

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXXII Number 12
December 2005



La CARTE

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Corner(ed)!

Calendar Listings

Rachael Stewart, Editor

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Position vacant. Please contact Janet Kres (President) with questions or to volunteer.

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† -- Elected position (voting) ‡-- Appointed position (voting)

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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.

The News at 8

From the President

-by Janet Kres

Come to the Holiday Party! We will have a book exchange – bring a book, take a book – or bring more books and take more books. Find out what your fellow Mensans are reading these days.

Come to the Holiday Party, new Mensans and those fellow Mensans who have moved into our area! We will have a little gift for you! And we would really like to meet you!

Come to the Holiday party – we will have a White Elephant gift exchange!. Please wrap your gift. These will be placed on a side table, and those bringing gifts will draw numbers for the order to open gifts. After the second person opens, the “white elephant exchange begins”. You may then get ONE chance to trade your present for any present that has already been opened. If your present is taken, you get to open a new present. You can have only ONE present taken from you. At the end, the first person to open a gift gets a final chance for an exchange.

The ExComm wishes you a very happy holiday – and we look forward to seeing you at the Mensa functions.

Lonestar Mensa Revised Bylaws Approved

By a vote of 8 to 6, the Lonestar Mensa Revised Bylaws have been approved by the membership. You may view them in the August, 2005 newsletter, available in the archives at the Lonestar Mensa web site.

Election Results for Lonestar Mensa Officers for 2006

Total of 4 ballots were submitted by the deadline of 15 November 2006.

President: Janet Kres = 4
Vice President: John Neemidge = 4
Treasurer: Don Drumtra = 3
Member At Large: Margaret Wofford = 4
Member At Large: Michael Tolbert = 3
Member At Large: Helen Siders = 4
One Ballot did NOT contain a vote for all offices

Paul Anderson
Chair of Nominating Committee and Election Officer

Welcome New Mensa Members

Since January, 2005, the following new members have joined Lonestar Mensa:

Zachary Atkinson	Jamison Allen
Melissa Melton	Robert Frost
Alan Schmidt	James Koriath
Chris Ericson	David Loomis
Scott Kilpatrick	Krissy Morrow
Perry Minton	Martha Parker
Brad Reed	Sarah Tuchler
John Vanderburg	Patrick Walden
Darek Williams	Michael Hamilton
Casey Shaw	Samuel Shimek
Thomas Fleetwood	Erich Fruchnicht
Megan Peterson	Jeanie Tate
Elizabeth Malloy	Austin Meyer
Rachel Roe	Anita Earnest
Chris Heidel	Vijay Manyam
Jacob Miller	John Morrow
Rebecca Ouellete	Elton Wylie
Megan Hair	Barry Amn
Nancy Hester	Weitai Lu
Maggie Weaver	Darlene Pulliam
Geoffrey Forrester	Arturo Hernandez
Kelly Merriman	Jordan Wilkins

Welcome Fellow Mensans who have moved into the Lonestar group.

Since January, 2005, the following fellow Mensans have moved into our group:

Raudel S. Rodriguez	Eric Bickel
Don Chamley	Audrey Patton
Jackson Crosley	Howard Spiker
Scot Courtney	Richard Higgins
Deidre Brightman	Tanya Corman
Troy Crone	Travis Mason
Josh Thomas	Clifford Borofsky
Kenneth Heldenfels	Shannon Moody
David Postula	Tamara Sanderson
Richard Varnell	Ryan Walden
Jason Bargas	Ronald Edelstein
Sean Medley	Jeff Ridgeway
Michael Dauer	Emily Davis
Ryan Huber	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|----|--|
| 1 | John L Fike
Richard D Varnell | 18 | James Richard Boland
Gwendolyn Taylor |
| 2 | Josh Thomas | 19 | Sue Ricket Caldwell |
| 4 | Cara Walkup | 23 | Fred G Deats III |
| 5 | Aarne Hartikka | 26 | Michael Clinton Moyer |
| 6 | Walter R Barksdale, Jr | 28 | Sonya L Palmer
Austin G Meyer |
| 9 | Maggie Weaver | 29 | Jack Vincent Musgrove
Chris Heidel |
| 10 | Mary Jane Lockhart | 30 | Merlin D Darling
Mary L Hoane |
| 11 | Jane M Kominek | 31 | Arturo Hernandez |
| 13 | Heather Hall | | |
| 14 | Margaret Patricia Wofford | | |
| 16 | Shannon D Moody | | |
| 17 | Caryl Neman | | |



HAPPY (BELATED) BIRTHDAY

SEPTEMBER

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Alan K Christensen | 23 John C Foster |
| 2 George Palmer | Robert E Kiefer |
| 3 Harold A Cromwell | 24 Frederick C Bothwell III |
| 4 Michael Barker | Allen Vorwerk |
| 5 Joel Ogden | Tanya Corman |
| 7 Dan Allen Flanagan | 25 Beth Elaine Benton |
| 8 Brian Orrick | Katherine G Blair |
| 9 Barbara Erskine Bartlett | 26 Lynn Herrick |
| 11 Michael Martino | 27 Ames Bryan Hill |
| John Winkler | 28 Kim Brushaber |
| 12 Susan E Dancy | 30 Melissa Melton |
| Susanna Wilkinson English | |
| Jason Hartfield | |
| 16 William Darrell Cheek | |
| Harold V Morgan, Jr | |
| David Gilder | |
| 17 Dana Lynn Holland | |
| 18 Howard A Konetchy | |
| John David Lavendoski | |
| 21 Judy Stewart | |
| Anita Earnest | |



OCTOBER

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Melanie G Gover | 27 Marie Pierce |
| Robert Brian Holder | 28 W Andrew York |
| David Floyd | Kimberly Chapin |
| 3 Diane E Tominaga | 29 David R Travis |
| Thomas M Spillman, Jr | Terry L Cost |
| 4 Karen M Werner | |
| 6 Peter Gaylord | |
| 7 David Finkel | |
| 9 Kris Thom White | |
| 10 Robert Allan Larson | |
| Sally Pelow | |
| 11 Michael Dauer | |
| 14 Kelley Saveika | |
| 15 Vicky Yvonne Spradling | |
| Michelle R Miller | |
| 16 John D Perkins | |
| 17 Linda Joyce Streitfeld | |
| Leslie Edward Griffin, Jr | |
| 20 Taylor Thurston | |
| 23 Michael Bennett McCormick | |
| 25 Deidre Brightman | |
| Audrey L Patton | |
| 26 Robert I May | |



The RVC Report

-from Ray O'Connor RVC6

December 2005

October 22, National Testing Day was a huge success. In Region Six we tested 93 prospects. I am seeking a volunteer to be Region Six Testing Coordinator. The duties would be to help facilitate more testing sessions in Region Six and to coordinate help to the local testing coordinators as required.

Have you ever worked a long time toward a goal and when you were almost there realized you were not ready? We may have that situation. For the last couple of years our Marketing Director, Jim Blackmore, has been working toward getting testing sessions at the Texas State Fair. I pledged him my support. It is just possible that 2006 will be the year we succeed. However, if we do have the opportunity to promote American Mensa at the state fair, we will offer several testing sessions a day over a two week period. We will need a lot more proctor volunteers. Please consider becoming a proctor. It's easy and fun. You become the first Mensan new members meets. I have formed more than a few close friendships with those that I tested.

Contact me at rvc6@us.mensa.org to volunteer or for more information.

We are beginning to get pleas for help from our members who have been so devastatingly hurt by Katrina. It is beyond comprehension to have lost everything. As one member from New Orleans put it, "We have shopped at the Red Cross". The best help now is money. I would love to raise enough contributions to pay the annual dues for a year for those of our members who will not be able to afford to maintain their membership. This is a very controversial goal as developing the guidelines for such a fund has generated a lot of emotional responses. Please share with me your feelings on such a project.

Gatherings Calendar:

The World Gathering -- Aug 8 to Aug 13, 2006

The Coronado Springs, Disney World, FL

Registration: <http://wg06.us.mensa.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Registration>

Registration Rates: Member \$80, nonmember \$90, to March 31, 2006, April 1, 2006 to July 31, 2006 Member \$100, nonmember \$110, Onsite registration: \$120

Put on your mouse ears and come join Mensans from around the world. The resort is beautiful. There are more attractions and restaurants than you can visit in a month. Orlando is truly a vacation paradise. Disney and Mensa is definitely a winning combination.

November ExComm Meeting Minutes

-submitted by Margaret Wofford, V.P.

Attending: Janet Kres, President; Margaret Wofford, Vice President; Midge Kocen, Treasurer; and Helen Siders, Member at Large.

Janet convened the meeting at 6:03pm.

Janet distributed Mensa officer pins to attendees.

Janet reported that the bylaws amendments passed by a vote of 8 to 6 and asked Margaret to mail the approved amendments to National.

Janet recently spoke with a librarian about administering the Mensa test in a library meeting room and was informed that since all library meeting rooms are open to the public, if someone walked in and asked, she would have to give them the test for free. Since this is not possible, attendees discussed possible alternative test locations. Janet will be in Bryan during February on other business and plans to offer the test while she's there.

Midge presented the Treasurer's Report for September and attendees briefly discussed the group's financial position. Moved, Margaret, seconded, Midge, to take \$2,000 from operating funds to buy another CD. Motion passed, 3 ayes, 1 abstention.

Attendees discussed the pending scholarship award. Janet will ask Past President Karen Werner if she has information on who to send the award to. Attendees also discussed the timetable for the 2006 scholarship contest. Janet reported that Claudia Harbert is the current scholarship chair.

Janet asked attendees about their preference for monthly ExComm meeting dates for 2006. Those present preferred Monday at 6pm, but Janet will poll remaining ExComm members.

Janet adjourned the meeting at 6:50pm.

Good Readers Wanted

What could be better than an opportunity to help the local Mensa group, get involved, promote higher education, and help some high-school students further their education? Please, don't answer that question! But please do consider volunteering to be a SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM JUDGE!! We'll need 3 judges to meet in January or February to read the submitted 550-word essays submitted by high school and college students in our area. It will be fun! Have you judged in the past? Please consider helping again! Please let me know if you're interested! Please contact Claudia Harbert at 238-0205 or ceharbert@gmail.com.

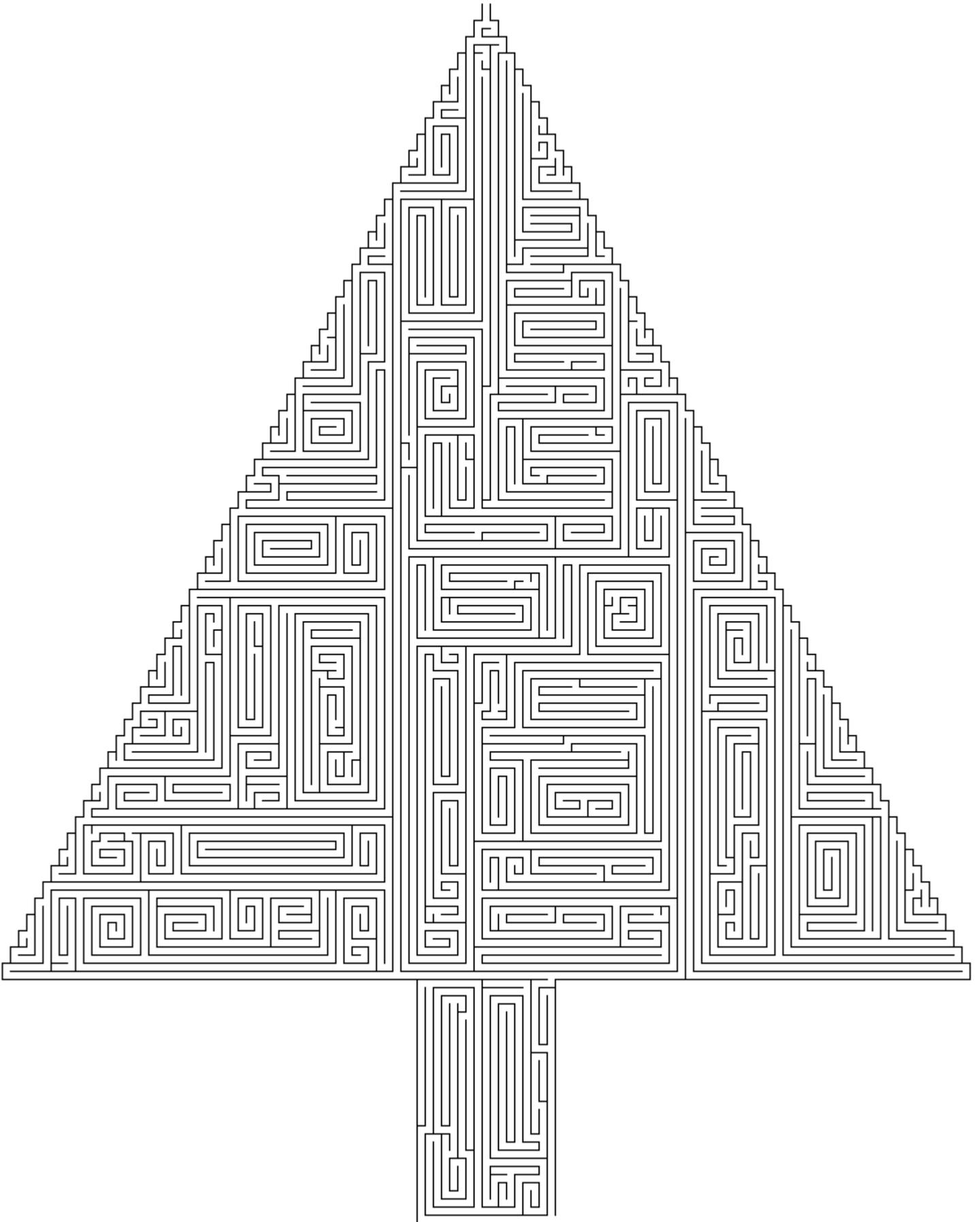


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How to Get on the Lonestar Mensa Email List

Go to the Lonestar Mensa Web page at

<http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org>

Go to the page with the officer photos and emails at the bottom.

Lonestar Mensa has two email lists; a chat list and an announcement list.

To subscribe to them send an email to "majordomo@lists.us.mensa.org with the message "subscribe lsm your-email-address" for the chat list or "subscribe lsm-announce your-email-address" for the announcement list.

The chat list averages about 40 emails a day. The announce list has 5 - 10 emails a month.

Corner(ed)!

*-rambles from Rachael
Stewart, Editor*



Personal plug: I'm performing, as a member of the St. David's Choir, in a FREE production of

Benjamin Britten's *St. Nicholas* on Saturday, 4 December. It's a joint effort by St. David's, St. Michael's, and the Austin Children's Choir. The performance is at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 1500 N. Capital of Texas Hwy, from 6:00-7:00p.m. You should come.

December is a busy month, by any measure I know. It includes 4 major festivals -- Hannukah, Solstice, Christmas, and Kwanzaa (I'd love to hear about others, if I've missed one... bookbird@yahoo.com). As a computer systems admin, it's the season for upgrades, installations, and rewiring since we can take advantage of all those days when almost no one's at work to be inconvenienced. I shudder to think what retail staff will endure in the next few weeks. For the rest of our so-called free time, there are holiday parties, family gatherings, extra rehearsals, rotating the closet from summer to winter gear, and cooking binges.

Have fun, get at least a little sleep, and "drive safe". I'll give you a wave in passing as I rush into next year.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DECEMBER?

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.

GenX Pub Crawl

Saturday, December 4

Host: Danny South (512) 371-3894

dsouth@stewart.com

8:00-8:45 Molotov Lounge 719 W 6th

9:00-9:45 Ginger Man 304 W 4th

10:00-10:45 Bitter End 311 Colorado

11:00-? Lovejoy's 604 Neches

ExComm Meeting

Wednesday, December 7 6:00pm

Northwest Recreation Center

2913 Northland Drive, Austin

Contact Janet Kres at (512) 836-5773 to get an item on the agenda. All members welcome.

Games Night

Saturday, December 10 7:00pm

Janet and Mark Kres' House (512) 836-5773

11708 Prairie Hen Lane, Austin

Bring munchies and/or your favorite games. BYOB.

Holiday Party

Sunday, December 18 1:00-4:00pm

American Legion Post Home

2201 Veteran's Drive, Austin

\$4.00 per person in advance or \$5 per person at the door. You can RSVP and pay using Pay Pal at <http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/hpreg.htm> or send a check to LSM's treasurer, Midge Kocen, 7021 Wood Hollow Dr, #247, Austin, TX 78731-2580. Festivities will include a book exchange and a white elephant gift exchange.

Fold & Sticker

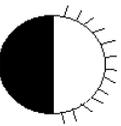
Wednesday, December 29 6:00pm

Central Market, Austin. See TGIT for directions.

Help us assemble the newsletter!

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December						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1  TGIT	2	3  GenX Pub Crawl
4	5	6	7  ExComm	8  TGIT	9	10  Games Night
11	12	13	14	15  'Dillo Deadline	16	17
18 Holiday Party	19	20	21 	22  TGIT	23	24
25 	26  Kwanzaa	27	28	29  Fold & Sticker	30	31

2005