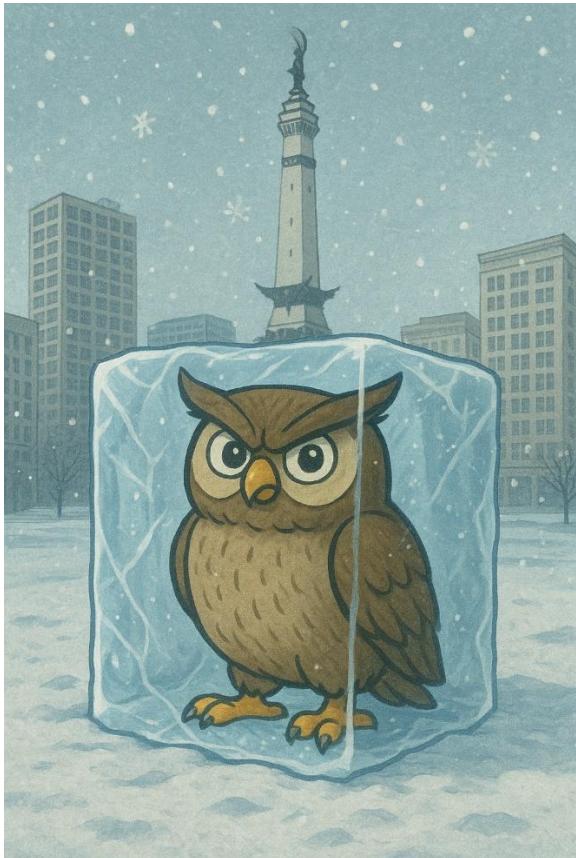


January 2026  
Volume 62, Number 1



# mind

Mensa Newsletter  
Of Central Indiana



*Mollie the Mensa Owl trying to enjoy New Year's Eve.  
Does it **have** to be **this** cold?*

## ***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, 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***

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## ***MIND Staff***

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-or- [www.indymensa.org](http://www.indymensa.org)

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## 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 recent temperatures and landmarks. Good luck!



Well! I write this the week before Christmas, from Florida. It's 58 degrees warmer here than it is in Indianapolis. You're reading this pretty close to the New Year, but you probably remember digging yourself out of 4-6 inches of snow a few weeks ago. Winter has begun, and it's a looong way to spring. Our rule of thumb for Hoosier winters is: if it's a gray day, it's probably not all that cold; if it's a bright, sunny day, it's probably deadly cold. Not much of a choice, is it? Just as well we don't get to choose; then we'd have to take responsibility for it, right?

Hoosier weather is much on our minds, as we're flying back for Christmas celebrations with family and friends. We'll be in Winterland just for the week, before we flee back to warmer climes. As gardening is a passion, we'll be back home again in Indiana by mid-February in hopes of mild enough weather to get an early start on preparations. I have to tell you: I love nature; something spiritual steals into my soul when studying the beauty outside my window. I've developed a discipline in winter-time of beholding the beauty of a bare tree, its trunk, branches and twigs demonstrating the complexity of following a few simple rules, like reach for the sun and go farther away from the trunk before going up if another branch is in your way. It's a collective yearning for the sun and the sky that can be profound or sublime. All the same, it's a lot easier to comprehend beauty when you're contemplating a palm tree against blue sky. Is all I'm saying, amiright?

If the winter blues are settling in for a good long stay, I hope you can find some diversion in this month's issue of poetry, puzzles, and activities, many of them Zoom-accessible so you don't have to stick your nose out into the cold. Stay warm, and stay cheerful. Do your best to get 2026 off to a fantastic beginning!

***Happy New Year!***

# LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

## Happy New Year!

I hope you all had heart-warming holiday celebrations.



## Coming Up (details in the calendar) –

- Larry's Late Lunch on New Years Day at Shapiros, 3pm
- Jan. Monthly Gathering: Games and Conversation Night
- Feb. Monthly Gathering: Learn to do origami

**Don't Forget –** to save your no-longer-needed books, small appliances, tchotchkies, etc, etc, for the CIM rummage sale in April 2026. Proceeds will go to the CIM scholarship fund. Contact **Judy** at [Bridgejudy@aol.com](mailto:Bridgejudy@aol.com) to donate your items.

**Do You Like to Stitch/Knit/Crochet? –** See Emily's announcement (p 14).



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

The Holiday Party in December drew a nice crowd of 25 members and guests. Dinner was delicious; thanks especially to **Judy** and **Alison** who cooked and brought whole turkeys, **Teresa** and **Ethan** who brought meatballs, and to everyone else who contributed to the pitch in. As usual, there were several gifts in the Gimme Grabee gift exchange that were enthusiastically “fought over” because of their creative wrappings. One had an origami Christmas tree on it; another was one of those BIG black and yellow storage totes. The Abraham Lincoln package re-

appeared (after spending five years in **Catherine's** bedroom!) and was finally opened. Rumor has it that Lincoln will appear again next year. Many thanks, too, to our Special Elf **Alan**, who once again emceed the Gimme Grabee Gift Exchange.

## **Poem**

*Judy Unger*

### **Time**

Time, I have time!  
I think I'll just go play today  
Time, I have time  
I have so much time  
This will keep for another time  
Time there is time  
Tomorrow is fine  
I don't need to do it today  
Time, time!  
What happened to time?  
This must get done  
and there's not enough time  
Time, time  
Where did it go  
There is no more time  
It will never be done

## **Reduce your clutter and help MENSA fund our scholarship fund!**

*Judy Weitzman*

We're having a Rummage Sale on Saturday, March 25, at All Souls Unitarian Church. (Yes, that's where we have our monthly meetings). All those tchotchkies\* that are not so attractive to you any more, could soon become someone else's treasure. That handheld appliance that's stuffed in your kitchen drawer could be put to use somewhere else. Clothes that still are nice, but not your style. Furniture. Tools. Yes, this list could go on and on.

If you have items you'd like to donate, or have questions, please contact Judy Weitzman at [bridgejudy@aol.com](mailto:bridgejudy@aol.com) .

\*small objects that are decorative rather than strictly functional

## **2025-26 Book Group Reading List**

*Rich Gibson*

**Title**

Of Boys and Men

**Author(s)**

Richard Reeves

**Date**

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: *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!

### **NEXT MONTH: *Blind Spots: When Medicine Gets It Wrong, and What it Means to Our Health*, by Marty Makary, MD**

*Blind Spots: When Medicine Gets It Wrong, and What it Means to Our Health*, by Marty Makary, 288 pages, published in 2024. The CIM Book Group will discuss it on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 PM. See the Calendar or Events for more information.

If you've heard of the acronym MAHA, meaning Make America Healthy Again, it's likely you have a strong opinion about this book before you read it.

President Trump appointed Marty Makary to be head of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), although this book was published before the 2024 election. If you search for this book on the web, you'll find a positive blurb by Dr. Casey Means, Trump's nominee to be the next Surgeon General. Yet if you dismiss this book out of hand, you're demonstrating exactly the don't-try-to-change-my-opinion-with-facts mindset that this book addresses. This book brings out sharply the distinction between the cultures of science and medicine, or possibly how hard it is both to treat maladies and to keep up with the latest science on them. It addresses the latest research on longevity, microbiomes, nutrition, addiction, childbirth, and more, and it contrasts this with the current medical consensus on how to address them. The contrasts are stark.

As a matter of fact, Substack, YouTube, and other places on the web can give you ready access to the latest medical research. It can be quite easy to know more about whatever you're suffering from than your doctor. All you have to do is make the effort.

If you can separate the politics from this topic, I think you'll find this book an excellent entry point to the idea of taking responsibility for your own health. As has been said, If you have your health, you have everything. You owe it to yourself to read this book. If you then want to discuss it with folks having a range of reactions to it, you might join us on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM. We'd love to hear your thoughts!

## **Regional Vice Chair Thoughts**

*Beth Weiss*

I'm writing this on December 1<sup>st</sup> (last-minute, but on-time) and am looking forward to this coming weekend's AMC meeting. By the time you read this, the meeting will be over, but the video recording will be available to the membership for a period of up to 90 days after the posting. That's our standard retention policy; the approved minutes will be the official record of the meeting.

You can access the December 5 meeting recording on [us.mensa.org](http://us.mensa.org); after logging in, select **Lead -> Board of Directors (AMC) -> Meeting reports**. Select the

December meeting and scroll down to the recording link. You'll also find all officer and committee reports posted there.

The AMC will spend the day before the formal meeting reviewing the strategic plan and the direction of American Mensa. Jon Gruebele, Chair of American Mensa, wrote in his report that "we need to concentrate on our strategic imperatives: increasing membership, keeping existing members happy, and finding money somewhere besides dues." That's succinct and clear—and as RVC 4, I want to focus on exactly that.



A major part of “keeping existing members happy” is supporting the volunteers who keep our Local Groups running. I have proposed forming a **Local Group Toolkit Task Force** to collect, create, curate, and share tools, templates, files, and processes to help Local Group leadership serve their members. Every Local Group is different, of course, but it is always easier to adapt something existing than to create it from scratch. I hope a robust toolkit will help our volunteers focus their time and energy where it matters most—on communicating with and supporting their local group members.

Our strategic imperatives won’t happen by magic; we can’t just say “increase membership”—we need to develop concrete plans and projects that will lead to increased membership. The same is true of providing value to existing members and of developing non-dues revenue. If you have suggestions for activities, projects, or efforts that could move Mensa towards those goals, I’d love to hear from you.

As new initiatives are identified, we’ll be looking for volunteers with the experience and enthusiasm to help turn plans into action. Please keep an eye on the **Volunteer Marketplace (Volunteer -> Volunteer Marketplace)** for specific roles, or reach out to me directly if you’d like to talk about how you can get involved.

I am always interested in hearing from members; every action stems from an idea—and your ideas can spark conversation at the national level. You can connect with Region 4 on-line

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

You can also reach me at **rvc4@us.mensa.org** or phone/text **+1 937-902-5161**.



Barton Bridge	Indianapolis	IN	Rejoin
Kevin Nemyer	Albany	IN	Rejoin
Victor Pisarski	Westfield	IN	Joined
Kyan Wolsiefer	Fishers	IN	Joined

# January 2026 Events

## LIVE Larry's Late Lunch – The Sequel

1/1, 3:00pm – 5:00pm ET

### **Shapiro's Deli**

808 S Meridian Street, Indianapolis

Last year, New Year's Day fell on Wednesday, so Larry Marcus suggested that we have lunch at Shapiro's. It was a rousing success, and we are back for the sequel. (First time is an event, second time is a sequel, third and subsequent times create a tradition.) For anyone who partied hard the night before, it doesn't start until 3:00pm! You can do this! **RSVP** to Jan at 317-431-3500/[jan@mw.net](mailto:jan@mw.net)

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

1/3, 10:00am - 12 noon ET

**Atrio**, 11700 Illinois St. (Carmel, IN, located at IU Health. Located just off the atrium on the first floor on the left as you enter from the north entrance.

Breakfast served till 11 a.m., then lunch starts. Drop in any time for casual conversation, lively discussion, and good food and beverages. Contact: Jen Clark [jclark7251@gmail.com](mailto:jclark7251@gmail.com)

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

1/7, 12:00 noon ET - Virtual \*Online\*

1/21, 12:00 noon ET - **MCL Restaurant and Bakery**, 2370 W. 86th St, Indy  
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 Monthly Gathering - 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday, 1/9, 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.

We will be upstairs in the Beattie Room. Please do not arrive before 7:00pm.

**It's our annual Games and Conversation Night!** If you have a favorite game, bring it along or play one of ours. Come for the games, stay for the snacks!

**It's January, so if we are experiencing WINTER weather, we will always Zoom. Check your email for a ReMINDER Update or the website calendar for any changes.** ([Calendar – Central Indiana Mensa](#))

*Continued on next page*

*Continued from previous page*

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

**1/14, 2:00pm ET**

**Moon India Restaurant**

1450 W 86th St, Indianapolis

**1/28, 2:00pm ET**

**The Great Greek Mediterranean Grill**

1352 S Rangeline Rd, Carmel

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

**VIRTUAL ONLY Book Group**

**1/18, 2:00pm ET**

*Of Boys and Men* - Richard Reeves

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

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

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

**1/18, 6pm ET**

**KIZUKI Ramen & Izakaya**

2450 E 146<sup>th</sup> St, Carmel, IN 46033

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

**\*In Person\* Culture Vulture Event**

**1/19, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm ET**

**Indiana Music History Project – Broad Ripple**

1305 Broad Ripple Avenue

Indianapolis, IN 46220

**Monika Herzig In Concert: The Queens of Indianapolis Ragtime**

Dr Monika Herzig will share a lecture/recital on the Hidden Figures of Indianapolis' Ragtime - May Aufderheide and Julia Niebergall. We can also explore the Museum on the lower level of Flanner Buchanan.

[\*\*Monika Herzig In Concert: The Queens of Indianapolis Ragtime - Indiana Music History Project\*\*](#)

This event is free. RSVP: Alison Brown, [SIGHT@indymensa.org](mailto:SIGHT@indymensa.org)

# January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
4 *Sunday Social*	5	6	7 *Lunch Bunch*
11	12	13	14 Chowhounds
18 Book Group; Dining Out	19 Culture Vulture	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 Monthly Gathering	10
15	16	17
22	23	24
29	30	31

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

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

## **Calling All Fiber Artists!**

*Emily Boomershine*

Beginning in February, I will be hosting a monthly *Sit-n-Knit* for CIM members. Knitters of all skill levels are welcome, from complete beginners to seasoned experts. We'll spend the time working on projects and discussing new ones.

Participants are encouraged to bring their own supplies, but yarn and knitting needles will be available for anyone who needs them. The group is also open to other fiber arts, including crochet, cross stitch, and needlepoint.

Please email me at [emilyknits@comcast.net](mailto:emilyknits@comcast.net) to express interest. You can also suggest meeting times and locations. Come for the knitting, stay for the lively conversation!

## **Puzzle Column**

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

### **STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT**

Find words containing STAT, MEAN, MEDIAN, MODE, or PLOT, not necessarily consecutive, based on clues and letter counts. Example: trout cooking option (9 letters) = al**M**On**D**in**E**

1. Practicing beggary (9 letters)
2. Walk around aimlessly (7 letters)
3. Burn sluggishly (7 letters)
4. A ruiner of fun (10 letters)
5. Corrective action (11 letters)
6. Pause (8 letters)
7. Withdrawal (7 letters)
8. Number 42 (10 letters)
9. Stain (6 letters)
10. The change of bread and wine into body and blood (19 letters)

Solutions on page 18

## Books On the Runway

Alison Brown

<i>Author:</i>	Jody Heymann and Alison Earle
<i>Title:</i>	Raising the Global Floor
<i>Subtitle:</i>	Dismantling the Myth That We Can't Afford Good Working Conditions for Everyone
<i>Publisher:</i>	Stanford Politics And Policy
<i>Year:</i>	2009
<i>Pages:</i>	256 Pages
<i>Price:</i>	\$45.00
<i>ISBN-:</i>	9780804768900
<i>Reviewed by:</i>	Alison Brown

*Book description:* The authors have amassed piles of data to refute the myth that good working conditions for employees are a drag on the economy on both the micro and macro level. They explored the labor laws around the world, in both low and high income countries, casting a side-eye on whether the laws were actually enforced – this is a big problem. The result was that benefits like paid maternity leave, sick leave and caregiving leave neither destroy employers nor dismantle a country's prosperity. Many poorer nations see the advantage for society as a whole when such benefits are written into law. The fact that many so-called Third-World countries along with well-to-do Scandinavian countries offer such benefits and the prosperous United States does not is a disgrace.

*Has this book changed the way you think? your attitude towards life? even your life itself? If so, how?* I had been lulled into thinking that too many workers' benefits might be an extravagance, but the data, albeit from 15 years ago, show that they rather strengthen the fabric of society and should be considered necessities, even rights.

*Who should definitely read this book? Why?* Anyone who is under the impression that giving a parent paid leave to care for sick children, mothers guaranteed time to breastfeed their infants, children time to take care of sick parents is an unaffordable demand. The data show that this is not the case.

*How long might it take to read the book?* I was so delighted with this book, I could hardly put it down. Despite the heavy statistical load, the text is sprinkled with anecdotes from workers around the world. It may be read under a week.

*Provide a short characteristic section, an awesome sentence, or an inspiring quote:* “Our ability as a global community to reduce inequality, to decrease inter-generational poverty and to improve everyone's quality of life – the poor and the middle class, women and men, the young and the old – is dependent on ensuring decent work for all. We hope that this book and the evidence from our research will present new tools for solving these crucial dilemmas.”



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

*Brad Lucht/Shirley Mouer*

Last year 3,352 Mensans registered for a Theodore Talk. This included members from 121 chapters in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. We also had folks join us from 20 different countries.

---

The title of the January Theodore Talk is, "Narrative War: The Philosophy of Social Conflict". This virtual event will take place on Zoom January 25 at 3:30 Eastern time.

### **ABSTRACT**

Brian L. Steed, PhD, Associate Professor of Military History at the US Army Command and General Staff College, and author of [Narrative War: The Philosophy of Social Conflict](#), will discuss the six big ideas of narrative war and the basic strategy and critical questions necessary for understanding, conducting, and ideally winning narrative war.

*Narrative War* was born out of Steed's personal experiences dealing with 9/11, serving within and with Arab armies, and planning for the Battle of Mosul to defeat ISIS. His book has been almost twenty-five years in the making, with ten years dedicated to thinking, planning, teaching, speaking, and advocating for a new approach to war — narrative war — against groups like ISIS, al-Qaeda, and the Taliban.

The events of 2020 and 2024 in the form of elections, COVID-19, protests and marches, and violent actions against government events and

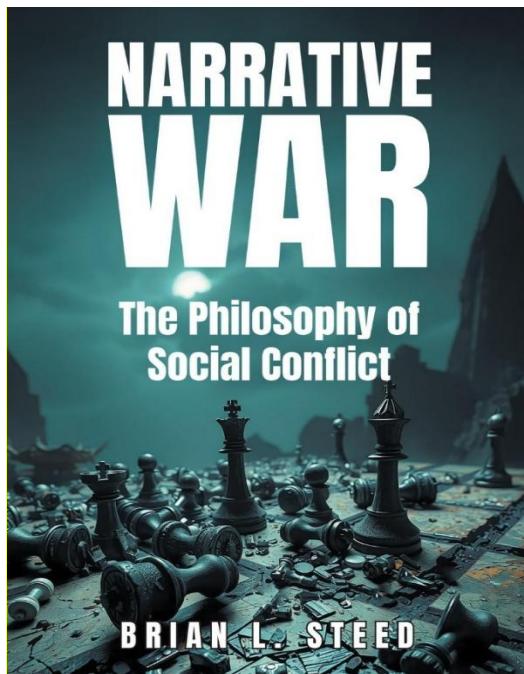
buildings, led him to understand that narrative war is more than military war; it is a philosophy that explains all forms of social conflict. The big ideas, basic strategy, and critical questions necessary for understanding, conducting, and ideally winning narrative war are part of what is inside. The book also gives a philosophical understanding of narrative war ideas/concepts using many examples of its conduct in the real world.

Register for this presentation at <https://tinyurl.com/3hbz4bj7>. Even if you can't attend the live Theodore Talk, if you register in advance you will receive a link to the Zoom recording of the event. All have Closed Captioning enabled, and this year we are offering Translated Captions as well. Questions? Contact us at [MensaTheodoreTalks@gmail.com](mailto:MensaTheodoreTalks@gmail.com)

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A list of future Theodore Talks can be found on the [Mensa National Events Calendar](#) at <https://www.us.mensa.org/attend/calendar/>, or by viewing the January issue of the *Mensa Bulletin*.

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



## **Zoom Discussion Groups**

*Kenneth Lawrence*

### General Discussion

Some Mensans enjoy talking to others about a wide variety of subjects. Others enjoy hearing other points of view.

### **Zoom Info**

Time: 2:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Link to join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86726108623?pwd=cUgyelF2K0ZLQzNWbVByZE9UMXpxdz09>

Meeting ID: 867 2610 8623

Passcode: 1234

### Christian Bible Study SIG

Religion has a longer intellectual history than science, and Newton published more about the Bible than he did physics, and certainly we should be more concerned with things that affect us for eternity than things where our interest will disappear after a mere eighty years or so. We evaluate the Bible from a Christian perspective, and you are welcome to join us. Time 7:00 PM Eastern Time every Sunday

Link to zoom meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/s/86488880838?pwd=QUVUaFhPSjl0Tkt5V1pDZGlnRU5TUT09#success>

Meeting ID 864 8888 0838

Password: 1234

### MENSA Brainstorming

Some people have opinions about how Mensa should be run. We provide a place to talk about it

Topic: Mensa Brainstorming

Time: Each Sunday at 9 PM Eastern Time.

Join Zoom Meeting

Link to zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/s/82908600785?pwd=Kzl4YUhFbklwSnpCTTl4TDdHN0Jsdz09#success>

Meeting ID: 829 0860 0785

Password: 1234

### Mensa Great Books Study Group

Time: 4:00 PM Eastern Time every Saturday

Accessing Zoom site

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84266212697?pwd=nBApMhUaOHP9gPN9IfKuraXMVlJHSJ.1>

Meeting ID: 842 6621 2697

PW: 951601

## Puzzle Solutions

1. Practicing beggary (9 letters) = MEnDIcANt (or MEAN)
2. Walk around aimlessly (7 letters) = MEANDer
3. Burn sluggishly (7 letters) = sMOlDEr
4. A ruiner of fun (10 letters) = sPoiLspOrT
5. Corrective action (11 letters) = reMEDIATioN (or MEAN)
6. Pause (8 letters) = heSiTATe
7. Withdrawal (7 letters) = PuLlOuT
8. Number 42 (10 letters) = MOlybDEnum
9. Stain (6 letters) = sPLOTch
10. The change of bread and wine into body and blood (19 letters) = transsubSTAAnTiation



## Plants Misbehaving

*Sandy Masuo*

**Sunday, January 18, 2026**

**2:30 PM PACIFIC TIME**

\*\*\*\*\*  
*This is a Zoom meeting.*

Please register:

<https://livepresentation.link/JAN>

You will receive a confirmation email with the login information



\*\*\*\*\*

Once upon a time, “weird” referred to the supernatural—anything eerie, fantastic, or mysterious. Today, most plants are viewed as anything but. They are conventionally perceived as passive organisms that serve us as ornamental components of gardens and homes or crops that yield food, textiles, medicines, and shelter. But even the most demure, thoroughly domesticated plant is capable

of magical behaviors, and nature abounds with truly strange plants that defy our expectations of “vegetation.” Discover some of these weird and wonderful denizens of the plant kingdom.

**Sandy Masuo** is an editor, educator, author, and conservationist on a mission to enlighten and to inspire wonder in the world around us. She serves as the botanical content specialist at The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens. Prior to that she was the associate editor in the Los Angeles Zoo publications division for 18 years. She has taught fiction and business writing as well as a variety of classes from succulent gardening to bird watching at local community colleges. She holds a BA from Brown University and an Ed. M from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.



## Why Everyone Should Read Science Fiction

*Robert J. Sawyer*

**Saturday, January 10, 2026**  
**2:30 PM PACIFIC TIME**

\*\*\*\*\*

This is a Zoom meeting.  
Please register:



<https://space-talk.link/JAN>

You will receive a confirmation email with the login information.

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Science fiction is not what you think. Since the dawn of the genre, SF has been at the forefront of social-justice debates. If you suppose you know what science fiction is all about because you've seen Star Wars, Hugo and Nebula Award-winning bestselling author Robert J. Sawyer who will show that Star Wars isn't science fiction, and introduce you to real SF, a profound mode of SF.

**Robert J. Sawyer** — called “the dean of Canadian science fiction” by the Ottawa Citizen and “just about the best science fiction writer out there” by the Denver Rocky Mountain News — He has won all three of the world’s top awards for best science-fiction novel of the year:

- Hugo (which he won for *Hominids*)
- Nebula (for *The Terminal Experiment*)
- John W. Campbell Memorial Award (for *Mindscan*).
- Robert A. Heinlein Award

Internationally, he received SF awards in Japan (three times), Spain (three times), France, and China; and has a record-setting seventeen Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Awards (“Auroras”).

His 25 bestselling novels include *The Oppenheimer Alternative*, *The Downloaded*, and *FlashForward*, which was adapted into the ABC TV series of the same name.

Rob was one of the scriptwriters for that series, and he also wrote the two-part finale for the popular fan-film series *Star Trek Continues*. He was a guest of honor at the 2023 World Science Fiction Convention (the Worldcon) and is a member of the Order of Canada, the highest honor bestowed by the Canadian government.

## **Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 11/18/25**

*Karen Wilczewski*

*Owing to an unfortunate series of events, there are no ExCom minutes to be published this month. Two sets of minutes will be published in the February MIND.*

## Treasurer's Report

*Emily Boomershine, Treasurer*

### Statement of Assets

Account	Balance
(1) PNC Checking - Regular	\$ 2,769.68
(2) PNC Checking - Scholarships	\$ 237.00
(3) PNC Checking - Events	\$ 3,902.06
(4) MG Petty Cash	\$ 25.00
(5) CD - First Internet	\$ 10,266.17
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 17,199.91</b>

### Statement of Activity

Activity	Amount
<b>Receipts</b>	
Monthly Gathering Income	\$ 62.00
National Support	\$ 454.48
Interest	\$ 34.65
<b>Receipts Total</b>	<b>\$ 551.13</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Facility Rental (All Souls)	\$ (100.00)
MIND Printing	\$ (339.05)
<b>Expenses Total</b>	<b>\$ (439.05)</b>
<b>Net Activity</b>	<b>\$ 112.08</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

