

# Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of *Lone Star Mensa*  
Volume XLI  
Number 3, March 2014



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

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

*Submitted By Rose Berkowitz*

Results of our recent election are below. Let me just say, if you didn't care enough to vote (only 36 of over 600 members did), then don't complain about how the group is run. But thank you to those who did vote, and especially to those who put themselves up for election to our Board of Officers. Your service is greatly appreciated.

I'm always happy to hear from our members. You can send in comments/reactions to newsletter items, ideas, poetry, essays, or whatever else you'd like to contribute. If you tried a recipe we published, tell us how you liked it. No particular word limit, but emailed submissions are appreciated. Send them to [editor@lsm.us.mensa.org](mailto:editor@lsm.us.mensa.org).

## ELECTION RESULTS

*Submitted by Linda Edelstein, Election Committee Chair*

The election committee (Linda Edelstein, Election Committee Chair, Patsy Graham, and Janet Kres) met on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> and counted the votes for the election of members. The Election Committee certifies the following results to the Lone Star Mensa Board for the terms beginning April 1, 2014:

### Elected for 1 year term ending March 31, 2015

Don Drumtra: 26 votes  
Geri Neemidge: 29 votes  
Aaron Rabushka: 28 votes  
Doug Williams: 26 votes

Not elected: Andrew Badgley: 23 votes

### Elected for 2 year term ending March 31, 2016

Ronald Edelstein: 27 votes  
Leslie Stevenson: 29 votes  
Johnnie Vaughn: 23 votes  
Douglas Yee: 33 votes

Not elected: Ed Gordon: 20 votes

There were 36 ballots counted, and one that was disqualified by late arrival. Not everyone voted for four candidates for each term. Note that if there are any protests or challenges to the election, they must be made in writing and received by the chair of the election committee by March 4, 2014.

Should any of those elected be later unable to complete their term, the election committee recommends that the Board President appoint either Andrew Badgley or Ed Gordon to fill the remaining term.

## THANKS

*By Don Drumtra, Circulation Manager*

A big "THANK YOU!" to the folks who spent hours of their time sealing and labeling 603 newsletters so the rest of us would be able to vote in the election of board members. They are, **Doug Williams, Marshall and Karen Hamilton, Andrew Badgley, Douglas Yee, Ron Edelstein, Samantha Collins, Patty and Don Drumtra, and Amanda Lacy**. Give them a high five when you see them.

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## WORD TO THE WISE

Submitted by John Neemidge, LocSec



With this column I come to the end of my series of columns, as my term as LSM President will expire at the end of March and our new President (Geri Neemidge—see New Board Meeting Minutes in this issue) will write a column for April. It has been a pleasure to serve these past few years and while we could have done more, I'm happy with what we've accomplished and believe we're leaving the group in a great position to continue to build up our chapter.

Over the past few two years we've had two successful RGs (thanks to Ron and Linda Edelstein for chairing our most recent one), started planning for a third (thanks Leslie Stevenson and Johnnie Vaughn, both members of our new board as well, for co-chairing the upcoming RG), secured a bid to host Mind Games this year (thanks to Patsy Graham, Mind Games chair), and had many successful local group activities. We have more active volunteers than at any point in recent history. For the first time in years we will have a full board going into the next year.

We have continued to make progress on many action items within the local groups, improving communications and activities. There is still more to be done, but we're proud of what we've accomplished. We are on a solid financial footing as well, with plenty of money to cover the things we want to do and to be able to take risks and try new things.

I'm not going anywhere; I'll be busy volunteering (and playing!) at Mind Games, helping out at the RG, active on the new board as Executive Adviser (aka past President), hosting events, and helping out. This is a great time to get active in the group—the new board will welcome your thoughts and ideas, and we always encourage people to host events and get involved, and are happy to help with that.

Hope to see YOU at an LSM event soon!

## FROM THE RVC

Submitted by Roger Durham, Region 6 RVC



Spring is almost here, and that means it's time to renew your Mensa membership again (unless, of course, you're a life member, or you paid for a multi-year renewal that still has some time to run). This year you may have noticed that we are offering a new option: automatic renewal. This will allow you to authorize American Mensa to renew your membership each year without bothering you, unless and until you tell us otherwise. This option will save you some hassle, and has been fairly popular so far, but saves you no money. However, as I have mentioned before, a life membership will insulate you from further dues increases - forever. Why not make this the year that you invest in Mensa life membership?

Another thing that it's time to do is make your plans to attend the 2014 version of SynRG, the Regional Gathering of Gulf Coast Mensa, taking place over Memorial Day weekend in Houston. Go to [www.gcmensa.org](http://www.gcmensa.org) for more information and a registration form. It's also time to make plans to attend the 2014 Annual Gathering of American Mensa, July 2-6 in Boston this summer. Visit [www.ag.us.mensa.org](http://www.ag.us.mensa.org) for details.

Now, I need some feedback. I am chairing a task force that is charged with looking for better ways of supporting local groups. One of the suggestions brought forward in our discussions has been the creation of an on-line tutorial for new or prospective Local Secretaries on how to lead a Mensa local group. I think this is a fine idea, but the problem is that no funding is available for it. However, funds are budgeted each year now to pay for a "Presidents' Summit" at the AG, where experienced local officers share best practices. This is a popular program, but in my view it reaches too few people and the ones it does reach are the wrong ones. We have to limit it to current Presidents, of whom fewer than half attend, and because it's done in conjunction with the AG, most of those participating are at least halfway through their terms of office by the time it takes place. Would you think it's a good idea to discontinue the "Presidents' Summit" at the AG and apply the funding to development of an on-line tutorial that would be available to anyone at any time? Please give this some thought and let me know as soon as possible. I would like to be able to share your opinions at our national Board meeting at the end of March.

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

**DON'T FORGET – RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!**

## FEBRUARY BOARD MINUTES

Submitted by John Neemidge, acting Scribe

The February regular meeting of the Lone Star Mensa board of officers convened at 7:30 PM, Thursday, Feb 6, 2014 at Carver Public Library, Rooms 2-3, 1161 Angelina, Austin, TX. Attending were **Andrew Badgely, Don Drumtra, John Neemidge, Leslie Stevenson, Doug Williams, and Douglas Yee**. The board adopted the agenda and the minutes of the January regular board meeting as printed in the February 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:

- **President:** Discussed a volunteer appreciation party to be held in the next few months to recognize volunteer activity for 2013. Planning is still in the works.
- **Treasurer:** Don presented an updated financial report. We are bringing in considerably more income than we are spending. While it is nice to have the extra money, it would also be good to have more events within the year.
- **ComComm:** The special mailing for the election went off without a hitch; we are grateful to the extra volunteers for that event. Mailings continue to go well.
- **EdComm:** No updates.
- **MemComm:** No updates.
- **SymComm:** January was the annual business meeting; no topic yet for February.
- **Lone Star RG 2014 Committee:** The RG has a preliminary schedule and speaker information, as well as a budget and other materials. The next planning meeting will be March 8 at 6 pm. After extensive hotel shopping the RG committee settled on the Wingate; it offers the best deal. Leslie is working on an RG-specific website; John will help with connecting with PayPal.
- **Website Working Group:** Website update has been delayed. Tami Heaton has sent an invoice for domain names. She is working with Sean Medley to turn over the website. We are still hoping to get the full site from Tami Heaton as soon as possible.
- **Mind Games Committee:** We have 244 room nights reserved as of Feb 6 and 194 Mind Games registrations as of Feb 1, 2014. Both numbers are at expectations.
- **Nomination and Election Committee:** Elections are happening now.

New Business:

- Reimbursement requests for Tami Heaton for domain names and website hosting were approved.
- Authorized purchase of 6 chess sets and clocks for Chess Night, which will also be used at the RG.

Announcements:

- The next monthly board meeting was scheduled for 7:15-8:15 PM, Thursday, Mar 6, and Thursday, Apr 3 at the Carver Branch Library.
- The next regular monthly meetings are scheduled for 6:45-8:15 PM, Monday, Feb 10, and Monday, Mar 10 at the Carver Branch Library.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

## NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Submitted by John Neemidge, acting Scribe

A special meeting of the Lone Star Mensa board of officers for the newly elected 2014-2015 board convened at 7:10 PM, Saturday, Feb 15, 2014 at Cafe Express in Austin, TX. Attending were **Don Drumtra, Patty Drumtra, Ron Edelstein, Geri Neemidge, John Neemidge, Aaron Rabushka, Leslie Stevenson, and Johnnie Vaughn**. This meeting is required by our bylaws and exists to elect the executive officers for the upcoming year and begin planning.

**President:** Two volunteers came forward for President: Ron Edelstein and Geri Neemidge. Both candidates presented statements as to their qualifications and desire to serve. Geri Neemidge was elected by ballot of the board members present.

**Vice President/Secretary:** One volunteer came forward for Vice President, Leslie Stevenson. She met

qualification requirements through service on a similar non-profit board. She was elected by acclamation.

**Treasurer:** One volunteer came forward for Treasurer, Douglas Yee. He will take over the Treasurer role with assistance from Don Drumtra, outgoing Treasurer. Don has agreed to train Douglas and gradually transition the position. He was elected by acclamation.

Don presented the requirements for the March meeting, which are documented within the LSM Bylaws. including a discussion of times and locations for upcoming meetings, and election of standing committee chairmen. Any LSM member wishing to compete for one of the four positions should email Geri Neemidge [geri@neemidge.net](mailto:geri@neemidge.net) or Leslie Stevenson [leslielstevenson@gmail.com](mailto:leslielstevenson@gmail.com) and attend the March board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

## LONE STAR RG XVI: PLAYTIME! COME PLAY WITH US!

Submitted by Leslie t Stevenson, RG Co-Chair

We had our first RG Planning meeting on February 2nd at Patsy Graham's house and it went very well! I really enjoy and appreciate input from others. Plus I don't know everything about this whole "planning and running an RG" thing. Probably before I think I have a handle on it, the RG will be over. But if people like what happens this year I may do another year. But if anyone else suddenly wants to run this shindig, I'm all for sharing the fun.

We are going to be partying at the Round Rock Wingate again this year. We are getting another suite thrown in to our deal - the kind with the adjoining room. So that's where I will be crashing when I can during the event, but the "suite" part will be a hospitality suite! You may be thinking, ""Does that mean we won't have hospitality in the High Tech Hall anymore?" Not to worry! We will still have our catered meals, snacks, etc. in the regular place. We now just have another option. After-hours gaming and visiting, "4th meal" and other goodies will be available in the "hospitality suite"!

Here's what we have scheduled so far:

- A Moth-style storytelling event
- Carnelli
- Fishbowl
- A Photo Scavenger Hunt
- Games and panel discussions hosted by The Steve Jackson MIB team and ChimaeraCon staff
- Discussion Room events with Hugh Brown
- Buster Keaton, "The Thinking Man's Comedian" discussion with Susan Buhrman
- A live webcast on Fanboytv.com with Gavin Stone
- Name That Movie game
- An improv entertainment "Whose Line?" style event
- Rock Band open play
- SCA (Society for Creative Anachronism) 101 presentation
- A blitz chess tournament
- Keeping Austin Weird discussion with Red Wassenich (followed by book sales and signing)
- A catered Murder Mystery Dinner Theater
- A dance
- An altered-Altoid tin craft show
- A kid's DIY board game 2-day workshop
- A presentation and reading by our own local author, Sean Medley

A few more things are being scheduled - but that is the meat of it! I'll be posting updates to the schedule on our Facebook event page: <http://bit.ly/LoneStaRGXV>

It isn't too early to start finding cool things to donate for our scholarship fundraiser silent auction! Maybe pick up a gift certificate or other fun things from places you frequent. Maybe you are going to be doing spring cleaning and realize you no longer have room for everything. Are your bookshelves full and you need to make room for more good books? Douglas Yee ([cmvc95@yahoo.com](mailto:cmvc95@yahoo.com)) and I ([leslielstevenson@gmail.com](mailto:leslielstevenson@gmail.com)) are willing to pick up your (gently used) goodies! If we get enough stuff beforehand, we can take photos and post them on the Facebook event page too!

Next month check out the winner of the logo design contest, and find out information about the mobile app I found for the event (which I'm pretty excited about!)

## MORE THANKS!

Submitted by Ron and Linda Edelstein

We would like to thank Sharon Sarles for her list of suggestions for some excellent speakers or presenters for LSM General Meetings. We will be following up on these and they offer the prospect of some very interesting and even entertaining meetings. To other LSM members—watch the listings in the ALG and come and see what happens.

## YOUR SUDOKU PUZZLE

### Extreme Sudoku

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

By Douglas Yee



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

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

## WHAT LONE STAR MENSANS HAVE BEEN READING

Submitted by Linda Edelstein

At the January 13 general meeting, only seven people were in attendance, but we had a lively discussion about what each of us has read recently. Below is a list, in no particular order, of the books and articles discussed, with some comments as to why the reader chose that book. As you can see, we had quite a diverse set of interests, but some books lead to remembrances of others read by someone else.

**The Honor of the Queen**, by David Weber, pub. 1993. The reader received a number of books for Christmas that fill in missing slots in sci-fi series she has been reading. This book is the second of a long series of space opera books about Honor Harrington.

**Zealot, the Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth**, by Reza Aslan, pub. 2013. This book deals with the historical context of Jesus' life, and is written by a Muslim theologian. "Ultimately I wrote this book to say that you can be a follower of Jesus without necessarily being a Christian," is a quote from an interview the author gave on PBS News Hour.

**Diagnostic Clinical Neuropsychology**, by Erin D. Bigler and Pamela F. Clement, pub. 1997. Read partly because the reader wanted more knowledge of how her own brain neurons related to her physical condition.

**A Rose from Charlie and Marie**, by Dennis Frank Macek, pub. 2007. A literary mystery, read because it was written by a relative.

**Time Travelers: Walking the Ancestors' Trail**, by Jerry Adler in the January 2014 Smithsonian Magazine. A piece not worthy of the Smithsonian about a walk some atheists and agnostics took in southwest England, where people in costumes such as chimpanzee, dinosaur and small mammal met them at various intersections on the trail to symbolize the evolution of man.

**The Power of Habit: Why We Do What We Do in Life and Business**, by Charles Duhigg, pub. 2012. Talks about how strong habits are—brain-damaged people who can't form memories can perform routines they can't remember doing to prepare food for themselves. How habits work and where they reside in our brains. Analyzing our habits can help us change our brain patterns and ourselves for the better.

**Indian Givers, How the Indians of the Americas Transformed the World**, by Jack Weatherford, pub. 1988. Contributions of the American Indians to the rest of the world in silver, food, pharmaceuticals, farming techniques, arts and culture. Possibly the Iroquois Confederacy influenced the Constitution of the United States..

**Ishi**, by Theodora Kroeber. Ishi was thought to be the last of the Yahi tribe in California. He walked out of the wilds into Oroville, California in 1911, and lived the last few years of his life with an anthropologist at UCLA-Berkeley, and in a university building near there. Actually Theodora, wife of the anthropologist, has written several books

about Ishi, and it was not clear at the meeting which book the reader had seen.

**Hanta Yo, An American Saga**, by Ruth Beebe Hill, pub. 1979. The history of two families in a tribe of Lakota Sioux. Interesting partially because the author lived with the tribe and had things she wrote translated into their language and then translated back to English, trying to catch concepts that are hard to express between the two cultures. Some controversy surrounds the book.



**Running With Scissors**, by Augustin Burroughs, pub. 2002, a memoir of the teen years of a boy who was sent by his psychotic mother to live with her psychiatrist in a bizarre household where the happenings are truly unbelievable.

**Moby Dick**, by Hermann Melville, pub. 1851. Read because never read before. The chapter on the different kinds of whales was particularly interesting.

**Life of Samuel Johnson**, by James Boswell, pub. 1791. A fascinating narration about what life was like in the late 1700's in Scotland and England, particularly London. Dr. Johnson wrote the first comprehensive dictionary of the English language.

**The Speed of Dark**, by Elizabeth Moon, pub. 2003. A story about an autistic man being made into a "neuro-typical." The reader, herself autistic, found it a good read, but disturbing in its treatment of autistic people. The author, known for her sci-fi books, has a severely autistic son herself. The book won the Nebula award in 2003.

**Get Your House Right, Architectural Elements to Use and Avoid**, by Marianne Cusato, Ben Pentreath, Richard Sammons, Leon Krier, foreword by H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, pub. 2008. Structural common sense, guide to what makes houses look and feel great. Read because of a discussion about how high baseboards should be. Answer: depends on the height of the ceiling.

**The Philosophy of Library Classification**, by S. R. Ranganathan, pub. 1973. Not Dewey Decimal or Library of Congress, but much admired by librarians. In another book Ranganathan proposed the five laws of library science, which are studied by librarians today.

## MENSA MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Submitted by Julie Garcia at [JulieG@americanmensa.org](mailto:JulieG@americanmensa.org) or 817-607-0060 ext. 5547

From time to time we like to spotlight various members and local groups for their outstanding achievements. Congratulations! Here are a few.

**Michelle Kelley** was appointed by South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley to the State Workforce Investment Board. The SWIB provides direction to the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce on workforce issues, particularly those pertaining to implementation of the Workforce Investment Act.  
<http://www.midlandsbiz.com/articles/15727/>

**Edith Pearce** was once again selected to Philadelphia's Top Rated Lawyers. She will be featured in a special publication distributed by the *Philadelphia Enquirer*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and the *Legal Intelligencer*.  
[http://insurancenewsnet.com/oarticle/2014/01/03/edith-pearce-selected-again-to-philadelphia%E2%80%99s-top-rated-lawyers-a-442559.html#\\_Uss08\\_uow0F](http://insurancenewsnet.com/oarticle/2014/01/03/edith-pearce-selected-again-to-philadelphia%E2%80%99s-top-rated-lawyers-a-442559.html#_Uss08_uow0F)

**Maya Bloom** received the New Hampshire's Girl Scout Gold Award for the creation of her project to get students outdoors.  
<http://www.briefingwire.com/pr/maya-bloom-of-hopkinton-nh-betters-community-through-girl-scout-project>

## LSM MEMBER NEWS

Compiled by Don Drumtra, Records Manager, as of 01/31/14

### HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS\*

1 Jeffrey Evans  
2 Joanna J Newnam  
2 Mark Spillers  
5 Keith Busby  
5 Christopher Malcolm Newland  
6 Mary Dunlap Young  
7 Vladimir Garner  
7 Louis Heidema  
8 Richard E Anaya  
8 Joseph William Hrbek Jr  
8 Jane Thompson  
9 Pranish Kantasaria  
9 Asit Mohanty  
10 Joshua Benjamin Chlapek  
12 Donna Jarvis Slane  
15 Terry Rodgers  
16 Judy L Blackshear  
18 Jimmie Choate Parker  
19 Kyle Simpson  
20 Paul Anderson  
20 Jake Glascock  
20 Walter V Lacy III  
20 Jeff Ridgeway  
21 Michael Rubin  
24 Lydia Ann O'Neil  
24 Isabella Taylor  
25 Gary Paul Davis  
25 Trudy L K Loper  
27 Sean Carolan  
27 Sara S Sharpe  
29 Margaret Rose



### NEW MEMBERS—WELCOME!

Sean Carolan  
Larry Coy  
Madelyn Dietz  
Christopher Graff  
Wilson Miguez

### JUST MOVED IN—HI NEIGHBOR!

Robert Burgess  
Joel Ogden

### WELCOME BACK--MISSED YOU!

Lauren Aung  
Nancy Hester  
John David Lavendoski  
Keaton McDonald  
Jeffrey A Pinkston  
Christopher G Possis III  
Matthew L Rife  
Phoebe Wooster

### GOODBYE—MOVING AWAY

Michael Hoffman Bossert  
Joan Champie  
Richard Alan Councilman  
Susan Marie Shaffer RN

*\* 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.*

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## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

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### MEMBER FOR 30 YEARS

Mary Frances Satterfield

### MEMBER FOR 25 YEARS

David Allan Young

### MEMBER FOR 15 YEARS

Sonya L Palmer

### MEMBER FOR 10 YEARS

Kimberly R Chapin  
Harold A Cromwell  
Joseph Kalapach  
Kyle McCoy

### MEMBER FOR 5 YEARS

Burnice Cowan  
Nicole Dow  
Haerin Kim  
John Morey



Brad E Rhoden  
Angel Sater  
Christopher Willingham

### MEMBER FOR 1 YEAR

Cory V Barnett  
Dr Robert Joel Broselow  
Kimberly Buckingham  
David J Burgett  
Lincoln Edwards  
Marshall Hamilton  
Barbara Horan  
Bruce Wayne Jean  
Michael McKenzie  
Sean M Medley  
Luke Mitchell Parish  
Angela Philley  
Susan Marie Shaffer RN  
Glenn Smith  
Joanna Morgan Weinman

## GREETINGS FROM WASHINGTON, DC!

Our local group, Metropolitan Washington Mensa, has an awesome RG planned for May 16-18, 2014. Matrix VI: Villainous Edition will be held in Herndon, VA near Dulles International Airport. Our 2013 RG (Superhero Edition) saw our biggest attendance ever with rave reviews about our programming, hospitality, games, youth track, and more.

What could make this year's RG better? You and your local group members! We'd love to see more attendees from other local groups...We hope to see you there!

Jessamyn Tracy  
Publicity Chair for the 2014 MWM RG

**MATRIX VI: VILLAINOUS EDITION**  
**MWM 2014 RG: MAY 16-18**

Come to Villainous Virginia for a great time. Viciously good programs and Vibrantly tasty Hospitality offerings! Visit our blog to register, learn more about our great location, programs, games, youth track, and more!

**VILLAINOUSEDITION.WORDPRESS.COM**

\$70 through September 30, 2013 • \$75 October 1 – December 31, 2013  
• \$80 January 1 – April 30, 2014 • \$85 thereafter and walk-in • \$55 youth (under 18 years old) • \$20 Saturday Dinner • Day rates online

## 2014 CULTURE QUEST®

Submitted by Charles Brown, [charlesb@americanmensa.org](mailto:charlesb@americanmensa.org)

Set your calendars and round up your trivia buffs – the 2014 Culture Quest® competition will take place on Sunday, April 27.

CultureQuest draws together teams from across the United States and Canada to compete for cash prizes and cultural literacy bragging rights. There are two divisions:

- Classic is open to all members regardless of age. Each team member must be a dues-paid Mensan (U.S. or Canada) for the 2014-15 membership year before April 1, 2014.
- For the youth division, entrants must have been born after April 27, 1996. Only the youth division team captain must be a current Mensa member.

To register, visit <http://www.us.mensa.org/culturequest> and select “CultureQuest Registration” from the left menu. Downloadable rules and registration forms are also available on that page. Online registration can be made until 11:59 p.m., Central Time, on Monday, March 31. Team changes must be received via email by that date as well.

For more information, contact the Culture Quest Chair. For changes to your registration, contact [VolunteerPrograms@americanmensa.org](mailto:VolunteerPrograms@americanmensa.org).



## MIND GAMES 2014

Submitted by John and Geri Neemidge

Mind Games® is in Region 6 this year—for the first time in 11 years!

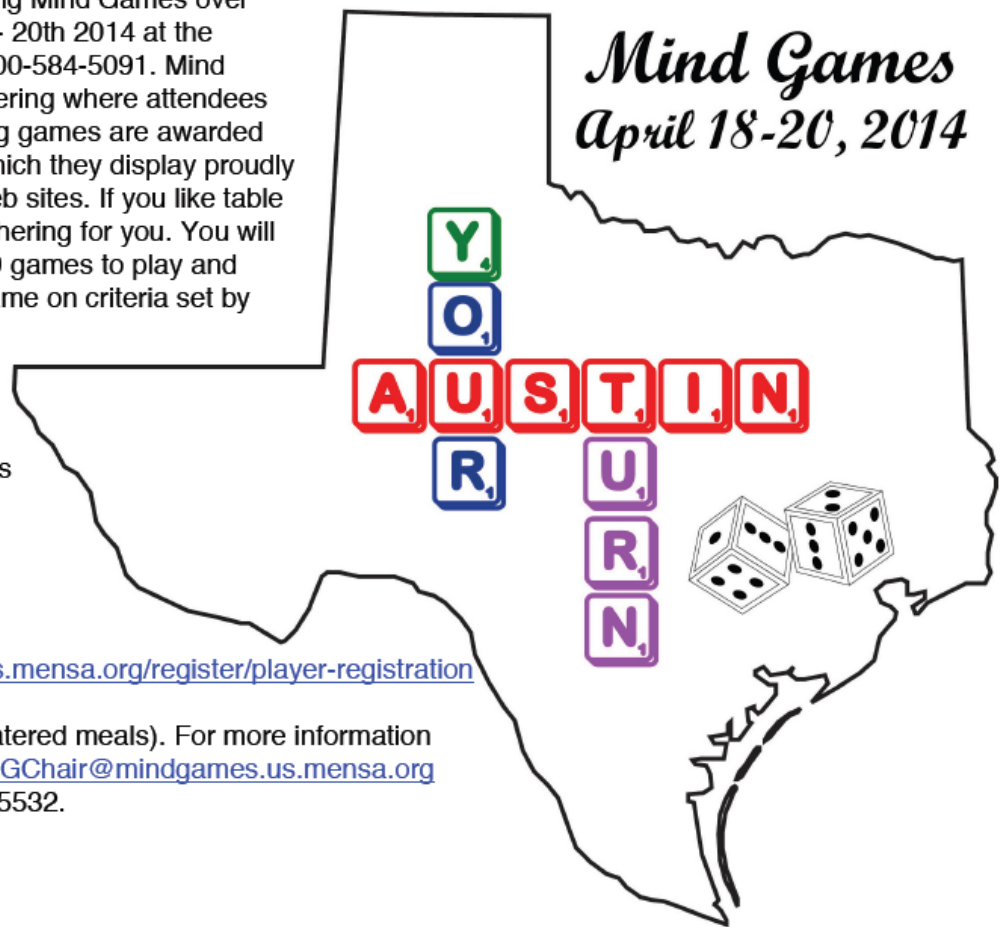
Lone Star Mensa is hosting Mind Games over Easter weekend April 18 - 20th 2014 at the Airport Hilton in Austin, 800-584-5091. Mind Games is a national gathering where attendees judge games. The winning games are awarded the Mensa Select Seal which they display proudly on their packages and web sites. If you like table top games, this is the gathering for you. You will be given a list of about 30 games to play and judge. You score each game on criteria set by American Mensa.

Registration is limited to 300, and we are two thirds full already!

You can register online

<http://www.mindgames.us.mensa.org/register/player-registration>

Cost is \$90 (includes 3 catered meals). For more information contact Patsy Graham, [MGChair@mindgames.us.mensa.org](mailto:MGChair@mindgames.us.mensa.org) or call 888-294-8035 Ext 5532.



You'll score each game on criteria set by American Mensa. Then, dues-paid Mensa members will go home with one or two free games and will receive discounts on games from the Mensa Store.

## MONTHLY MEETING

Submitted by Ron Edelstein

March Meeting: Speaker will be Dr. Michael Brenner, speaking on the topic of **HUMAN RIGHTS, WOMEN'S RIGHTS & U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD.**

Dr. Michael Brenner is Professor Emeritus of International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh and Senior Research Associate at the University of Texas Energy Institute. He has published and taught widely across the field of American foreign policy and global affairs. His current interests are focused on the United States engagements in the Islamic world. He was the Director of the International Relations & Global Studies Program at the University of Texas until 2012.

This is a much abbreviated CV for him. We hope later to get his wife, also a UT professor, to speak on a similar subject. If this goes well, we may get Dr. Brenner back for future engagements on other subjects.

## OUT OF MY MIND.....thoughts from outside "The Box"

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ConchoVic@wcc.net



The world, it seems, is undergoing an electronic revolution, or electronic restructuring, if you prefer. Everywhere you look, everything is being converted to a bit, or a byte, or whatever. It's really strange, if you live long enough, to see, and

maybe be part of, all the nonsense and fads in which humans get involved, each believing that their momentary fascination is the greatest thing since sliced bread, only to have it fail the test of time.

Let's try a few fads on for the size of your memory: Hula Hoops; polyester leisure suits; sweat (gym) suits; fanny wallets; CB radios in cars; mini-cars; maxi-cars; and on and on and on.

My point? I suggest that all this huge, worldwide hoopla over computers and their fragmentary, tiny bits of electrical impulses will, in the long run, prove nearly useless. OMG, how could anyone dare to make that statement??? Recently, there was a news item that Facebook was beginning to lose some of its customer base because the novelty was beginning to wear off. Imagine that!

In the 1970s-80s, when CB radios were the rage in cars, there was so much brainless chatter on the airwaves that it ultimately became nearly worthless to have or use a CB radio. It took a few years, but now the radios are practically gone except for the truckers who still use them occasionally.

So, here we go again with another fad—getting rid of printed manuscripts/books/records by converting them to little burps of electricity in a machine. A person in San Antonio recently and proudly announced that he had opened the first book-less library: it had not a single book, but it had, I believe, 500 computer screens. Holy Crud, Batman! What happens if there should be a power outage due to a natural disaster; or if some jerk hacks into the system and corrupts it? How do you suppose all the treasure of the world's books, containing much of the world's knowledge from centuries ago, will continue to exist in our times? Does anybody really need me to explain how the printed word on a sheet of paper can last nearly forever, but that an electrical blip can disappear in a heartbeat?

And that leads us to just how this discussion pertains to our Mensa society. Around 1999, the society published its last printed membership list for this country. The argument was that not enough people were buying the list and it cost too much to continue printing it. I suggest that the lack of a printed, available membership list seriously impairs our ability to know each other and to communicate with each other. In other words, we have slammed our door shut to the rest of the world and to each other. Oh, sure, you can still access the national list of members IF you have the proper electronic equipment and IF you take the time to learn how to do it and IF you don't have a power failure in your neighborhood. I submit that the lack of a printed membership list gives us a public appearance of a "secret society," with every unfortunate meaning that term conveys.

Lately, I see more and more people saying that Mensa should cease its monthly printed publication. and instead provide members with a monthly electronic publication. The argument goes, now wouldn't that save us tons of money and time every month?! I counter: wouldn't that remove one of the last public vestiges of our societal existence and drive us underground even more? I suggest that electronic issuance of the monthly bulletin and concomitant discontinuance of the printed version will be the first bell to ring for our eventual death knell. Without a monthly printed bulletin, our societal persona will have disappeared from public view, and our membership must necessarily dwindle down eventually to nothing. It is said that every society in history contains the seeds of its own destruction, and the record certainly seems to corroborate that. I will sincerely hope that our Mensa society will never decide to stop publishing its monthly written word solely for the price of Judas' pieces of silver.

Lastly, you may fairly ask who do I think I am to issue all of the above pronouncements. And I will answer in the loosely quoted words of the immortal Mark Twain: As a septuagenarian, I shall never get tired of telling by what delicate arts and deep moralities I have climbed up to advanced age, and I claim the right to explain the processes and dwell on the particulars with "senile rapture." I have been anxious to explain my own system this long time and now, at last, I have the right.

THUS SPAKE ZARATHUSTRA

## 9 THINGS A CAT WON'T TELL YOU 😊

Submitted by Ron Edelstein (written by a veterinarian)

Most dog owners come into the veterinary office with their canine companions devotedly following them. Tails wagging, the dogs look up at their people with adoring eyes. Most cat owners, on the other hand, wrestle a cardboard box into the exam room, reach in like a magician and pull out not a rabbit, but an angry feline. For their efforts they get covered with furry shrapnel and sometimes raked with claws until their face and arms look like so many tic-tac-toe games.



As a lifetime pet lover and practicing veterinarian of more than 30 years, I've noticed a few things about cats. And so for all you cat owners, here's the Secret Code of Cat Behavior (or What Cats Know but Won't Tell You).

1. Strategically place your hairball. If you have to hack up a hairball, toss it like a trophy onto something visible and valuable, like the new leather couch. If you can't reach that in time, an Oriental rug is an appropriate substitute.
2. Know the enemy and embrace him. If Mom is entertaining, determine quickly who hates or is allergic to cats, race immediately to that person and leap into his or her lap. Mom's watching, so he won't dare push you off and will even fake affection by stroking you and repeating, "Nice kitty. Niiice kitty."
3. Wear fur proudly. You must always select clothing in sharp contrast to your own fur color on which to rub, leap or audition for the president of the Hair Club for Cats. Again,

dare to share.

4. Be Johnnie on the Spot. As a courtesy, always accompany guests to the toilet. Your job is to sit and stare like you're a peeping-tom cat. If you get some really good shots, post them on the Internet and make a lot of bucks.
5. Let out your cat scratch fever. If someone claims to love cats and that all cats love him or her in return, lull that person into thinking you're a Stepford Cat. When his or her guard is dropped and the perfect cat lover begins to bask in a snapshot moment, show utter disdain, lay claw tracks across the expensive hosiery or silk tie, or turn unexpectedly and give a quick nip deep enough to test someone's blood type.
6. Find out what's behind door No. 3. Never allow closed doors in any room except when you need to trap the dog. To crack open a closed one, stand on your hind legs and jackhammer it with your forepaws, scratch it like you're headed for China or put your paws underneath it and keep pulling. Or just throw yourself against it repeatedly. Once the genie appears and opens the door for you, change your mind and walk away.
7. Play paper weight. If you come across somebody doing homework, paying bills or reading a magazine, settle down on the paper. This may entitle you to flying lessons, but when you get back on the page - and you will - make sure that you take everything with you - pens, pencils, other papers - on your next scheduled flight.
8. Be a knit wit. If Mom's into crocheting or knitting, curl up quietly in her lap and pretend to catnap. Then spring into action by grabbing the yarn and causing her knitting needles or crochet hook to plunge sharply like a trophy catfish has just hit the bait. She'll try to distract you and pick up the slipped stitch. Ignore her efforts to calm you, close your eyes again and prepare for strike two.
9. And remember, early to bed, early to rise. Get plenty of sleep both during the day and in the evening, when your people want you to play. That way, you'll be fully rested and ready to rumble with Sleeping Beauty anytime between 2 and 5 a.m.

And never forget the No. 1 rule of being a cat: When in doubt, blame the dog.

## 50 AMAZING FACTS ABOUT THE HUMAN BODY

Submitted by Ken Fincher

The Human Body is a treasure trove of mysteries, one that still confounds doctors and scientists about the details of its working. It's not an overstatement to say that every part of your body is a miracle. Here are fifty facts about your body, some of which will leave you stunned.

1. It's possible for your body to survive without a surprisingly large fraction of its internal organs. Even if you lose your stomach, your spleen, 75% of your liver, 80% of your intestines, one kidney, one lung, and virtually every organ from your pelvic and groin area, you wouldn't be very healthy, but you would live.

2. During your lifetime, you will produce enough saliva to fill two swimming pools. Actually, saliva is more important than you realize. If your saliva cannot dissolve something, you cannot taste it.

3. The largest cell in the human body is the female egg and the smallest is the male sperm. The egg is actually the only cell in the body that is visible to the naked eye.

4. The strongest muscle in the human body is the tongue and the hardest bone is the jawbone.

5. Human feet have 52 bones, accounting for one quarter of all the human body's bones.

6. Feet have 500,000 sweat glands and can produce more than a pint of sweat a day.

7. The acid in your stomach is strong enough to dissolve razor blades. The reason it doesn't eat away at your stomach is that the cells of your stomach wall renew themselves so frequently that you get a new stomach lining every three to four days.

8. The human lungs contain approximately 2,400 kilometers' (1,500 mi) of airways and 300 to 500 million hollow cavities, having a total surface area of about 70 square meters—roughly the same area as one side of a tennis court. Furthermore, if all of the capillaries that surround the lung cavities were unwound and laid end to end, they would extend for about 992 kilometers. Also, your left lung is smaller than your right lung, to make room for your heart.

9. Sneezes regularly exceed 100 mph, while coughs clock in at about 60 mph.

10. Your body gives off enough heat in 30 minutes to bring half a gallon of water to a boil.

11. Your body has enough iron in it to make a nail 3 inches long.

12. Earwax production is necessary for good ear health. It protects the delicate inner ear from bacteria, fungus, dirt and even insects. It also cleans and lubricates the ear canal.

13. Everyone has a unique smell, except for identical twins, who smell the same.

14. Your teeth start growing 6 months before you are born. This is why one out of every 2,000 newborn infants has a tooth when they are born.

15. A baby's head is one-quarter of its total length, but by the age of 25 will only be one-eighth of its total length. This is because people's heads grow at a much slower rate than the rest of their bodies.

16. Babies are born with 300 bones, but by adulthood the number is reduced to 206. Some of the bones, like skull bones, get fused into each other, bringing down the total number.

17. It is not possible to tickle yourself. This is because when you attempt to tickle yourself you are totally aware of the exact time and manner in which the tickling will occur, unlike when someone else tickles you.

18. Less than one third of the human race has 20-20 vision. This means that two out of three people cannot see perfectly.

19. Your nose can remember 50,000 different scents. But if you are a woman, you are a better smeller than men, and will remain a better smeller throughout your life.

20. The human body is estimated to have 60,000 miles of blood vessels.

21. The three things pregnant women dream most of during their first trimester are frogs, worms and potted plants. Scientists have no idea why this is so, but attribute it to the growing imbalance of hormones in the body during pregnancy.

22. The life span of a human hair is 3 to 7 years on average. Every day the average person loses 60-100 strands of hair. But don't worry—you must lose over 50% of your scalp hairs before it is apparent to anyone.

23. The human brain cell can hold 5 times as much information as an encyclopedia. Your brain uses 20% of the oxygen that enters your bloodstream, and is itself made up of 80% water. Though it interprets pain signals from the rest of the body, the brain itself cannot feel pain.

24. The tooth is the only part of the human body that can't repair itself.

25. Your eyes are always the same size from birth but your nose and ears never stop growing.

26. By 60 years of age, 60% of men and 40% of women will snore.

27. We are about 1 cm taller in the morning than in the evening, because during normal activities during the day, the cartilage in our knees and other areas slowly compresses.

28. The brain operates on the same amount of power as a 10-watt light bulb, even while you are sleeping. In fact, the brain is much more active at night than during the day.

29. Nerve impulses to and from the brain travel as fast as 170 miles per hour. Neurons continue to grow throughout human life. Information travels at different speeds within different types of neurons.

30. It is a fact that people who dream more often and more vividly, on an average have a higher Intelligence Quotient.

31. The fastest growing nail is on the middle finger.

32. Facial hair grows faster than any other hair on the body. This is true for men as well as women.

33. There are as many hairs per square inch on your body as on a chimpanzee.

34. A human fetus acquires fingerprints at the age of three months.

35. By the age of 60, most people will have lost about half their taste buds.

36. About 32 million bacteria call every inch of your skin home. But don't worry, a majority of these are harmless or even helpful bacteria.

37. The colder the room you sleep in, the higher the chances are that you'll have a bad dream.

38. Human lips have a reddish color because of the great concentration of tiny capillaries just below the skin.

39. Three hundred million cells die in the human body every minute.

40. Like fingerprints, every individual has a unique tongue print that can be used for identification.

41. A human head remains conscious for about 15 to 20 seconds after it has been decapitated.

42. It takes 17 muscles to smile and 43 to frown.

43. Humans can make do longer without food than sleep. Provided there is water, the average human could survive a month to two months without food depending on their body fat and other factors. Sleep-deprived people, however, start experiencing radical personality and psychological changes after only a few sleepless days. The longest recorded time anyone has ever gone without sleep is 11 days, at the end of which the experimenter was awake, but stumbled over words, hallucinated and frequently forgot what he was doing.

44. The most common blood type in the world is Type O. The rarest blood type, A-H or Bombay blood, due to the location of its discovery, has been found in less than hundred people since it was discovered

45. Every human spent about half an hour after being conceived as a single cell. Shortly afterward, the cells begin rapidly dividing and begin forming the components of a tiny embryo.

46. Right-handed people live, on average, nine years longer than left-handed people do. This is largely due to the fact that a majority of the machines and tools we use on a daily basis are designed for those who are right-handed, making them somewhat dangerous for lefties to use and resulting in thousands of accidents and deaths each year.

47. Your ears secrete more earwax when you are afraid than when you aren't.

48. Koalas and primates are the only animals with unique fingerprints.

49. Humans are the only animals to produce emotional tears.

50. The human heart creates enough pressure to squirt blood 30 feet into the air.

## LONE STAR MENSA CONTACTS BY FUNCTION

Compiled by Don Drumtra, Officer Coordinator, as of 01/31/14

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

\*\* LSM board members: John Neemidge, Don Drumtra, and Douglas Yee.

## MARCH CALENDAR

*Compiled by Rose Berkowitz, Calendar Editor*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5	6 <b>Board Meeting</b>	7	8
9	10 <b>Member Meeting</b>	11	12	13 <b>ALG Due Chess Night TGIT-North</b>	14	15 <b>Games Night IDES OF MARCH</b>
16	17 <b>ST. PATRICK'S DAY</b>	18 <b>Eclectic Eats</b>	19	20 <b>TGIT-South</b>	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 <b>TGIT-North Seal &amp; Label</b>	28	29
30	31					

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

**Board Meeting**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Thursday**  
**Mar. 6, 7:15-8:15 pm**  
 Carver Branch Library

**Member Meeting**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Monday**  
**Mar. 10, 6:45 to 8:15 pm**  
 Carver Branch Library

**ALG/Calendar Deadline**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday**  
**Mar. 13, Midnight**  
 Submissions due to Editor.



**Chess Night**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday**  
**Mar. 13, 6-8 PM**  
 Come cross swords with us! We welcome players of any and all skill levels. If you want to learn to play the Royal Game, we can show you how. Observers are welcome, too. Join us for dinner and conversation. Hosted by Douglas Yee ([cmvc95@yahoo.com](mailto:cmvc95@yahoo.com)).

**Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT-North)**  
**Mar. 13 & 27, 6-8 pm**  
 Meet us upstairs at the Café for conversation, food and fun. Prospective members welcome

**Games Night**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday**  
**Mar. 15, 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.

**Eclectic Eats**  
**Tuesday, Mar. 18, 7 pm**  
 Sao Paulo  
 2809 San Jacinto, Austin  
 (512) 473-9988  
<http://www.saopaulos.net>  
 For our next outing we will be going south of the border (south of several borders, in fact.) Partake of the finest of Brazilian cuisine, along with exquisite renditions of some Tex-Mex favorites. RSVP to Aaron Rabushka at 512/280-2807 or [arabushka@austin.rr.com](mailto:arabushka@austin.rr.com).

**Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT-South)**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday**  
**Mar. 20, 6-8 pm**  
 Join us for conversation, food, and fun. Prospective members welcome.



**Seal & Label**  
**Mar. 27, 8 Ppm**  
 Join the TGIT Group to help seal and label the newsletter.

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**UPCOMING IN APRIL**  
 Apr 3 LSM Board  
 Apr 10, TOIT-N  
 Apr 10, ALG & Calendar inputs  
 Apr 14, RMM  
 Apr 17, TGIT-S  
 Apr 19, GN  
 Apr 24. TGIT-N, S&L

## EVENT DIRECTIONS

**Board and Member Meeting**  
 Carver Public Library, Room 2,  
 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 38<sup>th</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup>  
 Streets; on the south side of the  
 store. Look for the Mensa table  
 sign—usually we're upstairs on the  
 Mezzanine.

**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. Enter at  
 the east side of the store by the  
 statues of fruits and vegetables.

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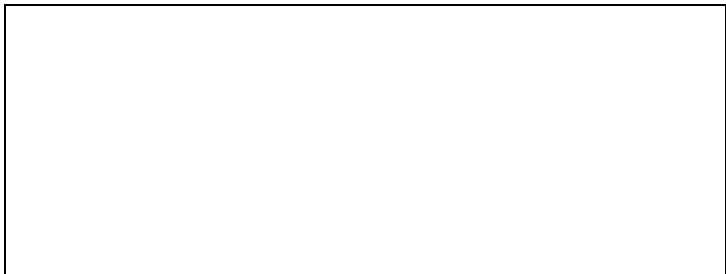
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**Submissions** of all types are encouraged. The deadline is the second Thursday of each month. Submissions may be by email (preferred) or by snail mail in typed format. Anonymous submissions are not accepted, although the author's identity may be 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 lines 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@ism.us.mensa.org](mailto:editor@ism.us.mensa.org)

Calendar submissions may be sent to [calendar@ism.us.mensa.org](mailto:calendar@ism.us.mensa.org)

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# Armadillo Literary Gazette

## IN THIS ISSUE

Editor's Choice/Election Results	1
LocSec and RVC Columns	2
Board Minutes	3
Lone Star RG News	4
Sudoku/Members Read	5
Mensa Members in the News	6
LSM Member News	7
Matrix VI RG/Culture Quest	8
Mind Games/Monthly Meeting	9
Out Of My Mind	10
Cat Humor	11
50 Amazing Facts	12-13
LSM Contacts	14
LSM Calendar	15
Postal Page/Table of Contents	16