

Armadillo Literary Gazette

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

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Submitted by Rose Berkowitz

Happy Spring, everyone! Here's another poem for you.

MUSINGS

*We want to be known and loved
for who we are.*

*We want to make connection,
to bridge the gap, fathomless,
between our separate selves.*

*It is a great joy
To entertain a new thought,
See a new view,
Experience a new feeling.*

*Shopping is in the blood,
Just as hunting and gathering
run in the blood.*

*We savor the world,
one item at a time...*



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.

GAMES NIGHT RETURNS!

Submitted by Patsy Graham, LSM New Member Coordinator

In honor of LSM being the host for Mind Games 2014, we will be having Games Night once a month at Café Express, 3418 N. Lamar, Austin.

We will keep it on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 7 pm to 10 pm unless there is a conflict. Bring a game or just show up. Café Express has lots

of tasty items and beverages on the menu, but you do not have to buy a meal to sit with us! Family and friends are welcome. (Please note that you are responsible for the behavior of any children you bring.)

**Join us Saturday, May 18th,
for the return of Games
Night!**



APRIL BOARD MINUTES

Submitted by John Neemidge, Acting LSM Scribe

The March regular meeting of the Lone Star Mensa board of officers convened at 7:25 PM, Thursday, April 4, 2013 at Carver Public Library, Rooms 2-3, 1161 Angelina, Austin, TX. Attending were **Don Drumtra, John Neemidge, and Douglas Yee**. The board adopted the agenda and the minutes of the March regular board meeting as printed on page 2 of the April Armadillo Literary Gazette. 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:

- The Board accepted the resignation of Brian Bloch, effective at the end of March.
- LocSec: The LocSec announced that other officers will continue in their positions in the new LSM year, as none have indicated that they wish to leave their positions.
- Treasurer: The board adopted the Treasurer's report for the fiscal year through March, subject to corrections. Revenue continues to meet estimates and expenses are significantly below estimates indicating that funds continue to be available to support member activities.
- ComComm: There were significant issues with the April mailing which were resolved; the issue went out a few days late. Looking forward, there are issues with the way bar codes are printed and the way they are placed on the newsletters. There are very few printers nationally who can print bar codes which fully meet USPS regulations. This is likely to be a continuing issue.
- EdComm. A party was held for the scholarship judges. (See page 7.)
- MemComm: Patsy Graham continues to send letters to all new members via email and snail mail if email is not available. No testing activity was reported. The board discussed ways to improve the testing program.
- SymCom. Angela was hard at work bringing new programs to our monthly meetings. (See pages 3 and 4 for details.)
- Lone Star RG 2013 Committee: The Committee continues to work to plan this year's RG. 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. Patsy Graham and Geri Neemidge will be attending Mind Games 2013 representing the Mind Games 2014 committee. The Board discussed how finances for Mind Games 2014 should be handled. The Board recommended and approved the creation of a separate bank account for Mind Games 2014; Patsy Graham is authorized to create the account. Deposits from National, including the seed money and registration fees, will go into this account. The account will be subject to the same year-end financial review procedure as the regular LSM account. The LSM Treasurer will not be involved with the Mind Games account.

Announcements:

- The next monthly board meeting was scheduled for 7:15-8:15 PM, Thursday, 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 8:15 PM.



*Words make you think a thought.
Music makes you feel a feeling.
A song makes you feel a thought.*

- E. Y. "Yip" Harburg



MEMBER MEETINGS

Submitted by Angela Adams, LSM Symposia Chair

May

For May's monthly member meeting, we will once again try to answer the following 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 this was already answered, or you are immortal, no worries - I have 135 other engaging questions. No rules - just great conversation. Have fun and discover something new about your family, friends, and even yourself!

April

My apologies to those who showed up to April's member meeting! Between trying to get bids to repair my kitchen ceiling and preparing for my 18-month-old daughter's upcoming surgery (Apr 17), I've been juggling so many balls lately that it's not surprising that I dropped one or two. I am very sorry that I accidentally missed the member meeting. I am sure that the group was able to have a nice discussion without me, though. I've been told that several members attended, and other topics were also discussed.

UPCOMING IN JUNE

June 6 LSM Board, Carver Library
June 10 RMM, Carver Library
June 13 TGIT, Central Market-N
June 13 Newsletter input due
June 13 Calendar input due
June 20 TGIT, Central Market-S
June 27 TGIT, Central Market-N
June 27 S&L, Central Market N



A WORD TO THE WISE

Submitted by John Neemidge, LSM LocSec

Spring is fully upon us and soon we'll hit the summer heat. In celebration of springtime, LSM held a picnic in March; about a dozen of us attended and everyone had a great time. We hope you'll join us at another event soon! We're hoping to restart a Games Night (details on page 1 of this issue of the 'Dillo); there's the Monthly Meeting, TGIT, and usually a few other things -- and anyone's welcome to put their own event on the calendar. If you decide you'd like to host an event or ask LSM members to join you at



an event, you can always create an event in the Facebook group and / or send an email to the Announce list. If it is before the 'Dillo deadline, send a note to Rose (editor@lsm.us.mensa.org) to get it in the newsletter.

We continue to seek out more volunteers. This month I'm highlighting two areas. First: we need more members on the Board. With the end of our terms in March, we are left with a number of

vacancies which we would really like to fill. You may feel that going right to being on the Board is a big step, but it's really not. The responsibilities of Board members are merely to attend Board meetings, participate in discussions, and vote. There's plenty more you can do as a member of the Board, but you don't have to. If you have any interest - even just to hear more about it - please let me know and I'll be happy to help!

Second: we are looking for a replacement Testing Coordinator; our current coordinator is in graduate school and too busy to continue. The testing coordinator does not need to be a proctor, but needs to work with the proctors to schedule tests, find test sites, publicize the testing session (this can be just via the LSM website), and hopefully recruit new proctors (via the Armadillo Literary Gazette and maybe other means). We do have budget to pay modest fees for testing locations. Our testing program is very important - it's harder for people to use prior evidence than it was in the past, as the SAT and other tests have become ineligible for membership (if taken after a certain year). We would like to strengthen it going forward. If you're interested, please let me know!

Enjoy the spring and I hope to hear from you soon.

LET'S HANG OUT!

By Angela Adams, LSM Symposia Chair

- First Thursday — Thursday, May 2, 5:00 pm – 10:00 pm — South Congress Ave., generally from Barton Springs Road to Elizabeth Street. Free. First Thursday is like one big block party, and it is perfect for all ages. All of the SoCo stores stay open late, and many run First Thursday sales and drink specials. It's an event packed with big Austin flavor, with lots to see, do, and eat!
- Free Bike Inspections with Tour de Cure — Sunday, May 5, 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm — All 3 Austin REI locations. Free. In partnership with the Tour de Cure Bike Ride, REI is providing free bike inspections at all three stores. First come, first served (no registration required).
- O. Henry Pun-Off — Saturday, May 18, 11:00 am – 7:00 pm — Brush Square, the backyard of the O. Henry and Dickinson Museums, 409 E. 5th Street. Free. Hang out on the lawn, or join the many punsters playing games onstage.

If you are interested in any of these events, please email me at angsu@hotmai.com so that we can coordinate and meet up.

FROM THE RVC

Submitted by Roger Durham, Region 6 RVC



At the March meeting of the American Mensa Committee, I agreed to serve on a task force led by our Membership Officer, Beth Anne Demeter, charged with trying to come up with a better way to fund local groups. The problem with the current system, since local group funding is based solely on

membership, is two-fold: first, local groups get the same amount of money from American Mensa whether or not they are doing a good job of serving their members. Second, the larger groups, which get the most money, are the ones that need it least, since they can take advantage of economies of scale that are unavailable to smaller groups. A number of years ago, before I was elected to the AMC, American Mensa tried a system whereby group funding was tied to various local activities, in order to ensure that local groups were actually doing something. This turned out to be a fiasco, primarily, I suspect, because there were so many categories of activities that the necessary reporting became a bureaucratic nightmare.

As I see it, the objective of this new task force is to design a program that provides sufficient funding for smaller groups to grow, without giving additional money to the largest groups that will simply put it in the bank with the thousands of dollars they already have sitting around doing nothing. We have already taken a small step in this direction by changing the

funding system for the testing program so that local groups now get a flat \$25 payment for each month in which they give at least one Mensa test, in addition to the \$15 per candidate payment the groups have historically received. This relieves the fear that many smaller groups have had, that they will pay \$25 or more to use a testing venue but only one person will show up to take the test, so the group will lose money.

The task force will look at other ways we can change the funding paradigm to put the money where it is needed. Now that we have allowed local groups to distribute the majority of their newsletters electronically, printing and postage no longer account for the vast majority of local group expenses, so larger groups have seen substantial savings. However, for some mid-sized groups, the change to primarily electronic distribution has actually increased their costs, since they no longer have enough members receiving print newsletters to allow them to qualify for bulk-rate postage, and the expense of sending out newsletters first class more than offsets the savings in printing costs. These groups need more funding, but the larger groups actually need less. How can we reconcile these two seemingly contradictory objectives?

In the coming months, the task force will be examining various scenarios for linking local group funding to actual local group needs, rather than the one-size-fits-all approach we use currently. If you have any ideas along these lines, I would be happy to hear from you. As always, feel free to contact me by email at rvc6@us.mensa.org or by regular mail at 9920 Ridgehaven Drive, Dallas, TX 75238.



LaRae Bakerink, Candidate for 2nd Vice Chair

Mensa became a part of my life in 2001 and I couldn't be happier about being involved. My Mensa experience includes serving as Activities Officer, Development Officer, LocSec, RG Chair, Database Coordinator, Webmaster, Testing Coordinator, Proctor, LDW Chair, Mind Games Chair 2010, and Scholarship Chair. Nationally I am currently serving as the National Testing Officer, AG Chair 2016, Membership Committee, Leadership Development Committee, the Awards Task Force, and as Assistant RVC 9.

Leadership Development is an important member experience that can and should be provided to members so they can grow and flourish, in and out of Mensa. I believe that we should provide better tools to the local groups, especially electronic tools. It is my hope that we can start a Technology Committee for the Local Groups to use as a starting point. Mensa should also turn to being more community-minded and help involve the members more in their local groups and communities. These are some of the things that will attract and keep new and younger members.

With my background and experience in the business world, I believe I have the necessary skills that will enable me to provide strong and smart leadership on the AMC. We need experienced leadership with new ideas to keep up with the changes in our world. Let me bring my new ideas to Mensa to help enhance our member experience.

For more information about my background please go to: www.bakerink.com or contact me directly at larae@bakerink.com.

Please vote for me for 2nd Vice Chair.



American Mensa's 2013 Annual Gathering: Culture in Cowtown, scheduled July 3-7 in Fort Worth, Texas, is practically in your back yard, so it's a good time to plan your trip. You'll get the chance to take in some top-notch dining and entertainment as well as select from among scores of stimulating programs. There is limited availability on some options, so check out them out and book your good times today.

Dining and entertainment options (<http://www.ag.us.mensa.org/meals>) include savory cuisine, Texas-style, as well as entertainment such as humorist Kinky Friedman. Kinky Friedman, the self-proclaimed "Governor of the Heart of Texas," will start things off, bringing his unique brand of satire and commentary to the Welcome to Texas Kick-off Dinner on opening night. All the dining and entertainment options — as well as a still-growing list of AG programs — are among the many details available on the AG Web site.

Five amazing day tours (<http://www.ag.us.mensa.org/tours>) cover beer to baseball with a healthy dose of culture in between:

- Rahr & Sons Brewing Co. on Monday, July 1, from 12:30-4:40 p.m.
- Vintage Flying Museum on Tuesday, July 2, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Bureau of Engraving and Printing on Tuesday, July 2, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Fort Worth Cultural District on Wednesday, July 3, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Baseball at the Ballpark in Arlington, July 4, from 6-11 p.m.

Don't forget to check out the long list of programs (<http://www.ag.us.mensa.org/program>). Get more information and register today at <http://www.ag.us.mensa.org/register>. Extend your stay and your memory-making by attending Colloquium 2013: Between Science Fiction and Science, also in Fort Worth on July 2,

the day before the AG. You can interact with the stellar lineup of award-winning authors and technology experts who will examine the ever-evaporating line between imagination and science. To learn more about the speakers and to register,

visit <http://www.colloquium.us.mensa.org>. Cowboy culture has never been more fun and tasty.

We hope to see you there!

2013 MR. MENSA PAGEANT -- OPEN CALL FOR CONTESTANTS!

- Are you looking to make new friends at this year's Annual Gathering?
- Do you yearn to be the object of affection for hundreds of cheering Mensans?
- Are you willing to flaunt your talents* in front of a crowd?
- Do you wish to support a great cause and forever be part of an AG tradition?
- Are you a dude?

If you answered yes to the above questions, then the 2013 Mr. Mensa Pageant is for you! A fun and festive evening comprising 4 segments ("Sexy Legs," Talent, Formal Wear, Interview), the 2013 Mr. Mensa Pageant aims to unite contestants & spectators in the spirit of friendly(ish) competition and to showcase the diversity & awesomeness of our members. Following the Pageant, the Mr. Mensa "Date" Auction will take place to benefit the Mensa Education & Research Foundation. ("Date" = just a 1-on-1 activity for a few hours sometime during the AG time frame, coordinated & carried out by you, the contestant.)

Applications to compete in this summer's pageant are being accepted now through Sunday, May 12, 2013. To apply, you should meet the following requirements:

- Register for the 2013 AG.
- Be a male Mensan of at least 6*pi (~18) years of age.
- Have a sense of humor (be it a Mensan sense of humor or a normal one).
- Arrive at the Worthington Hotel in Ft. Worth, TX by the morning of Friday, July 5, 2013.

- Have a talent* that you are willing to demonstrate to an audience of awesome people.
- Be willing to be regarded as a highly-intelligent hunk of meat for a couple of hours.

If you are interested in participating as a contestant, simply send an email to MisterMensa@ymail.com by no later than Sunday, May 12, 2013. Be sure to put "2013 Mr. Mensa Pageant" in the subject line, and include responses to the following:

1. Your name
2. Your age
3. Your local group
4. Which talent* you would like to showcase at the pageant
5. What your Date Auction "date" would entail – bonus for keeping it creative and clean

Registration will be limited to seven (7) contestants. While this isn't necessarily first-come, first-served, the sooner you respond, the less likely someone else will "steal" your talent and date ideas (and your spot as a contestant).

See you at the AG!

Nguyen "Win" Pham, Mr. Mensa 2011
2013 Mr. Mensa Pageant Committee

* Talents can include, but are not limited to: singing, dancing, sword swallowing, other-stuff swallowing, juggling, stand-up comedy, feats of strength, feats of intellect, feats of feet, and running around with your shirt off.

AMERICAN MENSA 2013 STATUS

Submitted by Charles Brown, AMC

With new membership data in hand, we begin the new membership year with encouragement and optimism but also the recognition that we have some ambitions still unmet. As we found in our recent survey, members continue to find value in American Mensa, and we expect that to grow with the addition of an improved member card, the new Here On Biz networking app and more and better ways for members to interact.

American Mensa finished the 2012-13 year with a total membership of 56,172, which is down only 0.08 percent from the previous year. Within that larger membership figure are several bright highlights:

- 87% of members maintained membership.
- We have 3,549 new members! That's an increase of 20% from last year.
- Supervised testing was up 2% and Prior Evidence was up 33%, resulting in an overall increase in offers of membership extended to 3,748, a 19% increase from last year.
- 3,518 members — a 9% increase — rejoined Mensa after a lapse of more than a year.
- At this point, more than 6,800 members have committed to the organization with a life membership. Members on a life or multi-year plan now number more than 21,000.

The strong numbers of people renewing and joining indicate faith and trust in our positive direction and provide momentum for greater growth in the coming year. We appreciate and thank you for your commitment to Mensa. We also hope you'll spread the word to others who might find the same value that you've found in our organization. You can do this by helping your Local Group welcome its new and returning members, encouraging candidates to join and offering the admission test in new locations.

With everyone's help, 2013-14 will be a year of growth as new members join our ranks and discover all that Mensa has to offer.

COLLOQUIUM 2013 SPEAKER LINEUP

Submitted by Charles Brown, AMC

The stellar panel for Colloquium 2013: Between Science Fiction and Science is complete with the announcement of astrophysicist and author Dave Goldberg as the final speaker for the event.

Goldberg, a professor and administrator at Drexel University's Department of Physics and author of *A User's Guide to the Universe*, will present a hands-on guide for the practical time-traveler. Goldberg currently is working on issues in theoretical cosmology and writes and speaks frequently on the interface of science and pop culture. He joins a lineup that includes award-winning science fiction authors Robert J. Sawyer, Todd Johnson McCaffrey

and David Brin and robotics expert Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch (U.S. Army, retired).

This year's Colloquium, sponsored by the Mensa Foundation for Education & Research and scheduled for July 2 in Fort Worth, Texas, will explore how our boundless imagination is finding form within the boundaries of science. It is an exciting chance to interact with other bright minds on the current status of robotics, evolving military technology and the new worlds being created by science fiction writers. Get more information and register at <http://www.colloquium.us.mensa.org>.

SCHOLARSHIPS CONTEST JUDGES CELEBRATE

Submitted by Claudia Harbert, LSM Scholarship Coordinator

Lone Star Mensa's scholarship contest judges were invited to dine together at Kerbey Lane to celebrate completing the judging of 193 essays. We had a fine party, with 8 judges and several spouses and helpers! It was fun for everyone to meet and compare notes over a good meal. The only disappointment was that some of the judges were unable to attend.

This year, the Mensa Research Foundation implemented a new system of running the entire contest online. Contestants submitted their essays on a form on a web page. Then each local Mensa group's Scholarships Coordinator had online access to the essays received from contestants within their local area. The Coordinators sent pdf files and Excel scoring sheets to the local judges.

Because Lone Star Mensa received so many contest-entry essays, we had 3 judges perform an elimination round, reading all of the essays quickly and voting "yea" or "nay" for each. Those essays that received 2 or more "nay" votes were eliminated without further judging. Then the judges scored approximately 45 essays each

in a second round and then 20 more essays in a third round. It's complicated! Volunteer next year to get in on the logistics and the excitement!

Thanks to all the judges for the brainpower and quick returns of those score sheets that allowed our local group to participate in the Mensa Foundation Scholarship Contest: Ron Edelstein, Modelle Gibson, Fred Goertz, Paul Memrick, Nancy Norwood, Ryan O'Connor, Sonya Palmer, Steve Roberts, Sara Sharpe, and Karen Werner. Thanks also to Gloria and Ron Fortin for coordinating the scoring.

Gloria and Ron Fortin on the left, Fred Goertz, far right, Sonya Palmer nearer right



GIFTED YOUTH NEWS & NOTES

Submitted by Lisa Van Gemert, Gifted Youth Specialist, Mensa Foundation
www.mensaforkids.org
www.mensafoundation.org

May Happenings & Celebrations:

4th: Star Wars Day
8th: Victory in Europe Day
10th: Clean up Your Room Day

May is National Bar-be-que month.

Resources:

Star Wars Day:

Star Wars Day is May the Fourth (because it sounds like "May the Force (4th) be with you." If you want to celebrate, how about watching the original Star Wars movie or play some of the games or do some of the crafts (like make a Chewbacca puppet) for kids on the official Star Wars site <http://starwars.com/play/online-activities/>.

Victory in Europe Day:

Learn about how people around the world reacted to the end of

WWII in Europe at the BBC page about it <http://bit.ly/vieday>. You can find a list of books for youth about WWII here <http://bit.ly/WWIIkids>.

Clean Up Your Room:

Hmmm, this one may be more for the parents, but May 10th is Clean up Your Room Day. See if you can go on a scavenger hunt in your room and find these items:

- an item that belongs to someone else

- an item you've had over five years
- an article of clothing that no longer fits
- something really special to you
- something your mom wishes you'd throw away

If you send pictures of them to YMagazine@us.mensa.org, we'll put them in Young Mensan Magazine!

Bar-be-que Month

Try out one of these popular BBQ recipes for kids <http://bit.ly/BBQtop25>.

Triviality:

The month of May was named for the Greek goddess Maia, the mother of Hermes, the messenger of the gods (you know, the one with wings on his feet).

Benefit Highlight:

Did you know that we share high quality resources on our Pinterest boards at <http://pinterest.com/brightkids/>? You don't need to be a member of Pinterest to see the boards, so check out all the great ideas there!

YOUR SUDOKU PUZZLE

Weekly Extremes
<http://www.sudoku.org.uk>
 By Douglas Yee



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

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hi Rose,

Here is my feedback on the proposed RG activities:

1) Conversation areas: This could work. I would like to see the large ballroom on the first floor used for this purpose as it has the space for all the attendees to gather in one place and allows people to freely move and mingle among the different groups. The hospitality room can get a little too crowded and noisy at times to allow this. The difficulty would be that other groups reserve the ballroom, so maybe it's not available all the time.

2) Talent show: Nice idea. Would there have to be a direct tie-in to the theme of the RG? In other words, do the performers have to choose something time-related?

3) Fishbowl: Of course we have to have Fishbowl. The RG wouldn't have the same feel without it. Plus, the last moderator was very good at asking

the right questions which led to stimulating discussions.

4) Massage workshop: Not personally interested in this, but I wouldn't be against the idea if a lot of people wanted it.

5) Merchandise from local companies: Excellent idea! There are some real possibilities here if we have someone who can convince local corporate sponsors that Lone Star Mensa can provide them with good publicity.

6) Dancing through the ages: I like this idea and would love to see it work, but I think it's perhaps a little too ambitious. Wouldn't it take more than just the right music and DJ? If you expect participation, it seems like maybe a dance instructor might be needed to show the basic moves of the period dances.

- Douglas Yee

ORTS, OLIO, AND OTHER MISCELLANY

The Pennsylvania Deutsch are commonly attributed with the following saying:

Too soon we grow old;
Too late we grow smart.

There is an immense amount of wisdom in that conundrum, but most unfortunately, we actually have to grow old before we can fully appreciate its meaning. Ever since I achieved the status of a fully-certified septuagenarian (and then some), I have become privy to many truisms of life. Upon attaining age 70, Mark Twain once said he had achieved a state of "senile rapture." The very first realization is that by the time you're old enough to be wise; it's far too late to do much about your prior lack of wisdom. The combination of realizing what a dope you have been plus the lack of ability to do much about it is both humbling and overwhelming. That said, permit me to share my conclusions to some of life's mysteries with you. If you're too young to fully appreciate this, cut out the essay and save it for the rainy day of your old age.

CONCLUSION #1

Being a Mensa member, or at least qualified to be one, is one of life's greatest joys and challenges. Our high Q sets us apart from the "others," just as Down's syndrome sets a person apart -- except at the other end of the intellectual scale. Most certainly, we're not all "rocket scientists" nor do we want to be; but we do view matters differently from the "others." Said a different way, they view things differently than we do. So, that sets us apart from the "other" and causes the "others" to generally view us with envy/suspicion/distrust. If you mention to someone you are a Mensa member, you will be expected to be able to answer any questions or problems posed to you. And, even if you don't have an answer, you'll be resented for the possibility that you might have an answer. Lest we forget the lessons of history, in times of great cultural upheavals, the first persons to be exterminated are usually the intelligentsia. In my time, I have learned that I can take my Mensa card into almost any diner anywhere, lay it on the counter along with a dollar, and this will get me a cup of coffee. That aside, let there be no mistake: the concept of Mensa and the company of other Mensa members are the only havens of respite we have from the onus of being 'intellectually gifted.' So, enjoy our special society with gusto! After forty-eight years of membership, I can say I have!!

CONCLUSION #2

Quickly, what do the following all have in common?

Mr., Mrs., Mom, Dad, Grandpa, Grandma,
Aunt, Uncle, Doctor, Professor, Judge, Sire,
Your Majesty

Answer: They, and many others, are all 'honorifics,' which are defined as: "a title; any of a grammatical class of forms used in speaking of or to a person or thing that commands respect." It's one matter to teach little children as they mature that there are bounds to civilized social customs, and that children should learn to respect various social positions they will encounter in life. Nonetheless, a title is a title, and it is not a name. When growing up, my children were indoctrinated that I should be called Dad (or Pop or Daddy or whatever), and they have called me that all of their days. Yet, my officially given name is Victor (or Vic, as I prefer). My name is not Dad or Grandpa or Mr. or Sire or anything else. During my working years, I never allowed anyone to address me as 'Mr.,' and I always requested that they use my first name. Now, in my declining years I would love to hear my name spoken by my children, who are now as old as I used to be. No luck, though. I did have better luck with the grandkids, however. Out of four, the oldest is in college and, at my request he readily agreed to stop calling me "Grandpa," instead calling me by name. I love it!! When the other three are old enough, I'm confident I can switch them over also. I am not so personally insecure that I need to be addressed by a title. If that were the situation, I would choose "Your Lordship." It has a certain ring to it, don't you think?

CONCLUSION #3

For at least as long as I can remember, I have been an avid, daily reader of the 'Advice' columns (Ann Landers, Dear Abby, et al). I love 'em, but maybe not for the reason you might think. I don't really pay much attention to the advice given because that's usually always a legally safe, non-confrontational, non-threatening piece of pabulum -- as if any columnist could solve a complex human problem with a couple of sentences printed in a public forum! The real value in reading the columns is to learn about the "human condition;" that is, what are the kinds of situations that get ordinary people twisted up? Since Mensans are not 'ordinary' people, it's

good for us to understand the problems experienced by the “others.” After all my years, it seems that the most common problems arise from the interactions and relationships between two people. Thus, taking all of these situations into consideration, it is possible to conclude that there are some rules that should be observed in order to have a successful marital relationship or non-marital partnership:

RULE #1: Your mate or partner is who they are and what they are; you must take them ‘as you find them,’ and never think you will be able to change them to fit your tastes. You may be able over time to modify some of your partner’s periphery, but you ain’t gonna change a Ford into a Chevy, and neither is your partner for that matter. If you don’t like what you’re driving, it’s time to move on to another model.

RULE #2: Always respect your partner even if you don’t like them or agree with them. Never put down another person just because you can. That’s not only demeaning and unfair; it’s highly destructive to the relationship. If there are some things you’d like to change, sit down with your partner and have a frank, open discussion about it. Of course, it would have been best to do that before you entered into the relationship, but it doesn’t always work out that way.

RULE #3: No matter what each partner contributes, monetarily or otherwise, to the relationship, each contribution must be considered equal to the other. If one partner earns a huge salary for working and the other partner is a homemaker, each must be deemed to be contributing 100% of their ability and talent to their respective role, and thus are entitled to equal sharing and enjoyment of, or liability for, the joint partnership. From the financial assets of the partnership, couples should agree to pay themselves a fixed and equal amount on a weekly or other basis. This stipend may be used by each partner solely as they see fit and for whatever personal purpose they wish. Joint expenses of the partnership/relationship, should be paid from the common assets. In other words, there should be a ‘yours, mine, and ours.’

RULE #4: Respect each other’s space. I can’t believe how many people relate how they have been astounded by browsing (snooping?) on their partner’s PC space. Come on! Give me a break!!

How can anyone not know that usage of a single PC can be split into multiple users, each with their own password protection to block out prying eyes? So, if two people are sharing a PC and they do not have their own user passwords to protect their right to privacy, one must necessarily conclude that they do not wish to have privacy and that they wish to be discovered at whatever they are doing. Gads, how obvious does it get?!

RULE #5: This is my Theory of Floating Halves, as I like to call it. Basically, the idea is this: each partner owns half of everything: from half of everything in total to half of every individual thing; and it is a partner’s inalienable right to do whatever they want to with their half of something; and their half can be, at any particular time, whatever half they declare it to be, subject to change at any time. OK, let me make that a little clearer: suppose there’s a coffee table in front of a sofa and whenever I sit on the sofa, I like to put my feet up on the coffee table. My partner might want to squawk at me for putting my feet on the furniture, but all debate is shut off instantly if I claim that my feet are, at that moment, on my half of the coffee table. Period. End of Discussion. As long as I don’t put my feet all over the entire coffee table at any one time, I’m within my bounds. And, I can change my half of the coffee table if I sit in a different seat on the sofa the next time. This rule applies to every single facet of the relationship, from the whole house to a single dish. You’d be surprised how smoothly things can go.

RULE #6: This is one of my favorites: the Theory of Diminishing Dirt. Pay attention now, because this is important, and kind of ties in with the Theory of Floating Halves above. Here’s the deal: my spouse likes to keep a clean house, which includes dusting regularly. On the other hand, in the true image of a Oscar Madison, I’m not quite as fussy. My feeling, developed over a lifetime of practical application, is that ordinary dust in a house or car will build up only to a certain level; when the dust level reaches critical mass, it will begin to slough off on its own and not grow larger than the level of critical mass. In order to accept this premise, one needs only to adjust one’s concept of what is an acceptable level of critical mass. Once you can adjust your thinking accordingly, you will never again be troubled by something as mundane and plebian as mere dust. After all, as Mensans, don’t we have better things to think about?



MEMBER NEWS (as of 02/28/13)

HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS*

2 Keith A Johnson
3 Jerry A Pease
5 Kimberly A Mills
6 Michael Riggs
6 Todd Stahlnecker
7 Samuel Blasco
8 David H Messer
9 Peggy Bills
10 Amy Arrant
10 John Greytok
12 Michael Dworaczyk
12 Scott Nicholson
Kurland
14 Cynthia Bourland
15 Dr Leon Morris
Waynberg
16 William Eric Hungate
18 Lori L Barr MD
19 David Wayne Madden
20 Raymond Doo
21 Scott Dannel Burgess
21 Ryan Rozich
22 Russell Eugene Nelson
23 Josephine West
McNamee
24 Kevin Michael Smith
24 Ronald Joseph
Therault
27 Mamta Jayavardhan
27 Lisa Oliver
28 Christopher Alby
28 Claudia Ellis Harbert
29 Cathryn Leigh Cox
29 Lesley Carol Morehead
29 Christopher T Vedner

NEW MEMBERS— WELCOME!

Kimberly Buckingham
Lincoln Edwards
Michael McKenzie
Angela Phille

JUST MOVED IN—HI NEIGHBOR!

Jill E Bosche
Taylor A Donlan

WELCOME BACK--MISSED YOU!

Cory V Barnett
Dr Robert Joel Broselow
David J Burgett
Marshall Hamilton
Barbara Horan
Bruce Wayne Jean
Henry J Kubicek
Sean M Medley
Ron W Murray
Luke Mitchell Parish
Susan Marie Shaffer RN
Glenn Smith
Joanna Morgan Weinman

GOODBYE—WE WISH YOU WELL

K Anthony Bottorff
Robert Burgess
James Crayton
Grace Lehto
Stephen Brice Rider
John R Strohm

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

MEMBER FOR 20 YEARS

Elizabeth A Collins
Steven P Collins

MEMBER FOR 5 YEARS

Jeffrey David Johannigman
Sara S Sharpe

MEMBER FOR 1 YEAR

Susan Theresa Brown
Charles A Espey
Lawrence Falli
Kenneth Farr
Ronald D Lambert
Cynthia Anne Layne
David A McCrae III
Phillip B McWilliams
William Peregoy
Kevin Louis Rochester
Andrew M Rooke
Ryder Senko
Tara Elizabeth Todd
William O Vanecek
Curt L Warnock

**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.*

MEMBER UPDATE

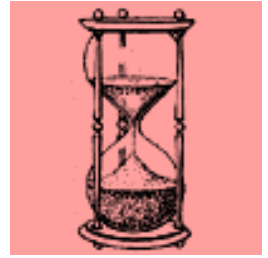
You may remember the bio we printed a couple of years ago about JimAnn Oliver, or you may have attended her excellent presentation on Early Childhood Education, or read some of her articles in the Gazette. We thought you'd want to know that JimAnn suffered a terrible accident last June, and her health has deteriorated significantly since then—to the point that her doctors are not optimistic that she will survive more than another six months. Please keep JimAnn and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

LONE STAR RG IDEAS

Wouldn't it be great if we could do something like this at our upcoming RG! 😊

This Baptist Minister Of Music Is A REAL ENTERTAINER!
http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=0jwkp2nAto

Lone Star 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 Lone Star 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 Lone Star 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://lsm.us.mensa.org/events/rg/rg15reg.htm>.

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

Lone Star Mensa RG XV Registration

Name: _____ Street address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Badge 1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult	<input type="checkbox"/> Child 9-17	<input type="checkbox"/> Child 0-8	Total \$ _____
Badge 2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult	<input type="checkbox"/> Child 9-17	<input type="checkbox"/> Child 0-8	Total \$ _____
Badge 3. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult	<input type="checkbox"/> Child 9-17	<input type="checkbox"/> Child 0-8	Total \$ _____
Badge 4. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult	<input type="checkbox"/> Child 9-17	<input type="checkbox"/> Child 0-8	Total \$ _____

Tasting tickets: ___ Cheese ___ Spices ___ Honey Total \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Make check or money order payable to "Lone Star 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:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> Solicit Donations | <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Food | <input type="checkbox"/> Registration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bring Games | <input type="checkbox"/> Logistics/Purchasing | <input type="checkbox"/> Speaker Assistant | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

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

LONE STAR MENSA CONTACTS BY FUNCTION

As of April 30, 2013

NEWSLETTER			
Editor	editor@lsm.us.mensa.org	Rose Berkowitz	467-4871
Emailing	epostmaster@lsm.us.mensa.org	Linda Edelstein	491-9881
Snail mailing	postmaster@lsm.us.mensa.org	Don Drumtra*	291-0315
Online	records@lsm.us.mensa.org	Don Drumtra	291-0315
Calendar	calendar@lsm.us.mensa.org	Rose Berkowitz	467-4871
Publicity	publicity@lsm.us.mensa.org	Paul Anderson	259-7824
Advertising		Vacant	
Photographer		Vacant	
Managing Editor	editor@lsm.us.mensa.org	Don Drumtra	291-0315
Publisher	recsecretary@lsm.us.mensa.org	Board of Officers	291-0361
ON LINE			
Website Design	mensapats@att.net	Patsy Graham	380-0141
Website Maintenance	webmaster@lsm.us.mensa.org	Douglas Yee	288-9172
LSM Officers, contacts	records@lsm.us.mensa.org	Don Drumtra	291-0315
Board Meetings	records@lsm.us.mensa.org	Don Drumtra	291-0315
Operating standards	records@lsm.us.mensa.org	Don Drumtra	291-0315
Email Lists	emaillists@lsm.us.mensa.org	John Neemidge*	310-7863
Facebook	facebook@lsm.us.mensa.org	Geri Neemidge	310-7863
MEMBERSHIP			
	membership@lsm.us.mensa.org	Fred Goertz**	569-1758
New Members	mensapats@lsm.us.mensa.org	Patsy Graham	380-0141
Renewals	ravina_n@hotmail.com	Ravina Nelson	795-0739
Testing	testing@lsm.us.mensa.org	Austin G. Meyer	971-0123
Awards	membership@lsm.us.mensa.org	Vacant	
Officers	records@lsm.us.mensa.org	Don Drumtra	291-0315
EDUCATION			
		Vacant	
Gifted Youth Programs	giftedchildren@lsm.us.mensa.org	Michele Vaughan	388-5970
Scholarships	scholarship@lsm.us.mensa.org	Claudia Harbert	238-0205
Financial Outreach		Vacant	
EVENTS			
	angsu@hotmai.com	Angela Adams**	263-8780
Monthly Programs		Angela Adams	283-8780
TGITs		Vacant	
Games Night	mensapats@lsm.us.mensa.org	Patsy Graham	380-0141
Chess Night	cmvc95@yahoo.com	Douglas Yee**	288-9172
Eclectic Eats	arabushka@austin.rr.com	Aaron Rabushka	280-2807
Picnics and Parties		Vacant	
RG CO-CHAIRS			
	aduana@mindspring.com	Ron and Linda Edelstein	491-9881
MIND GAMES 2014			
	mensapats@lsm.us.mensa.org	Patsy Graham	380-0141
OMBUDSMAN			
	ombudsman@lsm.us.mensa.org	Ron Edelstein*	491-9881
REIMBURSEMENTS			
	treasurer@lsm.us.mensa.org	Don Drumtra**	291-0315
S.I.G.H.T.			
		Vacant	
EVERYTHING ELSE			
	locsec@lsm.us.mensa.org	John Neemidge**	310-7863

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

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

MAY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Board Meeting	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 ALG Deadline Chess Night TGIT-North	10	11
12 MOTHER'S DAY	13 Member Meeting	14	15	16 TGIT-South	17	18 Games Night RG Planning Mtg.
19	20	21	22	23 TGIT-North Seal & Label	24 HOUSTON SYN RG	25 HOUSTON SYN
26 HOUSTON SYN RG	27 HOUSTON SYN RG	28 Eclectic Eats	29	30	31	

See the online calendar (ism.us.mensa.org/events/calendar.shtml) for the latest updates. 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
May 2, 7:15 to 8:15 pm
 Carver Branch Library

ALG/Calendar Deadline

2nd Thursday
May 9, Midnight
 Submissions due to Editor.

Chess Night (with TGIT-North group)

2nd Thursday
May 9, 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
May 9 & 24, 6-8 PM
 Meet us upstairs at the Café for conversation, food and fun. Prospective members welcome. Look for the Mensa table sign.

Member Meeting

2nd Monday
May 13, 6:45 to 8:15 pm
 Carver Branch Library

Lone Star RG Committee Meeting

May 18, 1-2:30 pm
 Cafe Express,
 2318 N. Lamar, Austin
 Bring your ideas and progress reports. You don't have to be a formal member of the committee to attend. Please consider having lunch there so we will be welcome to use their space for free.
 Contact: Ron and Linda Edelstein,
aduana@mindspring.com

Games Night

3rd Saturday
May 18, 7-10 pm
 Café Express
 3418 N. Lamar, Austin
 Bring a game or just show up. Café Express has lots of tasty items and beverages, but you do not have to buy a meal to sit with us! Family and friends are welcome. (Please note that you are responsible for the behavior of any children you bring.)

Eclectic Eats

Tuesday, May 28, 7:00 p.m.
 La Madeleine
 701 Capital of Texas Highway S,
 Suite G, Westlake Shopping Village
 Austin 78746
 (512) 306 -1998,
www.lamadeleine.com
 We will dine à la Française.
 Please RSVP to Aaron Rabushka
 at arabushka@austin.rr.com or
 512-280-2807 *by* mid-day May 27

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT-South)

3rd Thursday
May 16, 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
May 24, 6-8 PM
 Join the TGIT-N Group to help seal and label the newsletter.

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.

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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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