

# **Armadillo Literary Gazette**

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXXIII Number 3

March 2006



Dinosaur Tracks, Navajo Nation

*-picture by Rachael Stewart, 2005*

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## Program Coordinator \*

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

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

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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

by Janet Kres, LSM President

My next missive will have information about the Mensa supervised test, which I will proctor in Bryan-College Station on Thursday, February 23. I would like to thank Ms. Clara Mounce, Community Librarian, for her assistance in arranging for this session. And we did it all by Email (well, I did have to mail her a copy of the prospect notification letter and a brochure! I'm not yet ready for the "paperless" society.)

We will have a great program in March on "Water in Texas", present by John T. Sutton, Manager, Municipal Conservation Section, Office of Planning, and Texas Water Development Board. Prior to joining the Water Development Board, Mr. Sutton was the water conservation program manager for the City of El Paso. He has been a landscape designer, for both residential and commercial development.

Not to let Rachael and Walter get too far ahead of us in the pet department, we have recently adopted a mixed lab puppy. Roxie is half lab and half Clydesdale, we think. It's been 10 years since Mark and I have had a puppy in the house, and it's a pretty steep learning curve – for us and the cat and the resident senior dogs! The best thing about Roxie is her good nature. And what requires the most adjustment for us is the boundless energy of a puppy – thank you, February Mensa games night folks for assisting with puppy training! Roxie is now convinced that, yes, everyone does love her.

See you at future events – and please send your dues in early! Mensa is a lot of fun – and it's a lot more fun with you as members!

Janet



Welcome

## Welcome New Members

Michael F. Tipshus  
Mark Summers  
Todd L. Shaw  
Ellen Lukasik  
Guinevere A. Morse  
Angela Finley

## A Note of Thanks to:

Hal Fulton, who suggested that Lonestar Mensa have a speaker from the Mars Society. A representative from the Austin Mars Society will speak at the June 13 Lonestar Mensa Monthly meeting. Check out the great web site at:

<http://marsociety.org>

## Discount Children's Books

Don't just raise a gifted child; raise a Free Spirit.

Free Spirit Publishing is offering American Mensa members a 20-percent discount on all of their products through April 3, 2006. Free Spirit published its first gifted education book in 1983; a revised edition of that book, *The Gifted Kids' Survival Guide* by Judy Galbraith, remains a perennial favorite of teachers, students and parents. As the leading publisher of learning tools that support young people's social and emotional health, they have continued to produce award-winning books for and about gifted kids. Their mission is to help children and teens to think for themselves, succeed in life and make a difference in the world. To order, contact Free Spirit Publishing at [www.freespirit.com](http://www.freespirit.com) or 1-800-735-7323 and reference coupon/promotion code Mensa20 when ordering.

## Book Donations

from *Project Inkslinger*

Hi, Dear Mensans,

I have started to check back on the continuing need for books to replace those lost in last year's hurricanes. David Mazor, Executive Director of Reader to Reader Inc. of Amherst, MA, told me that they have received thousands of books, but that they would like to get poetry, science, and sci-fi/fantasy books. Toss in some math, history, and similar stuff, too, I expect.

If you would be so kind, please let other Mensans know that the need for books for hurricane relief is only just beginning. We, as Mensans, can be of value. For info on this subject website go to [www.readertoreader.org](http://www.readertoreader.org) for address, etc., or contact me. I will check and report on other sites shortly.

Respectfully,  
Michael Paul Beetham  
Project Inkslinger Coordinator

**met·a·mor·pho·sis** (me(t'ʔ-môr'fʔ-si(s) *n.*, *pl.* -ses (-se-z'))

1. A transformation, as by magic or sorcery.
2. A marked change in appearance, character, condition, or function.
3. *Biology.* A change in the form and often habits of an animal during normal development after the embryonic stage. Metamorphosis includes, in insects, the transformation of a maggot into an adult fly and a caterpillar into a butterfly and, in amphibians, the changing of a tadpole into a frog.
4. *Pathology.* A usually degenerative change in the structure of a particular body tissue.

Come experience the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual transformation Memorial Weekend, May 26, 27, 28, and 29, at the Westchase Hilton, 9999 Westheimer Road, Houston, TX 77042, 713-974-1000. Gulf Coast Mensa has arranged for a block of rooms for only \$69 per night, single or double. Register and reserve your room early before they are gone! Ask for the Gulf Coast Mensa rates when making reservations at I-800-HILTONS.

Come morph with us with stimulating speakers, great games, music, dancing, pool party, casino & Texas hold 'em, general revelry, all meals in hospitality, and so much more!

Registration Fees: \$60 if postmarked by 03/31/06 and \$65 thereafter. Kids 0 - 8 at the time of the RG attend free and 9-17 attend half-price. For those who cannot attend the entire weekend, registration for single days are \$20 for Friday, \$25 for Saturday and for Sunday, and \$5 for Monday.

Send your registration fee to SynRG Registrar  
 PO Box 25267  
 Houston, TX 77265

For more information or to pay online, go to [www.gcmensa.org](http://www.gcmensa.org).

Questions? Contact Elizabeth Meadows at [emeadows317@gmail.com](mailto:emeadows317@gmail.com)

⌘						
⌘	1	Chelle Bell		18	G David Higginson	<b>B i r t h d a y</b>
<b>H</b>		Ben Lawrence	<b>M</b>		Charles L Fahy Jr	
<b>a</b>	2	Mrs Joanna J Newnam			Lance S Kinney	
<b>p</b>		Devin Vitone	<b>A</b>	19	Kyle Simpson	
<b>p</b>	6	Ms Mary Dunlap Young		20	Mr Paul Anderson	
<b>y</b>	8	Jane Thompson	<b>R</b>		Jeff Ridgeway	
⌘		Derek Williams		22	Christie Clements	
⌘	14	Travis J Mason	<b>C</b>	24	Ken A Finn	
	15	Henry Arthur Powell		25	Ms Lydia Ann O'Neil	
		Terry Rodgers		25	Ms Trudy L K Loper	
	16	Casey Watkins	<b>H</b>	27	Madeleine Z Mercier	
	17	Susan Gibson		28	Madeleine Z Mercier	
		Mark Andy Smith			Krissy Morrow	

## **Region 6 Report**

*by Ray O'Connor RVC6*

March 2006

During the month of April, American Mensa will evaluate prior evidence for free. (The fee is usually \$30.) This will be a great time to encourage friends to submit their scores for membership. To take advantage this offer, candidates will need to visit the American Mensa Web site [www.us.mensa.org](http://www.us.mensa.org) between 4/1 and 4/30. Instructions on submitting scores for free will be linked from the home page.

March is the last month for your annual dues renewal. 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. Have you looked at the member benefits? A member told me he saves more than his annual dues in car insurance savings. You won't know the value of member benefits unless you go to the web site and check them out.

The region 6 local group member retention contest has one more month. As of Jan 31, Baton Rouge leads the small groups with 23% growth since June 2006. Lone Star Mensa leads the large groups with 18% growth. The region average is 13%.

If you are thinking about coming to the World Gathering I urge you to take advantage of the savings by registering in March. The rates increase by \$20 on April 1.



### **March Monthly Meeting**

Speaker: John T. Sutton  
Manger, Municipal Conservation Section,  
Office of Planning  
Texas Water Development Board

Topic: Water in Texas - water planning, the role of conservation and drought.

Mr. Sutton joined the Texas Water Development Board in June, 1994, to coordinate expanded conservation activities in the institutional, commercial and industrial sector. His work included interior and exterior conservation, retrofit, landscape programs, and irrigation efficiency. He currently supervises the Municipal Water Conservation Section, which includes municipal, institutional, commercial and industrial activities.

## **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, Meals included in Hospitality, and so much more... \$60 if postmarked by 3/3/06, \$65 thereafter, (Children's Discount 18 and under). CC (VMC). Checks payable to Gulf Coast Mensa RG.

Hilton Houston Westchase, 9999 Westheimer Road, Houston, TX 77042; (713) 974-1000; [www.westchase.hilton.com](http://www.westchase.hilton.com). SR/DR \$69 Room rates guaranteed until 5/4/06; mention GCM. May 15, 2006 cutoff Airport Shuttle \$25, [www.gcmensa.org/RGNews.asp](http://www.gcmensa.org/RGNews.asp). Contact Liz Meadows, Registrar, Gulf Coast Mensa, Inc., P.O. Box 25267, Houston, TX 77265.

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The World Gathering Aug 8 to Aug 13, 2006 The Coronado Springs, Disney World, FL 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. Disney and Mensa is definitely a winning combination.

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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)

### **Corner(Ed)!**

*-by Rachael Stewart, Editor*

Check your pockets, drawers, whatever before donating or selling your old stuff. Repeat after buying other people's old stuff. It may pay for lunch.

Going to sleep now, bye-bye.



## Reasons to Come to Disney: NO. 1

*by Marion Gaskins*

There are a great many reasons to plan your family vacation around the MENSA World Gathering 2006 in Orlando, Florida, USA. One of these reasons is that the kids will be enthralled.

When Disney World first opened in Orlando, I accompanied a four-year-old to the Magic Kingdom. For her, the beauty of Cinderella's castle was only surpassed by the excitement of reaching out and touching a real, live Minnie Mouse.

By having a tour guide, we avoided the lines. The guide also came in handy when we entered the Haunted Mansion. My young companion was terrified and remained behind with the tour guides while this big kid took the ride. I was fascinated by the technology which produced those ghosts!

Slightly more than a decade later, at Christmas, I took the same child, now an unhappy teenager. As hard as she tried not to have fun, she really did. She admitted it out loud. She actually smiled.

There is marvelous pleasure in seeing the Magic Kingdom through a child's eyes, but even those of us in our second childhood and those who never left the first can enjoy the Kilimanjaro Safaris, Maharajah Jungle Trek, my favorite - the Haunted Mansion, and then take a little time for ourselves at Pleasure Island.

Do yourself a favor, bring a child of any age to Disney World and stop in at the MENSA World Gathering, August 8-13, 2006. If you can't find a child to bring, volunteer to help with Kids Trek. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Kay Klasen via the link on the WG06 site: [volunteers@wg06.us.mensa.org](mailto:volunteers@wg06.us.mensa.org).

Computer illiterate? Find a child to help you.

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## "Etiquette in South Florida"

*by Marion Gaskins*

Imagine that you're giving a party. Thousands of people show up. Where do you put all their coats? Thank goodness the party's in Florida in August. No one will be wearing coats; shorts, t-shirts, bikinis and flip flops are de rigueur!

The party lasts a week! You have to get some sleep. Who will take over for you?

A good host greets his guests. A charming hostess makes introductions. At the same time, they somehow manage to keep the coffee hot, the drinks cold, the snack platters filled,

## Things to do at Disney

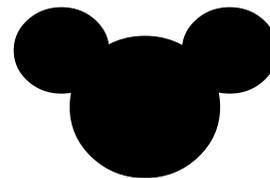
*by Allen Neuner*

At Walt Disney World you can...

- Hang-glide the length of California.
- Interact with Crush, the turtle star of "Finding Nemo."
- Battle the evil Emperor Zurg alongside Buzz Lightyear.
- Watch the Muppets in a 3-D movie.
- Ride a log over a waterfall in the American South.
- See all 43 Presidents of the United States.
- Listen as Abraham Lincoln makes a speech.
- Journey through American history with Ben Franklin and Mark Twain as your guides.
- Be immersed in the scenic wonders of China, guided by a figure out of Chinese cultural history.
- Ride a longboat through the waters of Norway and come face to face with angry troll magic.
- Drop thirteen stories in a freight elevator in a haunted Hollywood hotel.
- See Mickey Mouse as the Sorcerer's Apprentice battle villains from the Disney films.
- Slide down some of the longest, steepest water slides in the world.
- Careen in a raft through the turbulent waters of an Indian river.
- Celebrate New Year's Eve every night at midnight.
- Travel into the Himalayan Mountains and come face to face with the legendary Yeti.
- ...and that's just for starters!

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Mensan Allen Neuner is the author of THE POOKA GUIDE\* TO WALT DISNEY WORLD.

\*Trademark



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and all things tidy. That's a lot of work when you have thousands of guests.

Luckily, you have a lot of friends willing to help you out, and you won't have to worry about guests getting too rowdy. Florida has something called the Baker Act. Just tell Security that "they came back from the pool in heavy winter coats with mufflers" and they'll be put under psychiatric observation until the party's over.

To sign up to help with HOSPITALITY, contact Kay Klasen. For more details about the party, check out the website <http://wg06.us.mensa.org>.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MARCH?

### **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, March 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.

### **Games Night**

**Saturday, March 11 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, March 14 7:00pm**  
**Austin Public Library, North Village Branch**  
2139 W. Anderson Lane, Austin  
Please see the left-hand column, this page, for details.

### **Fold & Sticker**

**Thursday, March 23 6:00pm**  
Central Market, Austin. See TGIT for directions.  
Help us assemble the newsletter!

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

**2006**