june 2013 volume 49, number 6



Mensa Newsletter Of Central Indiana



OMG! "Dawn with a firm grip on Derek's big pole!" [Photo AND caption courtesy Dr. Alan Dale Schmidt]

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.

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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

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Old Dog/New Tricks

Teresa Gregory, Editor

In this column, I've suggested ways to learn new things, usually for little or no money. (This girl is always looking for a bargain!) It occurred to me that I have not mentioned the obvious, the opportunity that presents itself to us on a regular basis. If you are reading this, you are probably a member of Mensa, and what better place to learn something?



As I write this, I have just spent a weekend in the wilds of Versailles State Park with a group of Mensans from a variety of places. Just sitting and talking to them is an education. At one point, there was a lively discussion of what kind of flowers someone had taken a picture of on a hike. When a disagreement occurred, one person got her wild flowers guide from her car, another looked on the internet on her phone. It turned out, all three were wrong, but they didn't let it go until they knew the answer. This is an example of the sharing of knowledge that you don't find regularly in other groups.

A week earlier at the Monthly Gathering, we had a very engaging presentation from Dr. Alan Schmetzer who talked about the history of mental health care in Indiana. We were on the forefront of mental health research a century ago.

We have a book discussion group. Our books are all non-fiction. Some are more enjoyable than others, but I always learn something. Reading the book is one part of it, but discussing it brings it to life. We don't just take the information at face value. Jan always has her computer ready when someone questions a piece of information or we want to know more about some detail. Just learning from each other's experiences is amazing.

Anytime Mensans get together, they are surrounded by a wealth of information. It's hard to throw out a question and not have anyone know the answer, or at least a reasonable guess. I'm looking forward to the Annual Gathering for this reason. Your membership card is your ticket to interactive fun and knowledge. Consider attending an event and see what you can learn..

LocSection Jan Pfeil Doyle

I just got back from our Outdoor Gathering at Versailles State Park—it was another successful, enjoyable Mensa weekend! Thanks are due to many people who helped make the event such a fun and relaxing weekend: Teresa Gregory once again put on a spread that kept everyone satisfied and more! Cyndi Kuyper once again served as registrar/ treasurer. Alan Schmidt led several hikes and a profound thoughts discussion. Greg Crawford brought



soft drinks. Jud Horning led the dishwashing brigade. Virginia Plottel brought dozens of home made cookies and helped cook. Many others pitched in to help where and when ever they were needed. And, finally, thanks to all those who attended from around the region—we love renewing old friendships and making new ones!

Some of you may know that we in Central Indiana Mensa have a wonderful, anonymous benefactor who has donated funds to pay the dues of our young Mensa members for several years. I received the following note from Lisa Van Gemert, Gifted Youth Specialist, Mensa Foundation, in our national offices in Texas and wanted to share it with the group.

Dear Generous Donor,

There are times when I get discouraged because it's hard to find people who are really committed to helping gifted youth and their families. It can be hard, sitting here in my isolated cubicle, working away and not always seeing my efforts come to fruition. I wish I could share with you how many times the thought that there is someone who is so passionate about meeting the needs of gifted youth that he/she devotes such a large amount of money towards the youth in the area. Just the thought of your generosity and the sentiments behind it always perk me up. I'm so grateful to you on behalf of all of the families. Thank you for your generosity, and thank you for always being a bright spot of encouragement for me.

Sincerely,

Lisa

Esoteric SIG Event!

Friends of Marcele Everest, Petra Ritchie and Carol Eubank are invited to:

A TRIPLE 3/4 CENTURY BIRTHDAY PARTY!

Please come and help these longtime (over 30 years) friends celebrate their big "75"!

WHEN: Saturday, June 29, 2013, 12:30 p.m.

WHERE: All Souls Unitarian Church Social Hall

5805 East 56th Street, Indianapolis 46226

Please NO GIFTS, only a pitch-in dish to share

Meatballs, iced tea, lemonade, ice water and cake will be provided.

No RSVP is necessary.

Questions? Petra 786-8665, Marcele 765-221-9477



Congratuations to our Central Indiana Mensa Scholarship Winners

Laurel Richardson, Scholarship Chair

Winner of The \$500 John Matthews Scholarship Audrey Post, Solsberry,Indiana

Winner of The \$300 Diana Mossip Memorial Scholarship Steven Phillips, Jamestown, Indiana

Applications will be available on line for the 2013-2014 scholarship year in September. Amounts range from \$300 to \$1000 and are administered by MERF, Mensa Educational and Research Foundation. Visit the website for a complete listing of offerings. Membership is MENSA is not a requirement.

http://www.mensafoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships/

[Editor's Note: Special thanks to Laurel Richardson who has been CIM's tireless scholarship chair for many years.]

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Good times at the Outdoor Gathering!





Nanook of the North: A Silent Movie With Expository Intertitles

Teresa Fisher

My favorite kind of movie is the documentary, a form that I feel is underappreciated Rarely do they contain explosions, car chases, or the spilling of intestines. Maybe that's why I enjoy them. I would like to share with the readers of *MIND* my reviews of some of the documentaries I've watched. I will begin at the beginning, with what is widely considered to be the first feature-length documentary, *Nanook of the North*.

In much the same way that James Boswell set the standards for biographies when he wrote *Life of Samuel Johnson*, filmmaker Robert Flaherty helped shape the documentary genre in 1922 with *Nanook of the North*.

Flaherty was an explorer and prospector in the Hudson Bay area of the Canadian Arctic in the early 1900s, and with no motion picture experience he began filming the Eskimos he lived among. He hired local Inuits, or Eskimos, to play the parts of the movie's characters, and has received criticism for that and for staging some of the scenes. He wanted to show ancient traditions before it was too late, but the Eskimos had already begun the modernization process. He asked them to wear old-style clothing and use harpoons instead of the rifles they had become accustomed to. I'm willing to cuCOt him some slack for the artifice. He showed us a time and place that would otherwise have gone unrecorded.

Nanook was Chief of the Inuits of Hopewell Sound in the northern Ungava Province. His hunting ground was nearly as large as England, but fewer than 300 people lived there. Nanook travelled with about a dozen people, and they carved a life out of a land that was extremely hostile to human habitation.

Early adopters of the Atkins Diet, the Inuits ate nothing but meat. There is a moss in the arctic that deer eat, but the Eskimos used it for fuel. The Inuits' favorite food is seal meat, because it gives the most warmth and sustenance. They use blubber the same way we use butter. In the food-scarce arctic everyone is hungry, all the time.

We see the summer journey downriver of Nanook and his followers to the trading post of the white man. Every endeavor requires a great deal of labor. The kayak frame must be covered in seal skin before the voyage, and there is a long

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trek to the river. Nanook had caught fox, seal, walrus, and seven great polar bears that he killed in hand-to-hand combat, using only a harpoon. With his pelts Nanook barters for knives, beads, and candy. The trader demonstrates a gramophone for them, and treats the children to a snack of sea biscuits (hard tack) and lard.

Nanook fishes without bait, using a lure made of two pieces of ivory which he jiggles at the end of a seal hide line. It works, and Nanook kills the fish with his teeth. We also watch him crawl into a hole he made in the snow and catch a white fox. When he and his fellow hunters kill a walrus they are too hungry to take it back to camp right away, so they eat it raw on the beach.

In the alien landscape of the arctic, winter winds drive ice fields that collide with the coast, which buckles and creates gigantic ice slabs. A wandering ice field blocks 100 miles of coast, requiring Nanook to gingerly make his way. The title card tells us, "Upon his skill in traversing dangerous floes his success depends."

One of the most memorable scenes in the movie is when Nanook builds an igloo. He repeatedly licks the blade of his large walrus ivory knife, instantly glazing it with ice. He then chops blocks of snow to the appropriate size and stacks them into the correct shape while his wife and son chink the seams with snow to keep out the wind. The final block near the top is made of ice to form the window, and a block of snow is propped next to the window to reflect sunlight. The igloo is done within an hour. Being a nomad, Nanook must create a new home for his family nearly every day.

The family's household belongings consist of a few robes of bear and deer skin, a stone pot for melting snow, and stone lamps. The temperature in the igloo must remain below freezing to prevent the igloo from melting. While the entire family sleeps under robes, naked from the waist up, in every scene in which the baby appears, it is naked. Everyone else is wearing heavy coats, but the baby wears nothing. In the morning Nanook's wife chews his boots, because sealskin becomes stiff overnight. She then cleans the baby with a small animal skin moistened with the universal solvent for child grime, mom saliva. The baby is not happy.

The sled must be stored atop the igloo at night, or the dogs will eat the seal hide thongs that bind the parts together. Nanook is quite proud of his team of dogs.

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He even makes a small igloo for the puppies so the bigger dogs can't eat them. Arctic snow is as dry as sand, so sled runners must be glazed with ice to make them slide easily. Nanook sips water and spits it onto the runners so the group can set off for another day of hunting.

At the next stop the dogs get tangled in their leads, and fixing that mess causes Nanook's band to get caught in an ice storm. They take refuge in a deserted igloo, and listen to the shrill wind and the hiss of the driving snow as they await the end of the storm.



Welcome!

New Members

Seunghyun Lee	West Lafayette, IN
Cooper Woodward	Indianapolis, IN
Marc C Schiele	Evansville, IN
Katharine V Muir	Indianapolis, IN

Reinstating Members

Steven P Spiech	Indianapolis, IN
Kimberly Gustin Bright	Westfield, IN
Vonda Lee Heverly	Indianapolis, IN
Charles R Simons	Noblesville, IN
Kathleen C Coffee	Lafayette, IN

Members Moving In

Daniel D Schutte Evansville, IN	1
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June 2013 Events - Central Indiana Mensa

Ham 'n' Eggs (**Ham**ilton County **Egg**heads) 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, <u>SIGHT@indymensa.org</u>.

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, <u>munciemensa@gmail.com</u>

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, <u>alan.schmidt@att.net</u>

West Lafayette/Lafayette

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

Mensa Test

Saturday, June 8: Registration: 10 am. Test: 11 am. Wayne Library, 198 South Girls School Road, Indianapolis. Contact Steve Merchant at 317-240-3077 or <u>blazingstar32@hotmail.com</u> for more information.

New Member Dinner/Mensans Dining Out

Contact: Bob Zdanky, 317-503-0091 or <u>Zdanky@gmail.com</u> **Sunday 6/9** 5:30 p.m.: Max and Erma's, 12195 N Meridian St, Carmel, IN 46032. New members eat free, up to \$20. Must contact Bob Zdanky ahead of time for meal ticket.

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 06/14: The speaker for the June monthly meeting is Mensan, artist, and blogger Sara Wright, who will describe how she serendipitously came to be a writer of books on steamboats.

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

June 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
2	2	4	5
2	3	4	5 Indy Lunch
			Bunch; W.
			Lafayette Lunch
9	10	11	12
New Member Dinner			
16	17	18	19
		Paducah Area	Indy Lunch Bunch
		Group Meeting	Dunch
23	24	25	26
		MINDbending/ ExCom	
		Excom	
30	1 (July 2013)	2	3
			Indy Lunch
			Bunch; W. Lafayette Lunch
7	8	9	10

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Ham 'n' Eggs; Muncie Meeting
6	7	8 Kokomo Breakfast; Mensa Test
13	14 Monthly Gathering; MIND deadline	15 Calendar Deadline
20	21	22 Kokomo Breakfast;
27	28	29 Esoteric SIG
4 Independence Day	5	6 Ham 'n' Eggs; Muncie Meeting
11	12 Monthly Gathering	13 Kokomo Breakfast;

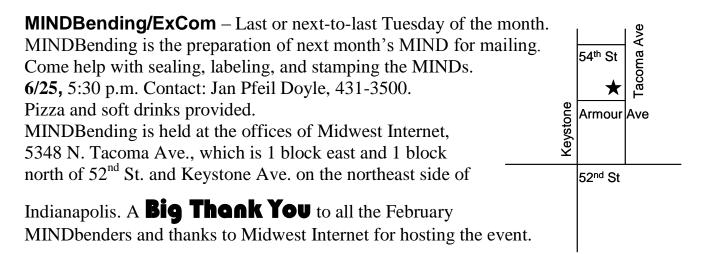
If you lose your MIND (oh, my!) or want additional information, check <u>www.indymensa.org</u> or join our Meetup group, <u>http://www.meetup.com/central-indiana-mensa</u> Meetup is free to join and you will get reminders of upcoming events. It's a great way to stay in the loop.

June 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, <u>rawlings@siu.edu</u>

Kokomo Breakfast – 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. Richard's Restaurant, east of Highway 31, 2 blocks north of Center Contact: Patricia Sottong, (765) 457-0754; leave message.

Esoteric SIG- 6/29, 12:30 p.m.: It's a party! See info on page 6. All Souls Unitarian Church, 5805 E. 56th St. See last page of MIND for map and directions.Questions? Petra Ritchie, 786-8665, petraritchie@msn.com



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

Upcoming July Events

Book Discussion

Sunday, 7/21, 2:00 p.m.: Leo and Jan Pfeil Doyle's home on the northeast side of Indianapolis. Contact Jan Pfeil Doyle, 317-431-3500, or jan@mw.net for directions. RSVPs appreciated. *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion* by Jonathan Haidt

Mensans Dining Out Sunday, 7/21, 5:30 p.m.: Bosphorus 935 South East Street Indianapolis, IN 46225

July MIND calendar items due 6/15/13 to <u>dbculp@sbcglobal.net.</u>

Within Your Ken Ken Silver. RVC4

I'm still basking in the glow of two great events that took place in our region in April. The first weekend in April, Mensa of Wisconsin held their RG. Two weeks later St Louis Area Mensa hosted Mind Games.

The RG was great fun! There were plenty of interesting speakers, and lots of game playing. The headline



speaker, back from the last RG two years ago was Elliot Eisenberg, who is a personal friend of mine, and who bills himself as a "zany economist." If you can't believe economics can be entertaining, you haven't heard the frenetic Dr. Eisenberg speak.

Few groups could afford to do this, but all meals were provided by the hotel, and they were exceptionally good. This isn't something I usually mention, but in this case they added to the festivity of the weekend. The group underwrites some of the cost of doing this, and they got their money's worth. Congratulations to Jason Henderson, RG Chair, and to Ellen Voie, Loc Sec and RVC 4-elect, for a job well done!

This was my first Mind Games as a participant, we hosted it in Minnesota in 2002, but I was helping, not playing, that time. I understood the premise going in, play a lot of games and rate them; the best ones get the "Mensa Select" honor, a marketing coup. What I didn't anticipate was the high degree of camaraderie among the players, many of whom were meeting for the first time. People were extremely friendly, polite, cooperative, and patient, as we fulfilled our mission of getting the games played. Without that exemplary behavior the format wouldn't work, we couldn't possibly finish our list of games.

We had some early surprises, in that the game area was not in the hotel ballroom, as we expected, but in the "pavilion" a huge tent. The ballroom renovation had not been completed in time. It didn't sound good, but once people got in there and started playing, it suddenly became a non-issue. It was a lot better than being in a parking ramp, if you know what I mean.

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I honestly have no words to describe how proud I am of the Mind Games Chair, Jackie Boyce, and the dozens of people from the St Louis group who all pitched in to make this a great weekend for everyone. I'll admit when I first suggested that they bid on the event, having Jackie as the Chair was a big part of the equation. Never did I anticipate the problems they would face, but Jackie handled them with flying colors! It wasn't easy, but hopefully, the great success of the event made it all worth it.

It's hard to believe but this is my last column, it's been my privilege and pleasure to communicate with you each month.

Ken

[Editor's Note: Thanks, Ken, for always being on time each month with your column!

We will miss you at our Gatherings where you seemed to always be surrounded by beautiful women! Good luck and feel free to drop us a line anytime!]





Books On the Runway

Margy Lancet Fletcher

Author: Siddhartha Mukherjee
Title: The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer
Publisher: Scribner
Year: 2010
Pages: 470, not including Acknowledgments, Notes, Glossary,
Bibliography, and Index; total = 571

Book Description: A comprehensive, lucid, and fascinating chronicle of the scientific and psychological aspects of cancer. Includes a history of the human perceptions and treatments of the disease; an account of the remarkable discoveries and political infighting involved in modern medical research; and poignant descriptions of actual cases.

Has this book changed the way you think, your attitude toward life, or even your life itself? If so, how? Cancer may never be completely conquered, but as long as the motivation to acquire knowledge continues to thrive, I remain optimistic.

Who should definitely read this book? Why? Anyone interested in learning about cancer. As the literary style is anecdotal (like a novel) rather than esoteric (like a dissertation), scientific expertise is not required.

How long might it take to read this book? It depends on your personal schedule.

Provide a short characteristic section, an awesome sentence, or an inspiring quote: "Perhaps cancer defines the inherent outer limit of our survival. As our cells divide and our bodies age, and as mutations accumulate inexorably upon mutations, cancer might well be the final terminus in our development as organisms."

Additional Remarks: Well worth the investment in every respect.

CultureQuest 2013

On Sunday, April 28, this year's CultureQuest team met at Midwest Internet. Pencils ready, at precisely 4:00pm, the envelope was opened and the game began. After 90 minutes of intense concentration, discussion, and a few laughs, pencils went down and the answers were sealed into the envelope to be returned to the National Office for scoring. Then off to dinner for more discussion and palm-to-forehead slapping.



George Dunn, Rich Gibson, Matt Brennan, Pat Milligan Teresa Gregory, Karen Steilberger (alternate)

Many Shades of Loneliness Robert Adair

Just being alone, wanting a third hand, knowing it's all up to you, making three trips to bring in the groceries. Lost in the region of a vast, trackless wilderness. Just wanting to hear the sound of a human voice, to share another's thoughts, Craving companionship, a friend, a sister or a brother, having someone to share a meal, someone to do something with. Acceptance in a group where everybody knows your name. Longing for that special person whose smile lights up the room, the touch of her hand, the warmth of her embrace, that light in her eyes which makes it home! Ah! So many shades of loneliness!



Bad Tats *Teresa Fisher*

I have plumbed the depths of current culture to find a new must-see TV program. It's called The Worst Tattoos in America, and it's on TLC. That's all you really need to know, but that won't keep me from telling you more.

On this show, tattoo artists fix tattoos that people wish they hadn't gotten. The fun part is seeing the original tattoos, and sometimes, hearing how they ended up with them. One young woman had a hideous tattoo of actor Steve Buscemi on her leg. (How could it NOT be hideous?) Another woman had two squirrels on her shoulder, but it looked like one squirrel singing to a large penis. She was tired of people making sure she knew that's what it looked like. One man who was clearly an idiot had "Christian" is a poop face" tattooed on him, and said he had lost a bet. He admitted that the bet was that he wouldn't get the tattoo if the other guy (Christian) paid for it. He now realizes he was going to lose, no matter what. A skateboard enthusiast had the outline of a skateboarder on his leg, but it looked like the chalked outline from a crime scene. Another man with numerous tattoos and piercings had gotten a large tattoo of Wile E. Coyote, holding up a sign that says HELP, emerging from his butt. It was visible above his beltline. His wife, also tattooed and pierced, hated the coyote tattoo, so he had it covered up.

The cover-ups were all quite artistic, and everyone was pleased with the results, but some of the repairs were a little strange. One woman wanted two sparrows fighting over a tortilla chip, and a man asked for a bear, juggling teeth. They got their wishes.

Watch soon, because I don't think this show will last long.

Treasurer's Report

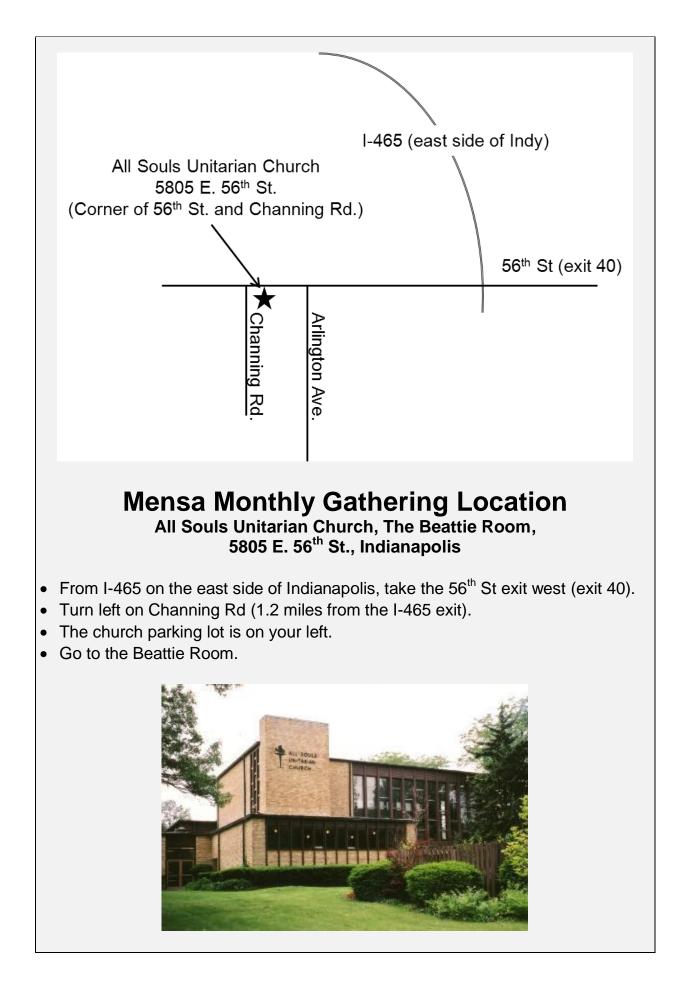
Karen Zwick, Treasurer

Balance Sheet (as of 04/22/2013)

Bank Accounts	04/22/2013	03/25/2013
Checking – Regular	\$9,095.16	\$9,264.31
Checking - Scholarship	344.00	344.00
Checking – Youth Mbrship	110.00	175.00
Gathering Account	7,680.89	7,680.89
Vanguard Account	\$3,739.19	3,739.09
Total Assets	\$20,969.24	\$21,203.29

Profit & Loss Statement (03/26/2013 – 04/22/2013)

Income	
401- Monthly Gathering Inc	99.00
(17 Mensans @ \$5 = \$85, two non Ms @ \$7 = \$14, 7 food, one	
speaker, one new M)	
402 - National Mensa Inc	491.71
(583 members (@.82), \$9.42 Local Group Support, 2 New	
(@\$1), 11 Reinstating (@\$1), 1 Newsletter (@.65))	
403 - Donations	5.00
404 - Interest Income (Vanguard account)	0.10
Total Income	\$595.81
Expense	
501 - Monthly Gathering Hospitality	159.56
504 - MIND Printing	357.50
505 - Food for ExCom/MIND	157.80
506 - New Member Expenses (postage)	45.00
507 - Family Program Expenses	70.00
(payment to American Mensa for membership)	
510 - Miscellaneous Expenses (CultureQuest team registration)	40.00
Total Expense	\$829.86



Region 4 RVC Ken Silver

Ken Silver RVC4@us.mensa.org, (651) 686-0934 1474 Blackhawk Lake Dr, Eagan, MN 55122

Central Indiana Mensa Executive Committee (ExCom)

Cei	
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, lcadymd@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, munciemensa@gmail.com 2601 S. Mitchell Ct., Muncie, IN 47302
	Other Volunteers
Bridge SIG	OPEN
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 <i>,</i> (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 Esoteric SIG	Dr. Alan Schmidt, alan.schmidt@att.net, (317) 695-5741 Petra Ritchie, (317)786-8665, petraritchie@msn.com.

American Mensa, Ltd. 1229 Corporate Drive West Arlington Texas 76006-6103 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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