

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

Submitted By *Rose Berkowitz*

As you may have noticed, we recently expanded the size of this newsletter to 16 pages per issue. I'd like to fill some of that extra space with submissions from my readers. Poetry, opinion pieces, travelogues, biographies, photos, puzzles, letters to the editor, jokes and puns, suggestions for improvement—all would be welcome. Are you a member of a Mensa SIG? If so, tell us about your experience, or volunteer to host a local event or lead a trip to a local venue.

Please send your input to editor@lsm.us.mensa.org. No particular word limit, but emailed submissions are appreciated.

WE NEED YOU!

[If you are interested in any of the following positions, and in the grateful appreciation of your fellow LSM members, please contact the person indicated.]



Nomination and Election Committees Chair and members—Whether you like how LSM is being run or don't, you can influence the group by chairing or working on the Nomination

Committee to recruit people for the good of the organization. If your goal is to be sure elections are fair and honest, you might do that by chairing or working on the Election Committee. The work to be done and the schedules to be met are listed on the Web site under the Annual Elections Calendar. Contact Don Drumtra, 512-291-0315 or drumtra@aol.com

LonestarG 2012 Chair—This can be one of the most rewarding jobs in *Lone Star Mensa*. The Chair leads and coordinates all the activities and volunteers who will:

- Make the 2012 RG an exceptional experience for the more than 100 folks who are likely to attend.
- Help it achieve the financial success needed to support the LSM scholarship and education programs.

This position also provides an excellent opportunity to enhance your résumé by demonstrating real-world experience in project management. Contact the 2011 LoneStaRG Co-chairs John and Geri Neemidge, at 512-310-7863 or badgers@neemidge.net.

Awards Coordinator—A good awards program appropriately recognizes the work of individual LSM volunteers in serving the members of LSM. There are many awards established that might be presented to LSM volunteers. However, few of us know about them. LSM would greatly benefit from a spirited volunteer to implement a viable awards program which will:

- Provide a list of award options and processes available to LSM leaders.
 - Encourage them to motivate and recognize the work of their volunteers.
 - Ensure that awards are equitable across LSM
- Contact Fred Goertz, the Membership Chair, at fgoertz@gmail.com.

Web Designer—Here's an opportunity to strut your stuff! We have a plan for the LSM Web site and a volunteer to be Webmaster, but we need a graphic designer to lay it out for us. Contact Patsy Graham at mensapats@att.net.



DON'S DIALECTICS—Who makes Lone Star Mensa Successful?

Submitted By Don Drumtra, LocSec



It is hard to believe that our LSM year (April to March) is halfway over. Time flies when you're having fun. Nevertheless, one might ask, what have we done for ourselves the last six months? The short answer is: much. Probably the most important thing we have done is to

embrace the action plans this board inherited from the 2009-2010 board and to begin to implement them to resolve member concerns. Was that expected? Well, one member remarked that it would be just like any other group if the new board members put the previous board's plans on the shelf, never to be looked at again. After all, they did not write them, so why should they pay any mind to them? I am very happy to report that not only did the new board set a goal of completing half the action plans by the end of its term, but it is actually completing them--25 percent so far.

Who does all that work? And who is keeping LSM running? The short answer is: volunteers. Take a look at our Officers page on our website. The 22 folks listed are giving of their time to the rest of us so we can enjoy the benefits of LSM membership. I would like to thank all these volunteers for their hard work, and for often taking on multiple jobs. We all appreciate your dedication and accomplishments. But you will notice that several coordinator positions are vacant. ***That means there is work that is not being done.*** For

example, we need a New Member Coordinator to properly welcome our new members.

Halfway through the year is time to be thinking about the next year—2012-2013. Most officers will end their terms in April 2012. Most of the current officers may volunteer to serve again and a few others will decide to volunteer for the first time. That will still leave some positions vacant and so there will be work that will not be done next year.

Three important officers are term limited and may not serve another term—The LocSec, VP, and Treasurer. The board elects board members to serve in the three top positions, but the board needs members to select from. And where do board members come from? The Nomination and Election Committee gathers candidates from among LSM members who volunteer, checks their credentials (dues are paid), and puts together a slate for members to consider for election. Once elected, the new LocSec appoints the four board standing committee chairs, and the chairs appoint the coordinators, again from among LSM members who volunteer.

Serving is rewarding and fun. So go to the officer's webpage (www.lsm.us.mensa.org/officers/) and review the "volunteer needed" positions. Then volunteer 1) to serve on next year's board, 2) to be a standing committee chair, or 3) to be a coordinator. If you do not want to commit for a full term, volunteer to be on or chair the Nominations and Election Committee. Send an email or call Don or Patty or Rose or Ron. (Contact information is in the directory on page 14.)

By Rose Berkowitz

Why are there so many songs and books, movies and TV shows about murder and death? Why are we drawn to violence? Why do so many people suffer from high blood pressure and depression and other stress-related illnesses? Why do we have to “keep busy?” Why do we avoid being alone? Why do we engage in expensive anti-aging routines? Why do we have such elaborate funeral rituals and myths about the afterlife?



We are afraid. I believe that’s the reason behind the majority of the things we do. We’re trying to distract ourselves from thinking about the bad things that *have* happened and *can* and *will* happen to us; from the knowledge that we will lose everyone and everything we know and love; and from the fact that we have no way of really knowing if there is anything after death, or what that state will be like. And in the

deepest, darkest part of ourselves, we’re angry that we’re forced to endure life under these conditions.

As long as our lives are relatively fortunate it may be easy to push this fear away, to the point where we may not even be aware of it. But the more unfortunate our experience is, the more we are forced to confront this fear, and the more tempting it may be to try to find ways to avoid doing so.

Different societies will deem some of these attempts to be positive, and condemn others. But I believe they’re all motivated by the same underlying reason. Consider these examples:

- Religion: Whatever religion, belief, or philosophy we choose to adopt, we do so as a way to create meaning for our life and our suffering. Taken to the extreme this may become fundamentalism, which

some may convince themselves justifies extreme actions.

- Achievement: Some of us create meaning and distract ourselves by focusing our attention on specific challenges such as sports, science, performing, artistry, craftsmanship, military, civilian or political careers, or volunteerism.
- Addiction: We may be able to forget, at least for a while, that we will suffer and die, if we can alter our consciousness via exercise, alcohol, drugs, sex and sexual fetishes, shopping and acquiring, tattoos and piercings, fashion, food, or gambling.
- Entertainment: Again, distraction--to forget for a little while that time is passing and we are drawing ever closer to our deaths. (We even refer to these activities as “pastimes.”)

This also applies to personal relationships, identification with a group, hobbies, and so on.

This is not to say that we should reject those attempts that we deem positive. We are animals cursed with the knowledge of our mortality (this is likely the meaning behind the myth of Eden and the Tree of Knowledge), but we have turned this curse around in many cases to our great benefit. Our lives would be completely unbearable if we had nothing we could believe in, nothing to strive for. Humanity has achieved all that it has both due to this driving force and to our admirable determination to overcome our circumstances, express ourselves, and create joy and meaning in living.

But I submit that it is important to understand the motive that lies beneath the surface of people’s actions—especially those that we perceive to be wrong or base or even evil. From understanding, compassion may spring, and better ways to help each other live in this universe where exquisite beauty and terrifying horror exist side by side.

And we do need to help each other more and judge each other and ourselves less. Very few of us are equipped to face this existence alone. If we can find the strength and clarity of thought to acknowledge this to ourselves, we may be more able to consciously choose better courses of action

Compassion and understanding may not help the true sociopath, but the rest of us would benefit greatly, both in the giving and the receiving

NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

Submitted by Don Drumtra, Interim Program Coordinator

Education in America and No Child Left Behind

Want the REAL scoop on education in America today and the REAL horrors of No Child Left Behind? Come to the November Membership Meeting, on Wednesday, Nov. 9th and learn the truth from JimAnn Oliver. JimAnn has been a national supervisor of research for 23 years for Westat, the contractor with the U.S. Dept. of Education charged with gathering data for The Nation's Report Card, The Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, The International Math and Science Study, and many more. She will clue you in to what the research shows and grieve with you over the parts of it which are being ignored. She can tell you what we know from impartial and untainted research about the most important influences on a child's learning, private vs. public education outcomes, and other burning issues. Prospective members and the general public are welcome to attend.

JimAnn is an amazing person. She is a lifetime Mensa member whose family--self, husband, and five children—has claimed to be the largest family in Mensa for many years. We plan to do a full length article about JimAnn and her children in a future issue.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

Submitted by Rose Berkowitz, Discussion SIG Facilitator

Our first Lone Star Mensa Discussion SIG meeting was a lot of fun. Ten people attended and had the opportunity to share their creative talents with their fellow Mensans. Subjects included quilting, collecting,

crafting jewelry, leather, and wood, clay figurines, the next step beyond geodesic spheres, a short story, baton twirling, genealogy, excerpts from published books, and more.

We ran out of time before everyone got a chance to show off their stuff, or to pick our next topic and discussion leader. So Rose Berkowitz will once again host the next SIG meeting in January—details to follow.



Nell, JimAnn, Crockett



Linda, Patty



Dave, Amanda

STATUS REPORT--MEMBER CONCERNS/ACTION PLANS

Submitted by Don Drumtra, LocSec

By October 14 work was begun on 27 of 44 (or 66 percent) of the action plans. Highlights include beginning work on the plan to provide flexible online lists of tasks that need to be done so that members may volunteer to do things they like consistent with their schedules. Work was started with the duties of the Communication Committee, using the News Cycle as a starting point.

The RG was a major success, demonstrating to the board that the RG committee took seriously the comments from members on the RG. The board approved the actions taken for all five of the RG plans. With these completions, 11 of our action plans have been completed. This represents 25% of our action plans.

See <http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/bylaws/ASIEs/#GI> for the full status report on all action items.

SEPTEMBER BOARD MINUTES

Submitted by Patty Drumtra, VP and Secretary

The October regular meeting of the Lone Star Mensa board of officers convened at 6:05 PM, 2011, October 5, at Ron Edelstein's home, 1439 Dapplegrey Lane, Austin TX 78727. Attending were **Don Drumtra, Patty Drumtra, Ron Edelstein, Linda Edelstein, Crockett Grabbe, Jon Kurylowicz, and John Neemidge**. The board adopted without debate the agenda, and the minutes as amended, of the September regular meeting and adjourned meeting on page 6 of the October Armadillo Literary Gazette. The amended minutes, agenda, referenced written reports, and other documents related to the meeting are available on the LSM Website. Paper copies are available on request.

The board received the following officer reports and took the following actions:

- LocSec: Austin Meyer, Testing Coordinator, and Jon Kurylowicz, Circulation Coordinator, assumed their duties October 1.
- Treasurer: Approved the written financial reports for August and September.
- Membership Committee: Two prospective members will be tested October 10.
- Symposium Committee: Canceled plans for the fall picnic and possible campout.
- LonestaRG Committee: The 2011 RG was a great success. Planning has begun on the 2012 RG,
- Website Working Group: The chairman has identified several potential designs for committee consideration.
- Action Plans: Approved the actions taken to complete the five action plans relating to member concerns about regional gatherings.

Old Business - Deferred indefinitely a motion to establish a Leadership Committee.

New Business

- Accepted the resignation of Helen as a Board Member and New Member Coordinator.
- Adopted an amendment to the newsletter cycle.
- Adopted an amendment to the election calendar.
- Discussed formation of nominating and election committees.
- Discussed E-mail distribution of newsletters.
- Decided to hold board meetings at the current location for this term after considering moving them to the NW Recreation Center or Central Market North.
- Discussed changes in banking fees.

Announcements:

- The next monthly board meeting is scheduled for 6-7 PM, Wednesday, November 2, at the home of Ron and Linda Edelstein.
- The next regular monthly meetings are scheduled for October 12 and November 9, 7-8:30 PM at the Northwest Village Branch Library. Confirmed topics and dates are available in the newsletter and on the Website. Potential topics looking for presenters also are available on the Website.
- The November 4th Thursday TGIT and Seal and Label is moved to Tuesday November 22 because of the Thanksgiving holiday

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 PM.

YOUR SUDOKU PUZZLE

Weekly Extremes, sudoku.org.uk

By Douglas Yee



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

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.

Read, every day, something no one else is reading. Think, every day, something no one else is thinking. Do, every day, something no one else would be silly enough to do. It is bad for the mind to be always part of unanimity. - Christopher Morley (1890 - 1957)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From: Joe DeBell, Sun City,
Georgetown, Texas

Rose,

An excellent job on this latest Armadillo; it gets better and better—particularly the graphics.

I'm sorry I didn't make the RG; I was in Houston; it was anniversary period / with grandkids, etc. The write-up looks like a lot of fun was had by all.

FYI, I mentioned a while ago that I'd send you some of the discussion questions that we address in our monthly meetings here in Sun City. I'm attaching a list of them from the last 3-4 meetings, plus what we're (initially) looking at for our October meeting. Each member can add to the proposed list before each meeting, so hopefully there's stuff of interest to everyone. As can be expected of a group like ours (there are 14 of us), we never get to finish the proposed list (a couple times my wife has had to throw us out); so items carry over. Prior to these we had extensive discussions on AI and robotics.

Past Discussions:

- Do Mensans have stupid moments?
- Could high IQ scores be due as much to motivation as to inherent ability?
- Does fundamentalism in religion lead to low respect for objectivity in managing society?
- How come there are Mensans in jail?
- How much is too much government authority in our lives?
- Is Stephen Hawking's recent pronouncement about the origin of the "Big Bang" a blow to organized religion?
- Is the singularity in our near future?
- Is decision-making really thinking?
- When will a computer gain an ego?
- There are so many Bible inconsistencies and contradictions. Does the "Holy Bible" really make sense?

Future Discussions:

- Have you ever had a paranormal experience? Do you believe in ghosts?
- OmnesViae (a route planner with all main roads and cities of the Roman Empire, based on the Tabula Peutingeriana)
- Do you know anyone who is a Creationist? Are there arguments for Creationism that may be valid?
- Who actually wrote the Old Testament, and were there hidden agendas?
- Does mythology play a part on the stories of the Old Testament?
- When in the old Testament it says (many times): "And God said to ..."; Who wrote that? Who was a witness to that?
- Why is there a talking donkey in the Old Testament (numbers 22-25)?
- Is the New Testament a refutation of the Old Testament (the Mosaic Law)?
- What about the "newly discovered" (CA 1925) procedures of using magnets/electromagnets to cure depression and arthritis?
- Fun topic: If you could have just one special power
 - What would it be? Why? Or choose one:
 - The capability to fly (drawbacks?)
 - The capability to be invisible (drawbacks?)
 - Would Superman eventually have to commit suicide?

[I'd be interested in reader's feedback—would you find any of these topics appealing for a future LSM Discussion SIG meeting?—Editor]

I said to myself, I have things in my head that are not like what anyone has taught me - shapes and ideas so near to me - so natural to my way of being and thinking that it hasn't occurred to me to put them down. I decided to start anew, to strip away what I had been taught. --Georgia O'Keeffe (1887 - 1986)



FROM THE RVC

Submitted by Roger Durham, Region 6 RVC



As I sat down to compose this month's missive, I was interrupted by the sad news of the passing of my predecessor as Regional Vice Chairman, Ralph Rudolph. Ralph (or Rudy, as he was known to his friends) and I met years ago, when he was Chairman of American Mensa, but I lost track of him until he moved to New Mexico and soon became the Region 6 RVC. As RVC, he was a regular attendee at our Regional Gathering here in Dallas, and as I was President (LocSec) of our local group around that time, we corresponded fairly frequently. After he resigned as RVC, due to an unfortunate dispute with some other members of the American Mensa Committee, he was kind enough to sign my petition when I became a candidate to replace him. Ralph and I did not always agree, and I never felt that his confrontational style was very effective, but nobody can deny that he worked tirelessly for Mensa, and will be missed by many. Rest in peace, Rudy.

On a more cheerful note, I feel that as this year's Registrar, I can justify a little shameless promotion of North Texas Mensa's RG, the Feast of Pleasures and Delights XXXII. There's still time for you to make plans to attend this year, if you're not already registered, and unless you're an incurable curmudgeon, you're virtually certain to have a good time. The easy way to sign up is on-line at www.northtexasmensa.org, but if you'd rather do it by mail, just send a check in the amount of \$70, payable to NTMRG, to me at 9920 Ridgehaven Drive, Dallas, TX 75238. If you want a ticket to one of the optional tastings, Brandy and Wine are each an additional \$12, while Beer, Chocolate, and Raw Foods are \$6 each. Hotel rooms are \$81 per night, including 2 breakfast buffets each morning. Call 214-341-5400 or 888-201-1718 for a reservation, and ask for the Mensa rate. We hope to see you at the Radisson Dallas East on Thanksgiving weekend!

I'm cutting this epistle short this month in the hope that your editor will be able to use the extra space to publish the attached photo, illustrating what a good time was had by your RVC at the Lone Star Mensa RG in Round Rock over Labor Day weekend.



WIN A SCHOLARSHIP!

Submitted by Claudia Ellis Harbert, Lone Star Mensa Scholarships Chair

The Lone Star Mensa scholarships contest for 2011-2012 has begun! Contestants should write an essay about their educational plans and dreams. Submit your essay (following the instructions on the application form) for a chance to win a local award, a regional award, one of several general awards, or possibly a subject-related award.

Anyone beyond high school who is enrolled in a degree program for 2012-2013 is eligible; so enter to win, and encourage your family and friends. In addition, Mensa members can enter a separate contest for members only. (You can use the same essay for both contests.) The submission deadline is January 15, 2012. Get the details and download the application at <http://www.mensafoundation.org/scholarships>.

Send an email to Claudia Harbert, Scholarship Chair, at mensascholarships@gmail.com if:

- You're not going to school these days but would like to help with the scholarship program.
- You'd like a copy of the poster (one page, downloadable) to put up where it would reach potential scholarship applicants,
- If you would like to be notified when the judging begins.

We need volunteers to send out announcements about the program, put up posters about the program, and judge the entries received. Judging of the essays will take place in late January – early February.

HISTORY OF LONE STAR MENSA

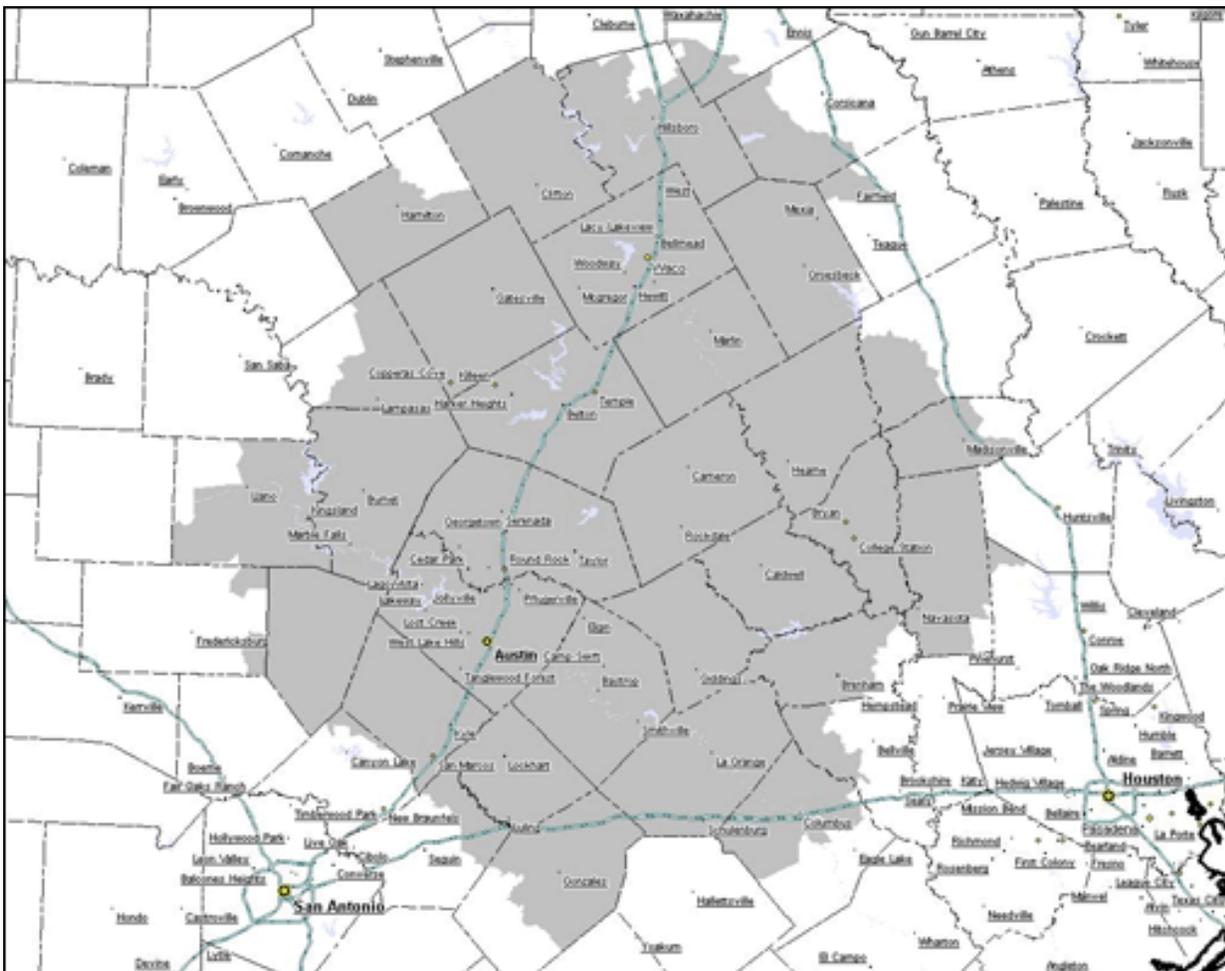
<http://www.us.mensa.org/AML/?LinkServID=589F2DBA-F142-3445-028ED87CBC1EAA59&qr=786#larger>

Here are some interesting facts about our group.



Lone Star Mensa (as Austin Mensa) split off from North Texas Mensa in November 1967, initially having 22 members. The first general meeting was held on January 26, 1968, with an educational consultant who specialized in gifted students as the speaker. The group newsletter was called "A.M. The Voice of Austin Mensa". In 1974-1975 the newsletter changed names, first to "Aardvark" and then to "The Armadillo Literary Gazette and Southern Intelligencer", which over time has been shortened to "Armadillo Literary Gazette". During the 1980s the group's name was changed to Lonestar Mensa. Speakers at LSM meetings have included Madeline Murray O'Hair, John Henry Faulk, Dr. Hans Mark, and Molly Ivins. Lone Star Mensa held a Mensa Colloquium (titled *Science and Society: Our Critical Challenges*) in Oct. 1988, and held its first Regional Gathering in Oct. 1999.

Here's a more detailed map of our territory. We cover a pretty big area, don't we?



POETRY CORNER

GROW SOME THICKER ROOTS ANEW

By Tom Haddon

I marveled at the rain today,
as it began to fall.
It spattered down as if to say
"You matter most of all."

So lift your leaves to gather dew
and quench your thirsty soul,
Then grow some thicker roots anew;
life's everlasting goal.



*"Autumn is a
second spring
when every leaf is
a flower."*

—Albert Camus

CARDINALS

By Rose M. Berkowitz

For Dutch Whalen,
On the passing of my favorite aunt,
Ernelene Whalen, Dec. 14, 2010



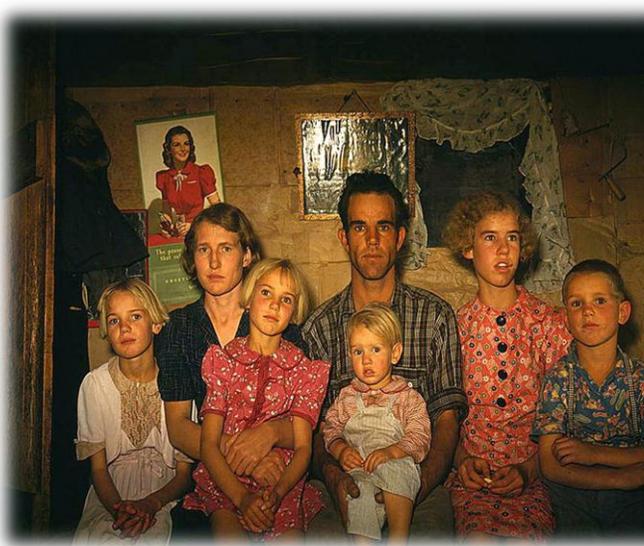
*The snow is falling softly,
Pine trees sigh in the wind.
A red bird peers through the
mist,
Looking for his mate.*

*The sweet, brown little lady
Who huddled with him
through the storm
Is nowhere in the branches—
How can this be—
alone?*

*He still can see her spirit,
The way she held her own
Through dark and rain and
thunder,
And never lost her song.*

*Tell him, in some grand
garden
Where sunshine softly streams
The brown bird waits in
springtime
To join her mate again.*

Captured: America in Color from 1939-1943



Jack Whinery, homesteader, and his family. Pie Town, New Mexico, October 1940. Reproduction from color slide. Photo by Russell Lee. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress

These images, by photographers of the Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information, are some of the only color photographs taken of the effects of the Depression on America's rural and small town populations. The photographs are the property of the Library of Congress and were included in a 2006 exhibit Bound for Glory: America in Color.

More photos like these are available at
<http://extras.denverpost.com/archive/captured.asp>

AUSTIN, TEXAS, SWITCHES TO ALL RENEWABLE ENERGY

<http://www.govtech.com/technology/Austin-Texas-Switches-to-All-Renewable-Energy.html>

Photo courtesy of Matthew Rutledge/Flickr CC



Beginning in October, the city of Austin, Texas, moved to 100 percent clean and renewable energy produced at wind farms in west Texas and purchased from a publicly owned utility company.

The city now is subscribing to approximately 400 million kilowatt-hours of renewable energy, according to an announcement by the city, and officials believe Austin has become the largest U.S. city that's consuming 100 percent renewables.

Austin Energy is acquiring the renewable energy for the city under the utility company's voluntary green-pricing program.

The renewable energy is approximately 5.7 cents per kilowatt-hour, and 2.5 cents more than the standard charge for residential customers. Austin will be locked into the green rate for 10 years, the city said.

"These subscriptions provide stability in electric costs for city of Austin operations and also take a leadership step forward in climate responsibility," said Mayor Lee Leffingwell, who co-sponsored the 2007 Climate Protection Plan. "We are setting an important standard for U.S. cities. We hope other American communities will join us soon."

But the program will come at a price: Projections estimate it will cost Austin city government about \$6.9 million more annually, The Austin Chronicle reported late last month. The Austin American-Statesman newspaper put the cost even higher, at \$8.5 million in added charges during the first year for the 12,000-person municipal government.

By transitioning to 100 percent renewable energy, the city will comply with one goal of the Austin Climate Protection Program, adopted four years ago by the City Council to reduce pollution. Prior to October, the city government was consuming a mix that included 20 percent renewables, according to The Austin Chronicle.

The city's public utility, Austin Energy, services nearly 1 million people in Austin, Travis County and part of Williamson County.



~~~ **IN MEMORIAM** ~~~

[www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com)

The ALG regrets to announce the death of our member—**Allen Eugene Denton III**, age 60. He passed away on Monday, August 15, 2011.

Allen Denton III was born May 1, 1951 in Bryan, TX to Allen Eugene and Alice (Hoss) Denton. Allen was a graduate of Texas A & M, graduated from medical school at the University of North Texas, and worked for many years as a radiologist. He married Patricia Barnes in June of 2004. He lived in College Station, TX. Allen leaves behind his wife Patricia; his three daughters: Alexis Denton of Michigan, Allison Denton of Arizona, and Danielle Denton of Michigan; and two stepchildren: Dustin O'Neal of Tomball and Erin Guidroz of Orangefield; as well as seven grandchildren. He also leaves behind his two brothers, David Denton and Leslie Denton of College Station.

*It is impossible that anything so natural, so necessary, and so universal as death, should ever have been designed by Providence as an evil to mankind. - Jonathan Swift (1667 - 1745)*

## FUTURE MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS

Submitted By Don Drumtra, Interim Program Coordinator

Since we are nearing the end of the year and folks' schedules are filling up, I thought it would be useful to lay out what we have in store for our next several second Wednesday general meetings.

- **December 17:** The December program will be our Annual Holiday Party, with lots of food, fun, and interesting discussions. More details to follow.
- **January 11:** The program will be a short annual member business meeting and a Discussion SIG gathering. Rose will once again be the discussion facilitator. Topic to be announced.
- **February 8:** We have two possible presenters for February and April: Modelle Gibson and Lisa Oliver.

Modelle is a Forensic Analyst with the Austin Police Department and Lisa is a certified funeral director consultant. The specific date for each presenter depends on their work schedules.

- **March 14:** The meeting will be a Discussion SIG gathering. Topic and facilitator to be announced.
- **April 11:** See February 8.

Don't forget that you can select topics you like, sponsor presenters, or lead discussion SIG gatherings. Enter your topics of interest on our online topic list, at [http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/monthly\\_meeting.html](http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/monthly_meeting.html)

*When we were children, we used to think that when we were grown-up we would no longer be vulnerable.*



*But to grow up is to accept vulnerability. .. To be alive is to be vulnerable.*

— Madeleine L'Engle (1918 - ), "Walking on Water: Reflections on Faith and Art", 1980

## MENSA FOR KIDS WEB SITE WINS GRAND AWARD

<http://www.us.mensa.org/featured-content/mensaforkidsorg-wins-grand-award/>

Two of American Mensa's publications efforts have recently received international awards.

The Mensa Foundation's Mensa for Kids Web site was recognized with a 2011 APEX Grand Award in the category of Electronic & Video Publications (Nonprofit/Small Office subcategory). Specifically, the award was given for the site's online activity and lesson plans. According to the judges' comments, they were impressed by the "brilliant lesson plans — wonderfully written and illustrated, and crafted to get students involved." To view and download the lesson and activity plans, visit the Parent/Teacher Resources section at [www.mensaforkids.org](http://www.mensaforkids.org).

In addition, the *Mensa Bulletin* received an APEX Award of Excellence in the Most Improved Magazines & Journals category. The *Bulletin* was recognized with another association award in the same such category earlier this year.

APEX 2011 — the 23rd Annual Awards for Publication Excellence — is an international competition that recognizes outstanding communications activities in all media. Of the more than 3,300 entries to this year's competition, just 100 Grand Award winners were selected in 11 major categories. An additional 957 APEX Awards of Excellence were given in

# Lone Star Mensa 2011-2012 Financial Report and Tables

April 1 - September 30  
Submitted by Linda Edestein, Treasurer

At quarter's end, after paying all the bills and refunds thus far presented for the RG there appears to be an excess of \$785 remaining, of which \$441 has been designated as scholarship donations. \$600 in preregistrations for RG 2012 has been deposited. There is \$4,803.54 in the checking account with one A/P for the printing of this month's newsletter. With the change to e-mailing far more of the newsletters, the savings in printing and postage over last month is about \$135, which savings should continue. Our larger CD renewed in August for 10 months, and is now receiving only .448% interest, a further decrease from the .65 percent it received at last renewal and 3.5% less than it was receiving as recently as a year ago. The postal account has been supplemented by \$500 to bring it up to a strong positive balance. We are now faced with new charges for our monthly bank statements, unless we want to go paperless.

| Lone Star Mensa                                      |                              |                  |             |                      |                            |           |  |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------|--|
| Table 1. 2011-2012 Program Activity Analysis Summary |                              |                  |             |                      |                            |           |  |
| April 1 - September 30                               |                              |                  |             |                      |                            |           |  |
| Programs                                             | --- Summary Year to Date --- |                  |             |                      | --- Summary by Quarter --- |           |  |
|                                                      | 2010 Budget                  |                  | 6 months    | %                    | 3 months                   | 3 months  |  |
|                                                      | 12 Months                    | 6 months         | Total       |                      | Apr-Jun                    | Jul-Sep   |  |
| <b>Membership Program</b>                            |                              |                  |             |                      |                            |           |  |
| Total Revenue                                        | \$ 720.00                    | \$ 360.00        | \$ 343.00   | 95%                  | \$ 283.00                  | \$ 60.00  |  |
| Total Expenses                                       | 720.00                       | 360.00           | 174.82      | 49%                  | 174.82                     | -         |  |
| <b>Communications Program</b>                        |                              |                  |             |                      |                            |           |  |
| Total Revenue                                        | 4,400.00                     | 2,200.00         | 1,953.25    | 89%                  | 976.30                     | 976.95    |  |
| Total Expenses                                       | 4,400.00                     | 2,200.00         | 1,557.33    | 71%                  | 813.39                     | 743.94    |  |
| <b>Symposia Program</b>                              |                              |                  |             |                      |                            |           |  |
| Total Revenue                                        | 700.00                       | 350.00           | 600.00      | 171%                 | 300.00                     | 300.00    |  |
| Total Expenses                                       | 700.00                       | 350.00           | 60.00       | 17%                  | 30.00                      | 30.00     |  |
| <b>Education Program</b>                             |                              |                  |             |                      |                            |           |  |
| Total Revenue                                        | 480.00                       | 240.00           | 240.00      | 100%                 | 120.00                     | 120.00    |  |
| Total Expenses                                       | 480.00                       | 240.00           | 29.32       | 12%                  | -                          | 29.32     |  |
| <b>Common Activities</b>                             |                              |                  |             |                      |                            |           |  |
| Total Revenue                                        | 200.00                       | 100.00           | 75.00       | 75%                  | 37.50                      | 37.50     |  |
| Total Expenses                                       | 200.00                       | 100.00           | 50.40       | 50%                  | 15.40                      | 35.00     |  |
| <b>All Programs</b>                                  |                              |                  |             |                      |                            |           |  |
| Total Revenue                                        | \$ 6,500.00                  | 3,250.00         | 3,211.25    | 99%                  | 1,716.80                   | 1,494.45  |  |
| Total Expenses                                       | 6,500.00                     | 3,250.00         | 1,871.87    | 58%                  | 1,033.61                   | 838.26    |  |
| <b>Total Programs</b>                                | \$ -                         | \$ -             | \$ 1,339.38 |                      | \$ 683.19                  | \$ 656.19 |  |
| <b>LonestarRG</b>                                    |                              |                  |             |                      |                            |           |  |
| Total Revenue                                        | \$ 4,700.00                  | -                | -           | 0%                   | -                          | -         |  |
| Total Expenses                                       | 4,500.00                     | -                | -           | 0%                   | -                          | -         |  |
| Total Disbursements                                  | \$ 200.00                    | -                | -           | 0%                   | -                          | -         |  |
| <b>Undistributed Rev and Exp</b>                     |                              |                  |             |                      |                            |           |  |
| Total Revenue                                        | \$ 694.00                    | 347.00           | 204.00      | 59%                  | 111.84                     | 92.16     |  |
| Total Expenses                                       | 755.88                       | 377.94           | -           | 0%                   | -                          | -         |  |
| <b>Total Undistributed</b>                           | \$ (61.88)                   | \$ (30.94)       | \$ 204.00   |                      | \$ 111.84                  | \$ 92.16  |  |
| <b>Net Revenue</b>                                   | \$ (61.88)                   | \$ (30.94)       | \$ 1,543.38 |                      | \$ 795.03                  | \$ 748.35 |  |
| <b>LSM</b>                                           | <u>Date Bought</u>           | <u>Item</u>      | <u>Cost</u> | <u>Serial No.</u>    | <u>Custody</u>             |           |  |
|                                                      | 2006 Sep 8                   | ALG Software     | \$481.32    |                      | Rachael Stewart            |           |  |
| <b>Equipment</b>                                     | 2007 Jun 9                   | Projector        | \$499.99    | EMP 54 - J3VF71731TL | Don Drumtra                |           |  |
|                                                      | 2005-2006                    | Testing material | \$37.50     | 5 take home tests    | Don Drumtra                |           |  |

| Lone Star Mensa                                   |                      |                         |                     |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Table 2. 2011-2012 Balances Analysis Summary      |                      |                         |                     |
| September 30                                      |                      |                         |                     |
|                                                   | Apr 1                | Jun 30                  | Sep 30              |
| <b>Members (Apr 30)</b>                           | 515                  | 562                     |                     |
| <b>Rank (Mar 31)</b>                              |                      | 29                      | 28                  |
| <b>RG Registrants 2010/2011/2012</b>              |                      | 34/51/0                 | 178/                |
| <b>Assets</b>                                     |                      |                         |                     |
| <b>Current Assets</b>                             |                      |                         |                     |
| Cash                                              | \$ -                 | \$ -                    | \$ -                |
| Checking Account                                  | 4,155.64             | 4,873.03                | 4,803.54            |
| Certificates of Deposit                           | 23,679.50            | 23,722.51               | 23,773.55           |
| Less: Funds and Obligations                       | (18,000.00)          | (18,000.00)             | (18,000.00)         |
| Accounts Receivable                               | -                    | -                       | -                   |
| Interest Receivable (Allocated)                   | -                    | 151.99                  | 295.95              |
| Prepaid Postage                                   | 314.30               | 189.92                  | 580.76              |
| Prepaid RG 2012                                   | -                    | -                       | -                   |
| Prepaid RG 2011                                   | 281.75               | 291.75                  | 5,293.64            |
| Prepaid Take Home Tests                           | 37.50                | 37.50                   | 37.50               |
| Other Prepaid Expenses                            | -                    | -                       | -                   |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>                       | <b>\$10,468.69</b>   | <b>\$ 11,266.70</b>     | <b>\$ 16,784.94</b> |
| <b>Long Term Assets</b>                           |                      |                         |                     |
| Scholarship Endowment                             | 7,000.00             | 7,000.00                | 7,000.00            |
| Education Fund                                    | 8,000.00             | 8,000.00                | 8,000.00            |
| RG Fund                                           | 3,000.00             | 3,000.00                | 3,000.00            |
| Equipment Acquired Value                          | 981.31               | 981.31                  | 981.31              |
| Less: Equipment Expensed Value                    | (952.57)             | (977.32)                | (1,002.07)          |
| Other Long Term Assets                            | -                    | -                       | -                   |
| <b>Total Long Term Assets</b>                     | <b>\$18,028.74</b>   | <b>\$ 18,003.99</b>     | <b>\$ 17,979.24</b> |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                               | <b>\$28,497.43</b>   | <b>\$ 29,270.69</b>     | <b>\$ 34,764.18</b> |
|                                                   | <b>2011 RG Spent</b> |                         |                     |
|                                                   | \$5,293.64           |                         |                     |
| <b>Liabilities and Appropriations</b>             |                      |                         |                     |
| Accounts Payable                                  | \$ 434.76            | \$ 195.24               | \$ 143.70           |
| Scholarships Escrow                               | \$8,271.85           | 840.36                  | 415.36              |
| RG Escrow 2012                                    | -                    | -                       | 620.00              |
| RG Escrow 2011                                    | \$9,771.85           | 965.00                  | 1,502.50            |
| RG Reserve                                        | 1,192.92             | 1,192.92                | 1,192.92            |
| Eqpmt Replacement Appropriation                   | 498.75               | 534.00                  | 569.25              |
| Other Liabilities and Appropriations              | -                    | -                       | -                   |
| <b>Total Liabilities and Appropriations</b>       | <b>\$ 3,931.79</b>   | <b>\$ 3,840.02</b>      | <b>\$ 8,595.16</b>  |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                                 |                      |                         |                     |
| Lonestar Mensa Net Assets                         | 24,565.64            | 25,430.67               | 26,169.02           |
| <b>Total Net Assets</b>                           | <b>\$24,565.64</b>   | <b>\$ 25,430.67</b>     | <b>\$ 26,169.02</b> |
| <b>Total Liabilities, Approp., and Net Assets</b> | <b>\$28,497.43</b>   | <b>\$ 29,270.69</b>     | <b>\$ 34,764.18</b> |
| Balance sheet check sum                           | 0                    | 0                       | 0                   |
| <b>Accounts Payable</b>                           |                      | <b>Uncleared Checks</b> |                     |
| Quik Print                                        | \$ 143.70            |                         |                     |
| John Neemidge                                     | -                    |                         |                     |
| Helen Siders                                      | -                    |                         |                     |
| Don Drumtra                                       | -                    |                         |                     |
| Other                                             | -                    |                         |                     |
| <b>Total</b>                                      | <b>\$ 143.70</b>     | <b>Total</b>            | <b>\$ 549.00</b>    |

# NOVEMBER CALENDAR

| Sun | Mon | Tue                                                                                    | Wed                  | Thu                                                                                      | Fri                                                                                                     | Sat |
|-----|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
|     |     | 1                                                                                      | 2 Board Meeting      | 3                                                                                        | 4                                                                                                       | 5   |
| 6   | 7   | 8<br> | 9 Membership Meeting | 10 ALG Deadline Chess Night, TGIT-North                                                  | 11 Veteran's Day<br> | 12  |
| 13  | 14  | 15 Eclectic Eats                                                                       | 16                   | 17 TGIT-South                                                                            | 18                                                                                                      | 19  |
| 20  | 21  | 22 TGIT-North, Seal & Label                                                            | 23                   | 24<br> | 25                                                                                                      | 26  |
| 27  | 28  | 29                                                                                     | 30                   |                                                                                          |                                                                                                         |     |

See the online calendar ([www.lsm.us.mensa.org/events/calendar.html](http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/events/calendar.html)) for the latest additions, cancellations, or changes. Online calendar inputs may be posted 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** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday

**Nov. 2, 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** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday

**Nov. 9, 7:00 - 8:30 PM**  
Northwest Village Branch Library  
2505 Steck Avenue, Austin, TX  
512-974-9960  
Near the corner of Steck and Burnet  
8200 N x 2505 W on the Austin city grid

### **ALG Submissions Deadline** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday

**Nov. 10, Midnight**  
Submissions due.

### **Chess Night (with the TGIT group)** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday

**Nov. 10, 6-8 PM**  
Central Market Café North  
Bring your chess sets if you have them.  
Hosted by Douglas Yee. See the TGIT North entry for directions.

### **Thank Goodness It's Thursday (North)** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays

**Nov. 10 & 22, 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 38<sup>th</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> Streets; on the south side of the store.

Meet us at the Café for conversation, food and fun. Prospective members welcome. Look for the Mensa table sign.

### **Eclectic Eats** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday

**Nov. 15, 7:00-8:30 PM**  
Brick Oven, 512-292-3939  
9911 Brodie (at Slaughter)  
[www.brickovenrestaurant.com](http://www.brickovenrestaurant.com)  
Join us for dining all'italiana. Brick Oven features meat and vegetable offerings, several of which are gluten-free. Please provide your own transportation. RSVP by Sunday, Nov. 13 to Aaron Rabushka at 512-280-2807 or [arabushka@austin.rr.com](mailto:arabushka@austin.rr.com)

### **Thank Goodness It's Thursday (South)** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays

**Nov. 17, 6:00-8:00 PM**

### Central Market Café South at Westgate Mall:

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. Enter at the northern door, by the statues of fruits and vegetables.  
Come join the South Austin group for conversation, food and fun. Prospective members welcome.

### **Seal & Label** 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday

**Nov. 24, 6:00-8:00 PM**  
Central Market Café North  
4001 N. Lamar Blvd.  
512-206-1020  
Join the TGIT Group to help seal and label the newsletter. See the TGIT-North entry for directions.

### **UPCOMING IN DECEMBER**

Dec. 7, Board Meeting  
Dec. 15, Chess Night, ALG Deadline  
Dec. 15 & 29, TGIT-North  
**Dec. 17, Member's Holiday Party**  
Dec. 22, TGIT-South  
Dec. 29, Seal & Label

## LONE STAR MENSA DIRECTORY

| FUNCTION                                 | CONTACT          | PHONE         | E-MAIL                              |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| Local Secretary (LocSec), etc.           | Don Drumtra*     | 512-291-0315  | drumtra@aol.com                     |
| Vice President, Secretary                | Patty Drumtra    | 512-291-0361  | drumtrapa@aol.com                   |
| Treasurer, Email Circulation Coordinator | Linda Edelstein  | 512-491-9881  | ledelstein@mindspring.com           |
| Circulation Coordinator                  | Jon Kurlyowicz   | 512-913-6550  | jkurly@yahoo.com                    |
| Past LocSec, Arbiter, Ombudsman          | Ron Edelstein*   | 512-491-9881  | aduaana@mindspring.com              |
| Communications Chair (Interim)           | Don Drumtra*     | 512-291-0315  | drumtra@aol.com                     |
| Newsletter Editor, Calendar Editor       | Rose Berkowitz   | 512-467-4871  | editor@lsm.us.mensa.org             |
| Media & Symposia Publicity Coordinator   | Paul Anderson    | 512-259-7824  | wrdslngr@swbell.net                 |
| Membership Chair                         | Frederick Goertz | 512-569-1758  | fgoertz@gmail.com                   |
| Testing Coordinator                      | Austin Meyer     | 512- 971-0123 | austin.g.meyer@gmail.com            |
| Scholarship Coordinator                  | Claudia Harbert  | 512-238-0205  | mensascholarships@gmail.com         |
| Gifted Children Coordinator              | Michele Vaughan  | 512-388-5970  | Lone Star.gifted.children@gmail.com |
| Hays County and Vicinity Coordinator     | Brian Bloch      | 512-878-8800  | bloxmail@grandecom.net              |
| Regional Vice Chair (RVC)                | Roger Durham*    | 214-349-4521  | 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.

## MEMBER NEWS (as of 09/30/11)

### Happy November Birthdays

- 1 Burnice Cowan
- 1 Michael Kenneth Makuch
- 2 William Gerald Baker
- 3 G M 'Zak' Kozak
- 4 Jeffrey David Johannigman
- 7 Col James W Critz
- 7 Anita V Mantri
- 8 Thomas Orlando
- 8 Susan Marie Shaffer RN
- 10 Joseph Kalapach
- 10 Rabin C Monroe
- 11 Kelly Williams
- 15 Tiana Endicott
- 15 Dr Jay David Jamieson
- 15 Michael C Wheeler
- 16 Scot R Courtney
- 16 Jackson E Crosley
- 17 Paul R Albers
- 17 Peter Anthony Crossley
- 18 Ronald E Edelstein
- 18 Kyro J Rear
- 18 Audrey D Webb
- 19 Mark Fortress
- 19 Jack R Speyer

- 21 Ron Fortin
- 22 Brian Cruver
- 24 Nicholas K Seger
- 25 Kelli M Adam
- 27 John Fortkort
- 27 Nicki George
- 28 Nancy W Norwood
- 29 John R Pfeiffer

### New Members—Welcome!

- Karyn R Brown
- Diana L Brugman
- Guanyan Cai
- Harrison Jones
- Amber C Pine

### Just Moved In—Hi Neighbor!

- Robert M Gaffaney

### Welcome Back--Missed You!

- Benjamin H Ashmore Jr
- Alicia Lynn Curry-Pal
- Radhakrishna Dasari
- Kevin Powell
- Timothy Allen Sandfort
- Barbara Jean Szalay
- Mark Watson

### Goodbye—We Wish You Well

- Robert Davies
- Lauretta Payne

**NOVEMBER  
ANNIVERSARIES**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Member for 45 Years**  
Michael Martino

**Member for 40 Years**  
James B Robinson

**Member for 30 years**  
Edward B Gordon  
Dennis Robert McDaniel

**Member for 10 years**  
Gerri J Duke  
George J Van Ripper  
Michele Vaughan

**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

## STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, & CIRCULATION

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Editor: Rose M. Berkowitz, 10610 Morado Cir, Apt. 922, Austin, TX 78759-5554  
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**Angelle Bergeron**  
(Rose Berkowitz's granddaughter)  
**in a pumpkin patch.**  
(Photo taken by Allen Bergeron)

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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.

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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 Word (preferred), 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](mailto: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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