

# Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXXIV Number 4

April 2007



Mud Island River Park in Memphis TN boasts a 5-block-long replica of the lower Mississippi.

-photo by Rachael Stewart 2006

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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

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Michael Tolbert

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Vignesh Prakash

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**Recruitment Chair:** Vacant

**Membership Officer:** Mark Kres

512-836-5773 jmkres@sbcglobal.net

**Current Member Coordinator:** Vacant

**New Member Coordinator:** Vacant

**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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**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 ceharbert@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 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:** Vacant

**RG Facilities Chair:** Vacant

**RG Publicity Chair:** Vacant

**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](mailto:jmkres@sbcglobal.net), or phone 512-836-5773.

## **Regional Vice Chairman (RVC)**

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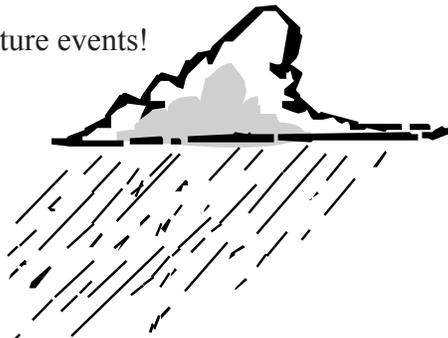
## From the President

Dear Fellow Mensans –

O.K. – O.K. – O.K. -- It looks REALLY different on the inside cover of our newsletter. There is a big, long, list of positions– and the most popular name listed is “Vacant”. That’s because your name should be there. YOU could be the Recruitment Chair or Bryan-College Station Coordinator or Waco Coordinator! You could be the Waco Coordinator for a one time event – a games afternoon or a dinner meeting, to see if you like it. If you like it, you could do it once a month, or every other month, or whatever is convenient with your schedule. Mensa is about people – and we are hoping that the opportunity to get involved with an LSM activity – once, or on an on-going basis will serve to get our members together!

See you at future events!

Janet



## Welcome New Members

Jeffrey D. Allen  
Ryan T. Ash  
Alexandera Donovan  
Robert D. Fraser  
Miles Grant  
Thomas D. Harrison  
Kenneth Kier  
Joseph D. Simpson

## Welcome Back, Members

Jim H. Mangum Jr.  
Allen Pooley  
James R. Smallman

## Welcome to Region 6, Lonestar Mensa

Adam P. Tatusko  
Nicole M. Moreau  
Zoe D. Stone

- 1 Robert Wittenmyer
- 2 Bruce Wayne Jean  
Robert D Fraser
- 3 Brandon J Beberwyck  
Mark Summers
- 4 Amy R Neuzil  
Joseph Parsons  
Johnnie Ray Vaughn
- 7 Christine Kindschi
- 8 Craig A Carpenter  
David J Burgett
- 9 Sarah Graham
- 12 Irene Konig  
Robert Dietrich
- 13 Robert E Drum
- 14 Michael Lewis Drapkin
- 15 James L McShan  
Janet Stineman Kres
- 16 Kenneth Kier
- 17 James Moore
- 18 Christopher C Mersinger
- 18 Patricia Carolyn Dicuffa
- 19 Nancy Meilahn
- 20 Susan Folger Ward
- 22 George Ninceheler  
John Leslie Neemidge  
William Edward Jones MD
- 23 Nancy Hester  
Robin D Green
- 24 Jeff D’Arco  
Patricia B McCormick
- 25 Ian O’Lear
- 26 M J McCloskey  
Robert Thomas Palko  
Wes Davenport
- 27 Dr Dan B Dydek  
Richard Alan Councilman
- 28 David James White
- 29 Ted Alexande



## Lonestar Mensa Programs

### The Basic Structure

*-Submitted by Don Drumtra, Treasurer*

Note: This is the second in a series of articles explaining the new Lonestar Mensa Budget Structure and the many new positions and opportunities available for you.

In January, by approving ASIE (Action Still in Effect) 2007-1-1, the Executive Committee established six programs and approved volunteer positions for Program Chairs and 35 associated coordinators for the various activities of the programs. Some of these positions such as the Membership Officer and the Testing Coordinator were previously defined in the bylaws and have not changed. Others such as the RG Registrar and RG Hospitality Chair were defined in ASIEs and have not changed. What has changed is that all these positions have been structured into a hierarchy that allows volunteers to devote differing amounts of time to Lonestar Mensa activities. All the positions have been given titles. However, to provide volunteers additional flexibility, they may assume a related title if they do not like the one specified in the ASIE. In addition, the chair and coordinators within a program may decide how the work will be divided up within the program.

To support program activities, the Executive Committee has established a budget for each program and most programs are given a share of the revenue of Lonestar Mensa. In addition, program coordinators may raise additional funds through fundraising activities. (The Education Program has a coordinator position for this function). The Treasurer has created a program summary as part of the monthly financial report for the Executive Committee that shows specific program revenue and expenses against the approved budget. The "Treasurer's Report for 2006" on page 5 of the January Armadillo shows the actual revenue and expenses by program for 2006.

The six programs include all the activities that Executive Committee members thought would be reasonable for Lonestar Mensa:

- \* Recruitment Program
- \* Communications Program
- \* Symposia Program
- \* Education Program
- \* Subgroups Program
- \* Regional Gathering Program

Next month we'll explore the Recruitment Program and cover the other programs in succeeding months.

## RVC6 April Report

*-by Ray O'Connor, RVC Region 6*

It's that time of year again – Elections. You will be receiving a ballot in the Bulletin. Please remember to vote for the international officers as well as American Mensa candidates.

I have had two more deaths in the family. It has caused me to reevaluate my priorities. I have decided to drop from the race for AML Treasurer. I urge all who would have voted for me, to cast your vote for Allen Duram. Allen has a strong accounting background and is an independent. The position of Treasurer is too important to give to a member of the inner click. An even better reason for voting for Allen is that he lives within driving distance of the National Office. I always liked the idea of saving money.

I have a granddaughter graduating at the same time as the Gulf Coast Mensa RG. I hate missing such a great Mensa gathering but family is always first. I urge all to consider spending Memorial Day Weekend in Houston with our Mensa family. If you have never been to a Mensa gathering, it is a truly awesome experience. Four days and three nights of conversation, hospitality, games and programs. "Try it. You'll like it!"

Ray O'Connor, RVC6



Gatherings Calendar:

"From Houston With Love" — Join Gulf Coast Mensa on Memorial Day Weekend for an RG filled with intrigue and excitement! Fascinating speakers, games, Hospitality, dancing and our very own Casino Royale await you and all of the Spies Who Love You! Registration \$65. Kids 9-17 half price, kids 8 and under free. Single day rates: Friday \$20; Saturday \$25; Sunday \$25; Monday \$5. Checks payable to Gulf Coast Mensa SynRG 007. Crowne Plaza Brookhollow, 12801 Northwest Freeway Houston, TX 77040; 877/2CROWNE. SR/DR/TR/QR \$69. Room rates guaranteed until 5/10/07. CD 17 and under, H DT CP. Contact Patsy Graham, Gulf Coast Mensa, P.O. Box 25267, Houston, TX 77265; 713/660-6862; patsy@paloent.com.

## A Rose

*-by Jane Thompson*

My mother had all these names. It was confusing when I was little. To us kids, she was “Mother.” To her St. Louis and Texas family, she was “Susie” because her father nicknamed her that when she was a baby and it stuck. (She had these sky-blue eyes and he called her his “black-eyed Susan” as a joke.) My father and his family and all her Oklahoma City friends called her “Midge” because her nickname in college was “Midget.” She was only 4 feet 10 inches tall and looked even shorter next to my father’s skinny 6 foot, 2 inch frame. And to the nuns at school and the government she answered to “Mary Agnes.” It took me a while to straighten all that out and I can remember being glad that I only had one name. That suited me just fine. I couldn’t imagine what it would be like to have a bunch of names to have to answer to.

Her only ambition in life was to be a wife and mother and she excelled at it. She had five children and ran a household deftly, managing it and us and a mercurial husband without any signs of stress, happily cooking and cleaning and keeping us all content. She chauffeured and shopped and laundered and got great meals on the table and made it all look easy.

Even though there were fourteen children in both of the families, she cared for her mother-in-law for thirty years. She and Grandma Thompson got along great, modeling the ideal relationship of mother-in-law, daughter-in-law. They managed to share a house without getting in each other’s way and were obviously fond of one another.

After Grandma Thompson’s death, mother’s St. Louis family called to tell her, “Susie, we just can’t manage mother anymore, so we put her on a bus. Please pick her up.” As it turned out, grandma had Alzheimer’s Disease, so mother cared for her, without complaint, until her mother died. Susie was always the one they turned to when there was a problem.

Even though it sounds unlikely, I don’t believe that anyone who met her disliked her. She made friends instantly and kept them for life, and her hundreds of

friends ran the gamut from the African-American lady who helped with the ironing when the kids were small to Carol Channing, the Broadway star. She was always there for friends and family, and it was always “Call Midge, she’ll know what to do.” I wouldn’t begin to guess how many funerals she helped arrange.

As each child left home for college, Mother took in a foster child. She said she couldn’t stand having an empty bed, knowing that there were kids out there without homes. She insisted on keeping the house full of kids who needed her. She also starting taking on part time jobs, mostly to expand her horizons. She made it all look effortless, and insisted she was having fun.

She accepted her sons-in-law into the family, and joyously greeted her grandchildren. Our divorces made her unhappy, but she felt that we were the ones who had to live our lives, not her, and tried to accept our decisions. She said that she was happy as long as we were.

In her seventies, she had a nasty cancer scare, but when she survived, she reacted in her usual way by volunteering to help other cancer patients deal with their diagnoses and the outcomes of their illness. She spent hours in the hospital talking with people who had the same diagnosis as she had, showing them that life goes on and they could make it too.

I wish I could say that after her long and giving life, she died with her children around her, happy in the knowledge that she was loved. But, no, she died alone in a nursing home, not even cognizant of her own identity because she had Alzheimer’s Disease, too. But she was certainly not any less loved.

She was Mary Agnes when she worked on PTA committees or went to parent-teacher meetings. She was Susie when she stood vigil by Uncle John’s death bed and listened to Uncle Peter’s problems with his divorce, and helped Aunt Helen through her terminal illness, but she was Midge when she played bridge with the girls or held Uncle Earl’s hand when he suffered with radiation poisoning, let Aunt Cleda cry on her shoulder, laughed with Aunt Charlene, or drove Aunt Gertrude on those interminable errands. She slipped in and out of her roles seamlessly. Maybe she needed a lot of names because she was so many things to so many people.



## **Scholarship Contest Judging Party**

*-By Scholarship Chair, Claudia Harbert*

If you were one of the judges or friends/family at the scholarships judging party, thank you ever so much! If you weren't there, you missed a great opportunity!

Mensa is partly about the kind of intelligence that acts as a gift for learning in school. Mensans tend to have an easy time in school from an early age. (I know there are almost as many exceptions as there are Mensans, but that's not what this article is about!). Many Mensans have the capability to achieve high levels of education and then to perform in professions that require this education. It follows naturally that one of the ways Mensa would choose to contribute to the world community would be to offer financial help for people who want to study at schools, ie, scholarships! Although Mensa membership or qualification is not a requirement for entry into the scholarship contest, the Mensa Education and Research Foundation scholarships program is one of Mensa's biggest and best programs!

This year, our local group had 37 scholarship contest entries! Six were disqualified: 3 for being single-spaced when the rules clearly stipulated double spacing, and 3 for being from outside our region yet sent to our region for judging. (I don't know how this happens; probably these folks keyed in their zip codes wrong, thereby receiving entry forms for the wrong region.)

So, there were 31 essays to judge. Our 4 venerable judges focused and graded the essays as to grammar, goal statement, supporting statement, general effect, etc. The judges worked through about 10 essays per hour. It's hard work, but it's interesting; and in many cases, it's inspiring and/or heartwarming. The essays present an array of dreams, hopes, plans, and passions! Our student population has exciting goals, many of which are geared toward helping solve medical or political problems or making the world a better place!

Thanks most to Janet and Mark Kres, who opened their home and gave their afternoon to offer a central location for our scholarship judging party! I hope everyone attending would agree that a scholarship judging party is a fun way to complete our local group's obligation to National Mensa for allowing us to participate in the scholarships program and to give away money! Great company and party food, too!

## **April Monthly Meeting**

Speaker: Barbara C. Cassidy, CPA, PFS, Professor of Accounting at St. Edwards University

Topic: "Identity Theft" Are You NEXT?

Ms. Cassidy is a Professor of Accounting at St. Edward's University. She also owns and operates her own accounting firm.

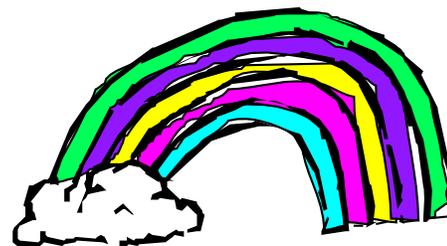


## **6 %! That's Six Percent of Lonestar Mensans who have chosen Electronic!**

*-Submitted by Helen Sidors*

If you think you are seeing fewer paper newsletters at the TGIT "Fold and Sticker" party these days, you are absolutely correct. A significant number of Lonestar Mensans have "opted in" to forego the paper newsletter for the electronic e-mail version.

If you want to join this hip group, go to the Profile Update page located at [www.us.mensa.org/profileupdate](http://www.us.mensa.org/profileupdate). The phrasing on the profile page will be 'electronic publications, if available.' There is a one to two month lag before your paper newsletters stop being snail-mailed and the e-newsletters start floating through the ether to your PC.



# What's Happening in



## April?



### **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 usually meet upstairs. No signs, sorry.

### **ExComm Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 4 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.

### **Saturday Night Bridge**

**Saturday, April 7 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. Beginners welcome. This is "party bridge", not duplicate bridge. We have changed to Saturday night to accommodate interested players' schedules.

### **Monthly Meeting**

**Monday, April 9 7:00pm**

Austin Public Library, North Village Branch

2139 West Anderson Lane, Austin

See page 4 for details.

### **Games Night**

**Saturday, April 14 7:00 - 10:00pm**

Linda Edelstein's House

1439 Dapplegrey Lane, Austin (512) 491-9881

RSVP by phone or e-mail (ledelstein@mindspring.com) by Friday The Thirteenth.

#### **DRIVING DIRECTIONS:**

We're about halfway between I35 and MoPac, just off Parmer. From I35 turn right onto Scofield Farms (second light). From MoPac, turn left onto Scofield Farms (4th light). Turn right at first corner onto Dapplegrey. Our house is 4th from corner on right. We are at middle of "T" with Pony Street.

### **Georgetown Mensans Meet at the Monument**

**Thursday, April 19 6:30pm**

1953 S. Austin Ave, Georgetown

Host: Jane Thompson (512) 868-5319

Let's Meet for dinner on April 19 at 6:30 at the Monument. Georgetown Mensans and others from the north part of town should get together at the best little cafe in town. I picked the time and place arbitrarily, if its not good we can adjust when you RSVP to 512-868-5319. I want to make this a monthly thing if there are enough of you who want to get together.

### **Fold & Sticker**

**Thursday, April 26 6:00pm**

Central Market, Austin. See TGIT for directions.

Help us assemble the newsletter!

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### **Publication Information**

#### **POSTMASTER**

Please send change of address to:

ARMADILLO LITERARY GAZETTE

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Mensans who are not members of Lonestar Mensa may subscribe for \$10.00 per year. Send subscription requests to the publication address.

#### **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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**April**

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

**2007**