

Armadillo Literary Gazette

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Editor, Rose M. Berkowitz
Managing Editor, Charles Wilson
Publisher, Board of Officers

EDITOR'S CHOICE

As you may know if you were at the February monthly meeting or if you've gone to our web site to review the materials I presented, I received a lot of valuable feedback in response to my "Rose's Ramblings" column in the Nov. 2010 ALG. Thanks!

Your board members are taking all your feedback seriously, and are working hard to develop plans to address the various issues. Details should be available on our web site next month.

One of the concerns members expressed was that our Board is too "cliquey." I did want to point out that it's only natural for members who've known each other for years to have ties that newcomers won't immediately share. But I can assure you that if you decide to volunteer to help with the workings of Lone Star Mensa in any capacity that interests you, you'll be warmly welcomed. Examples of open positions are on page 9 of this newsletter.

Also, you may have noticed some changes to the contacts list in this newsletter. We've reorganized it by function, to help you determine who would be the best contact for a particular issue. We've also indicated with an asterisk those members who have experience working with the National Office (NO) and the American Mensa Committee (AMC), to help you navigate them.

We'll be adding a "Letters to the Editor" section to future newsletters, and we'd love to hear from YOU! Please do send your thoughts to rberkowitz@austin.rr.com.

Experience is something you don't get until
just after you need it. - Anonymous

CONFESSIONS OF A GHOST

By Johnnie R. Vaughn

There are ghosts. In December of 1944, a group of American soldiers in the Belgian city of Bastogne were attacked by German armored forces during the push known as the Battle of the Bulge. Their heroics have transitioned into the world of legend, as those soldiers held that vital transportation hub until reinforcements could push through for victory. Like those soldiers, many Lone Star Mensa members have been valiantly holding down the fort, waiting for reinforcements. The question is, "When will they come?"

I'm a ghost. I first joined Mensa in the late 1970's. I had grown up in the Palestine/Elkhart area of East Texas. If anyone is familiar with that area, you know that it wasn't a bastion of intellectualism back then. I was actually one of the few National Merit Finalists in the area, during a time when SAT preparation classes were limited to the relatively wealthy. It was, however, close to the East Texas Mensa group that produced some early advances. Ginny Long, editor of the "SpectruM" went on to become a national Membership Officer, and later the national Publications Officer of American Mensa during that decade. I remember driving the 50 miles (how far that seemed...) to a local meeting in Tyler, Texas, and thinking how different this world was.

I was a young teenager, interjecting myself into a world where I wasn't sure I belonged, and yet that Local Group made me feel welcome in so many ways. Within a few years, I was a member of the military (an infantry grunt, no less) and yet my Mensa membership still continued to open up new relationships. Throughout the years, my membership would wax and wane. Some years I'd renew, and some years I wouldn't.

I'm a ghost. Although I came to the Austin area in 1999, I don't remember attending any local Mensa functions before the LonestaRG XI, The Eleventh Hour.

That specific RG held a special meaning to me, since I had just lost my father. Dad was a WWII veteran, and a child of the Depression. With 20/20 hindsight, he might not have been considered the best father in modern terms. He was more concerned with actually providing a good living for his family, rather than always being there for school functions. He didn't finish high school because he needed to work to support his family during the depression. After he joined the military during the war, he was too busy supporting his new family to go back to school.

I remember helping him finalize his accounting books at the end of the year, when I was growing up. I'd have a pad of paper and a calculator, and would be calling off numbers to him as he added them in his head; and in the end, if there were a discrepancy, it would be due to my mistake, not his. He didn't know he wasn't supposed to succeed, so he developed his own business and ultimately died after securing a steady retirement for his spouse.

As the oldest son, I was deemed to be the "chosen one" to carry out his final affairs. It was while I was going through his belongings that I realized he had newspaper clippings of all my accomplishments—from high school through my military career. In that batch was a copy of my Mensa acceptance letter. Decades after I had grown up, gotten married, and given him grandchildren, that letter was still among his prize possessions.

Was he Mensa material? We'll never know for sure. Higher education wasn't as readily available as it is now. Our generation and those that are younger take such things for granted. But ultimately, we are all a product of those that have gone before us. Do we honor them, or do we ignore them?

If I look back through the archives of LSM, I see the same names repeated over and over again. Like the soldiers at Bastogne, they have been holding down the fort until reinforcements come.

Maybe it's time for some of us ghosts to materialize and help those that have kept everything going for so long. I took the first step this year in volunteering for the scholarship evaluation program.

Will I have the desire and fortitude to do more? I don't know for sure. It's easy to look at the responsibilities in our everyday life and say we really don't have time.

But people before us have made time... Maybe we can as well.

FEBRUARY BOARD MINUTES

Submitted by Patty Drumtra, VP and Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Lone Star Mensa Board of Officers convened at 6:05 PM, Feb. 1, 2011, at Ron Edelstein's home, 1439 Dapplegrey Lane, Austin, TX 78727. Attending were: Don Drumtra, Patty Drumtra, Linda Edelstein, Ron Edelstein, Paul Anderson, Helen Siders, John Neemidge, Fred Goertz, Rose Berkowitz, Crockett Grabbe, and Jon Kurylowicz. The Board adopted without debate the 90-min. agenda and the Jan. minutes printed in the Feb. 2011 Armadillo Literary Gazette (ALG), print edition, page 4.

The Board also adopted without debate the minutes of the Annual Membership Business Meeting as printed in the Feb. 2011 Armadillo Literary Gazette (ALG), print edition, page 4. Don thanked Rose Berkowitz for an excellent program and discussion at the Annual Membership Business Meeting.

Linda presented the cumulative Financial Report, Apr. 1-Jan. 31, 2011 and Income and Balance Sheet for Jan. 31, 2011. Don pointed out several features of the report for the newly-elected officers. The Board adopted the Report without debate.

Fred, Communications Committee Chairman, reported that nine potential Mensa members have registered for tests over the next three months.

Ron reported for the Education Committee that 91 scholarship applications are being evaluated. The next step is to compare the top 10 to select a winner of our \$500 scholarship.

Paul reported for the Symposium Committee that Gayle Moyers is scheduled to be our speaker on Feb 9.

John, LonestarRG Co-Chairman, announced a Regional Gathering committee meeting on Sat. Feb. 12, 2011 2-4 PM at Patsy Graham's home.

Don presented the Member Concerns, Suggestions, and Action Plan, based on an analysis of the report presented by Rose. After a 45-minute discussion, as a Committee of the Whole, attendees agreed to continue to discuss the concerns by email, with the intent of developing action plans for formal approval at the March 1 board meeting.

The next monthly board meeting is scheduled for 6 PM, Tuesday, March 1, at the Edelstein's home.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

MONTHLY MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

By Don Drumtra, Program Coordinator

Regional Transportation Discussion March and April Membership Meetings

If you live in or visit San Marcos, Lockhart, Bastrop, Elgin, Taylor, Georgetown, Leander, Dripping Springs, or anywhere in between, you should be interested in these programs.

The Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) has agreed to enlighten us on their future plans for transportation in the five-county area surrounding Austin.

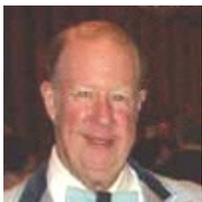
On March 9th Alex Kone from CAMPO will provide an overview of transportation plans for our region for the next 24 years, a discussion of how CAMPO coordinates transportation improvements with other agencies, and an opportunity to ask questions on planned projects.

CAMPO will return on April 13 to lead a more detailed follow-up discussion on specific projects that we may be interested in.

If you are interested in advance information, the CAMPO 2035 Regional Transportation Planning information is available online at www.campotexas.org/programs_plan.php.

Admission remains FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Non-member guests are encouraged to attend AND participate. For latest information, visit the Lone Star Mensa web site at: www.lsm.us.mensa.org.

See the Calendar for scheduling information.



DON'S DIALECTICS

Members Stepping Up to Volunteer!
By Don Drumtra, LocSec

There is a lot of activity going on since Rose Berkowitz began the conversation that resulted in her report to the board on members' concerns. Some members have realized that their concerns

are the same as other members; others don't really care if their concerns are shared but want to see changes. But both are beginning to take matters into their own hands by volunteering.

Rose is the most obvious volunteer--stepping up to be newsletter editor when Rachael was called to motherhood. The Editor's job is a difficult one; it has deadlines that must be met for the newsletter to be in members' hands before the beginning of each month. But for someone like Rose, who likes to write, it is a very rewarding job. But Rose is not the only one who is volunteering.

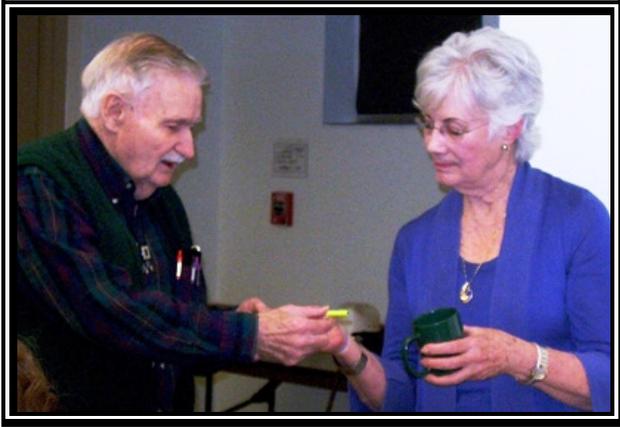
Some members were concerned that the monthly meetings were not providing enough variety. Some of those did something about it--they provided speakers that they liked. Mike Poole brought in Paige Elijah Kelly from Austin Partners in Education to speak on classroom coaching at the November meeting. Paul Anderson brought in Gayle Moyers from Moyer's Learning Systems.com, to speak on Music and How it Improves Communications, Thinking, and Learning at the February meeting, and Crockett Grabbe, of Sea Lane Research and Consulting, promised to speak on the Challenger Disaster, perhaps at the May meeting.

Helen Siders decided she wanted to have fun at a picnic, so she scheduled one for April 2. Douglas Yee brought a chess set to TGIT, and challenged those present to play. John Kurylowicz accepted, and we watched the game to the end. It was such fun that Douglas agreed to bring his chess set every 2nd Thursday and Chess Night was born.

As discussed in my Status Report on page 5, board members are working to find ways to resolve the concerns in the Berkowitz report, but why wait? If you know of a speaker that you would like to share with the group, let us know. You don't have to be the Program Coordinator to sponsor a speaker. If you want a picnic or want to set up a Cribbage night, set a time and place and send it to the newsletter editor, or put it on the announcement e-list. You don't have to be the Events Coordinator or even get approval to do that. Just do it!

As always, I hope to see you at our next event.





Paul Anderson presents speaker thank-you tokens to **Gayle Moyers of Moyers Learning Systems** for her outstanding presentation on **How Music Improves Listening, Communication, Thinking and Learning** at the February Monthly Meeting. There were 17 very interested attendees!

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Submitted by Ron Edelstein, Past LocSec

The LSM bylaws state "After the election and before the new officers assume office, the new and continuing elected officers shall by majority vote elect from among themselves three officers to serve with the executive advisor [past LocSec] as the four executive officers of the Board, a Vice-President and Secretary of the board, a Treasurer, and a local Secretary (LocSec)."

The newly elected board of Lone Star Mensa, including those who are continuing from the previous year, met on Tuesday, February 1st, to elect the executive officers for the next year. By unanimous vote, the following persons are the executive officers for the LSM Board:

- LocSec: Don Drumtra
- Vice-President and Secretary: Patty Drumtra
- Treasurer: Linda Edelstein

REMEMBER THE CHALLENGER (Part One)

By Crockett Grabbe, Ph.D. © 2011

cgrabbe@austin.rr.com

Twenty-five years ago, on January 28, 1986, NASA launched the shuttle Challenger with seven astronauts aboard, including the heralded teacher Christa McAuliffe, who had been chosen out of a field of over 11,000 applicants. They never made it to space.

Back in the 1970's the shuttle had been made the premier program to put humans in space, despite its prospects of being much more expensive (by about a factor of 10) than non-manned flight. To help improve the public image of this program, a decision was made at NASA to restrict all satellites in the United States to being launched from the space shuttle, not the ground. Missions that were already being designed for launch from their own rockets suddenly had to have their plans scrapped and redone because of the switch. But then NASA made an error that stunned the world as it was quickly broadcast around the globe.

That colossal error involved delivering a communication satellite into orbit. Seventy-three seconds after the launch the shuttle exploded. As I pointed out in a later interview on satellite radio, the astronauts were killed, not by the explosion itself, but by the impact of the shuttle hitting the ocean 10 miles below. Not only had NASA provided no safety equipment for them to escape that death plunge, but it had actually sent them plunging by repeatedly minimizing the importance of problems discovered during previous shuttle flights.

The shuttle was launched despite the repeated strong objections of engineers at Morton-Thiokol, the maker of rocket explosion the seal of an booster failed shuttle was lower those at which the ring had been tested.



This was done despite very strong objections, particularly from Engineer Roger Boisjoly, who went to great lengths to try to get NASA officials to scrub the launch. He had already expressed such objections at the launch of a previous shuttle at 53° F, and then urgently tried to stop the launching of Challenger at a temperature below freezing. But the relentless push by NASA officials to go ahead with the mission won over the engineers' objections, and the shuttle and its astronauts were tragically lost.

Here's to the memory of those astronauts who met their untimely deaths 25 years ago. They were bold pioneers worthy of the highest praise.

However, it should be remembered that in the follow-up investigation of the disaster, Nobel-prize winning physicist Richard Feynman showed how easy it was to expose the O-ring flaw by dipping it into a bucket of ice water. The seal showed a large obvious gap at 32° F. A physics student could have verified the engineers' claims that Challenger was unsafe to launch.

Because of this tragedy, no space mission was launched for the next 3 years. Missions like the Galileo spacecraft to Jupiter were delayed by almost a decade. This was primarily responsible for the failure of Galileo's large antenna to transmit data back to Earth. NASA's policy was finally overturned and ground-based launches were resumed in 1989.

But NASA never really learned any lessons from their error. This was dramatically demonstrated 17 years later.

[NEXT MONTH: Challenger's Shadow Hits Columbia]

STATUS REPORT

Member Concerns Action Plans

Submitted by Don Drumtra, LocSec

Those who attended the annual Membership meeting January 12 listened to Rose Berkowitz's excellent presentation of members' concerns with LSM. Rose then invited them to voice any additional concerns they had and provide suggestions on how these concerns could be resolved. Rose combined the concerns and suggestions she had with the new ones she received at and after the meeting, added any proposed action plans, and presented her final report to the board on February 1. Her final report is posted on our website at:

www.lsm.us.mensa.org/bylaws/board/201102/LSMBoardBerkowitzReport20110130.pdf

The board accepted her report, and after the meeting the members from this and next year's boards met to discuss approaches to resolving the concerns. They agreed to work on a comprehensive set of action plans and actors to present to the board for approval at its March 1 meeting.

ELECTRONIC GAMING COLLOQUIUM 2011

By John Hornberger, Chair

We are officially near capacity for the Electronic Gaming Colloquium 2011, scheduled for Feb. 18-20 in Austin! That means that from here on out only Mensa members may register (via the usual channels: hard copy or online). This event has drawn more members this year than any other, so to keep it fair for regular members who normally would have come (but wait, for various reasons, until late) we are reserving the last portion of registrations for them.

We will start a "Guest Waiting List" in case we fail to actually make it to capacity, but all who have

registered up to this point are in for sure. IF you still would like to come and want to bring a non-Mensan guest then please contact me (with details, etc) directly at goodkingjohn13@yahoo.com; I will share it with our Registration Chair, John Scanlon, and we will try our best to accommodate everyone.

SERIES INTRO: Change You Can See

Ron Edelstein, Past LocSec of Lone Star Mensa, has been a coin collector and numismatist for the past forty years. In upcoming issues of the ALG, on a random basis as the mood strikes, he will be submitting articles on "Change You Can See," on interesting things you can learn from your pocket change.

If you would like to see an article on a particular coin or coin-related subject, feel free to suggest it. Comments, suggestions or criticisms may be sent to Ron at: aduanya@mindspring.com



CHANGE YOU CAN SEE

By Ron Edelstein

Did you know that the United States Mint has never made a penny? Of course the U.S. Mint, the official agency of the United States government for producing coins, has made a lot of money for the government—both literally, in the production of coins for commerce and collectors, and in seigniorage. Seigniorage is the term used for the difference between the cost of making a coin and its actual intrinsic value. In the old days, when coins were required to have their face value in silver or gold, the seigniorage was usually only a few cents per coin. Now, of course, where there is no intrinsic value in modern coins, this is hugely more profitable.

Now, back to those pennies. Of course the U.S. Mint has produced billions of one cent coins over the years since it first set up business in 1792, but they are "cents," not pennies. Why do we persist in calling them pennies?

The penny was a British coin commonly used by the American colonists. Pennies and half pennies were probably the most commonly-circulating coins of the Colonies. When the United States gained its independence from Great Britain, one of the first things it did, as all new countries do, was design a

new flag, establish its own Customs Service—and declare its own new money. Thanks to Mr. Thomas Jefferson, the Americans decided to dump the old British system of 12 pence to the shilling and 20 shillings to the pound (21 shillings to the guinea) and go to the simpler decimal system. This was a new and novel idea...no one had done that before!

So the Congress, on Jefferson's recommendation, established the dollar as the new unit of currency and broke it down into "dimes" (tenths of dollars, pronounced "deems"—later changed to "dime" as we know it today) and "cents," one-hundredths of a dollar (from "century" or one hundred). Early on there were also half-cent coins; until 1857, when their buying power diminished to the point where they were no longer practical and were discontinued.

So there you have it. The U.S. Mint has always made cents, but we still persist, some two hundred forty years later, in calling them "pennies," though they have no relationship to the British coin of the same name. And Canadians, who also turned to the decimal dollar when they established their own coinage in 1867, also call the tiny copper pieces "pennies." Ironically, in 1970, the United Kingdom followed the lead of its American colonies—and practically everyone else in the world by that time—in changing the venerable British pound to decimal, with 100 new pence to the pound.



FROM THE RVC

Submitted by Roger Durham

Well, another year has gone by, and it's time to renew your Mensa membership again (unless, of course, you're a life member, or you paid for a multi-year renewal that still has some time to run). I know some of you are disappointed that dues have increased once again this year, and I sympathize with you, but the fact is that our costs continue to increase and we have to keep up somehow. However, there is a way to insure that your Mensa dues will never increase again – life membership. I wish I had bought one when I first joined – I would have saved a bundle. Come on now, just bite the bullet and get a life membership this year, and from now on you can just smile smugly whenever the dues notices come out.

Another thing that it's time to do is make your plans to attend the 2011 version of SynRG, the Regional Gathering of Gulf Coast Mensa, taking place over

Memorial Day weekend in Houston. Register before April 1 and save \$10. Go to www.gcmensa.org for more information and a registration form. Houston, where I joined Mensa, was the first RG I ever went to, and also, a few years later, the first one I ever chaired, so even though I've been to dozens of others since (and chaired a fair number of them), SynRG is still near and dear to my heart. If you've never been to an RG, you owe it to yourself to check it out. I hope to see you there!

Also, it's past time to make plans to attend the 2011 Annual Gathering of American Mensa, June 30–July 4 in Portland, OR this summer. Registration is running ahead of previous AGs, which means that attendance is likely to be well over two thousand Mensans from all parts of the country. Register by the end of March and save \$20. Visit www.ag.us.mensa.org for details.

Finally, of course, the arrival of March means another American Mensa election is right around the corner. There are quite a few contested races this year (including mine!), the outcome of which could be vitally important to the future of our organization, so please read the biographies and candidate statements in the Mensa Bulletin carefully, and then vote for the candidates of your choice.

Last month I asked for your help in re-imagining American Mensa. Now I've been asked to serve on the Task Force that is charged with putting together concrete recommendations for restructuring our national organization—so your input is more important than ever! If you've ever thought that you could design a more efficient governing structure for Mensa, now is the time to speak up. I have some ideas of my own, to be sure, but I know some of you can envision things that would never occur to me. There will never be a better opportunity for you to make a real difference in Mensa. Please send your suggestions to me at rvc6@us.mensa.org or by snail mail to 9920 Ridgehaven Drive, Dallas, TX 75238.

DON'T FORGET – RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

WHY DO I LIKE RETIREMENT?

(If you're not there yet...look what you have to look forward to.)

Q: How many days in a week?

A: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday

Q: When is a retiree's bedtime?

A: Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch.

Q: How many retirees does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Only one, but it might take all day.

Q: What's the biggest gripe of retirees?

A: There's not enough time to get everything done.

Q: Why don't retirees mind being called seniors?

A: The term comes with a 10% discount.

Q: Among retirees what is considered formal attire?

A: Tied shoes.

Q: Why do retirees count pennies?

A: They are the only ones who have the time.

Q: What is the common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire?

A: NUTS!

Q: Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage?

A: They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.

Q: What do retirees call a long lunch?

A: Normal

Q: What is the best way to describe retirement?

A: The never ending Coffee Break.

Q: What's the biggest advantage of going back to school as a retiree?

A: If you cut classes, no one calls your parents.

Q: Why does a retiree often say he doesn't miss work, but misses the people he used to work with?

A: He is too polite to tell the whole truth.



TAKE THE PLUNGE!

By Helen Siders

How about receiving this newsletter by E-MAIL instead of paper? Then you'll be able see all the groovy colors! <G>

Just go to the Profile Update page at www.us.mensa.org/profileupdate and select "electronic publications, if available." You can also make this choice at your next renewal. There is a one- to two-month lag before your newsletters stop being snail-mailed.

E-MAIL ETIQUETTE

By Raymond Doo

I have a suggestion to make. If you'd like to know more about e-mail etiquette, check out this website: http://email.about.com/od/emailnetiquette/tp/core_n_etiquette.htm.

TODD RUNDGREN REDUX

By Herb Guggenheim

(Reprinted from the February 2011 Capital M newsletter of the Washington DC area)

It was a humid late-summer afternoon when we pulled into a parking space alongside the Franklin Institute in downtown Philadelphia. We got out of the car and tried to find an open door. The place was locked up tight.

"We're here for the Todd Rundgren interview," I said. "Doors won't open till 6:30," an unsympathetic guard replied.

So we passed the time in a pizza joint, where an old lady with a cane propped on the chair next to her was eating pizza at a facing table. There were two younger women with her, sharing the pizza and making sure she had extra napkins and an iced tea refill—stuff like that.

Rundgren is one of the true geniuses of rock n' roll - and a pivotal figure in the development of the art form. Leslie Carroll and I were planning to come up for his concert the next night, but we found out he was doing an interview with interviewer extraordinaire Roy Firestone the night before and we thought we'd check it out.

If you haven't heard TR, you'll definitely want to take a listen to Something?/Anything? (his break-out album), as well as A Wizard a True Star, A Capella, Runt and, more recently, Liars and Arena.

Rundgren is a master of many forms—the soft ballad, the heavy metal guitar rhapsody, and the power pop top forty chart topper. And he plays many instruments; including but not limited to electric and acoustic guitar, piano, and keyboards. He's one of the greatest rock guitarists of all time. He plays all of the instruments on three of the four sides of the Something?/Anything? double album, and he plays all the instruments on many of his other albums, including Healing.

If you ask the random person if they know who Todd Rundgren is, they'd probably tell you no. If you

were to ask people if they've ever heard the songs "Bang the Drum" and "Hello It's Me," you might get a different answer. People know songs even when they don't know who performed them.

So we wait outside the little theater at the Franklin Institute. There's a small space exploration exhibit in the hall where we're milling about. Many of the people seem to know each other. These are the fan base—the diehard Rundgren fanatics.

Eventually we go in. We find out that the old lady we saw at the pizza shop is Todd's mom. (Gotta love parents!)

Roy Firestone comes out and warms up the crowd. Then we're just a few feet away from this phenomenal musician—this legend whom everybody should know about but don't. 'Cause not only is Rundgren a brilliant musician in his own right, but he's also the producer of people like Meatloaf and Patti Smith, and bands like Grand Funk Railroad and The Tubes.

So the interview blows everyone away. Todd talks about music, music theory, his influences, his life, his parenting of Liv Tyler, about his association with three of the four Beatles. (He's performed with Ringo, produced an album with George, and hung out with John.) He's led a fascinating life.

I won't try to describe the interview—partly because you'll see it when it shows up on A&E or some similar place, and partly because it was three hours long (originally scheduled for only two, but they got carried away).

We spend the next day at some beautiful gardens not far from Glenside, where the concert is taking place. Then we go to the concert. Todd is performing two of his albums, Todd and Healing, in their entirety.

He's got his go-to band but he's also got a ten-voice choir. The show totally rocks--spangled costumes in vibrant colors, an array of lasers, smoke, and one of the very best bands in rock n' roll.

Even without all the glitz, this is a sensational band. The show ends with the anthemic "Sons of 1984" and the crowd keeps chanting the chorus long after the curtains have closed.

After the show—and this is probably the only time I've done something like this—we hang out in the alley and wait to see if Todd will come out and talk to us.

Here's a link to a video of Todd Rundgren performing at Indiana University's School of Music.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKEaKtb1zTM&feature=player_embedded.

PICNIC AT NORTHWEST PARK

By Helen Siders

Mark your calendars! We're having a picnic at 4:00 pm, April 2, 2011 at Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest Park, 7000 Ardath St. Austin, Texas.

All members and their families are welcome. New members, and Mensans who have been with Lone Star Mensa for a short time, we'd love to get to know you better! Come on by and eat and chat with us. It'll be fun!

Northwest Park is a city park in north central Austin. It is roughly in the middle of the area between Koenig Lane and Anderson Lane, and between MoPac and Burnet road.

Directions from Hwy 183 and Burnet Road are:

Traveling south on Burnet Road, turn right onto Greenlawn Pkwy. Take the first left onto Daugherty St. Drive a couple of blocks. Take next right onto Albata Ave, then turn right at Ardath St. Northwest Park will be on the left. Drive through the park to the back, past the tennis courts, to the parking lot beside a huge pond.

We will be at one of the 3 long concrete picnic tables, and you may want to bring a lawn chair. There's a good playscape for the kids immediately adjacent to the picnic area.

We'll have a grill going, so bring any meat you and your family will enjoy. And please bring a large side dish to share. Dogs on a leash are welcome.

We don't have an alternate location, so if the weather is inclement, we'll just have to tough it out!

Questions? Email Helen at xlartemis@gmail.com or call Linda at 512.491.9881.

CALL FOR BUDGET ITEMS

Submitted by Don Drumtra

If you want to do something in LSM but don't have the money, you can always ask for it. Each year the outgoing board is required to develop a budget recommendation for the incoming board for approval at the March and April board meetings. If you have particular things you need or events you want to sponsor during the year, please send an email to our Treasurer, Linda Edelstein, letting her know what is and how much it will cost, so it can be added to the budget if approved.



MARCH MEMBER NEWS (as of 01/31/11)

Born Mensans—Happy Birthday!

- 1 Chelle Bell
- 1 Ben Daniel
- 2 Joanna J Newnam
- 2 Ryan S Fogarty
- 2 Conrad Gordon Walton Jr
- 2 Mark Spillers
- 5 Christopher Malcolm Newland
- 5 Keith Busby
- 6 Mary Dunlap Young
- 7 Vladimir Garner
- 8 James V Motsinger
- 8 Jane Thompson
- 8 Joseph William Hrbek Jr
- 13 Stephen Thomas Gase
- 14 Eric J Hammack
- 15 Terry Rodgers
- 15 Claude I Leasure
- 16 Joshua Neland
- 18 Jimmie Choate Parker
- 20 Paul Anderson
- 20 Brian Hoard
- 20 Jeff Ridgeway
- 20 Patrick J Marshall

- 21 Ashley C Bowie
- 22 Benjamin J Sanders
- 23 Lee Edward Forman
- 23 Theofilos Giagmouris
- 24 Lydia Ann O'Neil
- 24 Gerri J Duke
- 24 Zachary D Simecek
- 24 Isabella Taylor
- 25 Trudy L K Loper
- 25 Gary Paul Davis
- 26 William P McDonald
- 27 Sara S Sharpe

New Arrivals— Welcome

- Raul Rodriguez Calvoz
- Michael A Hattamer
- Kyle McCoy
- Rex H Pendleton
- Jacquelyn Sorcic

Returning Members— Welcome Back

- Clay C Black
- Deidre Brightman
- Joan Champie
- Louis Jacob Dobin
- James Froedge
- Bruce Wayne Jean
- John A Kulas II
- Phil J McAtee
- William D McCarty
- Gerald L McGray
- Thomas Orlando
- Beth Shields
- Kevin Scott Szilvasy

Farewell—We'll Miss You

- Marion Alpern

- Rodney Appling
- Joshua D Hull
- Patrick McShea
- Lauretta Payne

Deceased

- John Alfred Young

☆☆☆☆ HAPPY ANNIVERSARY— CONGRATULATIONS! ☆☆☆☆

Mensa Member for 35 Years

- Dr Jay David Jamieson

Mensa Member For 20 Years

- Paula Blessing Beard
- Patsy M Graham

Mensa Member for 15 years

- Alexander David Hames

Mensa Member For 10 Years

- Jerry Dike
- Peter M Guy
- Robert E Kiefer

Mensa Member For 5 Years

- Brook Capps
- Gary Paul Davis
- John Fortkort
- Doug Jolliff
- Michael Seay
- Dee Dee Yelverton

CALL FOR ART

By John & Geri Neemidge, RG Co-Chairs

Lonestar XIII: RG The 13th is coming up Labor Day Weekend! We're challenging creative Mensans (and their family and friends) to design some great art for:

- A t-shirt (preferably just the front, but front and back OK), about 8 ½ x 11, print resolution 100 DPI.
- A logo, a square inch or two, print resolution 300 DPI.

The theme has a Halloween feel. Some of the events are a Zombie Prom, and speakers on haunted house props, vampires, and horror movies.

Winners get a free t-shirt, plus lots of recognition and praise in the ALG and at the RG. Submissions (electronic preferred) due to us by April 1, 2011 at lsrg13@neemidge.net.

Volunteers Needed for Everything

Submitted by Don Drumtra, LocSec

Some positions currently available are:

- A techie to help revamp our web site
- Monthly Meeting speakers
- Local Area Coordinators (UT, Waco)
- RG Hospitality and Raffle Coordinators

Volunteer for an officer position, or just to help out in any way you can. LSM officers generally serve from April through March of the following year.

If interested, contact me or any board member, or Rose our editor (who's very easy to talk to), and tell us what you'd like to do. Our web site has the full list of vacant positions.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MARCH?

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Board Meeting	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Member Meeting	10 ALG Deadline, TGIT, Chess Night	11	12 New Members Meeting
13	14	15 Eclectic Eats 	16	17 TGIT 	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Seal & Label, TGIT	25	26
27	28	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 Tuesday (except July)

March 1, 6:00-7:00pm

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

March 9, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

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

ALG Submissions Deadline

2nd Thursday

March 10, Midnight

Email: Lone Star.mensa.webmaster@gmail.com & rberkowitz@austin.rr.com

Article submissions are due to the ALG Editor and calendar inputs are due to the Calendar Coordinator by midnight on the 2nd Thursday of each month..

Chess Night (with the TGIT group)

2nd Thursday (canceled or moved on holidays)

March 10, 6-8 PM

Central Market Café North at Central Park
Douglas Lee challenged Jon Kurylowicz at TGIT February 10 while the rest of us watched. If you want to know who won, come to Chess Night tonight. Have a go at beating the winner, or just watch and learn. See the TGIT entry for directions.

NEW MEMBERS MEETING

Saturday, March 12, 2-4 PM

Home of Don and Patty Drumtra
3206 Twilight Trail, Austin TX 78748

Come on out and get to know your fellow members!

Thank Goodness it's Thursday (TGIT)

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

March 10 (N. Lamar)

March 17 (S. Lamar)

March 24 (N. Lamar)

6:00-8:00pm

Central Market Café North at Central Park:

4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, 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, 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; on the east side of the store.

Meet us at the Café for conversation, food and fun. Prospective members welcome. We usually meet upstairs but if there's a party, we'll be downstairs or outside. Look for a Mensa sign or folks with Mensa shirts who appear smart. ☺

Eclectic Eats

7 PM Tuesday, March 15

Las Palomas (www.laspalomasrestaurant.com/)

3201 Bee Caves Road (near WalshTarlton)
Austin, TX

The Eclectic Eats series resumes. Join your fellow Mensans for some EXCELLENT Tex Mex food at reasonable prices! RSVP to Aaron Rabushka at 512/280-2807 (leave message if necessary) or arabushka@austin.rr.com by Sunday, March 13.

Seal & Label

4th Thursday (moved on holidays)

March 24 6:00-8:00pm

Central Market Café North

4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin 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

LSM DIRECTORY

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San Marcos Coordinator	Gloria Fortin	512-754-8956	fortin_associates@hotmail.com
LonestaRG 2011 Committee Co-Chairs ²	John & Geri Neemidge	512-310-7863	lsrg13@neemidge.net
Regional Vice Chairman (RVC)	Roger Durham*		RVC6@us.mensa.org

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

¹ **Testing Proctors:** Mike Tolbert, Charles Wilson, Mike McCormick, VeraLouise Kleinfeld Pfeiffer

² **LonestaRG 2011 Committee Members:** *Facilities Vacant, Hospitality Vacant, Hotel Vacant, Payments Vacant, Photographer Vacant, Programs Geri Neemidge, Publicity Vacant, Registrar Patsy Graham, Security Vacant, Tastings Vacant, Testing Vacant, Treasurer Andrew York, Raffle & Donations Coordinator Vacant*

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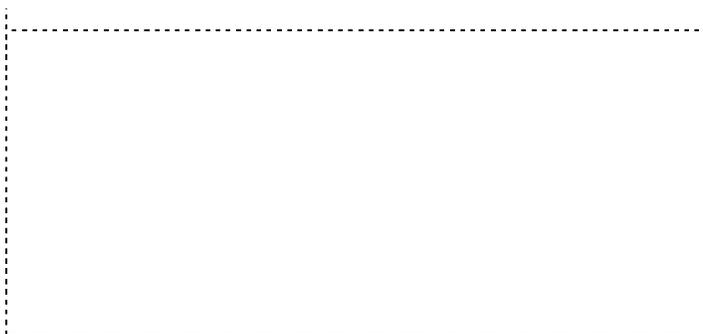
Submission Information: Submissions of all types are encouraged. The deadline is the 2nd Thursday of each month. Submissions may be by email or by snail mail in typed format. Anonymous submissions are not accepted, although the author's identity may be withheld upon request. The editor reserves the right 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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