

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of **Lone Star Mensa**
Volume XLI
Number 5, May 2014



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

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Submitted By *Rose Berkowitz*

I'm proud and happy to report that this issue of the *Armadillo Literary Gazette* is just chock-full of interesting articles and information useful to our members, including:

- Marketing ideas
- Changes to board and member meeting times and locations
- Information on local Mensa events, such as Mind Games, SynRG, and our own Lone Star RG XVI (including screen shots from the new RG web site)
- A way to prepare for SATs—FREE!
- Information on the Mensa Foundation
- Status of our new web site (What an improvement!)
- A report on new archaeological findings in Central Texas (plus a site visit event)
- An intriguing poem
- A new monthly column on all things Geek
- Mensa career options

And, of course, your monthly Sudoku puzzle (thanks to our wonderful Webmaster, Douglas Yee) and all the usual stuff—Member news, calendar, LSM contacts by function, etc.

Don't miss our April board meeting minutes—LOTS of things going on! Our new board is making an all-out effort to implement some new and exciting ideas for our group. You can help—take a look at the vacant positions on page 14 (even more are shown on our web site at <http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/officers/>) and see if there's anything you'd like to volunteer for. We're always looking for fresh ideas.

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.

PROMOTING LOCAL GROUPS OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

Submitted by *julieg@americanmensa.org*

What are you doing in the community to promote your Local Group?

Your Local Group may consider attending events in your community. During spring, there is an increase in community events, which means more opportunities to promote your Local Group.

Kirsten W. from Hawaii has secured two upcoming events in April and May:

- Astronomy Day at the University of Hawaii – The event is a family-friendly event that is geared to children 18 years old and younger.

- A two-day book fair – A city-wide event that is attended by people from all walks of life.

What kind of events are your Local Groups attending? Share your stories with us.

If you have any questions, or for support with your marketing and public relations efforts, contact Julie Garcia at JulieG@americanmensa.org or 817-607-0060 ext. 5547.

GERI'S GRAB BAG

Submitted by Geri Neemidge, President

As I am writing this there are seven days until Mind Games. Many of our board members are concentrating so much energy right now on making Mind Games completely awesome that it is hard to find the bandwidth for other Mensa topics. We did make progress on combining our member meeting, board meeting and games night all together. We figured out that we can have them all on the same date (third Saturday) but not at the same location. The plan now is to have the member meeting followed by the board meeting in an Austin library meeting room from about 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm. Games Night will be later in the evening in another location. This month we are trying Emerald Tavern for Games Night.

Speaking of member meetings, we could use some help. I know some of you have suggested speakers in the past. We could use more suggestions. Also it would be great if one or two of you wanted to arrange and coordinate with the speakers. You can ask the group for suggestions of topics or of specific people they would like to hear. I did the speaker seeker job for years and I loved it. Every single member meeting was about a topic of personal interest to me. I had the power to bring in a parade of people to teach me whatever caught my fancy. I would hear a news report about something interesting or hear about a new book by a local author and just contact them and ask them to speak to our group. If they say no, you're

only out a little time. Amazingly, many say yes! They want to talk to interested people about their favorite subject. Think about it - let me know.

I have some ideas for a few cool parties and get-togethers but I'll bet you do too. You don't need anybody's permission to put something in the newsletter and publish it on our calendar, just send it to Rose (editor@lsm.us.mensa.org). A lot of activities are more fun when shared with a group - roller skating? museum visit? day trips? volunteer activity? If you want to talk about it feel free to contact me or your favorite board member by email or phone or just chat with us at a meeting. My goal is to make this **your** group. The more input you give, the more involved you become, the more you will enjoy it.

At the end of this month our neighbor in Houston, Gulf Coast Mensa is throwing a three day party called SynRG. SynRG is their regional gathering, which is held every year over Memorial Day weekend. There will be a lot of speakers, and games, and food, and a carnival and magic! There are usually at least 10 LSM members at SynRG so you will likely see a familiar face. I'll bet there is more information about how to register in this newsletter. Kick off the summer with your Mensa friends and join me at SynRG.

I hope we all had a fabulous time at Mind Games! See you soon.



Gault farmhouse
3433 FM 1

Directions to the Gault Site

From the South

I-35N to exit #266, Florence/Killeen/195

Turn Left follow 195, 15 miles to Florence

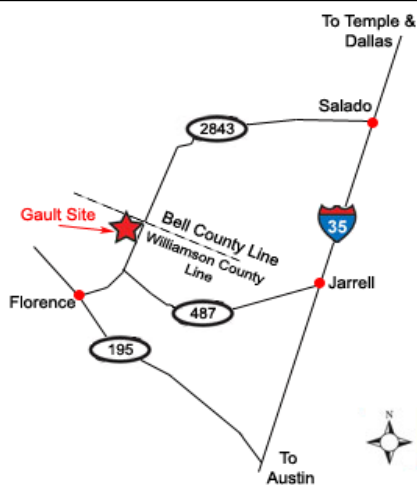
Turn Right at Stoplight on 487, follow 4 miles

Turn Left on FM 2843, go 3.5 miles

House on the left/west (3433) with red tiles is the Gault School, next drive on left with black mailbox (3439) is the Gault Site (red stop sign on gate)

From Killeen on 195

Turn left on 487 in Florence, then see above



From the North

I-35S to exit #283, stay on feeder road about ½ mile

Turn Right on FM 2843, follow for 11 miles

Go south past the Williamson County line sign about 200 yards

Gault site is on your right/west with two black mailboxes and red stop sign on gate (3451) and automatic gate, (address # series in Bell County is different than in Williamson)

FROM THE RVC

Submitted by Roger Durham, Region 6 RVC



According to our official Mission Statement, the mission of American Mensa is to “identify and foster human intelligence for the benefit of humanity by encouraging research in the nature, characteristics and uses of intelligence and by providing a stimulating intellectual and social environment for its

members.” Most of us are familiar with the “social environment” part of Mensa’s activities, but what about the rest? Does your local group do anything that could really be termed “for the benefit of humanity”? Some do, of course. Many local groups have scholarship funds, and a few participate in fund-raising activities for various worthy causes, but do we do anything to encourage research? Are we really living up to the ideals expressed in our Mission Statement?

Well, yes, actually, we are. Most of our activities “for the benefit of humanity” are not carried on directly by American Mensa or its local groups, however, but by our 501(c) (3) affiliate, the Mensa Education and Research Foundation, or as they prefer to be called these days, the Mensa Foundation. The Foundation, on behalf of American Mensa, sponsors research, encourages scientific studies, and distributes many thousands of dollars in college scholarships each year. To help support this work, American Mensa contributes one dollar

per member to the Foundation each year out of your dues. But that’s not nearly enough to fund everything the Foundation does. They are dependent upon donations from you, the members of Mensa, for the majority of their funding. You can support the Foundation by purchasing a brick for the “Walk of Minds” at the National Office, or by just making a gift, either individually or through your local group.

Memorial contributions to the Mensa Foundation are a great way to honor a member who made a significant impact on your local group or just on a few close friends. If your group gives scholarships, consider giving those scholarships through the Foundation. They will publicize and award a scholarship in the name of your group. You can either create an endowment by turning over your scholarship funds to the Foundation to be invested along with their other funds, or you can keep and invest the money at the local level and simply agree to send them sufficient funds each year for the next year’s scholarship. The latter option was recently chosen by my own group’s charitable affiliate, the NTM Scholarship Foundation, which is funding two \$1,000 scholarships each year.

Please give some thought to how you can contribute to the valuable work of the Mensa Foundation. For more information about the Foundation, go to www.mensafoundation.org. Your gift might change a life.

Don’t forget Gulf Coast Mensa’s SynRG 2014 in Houston over Memorial Day weekend. For details, contact them at rqchair@gcmensa.org or call 512-779-3945.

FREE PREPARATION FOR SATs

www.khanacademy.org/sat

Exciting news: Khan Academy is partnering with the College Board so that all students who want to go to college can prepare for the SAT at their own pace, at **no cost**.

The College Board just announced that they’re redesigning the SAT for 2016, and we’re partnering with them to make free, world-class prep materials. Know anyone preparing for the SAT? Let them know:

 Share on Facebook

or forward them this email

By spring 2015, you’ll have access to state-of-the-art; interactive learning tools that give you deep practice and help you diagnose your gaps. All of this will be created through a close collaboration with the College Board specifically for the redesigned SAT. Stay tuned.

In the meantime, if you are taking the SAT in 2014/15, you can start practicing today with hundreds of previously unreleased Math, Reading, and Writing questions from real SATs and more than 200 videos that show step-by-step solutions to each question:

Our goal is nothing short of leveling the playing field for every student taking the SAT, so please help us reach as many people as possible. Let’s do this!

SYNRG 2014 PROGRAM UPDATES—MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND



We're pleased to announce this year's theme as SynRG 2014: It's Alive! Our planet is a living, amazing and awe-inspiring place. Always changing, but somehow constant under our feet, our Earth is full of life and wonder. We here at Gulf Coast Mensa wanted to take this opportunity to stop and appreciate all that nature has to offer. From space to farming, and from anthropology to weather, we're learning all about our living earth. Come to Houston this Memorial Day weekend and join us for our biggest party of the year.

Once again we've booked the Crowne Plaza Northwest - Brookhollow on 290, but this year it's bigger and better!! We've moved hospitality down into the ballroom area on the ground floor with super easy access to all of our speaker rooms. The conference room upstairs will now be the adult lounge complete with signature cocktails! Book your hotel room as soon as possible and be sure to ask for the Mensa rate.

May 23-26,
Crowne Plaza Northwest - Brookhollow
12801 Northwest Freeway
Houston, TX 77040
713-462-9977

We will be posting information about activities and speakers as we add them to the program so please come back often to check for new updates and additional information.

Thanks!

Your RG Co-Coordinators,
Taz Criss and Katie Pira

<http://www.gcmensa.org/index.php/synrg/2014-registration>

GAMES NIGHT

Submitted by Patsy Graham



Saturday May 17th
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Emerald Tavern
9012 Research Blvd #6
Austin, TX 78758

Games Night is once a month on the 3rd Saturday night of the month.

Bring a game or just show up. You can bring family and friends, but if you have very small children you will be responsible for watching them. Thanks!

APRIL BOARD MINUTES

Submitted by Leslie Stevenson, Secretary

Lone Star Mensa
Board of Officers Minutes
6:00 P.M., April 5, 2014
Café Express, 3418 North Lamar Blvd. Austin, TX 78705

The April 2014 regular meeting of the Lone Star Mensa Board of Officers convened at 6:00 P.M., April 5, 2014 at Café Express, 3418 North Lamar Blvd. Austin, TX 78705. Those present: **Geri Neemidge, Leslie Stevenson, Douglas Yee, John Neemidge, Ron Edelstein, Aaron Rabushka, Johnnie Vaughn, Doug Williams.**

The board adopted the agenda and the minutes of the March 2014 Board meeting on page 4 of the April 2014 Armadillo Literary Gazette. The minutes, agenda, referenced written reports, and any other documents related to the meeting will be available on the LSM Website. Paper copies are available on request.

Reports from senior officers, standing committees, special committees

- Patsy Graham sent reports on Mind Games, Website Working Group, and as New Members Chair. The full reports can be seen on the website.
- Mind Games 2014: 232 registrants as of 4/4/14 and Patsy had received 40 of the 56 games. T-Shirts, Decorations, Badge Holders and Mugs all on track—looks good!
 - Website Working Group: Awaiting details.
- New Member Chair: Patsy never received new member lists from July-December 2013 and January 2014. The February 2014 list was not in a usable format, but the March 2014 list was useable. She still needs the previous missing lists.
- Don Drumtra sent a Circulation Coordinator Report about the newsletter mailings.
- \$28 penalty fine because of barcode label issues. 27% of the labels the National Office sent us were not functional due to unreadable barcodes. Don will notify N.O. about the issue. He also thanks everyone for helping with the Seal & Label.
- Leslie Stevenson submitted a report concerning Lone Star RG XVI. Please see website for full report—which is mostly covered in her ALG article for May 2014.

Unfinished business and general orders

- Board of Officers meetings and General Membership meetings: In an effort to try to get more participation and accommodate more schedules the board wanted to try rescheduling the Board of Officers meetings and General Membership Meetings to the 3rd Saturday of every month. These will be scheduled early so that there will be a break between these meetings and Games Night events.
- At Carver Branch Austin Public Library: 1161 Angelina St., Austin, TX, 78702.
 - May 17th: 2:30-4:30PM: General Membership Meeting.
 - (The May 17th Board of Officers meeting is TBD as of this time).
- At Twin Oaks Branch of Austin Public Library: 1800 S. Fifth St., Austin, TX, 78704.
 - June 21st: 1:00-4:45PM: Board meeting followed by General meeting.
 - July 19th: 1:00-4:45PM: Board meeting followed by General meeting.
 - August 16th: 1:00-4:45PM: Board meeting followed by General meeting.
- At the Old Quarry Branch of Austin Public Library: 7051 Village Center Dr., Austin, TX, 78731.
 - September 20th: 1:00-4:45PM: Board meeting followed by General meeting.
 - October 18th: 1:30-4:45PM: Board meeting followed by General meeting.
 - November 15th: 1:00-4:45PM: Board meeting followed by General meeting.
- Also Games Night is looking around for alternative locations.
 - The May 17th Games Night will be at Emerald Tavern Games & Cafe (7-10PM as usual) located at the SW corner of Burnett Road and Research Blvd (US Hwy 183), in the Lone Star Center (Furniture Row, Sherlock's Pub, Olive Garden, Cavender's Boot City), 9012 Research Blvd, Suite C6, Austin, TX 78758. <http://www.emeraldaverngames.com/>.

New Business

- The board discussed communications between board meetings. Douglas Yee will be setting up a discussion forum for the board and special committee discussions as soon as he is able to get access to the new site.
- Johnnie Vaughn moved to commend the existing Website Working group* for their detailed work over the years since 2007, and to release them from additional responsibilities with the published thanks of the

Board. A statement of commendation will be entered into the record, and published in the ALG. This motion passed unanimously.

- Johnnie Vaughn moved to revoke Standing Rule ASIE 2007-1, as last amended by ASIE 2010-18. This motion passed unanimously.
- John Neemidge moved that the revocation of Standing Rule ASIE 2007-1 motion shall not be interpreted to remove a person from office that they currently hold and are active in. This motion passed unanimously.
- Johnnie Vaughn moved to appoint a Bylaws Review & Revision Committee. This motion passed unanimously.
- Geri Neemidge appointed Johnnie Vaughn chair of the Bylaws Review & Revision Committee with full support of the board members present.
- Other chapter organizational changes were discussed and no decisions were made.
- Leslie moved that the first 30 members who read these minutes and send an email with the subject of "COOKIE!" will receive a nifty Mensa prize of moderate value. (leslielstevenson@gmail.com) Or possibly a cookie. ☺
- Douglas Yee verified who should be removed from the LSM checking account and who should be added; also that he would be changing the banking address to his home address.

Announcements

- The next regular monthly Board meetings are scheduled for:
 - The Saturday, May 17th Board of Officers meeting is TBD as of this time.
 - Saturday, June 21st: 1:00-4:45PM: Board meeting followed by General meeting at the Twin Oaks Branch of Austin Public Library: 1800 S. Fifth St., Austin, TX, 78704
- The next regular membership meetings are scheduled for:
 - Saturday, May 17th: 2:30-4:30PM: General Membership Meeting at the Carver Branch Austin Public Library: 1161 Angelina St., Austin, TX, 78702
 - Saturday, June 21st: 1:00-4:45PM: Board meeting followed by General meeting at the Twin Oaks Branch of Austin Public Library: 1800 S. Fifth St., Austin, TX, 78704
- The next testing sessions are scheduled for:
 - Undetermined, but may be at Mind Games.

The board meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.

*Website Working Group

The Lone Star Mensa Board of Officers would like to commend the Website Working Group for the research, planning, discussions and meetings they used to come up with a workable detailed recommendation for what the Lone Star Mensa website should entail. This report can be found at

<http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/board/201105/ReportofWebSiteRedesignCommittee20110501.pdf> .

The Website Working Group created a statement of purpose to guide this report:

To foster a sense of community within LSM, by keeping members informed and involved, to attract new members, and to make LSM information available to the public.

With this report in hand, the board will work to implement the guidelines established by this group.



Howdy! Sorry I skipped last month's RG report! There is so much to report!

The planning committee met again on March 8th, then we are skipping April because of Mind Games, then we will meet again in May.

SCHEDULE

FULL! With our current attendance rate, I'm scared to schedule anything else – I want everything to be well attended! Specific times/rooms are being adjusted, a few surprises will be coming... but we have an event!

An exciting addition: Dennis McCown, author of *The Goddess of War, A True Story of Passion, Betrayal and Murder in the Old West* will be coming to do a book sale and signing!

WEBSITE

Have you seen the Lone Star RG website??? Updates are happening all over the place... so check it out (and you can now register there too!) www.lonestarg.com.

MOBILE APP

YES! It is live! From the Bizzabo mobile app you can register, see who else is attending (that is also using the app) and see the most up-to-date schedule of programs! You can also find out more about individual programs and presenters – it really is a cool little app – and FREE!

Search your app store for the Bizzabo app. Once it is downloaded, search Bizzabo for 'lonestar' and

press 'Join'. Here is the web link: <https://events.bizzabo.com/LoneStaRG/welcome>.

GEEK MARKET

This year we are reserving the downstairs ballroom for Saturday AND Sunday and during the day we are having a GEEK MARKET vendor's market! If you or someone you know has goods to sell, you should send them the link to check out the arrangement! The price is incredibly good. I won't say how much here, because the post office would consider that advertising, but trust me – if this is your scene – you will want to check it out.

SPONSORSHIP

You can also tell your employers and buddies that we also have sponsorship opportunities available (we are hoping to really beef up the budget to keep building our RGs into awesome events!)

For questions about Sponsorship or Vending Opportunities, please contact Johnnie R. Vaughn: johnnie.r.vaughn@gmail.com

See next page for Robert Navasota's winning logo image for Lone Star RG XVII!

There is so much going on... I hope you check out the site!

Leslie L Stevenson
leslielstevenson@gmail.com



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE VISIT

Gault Site

Saturday May 31st 9:00 am - 11:30 am

You've read the article (on page 10), now come tour the site! Tours of the site are \$10/person and last about 2 1/2 hours covering about 1 1/2 miles overall. There is a picnic area so bring your lunch in a cooler and we can hang out and talk afterward. Your friends and family are welcome to join us. People should bring hats, water, cameras and good walking shoes.

Directions to the site are on page 2. Please let me know (geri@neemidge.net) if you plan to come so I can give the site director an idea of how many people to expect.



LoneStaRG XVI: PLAYTIME!

Come play with us!

Labor Day Weekend 2014
August 29th - September 1st

Round Rock, TX

- Home
- Register!
- LoneStaRG History
- Policies, Reminders & General Information
- Program Descriptions
- Schedule of Events
- Our Presenters
- Hotel Information
- Volunteer!
- Sponsors
- Vendors
- Mobile App & Social Media

Mensans are a playful bunch.

What is a Mensa RG?"

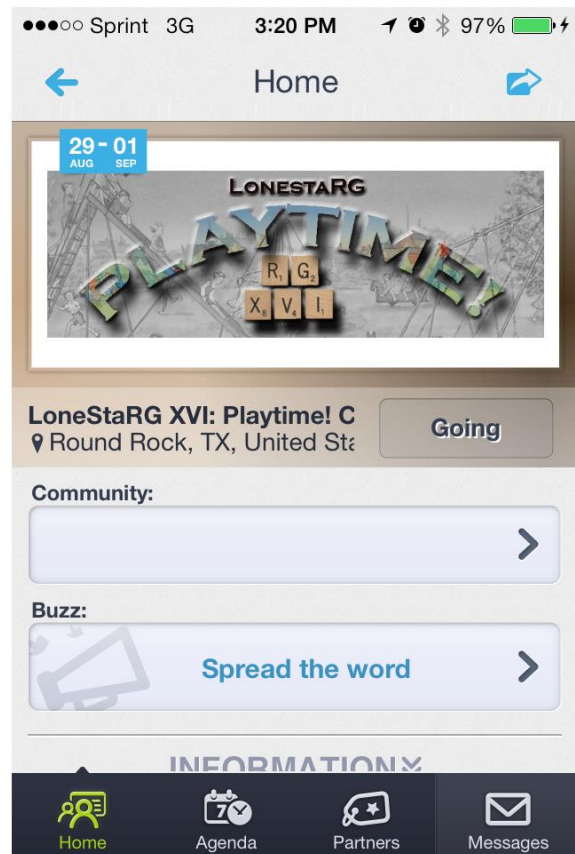
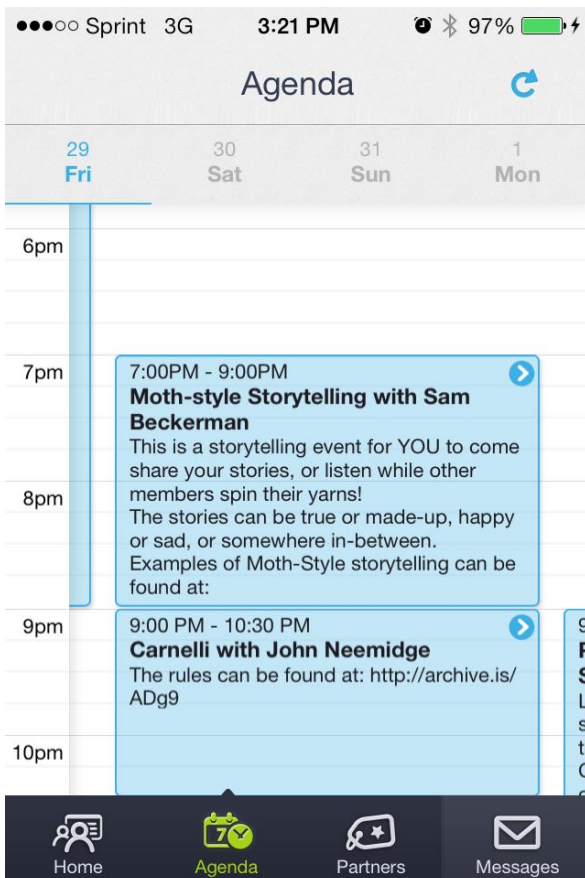
"RG" is simply "Regional Gathering"

A Regional Gathering, or RG, is actually the annual or biannual gathering of a single host group or team of groups. These events usually take place over a weekend and can attract Mensans from all over the country.

While some long-established RGs draw hundreds of attendees, most are much smaller. However, each RG usually features speakers; games; a Hospitality room with food, beverages and lots of socializing; and often a little something special, a signature program or activity that the host group injects into the event to make it their own. Approximately 40 RGs are held every year, and all are fully planned and staffed by local volunteers.

About LoneStaRG XVI: PLAYTIME

"Play" and "Games" really can cover a wide variety of topics! We have been working hard to put together a program where hopefully everyone will have a blast!



YOUR SUDOKU PUZZLE

Extreme Sudoku

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

By Douglas Yee



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

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.

POETRY CORNER

THE DOUGH HOBO

*For those luscious pumpkins seeking to be baked with joy,
Harken to the tale of a sweet potato: peels-berry dough-boy.
He was intended to be baked as Dough-Over-Sauce,
Or as binary biscuits better know it, simply DOS,
Along with gravy chosen for a delicious dine with fine wine,
In the fabulous feast featuring a beast boding on the brine.
With knack for knowledge, he was kneaded on that knoll,
so his good-luck streak just seemed on a roll,
But he ran off to a recipe where beautiful flours fear to tread,
Because, after all, that's the way he was bread.
Joining a menu that originated well away from the coast,
One that required very little dough with the roast,
It was designed to be cooked -- well, the most,
So after broiling was done -- man, he was Toast!*



© Crockett Grabbe, 1998

LETTERS

Geri:

Congratulations on ascending to the top of LSM. You won't know me. I'm one of the invisible members who lurks in the shadows. I do read the newsletter with great interest but otherwise I prefer to stay out of sight. But I thought I would submit the attached for possible filler for the Gazette. It is both a brief discussion of the highly complex and contentious state of affairs in the fascinating field of North American archaeological research and an announcement and invitation for LSM members to visit the Gault site. Cheers!

Tim Brown

[Editor's note: See his column on the next page.]

Ales Hrdlicka, founder and first curator of physical anthropology at the U.S National Museum (now the Smithsonian) and considered one of his generation's leading authorities on American archaeology famously proclaimed that there is nothing truly ancient in the Americas.

His views represented the conventional wisdom of the day. Then, in the 1920's, several landmark discoveries shattered the conventional wisdom and proved that man was indeed present in the Americas at the end of the Pleistocene, thousands of years earlier than anyone thought possible. A new generation of scientists set out to re-examine the fundamental questions of when and how we got here.

Over the course of the second half of the twentieth century a new conventional wisdom took root around the idea that immigrants from Asia crossed the Bering land bridge about 12,500 years ago and quickly colonized both American continents, contributing to the extinction of entire populations of Pleistocene megafauna in the process. These "first" immigrants, dubbed "Clovis" in reference to the distinctive stone projectile points they used (and the site in New Mexico where they were first identified), were characterized as highly specialized big-game hunters who moved continuously across the landscape, from one kill-site to the next, for just a few centuries, before giving way to more diverse hunter/gatherer cultures that followed. And with that, many scientists considered the case closed. But for others,

a number of nagging questions remained, not the least of which were the apparent lack of an identified antecedent for the Clovis culture, with its highly specialized lithic technology, and how to explain a growing number of anomalous sites that didn't fit the Clovis-first model.



in recent decades, the innovative application of a complex array of technologies to archeological research has significantly expanded our ability to analyze old evidence in new ways, giving rise to new interpretations. In addition, a growing number of well-documented older-than-Clovis sites, both here and in South America, have shaken the foundations of the old paradigm. It has become clear that the case is not closed at all and, in fact, it now appears there may be many chapters of this American story yet to be written.

So today, a revolution in archaeological thought is underway. Interestingly, one of the most compelling research efforts in this field is centered right here in Central Texas. The Gault site, in far western Bell County, has turned out to be not only one of the largest and richest Clovis campsites ever discovered, but much more. Set in a protected valley at the headwaters of the spring-fed Buttermilk creek, this site was apparently occupied more

or less continuously for the entire span of the Holocene. It offers evidence of how early man's subsistence strategies changed in response to wildly shifting climatic conditions over the course of the last 13,000 years.

And, while research is ongoing and final conclusions are yet to be published, there is tantalizing evidence for a human presence here as much as 2,000 years earlier than Clovis. The project is managed by the Gault School of Archaeological Research, a non-profit headquartered at Texas State University and under the direction of Dr. Mike Collins and Dr. Clark Wernecke. Unlike many archeological projects, the Gault effort is very open. Promoting public awareness is one of the GSAR's objectives and public tours are conducted regularly. Tour information and bookings may be arranged through the Bell County Museum, the Williamson County Museum or directly through the GSAR website.

Whether your interest is archaeology, anthropology, man's relationship to a changing environment, the dynamic processes of science in general, or all of the above, Gault will not disappoint you. Hope to see you there some time.

Tim Brown
Board Member, Gault School of Archaeological Research

Tim is a planner-designer-builder, county commissioner, avocational archaeologist and member of Lone Star MENSA from Salado, Texas

LSM MEMBER NEWS

Compiled by Don Drumtra, Records Manager, as of 03/31/14

HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAYS*

2 Keith A Johnson
2 Jordan Pekevski
5 Kimberly A Mills
6 Todd Stahlnecker
7 Samuel Blasco
8 David H Messer
10 Amy Arrant
10 John Greytok
12 Michael Dworaczyk
12 Matthew Hawthorne
12 Scott Nicholson Kurland
13 Benjamin Moulton
14 Cynthia Bourland
15 Dr Leon Morris Waynberg
16 William Eric Hungate
18 Lori L Barr MD
19 David Wayne Madden
20 Raymond Doo
20 Tim Harrington
21 Scott Dannel Burgess
22 Russell Eugene Nelson
23 Josephine West McNamee
24 Kevin Michael Smith
25 Trevor W Graham
26 James Gugleta
27 Jim Grace
27 Mamta Jayavardhan
27 Lisa Oliver
28 Christopher Alby
28 Claudia Ellis Harbert
28 Neel H Shah
29 Cathryn Leigh Cox
29 Christopher T Vedner
31 Wilson Miguez
31 Bob Sinclair



NEW MEMBERS—WELCOME!

Matthew Hawthorne
Jason R Kretzschmar
Isabella Lam
Jo Ann Berg Megahan

JUST MOVED IN—HI NEIGHBOR!

Sam Phillips Beckerman
Eileen M Pack
Neel H Shah

WELCOME BACK--MISSED YOU!

Vanessa M Barr
Frederick Charles Bothwell III
Raymond C Feeley
Silas Marrs
Beth Shields
Bob Sinclair
Scott E Uhrig

GOODBYE—MOVING AWAY

Brian Selman

** 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.*

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

MEMBER FOR 40 YEARS

Martyn John Hitchcock

MEMBER FOR 20 YEARS

R Dennis Conine

MEMBER FOR 15 YEARS

Rodney Appling
William J Worthington IV

MEMER FOR 10 YEARS

Martin Clauder



MEMBER FOR 5 YEARS

Raul Rodriguez Calvoz
Lisa Mather
Quentin Mather
Zachary Stoebe

MEMBER FOR 1 YEAR

Rebecca Fruthaler
Joseph Brian Gresham
Rohan Jillapalli
Asit Mohanty

By Leslie Stevenson

Howdy! I thought it would be fun to do some reviews on geek-friendly sites that I like, and try to convince you to like them too. I'm going to start with his & hers blogs of Harris and Cat O'Malley.

His:

PAGING DR. NERDLOVE

www.doctornerdlove.com

"Dr. NerdLove dispenses love, sex and life advice for geeks, otaku, dweebs, poozers, nerds and the occasional neo-maxie-zoom-dweebie. Making geeks sexier since 20011." (I'm truly not sure if that is a typo or not... I'm afraid to ask.) Harris and his wife, Cat, live in Austin, Texas. This garners respect right away. Cat also has her own blog, "Geek Modifies Girl" (www.geekmodifiesgirl.com), which I will talk about next.

Harris gives all kinds of witty relationship/dating/self-improvement advice mainly aimed at geeky guys. While I know I'm not a geek guy, I want all guys to read these things. Because Harris GETS it.

From "Socially Awkward Isn't an Excuse"

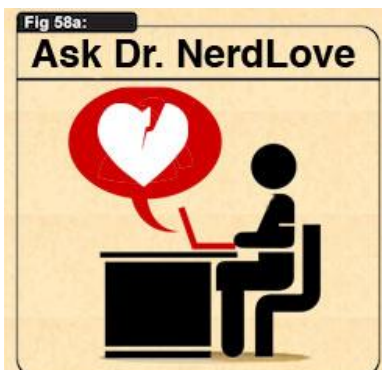
The Socially Awkward Vs. Creepers

Being socially awkward is often held up as a defense against being labeled "creepy"; it's another variation of "it's only creepy if you're ugly", but with the vague hints of ableism or social justice for flavor. Almost everyone has been creeped out by someone. only to be told "Aw, he means well. He just doesn't know any better," or "Hey, he's a nice guy! He does so much for us! He's just a little awkward, you know?" There's tremendous social pressure to look the other way, to "give him a second chance".

Let's run down just what makes someone creepy again:

- Behaving in a manner that makes someone feel uncomfortable, unsafe or threatened.
- Behaving in a manner that pushes against an individual's boundaries – especially repeatedly.

Offering dating advice and living advice, Harris covers great topics like "How To Make Friends (When You're Out of College)" "Defining A Modern Masculinity" "Dating 101: How to Meet Women (Without Being Creepy)" "Dating For Introverts" "Talkin' Nerdy: Talking about your passions" and "Nerds and Male Privilege".



You can also ask Dr. Nerdlove questions!

On his "Contact Me" page you can ask Harris relationship questions – much in the style of "Dear Abbey."

Only a LOT cooler.

doc@doctornerdlove.com

I'm going to say whatever advice Harris gives, listen to it – because he got Cat. I've met Cat; she is one intelligent and awesome lady.

Hers:

geekmodifiesgirl.com
[geeky] (adj.) modifies [girl] (n.)

www.geekmodifiesgirl.com

Cat O'Malley has a master's degree in medieval history. I find that awesome so I am including that in my review. It has nothing to do with her site. Admittedly Cat doesn't post nearly as much as Harris does, but when she does... well let's just say she speaks our language. Fluently.

From "On Being A Geek (And a Girl)"

Hello, my name is Cat and I'm a geek.

I'm also a girl.

But you probably figured that out already.

The title of this blog "Geek Modifies Girl," is an (admittedly tortured) grammatical reference. In English, an adjective modifies a noun. "Girl" is a noun. It is modified by the adjective "geeky." (But I went with "Geek Modifies Girl" rather than "Geeky Modifies Girl" because the first iteration just sounded better. Roll with it.) The noun is the primary thing; the adjective is secondary. A noun makes sense all on its own. It's something you can point to. The adjective, on its own, isn't as concrete an idea...

You'll have to go to the site to read the rest. Her writing makes me laugh. She also speaks just like she writes. She has post titles like "On Geek Specialization (Or, What Makes You So Geeky, Huh?)" and "On Television (Or, Why You Will Have to Pry This Remote From My Cold, Dead Hands)."

I don't know about you, but those titles make me want to bookmark her page and check back to see what else she has come up with. I hope it continues along the same vein.

LOOKING FOR A JOB?

Submitted by PaigeF@americanmensa.org

Whether you're looking for a smart job or perhaps searching for intelligent employees, Mensa Works is for you. American Mensa's revamped career center is a great resource that connects Mensa members with the jobs that are right for them.

In partnership with Boxwood Online Career Centers, Mensa Works is an exclusive benefit for online employment connections. For Mensa members, it's a place to post resumes for free and to target choice jobs. For employers, it's a rich resource of driven and highly educated workers.

Start your job journey at mensaworks.org. From there, Mensa Works will assist you in your professional growth and development, providing salary coaching, resume critiques and online profile development. Employers can mine an exclusive collection of talent, making the hiring process easier and smarter.

Try Mensa Works today at <http://mensaworks.org>

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Compiled by Don Drumtra, Officer Coordinator, as of 03/31/14

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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: Geri Neemidge, Don Drumtra, Aaron Rabushka, Doug Williams, Ron Edelstein, Leslie Stevenson, Johnnie Vaughn and Douglas Yee.

MAY CALENDAR

Compiled by Rose Berkowitz, Calendar Editor

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4	5	6	7	1 8 ALG Due Chess Night TGIT-North	2 9	3 10
11 MOTHER'S DAY	12	13	14	15 TGIT-South	16	17 Board Mtg Member Mtg Games Night
18	19	20	21	22 TGIT-North Seal & Label	23 SynRG starts	24
25	26 MEMORIAL DAY	27	28	29	30	31 Gault Site Visit

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

Board Meeting
May 17, 1-2:30 pm
Location TBD

ALG/Calendar Deadline
2nd Thursday
May 8, Midnight
Submissions due to Editor.

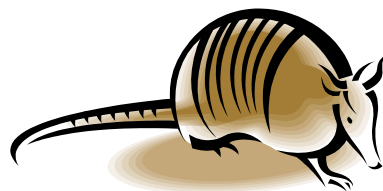


Chess Night at TGIT-N
2nd Thursday
May 8, 6-8 PM

Come cross swords with us! We welcome observers and players of any and all skill levels. Learn to play the Royal Game! Join us for dinner and conversation. Hosted by Douglas Yee (cmvc95@yahoo.com).

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT-North)

2nd and 4th Thursday
May 8 & 22, 6-8 pm
Join us for conversation, food and fun. Prospective members welcome.



Member Meeting
May 17 2:30-4:30 pm
Carver Branch Library
Room 2
Join us and suggest a topic!

Thank Goodness It's Thursday (TGIT-South)

3rd Thursday
May 15, 6-8 pm
Join us for conversation, food, and fun. Prospective members welcome.

Seal & Label at TGIT-N
3rd Thursday

May 22, 8 Ppm
Join the TGIT Group to help seal and label the newsletter.

Gault Site Visit
May 31, 9-11 am
<http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/gault/index.html>
3433 FM 2843
Midway between Georgetown and Ft. Hood

SynRG
May 23-26
Gault Coast Mensa
Houston

UPCOMING IN MJUNE
Jun 12, ALG, Cal due
Jun 12 TGIT-N, Chess Night
Jun 15 TOIT-S
Jun 21, BM, MM, GM
Jun 26 TGIT-N, S&L

EVENT DIRECTIONS

Carver Branch Library
Room 2,
1161 Angelina, Austin
512-974-1010
Between 11th and 12th
Streets, east of I-35.

Central Market Café North
Central Park, Austin
4001 N. Lamar Blvd.,
512-206-1020.
On the south side of the store. Look for the Mensa table sign—usually we're upstairs on the Mezzanine.

Central Market Café South
Westgate Mall
4477 S. Lamar Blvd.,
Austin
512-899-4300
Enter at the east side of the store by the statues of fruits and vegetables.

Emerald Tavern
SW corner of Burnett
Road and Research
Blvd (US Hwy 183)
Lone Star Center
9012 Research Blvd,
Suite C6, Austin
512-994-4649

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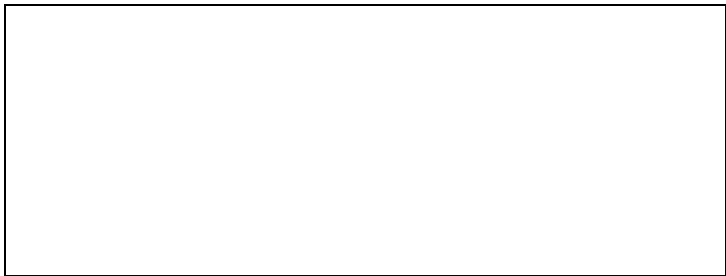
PUBLICATION NOTICES

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 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
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Calendar submissions may be sent to
calendar@ism.us.mensa.org

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Armadillo Literary Gazette

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