

**NORTH TEXAS MENSA
PLEASURES AND DELIGHTS XLII
NOVEMBER 23 – 26, 2023**



Maurice Chev-Owl Welcomes You

NTM Pleasures and Delights XLII

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From the NTM President

Greetings and Salutations! Welcome to our Regional Gathering.

First, **we are glad you're here.** Countless hours of labor have been invested in this regional gathering and it is done with YOU in mind. We are blessed by your presence and hope you have a great time. If you do, please express that to your speakers, activity organizers, and any who are serving, none of whom are paid for their diligent efforts.

Second, our RG Chair, Karen Brack, has led a team to construct a great party from the ground up with **a variety of activities to appeal to the varied interests of our members.** There will be something for everyone. Look through this program and plan on the things of interest, but use the RG also as an opportunity to try some new things.

Lastly, combining some of the above, in addition to renewing friendships, **use the next few days to meet new people, try some new things together, and establish new relationships.** NTM's greatest asset is its people, many of whom you will get to meet this weekend. Get to know them and let them get to know you.

Cheers for now,

Eric "Gunny" Hartman

2023 North Texas Mensa President



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From the RG Chair

Hello everybody! So glad to see you!

Many years ago, I taught in a preschool that had a special song that was sung in each class to start the day, “Hello everybody. So glad to see you. Hello everybody. So glad to see you. Hello to Benji, so glad to see you. Hello to Sara, so glad to see you...” And so it would go around the morning circle to greet every child by name.

In a way, I wish I could sing that song to welcome each and every one of you to the North Texas Mensa Regional Gathering of 2023. It’s been a long, hard road to get here. Between COVID considerations, changes in the hotel industry and other factors, it has taken us literally years to get to where we are today. That’s something to celebrate, I think. Baby, we’re back!

Although this RG may be somewhat different from past RGs in some respects, certain features will never change: a little learning and a lot of laughter, trading stories and jokes late into the night, plenty of food and drink to enjoy, games and tastings, and most of all – getting together with a group of friends, some of whom you may have known for years and others you have yet to meet.

A special welcome to all first timers, whether it’s your first RG with NTM or your very first RG: We’re so glad to see you. Introduce yourselves so we can welcome you personally.

A group of people worked – and are still working – to bring you this event. If you see a committee member, be sure to thank them for this labor of love and see if there is anything you can do to help out. It’ll be appreciated.

Karen “Westy” Brack
NTM RG 2023 Chair and Program Chair

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A Few Things to Remember

1. You **must** wear your ID badge at all times while attending the RG. This is the only way we know who belongs at the RG and who does not. Do not invite others into the Hospitality area, even if they are friendly and intelligent. If you forgot your badge and someone asks to see it, please go get it immediately. If you lose your badge, go to Registration for a replacement badge.
2. Legal drinking age in Texas is 21. It's not just a suggestion; it's the law. Please don't try to break it.
3. Please drink responsibly. There are other guests in the hotel. We're supposed to be the smart ones; let's act like it.
4. Illegal drugs, violations of rules, or dangerous or abusive behavior will not be tolerated. Violators may be ejected from the RG at the discretion of the RG committee. No refunds will be given in such cases.
5. In case of a real emergency (fire, health, serious injury, etc.) call the hotel operator immediately. In case of something less serious, a first aid kit will be available at the registration desk when open, under the beer table in Hospitality when it is closed.
6. Chances are your mother isn't here to pick up after you. And if she is here, make her proud and pick up after yourself. Pick up after others, too, if necessary, and please help keep the RG areas neat.
7. As usual, appropriate clothing must be worn in public areas; that includes the pool. It's another one of those legal things.
8. Please remember that all speakers are volunteers. They are giving up their free time in order to share their expertise with us. Treat them with all due respect, whether you agree with them or not. Cell phones should be turned off or set to silent mode.

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RG Geography: Where Stuff's At This RG

Hospitality	Galleria 2
Registration, Speaker Check-In	Opposite Galleria 1
Speakers	Galleria 1 and 3; Lobby
Games and Puzzles	Board Room
Tastings	Lobby

Hospitality (Galleria 2)

Hospitality is just that. We want you to relax and enjoy the company of your fellow Mensans. Hospitality will have the usual beer, wine, soft drinks, snacks, etc., available for you all day. We will also attend to your meals during the Gathering.

Meals will be brought in from outside vendors for dinner on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Lunch will be brought in on Friday and Saturday. Meal time are:

Lunch: 12:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Dinner: 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

So, enjoy your time in Hospitality. But even more, enjoy your fellow Mensans and the opportunities at the RG.

Breakfast Buffet (Lobby)

For those staying at the hotel, your hotel registration entitles you to one breakfast buffet per person per day. For more information, inquire at the hotel desk.

Thursday

5:00 p.m., Opposite Galleria 1, Registration and Hospitality Open

8:00 p.m., Board Room, Oh, Hell! – Jim Lewis and Barbara Lytle

A strategy card game where sticking it to your opponents is half the fun! Very easy to learn, 3 to 20 players can participate. Play it for a while, and when the cards don't go your way, you'll find yourself saying "Oh, Hell!"

Jim Lewis and Barbara Lytle are from San Diego, and now that they're both retired they're travelling around the country, hitting RGs along the way. They've run game rooms for many RGs and AGs, along with running games and writing Trivia Quizzes.

9:00 p.m., Lobby, Spirit Tasting 1 – Paul Whiteman

Whiskey Tasting. The American whiskey industry is blooming. Try out the wide variety of different types of whiskies that Paul Whiteman has gathered from all over the US. Be prepared for selections you probably have not tasted before. Someone will like every one of these fine beverages. Others, maybe not so much. But hopefully, you will be exposed to a whole new world of American appellations that are available to you.

Paul Whiteman is a connoisseur of bourbon, rye, scotch. He is a member of two scotch societies that meet regularly to sample the latest offerings. And... well, let's face it, Paul just likes to drink.

Participating in the tasting requires a \$30.00 pre-purchased ticket. Please see the Registrar if you are interested in attending. Seating is limited.

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Friday

9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m., Lobby, Metarules Kick-Off – Randy Brack

Metarules is a game where the object is to determine the rules. This short session will introduce you to the game, the Metaruler, and other contestants. Actual play continues through the RG until... somebody wins. The winner will be announced at the Saturday awards session. Suitable for all ages.

Randy Brack has been an NTM member for over 40 years. He has hosted Metarules before, but not for a long time. He's looking forward to hosting again.

9:30 a.m., Galleria 1, Combat in Vietnam 1968 – Al Pick

The Vietnam War was at its height in 1968 with 536,100 US troops in country and 16,899 KIA; a third of the total killed in this 12 year war. Alfred Pick was deployed in Vietnam in 1968 as a Forward Observer with the 199th Light Infantry Brigade. He was subsequently transferred to a MATS Advisory Team, then temporary duty with a Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol team (LRRPs) and finally back to the 199th as an Aerial Observer. Al had an unusually varied combat experience, including personal relationships with the Vietnamese people. He will briefly review the history of US involvement in Vietnam and share his experiences during his 12 month tour. A PowerPoint presentation will include images and facts with the focus on 1968. This program is not for children or sensitive adults.

Al Pick enlisted in the US Army on June 17, 1966, two weeks after graduation from Woodrow Wilson HS. On July 2, 1967 he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery at age 19. He was on active duty for three years and served about six years in the US Army Active Reserves and the Texas Army National Guard. Al was decorated with the Silver Star, Air Medal and the Aircraft Crewman Badge. He earned the Jungle Expert award at the US Army Jungle Operations Course in Panama. He attended the Field Artillery Officer Vietnam Orientation Course and the Vietnam Advanced Advisory Training Course. He terminated his military service in 1983 as a Captain. During his service he earned MOSs in two of the three combat arms: Field Artillery and Infantry.

9:30 a.m., Galleria 3 – Neurodiversity - Decoding Diversity – Felicia M. L. Davis

What if autism is the key to bridging the communication gap between societies and individuals?

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“Autism and neurodiversity teach us not only the innumerable combinations in existence to process human thoughts, but the value each unique process possesses. Collaboration is thus a dynamic yet predictable formula for success as team members come and go.”— Felicia M. L. Davis

Learn how to seamlessly communicate with others from different backgrounds and cultures to improve collaboration, reduce conflict, and increase productivity.

A female ENTP-A with autism, **Felicia M. L. Davis** is a statistical rarity largely due to under or misdiagnosed individuals. Enjoy a motivational chat by an altruistic boisterous Mensan who utilizes her autism to decode simple, effective communication methods with diverse teams while gaining an understanding of what this new "buzzword" means. For more info see:

<https://linktr.ee/FeliciaMLDavis>

11:00 a.m., Galleria 1, Archetypical Myth in Popular Movies – Barbara L. Baker, Ph.D.

Movies affect us throughout our lives—they are the modern way we get stories about the world. Humans need stories; they entertain us in good times and bad, provide lessons as to who we are and how we ought to behave, evoke our most pressing needs and desires, and present solutions to our most pressing personal and social conflicts. There is no age, no place, no culture that exists without stories to make sense of the world. And movies, especially popular movies, are one of the most powerful ways we receive stories—we suspend disbelief and get caught up in their worlds. Yet, in doing so, we often forget to consider the ways in which films tell their stories. Moviegoers too often view films uncritically, unaware of both story structure and form. That is the goal of this presentation-- to help you sharpen your critical perception, to see films in a different way, to become a more critical viewer of how movies use archetypal myths in both rhetorical and artistic ways.

Barbara L. Baker received a B.S.Ed. and a M.S. from the University of North Texas. She did her doctorate work at the University of Southern California in Communication Arts & Sciences, with a specialization in rhetoric & film. Her award-winning dissertation was on the first three *Star Wars* and the first two Indiana Jones films. Currently she is looking at the continued *Star Wars* phenomenon as well as beginning an analysis of this past summer's blockbuster film, *Barbie*. In addition to writing about popular media, she has published work on interpersonal communication. Professor Baker also has taught a wide variety of courses at universities in three different states and two countries outside the U.S and now teaches full time at the University of Texas at Dallas, where she currently teaches courses in basic communication, communication theory, interpersonal communication, gender communication, and writing in the arts.

11:00 a.m., Galleria 3, Conflict Resolution - Transforming Conflict & Strife Into Innovation & Opportunity – Felicia M. L. Davis

Learn how to transform conflict & strife into innovation & opportunity. The talk is called "The Coffee Algorithm" with the DARN method I created. The concept is around the phrase, "Do you want coffee?" and the various things that could mean, of which only a small percentage actually mean the person just wants coffee. Learn to easily identify the root cause, how to manage emotions, and resolve the conflict often resulting in opportunity and innovation resolutions.

A charismatic leader and limited partner at Edward Jones with over 15 years of experience, **Felicia M. L. Davis** has established a reputation as a business expert in diverse team dynamics and social equity. She has a master's in organizational management and a bachelor's in economics. Diagnosed with autism as an adult, she quickly learned to turn her "disability" into a superpower within the business world leading to her rapid success professionally and personally. Whether leading teams, driving strategic initiatives, raising a family, or supporting her community, Felicia's enthusiasm inspires individuals to achieve personal and professional happiness reducing conflict and strengthen relationships. For more info see: <https://linktr.ee/FeliciaMLDavis>

1:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m., Lobby, Metarules Continues – Randy Brack

If you missed this morning's session or just want more information, Randy will reintroduce you to the game.

Randy Brack has been an NTM member for over 40 years. He has hosted Metarules before, but not for a long time. He's looking forward to hosting again.

1:30 p.m., Galleria 1, Helen of Troy: The Most Important Woman in History? – Bruce Jones

Around 1200 BCE a teenage girl abandoned her baby and abusive husband to run off with a handsome young prince. What might otherwise have been a domestic dispute unraveled into an event cascade which was to change the history of the Mediterranean world for several centuries. In this presentation we will argue that, not only was Helen THE pivot point of a hugely important change in history, but that it appears that Helen created and composed what we know as the Iliad. As she navigated her way through the treacherous situation, she cleverly created a narrative which allowed the Armor-Clad Greeks and the Horse Taming Trojans to both retain dignity after what was a disastrous war for

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both. The Greek “victory” quickly unraveled when they returned home to find that their home society had collapsed and they had nothing to return home to. For over 150 years scholars have argued that the returning Greeks became the marauding Sea Peoples which rampaged the Mediterranean, destroying anything they could until Ramses beat them in Egypt. But the damage was done and the Greek Bronze Age became the Dark Ages until roughly 400 BCE a more civilized incarnation of Greece arose. Helen was at the center of it all. . . .

Bruce Jones was on the team that discovered and decoded China’s oldest documents. His research involves the transition from Oral Literature into the world’s earliest maps and documents. This includes the early epics, which were sung, and the relationship of Poetry and Song in China, Greece, and the Quechua worlds. Bruce has retired from training Commercial Pilots for China’s largest airlines. He was certified by American Airlines in five languages.

1:30 p.m., Galleria 3, Aiding Pakistani Flood Victims – Nadeem Zaman

After Pakistan was hit by a terrible, destructive flooding of 2010, Nadeem had many friends contact him to find out if his family in Pakistan was alright. They offered support and assistance. Nadeem leveraged his many contacts in the international business community to put together help on the ground. They shipped food, tents, and even cooks to the village in Pakistan with the help of the Pakistan military support. His story is a story of adventure and community cooperation and coordination.

Nadeem Zaman is a community leader and former president of Pakistan Society that represents over 70,000 Pakistani Americans in North Texas. After coming to the United States as a university student, he had opportunities to become a citizen and start his career in computer manufacturing and later on became a successful entrepreneur. He recently launched Center of Excellence for Community Service(CECS), to provide a platform for addressing the pressing needs of his community.

1:30 p.m., Lobby, Apple Tasting – Karen Brack

Most of us are familiar with basic types of apples: McIntosh, delicious, Granny Smith, etc. Even Fujijs and Galas are becoming more common to find in the average supermarket. But what about opals, cameo, piñata, rave, sunrise magic and smitten? Tart or sweet? Best raw or cooked? At this tasting we will explore some of the less familiar types of apples available to us, and learn about the best ways to use them.

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Karen Brack is a dedicated foodie and home cook. The first dish she became known for, when she was ten years old, was her apple pie.

Participating in the tasting requires a \$6.00 pre-purchased ticket. Please see the Registrar if you are interested in attending. Seating is limited.

3:00 p.m., Galleria 1, The AI Frontier: Igniting Innovation & Shaping Our Future – William McKnight

AI is already revolutionizing how we live today, with applications in healthcare, transportation, education, and many more fields. In this presentation, William will project AI use into the future and make predictions about the technological advancements that will be commonplace in 25 years. In the next 25 years, we can expect to see revolutionary advancements in AI technologies leading to increased personal convenience, a different quality of life, an ever-evolving understanding of the world around us as well as the potential for new and unexpected risks. The near-term advancements that AI use is projected to bring about will undoubtedly alter the course of the world's future.

William McKnight has advised many of the world's best-known organizations on their use of data and technology. He is a prolific author and a popular keynote speaker and trainer. A former IT VP of data at a Fortune 50 company, William is rated the #1 global influencer in big data and cloud computing and he leads McKnight Consulting Group, which performs strategy through implementation for turning information into the asset it needs to be for enterprises. His companies have three times placed on the Inc. 5000 list and he is an Ernst & Young Southwest Entrepreneur of the Year Finalist. William serves as a strategic advisor to many well-known software firms, including Oracle, IBM, Microsoft, and Splunk. His investment clients are a who's-who of public-equity and venture capital.

3:00 p.m., Galleria 3. How the Illiterate Inka Mapped Their Empire – Bruce Jones

Western scholars have a tendency to be dismissive of societies that did not have writing, no matter their accomplishments. The Conquistadores marveled at the world of the Inka that they encountered. The khipu knotted cord writing system was systematically destroyed because the Church declared it was involved in idolatry. But modern surveyors and engineers have methodically assembled what we believe to be the cartographic systems used by the Inka. The Inka vertical landscape required challenges that were met with sometimes traditional (plane table surveying) and sometimes unique (Khipu) methods. In this presentation we will describe the landscape and topography and how agriculture was managed and documented in a difficult area.

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Bruce Jones was on the team that discovered and decoded China's oldest documents. His research involves the transition from Oral Literature into the world's earliest maps and documents. This includes the early epics, which were sung, and the relationship of Poetry and Song in China, Greece, and the Quechua worlds. Bruce has retired from training Commercial Pilots for China's largest airlines. He was certified by American Airlines in five languages.

4:30 p.m., Galleria 1, Trivia Quiz – Jim Lewis and Barbara Lytle

Nope, not Pub trivia, so not much involving sports, current music, or celebrities. No teams – you're on your own, so here's your chance to show off some of that useless information you've attained and retained over the years. 90 fascinating trivia questions covering a wide variety of topics, including something that you're an expert on. You'll be given the questions in writing, and take turns choosing one to answer. Quick recall isn't necessary, just a general font of knowledge. Show up on time or you may miss a turn.

Jim Lewis and Barbara Lytle are from San Diego, and now that they're both retired they're travelling around the country, hitting RGs along the way. They've run game rooms for many RGs and AGs, along with running games and writing Trivia Quizzes.

4:30 p.m., Lobby, Beer Tasting – Andy McKellar

Andy McKellar has been drinking -- and enjoying -- good beer for more than sixty years, made his own beer for about twenty years, and has been conducting beer tastings for NTM also for about twenty years. For this one he will present a selection of beers from the British Isles.

Participating in the tasting requires a \$6.00 pre-purchased ticket. Please see the Registrar if you are interested in attending. Seating is limited.

8:30 p.m., Galleria 3, Hootenanny Shindig Jam – Chris Cree

...we haven't really figured out what to call it, but bring your musical instruments, voices (no judgments), ears, whatever it takes for you to enjoy people making music together for the sheer joy of it.

Chris Cree plays guitar and sings. Some people like it OK. He does mostly John Denver, Paul Simon, James Taylor, Don McLean, CSNY music.

Saturday

9:30 a.m., Galleria 1, Running for Public Office in Texas – Penny Robe and Sharon Hirsch

Experienced candidates share the rules of the road for running for public office in Texas. Learn the overall categories and the different rules that apply for the following types of elections: Texas legislature; judicial positions at the trial and appellate level; and local nonpartisan offices, including school board and city council. These former candidates discuss things to consider about whether to run, including what happens if one wins and what happens if one loses. Discover the fundamentals of how to run, including requirements to get on the ballot, the importance of community volunteers, why campaign money is needed, and how to raise it. Hear the differences in US federal spending and fundraising rules as compared to Texas state and local rules.

Penny Robe ran for Justice in the 5th District Court of Appeals of Texas in 2012, and for judge of the 380th district court in Collin County, Texas, in 2020. She knew nothing about running when she threw her hat in the ring in 2012, and is ready to share what she learned. Penny is a lifetime member of Mensa, in our North Texas Mensa chapter.

Sharon Hirsch ran for the Plano ISD school board in 2015 and for the Texas House of Representatives in both 2018 and 2020 in what were arguably uphill battles. Not deterred by three very close losses, she continues to work hard to support pro-public education candidates and inform the public about the importance of voting. Politics is not a spectator sport and Sharon is always willing to share her experiences on the campaign trail with others.

9:30 a.m., Galleria 3, Wicked Plants – Kevin Burns

This fun presentation covers plants that are deadly, illegal, intoxicating, dangerous, painful, and destructive/invasive. This presentation uses interesting historical anecdotes, photos to identify the plants and facts so gardeners can avoid these plants in their landscapes.

Kevin Burns has been gardening for over 20 years. His passion for gardening began shortly after he and his wife were married and toured some formal gardens in Germany on their honeymoon. Kevin and his wife own a small 55-acre ranch in the Texas Hill Country outside of Fredericksburg that they run as a Bed and Breakfast. The property is a designated Wildlife Management Area. Along with providing sustenance to the native wild animals living on the property, they plant 25-75 new native trees and sow native grasses and wildflowers annually in an effort to return the property to its natural pre-cattle ranching state. Kevin joined DCMGA and the Speakers Bureau in 2011. His

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talks include: Texas Native and Adapted Plants, Wicked Plants, Composting, Texas Wildflowers, Growing and Cooking with Herbs, and Groundcovers.

11:00 a.m., Galleria 1, “Comfort Women.” Never Again! Never Forget! – Sinmin Pak

How many people know of Hitler, Nazis, the Holocaust, and concentration camps? Probably most. How many people know of Hirohito, Nanjing Massacre, Unit 731, comfort stations, and “Comfort Women?” Probably not many. There are only a few living former “Comfort Women” in their 90s. They were trafficked during WWII and they are still fighting for their dignity and deserving justice. Join us as we share why this issue is still relevant, what we can do, and what it was like to travel throughout China (several cities), Japan (Shikoku Pilgrimage), Russia (Sakhalin) to share about “Comfort Women.” Learn how to help make the “Comfort Women” issue be commonly known to all globally.

Sinmin Pak first learned of “Comfort Women” in college when this issue was just surfacing. A visit to Sorbitor and the current human trafficking issue ignited her to invite a survivor, Lee Ok Seon, to Dallas in 2016. Ever since, she has dedicated to educating and raising awareness about “Comfort Women” here in Dallas and beyond. She is a founder of Unforgotten Butterflies. She travels locally, nationally, and internationally to share about “Comfort Women.”

11:00 a.m., Lobby, Basic Slide Rule – Randy Brack

When the electromagnetic pulse (EMP) hits and all integrated circuits are fried, how you gonna calculate? Slide rule! For hundreds of years, the slide rule was *the* calculator of choice of scientists and engineers. Learn how to use a slide rule. If you have one, bring it. Don’t have one? No problem. Attendees will make their own slide rule out of paper in class. All materials will be provided.

Randy Brack has been a member of North Texas Mensa since 1979. In high school, he walked around with a slide rule on his hip, attracting laughter from classmates. Now he has a degree from MIT, two software patents, and has published articles in national computer magazines. And he has a slide rule with a case marked “Open in case of emergency.”

1:30 p.m., Galleria 1, The Reemergence of UFOs (UAP) – Neil Pinto

UFOs (now called UAP) are once again making headlines! As featured in the Dallas Morning News, this thought-provoking lecture delves into the US government's ongoing investigations and eye-opening new whistleblower claims. Join us as we explore the most compelling UFO cases, hear why government officials are taking a once ridiculed topic seriously, and see what revelations may emerge in the months ahead.

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Neil Pinto is an independent researcher on the UFO/UAP topic and works in the Aerospace Industry. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Aerospace Engineering and Master's Degree in Systems Engineering.

1:30 p.m., Galleria 3, Robots and Kids and Fun, Oh My – Bill Rock

For over 30 years BEST Robotics has been helping get students engaged in all aspects of engineering through a sports-like competition to design, build, and operate a remote-controlled robot. Starting with a new challenge each year and a box of basic construction materials, teams have eight weeks to design and build the robot, write up an engineering notebook, prepare a marketing presentation, and more. Many current engineers got their first exposure to engineering through the BEST program. Come see what it is all about, and get a demonstration of this year's challenge "Incision Decision".

Bill Rock has been a Mensa member since 1985, and works for Raytheon as a SW Quality Engineer. He has been involved in BEST since 1996, creating the 2002 and 2012 games, and has been on the game development team since 2019. He has also been hub co-director and field construction lead for the local Dallas hub for several years.

1:30 p.m., Lobby, Charcuterie Tasting (The Gastronomic Angst of a Meatless Sandwich, or "Dude, Where's My Cold Cuts?)" – Jeff Bromberger

One of the biggest shocks in moving to Dallas from New York was found in the food realm. Many of the cultures that I had always grown accustomed to being around just aren't as readily available as they were. It seems that the Italian, Sicilian and Polish populations never really made it down here to the Dallas area. Come to think of it, even the Jewish deli is pretty scarce in this neck of the woods. If I were going to have a decent lunch, I'd need to learn how to make the sausages and deli meats that I'd grown accustomed to over my lifetime. This is my journey into all things salami, salumi, smoking and sausage.

Jeff Bromberger is an IT specialist and has no dream of dominating the world's sausage market. His background in chemistry has proved to finally come in handy as he experimented to get the correct flavors. The closest he came to any formal training in charcuterie comes from his paternal grandfather, who managed a kosher deli in Brooklyn for 20+ years.

Participating in the tasting requires a \$10.00 pre-purchased ticket. Please see the Registrar if you are interested in attending. Seating is limited.

3:00 p.m., Galleria 1, Eclipse 2024 - Experiencing a Total Solar Eclipse – Mike McInerney

Total solar eclipses are a phenomenon not just to be viewed, but to be experienced. On 8 April 2024 one will be traversing the east central U.S. (the last until 2045), and Dallas is in its path! Total eclipses occur when the moon blocks the sun's light from reaching Earth. The presentation will cover the geometry and history of eclipses, the fun of experiencing a total solar eclipse, and the safe viewing of eclipses.

Mike McInerney experienced his first total solar eclipse in 1979 while conducting research in Canada for his graduate studies. Since then, he has been promoting the experience.

3:00 p.m., Galleria 3, Rhythm, Rhyme, and Song: How Our Brains Remember Stuff – Bruce Jones

Patients with dementia or severe autism still manage to maintain a unique relationship with music. In this presentation we will explore how the ingredients of music (Rhythm, Rhyme, and Song) come together. We address the question of how the brain retains something as complex as music when other brain functions become impaired. We discuss the musicality of tonal languages like Chinese, how babies develop language skills, and what parts of our brains are involved in music. This presentation will include live performance of music.

Bruce Jones was on the team that discovered and decoded China's oldest documents. His research involves the transition from Oral Literature into the world's earliest maps and documents. This includes the early epics, which were sung, and the relationship of Poetry and Song in China, Greece, and the Quechua worlds. Bruce has retired from training Commercial Pilots for China's largest airlines. He was certified by American Airlines in five languages.

4:30 p.m., Lobby, Wine Tasting – Cindy Bicking and Karen Brack

We're all familiar with wines from Italy, France, California, etc. But what about wine from Greece (that isn't retsina), Slovenia or Ukraine? In this tasting, we will be trying wines from places that don't necessarily spring to mind when thinking about wine.

Cindy Bicking and **Karen "Westy" Brack** like wine.

Participating in the tasting requires a \$20.00 pre-purchased ticket. Please see the Registrar if you are interested in attending. Seating is limited.

7:30 p.m., Board Room, Botticelli – Jeanne “Cookie” Neely

Botticelli is a Mensa-level version of Twenty Questions that was popular with Dorothy Parker and the Algonquin Round Table. A player (the questioner) may **NOT** ask a yes/no question of the chooser (the person who has given the initial letter of the individual whose name is to be guessed) unless (s)he can first stump that person with the identity of a different individual whose name begins with the same letter. Properly structured, this can be tougher than it sounds...e.g., if the chooser has said "I am an H," the questioner might ask, "Did you have a son who crossed the Alps with elephants?" If the chooser cannot come up with an answer that satisfies the game criterion--specifically, in this case, "No, I am not Hamilcar Barca," the questioner may then ask something like "Are you human?" Players may enter or leave the game at will – nobody needs to be there for the whole thing – and the game can last as long as anyone is interested or has nothing better to do. We can even suspend it and resume later should enough players want to do that. For those who want them, the full rules we'll be using will be available at registration and as the game begins.

Jeanne “Cookie” Neely has always had a love for parlor and word games, and the English language has been her favorite toy almost since she was first inflicted on the world during WWII at Camp Blanding, Florida. She grew up in Longview, Texas, and some years later managed to graduate from UT Austin with a BFA in theatre, in spite of having spent most of her time playing Bridge. She joined Mensa in 1975 and has been a member of NTM ever since, except for a lost year or so in East Texas Mensa. She is now involved with Theatre Longview as an actor, director, and prop mistress (also pleads guilty to having written a one-act melodrama called “The Terrible Tracks of Trauma, or M Is for the Mother Who Mislaidd You” which has been performed at three different NTM RGs). Neely passed away almost seven years ago, leaving her alone with two roommates – Chloe, the Great Dane, and Tuffy, the 15 pound cat.

8:30 p.m., Lobby, Texas Hold 'Em – Paul Whiteman

The game is no-limit Texas Hold 'Em. Everyone will start with 1000 chips. Blinds will escalate every 20 minutes. The last one standing gets a free beer in hospitality and bragging rights for the rest of the RG.

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8:30 p.m. – ?, Swimming Pool, Pool Party

Who knows what the weather is going to be like outside tonight? Inside, however, it's a tropical paradise. Come to the pool party and enjoy the water, some music, and good company. Bring pool toys if you've got any.

10:00 p.m., Swimming Pool, Introductions, Thanks, and Contest Results

Everybody please come to the pool at 10:00 p.m. to meet and officially thank the committee, congratulate all the game winners, and give condolences to the new members of the NTM Board of Directors who are there. It'll just take a few minutes. It is the one chance we all get to acknowledge all these wonderful folks.

12:00 p.m., Hospitality, Party Animal Voting

Vote for your favorite Party Animal. Look for people wearing the Hell's M's T-shirts for details.

Party Animal Voting

At many of the RGs, **Hell's M's** recognizes one person who has helped other people at the RG have a good time. That person is inducted into a special chapter of HELL's M's called PARTY ANIMAL. This person is selected from all the attendees at the RG by a vote of the HELL's M's attending. If a person is selected as a PARTY ANIMAL at three RGs they are made members of the "PARTY ANIMAL Hall of Fame" and are not eligible to be chosen again. Voting continues until the RG is over.

Only HELL's M's can vote. Everyone who is currently or has ever been a member of the HELL's M's can vote for PARTY ANIMAL. One vote each, no proxies.

Votes are to be taken privately, not as a group.

For the vote to be valid, there must be at least 10 HELL's M's at the RG who vote.

Everyone present at the RG is eligible to be chosen as the PARTY ANIMAL (no, you cannot vote for the person who made it a great party by not showing up).

The person who is collecting the votes and any member of the PARTY ANIMAL HALL OF FAME cannot be chosen as the PARTY ANIMAL.

Anyone campaigning for PARTY ANIMAL is automatically eliminated from the running.

Whoever gets the most votes gets the award. Note, it is usually best if the person collecting the votes holds off on voting till the end, to act as a tie breaker if necessary.

Only a member of HELL's M's can collect the votes.

The votes must be collected on the last day of the RG (yes, you can start collecting them after midnight).

Only one PARTY ANIMAL can be chosen at an RG. There can be no ties.

The PARTY ANIMAL must be chosen at an RG, and not before or after the RG.

Send in the name, address, phone number, shirt size of the new PARTY ANIMAL and name of the RG. Also send in the names of everyone who got votes, with the number of votes they got.

The person chosen will get a T-shirt and a membership in HELL's M's through the next renewal date.

Sunday

1:00 p.m., Lobby, Spirit Tasting 2 – Paul Whiteman

Whiskey Tasting. The American whiskey industry is blooming. Try out the wide variety of different types of whiskies that Paul Whiteman has gathered from all over the US. Be prepared for selections you probably have not tasted before. Someone will like every one of these fine beverages. Others, maybe not so much. But hopefully, you will be exposed to a whole new world of American appellations that are available to you.

Paul Whiteman is a connoisseur of bourbon, rye, scotch. He is a member of two scotch societies that meet regularly to sample the latest offerings. And... well, let's face it, Paul just likes to drink.

Participating in the tasting requires a \$30.00 pre-purchased ticket. Please see the Registrar if you are interested in attending. Seating is limited.

NTM Pleasures and Delights XLII

Credits

The 2023 NTM Regional Gathering: *Pleasures and Delights XLII* was brought to you by...

RG Chair and Program Chair	Karen Brack
Treasurer and Registrar	Cathy Allshouse
Hospitality	Penny Robe, Anne Whiteman, Paul Whiteman, Roger Durham
Program Book	Randy Brack
Audio/Visual	Lori Simon-Roberts
Party Animal Vote	HELL's M's SIG

...and the letter



**Y'ALL COME BACK NOW,
YA HEAR?**