PROGRAM

Friday, November 20, 2026

3:00 PM | Registration Opens | Foyer

4:30 PM | Behind the RG: ChatGPT, My Virtual Volunteer | Lana Lee | Spectrum I
Programming an RG takes a lot of people, or one person with a virtual volunteer. See how I used ChatGPT to brainstorm programming, find and recruit speakers, plan activities, tackle logistics, draft communications, and work through the decisions that go into Brilliance by the Bay. Through real examples, I'll show how ChatGPT lightened my workload and served as an extra set of hands when time and resources were limited. You'll discover ways to apply the same approach to your own life.

Lana is a Community Manager and Strategist at a tech company and enjoys bringing people together despite being an introvert. She wears many hats within Mensa including SFRM webmaster, member-at-large, and gifted youth coordinator and is the national gifted youth committee chair. She also runs Mensa SIGs for musicians, Harry Potter, and online boardgaming.

4:30 PM | AI and the Meaning of Life: Searching For Meaning in.the Smart Modern and Dumb Ancient Worlds | Gabriel Bellman | Spectrum II
AI and the role of technology may challenge our conception of the present and future but how does that compare to other technologies in world history? What does it mean to have smart technology? What hope do modern societies have for finding the meaning of life and the uncovering of the mystery of human existence? Is everything better or worse?

An active attorney, mediator, and stress management coach, Gabriel helped start several award-winning television series for MTV and has directed feature films and music videos. He received his B.A. from the USC Film School, his M.A. in Social Thought from NYU, and his JD from UC Law SF and is an accomplished playwright and basketball fanatic.

4:30 PM | RG Icebreakers | Dick Duker & Roberta Maguire | Glimmer
Get revved up for the weekend and get to know your fellow Mensans through a series of fun, relaxing and non-threatening thought questions.

6:00-7:00 PM | Welcome Reception | Foyer
Kick off the weekend by reconnecting with familiar faces, meeting new friends, and enjoying great conversation. Whether it's your first RG or your fiftieth, this is the perfect place to relax, mingle, and start an unforgettable weekend together.

7:30 PM | The Oddest Couple: A Two-Person Show | Marty Nemko and Leslie O'Brien | Reflection I



Leslie O'Brien and Marty Nemko could not be more different. She is joyful from Arkansas he is a worrywart from the Bronx. This hour-long show offers their candid but funny exchanges interspersed with Leslie singing iconic songs with Marty accompanying on keyboard The show embeds not-obvious life lessons amid the fun.

Leslie has sung with three Grammy winners, was Stanford's Senior Class President, and written for TIME and PBS.

Former Intelligencer columnist and Mensan Marty Nemko has played keyboard for 2,000 gigs and radio-hosted Work with Marty Nemko. U.S. News called him, "Coach extraordinaire."

8:30 PM | The Varlet Model of Physics | John Caywood | Spectrum I

‘Varlet’ is a re-used archaic word meaning, among other things, a rascal. There are four varlets. The shape of a quark is a tetrahedron, with one varlet at each vertex. Three-quark particles have three quarks arranged around a triangle with gluons at the three apexes of the triangle holding it together. Two-quark particles have two possible arrangements.

John Caywood is a retired Civil Engineer / Software Engineer

8:30 PM | Meet the AMC | Jon Gruebele | Spectrum II



American Mensa Board of Directors (AMC) members attending SFRM's Brilliance by the Bay will moderate a discussion about issues facing the organization. We’ll be happy to entertain your questions, comments, ideas, complaints, suggestions, challenges, and whatever else you’d like to address. The discussion is always interesting – please join us!

Jon Gruebele is Chair of American Mensa’s Board of Directors (AMC). He’s been RVC4, 2nd and 1st Vice Chair, LocSec, and Proctor. Jon co-chaired RGs and has served on various Mensa Committees. His background is in international marketing, IT, and management for a Fortune 100 company. He’s a process and quality improvement expert.

8:30 PM | Ask a Genealogist | Janice M. Sellers | Glimmer

Just starting your family history research? Wondering what your next step should be? Staring at a brick wall? Janice, the friendly Oregon Mensa and Intelligencer genealogist, will take on your questions and do her best to give you intelligent answers. She has been working on her family history for 50+ years and has been a professional for 20 years. She specializes in Jewish, Black, and forensic genealogy and has experience with many others. And if all else fails, she’ll try to keep you entertained!

Her grandparents told Janice she is related to actor Peter Sellers and John of Gaunt, son of a king and father of a king. They were wrong, but that’s why she has researched her family for 50+ years and now helps others find the right pieces to their genealogy puzzles. She can talk all day about genealogy. Her site is http://www.AncestralDiscoveries.com.

8:30 PM - 12 AM | BYO GAMES ROOM; NO HOST GAMES | Windows

Bring your favorite board, card, or party games and drop in for an evening of open, casual gaming! With no formal host or schedule, this is a relaxed space to pull up a chair, find fellow players, and dive into whatever games people bring along.

10:00 PM | Lightning Talks | Andy Lampenfeld | Spectrum I



WHAT IS A LIGHTNING TALK?
This is your chance to present your thoughts to a guaranteed-intelligent audience!
A Lightning Talk is brief -- like lightning, but not too brief to make a good point (or several, if that's your intention). Each speaker will have up to 5 minutes to be serious, funny, silly, exciting, trivial, or "over the top". For those wishing to give a Lightning Talk, a sign-up sheet will be available at Registration and Hospitality, as well as at the event itself.
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Andy Lampenfeld is a long-time Mensan who likes to talk.

Saturday, November 21, 2026

7:30 AM | Hike Along Bay Trail From Hotel to Coyote Point | Dick Duker & Roberta Maguire | Lobby
Join us for a short 4-mile R/T walk along the bay as we walk from the Hilton Hotel to Coyote Point and back. The paved path is flat, and our pace will be moderate. We will meet at 7:25 am inside the entrance to the hotel for a 7:30am departure. Expect to return around 9 am.

Both Dick and Roberta have walked the Camino de Santiago, and have led hikes in different parts of the Bay Area.

8:00 AM | Registration Opens | Foyer

8:30 AM | City of Burlingame | Vice Mayor Andrea Pappajohn and Carl Martin | Reflection III

Join Vice Mayor Pappajohn for a brief welcome and some highlights about the City of Burlingame. Carl Martin from the City of Burlingame Historical Society will follow and share some of Burlingame's history.

Discover the fascinating history of Burlingame, our host city for Brilliance by the Bay! Join the Burlingame Historical Society for a look at the people, places, and events that shaped this Peninsula community, from its early beginnings to the city we know today. Learn about the local history and hidden stories of the place we're calling home for the weekend.

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM | Mensa Testing | Windows

9:00 AM | Designing for Belonging: Creativity Connects Us | Yiying Lu | Reflection I



What makes a design feel like it belongs? Drawing on two decades of cross-cultural creative work, Yiying Lu explores how visual language connects people across cultures. From the web cultural icon Twitter Fail Whale, to bringing Asian culture to billions of keyboards through 🥟 and 🧋 emojis, to localizing Disney for Shanghai and creating global brand identities, she shares how color, typography, and iconography can make cultures feel seen and communities feel connected.

Yiying Lu is an award-winning creative leader at the intersection of art, technology & culture. Creator of the Twitter Fail Whale and six Unicode emojis, including 🥟 and 🧋, she has led work for the UN and Disney Shanghai. An Adobe Global Creative Ambassador and former SF Arts Commissioner, she explores how design creates belonging across cultures and billions of screens.

Why Support the Mensa Foundation?

The Mensa Foundation turns our shared belief in intelligence and human potential into impact. Donations help support research into intelligence and giftedness, scholarships, recognition, and programs that expand our understanding of intelligence throughout life.

9:00 AM | Overview of an Amazing Career | Pete Antoniak | Spectrum I



Pete Antoniak will talk about his recollections: Received a Presidential Pardon from JFK. Very First in his Naval Academy Class into Vietnam. Commanded a Navy Seabee Team. Sang in the White House at the request of the First Lady. Program Manager for the Initial Confinement Fusion Project. Once sued by George Lucas over a spreadsheet program he wrote. Once testified before a Congressional Committee. Awarded one of the first software patents. Was elected as a union president and more

Pete Antoniak is a retired Navy Commander, Professional Engineer, Author, Lecturer, inventor and joke teller.



9:00 AM | Wired for Pressure™ | Sonia K. Singh | Spectrum II

Wired for Pressure™ explores how pressure can override even our most sophisticated thinking, activating predictable emotional and behavioral patterns. Drawing on neuroscience and psychology, this talk reveals how these hidden patterns shape the way we think, feel, communicate, and respond, and introduces a practical framework for interrupting them and responding with greater awareness, intention, and choice.

Sonia Singh is an executive coach, leadership expert, and former healthcare executive who has spent 25+ years studying what makes people, and organizations, perform at their best. She has trained and coached more than 5,000 leaders, blending psychology, neuroscience, emotional intelligence, and mindfulness to help people think, lead, and live more intentionally.

9:00 AM | What Lights You Up? Write It! | Amari Sims | Glimmer



What sparks your interest? In this hands-on workshop, youth participants will choose a topic they care about, develop a strong hook, and shape their ideas into a short, engaging article. Finished pieces can be submitted to "The Bright Side," San Francisco Regional Mensa's youth publication, for consideration in a future issue. Approved work may also qualify for volunteer service hours.

Amari Sims is a high school sophomore, Lead Editor of "The Bright Side," and Gifted Youth Member-at-Large for San Francisco Regional Mensa. He also writes the monthly “Amari’s Perspective” column for "The Intelligencer," San Francisco Regional Mensa's member publication. Amari has served as a keynote speaker and panelist at regional and national events.

10:30 AM | Ten Things Your Gifted Child or Teen Would Like You to Know: But Probably Won’t Tell You | Melody Lowman | Reflection I



With over 50 years of experience raising 2 gifted children and counseling hundreds of gifted children and their parents Melody would like to share her experience and evidence based approaches to parenting. Gifted children & teens have different developmental timelines and different perceptions and perspectives from typical children. Giftedness is just one aspect of a child but it interacts with every other aspect of personality. These differences impact the children and their families in every way, not just in school. This will be a presentation and discussion format.

Melody Matthews Lowman, M.A., is a family life, parenting, behavioral, and educational consultant working with adults, children, families, and organizations. Since 1964, she has maintained special interests in family relationships and parenting, alongside health concerns and sexual and reproductive psychology.

10:30 AM | The Mensa Foundation's Study of Unmet Needs | Nguyen Pham, Billie Lee | Spectrum I



In 2024, the Mensa Foundation's Board of Trustees commissioned its first-ever formal research initiative: the Study of Unmet Needs Among Highly Intelligent Individuals, conducted with Dr. Tracy Cross and Dr. Jennifer Riedl Cross of the William & Mary Center for Gifted Education. Learn more about the needs of gifted individuals and the challenges they face in accessing resources and support across the lifespan.



Nguyen Pham (he/him) is President of the Mensa Foundation, Vice Chair of Mensa's QueerSIG, and President Emeritus of San Francisco Pride. Since joining Mensa in 2010 (Mr. Mensa 2011), he has raised over $100k for the Foundation. He also co-founded the PGA-endorsed SF Pride Golf Tournament and performs with CHEER San Francisco to raise charitable funds. Nguyen holds a BA from UC Berkeley and an MBA from San Francisco State University.

Billie Lee is the Vice President of the Mensa Foundation Board of Trustees, where she has served since 2023. She previously served on the American Mensa Committee as Second Vice Chair (2017–2021). She also leads the Human Intelligence + AI SIG, which explores how AI can help unleash human intelligence and turn smart ideas into real change.

10:30 AM | Simplify to Thrive | Bernadette Hill | Spectrum II



A practical workshop for high-capacity thinkers buried under their own complexity. Through a three-part arc - Reflect, Simplify, Thrive - attendees build a personal Less List, a Micro-Planning worksheet, and a Simplicity Strategy Map connecting a 24-hour micro-goal to a 90-day vision. Grounded in research on attention, decision fatigue, and implementation intentions. 45 minutes of content plus Q&A (one hour). A mini clinic, not a lecture - attendees leave with a skill they can apply immediately.

Bernadette Hill is a Continuous Improvement leader at UC Davis and the founder of Savage Simplicity, a boutique operational excellence advisory and structured thinking platform. She hosts the Savage Simplicity and LeanVerse podcasts and serves on SFRM ExComm. She speaks on building disciplined systems that help ambitious thinkers thrive without burning out.

10:30 AM | Mad Science | Detective Science Workshop (Ages 6-12) | Glimmer



Step into the role of a detective and discover how forensic science plays a central role in solving crimes. Create and analyze fingerprints, examine dental records, make tooth impressions and discover how written materials can be analyzed to help solve a crime. Find out if you would make a good witness when your observation skills are put to the test!

For over 40 years, Mad Science has delivered unique, hands-on science experiences for children through our after-school programs, birthday parties, workshops, special events, and summer camps. Their innovative programs are as entertaining as they are educational!

12:00 - 1:30 PM | Lunch for Registered Attendees | Reflection II & III

1:10 PM | Mini Hike Along the Lagoon | Dick Duker & Roberta Maguire | Lobby
Join us for a short walk along the lagoon for a quick pick-me-up after lunch. This 15 minute walk should allow you to finish your meal and be back in time for the 1:30 session.

Both Dick and Roberta have walked the Camino de Santiago, and have led hikes in different parts of the Bay Area.

1:30 PM | Milk's Night Off | Jen Storm-Alves, Kat Estrada | Hospitality
Oreos paired with wine (Jen) and beer (Kat)

1:30 PM | Reignite Their Spark: Challenge in the Age of Ease | Rick and Jen Tuten | Reflection I



In a world optimized for smooth sailing, gifted learners may be missing something essential: the challenge of navigating open water. In this thought-provoking session, fellow gifted educators and parents Rick and Jen Tuten make the case that today's age of ease may be dimming the spark of gifted youth and offer practical strategies for rekindling curiosity and purpose through productive struggle, creativity, and authentic, hands-on experiences.

Rick and Jen Tuten are gifted educators, parents, and lifelong learners with more than 40 years of combined experience. Jen is an education thought leader specializing in gifted and twice-exceptional learners, AI, and neurodiversity. Rick is an award-winning STEM educator known for experiential learning, innovation, and inspiring disengaged adolescents.

1:30 PM | Research Like a Reporter: A Writer's Guide | Geri Spieler | Spectrum I



Journalistic skills can make every kind of writing stronger. Whether you're writing fiction, memoir, essays, articles, or a book, your use of careful research, fact-checking, interviewing, observation, and attention to context will give your work depth and credibility. Readers may forgive an occasional mistake, but when the details feel wrong, they stop trusting the writer. Learn how to ask the right questions, verify what you know, and get the details right.

Award-winning freelance writer, research director, author and expert researcher with extensive experience in investigative journalism and content creation. Proven track record of delivering high-quality, well-researched content for top publications like San Francisco Chronicle and Los Angeles Times; 150+ published research reports at Gartner.

1:30 PM | Level Up: Launching Tech Careers with Gameheads | Damon Packwood | Spectrum II



Gameheads is a nonprofit that empowers youth through video game design, technology, and career development. Students learn coding, digital art, storytelling, game design, and leadership while building real-world skills. Through mentorship from professionals at leading gaming and tech companies, participants gain hands-on experience, create portfolio-ready projects, and explore pathways to college and careers in the gaming and technology industries.

Damon Packwood is the Executive Director of Gameheads, a nonprofit preparing youth for careers in the video game and technology industries. With a background in game development, education, and entrepreneurship, he leads programs that provide mentorship, hands-on learning, and industry connections, helping young people access opportunities in STEM and gaming.

1:30 PM | Stress Less, Live More | Patricia Cheng | Prism



When was the last time you made it through a full day without feeling too stressed?

Stress is one of the biggest contributors to mental health struggles — it can worsen existing conditions and quietly erode wellbeing over time. In this interactive workshop, you'll learn 7 simple, usable tools to reduce your stress. You'll leave with:

- A clearer understanding of how stress affects mental health
- Specific ways to monitor and reduce your stress
- Practical micro-changes you can use right away

Patricia Cheng is a People Management and Life Coach and the creator of the Manager Accelerator. She speaks, coaches, and offers trainings on people management and stress optimization. She believes that everyone deserves to live a joyful life, and her mission is to make the world a better place by spreading joy.

1:30 PM | Mad Science | Matter of Fact Workshop (Ages 6-12) | Glimmer

Students e They see the dramatic differences between physical and chemical changes, as they mix up a batch of their very own Mad Science Putty to take home.

For over 40 years, Mad Science has delivered unique, hands-on science experiences for children through our after-school programs, birthday parties, workshops, special events, and summer camps. Their innovative programs are as entertaining as they are educational!

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM | Gameheads Student Showcase | Randi Dean | Windows

Discover the next generation of game design at this interactive exhibition featuring original video games and digital media projects created by talented, diverse youth developers. Born out of an intensive, mentor-backed accelerator program, these student-led projects blend technical skill with rich, multicultural storytelling. Stop by to hear the creators pitch their concepts, play through 5-to-10-minute gameplay demos, and explore the cutting edge of Bay Area multimedia talent.

Gameheads is a nonprofit that empowers youth through video game design, technology, and career development. Students learn coding, digital art, storytelling, game design, and leadership while building real-world skills. Through mentorship from professionals at leading gaming and tech companies, participants gain hands-on experience, create portfolio-ready projects, and explore pathways to college and careers in the gaming and technology industries.

Many Thanks to Our Host City Sponsors:

The City of Burlingame

The SFO/Burlingame Chamber of Commerce

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Visit their table in the foyer to learn more about our host city!

3:00 PM | GY Dance Party with TheSurfaceSpins | TheSurfaceSpins (Robert G) | Reflection I



Gifted Youth and their Grown-Ups can join the TheSurfaceSpins in a moment of musical celebration. Dance, sit, listen, jump, or sway your heart out to some kid-appropriate oldies. Pop in and check us out briefly or stay longer and enjoy the music anyway you like. Please check out the song binder and make a musical request.

TheSurfaceSpins (aka Robert) is a YouTuber and record collector with a passion for sharing the music they love.

3:00 PM | Lunar Operations Coordination and Management | Swati Saxena | Reflection II



NASA's Artemis Program aims to establish a sustained human presence on the Moon, supported by diverse crewed and uncrewed vehicles performing transportation, exploration, construction, and resource-utilization missions. This growing activity requires a lunar operations management architecture to safely coordinate traffic. This talk presents a Moon Digital Twin for strategic and tactical trajectory planning, conflict management, and testing of operational scenarios and contingencies.

Dr. Swati Saxena is a Senior Aerospace Researcher at NASA Ames Research Center and a part-time faculty at UC Berkeley. Her research interests include applications of AI/ML and GenAI in Airspace Operations, high-fidelity modeling and simulation (Digital Twins), gas turbine aerodynamics, and aeroacoustics. She enjoys reading books and playing tennis in her free time.

3:00 PM | Game Design Basics: Make Your First Game! | Golden Gate Gamers | Reflection III

Come and make your first game with Golden Gate Gamemakers! The first 10 minutes will go over basic concepts in game design. Individually or find a group of 3-4 people, receive components with a prompt and spend 40 minutes to come up with ideas and challenge yourself to make a "playable" prototype. Get 10 min of feedback from experienced designers. Keep the components and continue your design by attending the regular Golden Gate Gamemakers designer meet-ups all throughout the Bay Area!

Hosts: Jason Parmele, Tristan Muntsinger, Johnny Chin, Marley Timmerman
Contact:

Golden Gate Gamemakers is a recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that brings together board game designers and playtesters in the San Francisco Bay Area. GGG provides playtesting opportunities, education, and resources, has 200+ in-person events/year, and a Discord server where the community can connect. Anyone can be a designer or playtester, including you!

Support the Mensa Foundation

Text SFRM to 44-321 to support the Mensa Foundation and track your donation for SFRM.

3:00 PM | Lead, Forgive, Connect, Transform | Erica Yew | Spectrum I



After over 24 years as a Superior Court Judge and 2 stints in treatment court, I left to be the CEO of the American Leadership Forum Silicon Valley. We teach transformational leadership based upon the work of Jaworski, Gardner, and Greenleaf. The premise is that good leadership releases human possibilities for the individual and their organization. Combining what I learned as a judge and what I see at ALFSV, it is clear that forgiveness is an integral piece of building a winning team.

Erica Yew is a retired Superior Court judge. She was the first AAPI female to sit in Santa Clara County and served for 24.5 years and now combines her judicial experience with leading ALFSV. During her years as a judge and now at ALFSV, she has created curriculum for people internationally, nationally, statewide, and locally.

3:00 PM | Live Book Club: Jr.TaleBlazers | Advik Arun | Spectrum II



What makes a book impossible to put down? Why can two readers have completely different opinions about the same character? In this interactive session, participants will then take part in a live mini book club involving book scenarios, predictions, character questions and friendly debate. No advance reading is required. The group will also create a collaborative Brilliance by the Bay reading list and vote for a Readers' Choice selection.

Advik is a San Francisco Regional Mensa gifted youth member and the host of SFRM's Jr. TaleBlazers Online Book Club, a kid-led reading group for young Mensans. He is also a young author and enthusiastic reader who enjoys mysteries, and skiing.

3:00 PM | Find Your Flock: Too Many Interests, Not Enough Time | Billie Lee | Prism
For the multipotentialites, serial hobbyists, and people who are always onto something new. Come meet others whose curiosity refuses to stay in one lane.

Billie Lee has held leadership positions in American Mensa for over 14 years, including serving as Second Vice Chair. As Chair of the Gifted Youth Committee, she guided policy on youth programs and safety. A web strategy and development leader, Billie works at the intersection of technology and marketing for enterprise SaaS companies. She applies her expertise to support the Mensa Foundation's mission of fostering intelligence for the betterment of society.

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM | The Recharge Room | Drop-In; No Host | Glimmer
Need a break from the hustle and bustle of the RG? Step into the Recharge Room for some quiet time. Read, relax, work on a puzzle, color, draw, or simply recharge before your next session. No agenda, no activities, and no expectations. Just a quiet space to unwind. *Please keep conversations and noise to a minimum.*

4:30 PM | Nerf War: Humans vs Zombies | Kristen Estrada & Kat Estrada | Meet in Foyer (Reflection I Backup)
Help save humanity from the zombie outbreak! Stay alive (read: untagged) for 15 minutes while using Nerf blasters to stun (read: shoot and temporarily freeze) oncoming zombies, lest you be turned into a zombie, too! Note: This is a physical activity which requires participants to be able to move freely in a park space for 15 continuous minutes. Children (ages 8+) are welcome to participate, so long as they are good sports and their parents remain present for the duration of the activity.

Kristen Estrada holds sociology degrees from SJSU and has a long history of community building. With nearly a decade in case management and three years as a Prevention Specialist in a Sacramento school district, she focuses on student leadership and school climate. An avid gamer with deep roots in LARP and Vampire: The Masquerade, Kristen created a local, accessible Humans Versus Zombies (HvZ) group. She's excited to share her gaming obsession with you. Welcome!

4:30 PM - 8:15 PM | Demo Games with Golden Gate Gamemakers | Golden Gate Gamemakers | Reflection III



Come demo games from local Bay Area game designers along with some games from Mensa Mind Games! Hosts: Jason Parmele, Tristan Muntsinger, Johnny Chin, Marley Timmerman.

Golden Gate Gamemakers is a recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that brings together board game designers and playtesters in the San Francisco Bay Area. GGG provides playtesting opportunities, education, and resources, has 200+ in-person events/year, and a Discord server where the community can connect. Anyone can be a designer or playtester, including you!

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GOLDEN GATE GAME MAKERS HOST BIOS:
Jason Parmele is a lifelong game designer and elementary educator who decided to turn his love of board games into a podcast about actually making them. For the past three years, he's documented the journey of taking *Under One Sky* from an idea to crowdfunding through *The Misplay*, a podcast about the messy, creative process of building a board game from the ground up.

Tristan Muntsinger is a San Francisco board game designer and founder of d0 Games, a studio built around zero-randomness heavy strategy games. He was a developer on the Legend of the Five Rings card game, and has given seminars on randomness at Dundracon and Kublacon. He also has 20 years of experience as a software engineer.

Glenn Cotter has a life-long passion for games and movies, and has been working in the entertainment industry for over 25 years. He began his career as an artist on videogames, then transitioned to work in the film industry. By day Glenn is a visual effects artist working on feature films, while designing board games at night. He is a founding member and serves on the board of Golden Gate Gamemakers.

DEMO GAMES:
Under One Sky - Kickstarter | Jason Parmele
Every night, no matter where we are, we look up at the same sky. In *Under One Sky*, two players take turns placing and shifting stars across a shared night sky, racing to recreate a constellation while every move changes the possibilities for both players. Easy to learn but full of meaningful decisions, *Under One Sky* is a fast-paced abstract strategy game of planning, adaptation, and spatial reasoning, with every game creating a fresh puzzle.

Art of War | Tristan Muntsinger
Art of War is a 2-8 player strategy game set in China's Warring States period (230-221 BCE), with no dice and no random draws. Every outcome comes from player decisions. Each of the eight powers has a signature strength and a historical weakness. Players plan through the seasons and march on their rivals, racing along victory tracks for military, diplomacy, economy, building, and territory. The game was developed with historical consultant Dr. William Matthews (LSE), and a Kickstarter is planned for late 2027. Victory is earned, never rolled.

Devious | Glenn Cotter
Smirk & Dagger recently released Glenn's latest game, *Devious*. It is a light card game about crafting an alliance of mischievous tribes of faeries using trickery and sabotage. Glenn's games tend to be quick-playing, accessible to novice and experienced gamers, and focus on the high interaction between players.

4:30 PM | Writing Between Fact and Fiction | Anna Citrino | Spectrum I



"How can narrative embody life in words and at the same time respect what we cannot know?" writes Saidiya Hartman. Anna's presentation explores using imagination to build from facts to tell a story that blends genres of poetry and historical fiction. Anna will talk about her writing process and challenges, as well as offer suggestions for places to look for publishers and awards.

Anna Citrino grew up in San Diego and taught abroad in six different countries. Her work has appeared in over forty publications. Her most recent book, Stories We Didn't Tell, has won four awards, including the Western Heritage Award. Currently, Anna lives in Sonoma County where you can typically find her walking, biking or tending her garden accompanied by her cat.

4:30 PM | Analyzing Voynich Manuscript Using AI Tokenization | Noah Siva | Spectrum II

Noah Siva is a high school student passionate about coding and AI. He codes for his classes and robotics team, but in his free time, he enjoys working on projects like this one; using AI's powerful technical capabilities to tackle seemingly obscure and unconventional problems.

4:30 PM | Find your Flock: First to Fly | Find Your Flock | Bernadette Hill | Prism

It takes courage to go first. Meet people who were the first in their family, field, community, or generation to take a new path, from going to college or immigrating to entering an unexpected career or breaking a barrier. Hear how they navigated unfamiliar territory, overcame obstacles, and opened doors for those who followed. Youth and adults are invited to ask questions, share experiences, and learn from those who know what it means to go first.

Bernadette Hill is a Continuous Improvement leader at UC Davis and the founder of Savage Simplicity, a boutique operational excellence advisory and structured thinking platform. She hosts the Savage Simplicity and LeanVerse podcasts and serves on SFRM ExComm. She speaks on building disciplined systems that help ambitious thinkers thrive without burning out.

6:00PM - 8:30PM | Saturday Dinner and Keynote: Engineering an Authentic Life | Lisa Pruitt | Reflection II



This personal leadership forum examines the foundation for engineering a life with purpose and joy. We explore the power of introspection, reflection and visualization. Through introspective work we can find our authenticity, strengths and talents; hone self-awareness and emotional intelligence, identify our core values and zones of genius, and map out an actionable plan that integrates our time and energy to make way for a life aligned with our true north.

Lisa Pruitt is a Distinguished Professor of Bioengineering & Mechanical Engineering at UC Berkeley. She has authored more than 300 publications in failure analysis, biomaterials and medical devices. She has received numerous awards in research, teaching and mentoring, including the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring.

8:30 PM - 12 AM | BYO GAMES ROOM; NO HOST GAMES | Windows

Bring your favorite board, card, or party games and drop in for an evening of open, casual gaming! With no formal host or schedule, this is a relaxed space to pull up a chair, find fellow players, and dive into whatever games people bring. along.

8:30 PM | The Technology of Space | Ronald Baraze | Reflection I



Discussion of scientific space-based instruments developed at Lockheed Martin over the last 30 years in collaboration with world-wide universities. Includes instrumentation on current NOAA weather satellites providing lightning detection for tornado forecasting and wildfire reporting, testing Einstein's gravitational theories, space dust measurements, and other science payloads.

Ronald Baraze has worked on 26 science-based space-flight projects at Lockheed Martin since 1984, starting when he was a sophomore in high school. Post-college, he has worked full-time for Lockheed Martin, taking projects from cradle-to-grave (proposal, development, integration, launch, operations, to decommissioning).

8:30 PM | Gonzo Trivia! | Mark Jackman | Reflection III

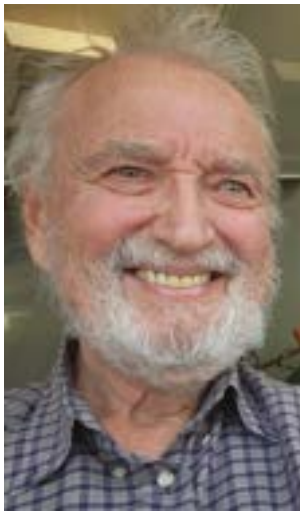


Our popular Gonzo Trivia! returns, with its potpourri of devilishly difficult questions, much like regular general-knowledge trivia only way more Gonzo! This is pro-grade trivia, crafted to be interesting and enlightening with answers that make you go “Ah!”. Hosted with a gameshow vibe by Mark Jackman and grading whiz Richard Poppen, the scoring awards more points for knowing things that others don't. Come as a group or by yourself, with teams of 3–6 (size depending on attendance) to be formed.

“Gonzo Trivia!” host Mark Jackman thinks steampunk, cottage-core, and novel seafood should somehow all be combined. He was once publicly mocked by Jimmy Kimmel and has never really let go of it.

Scoring sidekick extraordinaire Richard Poppen is as fair and balanced as an albino funambulist. He may be judging you even now.

8:30 PM | Joke Off | Ed Marshall | Spectrum I



Mensa members share their unique humor. There may be a winner?

Happily hosted OUR Joke Off at several RG's. Great fun for everyone!

8:30 PM | Find Your Flock: Second Act, Third Act, Next Act | Billie Lee | Prism

Whether you're changing careers, retiring, launching something new, or reinventing what comes next, meet others exploring new possibilities too.

Billie Lee has held leadership positions in American Mensa for over 14 years, including serving as Second Vice Chair. As Chair of the Gifted Youth Committee, she guided policy on youth programs and safety.A web strategy and development leader, Billie works at the intersection of technology and marketing for enterprise SaaS companies. She applies her expertise to support the Mensa Foundation's mission of fostering intelligence for the betterment of society.

8:30 PM | Chocolate History and Tasting | Michael Eager | Glimmer
Chocolate has been described as the food of the gods and it has a long history, from it's discovery by the Aztecs to becoming a worldwide multi-billion dollar industry. Michael will present the history of chocolate, how it is produced from the beans of the cacao tree, the different varieties, and what to look for when tasting chocolate. The presentation will include tasting a variety of domestic and international chocolates.

Michael has been conducting chocolate tastings at regional and national Mensa gatherings for many years. At any time, he might have a dozen or two varieties of chocolate bars on hand.

10:00 PM | A Musical Respite with TheSurfaceSpins | TheSurfaceSpins (Robert) | Hospitality



Join the TheSurfaceSpins in a moment of musical appreciation. Sit and listen, stand and sway, or dance your heart out to the music we love. We hope this program will be a welcomed respite from the rest of your day. Pop in and check us out briefly or stay longer and enjoy the music anyway you like. Please check out the song binder and make a musical request.

TheSurfaceSpins (aka Robert) is a YouTuber and record collector with a passion for sharing the music they love.

Sunday, November 22, 2026

7:30 AM | Hike Along Bay Trail From Hotel to Coyote Point | Dick Duker & Roberta Maguire | Meet in Lobby
Join us for a short 4-mile R/T walk along the bay as we walk from the Hilton Hotel to Coyote Point and back. The paved path is flat, and our pace will be moderate. We will meet at 7:25 am inside the entrance to the hotel for a 7:30am departure. Expect to return around 9 am.

Both Dick and Roberta have walked the Camino de Santiago, and have led hikes in different parts of the Bay Area.

9:00 AM | Making the Internet Trustworthy Again | Arshad Noor | Reflection I



Before the internet was commercialized, only people from institutions participating in its development had access to it - their focus was on making it work; consequently, trust was implicit. With multiple billions of humans, devices and applications on it currently, the internet requires explicit controls to establish trust. This program describes necessary controls and investments that must be made lest the internet collapse prematurely.

With an eclectic education in Geology and an MBA in Corporate Finance, and 40 years of experience in building applications, information systems and enabling trustworthy information at customers of all sizes on six continents, Arshad brings unique perspectives to the topic that are certain to be thought provoking.

9:00 AM | Protein Transformers and the Future of Health | Melanie Swan | Spectrum I



One of the most consequential challenges in AI today is the push toward universal health and longevity solutions. Biological systems present a formidable mathematical and physical puzzle with nonlinear, high-dimensional, dynamic mechanisms. This talk examines how emerging protein transformer architectures are advancing the computational infrastructure required for molecular-scale modeling, enabling the design of targeted therapeutics that address disease and aging with unprecedented precision.

Melanie Swan, PhD, MBA is a Research Associate in Computer Science at University College London, and Research Lead at DIYgenomics.org. She has a PhD from Purdue University, an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, and an undergraduate degree from Georgetown University. Her research focuses on science and technology frontiers for human well-being.

9:00 AM | The Future of Biomimetics and Soft Robotics in AI | Nirbhuy Arun | Spectrum II



The pace of AI is advancing at an unprecedented rate; however, there is a large gap between a human and an AI assistant. In the human body, neurotransmitter levels in the 10th cranial nerve are crucial for emotional regulation. Furthermore, the flexibility of the epidermis or the compression of ball-and-socket joints in the knees make an individual's locomotion natural. AI has lots of room for improvement, and the future of expressive AI lies at the intersection of biology and robotics.

Nirbhuy Arun is a cofounder of multiple environmental initiatives, a national podcast host in innovation, a proud Mensan, a Davidsons Young Scholar, a recipient of the Gloria Baron's Young Heroes Award, and a member of the Biomedical Engineering Society.

9:00 AM | Turning Chaos into Creativity: Journaling | Lynna Do | Glimmer



Have you been seeing “junk journal” or “sisterhood of traveling journals” or other creative journals all over the internet? Are you like me and collect “souvenirs” from trips/daily life and want to do something creative with it? Or you just want to learn to journal more creatively. Here’s your chance to learn to make one. Come join me to learn how to creatively journal, make a “junk journal”, and learn a new creative outlet for your busy mind.

Lynna.is a lifetime MENSA member who has lived in the Bay Area for close to four decades, but still feels close to her Missouri-born roots. She has been scrapbooking for more than three decades and now it’s called journaling. She loves being creative and this is her mental health activity. She has done many journals with many themes.

9:00 AM | Introduction to Family History Research | Anthony Mazy | Prism
Presenting a survey of family history research methods, with emphasis on local resources and software tools like Ancestry.com and Family Tree Maker

35+ year Mensan with 10 years experience in tracing my family history, now going back as much as 14 generations.

10:30 AM | Meet the New SFRM ExComm | SFRM ExComm (incoming) | Glimmer
Meet the leaders helping guide SFRM into its next chapter. Join members of the newly elected Executive Committee for a casual introduction, learn a little about their roles and priorities, and bring your questions. It’s also a chance to share what you’d like to see from SFRM in the year ahead.

SFRM’s Executive Committee (ExComm) is the elected leadership team that guides the organization, supports its programs and volunteers, and helps shape the member experience.