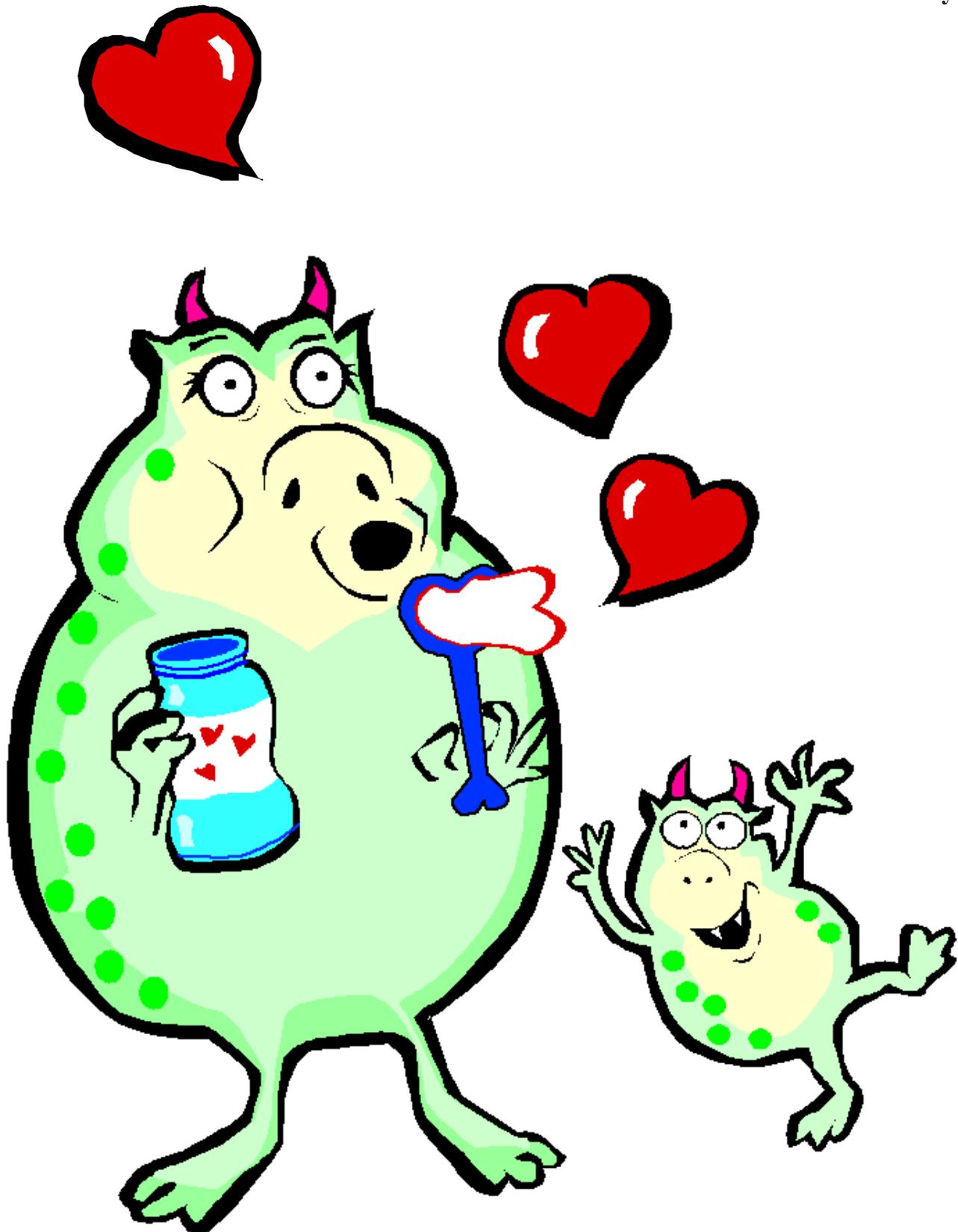


Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXX Number 2

February 2003



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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.

2 Please submit ads to the newsletter editor.

A Word to the Wise

-by John Neemidge, President

Another Busy Month

I've striven in vain to think of a clever topic for this month's column, so you'll have to do without one. In past years I've taken this opportunity to write about how much I love Mensa, but most of you know that by now. I do hope all of you will come to love Mensa just as much — but for this month I'll just stick to the short but busy month we have coming up and also some group business.

First off, we've got Movie Night. Our theme is weddings (seems appropriate for this most romantic month). If you've never been to Movie Night, consider joining us. We usually watch a couple movies, picked from all the ones people bring. It's a lot of fun, and a good way to see some interesting movies with your fellow Mensans. Details are in the calendar. I hope we'll see you there!

Our Monthly Meeting occurs a week later. Denny Bolton of Pure Luck Texas Farm and Dairy will be speaking to us about their operations (which include producing award winning handmade goat cheese as well as organic herbs, produce and flowers). January's Monthly Meeting showed that the new second Saturday format will work well, both for many members and with the library (in terms of parking, etc). Come join us for the meeting!

Next, Geri and I are hosting a combined Valentine's Party and Wedding Reception for Kartik Jayanarayanan and his new bride Usha Ramachandran. We've had Valentine's parties in previous years and they've all been fun. This one, with Kartik and Usha's reception, should be extra-special. It'll be a great time!

Later in the month, Kelly and Steve will host Games Night and Potluck. Games played vary with the crowd, but we tend towards word games (Scattergories, Outburst, Apples To Apples, Taboo, etc) or card games (Dilbert Corporate Shuffle being the current favorite). We're usually open to new games, particularly ones that allow lots of people to play and socialize.

Also, on February 9th we'll have scholarship essay judging. This is really a lot of fun and useful, too We get together and go through all the scholarship essays and decide on the best one, whose author will receive LSM's scholarship for 2003. I encourage everyone to come out and help us choose the winner!

In addition to all of that, we're currently looking for volunteers to help as members of our Program

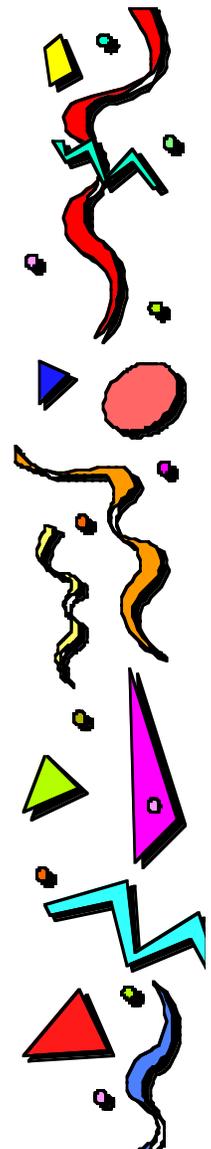
Committee. What we need are people who are willing to come up with ideas for Monthly Meeting speakers, work together with the rest of the Program Committee on scheduling and planning, and invite speakers and serve as contacts for them. It can be a fun position — if you're interested, please contact Geri Neemidge (gneemidge@usa.net or 512-310-7863) and she'll tell you more about it.

It'll be another busy month in Lonestar Mensa — I didn't even mention our regular events, such as TGIT or the Waco Area meeting. We'd love to have you join us — and we'd also love to have more volunteers to help out and make this a better group for everyone. See y'all soon!



Happy Birthday to You...

- 1 Tom Buckley
Mr Dennis Robert McDaniel
- 2 Midge A Kocen
Henry J Kubicek
- 3 Dennis L Crabill
Mr Gregory A Wroblewski
- 4 Tod Peddie
Bradley Walls
- 5 Jan Cox
Kartik Jayanarayanan
- 6 Mr Gregory Vincent Bader
- 9 Meredith S Hardy
Judy L Mittag
Steven Vaughan
- 10 Jefferson P Dixon
- 11 Mr John M Delaney
- 16 Scott Feller
- 17 Sandra Ellen St John
- 18 Dr Tom Rhyne
Matthew L Rife
Ms Elizabeth Harry Waring
- 19 Jeff Keys
- 20 Kimberly A Norvell
- 21 Eugene J Montag
Dandy G Nichols
Stephen D Thomas
- 22 Mr Stanley E Tims II
- 23 Russell Jackson
- 26 Carol Anne Ginn
- 27 Dave McCracken
Kenneth Joshua Mueller
Geri Neemidge



Howdy To

-from Geri Neemidge, Membership Chair

Marlene Boren

Marlene is unmarried and has no children. She takes care of her mom and enjoys her Chihuahua (2 yrs - Chikuku) and Schnauzer/Dachshund (13 yrs - Precious). Chikuku translates to "little chicken" in Shona. Marlene is an efficiency engineer with a computer science background. Her hobbies are watching cartoons, sports, action movies (especially martial arts), studying languages, and science. She decided to join Mensa when her boss asked her if she was a member.

Joshua Hull

Joshua has been married nearly 5 years and has two dogs, no kids. He works at Dell as a program manager. Most of his spare time is taken up by fishing and writing a free form novel online: www.cyberosmosis.com/Story. Joshua joined Mensa because a friend is a member, and it gives him pride to know that he qualifies to be a member.

Joshua Jones

Joshua is 23 years old and just graduated with a BSME from UT. In his spare time he enjoys playing the guitar, drawing, or reading. Joshua's intellectual interests range from science/technology to government/foreign policy. Joshua has been job hunting since graduation and hopes that Mensa membership may distinguish his resume from the crowd.

Sally Pelow

Sally is a middle-aged single mom of two teenage daughters. She works for the State of Texas. Sally has one pet - Quincy Thomas Pazooti, a 10-1/2 year old neutered male black and white cat who rules her household. She loves movies and TV and stand-up and reading and puzzles. Sally decided to join Mensa to see if there were any other folks that she fit in with besides cab drivers and recovering alcoholics. And because she believes our brains ought to be good for something!

Matt Rowan

Matt is a junior chemistry major at Texas A&M University and he is hoping to go to graduate school for a degree in Forensic Science. He is 20 years old and single and has no pets. He is trying to get an internship somewhere in the field for this coming summer, so if anybody has any openings please let Matt know. Matt was curious about the Mensa test - so he took it. Like a lot of members, he didn't really expect to make the cut.

Cara Walkup

Cara is a divorced mom with two boys - Jimmy, 7, and Justin, 6. She also has two dogs, a cat and 4 hermit crabs. Cara is currently a stay-at-home mom with a part-time job as a children's choir director at First United Methodist in Round Rock. Cara has a Bachelor of Music degree and she enjoys teaching piano lessons and plays flute for church occasionally. Cara likes bird-watching, travel and reading (among other things). She wonders how many other Mensans have about 10 books lying around their house that they're trying to read simultaneously.

Elizabeth Williams

Elizabeth is married to a wonderful man named Bryan Williams and her maiden name was Williams as well (this may sound familiar to our editor...). Elizabeth has a sixteen year old stepdaughter named Alicia. She also has several pets: Adolf, an old, cranky yet faithful black lab; Sheba, a type-A, overachiever German Shepherd puppy; and Vincent, the stray cat in charge of things important like sleep quality. She works for LCRA and is currently in the midst of changing jobs. For the last three years she worked as a business analyst/technology liaison, and worked to implement better policies and procedures, as well as improved technology solutions, such as e-procurement. As far as hobbies, Elizabeth will try just about anything once, though most of her time is spent building her house. She and her husband are putting together an all-steel "kit" home. Elizabeth also likes to do fitness related things and, of course, she loves to read.

Corner(Ed)!

-by Rachael Stewart, Editor

Well, I'll be plumb-jiggered! Column space left over for yours truly! Grab your helmets and run for the bunker, 'cause here come the puns. <Insert evil grin here.>

What do you call a cow's lover?

A beau-vine.

What do you call a bunch of Mensans running around in circles?

Scrambled eggheads.

How did the doe know she was in love?

Every time she looked at him, her hart raced.

How does Dick Cheney travel the U.S.?

By heir plane.

Why did the pepper shaker wind up in the ER?

It had aggravated a salt.



Taz Mania

-by Taz Waring

Ah...the life of winter break. There is nothing like a glorious two weeks to completely screw with your sleep schedule so that dragging yourself out of bed on the first day back to school is next to impossible. (Thank God I don't have to do that until Tuesday.)

Incredibly enough, it is possible that this semester will be even more busy for me than last. Actually, it's probable. The thing that so few people realize is that the life of a trainer does NOT get any easier after football season ends. Granted, football is the one sport that takes up the most time, but during the season, there is only one other sport going on: volleyball. Take the current season as an example. Both boys and girls basketball teams are well into their season at this point, having started district games within the past three or four weeks. These seasons will not end until February at the earliest. However, both teams are likely to advance to the playoffs, making them longer. As a matter of fact, I'm leaving for a boys game in about an hour. Along with basketball, wrestling meets and tournaments take place just about every weekend. Our powerlifting team is preparing for the district meet in February. Both soccer teams have started practice and will have games before the month is out, if I'm not mistaken. And the track season officially opens next week with daily practices, though the first meet won't happen until late February or early March.

My next duty after training is obviously the paper. Not only will we have three more issues coming out this semester, but we are planning on releasing a double-issue on April 1. The second section will be a parody/joke issue. Not only will I have my normal duties of layout, writing and cleanup of my editor's mistakes, I've been named assistant editor-in-chief of the joke issue, so my workload has been at least doubled.

On top of all of this, it is the new year, and I am officially in the planning stages for this year's AG. I'm now the national co-coordinator of TeenSIG. Along with Ryan, I will be setting up all teen events and will be a general overseer at the actual gathering. Last year, all events came together about a week beforehand, which nearly drove Ryan and Heather (my predecessor) insane. We're doing our best to delegate and see that the same mess does not repeat itself.

So with that schedule, keeping my grades up and trying to find a job so that I can buy my own clothes, I should be busy. I'm ready to start. This waiting-around thing

before school starts is not doing much to improve my mood (already sour because of cedar season). The sooner I start, the sooner our basketball team wins the state championship, the sooner we advance to state in powerlifting, wrestling and track and the sooner I can get out of school and head to Minnesota for the AG.

This isn't too much to do. I can handle it easily. (Please pray for me!)

Cupid's Columnists

-by Mensans to their Loved Ones

Happy Valentine's Day Mommy!
P & D

Geri — I love you more than I can ever say. Happy Valentine's Day!

Steve,

Palauan fertility cake, swedish castles, territorial triggerfish, dangerous downdrafts, such memories we have made! Happy V.D., spread it around.

Lori



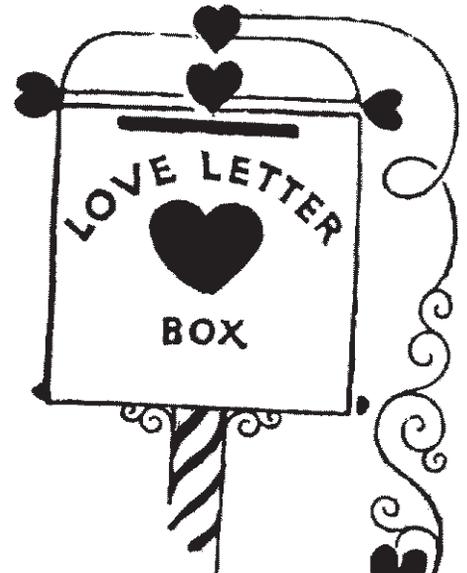
My Love,

For endless entertainment, a strong shoulder to hold, kisses in the night, and choking on my hair. Don't ever let go.

Happy Valentine's Day.

Love,

R



Hello Region 6!

-by Dan Wilterding, RVC Region 6

This month let's examine the role of Proctor. A good Proctor must pay attention to detail: the tests rely on precise timing, the records must be accurate, fees must be collected and then the tests & records & fees must be sent to be processed. A good Proctor is required to be knowledgeable about their local group, their region, and Mensa in general in order to be able to answer the questions put to them by the test-takers. As the first "real Mensan" that many applicants meet a Proctor must be personable and able to put the applicants at ease and feeling welcome to join Mensa and the local group. A Proctor must know where the fire exits and the bathrooms are located, and the location and date of the next local meeting.

A Proctor needs samples of the newsletter to hand out so that prospective members are able to get an idea of what the group is like ("What do Mensans talk about at these meetings? Is it all science and six syllable words?"), therefore a Proctor needs a good Editor, who in turn needs good material for the newsletter (do I hear "member submissions"?). If the local group has a web site it needs to be kept current, because like the newsletter the site will be viewed as an extension of the group and so can be a large determining factor in whether or not a favorable impression is achieved.

Some Proctors conduct test sessions on their own while others are accompanied by one or more members that assist putting the testees at ease and with conducting the tests. Some groups provide snacks and a get-together with local members after the test session so that the potential members get a good feel for the group.

As you can see, some aspects of a good Proctor depend on the individual while others depend on the group. A local group that provides an up-to-date web site, an interesting newsletter, and engaging activities is a healthy group — one that is likely to attract *and retain* members to the benefit of all involved. For the good of your group - Support your Proctors!

Comments, anyone?

Dan Wilterding - RVC6

rvc6@us.mensa.org

dtwtech@swbell.net

817-573-4454 504

West Atchley Drive Granbury, Texas 76048

Don't forget:

Mind Games

April 11-13 in Houston, Texas

Registration: \$60 to 1/15, \$65 to 3/31 (cutoff)

Checks payable to Mind Games 2003, send to American Mensa, Ltd. 1229 Corporate Drive West Arlington, Texas 76006-6103

mindgames.us.mensa.org

817-607-0060 x-122 (visa or mc)

No on site registration

SynRG 2003 - "It's Not Easy Being Green"

May 23-26, 2003

www.gcmensa.org

Our Monthly Meeting Speaker

February's speaker will be Denny Bolton of Pure Luck Texas Farm and Dairy. Pure Luck produces award winning handmade goat cheese, as well as organic herbs, produce and flowers.

ExComm Meeting Minutes

-submitted by Margaret Wofford, Vice President

January 11, 2003

Attending: John Neemidge, President; Margaret Wofford, Vice President; Midge Kocen, Treasurer; Geri Neemidge, Membership Chair; and Janet Kres and Mark Kres, Members at Large.

John convened the meeting at 10:08.

John reported that he had received the deposit reimbursement for the Zilker Clubhouse and gave it to Midge to deposit.

Midge gave the Treasurer's report. LSM finished the year with a significant profit, almost entirely due to the RG profit and the savings on publishing the newsletter that the group has effected by using a different printer and preparing the newsletter for mailing. Midge has moved the bank account to Guaranty Bank. LSM currently has over \$12,000 in the bank and Midge plans to buy two \$5,000 CDs.

Geri and John will not be able to attend the April meeting as it is the same weekend as the Houston Mind Games event.

Attendees discussed possible meeting places other than the University Hills Library. The second Saturday of the month is booked up in most suitable meeting rooms. The issue was tabled.

Janet has received several 2003 RG registrations already but doesn't expect another influx until the next price change.

Attendees discussed the open Program Chair. John will ask for volunteers.

John adjourned the meeting at 10:35.

What's Happening in February

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.

Movie Night

Saturday, February 1

7:00pm

The Neemidge's

1801 Messick Pl., Round Rock

(512) 310-7863

This month's theme is weddings — bring your favorite wedding movies on DVD or VHS and we'll pick a couple to watch.

Snacks and desserts are always welcome!

From Mopac/1325: Follow 1325 to the intersection with Wells Branch Parkway/Howard. Turn onto Howard. Follow it 2.5 miles to McNeil-Round Rock Rd (follow the signs pointing to McNeil Post Office). Follow 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 West. The third left on Messick Loop West is Messick Place.

ExComm Meeting

Saturday, February 8

10:00am

University Hills Branch Library

4721 Loyola Lane, Austin

Contact John Neemidge at (512) 310-7863 to get an item on the agenda. All members welcome.

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.

Monthly Meeting

Saturday, February 8

11:00am-1:00pm

University Hills Branch Library

4721 Loyola Lane, Austin

Please see the announcement on page 6 for meeting details. 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.

Scholarship Essay Judging

Sunday, February 9

2:00pm

Kelly Wagner & Steve Harsch's Home

1001 E. Riverside, Austin

(512) 443-9650

Scholarship Judges meet for an afternoon/evening to read essays submitted by high school students. The hopeful scholars write about what kind of education they intend to pursue, and why they feel it's important. The winning essayist receives a college scholarship from Lonestar Mensa. Their essay is also published in the *Armadillo Literary Gazette*.

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.

Valentine's Reception

Saturday, February 15

6:00pm

The Neemidge's

1801 Messick Pl., Round Rock

(512) 310-7863

Come join us to celebrate Valentine's Day as well as the wedding of Lonestar Mensan Kartik Jayanarayanan and meet his bride Usha Ramachandran. Please bring finger food, appetizers, or dessert to share.

From Mopac/1325: Follow 1325 to the intersection with Wells Branch Parkway/Howard. Turn onto Howard. Follow it 2.5 miles to McNeil-Round Rock Rd (follow the signs pointing to McNeil Post Office). Follow 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 West. The third left on Messick Loop West is Messick Place.

Waco Area Mensa Get-Together

Wednesday, February 19

7:00pm

Barnes & Noble Café

4909 W. Waco Dr., Waco

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

Fold & Sticker

Thursday, February 20

(at TGIT)

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

Potluck SIG & Games Night

Saturday, February 22

6:00pm

Kelly Wagner & Steve Harsch's Home

1001 E. Riverside, Austin

(512) 443-9650

Theme: In honor of Lincoln's Birthday, the theme is Midwestern Food (foods typical of the midwestern United States). Meat & potatoes, cheese, corn, and plenty more. If possible, call first so there's a variety.

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.

Mensan Realtor

Austin area. Free referrals to other areas.

Shelley Sundermann

JB Goodwin Company

(512) 913-3108 (800) 900-9115

shelley@jbgoodwin.com

February

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------------------------|--------|---------|-----------------------|---|--------|---|
| | | | | | | 1 Movie Night |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 TGIT | 7 | 8 ExComm & Monthly Meetings |
| 9 Scholarship Essay Judging | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 TGIT | 14 | 15 Valentine's Party <i>'Dillo Deadline</i> |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 Waco Area Mensa | 20 TGIT <i>Fold & Sticker</i> | 21 | 22 Games Night |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 TGIT | 28 | |

2003

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