

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

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Zhouzhuang, Jiangsu Province, China.

photo by Rachael Stewart, August 2000

La CARTE

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Possible volunteer for this position found, details to come...

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Submission Information: Submissions of all types will be accepted. The deadline is the 15th of each month. Submissions may be by email (ASCII/text format only) to the newsletter editor or by snail mail in typed format. Anonymous submissions are not accepted, although the author's identity may be withheld upon request. The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Items in this newsletter may be reprinted in other Mensa publications, with credit given, except for those works copyrighted by the author.

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

Sweet Success! National office informed us that Mensa tested 1,325 people on National Testing Day (October 22, 2005). And Lonestar Mensa tested 13 applicants – or 1% of that total. We hope to meet the qualifying new members at future events!

And speaking of new members – we have a present for you when you attend a monthly meeting. We are glad you are a part of Lonestar Mensa!

February's Valentine Day program will be on "Where to place blame for the Savings & Loan Crises of the 1980's?" - presented by Mr. Doug Foster. Mr. Foster is a 20 year veteran of the Texas Savings and Mortgage Lending Department. Mark and I lived that adventure – that's how we obtained our house in 1990 – through a HUD foreclosure! We hope to see you there for this interesting program.

Do you have an activity you would like to sponsor – a trip to the movies, or dinner out at a certain type of restaurant? Would you like to attend Games Night – but the location is too far North? One solution would be for you to volunteer to host the activity – and it could be a one-time event, just to see if you like it. We've had interest expressed in having Poker Night, but need a volunteer to host it. If you are interested, please give me a call at 836-5773 or email at jmkres@sbcglobal.net.

Welcome New Members

Liam F. Clegg
Tracey K. Cushing
Alexandra Elliot
Joseph Hagedorn
Kenny A. Liao
Patrick Luff
Melissa Petty
Stuart W. Schreiber

Welcome Back, Renewing Members

Russell Nelson
Kyle Simpson
Johnnie Ray Vaughn
Hal Fulton
Robert Stallworth

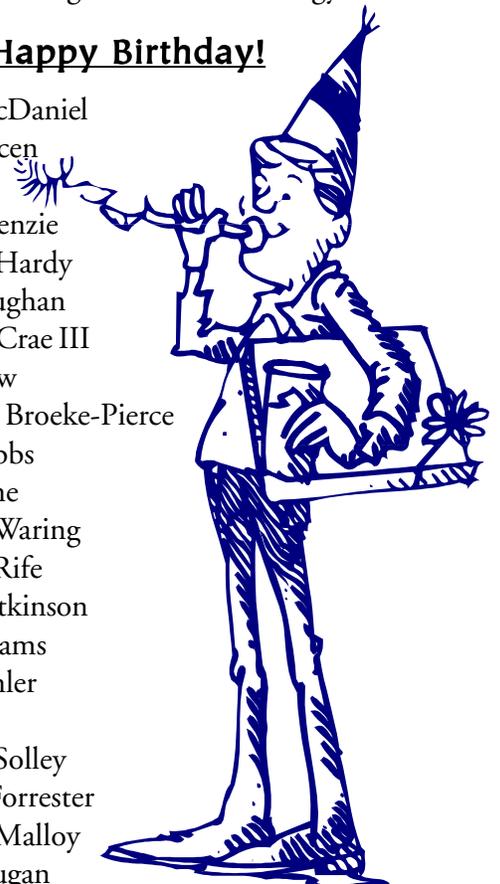
February Monthly Meeting

February's presenter is Doug Foster. He'll speak on "Where to place blame for the Savings and Loan Crises of the 1980s: fraud or Congress". The root causes of financial losses, who really benefited and implications for today.

Doug Foster is a 20 year veteran of the Texas Savings and Mortgage Lending Department serving in various capacities. He completed all the training for designation as a commissioned safety and soundness examiner in 1985 and as a compliance examiner in 1992. He was named Director of Examination in June of 2003 expanding the oversight duties he already had for state savings banks to include the examination of mortgage brokers. In September 2003 Doug was appointed Deputy Commissioner and served for four months as Interim Commissioner until the appointment of Commissioner Danny Payne on January 1, 2004. Prior to his employment with the Department, Doug worked for several years as a branch manager and loan officer for a small savings and loan and began his career working for a credit union. A graduate of the University of Texas, at Austin, Doug and his wife Shari reside in Lockhart. One interesting fact about Doug; he has spent two summers in Israel doing biblical archaeology.

Happy Birthday!

1 Dennis McDaniel
2 Midge Kocen
5 Jan Cox
6 Sage McKenzie
9 Meredith Hardy
Steven Vaughan
10 David McCrae III
14 Casey Shaw
15 Linda Van Broeke-Pierce
18 James Dobbs
Tom Rhyne
Elizabeth Waring
Matthew Rife
Zachary Atkinson
20 Angela Adams
Sarah Tuchler
22 Eric Mills
23 Matthew Solley
25 Geoffrey Forrester
26 Elizabeth Malloy
27 Patricia Dugan
Dave McCracken
Geri Neemidge



Colloquium 2006: Revolution in Cosmology

October 6-8, 2006

Albany, New York

*A colloquium hosted by Mensa of Northeastern New York,
Judy Keating and Harry Ringermacher co chairs.*

Join us for a stimulating mix of information, revelation and discussion of the greatest mystery in the past 100 years – the recent discovery that a mysterious new kind of “dark matter” and “dark energy” makes up 96% of the “stuff” of the universe / Unforeseen by even Einstein, this demands a new unified Quantum / Space / Time Theory. Listen to internationally recognized speakers, then question these speakers in panel discussions. Share your thoughts with fellow Mensans, these experts, and others at this international gathering with a serious purpose.

Where? Marriott Hotel, 189 Wolf Road, Albany, New York 12205; 800/443-8952; \$109 S/D per night. (Mention the special "Mensa" rate through 9/15/06.)

Speakers: **Dr. Brian Greene**, Professor of Physics, and co-director of Columbia University's Institute for Strings, Cosmology, and Astrophysics. His book, “The Elegant Universe”, spent six months on the New York Times bestseller list, and also became a three part NOVA special on PBS. **George Musser**, Popular editor and contributing writer for Scientific American, Musser has followed the “Revolution” from day-one. He has edited, written or commented on nearly every Cosmology Issue. **Dr. Jeremiah Ostriker**, Professor of Astrophysics, Princeton University. One of the world's most influential researchers in Dark Matter and Dark Energy. 2000 winner of “U.S. National Medal of Science. 2004 winner of “Royal Astronomical Soc. Gold Medal”. **Dr. Vera Rubin** Astronomer, Carnegie Institute, Washington, DC. World-renowned astronomer, she “fired the shot” that kindled the Revolution by discovering conclusive evidence of Dark Matter in galaxies. 1993 winner of “U.S. National Medal of Science”. 1996 winner of “Royal Astronomical Soc. Gold Medal”. **Dr. Lee Smolin**, theoretical physicist, Perimeter Institute, Canada. Internationally renowned author of “The Life of The Cosmos” and “Three Roads to Quantum Gravity”. Creator of the other competing “Theory of Everything” - Loop Quantum Gravity - to explain the universe.

Register online today at www.colloquium.us.mensa.org

Complete Name _____

Name on Badge _____

Membership # (required for lower rate) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip, Country _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Confirmation by: email postal service

Registration rate postmarked on or before 4/30/06 Member \$170, Non-member \$220 Don't miss this low rate! Increases \$50 on 5/1!! Registration refunds, less a \$15 service charge, will be made for cancellations received ten days prior to the event and earlier. Make checks payable to “Colloquium 2006” **Send registration to:** Colloquium 2006 American Mensa, Ltd., 1229 Corporate Dr. West, Arlington TX 76006-6103. Call Judy at 518/441-7058 or info@colloquium.us.mensa.org for more information.

Region 6 Report

-Ray O'Connor RVC6

February 2006

We have a new Mensa forum. You can access the forums at: <http://www.us.mensa.org/community/forum>. Give it a try and you may find something of particular interest to you.

We have three months before the annual dues renewal. Please help reduce expenses by renewing early. This is a time when we lose almost one in five members. While there are valid financial reasons why some do not renew their membership, surveys indicate that the most common reason is that they simply didn't receive enough perceived value for their membership. The majority of folks we lose are first year members.

When I was a local group membership officer, we asked new members why they joined Mensa. The dominant answer was to meet and interact with intelligent people. Our challenge is how do we facilitate interaction with our new and inactive members. A study of member participation characteristics indicated that folks prefer activities within ten miles of their home or business. We need to have regular geographically diverse activities as well as an active new member involvement program. Since eating is a significant common interest, meetings at restaurants for breakfast, lunch, dinner or evening drinks are very popular.

To urge each group to work toward facilitating improved member retention, I am offering two prizes (groups > 200 members and groups < 200 members as of 3/31/06). The large and the small group with the smallest percentage of lapsed members as of April 1, 2006 will receive a \$50 reward. In addition, the Loc Sec of each winning group will be asked to nominate the five members who did the most to achieve member retention. Each of these nominees will receive a Mensa Service Award pin.

Gatherings Calendar:

SynRG May 26 to May 29 come join Gulf Coast Mensans celebrate Memorial Day with Metamorphosis. Join us for a life-changing experience. Speakers, games, dance, casino, Ray O'Connor's famous Hospitality, and so much more... \$60 if postmarked by 3/3/06, \$65 thereafter. Hilton Houston Westchase, 9999 Westheimer Road, Houston, TX 77042; 713/974-1000; www.westchase.hilton.com. SR/DR \$69. Room rates guaranteed until 5/4/06; mention GCM. CD 18 and under, H RP May 15, 2006 cutoff SA H/AS \$\$25 CC (V MC). Checks payable to Gulf Coast Mensa RG. www.gcmensa.org/RGNews.asp. Contact Liz

Meadows, Registrar, Gulf Coast Mensa, Inc., P.O. Box 25267, Houston, TX 77265.

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

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

Corner(Ed)!

-by Rachael Stewart, Editor



I have dogs. Now, being a dog-owned person is kind of new to me. As a child, we had cats. My first dog believed he was a cat. (This of course had absolutely nothing to do with the fact that our resident cat adopted him and taught him everything he knew.) So my dogs do things that leave me agog on a regular basis.

These are lab mutts. They're large, affectionate, a bit clumsy, and they drool. I have learned that dogs can drool with the mouths shut. Beee-zarre. After drooling, chewing is a popular dog sport. Darn little is sacred, although each others ears seems to be the favored target. Last, but not least, on their preferred activity list is sleeping. They snore. I'd never have guessed it.

I've never had a cat who was goofy for fishing toys. They'd play "jump the pen moving under the sheet of newspaper" for hours, but fishing toys would never earn more than a couple of swats. My dogs *love* playing "chase the lure." All I have to do is pick it up to get them wiggling. After a wave or two, the bounding begins. They bark at me too, but then they also bark at ghosts in the front yard. I don't take it personally. The game lasts until either one party keels over in exhaustion (usually me) or the toy is mutilated beyond repair.

All in all, my dogs are entertaining, loveable fellas. It's a pity, however, that I no longer have a boss cat to keep them humble.

Income Statement

1/1/05 through 12/31/05

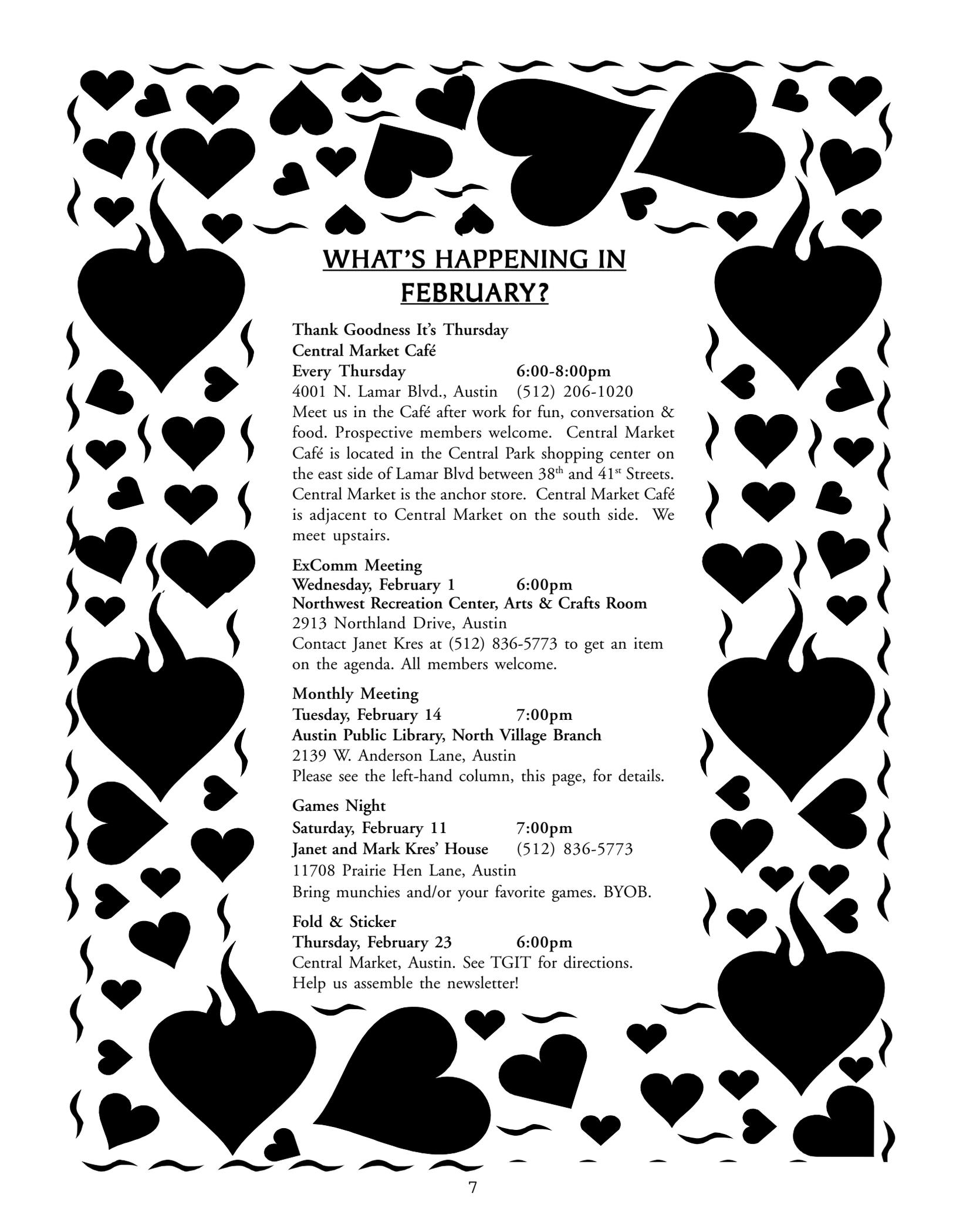
<u>Category</u>	<u>1 / 1 / 0 5 - 12/31/05</u>
Income/Expenses	
Income	
National Subsidy:	
Additional family	36.00
Dues paying members	3,876.02
Full Mailing Reimb	96.20
Lapsed Member Mailing Reimburs	61.00
New Members	58.00
Newsletters	105.30
Reinstating Members	48.00
Testing	<u>537.50</u>
Total National Subsidy	4,818.02
RG Income	<u>4,034.50</u>
Total Income	8,852.52
Expenses	
Bank Fees	6.00
Miscellaneous Exp	414.99
Newsletter:	
Other	39.44
Postage	723.18
Printing	<u>2,500.69</u>
Total Newsletter	3,263.31
Party Expense:	
Cost	485.24
Income	-81.00
Location Rent	400.00
PayPal Fees	<u>0.53</u>
Total Party Expense	804.77
Recruitment:	
Other	2.14
Postage	79.56
Printing	282.78
Recruitment - Other	<u>167.09</u>
Total Recruitment	531.57
RG Expenses:	
PayPal Fees	51.37
RG Expenses - Other	<u>2,093.76</u>
Total RG Expenses	2,145.13
Scholarships:	
PO Box	<u>25.00</u>
Total Scholarships	25.00
Expenses - Other	0.00
Total Expenses	<u>7,190.77</u>
Total Income/Expenses	<u>1,661.75</u>

Balance Sheet

As of 12/31/05

<u>Accounts</u>	<u>12/31/05 Balance</u>
Assets	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
Certificate of Deposit *1*	10,523.87
Certificate of Deposit *2*	2,000.00
Checking - Guaranty Bank	<u>2,366.85</u>
Total Cash and Bank Accounts	14,890.72
Other Assets	
Accounts Receivable	0.00
Prepaid Postage	159.08
Prepaid Printing	0.00
Prepaid RG Exp	<u>0.00</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>159.08</u>
Total Assets	15,049.80
Liabilities & Equity	
Liabilities	
Other Liabilities	
2005 RG Registrations	0.00
Accounts Payable	0.00
Scholarship Fund	<u>350.00</u>
Total Other Liabilities	<u>350.00</u>
Total Liabilities	350.00
Equity	<u>14,699.80</u>
Total Liabilities & Equity	15,049.80





WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY?

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.

ExComm Meeting

Wednesday, February 1 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, February 14 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, February 11 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, February 23 6:00pm

Central Market, Austin. See TGIT for directions.
Help us assemble the newsletter!

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

2006