

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of *Lone Star Mensa*
Volume XLI
Number 8, August 2014



Editor: **Stephanie A. Hilliard**
Managing Editor: **Geri Neemidge**
Publisher: **Board of Officers**

EDITOR UPDATE

by *Stephanie Hilliard, Editor*

As the newly-appointed editor of the *Armadillo Literary Gazette*, I want to offer a big “Howdy!” to the Lone Star Mensan group. Yes, I’ve been corrupted by many years in Aggieland, including a few semesters at Texas A&M, but I hope you won’t hold that against me!

I joined Mensa and the Lone Star chapter a couple years ago, but I live in Bryan so missed out on attending events. My husband and I did travel to Austin for Game Night in June and started getting acquainted. I hope to make more events as my schedule permits.

Since I am not well known to the chapter, I thought I might take this space to introduce myself to everyone. I am married to my high school sweetheart. We have a 23-year old daughter as well as a number of informally “adopted” kids who call us Mom and Dad. We also have a 15-month old grandson and another due (from one of my “sons”) in October.

I’ve worked for the Department of Medical Physiology in the Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine for nearly 16 years. I primarily support grant submissions to sponsors such as NIH and AHA. I also provide editing and

graphic design services, manage the department’s website, and run the secondary office in College Station (our primary office is in Temple). I’m also active in the College’s staff development group, chairing one of the standing committees.

I hold an A.A. in History (2009) from Blinn College, a B.S. in Psychology (2011) from Liberty University, and an M.A. in Organizational Leadership (May 2014) from Gonzaga University. I am an active member of the Association of Leadership Educators and the International Leadership Association.

Currently, I am developing a career as a freelance writer. My second article was just accepted by the new direct-marketing magazine *Texas Living*. When I am not writing or putting together the Mensa newsletter, I stay busy (along with my husband) volunteering with several local historical non-profits.

I’m honored to be appointed as editor of the *Armadillo Literary Gazette*. I hope to work with the Board and the members to continue developing the newsletter as an effective communication tool for the chapter. You are welcome to contact me any time by email at stephanie.hilliard@gmail.com with questions or just to chat.

REGION 6 GEN Y TUBING TRIP

Event: Region 6 Gen Y Tubing Trip

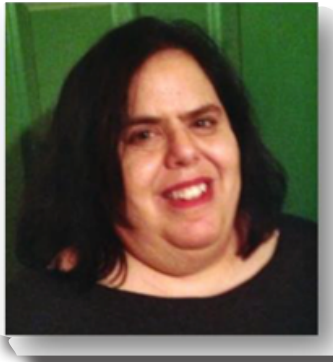
We’re heading to San Marcos City Park for a lazy day of floating on the river.

The plan is to meet at the Lions Club to rent tubes between 11:00 and 11:15 on Saturday, August 16 and start floating. Tubes are \$10 each plus a \$20 refundable deposit per tube. If you’d like to bring your own tube, you can air it up at the Lions Club for a small fee (\$2-4 depending on size of tube). The shuttle from the end of the river back to the Lions Club is \$5 per person.

After we float and head back to the Lions Club, everyone is welcome to gather for a picnic lunch (bring your own!) on the tables in the park.

Guests and kids are welcome, but be aware that some of us will be drinking both on and off the river.

by Geri Neemidge, President



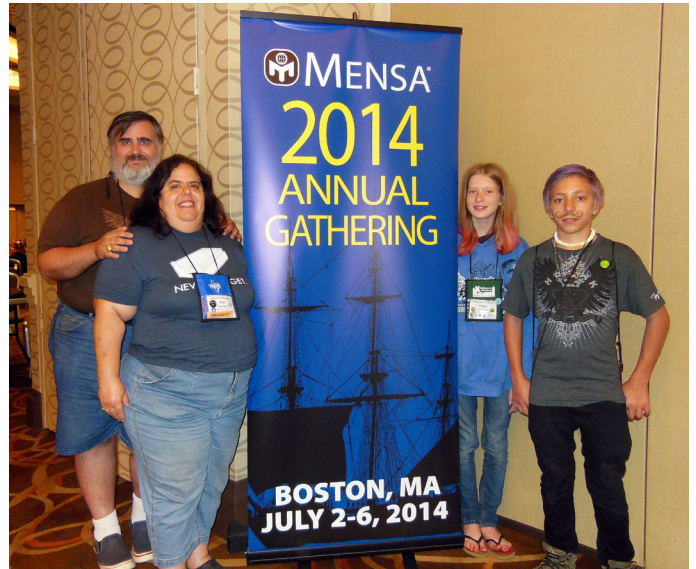
Let's Get Together

I just got back from American Mensa's Annual Gathering (AG). It is American Mensa's biggest event every year. This year it was the largest ever with about 2,500 people attending. I had a great time catching up with friends, making some new friends, eating seafood

every day (it was in Boston this year), learning all kinds of things and getting lots of new ideas. If you can, you may want to plan to attend next year's AG. It will be in Louisville, Kentucky, so a bit closer to home. All the details are here - <http://ag2015.us.mensa.org/>

Much closer to home we have our own largest event of the year this month - our Regional Gathering, LonestaRG. It is Labor Day weekend, which begins on Friday, August 29th. I am sure this newsletter is chock full of RG information. I hope you can make it. If you live some distance from Austin, RG weekend is a chance to experience games night, speaker meetings, learning, playing, dancing, endless conversation, puzzles, etc. etc. in sort of a concentrated form in one BIG package.

The magic of Mensa is community. There's a place for us all in the community and I hope you all will want to take part. You can contribute in many ways and one way is just to come hang out with us. Another way is to host an event so we can hang out with you or send me some ideas of things you'd like to see on the calendar. Let's get together and feel the Mensa magic.



LONE STAR MENSA WINS EMERALD AWARD AT ANNUAL GATHERING

submitted by Geri Neemidge, President



Lone Star Mensa won an award! Class II refers to our group size and Emerald is third place. This award is for last year - way to go John Neemidge and last year's board! I hope to bring home Sapphire next year!

FIRST EVER CARNIVORE CLUB A GREAT SUCCESS!

submitted by John Neemidge

The first meeting of LSM's new Carnivore Club dine-out happened on Friday July 11th at Stiles Switch BBQ in Austin. It was great to catch up with old friends we hadn't seen in a long time and to meet many new people. Everyone had good things to say about the BBQ at Stiles Switch and we all enjoyed the companionship. Fortunately the restaurant's outside patio was open and not too warm, so we could all sit together and enjoy the evening and our Mensa friends new and old.

Our next Carnivore Club outing will be on Friday, August 22nd at Miller's Smokehouse in Belton. We hope everyone will join us! See page 13 for more information.



submitted by Sharon Sarles

Dear Editor,

It is with astonishment that I read in the April 2014 Armadillo Literary Gazette an article that asks “If our found fathers were all Christians, why did they say this?” Then following are rather innocuous quotes, all very consonant with the (almost entirely pervasive Reformation) Christianity of the founders.

Who would question that the founders were Christian? Nearly all were soaked in the language of the Authorized Version, chose to spend many hours in religious services, and strongly trained their children in Reformed Protestant Christianity. Not every single one was following Reformed Christianity (including Congregationalism and Presbyterianism.) Some were of course, what we today call Episcopalian, some more wild such as Baptist or Methodists. One, perhaps one, was maybe an agnostic: Thomas Paine; and he was an outsider, considered strange.

Please allow me to clear up what seems to be unclear, given the question. Surely it must be answered, because these sorts of question do arise today, but the history is very clear and very open, and should be widely known.

1. When the founders spoke of the **establishment** of clerics they were railing against the *Roman* system where bishoprics were bought. This was happening in England as well. It was specifically because of this, and because they were often made by government edict to conform, that the Puritans left England. They rebelled because they were MORE religious, MORE BIBLICAL, more conservative. Whenever the founders spoke of “establishment,” they meant that the church has been taken over by the government, not that churches were not to be respected, or to influence the government. Since “disestablishmentarianism” was a movement by Puritans, it is a serious mistake to suggest that founders who are against establishment of religion are therefore not committed, Biblical, Christians; nothing could be further from the truth!

Republicanism was rooted in Reformed theology. Indeed, even the new Protestant King James I of England, ordered the Authorized translation of the Bible precisely because its predecessor, the Geneva Bible, had republican annotations. People were willing to brave death to read and study this Bible; the crown hated it and executed people for owning it because it challenged the notion of monarchy. (Remember, “republicanism” means not the current political party but the faction then that argued for democracy rather than monarchy. Please remember that to make sense of what was said, one must read the words as they were defined at the time.)

George Washington, the source of the first quote mentioning “establishment” was without contradiction a very ardent member of the Church of England. His statement against spiritual tyranny and religious persecution were in fact entirely aligned with ardent faith, in contrast to the latitudinarianism of English bishops and government mandate of conformity. He, like most other founders were against establishment because they were ardent Protestants – wanting to follow the dictates of conscience and therefore the Bible. Remember, please, that the fundamental seed of the Reformations was that everyone could read the Bible rather than be dictated to by the pope.

BTW, churches were “established” in the colonies. This meant that one was typically forced to be a member and pay tithes to the particular denomination favored in that colony. People in Massachusetts were congregational, and in New Jersey, Presbyterian, and in New York Church of England. Further, in every colony one had to be a Christian to hold office – except in South Carolina, where one had to profess faith in God only. (There were leading Jews in Charleston.) These measures were abolished in order for the various colonies to better cooperate.

2. **Reason** was not at all contrasted with faith, as the constructor of the Armadillo article must have presumed. Nor is it in most nations. It certainly was not in our own at the time of the founders, nor in Europe (save for somewhat later in France during the bloody tragedy. Just as rebellion to the king was rooted in more conservative theology, so was the move for reason (and thus innovation and trade). For more information about the alliance of reason and protestant faith, please read sociologist Rodney Stark’s *The Victory of Reason: How Christianity Led to Freedom, Capitalism, and Western Success*, Random House 2005. Indeed, this move toward reason is deeply rooted in the Judeo heritage: e.g. Genesis One references “lights in the sky” but was written in a culture and time where most educated people thought stars were deities that controlled fate. Therefore, when founders spoke of the triumph of reason this is promoting their faith rather than discouraging faith in general. Once again, one must interpret all texts in historical and grammatical context.
3. **The Wall of Separation** between church and state comes from the letter of then newly-elected president Jefferson to the Danbury Baptists. Danbury is in Massachusetts, and thus they were a small religious minority, and thus concerned whether they would be free to practise religion as they saw fit. Jefferson was assuring them that the Constitution protected their rights to practice their religion freely; in short, that *government had been restrained from interfering with their religion*— not the other way around. No one ever suggested that religion should be constrained in this country until the twentieth century Supreme Court made some creative rulings. The court might change precedent, but cannot change history.

It is entirely lamentable that my freshman college students think that the wall of separation of church and state is a Constitutional provision limiting religious influence on government. The founders would be astonished. In their Sunday morning

worship, using the rotunda of the capital, with the Navy band serving as orchestra, they might call a national Jeremiah, a day of fasting and mourning and repentance. While the foregoing sentence is speculation, at least it is consonant with well-known history.

4. It is irrefutable that these men, minus Paine, were active church goers and tithers. George Washington was well known to be ardent in his devotion and one may see his pew in Bruton Parish Church to this day. John Adams, visited the Pilgrims church whenever he was in Holland and wept, and went to several services on Sunday, and trained his son John Quincy Adams to read through his Bible annually. It is often suggested that Franklin was not a Christian. He was indeed a creative thinker, for instance, he was nonconforming enough that as a Bostonian he went so far as to pay his tithes to an Arminian church – by today's language, a Methodist Church. It was an elder Franklin who suggested that the body, when at loggerheads, resort to prayer. It was not a 15 minute break after a perfunctory prayer. They repaired to the nearby church, got on their knees for considerable period, and then engaged a preacher to preach to them. So much for Franklin. How about Jefferson? The UUs like to claim him. Students like to tell me that he cut up the Bible. Now for the rest of the story. Jefferson was waiting on dinner, when he took his pen knife and cut out verses of the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke that often repeat the same story) **in order to make a non-repetitive, easy to read tract with which to evangelize Native Americans.** Jefferson was not similar to the humanist realist UUs that we know here west of the Mississippi. Nor was he ever a member of any UU congregation.

Thomas Paine is a different matter. I'm not sure about Paine. I was certainly taught that he was an agnostic, but he did use Bible analogies to attempt to prove the unlawfulness of monarchy, so I'm not so sure he wasn't.

Unquestionably, most of the founders were obviously and actively members of churches. A great many were ordained, such as Witherspoon. Others were mentored by divines but chose careers in law, farming and public service.

Together as a group, also, they proved their commitment to the Christian religion. For instance, one of the first acts of the new Congress was to print a Bible **for the use in public schools.**

Here are some other quotes:

[History] shows no other state originating in devotion and in liberty of thought – no other nation whose foundation was the pure worship of the living God" George Washington, Oration delivered at Quincy on the 5th of July, 1824.

. . . Virtue, morality, and religion. This is the armor, my friend, and this alone that renders us invincible. These are the tactics we should study. If we lose these, we are conquered, fallen indeed . . . so long as our manners and principles remain sound, there is no danger. Patrick Henry (apologies, no citation at this time, garnered from internet)

The Declaration of Independence cast off all the shackles of this dependency. The United States of America were no longer Colonies. They were an independent Nation of Christians..." John Quincy Adams, Oration delivered before the inhabitants of the Town of Newburyport, on the 61st Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1837.

Let me urge then that we all read some more history, and best read it in original and in the better scholarly renditions, lest we, even we Mensans, get carried away with a tide of presumption so prevalent in our day that today's reflection are better windows into the past than real evidence. Indeed, I suggest that reading at least one history book be an addition to our celebration of Independence Day.

Other possible reading:

May, Henry F. *The Enlightenment in America*. Oxford U Press, 1976.

Mead, Sidney. *The Lively Experiment*. Harper and Row, 1963.

Walzer, Michael. *The Revolution of the Saints: A Study in the Origins of Radical Politics*. Harvard U Pr, 1965.

FROM THE RVC

by Roger Durham, Region 6 RVC



As I write this, I have just returned from the Annual Gathering in Boston. The AG appears to have set a new world record for attendance at a Mensa gathering, with more than 2,300 members and guests registered. Boston is a wonderful city to visit, with great food and an abundance of historic sites to visit. I stayed over an extra day and did some sightseeing,

including Faneuil Hall, the Old State House (where the Boston Massacre took place), the Bunker Hill Monument, and Old Ironsides herself, the USS Constitution.

As I mentioned last month, the meeting of your national Board of Directors was marked by several controversial discussions, including a proposal to index dues for inflation, with an automatic 2.5 increase every year, and a new method of selecting Regional Vice Chairmen. In addition, there was a proposal to reduce the authority of the National Ombudsman. There was also a motion to hold all future Board meetings in the DFW area. I opposed all of these proposals, and I'm happy to report that the one about the Board meetings was defeated. The others are all required to appear on the agenda of at least two meetings, so they will come up for a vote at our September meeting, where I will oppose them again.

A couple of other controversies also arose at this AG: a number of former AG chairs and other members are very

upset about the new method of selecting AG sites and the increasing involvement of the national office staff, and quite a few members are unhappy with the decision of the Communications Committee to deny the use of the Mensa name to our un-moderated Facebook group. I'm not too happy about this last myself, as the Committee reported to the Board that the use of the name would be allowed, and then changed their minds after the meeting, without telling the other Board members. Further discussion of both these items is ongoing, and I am hopeful that improvements can be made.

One new appointment was made at the Board meeting: Beth Anne Demeter had asked to be replaced as Membership Officer, due to the demands of a new job, and Stephanie Link was appointed in her place. I will again serve on the Risk Management, Leadership Development, Name and Logo, and Site Selection Committees this term.

As many of you are already aware, the AG will be in Louisville in 2015, and San Diego in 2016. The 2017 AG was just awarded to Hollywood, FL.

That's all for now. Don't forget Lone Star Mensa's upcoming RG in Round Rock, just north of Austin, over the Labor Day weekend. For more information contact Leslie Stevenson, leslielstevenson@gmail.com or (979) 599-3555. To register, visit lonestarg.com/register.html.

BOARD OF OFFICERS MEETING MINUTES

submitted by Leslie Stevenson, Board Secretary

The June 2014 regular meeting of the Lone Star mensa board of officers convened at 1:00 PM, June 21, 2014 at the Twin Oaks Branch of the Austin Public Library at 1800 S. Fifth St., Austin, TX, 78704. Present were Senior officers **Geri Neemidge, Leslie Stevenson, Douglas Yee, John Neemidge, Don Drumtra, Ron Edelstein, Aaron Rabushka,** and **Doug Williams. Johnnie Vaughn,** and Membership Committee Chair **Patsy Graham,** attended via Skype.

The board adopted the June 21, 2014 agenda with additions.

The board made a correction to the May 17, 2014 minutes to read that Geri had appointed Patsy Graham as Membership Committee Chair. The minutes, agenda, referenced written reports, and other documents related to the meeting will be made available on the LSM Website. Paper copies are available on request.

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

Geri Neemidge appointed Michael Richards as Scholarship Chair. The board confirmed the appointment.

Treasurer: The board unanimously approved the Treasurer's report submitted by Douglas Yee. Patsy Graham will be closing out the Mind Games 2014 committee and transferring the funds over to the LSM treasury. The board approved the following three people to have check signing authority for Lone Star Mensa: Douglas Yee, Don Drumtra, and John Neemidge. The following people three need to be removed from the Lone Star Mensa bank account: Patty Drumtra, Ron Edelstein, and Linda Edelstein.

LonestaRG 2014 Committee: Leslie sent in the LoneStaRG committee report for June 7th, 2014.

Testing Coordinator: The report, as submitted by Johnnie Vaughn, can be viewed on the LSM website. We had 3 people test June 21, 2014. We will be having tests upcoming in July and August, hopefully one in Bryan, Texas.

Unfinished Business & Actions

Leslie gave the board her most recent estimate for tabletop display materials, as can also be seen on the forums.

Website: Everyone has had a chance to see the demo, and the board approved it to go live as soon as possible.

Forums: The Board mostly likes the forums. When we get our full website home, Douglas Yee will build one to share with all LSM Members.

Newsletter Editor Appointment: Geri has appointed Stephanie Hilliard as Armadillo Literary Gazette Editor. The board confirmed the appointment. John moved to welcome Stephanie Hilliard as the new ALG Editor. The motion passed.

New Business & Actions

- John moved to authorize Douglas Yee to investigate the possibility of the LSM Treasurer acquiring a credit card or debit card for the ability to pay for LSM purchases online, with credit being the preferred option. The board approved.
- Leslie mentioned having a LSM Member survey distributed. The board wants to gather questions and ideas on the board forum or such, and then we will bring these ideas to the next board meeting.

Announcements

Board of Officers Meetings followed by General Membership Meetings:

Twin Oaks Branch of the Austin Public Library: 1800 S. Fifth Street, Austin, TX 78704

- Saturday, July 19th, 1:00 - 4:45 P.M.
- Saturday, August 26th, 1:00 - 4:45 P.M.

Old Quarry Branch of the Austin Public Library: 7051 Village Center Drive, Austin, TX 78731

- Saturday, September 19th, 1:00 - 4:45 P.M.

Upcoming Testing Dates

August 9, 2014 in Bryan/College Station.

Two testing sessions at the RG (Saturday and Sunday)

RG Planning meetings

August 16 1-5 PM in Austin | August 9th, time TBD in Bryan/College Station | September 20: 1-5 PM in Austin

LeslieLStevenson@gmail.com

Bryan/College Station LSM Meet & Greet scheduled for August 9th:

RG Planning meeting, Mensa Test, Games Night & visiting at Village Cafe

LeslieLStevenson@gmail.com for suggestions, questions & details

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM



LoneStaRG XVI: PLAYTIME!

Come play with us!

Labor Day Weekend 2014

August 29th - September 1st

Round Rock, TX

Hotel: Wingate by Wyndham

1209 North Interstate Highway 35, Round Rock, TX 78664

Lone Star Mensa rate: \$89/night

Reservations: (512) 341-7000

More hotel information: www.wingateroundrock.com

Moth-style Storytelling, Photo Scavenger Hunt, Buster Keaton talk, Live Webcast on Fanboytv.com, Improv Entertainment "Whose Line?" Style, Rock Band play, Blitz Chess Tournament, Keeping Austin Weird with Red Wassenich, Murder Mystery Dinner, Dance, Steve Jackson MIB team and ChimaeraCon staff are bringing games, Altered-Altoid Tin craft, Goatland: A two day kid's DIY board game workshop, and more!

Go to our website:

www.LONESTARG.com
for up-to-date information
or to register online!

New this year: Geek Market! OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! Two days in the ballroom!
Want to rent a booth? Check out our vendor information at lonestarg.com/vendors.html
or email Johnnie Vaughn: johnnie.r.vaughn@gmail.com for more details!

submitted by Lesley Stevenson, Chair

Well, here's to my last LoneStaRG XVI update before the event! It has been quite a year, and I promise this RG is going to have some interesting things for everyone! If you hate it, feel free to come put a black dot on my badge in protest! Okay, don't, please. Just let us know when we send out the feedback forms!

I'm copying most of this from the website (for those of you who haven't looked at LoneStaRG.com yet). I think it pretty much sums up ALMOST everything that will be happening. But the crazy thing is... we actually are adding MORE things... can you believe it? OH YES... it IS going to be like that. MORE.

So here is the summary – I hope you are getting excited!

“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!

Do you want to try out some really cool new games?

Members of Steve Jackson's MIB Team and staff from ChimaeraCon will be bringing loads of games! We also have the games we get from Mensa Mind Games which Lone Star Mensa hosted in April 2014!

Kid's Activities!!

Our own Paige Neemidge is our Kid's Activity Chair! Some things we have lined up for the kids are: Goatland Board Game Building Workshop (the presenter is going to have goat facts, games, etc and give a two day workshop building a board game about GOATS), Kid's Scavenger Hunt, sheet-tent coloring and building (kids get to take the sheets home with them), slime and sand building, a kid's candy tasting, bracelet making and other crafts! Paige is also a certified babysitter, so let us know if you are bringing kids under 7! We have you covered!

Speakers & Presentations

Red Wassenich, who coined the phrase “Keep Austin Weird”, Susan Buhrman, the president of the Buster Keaton Fan Club, Dr. Tenesha Wards of Infinity Wellness Center, and Dennis McCown, author of *The Goddess of War, A True Story of Passion, Betrayal and Murder in the Old West*, will be giving great talks. We will have presentations from *Scare for a Cure*, and *Society for Creative Anachronisms*.

Events

Fun events include a “Whose Line” style improv entertainment, a Murder Mystery Dinner, a dessert party and dance, and Gavin Stone from Fanboytv.com will be doing a live webcast straight from the RG!

Workshops & Crafts

Bring your actions figures! The people trying to get the Austin Toy Museum started will be coming and giving an action figure diorama building workshop! We will also have an Altered Altoid Tin craft, ongoing Paper Roller Coaster building, and lots of crafts happening in the kid's room!

Share

And it isn't all about what WE have planned - come tell us your stories in our Moth-Style storytelling event Friday night, bring a sampling of something you collect, or share your hobbies and photographs during our morning “Coffee with Sam” breakfasts!

Vendors

This year we are planning to have a “Geek Market” open to the public for two days down in the ballroom! Spaces are filling up!

Exciting Updates

Check out the website, the mobile app, and our Facebook event page for more information, announcements and updates!

OH don't forget to pre-register for the RG online, and get your hotel room booked before August 8th to get the good rate!

Come Play with Us!

Leslie L. Stevenson
Chair LoneStaRG XVI
leslielstevenson@gmail.com
<http://www.lonestarg.com/>



A PLACE FOR PEOPLE WHO THINK

6009 Burnet Road, Austin TX 78757
512-275-6430 blueawningbooks.com

by Johnnie Vaughn, Testing Coordinator

TESTS:

Lone Star Mensa tested 3 candidates in June, and has tested 4 so far in July. At least one of the June candidates has received their results and their invitation to join. We are looking at having one more session in July to take advantage of the July test fee discount, location TBD. For July, testing is only \$25.

In addition to the July test discount, American Mensa has released a code that will allow prospects to take the Home Test for practice for only \$1. The code allows you to take the online practice test as many times as you want for \$1 each time, and is good through August 31st. The test is accessible at www.us.mensa.org/mht.

The code is TST7823ZQ. If you have friends that are interested in Mensa, email them with the code, and encourage them to give it a try.

PROCTORS:

LSM currently has two active certified proctors, one in the process of being re-activated, and one who has just applied as a proctor-in-training. We need additional proctors to expand our testing program in the LSM area. Our expansion program will include a test session in the Bryan/College Station area on August 9, location as yet TBD. We have also been invited to conduct testing sessions during the WaCon gaming convention in October.

If you, or someone you know is interested in serving as a proctor, visit <http://www.us.mensa.org/lead/certifications/proctors/> for more information.

AUGUST TESTING PROMOTION - TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

Mensa is the largest and most recognized association for people who share just one common trait: high intelligence. We are a community of knowledge seekers who enjoy conversation and camaraderie. And we would love for you to join us! One in fifty people qualify, why not you? Find your nearest testing session by visiting us.mensa.org/testingcalendar.

We are planning a testing session on August 9th, in Bryan/College Station.

For more information or to sign your friends up, please contact LSM's testing coordinator, Johnnie Vaughn, at testing@lsm.us.mensa.org or 512-867-5658.



LSM Getting Together! In Bryan, TX!

6PM Saturday August 9, 2014

We're starting around 6PM at The Village Café to eat and play some games, then whoever wants to can head on over to Murphy's afterwards to visit longer!

Members, family & friends are welcome to attend! Let us know if you need a babysitter - we are going to be bringing a certified babysitter with us!

www.thevillagedowntown.com

We also plan to have a LoneStarRG planning meeting for the upcoming Regional Gathering in Round Rock earlier that afternoon in Bryan, exact time & location TBD - but come on out and help us plan!

Compiled by Patsy M. Graham
Membership Chair

As of May 31, 2014 there were 560 members in Lone Star Mensa, the 27th largest group out of 129.

JUST MOVED IN...HELLO!

Ryan S. Fogarty Austin
Harry Warren Brown Buda

WELCOME BACK! WE'RE GLAD TO SEE YOU!

Ronald A. Rieke Austin
Parker Severson Austin
Sierra Stephens College Station

Michael Seay Austin
Derek Saunders Austin



By Kannanshanmugam,shanmugam studio,Kollam (Own work) [CC-BY-SA-3.0 (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0)], via Wikimedia CommonsWelcome.jpg

GOODBYE! WE'LL MISS YOU!

George J. Bullock
James Daniel South
Michael Tonsing

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS*

- 1st Mary L Abbey
- 1st Hugh Brown
- 1st Brian L Parker
- 1st William J Worthington IV
- 3rd Betty L Wolverton
- 5th Leslie L Stevenson
- 8th Rudy S Apodaca
- 8th Martyn John Hitchcock
- 9th Allen E Boyles
- 9th Jerry Dike
- 10th Alan Baumann
- 11th Bradley Jewell
- 12th Kyle Patrick May
- 14th Keith R Babola
- 14th Ronald E Garner
- 16th Scott A Brondel
- 17th Newel Starks
- 17th Gilbert Wildin
- 18th Douglas W Stidham
- 19th Jill E Bosche
- 19th Lisa Mather
- 20th Michael E Legatt
- 20th Elizabeth M Petit
- 20th James B Robinson
- 23rd Matthew C Lawrence
- 24th Paula Blessing Beard
- 25th Kenneth V Mosher II
- 25th Jeffrey A Pinkston
- 26th Patrick Buchanan

- 27th William Allan Besselink
- 28th Ravina J Nelson
- 28th Beth Shields
- 28th W Randall Strahan Jr
- 28th Steve Young
- 29th Steven E Ankerstar
- 30th Helen Ruth Siders
- 31st Kimberly A Bayless



* 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 35 YEARS

Stanley E. Tims II

MEMBER FOR 10 YEARS

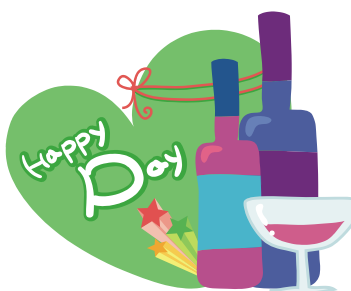
Don Van Huyck

MEMBER FOR 5 YEARS

Rose M. Berkowitz
James Gullett
Christopher Lucas
Kevin Michael Smith

MEMBER FOR 1 YEAR

Robert L. Moore



LIFE

When you look into a creature's eyes
You see Life looking back at you.
Life saying hello,
Life greeting Life.
Which one is you?
Or is it all you?
Are you All That Is?

© Rose M. Berkowitz
July 7, 2014

CICADA SONG

Cicada song—the song of summer.
Warm sunshine caressing your skin,
Gentle breezes stirring your hair,
Lazy waves lapping the shore,
Meadows of flowers perfuming the air.
A harbinger of heaven—
Cicada song.

© Rose M. Berkowitz
July 9, 2014

TONGUE-IN-CHEEK

submitted by Lynn Herrick

- BECOMING: You're about to get stung
- DISGUISE: Criticize men
- EURO: Please relieve me at the oars for a while
- IDEAL: Yours truly will distribute the cards for this hand.
- KIDNEYS: These get skinned a lot in playing.
- NOBLE: Honest, I'm not puttin' you on!
- NOSY: The way to spell Elisabeth.
- PARADISE: If PARADOX is two physicians, this is the two crap-shooting cubes
- PRAYED: Street pr'cession.
- PREFER: How baby mice are before their hair grows.
- SOAK: That wood's not maple.
- TELETYPE: Distinguish one kind from another.



Bruce Melton on Climate Change

Saturday August 16th 3:00 pm
Twin Oaks Branch of the Austin Public Library
1800 S. Fifth Street, Austin, 78704

Bruce Melton is a professional engineer, environmental researcher, author, photographer, filmmaker, and front man for the band Climate Change.

Bruce will talk to us about hot climate change topics including the drought, latest climate change findings, and new EPA regulations. There will still be a significant focus on the local drought. This is an extraordinary way to get across the unexpected, counterintuitive nature of climate change.

Coming Attractions -

September's speaker will be LSM member Steve Ankerstar on his experience as an Air Force fighter pilot flying an F-117 stealth fighter during the "Shock and Awe" campaign in 2003 over Iraq.



GAMES NIGHT!

Saturday, August 16 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Emerald Tavern, 9012 Research Blvd. #6, Austin, TX 78758
Host: Patsy Graham, 512-380-0141

Games Night is once a month on the 3rd Saturday night of every month! Bring a game or just show up! Bring family & friends! (Small children should be supervised)

CARNIVORE CLUB!!

Friday August 22nd
7:30 pm

Miller's Smokehouse
208 N. Penelope St.
Belton, TX 76513

254.939.5500

Texas Monthly has just published its list of the "50 Best BBQ Joints in the World!" and several of them are in Lone Star Mensa's area. I figure the least we can do is work our way through the ones that are within our borders. I hope you can join us! The group can't subsidize this so we will each pay for our own meal.



AUGUST CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Concert in the Park 7:30 p.m.	4	5	6	7	8	9 Mensa event in BCS
10	11	12	13	14 TGIT-N Chess Night	15	16 Board MTG Member MTG Game Night
17	18	19	20	21 TGIT-S	22 Carnivore Club 7:30 p.m.	23
24/31	25	26	27	28 TGIT-N Seal & Label	29	30

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

ALG/Calendar Deadline

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

**August 3, 7:30 pm, Hartman Concert
Park in front of the Long Center City
Terrace**

Symphony in the Park
Come enjoy this FREE concert in the park with your fellow Mensans. Bring a picnic and enjoy strains of classical music under the stars! A balloon or two will mark our meeting spot, where we'll begin gathering at 6:30 pm to ensure adequate space. (Hosted by Sara Sharpe <https://www.facebook.com/sara.s.sharpe>)

Chess Night at TGIT-N

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).

Mensa Admission Testing

August 9, Bryan/College Station
Let your friends know! Contact testing coordinator Johnnie Vaughn (testing@ism.us.mensa.org, 512-867-5658) for more information.

**Board Meeting
Member Meeting
Game Night**

Saturday, August 16
Twin Oaks Branch of Austin Public Library
See Page 13 for details.

Carnivore Club

August 22, 7:30 PM
Miller's Smokehouse
See page 13 for details.

Thank Goodness it's Thursday

North: 2nd and 4th Thursday
August 14 & 28, 6-8 pm
South: 3rd Thursday
July 21, 6-8 pm
Join us for conversation, food and fun. Prospective members welcome.

Seal & Label at TGIT-N

4th Thursday
August 28, 8 pm
Join the TGIT Group to help seal and label the newsletter

EVENT LOCATIONS

Twin Oaks Branch Library
1800 S. Fifth St.
Austin, TX 78704.

Central Market Café North (TGIT-N)
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 (TGIT-S)
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 Burnet Road and Research Blvd (US Hwy 183)
Lone Star Center
9012 Research Blvd, Suite C6,
Austin
512-994-4649

CONTACTS BY FUNCTION

Compiled by John Neemidge as of 06/18/14

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EVENTS

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S.I.G.H.T.		VACANT	
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	Bryan/College Station San Marcos		
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EVERYTHING ELSE	president@lsm.us.mensa.org	Geri Neemidge	512-310-7863

PUBLICATION NOTICES

The Armadillo Literary Gazette is owned by American Mensa Limited and is the monthly official publication of Lone Star Mensa. Subscriptions are included with Lone Star membership. Other Mensa members may subscribe for \$10 per year. Subscribers may request delivery by email, USPS mail, or both. Send subscription requests to the Publications Office, 3206 Twilight Trail, Austin, TX 78748-2608. Submissions of all types are encouraged. The deadline is the second Thursday of each month. Submissions may be by email (preferred) or by snail mail in typed format. Anonymous submissions are not accepted, although the author's identity may be withheld upon request. The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Items in this newsletter may be reprinted in other Mensa publications, with credit given, unless restricted by the author. Calendar inputs may be submitted at any time and will normally be published online within three days and in the next month's printed calendar if received before the cut-off date. The cut-off date is the second Thursday of the previous month. Advertising may be accepted subject to space limitations. Lone Star Mensa members may submit 2 non-commercial ads per year at no charge, limited to 4 column 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.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

AMERICAN MENSA LIMITED
1229 CORPORATE DR W
ARLINGTON, TX 76006-6103

Newsletter submissions may be sent to editor@lsm.us.mensa.org

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

The editor's snail mail address is
Stephanie Hilliard
707 E. 32nd St.
Bryan, TX 77803



Armadillo Literary Gazette

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