

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lone Star Mensa

Volume XXXVII

Number 8

August 2010

XII XII

2010

* Games

* Contests

* Tastings

Dozens of choices

* Casino Night

* Dance

The “dozenth” celebration

* Planned speakers on a variety of subjects

* Kid’s track for the Young Mensans

And a lot more!

Come celebrate a dozen years of LonestarRG with your Mena friends. Hedonism on a budget. This is “family friendly”, so bring ‘em all. This year’s LonestarRG will be held on Labor Day weekend, 3-6 September 2010. The venue will be the Wingate by Wyndham Inn on IH-35 in Round Rock, the same as last year. The room rate includes an extended Continental breakfast. Room rate for RG attendees is \$85.00 per room, single or double. This is slightly lower than last year.

Send registrations to Jane K. Thompson, Registrar LonestarRG XII, 2305 Monaco Dr, Cedar Park, TX 78613 (jane12125@austin.rr.com). To register online via PayPal or to download a printable registration form, go to: www.lsm.us.mensa.org/lonestarg.htm

Registration is \$50 until August 4th, \$60 until August 21st, \$70 until September 2nd and \$75 at the door. Children 9-17 half price and 8 or under are free. Day Tripper rates: Fri. \$20; Sat-Sun \$40; Mon \$10.

Interested in joining American Mensa? Here’s your big chance!

The 2010 Lone Star Mensa Regional Gathering (RG) will be held September 3 - 6 at the Wingate by Wyndham Hotel in Round Rock TX. As part of the programs and events, Lone Star Mensa has scheduled Mensa Admission Tests to be held in the Williamson Conference Center at the Wingate beginning at 1:30 PM. Tests take three hours. You may sign up for these tests by contacting Testing Coordinator John Pfeiffer at johnpfeiffer@att.net or by calling him at either 512-525-3507 or 303-864-9008. You may also contact Lone Star Mensa Membership Chairman Fred Goertz at fgoertz@gmail.com and he will forward your information to John. You do not need to be registered to attend the RG in order to take the admissions tests.

The administration and evaluation fee for testing is \$40.00, payable by check made out to American Mensa. If you have previously taken a standardized IQ test and believe that you qualify without re-testing, please go to www.americanmensa.org and click on the green tab for more information; the evaluation fee for prior evidence is the same as the testing fee (\$40.00).

Lone Star Mensa Officers - 2010

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

LocSec:	Don Drumtra	512-291-0315	drumtra@aol.com
Vice President:	Patty Drumtra	512-291-0361	drumtrapa@aol.com
Treasurer:	Linda Edelstein	512-491-9881	ledelstein@mindspring.com
Past LocSec:	Ron Edelstein	512-491-9881	aduana@mindspring.com
Senior Officers:	John Neemidge	512-310-7863	john@neemidge.net
	Helen Siders	512-799-6985	xlartemis@gmail.com
Communications Chairman:	Charles Wilson	512-220-6175	lonestar.mensa.webmaster@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor:	Rachael Stewart	512-496-8725	bookbird@yahoo.com
Proofreaders:	LocSec, Past LocSec, Communications Chair, John & Geri Neemidge		
Webmaster:	Charles Wilson	512-220-6175	lonestar.mensa.webmaster@gmail.com
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Elist Coordinator:	John Neemidge	512-310-7863	john@neemidge.net
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Education Chair:			
Scholarship Coordinator:	Claudia Harbert	512-238-0205	mensascholarships@gmail.com
Gifted Children Coordinator:	Michele Vaughan	512-388-5970	lonestar.gifted.children@gmail.com
Membership Chairman:	Frederick Goertz	512-569-1758	fgoertz@gmail.com
Testing Coordinator & Proctor:	John Pfeiffer	512-525-3507	johnpfeiffer@att.net
Testing Proctor:	Mike Tolbert, Charles Wilson, Mike McCormick, VeraLouise Kleinfeld Pfeiffer		
New Member Coordinator:	Mike Poole	512-326-1459	mike_poole@sbcglobal.net
Symposia Chair:			
Symposia Publicity Coord.:	Paul Anderson	512-259-7824	wrdslngr@swbell.net
San Marcos Coordinator:	Gloria Fortin	512-754-8956	fortin_associates@hotmail.com

This committee is all about arranging for fun at local gatherings. The committee needs someone to get speakers for and arrange our monthly meetings and someone to arrange picnics, parities, and activities.

Arbiter:	Ron Edelstein	512-491-9881	aduana@mindspring.com
Ombudsman:	Ron Edelstein	512-491-9881	aduana@mindspring.com
Records Manager & Archivist:	Don Drumtra	512-291-0315	drumtra@aol.com
Liaisons for Colloquium 2011:	John & Geri Neemidge	512-310-7863	john@neemidge.net

LonestaRG 2010 Committee

Co-Chairs: Ron and Linda Edelstein

Members: *Facilities* John Neemidge, *Hospitality* Andrew & Kem Edelstein, *Hotel* Robin Beatles, *Payments Vacant*, *Photographer* Vacant, *Programs* Vacant, *Publicity* Vacant, *Registration* Jane K Thompson, *Security* Vacant, *Tastings* Vacant, *Testing* Vacant, *Treasurer* Don Drumtra, *Raffle & Donations Coordinator* Helen Siders

Lots of help is needed at the RG. Please let Ron or Linda know if you can spare some time to volunteer.

Mind Games 2012 Bid Chair:	Patsy Graham	512-380-0141	mensapats@att.net
Regional Vice Chairman (RVC)	Roger Durham		RVC6@us.mensa.org

NOTICES

Initial Communications Committee Appointments

Charles Wilson, the Communications Committee Chairman has made the following initial committee appointments, 2010-2011 (June 1 through March 31): Rachael Stewart Editor-Newsletter Editor; Proofreaders-John and Geri Neemidge (other proofreaders are ex officio), Media Coordinator (Publicity Officer)-Paul Anderson; eList Coordinator-John Neemidge; and Web Contact-John Neemidge. Charles has also made the following temporary appointments, until qualified candidates step forward and are appointed: Print Circulation Coordinator-Don Drumtra (acting); Email Circulation Coordinator-Linda Edelstein (acting), Webmaster-Charles Wilson (Acting); Calendar Coordinator-Charles Wilson (acting).

Don's Dialectics – Volunteer to Join the Fun

-by Don Drumtra, LocSec

Are we having fun?

The Mensa Constitution reads,

“1. The nature of Mensa.

A. . . . Mensa's purposes are:

3. to provide a stimulating intellectual and social environment for its members.”

The American Mensa Strategic Plan reads,

“Vision.

Create a stimulating intellectual and social environment for the most intelligent people.”

How are we doing? If the Annual Gathering was any indication, we are doing great. From the time we left the Austin Amtrak station until the time we returned, we were sort of suspended in a bubble of friendly, inspiring, and intelligent colleagues creating and living in that environment.

Who do I mean? Well, at the Austin Amtrak station, several Lone Star Mensa members gathered, joked with other, and discussed things to come. We were joined at Dallas by Roger Durham, our RVC, who brought his own humor and insight to our conversations. At Chicago, some of us went on to Dearborn and the AG while others stayed overnight to join the Hell's Ms group traveling to Dearborn the next day. At the Dearborn station we met more Mensans and shared cabs to get to our hotels.

At the AG, there was so much to do, so much to see, so much variety, and so many old and new friends to meet, that I could fill the entire newsletter with stories of the fun we had in Dearborn. If you want to see the variety, just peek at the AG program to get a inkling of what was available. Go to <http://www.ag2010.us.mensa.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Program6> before it is taken down. Not only did we have fun but Lone Star Mensa members won two national awards. (See the articles.)

Lone Star Mensa Regional Gatherings are like the AGs in miniature. Come to the LSM RG Sep 3-6 in Round Rock to experience the Mensa environment. Fill out the form in this newsletter to register or go to the LSM Website, <http://www.lsm.mensa.us.com> and register online. The committee is getting ready, inviting presenters, gathering food and drink, and preparing facilities. You can also join the committee to help make it happen. Call Linda or Ron Edelstein, the RG Co-Chairs, 491-9881,

and volunteer to help set up the stimulating intellectual environment that Mensans live for. Or simply come and share stories and experiences with us.

MIRACLES

I.

I buy an unripe cantaloupe,
speckled with green,
umbilical spot still hard.
I know the flesh inside is orange,
but not yet soft and sweet.
I place it in a bowl
where it will lay
and quietly perform its miracle.
I only have to wait.

II.

The field of vision expands
in infinite directions.
Pause for a moment...
Let your eyes linger—
your ears, your flesh.
This is the meaning of life.

III.

All hell could break loose
at any moment.
And does, somewhere,
at every moment.

IV.

But still, you have to trust...
Just melt away before the tyrants.
Leave them to their own devices.

V.

Every experience possible
is experienced in the now—eternally—
as we flow through it.
Everything you're experiencing now
happened in the past—
in that instant between
being and perceiving.

VI.

Forgetting
we deliberately forgot.
Not very comfortable
to consider,
or reconsider.

From the RVC

As I write this, I have just returned from the Annual Gathering. This year's AG, hosted by the Gen-X SIG and held in Dearborn, MI, was very well attended, with over 2,000 Ms registered. The AG itself was terrific, and afterwards I stayed over an extra day to see the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, which were absolutely mind-boggling.

Several fairly controversial items were on the agenda for the meeting of the American Mensa Committee, including a total redesign of the National Hearings Committee, removal of the two Past Chairs from voting membership on the AMC, and revision of the new election procedure for the National Ombudsman. All were narrowly defeated, largely due to overwhelming opposition by the Regional Vice Chairs, who mostly joined me in voting against all three proposals. At the Annual Business Meeting, a number of motions were introduced, but all failed by substantial margins. Meanwhile, the Elections Committee met to count ballots for the election of a new National Ombudsman. Dave Cahn, of Metropolitan Washington Mensa, was the winner. He will take office on August 1 for a six-year term, replacing Eldon Romney, who has served in that capacity for the last ten years.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch... Lone Star Mensa LocSec Don Drumtra suggested that I remind everyone that the membership directory on the American Mensa website is searchable by ZIP Code. If you live in a rural area remote from the bulk of your local group's membership, you may live close to the boundary of a neighboring group. You can search the national directory for members living in nearby ZIP codes, and possibly get them to join you in some Mensa activities, even though they may be members of some other local group.

Don also suggested that I remind everyone that Mensa is very much a do-it-yourself organization – you don't need approval or permission from your local group to schedule activities; just send a write-up to your group's calendar chair or editor telling when, what, and where your planned activity will be, and wait to see who shows up.

My question last month about printed versus electronic publications attracted a number of replies, all but one arguing strongly against doing away with paper editions of newsletters and other Mensa publications. This confirms my own opinion that this is a bad idea, and I

will continue to oppose such proposals. In next month's column, I'll talk about the failed proposal to revamp the Hearings Committee – what it was, why it failed, and what I think we ought to do in its place. Meanwhile, don't forget the Lone Star Mensa Regional Gathering, coming up over Labor Day weekend in Round Rock, just north of Austin. See their website for details.

Roger Durham

John Pfeiffer Chosen for Region 6 "Abbie" Proctor of the Year

-by Don Drumtra, LocSec



Named after former American Mensa Psychologist Dr. Abbie F. Salny, the "Abbie" Region Proctor of the Year awards are given to proctors who are ambassadors of Mensa, make test sessions enjoyable, test regularly, show originality about testing, and are conscientious in their work. This year only one proctor in American Mensa met that high standard to be recognized for a region award—Lone Star Mensa Testing Coordinator John Pfeiffer. John resurrected our testing program from dormancy, qualifying proctors, finding test locations, and notifying prospective members. He was assisted by his wife Dr. VeraLouise Kleinfeld Pfeiffer of Denver Mensa, and our newly certified proctors. Please join me in congratulating John, VeraLouise, and our other proctors for this significant award.

Cassandra Joy wins Name the Event Contest

-by Don Drumtra, LocSec

Last spring, the National Leadership Development Workshop conducted a contest to identify the best names for leadership development events. Lonestar Mensan Cassandra Joy was selected the winner for Region 6 with the entry "LG (There are AGs, and RGs, why not LGs?)." This seemingly obvious suggestion resulted in a cash award for Cassandra and an agenda item for the July board meeting to consider changing title of our Symposia Chair to a Gatherings Committee. After all, are not our picnics and parties Lone Star Mensa gatherings?

Registration Form for Lonestar RG 2010 The Dozenth RG
Labor Day Weekend, Sept 3-6
Wingate Hotel, 1209 N. I-35, Round Rock, TX 78664

Name #1 _____ All weekend, or: Fri Sat Sun Mon

Address: City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____ E-Mail: _____

Name #2 _____ All weekend, or: Fri Sat Sun Mon

Address: City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____ E-Mail: _____

Name #3 _____ All weekend, or: Fri Sat Sun Mon

Address: City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____ E-Mail: _____

Name #4 _____ All weekend, or: Fri Sat Sun Mon

Address: City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____ E-Mail: _____

Registration Fees: Include programs, entertainment, games tournaments, speakers, hospitality suite (drinks, meals/snacks), and events all weekend long!

RG Registration Rates:

\$50 – June 1 - August 4, 2010

\$60 – August 5 – August 21, 2010

\$70 – Until September 2, 2010

\$75 – September 3 and at the door

Half-rates available for kids 9 - 17 years of age at the time of the RG (Kids 0 - 8 attend free)

Single day rates: Fri. \$20; Sat-Sun \$40; Mon \$10

Tastings:

Cheese - \$5.00

Coffee - \$5.00

Chocolate - \$5.00

Registrant #1 - \$ _____ Registrant #2 - \$ _____ Registrant #3 - \$ _____ Registrant #4 - \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Hotel rates at the Wingate are \$85/night. Contact the hotel for reservations and ask for the Lonestar Mensa rate (512) 341-7000 or <http://www.wingateroundrock.com/> Check one: Money Order Cash PayPal Check payable to: Lonestar Mensa RG XII

Mail to:

Jane K. Thompson

Registrar, Lonestar Mensa RG XII

2305 Monaco Drive

Cedar Park, TX 78613

For more information, contact the Registrar at: jane12125@austin.rr.com or www.lsm.us.mensa.org/lonestarg.htm

Please send me more information or sign me up for:

I'd like to volunteer for:

Hospitality

Registration

Clean-up

Speaker Liaison

Recycling

Transportation

Security/Equipment

Other Requests:

Need a roommate

Need a ride to the hotel

Other:

City of Austin Smart Grid

-by Don Drumtra, acting Program Coordinator

Current initiatives on green power require much more than the manual control systems employed in the past. To accommodate automatic load management, distributed control systems, advanced metering, plug-in cars, and distributed generation (like solar panels on your house) a smart system is necessary, not only at the national level but also in regions and cities. The national system has been named the Smart Grid and has been given infrastructure funding to get it moving.

Last April, Larry Alford discussed the Austin Energy Electric Transportation Program. With our usual flow of questions he only was able to thoroughly cover half of his slides, and had to cover the remaining material with a summary of about 2 seconds per slide. One of the slides near the end, a summary of the Austin Energy Smart Grid, captivated the interest of several attendees. Time precluded us discussing it then, but on the second Wednesday in August, Al Sarria will tell us all about Austin Smart Grid, its architecture, the interfacing systems that are a part of it and connected to it, and what it means to us. If time permits, he might even share his thoughts on the Pecan Street Project. The presentation ought to be fascinating.

Al Sarria is the Division Manager of Austin Energy's Information Technology and Telecommunications business unit (ITT) He has had over 22 years of experience in technology development and management in both the public and private sector applying his economics background to developing

This presentation continues our series on Austin's Environmental Programs—you won't want to miss it. So add it to your calendar: 7 - 8:30 PM, the second Wednesday, August 11, at the North Village Branch Library on the SW corner of Steck at Burnet in Austin. See the "What's Happening" page for details.

Correction: Larry Alford's last name on page 1 of the July ALG was misspelled. We apologize for the error.

Our Body: The Universe Within

UT Stark Exhibit

-submitted by Michele Vaughan

Please join us as we attend the acclaimed, educational exhibit of human anatomy at the Stark Center on the University of Texas campus. We will be meeting on Sunday, August 8, at 11:45 near the entrance to the exhibit. Admission may be purchased in advance online, at all Texas Box Office Outlets, or at the box office at gate 16 of the Darrell K Royal Texas Memorial Stadium on the day of the event. Adult tickets are \$21; UT students/faculty and children ages 4-12 are \$11, and senior citizens (62+) are \$16. Children under 4 are free, but no strollers are permitted in the exhibit area. More information about the exhibit is available at: <http://www.starkcenter.org/exhibits/>.

The anatomy exhibit, which consists of artfully preserved human bodies and organs, is appropriate for all ages; I will be bringing my 5-year-old daughter. If you are planning to attend, feel free to email me at lonestar.gifted.children@gmail.com so that I can be looking for you at the event. But also feel free to decide to attend last minute. You can always contact me on the day of the event on my cell phone: (512) 699-0689 with questions or help locating the group. I'll look forward to seeing you there!

A Happy August Birthday to:

Marion Alpern	Hugh Brown
Shauna Gibbons	William J Worthington IV
Betty L Wolverton	Eugene LaMar Guyon Jr
Marcus D Chance	Audrey Diane Aucott-Meyers
Rudy S Apodaca	Allen E Boyles
Jason M Schwarz	Kyle Patrick May
Keith R Babola	Ronald E Garner
Terrence R King	Jennifer D Rider
Lisa Mather	Cynthia Hobson Contreras
Michael E Legatt	James B Robinson
Ann C True	Zachary R Calvert
Matthew C Lawrence	Paula Blessing Beard
Megan E Hair	Patrick McShea
Keith Wilson Loring	Kenneth V Mosher II
Jeffrey A Pinkston	John R Strohm
W Randall Strahan Jr	Steve Young
Helen Ruth Siders	Kimberly A Stevens

What's Happening in August?

Board of Officers Meeting

1st Tuesday (except July)

Tuesday, August 3

6:00-7:00pm

Home of Ron and Linda Edelstein

1439 Dapplegrey Ln, Austin 78727

Contact the Board Secretary, Patty Drumtra, at drumtrapa@aol.com, 512-291-0315 to get an item on the agenda. Officers are encouraged to attend and all members are welcome.

UT Human Anatomy Exhibit

Sunday, August 8

11:45am

University of Texas, Stark Center

Host: Michele Vaughan, Gifted Children's Coordinator

Email: lonestar.gifted.children@gmail.com

Information and tickets available online: <http://www.starkcenter.org/exhibits/>

All ages welcome

Cell phone contact number for day of the event: (512) 699-0689 (Michele)

Monthly Membership Meeting

2nd Wednesday

Wednesday, August 11

7:00 - 8:30pm

North Village Branch Library

2505 Steck Ave, Austin

Austin Energy Smart Grid, presented by Al Sarria. See the article on page 6 for more information.

The library is located on the South West corner of Steck and Burnet.

'Dillo Deadline

2nd Thursday

Thursday August 12

Midnight

Email: lonestar.mensa.webmaster@gmail.com & bookbird@yahoo.com

Articles submissions are due to the ALG Editor and calendar inputs are due to the Calendar Coordinator by Midnight on the Dillo Date. Email both to: lonestar.mensa.webmaster@gmail.com and bookbird@yahoo.com.

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT)

2nd, 3rd & 4th Thursdays (Moved on Holidays)

Thursday, August 12 at Central Mkt North

Thursday, August 19 at Central Mkt South

Thursday, August 26 at Central Mkt North

Central Market Café 6:00-8:00pm

Central Market North at Central Park

4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin (512) 206-1020

Central Market South at Westgate

4477 S. Lamar Blvd., Austin (512) 899-4300

Meet us at the Café after work for fun, conversation, and food. Prospective members welcome.

Central Market (North) Café is located on the south side of the Central Market grocery store in the Central Park shopping center east of N. Lamar between 38th and 41st Streets. We usually meet upstairs but if there is party, look for us downstairs or outside.

Central Market (South) Café is located on the east side of the Central Market grocery store in the Westgate Mall on the south side of S. Lamar access road (the south access road of I-290/SR71) between Westgate Blvd. and Frontier Trl. Once inside, look for a Mensa sign or folks with Mensa shirts who appear smart.

Games Night

3rd Saturday

Saturday, August 21

7:00-11:00pm

Hosted by Patsy Graham

5804 Shoal Creek Blvd, Austin, TX 78757

Bring your favorite beverage; I'll have some small snacks. I have several games but if you have a favorite bring it along. Please RSVP to mensapats@att.net so I'll have an idea of how many to expect.

Seal & Label

4th Thursday (Moved on Holidays)

Thursday, August 26

6:00-8:00pm

Central Market Cafe, Austin

4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin (512) 206-1020

Join the TGIT Group to help seal and label the newsletter. Prospective members are welcome. See TGIT for directions.

Upcoming in September

September 3-6	LonestarG
September 7	Board of Officers Meeting
September 8	Membership Meeting
September 9	TGIT North
September 16	Dillo Deadline
September 18	Games Night

Welcome New Mensa Members to Lone Star Mensa

Han-Wei Chen * Cody D Oliver

Benjamin Schrader * Mukund Srinivasan

Miquela Stein

Welcome back to Mensa & Lone Star Mensa

We missed you

Thomas C Haddon III * Michael L Rylie

Derek Saunders * Diane E Tominaga

Farewell to our Departing Members

We will miss you

Jeff Michael Clewell * Marcus Genova

Keith T Joji * Sheldon Benjamin Kohan

Armadillo Literary Gazette -- August 2010

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PUBLICATION NOTICES

The *Amadillo Literary Gazette* is the official publication of Lone Star Mensa. Mensans who are not members of LSM August subscribe for \$10/yr for paper copies or \$5/yr for electronic copies. Send subscription requests to the publ. office. Submission Information: Submissions of all types will be accepted. The deadline is the 15th of each month. Submissions August be by email (ASCII/text/.txt/.rtf format preferred) to the newsletter editor or by snail mail in typed format.

Anonymous submissions are not accepted, although the author's identity August be withheld upon request. The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Items in this newsletter August be reprinted in other Mensa publications, with credit given, except for those works restricted by the author.

Advertising Rates and Policies:

Non-commercial: Lonestar Mensa members August 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.



See the online calendar for the latest additions, cancellations, or changes to calendar items. Online calendar inputs may be submitted at any time. Calendar inputs for the printed calendar are due to Charles Wilson (page 2). by the second Thursday of each month for the following month's calendar.

2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>August</i> 1	2	3 Board Meeting	4	5	6	7
8 Human Anatomy	9	10	11 Member Meeting	12 TGIT North 'Dillo Deadline	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 TGIT South	20	21 Games Night
22	23	24	25	26 TGIT North Seal & Label	27	28
29	30	31	<i>September</i> 1	2	3 LonestarRG	4 LonestarRG
5 LonestarRG	6 LonestarRG	7 Board Meeting	8 Member Meeting	9	10	11