

# *Armadillo Literary Gazette*

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

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May 2005



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**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.

## Listen Up!

*-by Karen Werner, President*

If you haven't thrown away your March Mensa Bulletin, please pull out the \$5 off coupon for new member testing and drop it off at TGIT on Thursday, or mail it to me, Karen Werner, 9110 Curlew Drive, Austin 78748. We've got new members coming on board every month in Lonestar Mensa. Let's keep encouraging that growth.

As you've noticed, spring/early summer is upon us. The lakes have warmed up. People are swimming in the gulf and picnicking in the parks. Join other picnickers at Hugh Brown's house the first weekend in May. Go to Houston's Regional Gathering over Labor Day Weekend. Both of these events will hook you up with a variety of fellow Mensans, so put them on your calendar.

While you're at it, join in at TGIT, the Gen-X Pub Crawl, Poker Night or Hump Day Happy Hour. Games Night is taking a month off for the holiday, and will be held at Ron Theriault's home in June.

If you want to host any type of event, let me know. Otherwise, watch the calendar to see what's planned next. And watch for a questionnaire next month asking you for your personal input on Lonestar Mensa's functions and activities.

## Hello Region 6!

*-by Dan Wilterding, RVC Region 6*

By now your Bulletin has arrived and you've had the chance to look over the ballot. You \*have\* looked at the ballot, right? Several items of importance appear, among them are bylaws amendments (national and international) and offices to be filled (regional, national and international). Given the rather dismal norm -- less than 10% voter turnout -- those of you that bother to cast your votes will have greater impact on the outcome than your numbers would suggest. If you're concerned about matters Mensan (and I certainly hope you are) please take the time to vote in this election.

The World Gathering will be held in Orlando next year and Maggie Truelove, the WG06 Program Chair, is looking among the membership for a few good speakers. Please contact her soon (contact info below) if you or someone you know might be willing to help her out with this.

Vote. Please vote.

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504 West Atchley Drive, Granbury, Texas 76048



**LonestarRG**

4 days of fun, food, discussion, and sin

## Don't Resist Temptation!

- Speakers on the Seven Deadly Sins in their many forms
- Fire & Brimstone Ball
- Games and contests
- Scholarship raffle
- Discussion Room
- 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!

Join us on Labor Day Weekend, Sep. 2-5, 2005, for a weekend of sinful fun at Lonestar Mensa's seventh annual RG! Be the Envy of your friends! Find Lust at the Fire & Brimstone Ball, take Pride in the games and contests, enjoy a little Sloth at the late night pool and hot tub, Greed at the prizes, and Gluttony in Hospitality. Bring the whole family - you won't leave Angry! Registration is only \$45 until June 4th (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 Mark & Janet Kres, P.O. Box 80635, Austin, TX 78708-0635; 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

## Tearing Down the Iron Curtain

*-by Jane Thompson*

I've been single for thirty years, so have had my share of relationships. They usually end for the same mundane reasons: "Yeah, I know I told you I was divorced, but...", "Yes, I said I wasn't married, and I'm not, but I have this live-in relationship...", or, "I've got to leave town for a couple of months, but I'll let you know when I'm coming back..." When you haven't heard for 25 years, you can assume the dude is gone.

Anyway, one of my relationships terminated for rather a unique reason, and I've always wondered if I have this power, once I am in a relationship, to change the world just to make sure that it doesn't work out. I met him at a New Year's Eve party. He was good-looking, funny, intelligent, and just about my age. Possibilities.

He told me his name was Lazlo, and that he was from Fort Worth. With a little sparring, I found that he was originally from Hungary. After we dated for a while, I learned his story. Just like everyone else my age, I watched the Hungarian Revolution of '54 on television, but certainly never thought I'd meet someone who participated. Lazlo said he was only 14 at the time, and the adults in his apartment house boarded up the windows and locked the front door to keep the children safe. Lazlo, though, escaped over the roof to join the fun. And he said it was glorious to taste freedom for a short time. It was only a very short time for him, because a ricochet caught him in the elbow and ended his revolution.

He wanted to make a run for it while the door remained open in the south, but his mother begged him not to leave her. She managed to talk him out of it, and he said he regretted it for years. "In Hungary," he said in perfect American idiom if not accent, "I couldn't get any air." He went on to go to school, marry and have two children, but he chafed constantly under the system. Finally he was thrown in prison for a year for refusing to inform on coworkers. That did it. He determined then to escape, no matter what.

Lazlo and his wife managed to get visas for a vacation in Yugoslavia. He explained that was a mistake on the government's part, that normally a married couple would not both receive visas to a country on the coast. They had their escape planned, when the day before their departure, his wife's visa was pulled. It was too late for Lazlo, he had already made up his mind. He and his wife decided that he would escape with the four year-old and she would follow him with the two year-old later.

In Yugoslavia, he made his preparations and waited for Saturday night. Saturday night because coastal patrols were laxer then, he suspected. He then set out on a rubber raft,

with a bottle of water and his four-year old boy tied to his back. He paddled all night, all the way across the Adriatic Sea. He made it. He was greeted happily by the Italians, but his goal was America. And he made it there, to New York. He was unhappy in New York, working in a hotel, when a Texan told him that opportunities and space were in abundance in Texas. So he came to Ft. Worth. There he regularly worked two or three jobs, but was able to buy a house and car and raise his boy.

His wife got a divorce, automatically, courtesy of the government. It came through the mail six months after Lazlo's escape. She was never able to get a visa that would allow her to get close enough to a coast to escape. Because she worked in a ministry, she had access to long distance, but they could never talk of escape or really anything but the children because their calls were monitored. When I met him, Lazlo had not seen his wife or his younger son in 15 years. The son he had raised was in the U.S. Marines; the son he left behind was in the Hungarian army. His nightmare was that somehow we would get involved in a war and his boys would wind up fighting each other.

As an aside, I read that those involved in the Manhattan Project insisted that the Hungarians they worked with were not Hungarians at all, but space aliens. This because of their extreme intelligence and the heavy accents they never lost. I think that I have a clue to that. I was in the movies with Lazlo when the name of the production company came up on the screen. Lazlo said, "OR-i-on." I automatically corrected him, "o-RI-on." He said, "How do you know that?" And I answered, "I just do, it's something you learn." He explained then that it is much easier in Hungarian as the first syllable of a word is always the one accented. No wonder they never lose their accent--they continue to stress the first syllable of every word, which sounds very strange to English ears.

Anyway, we dated for about six weeks, which is just long enough for a good start. I couldn't see anything that was going to mess this one up, but then, you don't always see it coming. One night he called, anxiety causing his voice to tremble. He had just received a letter from his wife, informing him that if he sent her \$500 to bribe some government official, she could buy a plane ticket to Fort Worth. His whole world had suddenly turned upside down. "Would she really come? Would she like it here? Did I think she would stay?" I made reassuring noises and was just as much in disbelief as he was.

After her visit, he called one more time to let me know that everything was great. She loved it in Fort Worth, she loved his house, she was moving to America. They had gotten remarried. He was so happy. That was, of course, the last time I heard from him. Damn. Dated a guy for six weeks, and the whole communist government crumbles. Score one for me.

## April EX COMM Meeting Minutes

*-submitted by Janet Kres, Vice President*

6 April 2005

EX COMM members attending were Karen Werner, Janet Kres, Margaret Wofford, Kelly Wagner, and Steve Harsch. Member Helen Siders attended the meeting.

Karen called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. The current income statement, emailed by Treasurer Kathie Blair was reviewed. Margaret suggest changing the format to reflect each individual monthly operating budget and one Year to Date budget. There was also a question on the subscription amount between February and March. Margaret suggested the budget show by category to the prior year – there would be a Budget column and a Prior Year Actual column for each category. Karen suggested tracking the postage for membership as a separate category.

Karen stated she has reviewed the postal rules and that any kind of printing except stenciling and mimeograph will qualify for the bulk postal rate. It will be possible to Xerox the newsletter. There are significant problems with the current printer, so a new resource will be sought.

7 applicants have been tested in March and April. Janet is attempting to reserve a meeting room at the Texas State Library and Archives for a May 14 test date. The room has not yet been confirmed. Karen requested that members send her the discount card for testing found in the March Bulletin, or bring it to TGIT.

Karen stated the EX COMM will get an update on the RG next month.

Kelly gave an update on the games night changes. Kathie will host in April and Ron Theriaut will host in June. Games night is on a rotating schedule.

Karen said that the North Village library is now available for monthly meetings. There was general agreement that the monthly meeting should return to the North Village library.

Karen pointed out the new rotating event in the calendar, hosted by Don Jarvis.

Karen stated that there will be a mail out from National to local group officers who have not renewed their membership. In accordance with Lonestar by laws, any officer not renewed has already been dropped.

Karen reviewed the community activity opportunities with the EX COMM. Several good ideas were generated, including donation of books to the local library, and presentation of historical information to school classes.

*(Continued on page 7...)*

## Springtime in the Country

*-an invitation from Hugh Brown*

Friday and Saturday, May 6 and 7

Host: Hugh Brown

Come on Friday and camp out overnight or on Saturday and spend the day at my home in the country. You can swim, fish, pick dewberries, walk trails through the woods, watch birds, explore, wander aimlessly, or just hang out and relax and enjoy being here. This place is 153 acres, so there is plenty of room. I got the cows out about 30 years ago and the land has been going toward climax ever since. This is not a mowed park; this is nature running wild. I have a good pond for fishing and swimming. It is about 2 or 3 acres and surrounded by cypress trees.

For walking around or berry picking I strongly recommend long pants and serious shoes. On the other hand, this place is quite secluded and in true country tradition clothing is optional for swimming, sunbathing, or anything else.

Bring what food you plan to eat and whatever gear you will want for the weekend: camping equipment, fishing tackle, birding binoculars, berry-picking containers, insect repellent, etc.

This place is becoming wilderness, so wilderness rules apply. No smoking, no campfires, no trash on the ground. If you want a cooking fire, bring a charcoal briquette grill or similar item. Being wilderness, there is some poison ivy here and there as well as some insects and other wildlife to be watched out for, but you are Mensans and know about such things.

You'll have a good time here. There's lots you can do, but it's also peaceful and quiet, a good place to think. I've been running the discussion group at the RG's for years. If you have ever wondered where I get my ideas, this is where. Come see why I live here and not in Austin. We'll have fun.

How to get here: I am about 40 miles east of Austin. Take U.S. 290 east from Austin. Go through Elgin and continue about 4 more miles to the intersection of Farm Road 696 and U.S. 290. There is a Mobil gas station on the left at the intersection. Turn left (north) on 696. Go 12 miles to the tiny community of Blue. On the far edge of Blue turn left (north) on County Road 309. At this intersection on the right is the Blue Volunteer Fire Department building, which faces County Road 309 south a bit farther on.

Come up 309 north two miles to the first intersection and take the sharp right turn east onto County Road 316. Mine is the second entrance on the left, less than 1/4 mile from the intersection. My name is on a wildlife association sign

on the fence to the right of the gate. The place is very obviously ungrazed. The gate will be open. Come on in. My driveway is two tire tracks through the grass. They are well graveled; stay on them. The ground can be soft out to the side. It's about 1500 feet up to the house. I'll see you there.

RSVP and any questions, please phone me at 512-273-2618 or email nt5o@arrl.net.

### Vagueness

*-an invitation to Seniors from Don Jarvis*

Gathering geezers is tough. Next time I'd like to discuss vagueness. Here are two web essays on the subject.

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/vagueness>

<http://www.bu.edu/wcp/Papers/Meta/MetaTorr.htm>

I would like to discuss sections 4 and 5 of the first one, supervaluation and "is it linguistic". The second seems unnecessarily abstruse and is included, less for discussion, than for illustration.

Since nobody joined me last time I'm thinking there could have been people who didn't see my copy of the newsletter standing on my table and didn't know who to join. Look for a goddess of wisdom reclining on a stone bench on a clipboard. I'll be at Mr Gatti's (2931 W Anderson Ln) in the little strip mall on Rockwood Lane, just south of Anderson, on Monday, May 16, at 5:27pm. Rockwood crosses Anderson about midway between Burnet and Mopac.

### Good-bye Picnic

Saturday May 21 4:00 pm  
Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest Park  
7000 Ardath Street, Austin

Come join hosts Margaret Wofford and Geri Neemidge as we celebrate long time LSM members Kelly Wagner and Steve Harsch who will be moving to Baltimore soon. Kelly and Steve have served as volunteers for LSM in many capacities, on the board, at pledge drives and book sales, and as hosts for games nights and other parties. This is your chance to say farewell.

We will meet at the picnic tables near the playgrounds and bathrooms. There is a large grill there. Bring a main course and beverages for yourself (we'll have the grill going for everybody to use) and a side dish or dessert to share. There is seating there on benches at the tables but some people also bring lawn chairs. Also - bring your family or your pet if you'd like to.

Directions:

Take the Anderson Lane exit East off of Mopac (Loop 1). Turn right on Burnet Road. Turn right on Pegram Avenue. Turn right on Ardath.

### May Monthly Meeting

The May Monthly Meeting will be held on Monday, May 23, 2005, beginning at 7:00 p.m., at the Howson Library, 2500 Exposition Blvd.

Our speaker will be Carol Harwell, spokesperson for Austin Energy's Green Choice Program. Ms. Harwell will tell us about the city's much touted program, Green Choice, which lets citizens and businesses choose to purchase electricity made from clean, renewable energy sources. She will talk about Austin Energy's clean air initiatives, including the utility company's efforts to promote more environmentally friendly power sources, such as wind power generation.

Ms. Harwell will also talk about Austin Energy's Energy Conservation Programs, which provide rebates and low interest loans to consumers, in addition to offering free weatherization for qualifying customers. The city has a list of vendors willing to provide inspections and offer recommendations for cooling system repairs and improvements. Learn how the city can help you afford needed or desired improvements or repairs to your entire heating and cooling system before another summer arrives in Austin.

1 Mr Mark Howard Kubiak	<b>Happy Birthday</b>
2 Jane K Thompson	
John Vanderburg	
3 Mrs Janice H Brasher	
Mr John C Venthem	
4 Joshua D Hull	
6 Michael Riggs	
8 Michael Hamilton	
10 Thomas Ostegard	
Lynn Skaggs	
12 Mr Robert Alan Dollars	14 Cynthia Bourland
Michael Dworaczyk	Brad Reed
Donald Gordon Jarvis	Dr James E Turney Jr
13 Anne Bohy	16 William Eric Hungate
William Jent PhD	19 David Wayne Madden
	20 Raymond Doo
	Richard Cann Montgomery
	21 Ryan Rozich
	22 Sfc Russell Eugene Nelson
	23 Josephine West McNamee
	24 Ronald Joseph Theriault
	25 Logan Simmons
	28 Ms Claudia Ellis Harbert
	29 Cathryn Leigh Cox
	Lesley Carol Gonzalez

**May**

# What's Happening in May?

## 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 38<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> Streets. Central Market is the anchor store. Central Market Café is adjacent to Central Market on the south side. We meet upstairs.

## ExComm Meeting

Wednesday, May 4 6:00pm

Northwest Recreation Center

2913 Northland Drive, Austin

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

## Springtime in the Country

Friday, May 6 - Saturday, May 7

Hugh Brown's Place, Blue, TX (512) 273-2618

Please see pages 5 & 6 for details and directions.

## GenX Pub Crawl

Saturday, May 7 7:00pm

Host: Danny South (512) 670-3470  
dsouth@stewart.com

7:00 Gingerman 304 W 4th  
8:30 Fado 3rd and Lavaca  
9:30 Bitter End 310 Colorado  
10:30 Lovejoy's 6th and Neches  
11:30 Casino el Camino 517 E 6th

## Senior's Pizza @ Mr. Gatti's

Monday, May 16 5:53pm

Mr. Gatti's

Hart Lane and Far West Blvd, Austin

Host: Don Jarvis djarvis2@austin.rr.com

If you were born before 1944 and want to share old times, pizza, and good books, see page 6 for a description of this event.

## Hump Day Happy Hour

Wednesday, May 18 6:00pm

Opal Divine's, 700 W. 6th (corner of Rio Grande)

Meet fellow Mensans at Opal Divine's to eat, drink and be merry. The hostess will tell you where we are.

## Waco Area Mensa Get-Together

Wednesday, May 18 7:00pm

Barnes & Noble Café

4909 W. Waco Dr., Waco

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

## Good-Bye Picnic

Saturday, May 21 4:00pm

Northwest Park, Austin

Neemidges (512) 310-7863

See page 6 for description and directions.

## Poker Night

Saturday, May 21 7:00pm

Karen Werner's House

9110 Curlew Drive, Austin (512) 291-4677

Penny ante poker; fun times guaranteed. Please RSVP to Karen at karen\_lsmmense@yahoo.com or 512-291-4677 by Friday evening. Bring munchies; BYOB.

Directions:

From I-35, go south and exit on Slaughter Lane, Exit 227. Go west (right) on Slaughter for 3.0 miles to the first stoplight past McDonald's. You'll see a sign for Tanglewood Forest. This is Curlew Drive. Turn right at the stoplight and go approximately 0.5 miles, just past Wilcrest. 9110 Curlew Drive is a stone façade house with pink trim on the left.

From MoPac, go south to Slaughter Lane and turn left (east) at the stop light. The fourth stoplight (the first light past Brodie Lane and just past the signs for Tanglewood Forest) is Curlew Drive. Turn left on Curlew Drive and travel 0.5 miles, just past Wilcrest. 9110 Curlew Drive is a stone façade house with pink trim on the left.

## Monthly Meeting

Monday, May 23 7:00pm

Austin Public Library, Howson Branch

2500 Exposition Blvd., Austin

Please see page 6 for details.

## Fold & Sticker

Thursday, May 26 (at TGIT)

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

### *(Excomm Minutes continued...)*

Karen regrettably reported that no other Mensans attended the zoo event with Charity. Karen will do an article in the news letter concerning testing of minors and what would qualify for membership.

Karen informed the group that National is soliciting articles for the Bulletin. This will be shared with the announcement list and also an article in the newsletter.

Kelly and Steve will have a farewell party on Sunday, June 5th.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

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<b>May</b>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 TGIT	6 Springtime in the Country	7 Spring Cont. GenX Pub Crawl
8	9	10	11 ExComm Meeting	12 TGIT	13	14
15 'Dillo Deadline	16 "Over 65" Pizza	17	18 Happy Hour Waco Area Mensa	19 TGIT	20	21 Good-Bye Picnic Poker Night
22	23 Monthly Meeting	24	25	26 TGIT Fold & Staple	27 SynRG begins in Houston	28
29	30	31				

**2005**