

# *Armadillo Literary Gazette*

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXXIII Number 1  
January 2006

HAPPY

NEW

YEAR

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

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\* -- Appointed position (non-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.

## From the President

- a.k.a. Janet Kres

January 2006

Dear Fellow Mensans:

Happy New Year!! We wish you a happy, healthy, prosperous, and fun 2006!!

As we start the New Year together, I would like to hear from you – what would you like to see happen at Lonestar Mensa? Do you have suggestions for programs? We want to know the interests of our chapter – would a needlework/ sewing get-together or movie group or a book review group interest you? Would you be interested in pursuing your favorite sport – either as a participant or spectator? Please let me know at either 836-5773 or email [jmkres@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmkres@sbcglobal.net).

And speaking of fun – last month's games night introduced us to Balderdash!! That is a great game!!

Our January Speaker is Pat Flathouse, who will speak on "Writing Our Stories – Snippet by Snippet". Pat's professional background includes a career of teaching and counseling. Pat has been the volunteer director of the Austin OWL (Older Woman's Legacy) Circle the past four years. She facilitates writing workshops, coordinates project activities, and trains facilitators for the OWL program. She has also organized the continuing OWL Writing circle for women who have completed an OWL-Circle and want to continue writing. Pat is the author (with Susan Albert and Catherine Cogburn) of the book, *Your Life, Your Story*. This is a book designed to help women write stories about themselves and their experiences. Pat is also a genealogist and has just finished a book, *Priceless Legacy*, designed to help women write the stories of their family history. She also teaches workshops and classes on stress management and wellness. Pat is currently serving on the board of the Story Circle Network.

See you at future events!

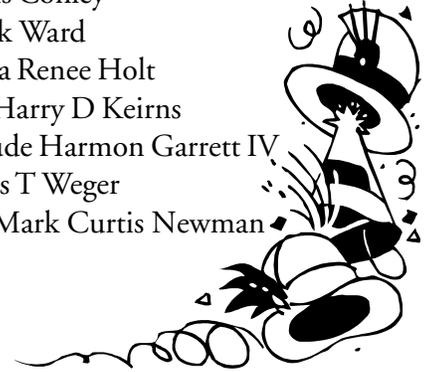
Janet Kres



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## Geburtstage!

- Robert W Frost
- Jeffrey S Reeh
- Mr Paul F Memrick
- David Allan Young
- Larry Scarborough
- Donald T Hayes
- Aaron Brauch
- Don Charnley
- A Jon Empey
- Laura Richardson
- Chris Conley
- Mark Ward
- Paula Renee Holt
- Mr Harry D Keirns
- Claude Harmon Garrett IV
- Hans T Weger
- Mr Mark Curtis Newman



## ¡Bienvenido a Lonestar Mensa!

### **New Members:**

- Brad J. Coleman
- Tamsyn D. Sprott
- Paul R. Lillich
- Kelly L. Munguia
- Oscia Timschell
- Brooke Redden
- Mamta Jayavardhan
- Amy R. Neuzil
- Amy Hoffman
- Leah Miller

### **Moving In:**

- Ben Lawrence
- Mary "Penny" Whytlaw
- Dr. Leon Morris Waynberg
- Michael C. Wheeler
- Jennifer Nowak



## Words Are Spoken Here

*-By Tom Ferguson (of North Texas Mensa, possibly on behalf of M Radio SIG -- Ed.)*

A picture may be worth a thousand words, but in some cases a sound and a few words can convey a thousand unspoken feelings. And that is the whole idea behind the listening of stories, plays and poetry instead of just reading them.

The art of story-telling is being practiced at local libraries, on public radio, at story-telling guilds and clubs, and at poetry slams in Dallas' Deep Ellum and nationally. Readings of plays goes on monthly at both the Hub Theater and at the Bath House Cultural Center. Radio dramas are recreated locally and in ever expanding national venues.

Imagine, for example, the difference between reading the line "Who knows what danger lurks in the hearts of men?" as opposed to hearing it spoken in a dramatic tone accompanied by a dark, evil laugh. The sound version is surely more potent, which is why audio drama and its close cousin, "spoken word," got started in the first place. No wonder it is called the theater of the mind.

Ever since such popular shows as "The Shadow" drew people to radios in the 1930s and '40s, audio drama -- or plays and vignettes performed vocally with no visual aspects -- have held a place in American culture. And spoken word -- or poetry that is "performed" by speaking it dramatically -- has claimed cultural turf since Socrates or even earlier when ancient hunters sat around the fire and recounted the day's hunt.

Spoken word and audio drama continue to play a part in today's culture, but not in the same way as in their heydays. During the past few decades, the overwhelming popularity of film and television has displaced these dramatic forms. How often does your family sit and read or tell stories to each other? While you may read stories to young children, has the practice continued to adulthood? Amazingly, however, an unlikely medium -- the Web -- has reinvigorated these classic art forms and is making them increasingly more popular.

Thanks to the Web, people who already love the spoken-word form can easily find hundreds of free sites dedicated to the topic and can play on-demand, download or even stream files for listening. Fans can also hear audio drama streamed, or played live, from some radio stations' Web sites.

And people who may have never encountered these art forms

can discover them more easily as they browse large sites where audio drama, audio books, or spoken word is sold in increasing quantities. While it takes more effort to happen across a spoken-word performance in person, it isn't at all difficult to click on a link leading to a spoken-word category on a Web site.

A critical part of the phenomenon is peoples' ability to easily stream, or listen to spoken word on their computers, MP3 players, or ipods. Another reason for the popularity spurt is that the Web allows geographically far-flung segments of a small art community to connect and create a larger niche.

M Radio, national Mensa SIG, discusses and trades Old Time Radio shows in the public domain from the 30's - 60's and also will review/read scripts and create podcasts from both original and old radio shows. Original works are to be in MP3 format and may be readings from poetry, short stories, novels, or multi-cast performances from new and old scripts. Contact Tom Ferguson at (972) 495-5252 or 2938 Beltline Rd. #905, Garland TX 75044 or at [radiomensa@podomatic.com](mailto:radiomensa@podomatic.com).

Live Spoken Word Performances:

DFW Playwrights' Alliance and the Dallas HUB Theater  
<http://shane-arts.com/dallashub.htm>  
ECHO READS at the Bathhouse  
<http://www.bathhousecultural.com/echoreads2005.html>  
Texas Radio Theater Company  
<http://www.texasradiotheatre.com/>

Audio Drama:

L.A. Theatre Works -- <http://www.latw.org/Radio/stations.aspx>  
Radio Tales -- <http://www.radiotales.com/>  
Monterey Media -- <http://www.montereymedia.com/>  
Annie Vox site -- <http://sybil.org/vox/>  
KCRW/FM (Los Angeles) -- <http://www.kcrw.org/> (Public Radio Web site that streams audio drama.)  
Talking History <http://talkinghistory.org/>  
Jewish Short Stories from KCRW Public Radio <http://www.kcrw.org/jewish/frames/jss1.html>

Old Time Radio:

Old Time Radio <http://otr.sytes.net>  
Zoot Radio <http://www.zootradio.com>  
Radio Lovers <http://www.radiolovers.com>  
BBC Radio 4 - Arts and Drama <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/arts/>  
BBC Radio 7 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbc7/>

Dirk Galaxy - Space Detective  
<http://www.net-ertainment.com/dirk/>  
M Radio <http://radiomensa.podomotic.com>

Poetry:

Great American Poets Lecture Series  
<http://www.poetspath.com/apg/apgls.html>

Audio Books :

Audio Books For Free <http://www.audiobooks4free.com>  
Librivox <http://librivox.org/>  
Spoken Alexandria Project <http://www.spokenalex.org/>  
Mister Ron's Basement <http://slapcast.com/users/revry>  
Maria Lectrix <http://marialectrix.blogspot.com/>  
Public Domain Podcast  
<http://publicdomainpodcast.blogspot.com/>  
Stories To Go <http://storiestogo.blogspot.com/>  
VoxPop Radio <http://www.alexporcaro.com/voxpath/>



## **Region 6 Report**

*-Ray O'Connor RVC6*

December 2005

The quarterly AMC meeting was held in Phoenix Arizona on Saturday, December 3rd. There are a number of issues and developments to report on as a result of that meeting. . .

\* A by-laws amendment passed, rescinding the language that mandated the use of paper ballots during election cycles. A special referendum will be held in the spring to determine whether or not electronic ballots will be made available during the 2007 elections.

\* Project Inkslinger may soon be reinvigorated! Does your local groups have a "Project Inkslinger" Coordinator. If any

of you are serving in this position or would be willing to work in such a capacity, please send an email to [inkslinger@us.mensa.org](mailto:inkslinger@us.mensa.org).

\* There was a motion to create a "Mensan-helping-Mensan" fund. The idea was to create a fund that would be used to make annual dues payments for Mensans facing financial difficulties. The motion failed as the majority of the board felt that the need would be more appropriately addressed at the Local Group level. I was one of the sponsors of this motion and am very disappointed that the issues of administration of such a fund were insurmountable.

\* Congratulations to the Colorado Mensa consortium for being awarded the 2008 AG! Special thanks to Cookie Bakke for negotiating an incredible hotel contract. Expect old-fashioned hospitality, a great room rate and lots of space for programs.

\* Mind Games 07 was awarded to Western Pennsylvania Mensa, and will be held in Pittsburgh, PA.

\* There was a motion to amend ASIE 1995-080, which deals with funding the AMC members' hotel and meals during the upcoming WG in Orlando. Originally the ASIE called for funding for 3 days for some AMC members and 5 days for the elected officers. The vote amended the ASIE to fund all AMC members for 5 days. I was the mover of this motion. If you disagree with this action, please contact me on [RVC6@us.mensa.org](mailto:RVC6@us.mensa.org). I would be happy to discuss my reasoning.

Gatherings Calendar:

The World Gathering Aug 8 to Aug 13, 2006 The Coronado Springs, Disney World, FL Registration  
[wg06.us.mensa.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=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.

Colloquium 2006 "Revolution in Cosmology". The Marriott Hotel in Albany New York, October 6-8. You can register for the event online at [www.colloquium.us.mensa.org](http://www.colloquium.us.mensa.org)

## Mini Minutes of the Meeting of the American Mensa Committee

December 3, 2005  
Tempe, Arizona

Appointments: Ed Raper, Gifted Children's Outreach Coordinator; Alan Baltis, Local Group Funding Task Force Chairman; and Henry Miller, Local Group Premises Feasibility Task Force Chairman. Committee Chairs appointed were: Dr. John Sheehan, Name & Logo; Bob Beatty, Structure Review; and Dave Remine, Hearings Review.

A new volunteer position was created for a National Events Hotel Consultant to assist in hotel consulting and negotiations, if requested by a group interested in hosting a national Mensa event. This position will be effective April 1, 2006.

The bid of the Denver Consortium to host the 2008 Annual Gathering in Denver, Colorado July 2-6, 2008, was accepted, subject to the receipt of Host and Hotel Contracts acceptable to the Executive Committee.

AMC members who are not members of the Mensa International Board of Directors (IBD) will be funded for two additional days in order to attend the official IBD meeting and activities at the World Gathering in August, 2006.

For the purposes of reporting income and expenses, local groups that exceed the IRS threshold for nonprofit organizations (currently \$25,000) in annual gross revenue shall be included in the financial activity of AML, for annual reporting to the IRS. Local groups that have been granted a separate IRS filing status shall report this activity to the IRS as required and also provide a copy of the IRS form to the Mensa national office. In the event of a local group hosting a national event (Annual Gathering, Colloquium, or other activity), it shall be included in the financial activity of AML or the Mensa Education and Research Foundation.

Policy for internet communications was amended to remove the ban on electronic versions of member directories for Local Groups, provided these are only available for download via the secure web site under the auspices of Internet Services.

The AMC will hold an annual planning session each year in Arlington, Texas, at the fall AMC meeting, beginning in 2007.

Proposed amendments to the Bylaws of American Mensa, Ltd. that will enable electronic voting will be submitted to

a special referendum of the members.

The next meeting of the AMC will be March 24-26, 2006, in Greenville, South Carolina.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Vasiliauskas, Secretary, AMC



### Mind Games

*-Ray O'Connor, RVC6*

Next question: what do roses, games, and playful Mensans have in common?

Answer: you'll find them at the upcoming Mind Games in Portland, OR, the Rose City, from April 21-23, 2006.

Mind Games is an intense weekend of play, a marathon of gaming, and an experience you're never likely to forget. And judging by the many Mensans who make it an annual outing, it's something not to be missed.

From Friday to Sunday, Mensans play, judge, and critique games released in the past year and award the coveted Mensa Select seal to the top five. Past winners include Scattergories, Trivial Pursuit and Taboo.

Registration through January 31 is only \$65, and that includes Friday dinner, Saturday lunch, and 24 hour hospitality throughout the event. Registration forms are available online through the National website at [www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org), or you may contact John Recht at [MGChair@mindgames.us.mensa.org](mailto:MGChair@mindgames.us.mensa.org).

Only the first 170 to register will get in on the fun, so don't wait. Be a winner, and come to Portland for Mind Games 2006!



### Corner(Ed)!

*-by Rachael Stewart, Editor*

Allow me to apologize for goofing up the date when Hanukkah began in last month's pictorial calendar. I used a 2004 outdated calendar by mistake. Hanukkah's date, as written in the Gregorian calendar, is variable. By the Hebrew calendar, it begins on the 25th day of Kisleev. In 2005, it began at sundown on December 25th (Gregorian).



## A Word to Our Members

In order to have your Birthday listed in our newsletter, you must have given permission at National to have this information (PDQ) released. I receive a file each month which indicates whether permission has been granted to release this information. The good news is that – if you change your mind about releasing information, you can change your designation at the National web site:

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



## January Monthly Meeting

Pat Flathouse will speak on “Writing our Stories – Snippet by Snippet”. Pat’s professional background includes a career of teaching and counseling. Pat has been the volunteer director of the Austin OWL (Older Woman’s Legacy) Circle the past four years. She facilitates writing workshops, coordinates project activities, and trains facilitators for the OWL program. She has also organized the continuing OWL Writing circle for women who have completed an OWL-Circle and want to continue writing. Pat is the author (with Susan Albert and Catherine Cogburn) of the book, *Your Life, Your Story*. This is a book designed to help women write stories about themselves and their experiences. Pat is also a genealogist and has just finished a book, *a Priceless Legacy*, designed to help women write the stories of their family history. She also teaches workshops and classes on stress management and wellness. Pat is currently serving on the board of the Story Circle Network.

## WHAT’S HAPPENING IN JANUARY?

### **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, January 3 6:00pm**

Northwest Recreation Center, Arts & Crafts Room  
2913 Northland Drive, Austin

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

### **Monthly Meeting**

**Tuesday, January 10 7:00pm**

Austin Public Library, North Village Branch

2139 W. Anderson Lane, Austin

Please see the left-hand column, this page, for details.

### **Games Night**

**Saturday, January 14 7:00pm**

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

11708 Prairie Hen Lane, Austin

Bring munchies and/or your favorite games. BYOB.

### **Fold & Sticker**

**Thursday, January 26 6:00pm**

Central Market, Austin. See TGIT for directions.

Help us assemble the newsletter!



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January						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 	2	3 <b>ExComm</b>	4	5 	6	7
8	9	10  <b>Monthly Meeting</b>	11	12 	13	14  <b>Games Night</b>
15 <i>'Dillo Deadline</i>	16	17	18	19 	20	21
22	23	24	25	26  <i>Fold &amp; Sticker</i>	27	28
29	30	31				31

2006