



# mind

Mensa Newsletter  
Of Central Indiana



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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 Vonda Heverly, 250 Anniston Drive, Indianapolis, IN, 46227. 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 submitted no later than the Friday following the ExCom meeting (usually the third Friday of the month) for the following month's edition.

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## **MIND Staff**

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April 2023



# mind

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# Loosing My MIND

Vonda Heverly, Editor

loose (/loōs/): v. 1. set free, release. 2. Relax



My deepest apologies to Petra Ritchie for not being able to run both of her letters to the editor in last month's issue due to space constraints. I chose to run her more time-sensitive notice regarding the animal shelter over this response to Jan's February LocSection.

Enjoy her reply!

Cheers!



## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

As mentioned in the LocSection of the February MIND, Petra's "Peculiarities", of which there are a few, are not open for discussion!

The items I have brought to the January Meeting Games Night for the last several years are on a table marked **WHAT IS IT?**

The responses range from useful, unidentifiable, to wild guesses, to sarcastic. I pick up these things all year long at thrift shops, rummage sales, etc., mostly because I don't know, but would like to know, what they are myself!!

It has proved to be a popular activity, generating lively discussion and encouraging interaction.

Petra Ritchie

## LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

**Seeking New *MIND* Editor** – After almost five years, **Vonda Heverly** has decided to move on to new challenges and will be stepping down as editor of *MIND*. We can't thank Vonda enough for so ably filling this role that is vital to our local group! Prior experience is not required. We have past editors who are willing to help you learn the ropes. The editor does not need to live in the Indianapolis area and does not need to be a member of ExCom. The minimum technical requirements are a computer with email, Internet access, and the ability to create a PDF file to email to the printer. Recent editors have used Microsoft Word as their platform and we have templates in Word, but you can use any program to create the PDF. You must also be willing to meet the monthly deadlines. The time requirement is dependent upon how easily you are distracted. A normal month might run three to six hours which includes checking email throughout the month. Email questions or your application with qualifications to Teresa Gregory, [ag18tg@yahoo.com](mailto:ag18tg@yahoo.com).



**New COVID Policy** – In accordance with current American Mensa practices, we will no longer require proof of COVID vaccination at Central Indiana Mensa's in-person events. As always, hosts for events in private homes may set their own policies.

**OMG! (Outdoor Mensa Gathering) in May** – Mark your calendars for Central Indiana Mensa's Outdoor Gathering on May 19-21 at the Versailles (Indiana) State Park. We rent the group camp and stay in dormitory-style cabins with beds (bring sleeping bags). There's a central building where we hang out, play games, cook, eat, etc. Outdoor activities include hiking and maybe a campfire. It's a wonderful, fun, relaxing, unstructured weekend! You can't beat the cost of \$65 total for food and lodging! If you can't stay for the whole weekend, come for the day on Saturday. You can register online at <http://cim-og-2023.eventbrite.com>.

**SIGs (Special Interest Groups)** – Mensa's SIGs are a great way to connect with other members in person and/or online. You can find a list of current SIGs in the March Bulletin <https://www.us.mensa.org/read/bulletin/bulletinarchive/>. The list is over 8 pages long, ranging from ADR to yuM and lots in between! And if you don't find one for your interest, you can always start one.

## Puzzle Column

Written by Alan Stillson of Greater Los Angeles Mensa and reprinted with permission of the author (<http://stillsonworks.com>)

### APR PUZZLES

Each clue ends in a pr \_\_\_\_\_. Find a word that starts with a *pr* that fits.

Example: Rocky Marciano was a pr \_\_\_\_\_ = prizefighter.

1. Jason Gideon was a pr \_\_\_\_\_
2. Jerry Bruckheimer was a pr \_\_\_\_\_
3. David Blaine is a pr \_\_\_\_\_
4. Attica is a pr \_\_\_\_\_
5. Paul Revere was a pr \_\_\_\_\_
6. Angela Davis was a pr \_\_\_\_\_
7. Irma La Deuce was a pr \_\_\_\_\_
8. A solid with a triangular base and three triangular sides is a pr \_\_\_\_\_
9. Jean Lafitte was a pr \_\_\_\_\_
10. King Kong was a pr \_\_\_\_\_

See answers on page 9.



## New Members

Allison Atkison	Greenwood	IN	Join
Lauren Jai	Carmel	IN	Join
Julianna Maki	Franklin	IN	Join
Robert Owen	Crawfordsville	IN	Join

# 2022-2023 Book Group Reading List

Rich Gibson

Book Group is meeting via Zoom AND in person this month. It meets Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m. once a month. Check the calendar for exact dates and contact information for Rich Gibson.

**April:** *On Bullshit/Bullshit Jobs* by Henry G. Frankfurt/David Graeber, 68/140 pages

**May:** *Metaverse* by Matthew Ball, 292 pages

**June:** *Genetic Lottery* by Kathryn Paige Harden, 256 pages

**July:** *The Verge* by Patrick Wyman, 343 pages

**August:** *A Book Forged in Hell* by Steven Nadler, 300 pages

**September:** *The WEIRDEST People in the World* by Joseph Henrich, 275 pages\*

**October:** *Bittersweet* by Susan Cain, 353 pages

**November:** *Power and Liberty* by Gordon S. Wood, 188 pages

\*Book is much longer; we'll furnish a reading guide to get it down to a friendlier length.

## Mensa Book Group Book Reviews

Rich Gibson

**THIS MONTH:** *On Bullshit*, by Harry G. Frankfurt; 68 pages, published in 2005. *Bullshit Jobs: A Theory*, by David Graeber; 285 pages, published 2018.

Both books to be discussed at the MBG meeting on Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 PM. See Calendar or Meetup for more information.

*On Bullshit* is a short book that was expanded from a shorter essay by the philosopher Harry Frankfurt.

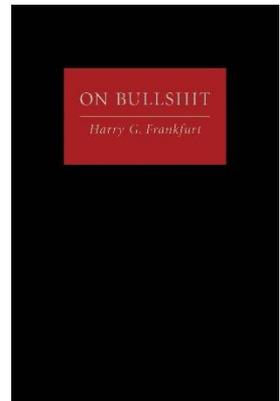
We will provide an excerpt from this book to regular attendees and on request to anyone else. This excerpt sets the stage for the longer book, *Bullshit Jobs*.

Even more briefly: “The *liar* cares about the truth and attempts to hide it; the *bullshitter* doesn't care if what they say is true or false but cares only whether the listener is persuaded.”

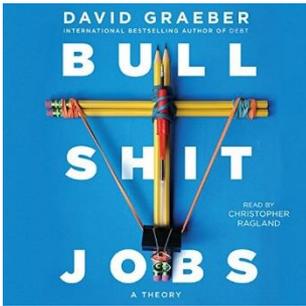
David Graeber was an anthropologist and anarchist who also wrote the provocative book *The Dawn of Everything*.

In *Bullshit Jobs*, he advances the argument that almost half of the jobs in America today are meaningless and unproductive, and lead to both psychological and societal harm. He begins with John Maynard Keynes' prediction in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century that automation would lead to (at most) a 15-hour work week. Graeber argues instead that the 40-hour week has been preserved by inflating the work to be done with make-work. He goes on to

*Continued on next page*



*Continued from previous page* assert that the number of jobs has expanded owing mainly to “managerial feudalism,” in which a supervisor’s status depends on the number of employees under them. Meanwhile, society has evolved an ethos that work underlines self-worth; as a result, workers are grateful for their meaningless jobs, even though they realize their work serves no productive purpose. The disconnect leads to psychological harm. Graeber’s solution involves both labor unions and a universal basic income. He contends that a UBI would allow workers more leisure time and allow



them to structure their work according to a more human cycle of working and slacking, as occurs naturally to farmers, fishers, and writers.

Whether Graeber is correct or not, what role unions would have, and how he counters the argument that business competition would have eliminated bullshit jobs long ago, is something you’ll have to judge for yourself. Read the book and join the discussion. Hope to see you there!

**NEXT MONTH: *The Metaverse—and How It Will Revolutionize Everything***, by Matthew Ball; 352 pages, published in 2022. To be discussed at the MBG meeting on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, at 2:00 PM. See Calendar or Meetup for more information.

Matthew Ball is considered by many to be the major prophet of the metaverse, the next radical instantiation of the internet: what it is, how to build it, and what impact it will have on us. The concept has international scope and is being studied by governments all over the world. So, in a nutshell, let’s examine those three features that the book covers:

- What is it? (or, What will it be?): Ball defines it as a persistent, integrated, and interconnected network of three-dimensional virtual environments that will underlie and be the entry point for all on-line experience. Early prototypes are already among us—games such as Fortnite or Minecraft.
- How will we build it? Ball outlines the existing technologies that will be its building blocks (for instance, Web3, blockchains, and NFTs), and identifies the tech breakthroughs that will be needed to complete it
- How will it impact us? Fundamentally, the metaverse will surround us; we will be immersed in it, our lives, labor, and leisure. It will revolutionize such businesses and activities as finance, healthcare, education, consumer products, city planning, and even dating.

Whether Ball is correct or not; whether the prospect excites you or terrifies you; whether you want to be an early user or start planning your off-the-grid retreat in Saskatchewan, is something you’ll have to judge for yourself. Read the book and attend in-person or via Zoom on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00, and join the discussion. Hope to see you there!



**Answers to Puzzle Column on page 6:**

Solutions:

1. Jason Gideon was a profiler.
2. Jerry Bruckheimer was a producer.
3. David Blaine is a prestidigitator.
4. Attica is a prison.
5. Paul Revere was a printer.
6. Angela Davis was a professor.
7. Irma La Deuce was a prostitute.
8. A solid with a triangular base and three triangular sides is a prism.
9. Jean Lafitte was a privateer.
10. King Kong was a primate.



***“There are two ways to be fooled. One is to believe what isn't true; the other is to refuse to believe what is true.”***

—Soren Kierkegaard



***“The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, and wiser people so full of doubts.”*** —Bertrand Russell



# April 2023 Events

**Indy Lunch Bunch** – 1st and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday

4/5, 11:30am ET - The Illinois Street Food Emporium, 5550 N. Illinois St

4/19, 11:30am ET - Virtual \*Online\*

RSVPs not required but appreciated. Contact: Karen Steilberger,

[steilkr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:steilkr@sbcglobal.net)

**LIVE Ham ‘n’ Eggs (Hamilton County Eggheads)**–1<sup>st</sup> Saturday

4/1, 10:00pm – 12 noon ET - Atrio, 11700 Illinois St. (Carmel, IN, located at IU Health North). Located just off the atrium on the first floor on the left as you enter the building from the north entrance. Breakfast served till 11 a.m., then lunch starts. RSVP: Alison Brown, 317-846-6798, [SIGHT@indymensa.org](mailto:SIGHT@indymensa.org)

**LIVE Mensa Chowhounds Lunch** – 2nd and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

4/12, 2:30pm ET - Wasabi on 82<sup>nd</sup>, 5025 82nd St, Indianapolis, IN 46250

4/26, 2:30pm ET Rusty Bucket Restaurant and Tavern

1130 W 86th St, Indianapolis, IN 46260

Late lunch or early dinner? You decide!

For more information or to RSVP, contact Bob Zdanky at 317-912-3590

**VIRTUAL Sunday Social** – Some Sundays (check the calendar) from 7:00pm

–8:30pm ET Drop in any time for casual chat. Contact: Teresa,

[ag18tg@yahoo.com](mailto:ag18tg@yahoo.com).

**VIRTUAL and LIVE Monthly Gathering** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday,

4/14, 7:00pm – 11:00pm ET

All Souls Unitarian Church, 5805 E. 56th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46226. See last page of MIND for map and directions. Members: \$7.00, Non-Members: \$10.00; Children 6- 18: \$5.00, under 6: free. Proof of vaccination or recent test required.

Our speaker will be James Lowery - Antarctica: Personal Encounters with the White Continent [Watch the Weekly CIM ReMINDER for details.]

**VIRTUAL and LIVE Book Group**

4/16, 2:00pm ET

*On Bullshit/Bullshit Jobs* – Henry G Frankfurter/David Graeber (2005/2018)

Contact Rich Gibson [hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com](mailto:hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com) or 770-548-5217 for more details, to RSVP, or for Zoom link.

**LIVE Mensans Dining Out** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

4/16, 6pm ET

Amber Indian Restaurant, 12510 N Meridian St, Carmel, IN 46032

Please note this is the CARMEL location.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Bob Zdanky at 317-912-3590.

**\*In Person\* Mensa Admission Testing**

**4/15, 1:00pm – 3:00pm ET**

**Greenwood, IN (Exact location given at time of RSVP)** Please contact the Testing Coordinator, Alison Brown, at [SIGHT@indymensa.org](mailto:SIGHT@indymensa.org) to reserve a seat.

**\*In Person\* Games and Conversation Night** – Hosted by Candis King

**4/22, 7:00pm – 11:00pm ET**

You bring the conversation, we have games.

Please call 630-642-9063 or 630-253-1350 to indicate you will be there and to get the address. Proof of vaccination required. No Smoking.

**\*In Person\* Sunday Fun Day**

**4/23, 2:00pm ET**

**Pendleton Community Library, 595 E. Water St, Pendleton, IN 46064**

Casual chat and conversation with fellow Mensans in Madison and Henry counties. Bring a friend! Contact Paula Ferguson [robert.v.ferguson@att.net](mailto:robert.v.ferguson@att.net)

\*\*\*\*\*

**May 19, 20, 21, 2023**

**OMG! Outdoor Mensa Gathering! LIVE!**

**Versailles State Park, Indiana**

Join Central Indiana Mensa for a laidback weekend in the woods. If you're thinking that you aren't the "outdoorsy" type, think again!

**Things to know:**

- All meals are provided, along with lodging, scenery, and MENSANS!
- We will not be providing alcohol, but please feel free to bring your own. There will be designated refrigerator space. As in the past, we will provide soft drinks, bottled water, and coffee.
- There are no cabins with toilets
- No animals (except the ones who live there!)
- No unaccompanied minors

**Fees::**

- Adults full weekend is **\$65** per person!
- Saturday only is **\$45**.
- Kids up to age 6 are **\$25**, and ages 6-12 are **\$40**.
- There is also a per-car park entry fee: **\$7** Indiana Resident, **\$9** Visitor

So grab your sleeping bags and towels, and join us at Versailles State Park.

Register and pay online at: <https://cim-og-2023.eventbrite.com>  
For more info, contact [rg.registrar@yahoo.com](mailto:rg.registrar@yahoo.com)

# April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
2 *Sunday Social*	3	4	5 Indy Lunch Bunch - NEW LOCATION
9 *Sunday Social*	10	11	12 Chowhounds
16 Book Group; Dining Out – NEW LOCATION	17	18 * ExCom*	19 *Indy Lunch Bunch*
23 Sunday Fun Day; *Sunday Social*	24	25	26 Chowhounds
30 *Sunday Social			

## \*Virtual Zoom Events\*

**Important Info for In-Person Events: Be Kind!**– if you’re not feeling well or have any symptoms such as a fever, cough, runny nose, COVID, etc, PLEASE be courteous to your fellow members and don’t attend.

▪

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Ham'n Eggs
6	7	8
13	14 Monthly Gathering	15 Mensa Testing
20	21	22 Games Night
27	28	29

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

## Jon's Journal – News for Region 4

### The Splendiferous Mensa Gathering

*Jon Gruebele, RVC4*

Mensa gatherings come in many forms, from dinners to escape rooms, operas, games, movies, on-line talks, picnics, hikes, and a lot more. Regional Gatherings (RGs) and Annual Gatherings (AGs) are of course the biggest, ranging in size from under a hundred people to perhaps a couple of thousand.

I've attended many gatherings across the country and internationally – particularly lately. Each event has its own unique flavor, and all are a delight. For me, the best part is meeting our fellow Mensa members. I find them both fascinating and fun to talk to. Sometimes I have to move to a different table if the conversation just isn't working out, but that's very rare.



On the national front, April will bring us [Mind Games@](#), May has [CultureQuest@](#), and July will be the Foundation's [Colloquium](#) on the "Talent and Potential of Neurodiversity" – plus of course the [Annual Gathering](#) in Baltimore. I'm excited about the [tours](#) (including Gettysburg and the National Cryptologic Museum). Our [gala dinner](#) speaker is John Waters. Regionally we have Central Indiana Mensa's [OMG](#) (Outdoor Mensa Gathering) in May and Chicago's [HalloweeM](#) in October.

If you're thinking about venturing further, the European Mensa Gathering ([EMAG](#)) will be in Rotterdam, NL this August. [Mensa Canada's](#) AG will be in Montréal mid-July. I couldn't find many details yet, but the Asia-Pacific Mensa Gathering ([AMG](#)) is apparently planned for Bali, Indonesia in November. Personally, I'll be attending the [German AG](#) in April.

I've never attended the AMG, but I've been to a few of Canada's AGs. They are similar to our AGs in that most things happen at the event venue. In contrast, the EMAG and German AG offerings generally happen around town. For example, at the upcoming German AG I'm scheduled to visit the museum where during WWII, Heisenberg and coworkers researched atomic reactions in a beer cellar (motto: heavy water instead of cool beer). I'll visit the Mercedes-Benz factory, a castle that's the ancestral seat of the Prussian Royal House, a tunnel construction site for the new train station, take a city tour, and do several other things.

I hope to also attend their annual membership meeting. If the past is prolog, that'll be as mind-blowing as always. They don't use Robert's Rules of Order, so often I'll see things like people with two hands in the air trying to limit debate time or make other motions. It's a sight to behold.

I've said before that members who attend things are happier with their membership. Finances, geography, family commitments, and other constraints often get in the way of doing things with Mensa. I get that. Still, attending events – even the on-line ones – can be a great way to get more value from your membership. I hope to see you at an upcoming event!

Feedback? Please contact me at [rvc4@us.mensa.org](mailto:rvc4@us.mensa.org) or via phone/text at +1 309 693 1359. Region 4's Facebook group is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/695847670490858>.

## Books On the Runway

Margy Lancet Fletcher

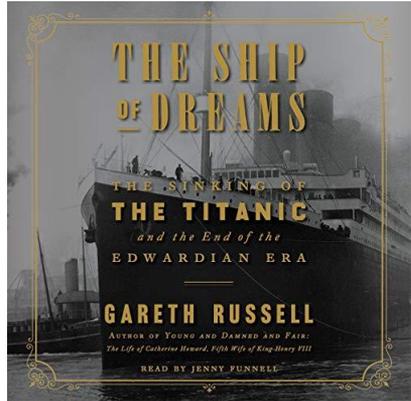
**Author:** Gareth Russell

**Title:** *The Ship of Dreams: The Sinking of the Titanic and the End of the Edwardian Era*

**Publisher:** Atria Books/Simon and Schuster

**Year:** 2019

**Book Description:** This month marks the one-hundred-eleventh anniversary of the sinking of the *Titanic*, and it is generally agreed that, during the intervening time span, enough ink has been expended appraising the human impact of this traumatic event to fill the Atlantic Ocean. What makes *The Ship of Dreams* substantially unique is the author's focus on the sociocultural forces in play during that time that both influenced and resulted from the *Titanic*'s cataclysmic collision with the iceberg, interwoven into a minute-by-minute timeline tapestry of the chain of events related to the creation and disintegration of the "unsinkable" ship.



Prodigiously researched and both scholarly and passionate in style (a sample of which is featured below), historian Gareth Russell provides a wealth of historic and biographical data within his captivating oeuvre, and also effectively refutes long-held myths and conspiracy theories surrounding the maritime disaster. Among the misconceptions the author contradicts are that the ship was shoddily and cheaply constructed; that the addition of more lifeboats would have dramatically reduced the number of fatalities; that the third-class passengers were forcibly blocked from the lifeboats; and - probably the most bizarre and nonsensical fallacy - that the heavily-damaged *Olympic* was deliberately substituted for the *Titanic* prior to the latter's maiden voyage, and subsequently rammed into the iceberg so that the White Star Line could collect a sizable insurance payout from Lloyd's of London. Truly unbelievable!

Additionally, the author explores the lives of six major players in this classic oceanic tragedy: Lucy Noelle Martha Leslie, Countess of Rothes; Thomas Andrews, Managing Director of Harland and Wolff shipyard; Isidor Straus, former New York congressman and co-owner of Macy's department store; John Thayer II, second vice president of the Pennsylvania Railroad; John Thayer III, his son; and Dorothy Gibson, an actress - along with a bevy of supporting players among the passengers and staff. As the book's jacket notes proclaim, *The Ship of Dreams* is an "absorbing, accessible, and authoritative account of the *Titanic*'s life and death [that] is destined to become the definitive book on the subject."

**Has this book changed the way you think, your attitude toward life, or even**  
*Continued on next page*

*Continued from previous page*

**your life itself? If so, how?** The *Titanic* has long been one of my favorite literary exploratory topics and, as such, I always welcome new perspectives. The author's personal investment in his project is both laudable and understandable, as his native town of Belfast, Ireland, figures prominently in the *Titanic*'s brief history. This richly detailed volume also supports my assertion that we humans are complex creatures, each of us containing multitudes of good and evil components. Two notable examples are the celebrated shipboard martyrs, the Strauses, who were, in fact, former slave owners and Confederate sympathizers, and the much-maligned J. Bruce Ismay, managing director of the White Star Line, who actually helped numerous passengers board lifeboats before jumping into one himself. The old scientific maxim - never accept anything as fact without supporting evidence - rings true in this case, too.

**Who should definitely read this book? Why?** Historians, social and political scientists, and fellow *Titanic* enthusiasts will assuredly consider this book an eminently satisfying read. The fifty pages of notes and the fifteen-page bibliography effectively attest to the veracity of the material contained in the book. Due to the dissertational vocabulary utilized by the author, this volume is recommended for highly educated readers (at minimum, a bachelor's degree or the equivalent).

**How long might it take to read this book?** *The Ship of Dreams* is a relatively lengthy volume with 321 pages of text; however, the astonishing and revelatory facts that comprise this literary tour de force ensure a swift and rewarding read. Allow five to seven days, according to your personal schedule.

**Provide a short characteristic section, an awesome sentence, or an inspiring quote:**

The 2012 centenary of the disaster significantly increased the corpus of *Titanic* literature, with several excellent panoramic accounts of the voyage appearing in print, including the immensely thorough *On a Sea of Glass*, product of the research and authorship of Tad Fitch, J. Kent Layton, and Bill Wormstedt. In the strictest sense, *The Ship of Dreams* is not solely an account of the *Titanic* disaster, nor a striving to replace the works of earlier scholars who examined the catastrophe as a whole. As its subtitle suggests, it is an attempt to look at her sinking as a *fin de siècle*, with a deliberate exploration of the voyage as a microcosm of the unsettled world of the Edwardian upper classes. With the admittedly dubious benefit of hindsight, the *Titanic*'s story functions like the Lady of Shalott's mirror, reflecting shadows of the world around it, its splendors and injustices. Since its maiden voyage, the ship has been inextricably linked in popular culture with the question of class. British taste and American money built the *Titanic*, which had room for more first-class passengers, even as a percentage, than almost any other ship then at sea, and the perceived symbiosis between the *Titanic* and the elites who designed her and sailed on her is compelling. In the years before the *Titanic*'s creation, the Industrial Revolution and the corresponding expansions of both the British Empire and the American economy had created new kinds of wealth. Modernity had shaken the class system. There were many different kinds of privilege in prewar Britain and America, the *Titanic*'s respective spiritual and economic homelands, and all of these elites would be, as individuals and a class, changed by the decade that lay ahead...

# Early Americans

Matt Brennan

## Central American Civilizations



An interesting early Central American civilization was the **Olmec** (1600 B.C. – 400 B.C.). Very little is known about a culture that erected pyramids, built elaborate ceremonial centers, and left behind giant stone heads (6-to-50 tons). There is debate over whether the stone heads were merely artwork or represented important figures.

Farther south, **Mayan City-States** flourished (ca. 2000 B.C. – 900 A.D.). The Maya are well known for their cities and ceremonial centers, only a small number of which have

been excavated. They were astronomers, astrologers and agronomists with an elaborate written script and very precise calendars. They exist today in southern Mexico and northern Central America. Most Mayan written records from their classical age were destroyed by Spanish priests.



In south central Mexico, the **Toltecs** (900 A.D. - 1150 A.D.), another city and pyramid-building society, emerged as a precursor to the **Aztec Empire** (1345 A.D. – 1521 A.D.). A prominent feature of Toltec religion was the elevation and entrenchment in Meso- America of the god **Quetzalcoatl**.

By Aztec times, worship of this god, now white-skinned, was widespread. His reappearance was prophesized. This was the god that Montezuma thought had returned in the form of Hernan Cortes. In exchange for honored treatment by the Aztecs, Cortes imprisoned Montezuma and captured the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan alongside his native allies. The natives allied with Cortes had been the recipients of relentless Aztec raids to capture sacrificial victims.

The Aztecs elected a new ruler and courageously fought to save their capital city. They might have prevailed in the short term had not diseases, probably smallpox and measles, decimated the population and weakened their fierce warriors. As it was, the Spaniards encountered almost unimaginable horrors in the ceremonial complexes – temples to unique gods, skull pyramids, charnel houses with trophy racks, etc.

Each season or natural or celestial event had its own god and its unique method of human sacrifice(s). Perhaps the most chilling was Xipe Totec, God of Spring, “Our Flayed Lord.” Captive warriors died in one-sided, ritual combat. The fallen warriors were flayed and their pelts stored until worn in the next year’s springtime ceremonies. Xipe Totec symbolized rebirth/renewal.

### **North American Civilizations**

The influence of Meso-American societies on North American mound building traditions, particularly the **Mississippian** (800 A.D. – 1600 A.D.), is found as far north as Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa. Mississippian societies had been preceded by the earlier **Adena** (500 B.C – 100 A.D.) and **Hopewell** (100 B.C. – 500 A.D.) traditions but were far more interrelated and complex than either.

*This is part of a continuing series by member Matt Brennan on Early Americans. –Ed.*



# Theodore Talks

Brad Lucht

The title of the April Theodore Talk is, "**Invisible Warriors: African American Women in World War II**". This virtual event will take place on Zoom April 23 at 2:30 p.m. Central Time (3:30 Eastern, 12:30 Pacific, 7:30 GMT).

## ABSTRACT

*Invisible Warriors: African American Women in World War II* is a feature length documentary illuminating 600,000 Black women - "Rosie the Riveters" - industrial and government employees who triumph over racism, sexism, and classism to help win the war. Their wartime service and patriotism ushers in a new era and expectations for African American women.

In *Invisible Warriors*, professor Gregory S. Cooke, filmmaker and historian, uses HD interviews and archival photos and film to document Eight Rosies and their lives during the Great Depression including their education, social and economic conditions. The documentary explores Rosies' patriotism; their jobs and working conditions; racial violence and resistance; and the larger political context that creates their employment opportunities. Ultimately, the African American Rosies' wartime employment is a positive economic, political and social experience. Arguably, Black Rosies are the most significant group of African American women of the 20th Century.

Register for this presentation at <https://tinyurl.com/bdfpx93b>.

You must register for each lecture with an email address associated with your Zoom account. If you don't have one, you can sign up for a free Zoom account at <https://zoom.us/signup>.

Theodore Talks take place on Zoom the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m. CT.

A list of future Theodore Talks can be found on the Mensa National Events Calendar at <https://www.us.mensa.org/attend/calendar/>, or by viewing the January issue of the Mensa Bulletin. The article on the 2023 Theodore Talks begins on p. 26. The PDF for the magazine can be found here:

<https://cdn.coverstand.com/28885/770839/b31f233c57e663919d0e24eaaf61c9f62f52e902.pdf>

Questions? Contact Brad Lucht at [TheodoreTalks@MAMensa.org](mailto:TheodoreTalks@MAMensa.org).

# Central Indiana Mensa ExCom

Karen Wilczewski, CIM Secretary

There is no report for this month. February's minutes will appear in next month's issue. --Ed



**IT'S A BIRD! IT'S A PLANE! IT'S A...**



**MENSA  
SUNDAY  
FUN DAY**

Join Central Indiana Mensa members for congenial company and casual talk as we regale each other with our personal tales of heroism, both BIG and small! Feel free to bring a sidekick!



**WHEN:**  
Sunday, April 23, 2023  
2 p.m.

**WHERE:**  
Pendleton Community Library  
Magnolia Room  
595 E. Water St.  
Pendleton, IN 46064



# Treasurer's Report

Kurt Williams

## Balance Sheet (as of 02/28/2023)

<b>Bank Accounts</b>	<b>01/31/2023</b>	<b>02/28/2023</b>
Checking – Regular	\$ 8,080.85	\$ 8,549.90
Checking – Scholarship	20.00	20.00
Checking – MG Cash	25.00	25.00
Checking – Events Checking	6,674.74	6,674.74
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 14,800.59</b>	<b>\$ 15,269.64</b>

<b>Other Assets</b>		
USPS Stamps Value	\$ 379.50	\$ 367.40
Total Number of USPS Stamps	690	668

## Profit & Loss Statement (01/31/2023 – 02/28/2023)

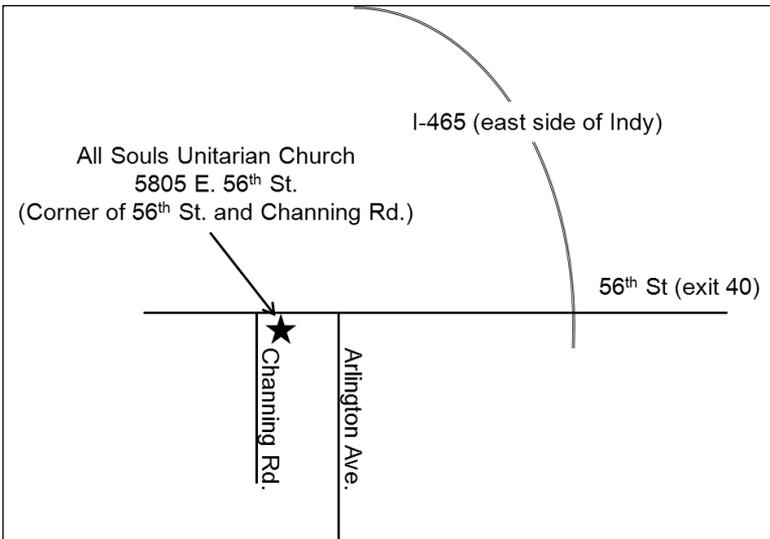
<b>Income</b>		
	Monthly Gathering Income	\$ 91.00
	National Support	402.05
	New Member/Lapsed Member	1.00
	Scholarship Fund donation	0
	National Testing Support	0
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 494.05</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
	MG Hospitality	\$ 0
	MIND Printing	392.48
	Facility Rental (All Souls)	100.00
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 492.48</b>

# Mensa Monthly Gathering Location

## All Souls Unitarian Church

### 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.
- Look for signs within the building, meeting in Beattie Room



Central Indiana Mensa  
Teresa Gregory  
6076 Dewey Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46219