



IMprint

Our Great Volunteers!

Keith Thompson

Hello fellow Mensans! At present we are without a President for our chapter as our President had to step aside for personal reasons. We are grateful for everything he has done, and we wish him all the best and will support him in every way that we can. As for the NNJ chapter, we continue to operate under the leadership of our Executive Committee (Excomm) currently being led by me (Keith Thompson) and Laurie Endicott Thomas.

Our Marvelous Volunteers!

American Mensa's fiscal year ended on March 31. We are waiting to hear if we won our fifth consecutive Diamond Award. The Diamond is given to the best-performing chapter within each size class in American Mensa. We have won four consecutive Diamonds because of the tireless support and relentless commitment of our volunteers. Here are just a few:

- Richard Schaefer, who was named Testing Coordinator of the Year last year.
- Laurie Endicott Thomas, who is not only managing our website and publishing our newsletter, but she is leading our Literacy

Campaign. She also hosts a weekly Zoom chat (Wednesdays at noon) for members and co-hosts the Great Books and World Classics discussion group.

- Young Mensan Rohan Raghu, who was our webmaster and newsletter publisher for several years. Aside from preparing for college, he has launched [Numeraldo](#) a foundation to promote numeracy (math literacy).
- Kathy Stein-Smith, who runs our French Conversation Group.
- Art Thomas, our Gifted Youth Coordinator, who will be leading our IGNYTE! gathering for Young Mensans again this year
- Melissa Starr, our devoted Treasurer.
- And numerous others whose efforts have contributed to such a successful organization.

Nevertheless, we need more volunteers to help. Our chapter has about 600 members, and we need more than a few volunteers to help make our activities both relevant and successful. Below is a list of upcoming events that you can consider helping with. You can commit to as much or as little time as your schedule allows, we appreciate every effort from our volunteers. Thank you all!

Continued on p 3.

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About IMprint

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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 information, write to American Mensa at the above address.

To renew your membership or to 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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Vacant

Vice President

Vacant

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Vacant

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Gifted Youth Coordinator

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Vacant

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Vacant

Facebook Administrators, YM and Parents Group:

Jessica Ochs, ochs.jessica@gmail.com

Swathi Jayanth, swathi.nakshatra@gmail.com

Our Great Volunteers!

Continued from front page

Annual Picnic

Our Annual Picnic will be held on Saturday, August 8th. It is an occasion to celebrate with our volunteers so we kindly ask you to make some time to attend. More details will be provided later but please save the date for now.

Our Regional Gatherings

Our fourth annual IGNYTE! gathering for Young Mensans will be held in November. This will be led by our Gifted Youth Coordinator Art Thomas and is American Mensa's first RG specifically for Young Mensans. Attendees come from all over the country as IGNYTE! provides smart kids the opportunity to meet each other to socialize. It also gives parents an opportunity to network and share knowledge and new insights about parenting a gifted child. Please reach out to Art if you're interested in supporting IGNYTE! especially if you have a gifted child. Who knows, they may have something interesting to share with their peers.

Our fifth annual BLAST! Regional Gathering will be held in late January. Each year we try to rotate our BLAST! RG Chair and this past year it was led by Keith Thompson. We are therefore looking for someone to volunteer to chair the upcoming event in 2027. Many Mensans from across the country look forward to attending as it has now become an established RG on Mensa's calendar. Please contact us if you're interested in helping with BLAST! or if you have an interesting topic that you'd like to present. We're also looking for a Chair so if you are skilled at organizing please consider volunteering.

Our Website and Calendar

Our Northern New Jersey Mensa website had a major overhaul, and it now includes an interactive Events Calendar: njmensa.org/events. This makes it easy for us to schedule and promote events, even after the newsletter goes out. So if you would like to set up an impromptu event, contact us. We can add it to the calendar and send out an email blast.

New Zoom Chat!

We have recently set up a Zoom chat for every Wednesday at noon. There is no set agenda. Just

log in and we can talk about whatever is on your mind. You can log in [here](#) (Meeting ID: 895 7300 3912; Passcode: 436580).

French Conversation Group

Our [French Conversation Group](#) is hosted by Kathy Stein-Smith, PhD, who has been knighted by the French government for her service to French language teaching. The group welcomes everyone: from beginners and native speakers.

Our Literacy Drive

Mensa's primary mission is to identify and foster human intelligence for the benefit of humanity. Northern New Jersey Mensa is providing leadership in that regard. Laurie Endicott Thomas has been leading this effort. See our Literacy Resources page (njmensa.org/reading) for a clear, step-by-step approach to teaching reading and improving reading comprehension. You can even download free resources, including phonics and spelling textbooks.

Once people have learned to read, we need to give them something great to read. For this reason, we and Mensa in Georgia have started a [Great Books and World Classics Discussion Group](#) that meets by Zoom on Saturdays at 4 PM.

Our 2026 Elections

This is an election year for NNJ Mensa. If you want to help support the process, please volunteer to serve on the Elections Committee or run for chapter office. All offices are up for election this year. More details will be provided later.



2026 Elections

Our chapter's bylaws require us to hold elections in even-numbered years. If you would like to serve on the Elections Committee or run for office, please [contact us](#) via the website or contact any officer listed on the masthead of this newsletter. You can also use [this form](#) to nominate a slate of candidates!

We also need people to volunteer for appointed offices or just to help out with various tasks, such as working on the website or newsletter. This is a good opportunity to learn new skills, such as web design and event promotion!

Birthday Wishes

Here are some members with birthdays this month

Victor Guala, Abhimanyu Gupta	May 4
Susan Sudovar	May 5
Harvey Nisselson	May 7
Kenneth Merin, Michael Mitsch, Joseph Treloar	May 9
Joseph Krawiec	May 16
Michael Norworth	May 17
Ranjan Chari	May 18
Stanley Barron, Brigidette Crowe, Steven Piluso	May 19
Jonathan Green	May 20
Catherine Cantieri, M George, Ivan Goldberg	May 21
John Cooke, Liz Sherwin	May 23
David Hoffer	May 25
Philip Garguilo	May 29

If You Would Like to Be Listed

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/NNJMbdag>.

To Congratulate Members

You can find the personal contact information for most members of American Mensa in the [Member Directory](#), which can be found under Connect on the American Mensa website: www.us.mensa.org.

In Memoriam

Mensan we have lost in recent years:

- [Victor A. Guala](#)
- [Shearwood Junior McClelland, MD](#)
- [Wayne L. Miller](#)
- [William Paller](#)
- [Richard C. Powell](#)
- [Carol Schwartz](#)
- [Elizabeth Sherwin](#)
- [David Slivka](#)
- [Victor Edwin Stewart](#)
- [April Willment](#)
- [Maria Storm Wrynn](#)
- [Herbert L. Zuckerman](#)

Membership Anniversaries

Years of Mensa Membership

Here are some members Mensa whose membership anniversary is in this month:

Hannah Cho, Lateif Dickerson, Chiara Jeong, Jace Muniz	1
Nathan Hopkins	3
Magnuson Bishop, Blake Regan, William Wallis	4
Kimberlee Doktor, Olivia Kaplan, Arash Oboodi, Nicholas Stern	5
Julien Planchot	7
Paolo Somaglia	8
Jordan Vogel	9
Diane Jarotski	11
Sydney Shah	12
Andrew Francis	14
Tracey Cohen, Allison Meyer, Mark Shemtob	15
Elise Nam, Stuart Neilson, Christopher Welles	16
Ralph Benedict, Emilio Goldstein, Liz Sherwin	18
Jeehae Kang	19
Sarah Margolin, Eeshan Tripathii	20
Robert Schramm	21
James Coble, Yue Wang	22
Leslie Larkin	24
Lawrence Edson, Rev. Donald Hummel	27
Ivan Goldberg	40
Joseph Krawiec	41
Victor Guala	43
Brian Lubliner	44
Laurie Toth	46
Dr. Caroline Mossip	52

Contact Lapsed Members

Mensa’s fiscal year ended on March 31. Thus, the memberships of many people who had paid their dues annually or for 3 or 5 years have lapsed. If your membership has lapsed, please renew it. If you want to help contact these members to encourage them to renew, [contact us](#).

Learn WordPress!

Our Northern New Jersey Mensa website runs on WordPress. The webmaster would be delighted to train more people in how to use WordPress, so that they can add posts, pages, and events to our Website. You don't have to take on the responsibility for the whole website. We need people who want to do some small tasks, like adding events to the calendar, making the occasional blog post, or managing a specific page. If you would like to learn this valuable new skill, [contact us](#).

Learn InDesign

Northern New Jersey Mensa will be producing a lot of materials (flyers, ebooks, print-on-demand books) to support its literacy initiative. If you want to help out with this effort (or if you want to help produce the newsletter), it helps to know InDesign. If you already subscribe to Adobe Creative Cloud, you have access to InDesign, which is the powerful typesetting and layout program that most professionals use today. Let our newsletter editor show you the basics. Note: Microsoft has announced that it will stop supporting Microsoft Publisher in October.

Learn Book Publishing

Northern New Jersey Mensa will be producing updated editions of some classic textbooks that are in the public domain, and that we can therefore provide to the public for free or at low cost. We can start by producing ebooks and some print-on-demand books. By helping out with this effort, you can learn how to publish your own books.

Contact us!

Go to nnjmensa.org/contactus to find out more or to arrange for some personal coaching.

Become a Test Proctor

If you don't already have a qualifying result on some other test (e.g., the LSAT), you can qualify for Mensa by taking the Mensa admission test. This test is given to candidates who are at least 14 years old. Thus, we need volunteer test proctors to administer the admissions test.

To become a proctor, you must have at least a 4-year degree from a college or university and written endorsement from your chapter's Local Secretary (President) and Testing Coordinator or other officer. If you don't already have experience in administering standardized timed tests (e.g., the SAT), you will have to train with a currently certified Mensa Proctor. To become certified, you will have to observe two test sessions and then conduct two test sessions under supervision. To maintain your certification, you must supervise at least one test every 2 years.

To become a test proctor, contact our Testing Coordinator, Richard Schaefer: richard@richard-schaefer.com. (Richard was named American Mensa's Testing Coordinator of the Year last year!) For more information, click [here](#).



Northern New Jersey Mensa is a testing powerhouse, thanks to Testing Coordinator Richard Schaefer and our proctors!

Northern NJ Mensa ExComm Report

Executive Committee Meeting, March 14, 2026

Attendance: Melissa Starr, Keith Thompson, Laurie Thomas, Charles Moran

The April newsletter was reviewed.

Upcoming elections: the call for nominations will be posted in the newsletter [see p 3 of this issue] and announced by email blast.

The lists of members who lapsed in 2026 and of life members were reviewed to see whether any had died. The departed members will be announced in an In Memoriam section of the May IMprint [see p. 4 of this newsletter].

Laurie will try to schedule a Mensa Cares event.

Literacy program: The updated versions of the phonics and spelling textbooks are still in progress. The flyer for the program has been approved and will be printed.

Picnic: The annual picnic is still scheduled for Saturday, August 8. We will need to prepare a sign-up sheet for people to volunteer for specific tasks.

IGNYTE: It's not too soon to start talking about our fourth IGNYTE! Regional gathering for Young Mensans. The advantages and disadvantages of various venues were discussed.

Income and Expense Report April 2025 to March 2026

Income	12 Month Total
AMC Support	7,142
Interest	421
Imprint Advertising	240
IGNYTE	924
Blast 2026	2,852
Total Income	11,578
Expenses	
IMprint	2,100
Web hosting & software	258
Scholarship	500
Zoom	227
Micellaneous	403
Bank charge	35
Program expenses	
Escape room	621
Bottle Hill Day	0
Leadership development	182
Awards	145
Young Mensans	116
Lunch	0
Picnic Lewis Morris Park	963
Total Expenses	5,549
Net gain/loss	6,029

The next ExComm Meeting will be held by Zoom at 10:00 am on May 9.

Wednesday Lunchtime Chat

By Zoom, 12:00 noon on Wednesdays
Meeting ID: 895 7300 3912
Passcode: 436580

nnjmensa.org/event/chat

Join us on Wednesdays at noon for an informal chat about whatever is on your mind!



Is it Me, or Is It Mensa?

Rob Madeira, Regional Vice Chair, Region 1



A recent concert experience reminded me of something that applies just as much to Mensa as it does to concert culture. It had been nearly 30 years since I had last seen this band live.

My wife and I had paid more for a section with some seating because, while we enjoy live music, we prefer to enjoy it from a comfortable spot rather than in the middle of a packed dance floor. It also happened to be the section the band sometimes visits before the show, and they did. I had the chance to briefly catch up with the drummer, who I had once worked with at a local college.

Instead of just enjoying the show, we found ourselves dealing with a couple of attendees who seemed to think the seats we were sitting in should somehow be available to them instead. The repeated badgering became aggravating enough that we ultimately left at intermission. We did not bother complaining to the venue. It was not worth it to us. We went and did other fun things together instead.

Unspoken Rules

Some people can be inconsiderate, sure. But as someone outside that particular scene, I honestly could not tell whether this was simply rude behavior or whether there was some unspoken norm that I did not understand. That is exactly the kind of thing new members can run into in Mensa, and they may never let anyone know that they did.

Every organization develops habits, assumptions, and social patterns that longtime participants take for granted. Veterans know what kinds of events draw which crowds. They know what is normal, what is flexible, and how people generally interact. New members do not know any of that yet. They are often trying to figure out the culture while also deciding whether they feel comfortable in it.

First Impressions

That means first impressions carry a great deal of weight. A newcomer does not necessarily know whether an awkward interaction says more about the person or about the culture. They do not know whether a clique is an exception or the norm. They

do not know whether they are welcome to participate in their own way or whether there is a style of belonging they are expected to adopt.

Setting the Tone

That is worth keeping in mind in Mensa. Local leaders set the tone more than they may realize, not just by what events they host, but by how clearly they explain them, how easy they make them for a new person to walk into, and whether someone who participates differently can still feel like they belong. Not everyone wants the same kind of social experience, and that is fine. The goal is not to make every event the same. The goal is to make the organization easier to understand for all members.

Longtime members can help a great deal too. A small welcome, a little context, or a quick introduction can go a long way toward making a new member feel at ease. And for newer members, it is perfectly reasonable to reach out ahead of time and vibe check an event with the host. If you are not sure what to expect and are not yet comfortable reaching out locally, feel free to send me a message and I will help get you connected.



Welcoming New Members

There are some easy things that you can do to welcome new members to Northern New Jersey Mensa:

- Schedule events
- Consider volunteering to chair or serve on a welcoming committee.
- For more information, contact us or just dial in to our chapter's weekly Zoom chat (Wednesdays at noon)

To find events

- nnjmensa.org/events
- www.us.mensa.org/attend/calendar

To schedule events

- nnjmensa.org/contactus

Protecting Your Data and Your Business

Carl Mazzanti

In more than 20 years of speaking at cybersecurity events, I have noticed a recurring theme. Many attendees come to learn about cybersecurity with good intentions, eager to protect their digital assets. However, some are bad actors, seeking to learn how to evade digital defenses.

Recently, we at eMazzanti discovered a “lookalike domain” eerily similar to the emazzanti.net site. By using a domain name that was only one letter off, a bad actor hoped to ensnare people who were trying to reach us. This bad actor could then penetrate their networks and install malware and take other crippling action. You can read about some similar incidents and how to defend against them [here](#).

Fortunately, our trained professionals were alert and noticed this scheme before the imposter could cause significant damage. We pursued the perpetrator through the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), a UN agency that protects and promotes intellectual property across borders. WIPO transferred control of the site to us, and our InfoSec team shut it down, preventing the bad actor from luring innocent traffic and spreading malware.

But the story didn't end there. At our request, WIPO identified the person who had registered the bogus domain. When contacted, the individual claimed, “It wasn't me. Someone used my name to register that domain.” Right, and I've got a bridge to sell you at a great price.

This incident highlights a critical issue: the refrain “It wasn't me” will continue to echo across countless organizations. Will good people learn from these experiences?

Trust but verify

Over the years, I have consulted for thousands of companies, helping them navigate the complex world of cybersecurity. Early in my career, we had a flooring company as a client. The bookkeeper, a long-term, trusted employee, wrote checks made out to the owner's husband but cashed the checks and kept the money. The bookkeeper then tried to hide the theft by altering the company's records.

The bookkeeper was eventually caught. But

instead of being fired or reported to the authorities, the bookkeeper received a stern warning and was allowed to return to duty. Needless to say, this employee went right back to writing and cashing checks, and the company is no longer around.

I share these stories for two reasons: first, to emphasize the importance of staying alert and prepared for bad actors, whether they come from outside your organization or from within. My firm is a cybersecurity provider. We specialize in providing technical defenses and in training your employees to keep your website and data safe.

Minding Your Business

To address insider infiltration, look for red flags. Is an employee complaining about financial difficulties? That person may feel tempted to do something wrong for cash. If you see or hear about someone in that position, take extra precautions and monitor their actions. If they talk to you about their finances, listen carefully. Then, decide whether to help them with a short-term loan or if they deserve a raise.

Implement and maintain controls across departments to monitor improper activity. If you see employees who appear to be living beyond their means, check your back pocket.

You might trust your employees, and you may even love them. However, we can guarantee that a thief is nearby. This person could be reading this article or sitting in your office. They have chosen to do something wrong. Trust them, love them, but face the thief and take action.



Carl Mazzanti and his wife Jennifer Mazzanti cofounded [eMazzanti Technologies](http://emazzanti.com), a worldwide provider of Cloud, IT, and network services. Both are members of Greater New York Mensa.

Volunteers Needed!

There are many ways that you can volunteer to help Mensa. Yes, there are some big projects that take up a lot of time. But there are also lots of small tasks that need to be done.

Easiest

Schedule a Dinner

Just make a reservation at your favorite restaurant and tell us about it early enough that we can publicize it. Just [contact us](#).

Schedule a Games Night

Reserve a room at your local library and tell us about it. You can bring your own games or contact us to use the chapter's games. [Contact us](#).

Schedule an Outing

Want to go to a museum, to go camping, or to take the kids to an amusement park? [Contact us](#) so that we can publicize the event.

Write an Article for Our Newsletter

Write about anything that will inform, entertain, or engage your fellow Mensans.

Write an Article for Our Blog

Write about any way that intelligence can be fostered to serve humanity.

Contribute to Our Social Media

Help out by listing events and posting useful information that will engage our members.

Spread the Link to Our Literacy page

Forward the link to our literacy resources page (nnjmensa.org/reading) to all your social contacts. Mention it to your teacher friends, and tell your local library about it.

Contact Us!

To volunteer, use the Contact Us page on the website (nnjmensa.org/contactus) or email anyone on the masthead (page 2).

Moderate Effort

Serve on the Elections Committee

We have three volunteers to serve on the Elections Committee, but we may need an alternate if one of these members has to drop out.

Host the Armchair Conversations

This will take you about 2 hours per month. Schedule the events on Zoom and list them in our events calendar and Facebook pages. Host the Zoom meeting (one per month).

Host a Table at a Street Fair

We can help you reserve the spot, and we can list the event. We need people to staff the table at the event. (We already have signage, etc.)

Become a Test Proctor

Administer the Mensa admissions test. The test takes about 2 hours and is administered once a month. (You don't have to do it every month!) See the article on page 5.

Heavy Duty

Work on Our Website

You can spend as much or as little time as you'd like doing this. It's a great opportunity to learn how to use WordPress.

Volunteer to Help Out at a Regional Gathering

We need volunteers to fill many roles at BLAST! and IGNYTE! (organizers, presenters, catering, general help at the event, etc.).

Edit the Newsletter

This will take several hours per month. You can use whatever desktop publishing program you like. If you have access to Adobe Creative Cloud, we can teach you to use InDesign.

Chapter Office

We will be holding elections for all of our chapter offices this year. Please consider running!



The Victory Over Smallpox and Polio

Laurie Endicott Thomas

This month marks the 230th anniversary of the invention of the smallpox vaccination and the 70th anniversary of the first vaccine against polio. Thanks to vaccination, smallpox has been wiped out. For this reason, we no longer vaccinate children against smallpox. Polio is almost wiped out. As a result, most countries have stopped using the “live” version of the polio vaccine. After the polio-virus is no longer circulating anywhere, we won’t need to vaccinate any more people against polio.

Disease Eradication

Only a few bacteria and viruses pose any threat to human health. The most dangerous germs are the ones that have specifically evolved ways to avoid or suppress the human immune system. Yet that strength is also their weakness. Many are so specifically adapted to living on and in us that they exist nowhere else. If we can immunize enough people against one of these germs, it will go extinct in the wild. Then, we will no longer need to vaccinate children against it. The first human disease to be eradicated by vaccination was smallpox. There have been no smallpox cases anywhere in the world since the late 1970s.

Elimination, Then Eradication

To eradicate a disease, you must first eliminate it.

- Elimination means that the disease is no longer circulating in a geographic region.
- Eradication means that it is no longer circulating anywhere on earth.
- Extinction means that the germ that causes the disease no longer exists.

Smallpox was eliminated from the United States by 1950, but it continued to circulate in Africa and South Asia until the late 1970s. Smallpox was eradicated by 1980. However, samples of the virus are still being kept in a few secure laboratories.

Eradicating Polio

Polio was once called infantile paralysis. The polio-virus typically causes a mild gastrointestinal infection. But the virus can spread to the nervous



Edward Jenner administering the first smallpox vaccine in 1796. Painting by Gaston Mellingue (1879).

system, causing temporary or permanent paralysis or even death. Some people were so badly paralyzed that they could not breathe on their own. They spent the rest of their lives in an “iron lung.”

Polio is on the brink of extinction. Jonas Salk’s “killed” polio vaccine was good at preventing paralysis, but it didn’t prevent infection. Even vaccinated people could spread the virus to other people. In contrast, Albert Sabin’s “live” polio vaccine prevented infection with the wild polio virus. Vaccinated people could even spread the vaccine strain to others, immunizing them as well. This is why the “live” polio vaccine is used to eliminate polio. The downside was that if the virus strain keeps spreading to unvaccinated people, it can eventually mutate back to the paralytic form. This is why the “killed” polio vaccine is used only in areas where the poliovirus has already been eliminated. After polio is declared eradicated worldwide, the “killed” vaccine will be used for a few more years, until the scientists are absolutely sure that polio is not just merely dead but really most sincerely dead.

What Diseases Can Be Eradicated?

Countless species of bacteria and viruses exist. However, only a few of them are human pathogens



Polio patients in the iron lung ward at Rancho Los Amigos Hospital in Los Angeles, 3 years before the Salk vaccine came out. Many polio survivors remained in the “iron lung” machine for life.

(i.e., able to cause disease in human beings). Only a handful of these pathogens pose a serious threat to public health. However, most of these dangerous few exist only in human beings (the exceptions are *Clostridium tetani* [which causes tetanus] and the rabies virus). If a disease has no wild reservoir, you can wipe it off the face of the earth by vaccinating enough human beings all at once.

Smallpox was the first infectious disease to be eradicated through vaccination. (Rinderpest, which infects cattle and other hooved animals, was next.) Polio is on the brink of extinction. Other diseases that could be eradicated through vaccination include measles, mumps, rubella, and hepatitis B. Some parasitic diseases (e.g., guinea worm and lymphatic filariasis) can also be eradicated through a combination of treatment and education. Once these germs are extinct, humanity will be free of them forever.



To Learn More

If you would like to learn more about infectious disease, vaccination, and disease eradication, email Laurie Thomas (Lthomas521@verizon.net) for a free pdf of her book *No More Measles! The Truth About Vaccines and Your Health* (nomeasles.com)



Mensans vs Rabies!

Would you like to help wipe out rabies among our Northern New Jersey wildlife? We can take part in a program to distribute the oral rabies vaccine to protect our local raccoons, skunks, and foxes (and children and pets). This would be an emotionally rewarding project. It could also help us earn a great reputation for wise public service and entice more smart people to join Mensa!

- Read the [US National Plan for Wildlife Rabies Management](#)

If you are interested, [contact us](#)



Mensa Touchpoints

Northern New Jersey Mensa

- Website: njmensa.org
- [Mensa Connect Northern NJ Mensa](#)

Facebook

- [Northern New Jersey Mensa](#)
- [Gifted Youth of Northern NJ](#)
- [Mensa Region 1](#)

Instagram

- [northernnewjerseymensayouth](#)

American Mensa

- www.us.mensa.org
- [Mensa Connect](#)
- [Mensa Connect Region 1](#)

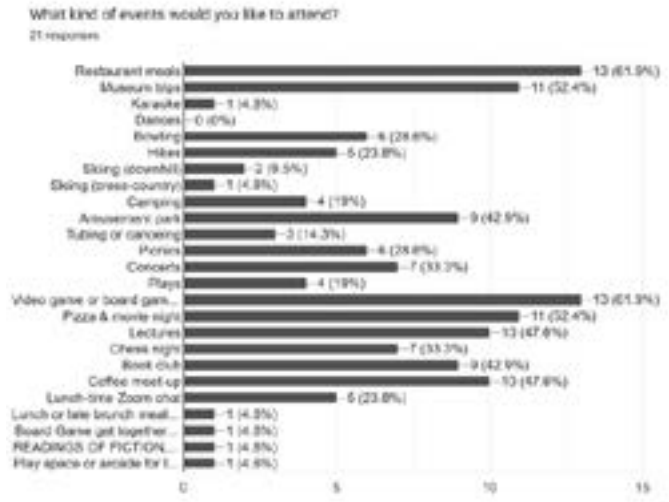
Mensa International

- mensa.org

What Events Should We Schedule?

Northern New Jersey Mensa Executive Committee

Our website has recently been upgraded to feature an interactive [events calendar](#). Now all we have to do is schedule lots of events. To tell us what events you want us to schedule, take the survey on our website: njmensa.org/survey. You can see the first few people's responses in the graph. If you can think of something that is not mentioned in the survey, or if you would like us to schedule a particular event or host an event, please [contact us](#). Remember, Mensa is what you make of it, and we intend to make the most of it! Let's plan to have a great time over the next few months. It's up to you!



Some Recurring Events

Great Books and World Classics



Saturdays, 4:00 pm Eastern time

Meet via Zoom to discuss a great work from the Western canon or some other great work of literature.

njmensa.org/great-books

Brainstorming

Let's talk about how to help Mensa grow!
Zoom conference every Sunday evening
9:00 to 10:00 pm ET



Visit the M Brainstorming Facebook page

Mensa French Conversation

Mondays, 7 PM ET

Contact Kathystein-smith@gmail.com



Mensa Armchair Conversations

Friendship, Fellowship, & the Rotary 4-Way Test

Zoom conference
Tuesday, May 19, 2026
7:00 pm Eastern time (United States)
RSVP: <https://njmensa.org/armchair/>



Upcoming Events

For more information, see njjmensa.org/events and www.us.mensa.org/attend/calendar/

Individual events

May 2 (Saturday)

[Great Books & World Classics](#). 4 PM Eastern Time. Geoffrey Chaucer The Knights Tale and the Miller's Tale By [Zoom](#). ID: 886 7159 2125, Passcode: 958281.

May 9 (Saturday)

Northern NJ Mensa Executive Committee Meeting. 10:00 am by [Zoom](#). Meeting ID: 895 9024 7167; Passcode: 698189.

May 10 (Sunday)

[Brainstorming](#). 9 PM Eastern Time. Discuss how to build Mensa. By [Zoom](#). ID: 829 08600785, Passcode: 1234.

May 16 (Saturday)

[Admission Testing](#). 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Morris County Library, 30 E. Hanover Ave.. For information, email, richard@richard-schaefer.com.

May 19 (Tuesday)

[Armchair Conversation](#). 7 PM Eastern time. By [Zoom](#): Meeting ID: 839 0521 4974; Passcode: 117152.

[Smart Company SIG Dinner](#). 6 pm, Classic Car Club, 66 E. 55th St., New York, NY. Cost ~\$100 per person excl. drinks. Limited menu. RSVP with dietary restrictions to msilverstein@ssrga.com by May 12.

May 20 (Wednesday)

French dinner at Brasserie Mémère. 6:00 - 7:30 PM. Brasserie Mémère 107 Vervalen Street, Closter, NJ, United States. RSVP kathysteinsmith@gmail.com

May 23 (Saturday)

Presby Memorial Iris Garden 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM. Presby Iris Garden 474 Upper Mountain Ave, Upper Montclair, NJ, United States. RSVP lthomas521@verizon.net.

Recurring events

Second Saturday Monthly (typically)

Northern NJ Mensa Executive Committee Meeting. By [Zoom](#). ID: 895 9024 7167, Passcode: 698189.

Sundays

[Brainstorming](#). 9 PM Eastern Time. Discuss how to build Mensa. By [Zoom](#). ID: 829 08600785, Passcode: 1234.

Mondays

[Mensa French Conversation](#). 7 PM Eastern time. Interested Mensans, please contact: kathysteinsmith@gmail.com.

Wednesdays

Northern NJ Mensa Lunch chat. 12 noon by [Zoom](#). ID: 895 7300 3912; Passcode: 436580.

Saturdays

[Great Books & World Classics](#). 4 PM Eastern Time. Sponsored by Northern New Jersey Mensa and Mensa in Georgia. We do a different great book every week. By [Zoom](#). ID: 886 7159 2125, Passcode: 958281.

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays

[Mensa Discussion](#). 2 PM Eastern time. We talk about whatever anybody wants to talk about. By [Zoom](#). ID: 867 2610 8623, Passcode: 1234.



Suggest More Events!

Help us fill up our [Events Calendar](#) with things you want to do. Our survey (see p 12) showed that members would like restaurant meals, museum trips, game nights, etc. Take our [survey](#) on events. To suggest or schedule an event, [contact us](#).

Planning for Our Next Jewel Award!

Laurie Endicott Thomas

For the past 4 years, Northern New Jersey Mensa has won the Diamond Award for our size class. By February of 2025, we racked up enough points for a Ruby Award. Now we are waiting to hear whether we won our fifth consecutive Diamond.

The Jewel Awards are American Mensa's program for improving the performance of chapters. Chapters can earn points by doing things like submitting their financial reports on time, maintaining a website, and publishing a newsletter. The more points your chapter earns, the higher the Jewel Award. The chapter that racks up the most Jewel Award points in its size category wins the Diamond for that fiscal year (which ends March 31). Northern New Jersey Mensa has won the Diamond for Class II (400 to 1,100 members) for the past 4 years.

The Secrets of Our Success

Six years ago, Northern New Jersey Mensa was a practically dormant chapter. Then, in the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic, Franck Mounier became our President (Local Secretary), upon the death of his predecessor. He immediately recruited Kimberly Strickland to form an Executive Committee. Franck had lots of experience in strategic planning in the corporate setting, so he saw that the Jewel Award program is a great starting point for developing a [strategic plan](#). He asked Kimberly what the goal should be. Her response was "[Diamond](#)." They led us to win three consecutive Diamond awards.

To help other chapters win Jewel Awards (and maybe steal our Diamond), Franck and I wrote articles for the *Mensa Bulletin*, explaining the secrets of our chapter's success. Our chapter won a fourth Diamond after Franck and Kimberly stepped up to serve on the American Mensa Committee. (Tragically, Franck and Kimberly were among the 10 officers who were unjustly stripped of the ability to serve as officers in American Mensa, as a result of the purge of the board in January of 2025. This is why the membership voted to recall the chair in 2025.)

Our Next Jewel

The chart on page 15 shows the activities that earn us Jewel points. To help us win the Class II Diamond for 2026-2027, you can do several things:

- Renew your membership (if you haven't already).
- Write an article for the newsletter.
- Help us contact recently lapsed members.
- Run for chapter office or volunteer to help out in ways large or small.
- Host or attend our Leadership Development Workshop.
- Volunteer to help out at IGNYTE! (our regional gathering for Young Mensans)
- Volunteer to help out at BLAST! (our regional gathering for adults)

All of these activities will make Mensa better for others, as well as for you!



2025-2026 Jewel Award: Final Points Detail



Northern New Jersey - Class II	Points	2025										2026			Actual
		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	Total	
Administration	Total	27	20	14	9	17	49	14	17	10	20	11	12	220	
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				3										
Member attendance at standalone LDW (no matter how many sessions) - per member attended - max 50pts	5						30								
Bonus: Three members from same group attending event (AG, RG, or standalone) - only 1 time	5										5				
Events															
Governance meeting with effective notice to members - (ExComm, Board, Steering Committee) - per month	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Hosting a Regional Gathering (1 time)	8								8						
Hosting a standalone Leadership Development Workshop (1 time)	8						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											1			
Percentage of members renewed by March 31 (per bucket of 60pp)	1												4		
Membership growth percentage (per bucket of 60pp)	1														
Proctored test sessions	3	3	3	3		3	3	3	3	3	3	3			
Bonus points for each proctor who test twice or more during the year	2					2	2								
Bonus points for each unique location used for testing	5	5	5	5							5				
Participation in the Lapsed Member Contact program	5					5									
Newsletters															
Activities calendar/listing (per month)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
ExComm minutes (per month)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
LocSec column (per month)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Member submissions (per month)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Officer Listing (per month)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
RVC column (per month)	1										1	1	1	1	
Treasurer's report (per quarter)	1		1			1				1				1	
Assorted															
CultureQuest (per Team) - max 10pts	1														
Foundational Scholarship Program participation	5														
Mensa Testing Day participation	5							5							
Mensa Cares! participation	5	5													
AMC member (elected or appointed)	2														
Local Group member serving on a national committee (per person)	1														



c/o American Mensa
1315 Brookside Drive
Hurst, TX 76053

Things to Do in May

- [Renew](#) your membership
- Take part in Wednesday Lunch Chat, 12 noon by [Zoom](#)
- Dial in to the chapter [Executive Committee Meeting](#) at 10 AM on May 9
- [Volunteer](#) or run for office in this chapter
- Take our [survey](#) on events
- Visit our [events calendar](#)
- Check out [national events](#)
- Schedule a [local event](#)
- Check out our [blog](#)
- Visit our [Facebook page](#)
- Visit our [YMs' Facebook page](#)
- Support our [literacy campaign](#)
- Read some [Great Books!](#)
- Converse in [French!](#)
- Write a [post](#) for our [blog](#)
- Write an article for [IMprint](#)
- [Brainstorm](#) (Sunday evenings)
- Mensa [Discussion](#) (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat)
- Become a test proctor (email Richard@Richard-Schaefer.com)