

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXXIV Number 3

March 2007



Peabody Hotel, Memphis TN -- the Peabody Ducks march back to their Duck Palace for the evening.

photo by Rachael Stewart, 2006

La CARTE

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Lonestar Mensa Officers

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

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New Member Coordinator: Vacant

Lapsed Member Coordinator: Vacant

Leadership Roster Coordinator: Vacant

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Bryan-College Station Coordinator: Vacant

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

Waco Coordinator: Vacant

SIGHT Coordinator: Steve Vaughan

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

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pauljohnpierce@aol.com

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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 gkholirman@sbcglobal.net

Ombudsman: Kathleen Holiman

(512) 250-5488 gkholirman@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.

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From the President

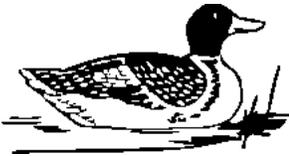
-by Janet Kres, LSM President

Dear Fellow Mensans –

Opportunities Abound! Would you like to host a Lonestar Mensa get-together in Waco or College Station? Just let me know, and we will get it in the newsletter and on the list serve -- it could be a get together for a games night, or meet for a movie, or meet at a restaurant for a fun lunch or dinner! How about a book discussion? What about a movie get-together here in Austin? Do we have a pub crawl in our future? Spring will soon be here -- a great time for Mensans to get together!

We had a really good attendance at the February meeting -- electric cars are a hot topic here in Austin. And we got to meet a Mensa member who has returned to Texas from Singapore. Welcome to Lonestar Mensa, Sheldon Kohan!

See you at future events!
Janet



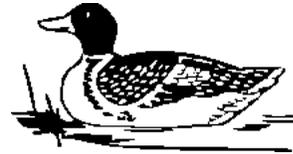
March Birthdays

- 1 Chelle Bell
- John Davis
- 2 Joanna J Newnam
- 6 Mary Dunlap You
- 8 Jane Thompson
- 10 Joshua Benjamin
- 13 Steven E Metze
- 14 Daniel L Buda
- 15 Terry Rodgers
- 17 Susan Gibson
- Mark Andy Smith
- 18 Charles L Fahy
- Lance S Kinney
- 20 Paul Anderson
- Jeff Ridgeway
- 22 Ken A Finn
- 24 Lydia Ann O'Nei
- Gerri J Duke
- 25 Trudy L K Loper
- Gary Paul Davis
- 27 Madeleine Z Mer
- 28 Krissy Morrow



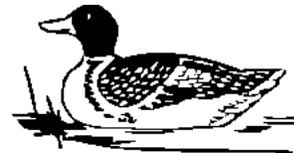
Thank You, Essay Judges!

We had a really good time on Saturday, January 27, when four volunteer judges -- Ron and Linda Edelstein, Todd Shaw, and Steven Skelton -- reviewed and scored 31 essay submissions for the Lonestar Mensa scholarship. Claudia will let us know who the winner is, and we hope to have that person at a meeting. Thank you, judges! And the 'non-judges' had a really good time, too!



A Special Thank You!

Lonestar Mensa and the Executive Committee would like to thank Helen Siders, who has served as member at large on the Ex Comm AND also as our circulation manager. Helen requested to be relieved of her duties on Ex Comm, due to her other commitments, including returning to school this semester. We accepted her resignation with heartfelt thanks for her time of service on the Ex Comm, and with especially heartfelt thanks that she is continuing in her position as circulation chairman! Ron Edelstein has agreed to accept appointment to complete Helen's term as member at large through December. The really good news is that we get to be with both of them at Lonestar Mensa functions! Fellow Lonestar Mensans, you know Ron and Linda Edelstein from the wonderful holiday party last December, and they have hosted games night and sewing circle.



Member News

On March 25 members of the Austin Chamber Music Center will present a concert that includes the "Ballade" for Piano Quartet, op. 9, by Lone Star Mensan Aaron Rabushka. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. and will take place at the Agudas Achim Synagogue on the Dell Jewish Community Campus. The program also features music by Ludwig van Beethoven, Gerald Cohen, Darius Milhaud, and Robert Schumann. More details: arabushk@cowtown.net.

Annual Financial Review Report

February 3, 2007

Lone Star Mensa

For the period January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006

Prepared by Mark Kres, Member in Good Standing;
Lonestar Mensa

Member in Good Standing, Texas Society of Certified
Public Accountants

The financial records for the above-cited time were reviewed with the current Treasurer. The review was not an audit conducted in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards, and was limited in scope.

Findings:

1. When the treasurer took office, he performed his own review of the books. As a result, the 2006 opening balance of the chapter's net worth (assets minus liabilities) was adjusted downward by \$434.35. This brought the books into line with actual cash balances and put the financial statements on an accrual basis. Previously, the books had been kept on a mixture of accrual basis (revenues and expenses recognized when they are incurred) and cash basis (revenues and expenses recognized only when cash is received or paid).

2. Policies and procedures in effect for the chapter treasurer were reviewed. The transactions reviewed were in compliance with the policies and procedures.

3. A sample of income transactions was reviewed to source documentation and all samples were found to be correct.

4. A sample of expense transactions was reviewed to source documentation and all samples were found to be correct.

5. All bills examined were being paid on a timely basis.

6. A sample of checks was reviewed to verify that all the checks examined were signed by someone other than the payee. This procedure has been followed.

7. All deposits of the Local Group Support funding from AMC which were examined were received on a timely basis.

8. The current Treasurer has implemented double-entry bookkeeping practices. They are supported by Microsoft Excel software. This has enabled him to provide

more detailed and accurate information on a timely basis to the membership.

Conclusions:

1. Preliminary financial statements indicate that the group operated at a net profit for the period examined.

2. All source-level documentation is kept in an orderly fashion and appears to be complete.

Recommendation:

That the current bookkeeping practices should continue to be used.

March Monthly Meeting

Topic: Creativity

Presenter: Claude Van Lingen
www.claudevanlingen.com

Claude van Lingen, an artist and art instructor with extensive experience teaching art and creativity, will discuss creativity in the artistic process.

Claude studied at the Johannesburg College of Art, South Africa from 1949-1952. Instruction, by teachers who were graduates of the Royal College of Art, London, England was based on the strict academic British art school system of the time.

In 1961 Claude studied under Henri Goetz at the Academie Notre Dames des Champs, Paris, France. In 1965 he was appointed chairman of the Teacher Training Department at the Johannesburg College of Art, and in 1970 was appointed chairman of the Fine Art Department of the same school.

In 1970, realizing the lack of creative thinking course in an otherwise thoroughly satisfactory curriculum, he designed a course to address the problem. The results of this course were so successful that he applied the same type to thinking to his own work. This move resulted in his winning the Earnest Oppenheimer Memorial Trust Award at the 1973 Art South Africa Today Exhibition "judged by a curator from the Tate Gallery of London" and showing at the Sao Paulo Biennial in 1975. From 1982 to 1985 he taught the course in creative thinking at the School of Visual Arts in New

York. A number of his former students are exhibiting on the international circuit and are teaching in prestigious schools in the United States, Canada, Europe, and South Africa.

In 1978 Claude left South Africa and settled in New York where he regularly participated in group exhibitions, notably being invited to show at the prestigious John Weber Gallery in 1991. He exhibited in a number of anti-apartheid exhibitions during the 1980s and was represented by the Vera Engelhorn Gallery in New York during the 1990s. Since 1980 various incarnations of his 1000 Years From Now theme have been shown in galleries in the US and Canada, and in the Johannesburg Art Museum. His work is in the collections of museums throughout South Africa and in the Musee des Art Decoratifs de la Ville de Lausanne, Switzerland.



Welcome New Members

Lorianna Anderson

Welcome Back, Members

Joshua Benjamin Chlapek
Matthew Burks
Dr. B. G. Twiname
Glenn Smith
Ryan Deelena
Thomas J. Herman
Ryan Rozich
Sheldon Kohan
Gregory Wroblewski
Sandra St. John
Alan Christensen

Welcome to Region 6, Lonestar Mensa

Stephen Tice
Adam Hudson
Thomas Deroo
David Messer
Daniel Rivera
Marilyn Ford

Usher in Spring, Austin-style!

-by Michele Vaughan, Gifted Children's Coordinator



There are a couple of kid-friendly events scheduled for March that I hope many of you will be able to take advantage of. The first one is not sponsored by Mensa, but I think it will be of interest to many children, teenagers, and their parents who love learning and exploration. The University of Texas will be hosting its annual Explore UT program on Saturday, March 3rd. The event is touted as "the biggest open house in Texas". Although the event is appropriate for children as young as elementary school, Explore UT also offers many opportunities to those who are beginning to make college choices, including three "Rise and Shine" sessions designed just for high school juniors to meet faculty, staff, and current students. You can find much more information at <http://www.utexas.edu/events/exploreut/>.

Will you be in town for Spring Break? Why not join us at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center to welcome the Texas springtime? Let's meet at the center on Tuesday, March 13 at 10 AM to explore the grounds. You may bring a lunch or purchase food and beverages from the Wildflower Café and share in a meal after our morning tour. More information on the Wildflower Center, including admission rates and directions, is available at www.wildflower.org. Any last-minute changes will be posted on our online discussion group, so consider joining us. It's painless! You can also email me to let me know you'd like updates on kids' events. I'd love to hear from you.

On a personal note, Steve and I, along with our 1 1/2-year-old daughter, Lyrienne, are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our baby boy at the end of April or early May. I'm planning to take two or three months off of hosting Lonestar Mensa kids' events until we readjust. If anyone would like to plan a kids' event in the late spring or summer, that would be GREAT! Just let me know what you're planning, and we'll get it announced through the newsletter and our online discussion group. The deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the prior month.

Our online discussion group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lonestargiftedchildren/>

Contact Michele Vaughan anytime: lonestar.gifted.children@gmail.com

Lonestar Mensa Programs Opportunities for Participation

-submitted by Don Drumtra, Treasurer

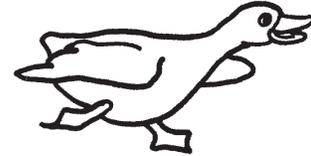
Note: This is the first in a series of articles describing the Lonestar Mensa program structure and associated officer positions.

In the past few years, most of the activities of Lonestar Mensa seem to have been led by a few dedicated people with the rest of us standing by watching. In my case, family, school, and other activities had not left me much time to devote to LSM. I sometimes attended the TGIT and helped fold the newsletters and occasionally attended a Monthly meeting, RG, or social function, but I hesitated to participate more because most activity leader positions required a significantly larger time commitment. I eventually joined the Executive Committee as a Member-at-Large only because it had a small commitment of one night a month. I volunteered for Treasurer because no one else came forward to do the work. The Treasurer's job required more time commitment, but the work was flexible and could be done between other commitments I have in my life. I simply did not have time for a larger commitment to LSM. In discussing my situation with other members I found that my situation was common. Some members said they would like to participate more but the positions all required more commitment that they were willing to assume.

Last year, the 2006 Executive Committee discussed the problem of finding volunteers and it seemed to us that if we had more positions with less commitment for each, there would be more opportunities for members who wanted to participate but did not have the time for greater commitment. We decided that the best way to do this was to divide up the work of our current activities into smaller packages so that those who had a lot going on in their life could participate. But, to accommodate those who wanted to do more, we thought that it would also be important to have some opportunities with greater responsibilities and more time commitment. So, as one of their first actions, the 2007 Executive Committee members approved ASIE (action still in effect) 2007-1-1 defining roles for 41 coordinators and committee chairs arranged in a hierarchical program structure under the LocSec (president) and Executive Committee. These positions provide a mixture of small

commitments and larger commitments so that members may participate according to the time they have available. In addition, the ASIE specified that members could hold more than one position if they desired. A copy of the description part of the ASIE was printed on page 7 of the January 2007 Armadillo while the full ASIE is available on LSM Website.

In the next few months, I plan to describe the overall program structure and then address each program, together with its positions. I hope you will find this series of interest.



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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.

Commercial: 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.

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 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.

Saturday Night Bridge

Saturday, March 3 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.

ExComm Meeting

Wednesday, March 7 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.

Sewing Circle

Saturday, March 10 1:00 - 4:00pm
Linda Edelstein's House
1439 Dapplegrey Lane, Austin (512) 491-9881
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.

Monthly Meeting

Monday, March 12 7:00pm
Austin Public Library, North Village Branch
2139 West Anderson Lane, Austin
See page 4 for details.

The Peabody Duck Palace
photo by Rachael Stewart, 2006

Lonestar Mensa Kids' Event

Tuesday, March 13 10:00am

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
4801 La Crosse Avenue, Austin
Wildflower Center Information: 292-4100
See page 5 for details.

Fold & Sticker

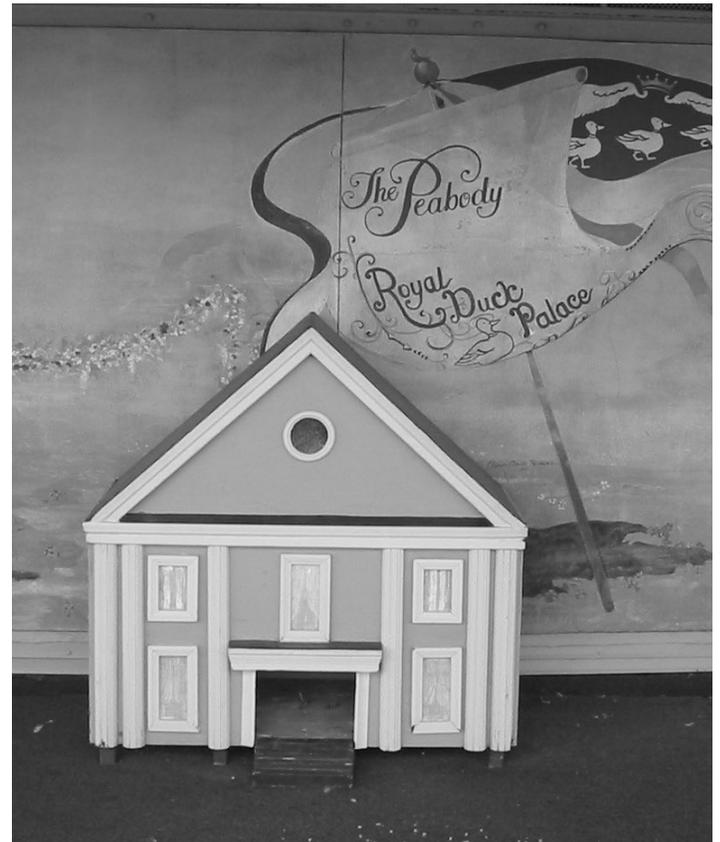
Thursday, March 22 6:00pm
Central Market, Austin. See TGIT for directions.
Help us assemble the newsletter!

Gen X Happy Hour

Saturday, March 24 7:00 - 11:00pm
The Gingerman, 304 West 4th Street, Austin TX 78701
Come One, Come All! Let's try and get the Gen X SIG active again. The Gen X SIG is aimed at Mensans born between 1961 and 1981 however, ALL MENSANS 21+ are welcome at this event. Bring yourself, your mate, and any friends you think might pass the test! We'll start at the Gingerman and then vote whether or not to move the party along. Don't fret! We'll be there at least an hour or two, and feel free to call Carla or Danny on the cell phone to find out where the party has moved to. Look for the Mensa logo on our table!

The Gingerman is located at 304 West 4th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, (512) 473-8801.

Carla's cell # for directions 323-252-1748
Danny's cell # for directions 502-807-2042



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March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				 1 TGIT	2	 3 Saturday Bridge
4	5	6	7 ExComm	 8 TGIT	9	10 Sewing Circle
11	12 Monthly Meeting	13 Kid's Event: Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Ctr	14	 15 TGIT <i>'Dillo Deadline</i>	16	17
18	19	20	21	 22 <i>Fold & Sticker</i>	23	24 GenX Happy Hour
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

2007