



# 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.

## ***Contribution Guidelines***

*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

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## Loosing My MIND

Vonda Heverly, Editor

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



This will be my last issue as newsletter editor. I extend my gratitude to everyone who has contributed over the past several years! I'm looking forward to pursuing a role in a different club that will demand a fair bit of my spare time.

Cheers!

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

# LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

## 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. For more info or to register, go to [www.indymensa.org/wp4/big-events/](http://www.indymensa.org/wp4/big-events/).



**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. You must also be willing to meet the monthly deadlines. 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).

**ICYMI** (In Case You Missed It) – We had a nice turnout for our April Monthly Gathering. Amateur scientist James Lowery showed and narrated several amazing drone's-eye-view videos of humpback whales and penguins in Antarctica (he's been seven times!).



## Puzzle Column

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

### MAY MAY BE MY FAVORITE MONTH

Each sentence has two consecutive words that are homophones. They **MAY** or **MAY NOT** have the same spelling.

1. This \_\_\_\_\_ be contested in court.
2. We are waiting \_\_\_\_\_ more people to show up.
3. Did he \_\_\_\_\_ monsters in his nightmares?
4. You cannot \_\_\_\_\_ owners from attending meetings about licensed establishments.
5. All the laws of \_\_\_\_\_ to a scientist.
6. After I find some ore, I will make that \_\_\_\_\_ .
7. I \_\_\_\_\_ blades on sale at Walmart.
8. Is their Tennessee \_\_\_\_\_ working?
9. 3 PM is \_\_\_\_\_ on the schedule of programs.
10. Does that device on the \_\_\_\_\_ the speed of the train?

See answers on page 17.



## New Members

Michael Djonlich	Carmel	IN	Join
Joni Heredia	Indianapolis	IN	Join
Brady Lewis	Pendleton	IN	Join
Miles Milburn	Greencastle	IN	MoveIn

## 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.

**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:** *The Sweet Spot* by Paul Bloom, 304 pages \*\*NOTE CHANGE\*

**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.

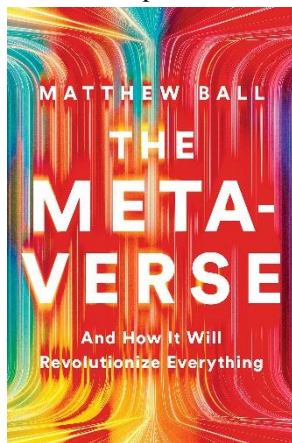
## Mensa Book Group Book Reviews

Rich Gibson

**THIS MONTH:** *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
- *Continued on next page*



- *Continued from previous page*
- 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!

**NEXT MONTH: *The Genetic Lottery—Why DNA Matters for Social Equality***, by Kathryn Paige Harden; 312 pages, published in 2021. To be discussed at the MBG meeting on Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 PM. See Calendar or Meetup for more information.

This is an extremely controversial book. Admittedly, the author walks out into a minefield and calmly states that she can strongly correlate certain groups of DNA with high salaries and excellent performance in education; so you'd expect a little excitement, good and bad, from every point on the political spectrum. The interesting thing is that this good and bad excitement is happening inside the scientific community as well.

At the heart of this book and its controversy is the term Genome-Wide Association Study, or GWAS. It describes an intensive, data-driven study of a group of people that seeks to find associations, or correlations, between the life outcomes of those people and their genomes. Harden claims to have found such associations, and argues that successful life outcomes are, to some extent, a matter of genetic "luck" (hence the book's title). She goes further to propose that this realization must be accounted for in social science, if finding a path toward a just, equal society is to be achievable.

As noted, reaction has been mixed. Several publications have published reviews; the ones I've seen, the reviewers were all part of the scientific community. Several liked the book immensely, while others claimed that, despite her insistence that this realization destroys concepts of racial superiority, the book does quite the opposite; or at least gives ammunition to those willing to misinterpret the results. Other reviews lie in between. A common observation among these reviewers is that, while the author's intentions were laudable and admirable, she failed to make her case.

Whether Ball is correct or not; whether the prospect excites you or appalls you is something you'll have to judge for yourself. Read the book and attend in-person or via Zoom on Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00, and join the discussion. Hope to see you there!

(For more background, see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Genetic\\_Lottery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Genetic_Lottery))





# Early Americans

Matt Brennan

## North American Civilizations



The **Adena** mound-building tradition (500 B.C. – 100 A.D.) covered the smallest geographic area and was centered on south-central Ohio and adjacent states. It benefited from a continent-wide trading network for raw materials, in addition to finished copper and pottery goods. Dead were interred in ceremonial mounds.

Next came a **Hopewell** mound-building tradition (100 B.C. – 500

A.D.) that was geographically much larger and benefited from a far flung, continent-wide trading network.

The **Mississippian** tradition (800 A.D. – 1600 A.D.) extended across most of the eastern United States and was by far the most developed. It featured ceremonial/temple cities of up to 10,000 people with constellations of adjacent towns and hamlets. Cultivation of corn (maize), beans, squash, and other plants had been practiced in North America for about 4000-to-5000 years by then, but farming by Mississippian populations intensified to support growing populations. Trade networks became truly continent-wide.

Although the mounds were of earth rather than stone, some bear a remarkable resemblance to Meso-American temple platforms.

*Continued on next page*



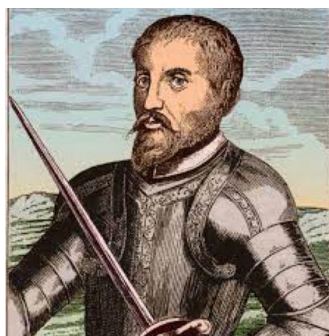
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## **AN EARLY EUROPEAN CONTACT**

The Americas have probably been visited by multiple peoples in multiple places, in multiple eras. Very little is known about early European cultural transferal beyond the realm of speculation. But 500 years after the Viking settlements in Iceland, Greenland and Newfoundland (Vinland), and the sagas of “Erik the Red” and “Leif Erikson,” more detailed records began being kept.

**Hernando de Soto** had campaigned in Nicaragua and Panama, and played a major part in the conquest of the Inca Empire, before turning his attention to Mississippian Culture territories in the American Southwest. He entered the region in 1539 via Florida with a well-equipped army of 650 men, 240 cavalry horses, and a pack of war dogs.

The use of war dogs is an ancient tradition across many cultures. The Spanish Mastiffs favored by the conquistadors weighed 200-to-250 pounds, were outfitted with padded armor and spiked collars, and were trained to kill. Probably the most famous and terrifying of them all was Becerrillo (Little Bull) owned by Ponce de Leon. Becerrillo’s equally ferocious son, Leoncillo (Little Lion), was gifted by Ponce de Leon to Balboa and accompanied the latter in Panama.



De Soto’s incursion ranged from Florida to North Carolina, and crossed parts of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee, and Texas. One of its legacies was a battle in October 1540 at a place called Mauvila (Mabila) that resulted in over 200 Spanish casualties and as many as 6,000 Native American deaths. De Soto died of fever in Louisiana on the banks of the mighty Mississippi River in May 1542. About 300 survivors of his foray reached Spanish outposts in northern Mexico in 1543.

De Soto possessed the same mindset as Balboa, Columbus, Cordoba, Coronado, Cortez, the Pizzaro brothers, Ponce de Leon, and others. They sought precious metals, slaves and land +for the crown. Native populations were generally regarded as being less than human. De Soto was described by a contemporary chronicler as “very occupied in the hunt to kill Indians.” The European diseases that accompanied him most probably contributed to, or caused, the rapid demise of various Mississippian traditions.

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

# May 2023 Events

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

**5/3, 11:30am ET - MCL Restaurant and Bakery**, 2370 W. 86th St, Indianapolis

**5/17, 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)** – 1st Saturday

**5/6, 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

**5/10, 2:00pm ET - Tiger Lily 2**, 7262 Fishers Crossing Dr, Fishers, IN 46038

**5/24, 2:00pm ET Bae Latin Food**, 14580 River Rd #190, Carmel, IN 46033

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,

**5/12, 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.

**Duane Nickell will tell up about his new book “Einstein Lived Here.”**

**[Watch the Weekly CIM ReMINDer for details.]**

**VIRTUAL and LIVE Book Group**

**5/21, 2:00pm ET**

***Metaverse*** – Matthew Ball (2022) 292 pages

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

**5/21, 6pm ET**

**Taste of Dubai**, 4672 W 38th St, Indianapolis, IN 46254.

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

# May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	1	2	3 Indy Lunch Bunch
7 *Sunday Social*	8	9	10 Chowhounds
14 *Sunday Social*	15	16 * ExCom*	17 *Indy Lunch Bunch*
21 OMG!; 4 Book Group; Dining Out –	22	23	19 Chowhounds
28 *Sunday Social*	29	30	31

## \*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
4	5	6 Ham'n Eggs
11	12 Monthly Gathering	13
18	19 OMG!	20 OMG!
25	26	27

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

### Fiscal Balancing Act

*Jon Gruebele, RVC4*

The Board of Directors (AMC) recently approved the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. As usual, the budget was the product of many uncomfortable compromises driven by our strong desire to avoid a dues increase.

We last increased dues to \$79 effective July 2017. Had we increased dues at the same rate as consumer inflation, today they would be \$97 (per [bls.gov](https://www.bls.gov) through February 2023). Nobody wants that – especially since dues increases are historically associated with membership declines.

National pays a subsidy of \$10.20 per member per year to the Local Groups. That last increased in September 2015. Had it also been increased in line with consumer inflation, it would be \$12.90 today. Assuming an average of 47,000 members across the fiscal year, that would add around \$127,000 in annual expense for American Mensa.

Some members have argued we should indeed increase the subsidy. Local Groups' largest expense is printing and mailing a newsletter, and costs for that have also risen significantly. Other members note that collectively Local Groups are sitting on nearly \$2m. They ask why we should give Local Groups even more money they aren't spending; instead, they'd prefer funding for a better national website, marketing, and many other initiatives.

When expenses are increased somewhere, we must increase revenues or decrease other expenses. On the revenue side, we work hard to increase non-dues revenues. About a third of our revenue comes from that. Examples include admission testing and marketing partnerships (think Geico); unfortunately, that only goes so far.

For expenses, people have mentioned cutting overhead, and I made a motion about that in February 2021. It was unfortunately defeated. Some have suggested all AMC meetings should be virtual, saving travel costs. That might be penny wise, pound foolish. While the meeting itself could be virtual, we would miss the many informal, face-to-face discussions where ideas are exchanged, and improvements considered – to the overall detriment of American Mensa.

The easiest way to free up more money for Local Groups would be to allow them to decide for themselves whether they want print newsletters. Already some groups have reduced the number of pages, eliminated color, or gone to a bare-bones quarterly publication. Instead, they rely on electronic channels including Mensa Connect, e-mail, MeetUp, social media, web sites, and others. Most other national organizations I belong to long ago eliminated local print newsletters in favor of more timely electronic communications.



Every year the National Office works with our various officers and committees to lay out needs. Our Treasurer and Finance Committee work to prioritize the initiatives and establish a draft budget. The AMC then votes on it. I don't know if anyone is happy about the resulting compromises, but I was delighted we managed another year without a dues increase.

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:** Mitch Albom

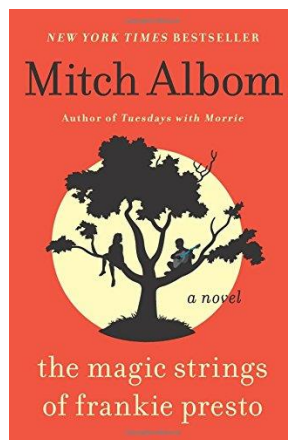
**Title:** *The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto*

**Publisher:** HarperCollins Publishers

**Year:** 2016

**Book Description:** Now that the proverbially sunny, blossom-laden month of May has arrived, it is high time to divert our focus from the technical disciplines - the *STEM* that supports us and keeps us *alive*, to the realm of artistry and creativity - the *blossom* that provides the color and freshness that enable us to *thrive*. Mitch Albom's exquisitely unique novel, *The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto*, is a powerful story of guitarist/vocalist Frankie Presto's transformative relationships (both tuneful and strident) with a foster parent, an instructor, a romantic partner, his ardent admirers, and - most importantly - his musical gift. In short, it is an exploration of Music as an expression of love.

Narrated in the voice of the omniscient, ubiquitous entity we know as Music, the novel transports the reader from Frankie's perilous birth in war-torn Spain in the mid-1930's and his rescue and training by a blind guitar teacher, to his eventual arrival in America, where he participates in the popular music culture of the twentieth century: playing backup in jazz and rock 'n' roll bands, and briefly enjoying "teen idol" stardom himself. Ultimately burned out by the demands of fame and succumbing to the ever-present lure of mind-altering substances (see Music's commentary thereof below), Frankie's tragic, self-sabotaging moment motivates him to seclude himself from the public for decades, reemerging only to give an eerily sensational farewell performance that manages to tie together the various chaotic threads of his existence. Replete with both plot twists and words of wisdom (Example: "...Music  
*Continued on next page*



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is in the connection of human souls, speaking a language that needs no words... Everyone joins a band in this life. And what you play always affects someone...”), the novel also features obituary tributes to Frankie from such real-life entertainment luminaries as rhythm and blues singer Darlene Love, composer Burt Bacharach, rock guitarist Roger McGuinn, country singer Lyle Lovett, “national treasure” Tony Bennett, and singer/songwriter Ingrid Michaelson - fashioned from the author’s personal interviews with these musicians. As Shakespeare would undoubtedly marvel, “Well played, good sir!”

**Has this book changed the way you think, your attitude toward life, or even your life itself? If so, how?**

My husband and I first became cognizant of Mitch Albom’s literary prominence when we witnessed a performance by the Carmel Community Players of the theatrical version of *Tuesdays with Morrie*, Albom’s memoir of his weekly sessions with his terminally ill former professor - who, it turned out, still had a lot to teach his erstwhile protege. Rod later encountered the book while substitute teaching a freshman English class, for which *Tuesdays with Morrie* was required reading. Whereupon he acquired a copy, read it, and passed it on to me - and we were hooked! We have since become avid Albom fans and have added all nine of his novels and memoirs to our personal library. Having assumed a variety of roles in his lifetime, including sports journalist, musician, author, activist, and charity founder and operator, Albom has garnered a multitude of experiences from which to draw inspiration for his engaging tales - an impressive achievement in itself.

**Who should definitely read this book? Why?** Mensa’s esteemed linguistics expert, Richard Lederer, declares in his article “The Humanness of Language,” that *homo sapiens* “not only possess[es] language; we *are* language.” I am confident that *The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto* will convince its Mensan audience that the same can be said of music, which is, after all, language vocalized and presented in pitches. In fact, as Albom’s storytelling spirit of Music proclaims, “I was formed in nature, rugged and raw. Only [humankind] shapes my edges to make me beautiful.” Artists - particularly musicians - and other readers lacking a personal prohibition against reading fiction will find this highly original novel both captivating and enlightening.

**How long might it take to read this book?** At 357 pages, *The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto* is Mitch Albom’s lengthiest work to date, but is a veritable fast-paced page-turner. This retiree finished it in two days; my still-working husband managed a mere five days’ perusal time (best estimate, which will depend on the reader’s personal tempo).



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

For centuries, musicians have sought to find me at the end of a needle or the bottom of a drink. It is an illusion. And it often ends badly.

Take my cherished Russian disciple, Modest Mussorgsky. In 1881, he lay facedown in a St. Petersburg tavern. This man once composed marvelous works, *Pictures at an Exhibition* and *Night on Bald Mountain* (later made famous through an animated film called *Fantasia*). He composed nothing on that barroom floor, believing alcohol made him an artist. He died at forty-two.

I was there to collect his talent.

I was there at the hospital deathbed of my beloved Billie Holiday, just forty-four, her liver destroyed by drinking; I was there inside the hotel room of Charlie Parker, my singular jazz saxophonist, who died in his mid-thirties, but whose body was so ravaged by drugs the coroners thought he was sixty.

Tommy Dorsey, the bandleader, choked in his sleep when he was fifty-one, too deep in pills to awaken. Johnny Allen Hendrix (you call him Jimi) swallowed a handful of barbiturates and expired. He was twenty-seven.

It is not new, this idea that a purer art awaits you in a substance. But it is naive. I existed before the first grapes were fermented. Before the first whisky was distilled. Be it opium or absinthe, marijuana or heroin, cocaine or ecstasy or whatever will follow, you may alter your state, but you will not alter this truth: I am Music. I am here inside you. Why would I hide behind a powder or a vapor?

Do you think me so petty?



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

1. This will will be contested in court.
2. We are waiting for four more people to show up.
3. Did he see sea monsters in his nightmares?
4. You cannot bar bar owners from attending meetings about licensed establishments.
5. All the laws of matter matter to a scientist.
6. After I find some ore, I will make that mine mine.
7. I saw saw blades on sale at Walmart.
8. Is their Tennessee still still working?
9. 3 PM is our hour on the schedule of programs.
10. Does that device on the track track the speed of the train?

# Theodore Talks

Brad Lucht

The title of the May Theodore Talk is, "**First Crossing: The 1919 Trans-Atlantic Flight of Alcock and Brown**". This virtual event will take place on Zoom May 28 at 2:30 p.m. Central Time (3:30 Eastern, 12:30 Pacific, 7:30 GMT).

## ABSTRACT

The first to fly across the Atlantic non-stop wasn't Charles Lindbergh, but two long-forgotten British airmen. Captain John Alcock and Lieutenant Arthur Whitten Brown flew their flimsy wood and fabric modified Vickers Vimy bomber from St. Johns, Newfoundland to Cliveden, Ireland on June 14/15, 1919—eight years before Lindbergh's epic 1927 New York to Paris flight.

In *First Crossing*, author Captain Robert O. Harder follows two Royal Air Force officers through terrifying Great War aerial combat before they are shot down and become prisoners of war. While incarcerated, both independently schemed of a way to win Lord Northcliffe's £10,000 prize for the first non-stop Trans-Atlantic crossing. Alcock needed an over-ocean navigator; Brown needed a pilot— what proved to be an ideal marriage. Through a combination of luck and their competitor's bad fortune, Alcock and Brown launched themselves into aviation immortality.

Register for this presentation at <https://tinyurl.com/pzze6jem>.

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 2/17/2023**

*Karen Wilczewski, CIM Secretary*

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, February 17, 2023.

LocSec Jan Pfeil Doyle called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Members present: Jan Pfeil Doyle, Paula Ferguson, Barb George, Ann Hake, Karen Wilczewski, Kurt Williams, and Bob Zdanky

Guests: Teresa Gregory, Pat Milligan, Jon Applegate

The committee reviewed the minutes of the January 2023 ExCom meeting. Kurt moved to approve as amended, Barb seconded, and the motion carried.

The committee reviewed the January 2023 Treasurer's report was approved as amended. Ann moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Paula seconded, and the motion carried.

A membership report was compiled by Jan based upon the information available as of 1/31/2023 from American Mensa: 476 members, no new, 1 move-in, 3 rejoins, and 11 prospects.

### **Old Business**

CD: Kurt talked with the National Office regarding obtaining local tax ID documentation for First Internet Bank in order to explore purchasing a CD from them. Ultimately, the funds from the CD purchase will be designated for the Scholarship Fund.

Culture Quest: Will support as many teams as possible. Ms who have expressed an interest in participating, in addition to those who participated in previous years, will be approached to determine their interest.

Bulk mailing for MIND: The printer sent a postage estimate of \$0.35-0.40 per newsletter. This should save us \$45-\$55 per month. Printer said the MINDs would be mailed in envelopes and that bulk-rate newsletters mailed to Ohio have been arriving in 3 days.

### **New Business**

Eliminate MeetUp: Due to very low recruitment from MeetUp and the 6-month charge for membership, cancelling our MeetUp membership was discussed. Barb moved and Kurt seconded not to renew MeetUp. The motion unanimously passed.

Bulk mailing for MIND: The printer sent a postage estimate of \$0.35-0.40 per newsletter. This should save us \$45-\$55 per month. Printer said the MINDs would be mailed in envelopes and that bulk rate newsletters mailed to Ohio have been arriving in 3 days.

OG is scheduled for May 19-21. Karen Steilberger has agreed to be registrar. Jan Pfeil Doyle is working with Karen Guse and the national office to update our Eventbrite account with the proper tax info so we can accept online registrations again. Gatherings Chair Teresa Gregory will be promoting the OG through MIND, weekly ReMINDers, and the website.

There being no other business, Kurt moved to adjourn the meeting. Barb seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

### **3/21/2023**

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

LocSec Jan Pfeil Doyle called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Members present: Jan Pfeil Doyle, Paula Ferguson, Barb George, Ann Hake, Karen Wilczewski, Kurt Williams, and Bob Zdanky

Guests: Teresa Gregory, Pat Milligan, Jon Applegate

The February minutes weren't available for the March meeting and will be reviewed along with the March minutes at April's meeting.

The committee reviewed the February 2023 Treasurer's report. Ann moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved as amended. Paula seconded, and the motion carried.

A membership report was compiled by Jan Pfeil Doyle based upon the information available as of 2/28/2023 from American Mensa: 481 members, 4 new, 1 move-in, 0 rejoin, and 2 prospects.

### **Old Business**

Bulk rate postage for MIND has been set up starting in April. If bulk rate had been used in March, the bulk rate mailing would have saved \$59.31 over 1<sup>st</sup> class postage.

Culture Quest: Jan took a poll of those present to see who wanted to participate in this year's event. Karen, Bob, Barb, and Pat said no. Jon and Jan said maybe. Ann, Kurt, Teresa, and Paula said yes. There may be Zoom participants. Candis King has also said she wants to be on a Culture Quest team. Will check for other members' interest.

OG: Requesting an ad for the OG be placed in April's MIND. If you plan to attend or volunteer, let Teresa know.

CD: Kurt obtained an EIN number for the local group. Do we want to find the best rate or go with PNC, where we generally bank. The decision was to shop for the best rate. Ann moved and Paula seconded depositing \$10,000 from the account into a CD to get the best interest rate and compare it to PNC. Motion passed unanimously.

MeetUp renewal. One member who wishes to remain anonymous is willing to fund our Meetup account in 6-month increments. The ExCom discussed accepting the offer, rescinding the previous decision to cancel Meetup, and to conduct an evaluation before the December renewal to determine if it will be continued. Changes and additions on Meetup still need to go through Jan as Communications Coordinator. Bob will pay for the renewal in order to protect the anonymous donor and will be reimbursed by the donor.

Ann moved to rescind the previous decision to not renew Meetup but to evaluate its value to the membership before the December renewal to determine whether to continue after the December date. Bob seconded and the motion carried.

### **New Business**

COVID policy:

Ann moved that in accordance with current American Mensa practice, we discontinue requiring proof of COVID vaccination for in-person participation at Central Indiana Mensa events. Events held in private homes, as always, are at the discretion of the host. Masks are optional. Kurt seconded. The motion unanimously passed.

There being no other business, Kurt moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ann seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.



*“They must often change, who would be constant in happiness or wisdom.” – Confucius*

# Treasurer's Report

Kurt Williams

## Balance Sheet (as of 03/31/2023)

Bank Accounts	02/28/2023	03/31/2023
Checking – Regular	\$ 8,549.90	\$ 8,170.58
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>\$ 15,269.64</b>	<b>\$ 14,845.32</b>

Other Assets		
USPS Stamps Value	\$ 379.50	\$ 364.10
Total Number of USPS Stamps	668	662

## Profit & Loss Statement (02/28/2023 – 03/31/2023)

Income		
	Monthly Gathering Income	\$ 76.00
	National Support	405.45
	New Member/Lapsed Member	5.00
	Scholarship Fund donation	0
	National Testing Support	85.00
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 571.45</b>
Expense		
	MG Hospitality	\$ 108.32
	Meetup	98.00
	MIND Printing	404.54
	Facility Rental (All Souls)	100.00
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 710.86</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

