

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXXI Number 8

August 2004

For the story behind these photos, turn to page 5.



Top Right: Bruce Belland and Jane Thompson 1959

Springlake Amusement Park

courtesy George Thompson

Main: Bruce Belland and Jane Thompson October 2003

Atlantic City, New Jersey

courtesy Nick Peper (band keyboardist)

Insert: The Four Preps: Marv Ingram, Bruce Belland, Glen Larson, Ed Cobb

courtesy Bruce Belland

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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.

Please submit ads to the newsletter editor.

A Word to the Wise

-by Karen Werner, President

Well, the good news is that I had a great time at the AG and didn't lose any more money than I had set aside to lose. The bad news is that I lost that entire amount. I did, however, attend several talks on how to win at Video Poker and Black Jack, and I intend to get educated and be ready to put that information to use on my next trip. I also attended a talk on how to maximize profits in the stock market. Between those two money-making avenues, I expect to retire in style in about 80 years. I also attended a talk called "The Animal Within Us." I learned that men aren't intentionally dogs; they just can't help themselves. At least I think that was what the speaker was trying to say, although it's possible the message got garbled in the translation.

Seriously, though, I did what I set out to do. I visited old friends and made new ones, and got a little education in the process. Everyone should make plans to attend next



year's AG in New Orleans, just a hop, skip and jump from here.

Speaking of visiting old friends and making new ones, our own RG is fast approaching. If it's not yet on your calendar for Labor Day weekend, put it there. And send in your registration. Of course, walk-ins are more than welcome and very much appreciated, also. There are rates for a single day, as well, if you can't make the whole weekend.

Hospitality will be fantastic this year, with offerings from Ray O'Connor and other volunteers who will be adding to the feast. Beer, wine and soft drinks will abound. Check out the rest of this newsletter for RG-related volunteer opportunities. Additional help is always needed. There will be non-stop activity in the Games Room, as well as speakers and other arranged activities. First and foremost, you will most certainly make new friends, in addition to seeing old ones.

Finally, if you are not registered to vote or need to update your voter registration, do so now; all of you surely have an opinion about this year's upcoming election.

IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD



FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!
speakers, discussion, games, prizes, food, pestilence
brought to you by Lonestar Mensa

Join The Party!

- Speakers on war, famine, pestilence, death, chaos, mayhem, and other cataclysmic matters
- Post-apocalypse Dance
- Games and contests
- Scholarship raffle
- Abundant hospitality, with meals, fresh-baked bread, veggies, snacks, soda, beer, wine, and more
- Late-night pool & hot tub
- Goodies and Prizes
- And much more!

It's a post-apocalyptic paradise! Join us for our own version of armageddon, and see what comes next. Hospitality will be a whole lot better than fallout shelter rations. Wear your best camouflage outfits and come prepared to party like it's the end of the world! Bring the whole family – we have discount rates for children. Registration is only \$50 until August 2nd, \$55 walk-in, and \$15 for Friday or Monday only, \$30 for Saturday or Sunday only (children 7-14 half price, 6 and under are free). Register online at our web page (<http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/lonestarg.htm>) with payment via PayPal, or send registrations to Danny South, 2323 Wells Branch Pkwy Apt B204, Austin, TX 78728-6764; make checks payable to "Lonestar Mensa RG". The RG will be held at the Holiday Inn Northwest (our home for all 6 years), located in Austin's Arboretum area. Our room rate is \$69/night (S/D/T/Q); the hotel welcomes pets. For more information, including pictures from previous LonestarRG's, online registration, a printable registration form, and more, see the web page or contact John Neemidge at 512-310-7863 or neemidge@usa.net.

July ExComm Meeting Minutes

-submitted by Margaret Wofford, Vice President

Attending: Karen Werner, President; Margaret Wofford, Vice President; Kathie Blair, Treasurer; Janet Kres, Member at Large; Mark Kres, Member at Large; Helen Siders, Member at Large; and John Neemidge, Membership Chair.

Karen convened the meeting at 5:45.

Karen reported that the North Village library has scheduled another group in their meeting room for the second Monday time slot. She reserved the second Tuesday for monthly meetings. Attendees agreed to move the ExComm meetings to the second Tuesday also.

Sam Waring told Karen that Michele Vaughan worked with him in a recent testing session and is now qualified to proctor. Sam mentioned that he had to eject two people from the last session for cheating. Janet plans to work during the next test session and then will also be qualified to proctor.

Karen reported that the ExComm must approve a scholarship chair and she must submit the name to National by August. She has three prospects. Moved, John, seconded, Helen, that any of the three scholarship chair prospects proposed by Karen are acceptable to the ExComm and Karen may submit any of those names to National. Motion passed unanimously.

Attendees discussed the amount of the scholarship award. Moved, Janet, seconded, John, that LSM award \$300 in the next scholarship contest. Motion passed unanimously. Kathie mentioned that the dedicated scholarship fund currently has only \$276. Attendees agreed that this year's RG scholarship revenue will probably make up the difference but that any remaining shortfall can come from general funds.

John reported that in the near future he will mail out postcards to local members for an informational gathering and party related to September's Regional Gathering.

John was appointed by Karen and unanimously approved as National Testing Day Coordinator for 2004.

Helen reported that the post office has Rachael Stewart's parents' address on file as the official contact address. She has unsuccessfully tried to change it to her address. John gave Helen advice on how it was changed the last time. Attendees discussed the full mailing which goes out in either August or September and agreed that completing the full mailing in August would be preferable.

Helen also mentioned that the June 'Dillo mailing which goes out the last week in May conflicts with her attending Houston's Memorial Day RG. Attendees agreed that someone else could mail next year's June issue.

John reported that the LSM phone still rings at his house, but very infrequently, and he questioned whether it was worth the monthly charge for the distinctive ring. Most contacts are made by e-mail now anyway and the National Office will give out the phone number of a local officer if the group requests that they do so. Attendees agreed to discontinue the number after National Testing Day.

Karen adjourned the meeting at 6:45.



August Monthly Meeting Announcement

Beginning in August, the Monthly Meetings have changed from the second Monday to the second Tuesday of every month.

The August Monthly Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 10, at the North Village Library, 2139 W. Anderson Lane, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

This month's speaker will be Pamela Kinney, Director of Volunteer Services for Family Eldercare. Family Eldercare provides services to older adults and people with disabilities and the people who care for them. Their mission is to advocate for older persons and those with disabilities so that they can remain in their homes and their communities.

They provide a wide range of services geared toward this goal, including, for example, caregiving, guardianship services and subsidized housing. Ms. Kinney will tell you what Family Eldercare can do to keep you, a friend or a loved one independent, either now or later on down the road. This organization presents a vast array of services, big and small, to older persons and persons with disabilities on a sliding scale, based on the income of the person needing care. Some of our own members have already used their services in the care of their loved ones.

Ms. Kinney has worked for Family Eldercare for 3 years. Previously, she worked with abused children at the Center for Child Protection. She received her bachelor's degree in Psychology from UT. This talk promises to be very informative for all of our members, and one you shouldn't miss.

Prepped for Life

-by Jane Thompson

I was in the airport 45 minutes early. I had waited so long for this I just couldn't wait any longer. I carried a hand-lettered sign with his name on it; not because I thought I wouldn't recognize him but because I thought he wouldn't know me. After all, we hadn't seen each other in 40 years except in photographs.

I had on my skinniest pants. But I had put on 15 pounds and my ash-blond hair was now, well, mostly grey. I kept pacing up and down because I simply couldn't sit still. Finally a curious woman nearby struck up a conversation. I told her I was waiting for a friend I hadn't seen in over 40 years. She was incredulous. "Someone you knew in high school?" "No," I said, "just a friend from a long time ago." I told her we had finally reconnected through the Internet last year but were just now seeing each other again. She smiled, then laughed. "This," she said, "I gotta see." She stepped back to get a good look at the passengers coming off the plane and my mind went back to the beginning.

In those squeaky clean '50s, when Elvis was controversial and Ed Sullivan wouldn't show him below the waist, one of the top recording groups was The Four Preps, a clean cut, rock/folk group from Hollywood High School whose "26 Miles" stayed on the charts for 26 weeks in 1957 and was second only to one of Elvis's songs. Dick Clark later referred to the Preps' recording as "the first surfer hit" and its unique sound ushered in a new era for singing groups.

The Preps followed up with another huge hit, "Big Man," in 1958. It was inspired by a popular expression of the time, "big man on campus" and had a pounding piano intro that flirted with rock n' roll. Their later hits, "Down By the Station," "Cinderella" and "Got a Girl" combined their irreverent humor with a infectious beat and their unique harmony kept them on top.

I was your average starry-eyed teenybopper at the time, younger than a child of the same age today, rushing home after school every day to watch the top performers on "American Bandstand" and listening to AM Radio every night. Radio pretty much followed Clark's lead, and the songs we heard on Bandstand were echoed on our local stations. A 45 record was only a dollar then, but then again, a dollar was harder to come by. The biggest difference was that stars were much closer to their audiences in those days; you could often sneak backstage

at the smaller concerts and get an autograph. They were always given willingly and my collection included Bobby Darin, Bobby Rydell, Fabian, Ricky Nelson, and other "teenage idols".

Of course one of the groups we watched on Bandstand was the Preps. I had a crush on the redhead with freckles. His name was Marv, and he was the high tenor. Glen, the baritone, was blond and so good-looking it was downright scary, and Ed, the bass, was six-six, dark, and quiet. Bruce, the lead singer, was short and skinny, always talking and clowning, the most outgoing of the group and the one the audience invariably remembered.

In 1959, my local radio station, WKY in Oklahoma City, staged a huge promotional contest "Win a Date with the Four Preps." I entered of course. Funny how well you can remember some seemingly insignificant things. I was in the kitchen a few weeks later when my mother told me I had a phone call. I knew the names and voices of all the DJs on WKY, of course, but before I could even start to be puzzled about why Danny Williams was calling ME, he told me that I had won. I was chosen for a date with the Preps. I screamed, "No, I didn't, I didn't!" Danny finally calmed me down and assured me that indeed I had and then filled my mother in on the details, which I was in no condition to comprehend. She carefully noted where I needed to be dropped off; that I would be properly taken care of and chaperoned, have dinner and enjoy time backstage with the Preps and then have a front row seat for their concert.

I was enormously excited, but also cautious and more than a little skeptical. I figured that, of course, the Preps were being paid to have this "date" with me, and I was pretty sure that they, being big stars and all, would not be too interested in a 14-year old fan. They had just come from singing in "Gidget," one of the most successful teenage movies of all time. They were huge; I had visions of being ignored all evening. But, I'd get to see a concert, so it wouldn't be a total loss. That's what I kept telling myself, so I wouldn't be disappointed.

My best friend, Jo Jean, who was star struck and was the instigator of our backstage forays, pooh-poohed that idea. She felt that the whole thing was wasted on me. If she had won the contest, she would use the opportunity to convince the Preps that she should be in show business. She knew she was destined to be famous, while all I wanted was a good life as a teacher or some such. She deigned to help me pick out my outfit, but she really felt that it should have been her. Since the concert was outside,

we decided on a brown silk shirt, darker brown bermuda shorts, and a fake leopard belt. Jo Jean thought this was pretty boring, but I was sure brown was my best color, because I have dark brown eyes. She grudgingly agreed, and unhappily sent me off bristling with envy.

On the appointed day, my father drove me over to meet them and stayed around long enough to snap some photos of me with the Preps. Then he left and I was on my own. I was determined not be girlish or giggly...and not to be hurt.

The giggle resolution didn't last five minutes. First the Preps introduced themselves... as if they had to! Then they began the clowning that was their trademark, including me in their silliness. They asked me questions about my life as if they were genuinely interested; then turned everything into a joke. They had me in stitches in no time. One story I particularly remember was an unlikely one: Bruce said, "Hey, guess what we did last week?" Of course, I didn't have a clue. Between fits of laughter, they explained that they found a huge dead fish on the beach in LA and decided that Dick Clark would like to have it. "So, what'd we do?" I shook my head - clueless. "Well, we wrapped that sucker up and MAILED it to him!" Bruce declared triumphantly. Even at my young age, I wondered how the man who decided the fate of all aspiring hit makers would react to that prank. I couldn't believe they would actually pull such a stunt. But then again... they were The Four Preps. (Years later, I would read a book by Dick Clark in which he recounted receiving a package from the Preps that ultimately required him to fumigate his office, and the revenge he perpetrated on them). No one could get angry at the Preps, they were completely guileless. Everyone joined in their fun and I was no exception. By the end of dinner I was completely won over. I had made four new friends and I felt pretty silly for thinking they would ever hurt my teenaged feelings.

Then it was on to the concert. Anyone who ever saw a Preps performance, remembers that they didn't just sing their harmony hits - they put on a whole show, with Ed, Glen, and especially long-suffering Marv, playing straight men to Bruce's incessant clowning. Glen and Bruce wrote most of the Preps' hits, and also penned skits and satirical imitations of other group's singing styles which played to Bruce's ability to sound like just about anyone. They kept me and the whole audience laughing with their comedy while entertaining us with their accessible and contagious music; they were the complete package. When the evening

was over, they had made a whole new audience of fans and I hated to leave my new-found friends.

I felt so close to them that every year after that I'd find out when they'd be in town and make arrangements to go backstage. And each year they welcomed me. Bruce, the compulsive one, was always busy making sure everything was perfect; sound, lights, and stage, and then hovering around until everything was in order. Meanwhile Glen, Ed, Marv and I talked, caught up on our lives and clowned around; then I would watch the show to see what new songs and shticks they had developed. I was never disappointed nor was the audience; their shows were the highlight of the summer. They were getting older though; three years after I had first met them they toured with their wives. Marv's wife Becky (so much for my crush) sat with me during the that year's concert and explained that Bruce's wife hadn't come because she had just had their first baby. I, too was getting older, and the next year I went away to college.

After that it was never the same. I could watch them on television and hear their songs on the radio, but I soon learned not to brag that I knew them. Nobody believed me. "How could someone from Oklahoma City know the Four Preps?!?" they would laugh. I'd try to explain, but they'd insist I was just dreaming it up. I never saw the Preps in person again.

In the late '60s, the Preps succumbed to the British invasion and disbanded. Life moved on for me as well. I got married and moved to Southern California. I used to sometimes check out the cars when I was stuck on the freeway, but didn't really expect to see them... and, of course, I didn't. I never thought of looking them up--I didn't think they'd even remember me. Eventually, I divorced and when I sadly packed up my things to move back to the center of the country, I came across their records and autographs. I didn't have a turntable anymore, but I couldn't get rid of the memories. They would stay with me regardless of where my path took me.

Thirty years passed. I hadn't heard of the Four Preps in a long time, but then I moved again. And again, I unearthed their old records. The next week, "Gidget" was on television, and I watched it for old time's sake. Then, a couple days later, I was digging through some old photos when I ran across those pictures of The Preps and me taken so long ago. Memories of their warmth and music came flooding back.

I had recently gone online and found their music on CD

so, awash in nostalgia, I decided to try locate my old friends on the Internet. I typed in the most unusual name, Bruce Belland, and got connected to a website with a link for e-mail. So, my friend was still around. I e-mailed him and waited. Years had passed. Personalities and priorities change and I tried to prepare myself for the proverbial "form letter" response. Then it came. A warm, chatty, effusive e-mail updating me on the Four Preps.

Two of my old friends, he told me with a heavy heart, had died. Ed, the quiet one, the one the group had revolved around, had gone on after the Preps break-up to become a respected record producer and songwriter. He had died of cancer only a few months before. Marv, who had been so kind to me, was the only Prep to get out of show business. He had died suddenly of a heart attack the year before. That left only Glen and Bruce; Glen had gone on to become the famous television producer of Glen Larson Productions. And Bruce, the clown of the group, the one who had so unabashedly loved performing, had formed a new singing group. He was no longer the sole Lead Singer, because his new group consisted of the Lead Singers from two other famous groups of earlier times as well--Jim Yester of the Association and David Somerville of the Diamonds. The Lead Singers were still performing even though, sadly, the Four Preps no longer existed.

His warmth, which I had remembered across the years, came across in his e-mails, and he and I discovered that we had a great many things in common. We rekindled our friendship and continued our relationship through e-mail. Of course we had memories in common, but we also found that our politics and philosophies were similar. We continued to write, and after a year, he told me he had an engagement in my city and asked me to set aside an evening to have dinner with him. It was almost as if I had once again won a radio contest.

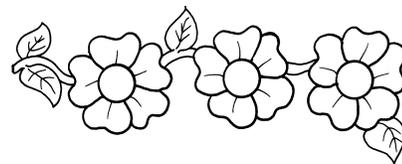
So, here I was, waiting in the airport for a man I hadn't seen in 42 years and more than a little anxious about it. I couldn't imagine what he would think of me after all this time. Finally the passengers started coming down the ramp. I knew I would know him right away and as he walked toward me I dropped my sign to the floor because it was obvious I wouldn't need it. We gave the watching lady what she wanted as we greeted each other with a big hug. It had been a very long time; but the years melted away and we immediately talked like the old friends we were.

So, after my first dinner sponsored by a radio station, I again had dinner with my friend. The years fell away,

and we caught up with each other's lives. We even learned that that we divorced from our mates at the same time in LA. We reminisced about the old times and our absent friends. We discussed the careers we had and the changes that had taken place in our lives and philosophies. We were full fledged "grown ups" now. We no longer had to pretend to be squeaky clean. We could be honest with each other. It opened up a new level of friendship. Both of us looked back and marveled at how young we were when we had last seen each other. We parted that evening grateful for a second chance at having a friend. We don't see each other often because we live halfway across the country, but we continue our relationship through e-mail.

Recently I caught a Lead Singers performance on national television. I watched them sing old and new songs, but what I saw was a skinny blond kid singing his heart out to an audience who loved him... and I couldn't help but notice that he still loved them right back.

How nice - I found myself thinking - that some things never change.



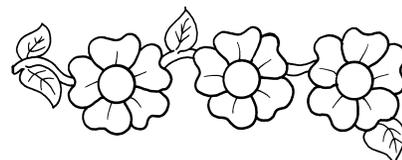
September - PBS SPECIAL "MAGIC MOMENTS: BEST OF 50'S POP"

On April 21, Jim and David joined original members of THE FOUR PREPS Bruce Belland and Glen Larson and performed as THE FOUR PREPS at the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City where they recorded an up-coming PBS Fund Raising Special which will be broadcast on PBS Stations across the nation in September.

This marks the first time in 30 years that THE FOUR PREPS have performed in public. The audience response was tumultuous.

Other artists on the show included: PAT BOONE, DEBBIE REYNOLDS, THE MAGUIRE SISTERS, THE FOUR ACES, THE FOUR LADS, THE FOUR COINS, GOGI GRANT, THE CHORDETTES, PATTI PAGE, THE CREW CUTS, THE PLATTERS & MEL CARTER.

Check your local TV listings for Broadcast Dates and Times



Hello Region6!

-by Dan Wilterding, RVC Region 6

WE HAVE WINNERS! (we knew that already)

Many are the standards of excellence and many are the examples to be found in Region6. Recent recipients of accolades on a national level include the following groups and individuals, some recognized for the first time and others acknowledged again for their contributions to Mensa and to society.

Community Activities Program

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Congratulations to San Antonio Mensa for their award in the Young Mensan category. This award recognizes the volunteer and service work done by young Mensans, perhaps they will share with us the secrets of their success.

Proctor of the Year Award

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Ray O'Connor, of North Texas Mensa, has been awarded the Abbie and named Proctor of the Year for 2004. His efforts and activities as a Proctor and Proctor Coordinator have been recognized as exemplary by his peers and deserving of this highest recognition.

CultureQuest®

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Region6 provided two teams in the top 20 this year: "Eureka", from Arkansas Mensa and headed by the renowned Duke Heath, came in 13th overall; and filling the #19 spot was "Butt Monkeys", representing North Texas Mensa and Captained by Christina Coon. These teams are among the most cultured in the nation, not only demonstrating great skills at long-term recall and mastery of cultural arcana but enriching the Scholarship Fund for their respective groups. Congratulations and many thanks to these winners and to all participants in CultureQuest® 2004.

Publications Recognition Program

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This program, in which the entrants in each category are assessed by their peers, is one in which Region6 traditionally excels and is again well-represented.

-- Print

BEST NEWSLETTER (SMALL GROUP)

"Mensokie", Nancy Park, Central Oklahoma Mensa

-- Web

CALENDAR

Central Oklahoma Mensa, Billy Mabray

MEMBERS ONLY SECTION

Gulf Coast Mensa, Lori Crews

SPECIAL MENTION

Central Oklahoma Mensa, Billy Mabray

SPECIAL MENTION

Arkansas Mensa, Marguerite M. MacLoch

-- Contribution

Non-Fiction (Mensa themed)

"TJM Rides the Flood of Literacy", The Joyce Lundeen

Again, many thanks and hearty congratulations to all who made this possible.

Comments, anyone?

Dan Wilterding - RVC6

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GenXers Unite

Did you know that Lonestar Mensa is #7 out of 136 local groups in percentage of members who are GenXers, accounting for 35% (165) of our local membership? So where are you? Danny South wants to know. He wants to meet other GenXers who are interested in starting or participating in some GenX exclusive activities. Danny plans to organize a monthly pub crawl. Contact Danny to find out when and where the first one is scheduled. How about the rest of you? What other activities interest you? Phone (670-3470) or e-mail Danny at dsouth@stewart.com, if you would like more information. Let him know your ideas, what you might be willing to organize or participate in, and how you would like to be contacted about GenX get togethers. (For you old folks, GenX means birth years 1961-1981.)

LonestaRG -- What's In It For Me?

-by John Neemidge, LonestaRG VI Chair

People ask all kinds of questions about LonestaRG, our annual Gathering (or convention). When you look at what they're really asking, though, it can be summed up as "What's in it for me?". I'm not surprised by this -- we're asking people to spend a holiday weekend with us and pay about \$50 a person to do it. Why should you make LonestaRG your holiday plan? The reasons are many; I'm going to talk about Fun, People, Events, and Food.

First, Fun. Fun is the biggest reason people go to Gatherings; in fact, the other categories really add up to More Fun. But it's worth looking at for itself. Gatherings are fun. They're fun whether you're a people person or prefer to just listen to speakers. They're fun if you like beer or wine; they're fun if you're a tee-totaler. They're fun if you like the food in hospitality; they're fun if you're on a strict diet and can't indulge. Why are Gatherings fun? Because they combine things that Mensans like -- intellectual stimulation on a variety of topics, games, conversation, food, dancing, prizes, a chance to help out the community a bit -- in a package that's uniquely Mensan. People have a good time at Gatherings -- that's why they keep coming back, and why we keep holding them. We try especially hard to welcome newcomers to the fun -- just put a "My First Time" sticker on when you check in at the registration desk, and you'll find people are eager to welcome you.

Next, People. Gatherings wouldn't be much fun without other Mensans. Like I said before, this is true whether you're a people person or not. Gatherings offer the possibility of talking one-on-one with others, participating in group activities, playing games, hanging out and eavesdropping on conversations in Hospitality, and maybe meeting someone special (my wife Geri and I met at a Gathering). In addition, we invite interesting people -- our speakers -- to come talk to us about all kinds of topics. Mensans being who we are, most of us seem to like learning something about nearly anything, and our speakers tend to be very interesting and knowledgeable about their subjects. So even if you don't want to talk to others all that much, there'll still be interesting people to listen to. And speaking of people -- yes, your family and your friends are welcome to come too. The more, the merrier!

Speakers lead us to Events. We'll have about a dozen speakers to listen to. At pretty much any time there's a speaker speaking, there'll also be some sort of interactive

event -- a game; a drawing event; a workshop on knitting, or writing your own obituary; or something of that kind. If neither the speaker nor the other event suit your interests, we have a Discussion Room for structured discussion on a variety of serious topics. If that's not your interest, there's the Hospitality rooms, where you can meet people or just munch. Adjacent to Hospitality we have a Game Room stocked with a variety of games. With all that going on, it's hard to be bored; the usual complaint is that there's too much to choose from.

And last, but certainly not least, we get to Food. Our Hospitality chair, Ray O'Connor, is legendary around Texas and across the country for his version of Gathering Hospitality. Ray bakes bread all weekend. He serves a variety of tasty dishes for meals, arranges a treat or two for dessert, and makes sure there's something good for breakfast. We have a number of other Hospitality volunteers, who make sure that we have salad, veggies, and other choices as well. And of course we stock a wide variety of soda, a number of kinds of beer, and several types of wine. All of this means that you don't have to leave the Gathering to eat -- you can, of course, but you don't have to.

Put it all together and it comes right back to Fun. LonestaRG VI will be a lot of fun. It'll be even more fun if YOU are there, because everyone who goes adds to the event. Where else can you listen to a dozen great speakers, play games, go to a dance, and eat and drink all weekend for only about \$50? Join us this Labor Day Weekend! If I haven't convinced you, please take a look at our website (<http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/lonestarg.htm>) where you can see all the fun people had last year, or give me a call (512-310-7863) or drop me an email (neemidge@usa.net) and I'll be happy to answer your questions.



RG Volunteers Needed

Some people have already volunteered to help with food at the RG. We will be contacting you as we get nearer to the RG. Ray O'Connor will be there to provide his usual hearty fare. I am looking for volunteers to bring salads and other lighter fare to add to the feast. If you can bring a salad or other dish for any of the lunch or dinner hours, please contact either John Neemidge or Karen Werner. Contact information is on the inside cover of the newsletter.

Games Night News and Changes

For the rest of the year 2004, Pot Luck and Games Night at Kelly and Steve's will be on the **THIRD** Saturday, rather than the fourth Saturday. During the fall, the fourth Saturday of the month hits conflicts with several holidays. Third Saturday games nights will mean that, among others, Thanksgiving and Christmas will not interfere with Games Night. So mark your calendars, please:

August 21
 September 18
 October 16
 and so on.

Second big change: odd-numbered months (September, November) will be "no children please" months. People age 13 and older will be welcome, but people under 13 are requested to stay home with a baby sitter. This is an attempt to include many people who have been hesitant to come to, or to return to, Games Night because they are unused to children or find it difficult to concentrate on games when children are around. Odd numbered months are for you, people! Even numbered months, children are welcome and we will attempt to provide, as ever, floor space, a few toys, and some kids type munchies, as we have in the past.

We hope these changes will allow more people to try out Games Night. We have a few new games, including Guillotine, that we'd like to share!

Baking Party

Come to a pre-RG baking party from 1-4pm on Sunday, August 8 and help prepare home baked goodies to serve in RG hospitality. We will provide mixers, baking pans, bowls, sugar, flour, eggs, vanilla, and chocolate chips. You bring your favorite recipes and any ingredients or specialty cookware not listed above.

Directions:

From 620 and 2222, go 2 ½ miles toward Mansfield Dam. Pass the light at Quinlan Park Road. The first and second right hand turns after Quinlan Park are both Marshall Ford Road. Take the second turn onto Marshall Ford Road.

Or:

From 620 and 71, take 620 past Mansfield Dam. About ½ mile past the dam, you will pass a convenience store. Pull into the left turn lane and slow down. Turn left onto Marshall Ford Road.

Then:

All on the left, you will pass a house with a wagon wheel fence, a vacant lot, and a yard with a blue canvas covered gate. The next driveway is my house. It's 4900 Marshall Ford Road and there are brass numbers on a pole by the driveway but none of the houses have numbers. White house with blue trim. If you pass trailers or the Baptist Church, you went too far. Call 266-8065 if you get lost.

AUGUST	1	Marion Alpern	20	James Robinson	BIRTHDAYS
		Hugh Brown	21	Rajiv Garg	
		William Worthington IV	22	Todd McCaskey	
	2	Selen Ustun	23	Paul Wilson	
	3	Betty Wolverton	24	Matthew Lawrence	
	5	Audrey Aucott-Meyers	25	Paula Beard	
	7	Jonathan Grabert	27	Wayne Johnnie	
	8	Martyn Hitchcock		Keith Loring	
	9	Allen Boyles	28	Allison Egger	
		Jerry Dike		Michael Milne	
		Leonard Doiron	29	Harry Howell Jr	
	12	Ellyn Petrovic	30	Lucille Russell	
	13	Leslie Bacon		W Randall Strahan Jr	
		James Nicholopoulos Jr		Donna Woodwell	
		James Schorr		Steve Young	
	17	Sally Ann Orr		Robert Miller	
		Charity Smith		Helen Siders	
		Gilbert Wildin		Harinath Thummalapalli	
18	Robert Shook III				

What's Happening in August

Tehank 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.

Tropical Adventure

Saturday, August 7

6:00pm

The Neemidges'

1807 Messick Place, Round Rock

(512) 310-7863

Join us and beat the heat at our annual Tropical Adventure party. Sip Mai Tais by (or in) the pool, pose for a picture with lei-be-decked ferrets, cook dinner on the grill, and enjoy the balmy tropical night. Wear something tropical, invite a friend or two, and bring a side dish or dessert to share and something to put on the grill, as well as your bathing suit and towel. We'll provide soda, water, and some munchies. RSVP's appreciated but not required.

Directions

From Mopac/1325: Take Mopac until it becomes 1325 (just stay on it - there will be signs saying freeway ends). You will hit a few stop lights, then Wells Branch Parkway which is a large intersection with a McDonalds on the right. The next light is Merriltown. At the second light after Merriltown, turn left onto County Road 172 (aka Quick Hill Road). There is a left turn lane and the road is only to your left (no way to turn right). When you turn you'll see where they are working on a new freeway overpass. This road dead ends on to McNeil. Turn left on McNeil. Take the third right, which will be Messick Loop West. The third left on Messick Loop West is Messick Place.

From 183: At the intersection of 183 and Spicewood Springs/McNeil Dr., take McNeil Dr. Go 3.3 miles on McNeil, past the light at Parmer and past the high school. Turn left onto McNeil-Round Rock Rd. Follow McNeil-Round Rock past the Austin White Lime plant for 2.3 miles. 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.

From I-35: Take the McNeil Rd. exit (from the north this will be the same as the 620 exit, from the south there is a separate exit). If coming from the south, turn left onto McNeil Rd; if from the north, turn right. Follow McNeil Rd. 1.7 miles. Eventually you will see Messick Loop East. Continue half a mile or so and take the next right at Messick Loop West. The third left on Messick Loop West is Messick Place.

From 620: Turn onto Deepwood Drive. Veer to the right toward Chisolm Trail Middle School (Cougar Lane). Turn Right on Oakridge Dr. Drive past the Middle School, over the creek and turn right on Creekview Drive. Turn right on Messick Loop. The fourth right is Messick Place.

Baking Party

Sunday, August 8

1:00-4:00pm

Margaret Wofford's House

4900 Marshall Ford Road, Austin

(512) 266-8065

See the announcement on page 10 for details.

ExComm Meeting

Tuesday, August 10

5:30pm

Supper Salad

2438 W. Anderson Ln, Austin

Contact Karen Werner at (512) 291-4677 to get an item on the agenda. All members welcome.

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, August 10

7:00pm

Austin Public Library

North Village Branch

2139 W. Anderson Lane, Austin

Please see page 4 for details.

Waco Area Mensa Get-Together

Wednesday, August 18

7:00pm

Barnes & Noble Café

4909 W. Waco Dr., Waco

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

Potluck SIG & Games Night

Saturday, August 21

6:00pm

Kelly Wagner & Steve Harsch's Home

1001 E. Riverside, Austin

(512) 443-9650

Theme: Corn. This could mean anything from corn on the cob to pecan pie made with corn syrup, by way of cornbread and indian pudding. Please call and let us know what you're bringing! Thanks. 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.

Fold & Sticker

Thursday, August 26

(at TGIT)

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

Ski SIG

February 5-13

The Ski SIG of American Mensa invites Mensa members worldwide to join us for a half-week or week+ of snow skiing the deep fluffy snow on the Rocky Mountains of Aspen and Snowmass. For details see

<http://lists.us.mensa.org/mailman/listinfo/skisig-announce> or contact John Adams, Trip2005@skisig.us.mensa.org, +1 713 666 9277, 8211 Fairhope Place, Houston, TX 77025-3201, USA.

2005 Post-AG Cruise

The 2005 AG in New Orleans will end with a Mensa cruise to Jamaica, the Cayman Islands and Cozumel. Extra-Special pricing until August 5, 2004. Details at <http://www.suitecruising.com/ag2.htm>

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August

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

2004