The Official Publication of North Texas Mensa

M-AURA

DECEMBER 2024

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ON THE COVERS:

Front *Top Left:* New member Brian at the New Members Party. *Top Right:* Pam, a new-to-Dallas member. *Middle*: October poker winners, 3rd - Carlos Navarette, 1st - Paul Whiteman, 2nd - Michele Stamm; the home field advantage string is broken. *Bottom*: Deanna, Elizabeth, Matthew, siblings and parents in front of the Wyly Theater for the ATT PAC tour ***Back*** *Top:* October general meeting, with Cathy leading a discussion on "best book I have read this year". Attendees included Another Cathy, Pam Roger, Chris, Lauren, Paul, Anne, etc. *Bottom Left*: Wendy, another new to the area person, and her husband Eric. *Bottom Right*: New member Ian, also the aforementioned Eric and Pam.

Guaranteed almost Feghoot-free, ***Whimsy SIG*** publishes facts and fancy, communications from near and far. For more info contact Ruth Danielle, WhimsicalM@outlook.com

FROM THE NTM PRESIDENT

GUNNY HARTMAN

"In case I don't see ya, good afternoon, good evening, and good night." ~Truman Burbank

I have thoroughly enjoyed the past two years that I have been able to serve as president of NTM. Yet, I am excited to see the chapter in even more capable hands going forward. Thanks to an extension from our esteemed editor, I am able to congratulate and share with you the new NTM Board of Directors for 2025.

President: Cathy Allshouse

Vice-President: Chris Cree

Treasurer: Paul Whiteman

Secretary: Yours Truly

Board Members at Large: Jonathan Bethune. Juan Faura, Chuck Weis

To all who were willing to serve on the Board, but it did not work out this time, let me thank you for running and encourage you to seek a role in 2025 nonetheless. The 2025 Board will be looking to fill some key roles in the chapter and if you see any areas listed in the inside back cover of this newsletter that are appealing, please let one or more of the above Board members know.

It really has been a great ride, but as I leave you, I want you to know—just think how much you're going to be missing. You don't have Gunny to kick around anymore. Because, NTM, this is my last M-Aura column. Thank you, NTM, and good day!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !

The following are new or rejoining members of North Texas Mensa. Please join us in welcoming them to our group.

New Mensans: Sebastian Beltran, Miraya Keerthi, Daniela Mantula, Kristopher Morrison, Chloe Ying

Moving to NTM: Kevin Nuss

Rejoining Mensa and NTM: Nathaniel Jordan, Glenn Kreider, William Waller

We welcome you <u>all</u>, and look forward to seeing you at future functions!

HOWDY!

David McCallister, Region 6 Vice Chair

Hopefully everyone has had the opportunity to reflect on the things they are grateful for in recent weeks. Personally, I am thankful for each and every member of this organization. As we look to our own future, reflection is critical to setting the right course of action of what lies ahead. As a member of the AMC Strategic Planning Committee, we are developing the plan to grow and improve our organization, and your feedback is crucial in ensuring that American Mensa continues to meet the needs and expectations of our members.

In case you missed it, we have a new Interim Executive Director, Dr. Greta Zeimetz, CAE, SHRM-SCP. With a career spanning over 20 years in nonprofit management and leadership, she brings a deep commitment to making a positive impact and advancing the missions of the organizations she serves. Throughout her journey, she has worn many hats, including as a CEO, professor, and consultant specializing in leadership development, strategic planning, and organizational growth. Teaching leadership and management for nearly two decades has shown her the power of knowledge sharing and how it sparks growth. We are very excited to have her continue this journey with our organization.

I thoroughly enjoyed meeting many members at the North Texas Regional Gathering in Dallas, held from November 28 to December 1. Throughout the weekend, there were many insightful ideas and suggestions shared, and I'm excited to take these back to explore next steps for implementation. Thank you for your ongoing dedication to making our organization stronger.

For those interested, the American Mensa Committee will hold a virtual meeting on Saturday, December 7, beginning at 10 a.m. Central time. The meeting will be livestreamed on YouTube, and we'll share the link shortly before the start. More info should be posted on the national calendar: us.mensa.org/attend/calendar/.

As the new year is right around the corner, so is the last quarter of the membership year. It is never too early to start thinking about renewing your membership. Also, keep an eye out for the next Region 6 town hall to be held in January 2025. Details will be in Mensa Connect and on the region6.us.mensa.org website.

Members can always reach me directly by email RVC6@us.mensa.org, phone or text 817-988- 3283 or submitting feedback online at https://tinyurl.com/MembersVoice. Let's continue working together to ensure every member's needs are acknowledged, understood, and addressed.

GIFTED YOUTH CORNER

by Bill Rock

In October we had a good crowd at the ATT Performing Arts Center for the walking tour of the facilities. The architecture was cool, the weather was nice, and of course I was geeking on how the Wyly theater can be reconfigured, almost like the stairways at Hogwarts. I did not know that the first floor glass walls of the PAC can be opened to the outside (weather permitting) to have a fancy event space.

On a different topic, I want to thank those who reached out to Adriane, parent of a gifted child who was looking for ideas on education. That's a lot of what we're here for, helping to make connections and sharing our thoughts and experiences.

For this month, we have a couple of things planned. We're heading back to Board Game Arena to have some fun on line, and then the plan is also to deliver Meals On Wheels on Christmas Day. This is a nice way to help out where we can. Deliveries will take an hour or two, and we have a cadre of trained Meals On Wheels deliverers to assist on your route As always, if you have any ideas for an event or want to host something, please let me know and we will get it worked out. Thanks.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
01 12:30 pm Gifted Youth Book Club	**02** 7 pm Munch Bunch	**03** 7 pm Beer Garden	**04**	**05** 1 pm Lunch Group 7 pm HOTDAM	**06** 1 pm East Dallas Lunch Bunch	**07** 2 pm Mensa Foundation Speaker
08 2 pm Bright Ladies SIG 8 pm Brainstorming SIG	**09** 7 pm Munch Bunch 9 pm *M-Aura* Calendar	**10** 7 pm Beer Garden 9 pm *M-Aura* All-Copy Deadline	**11**	**12** 1 pm Lunch Group 7 pm HOTDAM	**13** 1 pm East Dallas Lunch Bunch	**14** 12:15 pm Mensa Testing 7 pm Singles Chat 'n Chew
15 3 pm GY on-line games 6 pm NTM Board Meeting 8 pm Brainstorming SIG	**16** 7 pm Munch Bunch	**17** 7 pm Beer Garden	**18**	**19** 1 pm Lunch Group 7 pm HOTDAM	**20** 1 pm East Dallas Lunch Bunch 7 pm Texas Hold 'Em	**21** 2 pm Mensa Foundation Speaker Series 4 pm Small Group Meeting 6:30 pm Games SIG
22 1:30 pm Eclectic Book Club 8 pm Brainstorming SIG	**23** 7 pm Munch Bunch	**24** 7 pm Beer Garden	**25** 8 am GY MOW	**26** 1 pm Lunch Group 7 pm HOTDAM	**27** 1 pm East Dallas Lunch Bunch	**28**
29 8 pm Brainstorming SIG	**30** 7 pm Munch Bunch	**31** 7 pm Beer Garden				

December 2024

~December 2024~

FOR CALENDAR UPDATES, PLEASE VISIT
HTTP://WWW.NORTHTEXASMENSA.ORG

~WEEKLY EVENTS~

MONDAYS

7:00 PM - 8:15 PM Munch Bunch - Addison
Location: **BJ's Restaurant,** 4901 Belt Line Rd., Addison 75254
BJ's is an upscale brewpub with an extensive menu. On the north side of Belt Line just a couple of blocks west of the Tollway. Ask at the desk for the Mensa table.
Contact: **Roger Durham** (214.349.4521)

TUESDAYS

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Beer Garden – Dallas
Location: **District 9 Draught Haus**, 718 N. Buckner Blvd., Dallas
This is a neighborhood pub in the shopping center, corner of Buckner & Northcliff, which is the first stoplight south of NW Hwy. on Buckner. They have a good beer selection, wines and ciders on tap, and a tasty, but somewhat limited, menu. Ask for the Mensa table.
Contact: **Roger Durham** (214.349.4521)

THURSDAYS

1:00 PM - Plano Lunch Group
Location: **King Buffet**: 521 Central Parkway, Plano, TX 75074
Yelp loves King Buffet Plano's wide selection which ranges from pizza to made-to-order hibachi favorites. Look for Ty. https://www.yelp.com/biz/king-buffet-plano-3
Contact: **Ty O'Neil**: (214.394.7364 cell)

7:00 - 9:00 PM HOTDAM
Hang out Together with Denton Area Mensans
Location: **Cafe Brazil**, 501 W University Dr, Denton, TX 76201 Meet us for games, revelry, and more. Look for the owl statuette on the table. See YOU 'round!
PLEASE CALL OR TEXT CONTACTS FOR MORE INFO
Contact: **Deb Ramsey** (940.391.9657) or **Christie Miller**, (940.765.0429)

FRIDAYS

1:00 - 2:30 PM East Dallas Lunch Bunch
Location: **Fish City Grill**: 7170 Skillman Street,
Dallas 75231 Fish City Grill is a neighborhood seafood restaurant that delivers the best quality and fresh ingredients.
Contact: **Roger Durham** (214.349.4521)

SUNDAYS

8:00 PM Brainstorming SIG *(from mid MI Mensa)*
Location: **Zoom Meeting**: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82908600785?pwd=Kzl4YUhFbklwSnpCTTl4TDdHNoJsdz09
Meeting ID: 829 0860 0785 Passcode: 1234
SIG's main purpose - Opportunity to brainstorm ways we do things.
Contact: **Ken Lawrence** MBrainstormingSessions@gmail.com

December Events

01 SUNDAY

12:30PM - NTM Gifted Youth Book Club
(First Sunday of each month)
Location: **Zoom Meeting**
At this meeting, we will be discussing ***A Magic Steeped in Poison*** by Judy Lin.
Meeting Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87284610508?pwd=WnZWQ2JhbmlEamJzcmc1TkRBcFZjZz09
Contact: **Bill Rock**: (972.396.8160, william.m.rock@gmail.com)

07 SATURDAY

2:00PM – 3:30PM Mensa Foundation Speaker Series 2024
Location: **Zoom Meeting**
Explore the Mensa Foundation Speaker Series in 2024 - an immersive journey into the realms of intelligence and giftedness In collaboration with esteemed partners such as the Gifted Development Center (GDC), the Dabrowski Center (DC), and Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG), the Mensa Foundation Speaker Series offers captivating 90-minute virtual sessions that dive deep into the world of intelligence and giftedness. Uncover new perspectives and ignite your intellectual curiosity.
December Speaker: **Dr. Keri Guilbault**: ***Navigating Academic Acceleration for Gifted Learners***
Registration and Fee Information: https://mensafoundation.ticketspice.com/mfss2024

08 SUNDAY

2:00PM – 4:00PM Bright Ladies Brunch
(Second Sunday of each month)
Location: **la Madeleine French Bakery & Café**: 15125 Montfort Dr., Dallas
(one block east of the Tollway, on Montfort) Look for us (and the Bright Ladies logo) as you come in.

Contact: **Call Kathy McWhorter for directions or more details**: (214.215.5809)

09 MONDAY

9:00PM – M-Aura Calendar Deadline (The 9th of each month)
Contact: **Calendar Chair, Sara Hawkins**: (calendarchair@northtexasmensa.org, or 214.801.4704)

10 TUESDAY

9:00PM – M-Aura All Copy Deadline (The 10th of each month)
Contact: **Editor, Bill Rock**: (william.m.rock@gmail.com or 972.396.8160)

14 SATURDAY

12:15 PM - 2:30 PM – MENSA Admissions Testing
Location: **Dallas Public Library (Timberglen Branch) Classroom:** 18505 Midway Rd, Dallas, TX 75287.
Know someone who may qualify for Mensa? Please refer all interested testers (or anyone with questions!) to Rebecca Raymond at NTMTesting@northtexasmensa.org to obtain the pre-registration link and all other required details for this session.
Contact: **Rebecca Raymond**: (ntmtesting@northtexasmensa.org)

7:00PM – 9:00PM – Singles Chat and Chew
(Second Saturday of each month)
Location: **Jason's Deli**: 9100 N. Central Expressway, Suite 139, Dallas, TX 75231.
This at the NE corner of Central Expressway and Park Lane. Come join other singles for dinner and have great conversations.
Contact: **Laura Stuart**: (214.641.2520)

15 SUNDAY

3:00 PM CST – Gifted Youth Virtual Board Games on Board Game Arena
Location: **Zoom Meeting**.
www.boardgamearena.com has a nice facility for playing games with friends on-line. It includes a chat feature, and I'll also set up a Zoom

meeting for those that want to talk outside of the game. Login to the web site before the event, and tell me your username so I can send a message to let people know who they can meet up with. I'll be "wrock_NTM". Meeting Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87284610508?pwd=WnZWQ2JhbmlEamJzcmc1TkRBcFZjZz09
Contact: Bill Rock: (972.396.8160, william.m.rock@gmail.com)

6:00PM- 7:00PM - Board Meeting (Third Sunday of the Month)
Location: **Five Star Premier Residences of Dallas**: 5455 La Sierra Drive, Dallas, or **Zoom Video**: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81692083286?pwd=UWFmMlVvRUpiazBZNldHcmxwSGpvZz09, or **Zoom Phone**: +1 346 248 7799 (in lieu of video call), Meeting ID: 816 9208 3286, Passcode: 448903
All members of NTM are welcome to attend and to address the board. The board conducts the organization business decisions. Members are welcome to bring items to the board's attention if they wish. Following the Board Meeting there is usually time for socializing before the program. If you prefer, you may also attend via Zoom – links above.
Contact: **Gunny Hartman, President**: (president@northtexasmensa.org)

7:30PM – Program Following the Board Meeting (Third Sunday of the Month)
Location: **Five Star Premier Residences of Dallas**, 5455 La Sierra Drive, Dallas, or **Zoom Video**: See links for Board meeting above

20 FRIDAY

7:00PM – NTM Scholarship Foundation Friday Texas Hold 'Em
Location: **Storm Ricamore's Home:** 1426 Dumont Drive, Richardson, TX 75080
Join us for a pleasant evening of cards, bluffing and fun. No big winners or losers, just bragging rights for your $10 contribution to the kitty, and a $5 re-buy if you wish – all of which goes to the Scholarship Foundation. Plenty of snacks and drinks, and those new to the game are welcome to join in. As always, the party starts at 7 PM, and the game commences at 7:30 PM. And as always, if you feel sick or if you have Covid, please stay home!

RSVP: **Please RSVP** to Storm if you plan to attend: (972.235.5837 or storm@stormsmall.com)

21 SATURDAY

4:00PM – 6:00PM - Small MENSA Meeting

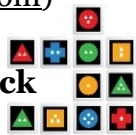
Canton / Wills Point (Third Saturday of each month)

Location: **We meet in each other's homes on a rotating basis**

We will send out a reminder about a week before each meeting giving this month's location and subject matter to be discussed. Purely a discussion group; no games, no food fests, no partying. Enjoy the exchange of thoughts and ideas without contention!

Contact: **Gerard Brohman**: (gbrohman@live.com)

6:30PM – Games SIG



Location: **Bill & Ellen Rock's Home "The Rock Pile"**: 701 Victorian Drive, Allen, TX 75002

We have some classic board games and some new ones, and we're happy to try anything you care to bring over. Snacks and soft drinks will be available.

Contacts: **Bill and/or Ellen Rock**: (972.396.8160 •/+ 214.356.5819, william.m.rock@gmail.com)

22 SUNDAY

1:30PM – 3:00PM - Eclectic Book Club

(Fourth Sunday of the Month)

Location: **Half Price Books Mothership**: 5803 E NW Hwy, Dallas, TX 75231

The book selection for this month is ***The Anthropocene Reviewed: Essays on a Human-Centered Planet*** by John Green. Eclectic Book Club picks are generally available in hardback, paperback or for e-readers. They should also be available at your local library.

Contacts: **Larry Strickler**: (lstrickler1@verizon.net or 972.495.8076) or **Bill Rock**: (972.396.8160 or william.m.rock@gmail.com)

25 WEDNESDAY

8:00AM – 11:00AM -Holiday Delivery for Meals on Wheels

Christmas meal delivery to the less fortunate is an all volunteer effort. We have several routes to cover; no experience necessary; trained volunteers are available to help each crew.

Location: Adjacent to the VNA center at 1440 Mockingbird; Localized

deliveries across Dallas and the suburbs.
Contact: **Bill Rock**: (972.396.8160, william.m.rock@gmail.com)

MENSA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP JUDGING: THE DETAILS

"Do you love to read? Are you curious about what the future holds in the hands of the next generation? If your answer is 'YES' then the Mensa Foundation Scholarship Program can help.

The Mensa Foundation Scholarship Program offers scholarships to college students regardless of age or GPA. Over the past 52 years we have helped hundreds of people attain their goal for higher education. This past year we awarded over $200,000 in scholarships.

Last year, we received 50,000 essay applications from a variety of college hopefuls. This year, we are anticipating that number increasing as word of our scholarship program continues to spread.

As a result, we are in need of volunteers, both Mensan and non-Mensan alike to help us handle the load. All we are asking is for each volunteer to read and judge 50 one-page essays over a 4-week period in Jan/Feb 2025. All scoring is done online in your own free time.

So if you love to read and are curious about what the future holds, come join us for a rewarding peek into the lives and goals of college students.

To volunteer, please register at bit.ly/Scholarship-Judge

FYI, here are the most recent Mensa Scholarship winners from North Texas:

Reza Jahangirnez of McKinney, $10,000 Progress Pride Scholarship

Lea Andrea of Garland, $7000 Stem Scholarship for Women

Hannah Willis of Whitehouse, $1000 Ruth Ann Parvin Memorial Scholarship

Thomas Knickerbocker of McKinney, $3000 Tom Jeffery Memorial Scholarship

Emma Clark of Allen, $3000 Debbie Kittenbacher Memorial Scholarship

Marley Nelson of Nacogdoches, $3000 Marjorie Brown Memorial Scholarship

Skylar Burris of Flower Mound, $600 Karen Cooper Memorial Scholarship

NTM BOARD PROCEEDINGS-Sunday October 20th, 2024

NTM Board of Directors minutes for October 20, 2024.
Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by President Eric "Gunny" Hartman. President Eric "Gunny" Hartman..
Present in person were Vice President Ken Roberts and Secretary Paul Whiteman, Treasurer Cathy Allshouse, Board Members at Large Chris Cree, and Jonathan Bethune (Present via Zoom).
Absent: Board Membership: Juan Faura.

1. Reports

President – Eric "Gunny" Hartman … "Next Board Meeting: 6PM November 17, 2024 at Five Star Premier Residences of Dallas (5455 La Sierra Drive, Dallas) Reminder: RG Registration costs increase October 31. New Members Party: October 25 at JJ's in Dallas."

Secretary – Paul Whiteman … The minutes of the September 2024 board meeting, were prepared by
Whiteman and emailed to the board. No changes.

Treasurer – Cathy Allshouse … New Members' Subsidy of $ 1119.49 was received from national. Expenses were $784.38, which resulted in a surplus of $497.72. At the end of September, total NTM assets at $28,828.40 plus $10,000 note from the Scholarship Foundation. RG account balance is $1,500 and growing. Report accepted. Renewed zoom service. $170.

Ombudsman – Roger Durham … Nothing to report.

Membership – Ken Roberts … 13 New members. 2 leaving. 179 lapsed. 2 Renewed. 12 Prospects." Ranked 7th largest chapter.

Marketing – Vacant …

Communications – Vacant …

Publicity – Vacant …

S.I.G.H.T. – Gunny Hartman … Nothing to report

Editor – Bill Rock: "Holding on ballot and instructions. Need direction if there is to be a by-laws vote on the ballot or not. Will be six sheets plus RG registration form (seven total)."

Bylaws Committee – Chris Cree, Paul Whiteman, and Roger Durham The printed bylaws ballot will be
separated from the election ballot in the Maura. Additional instructions will be added to the ballot. Ballots will be received until January 7, 2025. Paul Whiteman will receive the mail in ballots at his home address.

Gifted Youth – Bill Rock: "About a dozen people toured the ATT PAC facilities. November plan is a bike ride around White Rock Lake. December will likely be Meals on Wheels delivery."

Publisher/Circulation Manager – Val Beasley: No report
Scholarship Chair – Lauren Ogden: Administration and judging will be organized nationally. Lauren will do recruiting at the NMP. January 15 is the deadline for submissions. National is organizing judging assignments in an effort to streamline the process. Judges are needed and a form is available on the National website.
WebMaster – Jonathan Bethune
Testing Coordinator – Rebecca Raymond … "Testing during Mensa Month (October) was great! We had 9 testers at our two sessions who took advantage of the 50% off promotion. Our next test will be November 2nd at the Dallas Timberglen Library." Retesting is now allowed after 8 weeks.
Calendar – Sara Hawkins: No report
Programs – Vacant [Gunny acting] For this month, Cathy will be sharing book reviews.
Social Media/Facebook – Collene Goldman … "Facebook stats for October to date:
403 post engagements 966 followers Information about RG added"
Web - Jonahan Bethune. The work for the converted web page will be completed probably by the end of the end of the year. An invoice will be sent to the treasurer.
Regional Gathering – Roger Durham … 21 people registered. The software is not reporting
conveniently.
Election Committee – Jeffrey Bromberger "As of this moment, all required paperwork and such has been prepared, edited and delivered to the Editor of the M-Aura. This includes the Candidate Statements, Biographical Brief, Voting Instructions and the Ballot to be used in the election. We are now ready to proceed with the General Election at the November meeting of members. I would like to thank the entire membership of the Election Committee for the hours of help they provided in getting all of these materials processed, proofread and prepared for press. I could not have done this without their boundless energy and support."

2. Unfinished Business

New Members' Party: about 25 on the list. Anne Whiteman will bring coolers. Need a secure access for attendees.
The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 PM after a motion was made by Cree, which was seconded by Roberts, and passed.
submitted November 20, 2024 Paul Whiteman, Secretary

NTM Board Members for 2024:

Blue italics = new

President Gunny Hartman	president@northtexasmensa.org 214.477.5047	139 Westminster Ave Murphy, TX 75094
Vice President Ken Roberts	krobs@yahoo.com	2208 Loch Haven Dr Plano TX 75023-5313
Treasurer Cathy Allshouse	callshouse1@aol.com 713.398.7963	8325 Meadow Rd., #149, Dallas 75231
Secretary Paul Whiteman	paulw@ieee.org	4424 Ringgold Ln Plano 75093

2024 NTM Board Members At Large:

Jonathan Bethune	jbethune777@gmail.com 972.213.2715
Chris Cree	ccree@earthlink.net 214.701.4681
Juan Faura	jafaura@gmail.com 817.937.7435

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Interior Pages:

1/4 page (business card) is $15;
1/2 page is only $25; Full Page is $40

Note: All ads will be in color for eSubscribe

Region 6 Vice Chair: David McCallister, rvc6@us.mensa.org, 817.988.3283

~NTM Appointed Positions ~

Membership Chair
Ken Roberts, membership@northtexasmensa.org

Gifted Youth Coordinator
Bill Rock 972.396.8160
william.m.rock@gmail.com

Proctor/Testing Coordinator
Rebecca Raymond,
ntmtesting@northtexasmensa.org

NTM Ombudsman
Roger Durham
durhamrog@gmail.com
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Randy Brack, mrbrack46@gmail.com, 972.495.2659 , Karen Brack, 214.477.1151 kwbrack18@gmail.com

Nominating Committee: Bill Rock william.m.rock@gmail.com or 972.396.8160, Anne Whiteman, 214.868.4410 or Anne.whiteman1@gmail.com, Laura Stuart, (214.641.2520), Doug Fix, doug@dfix.org

Election Committee: Jeffrey Bromberger jbromberger@gmail.com (chair)
Andy McKellar, andy.mckellar@twc.com , Eric Hartman, Jr. JetHartman28@gmail.com
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