

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXXIII Number 7
July 2006



Spring Picnic at Northwest Park in May

--photo by Geri Neemidge

(more photos on page 6)

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Position vacant; please contact Janet Kres for details if you would like to volunteer.

Program Coordinator *

Position vacant; please contact Janet Kres for details if you would like to volunteer.

Gifted Children's Coordinator *

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

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Position vacant; please contact Janet Kres for details if you would like to volunteer.

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

* -- 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

-by Janet Kres, President

New members – it was good to meet you at the May picnic, and at the June games night, and the June Monthly Meeting – where you received your gift! Other new members – you, too, can collect your gift from Lonestar Mensa – just attend a group function.

And for our friends from Games Night — YES! We now have in our possession the Miriam Webster Official Scrabble Players Dictionary, Fourth Edition, copyright 2005. We had murmurings of discontent about the 1967 dictionary we used that evening. I don't know why. Noah didn't complain when he used it on the ark.

If you attended the Houston Regional Gathering over Memorial Day, and would like to share your experiences with the group, please send your article to me or our newsletter Editor. Next fun event will be the World Gathering at Disney world, Florida, August 8 to August 13.

I hope you are enjoying your membership in Lonestar Mensa – if you should have any suggestions for the group, please let me know.

Lonestar Mensa Sewing Circle

The Lonestar Mensa sewing circle will meet on Saturday, July 1, 2006, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the home of Janet and Mark Kres, 11708 Prairie Hen Lane, Austin (836-5773). Bring your current handwork project – the craft table will be set up, if anyone would like to do quilt cuttings. Afternoon tea will be served. Mark will be off at the sports bar. There are dogs and one cat.

Seeking Musicians

Any Mensan bands out there? If you are a LSM member and and you can sing and play, you can perform at our RG which happens Labor Day weekend. For more information, email our RG coordinator Paul Pierce at Pauljohnpierce@aol.com.

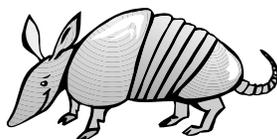
Corner(Ed)!

-from Rachael Stewart, Editor



Kudos to Pat Kelso, who noticed that I substituted an 'n' for a 'u' in the puzzle. The answer to 'eye-catching' should be 'ostentatious'.

R U Cre8ive?



LonestarRG

- Speakers on creativity in its many forms: Architecture, Music, Art, Homebrew, Cinema, Fashion, more
- Costume dance
- Games & Contests
- Ray's Famous Hospitality, with meals, fresh-baked bread, veggies, snacks, soda, beer, wine, and more
- Prizes
- And much more!

R U Cre8ive? Show your creative side at LonestarRG VIII, which will be held in Austin over Labor Day Weekend, September 1-4, 2006. Bring the whole family and get cre8ive!

Registration is only \$50 until July 14. Children 7-14 are half price, 6 and under are free. Send registrations to John Neemidge, Registrar, LonestarRG VIII, 1807 Messick Place, Round Rock, TX, 78681-7126 (neemidge@usa.net, 512-310-7863). To register online via PayPal, or for program information and times, hotel information, pictures from last year's RG, and more, see the web page at <http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/lonestarg.htm>.

Our RG hotel is the Howard Johnson Plaza, located at the intersection of IH-35 and US-183 in Austin. Our room rate is \$75/night S/D (+\$8 for third or fourth adult). The room rate includes a hot buffet breakfast. For reservations call 1-866-661-6611; our group code is LSM.

RVC 6 Report

-by Ray O'Connor, RVC Region 6

We just received word that a dear friend, Jack Oram, has lost his battle with cancer. I missed him at gatherings the last few years. I thought about him and Lilly, but didn't take the time to locate him. How much do we take for granted our friends? Did you know that the AML web site, www.us.mensa.org has a member directory? I could have looked to discover that Jack was living in East Texas, an easy drive from my home. Jack graduated from the United States Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point. I was a cadet at Kings Point, but dropped out to marry Sue. I very much enjoyed talking to Jack about what my life would have been like if I made different choices. How much we miss our friends, when we lose them. In the more than 20 years I have belonged to Mensa, I have made many friends. Mensa is my extended family. Now that I'm retired I plan to spend more time attending Mensa activities to spend more time with my Mensa family. The biggest benefit I receive from my Mensa membership is the opportunity to be with Mensans.

I am serving on the AMC Local Group Funding Committee. We are preparing a report to the AMC with recommendations for possible changes to the local group funding policy. I need your input. What is important to you? What could help you to receive value from your membership that requires additional funding? Remember that it is member dues that are being shared with your group. If we increase the local group funding significantly, it will eventually cause a dues increase. There are expenses that are a must such as your newsletter, test site rental, meeting room rental, member communications and many others. What do I as your representative need to recommend?

I have assumed responsibilities as region 6 testing coordinator. We always need more local proctors. You would be the first person new members meet. I have developed close friendships with several members I met as their proctor. Please email me at RVC6@us.mensa.org if you would like more information about Mensa Admission Testing.

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?Sectionfiltered=Registration>

Registration Rates: Member \$100, nonmember \$110 to July 31, 2006, Onsite registration: \$120. Put on your mouse ears and come join Mensans from around the world. The resort is beautiful. Disney and Mensa is definitely a winning combination.

LonestaRG VIII: Cre8ivity

Sep 01-04 Registration \$50 until 7/14, \$55 until 8/14, \$60 after. Visit www.lsm.us.mensa.org/lonestarg.htm or contact John Neemidge, Registrar, LonestaRG VIII, 1807 Messick Place, Round Rock, TX 78681; 512/310-7863; neemidge@usa.net.

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



Mensa Scholarships

-by Claudia Harbert, 2005-2006 Local Scholarship Chair

Each year, the Mensa Education & Research Foundation holds a scholarship contest. Lonestar Mensa participates by advertising the contest in our local area and collecting and judging essays by eligible students, who do not have to be Mensa members. Lonestar Mensa had a very successful scholarship contest this year!

National Mensa promises us one local scholarship winner. This year, that honor goes to Katherine Stoltze, who graduated from Dripping Springs High School. Katherine is a member of Lonestar Mensa! Congratulations, Katherine! This year, Lonestar Mensa also had two local essays win scholarships from National Mensa! The two students who won these scholarships are Ashley Dobravolsky, graduating from Cedar Park High School; and Melanie Daniel, who graduated from Schoenstadt Collegium in Austin.

Three of our local members volunteered to judge the essays. The judging took place during an approximately 2-week period in January. As the scholarship chair, I would like to thank our three judges for their time and effort and for being patient with my frenzied emails. Thanks Scott Hauptmann, Lynn Herrick, and Rob Shook!

While the 2005-2006 scholarship program winds down this summer, the 2006-2007 program will be starting. The program starts very slowly, with not much happening before the middle of September, but our local group must submit the name of the Local Scholarship Chair for next year during July. The scholarship program is a wonderful community service that Mensa provides. Helping to run this program is very special and rewarding! If you are interested in being the Scholarship Chair for 2006-2007, please submit your name to our President, Janet Kres, as soon as possible!

Get Cre8ive at LonestarRG VIII!

-by John Neemidge, Registrar, LonestarRG VIII

Come join us over Labor Day Weekend in Austin and get cre8ive! Our RG Chair, Paul Pierce, and the rest of the committee are hard at work putting together a great weekend for you! What makes an RG special are the attendees, and we hope everyone reading this will join us. Our registration rate is only \$50 through July 14th; children 7-14 are half price, 6 and under are free.

As always, there'll be lots of things to do. We'll have lots of speakers on all sorts of creative endeavors. Topics include architecture, photography, homebrew, cinema, fashion, gardening, rainwater, music, and art. We'll also have plenty of games, contests, and workshops, plus a game room with plenty of games to play. And there'll be a costume dance, prizes, and a lot more. Of course, there'll also be a lot of chances to hang out and talk with your fellow Mensans in hospitality, out on the lawn, or by the pool.

Speaking of hospitality, as always our hospitality will be a treat. Our Hospitality chair, Ray O'Connor, is legendary around Texas and across the country for his version of Gathering Hospitality. There'll be fresh-baked bread all weekend, tasty meals each night, chocolate fountains, breakfast, plenty of snacks, and more. We'll have a wide variety of soda, a number of kinds of beer, and several types of wine. We've got some surprises planned this year as well — stay tuned (or better yet, just sign up and be surprised!).

We're in a different hotel this year. Why do I mention it here? Because it'll change the hospitality experience, and we think you'll like it. While we've enjoyed our former hotel, this year they were unwilling to keep our room rate at a level we thought served our members. So we looked around and wound up moving to the Howard Johnson Plaza, at the intersection of IH-35 and US-183 in Austin. Our room rate will be \$75/night S/D (plus \$8 for the third and fourth adults in a room; children don't cost extra). The room rate includes a hot buffet breakfast. Most of our room block is rooms with one bed (queen or king); if you need two double beds please make reservations early as they will run out. The hotel's phone number is 1-866-661-6611; our group code is LSM.

So, why does the hotel change the hospitality experience? The Howard Johnson Plaza is built in a square around a courtyard, with grass, trees, and a pool. Our main hospitality room will be in a suite at one corner of the

square. It has sliding doors out into the courtyard, as does the adjoining room which we'll use for hospitality seating. So, we expect hospitality to spill out into the courtyard and out to the pool, especially late afternoon and evening when the sun isn't a factor. Grab a snack, or your dinner, in hospitality, get yourself a drink, and sit out with friends, relaxing and talking. If you need air conditioning (and we all do sometimes) there'll be plenty of seating inside as well.

All of this is good, but an RG is really made great by the people who attend. We expect 100 or more Mensans from all over the state (and likely beyond) to be at the RG. Whether you like to listen to speakers, talk with people one-on-one or in groups, participate in games and activities, dance, or just hang out, LonestarRG VIII has something for you. And the more of you attend, the more fun everyone will have. Family and friends are welcome, of course. We expect children of all ages at the RG.

Where else can you listen to a dozen great speakers, play games, go to a dance, and eat and drink all weekend for only \$50? Join us this Labor Day Weekend! If I haven't convinced you, please take a look at our website (<http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/lonestarg.htm>) where you can see all the fun people had last year, or give me a call (512-310-7863) or drop me an email (neemidge@usa.net) and I'll be happy to answer your questions.



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--Maragret Wofford, Barbara Bartlett, Joe Bartlett



--persons unknown



--Andrew, Laura Christie, unknown, unknown, Alexandra Elliot, Margaret



--Janet Kres, Andrew, Laura Christie



--Lise Waring, Steve Skelton, Alexandra Elliot?

Welcome New Members

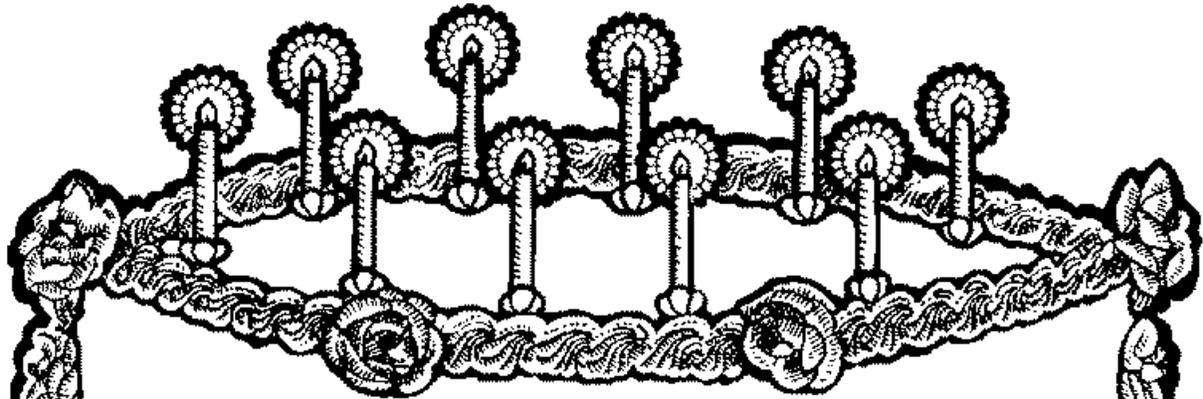
Craig A. Carpenter
Justin Blount
Debra Ware
John Cosgrove
Eric C. Bentz
Amy Forestell

Welcome Back, Members

Tracy Dee Cluck
Edward Ward Christie
McCartney Melville Taylor
George J. Van riper
John H. Morrow
Brooke Redden
Nancy Norwood
Elizabeth Malloy
Susan E. Dancy

Welcome to Region 6, Lonestar Mensa

Justin L. York



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1	Aaron Rabushka	16	Sharon Leal
2	Robert Kelso	19	Alan Crudden
6	Charles Alexander		Coylene Turlington
	Arval Bohn	20	Liam Clegg
7	Brook Capps	21	Stuart Schreiber
8	David Posh	25	Edward Christie
	Jimmy Roberts	26	Todd Shaw
9	Steve Roberts	27	Dee Dee Yelverton
11	Daniel Mohan	28	Mary Montgomery
	Albert Neff		
13	Clay Kruse		Wendell Weatherford
15	Donald Davis	31	Ellen Lukasik

1		7	3					
					9	8		7
9				5	7	6		
			4	8				
4	1		6					
7					5			4
	9		7					8
					8			3
		3			1			2

SUDOKU puzzle created by Rachael Stewart

Object: Fill each square with the numbers 1-9, one number per square.

Rules of Play:

- A number can appear only once in each column and once in each row.
- A number can appear only once in each 9-square region outlined in bold.

June ExComm Meeting Minutes

-submitted by John Neemidge

Attending: Janet Kres, President; John Neemidge, Vice President; Don Drumtra, Treasurer; Helen Siders, Michael Tolbert, Members At Large; Patty Drumtra, LSM Member.

Janet called the meeting to order at 6:07.

John presented RG and hotel information. Moved Don, second Helen, to authorize Registrar to negotiate and sign contracts as well as the RG chair. Passed 5-0.

ASIE review. We discussed some of the current ASIEs. Janet will reissue the list of ASIEs for discussion at the next meeting.

Michael discussed testing dates for June. They will be the 10th and 24th; 17th may be added. Janet's church may be able to offer testing dates. We discussed whether to offer two locations for National Testing Day. Need to look for a south/central venue. Also, Michael has received his proctor materials.

Newsletter software. Discussed pricing for Adobe Acrobat Pro 7 and Adobe InDesign CS2. John will search for software sources. Moved Helen, second Michael, to buy the appropriate software for the newsletter, up to \$1000. We will email a discussion of actual vendor and costs.

Circulation Manager. Helen asked Bulk Mail office. There is no minimum number of pieces we need to send. Discussed ways to handle electronic distribution. Don suggested that we not do anything until the WG, since the local group funding committee will present their report at the WG. Michael proposed implementing a pilot project for some number of months. Post office needs money by September.

Treasurer's report. Revenue dropped with member loss. In order for the books to balance, Don needs to report what we actually get (i.e. take out PayPal fees at point of receipt). RG can still report PayPal fees as an expense. We will need new checks soon. Don will look around and order checks as appropriate.

Scholarship. Discussed committing some group funds to scholarship. Moved John, second Janet, to move \$1000 more into the scholarship fund. Passed 5-0.

Janet adjourned the meeting at 7:22.

July Monthly Meeting

The July Monthly meeting topic is "Biblical Archeology". Mr. Doug Foster will share his experiences participating in two Biblical archeological digs. Both digs were in Galilee, the first in Tel Yin'an in 1981 and the second in 2001 in Tel Hazor. Mr. Foster will bring artifacts from the digs to share with us.

Doug Foster presented the February program to Lonestar Mensa on "Where to place blame for the Savings and Loan Crises of the 1980s: fraud or Congress". What a great, interesting program! Now we have him back to share with us his summers spent in Israel doing Biblical archaeology.

Doug 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

Sudoku Puzzle Solution

1	8	7	3	2	6	4	9	5
6	3	5	1	4	9	8	2	7
9	2	4	8	5	7	6	3	1
3	5	9	4	8	2	7	1	6
4	1	8	6	7	3	2	5	9
7	6	2	9	1	5	3	8	4
2	9	1	7	3	4	5	6	8
5	7	6	2	9	8	1	4	3
8	4	3	5	6	1	7	9	2

What's Happening in July?

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.

Lonestar Mensa Sewing Circle

Saturday, July 1 3:00-6:00pm

11708 Prairie Hen Ln, Austin (512) 836-5773

Bring your handiwork for an afternoon of sewing, sharing of ideas, and conversation. The craft table will be set up, if you want to do some quilt cutting. Afternoon tea will be served.

ExComm Meeting

Wednesday, July 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, July 8 7:00-10:00pm

Janet and Mark Kres' House

11708 Prairie Hen Ln, Austin (512) 836-5773

Bring munchies and/or your favorite game. BYOB.

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, July 11 7:00pm

Austin Public Library, North Village Branch

2139 W. Anderson Lane, Austin

Please see the announcement on page 4 for details.



Malleable Colloquy

Friday, July 14 5:30-7:30pm

Mr. Gatti's at MLK & Guadalupe, Austin

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

Does either side in the controversy over the existence of god amount to anything more than a matter of faith?

Is it reasonable to limit religious references in government?

Poker Night

Saturday, July 15 7:00pm

Bob and Nancy Dietrich's House

9701 Westminster Glen Ave, Austin (512) 431-5255

Please RSVP. BYOB and munchies appreciated.



Fold & Sticker

Thursday, July 27 6:00pm

Central Market, Austin. See TGIT for directions.

Help us assemble the newsletter!

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July						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6  TGIT	7	8 Games Night
9	10	11  Monthly Meeting	12	13  TGIT	14 Pizza Colloquium	15 Poker Night <i>'Dillo Deadline</i>
16	17	18	19	20  TGIT	21	22
23	24	25	26	27  TGIT <i>Fold & Sticker</i>	28	29
30	31					2006