

February 2026  
Volume 62, Number 2

  
**mind**

Mensa Newsletter  
Of Central Indiana



*Mollie the Mensa Owl encouraging a friend just before his big moment*

## ***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.

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Volume 62, Issue Number 2  
February 2026



# 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  |
| February 2026 Events                              | 10 |
| Calendar  | 12 |
| Puzzle Column                                     | 14 |
| Welcome!  | 14 |
| Calling All Fiber Artists!                        | 14 |
| Books On the Runway                               | 15 |
| Theodore Talks                                    | 16 |
| Puzzle Solutions                                  | 17 |
| From Earth to Mars                                | 17 |
| Wormholes, Spacewarps, and Tunnels to Otherwheres | 18 |
| In Case You Missed It                             | 19 |
| Treasurer's Report                                | 20 |
| Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 11/18/25              | 20 |
| Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 12/16/25              | 21 |
| Location of CIM Monthly Meeting                   | 23 |
| Contact Information                               | 24 |

## From the Editor's Cubicle

Rich Gibson, Editor

**Where's Mollie?** Standard reminder: 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: Who's the most famous groundhog you know? Good luck!



Here we are, sigh; well into 2026. I've been on this planet for 75 years, and the quaint old idea that a new year brings new beginnings faded out of my mind quite a few solar cycles ago. This poor country still seems to stumble and lurch from one absurd thing to another, and our political leaders seem to prefer finding fault with each other's handling of a problem rather than trying to find workable solutions. Much less, working together to do so. Long sad sigh.

My apologies—it's a cold, gray, rainy day in Florida and I've been accordingly grumpy and pessimistic. Time for a reality check: the "cold" I'm whining about is in the low 60's/high 50's, and the rain and wind are blowing the fronds back and forth on the palm trees right outside my wall-high windows, and it's all beautiful. So slap yourself in the face and get back to the hard work of being grateful, Rich!

Jackie and I love to garden, so we tend to notice the plants around us. This place is near-tropical and the vegetation is a bit strange—beautiful, but strange. There's so much limestone in the soil that genuinely black, Hoosier-like dirt is non-existent. Still and all, the plant life is lush—every undeveloped lot in our local area is more jungle than meadow, prairie, or forest. Palm trees, live oaks, jacarandas, gumbo limbos (what a great name!), Brazilian pepper bushes, hibiscus, oleanders, bougainvillea, buttonwoods. It's all so exotic. There's a park a short distance from us, called Long Park—which it is: it's about a mile long and not much more than ten yards wide. Basically a cycle/hiking trail. There's usually water and mangroves on one side or both, with occasional wading birds and alligator warning signs—DO NOT APPROACH, FEED, OR HARASS THE ALLIGATORS, they read. We haven't seen a gator yet, but we take to heart the old adage about testing for alligators in any body of Florida water: put your hand in the water. If it's wet, there's a gator in there.

Hmm, I've run myself out of space. Please enjoy this issue. It's packed with puzzles, poetry, and scads of meetings in both Zoom and meatspace to help while away the time while we all wait for warmer weather. Have a wonderful February. COME ON, SPRING!

## LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

As I write this, it's 3 degrees outside and heading lower. The faucets are dripping and the snow is coming but we're inside staying warm. I hope you all have been keeping warm and safe, too! ..



### Coming Up –

- CultureQuest®
- CIM rummage sale to benefit the scholarship fund\*
- Feb. Monthly Gathering: video of “Indiana Landmarks Off the Beaten Path with Evan Finch”

\* **Don't Forget** – to save your no-longer-needed books, small appliances, tchotchkes, etc, etc, for the CIM rummage sale on April 25th. Proceeds will go to the CIM scholarship fund. Contact **Judy** at [Bridgejudy@aol.com](mailto:bridgejudy@aol.com) to arrange donation of your items.

**Scholarship Judging** – The Mensa Foundation awards many college scholarships each year. CIM will be awarding a \$2500 scholarship to someone who lives in our local area. Judges are always needed to read and evaluate applicants' short essays. Judging is done online on your own schedule. If you'd like to help or have questions, please contact our Scholarship Chair **Judy** at [bridgejudy@aol.com](mailto:bridgejudy@aol.com).

**CultureQuest®** – If you're interested in participating in Mensa's nationwide cultural literacy/trivia competition, please let me or another ExCom member know. The competition will be on a Sunday afternoon at the end of April or beginning of May. CIM teams placed 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> last year, so help us repeat our good showing! Applications are due March 31<sup>st</sup>; if you'd like to be on a team, be sure to renew on time (before March 31<sup>st</sup>). Teams have up to 5 members. More info at [www.us.mensa.org/attend/culturequest/](http://www.us.mensa.org/attend/culturequest/).

**Sad News** – We received word that long-time Central Indiana Mensa member **Carl Bernard "Bernie" Huesing**, passed away on Jan. 14, 2026. Bernie occasionally attended Lunch Bunch and Ham'n Eggs. Here's a link to his obituary: [www.flannerbuchanan.com/obituaries/carl-huesing](http://www.flannerbuchanan.com/obituaries/carl-huesing).

**Please remember to renew your membership by March 31<sup>st</sup>!!**

## **Poem--Mist**

*Judy Unger [Editor's note: she lives in San Francisco. 'Nuff said]*

The mist is thick now  
Blurring into white  
Vision ends there  
Is there anything beyond?

Sound is the buffeting wind  
So loud that should it exist  
no other noise  
could hope to penetrate

I draw air into my lungs  
The brine smell fills my nose  
Upon my face a wet mist  
carried by the wind  
This is all my world

Does a sea surround me  
Stretching beyond my sight?  
Perhaps I'm cast upon a shore?  
Or Is there just a blackness  
with nothing there at all?

This tiny bubble of clarity  
Is all that I perceive  
No sense can penetrate beyond

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

*Judy Weitzman*

You are really running out of excuses, right?  
We all know you've got "**things**."

**Things** stuck in a dark corner of your office, hiding in your closet and exiled to your garage. Face facts, these things are in your way and they may be someone else's treasure.

No more excuses for maintaining the clutter! Here's your chance to get rid of it and support the MENSA Scholarship Fund at the same time.

We are looking for lots of those things to sell at our

**Rummage Sale**

**Saturday, April 25**

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

## 2025-26 Book Group Reading List

Rich Gibson

| Title   | Author(s)            | Date      |
|---|----------------------|-----------|
| Blind Spots   | Marty Makary         | 2/22/2026 |
| 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: *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 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 2:00 PM. See the Calendar or Events for more information.

If you've heard of the acronym MAHA, 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 simultaneously 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. Some think AI is

in process of supplementing or replacing your GP. All you need to do to take charge of your health is make the effort.

If you can separate 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 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 PM. We'd love to hear your thoughts!

## **NEXT MONTH: *The Singularity is Nearer; When We Merge with AI*, by Ray Kurzweil**

*The Singularity is Nearer*, by Ray Kurzweil; 419 pp, published in 2024. The CIM Book Group will discuss it on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 PM. Check the Calendar and Events for more information.

Ray Kurzweil caused a sensation with his first book *The Singularity is Near*, in 2005. He coined the term The Singularity and defined it as the point when human and machine intelligence merge. His most notorious claim was that it would be possible to upload your mind into the cloud and thereby achieve immortality. He predicted The Singularity would occur in 2045.

His new book updates and refines his predictions. He doubles down on his 2045 date, and adds that AI will achieve human-level intelligence by 2029 (although a number of Big Brains in the AI world assert we are there NOW; or if not, we will be by the end of 2026). He claims we will leave the era of scarcity and enter a new era of abundance (irrigating the Sahara, ending world hunger and disease, creating immense wealth); profoundly extend human life with bio- and nanotechnology; and augment human intelligence and consciousness through human-machine mergers and virtual reality.

Kurzweil thinks the future will be wonderful. Others are not so sure, even fearful of what's coming. Whatever, I think most of us agree that huge change is on our doorstep. It's about to break down the door whether we're ready and welcoming or not. It may well be a good investment of your time and attention to read this book, think about it, and join us on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00. Hope to see you there!

## **Regional Vice Chair Thoughts**

*Beth Weiss*

Happy New Year to everyone. I'm looking forward to an exciting year of family time, travel, sewing projects, Model T touring, and, of course, Mensa activities. In December, AMC had its quarterly meeting, along with a strategic planning session focused on where we



want to direct our energy in the coming year. Our theme “*It’s Our Turn*” captures our focus on increasing the value of Mensa membership to current members and recruitment of new members.

I was especially encouraged by the level of engagement during our planning discussions. We now have a full board, with all 19 positions filled, and the conversations were thoughtful, collaborative, and action-oriented. There was a real sense of momentum and shared purpose, and I’m optimistic that this will translate into a board that works effectively and cohesively on behalf of the membership.

I’m particularly excited about the **Local Group Toolkit Task Force** initiative. As I mentioned in my January column, the goal is to create an accessible, well-maintained collection of information and resources to support Local Group volunteers. We’re beginning with a pilot focused on the Membership Officer role. The pilot allows us to concentrate on gathering and organizing the most useful resources for the role, while also building infrastructure to make those resources easy to find and use. I see this effort as benefiting not just Membership Officers and Area Coordinators, but also the new members they welcome to Mensa and current members who benefit from strong, well-supported Local Groups.

We’re also continuing to explore ways to expand and strengthen our testing program. Testing is often a prospective member’s first interaction with Mensa, and thoughtful improvements here can have a meaningful impact on who we reach and how they experience our organization from the very beginning.

Be sure to check out the Volunteer Marketplace. David Leavitt, our new national Membership Officer, is currently soliciting committee members from across the demographics of the membership. Other committee chairs will also be looking for members to become involved.

This is a great time for current members to explore activities in their Local Group or take advantage of scheduled virtual events. Your Local Group newsletter calendar will list events happening nearby and the Event calendar on the national website has a list of open virtual events.

Chicago Area Mensa has its annual *A Gathering of Gamers (AGOG)* February 13-15. It’s a weekend of games and hospitality. CAM has hundreds of games and usually about a hundred people descend on the Westin in Wheeling, IL to play board and card games. You can get more information and register at [chicago.us.mensa.org/agog/index.php](http://chicago.us.mensa.org/agog/index.php)

Big ideas often start small, and many of them start with members speaking up. Your thoughts can influence conversations at every level of Mensa. You can connect with Region 4 online:

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

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

# February 2026 Events

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

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

**2/18, 12:00 noon ET - MCL Restaurant and Bakery**, 2370 W. 86th St, Indy  
Contact: Karen Steilberger, [steilkr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:steilkr@sbcglobal.net)

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

**2/7 10:00am - 12 noon ET - Atrio**, 11700 Illinois St, Carmel, IN, (located at  
IU Health North) **RSVP**: Jen Clark [jclark7251@gmail.com](mailto:jclark7251@gmail.com)

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

**2/11, 2:00pm ET - Cheeky Bastards**

11210 Fall Creek Rd, Indianapolis, IN

**2/25, 2:00pm ET Brozinni Pizza**

8810 S Emerson, Indianapolis, IN

For more information or to RSVP, contact 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).

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

**2/13, 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.

"**Landmarks Off the Beaten Path with Evan Finch**", originally hosted by  
Indiana Landmarks on September 10, 2025. Evan Finch is an Indiana  
roadtripper who has been fascinated by our state's unusual, quirky, and unique  
landmarks since an early age. He shares these landmarks and their stories in this  
illustrated online talk.

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

**2/15, 6:00pm ET**

**Matteo's Italian Restaurant**

40 N 9th St, Noblesville, IN

Confirmed reservation under "Candis King"

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

**\*In Person\* Sit-N-Knit**

**2/19, 11:00am ET**

**MOTW Coffee Shop**

12761 Old Meridian St, Carmel, IN

Knitters of all skill levels are welcome, from complete beginners to seasoned experts. We'll spend our time working on current projects, sharing ideas, and discussing what to work on next. 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.

In addition to seasonal coffee, MOTW offers a variety of pastries, including cookies, muffins, and baklava.

RSVP Emily Boomershine - [emilyknits@comcast.net](mailto:emilyknits@comcast.net) Come for the knitting, stay for the lively conversation!

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

**2/21, 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 – DATE CHANGE THIS MONTH**

**2/22, 2:00pm ET**

***Blind Spots*** Marty Makary

Contact Rich Gibson [hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com](mailto:hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com) or 770-548-5217 for more details, to RSVP, or for Zoom link.

**LIVE Culture Vulture: Indianapolis Chinese Orchestra**

**2/22, 3:00pm – 4:00pm ET**

Carmel Clay Main Public Library

425 E Main St, Carmel, IN

Join Alison Brown at a free Sunday Vibes Concert Series performance at the Carmel Clay Public Library. Using unique and ancient musical instruments, the Indianapolis Chinese Orchestra will perform a variety of traditional and contemporary Chinese music.

Registration recommended:

<https://carmelclaylibrary.org/events?r=range&start=2026-02-22>

Questions or RSVP: Alison Brown - [SIGHT@indymensa.org](mailto:SIGHT@indymensa.org)

## February 2026

| Sunday   | Monday | Tuesday       | Wednesday          |
|--|--------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1<br>*Sunday Social*                                     | 2      | 3             | 4<br>*Lunch Bunch* |
| 8<br>*Sunday Social*                                     | 9      | 10            | 11<br>Chowhounds   |
| 15<br>Dining Out   | 16     | 17<br>*ExCom* | 18<br>Lunch Bunch  |
| 22<br>Book Group;<br>Culture Vulture;<br>*Sunday Social* | 23     | 24            | 25<br>Chowhounds   |

**\*Virtual Zoom Events\***

| Thursday         | Friday                  | Saturday          |
|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 5                | 6                       | 7<br>Ham'n Eggs   |
| 12               | 13<br>Monthly Gathering | 14                |
| 19<br>Sit-N-Knit | 20                      | 21<br>Games Night |
| 26               | 27                      | 28                |

If you lose your *MIND* (oh, my!) or want additional information, check [www.indymensa.org](http://www.indymensa.org) or the weekly CIM ReMINDER in your Monday email.

## Puzzle Column

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

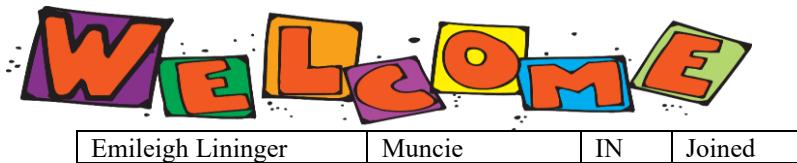
### HIDDEN PRESIDENTS

Find last names of American Presidents that are hiding in consecutive letters of solutions to the clues.

For example, a mistake made by an ancient bird = pterodactyl error = TYLER.

1. Job of a knight
2. An item found in a taxi
3. A customer of a certain telecom giant
4. A common August occurrence
5. A Japanese noodle manufacturer
6. A yellow bikini option
7. Elliot Ness's quarry
8. A cambion from a female demon
9. A young parent's worry
10. Land owned by an English minister

Solutions on page 17



## Calling All Fiber Artists!

*Emily Boomershine*

Starting in February, I'll be hosting a monthly **Sit-N-Knit** for CIM members! Our first meeting will take place on **Thursday, February 19, at 11:00 a.m.** at the Carmel location of **MOTW Coffee Shop** (12761 Old Meridian St.). In addition to seasonal coffee, MOTW offers a variety of pastries, including cookies, muffins, and baklava.

Knitters of all skill levels are welcome, from complete beginners to seasoned experts. We'll spend our time working on current projects, sharing ideas, and discussing what to work on next.

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 RSVP. Come for the knitting, stay for the lively conversation!"

## Books On the Runway

Rich Gibson

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Author:    | Iain McGilchrist   |
| Title:     | The Matter With Things                                   |
| Subtitle:  | Our Brains, Our Delusions, and the Unmaking of the World |
| Publisher: | Perspectiva Press  |
| Year:      | 2021   |
| Pages:     | 1579   |

*Book description:* This is more a lifelong commitment than a book. I cannot describe it at one go, so my intent is to report on just a slice. I will offer up another slice another time.

McGilchrist is a philosopher and a psychiatrist, and is more than familiar with quantum theory, psychology, and biology. This book describes how our perception of the world is created by the right and left hemispheres of the brain. Animals have had brain hemispheres for millions of years, and they appear to have evolved to support two primary tasks: eating and not getting eaten. Whether herbivore or carnivore, the creature's left brain focused on finding and getting food; the right brain concentrated on the big picture all around, alert for a predator. Today, the left brain is still task-focused, evaluating all in its narrow field of view for its utility. The left brain also controls language, reason, and logic. The right brain is still surveying the environment and creating the big picture. Left brain, manipulating piece parts; right brain, context.

McGilchrist's thesis is that Western culture has let the left brain dominate, although it should be the right brain's subordinate. This single issue causes many problems in how we, each and every one of us, deal with the world. If you read the preceding paragraph and thought, "Context? What's the big deal with context?" then you are blithely unaware of the soup in which you are immersed. There's much more, but it will have to wait for a later BOTR.

*Has this book changed the way you think? your attitude towards life? even your life itself? If so, how?* This book has radically revised the way I know I should be thinking. I now know my tiny, fragile, self-important ego, the "I" who talks English in my head and thinks it's in charge and knows what is going on, is mostly a product of my left brain. The right brain has trouble expressing itself (left brain controls language!) but is plugged in to so much more; it expresses itself mostly by feelings and intuition. If you've talked yourself into something (left brain), but your gut (right brain, actually) says, Whoa Buddy; then you really need to step back a few paces and let both halves sort things out. Have you ever said something, but as soon as you hear yourself you go, Wow, that's crazy? That's your right brain realizing too late that it let the left go off

cowboying all on its own.

*Who should definitely read this book? Why?* If you're reading this, odds are 99+% that you're a Mensan. You *can* get through this book, and **everyone** really, really needs to. It's a necessary corrective for a lot that's wrong.

*How long might it take to read the book?* This book takes dedication. I started reading it last spring and just finished it in January. After taking a short rest, I intend to start all over again

*Provide a short characteristic section, an awesome sentence, or an inspiring quote:* The book's title telegraphs one of McGilchrist's major points: The left brain chops up time and space into manageable pieces, the better to manipulate. The right brain has a better take, that reality is a continuous process. There are no static *things*, only continuous processes through time. He quotes the German philosopher Schelling:

A stream flows in a straight line forward as long as it encounters no resistance. Where there is resistance—a whirlpool forms. Every original product of nature is such a whirlpool, every organism. The whirlpool is not something immobilized, it is rather...constantly transforming—but reproduced anew at each moment. Thus no product in nature is *fixed*, but it is reproduced at each instant through the force of nature entire...Nature as a whole co-operates in every product.



## **Theodore Talk: Munich and the Rise of the Nazi Party**

*Brad Lucht*

Dr. Shelly Cline, Historian and Director of Education at the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education, will explore Munich's central role in the rise of National

Socialism -- from its roots in the aftermath of World War I, through Hitler's transformation of the Nazi Party, to the city's function within the broader machinery of the Third Reich. The presentation will also examine how Munich has since reckoned with this complex and troubling legacy.

Register for this presentation at <https://tinyurl.com/2pfuy63w>

Theodore Talks take place on Zoom the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m. CT, 3:30 ET

A list of future Theodore Talks can be found on the Mensa National Events Calendar at <https://www.us.mensa.org/attend/calendar/>.

Questions? Contact Brad Lucht at [MensaTheodoreTalks@gmail.com](mailto:MensaTheodoreTalks@gmail.com).

## **Puzzle Solutions**

Solutions:

1. Job of a knight = Rescue a damsel in distress = ADAMS
2. An item found in a taxi = cab identification number = BIDEN
3. A customer of a certain telecom giant = Spectrum patron = TRUMP
4. A common August occurrence = hot afternoon = TAFT
5. A Japanese noodle manufacturer = soba maker = OBAMA
6. A yellow bikini option = polka dot = POLK
7. Elliot Ness's quarry = Chicago area gangsters = REAGAN
8. A cambion from a female demon = succubus hybrid = BUSH
9. A young parent's worry = tantrum anxiety = TRUMAN
10. Land owned by an English minister = vicar territory = CARTER

## **From Earth To Mars**

### **Steps Toward the First Human Journey to the Red Planet**

*Pascal Lee, Phd*

Director, NASA Haughton-Mars Project

SETI Institute, Mars Institute, Kepler Space University & NASA Ames Research Center

**Sunday, February 15, 2026 2:30 PM Pacific, 5:30 Eastern**

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

Please Register

<https://livepresentation.link/FEB>

You will receive a confirmation email with the login information.



The first human mission to Mars will be humanity's greatest adventure in space exploration this century. As with all expeditions, its success depends on planning. The first steps are already under way, as we build more efficient rockets, achieve longer space flights, plan our return to the Moon, and work in extreme environments on Earth viewed as Mars "analogs"

We will discuss progress made around the world, from the Arctic to Antarctica, from basement labs to the International Space Station and the Artemis Program, to achieve the first human voyage to Mars. We will examine in turn the what, why, how, when, and who of the first human mission to Mars.

## **Wormholes, Spacewarps, and Tunnels to Otherwheres**

*Shane Larson*

Professor of Physics, Clarkson University

**Saturday, February 21, 2026**

**2:30 PM PACIFIC TIME**

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This is a Zoom meeting.

Please register:

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

You will receive a confirmation email with the log in information.

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In the hundred years that we have been aware of spacetime, our understanding of it has been informed by astronomical observations, detailed mathematical calculations, vast computer simulations, and wild speculation. Some ideas and predictions, though exotic, have been found to be wholly true; others we are skeptical of, but cannot disprove; of others, we still have no idea what to think.

This talk will discuss the nature of spacetime and our measurements of it, and examine some of the most remarkable predictions we have made about it: black holes, wormholes, and time warps.

## In Case You Missed It



Monthly Gathering, 1/9/2026, Games and Conversation



Chowhounds, Kizuki, 01/18/2026



# Central Indiana Mensa

## Treasurer's Report

12/31/2025

*Emily Boomershine, Treasurer*

### Statement of Assets

| Account                         | Balance             |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| (1) PNC Checking – Regular      | \$ 2,881.79         |
| (2) PNC Checking – Scholarships | \$ 237.00           |
| (3) PNC Checking – Events       | \$ 3,902.06         |
| (4) MG Petty Cash               | \$ 25.00            |
| (5) CD – First Internet         | \$ 10,302.09        |
| <b>Total Assets</b>             | <b>\$ 17,347.94</b> |

### Statement of Activity

| Activity                    | Amount             |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Receipts</b>             |                    |
| Monthly Gathering Income    | \$ 48.00           |
| National Support            | \$ 505.36          |
| Interest                    | \$ 35.92           |
| <b>Receipts Total</b>       | <b>\$ 589.28</b>   |
| <b>Expenses</b>             |                    |
| Facility Rental (All Souls) | \$ (100.00)        |
| MIND Printing               | \$ (339.25)        |
| Supplies                    | \$ (2.00)          |
| <b>Expenses Total</b>       | <b>\$ (441.25)</b> |
| <b>Net Activity</b>         | <b>\$ 148.03</b>   |

## Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 11/18/25

*Karen Wilczewski*

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

LocSec Jan Pfeil Doyle called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

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

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

Not in Attendance: Candis King

The October meeting minutes were approved as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

The October Treasurer's Report was approved. The motion passed unanimously.

The November membership report was compiled by Jan based on information available as of 10/31/25 from American Mensa: total members: 413; 0 new, 1 move-in, 3 rejoin, and 13 prospects.

### **Old Business**

Holiday Party: Jan will put a reminder in her column that if you bring a dish to the holiday party, be sure to also bring the recipe for publication in the upcoming CIM cookbook.

Judy and Allison will prepare turkeys for the Holiday Party.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

## **Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 12/16/25**

*Karen Wilczewski*

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, December 16, 2025.

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

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

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

Not Present: Candis King,

The November meeting minutes will be voted on at the January 2026 meeting.

Ann moved to accept the November Treasurer's Report, Ethan seconded. The motion passed.

The December membership report was compiled by Jan based on information available as of 11/30/25 from American Mensa: total members: 416; 2 new, 0 move-in, 2 rejoin, and 3 prospects.

### **Old Business**

Holiday Party had 25 participants. Two home-cooked turkeys, meatballs, etc. were served. An origami Christmas tree was a popular gift that was passed around during the Gimmee-Grabbee Gift Exchange.

An Abraham Lincoln-wrapped gift also made its return appearance after a five-year absence.

Candis, Robert, and Jan came early to set up the room for the party.

## **New Business**

Upcoming monthly meeting events include games and conversation in January. February will feature an origami class. Leo will host the March monthly meeting when he addresses AI. Some previous speakers also have expressed interest in returning to upcoming monthly meetings, including Dan Allen in April, Rob Pyatt, James Lowery, and Alan Schmidt.

The ExCom discussed starting a “stitching event” once a month to be conducted outside of the monthly meetings. This event will include knitting, crocheting, etc. Interested individuals can meet at local coffee shops around the city. Emily will consider whether she wants to host such an event and post where the first meeting will occur. This stitching event will be open to both beginners and experienced “fiber crafters.” She’ll put an announcement in *MIND*.

The ExCom discussed organizing an ice cream social as an upcoming event, where members can bring their favorite vanilla and chocolate flavor, along with a favorite mixed flavor to be voted on.

Jan encouraged everyone to continue saving items for an upcoming fundraiser rummage sale. Here’s an opportunity for Ms to bring cool stuff and shop for unique items. Those who wish to donate should contact Judy to arrange for pick-up or drop-off. Discussion also opened up to auctioning off services as donated items for the upcoming rummage sale.

To increase participation and potentially donate a portion of the proceeds from the rummage sale, Ann suggested partnering with All Souls. The group also discussed advertising options, including using Facebook and possibly creating an eBay store.

Jan polled the ExCom about recording the minutes via AI until the finalized version is approved for publication.

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

## **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

