

# Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXXIII Number 4  
April 2006



Bridle Trail, Grand Cayon National Park, North Rim

*-picture by Rachael Stewart, 2005*

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## From the President - April 2006

*-by Janet Kres, LSM President*

What a great time Mark and I had in Bryan-College Station last month! A lineage society convention was the main reason for traveling there – and it was easy to add an extra day to provide testing services. There was one applicant – and we hope that applicant qualifies for membership – and pays dues. Remember – to be a card-carrying Mensan, you must pay your dues.

We have a very interesting program this month on hybrid cars, present by Daryl Slusher. We may have a lot of visitors (and potential members) from the public for this program. A special “thank you” to our Publicity chairman, Paul Anderson, for his excellent work in getting the word out about our programs.

And speaking of programs, Lonestar Mensa is looking for a Program Co-ordinator. If you would like to apply for the position, please call or email me. And if you would like to host an event, like Poker Night or a Mensans Movie Matinee, also give me a call or email. It does not have to be a long-term commitment – you could try it once and see if you like it.

And for a “Dogzilla Update” – our 5 month old puppy weighs 60 pounds. Like our vet says, “she’s a big dog.” And she has graduated from Puppy Class and is now in Intermediate Class at PetsMart. There could be graduate school in her future.

And, yes, I really was born on Income Tax Day.

Looking forward to seeing you at future events.

Janet

## From the Membership Chairman:

*-from Mark Kres, Membership Chair*

Janet and I put together some statistics of those who have taken the Mensa tests in the Lonestar Mensa chapter in the past year [the 12 months from 3/1/05 to 2/28/06]. A total of 46 people took the tests under one of LSM proctors. Of those 46, 23 [exactly 50%] passed it and were offered membership. Of the 23 who were offered membership, 17 [74%] have paid dues to join.

We congratulate the new members and invite them to take full part in all that Lonestar Mensa has to offer.

On a sadder note, we regret to learn of the death of one of LSM’s members. Mr. Bertrand Paul Moquin passed away on January 4, 2006.

## Welcome New Members

Jessica Cassidy Joe DaSilva  
Mark Heflin Bobby Olgin  
Joshua Sucusy Coylene Turlington

## New Members Moving Into LSM

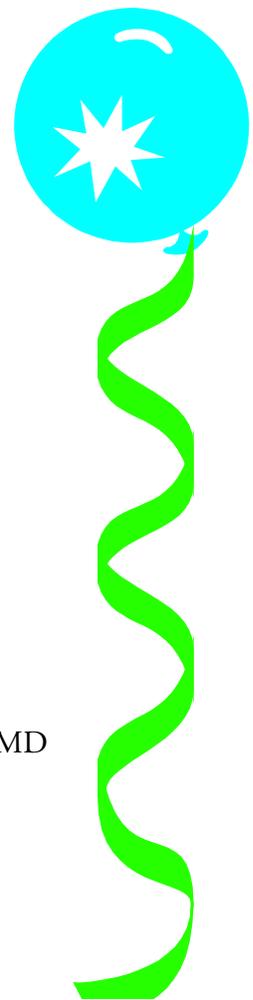
Gordon a. Bowers Betty Knight Davis  
Thomas Mitchell Christopher Rodie

## Reinstating Members – Welcome Back!

John Davis Patricia Dicuffa  
Michael Maguire Sue Thompson  
Colin Walters

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1 Robert Wittenmyer
- 2 Bruce Wayne Jean
- 3 Mark Summers
- 4 Joseph Parsons
- Amy R Neuzil
- 5 James P Harris
- 8 Thomas Mitchell
- 9 Tamara Sanderson
- 12 Irene Konig
- Robert Dietrich
- 13 Edwin J Rogers
- Milton Zerfass Deal
- 14 Johnnie Ray Vaughn
- 15 Janet Stineman Kres
- 17 James Moore
- 18 David J Burgett
- Patricia Carolyn Dicuffa
- 19 Nancy Meilahn
- 20 Susan Folger Ward
- 21 David A Eichler
- 22 William Edward Jones, MD
- John Leslie Neemidge
- George Ninceheler
- 23 Robin D Green
- Andrew M Rooke
- Nancy Hester
- 24 Patricia B McCormick
- Jeff D'Arco
- 26 Wes Davenport
- 27 Dan B Dydek
- Richard Alan Councilman
- 28 David James White
- 29 Ted Alexander
- 30 Saurabh Bansal



# APRIL

## Mensa's Free "Prior Evidence" Month

Do you know someone you think is Mensa material? During the month of April, they can send in the results of any standardized intelligence test they've taken in the past, and we'll evaluate their scores for American Mensa membership for free. (There is usually a \$30 fee to review test scores.)

American Mensa accepts the results from more than 200 tests; a partial list may be found at [www.us.mensa.org/testscores](http://www.us.mensa.org/testscores). To take advantage of this offer, your friends and colleagues should visit [www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org) in April and follow the instructions on the home page.

## Needed: 2005 New Orleans Annual Gathering Photos

Did you have a great time at the Annual Gathering in New Orleans in 2005? Did you get some great pictures? Would you like to share them with other Mensans at the the 2006 World Gathering? If so, please email the pictures to [AG2005Photos@wg06.us.mensa.org](mailto:AG2005Photos@wg06.us.mensa.org) so that we can include them in the program. This way everyone can enjoy them. We can't guarantee that all of them will be printed, so come to the 2006 World Gathering in order to make more good times and great pictures.

Please have them to me by 4/15/2006. Digital only, please. Any size is acceptable, but 100KB is the ideal, and jpeg is preferred.

## New Mensa Member Benefit

American Mensa's Membership Committee is charged with coordinating activities relating to members, member benefits and services, retention of members, membership renewals, etc. Following this charge, AMC Membership Officer Heather Miller and her committee would like to announce the following new member benefit.

### *Brain, Child: The Magazine for Thinking Mothers*

Two time winner of the prestigious Independent Press Award for Best Personal Life Coverage, this quarterly publication is more than an parenting magazine! It's funny, poignant, smart and advice-free. *Brain, Child* serves up top-notch reflection and analysis of modern motherhood from writers like Barbara Kingsolver, Alice Hoffman, Jane Smiley and others. Each full-color issue contains essays, features, news, reviews, humor, a debate and much more.

Special limited time Mensa member discount - one year (4 issues) for \$16. (30% off the newsstand price.) Use code ABAM35 online at [www.brainchildmag.com](http://www.brainchildmag.com) or call 888-304-6667 and mention Mensa.

## Crossword Clues

### **Down**

2. curry soup
3. it incurs interest
4. mournful
6. men's wearhouse
7. in sequence
8. christmas hater
10. grenade
11. defy gravity
14. one who gambles
15. flooring
17. fortune
18. body of water
20. long-necked bird
21. loony fruit
23. toothpaste ingredient
26. girl guide

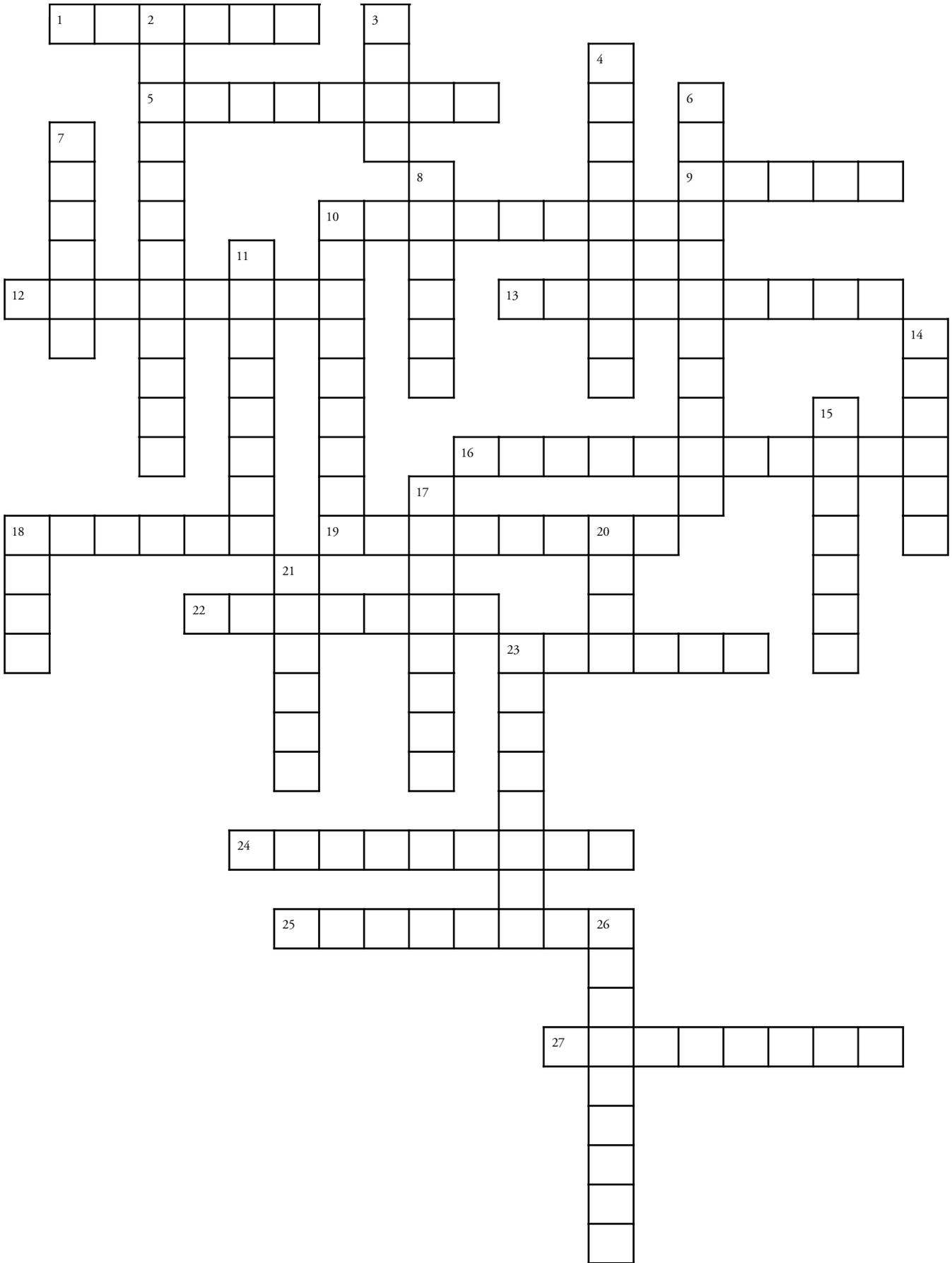
### **Across**

1. haploid cell
5. gem cutter
9. hunting horn
10. quill jewelry source
12. many gods
13. back o' beyond
16. astonish
18. thief
19. burn calories
22. goat
23. dipping dish
24. utensils
25. Amelia's pants
26. Aesop

## A Note of Thanks

To Steve Skelton for organizing the April 15 Pub Crawl –

Thank you, Steve!



## The Two Charlies

*-by Jane Thompson*

During those long ago hot summers, we used to forsake the City to spend two or three weeks on the farm. My uncle Joe, a wiry, weathered man owned 320 acres of prime wheat land in Oklahoma and made his living farming it. He had farmed most of his life, but a missing digit, a badge shown by so many Oklahoma men, demonstrated that he was a roughneck on the wells in his earlier years. My aunt Charlene, a short, dumpy woman, welcomed us each year, cooking us her wonderful Southern meals and spending time with us. I kind of feel like she was disappointed that she never had any daughters and was glad to see my sister and me every year.

To my disappointment, there weren't any horses, but the milk cows were tame enough to pet and there were chickens and ducks. There was almost unlimited area to roam in complete safety, and stock ponds to swim in. The barn was big and cool and dark, and we could play in it all day. The sun shone every day, and we were free from chores. However, sometimes we helped with the haying or other farm jobs, which didn't seem so much like chores because they were so different. I could drive a tractor at twelve, and we really felt that we were helping to feed the cows or help get in the hay. We collected the eggs every day and helped to clean and grade them, and fed the chickens. They were free-range; none of this being locked in cages for their whole lives. The ducks had just showed up; they were wild but joined in the feeding frenzy. They were allowed to hang around because Joe didn't have the heart to kill them.

And of course, cats to keep the mice down and dogs just because it's nice to have a dog around. For an animal lover like me, the farm was a great place. Of course, we were always there during the down time--we never saw the real work. My uncle planted wheat in the fall, ran cattle on it during the cold season, then sold the cattle and let the wheat grow up during the summer until it was time to harvest. We were allowed to visit between the cattle sale and the wheat harvest.

We didn't see much of our cousin, who was quite a bit older than us. His name was Charlie Joe, and he had

never really fit in on the farm. He didn't like farm work and he didn't enjoy small town life. Even though he was big and strapping, he didn't play football or basketball in high school. His tastes ran more toward writing, and he won some state-wide writing contests while still in school. By the time we were visiting, he was off living in Los Angeles or New York seeking his fortune.

In fact there were three cousins like Charlie Joe on that side of the family, and while we weren't really allowed to know what was going on, we could see the three uncles harrumphing and smoking and hear them declaring that "children were nothing but a damn disappointment." It was years before we figured out what they were so disappointed about. Their mothers gave up on dreams of grandchildren, including Aunt Charlene, and supported their sons in whatever they wanted to do.

Of course, after a while we got to be teenagers and too old for the joys of the farm. We stopped visiting into the summers and kept up with the family through our mother, who was at the center of it. I heard about Charlie Joe's perambulations and the predictable lives of Joe and Charlene until in the late 1970s, when Charlie Joe returned to the city with his friend, Charlie Lee. They opened a shop together and did well. That's the last I heard, until Charlie Joe died suddenly in the 80s. Then, the next thing I heard was that Uncle Joe died. I was worried about Charlene; she was old and alone. I went to visit--finally--and found that she had sold the big farmhouse and 318 of her acres. Knowing what wheatland went for, I knew she was all right financially, but she had a plan for her life.

She bought a double-wide and a new economy car, and moved onto one of the acres she had reserved from the farm. She would spend the rest of her life on the land she had spent the previous fifty years on. That was all she wanted. She didn't want to travel or see the world or meet new people. She just wanted to be allowed to be happy right where she was and to die on her own land. But what was the other acre for?

She explained that the other reserved acre was for Charlie Lee. He would always have a place to live. He was going to buy a trailer and come down on weekends to spend them with her. When she got sick, she would have someone to depend on. And when he got old, he would have a place to come to. Home.



## April Monthly Meeting

7:00 p.m. Austin Public Library – North Village Branch

Program: Austin's Plug-In Hybrid Vehicles Initiative

One technology with the potential to significantly reduce oil consumption is the Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV). Plug-In Hybrids are outfitted with a battery pack sufficient to power the vehicle for 35 miles or more on battery power alone. The plug-in is recharged by plugging into a standard electrical outlet. The cost of an “electric” gallon of gas is estimated to be less than \$1.00. A plug-in vehicle could get up to 100 miles per gallon of gasoline.

Plug-In Hybrids can: save fuels costs for consumers and businesses; reduce air pollution; and decrease dependence on imported oil.

Speaker: Daryl Slusher

Daryl Slusher has been active in Austin politics and government for more than 25 years. He is known as a strong environmentalist, but his key theme has been that a strong economy, social equity and environmental protection work together.

Slusher is a native of Roanoke, Virginia. He has lived in Austin since 1976 and graduated from the University of Texas in 1979. He became active in local civic affairs shortly after that.

Beginning in 1985 Slusher worked as a journalist covering local issues. From 1989 until 1995 he was a columnist and political editor for the weekly Austin Chronicle.

In 1996 Slusher was elected to the Austin City Council and served three terms, leaving office in June 2005. His initiatives as a Council Member included: preserving public ownership of Austin's electric utility; requiring a living wage for all City employees; approval of facilities like recreation centers, libraries and health clinics in low-income areas; subsidized elderly housing; purchase of land for environmental protection; and leadership in conservation and renewable energy programs.

Renewable energy has been a priority of Slusher's throughout his civic work. He has long said that a key breakthrough in energy development must be finding other ways to power automobiles. Slusher is now serving as deputy coordinator of the City of Austin's national Plug-in partners campaign – an effort aimed at persuading automakers to build plug-in hybrid vehicles.

## What's Happening in April?

### **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, April 5

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.

### **Games Night**

Saturday, April 8

7:00pm

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

11708 Prairie Hen Lane, Austin

Bring munchies and/or your favorite games. BYOB.

### **Monthly Meeting**

Tuesday, April 11

7:00pm

Austin Public Library, North Village Branch

2139 W. Anderson Lane, Austin

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

### **Pizza for Thought -- Malleable Colloquium**

Friday, April 14

5:00-7:00pm

Mr. Gatti's at MLK & Guadalupe, Austin

Host: Don Jarvis 926-6391, djarvis2@austin.rr.com

This was a weekly feature of the psychology department at ETSU in the 70s, the shape of the discussion to be hammered out by the student/faculty participants as they participated. It was great. It can be great again. I'd like to speculate on the transmitters of life at the elemental level, femtopions or millioplasmids (refer to [www.math.ucr.edu/home/baez/subcellular.html](http://www.math.ucr.edu/home/baez/subcellular.html)) but in the interest of malleability it's any subject that can be sustained.

### **Pub Crawl**

Saturday, April 15

6:00 pm.

Join Host Steve Skelton and other fun Lonestar Mensans for this pub crawl.

6:00 pm - Mother Egan's Irish Pub - 715 W. 6th St.

7:00 pm - Little Woodrow's - 520 West 6th Street

8:00 pm - Fado's Irish Pub - 214 West 4th Street

### **Fold & Sticker**

Thursday, April 27

6:00pm

Central Market, Austin. See TGIT for directions.

Help us assemble the newsletter!

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

**2006**