



# mind

Mensa Newsletter  
Of Central Indiana



*Chowhounds at Big Hoffa's Smokehouse, 12/11/2024*

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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 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

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## From the Editor's Cubicle

*Rich Gibson, Editor*

Well, we're back in sunny Florida and it's 75 degrees right now. Our condo is on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of this building, and the view out our lanai/deck/veranda/whatever is basically south-southwest. We get ringside seats for a fantastic sunset nearly every day, and get a lot of the morning show at sunrise too. There's two coconut trees right outside our l/d/v/w. Thanks to the internet, I can write columns and edit the MIND just as well as when we're in Indy. It's hard, sometimes, to stop and think about how miraculous and beautiful the world is.



“Of course!”, you say. “Living in paradise, it's easy to enjoy the beauty! How about us poor year-round Hoosiers, where it's 30 right now (4:36 PM, Dec 6) and was in the teens every morning this week?”

Well, I've been there. I know Indiana has two winter modes: clear and cold, and cloudy and not-quite-as-cold. I'm not going to point out how beautiful snow is while it's newfallen and covering the fields and yards. Of course, the beauty of snow is only enhanced by its observer being warm, dry, indoors, and holding something warm and liquid in your hand. No, I'm talking about trees once all the leaves have fallen. Have you ever spent several minutes just staring at a naked tree? The complexity and completeness and shape of trunk, branches, and twigs has its own beauty. Everything seems to be reaching, yearning for the sky. I've often thought if there was only one tree in the world, people would travel across the globe just to look at it. Of course, with only one tree, we'd all be dead, since they're such important sources of oxygen...but I digress. I'm writing this before Christmas, but you're reading it after Christmas, with New Years very close in either your windshield or your rear-view mirror. I hope you and yours enjoy/enjoyed a marvelous New Year's Eve, and have a totally fantastic 2025.

Quick Note: For those of you eagerly awaiting the next installment of my alternate autobiography, have patience. It's filler, as far as I'm concerned, and I had enough other content to fill this issue. Besides, I got lazy. Maybe next month.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

### Happy New Year!

I hope you all had heart-warming holiday celebrations.

### Upcoming Monthly Gathering Programs

**January: Procrastinators' New Years Eve Party** – No speaker; casual conversation, games (bring your own,) and an interactive murder mystery play that will be hybrid on Zoom and in person.



**February: CrowdStrike Strikes the World** – Ruth Schmidt, PhD, MBA, will talk about the largest IT outage in the history of the world and how CrowdStrike and other companies offering cybersecurity products could improve their product.

### ICYMI (In Case You Missed It) – Holiday Party

The Holiday Party in December drew a nice crowd of nearly 40 members, new members, and guests. Dinner was delicious; thanks especially to **Alison Brown** who cooked and brought the turkey, **Teresa Gregory** who cooked and brought the meatballs, and to everyone else who contributed to the pitch in. As usual, there were several gifts in the Gimmee Grabee gift exchange that were enthusiastically “fought over” because of their creative wrappings. One had a police siren on top that blared when it was picked up; another was a returning unopened present wrapped in twine and a picture of Abraham Lincoln; a third had a cute plush tiger on it. Many thanks, too, to our Special Elf **Alan Schmidt**, who once again emceed the Gimmee Grabee Gift Exchange. See more pictures elsewhere in *MIND*.



# Time for Poetry

Marilyn Wolf

## 3 Haiku on Taste

Open mouth tongue out  
Catching raindrops and snowflakes  
Both tasting of ice

A kiss on his neck  
Salty on my tongue and lips  
Lick for more flavor

Scent smell sauce savor  
Succumbing sweetness supreme  
Succinctly *savoir*

©2022, Marilyn Wolf



## AG 2025, All Fired Up

Allison Reeves and Karen Gruebele--2025 AG Co-chairs



Daisy has been keeping an eye on the Annual Gathering (AG) Team as they work hard preparing for the 2025 AG, July 2 through 6 in Chicago. She even made an appearance at a local regional gathering on Halloween weekend!

The 2025 AG will be held in the downtown Chicago Hilton at 720 S Michigan Avenue. The room rate is only \$139/night for single, double, triple, or quad rooms. Yes, you saw that correctly! There will be free WiFi in hospitality as well as your sleeping room. Included will be four breakfasts, three lunches, and snacks – all available in

hospitality. The current registration rate is \$319 for adult members **through January 31.**

We are planning lots of programs and interactive opportunities for everyone to enjoy. We even expect we might see Daisy and her herd showing up from time to time. Details on tours and special events will be available within the next couple of months. Tickets for the Gala Dinner have sold out.

AG and hotel registration is available at [ag.us.mensa.org](http://ag.us.mensa.org). Registration is required before you can make your hotel reservation. Daisy and our AG Team look forward to seeing you there!!

## **Puzzle Column**

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

### **NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION**

Find words that contain the letters of NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION, based on the clues and letter counts.

Example: containing sodium chloride (6 letters) = SALINE.

1. Most optimistic (7 letters)
2. Lapine dwelling place (6 letters)
3. Boring movie (6 letters)
4. Like Switzerland (7 letters)
5. Holland and Lincoln (7 letters)
6. It may or may not be a function (8 letters)
7. An Oklahoma conveyance (6 letters)
8. Buffy's field of expertise (6 letters)
9. It's found on a powerline (8 letters)
10. Worst (8 letters)

Solutions on page 10

## **2024 Book Group Reading List**

*Rich Gibson*

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>Date</b>
The Gulf: Making of an American Sea	Jack E Davis	1/19/2025
Bring a Book!		2/23/2025

# Mensa Book Group Previews

Rich Gibson

## THIS MONTH:

### ***The Gulf: Making of an American Sea*, by Jack E Davis**

*The Gulf: Making of an American Sea*, by Jack E Davis, 530 pp plus bibliography, notes, etc., published in 2017. Won the Pulitzer Prize for history. The Mensa Book Group will discuss it on Sunday, January 19, 2024, at 2:00 PM. See the MIND Calendar and events for more information.

Do not be put off by the size of this book! We part-time Floridian CIMers, Brent Smith and we Gibsons (a circumlocution that elides the fact that Jackie has read it, but I have not...yet), have read this book and have the knowledge to advise you if you cannot read it all. The book is in four parts, each pretty much stand-alone. Part I is geology and history: it describes how the Gulf was formed and early encounters between European explorers and aborigines. I love the contrast between the civilized, technologically advanced, short, dirty, malnourished Spaniards and the primitive, strong, tall, clean-limbed Calusa tribe. Part II addresses the 19<sup>th</sup> century and chronicles the growing US engagement in the Gulf and its littoral. Part III—Preludes to the Future, explicates our increasing involvement and exploitation. Part IV—Saturation and Loss, Post-1945, should be right up your alley if you're into overdevelopment and pollution and all the ill effects attendant thereon. So pick one or more sections to focus on first, and add more if time permits. You'll enjoy the conversation, regardless.

Our discussion will try to cover the entire book, although our inevitable custom is to focus on one topic that may or not be covered in the book and beat it to death (Kidding. Mostly). Please consider joining in to the Book Group discussion on Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 PM. We'd love to see you!

## NEXT MONTH: BRING A BOOK!

Whenever we exhaust our book list, we have a Bring a Book! session. If you've read a book (or several) in the last year or so and think it would provoke a good discussion, please bring it and prepare to present it with a short introduction, covering why you think we should all read it. We tend to focus on nonfiction and usually accept something less than 250 pages. Don't bring a book you've heard is wonderful but you haven't read it and hope this will be the motivation to tackle it at last—we don't do that. I tried it. Peals of derisive laughter. Never again. On the other hand, if you think you're not reading enough and think joining this group will motivate you—please come! You don't have to bring a book, just come and get to know the group. We're excited to meet you.



# **The Mensa Brainstorming Group**

*Ken Lawrence*

If, by any chance, you are one of those very few people who think Mensa could do some things better, we may have an opportunity for you. If you are one of the much rarer group of folks who are willing to talk about what we should do, we certainly have an opportunity for you.

Each Sunday evening, a few of us get together via Zoom and talk about Mensa, with a view towards making helpful suggestions. We bounce ideas off each other, and see if the ideas might lead someplace. Experienced people get to air their views, and new people get insights into what the organization is about. We usually fall into the trap of talking and socializing, and people who have nothing to do Sunday night seem to have a good time.

If our group of merry men and women were thriving, there would be no need to offer suggestions. but we have had a slight decrease in membership, and many folks are older and more prone to cardiac and respiratory failure (dying) which could influence their willingness to continue to pay dues.

Honesty requires us to admit none of us are in a position to actually make changes, but talking about an idea, and ironing out the kinks, is a good place to start the ball rolling, and set oneself up to be in a position of being able to say, “I warned you about that.”

If you think that you would like to see what we are talking about – or you have some free time available – by all means drop by. If you would like to see a weekly summary of what we talk about, send a note to [MBrainstormingSessions@gmail.com](mailto:MBrainstormingSessions@gmail.com). If you would like to see what we have discussed over the last six months, check out Facebook at M Brainstorming.

Here is the zoom invitation.

Topic: Mensa Brainstorming

Time: Each Sunday at 9 PM Eastern Time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82908600785?pwd=KzI4YUhfYmklwSnpCTTI4TDdHNOJsdz09>

Meeting ID: 829 0860 0785

Passcode: 1234



Gayle Cherro	Westfield	IN	MoveIn
Jennifer Clark	Carmel	IN	Joined
Benjamin Johnson	North Salem	IN	Joined
Nicholas Laros	Greenwood	IN	Rejoin
Gabriel Noblitt	Indianapolis	IN	Joined
Andreas Saint-Rouge	Indianapolis	IN	Joined
Kevin Samples	Brownsburg	IN	Rejoin
Leyvi Valdez	Westfield	IN	Joined
Tom Wallace	Martinsville	IN	Rejoin

## Solutions to January Puzzle:

1. Most optimistic (7 letters) = rosiest
2. Lapine dwelling place (6 letters) = warren
3. Boring movie (6 letters) = yawner
4. Like Switzerland (7 letters) = neutral
5. Holland and Lincoln (7 letters) = tunnels
6. It may or may not be a function (8 letters) = relation
7. An Oklahoma conveyance (6 letters) = surrey
8. Buffy's field of expertise (6 letters) = slayer
9. It's found on a powerline (8 letters) = resistor
10. Worst (8 letters) = lousiest

# January 2025 Events

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

1/1, 12:00 noon ET - Virtual \*Online\* CANCELLED!

1/15, 12:00 noon ET - MCL Restaurant and Bakery, 2370 W. 86th St, Indy

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

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

1/4, 10:00am - 12 noon ET - Atrio, 11700 Illinois St, Carmel, IN, (located at IU Health North) RSVP: Alison Brown, 317-846-6798, [SIGHT@indymensa.org](mailto:SIGHT@indymensa.org)

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

1/8, 2:00pm ET - Muldoon's on Main, 111 W Main St, Carmel, IN 46032

1/22, 2:00pm ET - Yummy Bowl Fishers, 11621 Fishers Station Dr, Fishers

Late lunch or early dinner? You decide!

For more information or to RSVP 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,

1/10, 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.

**Procrastinators' New Years Eve – Join us in ringing in the New Year...just a little late! We will have the traditional Games Night plus if anyone wants to join in, we will have a murder mystery party where you can play a role.**

We will do a hybrid so that those who join us on Zoom can also play. Please

RSVP Teresa and she will send you your part. [ag18tg@yahoo.com](mailto:ag18tg@yahoo.com)

**LIVE Games and Conversation Night** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, Odd Months

1/18, 7:00pm – 10:30pm ET

Westfield, IN

Join Candis and Robert King for an evening of Games & Conversation. **Please call 630-642-9063 or 630-253-1350** to indicate you will be there and to get the address.

**VIRTUAL and LIVE Book Group**

1/19, 2:00pm ET

*The Gulf: Making of an American Sea* – Jack E. Davis

For more details, to RSVP, or for Zoom link, contact Rich Gibson at

[hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com](mailto:hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com) or 770-548-5217.

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

1/19, 6pm ET

Upland Brewing on 82<sup>nd</sup>, 4939 E 82nd St, Indianapolis, IN 46250

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

# January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			1 *Lunch Bunch* CANCELLED
5 *Sunday Social*	6	7	8 Chowhounds
12 *Sunday Social*	13	14	15 Lunch Bunch
19 Book Group; Dining Out	20	21 * ExCom*	22 Chowhounds
26 *Sunday Social*	27	28	29

## \*Virtual Zoom Events\*

**Important Info for In-Person Events: Be Kind!**—As we are entering cold and flu season, 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
2	3	4 Ham'n Eggs
9	10 Monthly Gathering	11
16	17	18 Games Night
23	24	25
30		

If you lose your *MIND* (oh, my!) or want additional information, check [www.indymensa.org](http://www.indymensa.org) or the weekly CIM ReMINDER in your Monday email.

## Matt's Musings – News for Region 4

Matt Crawford, RVC4



### Forward, Four

Now that we've turned the corner into 2025, are we resolved to resolve? Our new Marketing Officer, Greg Wright, has provided data from the last membership survey, which was sent to current members as of last winter, and to some lapsed and some potential members. The survey has been criticized on various grounds, but data are data and this is what we have this year.

24% of respondents had never been members of Mensa. The most-cited reasons of those who did qualify but did not join had to do with time or money. Of the other 76%, almost a third were no longer members. Of that third, 86% said they would consider joining again under some condition or another, so there's an area for outreach.

Looking at the 52% of respondents who were current members, those who were "very satisfied" with their local group experience cited many activities and events offered and good communication keeping them up to date. The who were "satisfied" said they were not very active but that there were great activities offered. In the middle range of answers, these members do say they like the newsletter, so keep up the good work, Editors! The only two Mensa resources cited by a majority of members as being among the three they use most often were the *Bulletin* and the local newsletter. (In fairness to Webmasters, I must say that group websites were not offered as a choice.)

The next-less grunted respondents, the "somewhat satisfied," said they had not interacted with their local group or rarely attend events. This is not news. Members who do more are more satisfied, but the causality can be argued to run in both directions.

Among lapsed members, the rarest answer to what would make them consider rejoining was finding a better local group. That's good news for all our groups. The commonest answers involved lower dues or more value for the money. Alas, that's only marginally under local groups' control. In the middle range of answers, though, are "more activities that interest me" and "if meetings were closer to home." The response to this lament is well-known and well-tested. Members can start an event of exactly the sort they like, in exactly the place they want it. With a little publicity boost from your local group's resources, be they the website, the newsletter, or social media, you're off and running. The risk is pretty low; at worst you dine alone at one of your favorite places. Oh, and here's a tip from the survey: Among all wished-for activities, dining was a close second behind other social outings like museums and concerts.

Those are highlights from the data pertaining to local groups. The satisfaction levels with the organization as a whole are very similar.

There's a lot more in the report. I'm trying to get the data released; there's an AMC culture of confidentiality-by-default to overcome. (Having a large group of new AMC members all at once is very conducive to reexamining existing practices.)

Bottom line: start some events you like, reach out to the lapsed or uninvolved, and be kind to your Editors and Webmasters.

You can reach Matt through [rvc4@us.mensa.org](mailto:rvc4@us.mensa.org) or by text or call to +1 630-336-8733. You can find Region 4 information in Mensa Connect's Region 4 Member Community and the Facebook group American Mensa - Region 4./

## **Books On The Runway**

*Margy Fletcher*

*Author:* Edward Slingerland

*Title:* *Drunk: How We Sipped, Danced, and Stumbled Our Way to Civilization*

*Publisher:* : Little, Brown Spark / Hachette Book Group

*Year:* 2021

*Has Been Read by:* Margy Lancet Fletcher

*Book Description:* : Little, Brown Spark / Hachette Book Group

*Book Description:* In the aftermath of a highly contentious general election, this New Year is a stark reminder of an uncertain future. Whether we choose to celebrate or grieve, a significant number of social gatherings will offer alcoholic refreshment. While the puritans among us will pass harsh judgment on this practice, the more open-minded may merely wonder why we continue to imbibe despite evidence of the potential harm in drinking to excess. *Drunk*, Edward Slingerland's scholarly and scintillating treatise, provides cogent answers to this conundrum with data culled from such diverse academic disciplines as archaeology, history, cognitive neuroscience, psychopharmacology, social psychology, literature, and genetics. The human inclination toward intoxication, the author asserts, is not a genetic anomaly, but rather an effective way to meet challenges related to what he calls the "Three Cs:" creativity, culture, and community.

Personifying the eternal human "tension between self-control and abandon" through references to the Greek gods Apollo and Dionysus, respectively, the author offers a heady brew of stimulating facts, including, but not limited to:

- The chemical and physiological reactions within the human body to ethanol (alcohol) consumption, and how the prefrontal cortex is affected.
- The evolutionary timeline representing the attraction of humans and other creatures to fermented substances (surprisingly lengthy, spanning many millennia), and how related research has authenticated the "beer before bread" theory.
- The two-phase nature of alcoholic inebriation: ascending (euphoria) and descending (depression), and the chemicals released during each phase.

- The roles of freeze fractionation and distillation in increasing the ABV (alcoholic content by volume) of “hard” liquors. The author also cautions us that, while moderate drinking encourages bonding between individuals by facilitating childlike notions of trust, creative liberty, tension relief, and cooperation, our adult minds should remain aware of the destructive nature of overindulgence, which too often produces alcohol dependence, aggressive behavior, intolerance, venereal diseases, and organ deterioration, among other bodily risks. He concludes with some rational suggestions for minimizing the dangers of uncontrolled drunkenness, such as sober bars, alcohol normalization, avoidance of distilled liquor, and never drinking alone. He adds that only through recognition of alcohol as both an asset and liability that we can “remain human, tapping into its power to help us occupy... [our] precarious ecological niche...”

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

Remembering my cocktail of choice during my wild and woolly college days, the *Singapore sling*, I note with amusement that the author’s last name would be an appropriate title for a bar or saloon (Slinger Land!). Violent (and messy) illness following a night of imbibing while co-hosting my husband’s Marine Corps promotion celebration served as my reality check, and since that time, my alcohol intake has been limited to wine, and occurs very rarely. Still, I found the book’s scientific insights enlightening; it helped me to further understand the need for this anesthetic refreshment.

*Who should definitely read this book? Why?* Anyone, such as myself, who doubts the efficacy of alcohol prohibition legislation will appreciate the author’s defense of the occasional swig of fermented grain or fruit. As the book’s blurb proclaims, “*Drunk* is packed with fascinating case studies and engaging science, as well as practical takeaways for individuals and communities.” Cheers!

*How long might it take to read this book?* This relatively modest-sized volume (291 pages of text), rendered in fluid, evocative prose, can be pleasantly consumed in 5 to 7 days.

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

Jesus has a problem. He’s at a wedding in Cana, with his disciples and his mother, and the wine has run out. People are panicking. His mother gives him a nudge with her elbow and a significant look: *Hey, Son of God, do something about this.* Jesus is reluctant, he wasn’t planning on revealing his true nature quite yet, but this is an emergency. *The wine has run out.* So he gets the servants to fill some huge stone containers with water. Then Jesus transforms the water into wine so exquisite that, when it is delivered to the steward, it is proudly announced that the decision has been made to violate the first rule of



party planning, which is serve the good stuff first. The disciples are astounded, having witnessed Jesus' first miracle. Everyone else is just happy to have more wine and the wedding merrily proceeds. Of course, Jesus goes on to perform several more impressive miracles, including walking on water and raising Lazarus from the dead. But it is worth noting that the water into wine feat was his first. Alcohol is so fundamentally intertwined with human sociality that it pressured the Son of God into his first miracle...

...As the anthropologist Thomas Wilson notes, "In many societies, perhaps the majority, drinking alcohol is a key practice in the expression of identity, an element in the construction and dissemination of national and other cultures."

These sacred or culture-defining beverages differ wildly in production method, color, taste, and consistency. What they have in common is possessing ethanol as an active ingredient. Why is this particular neurotoxin accorded such reverence? Because alcohol, pre-eminently among the chemical intoxicants employed by human beings, is a flexible, broad-spectrum, and powerful technology for helping us to inhabit our odd, extreme ecological niche. We wouldn't have civilization as we know it without intoxication in some form, and alcohol has been, far and away, the most common solution that cultures have hit upon to fill this need. In addition to its social functions, intoxication is also a badly needed salve for the only animal on this planet afflicted with self-awareness

## ICYMI (In Case You Missed It)



*Holiday Party 2024—Santa Jud dropped in (to check up on Elf Alan, no doubt)*



*The aforementioned Elf Alan (PhD, Gimme Grabee Studies, North Pole U) with Mrs. Elf Ruth*

## **Theodore Talks**

*Brad Lucht/Shirley Mouer*

### **A New Season of Theodore Talks Begins**

Last year 2,664 Mensans registered for a Theodore Talk, a 208% increase over 2023. This included members from 118 of our 121 chapters in 49 different states. We also had people register from 10 different countries.

To promote the 2025 AG, the first six talks of the year will highlight some of Chicago's unique attractions.

-----  
The title of the January Theodore Talk is, "**Exploring the Universe: Citizen Science and Beyond with the Adler Planetarium and Zooniverse**". This

virtual event will take place on Zoom January 26 at 2:30 p.m. Central Time (3:30 Eastern, 12:30 Pacific, 8:30 GMT).

#### ABSTRACT

Join Laura Trouille, Vice President of Science Engagement at the Adler Planetarium in Chicago and Principal Investigator for [Zooniverse](#), for an engaging exploration into the world of citizen science and space discovery. As the world's largest platform for people-powered research, Zooniverse empowers nearly 3 million volunteers to contribute to groundbreaking projects in astronomy, biology, and the humanities. Laura will share stories of how Zooniverse has tackled scientific bottlenecks by combining the efforts of human volunteers with automated routines to process massive datasets—leading to innovations and discoveries across fields. From tagging animals in camera trap images to discovering planets around distant stars, Zooniverse opens the door for anyone to participate in real research.

Laura will also introduce Adler's exciting new Other Worlds exhibit, an interactive journey through our Solar System and exoplanet discovery. Featuring hands-on opportunities through the Zooniverse Planet Hunters project, the exhibit invites visitors to actively search for planets orbiting distant stars, providing an inspiring connection between citizen science and space exploration. Whether you're curious about contributing from home or planning a visit to the Adler, this talk offers a unique glimpse into how public engagement is pushing the boundaries of scientific discovery.

Register for this presentation at <https://tinivurl.com/4ru5xrfb>

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.

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Theodore Talks take place on Zoom the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m. Central Time (3:30 Eastern, 12:30 Pacific, 7:30 GMT).

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 2025 Theodore Talks begins on p. 26.

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

Thank you for your support of the Theodore Talk lecture series, which is offered free to all members in an effort to provide additional value to their membership.



## Poetry, Take Two

*Marilyn Wolf*

### Uluru

Uluru.

Let it roll around your mouth.

Uluru

sounds like the desert.

Flat, windy, open.

Australia's big red rock.

Uluru.

Just saying it

evokes the memories

Of being there.

Uluru.

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Written in response to the Prompt:

“Tactile experience of Words”

# **Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 11/19/24**

*Karen Wilczewski, Secretary*

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, November 19, 2024.

LocSec Jan Pfeil Doyle called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Members present: Ethan Blocher-Smith, Emily Boomershine, Jan Pfeil Doyle, Ann Hake, Candis King, Judy Weitzman, and Karen Wilczewski

Guests: Teresa Gregory, Jon Applegate, Rich Gibson, and Pat Milligan

The October meeting minutes were approved as amended. Ann moved and Emily seconded. The motion passed.

The October Treasurer's Report is pending.

The October membership report was compiled by Jan based on information available as of 10/31/24 from American Mensa: total members: 416; 2 new, 0 move-in, 0 rejoin, and 12 prospects.

## **Old Business**

None

## **New Business**

**Holiday Party:** Participants will be asked to RSVP for the gathering. Mensa will provide cold-cuts and Alison will bring a turkey breast. Party set up will start at noon on the day of the event. Be prepared to bundle up, because, in addition to donning our holiday sweaters, the new furnace might not be installed by then.

We are planning for 30 attendees. Mensa will provide bread, plates, cups, and drinks. Participants will be asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. See the Facebook page for more details.

Teresa needs members to sign up as judges for the MERF Scholarship Fund. Submissions from all over the country, each with a 550-word limit. Entries will be distributed after mid-January. If interested, go to National's website to sign up or Teresa can collectively represent local members to American Mensa. Judges will be given 6 weeks to 2 months to rank the entries. A \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded to an entrant from each region. In addition, our group will award the John Matthews Memorial Scholarship to an individual residing within Central Indiana Mensa's geographic region.

Judy moved to adjourn the meeting, Ann seconded. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.



## Treasurer's Report

Emily Boomershine, Treasurer

### Statement of Assets

Account	Balance
(1) PNC Checking – Regular	\$ 2,133.33
(2) PNC Checking – Scholarships	\$ 217.00
(3) PNC Checking – Events	\$ 3,516.61
(4) MG Petty Cash	\$ 25.00
(5) CD – First Internet	\$ 10,000.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 15,891.94</b>

Other Assets	
Accrued Interest on First Internet CD	\$ 334.81
USPS Stamps	\$ 227.70
Memo: Total in PNC Checking (1)+(2)+(3)	\$ 5,866.94

### Statement of Activity

Activity	Amount
<b>Receipts</b>	
Monthly Gathering Income	\$ 315.00
National Support	\$ 401.40
<b>Receipts Total</b>	<b>\$ 716.40</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Facility Rental (All Souls)	\$ (100.00)
MIND Printing	\$ (333.35)
Supplies	\$ (32.72)
<b>Expenses Total</b>	<b>\$ (466.07)</b>
<b>Net Activity</b>	<b>\$ 250.33</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

