

IMprint

PREPARING FOR THE PICNIC ON THE 10TH



IMprint – August 2025

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MENSA is an international society of people who have scored higher than 98% of the general population on a standardized IQ test. Mensa is a non-profit organization with no political or religious affiliation of any kind. For more, write to American Mensa at the above address.

TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS OR OTHER PERSONAL DETAILS, write to: Membership, AML at the above address, or email:
MembershipDirector@americanmensa.org

Send items for IMprint as follows:

- Articles, Ads, and Calendar Notices to the Editor
- Ad Payments to the Treasurer. Make Checks payable to “Northern New Jersey Mensa”. AD rates are: \$80.00 full page; \$40.00 half page; \$20.00 quarter page; \$10.00 business card. For multiple month discounts, please contact the Editor.
- Suitable personal ads will be printed free, on a space available basis.

All submissions, including ads, are printed at the Editor’s discretion. All submissions must be signed with your actual name; NO pseudonyms will be accepted. IMprint articles need to be submitted by the **20th** of the preceding month to editor@nnjmensa.org Email is the PREFERRED method of submission to IMprint (in the email or as an attachment). Acceptable document formats include Microsoft Word (.doc and .docx) and Excel, PDF, or graphics formats (BMP, JPEG & JPG, TIFF, and GIF). Attempts will be made to open any other formats. US mail submissions may be delayed until there is time to type them.

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NNJM Executive Committee (ExComm)

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Swathi Jayanth, swathi.nakshatra@gmail.com

Member/Imprint Statistics

August 2025 Membership:
NNJM: 539 (+6 from last month)
Print: 260 (+1 from last month)
Electronic: 279 (+4 from last month)

Editorial

By Greg Hoffman, NNJ Mensa President



As we roll into the final month of summer, I'm thrilled to share updates on some of our most exciting chapter activities—starting with

the Annual Picnic, one of our biggest in-person gatherings of the year.

Annual Picnic – Sunday, August 10th!

Please mark your calendars: our picnic will now be held Sunday, August 10th at 12pm (note the change from Saturday). We'll be gathering at our usual spot, Lewis Morris Park in Morristown. As always, we're counting on our members to make the day a success. Volunteers are needed for food shopping, grilling, setting up the welcome table, taking photos, and helping with games or kids' activities. As always, the chapter will be providing the main dishes and soft beverages and we'll be organizing appetizers/side dishes/desserts potluck-style: members with last names A–L are encouraged to bring appetizers or sides, while M–Z can bring desserts. As an added bonus, we'll be holding our August ExComm meeting at the picnic—an excellent opportunity for members to observe how our chapter is run and offer input in an informal setting.

Website Updates

Behind the scenes, Laurie Thomas and Rohan Raghu have been diligently working on an updated NNJM website. Once our

site is fully transferred to a business platform, you'll notice new features like a dynamic, real-time calendar and a members-only section with chapter-specific content. These upgrades aim to improve communication, make it easier to volunteer, and help members stay engaged with upcoming events. We'll be seeking feedback on the site in the coming months.

IGNYTE! 2025 Planning Has Begun

We're also excited to announce that planning for our annual Young Mensan gathering, IGNYTE!, is underway. This year's event is slated for November, with our Gifted Youth Coordinator, Art Thomas, taking the lead as Chair. Key planning steps—like securing a venue and presenters—are already in motion. If you're interested in supporting this enriching and high-energy event, please reach out to Art at your earliest convenience. Volunteers are especially needed to help with logistics, outreach, and event-day coordination.

Finally, thank you for your ongoing support, energy, and enthusiasm. Northern New Jersey Mensa is nothing without its members, and I'm grateful to serve a community so vibrant and engaged.

Warm regards,
Greg Hoffman
Local Secretary, NNJM



Birthday Wishes:

Franck Mounier	Augst 1st
Shearwood McClelland	1
Brandon Zuck	2
John Findura	2
Jill Carbone	2
Nilesh Shah	4
Pat DeEsposito	5
Rob Sinke	7
Anthony Marone	8
Jonathan Bauer	11
Lawrence Ritzer	13
David Tsai	13
Anthony Calantropio	14
Jonathan Kanterman	15
Louis Picone	18
Gregory Casagrande	20
John Lorenz	21
Thomas Silk	23
Lucille Uhlman	26
Kenneth Schwartz	26
Alexander Bregstein	26
Kristin Mooney	27
Ronald Palladino	29
Edward Prevost	31
Mark Kaganovsky	31
Christina Connell	31

If you would like to be listed, please make sure that your birthday is on file with AML – and that you mark “can be released to local officers”. You can give a birthday without sharing the year! To change your settings, visit <http://tiny.cc/NNJMbdy>.

Anniversary Announcements

This is a listing of the years of continuous Mensa membership.

Ann Kaufman	58
Lori Kaden	46
Robert Schwarz	44
George Tirri	35
Victor Stewart	32
Pawan Misra	32
Allison Liebowitz	30
Ronald Autodore	25
Anthony Calantropio	24
Chris Siffel	22
John Gladwin	20
Bernadette McKinney	20
Uttkarshni Tripathii	19
Grier Raclin	18
Ranjan Chari	18
Robert Purcell	17
Phillip Kirshenbaum	16
Marc Crowley	13
M Dagan	12
Mary Castillo	11
Robert Gore	11
Keith Thompson	8
Jose Soto	7
Eric Johnston	6
Robert Sinclair	5
Neel Gudapati	4
Susan Sudovar	4
Robert Leiser	4
Nancy Brown	4
Tammy Park-De Boer	4
Laurie Thomas	3
Daniel Di Sanzo	3
Kian Shah	2
Jonathan Green	2
Kai Kim	2
Emma Trzcianowski	1
Jacob Mains	1
Yanli Zhang	1

Jewel Award 2025 - 2026

This is an internal Mensa Award that annually rewards the well functioning chapters. There are 30 different parameters that are assessed each month that can bring points to the chapter. After 12 months, we can get an award if we reach at least 160 points. (Our group is Class II, with membership comprised between 400 and 1,100 members)



160 Points



175 Points



190 Points



Highest of the Class



This is our fifth participation in the Mensa Group Jewel Award.

We have already earned 3 DIAMOND AWARDS (maybe a 4th?)

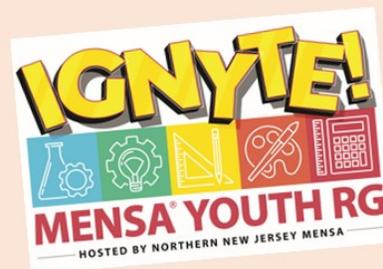
As stated in our Strategic plan, let's aim at maintaining our Diamond Status

Our point count for the month of July is: **72 pts.**

How can I contribute to bring points to the Chapter?



Write an article in IMprint, support activities, join our ExComm, become a proctor... There are many ways. Check on the next page to see the 30 parameters that are taken into account.



Reach any member of our ExComm or Greg at: LOCSEC@NNJMENSA.ORG

2025-2026 Jewel Award: Points detail at the end of July



Northern New Jersey - Class II	Points	2025										2026			Total	
		Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual		
		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar			
Administration	Total	27	20	14	11	0	72									
Reporting officer changes to the National Office	5		5													
Timely submission of Annual Financial Report (due April 30)	5	5														
Local Group website on file with the National Office.	3	3														
Leadership Development Workshops																
Member attendance at individual LDW sessions at a Regional Gathering or the Annual Gathering (per member attended) - max 10pts	1															
Member attendance at standalone LDW (no matter how many sessions) - per member attended - max 50pts	5															
Bonus: Three members from same group attending event (AG, RG, or standalone) - only 1 time	5															
Events																
Governance meeting with effective notice to members - (ExComm, Board, Steering Committee) - per month	1	1	1	1	1											
Hosting a Regional Gathering (1 time)	8															
Hosting a standalone Leadership Development Workshop (1 time)	8															
Hosting Leadership Development Workshop sessions within another event (1 time)	2															
Membership																
Percentage of early renewals by Feb. 1, 2023 (per bucket of 60pp)	1															
Percentage of members renewed by March 31 (per bucket of 60pp)	1															
Membership growth percentage (per bucket of 60pp)	1															
Proctored test sessions	3	3	3	3	3											
Bonus points for each proctor who test twice or more during the year	2				2											
Bonus points for each unique location used for testing	5	5	5	5												
Participation in the Lapsed Member Contact program	5															
Newsletters																
Activities calendar/listing (per month)	1	1	1	1	1											
ExComm minutes (per month)	1	1	1	1	1											
LocSec column (per month)	1	1	1	1	1											
Member submissions (per month)	1	1	1	1	1											
Officer Listing (per month)	1	1	1	1	1											
RVC column (per month)	1															
Treasurer's report (per quarter)	1		1													
Assorted																
CultureQuest (per Team) - max 10pts	1															
Foundational Scholarship Program participation	5															
Mensa Testing Day participation	5															
Mensa Cares! participation	5	5														
AMC member (elected or appointed)	2															
Local Group member serving on a national committee (per person)	1															

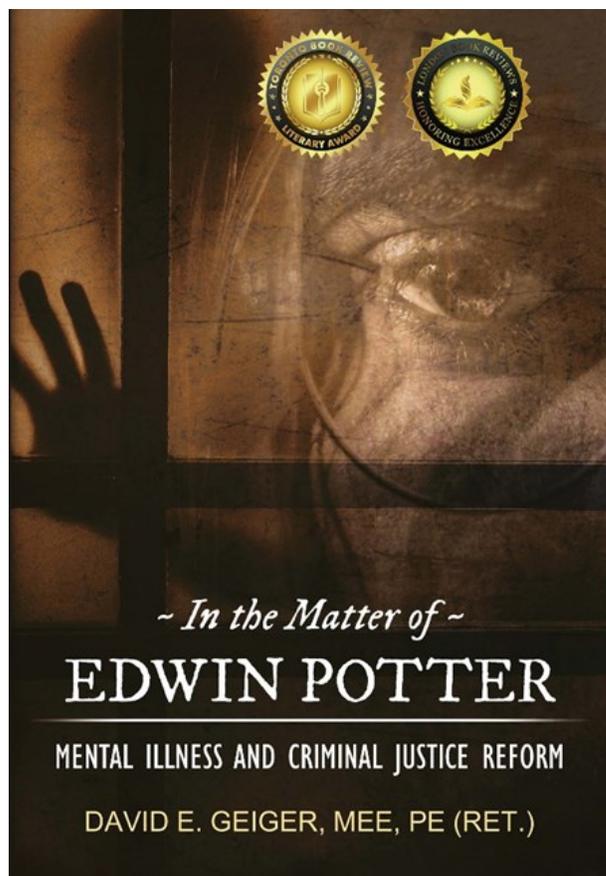
NNJM 2025 Q1 Income

Melissa Starr (Treasurer)

	Total
Income	
AMC Support	1,670
Interest	58
Imprint Advertising	120
IGNYTE	0
Blast Net	0
Total Income	1,848
Expenses	
Imprint	623
Web Hosting	0
Scholarship	0
Zoom	0
Bank Charge	0
Program Expenses:	0
Escape Room	350
Mensa Cares t Shirt	0
Leadership Development	0
Lunch	0
Picnic Morris Park Fee	0
Total Expense	973
Net Gain/(loss)	875

Ad

In The Matter Of Edwin Potter



“The thrill of discovering the truth spikes my anticipation. There's more to this book that no words would be enough to explain how great it is.”

-Roger Ortiz, 4/5 stars on Goodreads
Read more at www.davidegeiger.com

Winner:
London Book Reviews Honoring Excellence
Toronto Book Review Literary Award

Available at Barnes & Noble and Amazon

Buy the book!

Why 300 members have asked for the recall of the chair

and, let's rebuild Mensa the right way



In March, hundreds of Mensans have written to the National Election Committee to ask for a recall of Lori Norris, the chair of American Mensa. This groundswell of outrage is unprecedented, and the members' message is clear: ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

By Franck Mounier
 fkmounier@gmail.com

Hundreds of members do not ask for the removal of the chair lightly; the majority of the AMC doesn't censure the chair lightly. While contemplating all the reasoning that supported these unprecedented actions, we can wonder why the recall didn't come earlier. In this article, you will find details that illustrate why many members are eager to see the situation resolved once and for all. They want to help shape a better future for Mensa, and they are asking to:

VOTE THE CHAIR OUT!



AND REBUILD MENSA THE RIGHT WAY

The current chair is perceived as being a long-standing obstacle to the progress of our organization and to the improvement of member benefits. The members are claiming rightly that the benefits and services rendered by Mensa are decreasing.

Should the chair be voted out, she would be replaced immediately by the first vice chair, avoiding any disruption in our business. This will help in addressing all of what needs to be fixed.

So, let's look at some key facts:

SUMMARY: VOTE THE CHAIR OUT

- Our organization is failing big time in all metrics; such a situation requires a chair and an AMC laser-focused on improvement. Unfortunately, the chair in her current and past tenures (she was the first vice chair in her prior role) **has not shown any competencies** that could help fix it.
- On the contrary, **her lack of leadership** has driven the AMC to be very dysfunctional, and countless national officers resigned under her watch, keeping the trend spiraling down. **She was censured** in December for that exact reason.
- She has done nothing to prevent the unlawful removal of 10 AMC officers, leaving the remaining AMC **acting against the bylaws**.
- The chair's **very limited competency** hides under a **profound lack of transparency**; she appears to take great pleasure in her position: her surprising way to report her national and international Mensa trips illustrates only how much she likes traveling but not what she has learned or done during these Mensa-funded trips.
- She seems to **protect an obscure and suspect balance sheet**.
- Lori Norris is a long-standing member, well known for attending many gatherings and playing games all along, which is nice, but **absolutely nothing in her personal or professional credentials has prepared her to successfully lead an organization like ours**.

AND REBUILD MENSA THE RIGHT WAY

Mensans want and deserve good governance.

This means that **the current chair must be removed**, at which point she will be seamlessly **replaced by the first vice chair**. It is expected that the unlawfully removed AMC officers will be reinstated so the new chair and the restored AMC can then **lead American Mensa out of its current crisis and put it on track for success**:

- Provide such an appealing value proposition for membership that American Mensa can attract new members, retain existing members, and encourage lapsed members to renew.
- Enable members to engage in meaningful public service through Mensa, to serve the public, and to enhance our reputation, which will create opportunities for revenue sources other than member dues.

VOTING THE CHAIR OUT WILL BE A FIRST GOOD STEP TO RESTORE FAIRNESS AND SUCCESS IN AMERICAN MENSA

KEY FACTS

THE CHAIR LACKS LEADERSHIP AND THE NECESSARY COMPETENCIES

- Her columns and reports never express any clear vision for the future of American Mensa or describe any important achievements. Nor could she describe any achievements to members at the last Annual Gathering.
- American Mensa has lost 10,000 members in the past decade, consistently witnessing about a 2% drop each year. Unfortunately, the only solution that the current chair offered to this problem was to increase membership dues by 30%, which was explained only by "inflation." Nobody has ever heard Norris talk about the membership decline and the need to fix it.
- There have been many resignations and dismissals of national officers on her watch, creating a detrimental working climate. Many AMC officers have highlighted the dysfunctional nature of the AMC under the chair's tenure, expressing disappointment that internal politics were not serving the members' interests. The chair has consistently failed to address the issue of improving benefits for the membership.
- The chair was clearly supportive of the illegal expulsion of the 8 RVCs, which is further damaging our already weakened organization. The AMC has been holding meetings without the legally required quorum, and a legal action is preventing any elections to replace the illegally ousted RVCs. Her reckless behavior is a liability for our organization.
- She travels extensively nationally and internationally at Mensa's expense. Yet she never explains how these travels have benefited our organization (learning, new ideas, or insights). Instead, she just reports how much fun she had, which has frustrated many members, particularly in light of the recent dues increase.

- American Mensa has an obscure and suspect balance sheet. Nobody in the organization seems to be able to explain it: the many questions raised by members and officers are simply unanswered. A thorough look at the available documents cannot allow anyone to gain any clarity. This doesn't bother the chair. Why?
- Excessive secrecy has been used to hide the leadership's incompetence, complacency, bad or unlawful decisions, wasteful spending, and the organization's poor financial status. No transparency helps a great deal to remove any level of accountability. The secrecy also serves to maintain the same individuals in positions of power: very few members are willing to volunteer for an organization that operates with such a high level of confidentiality.

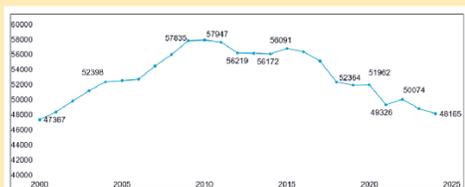
RESTORE MENSA FAIRNESS



With a new chair and the reinstatement of the 10 expelled members, the AMC will create a simple, collaborative plan to help American Mensa grow and thrive:

- Attract new members, particularly YMs and Young Adult Mensans.
- Create new and exciting programs that would make membership feel worthwhile to potential and existing members, while encouraging lapsed members to come back.
- Enable members to engage in meaningful public service through Mensa, both to serve the public and to enhance Mensa's reputation.
- Leverage Mensa's branding to create opportunities for revenue sources other than member dues.

**IT IS TIME TO ACT:
YOU HAVE THE POWER
TO IMPROVE MENSA**



Yearly membership - losing 10,000 members in recent years. Shown at AMC meeting 12/7/24

- The membership figures are even worse than they seem. The average age of members (55) is increasing, which means that we are failing to attract the young members who will be the future of the organization.
 - At the last special meeting of the AMC in December, the chair was censured for incompetence.
 - The chair has repeatedly used false citations of law and rules to squelch dissent. She is a liability for our organization.
- LACK OF TRANSPARENCY = LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY**
- People who have had experience in other nonprofit organizations are astonished by the extraordinary levels of confidentiality within the governance of American Mensa.
 - All organizations must keep some things confidential. However, why does the chair insist on operating behind this impenetrable cloud of secrecy?



Discussion Group for Ms

An M-level discussion about a variety of topics every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 2 – 4 p.m. Eastern time.

Zoom Link: [Click here](#)
Meeting ID: 867 2610 8623
Passcode: 1234

Have questions or want more information?
Email MVirtualDiscussionGroup@gmail.com



JOIN US IN A VIRTUAL SIG DISCUSSION GROUP - OPEN TO ALL MENSANS

We used to meet only on Saturdays. Now we meet Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 2PM ET

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. We talk about whatever anybody wants to talk about. We can talk about Mensa, current events, or what is going on in our lives.

Host Ken Lawrence can be reached at MVirtualDiscussionGroup@gmail.com for more information.

If four days a week are not enough, **The Tucson Group** offers a discussion group on Tuesdays at "4 PM EDT or 3 PM EST (1:00 Arizona time). If you think that you might like to check it out, the Zoom portal can be accessed by

<https://jams-big-bucket.s3.amazonaws.com/JimPulsChat.html>

Questions can be directed to Jam Kay at (520)208-4698 or Jam@Jimkay.us



August Theodore Talk

Brad Lucht



The title of the August Theodore Talk is, "**Spotting the Signs & Preventing Child Sex Trafficking**". This virtual event will take place on Zoom August 24 at 2:30 p.m. Central Time (3:30 Eastern, 12:30 p.m. Pacific).

Child sex trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a minor for the purpose of a commercial sex act. Traffickers target vulnerable children and gain control over them using a variety of manipulative methods. Victims frequently fall prey to traffickers who lure them in with an offer of food, clothes, attention, friendship, love, and a seemingly safe place to sleep. No child is immune to becoming a victim of child sex trafficking, regardless of the child's race, age, socioeconomic status, or location, and every child involved in this form of commercial sexual exploitation is a victim.

This Theodore Talk will focus on how children are lured into the dark world of sex trafficking and exploitation. Attendees will identify the dangers of technology, including strategies used by child predators, discover how to identify a child in trouble and learn some best practices on how to be a child's trusted adult or a trusted child advocate.

Susan Burkholder is the Lead Prevention Education Trainer at [Ransomed Life](#), a non-profit fighting Child Sex Trafficking and Exploitation in San Antonio, Texas and surrounding areas. Since 2015, Ransomed Life has trained and brought awareness to more than 90,000 community members, school staff, counselors, medical professionals, parents, and youth. Their goal is to see communities FREE from child exploitation through Prevention Education and providing Client Services for survivors, at-risk youth and their families.

Ransomed Life offers hope to survivors and their families. You will find out how to do the same.

Register for this presentation at <https://tinyurl.com/y5abfb9a>.

A list of future Theodore Talks can be found on the [Mensa National Events Calendar](#), by visiting the [American Mensa home page](#), or by viewing the [January issue of the Mensa Bulletin](#). The article on the 2025 Theodore Talks begins on p. 26.

Questions? Contact Brad Lucht
at MensaTheodoreTalks@gmail.com

Brad Lucht
Life Member
American Mensa





MENSA ARMCHAIR CONVERSATION GROUP

Season 3

- 1) "Alone — Solitude or Isolation?" on Wednesday, April 16th, 2025.
- 2) "American Culture: Melting Pot, Salad Bowl, or Something Else?" on Thursday, May 15th, 2025.
- 3) "Entertainment, Media, and Popular Culture" on Tuesday, June 17th, 2025
- 4) "Being White in the Racial Justice Movement" on Wednesday, July 16th, 2025.
- ➔ 5) "Abortion" on Thursday, August 14th, 2025.
- 6) "Humor" on Tuesday, September 16th, 2025.

A comfortable and safe place to have an enjoyable conversation with other Mensans about a specific topic. Guidelines and a host will ensure equal participation and respectful dialogue. **Online VIA Zoom**

Our next discussion will be on:
Thursdasy, August 14th, 2025, 7 PM EST

Our topic will be:
“Abortion”

We hope you will join us as we connect and learn from each other.

<https://forms.gle/WMYo8bBUW11ZbdPb6> to register and receive zoom link.

Your Host: Laurie Thomas

Please note that to allow a good flow of conversation, we need to limit the number of participants to **10**.

Conversation Agreements: How We'll Engage:

- **Be curious and listen to understand.** Conversation is as much about listening as it is about talking. You might enjoy exploring how others' experiences have shaped their values and perspectives.
- **Show respect and suspend judgment.** People tend to judge one another. Setting judgment aside opens you up to learning from others and makes them feel respected and appreciated. Try to truly listen, without interruption or crosstalk.
- **Note any common ground as well as any differences.** Look for areas of agreement or shared values that may arise and take an interest in the differing beliefs and opinions of others.
- **Be authentic and welcome that from others.** Share what's important to you. Speak from your experience. Be considerate of others who are doing the same.
- **Be purposeful and to the point.** Do your best to keep your comments concise and relevant to the question you are answering. Be conscious of sharing airtime with other participants.

DO YOU WANT TO ORGANIZE A SMALL EVENT TO SUPPORT THE CONNECTIONS IN OUR CHAPTER?



GREAT!



1. Send your proposal with a brief description to editor@nnjmensa.org (or to the appropriate ExComm designee)
2. Your proposal will be sent to the ExComm members to vet each event, and the event requester will be notified of the outcome
3. When appropriate, the ExComm members will provide support for the event, and when feasible, an ExComm member will participate in the event, which could help the organizing member by offering some support

We thank you in advance for coming forward with your proposal!

August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4 7pm French Conversation Group	5	6	7	8	9 10:30am – 11:30am NNJM ExComm Meeting
10 12pm NNJM Annual Picnic	11 7pm French Conversation Group	12	13	14	15	16 10am – 12pm Mensa Testing Session
17	18 7pm French Conversation Group	19	20	21	22	23
24 3:30pm Mensa Monthly Theodore Talk	25 7pm French Conversation Group	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6



(Northern NJ Mensa % AML)

1315 Brookside Drive

Hurst, TX 76053

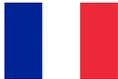
NNJM Upcoming Events

Check out the Mensa Website and read **the digital Imprint editions!**
If you switch to electronic delivery of IMprint, you will receive all 12 issues via email!
Please note that printed issues are produced quarterly.

August 4th/11th/18th/25th – French Conversation Group—7pm

Are you interested in French Language and Francophone Culture? **All levels of French welcome.**

Interested Mensans, please contact:
kathysteinsmith@gmail.com



August 24th – Theodore Talk “Child Sex Trafficking”—3:30pm

The title of the August Theodore Talk is, "Spotting the Signs & Preventing Child Sex Trafficking". This virtual event will take place on Zoom August 24 at 2:30 p.m. Central Time (3:30 Eastern, 12:30 p.m. Pacific).

August 9th – ExComm Meeting (virtual)—10:30am – 11:30am

Join to listen or participate, and discover the inside of the management of our Chapter. We welcome our NNJM members to this meeting that is open to all.

Register with Greg at: locsec@nnjmensa.org



Child sex trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a minor for the purpose of a commercial sex act. Traffickers target vulnerable children and gain control over them using a variety of manipulative methods. No child is immune to becoming a victim of child sex trafficking, regardless of the child’s race, age, socioeconomic status, or location, and every child involved in this form of commercial sexual exploitation is a victim.

August 16th – MENSA Testing Session—10am – 12pm

Do you know anyone who would like to join Mensa? Our next NNJM test session will take place in Whippany, NJ.

Register with: richard@richard-schaefer.com



This Theodore Talk will focus on how children are lured into the dark world of sex trafficking and exploitation. Attendees will identify the dangers of technology, including strategies used by child predators, discover how to identify a child in trouble and learn some best practices on how to be a child's trusted adult or a trusted child advocate.

STAY UPDATED ON NNJM EVENTS!

[Click here to join our Young Mensan FB Page!](#)

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Register for this presentation at <https://tinyurl.com/y5abfb9a>.

August 10th – NNJM Annual Picnic!—12pm

At the Lewis Morris Country Park, same location as last year: Sugarloaf shelter D. Save the date!

