

April 2025
Volume 61, Number 4



mind

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana



The Mensa Owl hopes you can get out and enjoy the spring!

Publishing Statement

Central Indiana Mensa, a Local Group of American Mensa, Ltd., publishes *MIND* monthly. Mensa is a not-for-profit organization open to all persons scoring in the 98th 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, 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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From the Editor's Cubicle

Rich Gibson, Editor

I write this still a week away from spring, within which glory you are reading this. Happy Spring. We've just had a solid week of springlike weather, though today is cool and rainy, and tomorrow much cooler. Oh well, I'm grateful for the foretaste. We were out every day this last week, hauling away dead foliage and preparing for a massive infusion of mulch soon—23 cubic feet!

Jackie cuts away the dead leaves and stalks and stuff, and bags it. I haul the bags away, then lay out cardboard flats and anchor them with rocks and brickbats. After that, guys will come and spread mulch all over the gardens and beds. I pity the weed that thinks it can find daylight underneath all that.

Yes, it's spring, and the first lesson of spring planting is that you're not in mid-season form at the beginning. One or two hours a day of schlepping bags and cardboard and rocks and brickbats, and I am done in. We sleep very well, though.

All in all, spring is my favorite season. We just got our first lonely daffodil flower yesterday, and will soon be followed by so many more. The hellebore, or aptly named Lenten lilies, are out and diffidently calling attention to themselves. Two types of iris, one with red-purple spiky flower petals and then the other all in pink, are blooming. Heralds of the coming color explosion that's about to dazzle us yet again. Now, if I can just stay in front of the damn allergies...

We have another issue full of events, meetings, poetry, puzzles, and other fun stuff. Please enjoy it. If you have any comments or criticisms, please drop me a line at mensa.editor@yahoo.com. I would flat love to hear from you.

In the continuing soap opera, As the Stomach Churns, the group of 8 RVCs and 2 Appointed Officers sanctioned and removed from AMC have filed suit against American Mensa, LTD, for violating New York State law (under which AML is incorporated). You may learn more on this from

<https://iapps.courts.state.ny.us/webcivil/FCASSearch?param=P>

Search for the name Michael Eager. Other than that,



HAPPY SPRING!!

LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

Date Changes for April Events – In case you're a creature of habit (I am) please note that the "usual" dates for a few events have changed this month.

Games & Conversation at the Kings will be on Saturday, April 5th. **Book Group** and **Dining Out** will be on Sunday, April 27th. More details are in the calendar.

CIM's Outdoor Mensa Gathering (OMG!) is Coming in May

– I hope to see many of you at the Outdoor Gathering on May 16-18. It's our annual camping weekend at the Versailles (Indiana) State Park. We rent the group camp and stay in dormitory-style cabins. There's a central building where we hang out, play games, eat, etc. Outdoor activities include hiking and a campfire. It's a wonderful, fun, relaxing weekend! If you can't stay for the whole weekend, come for the day on Saturday. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Gatherings Chair **Teresa Gregory** 317-430-1761 (voice or text) or ag18tg@yahoo.com. More details later in this MIND.



ICYMI (in Case You Missed It) – We had a fun time at the March Monthly Gathering solving the murder in the Phantom Casino!

Please Don't Forget to Renew – If you're reading this before March 31st, you still have time to get your dues in on time. There's also time to join or form a **CultureQuest**® team; the deadline for that is also March 31st (see my March column or contact me at 317-431-3500 (voice or text) or jan@mw.net for more info).

Poetry

Marilyn Wolf



dandelions
days
delights
dark
deadlines
death



dandelions are there every day
all one million of them
not one standing alone
delightfully vibrant bright against the green
the dogs and kids crush some of them
lions yes roaring no
instead they close as darkness nears
some of them will never reopen
nectar nestling for the ants
softly succumbing until next year

©2023, Marilyn Wolf

Puzzle Column

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

What 4? Puzzles

Find the entity that starts with 4, based on the related information. 4 example, I Can't Help Myself would be the 4 Tops.

1. Moments to Remember
2. Zelus, Ares, Limos, and Thanatos
3. Love is a Many Splendored Thing
4. Topology conjecture proven in 1976
5. 26 Miles
6. AZ, NM, UT, and CO
7. Big Girls Don't Cry
8. Maker of empty boasts
9. Item in a GTO
10. I'm looking over

Solutions on page 16

2025-26 Book Group Reading List

Rich Gibson

Title	Author(s)	Date
The Case for Colonialism	Bruce Gilley Adam	4/27/2025
American Midnight	Hochschild	5/18/2025
Fever in the Heartland	Timothy Egan	6/15/2025
Beyond Genius	Bulent Atalay	7/20/2025
Sleeping Beauties	Andreas Wagner Robert	8/17/2025
Underland	Macfarlane	9/21/2025
Half Earth	E O Wilson	10/19/2025
Revenge of the Tipping Point	Malcolm Gladwell	11/16/2025
The Anxious Generation	Jonathan Haidt	12/21/2025
Boys and Men	Richard Reeves	1/18/2026
Blind Spots	Marty Makary	2/15/2026
The Singularity is Nearer	Ray Kurzweil	3/15/2026
An Unfinished Love Story	Doris Kearns Goodwin	4/19/2026

Rooted: Life at the Crossroads of Science, Nature, and Spirit Aging as a Spiritual Practice	Lyanda Lynn Haupt	5/17/2026
4000 Weeks: Time Management for Mortals	Lewis Richmond Oliver Berkeman	6/15/2026 7/20/2026

Mensa Book Group Previews

Rich Gibson

THIS MONTH: *The Case for Colonialism*, by Bruce Gilley

The Case for Colonialism, by Bruce Gilley, 321 pp, published in 2023, will be discussed at the Mensa Book Group meeting on Sunday, April 27, at 2:00 PM. See the MIND Calendar and Events for more details.

“Colonialism” is pretty much a bad word and has been since before WWII. Intellectuals, politicians, and statesmen from former colonies blame colonialism for practically every problem and evil from which they suffer today. It is linked to, and nearly synonymous with other bad words such as “racism” and “imperialism.”

The book and the academic article it evolved from have triggered enormous controversy, most notably in academic circles. Two quotes from the book will give you a sense of its thrust: “many or most episodes of Western colonialism” led to “expanded education, improved public health, the abolition of slavery, widened employment opportunities,” and more. Furthermore, “Anti-colonialism [has] ravaged countries as nationalist elites mobilized illiterate populations with appeals to destroy the market economies, pluralistic and constitutional polities, and rational policy processes of European colonizers.” If this were not enough, the author further proposes a return to colonialism as a solution to some of these modern problems: He endorses a proposal of the chief economist of the World Bank, whose “charter city” concept calls for developing countries to lease land to a more stable foreign power and thereby spur a thriving economy a la Hong Kong.

Well! Backlash has been enormous. The original article was withdrawn from the periodical that published it, and its editor resigned following death threats. The emotion of the backlash is at a fever pitch.

I have not searched diligently for intelligent counter-arguments to this thesis, although I suspect that George Orwell’s *Burmese Days*, about his life as a police officer in the British colony of Burma, might be a good starting place. Whether you are intrigued or outraged, please consider reading this book, marshalling your own reaction and supplementing it with some supporting or countering arguments, and coming to discuss this at our Book Group meeting on Sunday, April 27th, at 2:00 PM. Hope to see you then!

NEXT MONTH: *American Midnight: The Great War, A Violent Peace, and Democracy's Forgotten Crisis*, by Adam Hochschild

American Midnight, by Adam Hochschild, 321 pp, published in 2022, will be discussed at the Mensa Book Group meeting on Sunday, May 18, at 2:00 PM. See the MIND Calendar and Events for more details.

Woodrow Wilson became President after stints as president of Princeton University, and then Governor of New Jersey. He'd campaigned in his second term to keep the US out of the Great War, but changed his mind and asked Congress for a war declaration in April, 1917. By then, the American appetite for war was huge. Another factor in the coming turn of events was a robust left wing in American politics and labor. A moderately strong Labor Party had a few members in Congress. Eugene V. Debs, its leader, was a national figure. Labor unions, including the International Workers of the World, had a presence and a tendency to characterize the conflict as a "rich man's war." Anarchists were few but active, and calling them "bomb throwers" was an apt epithet. What followed the American entry into the war was a level of government oppression and suppression of antiwar sentiment that even today seems astonishing. Ethnic Germans and the German language were vilified. Socialists and labor leaders were jailed. Debs ran for President from a prison cell. Immigrants were rounded up and exported. The war ended in 1918, but the repression continued until the next election, whose winner ran on the slogan "return to normalcy." Warren G. Harding has a bad reputation today, but he did throttle the police state tendencies.

This book addresses a fascinating yet little-known part of recent American history. Its lessons can be cautionary, alarming, and yet reassuring: we got through that, so...

Please join us on May 18th at 2:00 to discuss this book. We'd love to see you!

AG 2025, All Fired Up



Daisy has been keeping a close watch on the Annual Gathering (AG) Team as they work tirelessly to prepare for the 2025 AG, happening July 2–6 in Chicago. She also made a surprise appearance at a local regional gathering on Halloween weekend!

The 2025 AG will be held at the downtown Hilton Chicago, located at 720 S. Michigan Avenue. And get this: the room rate is only \$139 per night for single, double, triple, or quad rooms! Yes, you read that right! Plus, enjoy free WiFi in both the hospitality area and your sleeping room.

Your registration includes four breakfasts, three lunches, and plenty of snacks—available in hospitality throughout the event. The current adult member registration rate is \$359 through March 31.

We've got a lot of exciting programs and interactive opportunities lined up for everyone to enjoy. And who knows, Daisy and her herd might even make a few surprise appearances! Be sure to check out the AG website for details on tours and more. Note: tickets for the Gala Dinner have sold out.

Registration for both the AG and hotel is available at ag.us.mensa.org. Remember, you'll need to register for the AG before securing your hotel reservation. At this time, rooms are available from July 2–6 and also for the nights of July 7 & 8.

Daisy and the AG Team can't wait to see you in Chicago!

May 16, 17, 18, 2025
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!
- No animals (except the ones who live there!)
- No unaccompanied minors

IMPORTANT TO KNOW:

- **There are no cabins with toilets**
- **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. This keeps the cost down for everyone.**

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

Registration and pay online at: <https://cim-og-2025.eventbrite.com>

Or mail a check to: Teresa Gregory
6076 Dewey Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46219

April 2025 Events

Indy Lunch Bunch – 1st and 3rd Wednesday

4/2, 12:00 noon ET - Virtual *Online*

4/16, 12:00 noon ET - MCL Restaurant and Bakery

2370 W. 86th St, Indianapolis

RSVP Karen Steilberger, steilkr@sbcglobal.net

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

4/5, 10:00am - 12 noon ET - Atrio, 11700 Illinois St. (Carmel, IN, located at

IU Health North. Breakfast served till 11:00am, then lunch starts. **RSVP:** Alison

Brown, 317-846-6798, SIGHT@indymensa.org

LIVE Games and Conversation Night (Rescheduled From March)

4/5. 7:00pm 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.

LIVE Mensa Chowhounds Lunch – 2nd and 4th Wednesday

4/9, 2:00pm ET – Yats

12545 Old Meridian St #130, Carmel

4/23, 2:00pm ET - Kotoyama Ramen & Sushi

10875 N Michigan Rd, Zionsville

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.

LIVE Supper Before the Meeting - 2nd Friday

4/11, 5:00pm ET - The Burger Joint

5450 E Fall Creek Pkwy N Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46226

RSVP Teresa Gregory – 317-430-1761 (voice or text) or ag18tg@yahoo.com

VIRTUAL and LIVE Monthly Gathering – 2nd Friday

4/11, 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.

VIRTUAL and LIVE Book Group (Date Change Due To Easter)

4/27, 2:00pm ET

The Case For Colonialism – Bruce Gilley

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

hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com or 770-548-5217.

LIVE Mensans Dining Out (Date Change Due To Easter)

4/27, 6:00pm ET - Kotoyama Ramen & Sushi

10875 N Michigan Rd, Zionsville

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

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		1	2 *Indy Lunch Bunch *
6 *Sunday Social*	7	8	9 Chowhounds
13 *Sunday Social*	14	15 *ExCom*	16 Indy Lunch Bunch
20 *Sunday Social*	21	22	23 Chowhounds
27 Book Group; Dining Out	28	29	30

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
3	4	5 Ham'n Eggs; Games Night
10	11 Supper Before; Monthly Gathering	12
17	18	19
24	25	26
31		

If you lose your *MIND* (oh, my!) or want additional information, check www.indymensa.org.
 Watch your email on Mondays for the CIM Weekly ReMINDER

Regional Coordinator (RC) Column

Beth Weiss

Now that I've been Region 4's Regional Coordinator for two weeks, it seems I should have some pithy words, but I don't, yet. What I have is homework.

The first homework for a new AMC member is a list of policy documents to read. I read, and signed, the *Acknowledgment of Responsibilities for AMC Members*.

I read the *Bylaws*—twice. I read through all of the *Actions Still in Effect* (ASIEs)—just once, so far, but I'm planning another read-through. There's a handbook for AMC members, and another one for RVCs. There are also handbooks for many local group officers. I read most of them when I first became a LocSec but I'm reading them again.

The Appendices to the ASIEs have a lot of useful information, including a statement of *Member Rights and Responsibilities* (Appendix 29) and *Duties, Responsibilities and Authorities of RVCs* (Appendix 26). Just reading through the *Table of Contents* lets me know where to look if I need to know something more.

I've read through some Committee reports—depending on what committees I end up on, I'll be reading even more of them.

There's a lot of information out there to read. These documents are all readily available on us.mensa.org. Follow the **Read** menu choice to find them.

I'm a Mensan, so I have some questions. A burning question is the best way to provide Handbook information. A static document might have made sense 20 years ago, but there has to be a better way to present that information and avoid duplication within the Handbooks—and also make it easier to keep up to date.

I also find myself wondering if ASIEs is pronounced with each individual letter—A-S-I-Es—or, as a word—A-Cs. I've heard it both ways. For now I'm assuming it's like the pronunciation of FAQ—intelligent minds may disagree. Burning question #3: I need to know who decided not to use the Oxford comma in the ASIEs so I know who to fight.

Did you know that Local Groups newsletters can also be found under the **Read** menu? I've read the most recent posted newsletter of each Region 4 Local Group as well as visiting each website. (Each Local Group gets to make its own decision regarding the use of the Oxford comma.)

I'm writing this from New Zealand. The March AMC meeting is coming up. Unfortunately, I won't be in Hurst, TX to meet the rest of the AMC. (Or fortunately, given that I'll be on a cruise ship off the coast of Australia). I will, however, be able to call into the meeting.

The Special Election process is underway to elect new RVCs for the 8 regions for which the RVCs were sanctioned. The candidate petitions are open until April 4th. I'm running for RVC4. There aren't currently other candidates but I hope there are by the time you read this. Voting will begin May 27. To find the election information, login to us.mensa.org and follow



the links to Connect -> Board Contacts -> Elections -> AMC 2025 Special Election.

Please reach out if you need anything. My email is rc4@us.mensa.org

You're Invited

Jim Cundiff



Chicago Area Mensa's Rainbow SIG will march in the 2025 Chicago Pride Parade on Sunday, June 29, 2025, the weekend before the Annual Gathering—and you're invited to join us. Many of our marchers have been allies, so everyone's welcome.

We can't express how much fun participating can be. Typically, one million spectators line the route, celebrating with us. After the parade, you can join us for an optional lunch at a nearby restaurant.

Marching is a great way to support our LGBTQ+ community—and Mensa. Participating is free, although participants are encouraged to purchase a t-shirt for the parade for \$20 if you don't already have one from prior parades.

Lunch is \$43 per person. It will be at Basil Leaf Café, an Italian restaurant close to the end of the parade route, immediately after the march. You do not have to march in the parade to attend the luncheon. The menu is fixed and alcohol is available but not included. Tax and tip are included. Seating is limited.

Please contact us at parade@chicago.us.mensa.org for either or both events and let us know if you'll need to ride the float and your shirt size if one is needed.

Non-Mensa guests and children under the age of 16 accompanied by a parent or guardian are also welcome. A parent or guardian must accompany children twelve and under on the float. The float is reserved for those otherwise unable to participate.

The deadline for signing up is Thursday, May 29, 2025, or until spaces are filled. We are limited to 100 people in the parade, including up to 18 people on the float, and 50 for the luncheon. We will contact you about payment for shirts and the luncheon

We expect to form waiting lists for the parade and luncheon. Luncheon reservations are not guaranteed until we have received payment and have sent you an acknowledgement. Same goes for marching in the parade and riding on the float. T-shirts can be purchased even if you do not participate in the parade or luncheon.

The parade contingent and luncheon are sponsored by the members of the Rainbow SIG with a subsidy from the GOBS trust. No funds from Mensa are used for these events.

If you would like to participate in the parade or luncheon, ride the float or buy a shirt, please contact us at parade@chicago.us.mensa.org and specify, as appropriate:

1. Whether you will be marching in the parade or riding the float;
2. Whether you want to attend the luncheon; and
3. Your shirt size, including women's or men's cut.

Solutions to April Puzzle:

1. Moments to Remember = 4 Lads
2. Zelus, Ares, Limos, and Thanatos = 4 Horsemen of the Apocalypse
3. Love is a Many Splendored Thing = 4 Aces
4. Topology conjecture proven in 1976 = 4 Color Theorem
5. 26 Miles = 4 Preps
6. AZ, NM, UT, and CO = 4 Corner States
7. Big Girls Don't Cry = 4 Seasons
8. Maker of empty boasts = 4 Flusher
9. Item in a GTO = 4 Speed
10. I'm looking over= 4-leaf clover



Theodore Talks

Brad Lucht/Shirley Mouer

This year, in an effort to promote 2025 AG attendance, the first seven talks will focus on some of Chicago's unique attractions. This is the fifth talk in that series.

The title of the April Theodore Talk is, "**When the World Came to Chicago: The World's Columbian Exposition of 1893**". This virtual event will take place on Zoom April 27 at 2:30 p.m. Central Time (3:30 Eastern, 12:30 p.m. Pacific, 8:30 GMT).

In 2003, Eric Larson's book **The Devil in the White City** sparked widespread popular interest in the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, 1890s Chicago, and world's fairs generally. While readers were enthralled with the grisly details of the murderous H.H. Holmes, the world's fair was more than just a setting for a true crime tale (and was not, in fact, the location of the murders); it was an important moment in Chicago's history that set a trend for subsequent fairs for decades.

In this lavishly illustrated talk, **Dr. Nicholas McCormack** will examine a brief history of world's fairs and the context for Chicago playing host to the first one in the United States. You'll learn how the fair was designed, what its intended purpose was, and its impact on Chicago and the future of world's fairs, especially Chicago's second world's fair in 1933-1934. There is a vibrant scholarship—a historiography—of world's fairs that highlights serious issues such as colonialism, classism, and racism, which many popular tellings of the Columbian Exposition and other world's fairs either ignore or distort. This talk will engage with those debates and issues as well.

Register for this presentation at <https://tinyurl.com/2rz27nfa>.

Can't attend the talk? Register anyway; a link to the recording will be sent to you. All Theodore Talks are Closed Captioning enabled.

Theodore Talks are offered **free** to all members. They 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**, by visiting the **American Mensa home page**, or by viewing the **January issue of the Mensa Bulletin**. The article on the 2025 Theodore Talks begins on p. 26.

Questions? Contact Brad Lucht at MensaTheodoreTalks@gmail.com

Books On The Runway

Margy Lancet Fletcher

Author: Katherine Rundell

Title: Vanishing Treasures: A Bestiary of Extraordinary Endangered Creatures

Publisher: Doubleday / Penguin Random House

Year: 2024

Book Description: As our reawakened senses luxuriate in the return of spring and its attendant lushness, we must heed another wake-up call to ensure our continued enjoyment of Earth's bounty, according to English author and academic Katherine Rundell. Her latest publication, *Vanishing Treasures*, is both a celebration of our planet's diversity and a starkly poignant reminder that, unless we prioritize natural conservation, a wide range of delightfully unique life forms will disappear forever, undoubtedly presaging our own demise.

Vanishing Treasures is not a scientific treatise, but rather a collection of pithy, colorful essays presenting the distinctive qualities of twenty-three creatures, including the Greenland shark, swift, lemur, wolf, elephant, stork, spider, and (lastly) humans. Each one of the featured life forms, or a subspecies thereof, is in danger of imminent extinction - again, including ourselves. The author's appended note contains a list of actions we can take to forestall this environmental doomsday, an underlying theme being macroeconomist John Maynard Keynes's paraphrasing of the truism found in the Bible - 1 Timothy 6:10 - "For the love of money is the root of all evil." Her last sentence can serve as a succinct summary of the book's message: "A body of unimaginable splendor turns on its axis, calling us to its aid."

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

Talk about emotional roller coasters! I found this book both exquisitely diverting (every living thing telling an astonishing story) and heart-rending (alas, the truly priceless aspects of our planet are fast disappearing). It reminded me - and I pass this onto my readers, if you will - that any form of faith worth its salt looks upon all earth dwellers as family, and implores believers to be stewards of our land.

Who should definitely read this book? Why? As journalist Matthew Reisz enthused in The Guardian, “Rundell is incapable of writing a dull sentence.” Perhaps this book will not convert steadfast climate change deniers, but all readers will nonetheless appreciate the author’s command of the written word, as well as the shocking revelations contained in her work. Among the book’s fun facts: (1) Like New York City, the swift is the bird that seemingly never sleeps, and seldom even touches land. (2) The survival of homo sapiens is completely dependent upon such subsistence behaviors of spiders as devouring garden pests, pollinating plants, and recycling waste. (3) The elephant’s trunk contains 40,000 muscles (compared to the paltry human total of 650), and is capable of long-distance smelling, lifting, and producing low-frequency sounds (among other skills). (4) The hermit crab may be a creature-of-interest in the demise of famed aviator Amelia Earhart (among the various “mysterious disappearance” theories, this one makes the most sense to me).

How long might it take to read this book? This small and mighty volume (just under 200 pages of text) can be consumed in one sitting - or more slowly, according to a personal work/rest schedule, as each chapter is self-contained.

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

The greatest lie that humans ever told is that the Earth is ours, and at our disposal. It’s a lie with the power to destroy us all. We must cease from telling that lie, because the world is so rare, and so wildly fine. It is populated with such strangeness and imperiled astonishments. Among them, human attention is perhaps one of the rarest and finest. So this book has been a wooing. It has been an asking for your wonder, and for your attention. Fear and rage will help galvanize us, but they will not suffice alone: our competent and furious love will have to be what fuels us. For what is the finest treasure? Life. It is everything that lives, and the earth upon which they depend: narwhal, spider, pangolin, swift, faulted and shining human. It calls out for our far more urgent, more iron-willed treasuring.



Mark Bormann	Terre Haute	IN	Rejoin
Jerome Colletti	Lafayette	IN	Rejoin
Roman Heller	Greenwood	IN	Joined

Andrew Hemphill	Carmel	IN	Rejoin
Andy Hubbard	Evansville	IN	Rejoin
Allan Noriega	Columbus	IN	Joined
Clare Skeehan	Indianapolis	IN	Rejoin
Robyn Szczelaszczyk	Kirklin	IN	Rejoin
Beth Waltz	Fountaintown	IN	Rejoin
Jillian Wilson	Madison	IN	MoveIn

Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 2/18/25

Karen Wilczewski, Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

LocSec Jan Pfeil Doyle called the meeting to order at 7:41 p.m.

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

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

Absent:

The January meeting minutes were approved as amended. Judy moved, Ann seconded. The motion passed.

Judy moved to accept the January Treasurer's Report as amended; Ann seconded. The motion passed.

The January membership report was compiled by Jan based on information available as of 1/31/25 from American Mensa: total members: 431; 0 new, 1 move-in, 0 rejoin, and 10 prospects. Three candidates were tested this month.

Old Business

Regional Coordinator: Beth Weiss was nominated to the AMC; she was voted in last night at a special meeting. Beth is our official coordinator on the AMC. She will run for the RVC position. A Special Election will be conducted in May.

Ann suggested that we monitor how they do the electronic voting to see if there's anything we can learn when we do our elections.

New Business

Teresa mentioned that we're in need of scholarship judges. Numerous admissions have been submitted due to an automated process that's blanketed

many sites, so they're overwhelmed with 50,000 scholarship applications. Due to the small number of available scholarships, candidates are being eliminated. If interested in signing up as a judge, you have to go to the National website to be considered. Judges have two months to review a group of entries. Entries are limited to 550 words with judges need to follow a specific criteria to qualify entries. Submissions must be anonymous and not mention what geographic area they're from. Teresa will include a reminder in the weekly reminder.

OG: Teresa confirmed that we're having this year's Outdoor Gathering. The ExCom needs to decide by March or April whether there will be a new location site for the 2026 OG. A new site will require both a group camp and lodging.

An Admissions test has been scheduled for February 16. One local candidate expressed interest. Ann will let Dayton area prospects know our testing schedule.

In an attempt to raise more scholarship funds for MERF, Candis suggested we approach restaurants we support through our monthly Mensans Dining Out event to see if they offer special fund-raising days. The restaurants' donations would be tax deductible, because MERF has 5013c status. We would need to promote the idea to potential restaurants that we're raising funds for our MERF scholarship fund.

Candis also suggested holding an art show for Mensans to display their talents at a future monthly gathering. This coming month's meeting (March) could be a "hands-on" monthly meeting (show and tell or Indiana Mensa art show). We could also hold a Mensa garage sale in conjunction with a silent auction with proceeds benefitting MERF. It can be a combination of in-person and virtual. The silent auction could include goods and services. This kind of event can be planned for June and could be separate from our monthly meeting. It could be held on a weekend morning. Judy and Candis have agreed to put a list of ideas for fundraisers together for discussion at the March ExCom meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.



Central Indiana Mensa

Treasurer's Report

2/28/2025

Emily Boomershine, Treasurer

Statement of Assets

Account	Balance
(1) PNC Checking – Regular	\$ 2,230.66
(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
Total Assets	\$ 15,989.27

Other Assets

Accrued Interest on First Internet CD	\$ 467.12
USPS Stamps	\$ 227.70
 Memo: Total in PNC Checking (1)+(2)+(3)	 \$ 5,964.27

Statement of Activity

Activity	Amount
Receipts	
Monthly Gathering Income	\$ 34.00
National Support	\$ 413.76
Receipts Total	\$ 447.76
Expenses	
Facility Rental (All Souls)	\$ (100.00)
MIND Printing	\$ (333.57)
Supplies	\$ (52.12)
Expenses Total	\$ (485.69)
Net Activity	\$ (37.93)

Mensa Monthly Gathering Location

All Souls Unitarian Church

5805 E. 56th St., Indianapolis

- From I-465 on the east side of Indianapolis, take the 56th 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

