out of a grand total of 7 ballots received (C'mon folks, even an uncontested ballot deserves a response! You do realize that not voting forfeits your griping rights?) the candidates for ExComm 2003 were unanimously elected. No ballots were disqualified.

Please congratulate our new and continuing officers.

Holiday Party

Send in your reservations now for the LSM Holiday Party! This year's party will be held at the Zilker Clubhouse (the same location as in 2000) on Sunday December 15 at 4:30pm. The Clubhouse is west of Zilker Park in the hills. It has a panoramic view of downtown Austin and two beautiful fireplaces.

There will be a \$6.00 admission charge (if you pay in advance) and a \$7.50 charge at the door. The group will be providing finger foods and desserts, cider, eggnog, and soft drinks. You should BYOB. To sign up in advance, send a check to our treasurer, Midge Kocen, 7131 Wood Hollow Drive Apt. 106, Austin, TX, 78731-2502. It will greatly help in our planning if you sign up early, as it helps us estimate how many people will attend and therefore how much food we should purchase.

We'd appreciate volunteers to help set up decorations for the party and to help with food preparation during the party. Please contact John Neemidge to volunteer. In addition, Kelly Wagner is coordinating a group of member musicians to play holiday music during the party -- if you're a musician, please contact Kelly and join the group.

We hope to see you at this special Holiday Party!



Holiday Party Gift Exchange

As we have the past two years, we'll be holding a white elephant gift exchange at the LSM Holiday Party. Each person participating should bring a wrapped gift of nominal value. Used items are perfectly welcome, as long as they're in reasonable condition. Each person participating in the exchange will draw a number, and will pick in that order. As you are called to pick, you may either take a wrapped gift and open it, or steal someone else's gift. If your gift is stolen, you may pick a new wrapped gift, or you may steal from someone else (however, you may not steal back the item just stolen from you). Each gift may be stolen twice; after that it can't be stolen again. It's been lots of fun the past two years -- we hope everyone will participate! The more, the merrier!

What's Happening in December

Thank Goodness It's Thursday

Central Market Café

Every Thursday

6:00-8:00pm

(512) 206-1020

4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin

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.

ExComm Meeting

TBA - contact John Neemidge at (512) 310-7863.

LSM Holiday Party

Sunday, December 15

4:30pm

Zilker Clubhouse

See facing column for details.

Waco Area Mensa Get-Together

Wednesday, December 18

7:00pm

Barnes & Noble Café

4909 W. Waco Dr., Waco

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

Fold & Sticker

Thursday, December 19

(at TGIT)

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

Potluck SIG & Games Night

Saturday, December 28

6:00pm

Kelly Wagner & Steve Harsch's Home

1001 E. Riverside, Austin

(512) 443-9650

Theme: Frozen - anything that is best eaten cold. Please call ahead so we don't get 10 gallons of ice cream!

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.

Slumber Party

Tuesday December 31 8:00 pm - 2003

The Neemidge's

1801 Messick Pl., Round Rock (512) 310-7863

We're having a coed, all-ages slumber party to bring in the New Year. We can make popcorn, put together puzzles, play games, make cookies, watch movies -- and there won't be any parents to tell us to be quiet and go to sleep. Wear your pajamas or other comfy clothes, bring your teddy or whoever you usually sleep with and join us -- BYOB and an appetizer or dessert to share. RSVPs not required but encouraged.

From Mopac/1325: 1325 to the intersection with Wells Branch Pkwy/Howard. Turn onto Howard. Follow it 2.5 miles to McNeil-Round Rock Rd (follow the signs pointing to McNeil Post Office). Take McNeil-Round Rock past the Austin White Lime plant. Eventually a wooden fence will appear on your left. Take the first left, which will be Messick Loop W. The third left is Messick Place.

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 TGIT	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 TGIT	13	14
15 Holiday Party	16	17	18 Waco Area Mensa	19 TGIT <i>Fold & Sticker</i>	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 TGIT	27	28 Games Night
29	30	31 Slumber Party				

2002

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