The Official Publication of North Texas Mensa

M-AURA June 2026

General Meeting

Saturday the 20th, 2 PM

Games! Games! Games!

You'll be amazed

See pg 10

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ON THE COVERS:

Front *Top:* Sometimes in QUIDDLER, a hand just plays itself, as Carlos discovers. *Bottom*: Mensans learning about the history of the collection at the Meadows Museum. ***Back*** *Left:* More of the Meadows tour. *Top Right:* Twig defends herself from an accusation of being a **DEMON** when Gifted Youth from around the US try to solve the mystery before time runs out in BLOOD ON THE CLOCKTOWER. *Bottom Right:* April poker trifecta: 1st Allen Garner, 2nd Storm Ricamore, 3rd Ignatz

Letters, Stories, Travel Misadventures and More!
Isolated M SIG monthly newsletter serves as a communication forum for Mensa members around the world -- currently 80 countries.
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FROM THE NTM PRESIDENT

CATHY ALLSHOUSE

As the solstice approaches, the North Texas Mensa calendar begins to heat up alongside the weather. Many of us will be anticipating the Annual Gathering in Fort Worth in July. I am SO looking forward to that vibrant exchange of ideas, as well as getting to see friends from afar. Whether you are a first-time attendee or a seasoned veteran, the AG represents the pinnacle of our mission: to provide a stimulating intellectual and social environment for our members. I urge you to consider attending since it's so close to our area this year--travel costs will be lower than usual despite our higher gas prices. While many will use the summer to unwind, travel or entertain children, please check out our calendar for events happening all month. You will likely find a dining or discussion group to attend to provide needed intellectual stimulation. On a personal note, I will be retiring, finally, from the paid workforce at the end of this month and am very much looking forward to more time for hobbies, reading and socializing with Mensa friends.

If there's an activity you would like to see our group offer, please let me know. Stay cool and stay curious!

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: Skyler Brill Sedat, Alexander Carter, Andrea Farkas, Sebastian Gray, Omega Kim, Klover Marshall, Meghan Taylor, Matthew Taylor, Isaac Urbina-Rojas, Kim Wootton (Babcock)

Moving to NTM: No one in April

Rejoining Mensa and NTM: Lawrence Bines, Samuel Blood, Wesley Brigner, Audrey Davis, Anderson Davis, Ava Davis, Jeffrey Everett, Adam McLean, Nathan Ramsey, Jeffrey Thornberry

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

Howdy!

REGION 6 VICE CHAIR — LAURA SMITH

Can you believe SYNRG is already behind us?

A huge thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, presented, organized, tested, hosted hospitality, ran games, set up rooms, solved problems, and helped make the Gulf Coast Mensa Regional Gathering such a success. Events like these don't happen by accident. They happen because Mensans step up for one another, and I'm incredibly grateful.

Now we look ahead to July and the American Mensa Annual Gathering in Fort Worth. If you've never attended an AG before, this is a fantastic year to start. AGs are filled with fascinating speakers, games, hospitality, friendships, late-night conversations, and the kind of "I found my people" moments that many of us remember forever.

If you're on the fence about attending, reach out. Seriously. I'll happily be your buddy and help make your first AG experience less intimidating and more fun.

At the AMC level, we continue working through our strategic plan, focused on moving American Mensa forward in meaningful and sustainable ways. I'm honored to lead the Trust, Culture & Safety Pillar alongside an outstanding group of Mensans. Our focus is strengthening trust, improving communication and transparency, supporting healthy volunteer culture, and helping create an environment where members feel welcomed, valued, and safe participating at every level of Mensa.

There's a lot happening right now and even more ahead.

I'm excited about where we're going together.

Laura

GIFTED YOUTH CORNER

by Bill Rock

I have some great news to share about a couple of our long-time members. Elim Wong, a violinist that I have had the pleasure of listening to several times in the last few years, has been named one of this year's Butler Texas Young Masters from Texas Cultural Trust and the Texas Commission on the Arts. She also was awarded first prize for junior strings from the Music Teachers National Association. Elim was featured in the final "Basically Beethoven" concert for 2026, where she played Beethoven's Sonata No. 8, among other pieces.

But not everyone has magical musical skills; others excel in their own way. Case in point: Henry Leskiw was recently honored with the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award at the Silver Level. This award recognizes skills development, physical fitness, and team building. Henry's capstone project was leading a team on an effort to remove invasive species and manage woodland underbrush in a remote area to reduce the risk of catastrophic forest fires.

For this month we have a special workshop; Prishaa has volunteered to use her origami skills to help others learn to make beautiful objects from plain paper. I am personally looking forward to learning more about this interesting topic.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! The following NTMers add another candle to the cake in June:

David Arehart, Michael Crow, Roxanne Hetzel, Kevin McCullough, Sujeet Acharya, Eleanor Hess, Michael "blue pencil" Shaffer, Greg Greenwood, Parker Key, Peter Weinert, Michael Jones, Nick Roossien, Kenneth House, Nancy Vickers, Sheila Austin, Joseph Groner, John Fowler, Steven Garretson, Stephen Clark, Jeff Dommenge, Kurt Regner, Earl Stevenson, Gerard Brohman, Michael Ramsey, Robert Hollingsworth, Walter Foster, Christopher Hutzler, Gillian Steele, Charles Wells, Mark Mathews, Eugene Morrissey, Dharam Kumbhani, Steven Autry, Michael Stockham, Linda O'Rear, Jeffrey King, Aaron Smith, Scott Richardson, Doohi Lee, Donna Clancy, Melvin Courtney, Christopher O'Blenes, Randall Streig, Sam Stripling

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	01 1 pm VDG 7 pm Munch Bunch	**02** 7 pm Beer Garden	**03** 1 pm VDG	**04** 1 pm Lunch Group 7 pm HOTDAM 7:30 pm NTM Board Meeting	**05** 1 pm VDG 1 pm East Dallas Lunch Bunch	**06** 1 pm VDG 1:30 pm wine tasting
07 12:30 pm GY book club 	**08** 1 pm VDG 7 pm Munch Bunch	**09** 7 pm Beer Garden 9 pm *M-Aura* Calendar Deadline	**10** 1 pm VDG 9 pm *M-Aura* All-Copy Deadline	**11** 1 pm Lunch Group 7 pm HOTDAM	**12** 1 pm VDG 1 pm East Dallas Lunch Bunch	**13** 9:30 am Mensa Testing 1 pm VDG 4:30 pm SFRM ISS talk 7 pm Singles Chat 'n Chew
14 2 pm Bright Ladies SIG 	**15** 1 pm VDG 7 pm Munch Bunch	**16** 7 pm Beer Garden	**17** 1 pm VDG 7 pm MADEATS	**18** 1 pm Lunch Group 7 pm HOTDAM	**19** 1 pm VDG 1 pm East Dallas Lunch Bunch 7 pm Texas Hold 'Em	**20** 1 pm VDG **2 pm General Meeting** ***—GAMES³—*** 4 pm Small Group Mtg 6:30 pm Games SIG
21 4:30 pm SFRM Paleo talk 	**22** 1 pm VDG 7 pm Munch Bunch	**23** 7 pm Beer Garden	**24** 1 pm VDG	**25** 1 pm Lunch Group 7 pm HOTDAM	**26** 1 pm VDG 1 pm East Dallas Lunch Bunch	**27** 1 pm VDG 2 pm Gifted Youth and Origami
28 1:30 pm Eclectic Book Club 2:30 pm Theodore Talk 	**29** 1 pm VDG 7 pm Munch Bunch	**30** 7 pm Beer Garden				

~June 2026~

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)

6:45 PM HOTDAM
Hang out Together with Denton Area Mensans
Location: **Sidewalk Cafe**, 2900 Wind River Lane, Denton, TX 76210
Meet us for games, revelry, and more. 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)

MONDAY / WEDNESDAY / FRIDAY / SATURDAY
1:00 PM M Virtual Discussion Group (VDG) SIG *(from mid MI Mensa)* Location: **Zoom Meeting**: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86726108623?pwd=cUgyelF2KoZLQzNWbVByZE9UMXpxdz09 Meeting ID: 867 2610 8623 Passcode: 1234 It turns out that some Mensans enjoy talking to others about a wide variety of subjects. Other Mensans simply enjoy hearing other points of view. The problem is getting enough of us together. We can do that through Zoom
Contact: **Ken Lawrence** MVirtualDiscussionGroup@gmail.com

June Events

04 – THURSDAY

7:30PM - Board Meeting (First Thursday of the month)
Location: **Zoom Meeting**: 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.
Contact: **Cathy Allshouse, President**: (president@northtexasmensa.org)

07 SUNDAY

12:30PM CST - NTM Gifted Youth Book Club (First Sunday of each month)
Location: **Zoom Meeting**
At the meeting, we'll be discussing ***Best. Night. Ever.*** *A Story Told From Seven Points of View* by Rachele Alpine, et al.
Meeting Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87284610508?pwd=WnZWQ2JhbmlEamJzcmc1TkRBcFZjZz09
Contact: **Bill Rock**: (972.415.5302, william.m.rock@gmail.com)

09 – TUESDAY

9:00PM – M-Aura Calendar Deadline (The 9th of each month)
Contact: **Editor, Bill Rock**: (william.m.rock@gmail.com or 972.415.5302)

10 WEDNESDAY

9:00PM – M-Aura All Copy Deadline (The 10th of each month)
Contact: **Editor, Bill Rock**: (william.m.rock@gmail.com or 972.415.5302)

13 SATURDAY

09:30—11:45 AM Mensa Admissions Testing
Location: **Dallas Public Library – Timberglen Branch Classroom** 18505 Midway Rd, Dallas, 7528
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)

4:30 PM CDT SFRM M-Wisely talk **Science at 17,500 MPH: Performing Payload Operations on the International Space Station**
Since 1998, more than 4,000 scientific investigations and experiments have been completed on the International Space Station. These investigations range from K-12 experiments to world-class research by a variety of institutions. Organizing and operating the variety of science on orbit requires coordination of timelines, managing requirements, scheduling, ground commanding, and ensuring the experiments are safely executed.
Register: https://space-talk.link/JUN

New location, this month only

7:00PM – 9:00PM – Singles Chat and Chew
(Second Saturday of each month)
Location: **Red Lobster**: 3501 Central Expressway, Plano, 75023 . This is a one-time change of location for June. Come join other singles for dinner and have great conversations.
Contact: **Laura Stuart**: (214.641.2520)

14 SUNDAY

2:00PM – 4:00PM Bright Ladies Gathering

(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)

17 WEDNESDAY

7:00 PM — MADEATS

Location: **Flaming Cheese: 9025 Forest Lane, Dallas 75234**

I confess, I have been wondering about this restaurant for decades. The Dallas Observer calls it "A Hidden Gem," so it seems like a good time to go. The saganaki, hummus, gyro sandwich, chicken kabob are all recommended. Let's check out this Greek restaurant and decide for ourselves. The restaurant is BYOB. As always, MADEATS peacefully requests, but does not demand, that you RSVP.

Contact: **Karen Brack**, kwbrack18@gmail.com, 214.477.1151.

19 FRIDAY

7:00 – NTM Scholarship Foundation Friday Texas Hold-em

Location: **Paul & Anne Whiteman's Home:** 4424 Ringgold Lane, Plano, TX 75093

The next Texas Hold 'Em will be at the home of Anne and Paul Whiteman, on Friday, June 19th. 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.

PLEASE RSVP: **Anne Whiteman** (214-868-4410 / anne.whiteman@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.

20 SATURDAY

2: PM – June General Meeting:
Games! Games! Games!

Location: **Discovery Village North Dallas**, 5455 La Sierra Drive, Dallas, or **Zoom Video**: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81692083286?pwd=UWFmMlVvRUpiazBZNldHcmxwSGpvZz09

Greetings, Dallas Mensans! Prepare to put your formidable frontal lobes to the ultimate test. Join JR. and Unplugged Commons on Saturday, June 20th for an all-ages tabletop event meticulously curated to engage every conceivable flavor of genius. Whether you prefer the mind-bending quantum mechanics of trick-taking, the rowdy deduction of cooperative play, or the ruthless, cutthroat strategy of artisanal French cheese-making, we have a board game designed to challenge you. Bring your analytical minds, your sharpest wit, and your most competitive spirit. We are going to prove once and for all that the smartest people in the room are the ones having the most fun.

Just a reminder: General Meetings are open to the public. Have a game loving neighbor? Know someone who is Mensa-Curious? Bring them along!

Have an idea for a future event?

Contact: **Karen Brack**, kwbrack18@gmail.com, 214.477.1151.

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 Rock's House "The Rock Pile"**:
701 Victorian Drive, Allen, 75002
I have some classic board games and some new ones, and I'm happy to try anything you care to bring over. Snacks and soft drinks will be available.
Contact: **Bill Rock**: 972.396.8160, william.m.rock@gmail.com

21 SUNDAY
4:30 PM CDT SFRM Speaker Series: **Paleontology—Far More Than Just New Fossil Discoveries**
Paleontology is one of the most popular yet most mis-understood fields of science. Paleontologists are assumed only to be interested in dinosaurs and are imagined as bearded white men in battered cowboy hats, with hammers and whisk brooms. Instead, paleontologists are a markedly diverse group of scientists who use cutting-edge methods. Headlines over exciting new fossils grossly underestimate the true importance of paleontology. Its real significance lies in how such discoveries illuminate the grand history of life on Earth
Register: https://livepresentation.link/JUN

27 SATURDAY
2 PM — 4 PM Gifted Youth Origami Workshop
Location: **Prishaa Jain's Home**:
13251 Whirlaway Dr, Frisco TX 75035
In this origami event, we turn ordinary sheets of paper into cool geometric shapes. Together, we'll make impressive 3D designs and have fun! All skill levels welcome.
Contact: **Bill Rock**: 972.396.8160, william.m.rock@gmail.com

28 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
This month EBC is reading *The Humans* by Matt Haig. 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**: (972.415.5302 or william.m.rock@gmail.com)

2:30 PM Theodore Talk: "The NASA Psyche Mission: First Journey to a Metal World". This virtual event will take place on Zoom.

How are habitable planets like the Earth built? How do we learn what they were built from, and when? We can learn about the rocky exteriors, but one fundamental mystery remains: The metal core.

When our solar system was just an infant, thousands of planetesimals (tiny planet-like objects) formed in fewer than one million years. Many melted, allowing metal cores to form inside rocky mantles. One of these metal cores may still exist, revealed in the asteroid (16) Psyche. The NASA Psyche mission is sending a robotic (uncrewed) spacecraft on a long journey through space to visit this asteroid, which orbits the Sun between Mars and Jupiter. We are sending the probe there because this asteroid seems to be made largely of metal, and to have a partially metal surface. This will be the first metallic object humans have ever visited! It's primary, fundamental exploration, visiting a new class of solar system object.

Lindy Elkins-Tanton, Foundation and Regents Professor in the School of Earth and Space Exploration at Arizona State University and Principal Investigator of the NASA Psyche mission, will discuss what is known and what is hypothesized about the asteroid, how we have planned a mission and built a spacecraft to study this unknown object, and how we progressed with the mission through COVID, with its intense challenges to teams. Now, two years after launch, the spacecraft is soon to receive a gravity assist from Mars, and slingshot out further in the solar system to intersect with and go into orbit around the asteroid in 2029.
Register for this presentation at https://tinyurl.com/3d6vtabt
Even if you can't attend the live Theodore Talk, as long as you register in advance you will receive a link to the Zoom recording.

NORTH TEXAS MENSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Proceedings for April 2, 2026

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:39PM by President Cathy Allshouse. Also present virtually were Vice-President Esther Bellah, Secretary Eric "Gunny" Hartman, and Board Member at Large Chuck Weis. Absent were Treasurer Paul Whiteman and BMALs Aaron Adair & Philip Tocci.

1. Reports: The following reports were given.

President – Cathy Allshouse … The next Board meeting will be May 7 at 7:30PM via Zoom. The New Members Party (NMP) was a rousing success. Thanks for Chuck & Elizabeth hosting so well and thanks to Esther for the entertainment. 30 members there, including 3 new members. Get receipts to Paul, if you need reimbursement. Cathy suggested an October NMP for the October general meeting, the 3rd Saturday (October 17) evening with a Halloween theme. Not in a home, this time, but a venue, as we have the budget for it. Esther will take the lead on that. Upcoming events: April 18, General Meeting: speaker regarding non-violent resistance, April 16, no cost docent led tour of the Meadows Museum. May 9, General Meeting: Donkey rescue. Karen Brack is pursuing having a trivia game come for interactive entertainment for a summer general meeting. A debate room has been suggested for a future general meeting. Ideas to Explore: Adult nights at the Perot Museum, an escape room, or other ways to get more of our members involved in our activities, particularly the monthly general meetings. Moving the meeting from Sunday night to Saturday afternoon (for 2 months so far) has not yet made an impact on this.

Secretary – Gunny Hartman … No minutes from the March meeting, as it didn't happen.

Treasurer – Paul Whiteman … No treasurer's report.

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

Gifted Youth – Bill Rock … "Two families visited the Balloon Museum in March. A good time was had by all, even if the butterfly only had four legs."

Editor – Bill Rock … "Nothing significant to report. Noted in the Bulletin that several groups are doing on-line events open to all (SFRM, Irish Mensa, etc.). Some are in the M-Aura."

Membership – Ken Roberts … Ken distributed via email a full NTM roster, a roster of lapsed members, a demographic breakdown by age & gender, and our usual monthly report. As of April 1st, we had 910 members, putting us 7th within American Mensa for total memberships.

Testing Coordinator – Rebecca Raymond … "All going well! We had 2 very enthusiastic testers in March and our April test is next weekend."

Webmaster – Jonathan Bethune … Jonathan added the newsletters to website, which contain the minutes as well.

2. Actions: No actions were taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29PM.

NTM Board Members for 2026: *Blue italics = new*

President Cathy Allshouse	president@northtexasmensa.org 713.398.7963	10702 Stone Canyon Dr., #128, Dallas, TX 75230
Vice President Esther Bellah	esthermbellah@gmail.com	
Treasurer Paul Whiteman	paulw@ieee.org 469.569.3129	4424 Ringgold Ln Plano 75093
Secretary Gunny Hartman	214.477.5047 Gunny@Gunny93.com	139 Westminster Ave Murphy, 75094

2026 NTM Board Members At Large:

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Philip Tocci	pdntpdnt@gmail.com 978.882.1803
Chuck Weis	charlesdweis@gmail.com 469.271.4928

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Note: All ads will be in color for eSubscribe

Region 6 RVC: Laura Smith, rvc6@us.mensa.org
Region 6 Ombudsperson: Randy Brack, mrbrack46@gmail.com, 972.495.2659

~NTM Appointed Positions ~

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Gifted Youth Coordinator
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william.m.rock@gmail.com

Proctor/Testing Coordinator
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NTM Ombudsman
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Nominating Committee: Open
Election Committee: Open

TheGoodT...
Evil wins: 23 C...
Darcey Wil...
Daeryanhan
Morgan
she/they
Then
Peter
MAGIC
Holden, Wil...
klover
Defense: twig
Vivian,Aila...
wrrock
she/her
MyahFH
she/her
DaATH
twig
they/them
Day 4 (max 2:32
Evil wins: 23
0 / 1 travellers
BOTC Online v3.34.2
end of day
19s
VOICE
TEXT
NPCS