

Armadillo Literary Gazette

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

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Submitted By Rose Berkowitz

Happy New Year!

You'll be seeing typical articles all over the place giving you advice on New Year's resolutions, or reviewing the previous year and forecasting things for 2012 (like the end of the world, if you believe the Mayan calendar predictions), or marveling at how time flies. So I won't bore you with anything like that.

I'll just wish you and yours all the good things in life, and the ability to appreciate them.

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



Look at a tree, a flower, a plant. Let your awareness rest upon it. How still they are, how deeply rooted in Being. Allow nature to teach you stillness. – Eckhart Tolle

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to beat my research drum! I enjoyed it, but I felt that we were all left with more to discuss.

Would you be interested in a talk on what I.Q. means, how you "get one", and how a high I.Q. relates to brain function? I was struck when talking with some people last night to realize that most Mensans don't actually have a clue as to what "I.Q." means in practical terms. I thought this might be a subject of interest to many.

One of the email correspondents asked specifically about the No Child Left Behind Act, which we barely touched on last night. That might be another interesting topic, along with what an ideal educational program would look like according to what the research tells us, and what parts of that might be realistically implemented. (In other words, what conscientious legislators could create instead of No Child Left Behind!)

Thanks again for an enjoyable evening.

JimAnn Oliver

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TGITS	--Vacant--		
Games Night	Patsy Graham		
Chess Night	Douglas Yee	288-9172	cvmc95@yahoo.com
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Picnics and Parties	--Vacant--		
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* Experienced members who've worked with the National Office (NO) and the American Mensa Committee (AMC), and can help members navigate both.

A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO THE LONE STAR MENSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Submitted by Dave Miller

I'm Dave Miller and I'm the Chair of this year's Nomination Committee. My email is mail@DavidBMiller.com and my phone number is 512-689-2627.

Would you like to be on our Board? This is your chance to help decide how Mensa is governed. The Board meets monthly and among other things elects our President and Vice President. Six members will be elected to the Board this year, four to two-year terms and two to one-year terms. You can nominate yourself or someone else to appear on the ballot. It's easy; just email me your name and email address and tell me a bit about yourself or send me the potential nominee's contact information and I'll contact them myself. I'm especially encouraging newer members and those with special interests to apply. All nominees must be LSM members and willing to serve. Nominations are due ASAP. All those selected (and I'm hoping to have more qualified nominees than ballot positions) will be invited to submit a candidate's statement to be published in the newsletter. Feel free to call me if you have any questions.

If you'd prefer not to go through the Nominating Committee process you can be directly added to the ballot by submitting a petition with ten LSM member's signatures to me at the same email address.

CRITICAL OFFICER VACANCIES

Submitted by Don Drumtra, Loc Sec

New Member Coordinator. New members particularly need tender care until they learn to deal with the broad spectrum of ideas that Mensans bring to them. They need advice on how to volunteer without becoming overloaded. As they continue their journey, they will remember you fondly as their guide and helper. Please don't deprive them of your wisdom. Volunteer today by writing or calling Fred Goertz, the Membership Committee Chairman to learn more: 512-569-1758 or membership@lsm.us.mensa.org.

MEMBERSHIP COUNT BY RANK

Here are the top 30 American Mensa groups. There are 132 local groups, with a total membership of 53,042 as of November 2011.

RANK	COUNT	GROUP NAME	RANK	COUNT	GROUP NAME
1	2228	Greater New York Mensa	16	860	Central New Jersey Mensa
2	2054	Chicago Area Mensa	17	798	San Diego Mensa
3	2050	00 Metropolitan Washington Mensa	18	785	Denver Mensa
4	1911	San Francisco Regional Mensa	19	771	Connecticut/Western Massachusetts
5	1646	Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa	20	760	Northern New Jersey Mensa
6	1209	Minnesota Mensa	21	753	Mensa of Wisconsin
7	1209	Mensa In Georgia	22	742	Orange County Mensa
8	1187	Gulf Coast Mensa	23	725	Tampa Bay Mensa
9	1181	Boston Mensa Beacon	24	691	St Louis Area Mensa
10	1114	Mensa of Western Washington	25	681	Maryland Mensa
11	1089	Delaware Valley Mensa	26	671	Mid-America Mensa
12	1058	North Texas Mensa	27	621	Central Florida Mensa
13	1013	Southeast Michigan Mensa	28	605	Lone Star Mensa
14	980	Greater Phoenix Mensa	29	597	Western Pennsylvania Mensa
15	900	Oregon Mensa	30	584	Mensa 76

DECEMBER BOARD MINUTES

Submitted by Patty Drumtra, VP and Secretary

The December regular meeting of the Lone Star Mensa board of officers convened at 6:21 PM, 2011, December 7, at Ron Edelstein's home, 1439 Dapplegrey Lane, Austin TX 78727. Attending were **Don Drumtra, Patty Drumtra, Ron Edelstein, Linda Edelstein, and John Neemidge**. The board adopted the agenda and the minutes of the November regular meeting on page 3 of the December 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.

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

- *Treasurer*: The board unanimously approved the November monthly Treasurer's report.
- *Education Committee*: Prospective plans for possible Gifted Children's activities were presented, including a tour to Green Gate Farms in the spring. Funding for the proposal as stated is available at the present time and can be budgeted for future dates.
- *Membership Committee*: A testing date is planned for January 9 and the first or second Saturday in February.
- *Symposium Committee*: The holiday party will be December 17 at the Coffee-A-Deli. Each attendee will pay \$5 with the rest paid by LSM.
- *LonestaRG Committee*: We need a chair for the 2012 LonestaRG Committee.
- *Website Working Group*: The chair is working with a prospective designer.
- *Action Plans*: See report on page 7.

New Business:

- Discussed that the Nominating and Election Committees still needs two members each.

- Adopted the Calendar of Events for 2012 as amended, including changing the 2012 Membership Meetings to the second Monday night of each month at the Carver Branch Library.
- Agreed to explore audio podcasting the Regular Monthly Membership Meeting presentations, beginning a trial with the presentation at the February meeting. Presenters must agree to their presentation being podcast.
- Discussed the Member Concerns Report item relating to printed and online officer and contact lists. Approved including annually a complete list of officers in the July ALG, an abbreviated list of functional contacts in the ALG each month, and a current list of officers and functional contacts on the website.
- Dismissed the Mind Games 2013 Bid Committee with compliments for their hard work, established a Mind Games 2014 Bid Committee as a special committee to prepare a bid for Mind Games 2014, and appointed Patsy Graham as Chair.

Announcements:

- The next monthly board meeting is scheduled for 6-7 PM, Wednesday, January 4, at the home of Ron and Linda Edelstein.
- The next regular monthly meetings are scheduled for Monday, Jan 11, Feb 9, Mar 12, and April 9, 6:45-8:15 PM at the Carver Branch Library. January and March will feature the alternate month topical discussions and February and April will have presentations by Modelle Gibson and Lisa Oliver. Potential topics looking for presenters are available on the website.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

WORDS TO INSPIRE YOU

I say, follow your bliss and don't be afraid, and doors will open where you didn't know they were going to be.— Joseph Campbell





FEATURED MEMBER BIO

Hello, my name is JimAnn Oliver. I had the good luck to be born to parents who were intelligent, conscientious and dedicated to service. They were educators and worked hard at improving the lives of their students in every possible way. We children were taught that our reason for existence was to determine what our area of service in life was and get on with preparing ourselves.

We did not have running water, and often not electricity. I went to 12 different schools before finishing high school. As a freshman at the age of 12, I knew that my calling was working with children with special problems. I graduated as Valedictorian from a small Fox, OK high school and eventually found my way into the only university in the U.S. which offered the training I needed—Illinois Normal U, now Illinois State. We Special Ed majors were required to also have a major in another education field and I chose elementary.



In addition to training in remedial reading, testing, blind and partially sighted, physically handicapped, mentally handicapped, learning disabled, deaf and hard of hearing, and gifted, I was required to acquire a large number of hours in another major. I chose Socially Maladjusted and Emotionally Disturbed. I graduated Summa Cum Laude at the age of 19. Later I acquired a Masters from Oklahoma U in Special Education and Psych Testing.

I was the first teacher in Oklahoma to earn a Special Education degree and started one of the first classrooms for the mentally handicapped in Oklahoma, under the auspices of the Cherokee Nation. Later I pioneered the idea of children with learning disabilities maintaining their identity by being part of a regular classroom as much as possible.

In the early days I taught one classroom of first through fourth graders, and another of first and second graders. This was valuable background for designing special education programs, where children of many levels and needs are in the same room. Off and on I did private tutoring and diagnosis and planning for children with various problems. I designed, initiated, and taught learning disabled, mentally handicapped, and gifted programs for various public school districts.

For a few years I was a Child Guidance Specialist with the Oklahoma State Health Dept., working with parents and school personnel to diagnose problems and plan curricula for special needs children, and then spent a few years as placement specialist and teacher in the Moore, OK Public Schools gifted program. I retired from there in 1989 and went to work for Westat, a contractor with the U.S. Dept. of Education Research Division, retiring from that job last year.

I married the love of my life at age 19 (six weeks before finishing college) and we had three children over the next six years, followed by twins five years after that. We planned, before we married that we would have six children, but my husband said when they started coming two at a time it was time to quit! (I guess the idea that I had seven sets of twin cousins scared him a little.) Now my family consists of 22 1/2 persons. In order of birth my children are:

- Angela, who just retired as Pre-K English-as-a-Second-Language teacher for the Richardson, Texas schools—a program which she started 24 years ago.
- Kelton, the 2006 U.S. Public Health Service Doctor of the Year. (His wife, Michale Ratzlaff, had that honor in 2005.) He had been assigned to work with the native population in Oklahoma and then Alaska, but is currently a doctor for military personnel with post-traumatic-stress disorder or brain injuries;
- Retha, a free-lance writer working with museums, cultural centers, and professionals such as lawyers
- Lisa, a National Board Certified Funeral Director dedicated to helping people obtain the kind of death care arrangements they really want. (She is also a member of LoneStar Mensa.)
- Lanette, a physics, chemistry, and biology specialist, in astronaut training with the Pathfinder 7 Teachers in Space team.

My husband and I were members of the Oklahoma City Mensa group for many years, and all our children were Mensans when growing up. We lived on a ranch and sponsored hay rides and Mensa picnics and sky-viewing nights. The National Office notified us that we were the largest family of Mensans at that time, and that by coincidence the second largest (of six) were also named Oliver. (I talked with them on the phone, but we did not discover a family connection.)

My interests include quilting and sewing (I received the Volunteer Award of the Year this year from the Temple Civic Theater for my work as costume mistress and as organizer of the costume, fabric, and sewing rooms), yard work, baton twirling, traveling, reading, being with my family, and studying the invisible so-called spiritual laws of the universe, which enable me to have a productive and joyful life. I work out an hour every weekday and "eat healthy".

My husband's health deteriorated over many years and he died in 2001. He was "smarter" than me; his brain worked in a different way which was endlessly fascinating to me, and I missed his companionship and conversations terribly as he lost one ability after another.

Five members of my family are in the Armed Services—one in Afghanistan, one in Korea, and three in Alaska. I am delighted to announce that the one in Korea has just achieved the dream of his 18-year-old life—being chosen as a new member of the U.S. Army competitive Tae Quon Do team, which finished 4th in the world last year! (He is Lisa's oldest son.)

DON'S DIALECTICS—Holiday Season

Submitted By Don Drumtra, LocSec



What do you do to celebrate the end of the year? The holiday season is the time that many families and extended families get together and reminisce about their good times and not so good times over the past year. Patty and I fit this pattern. We have children living in Florida, Georgia and Illinois. Each year we converge on one of our four locations to celebrate the past and look toward the future. This year's gathering will be in Austin. Have you hosted a family gathering? It always seems to be a lot of preparation work and then cleanup work. But then traveling to another location requires you to wait in line and suffer security. This seems to me to be kind of a macrocosm of hosting or traveling to an RG. But in either case the rewards of sharing with family or friends are worth the effort. We look forward to both kinds of gathering.

After all the guests have gone, many folks assess the past year and make resolutions to do better next year. Do you make New Year resolutions with good intentions and then find yourself breaking them a few months later? A resolution is a commitment. How are you at keeping your commitments? In LSM our major commitment is to methodically address each of our members' concerns from last January. The board's goal for this term is to successfully address 50 percent of them.

Will we meet that goal? I am not sure. Will the next board assume the commitment from the last board? If it does, will it keep that commitment? That remains to be seen. As the Nomination Committee report shows, we probably will have vacant positions on the board. Wouldn't you like to participate? Patty and I have found our experience on the board rewarding. It is like a monthly mini-gathering of our Mensa friends to share time together and accomplish something to help LSM do better in the future. You could be a part of this.

Patty and I wish each of you a very happy holiday season and the best of New Years.

2012 MONTHLY MEETINGS

New Monthly Membership Meeting Day, Time, and Location

Submitted by Don Drumtra

Here is the schedule for our 2012 monthly membership meetings, to be held on the second Monday of each month (with the exception of November, due to the holiday) from 6:45 to 8:15 PM at the **Carver Public Library**, located at 1161 Angelina, Austin, TX 78702, (512) 974-1010:

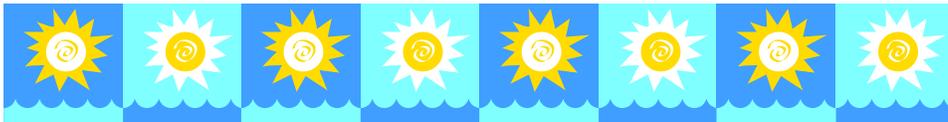
Jan 9
 Feb 13
 Mar 12
 Apr 9

May 14
 Jun 11
 Jul 9
 Aug 13

Sept 10
 Oct 8
 Nov 19
 Dec 10

Last month I described how Patty, Rose, and I came to select the 2012 date, time, and locations of our monthly meetings (page 6). What I did not mention was the benefit of this location to our more distant members. Our previous locations were usually located on the north side of Austin, requiring our southern members to drive through rush hour traffic to get to the meeting. A meeting location on the south side would pose the same problem for folks on the north side.

The Carver Library is located 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. It is 4 miles from 183 and 8 1/2 miles from the 130 toll. So depending on how far away you live, you can bypass most of the rush hour traffic by jumping on 183 or 130. Check it out on Google maps.



STATUS REPORT—MEMBER CONCERNS/ACTION PLANS

Submitted by Don Drumtra, LocSec

By December 9 work had begun on 29 or two-thirds of the action plans. Highlights include:

Newsletter / Website tradeoffs. On Dec 7, the board members discussed the spectrum of possibilities of providing officer and function contact information to members, from putting it all in the newsletter to putting it all on the Website. The board approved:

- Maintaining a complete and current list of officers and their contact information on the Website.
- Publishing a complete list of LSM officers and their contact information annually in the July issue of the newsletter.
- Maintaining a comprehensive list of functional contacts on the Website consisting of LSM

functions and who to contact to get more information or to volunteer to help with the function.

- Publishing monthly an abbreviated functional contact list in the newsletter of the most commonly needed functions as determined by the editor. If you think something needs to be added write editor@lsm.us.mensa.org.

Task list. Work continues on the list of tasks performed by officers and many of the other active plans.

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

YOUR SUDOKU PUZZLE

Weekly Extremes, sudoku.org.uk

By Douglas Yee



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

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.

FROM THE RVC

Submitted by Roger Durham, Region 6 RVC



Once again, another year is gone, and it's time to wish all of you a very happy New Year. As I write this in mid-December, I have just returned from the winter meeting of the American Mensa Committee in Las Vegas.

As we begin a new year, perhaps this is a good time to explain to all our newer members that Mensa is very much a self-help organization. At the AMC meetings we consistently hear of members who have dropped out of Mensa because it offered nothing that appealed to them. I can't help but think that this is, at least to some extent, the result of a misunderstanding on the member's part, because what Mensa offers is theoretically almost unlimited. I say "almost" because there is one very significant limitation: your imagination and initiative. Now it's true that if you live in say, San Saba, your social opportunities in Mensa are going to be far fewer than if you lived in Houston, but even there Mensa has many features that could provide significant value to virtually anyone. You, however, are responsible for seeking them out, and if necessary, creating them.

Let me explain. Let's say you're interested in Ming Dynasty pottery. You look in your local newsletter for a

Chinese pottery collector's group, but you don't find one. "Oh well," you say, "Mensa is clearly not for me." But wait – just because no one has put Chinese pottery in the newsletter doesn't mean nobody is interested. There may be three other members of your group who would be highly interested in learning more about Ming Dynasty pottery, but think there is no one in town who knows enough about the subject to guide them to resource materials. If you put a discussion group in the calendar, inviting anyone to show up who may be interested in Chinese pottery, you might be surprised at the turnout. If you've already looked in the national directory and know that there is only one other member within 50 miles and she is 8 years old, then try asking for e-mails from anyone interested. If that doesn't work, try contacting the National SIG Coordinator to launch a national Pottery Collectors SIG. Out of our 60,000 members, I'd just about guarantee there are some who are as interested as you.

To change the subject, if yours is one of the groups which recently went through local elections and have new officers taking over this month, my sincere congratulations (or condolences) and best wishes to all of you who are newly elected to a leadership position in your local group. Please do not hesitate to contact me (rvc6@us.mensa.org) if I can be of assistance in any way.

MIND GAMES STATUS

Submitted by Patsy Graham

Lone Star Mensa lost the Mind Games bid again, even though we had a great hotel and package this time. The main reason is that the AG will be in Texas in July 2013 and the AML felt two events in Texas that close together wouldn't work. We'll try again for Mind Games 2014.

NEW MENSA E-ZINE ANNOUNCED

Submitted by Harold Prince, AML

Next week, American Mensa will bring members a new communication via email!

The *Weekly Brainwave* is a thought-provoking news brief custom-built to send only the most interesting news relevant to Mensa straight to our subscribers' inboxes in a convenient, concise format. This is an approved Mensa communication provided at no cost to our members as a quick and easy way to broaden the Mensa experience.

All members with email addresses on file will be subscribed automatically and have the option of unsubscribing and re-subscribing any time via the links included in the weekly email. Beginning on Tuesday, Dec. 13, subscribers can also visit www.us.mensa.org/brainwave for information about managing their subscriptions and to view back issues.

Enjoy your Weekly Brainwave! And if you know anyone who would also enjoy it, encourage them to subscribe on Tuesday at www.us.mensa.org/brainwave!

GOOD READERS WANTED IN JANUARY

Submitted by Claudia Harbert, Scholarship Chair

What could be better than an opportunity to help LoneStar Mensa, promote higher education, and help high school and college students further their education? (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 students in our area. The specific plan will depend on how many applications we receive. You will receive a pdf file of entries probably around January 24th and will need to have them judged by February 1st. The judging forms are in Excel, but other arrangements can be made. Then there might be up to 10 finalist essays that you will receive in pdf format within a few days, and you will have a week to judge them.

It's fun and interesting! We'll plan a celebration, probably on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon later in February. Have you judged in the past? Please consider helping again! To let me know if you're interested, contact Claudia Harbert at 238-0205 or ceharbert@gmail.com.



MEMBER NEWS (as of 11/30/11)

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Mark Watson
- 5 Arne Hartikka
- 5 Wayne William Banks
- 6 Michael A Hattamer
- 6 Walter R Barksdale Jr
- 10 Mary Jane Lockhart
- 13 Heather Hall
- 13 Christopher Sullivan
- 14 Barbara J Gordon
- 14 John Paliwoda
- 14 Cristina E LaFuente
- 16 Donna M Kornhaber
- 16 Justin Blount
- 16 Anthony G Cassano
- 17 Dr Caryl Neman
- 18 Gerald L McGray
- 19 Scott Jacobsmeyer
- 21 Ashley N Inbody
- 23 Fred G Deats III
- 24 Thomas C Haddon III
- 26 Michael Clinton Moyer
- 27 Joseph P Rach
- 28 Sonya L Palmer
- 28 Austin G Meyer
- 29 Jack Vincent Musgrove
- 29 Kevin Scott Szilvasy
- 30 Merlin D Darling
- 30 Mary L Hoane
- 30 Shawn M Gamble

- 31 Timothy Allen Sandfort
- 31 Michelle Benoit

NEW MEMBERS—WELCOME!

Matthew T Scarborough
Elizabeth Smith Evan

JUST MOVED IN—HI NEIGHBOR!

Michael Cochran
Marshall Hamilton
Diana M Wilbur

WELCOME BACK--MISSED YOU!

Ira B Wood III

GOODBYE—WE WISH YOU WELL

Bill Taylor



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Member for 40 Years

Linda Sue Gorzycki

Member for 30 Years

Dr. Leon Morris Waynberg

Member for 20 Years

Howard Lee Abrams
Jon Gregory Kurylowicz

Member for 15 Years

Joseph William Hrbek Jr

Member for 5 years

Vanessa M Barr
Ryan DeElena
Dr. B. G. Twiname

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

THE STATE OF GIFTED EDUCATION IN AMERICA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

By Kathie Oliver, Gifted Children Coordinator, Gifted-Children@oregon.us.mensa.org
Reprinted from *The Omen*, The Magazine of Oregon Mensa (and SW Washington)



Education is a popular topic of conversation. Everyone has their own expert opinion on the topic because of their experiences as a student, and many people have experience as parents or teachers. Too often discussions and analysis bog down in anecdotes.

People know their own experiences, but how close to the norm are they? What are the facts?

The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) and the Council of State Directors of Programs for the Gifted decided to break through the anecdotal evidence and find the facts on gifted education in the United States. They joined forces to produce "2010 - 2011 State of the States in Gifted Education: National Policy and Practice Data", a unique compilation detailing the state of gifted education in the United States.

Information was gathered from answers submitted by state education agencies (SEAs) to a 175 question survey. Most of the questions were in a multiple choice format, but there were also opportunities for extended responses.

Forty-four states and one territory (Guam, henceforth included in the states for the sake of simplicity) responded to the questionnaire. They didn't all answer every question. In some cases, states said that they did not collect requested information.

Several major areas of concern appeared in the answers. They told of limited accountability accompanying decentralized decision-making, limited service options, and the importance (and lack) of professional development opportunities. The answers showed basic agreement on concerns about federal education law, and on financial shortfalls.

For most parents, the key questions in the study deal with the legal status of gifted education, and TAG (talented and gifted) student identification and services. Here is a summary of the responses on those topics. All of the data tables referenced below are available at <http://bit.ly/uGXaAk>.

Fourteen states reported that they have no legal mandate for gifted education, while 31 states said that they do have one. A summary of the data is available in Table 12. Of the states with a gifted education mandate, 28 require identification of TAG students, and 26 require service after identification. 24 states require both, while four require identification but not services, and two require services without specifying identification.

41 states reported having their own definition for giftedness, in addition to the federal definition. Links to the definitions are in Table 11. 40 of those states answered a question about the areas included in their definitions. The most common category was intellectual giftedness, specified by 36 states. Other categories included creativity and leadership. The criteria are shown in Table 15.

"State of the States in Gifted Education" confirms TAG identification problems noted in earlier studies. Whether students are identified as TAG is dependent upon where they live, and upon both state and school district policies. There is no national consistency, and only limited consistency within most states.

Identification of TAG students is required by 28 states, but only 19 states said that all of their school districts actually identified TAG students. Three of those 19 responses came from states which do not mandate identification. Follow up questions are needed for clarification.

The percentage of students who are identified as gifted varies widely. 29 respondents reported percentages ranging from 1.7% in West Virginia to 22.3% in Guam. See Table 17 for more information.

26 states responded to questions asking how many TAG identified students received educational services. Three states said that they supplied services to more students than were identified as gifted, and 17 said that they served all identified TAG students. Of the remaining six states, Ohio (which mandates identification but not services) reported helping 20% of eligible students, Hawaii (with no mandates) reported serving 60% of eligible students, and the remaining four states answered 80%.

The highest rates of gifted educational services are reported in grades 3-5. Many states provide no services for TAG students until second grade. Available services

run the gamut from boarding schools for students with a specific strength to mainstream classroom differentiation.

Funding for gifted education varies wildly among the states. Only four of the 31 states with TAG education mandates fully fund them, while 19 offer partial funding and 5 have unfunded mandates. Three states did not answer the question. Unsurprisingly, money problems were the most commonly cited source of weakness in TAG education, just as in other areas of public education.

Accompanying the negatives, there are positives in "State of the States in Gifted Education". It shows ways in which gifted education is expanding, as well as problems that are widely recognized from state to state. These responses contain ideas for improving TAG

education. Success stories relating to specific mandates, funding, professional training, and accountability provide potential models for future growth.

A short summary can only begin to describe this study. To make your own judgments about gifted education in American public schools, go to <http://bit.ly/ufKBfh>, and read "2010 - 2011 State of the States in Gifted Education: National Policy and Practice Data". That way you'll have data to accompany your anecdotes the next time that you discuss gifted education.

"The State of Gifted Education in America's Public Schools" was adapted from an article written for the January 2012 edition of Omen: The Magazine of Oregon Mensa.



CATALOG RESOURCES FOR GIFTED CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

By Kathie Oliver, Gifted Children Coordinator, Gifted-Children@oregon.us.mensa.org
Reprinted from *The Omen*, The Magazine of Oregon Mensa (and SW Washington)

Whenever the parents of intellectually gifted children gather, at some point the conversation turns to finding resources to help meet their children's special needs. This is especially true during holiday seasons, when gifts for children and their teachers are under discussion. Bookstores and teacher's supply stores may not have much to offer for gifted children. However, there are specialty catalogs which can be very helpful.

Here is a list of catalogs and their websites which have been recommended by teachers and parents of Young Mensans. Publication of this list does not constitute an endorsement by Mensa of the catalogs, nor of the businesses behind them, with the exception of the official American Mensa Store at Fox Imaging. The contact information was accurate as of November, 2011.

BOOK CATALOGS

These catalogs primarily offer books and workbooks. However, they may also sell other products.

Bright Ideas for the Gifted and Talented, A.W. Peller & Associates, Inc., 344 Wagraw Road, Hawthorne, NJ 07507. 800-451-7450, fax 973-423-5569,

email: awpeller@optonline.net,
www.awpeller.com.

Critical Thinking for Gifted Kids, PO Box 1610, Seaside, CA 93955-1610. 800-458-4849, fax 831-393-3277, email: info@criticalthinking.com,
www.CriticalThinking.com/parent

Dover Publications, Inc., 31 East 2nd Street, Mineola, NY 11501-

3582. 516-294-7000 or 800-223-3130, fax 516-742-6953. email: service@doverpublications.com,
www.doverpublications.com.

Fox Imaging LLC, PO Box 541, Tilton, NH 03276. 800-397-4156, fax 603-286-2113.
www.foximaging.com.

Free Spirit Publishing Inc., 217 Fifth Avenue North, Suite 200,

Minneapolis, MN 55401-1299.
800-735-7323 or 612-338-2068,
fax 1-866-419-5199.

www.freespirit.com.

American Mensa members receive a 20-percent discount on all Free Spirit purchases made *through December 31, 2011*. To receive the discount, visit their web site or call 800/735-7323 and use coupon/promotion code Mensa20 when ordering.

Great Potential Press, Inc., 7025 East 1st Avenue, Suite 5, Scottsdale, AZ 85251. 888-946-2314, fax 480-946-2307, email: info@giftedbooks.com, www.giftedbooks.com.

Prufrock Press, P.O. Box 8813, Waco, TX 76714-8813. 800-998-2208, fax 800-240-0333. www.prufrock.com.

GAME, TOY, PUZZLE, AND SCIENCE CATALOGS

American Science and Surplus, P.O. Box 1030, Skokie, IL 60076. 888-724-7587 e-mail: info@sciplus.com (general questions), service@sciplus.com (customer service), www.sciplus.com.

Chinaberry, 2780 Via Orange Way, Suite B, Spring Valley, CA 91978. 800-776-2242, fax 619-670-5203. email: service@chinaberry.net, www.chinaberry.com.

CP Toys (Constructive Playthings), 13201 Arrington Road, Grandview,

MO 64030-2886. 800-832-0572 (orders), 800-448-7830 (customer service), fax 816-761-9295, email: ustoy@ustoyco.com, www.cptoy.com.

Edmund Scientifics, 60 Pearce Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150. 800-728-6999, fax 800-828-3299. email: scientifics@edsci.com, www.scientificsonline.com.

American Mensa members receive 15 percent off shipping and most purchases. Include promotion code 08MENSA15 when placing orders.

Highlights, 1800 Watermark Drive, P.O. Box 269, Columbus, OH 43216-0269. 888-372-6433, www.highlights.com.

LEGO Education, P.O. Box 1707, Pittsburg, KS 66762-1707. 800-362-4308, fax 888-534-6784. www.LEGOeducation.us.

Mindware, 2100 County Road C West, Roseville, MN 55113. 800-999-0398 (orders), 800-274-6123 (customer service), fax 888-299-9273, email: custserv@mindware.com, www.mindware.com.

Think Geek, 11216 Waples Mill Rd., Suite 100, Fairfax, VA 22030. 888-GEEKSTUFF, 703-293-6299. www.thinkgeek.com.

Through December 31, 2011, Mensa members receive \$10 off a purchase of \$50 or more. Use the

code MENSA33NG during checkout.

Young Explorers, 2 BITS Trail, P.O. Box 3336, Chelmsford, MA 01824-0936. 800-239-7577 (orders), 877-756-5058 (customer service), fax 800-866-3235, www.youngexplorers.com.

This list contains only a fraction of the shopping resources that are available and appropriate to the families of gifted children. More useful information and ideas can be found online through the shopping page at the Hoagies' Gifted website, <http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/showp.htm>, and at American Mensa's Amazon.com storefront, Smart Buys, <http://www.us.mensa.org/shop/smart-buys/>.

Mensans from across the United States contributed to this list. If you have catalog or website recommendations that you would like to share with other Mensa families, please send them to GiftedChildren@oregon.us.mensa.org.

"Catalog Resources for Gifted Children and their Families" was originally written for the December, 2011, edition of Omen, the newsletter of Oregon and Southwest Washington Mensa.

SEVEN BAR JOKES INVOLVING GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION

By Eric K. Auld

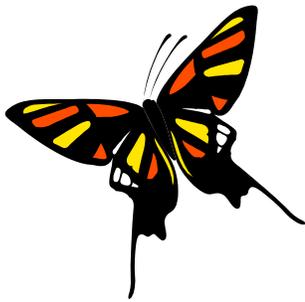
1. A comma splice walks into a bar, it has a drink and then leaves.
2. A dangling modifier walks into a bar. After finishing a drink, the bartender asks it to leave.
3. A question mark walks into a bar?
4. Two quotation marks "walk into" a bar.
5. A gerund and an infinitive walk into a bar, drinking to drink.
6. The bar was walked into by the passive voice.
7. Three intransitive verbs walk into a bar. They sit. They drink. They leave

FOR YOU LEXOPHILES

Submitted by Don Drumtra

- To write with a broken pencil is pointless.
- When fish are in schools they sometimes take debate.
- A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
- When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.
- The professor discovered that her theory of earthquakes was on shaky ground.
- The batteries were given out free of charge.
- A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.
- A will is a dead giveaway.
- If you don't pay your exorcist you can get repossessed.
- With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
- Show me a piano falling down a mineshaft and I'll show you A-flat miner.
- You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
- Local Area Network in Australia: The LAN down under.
- A boiled egg is hard to beat.
- When you've seen one shopping center you've seen a mall.
- Police were called to a day care where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.
- Did you hear about the fellow whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.
- If you take a laptop computer for a run you could jog your memory.
- A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two-tired.
- In a democracy it's your vote that counts; in feudalism, it's your Count that votes.
- When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.
- The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered.
- He had a photographic memory which was never developed.
- Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.
- When she saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye.
- Acupuncture: a jab well done.

POETRY CORNER—Haiku



*Elevated train
slowly undulating,
giant caterpillar.*

- Rose M. Berkowitz
8/14/96

Biologically Inspired Computing includes artificial neural networks, genetic algorithms and evolutionary computation. Now computer scientists and molecular geneticists who studied how sensory bristles develop in fruit flies have used that knowledge to develop an algorithm to define a sequence of operations to organize distributed computer networks. Science vol 331, p. 682

Astronomers and Biomedical Researchers are cooperating to analyze data. A survey of star-forming regions produced massive amounts of data that were hard to visualize in two dimensions. In a workshop a radiologist realized that visualization software used with medical scans might be able to handle astronomical data as well. Now sophisticated computer algorithms used to pick out faint, fuzzy objects from large batches of images are also used to find cancer. Science vol 331, p. 696

Paint is a suspension, with small particles of pigment and polymer spread in a liquid. Manufacturers spend much time and money to determining how to control its flow behavior. Science vol 331, p. 868

Vectorborne Parasites cause major human diseases in the developing world, some of which are spreading to ecosystems warming from global climate change. These include malaria, Chagas disease and schistosomiasis. Their life cycles were defined over 100 years ago but the strategies they use to optimize transmission from one host to another are only now being understood in detail. Science vol 331, p. 1149

Cone Cells in the retina of a particular species are thought to evolve into a configuration that most efficiently detects colors in the animal's environment. Scientists measured the color information in high-resolution photographs in the general region where humans are thought to have evolved. Their results support that hypothesis; an overabundance of red and green cones needed and evolved. Science vol 331, p. 1119

Hunter-Gatherer Lifestyle is thought to have been the most common social structure in most of human history. The common assumption was that almost all in a group

were related by biology or marriage. Analysis of kin relationships in 32 contemporary hunter-gatherer societies showed that the opposite is true. What does this mean for the evolution of pro-social behaviors and culture? Science vol 331, p. 1239

Elephants are known to be highly socially intelligent. When trained for a task that needs two trunks, one elephant will wait for a partner to appear. This kind of cooperative skill is widespread in humans and chimpanzees, but surprising in elephants. Science vol 331, p. 1248

Cold-Blooded Organisms need to find places with the proper temperature in order to function. Researchers report that temperature discrimination by fly larvae involves rhodopsin, a molecule used to sense light. Science vol 331, p. 1272

Deep Water Horizon Spill allowed airborne measurements downwind of an oil spill, revealing a narrow plume of gaseous VOCs and a much broader plume of organic particles. The increase in the mass of particles and particle size with distance from the platform demonstrated that the organic particulates were formed from the oxidation of precursor compounds emitted from the surface oil. Aerosols are known to affect climate and air quality. Science vol 331, p. 1273

Inferences are made by our minds that go beyond the data available. This review describes recent attempts to reverse engineer human learning and cognitive development, which should lead to machine learning that is more humanlike. Science vol 331, p. 1279

Aging in the Natural World is similar for humans and nonhuman primates. This includes males having shorter life spans and higher age-specific mortality than females. Science vol 331, p. 1325

For more Science Snippets and other features, visit www.scienceforcitizens.org.

JANUARY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Board Meeting	5	6	7
8	9 Member Mtg Mensa Testing	10	11	12 ALG Deadline Chess Night, TGIT-North	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 TGIT-South	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 TGIT-North Seal & Label	27	28
29	30	31	1 Board Meeting			

See the online calendar (www.lsm.us.mensa.org/events/calendar.html) for the latest additions, cancellations, or changes. Online calendar inputs may be posted at any time. Calendar input for the printed calendar is due by the second Thursday of each month for the following month's calendar.

Board of Officers Meeting

1st Wednesday

Jan. 4, 6:00-7:00 PM

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

Member Meeting

2nd Monday

Jan. 9, 6:15-8:45PM

Carver Public Library, Rooms 2-3
1161 Angelina, Austin, TX
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.

Mensa Admissions Testing

Jan. 9

For time, location, and details contact Austin Meyer at 512-971-3123 or austin.g.meyer@gmail.com.

ALG/Calendar Deadline

2nd Thursday

Jan. 12, Midnight
Submissions due.

Chess Night (with the TGIT group)

2nd Thursday

Jan. 12, 6-8 PM

Central Market Café North
Bring your chess sets if you have them. Hosted by Douglas Yee. See the TGIT North entry for directions.

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (North)

2nd & 4th Thursdays

Jan. 12 & 26, 6:00-8:00 PM

Central Market Café North at Central Park:

4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX,
512-206-1020
East of N. Lamar between 38th and 44th Streets; on the south side of the store.

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

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (South)

3rd Thursdays

Jan. 19, 6:00-8:00 PM

Central Market Café South at Westgate Mall:

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

On the south side of the S. Lamar access road (the south access road of I-290/SR71) between Westgate Blvd. and Frontier Trail. Enter on the east side of the store, by the statues of fruits and vegetables.

Come join the South Austin group for conversation, food and fun. Prospective members welcome.

Seal & Label

4th Thursday

Jan. 26, 6:00-8:00 PM

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

Join the TGIT Group to help seal and label the newsletter. See the TGIT-North entry for directions.

UPCOMING IN FEBRUARY

Feb. 1, Board Meeting
Feb. 9, Chess Night, ALG Deadline
Feb. 9 & 23, TGIT-North
Feb. 13, Member Meeting
Feb. 16, TGIT-South
Feb. 23, Seal & Label
Feb. 29, Board Meeting

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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 Word (preferred), JPG or PDF format. We reserve the right to edit for content if necessary. Rates for other sized ads or other time periods are available upon request. The deadline for ad submission to the newsletter editor is 5 days before the general newsletter deadline.

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



Armadillo Literary Gazette

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