



mind

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central **Indiana**



**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!**

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 98th 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 Teresa Gregory, 75 N Whittier Place, Indianapolis, IN, 46219, or delivered to Teresa Gregory or Jan Pfeil Doyle at the monthly meeting. Contributions may be edited for length or to remove offensive material, must be “family friendly”, 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 in hand no later than the monthly meeting preceding the month of publication.

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: Teresa Gregory mind.editor@yahoo.com, (317) 430-1761
75 N Whittier Place, Indianapolis, IN 46219

Calendar Editor: David Culp, dbculp@sbcglobal.net

Publisher: Jan Pfeil Doyle

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, 1229 Corporate Drive West, Arlington, TX 76006-6103. Include membership number.

Website: centralindiana.us.mensa.org

-or- www.indymensa.org

MensaPhone: (317) 539-1740

Volume 49, Issue Number 11, November 2013

november 2013



mind

table of contents

Old Dog/New Tricks	4
LocSection	5
Suggestion	6
Documentary Review	7
Welcome New Members	10
November, 2013, Events	11
Who Is Mensa? RVC4 Column	15
Books On The Runway	17
	17
Dreamscape	17
Central Indiana Mensa ExCom Minutes 7/30/13	18
Central Indiana Mensa ExCom Minutes 8/27/13	19
Treasurer's Report	21
Location of CIM Monthly Meeting	22
Contact Information	23

*The Sweet Life, With Special Recognition to
M&M Couples of All Flavors!*

**Central Indiana Mensa Regional Gathering
January 24-26, 2014**

Clarion at the Waterfront
2930 Waterfront Parkway West
Indianapolis, IN 46214

(More information coming next month!)

Old Dog/New Tricks

Teresa Gregory, Editor

Last month I had just closed on my new house. “New” is a relative term. My “old” house was built in 1908, while my “new” one was built in 1926. But, it’s new to me. It took two weeks for me to get possession, and then another several weeks to get the movers lined up. This coming Friday, October 19, is moving day. Is it possible to anticipate an event with both elation and dread? I’m feeling both.



Due to my move, I have limited my activities this month. I usually have my weekends filled with a variety of events. I keep telling myself to focus. That’s not easy for a Mensan to do.

I did go to a very interesting Trade School class on geocaching which is kind of like a treasure hunt. The prize is the bragging rights that you found someone’s hidden cache. I had read about it years ago when people went out into the woods with a compass and a map. There were very few sites in the state of Indiana, all in state parks. With GPS on every smart phone, the audience has broadened. I live near a city park and there are five geocaches there right now. This is an activity that I can pursue after my move.

For anyone who has any interest in writing, the month of November is National Novel Writing Month, or NaNoWriMo. This is an international writing event where participants are challenged to write an original 50,000 word novel during the month. Their battle cry is “No plot? No problem!” What started in 1999 with 21 people has grown to 341,000+ last year. There are midnight kick-off parties, all night write-ins, meet-ups, and celebrations when it’s over. More recently they have added a Young Writers Program. I have read of high school teachers doing it with their gifted students. I, personally, have not been an active participant in several years, but when I was, my favorite feature was the message boards. There are a number of topics and anyone who is registered can jump in. There are also local groups who get together. You can find that information on the site. Have fun! Write that novel that you know is inside you! Nanowrimo.org.

November is the gateway to the holidays and a reminder that the year is coming to a close. I hope everyone spends some quality time with people they care about, and that the weather doesn’t get too wicked too early this year.

LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

A Volunteering Opportunity:

Many years ago, Central Indiana Mensa regularly volunteered answering the phones for the local public TV station (WFYI, Channel 20) fund drive. We've decided to revive that tradition. The upcoming fund drive is from Nov. 30th – Dec. 15th. We would be working an evening shift from roughly 7-11 pm and would be on camera occasionally during the pledge breaks. We hope to garner some free publicity for the group. There's one catch: we don't yet know the specific night that we'll be answering the phones. The schedule of "live" nights, ie, on-camera nights, won't be available until mid- to late November. So . . . if you're interested, please let me know (jan@mw.net, 317-431-3500), along with any nights you're not available. When we get our assigned night, I'll let you know and you can decide then whether you want to commit. We plan to wear something fun to advertise Mensa, possibly hats (wizard or dunce hats were suggested), T-shirts or ?? If you have any ideas, please let me know. (This is in the spirit of the Los Angeles Mensa group who wore lab coats and glasses in the audience when Bill Nye, the science guy, was on "Dancing with the Stars." Check it out at ~1:45 of this video on Youtube:



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZbixK8DW54>)

I heard an interesting, thought-provoking talk tonight by Dr. Krista Latham, a professor of forensic and molecular anthropology at the University of Indianapolis. She spoke about a volunteer project she and some of her graduate students are working on. They are collaborating with a group at Baylor University to exhume the remains of migrants who have perished in south Texas after crossing the border from Mexico. Over 400 migrants die each year in the US near the border with Mexico; their families almost never find out what happened to them. The researchers hope to be able identify individual remains and eventually return them to their families. I'm hoping we can arrange to have her speak to our group at an upcoming monthly meeting.

Suggestion

Greg Crawford

In this continuing series of rants, here is yet another decision I would implement if made President, dictator or king. As oft happens, there is a back story, and so here it is.

Many years ago, Thomas Jefferson penned the words, “*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal ...*” Taught to every school child, Jefferson’s statement said much more then than now.

By “*self evident*,” Jefferson meant as plain as the nose on your face; beyond obvious to the point of irrefutability. When he chose the words “*self evident*,” the Founding Father and future president wanted to convey the concept that those things to follow were not open to argument. Just like water being wet, things which are “*self evident*” are accepted as fact because debating them is patently pointless.

Jefferson then followed this comment with the declaration “*all men are created equal*.” In the 21st century, we generally do not linger on that phrase. “*All men are created equal*.” What of it? In today’s America, we take for granted that each of us has the same worth as the next person. Regardless of faith, race, height, wealth, beauty, whatever, we all have certain “*inalienable rights*” and innate responsibilities.

(The fact that this is wishful thinking is beside-the-point for this article.)

Nevertheless, in his time, 1776, Jefferson’s assertion meant so much more then than now. In the 18th century, virtually the entire world and all of its dominant countries had a two-class system. Either there was royalty and commoners or there was a military regime and commoners. In both systems, there was a clear distinction between the man-on-the-street and his rulers.

There was also a wholly separate system of laws and justice which applied to those on top. The rest of us had to be kept in our place.

Thus, Jefferson’s “*all men are created equal*” concept might as well have said, “King George, you put your pants on one-leg-at-a-time just like all the rest of us. You are no more God anointed royalty than my dog. You are no better (or worse) than a common farmer or school boy.”

Obviously, this did not sit well with George ... or the rest of the prevailing powers. Universal equality? A level playing field? One set of rules for everybody? What will those mad Americans think of next?

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Ultimately these questions were settled on the battlefield and the U S of A became what it is today. “*One nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all.*” But is there justice for all? Do we actually have a one-class justice system? I say “No!”

In our city, in our state, and throughout our nation, if you or I file a grievance against a police officer, it will rarely (if ever) go through the criminal justice system. Even with shocking evidence of violent crimes, accusations against sworn police are shunted through an Internal Review process; an in-house, cop-investigating-cop process that is far from unbiased. Generally the outcome is as predictable as it is unjust.

Why do we allow this separate system? Why are police exempt from the same laws and procedures that govern the conduct of the general public? Why?

So, if I were in charge, if I were President, dictator or king, I would immediately abolish this alternative, cop-investigating-cop Old Boy system. They and all of us would be subject to the prosecution and grand jury system. Until this is true, George Orwell’s words will trump those of The Declaration. “*All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others.*”

This basic change is long overdue. What are your thoughts?



How’s Your News?

A film by Arthur Bradford, produced by *South Park* creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone

Teresa Fisher

In the late 1990s attendees at Camp Jabberwocky, a Massachusetts summer camp for developmentally disabled adults, created film shorts of man-on-the-street interviews with townspeople. They turned out so well, counselor Arthur Bradford came up with the idea of taking five of the campers on a cross-country bus tour to conduct similar interviews and make music. *How’s Your News?* is the result of that tour.

We meet Ronnie, who has mild cerebral palsy and mental disabilities, but who is an enthusiastic interviewer. He is obsessed with celebrities, especially actor Chad Everett, and often asks interviewees if they know of him and his work. He entertains them by doing impressions, all of which consist of him claiming, in

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

his own voice, to be the impersonated celebrity. “Hi. I’m The Fonz. I’m riding a motorcycle,” or, “I’m Chad Everett. I was the star of *Medical Center*.”

Susan is a receptionist for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Retardation and was the loudest, most enthusiastic singer of the songs the group wrote and performed. Think Edith Bunker at the end of “Those Were the Days,” except Edith did hit the note. Susan was an irrepressible interviewer, undaunted by the difficult interviewees she sometimes chose. When a shirtless drunken man in New York City told her his name was The M***** F***** Skank and then laughed uproariously, she calmly followed up with, “So, have you always lived in New York?”

Larry has advanced spastic cerebral palsy, and is the only member of the group who must use a wheelchair. Unable to talk or control his limbs, his job was to be the sound man using yes or no hand signals. One of the most touching moments of the film was when a crewmember gave him a fast ride in his wheelchair. The look on his face, with the wind blowing through his hair, was one of pure joy.

Both Sean and Bobby have Down’s syndrome. Sean spoke very softly during his interviews, and often asked whether the interviewee liked fried chicken. Bobby is unable to talk except in an engaging gibberish that mimics actual conversation patterns amazingly well. His inability to formulate genuine questions freed him to have a more naturally flowing interview style.

They took off to see the country in a big old RV with How’s Your News? painted on it. Ronnie announced their arrival in Virginia and in an aside asked if it was West Virginia or plain Virginia. When told they were in Virginia he said, “You can see the nice green mountains here in Plain Virginia.”

In Tennessee they went to a bar and sang with the band, without regard for key, lyrics, beat, or volume. In Arkansas Bobby tried to interview a baby goat and an elk. The goat seemed bewildered, but the elk nodded. Humans reacted similarly to Bobby. Some didn’t know how to respond to his gibberish, but others played along and replied as though they knew what he had said. One woman thought he had asked her to jump, so she did.

At a Texas cattle auction Susan, as she often did, asked a man if he had read any good books or seen any movies he could recommend. At first he was caught off guard, but after careful consideration, he made a recommendation.

Ronnie related everything to the TV shows that he had spent much of his life watching. When they visited the Grand Canyon he was reminded of when the Brady Bunch had been there.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

The RV broke down, requiring some of the trip to be done by Greyhound bus. Susan taught everyone on one bus to sing the *How's Your News?* theme song, and they all sang raucously. I ended up with that song stuck in my head.

In Las Vegas Sean asked a bare-bellied dancer in red sequins if she was there on vacation. Ronnie asked the dancers and singers if they had met Chad Everett.

In LA at the Chinese Theater Ronnie looked in vain for Chad Everett's footprints in concrete, but he did find his star on Hollywood Boulevard. He made a little speech about his hero, and then kissed the star. (One of the DVD bonus features showed Ronnie finally getting to meet good sport Chad Everett. Ronnie was beside himself with happiness.)

The *HYN* reporters couldn't quite figure out how to end an interview, they had no pre-written questions, their questions were often nonsequiturs, they sometimes waved their microphones dangerously close to people's faces (or not at the person who was talking), and they tended to insert themselves inappropriately into the interviews. Ronnie inexplicably told an Italian tourist in New York City to "have fun in Italy!" But somehow it all worked. A lot of the fun comes from seeing the various reactions from people being interviewed.

At film festivals people asked why the reporters weren't given questions, and the director said they had started out doing that. The questions sounded stilted and obviously written by someone else, so he decided it was important for the reporters to think up their own questions.

The non-disabled people who worked on the movie are always asked if anyone is offended by the concept. They explain that disabled people are usually kept hidden away, and *HYN* humanizes them by allowing them to interact with everyone. They, as well as their families, also laugh at the movie. Their families, some of whom were wary of the project, were quite happy with the way it turned out. The reporters had the time of their lives not only making the film, but attending film festivals where they answered questions and sang their songs to enthusiastic audiences.

I highly recommend this heart-warming, funny movie.



A Thought

Joanne Ortman

I know I need to downsize, but I sometimes find it hard to get rid of books. My books are a map to where my mind has been

Welcome New and Returning Members!

New	Ethan Caldwell	Fishers	IN
New	Lauren Caldwell	Fishers	IN
New	Kevin Song	Carmel	IN
New	James Shumacker	Carmel	IN
Renewing	Balaguruprasad Narayanan	Terre Haute	IN
Renewing	Sarah A Meyer	Indianapolis	IN

Making a Better World

Robert O. Adair

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world." -- Mahatma Gandhi

What can I do to change the world?
The cry for social justice is often
the crusade to combat evil with evil,
violence with violence,
injustice with counter injustice.
Revolutions so often
sweep blood thirsty dictators from power
with further blood thirsty power.
The system is not changed
only the personnel.
The victims, resenting tyranny,
impose their own.
To change the world we must
consider what is really good.
Two wrongs do not make a right.
Justice is often what we wish on our enemies
and from which we seek to protect
ourselves and our friends.
So we need to first apply our
standards to ourselves,
to change ourselves into what we
know to be true and good and just.
Until this is taken care of
we cannot instruct or inspire others.
Be the person you want others to be.
True worth is being, not seeming,
If you want justice strive to be just,
if you want truth strive to be truthful,
if you have ideals strive to embody them.
Too often the whole World
has not been changed
but in some protected refuge
a better world has been made,

November 2013 Events - Central Indiana Mensa

Ham 'n' Eggs (Hamilton County Eggheads) 1st Saturday from 10:00 am-12:00 noon. Soho Café & Gallery, 620 South Range Line Road, Carmel, IN Drop in any time for casual conversation, lively discussion, and good food and beverages. Contact: Alison Brown, 317-846-6798, SIGHT@indymensa.org.

Muncie Area Group Meeting – 1st Saturday at 2:00 p.m. The MTCup, 1610 W. University Ave in Muncie. For those familiar with the Ball State area, it's in the Village. Contact: Jason Smith, munciemensa@gmail.com

Indy Lunch Bunch - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 12:00 noon, Double Eagle Café, 650 N. Meridian (at the Scottish Rite Cathedral), Indianapolis. Contact: Alan Schmidt, 317-233-5190, alan.schmidt@att.net

Southside Indianapolis Supper Meeting - Mensa supper meeting for the third Wednesday evening of the month at Strange Brew coffee shop. It is on the north side of Smith Valley Road in Greenwood (near Smith Valley) in a strip mall just east of Morgantown Road, 4800 W. Smith Valley Road Suite G, Greenwood. They have two huge aquariums with fish. They have a variety of coffee selections, fruit smoothies, sandwiches, and pastries. Gather starting at 5 pm, may extend to 7 pm, and store closes at 8 pm. Hosts Dr. Alan Schmidt, 317 695-5741, Marian Martin

West Lafayette/Lafayette Lunch – 1st Wednesday, 12:00 noon. Contact: Joe Stamper, 765-474-4759, jstamper@aii.edu

Monthly Gathering – 2nd Friday at 7:00 p.m., All Souls Unitarian Church, 5805 E. 56th St. See last page of MIND for map and directions. Members: \$5.00, Non-Members: \$7.00; Children 6-12: \$3.00, under 6: free

11/8: Just when you thought it was safe to go into the 21st century, Leo Doyle is here to let us know all about the dangers that lurk in cyberspace. Foil hats optional.

Games People Play Friday, November 15th, 6:30 p.m. pitch in dinner, 7 p.m. Let the games begin! Bring your favorites, or share those of others., Hosted by All Souls Unitarian Church, 5805 E. 56th St. Questions: Petra 786-8665, petraritchie@msn.com

(Events are continued on the other side of the calendar.)

November 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
3	4	5	6 Indy Lunch Bunch; W. Lafayette Lunch
10	11	12	13
17	18	19 Paducah Area Group Meeting	20 Indy Lunch Bunch; Southside Supper Meeting
24 Book Discussion	25	26 MINDbending/ ExCom	27
1 December ESOTERIC SIG	2	3	4 Indy Lunch Bunch; W. Lafayette Lunch
8	9	10	11

November 2013 (Cont.)

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Ham 'n' Eggs; Muncie Meeting
7	8 Monthly Gathering	9
14	15 MIND deadline; Games People Play	16 Calendar Deadline
21	22	23
28	29	30
5	6	7 Ham 'n' Eggs; Muncie Meeting
12	13 Monthly Gathering	14

If you lose your MIND (oh, my!) or want additional information, check www.indymensa.org or join our Meetup group, <http://www.meetup.com/central-indiana-mensa> Meetup is free to join and you will get reminders of upcoming events. It's a great way to stay in the loop.

November 2013 Events (cont.)

Paducah Area Group Meeting – 3rd Tuesday of every month, 7:00 p.m. Anyone in the area is welcome to join fellow Mensans for dinner. For location and more information on this group, contact Charles Rawlings, rawlings@siu.edu

Book Discussion – Sunday, 11/24 at 2:00 p.m.

We will be discussing *The Smartest Kids in the World: And How They Got That Way* by Amanda Ripley. We will be meeting at Rich and Jackie Gibson's house on the NE side of Indianapolis. Please contact Rich at

hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com or 317-735-2895. for more details.

MINDbending/ExCom – Last or next-to-last Tuesday of the month. MINDbending is the preparation of next month's MIND for mailing. Come help with sealing, labeling, and stamping the MINDs.

11/26, 5:30 p.m. Contact: Jan Pfeil Doyle, 431-3500.

Pizza and soft drinks provided.

MINDbending is held at the offices of Midwest Internet, 5348 N. Tacoma Ave., which is 1 block east and 1 block north of 52nd St. and Keystone Ave. on the northeast side of Indianapolis. A Big Thank You to all the October MINDbenders and thanks to Midwest Internet for hosting the

For last minute changes to events check the Central Indiana Mensa on Meetup.com. <http://www.meetup.com/central-indiana-mensa>



Coming in December

ESOTERIC SIG – Sun., December 1st, 7 p.m., 719 East St. Clair, Basile Theatre, “Going...Going...Gone” It was so much fun, we are going again. No two productions are the same. A live *auction* comedy that lets the audience participate in the final sale at Ed's, an auction house filled with spontaneous stories and surprising revelations. What other show lets winning bidders (in the audience) take home the props? \$15 adults, \$12 seniors. Questions? Petra 786-8665, petraritchie@msn.com

The Annual Holiday Party – December 13; Details in next month's MIND.

December MIND calendar items due 11/16/13 to dbculp@sbcglobal.net.

Who Is Mensa?

Ellen Voie, RVC 4

What is the average age of a Mensa member? Although it often appears that we are an older group, the trend could be changing. Although the average Mensa member is fifty years old, the average age of a NEW member is only 28! Unfortunately, the average age of those of us in leadership roles is even older, fifty-seven.



I used the word, “unfortunately” because I wanted to show that there is probably a dis-engagement between us older folks who are leading, planning, organizing and managing and those who are new members. Sixty percent of the members who joined since April of last year are “Millennials,” or those age 30 or younger.

In an attempt to bridge this generational gap, Howard Prince of American Mensa recently offered some advice to leaders at the Annual Gathering. He titled his presentation, “Minding the Gap.” In other words, how can we as leaders attract and engage our new members?

The presentation was an eye opener for me, as I often look around the room at a Mensa event and see a lot of people my age or older. Since Mensans have nothing in common except for our intelligence level, it might be difficult to connect with those who look at the world much differently due to generational influences.

For example, Mr. Prince used the example of how to define a family. For those born in the “Silent” generation (1925-1942) a typical family consisted of Mom, Dad and Grandpa and Grandma. For us “Boomers” (1943-1960), we lived with Mom and Dad and whatever siblings we had. “Generation X” (1961-1981) often lived with a Mom OR Dad. The “Millennials” (1982-2000) often lived with a Grandma or Grandpa.

The most recent generation, dubbed the “Homelanders,” might live with Mom and Mom or Dad and Dad! The Homelanders got their name from being the generation born since 2001, or since there has been a Department of Homeland Security.

Mensa retirees from the Silent Generation are described in Prince’s

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

presentation as having a high respect for authority, hard working, loyal and were raised in the era of print communication and radio.

The Boomers are also aging, and were raised to believe in a hierarchical structure, were focused on career advancement and define themselves by their accomplishments. Communication included newspapers, letters, telephones, radio and television.

Generation X children were early adopters of technology. They can't imagine a world without computers. They adapt well to change and have a casual disdain for authority and structure and dislike micromanagement. They work to live rather than live to work. This group is more capable of combining old technology with newer approaches.

The Millennial group relies on technology as part of their daily life. They're plugged in and cannot remember a time without computers. They are highly educated and willing to trade a better paying job for one with a more accommodating schedule. They aren't afraid to question authority and prioritize family and friends over work. They prefer to email or text message and use social networks as a way of communicating.

Our youngest members, the Homelanders, are highly connected and engaged and are used to a business and social world without geographic borders. They are used to having information available and they consider technology as a natural part of their lives. Their preferred communication is texting, photos and videos.

This should give us, as leaders, insight into how to reach out to our new members. Get your group on Facebook and start Tweeting to them. Find a way to get your information out via texts or social networking. Limit face-to-face meetings as the only way to connect with your members.

Howard Prince offered suggestions to reach the millennial generation by offering child friendly activities participate in wellness events and look for alternatives to traditional Mensa meetings. Ask them how they want to be contacted and when. Ask them to assist in "micro tasks" that don't require a large commitment. Give lots of feedback and recognition and have fun!

Think about ways to engage and empower those who will become the leaders in the future. The world is changing and Mensa must adapt to these changes if we want to continue to offer value to our members.

Books On the Runway

Margy Lancet Fletcher

Title: *Wicked Plants: The Weed that Killed Lincoln's Mother and Other Botanical Atrocities*, and *Wicked Bugs: The Louse that Conquered Napoleon's Army and Other Diabolical Insects*

Author: Amy Stewart **Year:** 2009 and 2011, respectively

Book Description: These two “companion” volumes, written in the same droll, anecdotal style, are entertaining and informative catalogs of common members of the natural world that are, in fact, potentially harmful or repulsive to humans. The various species are presented alphabetically in each book, and are categorized according to their effects on people who come in contact with them: Plants – intoxicating, dangerous, illegal, destructive, painful, or offensive; Bugs – horrible, painful, deadly, dangerous, or destructive.

Has this book changed the way you think, your attitude toward life, or even your life itself? If so, how? Who knew that our outdoor environment posed such a threat?

Who should definitely read this book? Why? Nature and history enthusiasts, and anyone who enjoys a good horror story. Readers will learn, among other things, that Nancy Hanks Lincoln was poisoned by milk containing the white snakeroot that the family cow had consumed, and that typhus carried by body lice killed all but a few thousand of General Napoleon Bonaparte's army of a half-million troops after they marched into Russia in 1812. Please note: (1) *Wicked Bugs* includes both insects and their “squirming, wriggling, and crawling” relatives. (2) Each book contains the author's disclaimer that she is not a scientist but a “writer who is fascinated with the natural world,” and features an extensive bibliography.

How long might it take to read this book? Less than 24 hours for each book.

Provide a short characteristic section, an awesome sentence, or an inspiring quote: *Wicked Plants* – “You can garden for years without ever suffering the ill effects of a plant like monkshood, whose cheerful blue flowers conceal a toxin that brings on death by asphyxiation. You can hike for miles and never encounter the coyotillo shrub, whose berries cause a slow but deadly paralysis. But someday the plant kingdom's dark side may make itself known to you. When it does, you should be prepared.” *Wicked Bugs* – “It is estimated that there are ten quintillion insects alive on the planet right now, which means that for each one of us, there are two hundred million of them. If you arranged all living creatures on earth into a pyramid, almost all of it would be made up of insects, spiders, and the like. Other animals – including people – would form

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

only the smallest section in one corner of the pyramid. We are seriously outnumbered.”

Additional Remarks: All cautionary tales should be as diverting as those contained in these two books.



With MENSA in Altötting September 2013 (Part 1)

Alison Brown

I was quite excited when I learned that Brigit, my beautiful and competent Mensa friend from South East Bavaria, was arranging a Regional Gathering to coincide with the OMV Halfmarathon (a Mensan is co-organizer) in Altötting. I made contact immediately, signed up to be part of the Mensa Team (like most of them, I would be doing the 6 K – about 4 miles – but unlike them, I would be walking). My hostess offered to make the weekend somewhat longer by inviting me to arrive on Thursday and, after an enormous brunch, share a walk through Mühldorf with her and Frank, a fellow M from northern Germany.



Birgit has built up a group of active Mensans in her part of the country and Mühldorf was on one of the first gatherings she organized, so she was full of information about the area. She knew about the history (dating back to 935), geography (built on a series of plateaus, but still subject to flooding), and economic background (despite the name, no mills). Ever prepared, she had her “cheat sheets” with her. She took us to the oldest church (right) and to old buildings with new purposes (a gallery with found art and clever sayings like “If we don’t made mistakes, it means we have not tried enough new things.”) In the evening cakes were baked for the coming weekend, which included Frank’s birthday! We crawled into bed very late – just like a real RG.



The next morning we met at the refinery of the OMV (formerly Austrian Mineral Oil Corporation) in Burghausen. There are no pictures of this beside the ones on the OMV website, private photography is not allowed, but they did provide a photographer to take a picture of our now larger group. We were plied with

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

snacks and drinks, showered with gifts, had a two hour lecture, time for many questions, and taken on a driving tour of the facility. As we had inquired about the control room for the many parts of the plant, where both airline fuel and specialty products are produced according to customers' requirements, a tour of that was instantly arranged before we had lunch in the OMV canteen. Naturally, it was a mass of computers, blinking lights and unintelligible symbols. We saw the facility on maps in a maze of pipelines and how the fuel is delivered directly to the Munich Airport underground! The last stop on the tour was the testing lab. It is run by a separate company, but it tests only the products of the OMV facility to be sure they meet the customer specs, as well as the water that leaves the facility after being treated – the treatment area is the largest on the campus - to make sure that, if there is a river pollution incident, the refinery is / is not the source. On the way out, I took some pictures from the street, but they are not worth reproducing here – just smokestacks behind the trees.

As we had been well fed by OMV we headed straight to the ancient Castle Burghausen, not to tour the longest still existing fortress of its kind in Europe, but to see the sculpture exhibit in the castle courtyard. Friday closed with dinner in the Graminger Weißbräu, an Altötting brewery.



[Continued next month...]



Central Indiana Mensa ExCom Minutes 8/27/13

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held at Midwest Internet on Tuesday, August 27, 2013.

LocSec Jan Pfeil Doyle called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m. Members present included: Jan Pfeil Doyle, David Culp, Teresa Gregory, Ann Hake, Jean Rodgers, Karen Steilberger, Karen Wilczewski, and Karen Zwick. Absent: Bob Zdanky.

The minutes of the July ExCom meeting were reviewed and amended. Ann Hake moved that the amended minutes be accepted, Jean Rodgers seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Karen Zwick presented the Treasurer's report. Ann Hake made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, David Culp seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The membership report shows 4 new members, 4 reinstating, 3 renewing, 1 move-in, 25 prospects.

Old Business

CIM Picnic: The picnic will begin at 1 p.m. on Sept. 22. Karen Wilczewski will e-mail to the ExCom the notes she took at the July meeting about which members will bring which items.

Meeting location: Jan Pfeil Doyle said she will check with David Bonner about the status of the building. Some of the ExCom members may go and look at it as well. We would not move without giving the members and the church where the meetings take place now 3 months' notice.

MIND advertising: Jan Pfeil Doyle left a phone message for the person who inquired about advertising. She has not had a return call yet.

New Business

New member dinner: The south side restaurant proposed as the location of the January new members dinner has recently closed. An alternate location is needed. The committee discussed options and settled on Jonathan Byrd's Cafeteria.

No-flop squad: Jan Pfeil Doyle shared the idea of forming a core group who would commit to attending the first occurrences of a new activity. She, Teresa Gregory, Jean Rodgers, and Karen Wilczewski said they would be interested in taking part. Jan will check with a couple of non-ExCom members who would be likely to be interested as well.

WFYI TV20 fund drive: The committee discussed having a crew of Mensa members assist with an upcoming Channel 20 membership drive. It would be a fun activity that would help the station and bring publicity to Mensa. Jan Pfeil Doyle will call the station to find out what's involved in taking part.

There being no other business, Karen Zwick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Karen Wilczewski seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Steilberger

Treasurer's Report

Karen Zwick, Treasurer

Balance Sheet (as of 09/23/2013)

Bank Accounts	09/23/2013	08/27/2013
Checking – Regular	\$8,086.59	\$8,669.80
Checking - Scholarship	368.50	368.50
Checking – Youth Mbrship	1110.00	1,110.00
Gathering Account	7,881.83	7,881.83
Vanguard Account	3,739.29	\$3,739.29
Total Assets	\$21,186.21	\$21,769.42

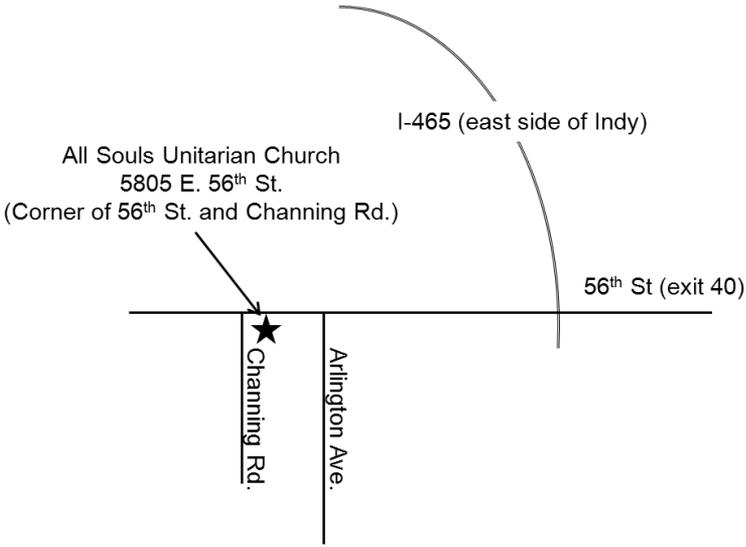
Profit & Loss Statement (08/27/2013 – 09/23/2013)

Income	
402 – National Mensa Inc <i>(526 Ms, 1 New, 1 Reinstating, 0 Newsletter, 10 tests)</i>	608.32
Total Income	\$608.32
Expense	
504.1 - MIND Printing	279.67
504.2 – MIND Postage	230.00
505 - Food for ExCom/MIND	62.06
510 – Miscellaneous – web site domain name renewal	11.48
Total Expense	\$583.21

The Sweet Life:
Sometimes you feel like a nut,
Sometimes you don't!

Central Indiana Mensa Regional Gathering
January 24-26, 2014

You never know what might happen!



Mensa Monthly Gathering Location **All Souls Unitarian Church, The Beattie Room,** **5805 E. 56th St., Indianapolis**

- From I-465 on the east side of Indianapolis, take the 56th St exit west (exit 40).
- Turn left on Channing Rd (1.2 miles from the I-465 exit).
- The church parking lot is on your left.
- Go to the Beattie Room.



Region 4 RVC

Ellen Voie RVC4@us.mensa.org,

Central Indiana Mensa Executive Committee (ExCom)

Local Secretary	Jan Pfeil Doyle, jan@mw.net, (317) 431-3500 PO Box 20158, Indianapolis, 46220
Vice LoclSec	Jean E. Rodgers, jeanerodgers@yahoo.com
Recorder	Karen Steilberger, steilkr@sbcglobal.net
Editor	Teresa Gregory, mind.editor@yahoo.com, (317) 430-1761 75 N Whittier Place, Indianapolis, IN 46219
Calendar Editor	David Culp, dbculp@sbcglobal.net
Program Coordinator	Ann Hake, amhake@yahoo.com
Membership	Bob Zdanky, zdanky@gmail.com, (317) 503-0091
Treasurer	Karen Zwick, kzwick@1stclass.com, (317) 626-3789 1634 Mace Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46229
Publicity	Karen Wilczewski, biltmore@topdogcom.com, (317) 849-9022

Area Coordinators

Bloomington	Nan Harvey, NanHarvey@gmail.com, (812) 345-9608 708 S Cory Lane, Lot 61, Bloomington, IN 47403
Evansville	Dr. Louis Cady, lcadynd@mac.com, (812) 429-0772
Kokomo	Ken Kleist, (765) 457-6975, POB 88 Kokomo, IN 46903
Lafayette	Joe Stamper, joe_stamper@comcast.net, (765) 474-4759
Muncie	Jason Smith, munciemensagmail.com 2601 S. Mitchell Ct., Muncie, IN 47302

Other Volunteers

Esoteric SIG	Petra Ritchie, (317)786-8665, petraritchie@msn.com.
Ham 'n Eggs	Alison Brown, SIGHT@indymensa.org
Gifted Children	David Bonner, gcc@kids.indymensa.org, (317) 973-0258 6279 Canterbury Dr, Zionsville, IN 46077
Ass't Gifted Children	Laurel Richardson, Lhabitat@aol.com, (317) 244-0000 654 Phaeton Place, Indianapolis, IN 46227
SIGHT Coordinator	Alison Brown, SIGHT@indymensa.org
Proctor Coordinator	Steve Merchant, blazingstar32@hotmail.com, (317) 240-3077 2234 Fullerton Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46214
Ombudsman	Dr. Alan Schmidt, alan.schmidt@att.net, (317) 695-5741

