

Armadillo Literary Gazette

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

EDITOR'S CHOICE

By *Rose Berkowitz*

I'm happy and gratified to say that we've received new submissions for the ALG from several members. Aaron Rabushka writes most eruditely (he is himself a composer of classical music) about a wonderful concert experience he had in Australia. Jane Thompson tells us about her battles with disability, Douglas Yee has provided an excellent extreme Sudoku puzzle for your game-playing pleasure, Lynn Herrick favors us with a thoughtful poem, and John Kurlyowicz shares a picture of his adorable granddaughter. We'd like to feature a different member bio each month, so please send them in!

Of course there's the usual reporting of activities and happenings in and around LSM, including the monthly events calendar; as well as important news from American Mensa. (We have some great people running for office in American Mensa. Don't forget to vote!) We hope you read and enjoy this issue, and put it to good use.

Also, we're working on revitalizing the LSM web site. Thanks to Don Drumtra, as a first step all the data on the site is now up to date. We encourage you to provide constructive input on what would make it more attractive and useful to you. Send your ideas and suggestions to me, as well as any items for the newsletter, at editor@lsm.us.mensa.org. I'll impose no particular word limit, but emailed submissions are appreciated, so I don't have to re-type.

ELECTION CANDIDATE AND REFERENDUM INFORMATION ONLINE

Submitted by Howard Prince, American Mensa Committee

On behalf of the American Mensa Committee, the Election Committee of American Mensa, Ltd. presents to the membership for consideration the candidates for election to the American Mensa Committee. Included at <http://www.us.mensa.org/election> are the candidates' personal biographies, campaign statements and answers to directed questions from the AMC. This is your opportunity to review this information in advance of receiving your mailed ballot in a few weeks.

As a reminder, voting for the American Mensa election begins on April 15. The national voting period runs from April 15 to May 31, and voting information will be included with your ballot. Please note that online voting

will be available and that election-specific login information will arrive with your ballot packet.

Members must have been current as of 12:01 a.m., central time, on April 1 in order to vote in this election; this includes transactions made online through 11:59 p.m., central time, on March 31. Ballots and election information will be direct-mailed to these members and should arrive on or after April 15.

Please allow sufficient time for delivery. If have not received your American Mensa ballot after April 30, please email operations@americanmensa.org or call 888/294-8035 ext. 5502 to discuss replacement options.

Voting is one of the most important actions you can take to affect the course of your Mensa experience. Please take a few minutes to review the election information and look through your election materials when they arrive before placing your votes.

Evidence has been found that William Tell and his family were avid bowlers. Unfortunately, all the Swiss league records were destroyed in a fire...and so we'll never know for whom the Tells bowled.



FEATURED MEMBER BIO

Hi! I'm Jane Thompson--not the Austin one, but the Georgetown one. I was born and reared in Oklahoma City, went to OU and remain their football fan. I lived in Dallas for 33 years (except for an unhappy stint of 18 months in California) and moved to the Georgetown area about eight years ago. I have changed careers several times during my working years, as a

social worker, a teacher, a legal assistant, and a writer. The thing that is unusual about me is that I have bipolar disorder.

I've had the disorder all my life, and it's affected me my whole life; but like so many others, I was not diagnosed until I was 37. This was after a failed marriage and several lost jobs. Getting diagnosed still wasn't my salvation; it took me five more years and a hospitalization to find the proper medication.

After that, I was stable enough to hold jobs and to manage my life without flagrant symptoms (which was a great relief), but in 2000 I developed an allergy to my meds. I had to immediately go off them and start a search for new ones. So I was trying to work with no meds, no sleep, and while just as symptomatic (crazy) as they come. I told my boss (I was working in a medical setting then, so I thought I was safe), who then decided to fire me.

After that I spent two years looking for work, but I was 55 by this time and I finally applied for disability (although I'd said all my life that I would NEVER do that) which I got two years later. I had to sell my house in Dallas to have money to live on. When I heard what good public mental health care Williamson County has, I decided to move to this area. This turned out to be true; but unfortunately I was recently dropped from the program due to budget cuts. I'm now in the process of finding a new doctor.

One of the things I did while I was on disability was to write a book on bipolar disorder, hoping to help others with the disease and to explain it to others who may not understand much about it. It is titled, "Sugar and Salt: My Life with Bipolar Disorder." So if this interests you, you can read more about it.

I wish I could be a more active member--in Dallas I was a board member and secretary of the local group, but I just purely hate to drive and the activities are too far away for me. If you ever want to talk, my e-mail is jtokc@yahoo.com (Jane Thompson from Oklahoma City, you see). You can also reach me at 1100 Leander Road, #927, Georgetown, Texas 78628, 512-818-0157.

PREVIEW: AMERICAN MENSA'S NEW WEB SITE

Submitted by Howard Prince, American Mensa Committee

Yes, you read that correctly. This month, we're not doing a review of current resources; instead, we're doing a preview of things to come!

Over a two-year period and with the input of a number of members in multiple evaluation stages, our Web team has been diligently working on what we refer to as a "renavigation" or re-menuing of our primary Web site, www.us.mensa.org. Others have likened it to pulling all of the books off the library shelves and then reshelving them, occasionally building a new shelf along the way.

During the past year, our members, officers and staff have provided information on how they would sort the Web site, the terminology they would use, and even their

preferences for top menus vs. side menus. The input we've received has been invaluable, though we won't be using the Dewey Decimal System!

What can you look forward to? The menus have been renamed and reorganized. There will be a mobile interface. InsideAML as a separate Web site will go away, with all of its content merged back into the main site. While there will still be a "My Mensa" menu for our members, much of your site customization will occur in a right-side menu of tools available throughout the site. Then there's the search engine. With a new site and new software comes a new search engine, and well... admittedly... it just works.

So, stay tuned! We'll keep you up to date on our progress.

APRIL BOARD MINUTES

Submitted by Patty Drumtra, VP and Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Lone Star Mensa Board of Officers convened at 6:10 PM, April 5, 2011, at Central Market North. Attending were: **Don Drumtra, Patty Drumtra, Crockett Grabbe, Fred Goertz, Helen Siders, John Neemidge, Jon Kurylowicz, and Rose Berkowitz.** Referenced written reports and ASIEs are available on the LSM Website. Paper copies are available on request. The board adopted without debate the agenda and the March minutes in the April 2011 Armadillo Literary Gazette (ALG), print edition, page 2

The board received the following officer reports:

- LocSec: written Member Concerns Action Plans Status Report, ASIE 2011-7 (Don)
- Treasurer: the board deferred to email and the May meeting consideration of the 2010-2011 annual financial report and the 2011-2012 budget.
- Senior Officer: verbal report that the recent AMC Minimum Standard Bylaw changes will not require an amendment of our local bylaws (Helen).
- Membership Committee: verbal report that seven people were tested April 2 (Fred); verbal report that there were 20 attendees at the New Mensa

Members Party, Saturday, March 12 (Patty).

- Symposium Committee: verbal report that we had good weather and 16 attendees at the April 2 picnic (Helen).
- Website Working Group: verbal report that Rose and Patsy have been gathering requirements for the Website and planning their approach. They expect to provide details at the May meeting (Rose).

Don led us through the bylaws actions that each new board must take at the beginning of its term. The board passed the following motions without debate, to:

- Commend outgoing 2010-2011 officers.
- Establish the four standing committees for 2011-2012, ASIE 2011-8
- Confirm the LocSec's appointment of Fred Goertz as the Membership Committee chairman. Fred announced his appointment of Helen Siders as New Member Coordinator, Don Drumtra as Officer Coordinator, and John Pfeiffer as interim Testing Coordinator. Don announced the names of continuing officers, officer appointments, and interim officer appointments listed on the 2011-2012 officers list on the Board Web page, ASIE 2011-8.
- Defer consideration to email and the May meeting of a motion to establish goals for 2011-2012 term

in line with National Mensa's goals plus a goal of completing LSM Member Concerns Action Plans.

- Adopt the Calendar of Regular Monthly Meetings and Events, as amended, to change board meetings to the first Wednesday of each month, ASIE 2001-9.

The board adopted motions with debate to:

- Set a standard price of \$10 for locally managed the newsletter subscriptions with a distribution option of snail mail, email, or both, ASIE 2011-10
- Amend Volunteer Name Tag rules to specify budgeting and administration details, ASIE 2011-11.
- Defer consideration to email and the May meeting of a motion to establish a Volunteer Service Name Tag Award.

The next monthly board meeting is scheduled for 6-7 PM, Wednesday May 4 at Ron and Linda Edelstein's home (Patty).

Other announcements on the following topics appear in elsewhere in the newsletter.

- AMC changes to newsletter distribution (Don).
- Future Monthly Meetings (Don)

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.



DON'S DIALECTICS

By Don Drumtra, LocSec

Complexity Redux

Should we be rejecting complex solutions to life's problems and looking for simpler ones? Last May I wrote about our tendency to seek the simple life, simple ways of doing things, and in some cases, use the phrase "it's too complex" to absolve ourselves of the responsibility to understand how the processes and frameworks that affect our lives really work (page 3, ALG, May 2010). Some folks seem to want to return to the simple life and still have the conveniences of modern life that are almost always complex. Take the example of getting from one place to another. The simplest way would be to walk. Walking seems simple, but those of us who have had the pleasure of helping our children learn to walk know that the process is much

more complex than we remember from our childhood. We learn not only to ride bicycles, but to maintain or otherwise care for them. Then we learn to drive and care for our cars—very complex processes. These complex processes all seem simple to us once we have learned them.

Is this aversion to complexity the result of our getting older and wiser over the years? Do we more readily accept that simpler approaches are better because we have more experience in life? It seems to me that our ability to accept complexity does decline over the years. Even though children seem to have a natural curiosity about things and do not seem to be intimidated by complexity, many adults seem to be reluctant to learn about or even accept new complex processes. As I suggested in my previous article, some would reject the health care bill because it is too complex, rather than taking the time to read and understand it. But I suspect that avoiding complexity is not a function of ageing at all. Why? Because many senior folks I have known deal well with complexity. For example, most college professors I have known are perfectly willing to grab and read a 400-page book to learn more about a complex subject or to understand the latest

research protocols that support an opinion. I think rather, our reduced ability to process complexity is the result of our constant conditioning by members of our society who have become lazy and who have lost their childhood eagerness to learn, who then convince us that simple is good and complexity is bad. Our perception of simplicity seems to be the result of learning and understanding, rather than something inherent in processes we encounter.

We are Mensans. We are part of the top two percent in intellectual ability in our society. Shouldn't we be able to reject the notion that complexity is automatically bad and simplicity is automatically good? Shouldn't we be fighting to maintain our childhood fearlessness, to explore complex things and learn about them? Shouldn't we embrace complexity as a fact of life, and strive to understand complex systems rather than rejecting them? Shouldn't we be using our intelligence to help other members of our society reduce their fear and increase their understanding of complex processes so that they can make rational choices, rather than watching them make poor choices based on well-meaning (or purposely misleading) simplifications?

STATUS REPORT

Member Concerns/Action Plans

Submitted by Don Drumtra, LocSec

I am pleased to report that, as of April 19, volunteers have begun work on 37 percent of our action plans, and four of those will be reviewed by the board for resolution. The most important progress made was the updating of our current website. The interim Webmaster will be keeping this information current until the Website committee completes its work and content providers and Web technical volunteers have been appointed. Important progress was also made in changing our in approach to our monthly meetings to provide more variety of topics and presentation formats. (See the Future Monthly Membership Meetings article, page 5.) Finally, we reinstated our new member parties to welcome our new members, with 20 attendees last month, and we implemented more informal procedures and minutes for our board meetings in the hope that the actions taken will be more understandable.

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

The AMC Votes to Change the Default Method for Newsletter Distribution

Submitted by Don Drumtra, Interim Circulation Coordinator

At its last meeting, the American Mensa Committee changed the default mailing process for local newsletters from paper to electronic. The National Office will implement the change on September 1. After that date members will receive their Armadillo Literary Gazette via email unless they specify on a new online form that they want paper

A notification message with the details will be sent out by email, posted on the website, and included in the newsletter. If you want to get ahead of the crowd, go to <http://www.us.mensa.org/MyNewsletterDelivery>, select whether you want to receive your newsletter by regular mail or email, and save the form. You may also send an email to membership@americanmensa.org with your preference, or phone the National Office at 888-294-0835 extension 199. Your selection will not change your actual profile settings until the September 1 implementation date.



At the recent meeting of the American Mensa Committee, the AMC decided to make a change in the way Local Groups can send out their newsletters. Up to now, every LG was required to mail a paper newsletter to every member except those who had previously requested electronic distribution. The justification for this was that American Mensa paid each LG a per-member amount each month to cover the cost of publication. Over time, however, many groups found that the amount they received from the national organization no longer covered the cost of printing and mailing a newsletter to every member. The first change in this system was made several years ago, when the per-member amount paid to each LG was both increased and decoupled from newsletter mailing, so LGs could e-mail their newsletters (to those members who would accept electronic distribution) without decreasing their

monthly income. That helped for a while, but last year the Post Office announced a plan to change the bar-coding format for mailers using periodical mailing rates (nearly all of our larger groups) in a way that would make it impossible for our National Office to generate mailing labels that would comply with the new requirements.

After considerable consultation with local editors and circulation managers around the country, it was proposed that the rules for newsletter mailing be reversed: LGs would be required to e-mail their newsletters to everyone except those who requested a paper newsletter. This proposal was quite popular with many groups who saw a chance to save quite a bit of money on newsletter distribution, but was bitterly opposed by others for a variety of reasons. At the Atlanta meeting, therefore, the AMC decided to approve the proposal, effective September 1 of this year, but with a major change: the new process is optional, rather than mandatory. For the next several months, all members will be given the opportunity to request either electronic or print versions of their local newsletter. After that, those members who have expressed a preference will

receive whichever kind of newsletter they requested, but the officers of each LG can decide for themselves what kind of newsletter to send to those members who have not made a choice. No matter which way each group decides, their funding will not be affected. Your group will still receive the same per-member amount each month.

You and your local officers will be receiving more information about the new policy in the near future, but in the meantime I want to assure you that, contrary to some of the rumors that have been circulating, this is simply a way to allow your group to save money on newsletter publication, not an underhanded plot to cut local funding.

Don't forget our upcoming Gatherings: the Houston RG over Memorial Day weekend, the AG in Portland, OR from June 30th through July 4th, the Austin RG over Labor Day weekend, and the Dallas RG over Thanksgiving weekend. I hope to see you there! Also, if you haven't voted yet in the national Mensa election, you have until the end of May to get your ballot in. I'd appreciate your support.

MONTHLY MEETING NOTICE

Submitted By Don Drumtra, Interim Program Coordinator

May Monthly Membership Meeting

What?	Columbia: Shadow of Challenger (space shuttle accidents)
Who?	Crockett Grabbe, Ph.D. , Applied Physicist, Sea Lane Research and Consulting
When?	May 11, 7-8:30 PM
Where?	Northwest Village Branch Library (See calendar for details.)

You may have read Crockett Grabbe's articles in the previous two newsletters (March, p. 4 and April, p. 6, about the Columbia accident and how it should have been informed by the Challenger accident). Crockett has offered to present his study to LSM members and to lead the membership in a discussion about his study of the relationship between the two accidents.

Future Monthly Membership Meetings

Those of you have attended our monthly meeting over the past year have experienced presentations on electric cars, solar and wind power generation, water treatment, special education, area transportation, and other interesting programs. However, turnout has been small--at times only five people. Some of the concerns and suggestions in the Member Concerns Report indicate

that there is too much formality in our meetings, not enough variety, not enough fun, and that members are reluctant to offer topics or presentations for fear of failure or because they are too busy. Ideas for providing more variety included allowing members to talk about things they are interested in, encouraging them to sponsor speakers of their own choice, and varying meeting formats; for example, an open discussion on selected topics one meeting and a presentation at the next.

Regrettably, the scheduled speaker did not show up at the April meeting for his presentation on community support of bicycles. So we rearranged the chairs into a circle and the eight of us discussed the projects we knew about. The discussion branched out into our experiences in bicycling in other parts of the country and in other countries. It turned out that we collectively knew a lot about bicycling and what was happening in our area. We reluctantly had to end the discussion and clean up the room before the library closed. After the meeting we briefly discussed what might be a good approach for future monthly meetings.

Based on the Member Concerns Report, board Action Plans, informal discussions and our experience at the April meeting, here is what we plan to do:

- Monthly Meetings will continue to be scheduled at 7-8:30 PM at the Library.

- LSM members may pick topics for the meetings, lead the discussions, sponsor presenters or present themselves. You should send your topic, presenter, etc. information by email and any questions to the program coordinator, drumtra@aol.com, or call, 512-291-0315.
- The program coordinator will make sure notices of the meeting topics and presenters appear in the newsletter and on the website. The media coordinator will announce our meetings as usual in local media outlets so others interested folks may participate.
- If topics or presenters have not been identified by the time of the meeting, participants may introduce their own topics for discussion.
- At the end of each meeting the program coordinator will ask the participants for discussion topics and ideas for presenters.

Let's see if this works as well as it did at the April meeting; we can always improve the process as we proceed.

A smile is a facelift that's in everyone's price range!

Tom Wilson [Thomas Frances Wilson Jr.]
Born: April 15, 1959

YOUR SUDOKU PUZZLE

Weekly Extremes, sudoku.org.uk

Submitted by Douglas Yee

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.

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

I think part of a best friend's job should be to immediately clear your computer history when you die.

GOTHIC SPLENDO(U)R DOWN UNDER!

By Aaron J. Rabushka,
arabushka@austin.rr.com

I first heard of Havergal Brian on the radio program BBC Music Showcase, where Antony Hopkins presented Brian's twelfth symphony with del Mar conducting. In this presentation I discovered some vibrant and

audacious music with punch and individuality that made me want to hear more of this composer's work. In his introduction Hopkins also mentioned Brian's "Gothic Symphony, which is conceived on a larger scale than Mahler's Symphony of a Thousand."

I finally came in contact with the Gothic itself through the Aries LP release of the Boulton performance, and now stand proudly as a benefactor of its issue on Testament CD. After listening a few times I discovered a work that was undeniably attractive and imposing, though more than a bit puzzling, often begging the question "what is all this music doing in one place?" Perhaps the most befuddling of all was the "la-la-la" march in the second half, which seemed as out of place in the Gothic as did the hurdy-gurdy tunes in Beethoven's late quartets the first times I heard them; but which, on repeated hearings, all revealed themselves as the only correct music to stand in their places in works that cogently employ astonishing arrays of musical styles and techniques. I have often thought that if I were an English composer and could only hear my orchestra piece once, that I would've wanted Sir Adrian to conduct, and his performance of the Brian Gothic lives up to that thought, as everyone involved delivers convincing and inspiring performances. Unlike the music of Mahler, which luxuriates in spaciouly expansive transitions and re-transitions, the first half of the Gothic emerged with a brick-wall solidity that cast the terseness of Anton Webern on the scale of Anton Bruckner. The more expansive second half allows for some relaxation and roominess vis-à-vis the first half's punchiness --the 6th movement's tenor aria and "la-la" march each has an introduction and a coda! Eventually I came to recognize the Gothic as a powerful piece of music that projected a dramatic arc through an astonishing array of musical content and techniques--a work whose impressive grandeur fully demanded and rewarded the expansive forces and expert musicianship, for which it calls, and whose punch and substance were as impressive as

the hype surrounding it was vacuous.



On Dec. 22, 2010, I found myself in Brisbane, sitting in the Queensland Performing Arts

Center (QPAC) auditorium anticipating listening to the only piece of music for which I would cross the ocean that I hadn't written myself. From my seat in the first row of the audience I could see the conductor, and also the violins, violas, cellos, and organ. I could not see any of the woodwinds, brass, or percussion except for the side-stage bands that appeared in the second half, and the cymbals when their players clashed them in the air.

The scale on which Brian works here, larger than any of his other symphonies, places no small challenge on its performers. Under conductor John Curro, the music always moved forward dashing and vigorously, never dragging or dawdling. The musicians always phrased it coherently and convincingly (particularly striking since the Gothic's rhythms often flow unpredictably across the bar lines, which are often mere and somewhat curious formalities), and always made it speak eloquently, energetically, and, when necessary, with due stentorian force. Some sections of the Gothic run the danger of bogging down, and Brian's trademark alternations of totally different and ostensibly unrelated musical statements run the risk of sounding like non-sequiturs. Under Curro's hearty direction neither of these happened. In fact, a few well-placed ritenuti would have

been welcome. Don Dougherty, a veteran audience member of the Boulton Gothic in 1966, with whom I spoke between the rehearsal and performance praised Curro's vigor and enthusiasm, and commented that his approach was less measured than Boulton's.

Although officially a pickup ensemble, the orchestra in no way sounded like one. Most of its players were former members of the Queensland Youth Orchestra, and had played for Curro in that group. Their ensemble playing was outstanding, projecting the intensely polyphonic material of the Gothic with (to crib one of Mahler's tempo markings) vigor and decisiveness.

Brian's choral lines often seem to surprise themselves, as well as their singers and audiences, with the directions that they take. Whether they expressed triumph, terror, doubt, confidence, or any other mood, the chorus, both grown-ups and children, was never less than convincing in dispatching them with assurance and authority. Their tone was always solid and grounded, and became demonstrably incandescent in several sections where the organ alone accompanied them. A curious choice involved having the singers and extra instrumentalists not needed in the first half walk onstage after the 3rd movement, thus necessitating a pause and re-start that did not serve the music particularly well.

The auditorium at QPAC handled this demanding music very well, without any muddling or jumbling. For all of its acoustical excellence, however, the hall simply could not accommodate Brian's official floor plan. The choruses were placed in a single block (with the children flanking the grown-ups on either side), all of the timpani were placed in the orchestra, and there

were two brass bands (on balconies to the right and left of the orchestra) instead of the prescribed four. Stunning as their contribution was, the brass bands came off sounding like part of the main orchestra rather than something separate. It was the trumpeters in the orchestra itself that played the first entrance written for the off-stage brass, the calls that answer the solo soprano's vocalese (p. 153 of the United Music Publisher's score).

There were a few obvious balance problems in the second half--the tenor soloist was virtually inaudible in his 6th-movement aria, and there were several spots where the orchestra overpowered the chorus (although I couldn't really tell how much of this was due to Brian's writing, how much to the performers, and how much to the acoustics of the auditorium).

My experience with some other halls makes me wonder if the balance and blend would've sounded different in the seats further back. For all of my acquaintance with the Boult recording and the printed score of the Gothic, I cannot claim to know if every element of it was projected in proper balance. What I could tell was that, for most of the performance, the musicians and the hall served Brian's vigorously polyphonic texture (where moving elements can show up anywhere and often unpredictably in the ensemble at any time) very well. They projected the Gothic as the work of overwhelming dramatic impact and monumental craftsmanship that it is.

At the risk of repeating what many already know, there is a lot of grandiose hype, both adulatory and fearful, surrounding the

Gothic. Many people hear Brian's name and the first thing they think is "Oh no, the Gothic," as if its size were indicative of everything he ever did, as well as a mask for empty bombast and a composition that is ultimately worthless. Only performance can cut through the hype to project the work's grandeur to the audiences that desire to hear it, and in the performance in Brisbane the Gothic did indeed step forward imposingly and convincingly in its full grandeur, revealing a work altogether worthy of further public attention from musicians and audiences alike.

About the author: Aaron Rabushka is a composer based in Austin, Texas, USA. His work is featured on seven compact discs from Vienna Modern Masters. In a further and roundabout connection to the Gothic, he is the subject of several essays in the book Cathy Berberian and Music's Muses, written by Jennifer Paull, who played the oboe d'amore in the Boult Gothic in 1966.



Austin Memory: Sixth and Brazos Bus Stop

By Lynn Herrick

*filigree
pedigree
history
the Driskill*

*clap
clap
clap
c-clap
dapple-gray clap-horse
black and white harness
black and white carriage
buggy-ride carriage
for white clothes
white hair
elder white couple
couple
couple
c-lop
clap*

*filigree
pedigree
history
balcony*

*I was up there once
looking down at the sound-
stage
South by Southwest
Looks like magic-land from
down here
when you get up there it's
dirty carpet
just goes to show
how do they make the grass
turn greener on the side
where you're not?*

*oh the bus 20
flap flap feet run get on
bye Driskill*

[Bus traffic on Brazos is currently temporarily detoured for construction-- Ed.]



MAY
MEMBER NEWS
(as of 03/31/11)

Happy Birthday**

- 1 Allen Eugene Denton III
- 2 Jane K Thompson
- 4 Gordon R Jones
- 5 Brian Paul Baresch
- 5 Kimberly A Mills
- 5 Jerome Morris
- 6 Todd Stahlnecker
- 7 Samuel Blasco
- 8 Oliver A Bainbridge
- 8 Brandon Henderson
- 8 David H Messer
- 8 Kyle J Robarge
- 9 Peggy Bills
- 12 Scott Nicholson Kurland
- 14 Cynthia Bourland
- 14 Phil J McAtee
- 14 Timothy S Park
- 15 Leslie A Hibbard
- 15 Mukund Srinivasan
- 15 Dr Leon Morris Waynberg
- 16 William Eric Hungate
- 18 Lori L Barr MD
- 18 Jose H Zambrano
- 19 David Wayne Madden
- 21 Scott Danniell Burgess
- 21 Ryan Rozich
- 22 Russell Eugene Nelson
- Josephine West
- 23 McNamee
- 23 Rembrandt W Murphy
- 24 Kevin Michael Smith

- 25 Stephen Ladd
- 27 Andrew S Campbell
- 28 Claudia Ellis Harbert
- 29 Cathryn Leigh Cox
- 29 Lesley Carol Morehead
- 29 Christopher T Vedner

New Members

- Richard G Apel
- Sam Gribble
- Dia Jain
- Walter V Lacy III
- Nicholas K Seger
- Tyler Vassar
- Jose H Zambrano

Just Moved In

- Michelle Chlada
- Scott Milo
- Michael Tonsing

Welcome Back

- Raymond C Feeley
- Brandon Henderson
- David M Maness
- Jerome Morris
- Allen Pooley
- Khurram Qureshi
- Patrick Stallings
- Steven Vaughan
- Dale D Webster

We'll Miss You

- Doug Jolliff
- Omar Richardson-Sut
- Ross H Toungate

Member for 30 Years

Joseph J DeBell

Member for 25 years

Susan Marie Shaffer RN

Member for 5 Years

- Erik C Bentz
- Justin Blount
- Erin Fonte
- Rick Fonte
- Gary Skiba

Future Mensan

Jon Kurlyowicz's granddaughter
Samantha, 1-1/2



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

UPCOMING IN JUNE

- June 1st, Board Meeting
- June 4th, Mensa Admissions Test
- June 8th, Member Meeting
- June 9th, Chess Night, ALG Deadline
- June 9th, 16th, and 23rd, TGIT
- June 11th, RG Committee Meeting
(time and location TBD)
- June 23rd, Seal & Label

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

This month we're featuring the **Program Coordinator** position. Duties include overseeing all the activities necessary to find the speakers and make the arrangements for the Monthly Membership meetings. Frankly, we could use some fresh thinking here.

Our web site has the full list of vacant positions. If any of them interest you, contact me or any officer/board member, and we'll be glad to tell you more.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MAY?

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Board Meeting	5	6	7 Mensa Admissions Testing
8	9	10	11 Membership Meeting	12 TGIT-N Chess Night ALG Deadline	13	14
15	16	17 Eclectic Eats	18	19 TGIT-S	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 TGIT-N Seal & Label	27 SynRG 2011	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 Wednesday (except July)

May 4, 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.

Mensa Admissions Testing

May 7, 9:00 AM

West Lake Hills Library
1309 Westbank Drive, Austin, TX,
512.327.3045

Contact johnrpfeiffer@hotmail.com

Monthly Membership Meeting

2nd Wednesday

May 11, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

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

ALG Submissions Deadline

2nd Thursday

May 12, Midnight

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

Chess Night (with the TGIT group)

2nd Thursday (canceled or moved on holidays)

May 12, 6-8 PM

Central Market Café North
Have a go at beating the previous winner, or just watch and learn.
Hosted by Douglas Yee. See the TGIT entry for directions.

Thank Goodness it's Thursday (TGIT)

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

May 12 (North Lamar)

May 19 (South Lamar)

May 26 (North Lamar)

6:00-8:00pm

Central Market Café North at Central Park:

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

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

Central Market Café South at Westgate:

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

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

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

Tuesday, May 17, 7:00 p.m.

Westlake's Lotus Hunan
(www.lotushunan.com)

3201 Bee Caves Road, Austin, TX
Come join your fellow Mensans for some great Chinese food and conversation. RSVP to Aaron Rabushka at 512/280-2807 or arabushka@austin.rr.com by Sunday, May 15. Coming up in June: Aster's Ethiopian.

Seal & Label

4th Thursday (moved on holidays)

May 26, 6:00-8:00pm

Central Market Café North
4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX, 512-206-1020

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

SynRG 2011: Connections

May 27-30

Gulf Coast Mensa's RG, Houston, TX.

For more information, email registrar@gcmensa.org or go to <http://gcmensa.org/component/content/article/252-synrg-2011.html>

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

LONE STAR MENSA DIRECTORY

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Past LocSec, Arbiter, Ombudsman	Ron Edelstein*	512-491-9881	aduaana@mindspring.com
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* Experienced members who have worked with the National Office (NO) and the American Mensa Committee (AMC), and can help members navigate both.

¹ **Proofreaders:** Don Drumtra, Ron Edelstein, Geri Neemidge

² **Testing Proctors:** Mike Tolbert, Charles Wilson, Mike McCormick

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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 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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