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# mind

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**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO SHOULD BE IN  
MENSA? TELL THEM ABOUT THE FREE PRIOR  
EVIDENCE REVIEW UNTIL MARCH 31!!!  
GO TO [US.MENSA.ORG](http://US.MENSA.ORG) FOR A LIST OF OVER 200  
ACCEPTED TESTS!**

## Old Dog/New Tricks

*Teresa Gregory, Editor*

Have you ever wondered how great discoveries come about? A good many probably happen by accident. No one was really trying to find something, but inspiration just smacked them in the head. That happened to me at the close of the Regional Gathering.

Being around smart people gets the old creative juices flowing. Leo Doyle had given a fun and informative talk on making a bug-out-bag, or 72 hour survival bag to have in case of an emergency. One of the things that came into discussion was fire starters, and someone suggested dryer lint was an excellent fuel for this. My first thought was that I have a cottage industry in my basement that I wasn't even aware I had. I could be harvesting my dryer lint and selling it on Ebay. Sheesh.



But the real revelation came Sunday morning after the brunch. Still fixating on this bumper crop of bounty in my basement, I was chatting with Karen Steilberger. I mentioned that, before I moved two years ago, I had never had a washer and dryer. (I'll let you all think about that for a minute because people usually drop their jaws at that revelation. It is true.) Because this whole washer and dryer thing is new to me, I've been stunned at how much lint is collected in that dryer screen every time I use it. I religiously clean it out.

And then it struck! Karen witnessed it. The revelation. The key to one of life's most baffling mysteries: where does the missing sock go? I knew. I *knew*! It transformed into a big pile of dryer lint! Why had no one realized this before? So simple yet so complex. I was so excited that I barely noticed Karen glancing from side to side and slowly backing away. Now the next mystery is how to reconstitute this link back into a sock.

The wonders of a busy RG weekend, three days of activity and less than five hours of sleep, frees your mind to achieve greatness. I promise to stay humble after I win my Nobel Prize.

## LocSection

*Jan Pfeil Doyle*

**CIM RG** – If you were at our Regional Gathering at the end of January, you already know what a wonderful time we had! It was great to see old friends and make new ones. RG Chair **Teresa Gregory** put on a great spread in hospitality, arranged entertaining and captivating programs, and so much more! Our many thanks to you once again, Teresa! Thanks also go to Registrar **Karen Steilberger**; drinks “skippers” **Karen** and **Matt Zwick** (along with Karen’s husband, **Jim**);



Friday night soup makers **Virginia Plottel** and **Teresa Gregory**; the Saturday lunch team **Karen Zwick**, **Matt Zwick** and **Elise Davidson**; **David Bonner** for smoking and pulling 40 pounds (!) of scrumptious pork; **Barb George** who sold raffle tickets and did a lot of necessary-but-thankless jobs; **Alison Brown** who took the recycling; our interesting speakers **Dr Alan Schmidt**, **Karen Zwick**, and **Leo Doyle X 2**; and to everyone else who pitched in. Additional entertainment included **Beverly Braden** and the other Friday night comedians, **Dom Jervis’s** (not) Golf Tournament, the Indy Pride Bag Ladies and a blind chocolate tasting. Hope to see you there next year!

**Kudos** – Please join me in thanking **Laurel Richardson** for her many years of service as Coordinator and then Assistant Coordinator for CIM’s Gifted Youth program. Laurel is retiring from her formal involvement in the GY program but will still be around to help out as needed. **Laurel** continues to serve as CIM’s Scholarship Chair, managing the judging of Mensa scholarship applications from our area. Many thanks to **Laurel** and this year’s judges **Marcele Everest**, **Jeremiah Freeman**, **Charles Rawlings**, and **Karen Zwick**.

**Volunteering Opportunities** – Because of Laurel’s retirement, we have an opening for Assistant GY Coordinator. You would be joining GY Coordinator **David Bonner** and Ass’t GY Coordinator **Diane O’Brien** in helping run CIM’s GY program. Please contact David or me if you’re interested in helping. AND even though we’ve had a good response, we still could use a **few more proctors** to help administer the Mensa test. If you’re interested, please contact Teresa Gregory or me.

**Sad News** – Long-time Central Indiana Mensa member **Carolyn Axtell** passed away on February 9th. Carolyn was a regular attendee at CIM’s Gatherings and Mensa’s Annual Gathering. She will be missed. CIM will make a donation to the John Matthews scholarship fund in Carolyn’s memory.

**Don’t Forget** – (1) To renew by March 31st, a requirement if you’d like to be on a CultureQuest team. (2) To sign up to be on or to organize a CultureQuest team (see last month’s column or [www.us.mensa.org/attend/culturequest/](http://www.us.mensa.org/attend/culturequest/) for more info).

## RG Recap

Teresa Gregory, Chair

Another Regional Gathering is in the books. I was ready for a nap after that! We had a good time. The stars lined up for us this year. As of MINDbending, January 19, we had 43 people registered. Thanks to good weather and lower gas prices, we had about 80 in attendance. We saw some new faces and some faces we haven't seen in a long time.

This is the second year that we've had a raffle for a free registration to the next Outdoor Gathering or Regional Gathering, winner's choice. The profits go to the scholarship fund. We weren't very organized with it last year. This year, Barb George went around during lunch and dinner ~~harassing~~ encouraging people to pony up a buck for the kids. She sold around \$120 worth of tickets. Thanks, Barb! The scholarship coffers increased significantly with donations for Karen Zwick's DVD collection and the left-over Buzz Fund t-shirts and sweatshirts.

Speaking of Karen Zwick, she and her crew put on another fabulous lunch on Saturday. Vats of delicious hot soup, fresh salad, and wonderful homemade breads hit the spot. Elise Davidson, cookie artist, brought many colorful and fun cookies to share. Yum.

Karen was also voted Party Animal by the Hell's Ms. It's an honor she certainly earned. She also did a wonderful program for us on simplifying our lives. We all learned some tips and tricks, and Karen learned NOT to mention weeding out books to Mensans.



It's nice to have good friends. A couple of program options dried up at the last minute leaving me with a gap. I called my good friend, Leo Doyle, and asked if he knew anyone who could talk about what to put in a Bug-Out-Bag? I've heard of them but didn't know what to include. He said he'd do it and brought his own to show us. It was a lot livelier than anyone expected, and we all learned how much useful stuff you can jam into one backpack. Leo also did a program on self

publishing. We all know how much Mensans love books. (See previous paragraph.)

Alan Schmidt spends a lot of time in Washington, DC these days...something about a wife who lives there...and he gave a talk about some of the must-see places to visit for those visiting the nation's capital. *Continued on next page*

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It's also nice to have people working quietly behind the scenes who make it happen without a lot of micromanagement. I know that Friday night, there will be a coffee urn plugged in on a timer so that coffee is ready in the morning. Bill Kuyper has been the coffee guy for a long long time. And I know that there will be a smiling face at the registration table with papers in hand and name badges ready to go. Karen Steilberger is so efficient, she makes her job look much easier than it is.



Of course, there's my partner in crime, Jan Pfeil Doyle. She's the Ethel to my Lucy (meaning she's the voice of reason). Thank you, Jan. I can't do it without you.



I don't know how we did this before we had smart phones. A week or so before the RG, Jan and I are usually texting like 16-year-olds. (That means a lot.) This year's winning message, though, belongs to David Bonner who texted us a picture of the 40 pounds of pork in his grocery cart. The smoked pulled pork was outstanding.

Hey, it was a lot of fun. Let's do it again next year, January 27-29. There are always some surprises and lots of great people to see. Registration is open now.



**If you're sorry you missed all this fun...and good food...think about attending the Central Indiana Outdoor Gathering. It's May 20, 21, and 22 at Versailles State Park in south-east Indiana. See the CIM website or the American Mensa website event calendar for more details.**

## Letter to Joanne

Teresa Fisher

I used to get a phone call from Joanne Ortman almost every day, but because of her current medical condition, that will no longer be happening. I can still communicate with her, though, and I've decided to write her a monthly letter. I will submit excerpts to MIND. Following are parts of one of those letters.

Dear Joanne,

It's been an eventful few weeks.

The fart piano I got Dani for Christmas was a big hit, much more so than the make-your-own-poop mold and brown clay. (You wouldn't think one would need special equipment to do that, would you?) After she opened the package I got to see what kind of musical instructions came with the piano. The keys were numbered, and the numbers to the first couple of bars of several songs were on a sheet of paper. The aspiring musician can play *Jingle Bells*, *When the Saints Go Marching In*, *Here Comes the Bride*, *Hail to the Chief*, *London Bridge*, *Row Row Row Your Boat*, and *Ode to Joy*, all in a variety of fart, burp, and retching sounds. Alas, one cannot mix sound types in the same song. That would be gauche.

Dani got another memorable gift from my niece, a jelly bean game called Bean Boozled. The beans come in a variety of colors, and each color has two possible flavors. Players must guess which flavor it is, and then taste it to see if they are correct. The instructions advised that a trash can should be nearby for spitting. Were the yellow beans caramel corn or moldy cheese? Were the brown ones chocolate pudding or canned dog food? Other pairings were coconut or baby wipes (it didn't say whether the wipes were used), buttered popcorn or rotten egg, licorice or skunk spray (no way to win there), peach or barf, tutti frutti or stinky socks, blueberry or toothpaste (Dani thought there was no way to lose on that pair), lime or lawn clippings, and juicy pear or boogers. I wasn't brave enough to play

Several of the other gifts I got Dani were items she circled in a catalog of educational toys. She circled a device that you put a gift or money in, and the recipient must figure out how to open it. You can see whatever is inside, and the illustration showed the device holding money. After circling it Dani wrote "just the money."

Rhianna was pleased that she will be able to wear her Captain Jack Sparrow costume in Portland next month at the nerdfest. She's working on other Johnny Depp character costumes, but she showed no interest when I suggested she create a costume commemorating Mafia boss Whitey Bulger.

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Speaking of Portland – my new granddaughter, Fiona, was born there January 1<sup>st</sup>. She's doing great and Chris is enjoying being a daddy. I asked if she was walking yet, and he said he'd sent her to the store to buy groceries. I warned him not to trust her with money or credit cards, because she would just buy baby toys.

I'm sure I told you stories about my next-door neighbor Bill, who's had a procession of ne'er-do-wells passing through his life. On December 29 he brought one of them to my house and asked me to let him use my computer. Eric wanted to see if he could find out how to get his phone working again after his girlfriend disabled it. (I realize now that he needed the phone so he could contact his drug connection. His girlfriend had disabled the phone to prevent him doing so.) He was unsuccessful, but as he was leaving he grabbed my purse and used the keys in it to steal my car. I've spent the past week and a half trying to get my life back. I lost my credit card, driver's license, cell phone, the contents of my purse, and everything that was in my car, including my GPS. My life was on hold until I got a new credit card, but I finally got it and rented a car to drive until either my old one is found, or the insurance company pays me (a fraction of) what it's worth.

I am now driving a 2016 Chevy Malibu the color of a dirty sidewalk. I don't have words to describe the mundane, uninteresting, dull, dreary, characterless, boring color of this grayish-beige car. Well, I guess I do have words. (Thanks, thesaurus.)

As an environmentally concerned person who wants no molecule wasted, you might understand why this next anecdote amuses me so much. I think I told you I've been getting food delivered by Blue Apron. I receive the raw ingredients for three recipes once a week, and most food items are individually packaged. A recent recipe required one carrot, which was to be shredded. I already had a package of shredded carrots, so I used one carrot's worth of that. It meant I still had a carrot in a carrot-shaped zip lock bag, with a label on it that said CARROT. For the past few weeks I've been sharing leftovers with neighbor Bill, who sometimes didn't have anything to eat. Before he got on meth he was environmentally aware, so when I handed him the over-packaged carrot I said, "This is what's wrong with our wasteful consumer society." He was clearly appalled and said, "Did you *buy* this?!?" It makes me laugh every time I imagine the produce aisle at the grocery store filled with individually-wrapped and labeled carrots, celery stalks, apples, cherries, bananas, grapes, etc.

That's all for now.

Teresa

## Welcome New and Returning Members!

Move In	Dennis E Mason	Indianapolis	IN
New	Meeka Wojciechowski	Brownsburg	IN
New	Michael Robinson	Zionsville	IN
New	James Walters	Holland	IN
New	Nicholas Goh	Bloomington	IN
New	Amanda A Winburn	Indianapolis	IN
Reinstating	Umer Bhatti	Indianapolis	IN
Reinstating	Mathew Foley	Westfield	IN
Reinstating	Rebecca Guilkey	Indianapolis	IN
Reinstating	Andrew R Blickman	Westfield	IN
Reinstating	Cynthia Schamel	Indianapolis	IN
Reinstating	James I Sparks Jr	Greenwood	IN



### Petra's Punny Page

*Petra Ritchie*

From Alison Brown's Mensan Pen-Pal in Israel:

#### Science Puns for Nerds

I'm reading a great book on anti-gravity. I can't put it down.

I have a new theory on inertia but it doesn't seem to be gaining momentum.

Why can't atheists solve exponential equations? Because they don't believe in higher powers.

Schrodinger's cat walks into a bar. And doesn't.

Do you know the name Pavlov? It rings a bell.

*Have a really clever pun to contribute? Email: [petraritchie@msn.com](mailto:petraritchie@msn.com)*

## March 2016 Events

**Indy Lunch Bunch** – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 12:00 noon, Double Eagle Café, 650 N. Meridian (at the Scottish Rite Cathedral), Indianapolis. Contact: Karen Steilberger, [steilkr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:steilkr@sbcglobal.net)

**Ham 'n' Eggs (Hamilton County Eggheads)** – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday from 9:45 a.m. - 12 noon. NEW LOCATION: Atrio, 11700 Illinois St. (Meridian & 116<sup>th</sup> St., Carmel, IN, located at IU Health North). Located just off the atrium on the first floor on the left as you enter the building from the north entrance. Breakfast served till 10 a.m., then lunch starts at 11 a.m. Drop in any time for casual conversation, lively discussion, and good food and beverages. Contact: Alison Brown, 317-846-6798, [SIGHT@indymensa.org](mailto:SIGHT@indymensa.org).

**Bridge Club** – Join Bob Van Buskirk for casual, friendly bridge on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month, 2 p.m., Contact: Bob Van Buskirk, 317-359-6907 or [vnbuskirk@yahoo.com](mailto:vnbuskirk@yahoo.com). Location will change each month. Call ahead.

**Monthly Gathering** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday at 7:00 p.m. Quality Inn Castleton on the SW corner of Allisonville Road and I-465 (8380 Kelly Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46250). See last page of *MIND* for map and directions. Members: \$5.00, Non-Members: \$7.00; Children 6-12: \$3.00, under 6: free. **3/11:** Dr Thomas Ford Liffick will speak on his interest in State Hospital Cemeteries.

**Mensans Dining Out** – 6 p.m., March 20, Havana Café, 3839 Moller Road, Indianapolis, IN 46254. For more information, contact Bob Zdanky at 317-219-3773.

**Paducah Area Group Meeting** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month, 7 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](mailto:rawlings@siu.edu)

## March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		1	2 Indy Lunch Bunch
6 Bridge Club	7	8	9
13	14	15 <i>MIND</i> bending/ ExCom Paducah Area Group Meeting	16 Indy Lunch Bunch
20 Mensans' Dining Out; Book Club	21	22	23
27	28	29	30

## March 2016 (cont.)

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4 <i>MIND</i> deadline	5 Ham 'n' Eggs, Cal. Deadline
10	11 Monthly Gathering	12
17	18	19
24	25 Cinder	26
31		

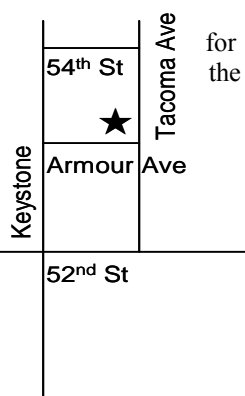
If you lose your *MIND* (oh, my!) or want additional information, check [www.indymensa.org](http://www.indymensa.org) or join our Meetup group, <http://www.meetup.com/central-indiana-mensa>. Meetup is free to join and you'll get reminders of upcoming events. It's a great way to stay in the loop.

## March 2016 Events (cont.)

**MINDBending/ExCom** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.  
*MINDBending* is the preparation of next month's *MIND* mailing. Come help with sealing, labeling, and stamping *MINDs*.

**3/15, 5:30 p.m.** Contact: Jan Pfeil Doyle, 317-431-3500.  
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 52<sup>nd</sup> St. and Keystone Ave. on the northeast side of Indianapolis.



**A Big Thank You** to all the February *MINDbenders* and Midwest Internet for hosting the event.

**Cinder** – 4<sup>th</sup> Friday at 7 p.m. at 721 E. 55<sup>th</sup> St., Indianapolis. A SIG for the Gen X and Gen Y crowd. Contact Ethan Blocker-Smith at [MensaCinder@gmail.com](mailto:MensaCinder@gmail.com).

**Book Group** – 2 p.m., Sunday, March 20. We will discuss *Almost Nearly Perfect People: Behind the Myth of the Scandinavian Utopia* by Michael Booth. 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](mailto:hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com) or 317-735-2895 for more details or to RSVP.

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

April 2016 *MIND* calendar items due 3/4/15 to: [biltmore@topdogcom.com](mailto:biltmore@topdogcom.com).

## Four To The Fore

George Haynes, RVC4

*To be or not to be.....offended, that is*

Please pardon my revision of The Bard's famous lines. No need to take offense. It's all creative liberty used for purposes of making a point. Right?

Liberty. We all want it, in some form or another. Most of us believe it is essential to the American way of life. Within Mensa we affirm as an organization that our only commonality is an IQ in the top 2 percent. As members we desire the liberty to enjoy our Mensa membership in a fashion that is as unique as each one of us. Correct? Back to Mensa in a moment....



I've been a lover of standup comedy ever since I was about 11 years old. A witty turn of phrase. A clever setup. An acerbic punch line. You're speaking one of my "love languages" if you can use those elements of comedy (to name a few) to capture my attention and actually make me laugh. Having been a consumer of comedy for most of my life, I decided in 2009, at the age of 40, to actually try being a standup comic. The one time I did it in college to an audience of about 10 people didn't seem to count as adequately filling my bucket list. Flash forward seven years to now and I'm still enjoying this creative outlet as a producer and a consumer.

Comedy of any era operates within the cultural milieu of its time. These early decades of the 21st century in America will probably be characterized in the latter decades by self-appointed historians of some stripe as "the offended years." Everyone is offended by something and are rabid to punish the perceived offenders. Some are even ravenous to punish comedians. Comedians: Those who specialize in the absurd and the ridiculous but who also are our culture's truth tellers in many ways.

Being offended helps no one. The state of being offended is introspection and self-validation gone to seed. Punishing free speech moves us (as a culture) more toward tyranny. Be it a conservative tyranny or a liberal tyranny, BOTH are still a boot on someone's head.

Herding cats is the analogy most often used to describe working, socializing, and interacting within our wonderful organization. It's an apt analogy. I've never seen an offended cat, though. Yes I've seen an angry cat. I've even seen a cat fighting another cat for food or affection. But, these feline histrionics are all related to base instincts. Offended cats on the other hand? Cats of Unusual Sensitivity? The C.O.U.S.? I don't think they exist. *Continued on next page*

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As Mensans we can learn from cats. Each one of us is doggedly (or cattedly) unique. We don't take direction well. We are stalwart in our deeply held opinions and convictions. We oftentimes (like cats) even have an air of superiority about us (intended or unintended). Like cats, we are not easy to live with sometimes. But, if you get to know us you will find a depth of friendship and affection that is unmatched.

A group of people with such diverse and disparate views on EVERYTHING has virtually no chance of somehow being a cohesive organization, right? Wrong. The key is deciding to NOT be offended. I speak from personal experience. I used to go into Firehouse (on Facebook and the Mainland Forums) with the goal of arguing and fighting. I finally realized that I would change no one's mind on anything EVER. I made a paradigm shift. That is, I believe what I believe and I don't need others to confirm my opinions or convictions. I don't need to silence others. I don't need to be publicly validated as correct all the time. I gave up the perceived right to be offended.

I am not giving a moral directive or a behavioral mandate to anyone. We all know that Mensans who presume to tell others how to live (in any way) are summarily flogged and ostracized (hyperbole intended). I simply ask that you enjoy Mensa and consider putting down your weapons (if you even had them raised). Enjoy the dissonance of 56000 people who believe they could each rule the world if given the chance. Revel in the collegial din of competing world views all gathered around this table we call Mensa. Reach out a hand of friendship to that one guy who drives you crazy. And by all means, please don't be offended by anything I've written in this column.



## **Books on the Runway**

*Margy Lancet Fletcher*

*Title: Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*

*Author: Ransom Riggs*

*Year: 2011*

*Book Description:* As rocker Rod Stewart proclaimed in his 1971 hit LP, "Every picture tells a story."

Although the author of *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* is far too young to remember that recording, he seems to have taken its message to heart, inasmuch as he has mined his vast collection of unusual antique photographs for subject and plot ideas for his delightfully offbeat young adult novel. The starkly vivid black-and-white images are placed

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strategically throughout the book to enhance the story line and add a cinematic element to the reading experience. The protagonist in this eerily fanciful tale is Jacob Portman, the sixteen-year-old scion of an affluent Jewish family residing in Florida. His grandfather's dramatic accounts of his escape from the Nazis during World War II and the Welsh boarding house in which he took refuge are Jacob's only relief from the stiflingly mundane existence for which he seems to be destined. Eventually, however, his grandfather's insistence on the veracity of his tales of extraordinarily gifted children and predatory monsters causes Jacob to wonder about the old man's mental stability (see the quote below). A horribly tragic event compels Jacob to journey to the elder Portman's childhood haunt to seek out the truth. There, on a wild and isolated Welsh island, the past and present intertwine as Jacob becomes acquainted with Abe Portman's "peculiar" classmates and their birdlike guardian, Miss Peregrine. His subsequent experiences with his highly unusual new friends are both exhilarating and frightening. As Jacob and his cohorts battle what is revealed to be a common enemy, he learns that safety is illusory, appearances are almost always deceptive, personal relationships should never be taken for granted, and eccentricities can be assets. Jacob's unorthodox education continues in two sequels currently available in bookstores: *Hollow City* and *Library of Souls*.

*Has this book changed the way you think, your attitude toward life, or even your life itself? If so, how?* The past two centuries have produced many distinguished authors of youth-oriented books, among whom are Laura Ingalls Wilder, J R R Tolkien, Louisa May Alcott, T. H. White, Edgar Rice Burroughs, and Mark Twain. In the twenty-first century, thanks to the immense popularity of the Harry Potter, Twilight, and Hunger Games series, young adult literature has been elevated to an art form and has earned its own category. I find this genre particularly enjoyable because each book is invariably written from a youthful perspective: candid, thoughtful, and emotionally-charged - appealing to the senses as well as the intellect. Ransom Riggs's debut novel beautifully fulfills this requirement, capturing the imagination while exploring such familiar themes as tolerance, friendship, group loyalty, resourcefulness, fear of the unknown, tyranny, and the quest for immortality.

*Who should definitely read this book? Why?* Connoisseurs of fantasy fiction will be intrigued by the ensemble of eccentric characters that populate Jacob Portman's world within and outside the island boarding house. These readers will recognize elements of Harry Potter, the X-men, Edward Scissorhands, and Alice in Wonderland, among others. Fellow Indy Mensan Teresa Gregory, in particular, will be gratified by the absence of vampires, werewolves, and zombies, all of which have recently been - pardon the expression - done to death.

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*How long might it take to read this book?* The simple but colorful prose and spellbinding story guarantee a satisfying and speedy reading experience. One or two sittings, and the reader will be ready to move on to the first sequel - that is, unless he or she pauses to gaze at those mesmerizing old photographs.

*Provide a short characteristic section, an awesome sentence, or an inspiring quote:* “My grandfather was the only member of his family to escape Poland before the Second World War broke out. He was twelve years old when his parents sent him into the arms of strangers, putting their youngest son on a train to Britain with nothing more than a suitcase and the clothes on his back. It was a one-way ticket. He never saw his mother or father again, or his older brothers, his cousins, his aunts and uncles. Each one would be dead before his sixteenth birthday, killed by the monsters he had so narrowly escaped. But these weren’t the kind of monsters that had tentacles and rotting skin, the kind a seven-year-old might be able to wrap his mind around - they were monsters with human faces, in crisp uniforms, marching in lockstep, so banal you don’t recognize them for what they are until it’s too late... Like the monsters, the enchanted island story was also a truth in disguise. Compared to the horrors of mainland Europe, the children’s home that had taken in my grandfather must’ve seemed like a paradise, and so in his stories it had become one: a safe haven of endless summers and guardian angels and magical children, who couldn’t *really* fly or turn invisible or lift boulders, of course. The peculiarity for which they’d been hunted was simply their Jewishness. They were orphans of war, washed up on that little island in a tide of blood. What made them amazing wasn’t that they had miraculous powers; that they had escaped the ghettos and gas chambers was miracle enough.”

*Additional Remarks:* The movie version of *Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children* is now in production; it stars Asa Butterfield as Jacob Portman, features Samuel L. Jackson, Judi Dench, and Rupert Everett in supporting roles, is directed by (who else?) Tim Burton, and will premier on Christmas Day, 2016. It closely follows the November 18, 2016 release of the Harry Potter prequel, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*. Definitely for discriminating moviegoers who, like myself, find the inanely stereotypical Star Wars cowboys-in-space melodramas a colossal bore. May the true Force - quality entertainment - always be with us.

*[Ed. Note: Thanks, Margy, for alerting me to a book without vampires, werewolves, and zombies. Toss all those comic book superheroes into that pile while you’re at it. This really does sound like a cut far above. I look forward to it.]*

# **Central Indiana Mensa ExCom Minutes 12/15/15**

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held at Midwest Internet on Tuesday, December 15, 2015.

LocSec Jan Pfeil Doyle called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m. Members present were: Jan Pfeil Doyle, Jon Applegate, Ann Hake, Diane O'Brien, Karen Steilberger, Bob Zdanky, and Karen Zwick.

Absent: Ethan Blocher-Smith and Karen Wilczewski.

Guests: Teresa Gregory, Jud Horning, and Petra Ritchie.

The committee reviewed the minutes of the November ExCom meeting. Karen Zwick moved that the minutes be accepted as amended, Diane O'Brien seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The committee reviewed the Treasurer's report. Karen Zwick noted that it includes \$58 in donations to the scholarship fund. Jon Applegate moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented. Bob Zdanky seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The membership report shows 1 new and 2 reinstating members, 2 offers of membership, and 14 prospects.

## **Old Business**

Shirt supply: Bob Zdanky manned the booth at the All Souls Unitarian Church sale in December and took in \$135 in contributions in exchange for shirts. Of the proceeds, 15% went to the church. Jan Pfeil Doyle proposed giving away shirts to those who register for the RG, and donating the rest to charity. The ExCom agreed with this approach.

Monthly meeting place: Jan Pfeil Doyle and Karen Zwick visited the UU church on Michigan Road. They felt there was insufficient close parking at that site. Bob Zdanky talked with someone at All Souls Church about moving back there. The advantages include lower costs and the availability of a kitchen. There is an issue with liability insurance. Jan has talked with National's financial expert, and he is doing some checking. Jan will confirm that we will have the current location through June 2016, and she welcomes anyone to research other options.

Holiday party: Jan Pfeil Doyle thanked Petra Ritchie for decorating. Petra said that new member Andrea did a great job helping.

Proctor recognition: To thank retired proctor Steve Merchant for his dedicated service, Karen Zwick and Teresa Gregory suggested to the ExCom that an Amazon gift card would be a good alternative to a plaque. Bob Zdanky made a motion to give Steve an Amazon \$100 gift card in appreciation for all his

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service. Jon Applegate seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

New proctors: Teresa Gregory has the names of several people who have expressed interest in becoming proctors, including Karen Zwick, who has completed a Webinar. Teresa will accept other proctor candidates and she hopes we will be able to provide testing at different locations.

Regional gathering: Teresa Gregory mentioned the note from one registrant who was grateful that registering is so easy with EventBrite. Karen Steilberger said she has 18 RG registrations so far.

### **New Business**

Book offer: Jan Pfeil Doyle said that Laurel Richardson has 200 boxes of books to donate. We could have them, but we would have to move them and store them. The committee discussed the offer and concluded that while we appreciate Laurel's generosity, we are not in a position to take on the moving and storing. Petra Ritchie suggested some other organizations that might be able to use the books.

GenCon booth: Jan Pfeil Doyle said that National did not offer additional subsidies for the cost of having a booth at GenCon. We declined the opportunity to help pay for and staff the booth.

Testing events: Jan Pfeil Doyle received a listing of test events and discounts.

There being no other business, Bob Zdanky made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ann Hake seconded the motion. The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Steilberger

## Treasurer's Report

*Karen Zwick, Treasurer*

### Balance Sheet (as of 01/18/2016)

Bank Accounts	12/14/2015	01/18/2016
Checking – Regular	\$9,441.82	\$9,464.39
Checking – Scholarship	\$383.03	383.03
Checking – Youth Membership	\$427.34	427.34
Checking – RG/OG Fund	\$8,517.84	8,157.84
Checking – Youth Activity Fund	\$480.40	480.40
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$19,250.43</b>	<b>\$18,913.00</b>

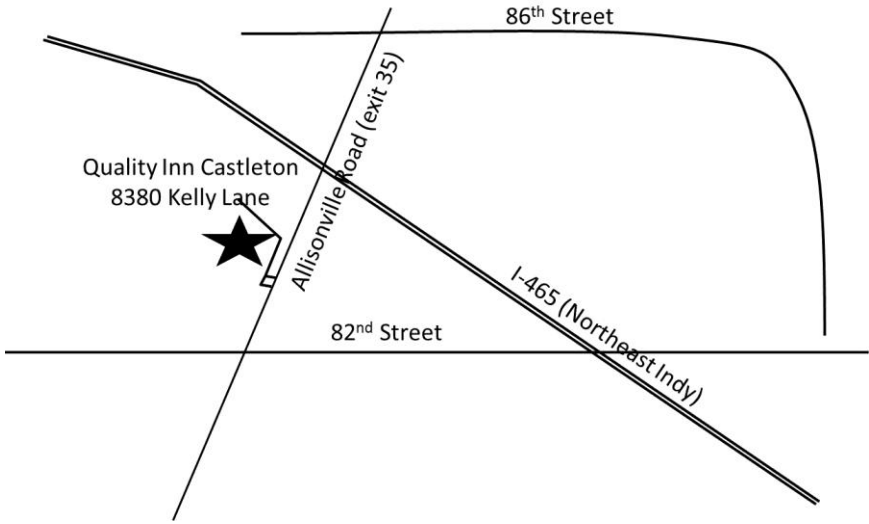
### Profit & Loss Statement (12/15/2015 – 01/18/2016)

Income		
	401.2 – RG Registrations	160.00
	402 – National Mensa (December and January)	1028.25
	406 – Income for Buzz Fund	114.75
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$1,303.00</b>
Expense		
	501.1 – Monthly Gathering Hospitality	6.40
	501.2 – Monthly Gathering Facility (through April 2016)	585.00
	502.1 – RG Hospitality ( purchase of leftover snacks from Cincinnati RG and advance to purchase food)	520.00
	505 – Food for ExCom/MINDBending	41.62
	505.1 – MIND Printing	312.17
	505 – MIND Expenses (stickers)	85.30
	507 – Promotional Expenses (Meetup)	89.94
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$1,640.43</b>

**It's Renewal Time!**  
**Watch your mail or renew online.**  
**[us.mensa.org](http://us.mensa.org).**

## MEETING LOCATION

Quality Inn Castleton  
8380 Kelly Lane  
Indianapolis, IN 46250



**Directions from I-465** From I-465 on the NE side of Indianapolis, take Exit 35, Allisonville Rd • Turn south on Allisonville Rd • Take the first right onto Kelly Lane • Follow Kelly Lane around to the Quality Inn.

**Directions back to I-465** • Turn right from Kelly Lane onto Allisonville Rd • immediately get into the left turn lane • Make a U- turn at 82<sup>nd</sup> St to go north on Allisonville Rd • Entrance ramp for I- 465 E/S is on your right • Entrance ramp for I-465 W is on your left.

**Directions from Allisonville Rd from the north** • Take Allisonville Rd south toward 82<sup>nd</sup> St • After you cross over I-465, take the first right onto Kelly Lane • Follow Kelly Lane around to the Quality Inn.

**Directions back to Allisonville Rd northbound** • Turn right from Kelly Lane onto Allisonville Rd • Immediately get into left turn lane • Make a U-turn at 82<sup>nd</sup> St to go north on Allisonville Rd.

**Directions from Allisonville Rd from the south** • Take Allisonville Rd north toward 82<sup>nd</sup> St • After you cross over 82<sup>nd</sup> St, take the first left onto Kelly Lane • Follow Kelly Lane around to the Quality Inn.

**Directions back to Allisonville Rd southbound** • Turn right from Kelly Lane onto Allisonville Rd.

## Region 4 RVC

George Haynes [RVC4@us.mensa.org](mailto:RVC4@us.mensa.org),

### Central Indiana Mensa Executive Committee (ExCom)

Local Secretary	Jan Pfeil Doyle, <a href="mailto:jan@mw.net">jan@mw.net</a> , (317) 431-3500
Parliamentarian	Ethan Blocher-Smith, <a href="mailto:MensaCinder@gmail.com">MensaCinder@gmail.com</a> , (260) 413-0093
Secretary	Karen Steilberger, <a href="mailto:steilkr@sbcglobal.net">steilkr@sbcglobal.net</a>
Sergeant-at-Arms	Jon Applegate, <a href="mailto:jkapplegate@bluemarble.net">jkapplegate@bluemarble.net</a> , (517) 896-5022 (812) 825-2080 (answering machine)
Ass't Gifted Children	Diane O'Brien, <a href="mailto:robrien25@comcast.net">robrien25@comcast.net</a> , (317) 753-4371
Program Chair	Ann Hake, <a href="mailto:amhake@yahoo.com">amhake@yahoo.com</a>
Vice-LocSec & Membership	Bob Zdanky, <a href="mailto:zdanky@gmail.com">zdanky@gmail.com</a> , (317) 219-3773 Karen Zwick, <a href="mailto:kzwick@outlook.com">kzwick@outlook.com</a> , (317) 626-3789
Treasurer	
Calendar Editor	Karen Wilczewski, <a href="mailto:biltmore@topdogcom.com">biltmore@topdogcom.com</a> , (317) 849-9022

### Area Coordinators

Bloomington	Nan Harvey, <a href="mailto:NanHarvey@gmail.com">NanHarvey@gmail.com</a> , (812) 345-9608
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Muncie	Jason Smith, <a href="mailto:munciemensa@gmail.com">munciemensa@gmail.com</a>

### Other Volunteers

Cinder SIG	Ethan Blocher-Smith, <a href="mailto:MensaCinder@gmail.com">MensaCinder@gmail.com</a>
Ham 'n Eggs	Alison Brown, <a href="mailto:SIGHT@indymensa.org">SIGHT@indymensa.org</a>
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Ass't Gifted Children	Laurel Richardson, <a href="mailto:Lhabitat@aol.com">Lhabitat@aol.com</a> , (317) 244-0000
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