

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of *Lone Star Mensa*
Volume XXXVIII
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Editor: *Rose M. Berkowitz*
Managing Editor: *Don Drumtra*
Publisher: *Board of Officers*

EDITOR'S CHOICE

By *Rose Berkowitz*

This month I want to highlight the excellent local newsletters that are available to every member of Mensa. If you haven't already, do yourself a favor and take a look. I think you'll be pleased and inspired by the work of your fellow Mensans. See page 2 for a summary of the nominations (With all the nominations the OMEN received, I'm definitely going to have to check that one out!)

Please send your ideas and suggestions on improving our service to you, as well as any items for the newsletter, to editor@lsm.us.mensa.org. I'll impose no particular word limit, but emailed submissions are appreciated.

NEWSLETTER SPOTLIGHT

By "Culler" Claire Natola (www.vermontmensa.com)

As of press time, 48 Local Groups have uploaded their May newsletters to AML's web site. You may view any of these publications at www.us.mensa.org/newsletters.

You may have seen the seemingly ubiquitous billboards (or heard about them on the news) that claim May 21, 2011, will be Judgment Day. In that spirit, French Broad Mensa has published an End of the World Commemorative Issue of BROADCAST. Of particular note is their End of the World Party (billed as the "First Annual") for which participants are invited to bring their Favorite Last Meals to share. The party begins at 6:30 and goes "until it's over."

A member of Triad Mensa in North Carolina has let fellow members know that he works at a winery, and has offered tours of the winery to Mensans who visit on Fridays, when he is in the tasting room. What a lovely

idea! ... If any member works or volunteers in a similarly interesting place, you never know what kind of calendar event you might end up creating! It's a great way to get a member involved who might otherwise not have time to serve as a regular volunteer.

After joining Mensa, a lot of members say, "I have found my people!" Well, I have found mine in the pages of Western Pennsylvania Mensa's Phoenix: The Erie group of WPAM held its Procrastinators' New Year Party in March. Now that's a group to which I can relate!

I feel compelled to trumpet the photographic talents of Redwood Empire Mensa's Walt Bodley, whose work is regularly published in Redwood Empire News. This month's stunning cover photograph and an interior two-page spread were shot by Walt in February during a photo safari to Yellowstone National Park. Anyone who wants to make the case for electronic distribution of newsletters need only point to the full-color glory of Walt's photos. Case closed.

MONTHLY MEETING NOTICE

Submitted By *Don Drumtra, LocSec*

Are we having good programs or what?

In May, Dr. Crockett Grabbe, board member, helped us explore the Challenger and Columbia accidents; in June, Rose Berkowitz led a discussion on discussion

groups, and in July, Crockett plans to address 9/11, the bombing of the World Trade Center. In early June, as I write this, the August meeting is still open for LSM members to sponsor a speaker, speak themselves, or lead a discussion of a topic of their choice. Just sign up and tell us what you are going to do so that

we can advertise it. The topic list is available on the LSM Website.

Go to our web site, <http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org>, click on Monthly Meetings, and then on Online Topic List. Add your topic and indicate who will present or lead the discussion and when, or select a topic already on the list.

2011 PUBLICATIONS RECOGNITION PROGRAM--NEWSLETTER NOMINATIONS

NAME, GROUP, EDITOR	CALENDAR	MEMBER RECOGNITION	OVERALL PRESENTATION	OVERALL ENTERTAINMENT	LOCAL REPORTING	MENSA AWARENESS	OUTSTANDING NEWSLETTER (LARGE GROUP)	OUTSTANDING NEWSLETTER (MEDIUM GROUP)	OUTSTANDING NEWSLETTER (SMALL GROUP)
Beacon Boston Mensa Ben McCarty					X				
Broadcast French Broad Mensa Michael Havelin									X
Brow Beat Broward Mensa Jason Knight		X							
Capital M Metropolitan Washington Mensa David Aronson		X		X		X			
ChiMe Chicago Area Mensa Joseph Sackett	X		X		X		X		
Flamenco Miami Mensa Steve Smith								X	
Graffiti Cleveland Area Mensa Kerry Rempar	X		X					X	
i.e. Inland Empire MensaX Tom Pigeon								X	
Intelligencer San Francisco Regional Mensa Michael Eager	X		X				X		
Mesagenda Minnesota Mensa Linda Seebach					X		X		
Mension Mid-America Mensa Warren Walker				X	X				
Mphasis Greater New York Mensa Charles Barouch,				X					
MPULSE Dayton Area Mensa Pat Reising				X				X	
Neva-Mind Northern Nevada Mensa Anna Wright				X					X
OMEN Oregon Mensa Barbara Lance	X	X	X	X		X	X		
PAMphlet Piedmont Area Mensa Brian Williams									X
Penn Central Central Pennsylvania Mensa Cam Smart						X			
Phoenix Western Pennsylvania Mensa Mariann Taylor	X	X							
Redwood MPire News Redwood Empire Mensa Nancy Flack			X						X
The 4M Manasota Mensa Edgar Coudal						X		X	
The Brainiac Nebraska-Western Iowa Mensa Tami Whitney		X							X
The Oracle Orange County Mensa Edee Craig					X	X	X		

FEATURED MEMBER BIO



Hi. I'm Joe DeBell.

I was born and raised in a small town in western New York, just south of Buffalo and Rochester--an area called the "Niagara Frontier." Rolling hills, dairy farms, cold, snowy winters, "lake effect" snow. A

Norman Rockwell kind of town, post-Great Depression. A broken family; my father deserted us when I was 4 and disappeared into New York City. My mother raised me until she died when I was 13 and she was only 33. I was fostered in relatives' homes until I graduated from high school in 1950.

I graduated pretty high up in my class; but with no family support or readily apparent way to get tuition for college, and the Korean War just breaking out, like many guys I enlisted. After basic training in the US Air Force in Texas and follow-on electronics training in Air Traffic Control in Mississippi, I was shipped to Korea as a mobile air traffic control technician. Though I was often at forward bases, I survived Korea, and returned to the US in late 1953, shortly after the Korean Armistice.

I stayed in the Air Force after Korea-- I had found my "family;" and after a successful eight-year enlisted stint and several interesting assignments, I tested for and was accepted to Officer Training School. I graduated first in my class and was awarded a Regular Commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force.

The next 22 years were filled with service in Vietnam, Iran (two years), Israel, Germany (four years), Iceland and several professional military training schools in the US. I was initially an instructor in various radar systems, then a Commander of several Air Force units of increasing size. Later I was a "staff officer" specializing in electronic warfare and intelligence systems, "spy" satellite systems, electronic cryptanalysis, and various "long-haul" communications systems. Along the way I earned a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and one in Business, and an M.B.A. from the University of Utah. I retired from the Air Force in 1980 at the Pentagon after 30 years, with the rank of Colonel.

After retirement, looking for something interesting to do, I got a real estate license and sold residential real estate for a short time. I didn't like it. So I went to school for commercial real estate development (land use, shopping centers). I found I really didn't care for that either; and

found myself drawn back to military stuff. I soon signed on with a large military defense contractor near Washington, DC doing familiar stuff again--military and government computer systems engineering. Extensive and exhaustive psychological testing prior to hiring on revealed that I was apparently Mensa material, so I joined Washington Area Mensa.

I worked in the company's Fort Monmouth New Jersey office on several military programs: electronic warfare, joint data systems and night vision development; eventually serving as their New Jersey manager for several years before moving back to their Washington DC headquarters. During this time I became more active in Washington Area Mensa. I also traveled a lot--to the Republic of China, Mexico, Bolivia, Venezuela, Hong Kong, Japan, Israel (again), Kuwait and Egypt--implementing various computer-driven systems. After almost 15 years of that I finally ended up as a Senior Department Manager for US Drug Interdiction Systems. During that time I also did post-graduate work at UVA's Darden School of Business in Charlottesville, Virginia.

After my youngest (of four) children was through college (UT at Austin), and with no more tuition to pay, I left the corporate world and started my own business in northern Virginia--as a corporate travel agent. (Since I had done so much traveling, I figured I knew something about it!). Some eight years and trials and tribulations later, I had four pretty successful businesses. Eventually I sold them all. In 2000, I retired (for the third and final time!) to an over-55 active adult community in Gainesville, Virginia, near Manassas. I went to golf school, became a Civil War buff, and did a six-year stint as the community's Resident Board Director.

When my UT Longhorn daughter married a Texas A&M Aggie (horrors!), and they moved to Houston and had two children, I got a tremendous amount of pressure from both her and my wife to move to Texas. Although I was pretty happy in Virginia I finally gave in, and my wife and I moved to Sun City, Georgetown in October of 2006. Now I really like it and Texas.

My personal life includes an early marriage in 1954, a divorce in 1968, and a later marriage in 1969 to my wife Joan, an OR nurse and former Air Force officer. I now have four married children, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. I play bridge, chess, tennis, golf; and most actively, table tennis (ranked USATT). I'm into genealogy (DNA analysis), biblical archaeology, and cryptology. I've been an active member of Mensa for over 30 years now.

A relatively recent activity of mine is the development of a Mensa SIG here in Sun City, where I moderate a group of some 14 resident Mensa members. We meet on a monthly basis in a social venue (usually my house) to discuss things in salon format that engage and interest us. Nothing is off the table--not politics or religion or sex. Our discussions include everything and anything: black holes, robotics, recent big bang discoveries, medieval cryptanalysis, religious historical origins, archeology, current political and social issues, eugenics, spirituality... you name it. Most recently, we've been discussing the "singularity", and when/how it will happen. We have no officers, no formal protocol-- only contributions to the

general group knowledge. It's a lot of fun, and its right here at home.

In retrospect, my not-so-great early life, broken home, and long military service caused me to learn to accept loss and deprivation and rely pretty much on myself for whatever I wanted to achieve; but also caused me to look at life less emotionally and more objectively. While I'm very social and make friends very easily, my emotional ties are not as strong as they might be. I think my family wishes they were stronger, that I was more emotional. Be that as it may, I do enjoy teaching my grandchildren things.

My email is jjdebell@suddenlink.net

JUNE BOARD MINUTES

Submitted by Patty Drumtra, VP and Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Lone Star Mensa Board of Officers convened at 6 PM, June 1, 2011, at the home of Ron and Linda Edelstein. Attending were: **Don Drumtra, Patty Drumtra, Ron Edelstein, Linda Edelstein, Crockett Grabbe, Jon Kurylowicz, John Neemidge, and Helen Siders.** Referenced written reports and ASIEs are available on the LSM website. Paper copies are available on request. The board adopted without debate the agenda and the May minutes in the May 2011 *Armadillo Literary Gazette* (ALG), page 3.

The board received the following officer reports:

- LocSec: Member Concerns Action Plans Status Report no change ASIE, 2011-7 (Don)
- Treasurer: April 1–May 31 Financial Report adopted unanimously with discussion (Linda)
- Member at large: verbal status report on the glossary of acronyms used in Mensa (Crockett)
- Education Committee: verbal report that Lone Star area contestants won three scholarships in addition to our

“guaranteed” local winner. One was a national scholarship (the Harper Fowley, for a student getting a liberal arts degree), and two other regional scholarships. The winning essays will appear in the ALG (Patty for Claudia Harbert, Scholarship Chairman)

- Membership Committee: verbal report that three potential Mensa members were scheduled to take the test June 4. Mike Tolbert plans to proctor the test at the Regional Gathering. (Patty for John Pfeiffer, interim testing coordinator)
- Symposium Committee: verbal report that the regular membership meeting on June 8 will feature a discussion led by Rose Berkowitz on starting a formal LSM discussion group, and on July 13 will be a discussion led by Crockett Grabbe titled, “National Swindle at the World Trade Center;” both scheduled for 7-8:30 PM at the Northwest Village Branch Library (Don)
- LonestaRG Committee: verbal report that 13 registrations for the RG were added at the Houston RG. Speakers are lined up and a participatory music session is being considered. So bring your guitar or fiddle! (John)
- Website Working Group: verbal report that no further progress has been made. A committee meeting was canceled because of illness of

the hostess. (Don for Rose Berkowitz, Co-chairman)

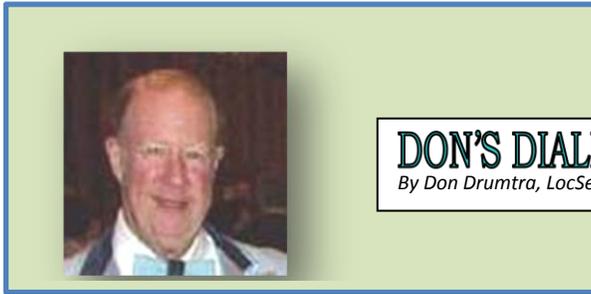
The board members took the following action on motions postponed from the May meeting:

- Agreed in principle with the set of criteria listed in the latest Member Concerns Action Plans Status Report for satisfactory responses to member concerns, recommendations, and board plans (Don)
- Continued discussing terminology to replace ASIEs (Don)
- Continued discussing a motion to establish goals for the 2011-2012 term in line with National Mensa’s goals, plus a goal of completing a percentage to be determined by the Board of the Member Concerns Action Report issues (Don).

Announcements (See the newsletter and calendar for more detail.)

- The next monthly board meeting is scheduled for 6-7 PM, Wednesday July 6 at Ron and Linda Edelstein's home (Patty).
- Future Monthly Meetings Topic list now available on the website (Don).

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.



Who Cut Your Budget?

According to a magazine article I read recently, the citizens of Federal Way, WA, were promised a light rail extension to their town by 2023 and agreed to an increase in sales tax to help make it happen. The King County agency reported that there was now not enough money to do it. The Mayor of Federal Way pointed out that the lower-income population of Federal Way needed an efficient way to get to Seattle where the jobs are, stating "It's our responsibility as leaders to find a way to deliver transit to the working class." A county council member's response was "It's not a matter of a promise being broken. It's a simple matter of addition and subtraction. You are a victim of the recession."

Do you think the council member provided a valid answer? It is true that King County has been hard hit by the recession. To balance their budget, council members have had to make deep cuts, lower salaries, and lay off many county government employees. (See <http://www.kingcounty.gov/council/budget.aspx>.) One of those cuts was the extension of transportation to Federal Way. But is that the same thing as saying the mayor was a victim of the recession? Or would it perhaps have been more accurate to say that the extension was the victim of a decision of council members?

It seems to me that our elected representatives are all too quick to blame decisions they make on external factors. In the case of King County it seems clear to me that council members did a very credible job of living within the budget. So why not tell the taxpayers that the recession reduced our revenue, which caused us to reassess all our needs and make hard decisions? Wouldn't you like to hear our representatives say something like "We prioritized all the needs of this county to the best of our ability. This is what we can do without raising taxes. But here are three levels of things we can do if we raise taxes. Please let us know within the next two weeks what you think. We will still make the decisions, but your input will be considered." It is probably not that simple, but wouldn't it be nice if our representatives listened to all their constituents (not just their party) and had a real-time idea of what the folks they represent actually wanted them to do?



D6, dealing with the perception that LSM is being run by a clique.

The complete status report, action plans, and the Member Concerns Report are available at <http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/bylaws/ASIEs/#G/>

In May work was begun on one more action plan, bringing the number of plans being worked on to 19 of 44, or 44 percent.

Action plan highlights include:

- *Crockett Grabbe provided a first draft of the glossary of terms for new members, plan A5.*
- *Members added more topics to the monthly meeting list of presenters and topics.*
- *The board approved the volunteer service name badge award for exceptional service for one or more terms of office, plan C4.*

The board continued to work on criteria for adequate action to resolve or complete work on a member concern. In applying test criteria the board considered the opinion editorial insufficient to resolve plans A4 and

RECOMMENDED WEB SITES

- *This site has compiled some of the most epic photos ever taken, including Big Blue Dot: Our Earth in Perspective (taken by Voyager): <http://b.gr.ae/jSOwJf>*
- *This is the stuff you DON'T see—behind the scenes at the shuttle launch. (It's silent until the last few seconds): http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=KZrFC988Thc*
- *Here's another fascinating web site: <http://worldsciencefestival.com/wsftv>*

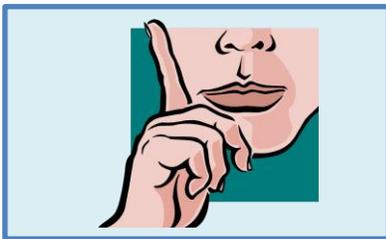
HOW DRY IS IT IN TEXAS?

It's so dry in Texas that the Baptists are starting to baptize by sprinkling, the Methodists are using wet-wipes, the Presbyterians are giving out rain-checks, and the Catholics are praying for the wine to turn back into water.

YOUR SUDOKU PUZZLE

Weekly Extremes, sudoku.org.uk

Submitted by Douglas Yee



8	7			6	1		2
	5						7
		1					
	2		6	1		5	4
			7	5			
9	3		4	8		7	
					9		
6						8	
2		3				1	6

Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, and every 3x3 square.

MENSAN JUDGES CHOOSE SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST WINNERS

Submitted by Claudia Harbert, Local Scholarship Coordinator

You may know that the Mensa Education & Research Foundation holds an annual scholarship essay contest (for all students, not just Mensans), and that Lone Star Mensa participates. LSM had a most successful scholarship contest this year! National Mensa promises us one local scholarship winner. In addition this year, entries from our local area won 2 regional awards and a national award! The winning essays will be published in full in the Armadillo Literary Gazette during the next few months, starting with this issue.

They are also available on the LSM website at <http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/scholarships/>

We owe our success to our judges, all local Mensans. When two-thirds of the essays arrived during the last few days before the contest deadline, the entire judging plan had to be changed at the last minute. All of the judges were wonderfully understanding about the changes. All read many emails and instructions carefully, and all did a great job of judging! The essays our judges chose apparently appealed to the regional and national judges too! Many thanks to volunteer judges Ron Edelstein, Gloria and Ron Fortin, Frederick Goertz, Jon Kurylowicz, Jim Mangum, Sonya Palmer, Jason Schenker, Johnnie Vaughn, Karen Werner and Barbara Wilson!

Winning Contest Entry Adds to Writer's Portfolio

Ariel Godwin, winner of Lone Star Mensa's 2011 local group scholarship, plans a career in writing. She will be starting college at the University of Iowa, which offers an excellent and famous writing program. We are proud and happy to publish Ariel's winning essay and hope she will treasure her essay's appearance in the Armadillo Literary Gazette as one of her first publications! Here is Ariel's winning essay:



I have known I wanted to be a writer since I have known how to read.

Some kids play with imaginary friends, and in a way so did I - but my friends were witches and mad scientists and knights who went on wild escapades, galloping off into the horizon of adventure. I soon realized that these characters had to be set down on paper, recorded in stories of their own. So I began writing, and kept writing ever since. Distribution of my work by a notable publishing house is my lifelong dream.

I took my first steps toward that goal back in middle school, when I enrolled in a Literary Magazine class to learn about submitting, editing, and publishing my work. In high school, I took honors courses that emphasized composition skills, and further honed those skills with classes like Creative Writing. The former gave me practice at writing on deadlines and to specific standards, while the latter encouraged me to develop a personal writing style and get used to multiple revisions before a perfect final draft. Some abilities, like correctly following language rules, were easy to acquire; others, like taking criticism with an open mind and constructively applying it, needed time to get better.

But I didn't abandon my purpose outside the schoolhouse doors - a passion for writing suffuses my free time as well. Writing is more than a requirement for graduation to me; it's a love that will last my entire life. Even when I'm not writing myself, I read books related to the subject, from Stephen King's On Writing to Anne Lamott's Bird by Bird. By absorbing the advice of published authors, I hope to pick up tips on how to get my name on the same shelves as Jonathan Safran Foer and Chuck Palahniuk. I also like stretching my creative muscles with exercises like 15MinFic, where the goal is to write a short fiction based on a single word in the space of 15 minutes, or 55-word stories, which must be both precise and poignant. My greatest creative exercise to date is a yearly event called National Novel Writing Month, or NaNoWriMo. NaNoWriMo encourages budding writers like myself to put down 50,000 words of a novel in the space of 30 days. As of 2011, I have participated in NaNoWriMo 4 years running and completed the word goal once, a record I plan to improve next November.

Possibilities are endless for someone with my dream, and my horizons only continue to expand with time. Soon, I'll be attending one of my 6 chosen colleges with renowned writing programs to earn an English degree. I'll continue submitting to literary magazines and competitions, like the VFW's Voice of Democracy essay contest and this contest. Every goal I complete brings my stories one step closer to seeing the light of day. If hundreds of thousands can do it each year...if thousands do it each month...if hundreds do it every single day...I know that I, too, can publish my work, whether it be a novel, short story, or newspaper article. The road to success is long, but I've got an early start, and I won't stop until I realize my dream.

AMERICAN MENSA ELECTION RESULTS

Submitted by Maggie Truelove, Election Chair

The following positions were unopposed and the candidates were declared elected: RVC 1 - Andrew Heffernan; RVC 2 - Marc Lederman; RVC 3 - Betsy Mark; RVC 4 - Ken Silver; RVC 5 - Bob Cox; RVC 8 - Debra Reiger; and RVC 10 - Mel Dahl. Treasurer candidate Cyndi Kuyper withdrew from the election.

Chair: Elissa Rudolph is declared elected.

1st Vice Chair: Dan Burg is declared elected.

2nd Vice Chair: John Recht is declared elected.

Secretary: Heather Poirier is declared elected.

Treasurer: Nick Sanford is declared elected.

RVC 6: Roger Durham is declared elected.

RVC 7: Peggy Pannke-Smith is declared elected.

RVC 9: Clark Jones is declared elected.

Bylaw Amendment 1 failed. Full text of this amendment and election details are available at <http://www.us.mensa.org/election>.

NEW AREA COORDINATOR APPOINTED

By Don Drumtra, Interim Symposia Coordinator

Brian Bloch has graciously agreed to serve as the coordinator of LSM activities and members in Hayes County and Vicinity. Brian has been active in Mensa for over 25 years in many capacities, most recently as the last Editor of the printed version of **Interloc**, "The Communications Link for Involved Mensans."

Please join me in extending our congratulations and support to Brian in his new role, and in thanking Gloria Fortin for her dedicated service as San Marcos and Hayes area coordinator from February 4, 2009 through June 2, 2011; as well as Ron Fortin for generously helping her host LSM activities. The Fortins have been active Mensa members for over 30 years, and plan to continue to support LSM by offering their experience to support Brian in his new role.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ms. Berkowitz:

I just finished reading the Spillman letter in the current Armadillo. I had the misfortune of missing your original article that occasioned Mr. Spillman's letter response. So my comment is not in derogation of your article, but rather an expression of amazement that I read a letter with which I am in total agreement (i.e., Spillman's letter). Given my total agreement with his propositions, I am sure Mr. Spillman is a man of impeccable judgment. Thank you for including it.

I do not recall with accuracy, but I believe that I've been a life member of LSM for 30 years or so. Originally, I

tried attending some of the meetings. The other members were nice and friendly, but most of the programs were not interesting. As a result, I stopped attending and have not returned. My loss, I'm sure. I provide that background as precursor to this comment: the Armadillo's content has of late improved. As the chief cook and bottle washer for the publication, you are presumably responsible for this happy turn of events. Please accept, then, my congratulations for a job well done. Keep up the good work.

Forrest C. Roan

Hi Rose,

Once again, I have to congratulate you on the latest Gazette. You have lifted a rather moribund newsletter and made it more interesting.

You've done a good job.

Best wishes...

Tom Spillman

[Spillman's letter may be found in the June 2011 issue, page 10, responding to the Berkowitz article in the December 2010 issue, page 5—Editor]

FROM THE RVC

Submitted by Roger Durham

First of all, my thanks to those of you who voted to keep me as your Regional Vice Chairman for another two years. To those of you who were hoping to see James Franzen's name at the bottom of this column, I can only say that I'm sorry if I've failed to meet your expectations, and I promise I'll try to do better in the future.

As I write this, I have just returned from a very enjoyable weekend in Houston, at **SynRG 2011**, Gulf Coast Mensa's Regional Gathering. Co-chairs Patty and Chris Williams did a great job of putting together a stimulating mix of speakers and other events, plus a well-stocked hospitality suite. Patty and Chris have already signed on as co-chairs of next year's event, so I know it will be equally memorable. I'm especially grateful to Hospitality Chair Anne So for the smoked salmon every morning, which I hope to see next year as well.

Which brings me to the region's next opportunity for fun, fellowship, and foolishness, **LoneStaRG XIII**, Lone Star Mensa's Regional Gathering. I hope to see many of you in Round Rock over Labor Day weekend to celebrate "Halloween in September", the theme of this year's event. Check LSM's website for details.

In other news, T.J. Lundeen of Central Oklahoma and Roy Huff of South Texas suggested a few weeks ago that there ought to be a way for members to subscribe to the electronic editions of the newsletters of the other local groups in the region. I thought that was a good suggestion, so I asked Howard Prince, our resident computer guru at the National Office, how that could be accomplished. The outcome is that sometime in July, when Howard has recovered from the national election and the Annual Gathering, he will set up an e-address, similar to "region6-talk" to which you can send an e-mail request to be subscribed. Jeff Dommene of Lone Star Mensa, my long-suffering Assistant RVC, has agreed to be the administrator for this list, and after he adds you as a subscriber, you will automatically begin to receive copies of all the Region 6 local group newsletters by e-mail. I'll provide details next month. Sorry, you won't be able to request only certain newsletters, it's going to be all or nothing.

That's all for now, folks—I'm off to Oregon for the Annual Gathering and the first meeting of the newly-elected American Mensa Committee. Thanks again for your support. I'll be back next month with more info on the newsletter subscriptions and details of the AG and AMC meeting.



JULY MEMBER NEWS (as of 05/31/11)

Happy Birthday—Born Mensans!

- 1 Aaron Rabushka
- 3 Richard Sabel
- 3 Emmanuel Nick Ireland
- 3 Ryan A O'Connor
- 6 Arval W Bohn
- 8 David R Posh
- 8 Jimmy D Roberts
- 8 Allen Pooley
- 8 Brandon D Anderson
- 13 Ashley Marrow
- 15 Craig S Jepson
- 16 Sharon Leal
- 16 Alan Waisanen
- 19 Coylene Turlington
- 19 Joshua T LeRoy
- 23 Steven McKissick
- 24 Sandra L Hense

- 25 Michael G Dennis
- 25 John P Harvey
- 25 Timothy A Goldenburg
- 26 Michael F Volpe III CPT
- 26 Todd L Shaw
- 27 Joseph A McMillen
- 29 Maj Rodney B Corona Ret

New Members—Welcome!

Kade Fitzpatrick
Ashley N Inbody
Ryan A O'Connor

Just Moved In—Hi Neighbor!

Michael Rubin
Garrett Smith

Welcome Back—We Missed You!

Christopher B Henson
James L McShan
Jacob T Miller
Lisa Oliver
Joseph P Rach
Albert E Shults
Donna Jarvis Slane
Michael F Tipshus

Farewell—We Will Miss You!

Ryan S Fogarty
Steve Lionetti

CONGRATULATIONS!

Member for 20 Years

Michael F Volpe III

Member for 10 years

Michelle Chlada

Member for 5 years

Matthew L. Bryce
Stephen A McAlister
Troy R Schneider

Note: We can't acknowledge your birthday if you've restricted that information in your member profile. To check, log in to the AML web site

UPCOMING IN AUGUST

August 3rd, Board Meeting
August 6th, Mensa Admissions Test
August 10th, Member Meeting
August 11th, Chess Night, ALG Deadline
August 11th, 18th, 25th, TGIT
August 25th, Seal & Label

LonestaRG the 13th September 2-5, 2011



- Planned speaker topics include Fantastic Fest, Haunted House Special Effects, Dinosaurs, Forensic Entomology, and Vampire Literature
- Lots of workshops including Self-Defense, Tarot, Sugar Skulls, Flower Arranging. Plus Thriller Dance Lessons and Zombie makeup workshop
- Blood Drive (or are they vampires?)
- Jam Session / Sing-along

- Zombie Prom
- Abundant Hospitality with meals, veggies, snacks, soda, beer, wine, margaritas
- Chili Pepper Tasting
- Name That Movie
- Games and contests
- Goodies and Prizes
- BRAAAAINNSSS!!!!

Co-chairs Geri & John Neemidge are planning a giant Halloween bash, LonestaRG-style. It's certain to be a (not too) scary good time for everyone! Come haunt the Wingate and have a devilishly delightful time!

Registration is \$60 to July 15. Children 9-17 half price, 8 and under free. Send registrations to Patsy Graham, 5804 Shoal Creek Blvd, Austin, TX 78757-3124 (mensapats@att.net). To register online via PayPal, get a printable registration form, view preliminary program information, see pictures from last year's RG, and more, go to <http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/events/rg>.

Our room rate at the Wingate By Wyndham, at the intersection of IH-35 and US-79 in Round Rock, is \$85/night, and includes a hot buffet breakfast. For reservations Call 512-341-7000; our group code is LSMG.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JULY?

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 	5	6 Board Meeting	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Membership Meeting	14 ALG Deadline Chess Night, TGIT-N	15	16
17	18	19 Movie Night	20 RG Meeting	21 TGIT-S	22	23
24	25	26 Eclectic Eats	27	28 TGIT-N, Seal & Label	29	30
31						

See the online calendar for the latest additions, cancellations, or changes to calendar items. Online calendar inputs may be submitted at any time. Calendar input for the printed calendar is due by the second Thursday of each month for the following month's calendar.

Board of Officers Meeting

1st Wednesday

July 6, 6:00-7:00 PM

Home of Ron and Linda Edelstein
1439 Dapplegrey Lane, Austin, TX
Contact the Board Secretary, Patty Drumtra, to get an item on the agenda. Officers are encouraged to attend and all members are welcome.

Monthly Membership Meeting

2nd Wednesday

July 13, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Northwest Village Branch Library,
512-974-9960
2505 Steck Avenue, Austin, TX
Near the corner of Steck and Burnet
8200 N x 2505 W on the Austin city grid

ALG Submissions Deadline

2nd Thursday

July 14, Midnight

Article and calendar submissions are due by midnight on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Chess Night (with the TGIT group)

2nd Thursday (canceled or moved on holidays)

July 14, 6-8 PM

Central Market Café North
Have a go at beating the previous winner, or just watch and learn. Bring your chess sets if you have them. Hosted by Douglas Yee. See the TGIT entry for directions.

Movie Night

Tuesday, July 19, 7 PM

Alamo Drafthouse, South Lamar

www.austinfilm.org

Join me for the Austin Film Society's presentation of Krzysztof Kieslowski's "The Double Life of Veronique." Please provide your own transportation. RSVP to Aaron Rabushka at 512/280-2807 or arabushka@austin.rr.com.

Thank Goodness it's Thursday (TGIT)

2nd, 3rd & 4th Thursdays (moved on holidays)

July 14 (North Lamar)

July 21 (South Lamar)

July 28 (North Lamar)

6:00-8:00 PM

Central Market Café North at Central Park:

4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX,
512-206-1020

East of N. Lamar between 38th and 4th Streets; on the south side of the store.

Central Market Café South at Westgate:

4477 S. Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX,
512-899-4300

on the south side of the S. Lamar access road (the south access road of I-290/SR7) between Westgate Blvd. and Frontier Trail; east side of the store.

Meet us at the Café for conversation, food and fun. Prospective members welcome. Look for a Mensa sign or folks with Mensa shirts who appear smart. ☺

RG Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 20, 6:30-8:30 PM

Cafe Express

3418 N Lamar Blvd

Austin, TX

All members welcome. This RG is LSM's biggest event of the year. Please bring your ideas, get to know the team, and take your pick from many different kinds of jobs. Contact John or Geri Neemidge at 512-310-7863 or lsrq13@neemidge.net.

Eclectic Eats

Tuesday, July 26, 7:00 PM

Kerbey Lane Café, 512-445-4451

2700 South Lamar, Austin, TX

<http://www.kerbeylanecafe.com>

With a quintessentially Austinian atmosphere and menu offerings that include vegan, lacto-veggie, eggs, meat, and breakfast all day, Kerbey Lane is sure to offer something to satisfy even the most finicky eater! RSVP to Aaron Rabushka at 512/280-2807 or arabushka@austin.rr.com

Seal & Label

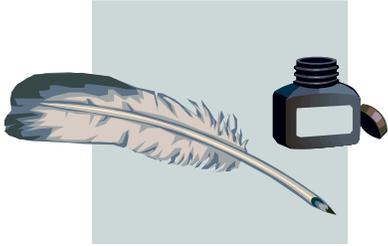
4th Thursday (moved on holidays)

July 28, 6:00-8:00 PM

Central Market Café North

4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX, 512-206-1020

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



Article Submissions: editor@lsm.us.mensa.org
Calendar Submissions: calendar@lsm.us.mensa.org
Web Site Submissions: lonestar.mensa.webmaster@gmail.com
LSM Web Site: www.lsm.us.mensa.org

LONE STAR MENSA DIRECTORY

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LonestaRG 2011 Committee Co-Chairs	John & Geri Neemidge	512-310-7863	lsrg13@neemidge.net
LonestaRG Registrar	Patsy Graham	512-380-0141	mensapats@att.net
Regional Vice Chair (RVC)	Roger Durham*		RVC6@us.mensa.org

* Experienced members who've worked with the National Office (NO) and the American Mensa Committee (AMC), and can help members navigate both.

HELP WANTED: TESTING COORDINATOR/PROCTOR

Submitted by Don Drumtra

Would you like to learn how to conduct tests? How about being the first to meet potential new members? If so, we need your help. Vera-Louise and John Pfeiffer have permanently moved to the Denver area. This means we are losing two proctors and our testing coordinator. Testing is one of our most important programs. So please consider serving one or more terms as a proctor and/or testing coordinator. (You do not have to be a proctor to be Testing Coordinator.) Contact Fred Goertz, Membership Chairman, fgoertz@gmail.com, or any other board member.

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Submission Information: Submissions of all types are encouraged. The deadline is the 2nd Thursday of each month. Submissions may be by email 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: Lone Star 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 ads (2" x 3") 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 to the newsletter editor is 5 days before the general newsletter deadline.

Calendar: See the online calendar for the latest additions, cancellations, or changes to calendar items. Online calendar inputs may be submitted at any time. Inputs for the printed calendar are due to calendar@lsm.us.mensa.org by the second Thursday of each month for the next month's calendar.



Armadillo Literary Gazette

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