

August 2025  
Volume 61, Number 8



# mind

Mensa Newsletter  
Of Central Indiana



*Mollie the Mensa Owl hanging with an appropriate friend*

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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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## From the Editor's Cubicle

Rich Gibson, Editor

### *Where's Mollie?*

Well. It seems that our inaugural event of *Where's Mollie* was not a resounding success, so we'll go over the rules and procedures one more time:

- Each month, Mollie the Mensa owl will appear on the cover of MIND
- Sharing the picture with her will be a location or thing that is in some way appropriate to the month.
  - o That's the biggest, perhaps only hint you're going to get.
    - For example, Mollie's location this month in some way connects to the month of August.
  - o It will be an AI-generated image, so the best I can say is that it will look very much like the location/thing I intended.
- At each monthly gathering, submit your guess to the designated person (usually Ann Hake; but ask around, say to Jan or Teresa, and the designee will be pointed out to you)
- Those who guess correctly will be entered for a drawing for a door prize.

If you didn't attend last month's gathering, on the July MIND cover Mollie was flying over the Millenium Park in Chicago, also where this year's AG was. If you went, I hope you had a wonderful time!

I am told the inaugural winner received a handsome climate change mug, which changes as the temperature of the beverage contained changes. Woo hoo!

Speaking of climate change, it certainly has been a hot and wet summer so far, hasn't it? As the house hydrologist (I water flowers and such), I haven't had to do much so far. The gardener's rule of thumb for watering is, the green guys need an inch a week. Thus far, I've had to water once. In preceding years, me schlepping hoses around the yard has been a regular thing. Fingers crossed that the current state of affairs will last a little longer! We're getting a little shower as I type.

Finally, help yourself to this month's issue. Our resident poet has contributed some creative non-fiction this month. The calendar and events page are full of neat things to participate in. And there's a few activities listed that you might consider attending or Zooming into.

Lots to do. Have fun!



## LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

**CultureQuest® Results** – Both Central IndianaMensa’s CultureQuest teams did very well this year! **Naptown Nerds** came in first in the nation! Team members were **Ethan Blocher-Smith, Candis King, Ken Koziol, Bob Zdanky, Karen Steilberger** (alternate) and me (captain). And **CIMple Minds** tied for third! They were captained by **Ann Hake**, with **Emily Boomershine, Rich Gibson, Teresa Gregory, Matt Zwick, and Kurt Williams** (alternate). In addition to all the bragging rights, the cash prizes (\$725 total) will be a nice addition to our local scholarship fund!



**Do You Have Things You Don’t Need? UPDATE** – The CIM garage sale will not take place in September after all. We’re now looking at next spring. If you know a place we could hold it or if you are willing to let us have the sale in your garage/ neighborhood, please let Judy Weitzman or Candis King know. Their contact info is on the last page of *MIND*. In the meantime, please keep saving your no-longer-needed books, small appliances, etc, etc. We’ll let you know when and where to deliver them. Proceeds will go to the CIM scholarship fund. Stay tuned for more creative fundraising ideas from this dynamic duo!

**Give Us Your Mensa Stuff** – While you’re looking for things for the garage sale, if you come across any Mensa items, especially old newsletters or RG programs, PLEASE don’t throw them away. Instead, donate them to our local archives. Bring them to an event or contact Teresa Gregory or me to arrange a pick up (contact info the last page of *MIND*). Thank you!



**ICYMI (in Case You Missed It)** – The Mensa Annual Gathering (national convention) in Chicago was a wonderful time as usual! We had more than 30 people from Central Indiana Mensa in attendance. It was great to see old friends and make new ones. Highlights for me were hearing Ken Jennings speak at the gala dinner and going on a tour of the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio in Oak Park. Ken was quite funny and insightful—he made that point that it’s important to **KNOW** things as opposed to looking up the answers in Google.

Next year the AG is July 1-5 in Ft. Worth.

# Creative Non-Fiction

*Marilyn Wolf*

## **Trees Talk Back**

I talked to our trees; they talked back — several species: magnolia, crape myrtle, palms, cedar, live oaks, and others. I regularly picked up sticks and checked the plants and trees for whatever should not be there: fungus, bugs, parasitic plants. I got to know them individually.

Palms were self-sufficient, wanted to be left alone, and were fine with only an occasional visual scan. Crape myrtle took a year to begin to thrive and liked being noticed; we both enjoyed my hands caressing its smooth bark. Young magnolias had been raised in a nursery with little individual attention, like babies in a crowded orphanage. I cared for them but got nothing in return. Most of the cedars were dying. I trimmed and talked to them, but all were very low-key.

Ah, the live oaks! They had personality! Each was an individual. One just wanted verbal acknowledgment, not touch. One wanted to be handled lightly and talked to. A couple wanted full-on hugs and caresses. The others varied by the day — even trees have bad days. They all liked attention.

When I sold the house, I told each tree goodbye, assuring them they would be okay. I felt skepticism as I walked away.

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## 2025-26 Book Group Reading List

Rich Gibson

Title	Author(s)	Date
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	Lyanda Lynn Haupt	5/17/2026
Aging as a Spiritual Practice	Lewis Richmond	6/21/2026
4000 Weeks: Time Management for Mortals	Oliver Berkeman	7/19/2026

## Mensa Book Group Previews

Rich Gibson

### THIS MONTH: *Sleeping Beauties*, by Andreas Wagner

*Sleeping Beauties*—*The Mystery of Dormant Innovation in Nature and Culture*, by Andreas Wagner, 238 pp (text), published in 2023, is the topic for discussion at the Mensa Book Group meeting on Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 2:00 PM. See the MIND Calendar and Events for more information.

Andreas Wagner is a professor and chair of the department of Evolutionary Biology and Environmental Studies at the University of Zurich. This is his fourth book on evolutionary innovation.

The “sleeping” part of the title refers to innovations that occur in nature, sometimes hundreds of millions of years before being expressed. The “beauty” part refers to the fact that, once expressed, these innovations can be earthshaking in their effects. How can it be, for instance, that a nothing little mutation, several million years old, can suddenly get expressed by a bacterium and give it immunity against a 21<sup>st</sup> century antibiotic? Similarly, grasses struggled until the Earth became drier 23 million years ago, from which point they have covered the planet ever since.

Having spent roughly two-thirds of this book making that argument, he goes on to note sleeping beauties that occur in the same way in human culture. Ancient neural pathways that allowed us to recognize landscapes and tools are activated by the act of reading, arguably a natural outgrowth of a trait we've had for several hundreds of thousands of years.

This book has been reviewed as containing lively prose that makes the science of evolutionary biology clear and accessible. It should be a very good read, and should provoke a fascinating discussion. Please give it a shot, and come participate with us on Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 PM and discuss it. We'd love to see you!

### **NEXT MONTH: *Underland: A Deep Time Journey*, by Robert MacFarlane**

*Underland: A Deep Time Journey*, by Robert MacFarlane, 425 pp (text), published in 2019, is the topic for discussion at the Mensa Book Group meeting on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, at 2:00 PM. See the MIND Calendar and Events for more information.

Robert MacFarlane is a wonderful writer on the topic of nature and of traveling, particularly hiking. Within the last year I finished an earlier work of his, *The Old Ways: A Journey on Foot*. His evocation of place and the associated history worked magic on me. He began in a birch tree a short walk from his home, and gradually spread out to places several days' drive away.

This book takes the reader underground: to the Paris Catacombs; the Karst Plateau in northeast Italy/western Slovenia; to an underground laboratory seeking to detect matter; into the moulin (round, well-like shaft caused by meltwater) of a glacier; and to caves in the UK's Mendip Hills (among others). Along the way, MacFarlane contemplates deep history and the efforts and effects of human activity throughout the last 10,000 or so years that scientists are calling the Anthropocene Era.

Wherever MacFarlane goes, he takes the reader on an illuminating journey that opens up the mind to new ideas and experiences. This is likely going to become one of my all-time favorite books. Although long, it's a quick read.

Hope I've tempted you to check it out of your library and give it a try. If you turn out to like it (or hate it), hope you can come to Casa Gibson on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, and join our discussion about it. Hope to see you then!

### **Cook Book Recipe Call-Out**

*Candis King*

Do you have a recipe that is so good and/or so easy that you think you are soooo smart? Well then, here's your chance to share it for the good of the Mensa Scholarship Fund.

Central Indiana Mensa is planning on publishing a recipe book through Amazon and is calling for your favorite recipes to achieve fame and fortune. Please submit your recipes for appetizers, drinks, main course, desserts, soups or



whatever is your favorite recipe  
to [candis.king550@gmail.com](mailto:candis.king550@gmail.com) or [BRIDGEJUDY@AOL.COM](mailto:BRIDGEJUDY@AOL.COM).

**In Case You Missed It**



- Mensans Dining Out at the Santorini Greek Buffet, July 20



Glenn Ball	Bloomington	IN	Rejoin
Mo Chen	Lafayette	IN	Joined
Kristin Cutler	Indianapolis	IN	Joined
Kaushik Immadisetty	West Lafayette	IN	Joined
Yuan Jiang	West Lafayette	IN	Joined
Jayden Johal	Indianapolis	IN	Joined
Lucas Snyder	Fortville	IN	Joined
Ellen Totzke	Brazil	IN	Rejoin

## Puzzle Column

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

### Summer in the title

Find the titles of songs with Summer in the title, based on a few lyrics.

Example: your daddy's rich is from *Summertime*.

1. I lost you to the
2. Unashamed, she sheds her clothes
3. She's your tootsie wootsie
4. A young man rode with his head held high
5. Strawberries, cherries, and an angel's kiss
6. But at night it's a different world
7. Tell me more, tell me more
8. Blowin' through the jasmine in my mind
9. Soda, and pretzels, and beer
10. You got women on your mind

Solutions on page 19

## Weird Science

Rob Pyatt

[Editor's note: Rob Pyatt and his *Weird Science* talks at Monthly Gatherings have won a wide audience in CIM. Here's an upcoming opportunity for more] Weird Science is branching out with a new Indy Fringe Festival science show August 15, 16, and 17 called 'Grad School Sucks!' and I wanted to let the MENSA group know. It's improv comedy where a scientist (that's me) will present some of the strangest science studies ever conducted like "Estimation of the Total Saliva Volume Produced Per Day by 5-Year-Old Children" and a team of comedians will use that as the inspiration for improv scenes.

You'll laugh and maybe learn something too.

Tickets are available at the link below and are "pay what you can" with a \$10 minimum (\$10 ticket + \$2 fee). The page will show a default price and you can manually type in the price you want to pay. Also use code SCIENCE for half off at checkout so tickets are only \$7 (\$5 ticket + \$2 fee).

<https://indyfringe.org/performance/fringe-2025-grad-school>

Several Mensans are planning to go to the August 15th performance. If you'd like to join us, please purchase your own ticket and then let Jan Pfeil Doyle or Teresa Gregory know (their contact info is on last page of MIND).

## August 2025 Events

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

**8/2 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)

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

**8/6, 12:00 noon ET - Virtual \*Online\***

**8/20, 12:00 noon ET - MCL Restaurant and Bakery**, 2370 W. 86th St,

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

**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).

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

**8/13, 2:00pm ET - Max & Tilly's**, 8701 E 116th St, Fishers, IN 46038

**8/27, 2:00pm - Fishers Test Kitchen**, 9713 District N Dr, Fishers, IN 46037

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

**VIRTUAL and LIVE Monthly Gathering** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday,

**8/8, 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.

Watch for the Weekly ReMINDer in your email for the topic.

**Indy Fringe Festival Event: Grad School Sucks!**

**8/15, 7:45pm ET**

235 North Delaware Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204

(See info on page 10)

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

**8/16, 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**

**8/17, 2:00pm ET**

***Sleeping Beauties*** – Andreas Wagner

**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

**8/17, 6pm ET**

**Fire by the Monon**, 6523 Ferguson St, Indianapolis, IN 46220

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

## August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
3 *Sunday Social*	4	5	6 *Lunch Bunch*
10 *Sunday Social*	11	12	13 Chowhounds
17 Book Group; Dining Out	18	19 * ExCom*	20 Lunch Bunch
24 *Sunday Social*	25	26	27 Chowhounds
31 NO Sunday Social (Labor Day Weekend)			

### \*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 Ham'n Eggs
7	8 Monthly Gathering	9
14	15 Indy Fringe Festival	16 Games and Conversation
21	22	23
28	29	30

If you lose your *MIND* (oh, my!) or want additional information, check [www.indymensa.org](http://www.indymensa.org). It's a great way to stay in the loop. Also, check the weekly CIM ReMINDER every Monday in your email.

## RC4NC (Regional Coordinator 4 North Central)

*Beth Weiss*

### **It's AG time!**

As I write this—just a couple of days behind deadline!—I'm already checked into the HELL's M's suite at the 2025 Annual Gathering (AG) in Chicago, looking forward to a fantastic event. Members have been arriving for days, and the excitement is palpable. Whether it's someone's first AG or the fortieth, there's nothing quite like the sense of connection and celebration when Mensans gather in one place.



### **Shining Bright at Pride**

This year's AG had an extra special prequel. Chicago Area Mensa's Rainbow SIG organized a float and a contingent of 100 Mensans to march in the Chicago Pride Parade, just days before the AG officially began. Many members arrived early to be part of this meaningful event—and they were rewarded with fantastic weather, a cheering crowd, and significant media attention. The coverage was phenomenal. If you haven't seen it yet, check out [Critical Mention](#) to see how Mensa was spotlighted. It was a proud moment for us as an organization that values diversity and inclusion.

### **Spotlight on Gifted Youth**

One of the ongoing challenges I hear from Local Group officers is the difficulty of maintaining robust programs for gifted youth. Many parents enroll their children in Mensa hoping to find community and enrichment opportunities. But often, they discover their Local Group doesn't have the resources, planning, or volunteers in place to support these youngest members.

And yet, these kids *are* part of our community—just as much as the adults. In fact, when you add together the number of youth members and the children of adult Mensans, the number of kids we touch is significant.

Speaking from experience: my own children grew up in Mensa. The friendships they made were deep, lasting, and intellectually nourishing. From early childhood into adulthood, they always had someone who understood them—someone like them. That kind of peer connection is invaluable. For gifted youth, being “normal” among fellow outliers is affirming. For parents, it's a relief to have a space to talk about the joys and challenges of raising a gifted child.

So here's what's next: During this AG, I'll be having informal conversations with parents who brought their children along. I want to know what worked, what didn't, and what ideas might transfer well to other Local Groups. After the AG, I'll be setting up a regional discussion with LocSecs and Gifted Youth Coordinators to share those insights and explore ways to boost youth and family engagement across Region 4.

### **Stay Connected**

As always, I want to hear from you—whether it's feedback, an idea, or a challenge your group is facing. You can reach me directly at [rc4@us.mensa.org](mailto:rc4@us.mensa.org) or via phone/text at +1 937-902-5161.

Let's keep the conversations going—on **Mensa Connect** (search for Region 4's community on [us.mensa.org](https://us.mensa.org)) and in our Region 4 Facebook group: [facebook.com/groups/americanmensaregion4](https://facebook.com/groups/americanmensaregion4).

## Theodore Talk

*Brad Lucht*

The title of the August Theodore Talk is, "Spotting the Signs & Preventing Child Sex Trafficking". This virtual event will take place on Zoom August 24 at 2:30 p.m. Central Time (3:30 Eastern, 12:30 p.m. Pacific).



### ABSTRACT

Child sex trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a minor for the purpose of a commercial sex act. Traffickers target vulnerable children and gain control over them using a variety of manipulative methods. Victims frequently fall prey to traffickers who lure them in with an offer of food, clothes, attention, friendship, love, and a seemingly safe place to sleep. No child is immune to becoming a victim of child sex trafficking, regardless of the child's race, age, socioeconomic status, or location, and every child involved in this form of commercial sexual exploitation is a victim.

This Theodore Talk will focus on how children are lured into the dark world of sex trafficking and exploitation. Attendees will identify the dangers of technology, including strategies used by child predators, discover how to identify a child in trouble and learn some best practices on how to be a child's trusted adult or a trusted child advocate.

Susan Burkholder is the Lead Prevention Education Trainer at [Ransomed Life](https://ransomedlife.org), a non-profit fighting Child Sex Trafficking and Exploitation in San Antonio, Texas and surrounding areas. Since 2015, Ransomed Life has trained and brought awareness to more than 90,000 community members, school staff, counselors, medical professionals, parents, and youth. Their goal is to see communities FREE from child exploitation through Prevention Education and providing Client Services for survivors, at-risk youth and their families.

Ransomed Life offers hope to survivors and their families. You will find out how to do the same.

Register for this presentation at <https://tinyurl.com/y5abfb9a>.

Won't be able to attend the talk? Register anyway; you'll get a link to the recording once the talk is over. All are Closed Captioning enabled. Remember, Theodore Talks are offered free to all members.

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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](mailto:MensaTheodoreTalks@gmail.com)

## **Books On The Runway**

*Margy Fletcher*

*Author:* Evan Morris

*Title:* *The Word Detective; Solving the Mysteries Behind Those Pesky Words and Phrases*

*Publisher:* Algonquin books of Chapel Hill

*Year:* 2000

*Has Been Read by:* Margy Lancet Fletcher

*Book Description:* The linguists among us are blissfully aware of the abundance of etymological literature available to discerning English language aficionados. *The Word Detective* is well worth our attention, despite the fact that - like the previously reviewed *The Life and Rhymes of Ogden Nash* - the book was published twenty-five years ago, and the author, Evan Morris, is no longer alive. Morris's modest-sized volume contains the best of his acerbically humorous newspaper and website columns featuring the "strange but true" stories of word and phrase origins.

The book's introduction vividly recounts the author's personal and professional history as it relates to the column's initial creation - by his father, William Morris, as "Words, Wit and Wisdom" - and evolution into "The Word Detective," an eventual internet phenomenon, once Evan assumed ownership. The remainder of the book presents, in alphabetical order and question-and-answer format, common words and phrases with fascinating back stories - e.g., *clean your clock*, *hamburger*, *kangaroo court*, *straw boss*, and *pig in a poke* (see excerpt below). As a bonus, the author offers additional sections devoted to the following special categories of words and phrases: euphemisms, alcohol-related terms, nautical lingo, echoic (onomatopoeic) words, food-related idioms, canine and feline figures of speech, diner slang terms, eponyms, Yiddish



sayings, and military terminology. The book ends with a bibliography and list of alternate websites, several of which may be outdated, but are valid starting points for further inquiry, and testaments to the authenticity of the information contained in the book.

*Has this book changed the way you think, your attitude toward life, or even your life itself?* I am an ardent fan of word puzzles, my hands-on favorite being Crostics or Anacrostics, each of which, when solved correctly, offers a quote from a book, plus its title and author. This is how I first became acquainted with Evan Morris and *The Word Detective* and, as all linguistic history literature is catnip to this word nerd, I immediately acquired my copy, and indulged in a heady blend of laughter and enlightenment - what I consider a potent recipe for happiness among sentient beings.

*Who should definitely read this book? Why?* I think of August as a month of transition: between summer and autumn, vacation and school, leisure and work. Whichever of these phases the reader currently occupies, *The Word Detective* is eminently suitable, as it provides an enjoyable learning experience, and its diminutive size (approximately 6 by 8 inches) allows easy storage in either a beach bag or a backpack. Although the book is out of print, copies are available via Amazon, several independent bookstores, and the Indianapolis Public Library (let your search engine be your guide).

*How long might it take to read this book?* *The Word Detective* can be perused in one sitting, with very little temporal investment (less than a day), or consumed piecemeal, one article at a time, perhaps between other activities. A first-class source of recreation is guaranteed either way.

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

## PIG IN A POKE

Q: Can you please tell me what the phrase *pig in a poke* is supposed to mean? My mother has used it my whole life, and she doesn't even know what it means. - Lisa B., via the internet

Well, your mother must have some idea what *pig in a poke* means, mustn't she? After all, she doesn't use it as an all-purpose expression of amazement ("Pig in a poke! That's a good cup of coffee!") or, conversely, as a scathing epithet ("That Muriel, she's a real little pig in a poke"). My guess is that she knows that *to buy a pig in a poke* means "to buy something without seeing it or being certain of its value." Your mother just doesn't know what a poke is or what a pig would be doing in one.

That's not surprising, given how rarely one sees a poke these days. The *poke* in *pig in a poke* is an archaic word for "bag" or "sack." When you went to market hundreds of years ago, you'd most likely come home with your purchases in such a poke - not one of those filmy and annoying things you get at supermarkets today, but a proper sack, made of burlap or canvas or the like. Since merchants at the farmers' markets of fourteenth-century Europe varied in their honesty, a smart shopper would be careful to check the poke he was handed to be sure that it really contained what he had paid for. This was especially important in the case of big-ticket purchases, such as a live suckling pig, since unscrupulous merchants were not above substituting a stray cat of the appropriate weight for the pig in the poke handed to an unwary purchaser. The phrase *don't buy a pig in a poke*, originally practical advice for fourteenth-century shoppers, eventually came to be a warning applicable to any situation in which we are asked to accept an unfamiliar object or idea on faith. By the way, can you guess what other common phrase came from the moment when the dishonest merchant's ruse was revealed and the buyer learned the true nature of his purchase? That's right - *letting the cat out of the bag*.

## A Boomer Remembers

Teresa Fisher

### Early Television

We didn't have a car until I was in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, but I don't remember a time when we didn't have a television. In the early 1950s there was very little programming for children, so adults would eagerly summon kiddies to the living room to watch a commercial for Old Gold cigarettes. It featured a giant cigarette pack with a woman's legs sticking out, dancing across the stage. That was about all we had. I do vaguely recall a cartoon called *Crusader Rabbit*, and there was an interactive cartoon called *Winky Dink and You*. One could send off for a piece of vinyl that stuck to the TV screen, and special crayons with which to draw on the vinyl, which I never had. [Editor's note: *I had one of those kits! But before it came, I did just fine with wax paper and Crayola*]

A few years ago I watched an old episode of *My Little Margie*, and was amused that they had cast a post-middle-aged actor as a young playboy. I guess production values were lax back then. Nowadays it seems odd that Stu Erwin's pre-teen TV daughter, Jackie, hung around with an adult black man. And how was it not scandalous that a red-headed white woman was married to a Cuban? (You know what show that was.) Speaking of red heads, Red Skelton would push the limits of allowable naughty jokes, only to end his show with, "And may God bless."

An early game show was *Queen for a Day*, where poor women would spill their guts about their sad lives in hopes of winning a washing machine, a bed, or perhaps a wheelchair. (This show was my introduction to the jacuzzi, an unasked-for prize often awarded to the winner, whether she needed it or not.) The audience

supposedly chose the queen by applause, and the pitiful losers were quickly whisked off stage, never to be seen again.

Liberace had an afternoon show that lasted only 15 minutes. I watched *The Garry Moore Show*, and once named a doll Durward Kirby. George Burns ended all of his shows by telling his ditsy wife Gracie to, “Say goodnight, Gracie.” And she would say, “Goodnight, Gracie.” Hilarious, huh? Humor in the 1950s wasn’t very sophisticated, and neither were we. [Editor’s note: *We lived in the DC suburbs of northern Virginia when I was a kid, and will never forget a five-minute show that came on after the local news. It was called “Sam and Friends” and was the first TV appearance of those who became world famous as the Muppets*]

## Puzzle Solutions

1. I lost you to the = Summer Wind
2. Unashamed, she sheds her clothes = The Summer Knows
3. She’s your tootsie wootsie = In the Good Old Summertime
4. A young man rode with his head held high = In the Summer of his Years
5. Strawberries, cherries, and an angel’s kiss = Summer Wine
6. But at night it’s a different world = Summer in the City
7. Tell me more, tell me more = Summer Nights
8. Blowin’ through the jasmine in my mind = Summer Breeze
9. Soda, and pretzels, and beer = Those Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer
10. You got women on your mind = In the Summertime



# Technology of Space

*Ron Baraze*

**Sunday, August 17, 2025**

**2:30 PM PACIFIC TIME**

There are numerous spacecraft and satellites orbiting the Earth, providing us with valuable data on weather patterns, climate change and communications. Lockheed Martin has developed many innovative projects for Space - most recently a Lightning Mapper which is used for the forecasting of tornadoes and warnings of lightning caused fires. He has two Guinness World records for detecting the longest lightning distance/duration. Other historic projects include Gravity Probe-B to confirm Einstein's gravitational theories, Solar observing imagers, high energy particle spectrometers, and other innovative projects in conjunction with world-wide universities.

**Ron Baraze** began working at Lockheed during his sophomore year at The Gunn School in Palo Alto, and was hired full time after completing college at UCSC. He has worked on 23 space flight projects for Lockheed Martin, partnered with higher learning institutions such as Stanford University, Oxford Physics Department, University of Huntsville and the Enrico Fermi Institute.



**This is a Zoom meeting.** Please register at

<https://livepresentation.link/AUG>

You will receive a confirmation email from Zoom that will contain the link needed to join the presentation.

## Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 6/17/25

*Ann Hake*

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, June 17, 2025.

LocSec Jan Pfeil Doyle called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m.

Members present: Ethan Blocher-Smith, Emily Boomersshine, Jan Pfeil Doyle, Ann Hake, Candis King

Members absent: Judy Weitzman, Karen Wilczewski

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

The committee reviewed the minutes of the May 2025 meeting. Candis King moved that the minutes be approved. Ethan Blocher-Smith seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The committee reviewed the Treasurer's report for May 2025. Ann Hake moved that the report be accepted. Candis King seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The May membership report was compiled by Jan based on information available as of 5/31/25 from American Mensa: total members: 395; 3 new, 1 movein, 1 rejoin, and 2 prospects. Five candidates were tested in May.

## **Old Business**

OG: Teresa reported there were delays getting the registration funds from EventBrite deposited to the CIM bank account. After much investigation, it was discovered that EventBrite had added an additional step to confirm which account funds should be transferred to. Once this additional new step was completed, the funds were transferred. It was also noted that the fees charged by EventBrite continue to creep up, but that an analysis showed that the convenience of electronic registration continues to be an advantage in accommodating a subset of individuals who otherwise would likely not attend. The final net proceeds from the OG were \$515.59, which will allow us to add \$500 to the scholarship fund.

Fundraising: Candis King reported that she and Judy are continuing to work on the following possible projects:

- CIM garage/rummage sale, to be held in September
- "Smart Recipes" – a self-published cookbook containing recipes contributed by members, published on demand

We also discussed the possibility of having a donation bucket for the scholarship fund at CIM events, or of reviving the book sale at the Monthly Gathering to benefit the Scholarship fund.

## **New Business**

Teresa raised the question of whether we should continue to meet live for our monthly gathering, vs. moving entirely to Zoom except for the holiday party. It was noted that although monthly gathering attendance remains lower compared to pre-pandemic, attendees agree that it is a worthwhile activity. Further discussion ensued regarding how we can make sure our activities are meeting the needs of our members, and how members can submit ideas or requests for new activities.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m

# **Central Indiana Mensa** **Treasurer's Report**

6/30/2025

*Emily Boomershine, Treasurer*

Select all thru current period	(Multiple Items)
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## Statement of Assets

Account	Balance
(1) PNC Checking – Regular	\$ 2,412.18
(2) PNC Checking – Scholarships	\$ 217.00
(3) PNC Checking – Events	\$ 4,402.06
(4) MG Petty Cash	\$ 25.00
(5) CD – First Internet	\$ 10,090.69
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 17,146.93</b>

## Statement of Activity

Activity	Amount
<b>Receipts</b>	
Monthly Gathering Income	\$ 35.00
National Support	\$ 387.16
Interest	\$ 563.51
Annual Outdoor Gathering	\$ 1,467.15
<b>Receipts Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,452.82</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Facility Rental (All Souls)	\$ (100.00)
MIND Printing	\$ (333.51)
Annual Outdoor Gathering Costs	\$ (1,016.56)
<b>Expenses Total</b>	<b>\$ (1,450.07)</b>
<b>Net Activity</b>	<b>\$ 1,002.75</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

