

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXXIII Number 11

November 2006



The “Yellow Dog Line” as seen from the grounds of Chucalissa Indian Mound, Memphis TN.

-photo by Rachael Stewart, 2006

HISTORY LESSON

Aaron J. Rabushka

huffin’ it, puffin’ it,
William the Conqueror
rolled over England in
ten sixty-six

scorning persuasion the
Britons’ equation to
Billy’s invasion was
“Yecch! What a fix!”

Welcome New

Members

Matthew J. Davis
James Bobal
Ian O’Leary
Brandon J. Beberwyck
Clinton J. Wostal
Tony Matta III
Madeline McClure
Tiffany Metze
Steven E. Metze
William C. Neely Jr.
Laura Shankland

Welcome Back,

Members

Ronald E. Garner
Victor Alonzo
Joseph Marcus
Linda Edelstein

Welcome to Region 6,

Lonestar Mensa

Michael Ray
Robert E. Drum
Annemarie Conlon Redelmeier
Nina J. Saint
Colleen McConnell

La CARTE

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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.

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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

Dear Fellow Mensans –

I enjoyed visiting with you again at our October events. And I hope we will have gotten a good response to Mensa Testing Day – this article is being written before the testing day.

Please note that Mark and I are now hosting Bridge Afternoon – we will need a volunteer to host Mensa Games Night, usually held on the Second Saturday of the month.

Please use your ballot to vote for your elected officials for 2007. I am asking for your vote as president – and also your vote for the other members of the ExComm slate. Please remember that if you wish to nominate and vote for someone else, you must have that person's permission to do so.

Due to the holiday, the publication deadline for articles for the December Armadillo Literary Gazette has been moved up to November 10, so we can do Fold and Sticker on Thursday, November 16. That change in deadline means that the results of the election will be posted on the list serve and in the January newsletter.

Janet

Special Notice:

We need a Lonestar Mensa volunteer to host Games Night. Janet and Mark will not be hosting Games Night on Saturday, November 11. We are hosting Bridge Afternoon on Sunday, November 12. If someone else would like to host Games Night, please call Janet (836-5773) and we will get it on the list serve for November – or you can send the information for future months to our editor, Rachael Stewart.



New Member News



Philip Nicholson has recently joined the Lonestar Mensa Chapter.

Philip is from Austin, Texas. He is a freshman at Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas planning to major in both computer science and music. He is self-employed as a website designer and offers website search engine optimization, blog design and promotion services to his customers. He learned about Mensa from family and friends who encouraged him to join.

November Birthdays

- 2 Gerald Lee Schappe
William Gerald Baker
Michael Rose
- 4 Jeffrey David Johannigman
- 8 Susan Marie Shaffer RN
- 9 Paul W Roeber
- 10 Joseph Kalapach
- 11 Kelly Williams
James Bobal
- 14 Timothy Edward Carpenter
- 15 Dr Douglas Perret Starr PHD APR
Michael C Wheeler
- 16 Scot R Courtney
Jackson E Crosley
- 17 Peter Anthony Crossley
Paul R Albers
- 19 Mark Fortress
- 22 Cynthia Hays
- 25 Kelli M Adam
- 26 Jessica Cassidy
John Kindschi
- 27 John Fortkort
- 28 Nancy W Norwood
- 30 Amy Forestell



Member News

St. David's Adult Choir (of which Rachael Stewart is a member) will, with University Presbyterian's Choir, perform Durufle's *Requiem* on Thursday, 2 November at St. David's Episcopal, and Sunday 5 November at University Presbyterian.

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NOTE: Above is a condensed version of the annual report. To view complete layout and field descriptions, go to www.usps.com/forms/_pdf/ps3526.pdf

October LSM ExComm Meeting

October 4, 2006, Northwest Recreation Center, Arts & Crafts Room

Attending the meeting were Janet Kres, Don Drumtra, Michael Tolbert, Helen Siders, and member Patty Drumtra.

Don Drumtra gave a partial RG report – the treasurer’s report Paul Pierce, as RG chairman will provide the other informational items for the final report, as specified in the RG ASIE. The RG made \$137 profit. Don moved that the allocation specified in the ASIEs be applied to the \$137 – 10% (13.73) to the Scholarship fund; the remaining balance split between the RG Fund and the General Treasury (61.76 each). Helen seconded. Motion Approved. Don made the motion that if late receipts are received for the 2006 RG, the payment will be out of the 2007 RG funds. Michael seconded. Motion approved. This will allow the books to be closed on the current RG.

Officers’ Reports:

Helen Siders has completed the Postal Form 3526 on time, and the condensed version will be published in the Newsletter. The group applauded Helen for her diligent work in meeting postal regulations for the mailings.

Janet asked if meeting at the first Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. was convenient for the group. The attendees agreed that it was a convenient time – those unable to attend will be polled about the meeting date and time.

Janet reported that the new software has been installed by our Editor Rachael Stewart - and after downloading updates, and re-installing fonts, the great result was the October newsletter. Rachael also has inquired of the printer if there is anything she could be doing with the new software to facilitate the printing. LSM needs to get the cost of the software, and request assistance in paying for it from our RVC, Ray O’Connor. Don reported that the costs at the printer have been going up – Helen will check on the reason for this.

Don – Treasurer’s report – We continue to be healthy financially. Thanks to the excellent management of the RG committee, the RG met our goal as an essentially non-profit event. At \$4,165, RG revenue exceeded expenses by \$137, allowing modest additions to our scholarship program, RG Fund for 2007, and other LSM activities. Excluding the RG, ordinary revenue was slightly higher than normal mostly from our quarterly interest and ordi-

nary expenses were lower than normal as we concentrated on the RG. Pr-registrations for the 2007 RG amount to \$665, with 21 Mensans and guests already signed up and looking forward to another intellectually stimulating event.

Don proposed the following financial ASIEs. Each item was discussed, moved for adoption, seconded, and approved.

1. Except for RG expenses, requests for reimbursements are due to the LSM Treasurer, via request form, by the end of the month following the month in which the expense occurred.

2. Requests for reimbursement of RG expenses for each RG are due to the LSM Treasurer via request form prior to 25 days after the end of the RG.

3. All requests for reimbursement are due to the LSM Treasurer by December 15 in order to be paid out of the current year.

4. All requests for reimbursement over \$25 must be accompanied by receipts.

5. Request forms and receipts may be sent to the LSM Treasurer via fax (with prior treasurer notification), email, snail mail, or personal delivery.

6. The LSM Treasurer may approve and pay ordinary LSM member reimbursement requests up to \$100 per individual per month.

7. The LSM Treasurer may pay ordinary reimbursement requests over \$100 per member per month with the approval of the members of the ExComm via email and ExComm confirmation at the next regular monthly ExComm meeting.

8. The LSM Treasurer may approve and pay LSM program expenses according to ASIEs governing those programs.

9. Reimbursements for program expenses received after due dates are charged to the following year program accounts.

10. Checks outstanding for over 90 days will be considered void and committed funds will be returned to the treasury. The amount of the check will be reflected as a liability for up to one year from the date of the check.

11. The LSM ExComm may approve exceptions to reimbursement rules established in ASIEs only for extenuating circumstances.

12. Newsletter program. The LSM Treasurer may approve and make direct payments for prepaid postage and printing of the newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Join us in November for Lonestar Mensa Kids' Activities

-by Michele Vaughan, Gifted Children's Coordinator



We have a couple of child-friendly activities coming up in November. Please join us on November 13 for our monthly meeting and have your kids meet Cindy Carroccio, the founder and director of the Austin Zoo. She will be speaking about the zoo history and mission. Following her presentation, we will put our

creativity to work designing bird toys out of wood, leather, rope, and sisal materials. This is an activity that adults can enjoy too!

On Wednesday, November 22 (the day before Thanksgiving), at 10:30 we will meet at the picnic tables at the Austin Zoo to donate the bird toys we made. Even if you weren't able to attend the meeting the week before to make the toys, we hope you'll take advantage of the break from school and join us at this local treasure www.austinzoo.org. The cost of admission is \$4 for children (aged 2-12), \$7 for adults, and \$5 for grandparents and seniors. You may also consider checking the donation list on the Austin Zoo web site. They have several household items they are in need of that you may also wish to give (dog/cat food, sheets, blankets, frozen fruits/veggies, etc.). Feel free to bring a sack lunch and meet back at the picnic tables around 12 to eat together after touring the zoo. Hope to see you there!

Reminder: our discussion group can be found at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lonestargiftedchildren/>. Please contact me at lonestar.gifted.children@gmail.com if you have any suggestions for upcoming activities or any questions. Thanks! -Michele



Twice Exceptional, Twice Challenged

*-by Kathie Oliver, Gifted Children Program Team member,
New Jersey Mensa*

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Gifted children have to deal with many stereotypes. The most common stereotype is that gifted people are equally good at everything in school. They are expected to be "perfect" students in every way. If they don't fit this stereotype they may be misidentified as having a learning disability (LD) or psychological/neurological problem

even though their behavior is perfectly "normal" and rational for a gifted child. For example, the parents of bored and unchallenged gifted children who have disconnected from their classes are often told that their children should be tested for Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), while the parents of gifted children whose search for something interesting to do disrupts the classroom routine are often told that they should be checked for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

However, many gifted children are not "average" or "neuro-typical" in every way other than intelligence. Instead, their intellectual gifts co-exist with learning disabilities or other conditions which interfere with their ability to express their intelligence. They are extremely intelligent, but also have one or more complicating factor such as dyslexia, ADD, ADHD, or Sensory Integration Disorder (SID).

Too often these children have an unnecessarily difficult time in school, simply because many people find it hard to believe that a child with a learning disability of any type could possibly be gifted. They just don't fit the stereotype. How could an intellectually gifted child have difficulty learning? Unfortunately, many gifted children do face these challenges.

Learning disabilities may manifest themselves differently in gifted children than in other children. Misdiagnosis is common, for LDs often mask intelligence and intelligence often masks LDs. In "Recognizing Gifted Children with Learning Disabilities" (<http://psas.bctf.ca/AEGTC-CBC/conferences/Reports/GE96/recognise.html>), Dr. Linda Kreger Silverman writes:

High intelligence can complicate diagnosis. Many gifted children have learned to compensate so well for areas of weakness that they may appear average when they are really struggling. It is important to compare the child's weaknesses to his or her strengths and see if the discrepancies are significant, rather than to compare only with norms for average children.

Even psychologists who are very experienced in working with gifted children or with learning disabled children may have difficulty figuring out how best to help children with this combination of learning needs.

These children are given many labels. They may be called GTLD (Gifted and Talented Learning Disabled), or Multi/Dual Exceptional, or Twice Exceptional, or 2E/2e. It is very hard for these children and their parents and

teachers to first find out what they are dealing with and then learn how to approach it.

The most recent research on 2E issues is usually found on the internet. When searching online, be sure to use all of the common synonyms and acronyms. This is time consuming, but looking under “2E” will lead to different articles than “GELD,” and searching for “ADD” will not get exactly the same results as “Attention Deficit Disorder.”

Here are some resources to explore:

The Learning Disabilities Association of America offers little about 2E issues, but a lot about LDs. Its website is <http://www.ldaamerica.us/index.cfm>.

Despite the implications of its name, Smart Kids With Learning Disabilities does not specialize in G&T kids. However, they offer useful information at <http://www.smartkidswithld.org/index.html> The Schwab Learning Website, <http://www.schwablearning.org/>, has information about LDs and attention problems. One of its articles is “Growing Up Gifted with ADHD,” written by a twelve year old girl.

Dr. Linda Kreger Silverman’s one-page chart, “Gifted Children With Learning Disabilities”, incorporating “Signs of Giftedness” and “Signs of Learning Disabilities” is available online at <http://psas.bctf.ca/AEGTCCBC/conferences/Reports/GE96/LearnDis.html>.

2e: Twice-Exceptional Newsletter is a bimonthly publication on 2E. Its editorial board includes the top names in 2E research and education. Don’t miss its online resources page at http://2enewsletter.com/links_general.htm. To subscribe, go to the website and click on “to subscribe,” call 1-630-790-2252, or write to Glen Ellyn Media, P.O. Box 582, Glen Ellyn, IL 60138-0582.

One issue of 2e: Twice-Exceptional Newsletter focused on the Montgomery County Public Schools in Maryland. This district is known for incorporating up to date research in its school policies, and many New Jersey teachers have visited its schools for training. Their 2E policies are published in A Guidebook for Twice-Exceptional Students: Supporting the Achievement of Gifted Students with Special Needs, a 51 page book available online at <http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/curriculum/enriched/gtld/docs/ Twice%20Exceptional.pdf>.

The Guidebook contains a lot of practical information for parents and teachers.

Lonestar Mensa Ballot for Elective Office during 2007

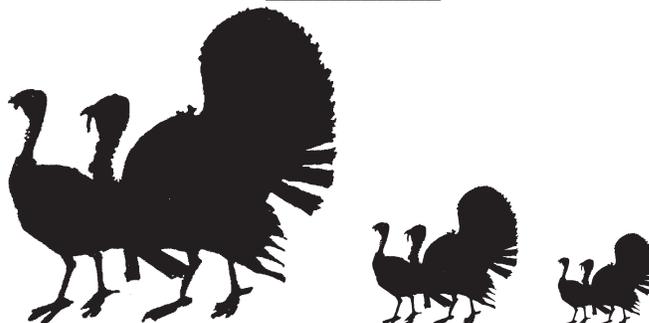
Instructions:

1. Put your Mensa ID (membership number) on the outside of the envelope. Do not put any identifying information on the ballot itself. Envelopes without a Mensa ID (membership number) and ballots with identifying information will be disqualified.

2. Send all ballots to be received by November 15, 2006 to Kathie Blair Lawler, Chair of the Nominating and Elections Committee at:

LSM 2007 Election Ballot
6486 Hart Lane
Austin, TX 78731-3162

Office	Candidate	Vote
President	Janet Kres	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vice President	John Neemidge	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Treasurer	Don Drumtra	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member at Large	Vignesh Prakash	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member at Large	Michael Tolbert	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member at Large	Helen Siders	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>



November Monthly Meeting

Gifted Children's Workshop

Join us for the Gifted Children's Workshop, led by our Gifted Children Coordinator, Michele Vaughn. Our guest speaker will be Cincy Carroccio, the founder and director of the Austin Zoo. She will be speaking about the history and mission of the Austin Zoo as well as the specific needs of the parrots housed there. Following her presentation, we will exercise our creativity by assembling bird toys which will be donated to the parrots at the Austin Zoo during a Lonestar Mensa Kids' visit to the zoo later in the month.

Specific information about the zoo's history is available at: <http://www.austinzoo.org/history.html>

Scholarships



The application forms for this year's scholarships contest are available! Go to www.mensafoundation.org/scholarships to download the applications. Also, the applications will be available very soon for download at the Lonestar Mensa website (www.lsm.us.mensa.org – click on "Scholarship Information"). This year, Mensa members need to file a separate application for the scholarships that are for members only. So, on the website, be sure to download the application for the local/regional/national awards AND the one for Mensa members. The web page gives you the two links.

If you can't download, ask for an application by sending an email message to mensascholarships@gmail.com to receive a pdf file via email, or send a self-addressed, stamped, business (#10) envelope to:

Mensa Foundation Scholarships
P.O. Box 5904
Round Rock, TX 78683-5904

Not going to school these days? If you'd like to help with the scholarships program, please send an email to our local chair, Claudia Harbert: mensascholarships@gmail.com. You can help by sending out announcements about the program, by posting posters about the program, or by judging. If you know of any place where a one-page downloadable poster announcement would reach potential scholarship applicants, please email to get a copy of the poster. Judging the essays will be in late January – early February. If you would like to be notified when the judging begins, please email.

What's Happening in November?

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, November 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.

Sunday Afternoon Bridge

Sunday, November 12 1:30-4:30pm

Janet and Mark Kres' House

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

Please RSVP so we will know how many bridge players we will have. Instruction will be provided.

Monthly Meeting

Monday, November 13 7:00pm

Austin Public Library, North Village Branch

2139 West Anderson Lane, Austin

Please see the announcement on this page (left) for details.

Fold & Sticker

Thursday, November 16 6:00pm

Central Market, Austin. See TGIT for directions.

Help us assemble the newsletter!

Lonestar Mensa Sewing Circle

Saturday, November 18 1:00-4:00pm

Jeanne Stewart's House

13106 Bidwell Dr, Austin (512) 965-4409

Bring your current handwork project – we enjoy showing off our handwork and sharing information! Light snacks will be served.



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November

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

2006