

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXXIV Number 10

October 2007



The Gibson Guitar Factory, Memphis TN

photo by Rachael Stewart, 2006

La CARTE

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Lonestar Mensa Officers

Web Site: <http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org>

Executive Committee Members

President: Janet Kres

512-836-5773 jmkres@sbcglobal.net

Vice President: John Neemidge

512-310-7863 neemidge@usa.net

Treasurer: Don Drumtra

512-291-0315 drumtra@aol.com

Members at Large:

Ron Edelstein

512-491-9881 aduana@mindspring.com

Michael Tolbert

512-302-6052 soundmoney@yahoo.com

Steve Skelton

512-902-5023 steve_skelton2000@yahoo.com

Recruitment Chair: Mark Kres (see Membership)

Membership Officer: Mark Kres

512-836-5773 jmkres@sbcglobal.net

Current Member Coordinator: Vacant

New Member Coordinator: Carla Young

carla.x.young@gmail.com

Lapsed Member Coordinator: Vacant

Leadership Roster Coordinator: Vacant

Testing Coordinator: Mark Kres

512-836-5773 jmkres@sbcglobal.net

Testing Facilities Coordinator: Vacant

Awards Coordinator: Vacant

Nominations Committee Chair: Vacant

Communications Chair: Vacant

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512-407-9753 bookbird@yahoo.com

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Publicity Officer: Paul Anderson

512-259-7824 wrdslngr@swbell.net,

Elist Coordinator: John Neemidge

512-310-7863 neemidge@usa.net

Record Manager: Vacant

Symposia Chair: Vacant

Programs Officer (Meeting Coord.): Todd Shaw

512-423-1252 txpioneer@hotmail.com

Symposia Coordinator: Vacant

Symposia Publicity Coordinator: Vacant

Education Chair: Vacant

Education Funding Coordinator: Vacant

Scholarship Chair: Claudia Harbert

512-238-0205 mensascholarships@gmail.com

Education Publicity Coordinator: Vacant

Gifted Children's Coordinator: Michele Vaughan

512-388-5970 lonestar.gifted.children@gmail.com

Subgroups Program Chair: Vacant

Bryan-College Station Coordinator: Vacant

Univ. of Texas Student Coord.: Vignesh Prakash

512-740-2592 vignesh@mail.utexas.edu

Waco Coordinator: Vacant

SIGHT Coordinator: Steve Vaughan

512-388-5970 svaughan@austin.rr.com

LonestaRG Chair: Paul Pierce

pauljohnpierce@aol.com

RG Registrar: Jane K. Thompson

512-335-4196 jthompson@apple.com

RG Hospitality Chair: Ray O'Connor

(972) 478-3556 (w) (972) 396-9399 (h)

RVCG@us.mensa.org

RG Programs Chair: Paul Pierce (see RG Chair)

RG Facilities Chair: Ellen Lukasik

elukasik@sbcglobal.net

RG Publicity Chair: John Neemidge (see V.P.)

RG Drawings, Prizes, and Awards Chair: Vacant

RG Treasurer: Don Drumtra

512-291-0315 drumtra@aol.com

Arbiter: Kathleen Holiman

(512) 250-5488 gkholirnan@sbcglobal.net

Ombudsman: Kathleen Holiman

(512) 250-5488 gkholirnan@sbcglobal.net

If you are interested in helping with LSM activities in any of the vacant positions listed above, please contact Janet Kres, via email jmkres@sbcglobal.net, or phone 512-836-5773.

Regional Vice Chairman (RVC)

Ralph Rudolph

RVC6@us.mensa.org

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1229 Corporate Drive West

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From the President

Dear Fellow Mensans –

It's election time! That means you have a great opportunity to participate in the life of Lonestar Mensa. Please be sure to contact the nominations committee if you are interested in a position. Remember – I am term limited according to the by-laws and cannot continue as president. It would be great to have YOU on the Ex Comm!

I do want to thank Carla Young – who accepted the position of New Member Coordinator. Yay Carla! And also for you Mensans in Waco who have expressed interest in coordinating activities there – please get your information to our newsletter editor, Rachael Stewart, and to me, so I can put it on the list serve.

Remember – this is YOUR Lonestar Mensa!

See you at future events –
Janet

Welcome New Members

Duncan Stewart
Keith Busby
Calli D. Baldwin
Douglas R. Reed
Alfred Coto

Welcome Back, Members

Geoffrey Adam Forrester
Gwendolyn Taylor
Zachary Atkinson
Paul Pierce
Matthew L. Rife
M. J. McCloskey
Madeline McClure
Dr. James e. turney Jr.
Leonard Jospehy Doiron
Brooks B. Annarino

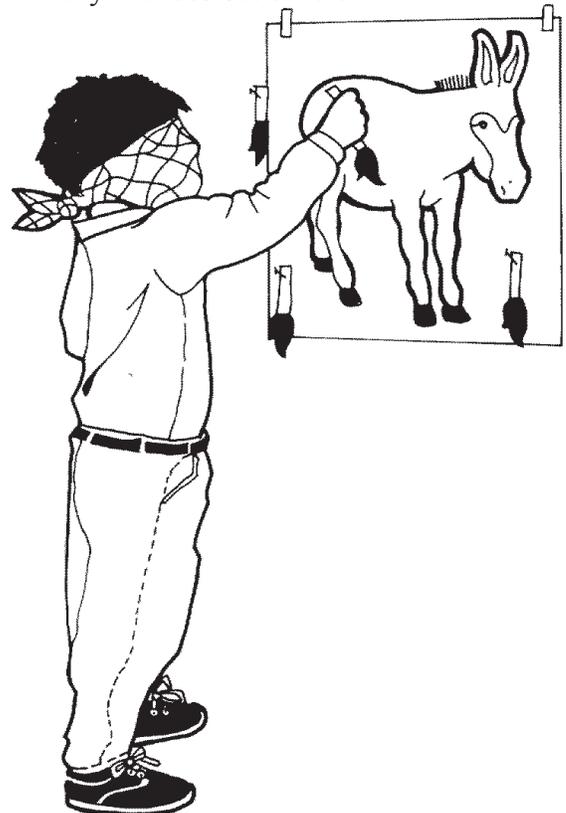
Welcome to Region 6, Lonestar Mensa

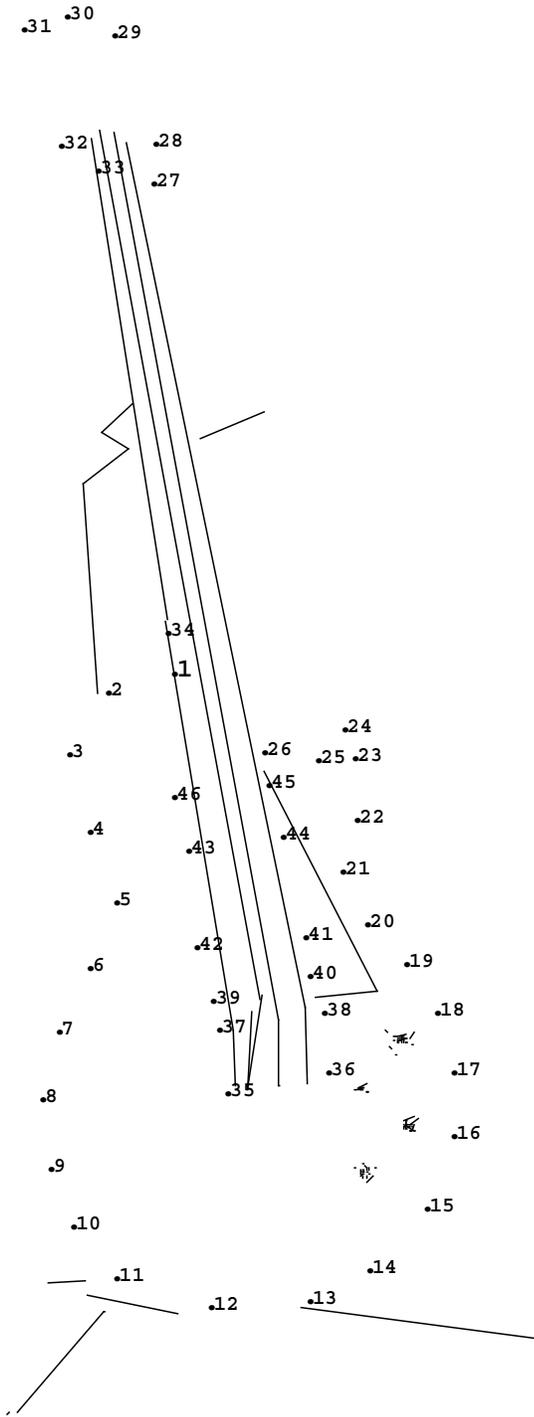
Jeffrey A. Moran
Stephen Ladd
Henry Hottelet
Shauna Gibbons



October Birthdays

- 1 David Floyd
- Melanie G Gover
- Robert Brian Holder
- 3 Thomas M Spillman Jr
- 4 Joan C Dameron
- Karen M Werner
- 5 Mark L. Kres
- 6 Lindsey Skrobarcek
- 8 James Froedge
- 10 Nina Jo Saint
- Richard Letts
- Robert Allan Larson
- 14 Kelley Saveika
- 15 Vicky Yvonne Spradling
- 16 John D Perkins
- 17 Helen J Crispin
- Linda Joyce Streitfeld
- 19 Thomas Albert DeRoo
- 21 Tiffany Metze
- 23 Michael Bennett McCormick
- 25 Audrey L Patton
- Deidre Brightman
- 26 Robert I May
- 28 Kimberly R Chapin
- W Andrew York
- 29 David R Travi
- Mary Frances Satterfield

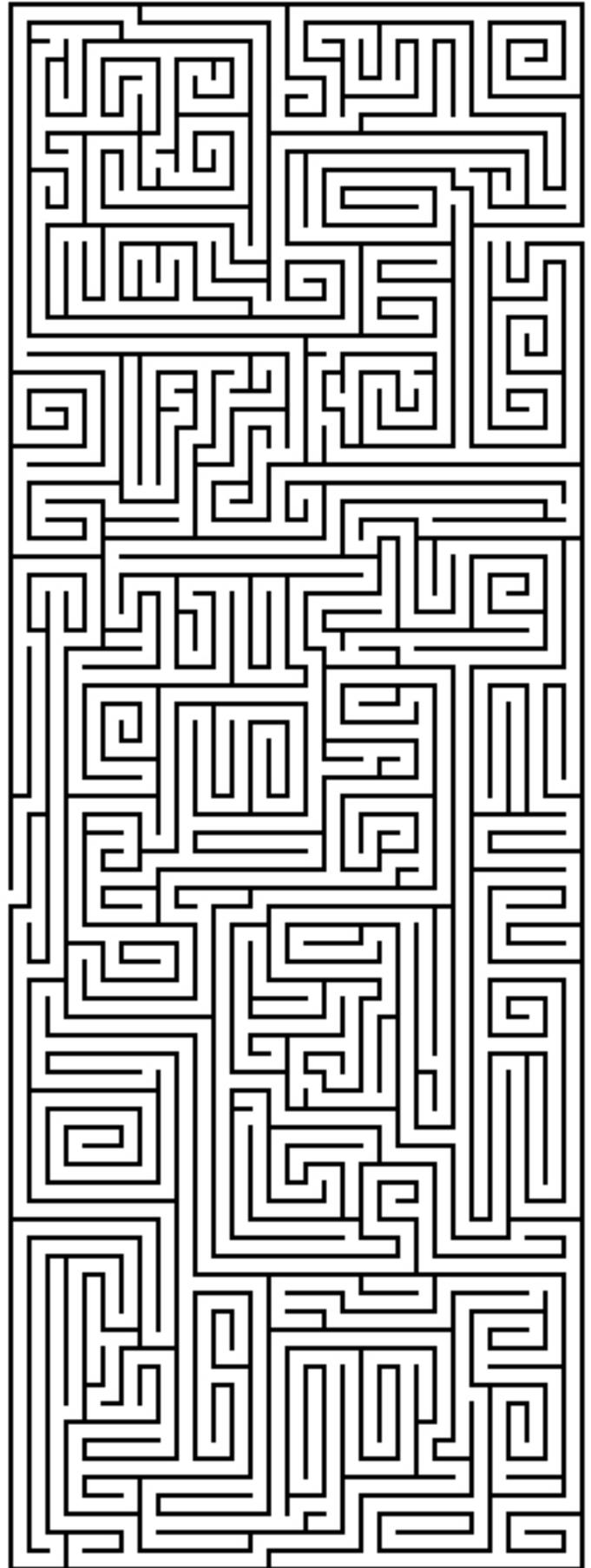




generated at <http://www.picturedots.com>

Q: How would you identify a Gibson in the dark?

A: By the shape of its head.



generated at <http://hereandabove.com/maze/mazeorig.form.html>

RVC6 Column

-from Ralph "Rudy" Rudolph, RVC Region 6

I just returned from the Sept 7th planning session and the Sept 8th AMC Meeting. The planning session was lead by Jeff De Cagna, who basically told us to make our AMC meeting more efficient through more debate on e-mail lists and less debate during meetings so there is time to concentrate on ideas that are beneficial to our organization. We spend too much time trying to place blame and too little time innovating. Doh!

The AMC session produced few surprises. ALL local groups will be required to produce a statement of their treasury cash balances each March plus the EIN, TIN or SSN used on their accounts. This reporting will expand in the future to include more than cash balances. I was one of two people voting against this motion.

OOPS! It appears that AMC has been using the wrong method for the last thirty years to replace RVCs who quit, move out of the Region or die. AMC merely appointed a new RVC. In the future, we will be forced to have some sort of special interim election. Our Bylaws Committee will be studying the matter and will recommend bylaw changes.

Rules governing how the AMC Executive Committee operates have been changed to require it to consult with AMC members during emergencies.

I am pleased to announce that several groups have instituted new Gen-X groups, have started new yahoo forums, and are revamping their websites. Way to go! South Texas Mensa is taking the innovative step of forming an alliance with the Adventure Club of San Antonio which sponsors events every day of the week: canoeing, kayaking, skydiving, bungee jumping, etc. To me, this sounds like a GREAT way to get more Gen-Xers involved.

I am saddened to announce that I am working with Panhandle (Amarillo area) Mensa to merge them as necessary. Voting by the members is currently taking place. The group will be merged during October.

I'd like to ask our groups to remind members about the SIGHT program which offers services to traveling Mensans. As a past SIGHT Coordinator, I had great times hosting folks such as a gentleman on the way to the National Storytellers Convention in Tennessee. I made a few calls and he entertained many members with his tall tales. I even hosted the Secretary of British

Mensa, a very funny lady.

I will be at the North Texas Mensa Thanksgiving Feast of Pleasures and Delights RG with my wife Penny who will be giving a talk on her writing career. Naturally there will be a meet and greet your RVC function somewhere in the schedule. I mention this in advance as I do not plan on writing a column next month; I'll be visiting my son and grandson in Seattle.

Have a great autumn!

New Member News

Tony DePaul is a past member who has just rejoined Mensa after about a 10 year absence. His main hobbies are hiking and sleeping.

Tony was born in Washington, D.C. and grew up in Maryland. After graduation from the University of Maryland, he moved to Houston to attend Law School. His first wife was a singer, and they moved to San Francisco so she could pursue her career. While in San Francisco, he started doing standup and it evolved into his career. For about 25 years he has made his living as an entertainer (mostly standup comedy) and have had the good fortune to work with people such as Robin Williams, Dana Carvey, Whoopi Goldberg, Bobcat Goldthwaite, etc. etc. At present he is sort of retired but sometimes, because he enjoys doing it, he occasionally works a one nighter or a convention.

Now that he is back in Mensa, he expects to be active and hopefully will make many friends. He is also looking forward to many stimulating conversations and good parties. For more information, for a conversation, or just to argue about the weather, call Tony at 512-301-1142!



Notice of Lonestar Mensa Elections

It is time for Lonestar Mensa elections for the Executive Committee in 2008, as described in our bylaws. The ballot will be printed in the November newsletter. The mailed ballots must be returned to the chair of the elections committee and received not later than November 15 or the date of the November LSM general membership meeting (November 13), whichever is later.

The Nominating Committee and Elections Committee are:

Chairman:

Kathie Blair Lawler (512) 267-1843
Kathie.Lawler@dshs.state.tx.us
scubakathie@mycingular.blackberry.net
4700 Comanche
Lago Vista, TX. 78645

Paul Anderson (512) 259-7824
wrdsInger@swbell.net

Mark Kres (512) 836-5773
JMKres@sbcglobal.net

If you would like to place your name on the ballot for an Executive Committee office, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee before October 15, 2007, (deadline for newsletter publications). There will be a space provided on the ballot for write-in candidates.

Current members who will be on the ballot for 2008 membership on the Executive Committee are:

President

Vice President Don Drumtra

Treasurer

Member at Large John Neemidge
Janet Kres
Ron Edelstein



October Monthly Meeting

Topic: Landscape Design and Composting with the Texas Department of Transportation

Presenter: Barrie Cogburn

Barrie Cogburn, RLA, Director, Landscape Design & Enhancement Section with TxDOT will discuss landscape design and the use of compost. TxDOT has been providing landscape design for over 70 years. In 1998 she began a partnership with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality which focused on the research, development and implementation of utilizing compost as an effective erosion control alternative in high construction and maintenance. This partnership effort resulted in one of the most progressive compost utilization programs in the country and included the largest Clean Water Act grant ever awarded by the EPA. The effort was awarded the 2002 American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials President's Transportation Award – environmental Category and the 2002 National Partnership for highway Quality, Texas Quality Initiative – Making a Difference Award. TxDOT is currently the nation's largest market for compost.

Barrie received her Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture from Texas A&M University in 1983 and is a Registered Landscape Architect. She is an active member of Executive Women in Texas Government. Barrie was the recipient of the 2003 Raymond E. Stotzer Jr. Award for outstanding leadership, dedication and service to the state in the field of transportation.

LSM Mustelid Mansion

Twelfth Annual Halloween Extravaganza

Join your fellow ghouls, goblins, witches, ghosts and spooks at Geri and John's annual Halloween Party! Decorations both fun and scary! Lights everywhere! Automated creatures talking to you from darkened rooms! The terrifying trinity, Cheesehead, Meathead, and Diphead, will serve sandwiches and snacks. Geri will make her famous witches' brew to add to the party spirit(s)! Wear a great costume and be the hit of the costume contest, or just come as you are! Bring your friends! Bring your family! Bring along some beastly beverages, potent potions, devilish delights and terrible treats to share!

What's Happening in October?

Thank Goodness It's Thursday

Central Market Café

Every Thursday 6:00-8:00pm

4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin (512) 206-1020
Meet us at 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's is adjacent to Central Market on the south side. We meet upstairs.

ExComm Meeting

Wednesday, October 3 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.

1st Saturday Bridge Night

Saturday, October 6 7:00-10:00pm

Karen McMackin's house
7211 Lakewood Dr #123, Austin (512) 497-7211
Please RSVP so we will know how many bridge players we will have. Instruction will be provided. Beginners welcome. This is "party bridge", not duplicate bridge.

Sewing Circle

Sunday, October 7 1:00 -4:00 pm

Janet and Mark Kres' house
11708 Prairie Hen Lane, Austin (512) 836 -5773
It's been a while since the sewing circle has met. Please join us in meeting Lyrienne Vaughn's new baby brother – Drake! (Mom Michelle will be there, too). Bring your handiwork and join us for an afternoon of needle arts and conversation. Light snacks will be served.

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, October 9 7:00pm

Austin Public Library, North Village Branch
2139 West Anderson Lane, Austin
"TxDOT Landscape Programs" See page 6 for details.

3rd Saturday Poker Night

Saturday, October 20 7:00pm-???

Laura Shankland's house
11300 Bunting Dr., Austin (512) 297-8344
lolas@laurashankland.com

Please RSVP so we know how many to expect. Nickle ante; dealer's choice. Please BYOB.

LSM Mustelid Mansion

Twelfth Annual Halloween Extravaganza

Saturday October 20th 8:00pm

The Neemidges'
1807 Messick Place, Round Rock
See page 6 for more details.

Fold & Sticker

Thursday, October 25 6:00pm

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



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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.

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October

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|---|--------|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 ExComm | 4  TGIT | 5 | 6 1st Saturday Bridge |
| 7 Sewing Circle | 8 | 9 Monthly Meeting | 10 | 11  TGIT | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 <i>'Dillo Deadline</i> | 16 | 17 | 18  TGIT | 19 | 20 3rd Saturday Poker Halloween Party |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25  <i>Fold & Sticker</i> | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

2007