



# mind

Mensa Newsletter  
Of Central Indiana



*Mollie the Mensa Owl a bit cold and confused. Supposed to be a workshop around here somewhere!.*

## ***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 98<sup>th</sup> percentile on a standardized intelligence test. Mensa neither endorses nor opposes the opinions published in *MIND*, which are those of the individual contributors.

## ***Contribution Guidelines***

*MIND* contributions may be sent to [mind.editor@yahoo.com](mailto:mind.editor@yahoo.com), or Richard Gibson, 5726 Toad Hollow Ln, Indianapolis, IN 46220. Contributions may be edited for length or to remove offensive material and may not include personal attacks. No anonymous contributions will be published, but the Editor will withhold the author's name from the public on request. Contributions should be submitted no later than the Friday following the ExCom meeting (usually the third Friday of the month) for the following month's edition.

## ***Reprint Information***

Mensa publications may freely reprint material from *MIND*. If a piece bears an individual copyright, publishers must obtain a release from the author.

## ***Advertising***

*MIND* accepts paid advertising. Contact the Editor for current rates.

## ***MIND Staff***

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

**Publisher:** Central Indiana Mensa

*MIND* is published monthly by Central Indiana Mensa.

Subscriptions are \$12 annually for those not members of CIM.

Postmaster: address changes to *MIND*, c/o American Mensa, Ltd, 1315 Brookside Dr., Hurst, TX 76053-3952 Include membership number.



**Website: [centralindiana.us.mensa.org](http://centralindiana.us.mensa.org)  
-or- [www.indymensa.org](http://www.indymensa.org)**

Volume 61, Issue Number 12  
December 2025



# mind

## table of contents

Editor's Page	4
LocSection	5
Poem	6
CIM Scholarship Fund Rummage Sale	6
Book Group Reading List	7
Mensa Book Group Book Previews	7
RVC Thoughts	8
In Case You Missed It (ICYMI)	10
Welcome!	10
December 2025 Events	11
Calendar	12
6 <sup>th</sup> Annual Around the World ZOOM Party	14
Puzzle Column	15
Books On the Runway	15
Theodore Talks	17
A Boomer Remembers	17
Puzzle Solutions	18
Launching Excellence in Science	19
Galliform Antiperegrination Theory of Conspiracy Avoidance	20
EXCOM Minutes, 10/21/2025	21
Treasurer's Report	22
Location of CIM Monthly Meeting	23
Contact Information	24

## From the Editor's Cubicle

*Rich Gibson, Editor*



**Where's Mollie?** Standard reminder of a few things: First, Mollie (*Mensa owl-lie*) will appear on the cover of MIND each month with a person or in a place that is appropriate to that month. Second, if you show up to the Monthly Gathering and provide the right answer, you'll be entered in a drawing for a door prize. Third, these images are generated by AI; the gap between what I want and what it gives me can be huge. So, fourth, you deserve a hint: Think about December and a workshop in a very cold environment. Good luck!

Well. I'm pulling the December issue together for the second time in Punta Gorda, Florida. You may think that as I write this on November 9<sup>th</sup>, where the high today was 86, I'm about to rub it in that you just experienced a wintry mix of snow and rain...but I'm not going to do that. Wouldn't be proper. No, instead I'm just going to express my astonishment at something that's been hohum for a long time: I'm doing this from 1100 miles away, with exactly the same ease of effort and access to resources as if I were Back Home in Indiana. Man, I still remember my first PC, back in the early '90's. I went to a news website, and a color photograph appeared under a headline on the screen. Back then, that was a *really* big deal. And of course, I had a telephone modem to connect, and just watching that high-resolution picture slowly appear was like watching a beautiful flower bloom in stop action. Of course, pretty soon the long wait seemed incredibly slow and boring. Funny how the most amazing miracles cycle so quickly from slack-jawed wonder to "dammit, why's it taking so long?" That was more than 30 years ago, now. The technology has doubled itself an ungodly number of times; the wonder has long vanished, yet the boredom and impatience seem to remain. Oh, well.

The Next Big Thing, of course, is AI. How do you feel about Google, Microsoft, and probably everybody else, sucking up everything you type to feed their Large Language Models (which is currently the mind and soul of AI behavior, excuse my language)? You know, I tried beefing up my privacy on my Microsoft Office suite, and quickly learned that I thereby lost access to autosave and cloud storage of my stuff. Honked me off not a little, so I canceled my subscription. Come March 2026, I may be editing MIND on Google Docs. Google may be getting my words, but they're not charging me for the privilege...

Hey, wherever you're reading this, I hope you're warm and comfortable. The holiday season is well underway. Whether you celebrate Hannukah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, the Winter Solstice, Festivus, or whatever, please take time for all the joys of the season. Spread the cheer the very next chance you get. And then the one after that, too. And the one after that. Repeat as often as possible.

## LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

**Holiday Party** – I hope many of you will attend our annual holiday pitch-in (aka potluck) dinner and gift exchange on Friday, December 12th in Indianapolis at All Souls Church (map in the back of *MIND*). Doors open at 7 pm; we'll eat at 7:30. Meat, bread, beverages, and tableware will be provided. For the pitch in, please bring food to share. We usually get plenty of desserts, so if you're so inclined, please bring an appetizer, salad, vegetable, or fruit instead.

**Please bring the recipe for your dish so we can put it in the upcoming CIM Recipe Book.**



The gift exchange after dinner is always a hoot. We call it “**Gimmee Grabbee**” – when it's your turn, you may choose a gift that hasn't been selected yet or take one that someone else has already chosen. Presents remain wrapped until everyone has chosen. People choose based on the appearance of the package and/or what they think might be inside. Every year, there are a few imaginatively wrapped presents that are the hit of the party! Participation in the gift exchange isn't required, but you'll be missing out on some of the fun if you don't. Suggested price range for a gift is \$10-\$15.

**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.

### **ICYMI (In Case You Missed It)**

**WeeM** - Central Indiana Mensa was well represented at Chicago Mensa's Regional Gathering, called HalloweeM or WeeM for short. **Leo Doyle** and **Don Grayson** (Mindy Grayson's dad) were speakers.

**November Monthly Gathering** - We had a nice turn out in person and on Zoom for the monthly gathering. Rob Pyatt, PhD, gave a spirited talk about several weird science studies including: do you sleep better when you sleep where your cat does? how truly scientific are the Clorox toilet cleaning commercials? how well do people recognize the symbols on bidets? Rob has a podcast called “Trackside Science” that you might want to check out.

### **Coming Up** (details in the calendar)

- Larry's Late Lunch on New Years Day at Shapiros
- January Meeting Program: Games and Conversation Night

**I wish you and yours a happy and meaningful holiday season!**

# Poem

Judy Unger

## Peace

I left the silent land-locked grave  
to go where my own soul lies  
Filling my lungs with salted air  
I know the peace I always find  
Here, where the roar and slap of crashing waves  
precedes the suck of their return  
Here my soul will always be

Walking over weathered planks  
to watch the waters swirl beneath  
I know the peace--I always will  
Where my soul will always lie

## CIM Scholarship Fund Rummage Sale

Candis King

The date for the **CIM Rummage Sale** has been set! It will be held on April 25, 2026, at All Souls Church (the usual location for the Mensa Monthly Meeting). We have access to the hall on Friday, subject to a daycare in the church not needing it. Our access may be after 5PM.

Please consider advertising. We will need to spread the info about the Rummage Sale hard and heavy. If anyone is adept at advertising, please step forward and volunteer now.

You can start donating items for the Rummage Sale by dropping them off with Judy Weitzman or Candis King at any of our meetings. (Chowhounds, the monthly meeting, Lunch Bunch whenever and wherever we meet).

Looking ahead, we will need volunteers to transport the items from Judy's garage to the church. You could go to Judy's home and pick up some items and hold them in your vehicle until Friday morning or you could pick items up from Judy's home on Friday and take them directly to the church. Call Judy for times for pickup please. We will remind you as we get closer to the date.

We will also need volunteers to work at the Rummage Sale. What a great way to meet new people! All proceeds will go to our Scholarship Fund.

## 2025-26 Book Group Reading List

Rich Gibson

Title	Author(s)	Date
The Anxious Generation	Jonathan Haidt	12/21/2025

Of 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: *The Anxious Generation*, by Jonathan Haidt**

*The Anxious Generation*, by Jonathan Haidt, 295 pp (text), published in 2024, will be discussed at the Mensa Book Group meeting on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, at 2:00 PM. See the Calendar or Events for more information.

Jonathan Haidt is a creative and prolific psychologist whose previous books, including *The Righteous Mind* and the *Happiness Hypothesis*, were groundbreaking in their psychological analysis of balancing pleasure and meaning (*Happiness*) and how different pillars of moral belief tends to sort people across the political spectrum (*Righteous*). Lately, he's been concerned about the parlous state of young people's mental health.

Haidt begins with a litany of statistics on the mental health of children and teens under 18. It's discouraging. Whatever and whenever the classification, mental health began to decline around 2010, about the time that smartphones began their penetration and domination of society. People, especially children and their developing brains, began to filter reality through the screen in their hands. In contrast, before then childhood was marked by playing outdoors. As noted in Nassim Nicholas Taleb's book *Antifragile*, antifragility is a condition beyond resiliency or grit; it's a necessary but overlooked and underdeveloped human ability to get through adversity and hard times. Children's play, involving risk-taking, challenges, and learning from mistakes, is a master class in antifragility; it also has been massively neglected by a parental tendency to "safetyism" and by the time-dominating practice of staring at a screen.

Haidt classifies the damage screentime does to children in several categories: social and sleep deprivation, attention fragmentation, and addiction. He links these to the 2021 Facebook leak, which showed that Meta (Facebook corporation) was aware of these problems, yet still sought to increase viewership among young folks. [One of many reasons I canceled my Facebook account a few years ago.]

Finally, Haidt calls for collective action to reduce the harm to children. They include parental control of children's access to smartphones and apps; schools banning smartphones; and legislation. We'll see.

This is an important book for parents and grandparents. We could have a very rewarding discussion about it. Why don't you read it, think about it, and come to the Book Group meeting on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, at 2:00 PM? We'd love to see you!

### **NEXT MONTH: *Of Boys and Men*, by Richard Reeves**

*Of Boys and Men: Why the Modern Male is Suffering, Why It Matters, and What to Do About It*, by Richard V. Reeves, 264 pp, published in 2022. The CIM Book Group will discuss it on Sunday, January 18th, at 2:00 PM. See the Calendar or Events for more information.

Richard Reeves is a British-American writer and a Senior Fellow with the Brookings Institution. His book addresses the perceptions and realities of changes in men's status and prospects today. First, the increased attention on women's rights has diminished the standing of men (even if it's an overall positive thing). Second, the job market of the 21<sup>st</sup> C has prized cognitive abilities over physical strength. Third, females appear to outperform males in many academic and professional areas. Fourth, men are experiencing increased difficulty in performing their traditional roles of providers and fathers. All these forces are hitting Black men and men without college degrees especially hard. Reeves observes that modern images of hypermasculinity tends to put off most modern men and suggests that efforts to promote gender equality should include boys as well as girls and women.

I would bet significant funds that you have an opinion on this matter. I bet you'd enjoy reading this book from your local library, and coming to our meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss it. Why not give it a try? Love to see you!

## **Regional Vice Chair Thoughts**

*Beth Weiss*

Greetings from WeeM! As I write this WeeM is still on-going. Tonight is Pretentious Drinking and I'm looking forward to trying a few new liqueurs, pinkies out!

Hospitality is full of the buzz of a successful event.

Once again, WeeM is a fantastic weekend—well organized, full of old and new friends, and full of that special blend of intellectual curiosity and quirky humor that makes Mensa gatherings so much fun. There were dozens of thought-provoking programs, including one that explored the difference between an elevator speech and a cocktail conversation starter—a surprisingly useful distinction when you're trying to connect meaningfully rather than just talk about the weather.





We also had a lively *Meet the AMC* session, and I want to thank everyone who joined the conversation. The audience participation was outstanding. We discussed what new members need in their first few months, how we can make the onboarding experience more consistent across all Local Groups, and the best ways to communicate with our diverse membership. Ideas ranged from better welcome materials and mentoring programs to experimenting with new communication platforms and more personal outreach. It was a reminder that while each group has its own personality, we share a commitment to making Mensa a welcoming, engaging community.

Meanwhile, Local Groups throughout the region have been hosting an impressive variety of events—everything from game nights and lectures to outdoor adventures and casual dinners. If you haven't looked at your Local Group's calendar lately, take a peek! There's likely something nearby that fits your interests, or maybe an opportunity to start something new. These local connections are what keep Mensa vibrant between the big regional gatherings. Looking ahead, the AMC will meet December 7–8 in Hurst, Texas. This will be primarily a planning meeting, where we'll review the current Strategic Plan and identify priorities and action steps for the coming year. If there's an issue or initiative you'd like to see addressed, now is a great time to share your thoughts so I can bring them to the table.

As always, I'm grateful for your engagement and ideas. Whether I see you at a Local Group event, an RG, or in my inbox, thank you for helping make our Mensa community stronger and more connected.

If you have input on any of these topics—or something else you think the AMC should be considering—please reach out to me. I always appreciate hearing directly from members, and your ideas often help shape the discussions we have at the national level. You can also share your thoughts on Mensa Connect or Facebook. You can reach me directly at [rvc4@us.mensa.org](mailto:rvc4@us.mensa.org) or via phone/text at +1 937-902-5161.

And let's keep the conversation going online:

- **Mensa Connect:** Search for Region 4's community on [us.mensa.org](https://us.mensa.org).
- **Facebook:** [facebook.com/groups/americanmensaregion4](https://facebook.com/groups/americanmensaregion4).

**In Case You Missed It (ICYMI)**



*Chowhounds, Grindstone on the Monon, Westfield Nov 12th*



Clarence Brooks	Dayton	OH	MoveIn
J Cottengim	Greenwood	IN	Rejoin
Eyda Hizer	Lebanon	IN	Rejoin
Robert Massey	Evansville	IN	Rejoin

## December 2025 Events

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

**12/3, 12:00 noon ET - Virtual \*Online\***

**12/17, 12:00 noon ET - MCL Restaurant and Bakery**, 2370 W. 86th St, Indianapolis

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

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

**12/6 10:00am - 12 noon ET - Atrio**, 11700 Illinois St, Carmel, IN, (located at IU Health North) **RSVP:** June 7, 2025 Jen Clark [<ajclark7251@gmail.com>](mailto:ajclark7251@gmail.com)

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

**12/10, 2:00pm ET - Barry’s African Restaurant**, 4253 Lafayette Rd, Indianapolis

**12/24 – NO CHOWHOUNDS**

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

**VIRTUAL Sunday Social** – Some Sundays (check the calendar) from **7:00pm –8:30pm ET** Drop in any time for casual chat. Contact: Teresa,

[ag18tg@yahoo.com](mailto:ag18tg@yahoo.com).

**LIVE Monthly Gathering** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday, (**NO VIRTUAL THIS MONTH**)

**12/12, 7:00pm – 11:00pm ET**

**All Souls Unitarian Church**, 5805 E. 56th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46226. See last page of MIND for map and directions. Members: \$7.00, Non-Members: \$10.00; Children 6- 18: \$5.00, under 6: free. Proof of vaccination or recent test required.

**Annual Holiday Party and Gimmee Grabbee Gift Exchange!**

(See details on Page 5 in the LocSec column.)

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

**12/20, 7:00pm – 11:00pm ET**

Join us for an evening of Games & Conversation. Bring a game you enjoy or use one of ours. We'll provide tables, you provide the conversation. **Please call 630-642-9063 or 630-253-1350** to indicate you will be there and to get the address.

**VIRTUAL and LIVE Book Group**

**12/21, 2:00pm ET**

***The Anxious Generation*** – Jonathan Haidt

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

**12/21, 6pm ET**

**Blind Owl Brewery**, 5014 E 62nd, Indianapolis

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

**LIVE Larry’s Late Lunch – A New Year’s Tradition**

**1/1, 3pm ET - Shapiro’s Delicatessen**, 808 S Meridian St, Indianapolis

We did this last year and we’re doing it again! See January MIND.

## December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	1	2	3 *Indy Lunch Bunch *
7 *Sunday Social*	8	9	10 Chowhounds
14 *Sunday Social*	15	16 * ExCom*	17 Indy Lunch Bunch
21 Book Group; Dining Out	22	23	24
28 *Sunday Social*	29	30	31

### \*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
4	5	6 Ham'n Eggs
11	12 Monthly Gathering	13
18	19	20 Games Night
25	26	27
January 1 Larry's Late Lunch		

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



6th Annual Mensa  
Around the World Zoom Party  
for 24 hours from 11:00 AM GMT 31 Dec 2025

Join Zoom Meeting:  
Meeting ID: 893 5017 6639  
Passcode: 877170

You are invited to bring a video clip to show

## Puzzle Column

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

### XMAS AND SHORTENED HOLIDAY NAMES

Find other one-word holiday names that could have been shortened to X followed by the last 3 letters. Consider various types of holidays.

Example: XEEN can be Halloween.

1. XING
2. XNTH
3. XVER
4. XDAN
5. XZAC
6. XOST
7. XZAA
8. XLIA
9. XALI
10. XAIN

Solutions on page 18

## Books On the Runway

Alison Brown

<i>Author:</i>	Lucy Cooke
<i>Title:</i>	Bitch
<i>Subtitle:</i>	On the Female of the Species
<i>Publisher:</i>	Basic Books
<i>Year:</i>	2022
<i>Pages:</i>	369 with acknowledgment, notes, bibliography and index
<i>Price:</i>	\$30.00
<i>ISBN-:</i>	9781541674899
<i>Has been read by:</i>	Alison Brown

*Book description:* This book was originally subtitled *A revolutionary guide to sex, evolution & the female animal*, but evidently that would not fly on this side of the Atlantic, so it was shortened. It describes the origins of seeing all species, from insects to primates, through the lens of Victorian England and points out all the many ways this is simply wrong. In species after species, the male is not always dominant, the female is not always submissive and male/female pair bonds are not nature's law. Nature is considerably more fluid than all that. "Female animals are just as promiscuous, competitive, aggressive, dominant and

dynamic as males.” (p. xiii) Chapter headings like “Fifty Ways to Eat Your Lover”, “Bitch Eat Bitch” and “Sisters are Doing it for Themselves” will draw you into the delightful, and occasionally horrifying, variety of life on Earth. The author, who got her Masters in Zoology at Oxford before going on to write several books and produce nature specials for the BBC among others, finishes with a plea for studying the “Natural World Without Prejudice”.

*Has this book changed the way you think? your attitude towards life? even your life itself? If so, how?* I have fantasized that a matriarchal society would be more caring and peaceful than patriarchal, but this book disabused me of that notion with the tale of the murderous meerkat matriarchs and snarling spotted hyenas. On the other hand, I took comfort in the discussion of the whiptail lizards, who speciated into heterosexual and homosexual groups (the latter being females who propagate without male involvement) and, there, research showed there was four times as much aggression in units with males present.

*Who should definitely read this book? Why?* Anyone who thinks there is “nature’s way” and human beings have found it. Anyone who needs to argue with proponents of one way to be male or female or that there is no shifting of the boundaries in the natural course of things. People who think they know God’s Plan, to discover that God has many plans and they all work.

*How long might it take to read the book?* It is full of fascinating facts, revealed by a series of high caliber researchers (mostly women) and served up with a giant dollop of humor, so most Mensans will be able to dash through it in a week. Some may then wish to go back and reread sections for amusement and amazement.

*Provide a short characteristic section, an awesome sentence, or an inspiring quote:* “...the anemonefish have such a familiar face. These tiny two-toned fish became internationally famous as the stars of *Finding Nemo*.... Needless to say the movie takes more than a pinch of artistic license with the real lives of anemonefish. These monogamous reef dwellers set up home together in an anemone, whose stinging tentacles offer the couple, and their eggs, protection. The belligerent female is the boss in the relationship – it’s her job to defend the territory while the male cares for the eggs. The fish live surprisingly long lives – up to 30 years – in the same anemone often with a bunch of juvenile males in attendance. If the female is removed, say, nabbed by a barracuda, it will trigger Mr. Anemonefish to transform into a new dominant female, and one of the juvenile males to mature into her mate.

A biologically accurate version of this hit movie would therefore have seen Nemo’s father, Marlin, transition into a female, and then start having sex with her son, which might have made for a less popular family film amongst Disney’s die-hard conservative audiences.” p. 172-73





## **November/December Theodore Talk**

This is a reminder that there are no Theodore Talks in November or December, as the fourth Sunday of the month often conflicts with holidays.

We *have* finalized our list of talks for 2026.

You will hear from us again towards the end of November with information about the January talk. The full list of talks will be published in the January issue of the *Mensa Bulletin* and will be posted on the American Mensa National Events Calendar website as well.

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

-----  
Theodore Talks take place on Zoom the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m. Central Time (3:30 Eastern, 12:30 Pacific, 7:30 GMT). Questions? Contact Brad Lucht at [MensaTheodoreTalks@gmail.com](mailto:MensaTheodoreTalks@gmail.com).

## **A Boomer Remembers**

*Teresa Fisher*

### **Firsts**

Having been born in 1949, I am an early Boomer. That means I'm at the age where I think my reminiscences are of interest to others. So here goes.

We were a generation of firsts. After being shut out of the good jobs, women and minorities were finally able to get some of the jobs that had gone only to white men. The first female... the first black... The first disabled...

Forty-nine years ago in January, after several years of sitting on soul-killing assembly lines, I applied for and was “given” a job due to DEI (not by that name, of course). General Motors had always granted skilled trades apprenticeships to white males, and it had become an issue for GM’s ability to get government contracts. I became a toolmaking apprentice in the prestigious Model Shop, making items dreamed up by the engineers. Sequestered behind a chain link fence to protect expensive tools from theft, the men in the Model Shop played grab-ass and behaved so badly among themselves that the women who worked in production, when visiting a nearby restroom, refused to look in their direction. That’s where I began my apprenticeship.

There were already a couple of women apprentices in other toolrooms, but not in the Model Shop. The men were outraged. I was not only a woman, but I was also pregnant. (I may have been the first pregnant apprentice at GM, but I doubt such records were kept.) My fellow apprentice was a black woman. The men in the Model Shop, who had been randomly assigned there just as I had, considered themselves to be a cut above the other toolmakers and machinists, and now they were expected to work with women. How insulting. Some refused, and were allowed to do so. Bless the hearts of the men who were willing to teach us to run lathes, milling machines, grinders, and other dangerous machinery. Overall, they treated us well. Overall.

It didn’t take long to figure out that most of the men we worked with had been no more qualified than any random person off the street. It’s remarkably easy for humans to persuade themselves that they’re better than others.

After eight years or so I completed my apprenticeship with all ten fingers intact, and was shortly thereafter promoted to Tool Design. I haven’t done any machining in forty years, but I did join a Facebook page for machinists, and I’ve been having flashbacks. As I’ve heard people say about military service, I wouldn’t take a million dollars for the experience, but I wouldn’t give a nickel to do it again. (But I *would* take the million dollars.)

## **Puzzle Solutions**

1. XING = Thanksgiving
2. XNTH = Juneteenth
3. XVER = Passover
4. XDAN = Ramadan
5. XZAC = Anzac
6. XOST = Pentecost
7. XZAA = Kwanzaa
8. XLIA = Saturnalia
9. XALI = Diwali
10. XAIN = Samhain

## **Launching Excellence in Science**

*Molly Bundschuh*

Join us in celebrating the launch of [Excellence in Science](#), a new Mensa Foundation program that turns curiosity into hands-on discovery through a series of activities and projects!

If you've ever watched a child take apart a toy to see how it works or stop mid-walk to inspect a particularly interesting rock, you've seen the first sparks of scientific inquiry. That spark is precious, and we know from research that children benefit enormously when science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) concepts show up early and often in their lives. Kids are natural scientists; they make observations, perform investigations, recognize patterns, and, as anyone who has spent enough time around kids will know, they ask *a lot* of questions. When we encourage these behaviors, kids develop stronger problem-solving, logic, and reasoning skills, confidence in their ability to learn, and resilience when learning isn't so easy. In short, kids who get to play, wonder, and experiment with STEM concepts are better prepared for a lifetime of learning.

Excellence in Science is designed to help children (along with their families and teachers) create dozens of those sparks to fuel a passion for science.

Building on the success of our Excellence in Reading program, Excellence in Science invites learners of all ages to explore the physical world through simple, research-based activities that promote curiosity and self-directed learning. Each activity guides participants to plan, observe, test, and reflect, so they can see how the world works and practice real problem-solving. They'll explore hands-on experiments, research-based investigations, creative projects, and reflection prompts designed to help them see themselves as scientific thinkers.

**Who it's for:** Everyone. Excellence in Science is free and open to all, no Mensa membership required. Parents can use it for after-school, weekend, and summer break adventures. Teachers can plug activities into lessons or clubs. Homeschool groups, libraries, and community programs can add it to their offerings. Adults who love learning are welcome, too. We've designed the activities to use everyday materials, adaptable to different ages, interests, and ability levels. If you can ask "How does that work?" and "What can I try?" Excellence in Science is for you.

**Why it matters:** Excellence in Science advances the Mensa Foundation's mission to **unleash intelligence** with free, high-quality resources. Intelligence isn't just something you measure — it's something you use to better yourself and the world. By connecting research-based activities to everyday settings, we help learners turn ideas into action.

### **1. How to participate**

2. Visit the Excellence in Science page.
3. Download the right workbook for your scientist. We offer workbooks in four grade-level bands (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12).
4. Complete the required activities for each badge.
5. Submit your completed badge sheet and order form to receive your certificate and T-shirt.

## The Galliform Antiperegrination Theory of Conspiracy Avoidance

Julie A. Yates Harkey © June 10, 1998

*[Editor's note: Thanks to Alison Brown, who brought this to my attention. Julie Yates Harkey was a Mensan, and contributed this piece long, long ago. As Alison notes, it may amuse new Mensans and fond memories for the older ones.]*

Conspiracy is not, I suspect, nearly as prevalent as some people suppose. By definition, conspiracy is a joining together to perform some illegal act. Suspecting conspiracy, however, requires only the labyrinthine meanderings of the mind. To conspire requires considerable effort, planning, contact and coordination with other people, and often considerable monetary resources. In other words, conspiracy is hard work, and it requires cooperation among people. Let me draw a parallel that may clarify my theory. On my daily commute, I pass two separate locations where chickens roam freely, unfenced. The first is on a quiet country road, beside an s-curve that I call "Chicken Corner." The second is on Route 40. On only one occasion have I seen a chicken cross the road. This adventurous bird crossed at Chicken Corner (Perhaps this chicken had reason to cross the road. I found out after writing this that the destiny of the Chicken Corner fowl was the cockfight arena. Spoiled my fun in watching the chickens). Nor have I seen any chicken road kill. Why don't the chickens wander off, cross the road or get eaten by foxes? The answer lies in the safety, food supply and comfortable familiarity of their home territory. Chickens have no pressing need to cross the road, thus rarely put forth the effort to do so. Like chickens, people are comfortable with their daily routines, the familiar landscapes of their lives. Note that I did not say happy—there is comfort in familiarity, even if those familiar aspects of life are unpleasant or even dreadful. People are loath to depart from what they know. Conspiracy simply requires too much work, too much effort to overcome the inertia of daily existence. Conspiracy is dangerous and difficult. Conspiracy is likely far more often perceived than real.



# **Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 10/21/25**

*Karen Wilczewski*

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, October 21, 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, and Karen Wilczewski

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

Not in Attendance: Judy Weitzman

The September meeting minutes were approved as amended. Ethan moved, Ann seconded. The motion passed.

Ann moved to accept the September Treasurer's Report, Candis seconded. The motion passed.

The September membership report was compiled by Jan based on information available as of 9/30/25 from American Mensa: total members: 409; 1 new, 0 move-in, 2 rejoin, and 1 prospect.

## **Old Business**

Jennifer Clark did receive final approval from the National psychologist to be a proctor.

Jan and Alison will draft a letter of appreciation to Old National Bank's Carmel and Greenwood branches to express their appreciation for allowing Mensa to use their site for testing.

The PNC situation has been resolved, resulting in PNC allowing us to keep doing business with them.

## **New Business**

Jan shared an email report from Judy Weitzman regarding the rummage sale. According to Judy, the event is on schedule and Candis has publicity ready for publication in *MIND*.

Judy is also investigating the possibility of scheduling a share-the -profit event/day at Arni's, where a percentage of money spent by diners who identify as Mensans will be returned to Mensa and will specifically benefit the scholarship fund.

Holiday Party: Teresa is looking for help with this year's Holiday Party at All Souls on December 12. Help includes setting up tables, chairs, and decorating. Teresa and a group of volunteers are looking to meet around 1 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.



# Central Indiana Mensa

10/31/2025

## Treasurer's Report

*Emily Boomershine, Treasurer*

### Statement of Assets

Account	Balance
(1) PNC Checking – Regular	\$ 2,692.25
(2) PNC Checking – Scholarships	\$ 237.00
(3) PNC Checking – Events	\$ 3,902.06
(4) MG Petty Cash	\$ 25.00
(5) CD – First Internet	\$ 10,231.52
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 17,087.83</b>

### Statement of Activity

Activity	Amount
<b>Receipts</b>	
Monthly Gathering Income	\$ 73.00
National Support	\$ 396.64
Interest	\$ 35.68
<b>Receipts Total</b>	<b>\$ 505.32</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Facility Rental (All Souls)	\$ (100.00)
MIND Printing	\$ (339.02)
<b>Expenses Total</b>	<b>\$ (439.02)</b>
<b>Net Activity</b>	<b>\$ 66.30</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

