

## Agenda

### Friday - May 23rd

#### **3:00pm-9:00pm - Registration Open - Cabrillo Salon**

#### **3:00pm-Midnight - Hospitality Open - Dolphin Terrace & Patio**

Ahoy, mateys! Grub and grog can be plundered at the Dolphin Terrace. Once ye've got yer bounty, make sail for the upper deck patio to enjoy yer feast. Keep yer victuals and swill on the patio, lest ye be walkin' the plank for spreadin' 'em to other corners of this here inn!

#### **3:00pm-Midnight - Games Room Open - Sierra 5&6**

#### **3:00pm-11:00pm - Book/puzzle/game Exchange - Balboa 2**

#### **3:30pm-4:30pm - What was I thinking? (Game) - Dolphin Terrace and patio**

When given two words, they will trigger a thought. Score points for matching other players' thoughts. You'll travel from topic to topic at the speed of thought, learning what others think, to connect and score! Join us and play a bit, drop in and drop out as the spirit moves you.

#### **5:00pm-6:00pm - Nate Greengard - Time's Up! (Game) - Sierra 5&6**

Two teams compete to get teammates to guess celebrities and other notables by giving clues

#### **5:30pm-6:00pm - Dave Bowles - New Member Orientation - Balboa 2**

Avast ye, landlubbers with brains as big as a galleon! Give a hearty "Yo ho ho!" to the new buccaneers joinin' the smart crew o' San Diego Mensa! Welcome aboard, ye clever dogs! May yer minds be sharper than a pirate's cutlass and yer ideas worth more than buried treasure!

#### **5:30pm-7:00pm - Dinner - Dolphin Terrace & Patio**

Tacos, Tacos and more Tacos - Build yer own, you won't be served here unless ye be in the brig!

#### **7:00pm-7:15pm - LaRae Bakerink - Welcome aboard, me hearties to the 2025 AaaaRG! - Cabrillo 1**

Heave to and pull up a stump.

Meet yer crew and discover what treasures we have in store for you this weekend.

#### **7:15pm-8:15pm - Heave ho! Bartender Ron's Magical Mixings - TBA**

Ahoy, thirsty swabs! Fear not the scorching sun, for Cap'n Ron himself will be concoctin' his legendary frozen margaritas! Prepare yer gullets for a taste o' paradise that'll quench yer thirst like a downpour after a long drought. Get ready to say "Arrr!" with every icy, delicious sip!

#### **7:30pm-8:45pm - Edward Chu - What is the past, present, and likely future of nuclear fusion? - Cabrillo 1**

How do fusion and fission differ? How does fusion compare to current energy technologies regarding efficiency, sustainability, and safety? Mensan Ed Chu will cover fusion's history, theory, global commercialization efforts (including ITER and other projects), and remaining challenges. He will also examine other major projects worldwide, including private-sector initiatives and government-backed research programs.

#### **8:30pm - 9:00pm - HELL's M's Meeting - Balboa 2**

Don't let the word "meeting" mislead you. HELL's M's, the Party SIG of American Mensa, dedicated to people having good memories of parties, always has meetings instead of Meet & Greet. (Historical Thing).

#### **8:30pm-10:30pm - Rich Lederer - Poker 101 - Sierra 5&6**

Rich welcomes beginners and intermediates to a workshop (with play) on the great American poker game of Texas Hold'em. There is no buy-in, but a prize or prizes will be awarded.

#### **9:00pm - 10:00pm - Oh Hell! (Game) - Sierra 5&6**

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!"

**9:00pm - Midnight - Swashbuckler's Cinema - Cabrillo 2**

Hoist the mainsail and batten down the hatches! Tonight, we be weighin' anchor for a thrilling voyage across the silver screen with *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Prepare yerselves for swashbucklin' heroes, villainous scallywags, buried treasure, and epic sea battles.

**Saturday - May 24th**

**8:00am - 8:30am - Friends of Bill W - Balboa 2**

**8:00am - 5:30pm - Hospitality Open - Dolphin Terrace & Patio**

Ahoy, mateys! Grub and grog can be plundered at the Dolphin Terrace. Once ye've got yer bounty, make sail for the upper deck patio to enjoy yer feast. Keep yer victuals and swill on the patio, lest ye be walkin' the plank for spreadin' 'em to other corners of this here inn!

**8:00am - 9:30am - Breakfast - Dolphin Terrace & Patio**

Avast ye, hungry buccaneers! Come and plunder a bounty of hard-boiled eggs, creamy yogurts, sweet pastries, and juicy fruits! Grub's on, so fill yer bellies like a treasure chest overflowing!

**8:00am - Midnight - Games room open - Sierra 5&6**

**8:00am - 11:00pm - Book/puzzle/game Exchange - Balboa 2**

**8:30am - 11:00am - Registration Open - Cabrillo Salon**

**8:30am - 9:00am - Testing Check in - Cabrillo Salon**

**9:00am - 11:00am - Mensa Testing - Balboa 1**

**9:00am - 10:00am - Jay Friedlander - Meet the RC - Balboa 2**

Meet and Greet the Regional Coordinator to discuss events in and out of the region

**9:00am - 10:00am - Nate Greengard - Encore (Game) - Sierra 5&6**

2 Teams - Each team has to sing a sample of a song containing a particular song to move forward on a gameboard.

**9:30am - 10:45am - Melissa Reskof - Blimey! Advantages & Pitfalls of Divergent Thinking, Ways to Manage It - Cabrillo 2**

Have you been told you have too many ideas? Or that you ask too many questions? Do you have difficulty choosing what to have for dinner or what movie to watch? Has your love of learning brought you down the internet rabbit hole for hours at a time?

Join us for a discussion of the Advantages & Pitfalls of Divergent Thinking at home and at work.

We will share strategies for when and why of shifting from divergent to convergent thinking. We will take a tour of Mind maps, as a way to catalog thoughts and ideas in a way that makes sense and is useful for projects, planning, and prioritizing.

**10:00am - 10:45am - Steve "Maltese" Cross - Frequent Wind - The evacuation of Saigon '75 - Cabrillo 1**

A look inside the evacuation of the US Embassy in Saigon, April 1975. The plan and task force was on station April 23rd. The order to evacuate was delayed until April 29th-30. In 18 hours, US personnel safely evacuated personnel in the largest helicopter evacuation to date.

USS Midway received more than a third of those evacuated; no injuries or deaths occurred.

At the embassy two US Marines were killed when their guard post was struck by a grenade.

**10:00am - 12:00pm - Theresa Kasel - Games SIG Ahoy! - Sierra 5&6**

Come aboard and meet your Games SIG Captain and other Mensans who enjoy games. I'll have a collection of the games that we've been playing at our game events and you'll get a chance to learn them (if you don't already know them) and have fun with other game loving mateys.

**11:00am - 11:45am - Suzie Tell - Shipwrecked by Relinquishment: How Adoption Hijacks the Nervous System - Cabrillo 1**

Adoption isn't always the fairy tale it's made out to be. In this raw, eye-opening talk, Susie Tell—adult adoptee—exposes the hidden and rarely discussed impact of adoption through the lens of a nervous system wired for survival and a body that never stopped bracing for abandonment. With a pirate-themed twist, she reveals what happens when we're plundered at birth and left shipwrecked. Drawing from her own recovery from early trauma, Susie shares real tools for healing through nervous system regulation, fitness, and metabolic recovery. Land ho! There is hope.

**11:00am - 11:45am - Chuck Borough - Kick a Rock - Cabrillo 2**

Something that may make you happier with your past than you may have been before.

All of us have done some things we wish we had not done and failed to do some things we wish we had done, but let's think about it.

**11:30am - 1:00pm - Lunch - Dolphin Terrace & Patio**

Ahoy, me hungry hearties! Prepare to chart yer own culinary course at our "Build-Yer-Own Bounty" bar! Shiver me timbers, it's a treasure trove of fresh fixin's for yer own custom sandwich and a garden of greens for yer perfect salad. So weigh anchor and assemble yer grub just the way ye like it, savvy?

**12:30pm - 6:00pm - Registration Open - Cabrillo Salon**

**12:30pm - 1:15pm - Chuck Samples - Beer SIG Meetup**

Avast ye, San Diego beer buccaneers! The Beer Special Interest Group be gatherin' to swap tales o' yer finest local grog and chart yer favorite watering holes across this fair city! It's a prime chance to learn what this crew o' ale aficionados be all about and share yer own treasured San Diego brew stops.

**1:00pm - 1:45pm - Dr. Jenny Rankin - What You Might Not Know About a Mensan Matey's Brain - Cabrillo 1**

To be gifted is a gift, but IQ isn't the only aspect of our Mensan brains that is supercharged or unique. This lively talk merges stories with research as we dig into the cognitive science and behavioral science behind strange things your mind is doing right now. Throughout this talk you'll say, "Ahoy! I recognize that!" and "Aye! So that's why I do that!" and will look at your thoughts and behavior in a whole new way. With an enhanced understanding of what drives your quirks and makes you unique, you'll leave this talk even smarter than before.

**2:00pm - 3:15pm - Richard Lederer - Pirates of the Sea - Cabrillo 1**

Avast ye swabbies! How do pirates know that they are pirates? They think. Therefore, they arrrrr. Rich will share his best pirate puns mixed with a fleet of nautical word and phrase origins.

**2:30pm - 3:30pm - Nate Greengard - Taboo (Game) - Sierra 5&6**

Played with 2 teams. Get your teammates to say a word without using 5 restricted words

**3:00pm - 4:15pm - Iris Meyers - A Swashbuckling Adventure in Chocolates (\$) - Balboa 1**

Avast ye mateys! Set sail on this swashbuckling adventure into the exciting world of chocolate! Fill your coffers with some knowledge, taste some delicious morsels, but whatever ye do, don't walk the plank! Savvy?

**3:30pm - 4:45pm - Frederick Simson - My US Navy career: Technically a Pirated Membership (Ages 21+) - Cabrillo 1**

I never registered for the draft after June 1973 when I turned 18. I withheld information asked for on my enlistment application that September. Thus was the beginning of my 21-year military career that existed when "Homosexuals" were legally prohibited from military service.

**4:00pm - 5:00pm - Five Crowns (Game) - Sierra 5&6**

A five-suited rummy-style card game. The unique deck provides players with multiple options for arranging their hand into sets and runs.

**6:00pm - From Our Chest to Their Future: The Scholarship Basket Raffle! Part 1 - West Lawn**

Ahoy, ye generous buccaneers! Gather 'round for the reveal o' the lucky dogs who've plundered the Scholarship Raffle Baskets! The time has come to draw the winning charts and see who among ye will be claimin' these treasures!

We be hopin' ye've already cast yer hard-earned volunteer tickets towards the raffle booty that've caught yer fancy! May the tides o' fortune be in yer favor!

**6:00pm - 9:00pm - Dinner - West Lawn**

Join the Brethren Court as they gather to pay tribute to the Pirate King. Be sure to wear yer best garb so ye don't insult the Brethren Court or the King. We'll have a fine meal before the tribute.

***But amidst the festivities the Pirate King is murdered!***

According to the code, you must solve the mystery as you interact with cutthroat captains and notorious scallywags! Navigate through the treachery, discover clues, solve the murder, and win the prize!

The murder mystery is run by the actors, we as the audience will solve the puzzles and riddles to solve the murder.

**8:30pm - Midnight - Hospitality open - Dolphin Terrace & Patio**

**9:30pm - 10:30pm - Nate Greengard - Carnelli (Game) - Sierra 5&6**

A word game introduced in 1972 and in which players try to find as many words as they can from a grid of lettered dice, within a set time limit.

**9:30pm - Midnight - Swashbuckler's Cinema - Cabrillo 2**

Hoist the mainsail and batten down the hatches! Tonight, we be weighin' anchor for a thrilling voyage across the silver screen with ***Hook***. Prepare yerselves for swashbucklin' heroes, villainous scallywags, buried treasure, and epic sea battles.

**10:00pm - 11:00pm - Simone van Egeren - Shiver Me Slides: A Battle Deck Duel! (Intro) - Cabrillo 1**

Avast, PowerPoint pirates! Gather 'round for an introduction to Battle Deck! Each bilge rat gets a random slide deck. Spin a yarn - grand or bilge water - based on the pictures and words. Be quick-witted as a crow's nest monkey, smooth as a siren to impress the buccaneers! The most believable (or absurd) tale wins bragging rights! Bluff through blurry photos and nonsense; tonight, the best storyteller sails victorious! The extended game will be played Sunday night.

**Sunday - May 25th**

**8:00am - 8:30am - Friends of Bill W - Balboa 2**

**8:00am - 11:00am - Hospitality Open - Dolphin Terrace & Patio**

**8:00am - 9:30am - Breakfast - Dolphin Terrace & Patio**

Avast ye, hungry buccaneers! Come and plunder a bounty of hard-boiled eggs, creamy yogurts, sweet pastries, and juicy fruits! Grub's on, so fill yer bellies like a treasure chest overflowing!

**8:00am - Midnight - Games room open - Sierra 5&6**

**8:00am - 11:00pm - Book/puzzle/game Exchange - Balboa 2**

**8:30am - 11:00am - Registration Open - Cabrillo Salon**

**9:30am - 10:45am - Melissa Reskof - Ahoy Matey, Manage Stress & Overwhelm, Bring Home the Booty - Cabrillo 1**

These days life can be stressful, throw in ADHD or neurodivergent traits for added exasperation. We often forget and/or overthink, we are easily distracted, and we lose track of time. These things can weigh on us.

The daily stress brought on by ADHD traits can be mentally and physically tiring. Join us as we explore and try a smorgasbord of activities to manage overwhelm and reduce stress. You might even have fun. These tools are ADHD friendly, easy to use, quick acting, and evidence-based.

**10:00am - 10:45am - Jim Wilson - School to Prison Pipeline - Cabrillo 1**

The USA has allowed millions of its people to become unskilled and unemployable with little hope for the future. They believe the American economic system no longer works for them. Over the past 30 years, 30 million have dropped out of high school. Because of this lack of technical employment skills, these millions of Americans are largely unemployable. The way to permanently alter the economic circumstances of America's poor is to systematically provide technical work skills—the younger. The intelligentsia of the country must devise a method of providing occupational education.

**10:00am - 11:00am - Nate Greengard - Boggle - Sierra 5&6**

A word game introduced in 1972 and in which players try to find as many words as they can from a grid of lettered dice, within a set time limit.

**10:00am - 12:00pm - Theresa Kasel - Let's Play Mah Jong - Balboa 1**

Avast ye, landlubbers! Fancy learnin' the secrets o' the ancient game o' Mah Jong? Then gather 'round for this here workshop! We'll be showin' ye the ropes, from the tiles to the winning hands. By the end, ye'll be shufflin' and clackin' like seasoned buccaneers in a Chinese gambling den!

**11:00am - 11:45am - Jenny Marshall, PhD - The Hidden Treasure: When Bright Minds Conceal Neurodivergent Truths - Cabrillo 1**

When high intelligence masks neurodivergence, the result can be missed diagnoses, chronic anxiety, perfectionism, and deep-seated self-esteem issues. This talk explores the clinical and personal implications of being "too smart to struggle". Drawing on research, clinical insight, and real-life case examples, this talk will examine how giftedness can obscure ADHD, autism, and other conditions, impacting identity, relationships, and well-being.

**11:30am - 2:00pm - Sarah Flocken - X Marks the (Puns on the) Spot - Dolphin Terrace & Patio**

Sarah Flocken, host of Pundemonium! San Diego's ONLY Pun Competition, will be our wandering PUNstrel. She will bring her popular "Puns on the Street" video series to our reception area, entertaining attendees with puns on the spot. To see how she does it, check out the San Diego Pundemonium Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/sandiegopundemonium/>

**11:30am - 1:00pm - Lunch - Dolphin Terrace & Patio**

Ahoy, me hungry hearties! Prepare to chart yer own culinary course at our "Build-Yer-Own Bounty" bar! Shiver me timbers, it's a treasure trove of fresh fixin's for yer own custom sandwich and a garden of greens for yer perfect salad. So weigh anchor and assemble yer grub just the way ye like it, savvy?

**1:00pm - 1:45pm - Dr. Jenny Rankin - How to Persuade Anyone (When One's Views Deserve the Plank) - Cabrillo 1**

Even people who are highly resistant to you and your ideas can lower their guard and embrace your information if you use communication strategies that specifically target resistance. This presentation will help you understand what is happening in the brain of someone who disagrees with you and will arm you with surprising-yet-practical strategies for persuading even the most adverse audiences that their views deserve to walk the plank.

**1:00pm - 2:00pm - Barbara Lytle & Jim Lewis - Trivia Quiz (Game) - Balboa 1**

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.

**1:00pm - 2:00pm - Theresa Kasel - Yo Ho - Mah Jongg - Sierra 5&6**

Come join your fellow mateys for an opportunity to play Mah Jongg. Your fearless pirate captain will be holding a class to teach the game and this is your opportunity to play the game.

If you can't make it to the class -- we won't make you walk the plank -- we'll do our best to teach you how to play.

**2:00pm - 3:15pm - Sarah Flocken - A Piratney Punning Contest (You'll Be DOUBLOON Over With Laughter!) - Cabrillo 1**

Pundemonium is coming to Mensa's regional gathering, and you will be the competitors!

Pundemonium, a beloved show here in San Diego, is based on the format used by pun contests in cities nationwide.

- In Part 1, Battle of the PUNdits, participants deliver two-minute pun-filled speeches on a topic of their choice. Want in? Let us know you're competing ahead of time by emailing [sandiegopundemonium@gmail.com](mailto:sandiegopundemonium@gmail.com).

- Part 2, the PUNger Games, is a head-to-head pun-off tournament-style, where participants go back and forth making puns on a topic until they just can't anymore.

**3:30pm - 4:30pm - Mexican Train (Game) - Sierra 5&6**

A version of dominoes worthy of Mensans.

**3:30pm - 4:45pm - Adina Sobo - Animals Afloat - Cabrillo 1**

Humans are one of the few species that take animals around on purpose. We don't just share a habitat; we even travel with them ashore and on the high seas. Learn about some of the critters that have gone with us, whether the people were merchant marines, naval officers, pirates, or Vikings.

**5:00pm-5:15pm - From Our Chest to Their Future: The Scholarship Basket Raffle! Part 2 - Cabrillo 1**

Ahoy, ye generous buccaneers! Gather 'round for the reveal o' the lucky dogs who've plundered the Scholarship Raffle Baskets! The time has come to draw the winning charts and see who among ye will be claimin' these treasures!

We be hopin' ye've already cast yer hard-earned volunteer tickets towards the raffle booty that've caught yer fancy! May the tides o' fortune be in yer favor!

**5:30pm - Dinner on your own**

Alright, ye landlubbers! For this evenin's chow, ye be on yer ownsome! The ship's galley (that be the hotel restaurant) serves up some fine grub, or if yer feelin' adventurous, hoist yer sails and explore the many fine eatin' holes in these here parts. Happy plunderin' for yer supper!

**7:00pm - 8:30pm - Kristine Calitri - Shiver me timbers! Mai Tais with the Goddess Kristine - TBA**

Aye, matey! Imagine hoistin' a few Mai Tais with the fair Goddess Kristine herself! Now that be a treasure worth fightin' for! Hear tales from a celestial being while sippin' on tropical delights. Don't miss yer chance to bask in her glorious presence and share a toast or two!

**7:30pm - 8:45pm - Robert Berend - Ask the Sexologist (Ages 21+) - Cabrillo 1**

Q and A interactive. Questions submitted by attendees, in advance, are welcomed.

**9:00pm - 11:00pm - Simone van Egeren - Shiver Me Slides: A Battle Deck Duel! (Gsme) - Cabrillo 1**

Battle Decks be a game o' pure delight and savvy wit, aye! Ye be handed a treasure chest o' random PowerPoint slides, and ye spin a yarn with all yer might! Ye know not what lurks on the next page, but ye spin a tale with flair, ye see! Ye make the landlubbers roar with laughter and cheer with glee, and by the kraken, ye win handsomely!

**9:30pm - Midnight - Swashbuckler's Cinema - Cabrillo 2**

Hoist the mainsail and batten down the hatches! Tonight, we be weighin' anchor for a thrilling voyage across the silver screen with *The Princess Bride*. Prepare yerselves for swashbucklin' heroes, villainous scallywags, buried treasure, and epic sea battles.

**10:00pm - 11:00pm - Charades (Game) - Balboa 2**

Don't know how to play? Doesn't matter, written directions will be provided. Shy? Come watch and laugh. This is the friendliest game in town. No teams, no time limits, and help is offered. All titles are movies and are provided. If you haven't heard of this turkey movie, you'll even be given a brief description. Anyone can be a star in this game.

**Monday - May 26th**

**8:00am - 8:30am - Friends of Bill W - Balboa 2**

**8:00am - 12:00pm - Hospitality Open - Dolphin Terrace & Patio**

Finish it up, all the victuals will be disappearing at noon.

**8:00am - 12:00pm - Book/puzzle/game Exchange - Balboa 2**

**9:00am - 10:15am - Richard Lederer - Ask Mensa's Verbivore - Cabrillo 1**

Here's your chance to hang out with our long-time Mensa Bulletin columnist (more than a quarter century), perhaps the most wordstruck, word-besotted, word-bethumped wordaholic you know. He'll be delighted to address your questions about puns to punctuation, pronouns to pronunciation, palaver to palindromes, and philology to etymology.

**10:00am - 11:00am - Scattergories - Sierra 5&6**

Right off the top of your head, name a restaurant, fruit, toy, Halloween costume, and weapon. And make sure they all begin with the same letter. If "C" is the letter, you might answer Chinese, Cantaloupe, Cap Gun, Clown, and Catapult. But be unique. If your response is the same as an opponent's, you score nothing!

**10:30am - 11:00am - LaRae Bakerink - HELL's M's Wrap Up & Party Animal Vote - Balboa 2**

Come together to share stories of your favorite moments of the weekend and vote for the RG Party Animal! Wear your HELL's M's shirt if you have one!

**11:15am - 12:00pm - LaRae Bakerink - Sailing off into the Sunset - Cabrillo 1**

Avast ye, shipmates! The sun be sinkin' on our weekend treasure! Gather 'round, ye salty dogs, for one final, hearty "Arrr" before ye weigh anchor for yer own ports. We'll have a quick parley for announcements, including the HELL's M's Party Animal, and a look back at our plunderous good times.