



# mind

Mensa Newsletter  
Of Central Indiana



**OMG! Outdoor Mensa Gathering!**  
**May 15-17, 2015**  
**Versailles State Park, Indiana**  
**(Pictures Courtesy of David Bonner)**

## **Publishing Statement**

Central Indiana Mensa, a Local Group of American Mensa, Ltd., publishes *MIND* monthly. Mensa is a not-for-profit organization open to all persons scoring in the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile on a standardized intelligence test. Mensa neither endorses nor opposes the opinions published in *MIND*, which are those of the individual contributors.

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*MIND* contributions may be sent to [mind.editor@yahoo.com](mailto:mind.editor@yahoo.com), or Teresa Gregory, 6076 Dewey Avenue, Indianapolis, IN, 46219. Contributions may be edited for length or to remove offensive material, and may not include personal attacks. No anonymous contributions will be published, but the Editor will withhold the author's name from the public on request. Contributions should be in hand no later than the first Friday of the month for the following month's edition.

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## table of contents

Old Dog/New Tricks	4
Safety Checkup	4
LocSection	5
Sidebars from <i>Lonely Planet</i>	6
AML Election Issues	7
Welcome New Members	10
May 2015 Events	11
RVC4 Column	15
Don't Tell your Kids They're Smart	16
Books on the Runway	17
Central Indiana Mensa ExCom Minutes	19
Treasurer's Report	21
Location of CIM Monthly Meeting	22
Contact Information	23

***There is nothing wrong with your television set. Do not attempt to adjust the picture.***

Do you remember that opening from the television series, *The Outer Limits*? Due to an overwhelming amount of excellent content this month, the font size had to be altered on a few of the articles. There is nothing wrong with your vision. Do not attempt to adjust it. Just enjoy!

## Old Dog/New Tricks

*Teresa Gregory, Editor*

Due to excessive quality content this month, my remarks will be brief.

Since the last issue of MIND, we have lost three long time members who you might know. If you ever met Joseph Spearing, you would never have forgotten him. Gary Parker told us all about his job as an elevator and amusement park ride inspector for the state at one of our monthly gatherings. Robert O. Adair was our “resident poet.” Three very different, special people much like all of Mensa. The next time you are at an event, have a chat with someone you don’t usually talk to and see what makes that person special. You might be surprised.



Please read Petra’s article that follows. As a person who lives alone, I think this is a wonderful idea.

## Safety Checkup

*Petra Ritchie*

I live in a condo complex where most of the residents are middle aged to elderly. Many have a dog and live alone. We seem to know the names of each other’s dogs better than we know the names of our neighbors.

Two weeks ago several of us were worried because we had not seen “Gabby” walking her “mom” for over two days. Sadly, when someone called a locksmith to check on her he found that she had passed away unexpectedly two or three days earlier.

It got me to thinking: I have two dogs. What would happen to them? I talk to no one every day. My lifestyle is such that I am in and out a lot. If I were to die suddenly, well....

I would like to share the solution that I have put into place:

I don’t want to ask anyone to call me every day, and I don’t want to call someone every day. My nearby neighbor and I now email each other every night, before we go to bed. All the email says is “Good Night.” The next morning we check our emails for the “Good Night” message. That’s it! If there is no message in the morning, we will call – Did you forget??? If no answer, we knock on the door. No answer? I have given her a key to my home to use only in an emergency.

Please consider this strategy for the same peace of mind that I now feel.

## LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

**Outdoor Gathering** – I hope to see many of you at Central Indiana Mensa's Outdoor Gathering May 15-17. It's our annual camping weekend at Versailles (Indiana) State Park. We rent the group camp and stay in dormitory-style cabins. There's a central building where we hang out, play games, eat, etc. The OG is a wonderful, fun, relaxing weekend and you can't beat the price of \$50 that includes food and lodging! If you can't stay for the whole weekend, come for the day on Saturday. More details elsewhere in *MIND*.



**Annual Gathering** – Speaking of gatherings, the Annual Gathering (U.S. Mensa's national convention) will be July 1-5 in Louisville, KY. If you haven't been to an AG yet, this is a great opportunity since it's so close. You can go for a day if you don't have the time for the whole thing. Many consider the AG to be the ultimate Mensa experience—it has it all! You can find more information at [www.ag2015.us.mensa.org](http://www.ag2015.us.mensa.org).

**National (and International) Mensa Elections This Month** – Life members and members who renewed by April 1st should have received a ballot or instructions for online voting by now. Please take the time to look over candidates' statements and the proposed national bylaws amendments and then vote! Several members have asked me my opinions on candidates and amendments. If you're interested, please send me an email—I'd be glad to send you my thoughts.

**AML Board Meeting** – Mensa's national board met in Indianapolis in March. Our group hosted a hospitality suite Friday and Saturday nights. It was fun to get to know several of the national officers and candidates a little better in that informal setting. The formal meeting on Saturday was a mixture of presentations and business. You can read the minutes at [www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/meeting-reports/#CGI.Path\\_Info#](http://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/meeting-reports/#CGI.Path_Info#). One of the more interesting presentations was the one with results from the recent membership survey. Respondents said that the Mensa *Bulletin* (national magazine/newsletter) was the most highly valued member benefit, followed closely by their local group newsletter.

**We Have a New Monthly Meeting Place!** – Starting on **June 12th**, our monthly meeting will be at the Quality Inn Castleton on the SW corner of Allisonville Rd and I-465 (8380 Kelly Lane, Indianapolis 46250). We're planning to try this location at least through the end of 2015.

## Sidebars from *Lonely Planet*:

### Benjamin Jesty

Teresa Fisher

To be considered the first person to discover something important, do you think you must have previously acquired the proper credentials? Should the discovery itself be enough to garner you fame and accolades, not to mention financial reward? If your answers are no and yes, you would probably find that Benjamin Jesty agrees with you, or he would if he were still alive.

One hundred and twenty five miles southwest of London is the little village of Worth Matravers. People in the area farm, fish, and quarry limestone, much as they have done for centuries. Thanks to information in a *Lonely Planet* guide book I visited the parish churchyard there, where a prominent gravestone marks the burial place of Benjamin Jesty. Jesty, an intelligent, prosperous farmer, was born and lived most of his life forty miles away in Yetminster, but spent his final years near Worth Matravers at Downshay Manor Farm. This, with creative typography intact, is what Jesty's stone says:

(Sacred)  
*To the Memory*  
oF  
Benjm Jesty.(of Downshay)  
who departed this Life,  
April 16<sup>th</sup>.1816.  
aged 79 Years.  
He was born at Yetminster in this  
*County*, and was an upright honest  
Man: particularly *noted* for having  
been the first Person (known) that  
*introduced the Cow Pox*  
by *Inoculation*, and who from  
his great *strength of mind made the*  
*Experiment from the (Cow) on*  
his Wife and two Sons in the Year 1774.

Benjamin Jesty was certainly not the first person to notice that dairy workers who got cowpox would then be immune to the much more serious and severe smallpox. He was, however, the first person brave enough to deliberately infect his family members with cow pox. Jesty himself had already had cow pox, so in 1774 when an epidemic of smallpox came to Yetminster, he made what must have been the difficult decision to inoculate his pregnant wife Elizabeth, and

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two sons, ages three and two. He used a darning needle to transfer pus from an infected cow udder to scratches he made on their arms. The boys had little difficulty from their cow pox, but Elizabeth got very sick and feverish and her arm became inflamed. Fully aware of the public opprobrium he would suffer, Jesty nevertheless immediately called for a doctor, and there being no HIPAA in those days, the doctor told others what Jesty had done.

Elizabeth fully recovered, but the entire Jesty family was treated with scorn and derision by their neighbors, who shouted and threw things at Benjamin when he went into town. He held his head high and ignored them. Despite being exposed to smallpox in later years, his sons weren't afflicted with it.

The Jesty family moved to a farm near Worth Matravers in 1797, about a year after Dr. Edward Jenner first inoculated someone with cowpox. Jesty eventually learned that Jenner was awarded £10,000, and he began to regret not having made any attempt to document his own efforts more than two decades prior. By this time Jesty had inoculated others and was admired by influential local men who knew him. One of them arranged for him to be invited to London by The Original Vaccine Pock Institute. They awarded him a pair of gold mounted lancets, a testimonial scroll, fifteen guineas in expenses (about £15), and they had his portrait painted.

Two years later Jenner was awarded an additional £20,000 and is renowned as the innovator in smallpox inoculation. Benjamin Jesty is merely a footnote in medical history.

In science credit goes to the man who convinces the world, not the man to whom the idea first occurs.

— Sir Francis Galton



## **AML Election Issues: Candidates**

*Alison Brown*

When I began this series of articles the list of candidates to choose from for the American Mensa Ltd. (AML) elections being held this spring was amazingly long. There were more candidates vying for national office than I can ever remember. Meanwhile some have thought better of their decisions to run and we have ended up with three for Chair, two for First Vice-Chair, two for Second Vice Chair, three for Secretary and four (!) for Treasurer. We also have three for Regional Vice Chair for our own Region 4.

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Those who have been following my articles will have gathered that I am no fan of the incumbents running this year for re-election or election to another position in the AMC. I took advantage of the opportunity to attend the AMC meeting in Indianapolis (which they called the “Board Meeting” even though the proposed amendment to the by-laws which would make that change has not been approved, much less voted on, by the membership). Most prominent at this meeting were the current Chair, Dan Burg, running for re-election, and Treasurer, Nick Sanford, running for Chair.

While I understand that leading Mensans is like herding cats, the Chair showed a remarkable lack of patience and even-handedness in dealing with two (female) RVC members of the AMC – so much so, that another RVC made a statement about interpersonal communication style in the open meeting! One of the members in question was a member of the finance committee and in her discussion she referenced the budget paper with which the committee had been working. The Executive Director chimed in with a tone we had been warned about in the Mary Spencer resignation letter I have referenced in a previous article, scornfully speaking about that paper being a mystery or fantasy budget as if it were a figment of the RVC’s imagination. This to a member of the body that is her employer! But she need have no fear, the AMC (speaking as the Board of Directors) released a statement at the end of their closed session expressing their confidence in her and, apparently, renewing her contract for an undetermined length of time. The candidate Sanford, the author of a proposal to give the entire AMC iPads at Mensa expense (which the AMC decided they did not want) and an earlier proposal for automatic annual dues increases, is a smart young man (and we would like a rejuvenation of the AMC) with a lot of fiscal ideas brought straight from corporate America. For example, his notion about the tablets for all was that if the money were spent on them, they could be depreciated in 3 years and would disappear from the accounts by the end of the election period. He implied that the tablets would more or less pay for themselves – fortunately, the rest of the AMC did not buy this any more than the observers around me did. I would prefer not have him at the helm of my club. The third candidate for Chair, Deborah Stone, was not at the meeting, but is very active in Mensa circles as a volunteer in local and national venues, including co-organizing the 2014 Annual Gathering. You can read up on her at <https://debstoneforchair.wordpress.com> – she is my gal for Chair for the next three years.

By her side as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair I would gladly put Mary Lee Kemper, a woman who should be known to active members of Central Indiana Mensa and attendees at any of the three AGs she has chaired. Unfortunately, I have not been able to find a campaign website for her – she is preparing the upcoming AG while holding down a full time job – but her on-line candidate profile at <http://www.us.mensa.org/> speaks volumes. I know her personally and can vouch for her dedication to Mensa as philosophy, way of life and not as a corporate entity, as well as her extraordinary organisational talents. This is a woman who breathes Mensa. As to 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, my feeling is that the incumbents have pushed Mensa in the wrong direction and that a more grass-roots approach is now necessary. Therefore I would promote John Neemidge over the current office holder.

Secretary is an underestimated position, one that wields power “behind the throne”. Therefore it is incumbent upon the voters to choose wisely. None of the three candidates has held this office before, but the two petition candidates express the same concern

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about the direction of AML that I have and have the kind of professional and organisational experience that I believe necessary to fulfil the office. You can read about Nancy Farrer at <http://wordpress.com/farrarandaway> and Lori Norris at <http://lorinorrisforsecretary.wordpress.com> as well as the on-line the candidate information pages (incidentally, this information was previously printed in the Bulletin, guess they are saving money these days!). I must confess a soft spot for Norris, because she has reached out to the on-line community at [us.mensa.org](http://us.mensa.org).

When it comes to the office of Treasurer we have an embarrassment of riches. Three of the candidates were vetted by the Nominating Committee and found qualified. The fourth candidate, William Davis ([billdavisfortreasurer.com](http://billdavisfortreasurer.com)) is the only pure petition candidate on the ballot and he is distinctly an outsider, having just joined Mensa last year. Davis in office would provide a completely fresh perspective. He has all the requisite experience, but I, personally, would prefer officers to have spent more time in the grass-roots. On the other end of this spectrum is Roger Durham, with long experience in our organization and great closeness to the subject matter and the National Office (geographically – which might be good for oversight). Our former RVC 4, Ken Silver (*nomen est omen?*), also brings both Mensa and professional experience to the table. I am leaning towards Robert Salkin on the strength of his campaign statement and the fact that he appears younger than our standard AMC member while still having a rich Mensa background.

The last candidates I want to discuss are those running to be our Region 4 representative and we have the luxury of three people, rather than having one “volunteer” being elected by default. I call them the Mutual Admiration society because at the Indy WTF RG, two of them explained that they would be happy no matter who won in this election and the third said pretty much the same thing in conversation at the AMC meeting! How to choose among the “Fab Three”: John, Paul, George – er, make that Jon, Jim and George.

Jon Gruebele (<http://www.gruebele.com>) has the most extensive information on his thinking on his campaign website. He has given a lot of thought to his candidacy and our organisation, but he is a bit too *status quo* for my taste.

James Cartwright is running a low keyed campaign. His CV is full of good stuff, I especially like the fact that he graduated from the Academy for Community Leadership (Muncie Chamber of Commerce and Ball State University) and put that education to work through out his varied and creative professional and volunteer life, however his Mensa credentials are less than most because he only became active in the last 5 years.

George Haynes (<http://www.rvc4.blogspot.com/>) is the only pure petition candidate for the RVC 4 position. His CV and candidate statement are interesting – how much more enjoyable AMC meetings would be if we had more stand-up comedians at the table;-) His blogspot is somewhat short on positions on the questions that are prominent in this election. I understand Mensans on Facebook will have more insight into the positions of George and other candidates that this Facebook Luddite is not privy to.

I close this series of articles on the 2015 Mensa elections with the plea that all who read these pages will take the time to vote before the “poles” close at the end of May. I will have the campaign literature of our RVC candidates available at the upcoming Monthly Gatherings and will be a gnat in your ears about active participation in the well-being of Mensa, your Mensa, as an organization.

## Welcome New and Returning Members!

Move In	Jeremy S Walls	Westfield	IN
Move In	Rex Eric Ellis	Whiteland	IN
New	Drake Wilson	Greenwood	IN
New	Jason Funk	Fishers	IN
New	Dylan Logan	Indianapolis	IN
New	Gregory J Springer	Newburgh	IN
New	Nathan Rodriguez	Bloomington	IN
New	Gracey Kelley	Clay	KY
Referencing	Victor Ochoa	Danville	IL
Reinstating	Scott S Semester	Carmel	IN
Reinstating	Christine Lowe	Owensboro	KY
Reinstating	Raymond V Schwartz Jr	Martinsville	IN
Reinstating	George Edward Cherry	Plainfield	IN
Reinstating	David Allen Wilson	Greenwood	IN
Reinstating	Gerardo Gomez	Indianapolis	IN
Reinstating	Matthew Roberts	Indianapolis	IN
Reinstating	Robert Colin Campbell	Carmel	IN
Reinstating	Michael A Mitchell	Noblesville	IN
Reinstating	Kevin Song	Carmel	IN
Reinstating	Marcus A Goelz	Indianapolis	IN
Reinstating	Stanley M Ballinger	Indianapolis	IN



## **OMG! Outdoor Mensa Gathering!** **May 15-17, 2015** **Versailles State Park, Indiana**

*(See page 11)*

## May 2015 Events

**Ham 'n' Eggs (Hamilton County Eggheads)** – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday from 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon. Soho Café & Gallery, 620 South Range Line Road, Carmel, IN. Drop in any time for casual conversation, lively discussion, and good food and beverages. Contact: Alison Brown, 317-846-6798, [SIGHT@indymensa.org](mailto:SIGHT@indymensa.org).

**Muncie Area Group Meeting** – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday at 2:00 p.m.  
The MTCup, 1610 W. University Ave. in Muncie. For those familiar with the Ball State area, it's in the Village.  
Contact: Jason Smith, [munciemensa@gmail.com](mailto:munciemensa@gmail.com)

**Bridge Club** – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month, 2 p.m., Contact:  
Bob Van Buskirk, 317-359-6907 or [rvanbuskirk@netdirect.net](mailto:rvanbuskirk@netdirect.net). Location will change each month.

**Indy Lunch Bunch** – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 12:00 noon, Double Eagle Café, 650 N. Meridian (at the Scottish Rite Cathedral), Indianapolis. Contact: Karen Steilberger, [steilkr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:steilkr@sbcglobal.net)

**Monthly Gathering** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday at 7:00 p.m., All Souls Unitarian Church, 5805 E. 56<sup>th</sup> St. See last page of *MIND* for map and directions. Members: \$5.00, Non-Members: \$7.00; Children 6-12: \$3.00, under 6: free.

**5/8:** May "How to get your daily dose of fiber": Our program for May will feature a presentation by Diana Walker, who raises alpacas right here in central Indiana. Come learn about these delightful animals!

**OMG! (Outdoor Mensa Gathering!)** - Friday-Sunday, May 15-17  
Please join Central Indiana Mensa for a laid-back weekend in the woods. If you're thinking that you aren't the "out-doorsy" type, think again! You get food, lodging, scenery, and more for only **\$50** per person! Saturday only is \$30. Kids up to age 6 are \$20, and ages 6-12 are \$35. There is also a per-car park entry fee. So grab your sleeping bags and towels, and join us at Versailles State Park.

**Mail registration to:**

Teresa Gregory  
6076 Dewey Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46219

**Questions: [rg.registrar@yahoo.com](mailto:rg.registrar@yahoo.com)**

**OR...register and pay online at:**

**<http://cim-og-2015.eventbrite.com>**

(Events are continued on the other side of the calendar.)

# May 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
3 Bridge Club	4	5	6 Indy Lunch Bunch
10	11	12	13
17 OMG!  Mensans Dining Out/New Member Dinner	18	19 <i>MIND</i> bending/ ExCom Paducah Area Group Meeting	20 Indy Lunch Bunch
24	25  Memorial Day	26	27
31 Book Group			

## May 2015 (Continued)

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>MIND</i> deadline	2 Ham 'n' Eggs; Muncie Mtg.; Calendar Deadline
7	8 Monthly Gathering	9
14	15 OMG!	16 OMG!
21	22 Cinder	23
28	29	30

If you lose your MIND (oh, my!) or want additional information, check [www.indymensa.org](http://www.indymensa.org) or join our Meetup group, <http://www.meetup.com/central-indiana-mensa>. Meetup is free to join and you will get reminders of upcoming events. It's a great way to stay in the loop.

## May 2015 Events (cont.)

**Mensans Dining Out/New Member Dining** – 6 p.m., May 17,

G.T. South's Rib House, Ivy Way Plaza, 5711 East 71<sup>st</sup> Street, Indianapolis, IN 46220.

**Paducah Area Group Meeting** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m.

Anyone in the area is welcome to join fellow Mensans for dinner. For location and more information on this group, contact Charles Rawlings,

[rawlings@siu.edu](mailto:rawlings@siu.edu)

**MINDBending/ExCom** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

MINDBending is the preparation of next month's MIND for mailing. Come help with sealing, labeling, and stamping the MINDs.

**5/19**, 5:30 p.m. Contact: Jan Pfeil Doyle, 317-431-3500.

Pizza and soft drinks provided.

MINDBending is held at the offices of Midwest Internet, 5348 N. Tacoma Ave., which is 1 block east block north of 52<sup>nd</sup> St. and Keystone Ave. on the northeast side of Indianapolis.

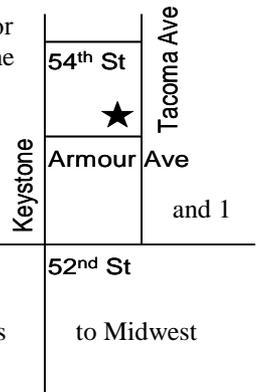
A Big Thank You to all the April MINDbenders and thanks Internet for hosting the event.

**Cinder** – 4<sup>th</sup> Friday at 7 p.m. 721 E. 55<sup>th</sup> St., Indianapolis. A SIG for the Gen X and Gen Y crowd. Contact Ethan Blocker-Smith at [MensaCinder@gmail.com](mailto:MensaCinder@gmail.com).

**Book Group** – 2 p.m., Sunday, May 31. We will discuss *GODLESS—Living a Valuable Life Beyond Beliefs (Memoirs of a Thoughtful Traveler)* by Jeff Rasley. Jeff is a local author and Scientech member. We will be meeting at Rich and Jackie Gibson's house on the NE side of Indianapolis. Please contact Rich at [hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com](mailto:hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com) or 317-735-2895 for more details or to RSVP.

For last minute changes to events check the Central Indiana Mensa group on Meetup.com. <http://www.meetup.com/central-indiana-mensa>

June MIND calendar items due 5/2//15 to: [biltmore@topdogcom.com](mailto:biltmore@topdogcom.com).



## Dealing With “Great Minds”

Ellen Voie, RVC 4

Eleanor Roosevelt once said, “Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people.”

If you equate intelligence to “great minds,” then the discussion at a Mensa event should be intellectually stimulating. They should avoid topics about people. More importantly, the conversations should focus more on ideas and less on one’s individual opinions about those ideas.



We’ve all been advised to stay away from conversations about religion, politics and our personal incomes and private lives. These are things that might not be embraced by those around us. We don’t need to know what goes on behind closed doors in your home, and we certainly don’t need to hear your views on God, guns or unions.

After all, I am an adult and I have formed my opinions and you won’t be changing my views on any of these by sharing yours, especially in a social setting, such as Mensa events. If you want to have a private conversation and share your views on controversial subjects in a small group, by all means, feel free, but take a second and think about who might be within earshot.

An article on the American Mensa website by Tim Goetsch of Minnesota Mensa includes this paragraph

### ***How Do You Handle Annoying Mensans?***

*The same way you handle annoying normal people. If the person is really bothering you, get away from him or her. Don’t apologize; don’t make excuses. Just get your feet moving to the other side of the room. Sticking around will only encourage him or her. If, however, the person is polite but weird, a low-key approach is called for. You listen politely for a few minutes, and then make some excuse like running out of dip. Then you walk away.*

I found an article on WikiHow about “How to deal with opinionated people” that offers these tips.

1. Understand what qualifies for “opinionated.” Does the person allow discussion or does he or she respect the opinions of others? The example offered in the article is, “I like pizza, but people who don’t like it are stupid,” as opposed to, “I like pizza, but if you don’t, then that’s fine too.”
2. Show the person that you really don’t care. This is the same thing Tim stated in his article. Walk away or stop listening. You probably won’t be able to change the opinionated person’s stance, so why try?

3. Speak up if they are being disrespectful or offensive. Remind the person that his or her opinions are not more valid than anyone else's.
4. Try to avoid the person. Again, Tim stated this well by suggesting we make an excuse to leave. If you can't get away from the opinionated person, then at least put some distance between you.

There are opinionated people in every social gathering, and Mensa is no exception. If you are the person who feels the need to express your view point to others, then ask yourself why you feel this need to make them aware of your views. Why does it matter to you?

If you are in the area of an opinionated person, take the advice of Tim and leave them alone and maybe, just maybe, some day they'll realize that they do not possess a "Great Mind."



## **Don't Tell Your Kids They're Smart**

*Diane O'Brien*

I recently read a blog from ABC News which, after wondering why you wouldn't do this, came to the conclusion that it makes a lot of sense. When your child comes home with an "A" on a test, the last thing you should say is, "Wow – you're really smart."

About a year ago, a Stanford psychologist conducted a study and concluded that children who are told they are smart are more likely to rely on their intelligence and discount the importance of effort. It becomes important to them to appear "smart" and if something becomes difficult, they quit. If, instead, they are praised for their effort, they work increasingly hard and are more willing to take risks.

We all know of "smart" people who work at jobs beneath their abilities and who, at the first sign of difficulty, give up on a project. They have learned to rely on their intelligence, without expecting they will have to work hard, like everyone else. We also know of those who spend a lot of effort and hours to achieve success without the native intelligence of their peers.

My background is in music and, though I lack the natural talent to be a concert pianist, worked hard through school to become the best possible. When people talk about a musician as "extremely talented," I always remind them that, although talent is certainly a factor, many long hours of hard work are necessary to achieve such a remarkable finished product.

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So what should you say to your kids instead? When they bring home an “A” on a test, respond by asking them why they did so well and remind them they worked hard to get it. If they complain that something is too difficult, ask them what they need to do – keep trying and practice. In other words, praise effort, not intelligence.

We need to learn to praise our kids for the right things – not for something they’re born with, but for what they do with it. Then we can be “smart” parents.



## **Books On the Runway**

*Margy Lancet Fletcher*

**Title:** *Home: A Memoir of My Early Years*

**Author:** Julie Andrews

**Year:** 2008



**Book Description:** In a televised interview commemorating an anniversary (I can’t recall which) of the release of the movie, *The Sound of Music*, Julie Andrews echoed a sentiment of her iconic character, Maria: “When God closes a door, somewhere He opens a window.” She was referring to the destruction of her four-octave singing voice in 1997 due to botched throat surgery, and her subsequent career as a successful children’s author. Andrews demonstrates her skill as a storyteller in this gently candid and richly detailed account of her youth and early adulthood. Her personal odyssey actually starts prior to “the very beginning,” with the socio-cultural origins of each of her parents. From there, she transports the reader to her own less-than-stable childhood, her experiences as a vocal prodigy, her tutelage under various instructors and mentors, her early vaudeville career, her migration to New York and gradual transformation into an acclaimed Broadway entertainer, the commencement of her first marriage and the birth of her oldest daughter, and finally, the attainment of the titular role in Walt Disney’s *Mary Poppins*. This memoir also contains several pages of vivid black-and-white photographs from the author’s personal collection, a wealth of historical data, and reminiscences of encounters with many famous individuals, presented in a Lincolnesque manner: with malice toward none and charity toward all.

**Has this book changed the way you think, your attitude toward life, or even your life itself? If so, how?** As my parents were both Broadway musical enthusiasts, I have appreciated Julie Andrews’s impressive body of work for  
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practically as long as I can remember. Thus, I was eager to read this autobiography, and heartened to learn of our shared experiences as members of dysfunctional families and as stage performers in rather primitive venues. Religious references are conspicuously absent in this book, but no matter – her refreshing combination of humility and optimism contribute to what I consider a spiritually uplifting literary excursion.

**Who should definitely read this book? Why?** This book should appeal to fellow Andrews fans as well as readers with an affinity for the arts and/or an interest in entertainment history.

**How long might it take to read this book?** Andrews’s lyrical prose is as pleasing to the intellect as her (recorded) voice is to the ear. “Listening” time should not exceed two days.

**Provide a short characteristic section, an awesome sentence, or an inspiring quote:** “Once in a while I experience an emotion onstage that is so gut-wrenching, so heart-stopping, that I could weep with gratitude and joy. The feeling catches and magnifies so rapidly that it threatens to engulf me... One senses the audience feeling it, too, and together you ride the ecstasy all the way home... There’s that word again. Home... Then I think there is no more magical feeling, no one luckier than I. It is to do with the joy of being a vessel, being used, using oneself fully and totally in the service of something that brings wonder. If only one could experience this every night... It is as great as sex...that moment before climax. It is as overwhelming as the mighty ocean. As nurturing as mother’s milk to an infant. As addictive as opium.”

**Additional Remarks:** This year, 2015, marks two milestones for Julie Andrews: the fiftieth anniversary of *The Sound of Music*, and the entertainer/author’s eightieth birthday on October 1. Also, a reliable source has reported the imminent release of Andrews’s second memoir (entitled *The Hollywood Years*, perhaps?) – excellent timing for this encore performance. *Brava, Julie* – long live the queen!



## **Central Indiana Mensa ExCom Minutes 2/17/15**

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held at Midwest Internet on Tuesday, February 17, 2015.

LocSec Jan Pfeil Doyle called the meeting to order at 6:49 p.m. Members present were: Jan Pfeil Doyle, Jon Applegate (via Skype), Ethan Blocher-Smith,

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Ann Hake, Diane O'Brien, Karen Steilberger, Karen Wilczewski, Bob Zdanky, and Karen Zwick. Guests: Teresa Gregory, Jud Horning, Petra Ritchie.

The committee reviewed the minutes of the January ExCom meeting. Ann Hake moved that the minutes be accepted as presented, Ethan Blocher-Smith seconded the motion, and the motion was carried with one abstention.

Karen Zwick presented the Treasurer's report and reported that the RG finished in the black. Jan Pfeil Doyle asked if there is a separate account for the youth fund. Karen said there is not but she can create one. Ann Hake made a motion to accept the report as presented, Diane O'Brien seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The membership report shows 4 new, 5 reinstating, and 5 move-in members, 1 offer of membership, and 23 prospects.

### **Old Business**

Meeting location: Jan Pfeil Doyle has checked different places for a new meeting location. She recommended the Quality Inn at I-465 and Allisonville Road. We could have it all day for \$75 per month. We would have to be out by 10:00 p.m. Teresa Gregory added that it has no kitchen, but it has a projector and will seat 90 people. Petra Ritchie suggested starting the meetings earlier. Bob Zdanky moved that we try it for 7 months; i.e., June to December of this year. Karen Wilczewski seconded the motion, and the motion was carried with one abstention. Jan asked Petra to give notice to All Souls Unitarian Church. Ann Hake suggested sending the church a thank you note.

Rules and By-Laws: Jan Pfeil Doyle said that Ethan Blocher-Smith has sent suggested revisions to the ExCom. He outlined them at the meeting. Jon Applegate said there are 13 proposed amendments to the national by-laws and said the first one especially bears looking at. Waiting until the National elections are over with might save effort, or it could cause more delay, depending on when the new minimum standards take effect. Jan will contact Marcele Everest about being the chair for the CIM rules and by-laws committee. She said Marcele previously expressed willingness to be the chair and said that she had some ideas. Jan said the process will provide for comment at some point. Teresa Gregory advised keeping the by-laws as general as possible.

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration: Karen Zwick said that a great evening and dinner are planned. There are around 30 registrations so far.

2015 Regional Gathering: Teresa Gregory reported the RG was successful, with over 85 people in attendance and about a dozen already registered for next year.

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The raffle of an RG or OG registration was successful, raising \$68 for the scholarship fund. Teresa would like to do the raffle again next year and also offer the test promotion again. The test promotion did not result in our having to pay for any tests this year, but it gives us another advertising tool. Jan Pfeil Doyle asked Ann Hake to put all the testing dates on the Web site. Karen Steilberger agreed to be the registrar for the upcoming Outdoor Gathering.

AMC meeting: Jan Pfeil Doyle said the American Mensa Committee meeting will be at the Radisson Airport hotel March 20-22. They will have hospitality there. Jan encouraged attendance, especially by ExCom members. Teresa Gregory added that members may also attend the AMC meetings as well as social gatherings. Jan will send more information as it becomes available.

### **New Business**

Culture Quest: Jan Pfeil Doyle said that George Dunn is getting a team together for Culture Quest on April 26. He would like to have 5 team members plus two alternates. Teresa Gregory said she can also get a team together if there is enough interest. David Bonner has expressed interest in forming a young persons' team.

Mensa Foundation Awards: Jan Pfeil Doyle said that nominations for Mensa Foundation awards are due by March 1. Full information is available at [MensaFoundation.org](http://MensaFoundation.org)

Young Mensans: Diane O'Brien reported that she got information from David Bonner, who also wants to get more involved again. There are 38 members. The key to success is involving the parents. Other ideas include: having clusters based on geography; having an activity at the OG; possibly having an RG for kids; using social media; and having one parent representative for each school district. Diane will be learning where she fits in; Jan Pfeil Doyle suggested publicity as a possibility. Teresa Gregory said that National has a contest for an event that meets certain criteria; there might be an opportunity for that with a Young Mensans event.

Credit card/PayPal payments: Karen Zwick said that members inquired about paying for the RG with a credit card or PayPal, and she has done some research. PayPal has a free option that would charge a 2.9% transaction fee. She will continue to research this for next year's RG.

There being no other business, Ann Hake made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ethan Blocher-Smith seconded the motion. The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Steilberger

# Treasurer's Report

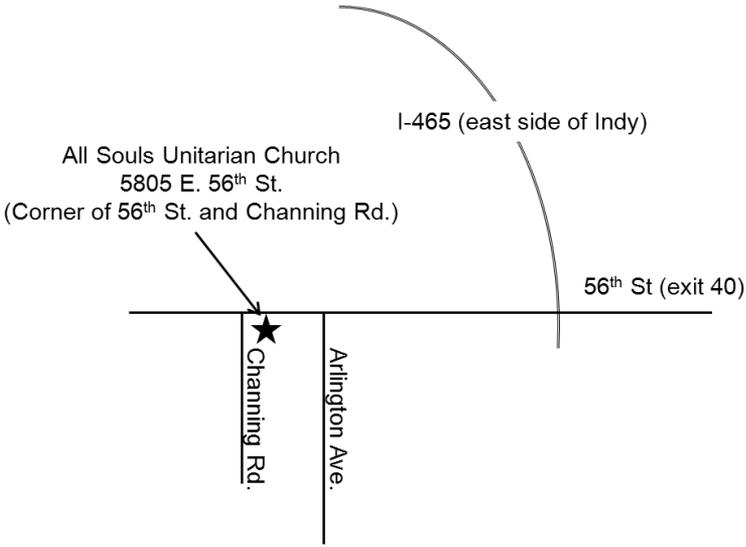
Karen Zwick, Treasurer

## Balance Sheet (as of 03/16/2015)

Bank Accounts	02/16/2015	03/16/2015
Checking – Regular	\$14,887.41	\$14,699.24
Checking – Scholarship	531.53	531.53
Checking – Youth Mbrship	427.34	849.00
Checking – Buzz Fund	19.87	1,237.00
Vanguard Account	3,740.18	\$3,740.18
<b>Total Assets</b>	\$19,606.33	\$21,056.95

## Profit & Loss Statement (02/17/2015 – 03/16/2015)

Income		
	401.1 – Monthly gathering income	96.00
	401.2 – RG income from registrations	100.00
	401.3 – OG income from registrations	50.00
	402 – National Mensa Inc (February)	501.00
	403 – Donations – anonymous - youth Mensa memberships	2,100.00
	406 –50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration dinner reservations	555.00
	<b>Total Income</b>	\$3,402.00
Expense		
	501.1 – Monthly Gathering Hospitality	40.48
	501.2 – Monthly Gathering room rental – All Souls Unitarian	70.00
	505 – Food for ExCom/MIND	57.35
	505.1 – MIND Printing	332.20
	505.2 – MIND Postage	58.80
	506 – 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Dinner	1,772.13
	515 – Payment of CIM Youth Mensa Memberships	2,521.66
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$4,852.62



**Mensa Monthly Gathering Location**  
**All Souls Unitarian Church, The Beattie Room,**  
**5805 E. 56<sup>th</sup> St., Indianapolis**

- From I-465 on the east side of Indianapolis, take the 56<sup>th</sup> St exit west (exit 40).
- Turn left on Channing Rd (1.2 miles from the I-465 exit).
- The church parking lot is on your left.
- Go to the Beattie Room.



## Region 4 RVC

Ellen Voie [RVC4@us.mensa.org](mailto:RVC4@us.mensa.org),

### Central Indiana Mensa Executive Committee (ExCom)

Local Secretary	Jan Pfeil Doyle, <a href="mailto:jan@mw.net">jan@mw.net</a> , (317) 431-3500
Parliamentarian	Ethan Blocher-Smith, <a href="mailto:MensaCinder@gmail.com">MensaCinder@gmail.com</a> , (260) 413-0093
Secretary	Karen Steilberger, <a href="mailto:steilkr@sbcglobal.net">steilkr@sbcglobal.net</a>
Sargent-at-Arms	Jon Applegate, <a href="mailto:jkapplegate@bluemarble.net">jkapplegate@bluemarble.net</a> , (517) 896-5022 (812) 825-2080 (answering machine)
Ass't Gifted Children	Diane O'Brien, <a href="mailto:robrien25@comcast.net">robrien25@comcast.net</a> , (317) 753-4371
Program Chair	Ann Hake, <a href="mailto:amhake@yahoo.com">amhake@yahoo.com</a>
Vice-LocSec & Membership	Bob Zdanky, <a href="mailto:zdanky@gmail.com">zdanky@gmail.com</a> , (317) 219-3773 Karen Zwick, <a href="mailto:kzwick@1stclass.com">kzwick@1stclass.com</a> , (317) 626-3789
Treasurer	
Calendar Editor	Karen Wilczewski, <a href="mailto:biltmore@topdogcom.com">biltmore@topdogcom.com</a> , (317) 849-9022

### Area Coordinators

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Lafayette	Joe Stamper, <a href="mailto:joe_stamper@comcast.net">joe_stamper@comcast.net</a> , (765) 474-4759
Muncie	Jason Smith, <a href="mailto:munciemensa@gmail.com">munciemensa@gmail.com</a>

### Other Volunteers

Cinder SIG	Ethan Blocher-Smith, <a href="mailto:MensaCinder@gmail.com">MensaCinder@gmail.com</a>
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Ass't Gifted Children	Laurel Richardson, <a href="mailto:Lhabitat@aol.com">Lhabitat@aol.com</a> , (317) 244-0000
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Proctor Coordinator	Steve Merchant, <a href="mailto:editor32@outlook.com">editor32@outlook.com</a> , (317) 431-8645
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