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Volume 61, Number 5



mind

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana



The Mensa Owl hopes to see you at the OMG!! (Outdoor Mensa Gathering)

Publishing Statement

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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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MIND Staff

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May 2025



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From the Editor's Cubicle

Rich Gibson, Editor

I write this in mid-April, with showers behind us and showers before us and the occasional bit of frost of a morning. I'll tell ya: it may be spring by the calendar, but I wish it would hurry the heck up! Of course, I'm just grousing. It's going to hit 69 this afternoon, and we spent a wonderful time out this morning; me shoveling and schlepping dirt from where it's not wanted to where it is, and Jackie smoothing it out and starting a new bed for a brand new rose, and certainly more things to come. I suspect hellebore (lenten lilies) and day lilies.



Speaking of lilies, we have had a clutchful blooming for a few weeks now, to augment the hellebore and daffodils, and they delivered a bombshell of color. Man, I love this time of year! [Update one week later: Crabapple trees were gorgeous, but are already past their peak. Redbuds are still spectacular] And, as usual for this time of year, the OMG!! (Outdoor

Mensa Gathering) is coming soon. It's total fun, and I strongly recommend you reserve a spot now. The Mensa owl is looking forward to it, too. I almost got it to pose with a hiking stick, but it couldn't figure out how to hold it—flat on the ground in a claw? Perched on it? I guess owls are not into hiking, anyway...

Finally, my sendoff line was great last month (I certainly thought so), so here it is again:

HAPPY SPRING!!!

LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

CIM's Outdoor Mensa Gathering (OMG!) is May 16-18

– I hope to see many of you at the Outdoor Gathering! 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. You can register at online at <https://cim-og-2025.eventbrite.com> or download a registration form at <https://tinyurl.com/5be2nany>. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Gatherings Chair **Teresa Gregory** 317-430-1761 (voice or text) or ag18tg@yahoo.com.



Annual Gathering – Speaking of gatherings, the Annual Gathering (“AG,” U.S. Mensa's national convention) will be July 2-6 in Chicago. If you haven't been to one, this would be a good one to try—it won't be this close to us again for a long time. The theme is “All Fired Up!” Many consider the AG to be the ultimate Mensa experience—several speaker tracks, 24-hr games and hospitality rooms, SIGs, Meet-and-Greets, tours, 1,800 or so fellow Mensans, and more—the AG has it all! You can find more information and register at www.ag.us.mensa.org.



ICYMI (in Case You Missed It) – Part of the Chowhound group at Kotoyama Ramen & Sushi. We went next door to the Homemade Ice Cream & Bakery Café for dessert afterward!

Poetry

Marilyn Wolf

HUNTER WHĀNAU HOLIDAY FEB MARCH 2020

Eva Hunter, from New Zealand,
was 10yo when she wrote this.
Published with her permission.

PLANE RUMBLES

HEAT WASHES

FEET STUMBLE

RAIN SPLOSHES

GUUITAR STRUMMING

LUGGAGE SEARCHING

WELCOME HUMMING

BUS LURCHING

HOTEL SWIMMING

FAMILY DINING

ALL SLEEPING

RISE AND SHINING

BOAT BUZZES

WATER SHIMMERS

REALITY FUZZES

ISLAND GLIMMERS

SANDY FEET

SUNBLOCK TASTE

HAMMOCK SEAT

SUNBURNT FACE

FISH SWISHING

LAUGHTER FIZZING

DOLPHIN WISHING

FIJI LIVING!

Poem by Eva Hunter

2025-26 Book Group Reading List

Rich Gibson

Title	Author(s)	Date
	Adam	
American Midnight	Hochschild	5/18/2025
A Fever in the Heartland	Timothy Egan	6/15/2025
Beyond Genius	Bulent Atalay	7/20/2025
Sleeping Beauties	Andreas Wagner	8/17/2025
	Robert	
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	Lyanda Lynn Haupt	5/17/2026
Aging as a Spiritual Practice	Lewis Richmond	6/15/2026
4000 Weeks: Time Management for Mortals	Oliver Berkeman	7/20/2026

Mensa Book Group Previews

Rich Gibson

THIS 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 violent; calling them “bomb throwers” was apt. 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!

NEXT MONTH: *A Fever In the Heartland*, by Timothy Egan

Fever In the Heartland, by Timothy Egan, 354 pp (text), published in 2023, is the topic for discussion at the Mensa Book Group meeting on Sunday, May 18th, 2025, at 2:00 PM. See the MIND Calendar and Events for more information. Indiana is the not-so-proud place where the 20th Century’s version of the Ku Klux Klan had its strongest, widest growth and power; and where it met its most crushing defeat. Expert opinion states that radical movements expand until their excesses disgust and repel the overwhelming majority of their supporters. This is certainly the case for the Indiana Klan, which at its apex counted the governor, most of the state legislature, and many of its federal representatives and senators as members; also countless civic and county officials and police. I will not mention the particular excess that led to the fall of the Klan, but it was horrendous. All the same, it took a handful of courageous Hoosiers to see justice done. The author eloquently describes the rise, plateau, and overthrow of this group.

It’s a gripping read. If you try it and agree or disagree, we’d love to see you on Sunday, May 18th, at 2:00 PM and discuss it. Please give it a try!

2025 Annual Gathering in Chicago will be here before we know it!

Mark your calendars for July 2 - 6 at the Chicago Hilton, 720 S Michigan Ave. Get ready for an unforgettable experience at the 2025 Annual Gathering (AG) in Chicago! We’ve got an exciting schedule lined up, and you shouldn’t miss it.



Hotel Details:

The Hilton Chicago is our host hotel, offering an incredible rate of just \$139 per night – that’s not a typo! The hotel is conveniently located near some of Chicago’s best attractions, including the Museum Campus (Shedd Aquarium, Field Museum, Adler Planetarium), the lakefront, and Buckingham Fountain.

Your Registration Includes:

- Four breakfasts, three lunches, and plenty of snacks throughout the event.
- Access to exciting programs, including Chicago-centric sessions, Improv, Mensa Cares interactives, and many more!

We’re also bringing the best of Chicago Mensa gaming culture to you, with tournaments and fan favorites from **WeeM** (Chicago’s annual RG in October) like Human Hungry Hungry Hippos, Amazing Race, and Logic Problems. Don’t forget our **After Dark Series** for 18+ attendees! Join us for, among others, Drag Queen Bingo on Friday night and a local Improv Group on Saturday night.

For Extra Fun:

Explore Chicago's vibrant Blues music scene with the Blues Heaven Foundation Tour, where you'll dive into the musical roots of legends like Etta James, Chuck Berry, and Muddy Waters. Sign up on the AG webpage at ag.us.mensa.org/essentials/tours

Important Notes reminder:

- Be sure to register for the AG first at ag.us.mensa.org . **The hotel booking link will be included in your confirmation email.**
- Rooms are available before and after the event, but not at our Mensa rate, so book early!

We can’t wait to see you in Chicago – Daisy and the 2025 AG Team

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

Puzzle Column

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

T Time

Find words that contain 4 Ts, based on descriptions and letter counts. For example, Oscar, for one (9 letters) would be statuette.

1. Rat fink (10 letters)
2. Medical care after surgery (13 letters)
3. Occasionally (12 letters)
4. Remote populated area (13 letters)
5. Most likely to be loyal (14 letters)
6. Gossip (11 letters)
7. Abstainer from alcoholic beverages (11 letters)
8. (The act of giving testimony (11 letters)
9. Most sexually attractive (8 letters)
10. Ink artist (9 letters)

Solutions on page 16

May 2025 Events

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

5/3, 10:00am - 12 noon ET - Atrio, 11700 Illinois St., Carmel, (at IU Health North). Located just off the atrium, first floor, to the left from the north entrance. Breakfast till 11 a.m., then lunch starts. **RSVP:**Alison Brown, 317-846-6798, SIGHT@indymensa.org

Indy Lunch Bunch – 1st and 3rd Wednesday

5/7, 12:00 noon ET - Virtual *Online*

5/21, 12:00 noon ET - MCL Restaurant and Bakery, 2370 W. 86th St, Indianapolis

RSVP Karen Steilberger, steilkr@sbcglobal.net

VIRTUAL Sunday Social – Some Sundays (see calendar), 7:00pm –8:30pm

ET Drop in anytime for casual chat. Contact Teresa, ag18tg@yahoo.com.

LIVE Supper Before the Meeting - 2nd Friday 5/9, 5:00pm - 7:00pm

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,

5/9, 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.

Someone from Roxy’s Dog Food Pantry will tell us about their mission.

LIVE Mensa Chowhounds Lunch – 2nd and 4th Wednesday

5/14, 2:00pm ET - The Monk’s (Indian fusion), 13080 Grand Blvd, Carmel

5/28, 2:00pm ET - Aristocrat Pub, 5212 N College Ave, Indy, 46220

Late lunch or early dinner? You decide!

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

VIRTUAL and LIVE Book Group

5/18, 2:00pm ET

American Midnight – Adam Hochschild

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 - 3rd Sunday

5/18, 6pm ET

Brockway Pub (Irish), 12525 Old Meridian St, Carmel, IN 46032

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

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
4 *Sunday Social*	5	6	7 *Lunch Bunch*
11	12	13	14 Chowhounds
18 OMG!: Book Group; Dining Out	19	20 * ExCom*	21 Lunch Bunch
25 *Sunday Social*	26	27	28 Chowhounds

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
1	2	3 Ham'n Eggs
8	9 Dinner Before; Monthly Gathering	10
15	16 OMG!	17 OMG!
22	23	24
29	30	31

If you lose your *MIND* (oh, my!) or want additional information, check www.indymensa.org

Also watch for the CIM Meeting ReMINDER in your email every Monday!

RC4NC (Regional Coordinator 4 North Central)

Beth Weiss

You've probably heard a lot about the Annual Gathering (AG) coming up in Chicago July 2nd-6th. The AG has been on the back cover of the Bulletin every month and there are regular posts on Mensa's social media.

It's not easy to describe the Annual Gathering to someone who has never been to one, especially since everyone experiences an AG differently and each AG has its own flavor. The AG committee has been working on this AG for close to two years; a lot of planning goes into a 5-day event with 1500+ attendees.



The Tuesday before the AG (July 1st) the Mensa Foundation is presenting a half-day Colloquium on the topic *Human Intelligence in the Age of AI: A New Perspective*. The Colloquium is open to the public as well as members and you do not have to attend the AG to attend the Colloquium (but I hope you will).

The AG itself starts on Wednesday, July 2nd and has non-stop activities until we say our good-byes on Sunday, July 6th. There will be speakers, both Mensan and non-Mensan, on a wide range of topics. The Games Room is open 24 hours a day, as is the Puzzle room. There are over 20 tournaments scheduled (I'm the Tournaments Chair) from card games to strategy games to some really unusual things our members thought up!

The Hospitality room will have snacks, some meals, and is a great place to sit and socialize. If you don't see anyone you know, you can walk up to any table, ask to join them, and introduce yourself. I've met a lot of people that way!

Although the Gala Dinner (with speaker Ken Jennings of Jeopardy fame) is sold out, some tickets will become available informally as people's plans change. Drag Queen Bingo is going to be a hoot. There are community service projects planned. There's charades. There's music. There's morning yoga. There's a lot to choose from.

Firehouse SIG, GenX M's, Gen Y SIG, HELL's M's, and QueerSIG all have hospitality suites, and you are welcome to stop by, whether you're a member of that SIG or not. The SIG suites will have beverages and snacks and can only operate when people contribute, so be sure to drop some money in the kitty while you're visiting.

Some of the most active members I know have told me their first event was an AG. Others of us attended local events before going to the Annual Gathering. Both ways work—and you will meet people, learn things, make friends, and have a great time.

If you're not already registered, this is a great opportunity to attend an AG that's in driving distance. I hope you'll join us—it's going to be a great party. Visit ag.us.mensa.org to register!

Do you have feedback or something to discuss? Please contact me at rc4@us.mensa.org or via phone/text at +1 937-902-5161. Region 4's Facebook group is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/americanmensaregion4>.

Escaping the Nazis--The Untold Story of the Kindertransport

From Someone Who Was on the Train

Moderated by Benjamin Cohen

Sunday, May 18, 2025

2:30 PM PACIFIC TIME

This is a Zoom meeting. Please register at <https://livepresentation.link/MAY>

Zoom will send you a confirmation email from with a link to join the presentation.

The Nazi government started its program of ethnic cleansing in 1933. In the months prior to the start of WWII, 10,000 children left their parents and escaped the Nazis on the Kindertransport, a series of train rides to safe havens in Europe where good Samaritans took them in. Those that still live are at least in their 90's, our speaker, Josef Eisinger, just celebrated his 101st birthday! He was 15 years old when he left Vienna on a Kindertransport.

The ability to hear from someone who actually rode on the train is fast disappearing. This presentation may be the last opportunity to share this experience.

The presentation will include the grandson of another Kindertransport survivor, in a conversation moderated by journalist Benjamin Cohen.

Journalist Benjamin Cohen is the news director of *Forward*, America's oldest Jewish newspaper. His first book was called "*My Jesus Year: A Rabbi's Son Wanders the Bible Belt in Search of His Own Faith*," a memoir about Benjamin spending 52 weeks going to 52 different churches – and how the experience made him a better Jew.

For writing it, he received the Georgia Author of the Year award, and it was named one of the best books of the year by *Publishers*

Benjamin has a bizarre side job Managing the official social media accounts of Albert Einstein, where he posts every day to the 20 million fans who follow the world's favorite genius across Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. He is the author of "*The Einstein Effect: How the World's Favorite Genius Got into Our Cars, Our Bathrooms, and Our Minds*."

He is based in Morgantown, WV, where he lives with his wife, three dogs, a cat, and a flock of chickens known as the Co-Hens.

CIM Announcements

Judy Weitzman

- Just when you think you know everything there is to know about the Central Indiana Mensa chapter, we've got something new coming up.
Our first ever garage sale will be sometime in September, and it is designed to raise money for the Mensa Scholarship that we award annually to a college student from our area. (We have very recently

broken with 20+ years of tradition and increased this amount from \$500 to \$2,500. \$500 just doesn't go as far as it used to!)

- Now's the time to think about items to donate. If you'd like to get involved in the planning, please contact Judy Weitzman at bridgejudy@aol.com.
- If you're tired of dusting books in your collection that you'll never read again or you're looking for something new to read, we'll be restarting the book sale that used to be held at Mensa monthly meetings. Donated books are sold for \$1.00 each, and all proceeds will be added to the Mensa Scholarship Fund.

Solutions to May Puzzle:

1. Rat fink (10 letters) = tattletale
2. Medical care after surgery (13 letters) = posttreatment
3. Occasional (12 letters) = intermittent
4. Remote populated area (13 letters) = outsettlement
5. Most likely to be loyal (14 letters) = trustworthiest
6. Gossip (11 letters) = scuttlebutt
7. Abstainer from alcoholic beverages (11 letters) = teetotalist
8. The act of giving testimony (11 letters) = attestation
9. Most sexually attractive (8 letters) = tottiest
10. Ink artist (9 letters) = tattooist



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 sixth talk in that series.

The title of the May Theodore Talk is, "Sweet Home: The Storied History of Chicago Blues". This virtual event will take place on Zoom May 25 at 2:30 p.m. Central Time (3:30 Eastern, 12:30 p.m. Pacific, 7:30 GMT).

ABSTRACT

In this Theodore Talk you'll journey through the rich history and evolution of blues music, tracing its origins from the deep Southern fields to the bustling streets of Chicago, where it found its modern-day home. You'll explore the socio-cultural forces that shaped the blues, its migration during the Great Migration, and how Chicago became a beacon for blues innovation, producing legendary artists and iconic sounds.

Jacob Schulz, blues musician and historian, will discuss the current challenges facing the blues, including its fading mainstream presence and efforts to preserve its legacy for future generations. This talk will not only highlight the deep historical roots of the blues but also showcase how it continues to resonate as a timeless and influential art form today.

You might even learn about a few joints to visit while at the AG!

Register for this presentation at <https://tinyurl.com/2663hn36>.



Won't be able to attend the talk? Go ahead and register anyway; a link to the recording will be sent to you once the talk is over. All Theodore Talks have Closed Captioning enabled.

Remember, Theodore Talks are offered free to all members in an effort to provide more value to your membership.

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

A list of future Theodore Talks can be found on the [Mensa National Events Calendar](#), 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: Joe Shute

Title: Stowaway: The Disreputable Exploits of the Rat

Publisher: Bloomsbury Publishing Plc (U.K.)

Year: 2024

Has Been Read by: Margy Lancet Fletcher

Book Description: In *Vanishing Treasures*, Katherine Rundell argues that the most tragic aspect of our interaction with Earth's other inhabitants is that we only hurt the ones we love. Ironically, according to British journalist Joe Shute, the mammalian species most reviled by the human race has survived - and thrived - despite our appetite for destruction (the Mills Brothers' wistful tones versus the aggressive blasts of Guns N' Roses, for pop music fans). Rats!

Exactly. *Stowaway*, Shute's energetic and thoughtful treatise/memoir/travelog promotes a thorough understanding of the much-maligned rodent. To accomplish this feat, the author immerses himself in the lives of rats, seeking out their various habitats, and in the process provides the reader with copious data on the evolutionary and cultural history, physical attributes, and modern behaviors and distribution of rats. He even shares his experiences as (gasp!) a pet rat owner (thus demonstrating true commitment to his subject).

Joe Shute's fascinating literary journey transports the reader to such locations as the German town of Hamelin (home of the Pied Piper legend); his home city of Sheffield, where he tunnels into - ahem - the underbelly of urban civilization; the Paris Museum of Natural History, a renowned rat research site; Tanzania, where scientists perfect training programs for rescue operations and farmers strive to eliminate disease-spreading and crop-ravaging rats; the Canadian

province of Alberta, which proudly boasts the complete absence of rats; and Inchcolm Island in the Firth of Forth, one of the last strongholds of the black rat. Finally, he describes his own battle with predatory rats invading his chicken coops, and discusses ecological methods of managing the rat population.

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

Although I have never been up close and personal with a rat (and never wish to), this animal does appeal to my artistic nature simply because the rat's reputedly malicious nature lends itself to compelling characterizations in books and movies, solid examples of which are the Pixar film *Ratatouille*, Robert C. O'Brien's *Mrs Frisby and the Rats of Nimh*, George Orwell's *1984*, and two American classics not included in Shute's Brit-based narrative: E. B. White's *Charlotte's Web* and Donald Harington's *The Cockroaches of Stay More*, both of whose rats prove to be more heroic than villainous. I am also encouraged by Shute's accounts of the use of the hypersensitive abilities of rats to search for missing persons, detect human diseases, and locate land mines.

Who should definitely read this book? Why? This "intelligent and enlightening book" (per English author Sir Michael Morpurgo) should attract experts and dabblers in a wide variety of scientific and artistic disciplines. Depending on the reader's personal belief system, the underlying message that every creature on Earth adds value to the ecosystem can be construed as a defense of either the notion of intelligent design or the theory of evolution as an effective agent of change (perhaps both).

How long might it take to read this book? At a relatively modest text length of 255 pages, this volume can be nibbled in less than a week, or gobbled in just 2 to 3 days, depending on the reader's pace and "rest and relaxation" schedule.

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

Rats represent the worst of us, or at least that is what we tell ourselves. They are rapacious, over-sexed, destructive, pestilent - hideous enough to justify spreading poison around our streets and homes and releasing a pair of hounds down an alley in pursuit of blood. We are obsessed as a society with the notion of rats mustering in the gloom and waiting to invade our lives. Newspapers are sporadically filled with stories of super-rats growing immune to poison and ever more bloated on our waste. I know, because as a journalist I have written some of these stories myself...

Despite our best efforts to tarnish their reputation it is, of course, humans who are far more culpable for the rapid destruction of the earth. Rats, like many animals we brand as 'vermin,' thrive as a direct result of the way we live and interact with the land, a mirror reflecting back to us our worst excesses.



Dean Gassman	Carmel	IN	MoveIn
J Loudermilk	Indianapolis	IN	Rejoin
Steven Rovnyak	Indianapolis	IN	Joined
Timothy Rueger	Santa Claus	IN	MoveIn
Jason Tennenhouse	Carmel	IN	Joined
Darrell Upp	Portland	IN	Rejoin
Judson Wright	Lafayette	IN	MoveIn
Patrick Wurster	Indianapolis	IN	Joined

Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 3/18/25

Karen Wilczewski, Secretary

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

LocSec Jan Pfeil Doyle called the meeting to order at 7:43 p.m.

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

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

Absent: Candis King

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

Ann moved to accept the February Treasurer's Report; Ethan seconded. The motion passed.

Ann moved and Emily seconded to roll over the CD till 2026 when it renews on April 15. The motion passed.

The February membership report was compiled by Jan based on information available as of 2/28/25 from American Mensa: total members: 440; 2 new, 1 move-in, 7 rejoin, and 4 prospects. Three candidates were tested this month.

Old Business

Fundraising: The goal is to raise funds for scholarships. Using her fundraising skills, Judy offered to help with this.

Judy moved increase the annual scholarship to \$2,500. The increased amount will start with the 2026 scholarships. Ann seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Judy and Candis will present ways to raise such funds by the next ExCom Meeting.

OG: Teresa made flyers and has distributed them to another RG promoting our upcoming OG. As a result, she has already received reservations. Karen Steilberger has set up the EventBrite site promoting the May OG.

Jan and Teresa have determined that the OG will remain in the same location moving forward due to limited alternate facility options and exorbitant costs.

New Business

Upcoming programs: Ann shared some of the lineup of upcoming topics/speakers for monthly meetings. May's speaker will be from Roxy's Dog Food Pantry. In June, Alan Schmidt will be talking on the Nobel Prize winner for Chemistry; in July, Ethan will address the scourge of viruses that are trying to kill us; September will feature an art show and show-and-tell; October will cover a talk on water and The Netherlands. Teresa has approached a speaker who can do the American Sign Museum. Judy and other ExCom members also shared ideas for possible guest speakers for additional upcoming monthly meetings.

Bulletin: "An Unenviable Position," by Chair Lori Norris, is an article featured on pg. 6 of the March 2025 Mensa *Bulletin*, which covers the internal policy related to violating New York State laws, considering Mensa is incorporated in New York State.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.



Central Indiana Mensa

Treasurer's Report

3/31/2025

Emily Boomershine, Treasurer

Statement of Assets

Account	Balance
(1) PNC Checking – Regular	\$ 2,278.32
(2) PNC Checking – Scholarships	\$ 217.00
(3) PNC Checking – Events	\$ 3,581.61
(4) MG Petty Cash	\$ 25.00
(5) CD – First Internet	\$ 10,000.00
Total Assets	\$ 16,101.93

Other Assets

Unrealized Accrued Interest on First Internet CD	\$ 513.08
USPS Stamps	\$ 227.70
 Memo: Total in PNC Checking (1)+(2)+(3)	 \$ 6,076.93

Statement of Activity

Activity	Amount
Receipts	
Monthly Gathering Income	\$ 49.00
National Support	\$ 435.32
Annual Outdoor Gathering	\$ 65.00
Receipts Total	\$ 549.32
Expenses	
Facility Rental (All Souls)	\$ (100.00)
MIND Printing	\$ (336.66)
Expenses Total	\$ (436.66)
Net Activity	\$ 112.66

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

