

Armadillo Literary Gazette

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

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Submitted By *Rose Berkowitz*

This month's theme is connection—with loved ones, friends, professional colleagues, fellow Mensans—across time and space. In that regard, here's a short poem of mine for your consideration:

GODHOOD

*Sometimes you must open,
And feel the pain
If only for a little while.
(Too long would be ruin.)*

*Time is a revolving wheel,
Space is an illusion.
Macroscopic/microscopic,
Infinite/instantaneous...*

Existence is a mirror.



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.

LSM FAMILY PICNIC

March 16th
4:00 pm - 8:00
Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest Park,
7000 Ardath St., Austin



Northwest Park is a city park in north central Austin, the Allandale neighborhood. Drive through the park to the back, past the tennis courts, to the parking lot beside a huge pond. We will be at the long concrete picnic table. You may want to bring a lawn chair. There's a good play-scape for the kids immediately adjacent to the picnic area.

We will have a grill going, so bring the meat you and your family will eat. Also please bring a side dish to share. Dogs on a leash are welcome. For more information, call 512-784-5592.

Submitted by Angela Adams, Symposia Chair

New Member Meeting →

A New Member Meeting hosted by Patsy Graham was held at Cafe Express on Feb 16. New members attending were Brendan Angel and spouse, and Pete and Tom. A total of 12 people attended



February Member Meeting

How to grow a mushroom on purpose. Mario and Luigi, take note!

February's member meeting speaker was Paige Hill, Executive Director of Urban Patchwork. If you missed it (and a lot of you did – only four Mensans showed up), here's a quick recap of how she's changing the world, and teaching others to do the same.

An old Chinese proverb states, "If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. If you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime." That's the basic premise behind Urban Patchwork, an Austin organization dedicated to solving the enduring problem of hunger, one neighborhood at a time.

Austin's rapid growth in recent years has resulted in the inadvertent creation of "food deserts," areas that have little or no access to fresh fruits or vegetables. In addition to unhealthy food choices, these zones also tend to have high crime and obesity rates. Urban Patchwork's solution focuses on teaching residents and

March Member Meeting

What: So You Want to Start a Vegetable Garden
Who: Travis County Master Gardener Sheryl Williams
When: Mon, Mar 11, 6:45 pm
Where: Carver Public Library, 1161 Angelina Street

March is a time for change and new growth, with the promise of spring (and Spring Break) just around the corner. At this time of year, my mind always wanders to thoughts of plants – tasty, edible plants, that is. It's time to plant that vegetable garden! But where to begin? If



business owners in these neighborhoods how to grow food sustainably on a portion of their front yards. Their efforts "expand food access and strengthen urban food culture" throughout these food deserts. Get enough neighbors to participate and cooperate, and all of a sudden, you have a varied and balanced food-producing ecosystem. This new "food corridor" or "passive food trail" becomes an edible oasis in a desolate land.

Urban Patchwork could have been just another food kitchen or community garden. Instead of providing a short-term handout to poorer areas, however, they chose to change attitudes and provide a hand UP, empowering, educating, and transforming neighborhoods for a lifetime.

To volunteer with Urban Patchwork or learn more about Urban Patchwork's Neighborhood Farms, please visit www.UrbanPatchwork.org.

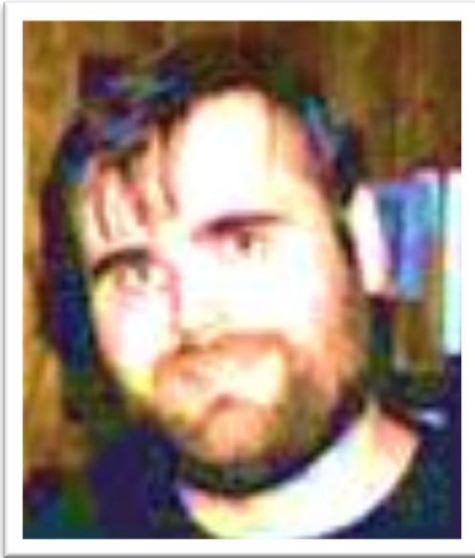
only someone would come and teach me about the specifics of starting my own vegetable garden...

Herbs and vegetable gardens can be grown in many different ways, from containers on your porch to traditional garden plots to very large hugelkultur raised beds. Learn the basics of vegetable gardening, and ask a Master Gardener all those thorny gardening questions you've always wanted answered, but were too afraid to ask. Come greenify your thumb!

A WORD TO THE WISE

Submitted by John Neemidge, LocSec

This month I'm writing about some different ways to connect with your fellow Lone Star Mensans and keep up with what we're doing in the group—besides simply attending events. Obviously one way is via the Armadillo; there's lots of information in each issue, including the calendar of events, Board minutes and notices, information about events in other local groups, and more. You can also use the Armadillo to reach us -- we welcome new calendar events, and Rose welcomes letters to the editor and contributions of other kinds (stories, poetry, games, and more -- if you have an idea, let Rose know!).



The next way to connect with us is via the group website -- www.lsm.us.mensa.org. On it you'll find expanded versions of a lot of information that's in the Armadillo, including a list of officers with pictures and email links, a group calendar to which events can be added, information about our Regional Gathering (as the RG gets closer there'll be more and more, but there's always information about previous RGs too, including lots of pictures), an archive of older Armadillos, the group's policies and governing documents, and more. We're currently working on a major update to the website, but there's a lot there now, and of course we'll let you all know when we're ready to roll out the new site.

The third way to connect with us is via our email lists. We have two email lists -- one just named LSM, that's for open discussion and chat, and one named LSM-Announce. LSM-Announce is the one most people will be familiar with. When you join Lone Star Mensa you should be placed on LSM-Announce. We consider it to be a companion to the Armadillo. Reminders of local events are sent to the Announce list a few days before the event, and we also use it to inform you of events that didn't make the Armadillo deadline, changes or cancellations, or other timely information.

LSM-Announce is low-traffic, moderated, and restricted to material of general interest to our members. If for some reason you're not on the list, or not seeing messages from it, it's possible that I missed adding you -- let me know! It's also possible that your email address is incorrect with Mensa's National Office (we get our list of addresses from them), or that you have your distribution restrictions set so that we can't get it. Check with National about this -- and again, let me know. You can also go to the list website (<http://www.lists.us.mensa.org/mailman/listinfo/lsm-announce>) and subscribe.

The LSM list is intended for open discussion. Right now it's not active at all, but it's out there waiting; try sending it something and see if you can start up a conversation. If you're not on the list, or want to see if you are, the list's website is <http://www.lists.us.mensa.org/mailman/listinfo/lsm>.



One more way to connect with us is via our Facebook page at (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/86611987434/>). Many events are listed on our Facebook page, and everyone's welcome to start new discussions. Membership is restricted to Mensa members; if you want to be added, just send a request in Facebook and we'll verify you and add you to the group.

However you prefer to connect with us, we hope you do -- the more, the merrier!

YOUR SUDOKU PUZZLE

Weekly Extremes, sudoku.org.uk/Daily.asp

By Douglas Yee



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

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.

MAKE THAT CONNECTION!

Posted by Charles Brown, Communications Manager, AML, charlesb@americanmensa.org

In this second decade of the 21st century, our ability to connect with one another must have Johannes Gutenberg, Samuel Morse and Alexander Graham Bell shaking their heads as they look down from that great workshop in the sky.

Some of the touch points of our modern networks are forced on us by evolving technology. The march of progress, however, hasn't altered or improved much on the classic bond formed around a handshake and a shared beverage. Despite the abundance of choices, it's still the strength of the connection that matters most.

It's the same with Mensans, who draw a charge out of the various ways they connect – from the warmth of reunion hugs at an AG, to the pulse of a networking opportunity at a Local Group meeting, to the high voltage of a discussion on the Community forums.

On a professional level, CareerLink (www.careerlink.us.mensa.org) and LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com/company/american-mensa) are robust networking resources for Mensans seeking a job or an employee. These career channels target specific opportunities in certain sectors, locations and demographics.

Of course, we also dial into various other connection points – some formal, others casual – along the line of shared experiences. You know it's true if, in Hospitality, you've ever debated a Star Trek reference or plotted a business venture – perhaps even in the same conversation.

Mensans value their membership for different reasons. If you are one of the members for whom connectivity and the sense of community matter most, it's never too late to tune into some of the Mensa network channels you've flipped by in the past. Try participating in an online Symposi-M or explore the science fiction-science relationship at this year's Colloquium.

For fans of Gutenberg, Morse and Bell, no doubt there are more than a few of us who still know how to print, tap out a coded message or work a phone. Just make that connection!

ANSWERS TO "SENIOR QUIZ"

1. 116 years
2. Ecuador
3. Sheep and Horses
4. November
5. Squirrel fur
6. Dogs
7. Albert
8. Crimson
9. New Zealand
10. Orange (of course)

FEBRUARY BOARD MINUTES

Submitted by Don Drumtra, Chairman pro tem and Treasurer

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Don Drumtra acting as Chairman pro tem, convened the February regular meeting of the Lone Star Mensa Board of Officers at 7:15 PM, 2013 February 7 at Carver Branch of the Austin Public Library, Central Market, 1161 Angelina St., Austin TX. Attending were **Don Drumtra** and **Douglas Yee**.

The chairman called the meeting to order, announced that there was not a quorum, and recessed the meeting to wait for another board member. **Ron Edelstein** (not a board member) arrived during the recess.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 8:15, announced that there was still not a quorum, and with the consent of the members present, adjourned the meeting at 8:15 PM.

[Furthermore, at this time we have NO candidates for any of the upcoming open board positions . Pretty sad state of affairs! – Editor]

ANGELA'S HAPPENINGS

Submitted by Angela Adams, Symposia Chair

Here's what's happening in the month of March:

- Improv 101 Class — Monday, March 4, 7:00 pm — ColdTowne Theater, 4803 Airport Blvd. Free. The Chicago-style, long-form improvisational training center teaches the basics of improv comedy. Expect to dive right in and actually do some improv – on stage – by the end of the night. Come see what all the ruckus is about – for free!
- Arcade Night — Friday, March 15, 8:00 pm — Pinballz Arcade, 8940 Research Blvd., Suite 100. Free admission, but bring money to play games. Are you a pinball wizard? Or maybe video games are your thing? Pinballz Arcade has 100+ pinball machines, along with a wide array of video games, skee-ball, air hockey tables, and much more. Bring your quarters and pit yourself against your fellow Mensans!

If you decide to attend either of these events, please email me at angsu@hotmail.com so that we can coordinate and meet up.

Let's hang out!

MARKETING SPARKS

Submitted by Lauren Kelly, Marketing Director, AML

As many of you may already know, the Mensa Bulletin presented the debut of "The Pulse" in its January issue. For those of you who haven't seen it, "The Pulse" is a breakdown of the results from a survey given to a random selection of Mensa members. This month's Pulse revealed Jeopardy to be the best television game show of all time. You can see the results at us.mensa.org/topten.

This is a fun way to share unique content for our social channels, as well as a talking point to use to reach out and engage with potential new members and other audiences who are interested in what Mensa members think. A new Pulse will be shared every month, so keep a look out for a survey in your inbox. The more responses we receive, the better!

Please share any questions, stories, or ideas with us by sending them to Lauren Kelly at LaurenK@americanmensa.org or 817-607-0060 ext. 5547.

FROM THE RVC

Submitted by Roger Durham, Region 6 RVC

It's March once again, and that means it's time to renew your Mensa membership again (unless, of course, you're a life member, or you paid for a multi-year renewal that still has some time to run). I know some of you are disappointed that dues have increased once again this year, and I sympathize with you, but the fact is that our costs continue to increase and we have to keep up somehow. However, as I have mentioned before, a life membership will insulate you from further dues increases - forever. Why not make this the year that you invest in Mensa membership once and for all?

Another thing that it's time to do is make your plans to attend the 2013 version of SynRG, the Regional Gathering of Gulf Coast Mensa, taking place over Memorial Day weekend in Houston. Go to www.gcmensa.org for more information and a registration form. It's also time to make plans to attend the 2013 Annual Gathering of American Mensa, July 3-7 in Fort Worth this summer. Visit www.ag.us.mensa.org for details.

Also, of course, the arrival of March means another American Mensa election is right around the corner. There are quite a few contested races this year, the outcome of which could be vitally important to the future of our organization, so please

read the biographies and candidate statements in the Mensa Bulletin carefully, and then vote for the candidates of your choice. I'm happy to say that, as no one filed to run against me, I have been automatically elected to another two-year term as your Regional Vice Chairman. I will do my best to deserve your continued confidence in my representation.

Similarly, as the sole candidate, the outgoing Chair of American Mensa, Elissa Rudolph, has been automatically elected to the office of International Chair, beginning this summer. Elissa will also serve as Past Chair of American Mensa for the next two years.



Finally, as always, please remember that if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, you can reach me at rvc6@us.mensa.org or by snail mail at 9920 Ridgehaven Drive, Dallas, TX 75238.

DON'T FORGET – RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

2013 AMC ELECTION CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED

Submitted by HowardP@americanmensa.org

The nomination and petition periods are now officially closed. Here is the final list of candidates as they will appear on the ballot for the 2013 American Mensa election. The candidate name order was determined by random drawing. Individuals marked with "N" were nominated via the Nominating Committee process; those marked with "P" obtained the requisite number of petition signatures in order to run. Those running unopposed are declared elected and will take office on July 1, 2013.

Election Committee Chair

Megan Edwards
ElectionChair@us.mensa.org

Chair

Daniel Burg (N/P)
Robert Salkin (P)

1VC

John Recht (N)
Heather Miller Poirier (N)

2VC

LaRae Bakerink (P)
Debra Reiger (N)
Kenneth Silver (N)

Secretary

Jared Levine (P)
Brian Reeves (N/P)

Treasurer

Cary Chilson (P)
Nicholaus Sanford (N/P)

RVC1

Andrew Heffernan (N/P)

RVC2

Nancy McMahan Farrar (N/P)
Cam Smart (P)

RVC3

John Voymas (N/P)
Julia Ashley (N/P)

RVC4

Ellen Voie (N)

RVC5

Bertha Clarke (N)

Baker Ring (N)

RVC6

Roger Durham (N)

RVC7

Gregory Kontz (N)
William Jacob Winship (N)

RVC8

Harold Ward (N)

RVC9

Desiree Sagray (N)
Clark Jones (N)

RVC10

Thomas George Thomas (N)

Submitted by Lisa Van Gemert, Gifted Youth Specialist, Mensa Foundation

Happenings & Celebrations:

March is National Craft Month, so be sure to try out a new craft or art project. For ideas, see our Pinterest Arts & Crafts board at <http://bit.ly/artandcraft> (you do not need to be a registered Pinterest user to view the board).

Resources:

March 17th is St. Patrick's Day (of course). Take this quiz about Ireland <http://on.natgeo.com/UMtphC> and separate the facts about this holiday from the blarney at <http://bit.ly/Xl4oHn>. For a fun family activity, enjoy this St. Patty's Day scavenger hunt (complete with limerick clues) <http://bit.ly/U5t99Q>. Feeling brave? Try this Green Velvet Cake for a tasty eating o' the green! <http://www.recipegirl.com/2012/03/05/green-velvet-cheesecake-cake/>.

A lesser known holiday comes two days later on March 19th. Poultry Day is the perfect day to do the Chicken Dance, make chicken noodle soup, or color a chicken (print chicken coloring pages here <http://bit.ly/VTyPIT>).

March 25th is Waffle Day, and what better way to recognize it than with breakfast for dinner? Consider fun toppings like whipped cream, Nutella thinned with milk, pecans, ice cream, peanut butter & jelly, or the old stand-by, butter & syrup. Yum! Find a simple (and delicious) recipe here <http://bit.ly/easywaffles>.

Contest:

The latest contest for Young Mensans in American Mensa is the "Spring Has Sprung" Photo Contest. Here are the details:

We want to see what spring looks like in your neck of the woods! Take a picture of spring in all its glory, and share it with us. Send your JPEG files to GiftedYouth@americanmensa.org (subject: Spring Has Sprung Contest) or mail printed photos to

Spring Has Sprung Contest
1229 Corporate Drive West
Arlington, TX 76006

Prizes will be awarded in five categories:

- Landscape
- Animals
- People
- Creatively altered (with Photoshop or other software)
- Under 6 years old

Prizes:

Winners in each category will receive their choice of the following:

- \$15 itunes gift card or
- Age/ability-appropriate photography book

Rules:

- Photograph must be taken by the Young Mensan (no parents/siblings/etc.)
- Maximum of two submissions per Young Mensan
- The photo must be an original, uncropped image (submissions in Creatively Altered category may be cropped) with a minimum of 300 dpi
- Photographs become the property of American Mensa® and may be used by American Mensa in internal publications, publicity, or other use, with name of photographer used only by permission of parent or guardian of photographer
- Deadline: **May 31st**, 2013

Benefit Highlight:

There are a few resources the Foundation offers with which you may not be familiar. Check out the slide show presentations that will help parents at <http://www.slideshare.net/MensaFoundation>. We are storing evergreen resources here www.mensafoundation.org/giftedspecialist, and of course, we've got loads of great resources for parents and teachers at www.pinterest.com/brightkids.

Every advance in civilization has been denounced as unnatural while it was recent. - Bertrand Russell

(THERE IS) NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT

"Good day, ladies and gentlemen, and those of you who are about to become ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to Life Airlines. This is your captain speaking. You are aboard our daily flight from 'here' to 'eternity.' We will be departing Life's gate momentarily. Life Airlines has flown this route every day since the beginning of time, and we have never once failed to reach your assigned terminal no matter what delays or distractions we may have encountered on the voyage along the way. Our time-travel machines are the finest ever conceived and built, and we guarantee that you will reach your final destination. For those of you who are about to become first-time travelers by entering into Life today, we remind you that you will be expected to observe all the local rules, which are in place for everyone's safety, comfort, and convenience. And, for those of you who have been flying with us from before today, we assure you that we are going to transport you inexorably toward your final stop, and you will reach that place in due time. So, sit back, relax, enjoy the sights and experiences along the voyage of your life, and thank you for time-traveling with Life."

Thus spoken, the captain switched off the intercom, and prepared the time-travel craft for departure. All those first time travelers -- those who were to be born this day -- were excited and anxious to begin their journey into the future. They held very high hopes their journey would turn out to be successful and rewarding before they reached their final stop. Those folks who were not newborns, but who had come aboard upon learning that their lives could have new meaning if they would but open their minds to the concept of traveling into their future, were just as excited to begin this new phase of their journey. And, then, there were the skeptics who dismissed the whole concept out of hand, but came along for the ride anyway. This last group would learn that, despite their disbelief in the concept of time travel, they too would reach their final destination just like everybody else.

So, what say, let's take a look at this "Time" thing, examine it closely, and dissect it into some of its component parts. It's perfectly normal for most humans to think of "Time" in three phases: Past, Present, and Future. These phases are so imbued in all of us that it's difficult to come to understand that perhaps these terms are not fully accurate. And, there's no shortage of authors who have written essays about developing, one day, the ability to travel into either the Past or into the Future. Of course, we all know that the Present is the

"here and now," and we don't have to travel to get there: we're already there! Yeah? Well, let's look a little closer.

We'll consider the easiest concept first: the Past. Everybody knows that the Past can be defined as the point of time from where you're standing right now and backwards to the beginning of time, perhaps even to the moment of the "Big Bang," or at least back to some life forms such as dinosaurs or proto-humans. We all fantasize how "neat" it would be if we could travel back to some earlier time in human history, and what we could do if we could accomplish the reversal of time. There are a lot of people (scientists and the like) who are spending a lot of money to develop the Large Hadron Collider in Europe, with which they hope to prove that if they can accelerate a particle to beyond the speed of light (the claimed ultimate speed in the universe), the particle will traverse a miles-long closed course and return to the starting point before it left. Thus, that particle would be not only a traveler to the Future (because it can look back to witness the event of the Past before it was accelerated), but it would also be a traveler to the Past because it can see itself before it departed. Duh!! You can go forward and backward in time simultaneously? Nonsense, it ain't gonna happen! The Past (that is, Time) has elapsed, and ain't nothin' going to bring it back. Well, maybe not nothing.....

I will postulate that we can easily go backward in time to the Past in several ways: (1) we can relive the Past in our dreams. We can recreate the Past in living color and with as much detail as suits our fancy; or (2) we can simply daydream (fantasize, if you will) about the Past. Of course, it is axiomatic that if we could truly travel backward in Time, we certainly could not change or affect one iota of anything that happened in the Past because to do so would of course change or alter what had already happened in the Future. Thus, as Time travelers to the Past, we could be only observers. So, what's the point of going backwards if we can't do anything about what we find?! Who knows? Maybe we're living in the Past right now, and the Future people have discovered how to travel backwards in Time and are, in fact, moving unseen among us, observing, but not changing, what they find. The only certain thing about the Past is that it is real, it did happen, and there is plenty of documentation to prove it. All right, before we all go crazy, let's move on to a discussion about the Future.

Ah, the Future. Countless people over countless time have speculated about traveling to the Future.

Unfortunately, no one seems to have figured out the riddle so far despite every effort to do so. But, wait a minute! I'm here to tell you that Future travel has been here since the beginning of Time, except that it was right in front of us and we didn't recognize it!

Now, whaddya think of that?? Let's take a look at this "Future" thing. We are all -- every single living organism, humans included -- Future travelers. We are all traveling into the future at precisely the same rate of speed -- one micro-second per micro-second -- and we have no control over it. Every moment that you live, you have traveled forward in Time into the Future. When you began to read this essay, you were at some particular point in Time; then in the next micro-second after you began reading, you had to travel into the Future to read further; and you will continue to move into the Future as you finish this essay. Ultimately as, and until, you finish your life span, you will continue your Future travel. If you want to know what will happen in your future precisely one week from today, all you need to do is remain alive and you will, in precise time, travel to one week into your future, and then you will know what you will be doing. Want to know who will win the next Presidential election? Just stay alive long enough and you'll find out! See how easy it is to be a traveler to the Future? In fact, staying alive means advancing into the Future. No one can dispute that!

Now, there may be some who would say that they don't want to travel to the Future at the prescribed rate; they want to travel faster than that, so they can get there first, ahead of everybody else. Well, good luck Charlie! The problem with getting there ahead of yourself -- just like the particle in the Large Hadron Collider -- is that if you haven't left yet, you can't get there ahead of yourself. Or, in other words, if you manage to bend the

Time continuum and get there before you leave, you're really only dreaming about being there ahead of your departure. It's a kind of an insoluble paradox or oxymoron; you simply can't have it both ways. So, let's postulate that the Future is really where it's at, where all your activity, your life, is going to transpire.

Now, for the challenging part: the Present. In order to discuss the Present, there needs to be two definitions of that term: there is the "Practical" Present, which nearly everybody considers to be the "here and now." And, for those who think outside the box, there is NO Present time: the Present simply doesn't exist for any living creature. Time consists of the Past, that which has already elapsed, and the Future, which is unfolding instantaneously and continuously. If we can agree that we are moving forward at all times and at uniform rates of speed (one week per week, one day per day, one micro-second per micro-second), we can then quite easily discern that, unless Time stops, no matter how small the forward movement may be fractionalized, it never reaches absolute zero.

Therefore, it's very safe to postulate that, in reality, there is no "here and now" for living creatures. However, we can add to that theorem, that there is a Present, but it exists only for those for whom Time is no longer passing, namely those who are dead. The Present can exist only when Time is not moving forward. At the moment of death, our corporal bodies continue to move forward into the future, but our essence -- our being, our persona -- has come to rest in the Present, and it cannot and will not forever move forward in time again. Hence by strict definition, there is no time like the Present (unless of course you have died while reading this convoluted essay), in which case, sorry about that!!

DAFFYNITIONS

Going around the Internet

- ARBITRATOR: A cook that leaves Arby's to work at McDonalds
- AVOIDABLE: What a bullfighter tries to do
- BERNADETTE: The act of torching a mortgage
- BURGLARIZE: What a crook sees with
- CONTROL: A short, ugly inmate
- COUNTERFEITERS: Workers who put together kitchen cabinets
- ECLIPSE: What an English barber does for a living
- EYEDROPPER: A clumsy ophthalmologist
- HEROES: What a guy in a boat does
- LEFTBANK: What the robber did when his bag was full of money
- MISTY: How golfers create divots
- PARADOX: Two physicians!!
- PARASITES: What you see from the top of the Eiffel Tower
- PHARMACIST: A helper on the farm
- POLARIZE: What penguins see with
- PRIMATE: Removing your spouse from in front of the TV!!
- RELIEF: What trees do in the spring
- RUBBERNECK: What you do to relax your wife
- SELFISH: What the owner of a seafood store does
- SUDAFED: Brought litigation against a government

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS*

- 1 Chelle Bell
- 1 Jeffrey Evans
- 2 Joanna J Newnam
- 2 Mark Spillers
- 5 Keith Busby
- 5 David Michael Crumbliss
- 5 Christopher Malcolm Newland
- 6 Justin A Jones
- 6 Mary Dunlap Young
- 7 Vladimir Garner
- 8 Richard E Anaya
- 8 Joseph William Hrbek Jr
- 8 James V Motsinger
- 8 Jane Thompson
- 10 Joshua Benjamin Chlapek
- 12 Donna Jarvis Slane
- 15 Claude I Leasure
- 15 Terry Rodgers
- 18 Jimmie Choate Parker
- 19 Kyle Simpson
- 20 Paul Anderson
- 20 Jake Glascock
- 20 Walter V Lacy III
- 20 Jeff Ridgeway
- 21 Elango Rajagopal
- 21 Michael Rubin
- 24 Lydia Ann O'Neil
- 24 Isabella Taylor
- 25 Gary Paul Davis
- 25 Trudy L K Loper
- 27 Sara S Sharpe
- 29 Mike Hansene

NEW MEMBERS—WELCOME!

- Christopher Alby
- Jazmine DeFranco
- Gwyndolyn N Jones
- Miller Roberts

JUST MOVED IN—HI NEIGHBOR!

- Daniel Hor
- Anita V Mantri
- Uel J McMahan

WELCOME BACK--MISSED YOU!

- Floyd L Anderson Jr
- K Anthony Bottorff
- Deidre Brightman
- Keith Busby
- Jeff Dawson
- Robert J Ely
- Christian Jackson
- Stephen Brice Rider
- Lorna Schwimmer
- Roger W Waak

GOODBYE—WE WISH YOU WELL

- Kenneth Hester
- Jeffrey McKee
- Thomas Perkowski
- Benjamin J Suchy
- Michael F Volpe III CPT

**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.*

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

MEMBER FOR 35 YEARS

Michael G Dennis

MEMBER FOR 30 YEARS

James Collins
Mary Jane Lockhart

MEMBER FOR 20 YEARS

Chelle Bell

MEMBER FOR 10 YEARS

David Floyd
Paul Rabago

MEMBER FOR 5 YEARS

Brian Cruver
Austin Hay
J Andrew Lambrecht
Richard Sabel
Diana M Wilbur

MEMBER FOR 1 YEAR

Alan Blake
James Crayton
David Michael Crumbliss
Dr L Kent Gilbreath
John Greytok
Michael Heyne
Denise Hicks
Ronald Wayne Holder Jr
Megan Kehoe
Alison Keith
Maxwell Morris
Matthew L Rife
Ryan Rozich
Sue E Thompson

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I recently lost my spouse of 54 years. It's like losing your right arm! But I'm slowly recovering, and now I'm beginning to get lonely. I NEED to start getting involved again...and I don't want to wallow in self-pity.

While I have friends where our house is located, they are all couples. I'm not aware of any single women close to my age in our little town. (I live in Point Venture on Lake Travis). There are some in their fifties, but that is too

much of an age difference—my twin daughters are in their fifties.

Do we have any local Mensa members who are female and over 65 who might enjoy masculine company? I lean to the Libertarian point of view, with a

conservative bent. (This may make things more complicated in the Austin area, which I understand is more liberal in general.)

Thanks,

Tom Spillman
tspillman@austin.rr.com

Rose:

Congratulations on stirring up your readership with your comments last month in the Armadillo Literary Gazette. The letters to the editor showed that people listened and cared enough to write.

I did enjoy the one writer who ragged on you for using your column to reach out for help and suggested that he might want to tattle on you to national. "National" in the form of your national Communications Officer was already aware of your column and applauded you for it.

Brian Reeves
AML Communications Officer
brian@brianreeves.com

Rose:

I've been meaning to send you an email on what you wrote...

First, I do read the Armadillo and what you write, so at least to that degree you're not screaming into the void.

And I do agree with you that we need to get people more active and the monthly meeting would be better if we could get members to talk about what they know, since this is Mensa and most people do and know some interesting things.

Yesterday I was talking to Amanda [Lacy] and said "You should do something on blindness- what the blind world is like and what sighted people don't know about being blind". It is a fairly long list. Her reaction was "But who'd be interested in that?" which is part of the problem—the people who have the knowledge think it is obvious and those without it who might be interested don't know what is out there. I could do something on the military film collection, but I never think to schedule it. Maybe we should ask new members about that they are experts in...

Dave Miller

Aloha,

I have a bunch of newsletter questions: **[Answered by Don Drumtra, previous LocSec]**

1.0 What are LG policies for paying for newsletter subscriptions? Is this allowed or not?

We charge \$10 for paper or email subscriptions. Postal rules for periodical permit require subscribers pay for their subscriptions more than a nominal rate. Printed copies are counted and distribution to subscribers and non-subscribers is reported annually to USPS

1.1 General members of the public that are not members (Y/N)

N. See 1.2

1.2 Inactive lapsed member who want to have access to the calendar and show up as a guest but not become a paid member. (Y/N)

N -- Our newsletter is considered a benefit of membership. Access to the online version requires the Mensa password which is inactivated when membership lapses. We consider lapsed members as non-members so they may not subscribe. However our online calendar is open to the public, our meetings are held in public venues, and our meetings are therefore open to the public. Members may hold meetings in their homes and may therefore restrict participation as they choose. Any member may add events to the online calendar. The Calendar Editor monitors the postings for propriety.

1.3 An obvious ok to me would be an active member who is close to the border of two groups, is registered and receives the newsletter in one and wants the calendar of the other nearby group. (In FL this makes sense). Another obvious ok situation here in Hawai'i is service members who want to keep their permanent address on record (not where they are stationed this year) and want a copy to understand local events.

See 1.0 and 1.2.

2.0 What do you charge for physical subscriptions per year?

\$10 See 1.0

3.0 Do you offer an electronic subscription? (Meaning you would have to email it and not use AML's website email/link distribution method.)

Yes, see 1.0, we email it.
We also post on the AML
website,

3.1 What do you change for
electronic subscriptions?

\$10. See 1.0

Thanks everyone!

Jason Hoffman
LocSec, Mensa Hawai'i

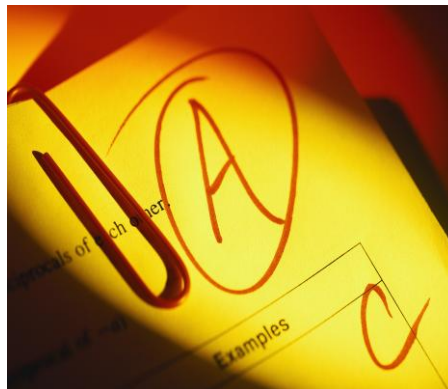
"SENIOR SCHOOL" FINAL EXAM

Going around the Internet

You only need 4 correct answers out of 10 questions to pass.

1. How long did the Hundred Years' War last?
2. Which country makes Panama hats?
3. From which animal do we get cat gut?
4. In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
5. What is a camel's hair brush made of?
6. The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal?
7. What was King George VI's first name?
8. What color is a purple finch?
9. Where are Chinese gooseberries from?
10. What is the color of the black box in a commercial airplane?

Answers are on page 4. (No cheating!)



MORE SENIOR DISCOUNTS

Going around the Internet

Here's the rest of the list from last month. It may not only be useful for you, but for your friends and family, too.

Rail

Amtrak: 15% off (62+)

Bus

Greyhound: 5% off (62+)

Trailways Transportation System: various discounts for
ages 50+

Car Rental

Alamo Car Rental: up to 25% off for AARP members

Avis: up to 25% off for AARP members Best Western: 10% off
(55+)

Budget Rental Cars: 10% off; up to 20% off for AARP members

Dollar Rent-A-Car: 10% off (50+)

Enterprise Rent-A-Car: 5% off for AARP members (50+)

Hertz: up to 25% off for AARP members

Holiday Inn: 10%-30% off depending on location (62+)

National Rent-A-Car: up to 30% off for AARP members

Over Night Accommodations

Cambria Suites: 20%-30% off (60+)

Clarion Motels: 20%-30% off (60+)

Comfort Inn: 20%-30% off (60+)

Comfort Suites: 20%-30% off (60+)

Econo Lodge: 20%-30% off (60+)

Hampton Inns & Suites: 10% off when booked 72 hours in
advance

Hyatt Hotels: 25%-50% off (62+)

InterContinental Hotels Group: various discounts at all hotels
(65+)

Mainstay Suites: 10% off with Mature Traveler's Discount

(50+); 20%-30% off (60+)

Marriott Hotels: 15% off (62+)

Motel 6: 10% off (60+)

Myrtle Beach Resort: 10% off (55+)

Quality Inn: 20%-30% off (60+)

Rodeway Inn: 20%-30% off (60+)

Sleep Inn: 20%-30% off (60+)

ACTIVITIES & ENTERTAINMENT

AMC Theaters: up to 30% off (55+)

Bally Total Fitness: up to \$100 off memberships (62+)

Busch Gardens Tampa, FL: \$3 off one-day tickets (50+)

Carmike Cinemas: 35% off (65+)

Cinemark/Century Theaters: up to 35% off

U.S. National Parks: \$10 lifetime pass; 50% off additional
services including camping (62+)

Regal Cinemas: 30% off Ripley's Believe it or Not: @ off one-
day ticket (55+)

SeaWorld Orlando, FL: \$3 off one-day tickets (50+)

CELL PHONE DISCOUNTS

AT&T: Special Senior Nation 200 Plan \$29.99/month (65+)

Jitterbug: \$10/month cell phone service (50+)

Verizon Wireless: Verizon Nationwide 65 Plus Plan

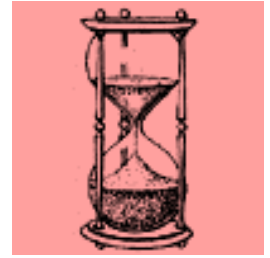
\$29.99/month (65+).

MISCELLANEOUS

Great Clips: \$3 off haircuts (60+)

Super Cuts: \$2 off haircuts (60+)

LoneStar Mensa RG XV: It's About Time



When: Labor Day Weekend, August 30-September 2, 2013

Where: The Wingate By Wyndham, 1209 N. IH 35, Round Rock, TX 78664

Join us for LoneStar Mensa RG XV. It'll be a great weekend with lots of interesting speakers, workshops, games, contests, and tastings of coffee, cheese, and chocolate!

Registration for the full weekend is \$50 through December 31, \$60 January 1 – Aug. 1, \$70 Aug. 2 – Aug 30, and \$85 Sept. 3 and at the door. Daily rates are \$10 for Friday, \$40 for Saturday, \$40 for Sunday, and \$10 for Monday. Children 8 and under are free; children 9-17 are half the adult rate. Your registration fee includes all speakers, workshops, and other events, plus meals, drinks, and snacks all weekend long. Tasting tickets are \$5.00 each.

Our hotel is the Wingate By Wyndham, located just north of Highway 79 on northbound IH-35 in Round Rock. The LoneStar Mensa rate is \$89/night. Contact the hotel at 512-341-7000 to make your reservation. More hotel information is available at <http://www.wingateroundrock.com/>.

To register by mail, send the form below to Patsy Graham, , TX 78613. To register via PayPal, please visit <http://ism.us.mensa.org/events/rg/rg15reg.htm>.

If you have questions, contact our Co-chairs, Ron aduana@mindspring.com and Linda Edelstein edelstein@mindspring.com, or our Registrar, Patsy Graham patsy@paloent.com.

LoneStar Mensa RG XV Registration

Name: _____ Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

Badge 1. _____ Adult Child 9-17 Child 0-8 Total \$ _____

Badge 2. _____ Adult Child 9-17 Child 0-8 Total \$ _____

Badge 3. _____ Adult Child 9-17 Child 0-8 Total \$ _____

Badge 4. _____ Adult Child 9-17 Child 0-8 Total \$ _____

Tasting tickets: ___ Cheese ___ Coffee ___ Chocolate Total \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Make check or money order payable to "LoneStar Mensa RG." (Please do not send cash.)

Special Instructions:

- Please don't include my name/our names and city/state on the list of registrants on the web.
- Please don't include me/us on the list of registrants made available to attendees.
- Please use the postal service (not email) for RG updates and correspondence.

I would like to volunteer for the following:

- Hospitality Solicit Donations Prepare Food Registration
- Bring Games Logistics/Purchasing Speaker Assistant Other

I need: A roommate A ride from the airport to the hotel

LONE STAR MENSA CONTACTS BY FUNCTION

As of February 28, 2013

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		Vacant	
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Scholarships	scholarship@lsm.us.mensa.org	Claudia Harbert	238-0205
Financial Outreach		Vacant	

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	angsub@hotmail.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

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RG CO-CHAIRS

OMBUDSMAN

REIMBURSEMENTS

S.I.G.H.T.

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treasurer@lsm.us.mensa.org	Don Drumtra	291-0315
	Vacant	
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.

LSM board members are: John Neemidge, Don Drumtra, Brian Bloch, Douglas Yee, Angela Adams, Crockett Grabbe, and Fred Goertz.

MARCH CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	4	5	6	7 Board Meeting	8	9
10	11 Member Meeting	12	13	14 ALG Deadline Chess Night TGIT-North	15	16 LSM Family Picnic
17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18	19 Eclectic Eats	20	21 TGIT-South	22	23
24/31 EASTER	25	26 PASSOVER BEGINS	27	28 TGIT-North Seal & Label	29	30

See the online calendar (lsm.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
Mar. 7, 7:15 to 8:15 pm
 Carver Branch Library

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

or 512-280-2807 by mid-day on Monday, March 18.

Member Meeting

2nd Monday
Mar. 11, 6:45 to 8:15 pm
 Carver Branch Library

LSM Family Picnic
March 16. 4:00 pm - 8:00
Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest Park,
 7000 Ardath St., Austin
 See page 1 for details.

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT-South)

3rd Thursday
Mar. 21, 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

ALG/Calendar Deadline

2nd Thursday
Mar. 14, Midnight
 Submissions due to Editor.

Eclectic Eats

Tuesday, Mar. 19, 7 pm
 Café Malta
 3421 West William Cannon Drive
 512-853-9584

Seal & Label

4th Thursday
Mar. 28, 6-8 PM
 Join the TGIT Group to help seal and label the newsletter.

Chess Night (with the TGIT-N group)

2nd Thursday
Mar. 14, 6-8 PM
 Bring your chess sets if you have them. Hosted by Douglas Yee.

<http://cafemaltaaustin.com>
 Think of the best cuisine of the western Mediterranean, with accents of Spain, France, Italy, and northwest Africa. The menu features outstanding and unusual selections for seafood, chicken (sorry—no falcon), beef, and vegetables. Choose from an extensive list of both familiar and exotic beers, wines, and cocktails. RSVP to Aaron Rabushka at arabushka@austin.rr.com

UPCOMING IN APRIL

Apr 4 LSM Board, Carver Branch Lib
 Apr 8 RMM, Carver Branch Library
 Apr 11 TGIT, Central Market North
 Apr 11 Newsletter input due, email
 Apr 11 Calendar input due
 Apr 18 TGIT, Central Market South
 Apr 25 TGIT, Central Market North
 Apr 25 S&L, Central Market North

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT-North)

2nd & 4th Thursdays
Mar. 14 & 28, 6-8 PM

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 130 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.

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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