



# mind

Mensa Newsletter  
Of Central Indiana



## *Holiday Party!*

**December 13, 2013**

**The fun starts at 7:00 p.m. Dinner starts at 8:00 p.m.**

[See Jan Pfeil Doyle's column and the calendar for more details.]

### ***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.

### ***Contribution Guidelines***

*MIND* contributions may be sent to [mind.editor@yahoo.com](mailto:mind.editor@yahoo.com), or Teresa Gregory, 75 N Whittier Place, Indianapolis, IN, 46219, or delivered to Teresa Gregory or Jan Pfeil Doyle at the monthly meeting. Contributions may be edited for length or to remove offensive material, must be “family friendly”, 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 monthly meeting preceding the month of publication.

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# mind

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*The Sweet Life, With Special Recognition to  
M&M Couples of All Flavors!*

**Central Indiana Mensa Regional Gathering  
January 24-26, 2014**

Clarion at the Waterfront  
2930 Waterfront Parkway West  
Indianapolis, IN 46214

**(See [indymensa.org](http://indymensa.org) for registration form!)**

## Old Dog/New Tricks

*Teresa Gregory, Editor*

I think back to Christmases with my family when I was growing up. My mom would spend days cooking and cleaning to prepare for the big dinners we would have. Yes, dinnerS. My family celebrated Christmas on December 24 and 25. We had a big evening meal on the 24<sup>th</sup>, then we opened gifts. On the 25<sup>th</sup>, everyone came back and we had a huge dinner in mid-afternoon. When I think of those days, I think of the hour after



dinner. My mom, Aunt Tudy, Grandma Mary, and my sister, Shirley, were in the kitchen washing dishes and chattering away. My dad, Uncle George, Uncle Dutch, and Shirley's husband were in the living room...asleep! The television was on, but no one was watching.

Aunt Tudy gave my mother a linen calendar towel every year. It hung in the kitchen until January 1 when it became just another dish towel, replaced by the new calendar towel. In later years when I was old enough to be required to help with the clean-up, my sister and I would each grab a towel ready to dry. "What year do you have?" was always the question as we unfolded them. This led to a discussion of the events of that particular year. Mom's towel drawer was like a time capsule.

As time went by, things changed. After my sister and her husband started having kids (there were six in all) we went to their house on Christmas Eve because it was easier for them. We stayed home on Christmas Day. Over time, people passed from our lives. We learned that the older generation was the glue that held us together. The last of them, Aunt Tudy, died in 1992 and we never celebrated holidays with my sister's family after that. I don't really know why. It wasn't a conscious decision.

That left my husband, my two kids, and me to do whatever we wanted. Old traditions went out the door. But the one thing that always was special was dinner. It didn't have to be fancy. It was the fact that we were together.

Christmas dinner now is at my daughter's house with her husband, my grandson, and my son who lives in Los Angeles. It's a joyous occasion with simple food but lots of laughter and fun. I take my grandson a small gift, but the rest of us don't exchange gifts. Our gift is a dinner together. There's nothing more valuable than that.

## LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

**Holiday Party** - I hope many of you can join us for our annual holiday pitch-in dinner and gift exchange on December 13<sup>th</sup> in Indianapolis. Meat, bread, beverages and tableware will be provided; please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. The gift exchange after dinner is always fun. We call it “Gimmee Grabbee”—when it's your turn to select a gift, you may choose one that hasn't been selected yet or take one that someone else has already chosen. The twist is the presents remain wrapped until everyone has chosen—people choose based on how the package looks or what they think might be inside. Every year, there are two or three imaginatively-wrapped presents that are the hit of the party! Participation in the gift exchange isn't required, but you'll be missing out on some of the fun if you don't.



**Prior Evidence Free** - Do you know someone you think might enjoy Mensa? There are two ways to join: (1) take the test the Mensa offers, or (2) submit the results of a test you've already taken, ie, “prior evidence.” Normally, the cost to have prior evidence evaluated by the national office is \$40. It's free until Dec. 31, 2013. See the details at <http://www.us.mensa.org/join/testscores/>.

**CIM RG** - Mark your calendars for the weekend of January 24-26, 2013! That's the weekend of the Central Indiana Mensa Regional Gathering (CIM RG for short). If you haven't been to an RG, you're missing out on one of the best activities Mensa has to offer. There's something for everyone: special events, speakers, games and tournaments, around-the-clock hospitality suite with plenty of food and drink, and best of all, plenty of your fellow Mensans to hang out with. If you can't make it for the whole weekend, join us for Friday night or Saturday. If you're a little shy (or even if you aren't!), get involved by volunteering to help, either during the RG or beforehand; there are plenty of tasks large and small to be done. Contact RG Chair Teresa Gregory to volunteer.

I wish all of you a wonderful holiday season!

## **Dark Days: A Documentary by Marc Singer**

*Teresa Fisher*

Marc Singer grew up in London, and when he moved to New York City he was fascinated by the number of homeless people in Manhattan. He befriended and lived with a group of them in a two-mile-long underground train tunnel on the upper west side, and came up with the idea of making a documentary about them. He had no filmmaking experience whatsoever. A camera shop loaned him a camera and showed him how to use it, and when he ran out of money and film, Kodak gave him film that had a minor flaw that made it unsalable. He shot in black and white because it was easier for an amateur, which gives the film a grainy, noir look. There wasn't enough money to both buy and develop film, so in a leap of faith Singer shot the film and kept it in film canisters until the day he could afford to develop it. It wasn't until much later, when film canisters were stacked everywhere and he was forced to develop some of it, that he learned he had indeed gotten the lighting, audio, and other variables right.

The homeless people were the production crew. One man knew how to tap into the electrical wires so they had light, and others built dollies (using shopping cart wheels) that would travel along the railroad tracks. Lacking a drill, one of the resourceful carpenters heated the end of a rod to burn bolt holes into the wood. The entire process took several years, but eventually they made a film that won several awards.

If you had to be homeless in New York City in the 1990s, living underground in the Amtrak tunnel was the way to do it. The temperature was relatively stable, there were no cops or abusive citizens, and there was an enviable sense of community among the tunnel dwellers. Of course there were rats, and lots of them, but they inhabit all of the places that homeless people squat above ground, too.

When the camera wasn't rolling the people lived mostly in darkness, but they had an amazing array of features in their rent-free homes. They had plywood shacks with lockable doors; a limited amount of electricity for TVs, refrigerators, shavers, space heaters, and hot plates; all kinds of salvaged furniture including kitchen cabinets; and some even had pets. A few people had lived there since the 1970s. They hauled in their water and used five-gallon plastic buckets for toilets. One bucket had a portable hospital toilet positioned over it, and another had its lid replaced by a toilet seat when the need arose. The buckets would eventually be emptied... somewhere in the tunnel. Throughout the day the occasional train would speed through the middle of their neighborhood on its way to upstate New York, but as one man said, "You adjust. You'd be surprised what the human mind and human body can adjust to."

*Continued on next page*

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Perhaps living in the tunnel was a bit too comfortable. One man regretted that he had lost five or six years of his life to the tunnel. When he moved there he intended to stay only for a short time, but it was so nice not having to pay bills. Many of the inhabitants were on crack, and collecting aluminum cans earned them enough money to get by. They also sold items that others had thrown away, and they found food in dumpsters. Like people in the suburbs, many of them left home in the morning and returned in the evening after their day's work. Social workers who approached them with a bologna sandwich found them difficult to entice.

Dee, the only woman in the film, said her children had burned up in a revenge-driven house fire while she was in jail. During the filming her tunnel shack also burned up, and she had to start collecting furniture all over again. Ralph allowed her to live with him until she could get her house rebuilt, and in one homey scene we watch her give him a haircut with electric clippers. In another we watch her drag her "new" sofa laboriously through the tunnel.

Henry was obsessed with trying to keep his hands clean, and washed them several times a day. Another man claimed no matter how careful you were, your hands would be dirty soon after washing them. I cringed to see people patting out cornbread or making meatballs with their hands. Even some of the other inhabitants thought cooking in the tunnel was gross.

There were probably eighty or more people living in the tunnel during the making of the film, but only about a dozen appeared in it. During filming Amtrak gave them thirty days to vacate, citing the dangers of respiratory ailments, fires, rodents, and high-speed trains. Marc Singer's original inspiration in making the film was the hope of giving the inhabitants a way out of homelessness. After Amtrak's eviction notice he worked with a social service agency to do just that. To get an apartment the tunnel dwellers had to tear down their shacks and promise never to return to the tunnel. We watch them knock down the walls of their former homes.

It was a pleasure to see people in their new apartments, making beds, cooking, planning the décor, and saying things like, "I love my apartment. How could I have done that – let myself go like that?" And, "I will never, never go homeless again." Thanks in part to Marc Singer, they got a new chance at life.

Dark Days is a fascinating look at a world most of us could never imagine.

## With MENSA in Altötting September 2013 (Part 2)

Alison Brown

Saturday we were at a private airfield. We had an extensive explanation about light aircraft, including one under construction. Our host, Manfred, is in the process of getting his commercial pilots license. He explained that the light



aircraft are so light that when a pilot experiences trouble, he does not abandon the plane and parachute to safety, but rather pulls the ripcord and the 'chute opens over the entire plane, floating it relatively gently to the ground. At least the rescuers don't have to search for a tiny person in the vast area, a whole airplane is somewhat easier to spot. He had piles of information on every

aircraft in the building – which was hangar, meeting room, café, and workshop in one. The only thing it was not was the control tower. That was a small cart filled with all the high tech equipment necessary to monitor flights – a laptop and a microphone! This was sufficient to guide Manfred as he towed a youngster with a brand new glider license into the skies, twice, for a go-round under the chilly and threatening clouds. I also watched a kestrel hunting in the adjacent fields.

We continued into Altötting for a tour of this pilgrimage town. The object of adoration is a wonder-working “Black Madonna” brought to the city around 1489– some of these “black” figures are that color because of the soot from votive candles, but this particular one is of a wood that turned dark with age. It is hard to tell about her face and hands, since she and the figure of baby Jesus are dressed in lavish robes donated by nobility over the centuries. The placement of Altötting as a pilgrimage city was a conscious decision by the ruling families of Habsburg and Wittelsbach. The coup was successful and the city continued to add churches throughout the centuries to accommodate the groups of pilgrims (note - these are not the Mensans). Dinner was a “carburing up” event at a local pizzeria, where team members got their team shirts and talked with their supporters for hours



Race day dawned bright and clear. We all met at the Mensa Info Stand. A friend drove Siegmund up from

Linz to take part in the hobby run and cheer me on. I came in 34<sup>th</sup> among walkers. The rest of the team plans to do it again next year. It would be nice to have Mensa teams at race events around Indy.

[See next page!]



## **Mens sana in corpore sano – Or was that Mensa sana?**

*Alison Brown*

Inspired by my experience in Germany, which you have read about, I would like to gather a group of active members of CIM to walk (or run) in short races around town with me. Team Mensa would take part in events; maybe even have a team shirt to show our “team spirit” and work off the goodies we eat at each Monthly Gathering. I do not expect we will do more than 4-5 races per year (races on the calendar of the Indy Runners or the Carmel Runners will be most likely) and doing one does not obligate anyone to do them all. Team members choose their preferred distances for each race - speed is not required.

As there is no time like the present to start, I suggest the 5K’s of Christmas run and walk on Dec. 21st starting the Monon Community Center in Carmel at 9 am. It will be a timed event and there will be prizes for the top runners, but we are doing it for the fun and health benefits. Well, we could post personal best times in the *MIND*...

Registration is \$30 before Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> and I will have forms with me at the Mensa Holiday Party. More about registration, route and fun is available at [www.carmelroadracinggroup.com](http://www.carmelroadracinggroup.com).

The 5K’s of Christmas is a charity event benefiting GSD Rescue, Natalie’s Second Chance Rescue and Various Animal Shelters. They provide adoption services to pets needing good homes and rely on donations to operate. Bring a bag of dog or cat food or blankets to receive a prize from the gift table. Last year’s event produced a truck load!

Contact me, Alison Brown [SIGHT@indymensa.org](mailto:SIGHT@indymensa.org) or 317-846-6798 if you want to be part of this adventure or if you have any questions.

*The Sweet Life, With Special Recognition to  
M&M Couples of All Flavors!*

**Central Indiana Mensa Regional Gathering  
January 24-26, 2014**

Food! Fun! Programs! Games!

**(See [indymensa.org](http://indymensa.org) for registration form!)**

## Welcome New and Returning Members!

New	Mallory Love	Noblesville	IN
New	Margaret Early	Wabash	IN
New	Dennis M Herricks	Paducah	KY
Reinstating	Mellissa Merindy Carpenter	Indianapolis	IN
Reinstating	Joseph Edward Spearing	Indianapolis	IN
Renewing	Erin Engler	Hopkinsville	KY
Renewing	Scott O Anderson	Mooreville	IN
Renewing	John Holman	New Palestine	IN
Renewing	Alan Dean Spicer	Greenwood	IN
Renewing	Dr Duane Starrett Nickell	Indianapolis	IN
Renewing	Pamela S Young	Indianapolis	IN



## My Own Little World

*Robert O. Adair,*

It's Christmas time! A little old time steam train comes out of a dark tunnel, I can hear it chugging along through the hilly countryside. Fir trees are everywhere, their branches whitened with snow. A woodsman totes home his cut down Christmas tree. Children are building a snowman, their cheeks all rosy in the winter air. The old mill clings to the hillside while water flows past, turning the mill wheel and the stream ends in a lovely waterfall.

A steep path climbs toward the village atop the hill. Sparkling clumps of snow cover the village rooftops. Christmas wreaths bedeck the doors. And lighted windows speak of warmth and comfort within, hot chocolate, cozy fires in the fireplaces and good friends getting together in a place where no one locks their doors.

A woman, with a stocking cap, fur lined parka and fur lined boots, pushing a sled filled with presents and a Christmas tree, heading for home and loved ones. At the center, the old frame country church, spire pointing toward Heaven, carolers out front singing "Oh Little town of Bethlehem", the music floating over the whole scene!

Ah yes! My own little world sitting on my tabletop!

## **December 2013 Events - Central Indiana Mensa**

**Ham 'n' Eggs (Hamilton County Eggheads)** 1st Saturday from 10:00 am-12:00 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)

**Indy Lunch Bunch** - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 12:00 noon, Double Eagle Café, 650 N. Meridian (at the Scottish Rite Cathedral), Indianapolis.  
Contact: Alan Schmidt, 317-233-5190, [alan.schmidt@att.net](mailto:alan.schmidt@att.net)

**West Lafayette/Lafayette**  
Lunch – 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday, 12:00 noon.  
Contact: Joe Stamper, 765-474-4759, [jstamper@aii.edu](mailto:jstamper@aii.edu)

**Monthly Gathering** – 2nd 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 **12/13: Annual Holiday Party**  
(The fun starts at 7:00 p.m. Dinner starts at 8:00 p.m.)  
Come join us for the annual Holiday Party. Meat, bread and beverages are provided, and you bring a vegetable, salad or dessert to share. If you choose to participate in the gimmee-grabbee gift exchange, bring a \$5-10 wrapped gift (creative wrapping is encouraged). If the gift is more appropriate for a certain age or gender, please mark it; i.e., Man, Woman, Child, etc.

**Mensans Dining Out: Sunday, 12/15, 5:30p.m NEW! This event will always be the third Sunday of the month unless otherwise noted.**  
.Upland Tap Room/Restaurant.820 E 116th St, Carmel, IN 46032. It is a restaurant run by Upland brewing. Sunday is \$2 pints. Questions: Contact Bob Zdanky, [zdanky@gmail.com](mailto:zdanky@gmail.com), (317) 503-0091

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

## December 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
1 Esoteric SIG	2	3	4 Indy Lunch Bunch; W. Lafayette Lunch
8	9	10	11
15 Mensans Dining Out	16	17 MINDbending/ ExCom	18 Indy Lunch Bunch
22	23	24 Paducah Area Group Meeting	25
29	30	31	1 <b>January</b>
5	6	7	8

**Due to Christmas falling mid-week this year, MIND will be publishing earlier than usual. Deadline for submissions is December 7. Anyone have a New Year's resolution they'd like to share?**

## December 2013 (Cont.)

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5	6 MIND deadline	7 Ham 'n' Eggs; Muncie Meeting Calendar Deadline
12	13 Monthly Gathering	14
19	20 Games People Play	21 5Ks of Christmas Run
26	27	28
2	3	4 Ham 'n' Eggs; Muncie Meeting
9	10 Monthly Gathering	11

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.

## December 2013 Events (cont.)

**ESOTERIC SIG** – Sunday, Dec. 1, 7 pm. 719 E. St. Clair St., Basile Theatre, “Going . . . Going . . . Gone” It was so much fun, we are going again. No two productions are the same. A live auction comedy that lets the audience participate in the final sale at Ed’s, an auction house filled with spontaneous stories and surprising revelations. What other show lets the winning bidders (in the audience) take home the props? \$15 adults, \$12 seniors. Questions? Petra 786-8665, [petraritchie@msn.com](mailto:petraritchie@msn.com)

**Paducah Area Group Meeting** – 3rd Tuesday of every month, 7:00 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)

**Games People Play** Friday, December 20, Pitch-In Dinner 6:30 pm., games begin 7 pm. All Souls Unitarian Church, 5805 E. 56th St. Let the games begin! Bring your favorites, or share those of others. Join members of All Souls Unitarian Church at their monthly games night Contact: Petra 786-8665, [petratitchie@msn.com](mailto:petratitchie@msn.com)

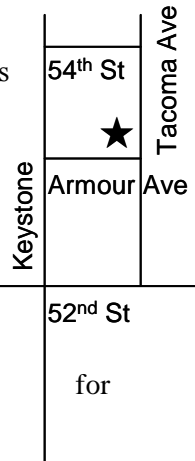
**Team Mensa, 5Ks of Christmas Run** (See page 9 for more information.)

**MINDBending/ExCom** – Last or next-to-last Tuesday of the month. MINDBending is the preparation of next month’s MIND for mailing. Come help with sealing, labeling, and stamping the MINDs.

**12/17**, 5:30 p.m. Contact: Jan Pfeil Doyle, 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 and 1 block north of 52<sup>nd</sup> St. and Keystone Ave. on

the northeast side of Indianapolis. A **Big Thank You** to all the October MINDbenders and thanks to Midwest Internet hosting the event.



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

January MIND calendar items due 12/7/13 to [dbculp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dbculp@sbcglobal.net)

## Gatherings and Events

*Ellen Voie, RVC 4*

As I write this column it's October 31<sup>st</sup> and the leaves have been dropping from the trees in anticipation of winter. This afternoon the little ghosts and goblins will be out searching for candy in our neighborhood. By the time you read this, Halloween will only be a memory



However, I wanted to use this column to give an “Atta Boy” to the Chicago area Mensa group on their Halloween event this past week. Lisa Slankard stepped in to lead the event in the absence of her co-chair, Beth Anne Demeter (who recently moved out of the area). Lisa, with the support of her husband and team, did a great job keeping the activities, programs, food (and beverages) fresh and available.

Chicago area Weem is the largest regional gathering and it takes a lot of time and effort to implement. Although it is scheduled around Halloween, it includes lots of programs, workshops and events for adults and children. If you've never attended a Mensa event, consider this one for next year.

While I realize that many of you may never attend a Mensa event, I urge you to consider it. You'll get more value from your membership by interacting with others who share your intelligence level. We may only have one thing in common, but you'll find lots of people who have a passion that matches yours (trivia, race cars, cooking, reading and more). It's fun connecting with people who share an interest.

Upcoming events in our region include “Life is Sweet” in Indianapolis next January 24-26 (2014), SEMMantics in Farmington Hills, MI in May (2-4). There are other events listed in the Mensa calendar as well and I encourage you to look at them and determine if you can fit one or more into your schedule.

The next Annual Gathering will be in Boston July 2-6, 2014 and I'll be there to greet Region 4 members. I hope to meet you at an upcoming event!

# **Mensa Foundation US Scholarship Process**

*Laurel Richardson, Scholarship Chair*

There are two requirements for applicants:

- The applicant must be enrolled in a degree program in an accredited U.S. institution of higher learning during the academic year following the application date.
- The applicant must submit an application and essay explaining his or her career, academic and/or vocational goals.
- 

The scholarship application process opens Sept. 15 and closes Jan. 15. No application forms are available at any other time. Between September and January, interested individuals can visit the Mensa Foundation site, <http://www.mensafoundation.org> and go to the scholarship application area, [http://www.mensafoundation.org/foundation/?LinkServID=DA DFCFF0-E081-4C23-C4F4FFD60970758C](http://www.mensafoundation.org/foundation/?LinkServID=DADFCFF0-E081-4C23-C4F4FFD60970758C) to determine eligibility and, if eligible, enter the program.

Applicants have until Jan. 15 to write an essay of not more than 550 words explaining their career, academic and/or vocational goals and how they plan to achieve those goals. For more information, read the scholarship FAQ.

## **Local judging**

American Mensa's local chapters assemble judging teams of at least three members to review the applications. The essays are judged on content and also grammar, organization and craftsmanship. The Local Scholarship Chair refers the best local essays to the Regional Scholarship Chair for review.

## **Regional judging**

At the regional level, the process is repeated. The regional chair arranges for all of the essays referred from local chapters to be judged a second time. Regional judges rank the local winners and nominate the best essays for regional and national awards. These essays are then forwarded to the National Scholarship Chairs.

## **National judging**

Finally, the National Scholarship Chairs conduct another two rounds of judging to select the regional and national winners. Each applicant is allowed to win only one Mensa scholarship; therefore, the winners are identified beginning with the highest amounts. The next highest scores receive awards of the next amounts, and so on until all the winners are identified from the judges' scores.

The final list of scholarship winners is presented to the Mensa Foundation Board of Trustees, who certify the winners. Winners are notified by mail and given

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instructions for claiming their award. They are required to submit proof of registration for school during the following fall or spring term as well as proof of U.S. citizenship. After the proof is received, the checks are written and students are given a bit of financial aid to pursue their education.

The Foundation's college scholarship program bases its awards totally on essays written by the applicants. Consideration is not given to grades, academic program or financial need.

The U.S. scholarship program is very large in the geographic area it covers (usually about 75 percent of the country), the number of applications (4,000 to 6,000 in recent years), and the amount of money available for awards (an average of \$85,000 a year). The Foundation's U.S. scholarship program is operated by approximately 400 volunteers around the country with support from the Foundation's office staff.

U.S. applicants need not be Mensa members. However, Mensa members may apply for both these scholarship programs and the additional Mensa Member Award Program.

The Foundation's international scholarship program is open to foreign Mensans or their dependents attending college in the United States.

At least two and as many as five scholarships have been awarded annually to those applying through Central Indiana Mensa since inception of the program. The John Matthews Scholarship is a local scholarship awarded only to a person qualified to apply through the Central Indiana chapter.



## **Books On the Runway**

*Margy Lancet Fletcher*

**Title:** *The Source*

**Author:** James A. Michener **Year:** 1965

**Book Description:** A factually detailed and exquisitely rendered fictional account of the evolution and history of the Jewish faith. The focal point is the excavation of artifacts from the ancient (and defunct) Galilean town of Makor by a culturally mixed team of archaeologists: John Cullinane, an

*Continued on next page*

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Irish-American Catholic; Ilan Eliav, a German Jew; Vered Bar-El, an Israeli and Eliav's fiancée; and Jemal Tabari, an Arab who lives in Israel. Beginning with the expository depiction of contemporary (as of 1964) socio-cultural dilemmas related to historic research, the story follows a timeline symbolized by an object discovered in each of the fifteen levels of the mound, or tell. Each chapter represents a key event in the development of Judaism: the original concept of otherworldly supreme beings; the conversion to monotheism; the establishment of religious laws (Torah) and their commentaries (Talmud); the advent of the competing religions of Christianity and Islam; the violent acts committed by various self-appointed leaders in the name of the latter two faiths; and finally, the formation of the state of Israel.

**Has this book changed the way you think, your attitude toward life, or even your life itself? If so, how?** While I have been aware for most of my life that Jews have been persecuted throughout the history of their faith, this book graphically expounds on the tragic results of religious and cultural intolerance. It is a powerful and effective plea for understanding and acceptance.

**Who should definitely read this book? Why?** Anyone passionate about history in general and/or Judaism in particular.

**How long might it take to read this book?** If you're a regular "working stiff," probably a few weeks. The length of the novel seems daunting, but the reading experience will be pleasant, as the prose is expressive and occasionally lyrical.

**Provide a short characteristic section, an awesome sentence, or an inspiring quote:** "It was no mean thing to be a Jew and the custodian of God's law; for if His law was exacting it was also ennobling. It demanded than devising procedures whereby the Jews of Israel and their more numerous cousins in America could share this vital law and the responsibility for keeping it vital. He recalled a cynical joke: 'The function of the American Jew is to send money to a German Jew in Jerusalem, who forwards it to a Polish Jew in the Negrev, who makes it possible for the Spanish Jew in Morocco to come to Israel.' There was more to it than that."

**Additional Remarks:** This book may be nearly fifty years old, but its intelligence and basic humanity resonate into the twenty-first century.

## **Central Central Indiana Mensa ExCom Minutes 9/24/13**

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held at Midwest Internet on Tuesday, September 24, 2013.

LocSec Jan Pfeil Doyle called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m. Members present included: Jan Pfeil Doyle, David Culp, Teresa Gregory, Ann Hake, Jean Rodgers, Karen Steilberger, Karen Wilczewski, and Bob Zdanky. Absent: Karen Zwick. Guests: Jud Horning and Petra Ritchie. The minutes of the August ExCom meeting were reviewed. Ann Hake moved that the minutes be accepted as presented, David Culp seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The committee reviewed the Treasurer's report. Ann Hake made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, Karen Wilczewski seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The membership report shows 1 new member, 1 reinstating, 3 renewing, 1 move-in, 2 offers of membership, and 30 prospects.

### **Old Business**

CIM Picnic: Jan Pfeil Doyle reported there were 27-28 people who attended the picnic. No children attended. The committee discussed ways to enhance communications and coordination with the young Mensans. This would build awareness among the adults who might want to help, or who have or know children who would benefit from participation in the young Mensan activities.

Meeting location: Jan Pfeil Doyle said she and Leo Doyle visited the Todd Academy. Construction was still in progress, including elevator access. Because of the ongoing construction, we will not be setting a date yet to start meeting there. The committee discussed the possibility of working out a trade where we would meet there in exchange for promoting the academy by our presence. Karen Wilczewski suggested issuing a press release when we move there.

2014 RG: Teresa Gregory had an inquiry about whether we will be having an RG. It has not been in the Mensa Bulletin yet, but it will be. It is on the National calendar.

WFYI TV20 fund drive: Jan Pfeil Doyle reported that she contacted Channel 20. The radio drive in October has 3 possible shifts, and we

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would get on-air mention. The next TV drive is Nov. 30-Dec 15. There will be nights with live on-air help and also non-live nights. We won't be able to pick a date before the MIND deadline. Petra Ritchie suggested waiting until we can be on TV. The committee agreed that a live night would be preferable for the fun and publicity. There was also discussion of getting T-shirts or hats or visors to promote Mensa. Jan will have a sign-up sheet at the monthly meeting so we will have a list of possible workers.

### **New Business**

**2015 Mind Games:** Jan Pfeil Doyle said that National is accepting bids to host the 2015 Mind games and asked if the committee is interested. Teresa Gregory said she looked into it a few years ago and found that it involves a lot of work and needs someone who is familiar with Mind games. There are several requirements, logistics-wise. The host group gets to keep a copy of each game. The participants are assigned games to play and rate them, so it is a serious undertaking for them. Jan will send for the packet and mention it in her MIND column to see if there is interest.

**All Souls Unitarian Games Night:** Petra Ritchie said that the church, home of our monthly gatherings, has a monthly games night and pitch-in. As we had talked about having a Mensa games night, Petra suggested joining with the church's nights, and it is on our calendar for October. Teresa Gregory and Jan Pfeil Doyle talked about some confusion about which group is hosting the activity and said we need to make sure it's clear that we are not the host.

Petra also mentioned another monthly activity at All Souls, which is a Community Speakers Forum, and told the committee about the October topic.

There being no other business, David Culp made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ann Hake seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Steilberger

# Treasurer's Report

Karen Zwick, Treasurer

## Balance Sheet (as of 10/21/2013)

Bank Accounts	10/21/2013	09/23/2013
Checking – Regular	\$9,206.59	\$8,781.52
Checking - Scholarship	368.50	368.50
Checking – Youth Mbrship	1,110.00	1110.00
Gathering Account	7,881.83	7,881.83
Vanguard Account	\$3,739.73	3,739.29
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$22,306.65</b>	<b>\$21,881.14</b>

## Profit & Loss Statement (09/23/2013 – 10/21/2013)

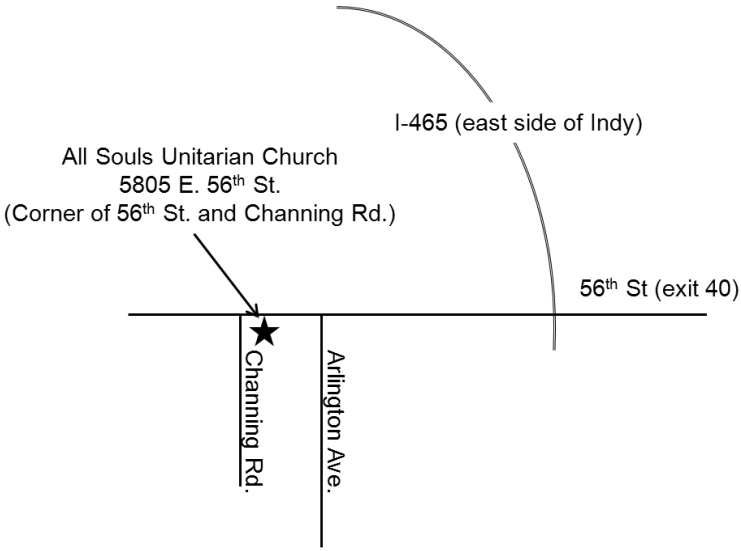
Income		
	401.1 – Monthly Gathering – Sept <i>(15 Ms, 3 Non-Ms, minus \$9.39 for ice and name tags)</i>	86.61
	401.1 – Monthly Gathering – Oct <i>(9 Food, 16 Ms, 2 Non-Ms, 1 Speaker minus \$4 for name tags)</i>	90.00
	402 – National Mensa Inc <i>(531 M, 4 New, 1 Newsletter)</i>	440.07
	404 – Interest Income on Vanguard Account	0.44
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$617.12</b>
Expense		
	501.2 – Monthly Gathering – room rental for Oct – Dec	105.00
<b>Total Expense</b>		<b>\$105.00</b>

Central Indiana Mensa Regional Gathering

*The Sweet Life*

January 24-26, 2014

You never know what might happen!



## **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 PO Box 20158, Indianapolis, 46220
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Recorder	Karen Steilberger, <a href="mailto:steilkr@sbcglobal.net">steilkr@sbcglobal.net</a>
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### Other Volunteers

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