



# mind

Mensa Newsletter  
Of Central Indiana



*Mensans enjoying Book Group*

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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 Richard Gibson, 5726 Toad Hollow Ln, Indianapolis, IN 46220. 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**

**Editor:** Richard Gibson, [mind.editor@yahoo.com](mailto:mind.editor@yahoo.com), 5726 Toad Hollow Ln, Indianapolis, IN 46220

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October 2023



# mind

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## From the Editor's Cubicle

*Rich Gibson, Editor*

Happy October! As I write, we're having a late spell of lovely summer weather, even though the autumnal equinox is only a few days away. We had some cool weather last week, so we've already put away the summer bedcover and broken out the lightest of the comforters. Yup, the punkins are all looking forward to the coming frost—but not me. This feller feels his best in a pair of swim trunks, lounging around the pool, enjoying nature, and possibly refreshing himself with something cool and wet. Oh well, the fall colors will be spectacular. A few nearby maples are already trying out different colored leaves, though they're not going whole hog for it just yet.



Hey, October is testing month! If a friend or family member is envious of your high-toned Mensa lifestyle, you might encourage them to save some money and sign up for a test. Please check the Calendar.

Finally, be sure and check out the Events and the Calendar. There's always something interesting or exciting to do, at home via Zoom or out in the local area. Enjoy October!

## LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

**Membership/Testing Month** – October is Mensa's Membership/Testing Month. This year, the price for local testing is half price (\$30). If you know someone who's interested or might like Mensa, encourage them to take the test! CIM will be giving the test in the Indianapolis/Carmel area on Sunday, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you have friends or family in other areas of the country who might want to take the test, have them check for testing near them at [www.us.mensa.org/join/testing](http://www.us.mensa.org/join/testing).

Many thanks to our Testing Coordinator, **Alison Brown**, and the rest of our CIM proctors – **Teresa Gregory, Ann Hake, and Karen Zwick** – who volunteer their time to administer tests to prospective members.



**MensaCares© Volunteering Opportunity** – We'll be volunteering for the Indiana Women's Half Marathon & 5K in Carmel on Friday, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>. There are two shifts, 3-6 pm and 5-9 pm. If Friday is not an option, there is also a need for people to do what is called "Packet Stuffing" on Thursday Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>. If we get at least 10 volunteers (we have 4 so far) they will make a \$150 donation to our group. The race benefits the Indiana Women in Need (IWIN) Foundation [www.iwinfoundation.org/](http://www.iwinfoundation.org/). If you're interested, please contact me at [jan@mw.net](mailto:jan@mw.net) or 317-431-3500.

**October Speaker** – On Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>, we welcome back James Lowery, who presented to our group in April about his travels to Antarctica. He showed some amazing videos of penguins and whales. This time, James will be talking about the Alabama Wetumpka impact crater, Alabama geology and paleontology, and the impact crater in northwest Indiana.

**Busy Month!** – In addition to testing, MensaCares© , and all of our "usual" activities, we have a couple of special events this month:

- Sunday Fun Day in Pendleton on Oct 8<sup>th</sup> will have a spooky discussion of the paranormal in keeping with this being the ghostly month.
- Games & Conversation Night in Westfield on Oct 21<sup>st</sup>

More details on both events in the calendar.

## 2022-2023 Book Group Reading List/Call for More

Rich Gibson

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

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

**December:** Bring a book! The November selection marks the end of our last compilation. Please come to our December meeting and bring 1, 2, or many books you've recently read that you'd like to discuss with others. We'll compile a new list for next year.

- See book reviews below

## Mensa Book Group Book Reviews

Rich Gibson

THIS MONTH:

### ***The Sweet Spot: The Pleasures of Suffering and the Search for Meaning***

*The Sweet Spot: The Pleasures of Suffering and the Search for Meaning*, by Paul Bloom, 304 pages (including appendices, notes, and index), published in 2021. To be discussed at the MBG meeting on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 PM. See Calendar or Meetup for more information.

Paul Bloom is Professor of Psychology at University of Toronto and the Brooks and Suzanne Ragen Professor Emeritus of Psychology at Yale University. This book argues that the right kind of pain and suffering can actually contribute to human happiness and meaning. The obvious question is, what is the "right kind" of suffering? Bloom distinguishes between chosen and unchosen suffering; suffering that you choose, that you decide to undergo in pursuit of a goal, either personal or societal (losing weight, volunteering, learning to play a musical instrument) can have personal, social, and even moral benefits. Such suffering can deepen your happiness and life satisfaction. It can reduce anxiety. Of course, the book title suggests that too much of anything can be bad for you. Too little suffering can be harmful, but so can too much. Putting too much value in suffering, or overindulging in suffering, can be horrible. I'm sure we've all known people who seem to walk around splashing gasoline on themselves and asking who's got a match. Such behavior is unhealthy. Dr Bloom has pulled together the latest psychological and neurological research, and has brought in lessons from art, literature, history and religion. The book is written in a clear and engaging style, with examples and anecdotes from his own life and elsewhere. The book aims to provide a new perspective on happiness and meaning, and to show how suffering can be a source of both.

This is an important book, and you'll be entertained and educated by it. Please read it and come in person or by Zoom to discuss it with other Mensans on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 PM. Hope to see you there!

## **NEXT MONTH:**

### ***Power and Liberty: Constitutionalism in the American Revolution***

*Power and Liberty: Constitutionalism in the American Revolution*, by Gordon S. Wood, 188 pages (228 including appendices, notes, and index), published in 2021. To be discussed at the MBG meeting on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 PM. See Calendar or Meetup for more information.

The fifty years, from the onset of friction between the United Kingdom and its American colonies in 1760, to the early decades of the new American republic, has been called the most intense and creative period of constitutionalism ever seen. Gordon Wood, widely considered the greatest living American historian, examines this period and offers up insight and clarity about the issues, the controversies, the experiments that worked and those that didn't, the discussions and the decisions that led to the American Constitution, the Bill of Rights. His story doesn't end there; he further describes the impact on each and all of the states as the Constitution was implemented, establishing a federal authority over them.

The first half of this book is a blow-by-blow account of the issues leading to the Revolution, the establishment of state constitutions as they declared their liberty, and the disorganization of the Confederation that led to the Constitutional Convention in 1787. I was astonished to learn a concrete example of Churchill's description of America and Britain as a single people separated by a common language. To the Americans, No Taxation Without Representation was a stirring slogan capturing a huge grievance. To the British, the term was close to nonsense. The idea in the 1770's that any Member of Parliament was answerable to a particular body of voters was outlandish. As is usual, mutual incomprehension did nothing to smooth the way to an equitable outcome, and so we lurched to war.

The remainder of the book focuses on some of the issues facing the convention, and the compromises that were hammered out. Among these issue were slavery, the role of the judiciary, and the differences between public and private. This latter was particularly interesting (I'd never thought about it before). In colonial times, the line between public and private was blurry. The state was weak, and private individuals often conducted public activities as if they were their private businesses. Also, asking/drafting/coercing private citizens to engage in public service was problematic. The Constitution changed all of this.

To learn more, you need to read the book. To digest it, and ponder the way these issues affect our daily life today, necessitates your attending the November 19<sup>th</sup> Book Group meeting, 2:00 PM, either in person or via Zoom. Hope to see you there!

## Puzzle Column

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

### WORDS THAT MAY GET YOUR GOAT

All answers must start with 3 consecutive letters in **CAPRICORN**. For example, a Super Tuesday event would be **PRIMARY**.

1. A small Welsh dog
2. Mean-spirited
3. Microsoft, for one
4. A yellow-orange fruit
5. Of unlimited value
6. Of great stature
7. A flux item in *Back to the Future*
8. A borough in New York City
9. Very fancy
10. The academic capital of New Jersey

*See solutions on page*

## The Language Dilettante Finishes Chinese

*Teresa Fisher*

I gave up too soon on learning Mandarin Chinese from Rosetta Stone. After a break I realized I missed Chinese, so I went back to it. Learning a language by immersion doesn't work well for me. At some point I need to be told the meanings of the words, and that doesn't happen in immersion. You are expected to figure them all out as you go along.

I found that my best chance of learning is to cheat. Sometimes I looked words up on Google Translate, which doesn't always give the correct answer. Chinese words just have too many meanings, depending on tone of voice. For one lesson I typed the various photo captions into Google Translate to look for clues, and saw that one caption had the word "baby" in it. Since the lesson had only one picture of babies, I got that one right. However, Google Translate said the caption meant, "start a baby." No one, in any of the pictures, was starting a baby.

One picture was of a boy handing a book to another boy. According to Google Translate the first boy was saying either, "You hesitate," or "You look depressed." I don't think either was correct.



I soon figured out which words referred to which pronouns. The personal pronoun for oneself is “*wo*,” so in Mandarin Chinese, *wo* is me.

It was the Chinese characters that daunted me, and I had no intention of learning them. The average Chinese person knows 8,000 characters, out of the 50 thousand in common usage. To be moderately literate one would need to know two to three thousand characters. Fortunately, Rosetta Stone provides the lessons in Pinyin, the translation of Chinese characters into the letters we use. They didn’t bedevil me with too many character lessons, so I completed the six-week basic course.

Latin-based languages have many cognates, or words that look and sound pretty much the same in several languages. Not so for Chinese. The only one I found is *kafei*, for coffee. I’m not going to count the phrase for “no,” which is “*bu shi*,” and is pronounced like the speaker is saying a familiar English phrase. This amuses me more than it should.

If the student is not made to learn characters, Chinese is actually easier than other languages, because it doesn’t require verb conjugation, my nemesis. Now I must decide on my next language challenge.

A Halloween-themed poster with an orange background. In the top left corner, there is a black spiderweb. The title "MENSA SUNDAY FUN DAY" is prominently displayed in the upper center, with "FUN DAY" in a larger, black, dripping font. Below the title, the text reads: "Join us for a spooky discussion of the paranormal, featuring Central Indiana Mensa's own **Leo Doyle**, ghostbuster extraordinaire. We promise a 'spirit'-ed discussion! Feel free to bring a friendly ghost (or friend) along!". The event details are listed in the lower left: "WHEN: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023 2 P.M.", "WHERE: PENDLETON COMMUNITY LIBRARY MAGNOLIA ROOM 595 E. WATER ST. PENDLETON, IN 46064", and "HOST: PAULA FERGUSON NORTHEAST COORDINATOR CENTRAL INDIANA MENSA". On the right side, there is a black silhouette of a spooky tree with several bats flying around it. At the base of the tree is a graveyard with several tombstones and a jack-o'-lantern.

# October 2023 Events

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

**10/4, 12:00 noon ET - Virtual \*Online\***

**10/18, 12:00 noon ET - MCL Restaurant and Bakery**, 2370 W. 86th St, Indianapolis

RSVPs not required but appreciated.

Contact: Karen Steilberger, [steilkr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:steilkr@sbcglobal.net)

**LIVE Ham 'n' Eggs (Hamilton County Eggheads)** – 1st Saturday

**10/7, 10:00pm - 12 noon ET - Atrio**, 11700 Illinois St. Carmel, IN, 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 till 11 a.m., then lunch starts.

Contact: Larry Marcus (317-842-6658) or [larryamarcus@yahoo.com](mailto:larryamarcus@yahoo.com)

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

**10/11, 2:00pm ET - Mississippi Belle**, 2170 E 54th St, Indianapolis 46220

**10/25, 2:00pm ET - Chris' Ice Cream and Mexican Food**

1484 E 86<sup>th</sup>, Indianapolis 46240

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,

**10/13, 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.

**We welcome back James Lowery who has been a tour guide at the Alabama Wetumpka impact crater and has a presentation on it including a description of how fast it all happened.**

**VIRTUAL and LIVE Book Group**

**10/15, 2:00pm ET**

*The Sweet Spot* – Paul Bloom (2021) 304 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

**10/15, 6:00pm ET**

**Thai Villa** - 10572 E 96th St, Fishers 46037

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

*(Continued on next page)*

### **LIVE Bridge SIG – NEW**

**10/8, 2:00pm – 4:00pm ET**

**Candis King** and **Judy Weitzman** are forming a group with emphasis on “play.” This is to be a fun, casual group, so you don’t have to be an expert. Please contact either Judy at [bridgejudy@aol.com](mailto:bridgejudy@aol.com), or Candis at 630-642-9063 to RSVP and for location. It will be mostly party bridge, but duplicate is possible as well.

### **LIVE Sunday Fun Day**

**10/8, 2:00pm ET**

**Pendleton Community Library (Magnolia Room), 595 E. Water St,  
Pendleton, IN 46064**

Join Central Indiana Mensa members for congenial company and a spooky discussion of the paranormal, featuring Central Indiana Mensa’s own Leo Doyle.

Bring a friend! Contact Paula Ferguson [robert.v.ferguson@att.net](mailto:robert.v.ferguson@att.net)

### **LIVE Games and Conversation Night** – Hosted by Candis King

**10/21, 6:00pm – 10:00pm ET**

Join us for an evening of Games & Conversation. Bring a game you enjoy or use one of ours. We'll provide tables, you provide the conversation. **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.

### **LIVE Mensa Admission Testing \*SPECIAL HALF-PRICE PROMOTION\***

**10/22, 1:00pm ET**

Carmel, IN (Location will be given at time of registration)

*Please contact Testing Coordinator Alison Brown by [email](mailto:email) to reserve a future spot or if you have questions.*

The fee of ~~\$60~~ \*\$30 special promotion price\* is payable by pre-purchasing a voucher at [www.us.mensa.org/join/testing/testingvoucher/](http://www.us.mensa.org/join/testing/testingvoucher/). You may also pay by check or cash on testing day.

Candidates between 14-17 years old are required to have one of their parents also sign the registration form in my presence at the testing site. We are not permitted to test candidates under 14 years old. Candidates under 14 will need to apply to the American Mensa, Ltd. national office in Texas using approved prior testing evidence. A partial list of accepted tests and scores is available at: [www.us.mensa.org/join/testscores/qualifying-test-scores/](http://www.us.mensa.org/join/testscores/qualifying-test-scores/)

Further questions about prior evidence admission to Mensa may be answered by calling Mensa’s national office at 817-607-0060.

## October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
1 *Sunday Social*	2	3	4 * Lunch Bunch*
8 Sunday Fun Day; Bridge SIG; *Sunday Social*	9	10	11 Chowhounds
15 Book Group; Dining Out	16	17 * ExCom*	18 Lunch Bunch
22 Mensa Admission Test; *Sunday Social*	23	24	25 Chowhounds
29 *Sunday Social*	30	31	

**\*Virtual Zoom Events\***

■

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5	6	7 Ham'n Eggs
12	13 Monthly Gathering	14
19	20	21 Games and Conversation
26	27	28

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

Jon Gruebele, RVC4

### *The Government We Deserve*

In June, I wrote about governance. Since then, a governance task force was appointed and I volunteered. Sadly, we got off to a slow start, but I'm hopeful we'll still produce good results.

One repeatedly raised governance topic is the AMC's makeup. Today 21 people serve. That's a lot. Professor Google suggests 9 or 11 might be better. That's 10 fewer than we have today and there are 10 RVCs, so do the math. While I'm sure I missed some, here are some pros and cons of removing RVCs from the AMC:

- + Reduced travel cost for in-person AMC meetings
- + A smaller board can improve board communication and decision velocity
- + Fewer time demands on people with RVC responsibilities
  
- It would require a bylaws amendment to remove all RVCs.
- A smaller board reduces the number of viewpoints represented, and that can reduce decision quality.
- A smaller board would require us to rethink Committee staffing because there wouldn't be enough people to fill all positions.
- The RVC role serves as a learning position for people who later take nationally elected offices. Without that RVC steppingstone, we will have less qualified board members.
- Being on the AMC boosts the perception of our RVCs' authority when dealing with thorny Local Group challenges and personalities.
- A small board may not represent all areas of the country well. Today at least we have some measure of geographical diversity – if that matters in this digital age.

Another option would be to instead reduce the number of RVCs. The bylaws say we can have as few as five. Unfortunately, today some RVCs oversee 20 Local Groups; giving the remaining five RVCs more Groups to administer would take even more time. It would also reduce the contact Groups have with our national organization.

It would take some convincing before I see removing some or all RVCs from the AMC as good options. I'd rather we focus on leadership challenges that often hinder success:

- Ill-defined responsibilities. Who, for example, is responsible for getting new members? The Marketing Officer? Someone from the national office? Both? Neither?
- Accountability. We often lack charters defining what needs to be done and when. Then, if a deadline is missed, who cares? How can we drive leaders to deliver on time with good quality?
- Inadequate resources. Our budget is very tight. Would it be better to do a few big things rather than a lot of things but starve each for resources?

In the end, this is basic board Governance. The board sets the direction, ensures there are resources, and provides oversight to ensure the goals are met. While I'm only one of 15 voting AMC members, I hope we can progress on this front too.

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/americanmensaregion4>.



Scott Anderson	Franklin	IN	Rejoined
Jane Wirtz	Indianapolis	IN	Rejoined

## BOOKS ON THE RUNWAY

*Margy Fletcher*

*Author:* Jason Stanley

*Title:* *How Fascism Works: The Politics of Us and Them*

*Publisher:* Penguin Random House LLC; *Year:* 2018

*Book Description:* A common contention among political pundits is that the term, “fascism,” defined by the Oxford American dictionary as any right-wing nationalist and authoritarian movement, has been rendered practically meaningless through decades of overuse. One dissenting opinion, potentially articulated by Yale University philosophy professor Jason Stanley in *How Fascism Works*, considers the concept of fascism worthy of recognition and

understanding in order to counteract the toxic political system for which it stands.

This essential primer on fascism begins with a summary of the recent rise in domestic and international right-wing extremism, and general definitions of the following ten pernicious fascistic practices, the ensuing ten chapters of the book designated accordingly:

1. The Mythic Past: History is fabricated to adhere to the ideals of the dominant culture (“us”). *See excerpt below.*
2. Propaganda: The ideological language of liberalism (“them”) is twisted to favor the in-group (“us”).
3. Anti-intellectual: Educational institutions (“them”) that challenge “traditional” beliefs (“us”) are attacked.
4. Unreality: “[C]onspiracy theories and fake news replace reasoned debate...”
5. Hierarchy: Spurious scientific studies are presented as fact to reinforce social stratification.
6. Victimhood: Members of the ascendant population (“us”) lodge discrimination complaints if social progress occurs within “inferior” groups (“them”)
7. Law and Order: “Prominent” group members are defined as law-abiding, as opposed to “minorities” (aliens), who are criminals by default.
8. Sexual Anxiety: “[T]he patriarchal hierarchy is threatened by growing gender equity.”
9. Sodom and Gomorrah: The rural heartland is glorified, and the metropolis condemned as a den of iniquity.
10. Arbeit Macht Frei: “Work shall make you free” - “We” are producers; “they” are parasites.

The book’s Epilogue serves as a warning to the reader of the destructive consequences of fascist governments, and of the normalization of the resultant behaviors (e.g., mass incarcerations, the weaponization of schools and libraries, virtual tsunamis of traumatized asylum seekers), and as a plea to allow rationality and empathy, rather than visceral fear and hatred, to motivate our choices and actions going forward.

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

*How Fascism Works* is yet another affirmation of my liberal world view, highly reminiscent of past readings (e.g., the section on the eight pillars of Caste in Isabel Wilkerson’s *Caste: The Origins of our Discontent*; and the chapter on human morality in Justin Gregg’s *If Nietzsche Were a Narwhal: What Animal Intelligence Reveals about Human Stupidity*). I was particularly moved by the author’s brief account of his grandmother’s successful rescue efforts on behalf of many German Jewish families prior to her own escape to America in 1939. A



personal narrative of this harrowing chain of events comprises Ilse Stanley's 1957 memoir, *The Unforgotten*, which, unfortunately, is out of print and not available at the Tipton County or Indianapolis Public Library, or even Amazon.com! **[PLEASE NOTE: Any information on accessing a copy of The Unforgotten would be greatly appreciated. I can be contacted via The MIND. Thanks!]**

*Who should definitely read this book? Why?* I highly recommend this book to *everyone* who can at the very least read and comprehend at the standard high school level. In my view, it should be required reading for history and social science students. As this book was published during the Trump administration, the "current events" to which the author refers are now in the recent past, but nevertheless are starkly relevant, as the issues continue to plague us (sigh). This book IS available at the Indianapolis Public Library as a hardback, eBook, and audio book, and through Amazon.com. Happy reading!

*How long might it take to read this book?* This volume is slim - a mere 193 pages of text - evocative, fervent in tone, and easily understandable. One day will suffice.

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

In order to honestly debate what our country should do, what policies it should adopt, we need a common basis of reality, including about our own past. History in a liberal democracy must be faithful to the norm of truth, yielding an accurate vision of the past, rather than a history provided for political reasons. Fascist politics, by contrast, characteristically contains within it a demand to mythologize the past, creating a version of national heritage that is a weapon for political gain...

In the United States, the history of the South is continually mythologized to whitewash slavery and was used to justify the refusal to grant black U. S. citizens voting rights until a century after slavery's end. The central narrative in the justification of the South's refusal to grant blacks the vote is a false history of the period known as Reconstruction, immediately following the Civil War in 1865, when black men in the South were allowed the vote. Black Americans at that time comprised the majority in some Southern states, such as South Carolina, and for a dozen or so years their representatives had a powerful voice in many state legislatures and even occupied positions in the U. S. Congress. Reconstruction ended when Southern whites enacted laws that had the practical effect of banning black citizens from voting. White southerners propagated the myth that this was necessary because black citizens were unable to self-govern; in the histories advanced at the time, Reconstruction was represented as a time of unparalleled political corruption, with stability restored only when whites were again given full power.

# In Case You Missed It

## Sep 10 Fun Day at Cammack Station



## September Chow Hounds



[Courtesy Jan Pfeil Doyle]

## **Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 8/15/23**

*Karen Wilczewski, CIM Secretary*

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, August 15, 2023.

LocSec Jan Pfeil Doyle called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

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

Guests: Teresa Gregory, Rich Gibson, Pat Milligan

The July minutes were reviewed. Paula moved, Bob seconded to approve the July minutes as amended, and Kurt abstained. The motion carried.

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

A membership report was compiled by Jan Doyle based upon the information available as of 7/31/2023 from American Mensa: 445 members, 2 new, 1 move-in, 1 rejoin, and 6 prospects.

### **Old Business**

Scholarship: Jan emailed the Mensa Foundation. We can suspend participation in the National Scholarship Fund without a penalty. Kurt moved that we suspend, Ann seconded. Discussion ensued. The motion unanimously passed. Will check if new software is available next year.

When Barb email messaged lapsed members, she heard back from one lapsed member.

### **New Business**

Alison suggested we raise money for the Carmel mini-marathon or the 5K run by stuffing or passing out packets; it's a 2-4 hour commitment. By doing so, \$150 will be donated to Mensa. Participation would give us exposure and we would receive remuneration. An announcement will be made to members to see if any volunteers are interested in supporting this October 20 event. A post will be placed in the September MIND and in Jan's column. Alison could draft a short article about the event and Jan could prepare it for publication.

Ann has lined up monthly meeting speakers for September and October.

Kurt: motioned for an ASIE (Action Still in Effect) to get reimbursement for receipts so that members can get paid. Ideally, hard copies or electronic receipts need to be submitted within 90 days of the event or they won't be reimbursed. Kurt moved, Paula seconded. The motion carried.

There being no other business, Kurt moved to adjourn the meeting. Karen seconded. The motion unanimously carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm. Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Wilczewski, Secretary

## Treasurer's Report

*Kurt Williams*

### Balance Sheet (as of 08/30/2023)

Bank Accounts	07/31/2023	08/30/2023
Checking – Regular	\$ 2,329.42	\$ 2,118.33
Checking – Scholarship	120.00	120.00
Checking – MG Cash	25.00	25.00
Checking – Events Checking	2,644.88	2,644.88
CD – First Internet	10,000.00	10,000.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 15,119.30</b>	<b>\$ 14,908.21</b>
Unrealized accrued interest on CD	141.76	184.40
<b>Other Assets</b>		
USPS Stamps Value	\$ 345.95	\$ 341.00
Total Number of USPS Stamps	629	620

### Profit & Loss Statement (07/31/2023 – 08/30/2023)

Income		
	Monthly Gathering Income	\$ 49.00
	National Support	379.10
	Testing Support	0
	New Member/Lapsed Member	3.00
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 423.15</b>
Expense		
	MG Hospitality	\$ 13.86
	MIND Printing	346.97
	Testing expenses	0
	OG Expenses	0
	Facility Rental (All Souls)	100.00
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 460.83</b>

### **Puzzle Solutions:**

1. A small Welsh dog = **CORGI**
2. Mean-spirited = **ORNERY**
3. Microsoft, for one = **CORPORATION**
4. A yellow-orange fruit = **APRICOT**
5. Of unlimited value = **PRICELESS**
6. Of great stature = **ICONIC**
7. A flux item in *Back to the Future* = **CAPACITOR**
8. A borough in New York City = **RICHMOND**
9. Very fancy = **ORNATE**
10. The academic capital of New Jersey = **PRINCETON**

## **October Theodore Talk--Riddle Me This: Using Sudoku to Improve Your Problem Solving Skills**

*Brad Lucht*

This virtual event will take place on Zoom October 22 at 3:30 Eastern Time

NOTE: This is our final Theodore Talk for 2023. We are currently lining up speakers for 2024.

### **ABSTRACT**

Sudoku is used as a pastime by approximately 10% of American adults, but its potential lies beyond that of casual diversion.

In Sudoku there is no luck that dice and cards impart; it is immune to influences of politics, religion, language, culture or nationalities. It is entirely objective, with no subjectivity. To be successful in solving this puzzle one must apply basic algorithms common to all logical processes; 100% accuracy is required.

Logic is what makes us all Mensans and is the foundation of all STEM subjects and the keystone of problem solving and creative solutions.

What if Sudoku was used as a tool in every elementary and middle school to teach children how to think, how to use logic to solve problems? Since teams teach valuable social skills and children prefer to work together in teams, what if Sudoku tournaments were held, similar to mathlete competitions?

In this Theodore Talk you will learn from Jerry Martin, a Lifetime Member and founder of [Sudoku as a Teaching Tool](#), through online audience participation Sudoku's benefits in developing logical, intrapersonal and interpersonal intelligences.

In other words, be a better Mensan!

Register for this presentation at <https://tinyurl.com/2edd3apr>.

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>.

Even if you can't attend the live Theodore Talk, as long as you register in advance you will receive a link to the Zoom recording of the event. All Theodore Talks have Closed Captioning enabled.

A list of future Theodore Talks can be found on the [Mensa National Events Calendar](https://www.us.mensa.org/attend/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).

## Interfaith Book Study

*Judy Weitzman*

Several Indianapolis churches and synagogues are sponsoring a group study and discussion of *Poverty, By America*, by Matthew Desmond.

Schedule for October:

**Sunday, October 1, 2-4 p.m.**

**Poverty, by America:**

**What is Our Response?**

Location: Second Presbyterian Church, 7700 N. Meridian Street, McFarland Hall

Featured Speaker: **Timothy Streett**, Assistant Director, Shepherd Community Center. “Act Justly. Love Mercy. Mobilizing Faith Communities to Address Urban and Rural Poverty”  
Free childcare for infants – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade; sign up when registering by Sept 24. Live-streamed and recorded.

**To register for any or all sessions:**

<https://tinyurl.com/htc9mfez>

## **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

