

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of **Lone Star Mensa**
Volume XL
Number 4, April 2013



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

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Submitted By *Rose Berkowitz*

This month we're featuring campaign statements from various candidates for the upcoming American Mensa elections. We owe every candidate a debt of gratitude, just for being willing to serve. I urge you to read their statements carefully and make sure to vote for the candidates you feel are most qualified to take our organization into the future. Statements start on page 5.

We also have some information for you on the upcoming Mensa Annual Gathering in Dallas, as well as on our own ***fabulous*** plans for our LoneStar Mensa RG XV. Ron and Linda Edelstein are planning some exciting activities to appeal to both our older and younger members. You won't want to miss it!

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

MEMBER MEETINGS

Submitted by *Angela Adams, Symposia Chair*

April Member Meeting

For this month's member meeting at the Carver Library, we will put on our philosophical hats and discuss our personal answers to the question: "If you were on death row and had to order your last meal before execution, what would it be? Don't forget dessert!"

If thoughts of food don't excite your neurons, come on out anyway - I have 135 other engaging questions. No rules - just great conversation. Have fun and discover something new about your family, friends, and even yourself!

March Member Meeting

Early Girl, cover to ground, a really tall, sturdy fence, and yes, but only until the neighbors

complain.

These are the answers to some of the questions I asked Sheryl Williams, Travis County Master Gardener, at March's Monday Member Meeting. Three Mensans arrived to hear her master presentation on starting your own vegetable garden. We learned what vegetable varieties are recommended for Travis County, and what frost dates really mean for you and me. She also talked about pest control and why we should embrace the family hoe. We discussed being wise water gardeners and why, for Austin, "pollution = good!" Finally, she revealed the secret to finding the ideal companion (for your tomatoes).

Find more answers to your burning gardening questions at the Travis County AgriLife Extension website: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis/>



Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces us up, snow is exhilarating; there is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather.

- John Ruskin

MARCH BOARD MINUTES

Submitted by Don Drumtra, Scribe

The March regular meeting of the Lone Star Mensa board of officers convened at 7:25 PM, Thursday, March 7, 2013 at Carver Public Library, Rooms 2-3, 1161 Angelina, Austin, TX. Attending were **Don Drumtra, Patty Drumtra, John Neemidge, and Douglas Yee**. The board adopted the agenda and the minutes of the January and February regular board meetings as printed on page 4 of the January and page 3 of the February *Armadillo Literary Gazette* respectively. The *Gazette* is available on the LSM Website and paper copies are available on request.

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

- **LocSec:** The LocSec announced Fred Goertz's appointment of Ravina to the Membership Committee as Current Member Coordinator. She will work with Patsy Graham, New Member Coordinator to help members keep their membership information and renewals up to date. We appreciate Ravina Nelson volunteering for this important work.
- **Treasurer:** The board adopted the Treasurer's report for the fiscal year through February. Revenue continues to meet estimates and expenses are significantly below estimates indicating that there are funds that continue to be available to support member activities.
- **ComComm:** The March newsletter went out late due to confusion in the implementation of the new USPS bar code system. A postal rate increase was implemented in January but will have only minor impact on our mailing costs. Due to some complaints, the board reviewed the newsletter editorial policy. Board members agreed that the policy in the Mensa Handbook was adequate, that newsletter content continues to meet those requirements, and that no further action was needed,
- **EdComm.** No report from either Scholarship or Gifted Youth programs.
- **MemComm:** Patsy Graham continues to send letters to all new members via email and snail mail if an email address is not available. No testing activity was reported. Ravina is learning her duties as current member coordinator.
- **SymCom.** Angela Adams is hard at work bringing new programs to our monthly meetings. See this and other newsletters for details.
- **LoneStar RG XV Committee:** The Committee had its first meeting on January 23. The facility contract has been signed. Participants discussed speakers, estimates of attendance, revenue and expenses, and other activities. All LSM members are invited to participate in planning for and working at the RG.
- **Website Working Group:** Douglas Yee reported that the working group continues to wait for feedback from the designer.
- **Mind Games Committee.** John reported that the preparations are on track.

Announcements:

- The next monthly board meetings are scheduled for 7:15-8:15 PM, Thursday, April 4 and May 2 at the Carver Branch Library.
- The next regular monthly meetings are scheduled for 6:45-8:15 PM, Monday, April 8 and May 13 at the Carver Branch Library.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

LET'S HANG OUT!

Submitted by Angela Adams, Symposia Chair

- **Wanted: Trivia Team members!** I'm looking to form a trivia team to compete in a weekly or every-other-weekly pub Trivia Night. I need up to 5 reliable men and women who are willing to stay up a little late on Wed or Sat nights to test their mettle against other trivia teams. You don't have to be good at trivia, but you do need to be willing to show up and have a good time. Once I have enough interested people, we will vote on the team name and day/location where we want to compete.
 - **Wanted: Mensans for Sushi and Karaoke!** I'd like to form a group to go to DK Sushi's Karaoke Night, held every Thursday at 7:30 pm. We have to call ahead to make reservations, so I'd need at least 24-hour notice to reserve a table. If you like sushi and you like to sing, why not experience both in one night?
- If you are interested in either of these events, please email me at angsuh@hotmail.com so that we can coordinate and meet up.

FROM THE RVC

Submitted by Roger Durham, Region 6 RVC



I hope all of you renewed your memberships last month, but if history is any guide, I know about 18% of you didn't. If you're one of that 18%, this is the last local newsletter you will receive until you reinstate your membership, so if renewal is something you've just been putting off, please do it now. On the other hand, if

you made a deliberate decision not to renew because of dissatisfaction with some aspect of Mensa, I wish you would take the time to email me and let me know what you found wanting about our organization. It may be something that could be remedied, but if we don't know what it is, there's not much we can do about it. Some of you, of course, have decided that you just can't afford to renew at this time, for personal financial reasons. I can sympathize with that, and for you all I can say is that I sincerely hope your situation will improve, and that you will come back when it does.

As I mentioned last month, it's time to make plans to attend the Houston Regional Gathering in May, and the 2013 Annual Gathering, July 3-7 in Fort Worth. I hope you will all make a special effort to attend the

AG, because it's the last time it will be in our region for a number of years. (The next three AGs will be in Boston, Louisville, and San Diego.) Co-Chairs Carol Hilson and Karen Brack have a really exciting Gathering planned, and it would be a shame to miss it when it's so conveniently located.

Our keynote speaker this year will be Kinky Friedman, and regardless of whether you agree with his politics, he is sure to provide an entertaining viewpoint. The program is pretty well filled with other speakers at this point, and the usual games, tournaments, contests, dances, and other activities will be available, as well as 24/7 hospitality. I especially encourage you to purchase the meal package this year, as the Worthington, our headquarters hotel, has put together a menu that will astonish anyone who is expecting the usual rubber chicken hotel fare. As Hospitality Chair, I had the chance to sample all the menu items for the AG meals recently, and I can honestly say I have never had a better meal at the finest of restaurants. Visit www.ag.us.mensa.org to register.

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.

WANTED: LONESTAR MENSA RG XV ACTIVITIES

Submitted by Rose Berkowitz, RG Activities

Here are some of the activities we're considering for our upcoming RG. We'd really like your input. Should we:

- Have some conversation areas available for small groups to get together—with comfortable sofas and chairs grouped together, and softer lighting? Perhaps one of the surrounding rooms could be set up this way.
- Hold a talent show? Musicians, singers, magicians, comedians, story-tellers, a group to put on a skit—whatever—would be welcome. At another RG one member dressed up as Groucho Marx and did some of his routines. Two other guys did the Jackie Gleason "Chef of the Future" routine. Let me know if you'd like to participate and what you'd like to do.
- Have a Fishbowl discussion? It's usually a popular event with younger members.
- Hold a massage workshop? Do we have a member who's qualified and would like to do this?
- Find someone to solicit donations from companies in Austin, in return for our publicizing their gifts? Goodie bags to give to attendees with items like branded pens, stationary, travel-size cosmetics, etc. are always appreciated. Donated food and drink from catering companies is another option.
- For the dance, we want to go with a very varied set of music - something from each era, like 20's dances, rock and roll, and old stuff like waltz and mazurka. We thought we'd throw in a line dance or two, and maybe something totally different like the Virginia reel. We need help gathering the music, and someone to DJ it.

If you have any other ideas for RG activities, please send them to me at rberkowitz@austin.rr.com or bring them to the next RG planning meeting.

A WORD TO THE WISE

Submitted by John Neemidge, LocSec



This month I am contributing a short bio to the 'Dillo. (See below.) With that in mind, it seemed like a good time to answer the question: Why get involved in Mensa? We talk a lot about what the group needs and ways that you can help, and offer a number of activities, but why should you be active and involved in the first place?

For me, the big reason comes down to the people. Mensa is often described as a social club for smart people. It's far more than that, of course, especially through MERF (the Mensa Education and Research Foundation), but many of our events are focused on social activities. Mensa members tend to be interesting people with a wide variety of experiences and opinions, but you only get so much of that without meeting in person. In addition, a lot of things are just more fun with good company.

Many people are in Mensa to find new acquaintances and friends. Some (like me) find more and meet a spouse at a Mensa activity. Some people find new business contacts and partners, or possibly a lead on a new job or career. Almost everyone who gets involved finds themselves learning more about a variety of things, just because when you get Mensans together they talk, and most have plenty to say.

Larger events, such as Regional Gatherings or the Annual Gathering, intensify this even more, both because there are even more people around and because there are a variety of speakers, presentations, workshops, etc. on wide-ranging topics.

If you can, come check us out at something soon. Or, see about heading to Houston for their Regional Gathering (coming up in May at Memorial Day weekend), to Fort Worth for the Annual Gathering (July 4th weekend), or join us in Round Rock for LoneStar Mensa RG XV (over Labor Day weekend). There's a lot out there for you—come find it!

FEATURED MEMBER BIO—JOHN NEEMIDGE

I joined Mensa in 1983 while in high school in Houston, where I grew up. For me, Mensa appeared during that point in high school where you have many things to apply for; it was one more thing to apply for, that my test scores qualified me for. A while after joining, Gulf Coast Mensa held their annual regional gathering and I decided to attend; it was only a short drive from my parents' house. After that, I was hooked; the RG was so much fun, with many interesting speakers and lots to do. I went off to college at Texas A&M, and that kept me busy during the year, so I did nothing with the local group, but I attended Houston's RG the next two years. In 1987 American Mensa's Annual Gathering was in Dallas, so I went to that as well. Even more fun! After that, however, I went off to graduate school at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. That kept me even more busy—and over the summers too—so I didn't attend any Mensa events for several years.

Upon graduating with my M.S. in Computer Science I moved out to Silicon Valley. By pure random luck I rediscovered the local Mensa chapter and found that the Annual Gathering would be in the San Francisco area that year. I signed up, and my involvement in Mensa took off from there. I met my

future wife Geri at that Annual Gathering; we saw each other next a couple months later at the Asilomar Regional Gathering and really hit it off. Since that point we have attended about 75 Gatherings together. We were married in 1994 with a fellow Mensan officiating.

We moved to Austin in 1996. Since moving here, I've been Vice President (a couple times), President (three times), acting Newsletter Editor (for a couple years), Circulation Manager, Web contact, RG Chair or Co-Chair (10 times), RG Registrar several times. I've held probably several more offices that I've forgotten, and hosted innumerable parties and events. I still feel like I've gotten more out of Mensa than I've put in; I met my wife and many of my best friends through Mensa and have had a wonderful time over the years.

I work as a Storage Development Engineer on the PERC (RAID controller) team at Dell. We live in Round Rock. We have two kids; our daughter is 12 and our son is 11. Both of them have joined us at many Mensa events; they've attended roughly 30 gatherings by now. All of us have many very close friends in Mensa, and we continue to be highly active.

Dan Burg for Chairman

The job of Chairman is, well, big. Lead the board. Choose priorities. Set the tone. Stay informed. Plan. Represent American Mensa, both internally and externally. Chair board meetings. Serve as an ex officio member of the board of the Mensa Foundation. Serve on Mensa International's Executive Committee, as well as on the International Board of Directors. With my background and experience, I can do all of them. I look forward to it.

My style is independence, integrity, and quiet competence

backed by years of experience in a wide variety of areas and arenas. My priorities include not only planning for the future, but also getting back to basics. If elected, I'll review our rules and procedures and get rid of any that don't make sense. I'll make sure all board members know their roles and responsibilities. I'll continue to be a resource to local groups and to members. Things will get done.

International Mensa is another important part of the Chairman's job: In addition to

being a national representative, the Chairman is a member of the International Executive Committee. That is important because the ExComm conducts the business of Mensa International on a day-to-day basis, which, in turn, affects American Mensa. My long international experience – eleven years as a NatRep, chairman of two committees – has prepared me well for this larger role.

I would be honored to receive your vote as Chairman.



Rob Salkin for Chairman

Fellow Mensan,

I'm running for Chairman of American Mensa. The focus of the next board needs to be on the Mensa experience, making membership even more meaningful and enjoyable without raising the dues. Part of the job will be accomplished by reforming the roughly \$4 million budget to reallocate funds to areas like leadership development, volunteer appreciation, gifted youth, technology infrastructure, and local group support.

I'm qualified and ready to lead the board in the right direction while representing our interests at the international level. I hold graduate degrees in business, law, and computer science. I've served on the national board, been a LocSec, presented on a variety of topics at numerous gatherings, and founded a Regional Gathering (<http://bit.ly/RechaRGe2013>) as well as a Special Interest Group (<http://mavailable.org>).

If elected, I'll need to fill some appointed positions on our board of directors, the American Mensa Committee. American Mensa's talent pool is incredibly deep. So, it is quite possible that the best people for the positions starting this July are outside of my current circle of Mensa friends. If you have the time, drive, and skills necessary to improve American Mensa, I encourage you to apply for an appointed position.

For more information on my campaign as well as details regarding appointed positions, please visit www.RobSalkin.com. If you have any questions or comments, don't hesitate to get in contact via Rob.Salkin.AMC@gmail.com.

I'd greatly appreciate your vote in the election that begins on April 15th.

Thank you and enjoy Mensa.

John Recht for First Vice Chairman

Hi, my name is John Recht and I'm running for First Vice Chairman. The position has few specified duties besides membership on our governing board, the American Mensa Committee, and on the AMC's Executive Committee. In particular, the First Vice Chairman must take on projects as assigned by the Chairman and must be prepared to assume the position of Chairman if the position becomes vacant during the term.



During my eight years on the board I have taken the initiative on special projects that are important to Mensa's future. As Chair of the Planning Committee, I led the way in the development and implementation of the AMC's first-ever Strategic Plan, including development of the Strategic Dashboard on the AML website. As Chair of the Leadership Development Committee, I have led a team dedicated to increasing the number of new volunteers in American Mensa who are willing and able to serve in elected and appointed positions, giving them confidence and understanding in their roles as leaders and supporting them with resources and training. I am happy to report that American Mensa has made great strides in planning and leadership development during my terms in office, and I intend to continue my support of these efforts when I am elected First Vice Chairman.

Over the course of my years in Mensa I have served in a number of positions at the local, regional, national and international levels. Among them were LocSec, Treasurer, Mediator/Arbitrator, Chair or Co-Chair of four Regional Gatherings, Regional Vice Chairman, Co-Chair of the 2006 Mind Games and Co-Chair of the 2011 AG. I am currently Second Vice Chairman and a member of the Mensa International Board of Directors. My experience has given me a deep understanding of the big picture for Mensa, and I look forward to helping to assure that Mensa will remain a healthy organization, dedicated to creating a stimulating intellectual and social environment for our members.

My goals for American Mensa are as follows:

- Encourage the development and implementation of programs that add value to member benefits
- Improve member satisfaction
- Increase motivation for people to join Mensa and to retain their membership
- Provide the highest quality of service
- Improve communication
- Encourage member participation
- Increase transparency in the AMC and the National Office
- Promote membership development
- Assist volunteer and leadership development
- Ensure sound fiscal management
- Extend the use of social media to improve the experience of Mensa membership
- Facilitate the use of strategic planning tools at all levels of the organization

In sum, please vote for me for First Vice Chairman and I will do all I can to build on our success. I hope to see you at the AG in Fort Worth this summer!

Brian Reeves for Secretary

I am Brian Reeves, your current AML Communications Officer and now a candidate for AML Secretary.

As Communications Officer, I am responsible for helping set policies for—and troubleshooting—everything from the Mensa Bulletin to the website to the Forums and

Mensa Facebook page to local group newsletters and much more. In addition, I chair the Communications Committee and serve on the national Bylaws Committee, the Finance Committee and am the Gifted Youth program's liaison to the AMC.

During my term as Communications Officer, we've created the Weekly Brainwave, calmed down tensions in the online Community and have upgraded the quality of the Bulletin (you'll see many of those changes later this year).

Your Secretary should be able to prepare meeting agendas

and then later put out minutes quickly and accurately. Many Mensans are well-qualified for that part of the job. There is another aspect to the job, though, that many people don't consider. The Secretary also serves on AML's Executive Committee where he or she is involved in helping make important decisions for Mensa. A deep knowledge of Mensa, everything from its finances to the personalities of the AMC members, is important to doing that part of the job well. As a current AMC member, I have that knowledge. I know the people involved and can work with them.

I can tell you from experience that most AMC members have strong personalities. Getting them to agree on things can be tough. I work as a mediator. I earn my living by getting people on opposite sides of issues to work together towards successful conclusions. I will bring the skills I've developed doing that work to the job of Secretary.

An additional project I plan to undertake is reorganizing the ASIEs. Have you ever tried to find something in the ASIE's? Did you finally just give up? I want to undertake the process of organizing them by topic rather than, as now, by the order in which they were adopted, so you can find things more easily.

If this sort of positive, competent "can-do" approach appeals to you, I'd appreciate your vote.

Jared Levine for Secretary

My name is Jared Levine, I am running for AML Secretary, and I would appreciate your vote.

Since rejoining Mensa in 1999, I have been an active member in each local group where I lived: Greater New York, Greater Los Angeles, and currently Metropolitan Washington. I hosted myriad events, and served in a whole slew of local positions (both on the Board of Directors in each group and in other capacities) and on multiple national committees (and still serve on the Bylaws Committee). I have a large base of experience within and knowledge of Mensa on both the local and national levels.

As I have previously mentioned, aside from timely composition and dissemination of meeting minutes, I intend to make available within a month of the Annual Gathering a draft of the Annual Business Meeting minutes, while the meeting is relatively fresh in people's minds, rather than 11 months removed. Also, I will begin cross-referencing various documents so that it is easier to

make updates to everything that is affected by changes in ASIEs or the local group charter. This, in turn, will make process easier both for officers and rank-and-file members, freeing up their time and energy for the more important things like providing a stimulating environment, effective in-person and online ways of connecting with fellow members, and various other services to the membership.

While being mindful of details is a necessary attribute (even more so for a Secretary) and an attribute on which I pride myself, looking for new ways to provide an even more positive Mensa experience which the members actually find value in paying their dues is where it's at. I believe I will be able to work well with most possible combinations of people who might be elected to the AMC and ask that you vote for me for Secretary in the coming election.

To see more specific information about the leadership roles I have undertaken in Mensa, my understanding of the basic duties of an AMC Secretary, my philosophy for transparency on the AMC, suggestions for change in AML, and more, please visit my blog at <http://boxmasterscorner.blogspot.com>.

2013 BOARD ELECTION UPDATE

Submitted by Howard Prince, AMC

Plans for the 2013 board of directors election are well underway. Members who have renewed before 11:59 p.m., Central time, on March 31 will be eligible to vote in both the American Mensa and Mensa International board elections. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible members via standard mail on or around April 10. The election begins on April 15 and ends at 11:59 p.m., Central time, on May 31.

Information on referenda and candidates will be available on the American Mensa Web site beginning in April at <http://www.us.mensa.org/election>. If you wish to vote in the election and have not renewed your membership, you can do so online at <http://www.us.mensa.org/renew> or by calling 888/294-8035 ext. 199 during regular business hours.



2/28/2013

Have you checked out any of our social media channels? If not, take a look at our most heavily used channels:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanMensa>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/americanmensa>

Google+: <https://plus.google.com/118404950635106371385/posts>

Social media platforms allow us to promote the Mensa brand by sharing content we believe our members and those interested in Mensa will find interesting, as well as delivering content that helps us to fulfill the organization's mission.

When you come across any content that you believe would be particularly interesting to other Mensans, please send it our way!

Please send any social media content, ideas, or opinions to **Lauren Kelly** at LaurenK@americanmensa.org or **817-607-0060 ext. 5547**.

POETRY CORNER

DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE

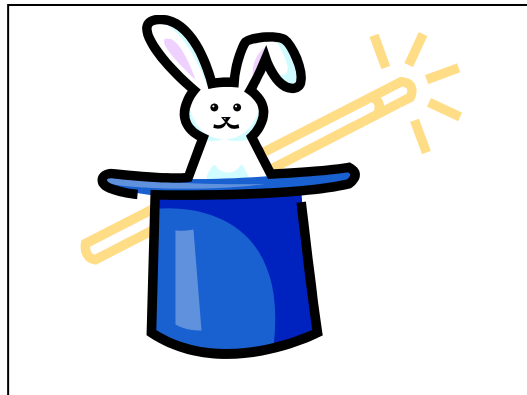
*Is a mob not terrifying
No matter what its focus?
Love you, hate you,
They will destroy you
Sooner or later*

*Colored pills, colored marbles,
Colored plastic, colored skin
Such superficial differences
And yet—
Youth and beauty sells, is devoured
Destroyed by intensity of focus
Nothing satisfies, ultimately*

*Here we go again
Man against machine, man against Nature
Man against man
Ever endeavoring to be Number One*

*Innocent being, doomed to corruption
Desperation, despair
Falling down the rabbit hole
Smoke and dreams-*

- Rose M. Berkowitz



American Mensa Academy receives multiplatform release



***Now available for download through
Xbox Live Arcade, iOS and Steam***

Created in direct collaboration with American Mensa, American Mensa Academy™ aims to sharpen a player's mental acuity with more than 100 brain training mini-games and challenges directly inspired by questions from the [Mensa Admission Test](#) and the [Mensa Home Test](#).

Prepare to exercise your grey matter as you train through arduous puzzles and challenges designed to expand and cultivate your brilliance. From logic to language, American Mensa Academy's brain training offers players the ultimate cerebral workout. Improve your memory, grow your vocabulary and hone your skills in arithmetic and logic before advancing on to compete directly against your friends and family.

Traversing three separate modes, Play, Coach and Test, players will be challenged by more than 100 replayable levels filled with questions from five disciplines — math, language, logic, memory and visual ability. In Coach mode, players receive training and their skills are assessed before they progress to the Test level and receive a Mensa Academy Score. Challenge your friends and family, start a competition or simply challenge yourself. Either way, prepare yourself for some serious cranial calisthenics.

American Mensa Academy is now available on Xbox Live Arcade, iOS and Steam and will soon be available on Android, Playstation® Network and PC. For more information and details on where to purchase the game, visit www.americanmensaacademy.com.

American Mensa Academy™ is developed by Silverball Studios and Barnstorm Games and published by Square Enix.

As far as the laws of mathematics refer to reality, they are not certain; and as far as they are certain, they do not refer to reality. - Albert Einstein

KINKY FRIEDMAN TO HEADLINE AG OPENING NIGHT DINNER

From ism-announce@lists.us.mensa.org

Talk about Cowtown culture!

Kinky Friedman, the self-proclaimed "Governor of the Heart of Texas," will kick-start American Mensa's 2013 Annual Gathering, bringing his unique brand of satire and commentary to the Welcome to Texas Kick-off Dinner on opening night of the AG, scheduled July 3-7 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Musician, author, humanitarian, entrepreneur and sometime-candidate, Friedman will spice up the tasty Texas cuisine on opening night with his unique blend of satire, wicked social commentary and hilarious insights into the human and political condition.

Friedman's world view has been shaped by his variety-show background:

At age 7, Friedman faced off against U.S. chess grandmaster Samuel Reshevsky. After earning a

psychology degree, he spent two years in the Peace Corps.

His early music career featured hits such as "They Ain't Making Jews Like Jesus Anymore." In the 1980s, Friedman focused on writing detective novels that featured a wisecracking, fictionalized version of himself. Friedman founded Utopia Animal Rescue Ranch near his Texas ranch to care for stray, abused and aging animals.

His latest attempts at world domination include a new book with singer Wille Nelson, a new CD, his Man in Black Tequila and Kinky Friedman cigars.

Registration remains open for American Mensa's 2013 Annual Gathering: Culture in Cowtown. While you're at it, don't forget about Colloquium 2013: Between Science Fiction and Science, which takes place the day before the AG. Get more information and register today at <http://www.ag.us.mensa.org/register>.

A single conversation across the table with a wise man is better than ten years mere study of books.
- **Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

AMERICAN MENSA NATIONAL AWARDS

The National Awards Committee is calling for nominations for the American Mensa National Awards program.

The national awards include Certificates of Appreciation, National Service awards, Distinguished Service awards and the Life Membership award. For lists of who has received an award in prior years, please see <http://www.us.mensa.org/nationalawards>.

These awards recognize members whose service to American Mensa or achievements benefiting the organization have resulted in a significant contribution to the national organization. Please note that service at a national level is separate from service or contributions to Local Groups, Regions, SIGs, etc., which may have their own awards programs.

Your nomination should describe the reasons why the member is deserving of a national award, and the more detail, the better. The more information

you provide, the better the National Awards Committee can consider the nomination. The final award level for any given candidate is determined by the Awards Committee.

Please send nominations of members you feel are deserving of a national award to:

Stacey Kirsch, National Awards Committee Chair
NationalAwards@us.mensa.org
630-766-1289

Mailed entries should be sent to National Awards Committee, c/o Stacey Kirsch, 514 Monroe Place, Wood Dale, IL 60191. You can also contact the Awards Chair if you have any questions.

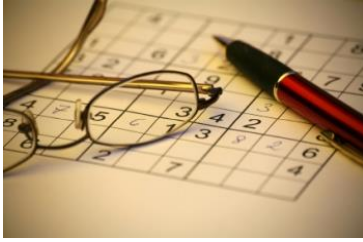
As nominations are often presented at the Annual Gathering in early July, please have your nomination in before 11:59 p.m., Central time, on May 15 so that the committee has time to consider them.

YOUR SUDOKU PUZZLE

Weekly Extremes

<http://www.sudoku.uk.com>

By Douglas Yee



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

Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, and every 3x3 square.

GIFTED YOUTH PROGRAMS NEWS & NOTES: APRIL 2013

Posted by [Lisa.VanGemert00](#)

Happenings & Celebrations:

2nd: International Children's Book Day

13th: Scrabble Day

22nd: Earth Day

23rd: Shakespeare's Birthday

April is National Poetry Month. You can request a free poster from the Academy of American Poets here <http://www.poets.org/posterRequest.php>. You can find out more (and get neat activities) here <http://bit.ly/poetrymonthstuff>.

Resources:

Earth Day:

Find some Earth Day printables here <http://bit.ly/XKAeNt> and some great Earth Day craft ideas here <http://bit.ly/12xZLe5>.

Shakespeare's Birthday:

If you're interested in having a Bard Party, find great ideas for a party here <http://bit.ly/VUmYUZ>.

One of the most wonderful books for youth is Favorite Tales from Shakespeare by Bernard Miles. You can find used copies for less than a dollar online!

Watch the BBC's Animated Shakespeare here <http://bit.ly/animatedshakespeare>. Find loads of Shakespeare resources and fun for youth on the Folger Shakespeare Library website <http://bit.ly/folgerkids>, and a National Poetry Month Shakespeare Coloring Page here: <http://bit.ly/Ubsnuc>.

Triviality: Shakespeare's words may not be countless, and not all of them are useful today, but many of contemporary authors are full of amazement at the radiance and sheer volume of them. If you add up all of the words in his surviving works, they total 884,647. That sure puts a 500-word essay in perspective, doesn't it? Oh, and by the way, Shakespeare coined four of the words used in this section about him. Any guesses as to which ones they are of the more than 500 he created?

Benefit Highlight:

Did you know that Mensa has a new Honor Society for Young Mensans ages 10 – 18? You can find out more (and download an application) at www.us.mensa.org/honorsociety.

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS*

3 Mark Summers
5 Sean T Taylor
6 James Collins
6 John Morey
9 Sarah Graham
9 William Peregoy
9 Timothy S Rupert
9 Diana M Wilbur
11 Michael Withers
14 Michael L Drapkin
14 Johnnie Ray Vaughn
15 Janet Stineman Kres
15 James L McShan
15 Tomas Medina
16 Christopher M Jackson
16 Brian Slone
17 Brian Bloch
17 David T Silvey
18 Patricia Carolyn Dicuffa
21 Michael Hoffman
Bossert
21 Rita Barker Christie
21 Susan Modelle Gibson
22 John Leslie Neemidge
23 Robin D Green
23 Nancy Hester
23 Andrew M Rooke
23 Stephanie Stoebe
24 Patricia B McCormick
25 Jonathan A Blair
25 Matthew L Freeman
26 Wes Davenport
27 Diana L Brugman
27 Dr Dan B Dydek
28 David James White
29 Ted Alexander

**NEW MEMBERS—
WELCOME!**

Stephanie Hilliard
Mischa Sikkenga

**JUST MOVED IN—HI
NEIGHBOR!**

Charles A Espey
Christine Amos Linial
David M Lombard
Michael Saunders Shearn
Ross A Williams

**WELCOME BACK--MISSED
YOU!**

Mason Clark
Stephen Howard Gallion
Fiona Meeker
Benny Bruce Younge

**GOODBYE—WE WISH YOU
WELL**

Justin Blount
Sean Clipper
Elliot Calvin Rothenberg
Troy R Schneider

**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.*

**APRIL
ANNIVERSARIES**

MEMBER FOR 30 YEARS

James Micheal Rauch
David James White

MEMBER FOR 20 YEARS

Dr John L Fike
Michelle E Haberl

MEMBER FOR 15 YEARS

Hugh Brown
Steve Roberts

MEMBER FOR 10 YEARS

Eric Bickel
Wes Davenport
Jeff Ridgeway
James Daniel South

MEMBER FOR 5 YEARS

Timothy A Goldenburg
Christina Hinton
Grace Lehto

MEMBER FOR 1 YEAR

Matthew D Belsole
Joshua Benjamin Chlapek
William Enyart
Arjun Jain
Thomas E Rawlings
Deas H Warley III

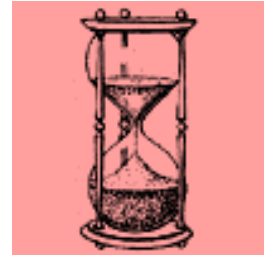
WELCOME! CURRENT MEMBER COORDINATOR



We are pleased to announce the appointment of Ravina Nelson as our new member renewals coordinator. The renewals coordinator is part of the Membership team chaired by Fred Goertz. The renewals officer, officially the Current Member Coordinator, helps current members renew and otherwise maintain their memberships in good standing. It is a "sister" to the New Member Coordinator, who helps new members navigate our activities. Our New Member Coordinator is Patsy Graham.

The Gazette looks forward to printing a bio and photo of Ravina in an upcoming issue.

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 cheese, spices, and honey.

Registration for the full weekend is \$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, 5804 Shoal Creek Blvd, Austin, 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 aduanam@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 ___ Spices ___ Honey 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

LONESTAR MENSA CONTACTS BY FUNCTION

As of March 31, 2013

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

EVENTS

	angsu@lsm.us.mensa.org	Angela Adams**	263-8780
Monthly Programs		Angela Adams	283-8780
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		Vacant	

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S.I.G.H.T.		Vacant	
EVERYTHING ELSE	locsec@lsm.us.mensa.org	John Neemidge**	310-7863

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

** LSM board members: John Neemidge, Don Drumtra, Douglas Yee, Angela Adams, and Fred Goertz.

APRIL CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 APRIL FOOL'S DAY	2	3	4 Board Meeting	5	6
7	8 Member Meeting	9	10	11 ALG Deadline Chess Night TGIT-North	12	13
14	15 TAX DAY	16 Eclectic Eats	17	18 TGIT-South	19	20
21	22	23	24 ADMIN. PROF. DAY	25 TGIT-North Seal & Label	26	27
28	29	30				

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

Board Meeting

1st Thursday
Apr 4, 7:15 to 8:15 pm
Carver Branch Library

Member Meeting

2nd Monday
Apr 8, 6:45 to 8:15 pm
Carver Branch Library

ALG/Calendar Deadline

2nd Thursday
Apr 11, Midnight
Submissions due to Editor.

Chess Night (with the TGIT-N group)

2nd Thursday
Apr 11, 6-8 PM
Bring your chess sets if you have them. Hosted by Douglas Yee.

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT-North)

2nd & 4th Thursdays
Apr 11 25, 6-8 PM
Meet us upstairs at the Café for conversation, food and fun. Prospective members welcome. Look for the Mensa table sign.

Eclectic Eats

7:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 16
Tan My
1601 Ohlen Road, Austin
512-832-9585
(no website)
In April we head to where they serve great Vietnamese food in an informal and family-friendly atmosphere.. Please RSVP to Aaron Rabushka at 512-280-2807 or arabushka@austin.rr.com by mid-day on April 15.

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT-South)

3rd Thursday
Apr 18, 6:00-8:00 PM
Enter at the east side of the store by the statue of fruits and vegetables. Join us for conversation, food, and fun. Prospective members welcome

Seal & Label

4th Thursday
Apr 25, 6-8 PM
Join the TGIT Group to help seal and label the newsletter.

UPCOMING IN MAY

May 2 LSM Board, Carver Library
May 9 TGIT, Central Market North
May 9 Newsletter input due, email
May 9 Calendar input due
May 13 RMM, Carver Library
May 16 TGIT, Central Market So
May 24 TGIT, Central Market North
May 24 S&L, Central Market North
[May 24-27 Houston, SynRG]

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

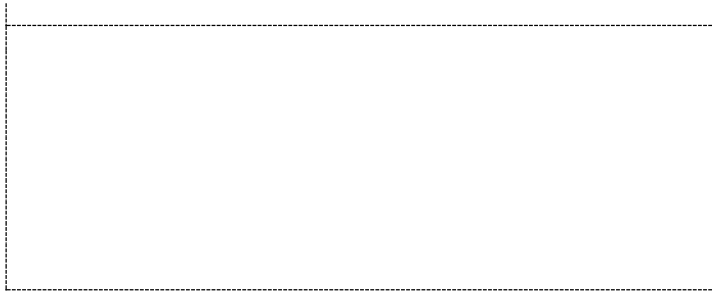
PUBLICATION NOTICES

The Armadillo Literary Gazette is owned by American Mensa Limited and is the monthly official publication of Lone Star Mensa.
Subscriptions are included with Lone Star membership. Other Mensa members may subscribe for \$10 per year. Subscribers may request delivery by email, USPS mail, or both. Send subscription requests to the Publications Office, 3206 Twilight Trail, Austin, TX 78748-2608.
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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