

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lone Star Mensa

Volume XXXVII

Number 12

December 2010



Paige Elijah Kelly with Austin Partners In Education was our guest speaker at the November 10th Monthly Meeting. Within an overview of her organization she is seen discussing the differences between normal tutoring and "classroom coaching". Austin Partners In Education is a non-profit organization founded by the Austin Chamber of Commerce and the Austin Independent School District. Please see the full article on page 4 about their many volunteer programs.



Lone Star Mensa Christmas Party — Y'all Come!

New members! This is a great way to meet other members of your Lone Star Mensa family. Old members, see people you haven't seen since the last party! Date: Saturday, 18 December 2010, Time: 6:30-9:00 PM, Place: Coffee-a-Deli, 11800 N. Lamar Blvd, Austin, TX Cost: \$5.00 for adults, \$2.50 for children 3-10 years old, Children under 3 are free.

Dinner will be buffet style, with turkey and the trimmings, veggies and Vnue's wonderful soups, tarts and dessert bars. Coffee, tea, soda, and Mensa wine and beer. (Please drink responsibly!)

There will be a mystery gift drawing. If you wish to participate, please bring a WRAPPED gift to put under the tree, value not more than \$20.00. It can be new or gently used, store bought or homemade. Rules will be the same as the last two years. You will get a ticket at the door with your number on it. When your number is called, you may either choose a gift from under the tree or take one that someone else has already chosen. Any gift "captured" twice before is ineligible for recapture.

Please RSVP to Ron or Linda Edelstein at 512-491-9881 or ledelstein@mindspring.com before 5:00 PM, Tuesday, 4 December. We need to give a head count to our caterer so she knows how much food to prepare. There is a limit on space, no more than 40 people, so if you don't RSVP, the party may be full when you get there.

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
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Web Contact:	John Neemidge	512-310-7863	john@neemidge.net

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

Nomination and Election Committees:

Chair: Janet Kres

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, parties, and activities.

Arbiter:	Ron Edelstein	512-491-988	aduana@mindspring.com
Ombudsman:	Ron Edelstein	512-491-988	aduana@mindspring.com
Records Manager & Archivist:	Don Drumtra	512-291-03 5	drumtra@aol.com
Liaisons for Colloquium 2011:	John & Geri Neemidge	512-310-7863	john@neemidge.net

LonestaRG 2011 Committee

Co-Chairs: Geri and John Neemidge

Members: *Facilities Vacant, Hospitality Vacant, Hotel Vacant, Payments Vacant, Photographer Vacant, Programs* Geri Neemidge, *Publicity Vacant, Registrar* Patsy Graham, *Security Vacant, Tastings Vacant, Testing Vacant, Treasurer* Andrew York, *Raffle & Donations Coordinator* Vacant

Lots of help is needed at the RG. Please let John or Geri 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

Article Submissions: editor@lsm.us.mensa.org

Calendar Submissions: calendar@lsm.us.mensa.org



Don's Dialectics – Apathy or too Much to Do?

-by Don Drumtra, LocSec

In the November ALG, Rose Berkowitz contrasts Lone Star Mensa with Central New Jersey Mensa and notes that New Jersey many more events than we do and has a far greater participation. Although it is true that Central New Jersey Mensa has 50 percent more members than we do, it is not the answer. I have been in smaller groups that have had a lot more participation than Lone Star Mensa. Is Rose the only person who has joined us who noticed this apathy among our members? Is Austin unique because there is so much to do? We can point the disappointment of Skyler Kanegi who worked for a year to get UT members to set up a sub group of students to hang out with fellow Mensans. He suffered an almost complete lack of response, gave up, and did not renew his membership. Perhaps the reason there was so little interest was the competition of other opportunities. On the other hand, in the past few years we have beat down two other enthusiastic members with our apathy who tried to organize interesting activities outside of Austin. So would we expect to see less apathy and more participation out side of Austin? Don Chase worked to drum up interest for activities for members outside of Austin to the north, around Waco. He sent out mailings, arranged activities, and was met with almost complete apathy—little response and little participation. He gave up after more than a year of trying and has since not renewed his membership. It was a similar story for Gloria and Ron Fortin in San Marcos, who came from a very active group and tried to get some interest in Mensa activities from members outside of Austin to the south. They gave up after two years but are still a members and still thinking about what activities would invigorate Lone Star Mensans.

Fortunately, not all have given up. We still have the members who continue to arrange programs and activities despite the general apathy. With City of Austin support we have had a great series of programs on the environment, Michele Vaughan arranged a great tour of a international level human anatomy exhibit at UT as part of her gifted children program, Mike Poole arranged a super program on the work of Austin Partners in Education. We had good participation at our spring and fall picnic thanks to Helen Sidors and are looking forward to a great Holiday party Ron Edelstein organized. I for one appreciate all the efforts of those that tried to break through the apathy and those who are continuing to try now. For the feedback I received others are appreciative as well.

In her article Rose asks several questions: Why does it seem that most of you don't care to make the effort to get to know more people in Lonestar Mensa? Don't you enjoy spending time with other like-minded people that are at your same level of intelligence? Wouldn't you like to see more, and more varied, events on the monthly calendar? These are great questions. What do you think the answer are? Email Rose at rberkowitz@austin.rr.com. Email members of the board with your thoughts, should we do a survey? Send an email to the

editor at editor@lam.mensa.com .Write Gloria, Michele, or Mike, thank them for their work, and let them know what you think. Their email addresses are on page 2. Talk with all of us at the holiday party. Become an active participant.



November Board Minutes

-submitted by Patty Drumtra, Board Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Lonestar Mensa Board of Officers convened at 6:02 PM, November 2, 2010, at Ron Edelstein's home, 1439 Dapplegrey Lane, Austin, TX 78727. Attending were: **Ron Edelstein, Don Drumtra, Patty Drumtra, Linda Edelstein, and John Neemidge.**

* The Board adopted without debate the agenda and the October minutes printed in the October *Armadillo Literary Gazette* (ALG) page 6.

* Linda presented the October 2010 Financial Report. She said the two CDs have been renewed at the current low interest rates available. The Board approved the Financial Report.

* The board consented to Don's appointment of Janet Kres as Chairman of the Nomination and Election Committee.

* Patty moved for Claudia Harbert, Scholarship Chairman, that the 2011 scholarship award be set at \$450. The board amended the amount to \$500 and adopted the motion as amended. (ASIE 2010-23).

* Don reported for the Symposium Committee that Mike Poole made arrangements for the November general meeting.

* Linda gave final 2010 RG report. After discussion, the board adopted the report and its recommendations as posted on the Website. (ASIEs 2010-24 to 27).

* Don moved to adopt the 2011 Calendar of Regular Monthly Meetings and Events. The calendar was adopted as amended and posted on the Website. (ASIE 2010-28).

The next monthly board meeting will be Tuesday, December 7, at 6 PM at Ron Edelstein's house.

The meeting adjourned at 7 PM.

A Challenge to Lone Star Mensans

-by Jennifer Rees, Communications Director APIE

Austin Partners in Education recruits, trains and places volunteers from the community into Austin classrooms as Classroom Coaches. Unlike the traditional one-on-one mentor model, Classroom Coaching provides small interactive groups of 2 – 3 students per coach in 45 minute, once-weekly sessions. Coaches do not introduce new material. They work with their student groups to ascertain what the student has grasped from the curriculum that week, and help to bring real-world relevance to the subjects being studied.

Pick your time and location. Volunteers select the time and school location they prefer from a list posted at www.austinpartners.org. Austin Partners in Education provides a two hour training session and a curriculum notebook complete with each week's lessons and coaching strategies. At the designated time, several coaches meet and enter the room together. During coaching sessions the entire class participates and every child has the chance to speak, ask and learn. Assessments indicate improved test scores as a result of the sessions. Teachers are emphatically supportive of the program and request an increasing number of Classroom Coaching volunteers yearly.

Why 2nd Grade Reading? According to the National Research Council, a person who is not at least a modestly proficient reader by 3rd grade is unlikely to graduate from high school. In addition, 74% of children who perform poorly in reading in the 3rd grade continue to perform poorly into high school. Therefore, it is generally recognised that this is a critical time in a young person's development and is a highly effective point for intervention.

Why 8th Grade Math? High school mathematics (algebra) is widely regarded as the "gatekeeper" to college. Statistics show it to be the subject students in U.S. schools fail most often. Worse yet, students who failed Algebra 1 were *four times* more likely to drop out of high school than those who passed the course. In contrast, 83% of students who are successful in Algebra 1 and Geometry go on to college. Like 2nd grade reading, 8th grade math is a highly effective point to concentrate our effort.

Why College Readiness? A score of 2100 or higher on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills test (TAKS) is required to graduate from high school. Yet most colleges and universities consider students that score less than 2200 to be unprepared for college level coursework in some areas. Surprisingly, 57% of graduating Central Texas high school students fall within those scores and are required to undertake remedial courses before beginning work toward a degree. This adds to the cost and time required to complete their courses and can be highly discouraging to a beginning freshman.

Statistics prove this out. Between 60 and 70% of students who are referred to remediation simply drop out of college. College Readiness helps prepare these students for college placement testing ensuring they begin at the highest possible point in the next phase of their education.

Why Mensa? Why not? Your mission is to identify and foster human intelligence for the benefit of humanity. While your members often work with advanced placement students, there is no rule that says students struggling with a certain subject would not benefit greatly from the opportunity to interact with a Mensan. For many of these students you could be an entirely new point of reference for invisioning their future. What an opportunity to produce positive change in a young person's life? What a rewarding challenge for a Mensan to tackle?

Who might you inspire? What difference will your 45 minutes in class each week make in the life of a local student? You won't know unless you get involved. You may be the difference in whether or not a young person graduates high school, goes on to college, and achieves a satisfying career..

We are asking for your help in volunteering as Classroom Coaches. Won't you put your special gift to work in Austin classrooms? Visit us at austinpartners.org or call (512) 637-0900 to find out more about the programs and current opportunities to volunteer.



Call for Nominations for Members of the Board for 2011-2012

-submitted by Janet Kres, Nomination Committee Chairman

It is time to begin the process filling the empty seats on the Board of Officers for April 2011 through March 2012. There are five positions to be filled—one for a one year term and four for a two year term (2011-2013). There are two ways you can nominate yourself or someone else. To be considered for nomination by the Nomination Committee, email the name & email address of the member to jmkres@sbcglobal.net. To be directly added to the ballot, submit a petition with ten LSM member signatures to me at the same email address. All nominees must be LSM members in good standing & willing to serve. Nominations must be received by December 5.

Chain of Life

-by Rose M. Berkowitz, rberkowitz@austin.rr.com

Sometimes the chain of life almost overwhelms me.

Have you ever thought about the uncountable number of events that had to take place for you to be here now, living this particular existence?

This afternoon I was eating a container of raspberry yogurt, and I started to think about where it came from, what went into it:

- The plastic, laid down in the primordial ooze.
- The concept of a container, developed by prehistoric man.
- The designs and markings on the container, encompassing development of an alphabet, printing in color, corporations and trademarks, health standards, etc.
- Domestication of wild cattle, and milk fermentation.
- Cultivation and harvesting of the wild raspberry, the making of fruit preserves.
- Concepts of mass manufacturing, shipping and distribution, storage and display, refrigeration, marketing and shopping, food safety, finance and taxation, employment, etc.
- Scientific investigation of bacterial cultures—requiring development of the microscope, laboratories and their paraphernalia, and universities.
- Methods of mass communication among scientists, marketers, and consumers—magazines, newspapers, journals, and so on.

Of course, I could go on and on. But the point is, we're interconnected and interdependent, and yet we don't ordinarily even think about it. How much we have to be grateful for!

Sometimes I'll ride down the streets of one of the lovely towns here, and think about the amount of labor, inspiration, and cooperation it took to create the houses, yards, streets, etc. I find especially poignant the love and pride exhibited by homeowners who not only carefully maintain their property, but also decorate it artistically for the various seasons and holidays.

This "comes home" especially forcefully during this time of year, when there seems to be a special yearning to acknowledge and experience our interconnection. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hannukah, Kwanzaa, the Winter Solstice, and/or something else, the period between Thanksgiving and the New Year seems to call forth our most heartfelt efforts. What a joy it is to tour the different neighborhoods and marvel at the glorious creativity and spirit demonstrated so generously!

I'd like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to each one of you for participating in this sharing of life and love, in whatever way you choose. I am glad to be among you, glad to be a part of this universe, glad to have a forum to express my thoughts and feelings.

The warmest of holiday wishes to you and yours.

From the RVC

At the meeting of the American Mensa Committee last spring in San Diego, we created a Governance Task Force to examine the way American Mensa is run and recommend any changes they thought would improve things. A couple of motions regarding our corporate governance that came up at the meeting were referred to this Task Force. At our fall meeting in Fort Worth, the Governance Task Force, composed of the Executive Director, four current members of the AMC, and five other members, and chaired by Eldon Romney, our former National Ombudsman, officially submitted its report.

When we created this Task Force, we had hoped they could examine the issues and make a number of concrete recommendations for specific changes, but as the Task Force members began work, it quickly became apparent that their charge was too all-encompassing to be reduced to a neat set of proposed by-laws amendments. An extensive e-mail survey, as well as random interviews at the AG this summer, made it clear that our members' preferences in almost all areas were so diverse as to defy any attempt to reach consensus. The report eventually turned out to be an examination of the issues, followed by some suggestions of possible options. Nonetheless, it was a huge job, and the final product will be of great help to the AMC in considering what directions we should take in confronting some of the global issues of governance that will be coming before us in the next year or two.

The report contains some recommendations for startling changes in our organization. The question for the immediate future is whether the AMC will embrace the possibility of radical restructuring, or whether everyone will dig in and start defending their own "turf". The safe decision, when confronted by the possibility of radical change, is always going to be opting for the status quo. Those who push for change will inevitably be the scapegoats if the new way of doing things produces unfavorable results. Those of us not blessed with clairvoyance cannot promise that the new way is better than the old, only that it might be. Clearly, the obvious response to that premise is "yes, but it might not". Over the next year or so, as this AMC and the next one struggle with the huge implications of the Governance Task Force report, be thinking about your own appetite for change. Do we need massive restructuring of American Mensa in an attempt to increase efficiency and effective delivery of services, or would you prefer incremental tweaking of our current organization, in order to capitalize on what we do well and slowly improve areas where we are lacking?

Over time, you'll be hearing from me or my successor regarding specific reforms that are likely to come before the AMC. The particulars will differ from case to case, but be aware that the overriding issue is as described above. How do you feel about it? Give it some thought, and let me know whether you lean toward "hope and change" on the one hand, or "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" on the other.

Roger Durham



Lonestar Mensa and the Mensa Education & Research Foundation

invite applications for

Mensa Foundation Scholarships

You are eligible to apply if you will be enrolled for the 2011-2012 school year in a program in an accredited American institute of post-secondary education, and if you are a resident of any area with a participating Mensa group. Check the website below to see whether your location is included.

You do not need to be a member of Mensa or qualified for Mensa. The awards are unrestricted as to age, race, gender, level of post-secondary education, and financial need.

Awards will be made on the basis of an essay of fewer than 550 words, which describes the applicant's career, vocational, or academic goal.

Awards are made in amounts ranging from \$600 to \$1000.

To download and print an official entry form and instructions via the Internet, go to:

<http://www.mensaeducation.org/scholarships>

To receive an application as an attached pdf file via email, contact:

mensascholarships@gmail.com

To receive an official entry form via US mail, send a legal-sized (#10) self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Mensa Foundation Scholarships
P.O. Box 5127
Round Rock, TX 78683-5543

Please follow *all* instructions on the entry form to avoid being disqualified.

REQUESTS FOR APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JANUARY 4, 2011 (Entries must be postmarked by January 15)

Happy Birthday

5	Donna Hynes Kruse
	Aarne Hartikka
6	Walter R Barksdale Jr
10	Mary Jane Lockhart
13	Heather Hall
14	Margaret Patricia Wofford
14	Barbara J Gordon
14	John Paliwoda
14	Trudie Weatherford
15	Erik C Bentz
16	Donna M Kornhaber
16	Justin Blount
16	Anthony G Cassano
17	Dr Caryl Neman
19	Sue Ricket Caldwell
19	Scott Jacobsmeyer
24	Thomas C Haddon III
26	Michael Clinton Moyer
28	Sonya L Palmer
28	Austin G Meyer
29	Jack Vincent Musgrove
29	Lauretta Payne
30	Merlin D Darling
30	Mary L Hoane
30	Shawn M Gamble



Welcome New Mensa Members to Lone Star Mensa

Charles D Daniel * Susan Modelle Gibson
Lauretta Payne * Elizabeth M Petit
Aaron Reid Smith * Taylor Griffin Smith

Welcome to our new Arrivals Moving to Lone Star Mensa

Andrew Van Le * Stephen A McAlister
Jimmie Choate Parker * Timothy Raines
Richard Sabel

Welcome back to Mensa and Lone Star Mensa We missed you

Edna Heard * Gordon R Jones
Edwin J Rogers

Farewell to our Friends Who are Moving Away We will miss you

Nicholas Brigance * Troy Ross Caperton
Han-Wei Chen * J Paul Crider
Matthew J Davis * Leslie Hoobler Roberts
Kelly E Seigler

What's Happening in December?

Board of Officers Meeting

1st Tuesday (except July)

Tuesday, December 7

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 or 512-291-0315 to get an item on the agenda. Officers are encouraged to attend and all members are welcome.

'Dillo Deadline

2nd Thursday

Thursday December 9

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, December 9 at Central Mkt North

Thursday, December 16 at Central Mkt South

Tuesday, December 21 at Central Mkt North

Central Market Café 6:00-8:00pm

Central Market North at Central Park

400 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin 78756 (512) 206-1020

Central Market South at Westgate

4477 S. Lamar Blvd., Austin 78745 (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 4 st 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/SR7) between Westgate Blvd. and Frontier Trl. Once inside, look for a Mensa sign or folks with Mensa shirts who appear smart.

Holiday Party

Saturday, December 18

6:30-9:00pm

Coffee-A-Deli

11800 N. Lamar Blvd, Austin, TX

Please see the announcement on the front cover for details.

Seal & Label

4th Tuesday (Moved on Holidays)

Thursday, December 21

6:00-8:00pm

Central Market Cafe, Austin

4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin 78756 (512) 206-1020

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



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- The complete form is available on the LSM Website under ComCommASIEs.

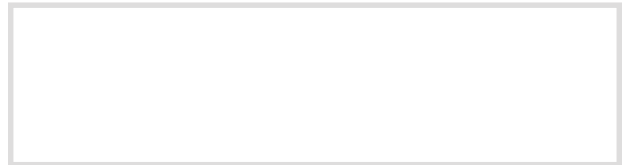
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Submission Information: Submissions of all types will be accepted. The deadline is the 2nd Thursday of each month. Submissions may be by email (ASCII/text/.txt/.rtf format preferred) to the newsletter editor or by snail mail in typed format. Anonymous submissions are not accepted, although the author's identity 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 restricted 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, accurately sized, and should be submitted electronically in JPG or PDF format.. 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 calendar@lsm.us.mensa.org by the second Thursday of each month for the following month's calendar.

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			<i>December</i> 1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Board Meeting	8	9 TGIT <i>'Dillo Deadline</i>	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 TGIT	17	18 Holiday Party
19	20	21 TGIT <i>Seal & Label</i>	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	<i>January</i> 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8