

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of *Lone Star Mensa*
Volume XXXIX
Number 12, December 2012



Editor: *Rose M. Berkowitz*
Managing Editor: *Don Drumtra*
Publisher: *Board of Officers*

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Submitted By Rose Berkowitz



Ring out the old! Ring in the new! Another year is almost gone. Where did it go? Wherever it's gone, I hope you made the most of it.

Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something and that this thing must be attained. - Madame Marie Curie

Here's a suggestion to our Board for getting more publicity for our events:

KUT has public service announcements (PSAs), which are free, brief announcements read over the air throughout the day. PSAs often include a listing on our community calendar on KUT.org. If you're interested in submitting a PSA, you may do so at psa@kut.org.

Also, KUT's Community Calendar is filled with events submitted by community members. Please know that although many event PSAs have a calendar entry, many of our calendar entries do not have PSAs, as these are two different processes. To submit an event to our community calendar, please go to kut.org/user-submitted-event/.

I'm always glad to hear from you. So please send in your comments, ideas, essays, or whatever else you'd like to contribute. No particular word limit, but emailed submissions are appreciated.

MEMBER MEETINGS

Submitted by Rose M. Berkowitz, Editor

December Meeting

This will be our Holiday Prty. See page 2 for details.

November Meeting

The meeting was rescheduled to Nov. 19, 6:45-8:15 pm, at the Carver Library, since the library was closed on Nov. 12 in celebration of Veteran's Day. The discussion topic was the participant's choice.

A WORD TO THE WISE

Submitted by John Neemidge, LocSec

Happy Holidays to all of my friends in Lone Star Mensa. I wish you all the best of the season! As we wrap up 2012 and head into the New Year, I wanted to look forward and let you know about things coming up for Lone Star Mensa, and Mensa and general, in December and into 2013.

First up in December is our Holiday Party. It's on Saturday, December 15 from 7 to 10pm in Howson Hall at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin. We hope you'll join us for a fun and festive evening! Please see the article elsewhere in this issue for all the details.

Coming up soon after will be Lone Star Mensa Board elections. Serving on the Board commits you to a meeting once a month; beyond that, there are many ways to contribute a little or a lot. If you're interested in learning more about Board positions, contact me, or you can contact Patsy Graham, who's heading up our Nominating and Elections Committees. We'd like to see some fresh faces on the Board, and we welcome your help in making Lone Star Mensa even better. Besides the Board, we encourage members to get involved in other ways: volunteering for open positions, putting an event on the calendar, or just coming out to our

events. And I know Ron and Linda Edelstein, co-chairs of next year's LonestarRG, would welcome volunteers to help out with the RG, whether just a little or a lot.



Before our own RG, coming up in 2013 will be Houston's Regional Gathering, SynRG 2013: A Novel RG, and American Mensa's Annual Gathering 2013: Culture in Cowtown. Both SynRG and the Annual Gathering change registration rates on January 1, 2013, so get

your registrations in by the end of the year and save! It's been over 10 years since we had an Annual Gathering in Texas, so this is your chance to see what AGs are about without traveling cross-country.

Both gatherings should be lots of fun and we hope to see many Lone Star Mensans at both.

Happy Holidays to everyone!

LSM HOLIDAY PARTY!

Submitted by John Neemidge



First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin
Howson Hall, 4700 Grover Ave., Austin, TX
Saturday, Dec 15, 7-10 pm

Come join us for Lone Star Mensa's annual Holiday Party. We'll have more space this year, to encourage people to mix and mingle. We'll be serving beverages, hors d'oeuvres, and desserts; it should be enough food for a meal, but served as finger food, again to encourage mixing rather than sitting eating a meal.

We'll be having a white elephant gift exchange. Gifts for the gift exchange should be a gently used/re-gifted/unusual item, wrapped, and something that you'd reasonably guess at least a few Mensans would enjoy or be amused by. If you're buying something, we suggest no more than perhaps \$10.

Everyone participating will draw numbers. Each person may either pick a wrapped gift or steal a gift from someone else; gifts can only be stolen 3 times. If your gift is stolen, you may steal a different gift, or open another wrapped gift. It's lots of fun and we encourage everyone to participate.

Tickets to the Holiday Party are \$5; kids 9-17 are \$2.50 and under 9 are free. Please RSVP to me, so that we can keep count of how many people will be attending. (RSVPs are NOT required, but are strongly encouraged; they really do help us with planning). We encourage everyone to break out their holiday finery and come join us for an evening of Mensa company and merriment!

NOVEMBER BOARD MINUTES

Submitted by Brian Bloch, Vice-President/Secretary

The November regular meeting of the Lone Star Mensa board of officers convened at 7:54 PM, Thursday, November 1, 2012 at Carver Public Library, Rooms 2-3, 1161 Angelina, Austin, TX. Attending were Brian Bloch, Don Drumtra, Douglas Yee and Crockett Grabbe (by telephone).

The board adopted the agenda and the minutes of the October regular board meeting as printed on page 3 of the November Armadillo Literary Gazette. The minutes, agenda, referenced written reports, and other documents related to the meeting are available on the LSM Website. Paper copies are available on request.

Reports:

- LocSec No report.
- Treasurer: The board adopted the Treasurer's Reports for the end of September as posted on the Website.
- ComComm: No report.
- LonestarRG 2012 Committee: No report
- Website Working Group: No report
- Mind Games Committee. No report
- Action Plan Status: No new action has been reported. The latest report is posted on the Website.
- John Neemidge has received no volunteers thus far for the Nominating and Elections committees.

Actions:

- Approved reimbursement expense of \$140.24 to Patsy Graham re New Members' Reception
- Approved a motion to change the title of LSM's "Local Group Gifted Children Coordinator" to "Gifted Youth Coordinator."
- Confirmed the definition of the Gifted Youth Coordinator's duties to read "The Youth Coordinator shall be responsible for LSM youth activities as described in the AML handbooks dealing with the AML Gifted Children and Gifted Youth programs." Reason for changes: The AMC plans to change the title of each "Local Group Gifted Children Coordinator" to "Gifted Youth Coordinator."
- Approved a motion to add a position on the Education Committee with the title "Gifted Youth Coordinator" as a special officer.
- Approved a motion to add the Ombudsman to the ALG proofreaders' list without becoming an ex-officio officer of ComComm.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Announcements:

- The next regular monthly Board meetings are scheduled for 7:30-8:30 PM Thursday, December 1, 2012 and January 3, 2013 at the Carver Branch Library.
- The 2013 board meetings will take place on the first Thursday of each month, except for the July meeting which will not be held as the date conflicts with the Mensa Annual Gathering.
- The next test session is scheduled at _____ on _____ at _____
- The next RG Committee meeting is scheduled at _____ on _____ at _____

FROM THE RVC

Submitted by Roger Durham, Region 6 RVC

On October 30th, the American Mensa Committee, your national Board of Directors, met via teleconference to make the difficult decision to raise dues for 2013. It was a long and spirited meeting, but in the end the decision was made to increase Mensa dues to \$70 per year. I

was not in favor of such a large increase, but when it became clear that a smaller amount could not get a majority, I finally voted for the \$70 motion to forestall those who wanted to raise the dues even higher.

This dues increase had been on the AMC's agenda since last spring, but the exact amount of the change was not decided until the last minute. There were several factors driving this decision, one of them being simple inflation, but the largest and most urgent was the decision of Mensa International to increase by 50% the amount American Mensa Ltd. must contribute every year to be a part of the world-wide organization. That decision, made in October, virtually guaranteed a substantial dues increase for every national Mensa body, including AML. Without that, a much smaller increase would have been feasible. Actually, the



numbers seemed to indicate that the exact amount of increase required would have brought the annual dues to \$69, but for fairly obvious reasons we felt that such a number would have instigated too much sophomoric humor,

and \$68, while probably adequate for 2013, just wouldn't provide sufficient revenue in subsequent years. By going to \$70 now, it is my hope that we will be able to avoid another increase for 2015. In addition, the preliminary figures provided by the national staff

indicate that with the additional revenue provided by this dues increase, we should be able to increase funding for local groups next year, although that cannot be determined until the budget meeting in February or March. In the meantime, however, the AMC will meet again in conjunction with the New Orleans Regional Gathering the first weekend in December, and you may rest assured that I will be pressing for a commitment to include a local group funding increase in the budget for the upcoming year.

Speaking of the New Orleans RG, I hope that a goodly number of you have made plans to attend. This is the first Gathering of any kind held by New Orleans Mensa since 2005, and they are really anxious to show off their unique brand of hospitality. I have been accused of spending too much time pushing Gatherings, but there are several thousand of you out there who have never been to one, and I truly believe they are what Mensa does best. You're short-changing yourself if you don't try one. Even if you can't make it to New Orleans, I hope you won't pass up the chance to attend the Annual Gathering in Fort Worth next summer. That's the last time the AG will be in our Region for the rest of this decade, so make your reservation now!

Whatever you decide, please accept my best wishes for a joyful holiday season and a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

MEMBER CHALLENGE—PARANORMAL EXPERIENCE?

By JimAnn Oliver, Life Member

One night in 1973 I was awakened by the phone about 1:00 a.m. My daughter, who was away at college, said, "Mother, I can't sleep. I feel disturbed and I keep thinking something bad has happened to Kelton (her teen-aged brother). Tell me he is there in bed." Unfortunately, I could not tell her that; he was working at another ranch on a night hay crew. My husband was alarmed enough to get out of bed quickly and drive the several miles to that ranch. Sure enough, about midnight Kelton had fallen off the hay trailer when the tractor gave a jerk, landing in front of the wheel. The tractor was moving on. Just at the instant the wheel would have crushed him, another worker saw the situation and yelled, "STOP! STOP!" at the driver. Kelton was helped up, shaken but unharmed.

I called my daughter back to let her know she could go to sleep now; all was well.

[If you have a story about a paranormal experience you've had that you'd like to share with your fellow Mensans, please send it in and I'll be happy to print it in our next issue—Editor]



YOUR SUDOKU PUZZLE

Weekly Extremes, sudoku.org.uk

By Douglas Yee



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

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.

ANNOUNCING THE 2012 PRP WINNERS

Reprinted from AML Today, 11/08/12

Give thanks this month for the editors and webmasters and all they do for Mensa! We'd like to congratulate the following groups and individuals who were recognized for their work in the 2012 Publications Recognition Program. And thanks to all of the judges as well as PRP Chair Thomas G. Thomas for diligence in ensuring the success of the program.

Print

The Owl Award – Neva-Mind, Northern Nevada Mensa; Anna Wright, Editor
 Outstanding Newsletter (Large Group) – OMEN, Oregon Mensa; Sandra Wood, Editor
 Outstanding Newsletter (Medium Group) – MPULSE, Dayton Area Mensa; Pat Reising, Editor
 Outstanding Newsletter (Small Group) – Neva-Mind, Northern Nevada Mensa; Anna Wright, Editor
 Mensa Awareness – VERisM, Vermont Mensa; Claire Natola, Editor
 Local Reporting – Mensagenda, Minnesota Mensa; Linda Seebach, Editor
 Overall Entertainment – Neva-Mind, Northern Nevada Mensa; Anna Wright, Editor

Overall Presentation – Neva-Mind, Northern Nevada Mensa; Anna Wright, Editor
 Member Recognition – OMEN, Oregon Mensa; Sandra Wood, Editor
 Calendar – OMEN, Oregon Mensa; Sandra Wood, Editor

Web

The Owl Award – Dayton Area Mensa
 (www.dayton.us.mensa.org); Lawrence "Lonny" Burger, Webmaster
 Outstanding Web Site (Large Group) – Mensa of Western Washington (www.mensaww.org); Jeannie Boag, Webmaster
 Outstanding Web Site (Medium Group) – Dayton Area Mensa (www.dayton.us.mensa.org); Lawrence "Lonny" Burger, Webmaster
 Outstanding Web Site (Small Group) – Northern Nevada Mensa (www.northernnevada.us.mensa.org); Mindy Hsu, Webmaster
 "Members Only" Section – Dayton Area Mensa (www.dayton.us.mensa.org); Lawrence "Lonny" Burger, Webmaster
 Member Recruitment – San Diego Mensa (www.sandiegomensa.org); LaRae Bakerink, Webmaster

Overall Entertainment – Minnesota Mensa (www.mnmensa.org); Karen Kuntz, Webmaster
 Overall Presentation – Mensa of Western Washington (www.mensaww.org); Jeannie Boag, Webmaster
 Calendar – Tampa Bay Mensa (www.tampa.us.mensa.org); Ronan Heffernan, Webmaster

Contribution Finalists

Poetry – Martha Sheldon, New Orleans Mensa; "Thoughts After Reading Marco Polo," La Plume de NOM, September 2011
 Fiction – Michael Stephanic, Central Oklahoma Mensa; "Beyond the Flats," Mensokie, December 2011
 Fiction honorable mention – Warren Walker, Mid-America Mensa; "Arachne's Prey," Mension, November 2011
 Humor – Al Bell, San Diego Mensa; "Saltiest Sailor," San Diego Mensa, December 2011
 Non-fiction (Mensa-related) – Marcie Everhart, Central Oklahoma Mensa; "Flipping Through the Pages of Yesteryear," Mensokie, January 2012
 Non-fiction (essay) – Ken Wright, Northern Nevada Mensa; "I'm Not

Throwing Them Away.” Neva-Mind, September 2011
Puzzles and games – Jim Szirony, Cleveland Area Mensa; “Bake Sale Baffler,” Graffiti, March 2012
Artwork – Walt Bodley, Redwood Empire Mensa; “Photos of Yellowstone,” Redwood Empire News, May 2011

Continuing item (tie) – Bart Geraci, New Orleans Mensa; “Brainfork,” La Plume de NOM, May, August and November 2011
Continuing item (tie) – Cheryl Laurent, Minnesota Mensa; “Laurent’s Circus,” Mensagenda, June and December 2011 and February 2012

[Lone Star Mensa congratulates all the winners, and urges our members to check out these publications, which are available on the American Mensa web site. Due to time constraints, LSM did not participate in the PRP judging process, and was therefore not eligible for an award.—Editor]

CONGRATULATIONS!

MEMBER ESSAY ON THE RECENT ELECTION

By Victor A. Albanese, conchovic@gmail.com

It’s a strange thing about living to a so-called advanced age: it gives one a unique perspective on just how much things have changed from the “old days.” And nothing highlights those changes more than the recently concluded presidential election. Times have changed; the national culture has changed; the tipping point has been passed. It’s not about a turning of the tide because that implies a cycle of turn and re-turn. On the slippery slope there is no re-turn -- there is only down.

The citizens have collectively rejected the concept of a rich old white man (ROWM) as a leader; instead the citizens have opted for a young black rock star (YBRS). The ROWM is associated with horses, bayonets, and buggy whips, but the YBRS is a socialist whose objective is to appease the peasants with bread and circuses -- all of which, of course, are or will be under the control of himself and his cohorts.

Alas, the 1950s are gone forever. The liberals and the peasants have figured out how to beat the system. No doubt you remember the adage about democracies having a 200-year life span because the citizens figure out how to vote the national treasury for their own benefit. That process is underway, and the recent election confirmed it.

On election night, the new Senator-elect from Massachusetts gleefully spouted off how they were now

going to work to “level the playing field” for middle class America. A very noble-sounding thought, indeed! But, I ponder why no one can understand that what she was really talking about is Communism or its less active partner, Socialism. 'From each according to his means, to each according to his needs' is the epitome of leveling the playing field.

The GOP is dead! The Neo-GOP will rise from the ashes and will be populated by politicians whose craving for election will drive them to begin a segue to liberal socialism. They will soon be engaged in a delicate dance which will contain an ever-enlarging portion of bread and circuses. Politicians may be jerks, but they aren’t stupid. They will adjust their principles to conform with the new culture. It will be the only way they can continue to be players in the game that enriches them.

In time to come, we will see geometrically increasing inflation. This is the only effective way to minimize the national debt and have money to dispense to favored programs and persons, while simultaneously stealing the value of savings accounts, checking accounts, bonds, fixed pensions, and any other fixed-dollar assets.

The Golden Goose is dying. Perhaps Atlas will shrug after all.

You can say you read it here first.

[Of course, this is the opinion of one member, and does not necessarily reflect the views of any other member. I would be happy to print any responses submitted.--Editor]

GOOD READERS WANTED IN JANUARY

Submitted by Claudia Harbert, Scholarship Coordinator

What could be better than an opportunity to help your local Mensa group, get involved, promote higher education, and give a boost to some students paying for college?

Please, don't answer that question! But please do consider volunteering to be a SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM JUDGE! We'll need judges to read the 550-word essays submitted by high school and college students in our area. You will receive a pdf file of entries on approximately January 16th and a judging form asking you for scores from 1-10 in categories including grammar, goal statement, your overall reaction to the essay, and a few others.

You'll be judging between January 16th and approximately February 1st. The judging forms are in Excel. It's fun and interesting! We'll plan a celebration at a restaurant later in February, mostly or all subsidized by Mensa.

Have you judged in the past? Please consider helping again! Please contact me to let me know if you're interested!

THE MOST IMPORTANT EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY IN 200 YEARS

Reprinted from Kurzweil News, November 3, 2012

Education is about to change dramatically, says Anant Agarwal, who heads edX, a \$60 million MIT-Harvard effort to stream a college education over the Web, free, with plans to teach a billion students, Technology Review reports.

"Massive open online courses," or MOOCs, offered by new education ventures like edX, Coursera, and Udacity, to name the most prominent (see "The Crisis in Higher Education") will affect markets so large that their value is difficult to quantify.

A quarter of the American population, 80 million people, is enrolled in K-12 education, college, or graduate school. Direct expenditures by government exceed \$800 billion. Add to that figure private education and corporate training.

At edX, Agarwal says, the same three-person team of a professor plus assistants that used to teach analog circuit design to 400 students at MIT now handles 10,000 online and could take a hundred times more.

Coursera, an alliance between Stanford and two dozen other schools, claims that it had 1.5 million students sign up.

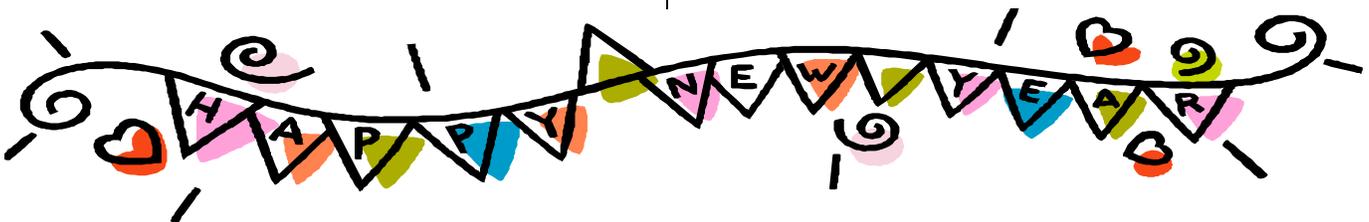
Changing the world

The rise of the MOOCs means we can begin thinking about how free, top-quality education could change the world.

Khan's videos are popular in India, and the MOOC purveyors have found that 60 percent of their sign-ups are self-starters from knowledge-hungry nations like Brazil and China. Nobody knows what a liberal application of high-octane educational propellant might do. Will it supersize innovation globally by knocking away barriers to good instruction? Will frightened governments censor teachers as they have the Web?

The eventual goal isn't to stream videos but to perfect education through the scientific use of data. Just imagine software that maps an individual's knowledge and offers a lesson plan unique to him or her.

kurzweilai.net/the-most-important-education-technology-in-200-years?utm_source=KurzweilAI+Weekly+Newsletter&utm_campaign=504f30af0e-UA-946742-1&utm_medium=email



MEMBER NEWS (as of 09/30/12)

HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS*

1 Lawrence Falli
1 Mark Watson
5 Michael Cochran
5 Aarne Hartikka
5 Jeffery Lee Humphrey
5 Michael Richards
5 Benjamin J Suchy
6 Walter R Barksdale Jr
6 Michael A Hattamer
6 John H Merkel
10 Mary Jane Lockhart
13 Heather Hall
14 Barbara J Gordon
14 Cristina E LaFuente
16 Justin Blount
16 Anthony G Cassano
16 Donna M Kornhaber
17 Dr Caryl Neman
18 Gerald L McGray
18 Margaret Syverson
18 Ira B Wood III
19 Scott Jacobsmeyer
20 Ella K Miesner

21 Ashley N Inbody
23 Fred G Deats III
24 Thomas C Haddon III
27 Robert Burgess
28 Dr L Kent Gilbreath
28 Austin G Meyer
28 Sonya L Palmer
29 Jack Vincent Musgrove
30 Merlin D Darling
30 Shawn M Gamble
30 Mary L Hoane
31 Michelle Benoit
31 Timothy Allen Sandfort

NEW MEMBERS—WELCOME!

Yue Kuang
Charles B Owen
Jacob Tenberg

JUST MOVED IN—HI NEIGHBOR!

Edwina Louise Douglas
Ella K Miesner
Diyar Thanon

WELCOME BACK--MISSED YOU!

Karen Evans Collier
David Gilder
Shawn Sprinkel

GOODBYE—WE WISH YOU WELL

Zachary R Calvert
Brett McKenzie

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

MEMBER FOR 25 YEARS

W Andrew York

MEMBER FOR 5 YEARS

John David White

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

The test of courage comes when we are in the minority. The test of tolerance comes when we are in the majority.- Ralph W(ashington) Sockman

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rose Berkowitz, Editor:

Please permit me a moment to introduce myself to you. I have been a continuous member of Mensa since 1965, and my wife and I moved from Arizona to the San Angelo, TX area three years ago. Unfortunately, there is a minimal local group in San Angelo, and we here are attached to a larger group in Midland, TX. There are few local activities and no local newsletter. In the past few days, I have notified the national Mensa office that I wished to transfer my membership affiliation from the Permian Basin Group to your group, Lone Star Mensa; and that transfer has been accomplished, although it may not show up on the LSM records for a few weeks.

That being said, I look forward to a long and satisfying relationship with LSM. Given the turn of events in the recently concluded presidential election, I have written a short essay containing some thoughts about the election results. I would like to submit this to you for consideration of publication in the Armadillo Literary Gazette. The essay is attached to this email.

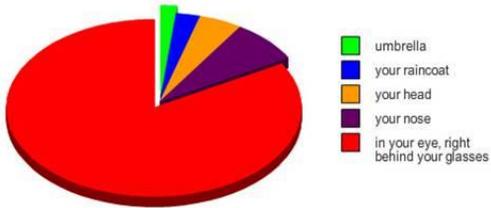
Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Victor A. Albanese
conchovic@gmail.com

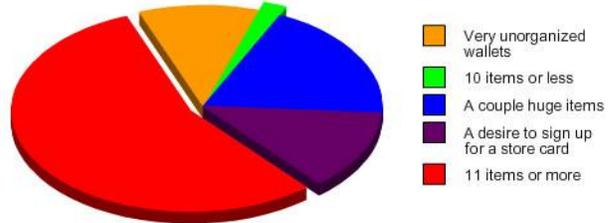
LIFE EXPLAINED BY GRAPHS

Going around the Internet

Where does a big, fat raindrop land?



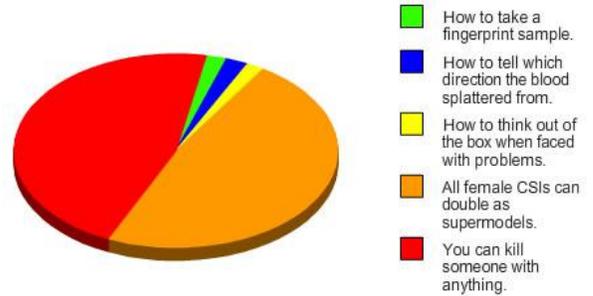
What the people at the "10 Items or Less" line at the supermarket have



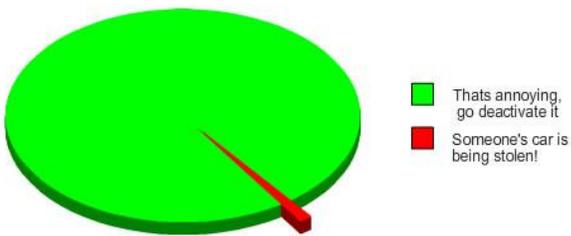
Beer



Things I Learned From Watching CSI



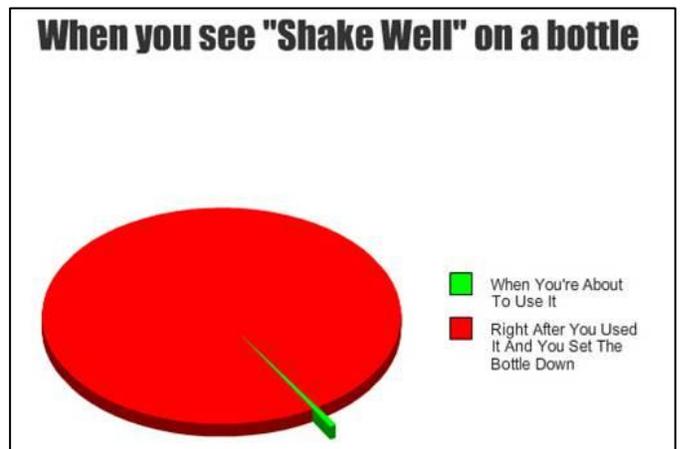
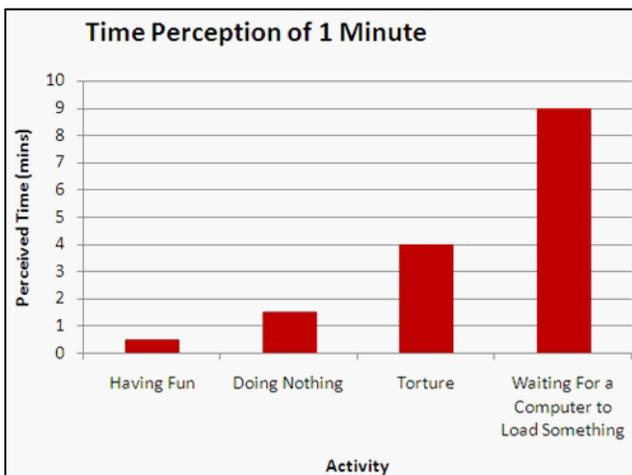
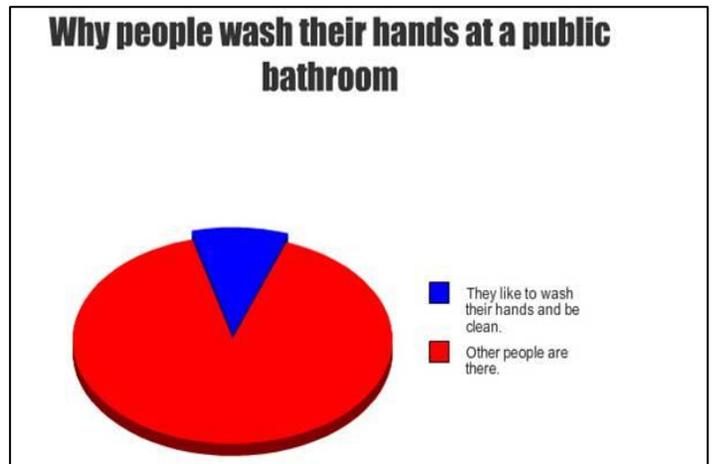
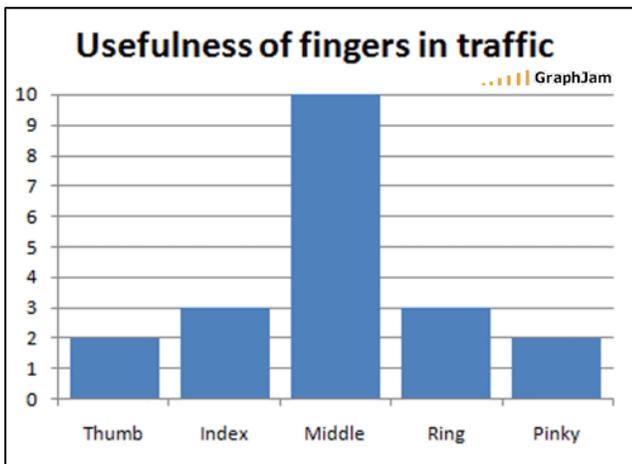
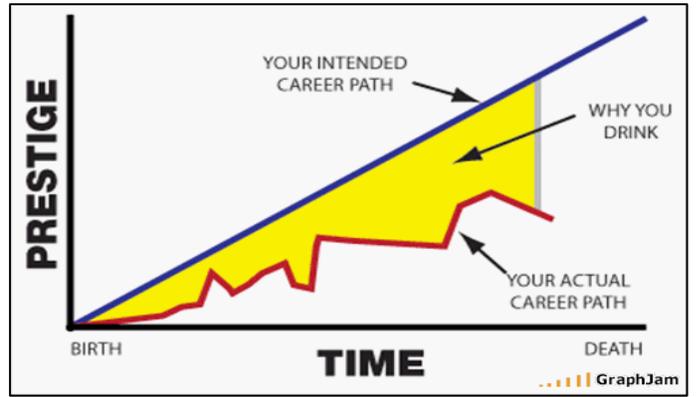
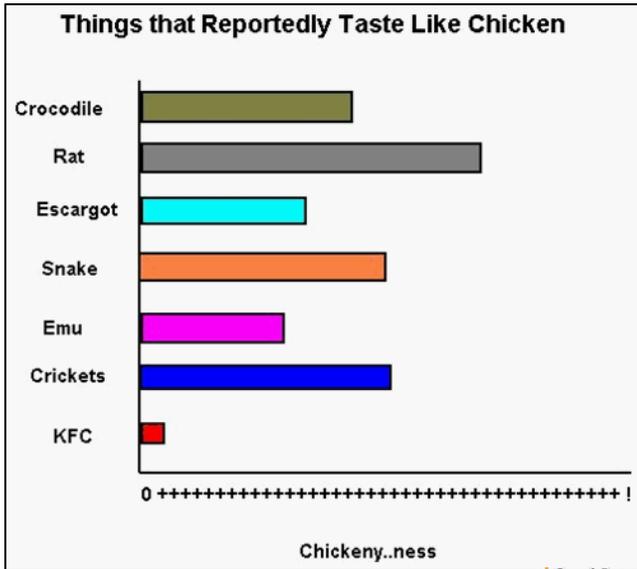
Thoughts When A Car Alarm Goes Off



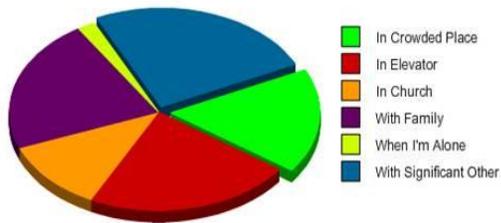
GraphJam.com

Usage of a Home Gym

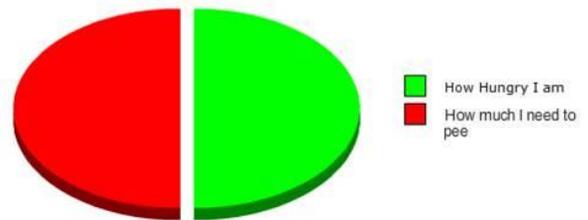




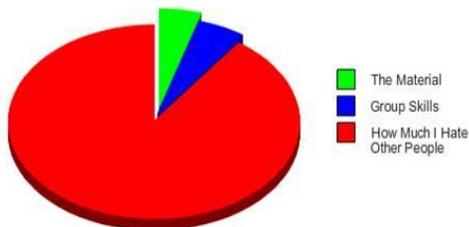
When I Have to Fart



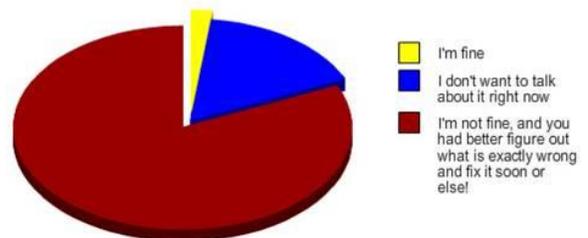
Things I think about while Driving



What Group-Projects Teach Me



What girls really mean when they say, "I'm fine"



WEB SITES YOU'D LIKE

| FROM | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------|---|
| A Word A Day | <p>wordsmith.org/awad/index.html</p> <p><i>"The most welcomed, most enduring piece of daily mass e-mail in cyberspace."</i></p> <p>The New York Times</p> <p>The magic of words -- that's what A.Word.A.Day (AWAD) is about. We are a community of more than one million linguaphiles in more than 200 countries.</p> |

LONE STAR MENSA CONTACTS BY FUNCTION

As of November 30, 2012

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| Website Maintenance | webmaster@lsm.us.mensa.org | Douglas Yee | 288-9172 |
| LSM Officers, contacts | records@lsm.us.mensa.org | Don Drumtra | 291-0315 |
| Board Meetings | southernarea@lsm.us.mensa.org | Brian Bloch* | 878-8800 |
| Operating standards | records@lsm.us.mensa.org | Don Drumtra | 291-0315 |
| Email Lists | emallists@lsm.us.mensa.org | John Neemidge* | 310-7863 |
| Facebook | facebook@lsm.us.mensa.org | Geri Neemidge | 310-7863 |
| MEMBERSHIP | | | |
| | membership@lsm.us.mensa.org | Fred Goertz | 569-1758 |
| New Members | mentapats@lsm.us.mensa.org | Patsy Graham | 380-0141 |
| Renewals | membership@lsm.us.mensa.org | Vacant | |
| Testing | testing@lsm.us.mensa.org | Austin G. Meyer | 971-0123 |
| Awards | membership@lsm.us.mensa.org | Vacant | |
| Officers | records@lsm.us.mensa.org | Don Drumtra | 291-0315 |
| EDUCATION | | | |
| | | Vacant | |
| Gifted Children Programs | giftedchildren@lsm.us.mensa.org | Michele Vaughan | 388-5970 |
| Scholarships | scholarship@lsm.us.mensa.org | Claudia Harbert | 238-0205 |
| Financial Outreach | | Vacant | |
| GATHERINGS AND EVENTS | | | |
| | angsu@hotmai.com | Angela Adams | 263-8780 |
| Monthly Programs | | Vacant | |
| TGITs | | Vacant | |
| Games Night | | Vacant | |
| Chess Night | cmvc95@yahoo.com | Douglas Yee | 288-9172 |
| Eclectic Eats | arabushka@austin.rr.com | Aaron Rabushka | 280-2807 |
| Picnics and Parties | | Vacant | |
| Southern Area Events | southernarea@lsm.us.mensa.org | Brian Bloch | 878-8800 |
| RG REGISTRAR | registrar@lsm.us.mensa.org | Patsy Graham | 380-0141 |
| RG CO-CHAIRS | aduan@mindspring.com | Ron and Linda Edelstein | 491-9881 |
| OMBUDSMAN | ombudsman@lsm.us.mensa.org | Ron Edelstein* | 491-9881 |
| REIMBURSEMENTS | treasurer@lsm.us.mensa.org | Don Drumtra | 291-0315 |
| S.I.G.H.T. | | Vacant | |
| EVERYTHING ELSE | locsec@lsm.us.mensa.org | John Neemidge | 310-7863 |

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

DECEMBER CALENDAR

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----|--|-----|------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Board Meeting | 7 | 8 |
| 9 HANNUKAH (1 ST Day) | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 ALG Deadline Chess Night TGIT-North | 14 | 15 HOLIDAY PARTY |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 TGIT-South | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 CHRISTMAS | 26 | 27 TGIT-North Seal & Label | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE | | | | | |

See the online calendar (ism.us.mensa.org/events/calendar.shtml) 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 Meeting

1st Thursday
Dec. 6, 7:30 to 8:30 pm
Carver Branch Library

ALG/Calendar Deadline

2nd Thursday
Dec. 13, Midnight
Submissions due to Editor.

Chess Night (with the TGIT-N group)

2nd Thursday
Dec. 13, 6-8 PM
Bring your chess sets if you have them.
Hosted by Douglas Yee.

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT-North)

Dec. 13 & 27, 6:00-8:00 PM
Meet us at the Café for conversation, food and fun. Prospective members welcome. Look for the Mensa table sign.

Holiday Party (Member Meeting)

Saturday, Dec. 15, 7-10 PM
First Unitarian Universalist Church
of Austin
Howson Hall, 4700 Grover Ave.,
Austin, TX
See Page 2 for details.

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT-South)

Dec. 20, 6:00-8:00 PM
Enter at the east side of the store by the statue of fruits and vegetables. Join us for conversation, food, and fun. Prospective members welcome

Seal & Label

Dec. 27, 6:00-8:00 PM
Join the TGIT Group to help seal and label the newsletter.

Eclectic Eats

Note: Eclectic Eats will take a break for the December holiday season. We will resume in January at Russell's Bistro on 38th Street.



UPCOMING IN JANUARY

Jan. 3. Board Meeting
Jan. 10, Chess Night, ALG Deadline
Jan. 10 & 24, TGIT-North
Jan. 14, Member Meeting
Jan. 17, TGIT-South
Jan. 24, Seal & Label

EVENT DIRECTIONS

Board and Member Meetings

Carver Public Library, Rooms 2-3
1161 Angelina, Austin
512-974-1010
Between 11th and 12th Streets, east of I-35. This location allows direct access to the library from 183 and via FM 969 MLK and 12th Street.

TGIT-North, Chess Night, Seal & Label

Central Market Café North at Central Park
4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin
512-206-1020
East of N. Lamar between 38th and 44th Streets; on the south side of the store.

TGIT-South

Central Market Café South at Westgate Mall:
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/SR71) between Westgate Blvd. and Frontier Trail.

Lone Star Mensa
Table 2. 2012-2013 Balances Analysis Summary
September 30

| | <u>Apr 1</u> | <u>Jun 30</u> | <u>Sep 30</u> |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <u>Members</u> | 515 | 572 | |
| <u>Rank</u> | 29 | 28 | |
| <u>RG Registrants 2011/2012/2013</u> | | 34/51/27 | /78/ |
| <u>Assets</u> | | | |
| <u>Current Assets</u> | | | |
| Cash | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Checking Account | 6,133.37 | 6,893.41 | 7,919.85 |
| Certificates of Deposit | 23,830.32 | 23,855.75 | 23,873.39 |
| Less Funds and Obligations | (18,000.00) | (18,000.00) | (18,000.00) |
| Accounts Receivable | - | - | 455.15 |
| Interest Receivable (Allocated) | - | - | - |
| Prepaid Postage | 427.33 | 348.55 | 260.37 |
| Prepaid RG 2012 | 139.26 | 184.26 | 4,647.53 |
| Prepaid RG 2013 | - | - | 1.61 |
| Prepaid Take Home Tests | 37.50 | 37.50 | 37.50 |
| Other Prepaid Expenses | - | - | - |
| Total Current Assets | \$12,567.78 | \$ 13,319.47 | \$ 19,195.40 |
| <u>Long Term Assets</u> | | | |
| 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 | (1,051.57) | (981.31) | (981.31) |
| Other Long Term Assets | - | - | - |
| Total Long Term Assets | \$17,929.74 | \$ 18,000.00 | \$ 18,000.00 |
| Total Assets | \$30,497.52 | \$ 31,319.47 | \$ 37,195.40 |
| | 2012 RG | | |
| | Spent | | |
| | \$4,647.53 | | |
| <u>Liabilities and Appropriations</u> | | | |
| Accounts Payable | \$ 148.09 | \$ 153.11 | \$ 170.69 |
| Scholarships Escrow | 1,171.36 | 696.79 | 1,089.43 |
| RG Escrow 2012 | 845.00 | 1,160.00 | 4,736.50 |
| RG Escrow 2013 | - | - | 1,080.00 |
| RG Reserve | 1,086.47 | 1,086.47 | 1,086.47 |
| Eqpmt Replacement Appropriation | 639.75 | 770.01 | 830.01 |
| Other Liabilities and Appropriations | - | - | - |
| Total Liabilities and Appropriations | \$ 3,890.67 | \$ 3,866.38 | \$ 8,993.10 |
| <u>Net Assets</u> | | | |
| Lonestar Mensa Net Assets | 26,606.85 | 27,453.09 | 28,202.30 |
| Total Net Assets | \$26,606.85 | \$ 27,453.09 | \$ 28,202.30 |
| Total Liabilities, Approp., and Net Assets | \$30,497.52 | \$ 31,319.47 | \$ 37,195.40 |

Lone Star Mensa
Table 1. 2012-2013 Program Activity Analysis Summary
 April 1 - September 30

| Programs | ---- Summary Year to Date ---- | | | | ---- Summary by Quarter ---- | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| | 2010 Budget 12 Months | 6 months | 6 months Total | % | 3 months Apr-Jun | 3 months Jul-Sep |
| Membership Program | | | | | | |
| Total Revenue | \$ 420.00 | \$ 210.00 | \$ 190.00 | 90% | \$ 30.00 | \$ 160.00 |
| Total Expenses | 420.00 | 210.00 | - | 0% | - | - |
| Communications Program | | | | | | |
| Total Revenue | 3,600.00 | 1,800.00 | 1,800.00 | 100% | 900.00 | 900.00 |
| Total Expenses | 3,600.00 | 1,800.00 | 1,192.70 | 66% | 572.50 | 620.20 |
| Symposia Program | | | | | | |
| Total Revenue | 1,200.00 | 600.00 | 600.00 | 100% | 300.00 | 300.00 |
| Total Expenses | 1,200.00 | 600.00 | 260.00 | 43% | 30.00 | 230.00 |
| Education Program | | | | | | |
| Total Revenue | 480.00 | 240.00 | 240.00 | 100% | 120.00 | 120.00 |
| Total Expenses | 480.00 | 240.00 | - | 0% | - | - |
| Common Activities | | | | | | |
| Total Revenue | 180.00 | 90.00 | 90.00 | 100% | 45.00 | 45.00 |
| Total Expenses | 180.00 | 90.00 | - | 0% | - | - |
| All Programs | | | | | | |
| Total Revenue | \$ 5,880.00 | 2,940.00 | 2,920.00 | 99% | 1,395.00 | 1,525.00 |
| Total Expenses | 5,880.00 | 2,940.00 | 1,452.70 | 49% | 602.50 | 850.20 |
| Total Programs | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,467.30 | | \$ 792.50 | \$ 674.80 |
| LonestaRG | | | | | | |
| Total Revenue | \$ 4,700.00 | | - | 0% | - | - |
| Total Expenses | 4,500.00 | | - | 0% | - | - |
| Total Disbursements | 200.00 | | - | 0% | - | - |
| Undistributed Rev and Exp | | | | | | |
| Total Revenue | \$ 304.20 | 152.10 | 128.15 | 84% | 53.74 | 74.41 |
| Total Expenses | - | - | - | 0% | - | - |
| Total Undistributed | \$ 304.20 | \$ 152.10 | \$ 128.15 | | \$ 53.74 | \$ 74.41 |
| Net Revenue | \$ 304.20 | \$ 152.10 | \$ 1,595.45 | | \$ 846.24 | \$ 749.21 |

Preliminary Second Quarter Financial Report

Submitted by Don Drumtra, Treasurer

Tables 1 and 2 constitute the second quarter financial report. Table 1, Program Active Analysis Summary, shows the revenue and expenses for the first and second quarter. Membership revenue was below expectations in the first quarter but has improved in the second quarter due to an increase in testing revenue. It is now 90 percent of expectations. Other revenue is meeting expectations. Expenses average half of what they should be, indicating that we have financial room for additional activities for our members.

Table 2, Balances Analysis Summary, shows our current assets and liabilities. The roughly \$4700 increases in both in the second quarter are the undistributed results of our RG. These funds will be distributed to revenue and expense accounts in October. Our Total Net Assets continue to increase at roughly \$800 per quarter. Our overall goal should be to break even, indicating again that we should be doing more with our money than putting it in the bank account.

This report has not been approved by the board and is therefore subject to minor changes. The approved report will be posted in the Website after it is approved. Questions about the report may be directed to the Treasurer.

Send undeliverable copies or change of address to:

AMERICAN MENSA LIMITED
1229 CORPORATE DR W
ARLINGTON TX 76006-6103

PUBLICATION NOTICES

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Submissions of all types are encouraged. The deadline is the second Thursday of each month. Submissions may be by email (preferred) 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, unless restricted by the author.
Calendar inputs may be submitted at any time and will normally be published online within three days and in the next month's printed calendar if received before the cut-off date. The cut-off date is the second Thursday of the previous month.
Advertising may be accepted subject to space limitations. Lone Star Mensa members may submit 2 non-commercial ads per year at no charge, limited to 4 column line maximum. Publication dates are subject to editor's discretion. Business-card-sized ads (2" x 3") are \$10 for one month, \$25 for three months, and \$40 for six months. Rates for other sized ads or other time periods are available upon request. Ads must be camera-ready, accurately sized, and should be submitted via email in Microsoft Word (preferred, DOC or DOCX), JPG, or PDF format. The deadline for ad submissions to the newsletter editor is 5 days before the general newsletter deadline. Publication may be delayed due to space limitations and may be edited to meet publication standards.

Newsletter submissions may be sent to
editor@lsm.us.mensa.org
Calendar submissions may be sent to
calendar@lsm.us.mensa.org

The editor's snail mail address is
Rose Berkowitz
10610 Morado Cir Apt 1302,
Austin, TX 78759-5555



Armadillo Literary Gazette

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