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Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana



FUN WITH CAMERA PHONE EFFECTS.

HAPPY FIFTY!

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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, 6076 Dewey Avenue, 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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Old Dog/New Tricks

Teresa Gregory, Editor

Congratulations to our new ExCom! We had a fantastic slate of candidates. I have to say that I was disappointed in the number of ballots cast.



Our national elections are coming up next year. A slate of candidates has been set by the NomCom, but there has been a lot of controversy about recent events in the National Office. Because of this, there is a groundswell of support for a group of petition candidates, those who were not slated by the NomCom but who need signatures to be on the ballot. You can sign those petitions online. Just because you sign does not mean that you are voting for that person or that you are promising your vote. It means that you think they should have a chance to run.

<http://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/elections/2015-board-elections/candidate-petitions/>

I have gotten away from the subject of this column. It's time to hunker down and get back on track.

As we head into fall, there are numerous opportunities to learn something new about something old and about ourselves. And there are all kinds of FREE learning opportunities. I have listed a few here to give you some ideas. Please share any that you hear about. Maybe another Mensan would enjoy it, too.

The Objects We Keep: Making a New Place Home

Wednesday, October 15, 2014, 6:00-8:00 PM

Indiana State Museum, Dean and Barbara White Auditorium

FREE

The objects that individuals and families choose to bring with them when they move serve as bridges between their former and new homes, often carrying powerful memories. Through historic artifacts and first-hand accounts from immigrants today, explore the stories of objects with special importance to people who have come to Indiana from the 1800s to the present. Presented by the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites in honor of Rabbi Sandy Sasso and in partnership with the Immigrant Welcome Center. (This program complements festival event, One Million Journeys, One Destination, at The Indianapolis Public Library on November 12.) 317-233-9348 , cmiller@indianamuseum.org.

See additional programs starting on page 6.

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LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

New ExCom Elected – Congratulations to Central Indiana Mensa’s newly elected Executive Committee! I look forward to working with the new and returning members for the next two years. Thanks are owed to those who are leaving the ExCom for their service, to those who ran but weren’t elected (this time!), and to those who are continuing to serve on the board. Thank you to everyone who voted, and also to the nominating committee, chaired by **Marcele Everest** and to the election committee, chaired by **Alison Brown**.



Half Price Testing – October is National Testing Month. This year, the price for testing has been reduced to \$20 for the month. If you know someone who's interested in or might like Mensa, encourage them to take the test! CIM will be giving the test in Indianapolis and Evansville on Saturday, October 18th; details in the calendar. If you have friends or family in other areas of the country who might want to take the test, have them check out the national testing calendar at www.us.mensa.org/join/testing/testing-calendar/. Thanks to our Proctor Coordinator, **Steve Merchant**, and the rest of our CIM proctors who volunteer their time to administer tests to prospective members.

Mensa Scholarships – MERF (Mensa Educational and Research Foundation) awards around \$85,000 of scholarships every year. Scholarships are awarded solely on the basis of an essay written by the applicant, who does not need to be a Mensa member. Applications are accepted online only from September 15 to January 15. CIM awards the John S Matthews scholarship (\$500) every year. Find out more at www.mensafoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships/. If you would like to help judge the applications for CIM, please contact our Scholarship Chair, **Laurel Richardson**.

HalloweeM – Hubby Leo and I are heading to HalloweeM, the Chicago Area Mensa Regional Gathering, October 30 – November 2. Their RG is so well attended (500+), it's like a small Annual Gathering. They have a great costume contest, multiple speaker/activity tracks and wonderful hospitality: www.chicago.us.mensa.org/weem/.

Region 4 Facebook Group – CIM is in Region 4 of American Mensa. A new Facebook Group has been created for our region. You can find it by searching for American Mensa - Region 4 or by going to www.facebook.com/groups/695847670490858/. While you're on Facebook, don't forget to join CIM's group: www.facebook.com/groups/67015884487/ if you haven't already.

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Report From the Election Committee

Alison Brown, Chair, and Larry Marcus

Elections for Local Secretary and Executive Committee for Central Indiana Mensa were held on Sept. 12, 2014. Ballots were distributed in accordance with the bylaws to the members eligible to vote (547 as of July 2014) and 37 ballots were received by the close of voting at 8 pm. No ballots were found to be invalid.



The Election Committee counted the ballots and determined that Jan Pfeil Doyle had been reelected Local Secretary. The new Executive Committee consists of the following members: Jon Applegate, Ethan Blocher-Smith, Ann Hake, Diane O'Brien, Karen Steilberger, Karen Wilczewski, Bob Zdanky and Karen Zwick. It is noted that the Conspiracy of Karens will continue.

[Editor's note: Cletus was on hand to supervise the tabulation. See more Cletus on Page 17.]



More Old Dog/New Tricks

Indy Author Fair

We are excited to present the schedule for the 2014 Indy Author Fair! The Indy Author Fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m, **Saturday, October 25, 2014**, at Central Library, 40 East St. Clair Street, Downtown Indianapolis.

Celebrate Indiana's rich literary tradition with activities for writers and book lovers of all ages! Presented by the Eugene & Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors

Award and The Indianapolis Public Library. All Indy Author Fair events are FREE and open to the public.

The Future History of the Book: Time, Attention, Convention

Kathleen Fitzpatrick Director of Scholarly Communication, Modern Language Association

Anxieties abound regarding the ostensible obsolescence of the book. Exploring whether the book is in fact becoming obsolete — and what it might mean if it

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were — requires thinking distinctly about the specific material form of the book (the codex) and about the content that it has long carried. If the form were to change — becoming digital, for instance — would our interactions with the content still make the book (if not exactly as we have known it) a viable vector for the cultural interactions the codex has supported? Would it be possible for us to find the powerful identification with the electronic book that we long have had with the codex book? And what might need to happen in order to effect such a transfer of our affections?

Wednesday, October 29, 2014, IUPUI Campus Center - [Campus Map](#)

5:00-6:00 pm Reception

6:00-7:30 pm Lecture

Free and open to the public, but seating is limited. RSVP and questions to libarsvp@iupui.edu with "Barlow" in the subject line.

From Animal House to Our House

Thursday, October 16, 2014

5:30 cash bar; 6 p.m. lecture

Indiana Landmarks Center, 1201 Central Avenue, Indianapolis

DIY expert Ron Tanner combines romance, history, and humor in his illustrated talk on buying and restoring a condemned fraternity house to its original Victorian splendor.

More than a million viewers have watched how-to videos on the Tanners' DIY website, Houselove.org.

Co-sponsored by Historic Urban Neighborhoods of Indianapolis with support from Cornelius O'Brien Lecture Series Concerning Historic Preservation.

Free with online RSVP at <https://tannertalk.eventbrite.com>.



Monthly Bridge Group

Bob Van Buskirk

For over 30 years there has been a Mensa bridge group. We play on the 1st Sunday of the month at 2PM. We end play by 6PM. The members rotate as hosts. The group has a casual, non duplicate, approach to bridge. We enjoy each others' company. If interested in joining us, call 317 359 6907 or email me at rvanbuskirk@netdirect.net.

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Brussels Sprouts, the Real Scoop!

Robert O. Adair

One upon a time, children, in the countryside near Brussels in Belgium, there lived a rich and prosperous farmer. Cabbage was his biggest, best paying crop. They were just ordinary cabbages but he had a good market for them. Hans Brussels was his name. He was hard working and resourceful but a bit of a scoundrel. He was not very good about keeping his word and he sometimes cheated people who had dealings with him. This was the 13th century and people believed in all sorts of things people don't believe in today. Much of prosperity was due to the kindly ministrations of his fairy godmother and he had made many promises to her of things he would do to repay her. Time after time, he reneged on his promises.

Finally, his fairy godmother had it up to here! She was really a very sweet person, lovely to behold. but In a rollicking, riveting, rampage of revengeful rage, very unlike her usual self, she waved her magic wand over his cabbage crop and turned them into little miniature cabbages. Hans was devastated! His crop was ruined! Just when he was about to harvest it! He begged and pleaded with her to change it back. She very snottily snarled at him "Good enough for you, you promise breaking, skulking, scheming skunk! I hope they all rot and you with them!"



Oddly enough, the very next day, Lady Estella von Hoffenstein, noted for her fabulous gourmet cuisine which graced the table of her Lordships banquets paid a visit. She was utterly enchanted by his cute little miniature cabbages, She bought the entire crop and made a deal with Hans to have exclusive rights to his future crops. Gradually the popularity of this unusual vegetable spread from Belgium to Holland to nearly all of Europe and finally brought over to our country by European settlers. The speed of its popularity was partly made possible by Hans reneging on his promise to Lady von Hoffenstein! He was, after all, something of a real stinker.

So little children, don't be like him. Always eat your vegetables, whether you like them or not, so you grow up to be big and strong and healthy, and not a big stinker like Hans.

There is, of course some scholarly dispute as to the origin of the name, whether they were named for the proximity to Brussels or the farmer, Hans!

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Mensa Test Day, October 18

Indianapolis and Evansville

This month only **\$20!**

See page 11 for times and exact locations.



Lock-&-Ring 'M

Naomi Rose and Nancy Farrar

Smart people sing Barbershop. SIG membership is open to current/active members of Sweet Adelines, Intl, Barbershop Harmony Society, and Harmony, Inc., and those who sing or want to sing Barbershop. We plan to meet up at AGs and RGs and maybe sing a tag or two. Perhaps, as we grow, we could form a small mixed BBS chorus. If the interest is there, we could all learn the same music and perhaps, one day in the future sing for the others at Gatherings. We have a Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1402148303374363/> if the interest is there, I will set up a Yahoo group. (International Members Accepted)

Contact Coordinator for more information: locknringm@optonline.net



Cincinnati Area Mensa presents

2014 RG, *PATTERNS*

December 5-7.

RG Price: \$75 until November 1, \$80 until December 4.

Atrium Hotel (30 Tri-County Pkwy), Cinti OH 45246) rates: \$69 for basic room until 11/17. Register by 11/17 at 513-771-7171, and give group block name of "RG"

Come join us for a bunch of frivolity and fabulous food, and help us solve that age-old question, "How can a bunch of circles form a square?". Be sure to check out our Facebook account, Cincinnati Area Mensa presents Patterns. You can register for the RG, get directions, and pay thru PayPal, at our website, CincyMensa.org. Any additional questions, contact RG Chair Katrina Riley at 513-348-9067 or NidaGniva9898@Yahoo.com.

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Welcome New and Returning Members!

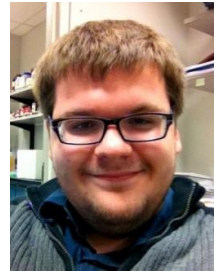
New	Ethan SeRine	Westfield	IN
New	Anthony H Lam	Indianapolis	IN
New	Michael R Payne	Indianapolis	IN
Reinstating	Joseph Thomas Druecker	Columbus	IN
Renewing	Sarah A Meyer	Indianapolis	IN
Renewing	Col John Melvin Hicklin	Madisonville	KY
Renewing	Terry Lee Campbell	Bloomington	IN



Cinder

Ethan Blocher-Smith

Thanks to everyone who will have attended our Cinder meeting in September. I am excited to use my new position on the CIM ExCom and this SIG to continue improve and reach out with Mensa. Thanks also to anyone who voted for me, and I'll work hard to not disappoint. Be sure to remember that Cinder will meets at 721 E. 55th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46220 for the foreseeable future. This is right by the intersection of 55th and College, near the heart of Broad Ripple. If you have a friend, child, or someone interested in Mensa who is a member of Generation X or Y (18+), tell them about our event. As always, any Mensan is free, with non-members paying \$5, or \$1 if they bring a snack to share. Assorted snacks and drinks will be provided. Also, note that the date for next month (November) will be moved, due to its proximity to Thanksgiving. I haven't decided on where to put it yet, but be advised that it won't be on the usual date.



This month (October), as the generally recognized scariest month, we will look at a range of topics on extraterrestrial life. Is there other life in the cosmos? If there is, could we even detect it? If we could detect it, could we even reach it? If we could reach it, would we want to? How do we account for the Fermi Paradox and reconcile it with the Drake Equation? Could all the other races in the universe simply be avoiding us? Or, perhaps most scarily, is there no other life in all the universe, and we are truly alone in the great black emptiness of space? To quote the famed Sci-Fi author Arthur C. Clarke, "Two possibilities exist: either we are alone in the Universe or we are not. Both are equally terrifying." Come join us to discuss these topics, and any others attached to the overall topic. We look forward to your input, and hope to see you this month.

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October 2014 Events - Central Indiana Mensa

Indy Lunch Bunch –1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 12:00 noon, Double Eagle Café, 650 N. Meridian (at the Scottish Rite Cathedral), Indianapolis. Contact: Karen Steilberger steilkr@sbcglobal.net.

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

Bridge Club – 1st Sunday 2:00 p.m. For over 30 years there has been a Mensa bridge group. We play on the 1st Sunday of the month at 2PM. We end play by 6PM. The members rotate as hosts. The group has a casual, non duplicate, approach to bridge. We enjoy each others' company. If interested in joining us, call 317 359 6907 or email me at ryanbuskirk@netdirect.net.

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

10/10 – Join Suzanne Stanis, director of Heritage Education for Indiana Landmarks, on an armchair tour across the state, stopping to look at landmarks from the breathtaking West Baden Springs Hotel to the Wallace Circus barns in Peru. Along the way we'll discuss what makes a building a landmark as we view architecture that enriches community life.

Mensa Gifted Family Program – Friday10/17, 7:00 p.m. At Pilsung ATA Martial Arts, 707 South Madison Avenue, Greenwood (Wilgro Shopping Center). **Bully Prevention Class** \$5 per student. Gifted kids are often the target of bullying. What can they do to protect themselves? October is National Bullying Prevention Month, so we wanted to offer a seminar to empower the gifted kids in our community to protect themselves and stop the bullies. Everyone has the right to be safe and respected.

Mensa Test Day - Saturday, 10/18

Wayne Library, 198 South Girls School Road, Indianapolis, Indiana. **Registration 10:00 a.m. Test 11:00 a.m.**

Contact: Steve Merchant blazingstar32@hotmail.com or 317-431- 8645

Evansville Vanderburgh Central Public Library, 200 SE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Evansville, IN 47713

Registration 12 noon Test 1:00 p.m.(CT)

Contact: Teresa Gregory, mailto:teresa.gregory@yahoo.com

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

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October 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			1 Indy Lunch Bunch
5 Bridge Club	6	7	8
12	13	14	15 Indy Lunch Bunch
19 Mensans Dining Out	20	21 Paducah Area Group Meeting	22
26 Book Group	27	28 MINDbending/ ExCom	29
2	3	4	5 Indy Lunch Bunch

**Social Media – Remember to sign up for Central Indiana
Mensa’s Facebook and Meet Up groups:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/67015884487/>
<http://www.meetup.com/Central-Indiana-Mensa/>

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October, 2014 (Cont.)

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4 Ham 'n' Eggs; Muncie Meeting
9	10 Monthly Gathering	11
16	17 Family program; MIND deadline	18 Mensa Test; Calendar Deadline
23	24 Cinder	25
30	31	1 November Ham 'n' Eggs; Muncie Meeting
6	7	8

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.

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October 2014 Events (cont.)

Mensans Dining Out Sunday, 10/19, 6:00p.m. Jasmine Thai Restaurant, 4825 E. 96th St., Indianapolis Please let Bob know if you are coming so he can reserve enough space. contact: Bob Zdanky, 317-503-0091 or Zdanky@gmail.com

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

***NEW SIG* Cinder-4th Friday of the month. 7:00p.m.** at 721 E. 55th Street, Indianapolis, IN. A SIG for the Gen X – Gen Y crowd. Contact Ethan Blocher-Smith, MensaCinder@gmail.com (See the column on page 10.)

Book Discussion – Sunday 10/26, at 3:00 p.m.

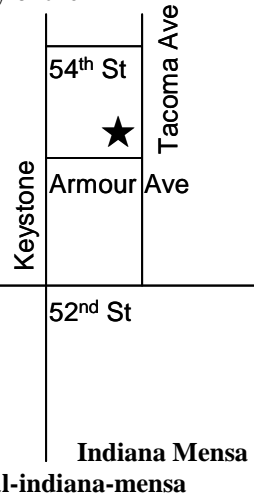
We will discuss Elisabeth Warren’s book, “The Two-Income Trap: Why Middle-Class Parents are Going Broke.” We will be meeting at Rich and Jackie Gibson’s house on the NE side of Indianapolis. Please contact Rich at <mailto:hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com> or 317-735-2895 for more details or to RSVP.

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.

10/28, 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 **BigThank You** to all the September MINDbenders and thanks to Midwest Internet for hosting the event.

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

November MIND calendar items due 10/18/14 to dbculp@sbcglobal.net.

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“Retest!”

Ellen Voie, RVC 4

Have you ever attended a Mensa event and heard the words, “You need to be retested” spoken to someone who just asked a question or made a comment? I’ve sat through numerous presentations where someone might want to know more about the topic, but then someone mocks them. The comment is irritating and condescending. Just because we’re in Mensa doesn’t mean we know everything.



Let me rephrase that in a more personal way. Just because I qualified for membership in Mensa doesn’t mean I understand quantum physics or what really is in the black hole. It doesn’t mean I can read music or maps or a foreign language. Nor does it mean I can divide big numbers into decimals. In fact, it means very little. What it does mean is I passed a test which indicates my intelligence is in the top two percent of the population. That’s it. I may be really good at taking tests or maybe I got lucky and put the little pencil marks in the right circles. Maybe I like taking tests and quizzes and just happened to get questions that were easy for me to answer.

Recently I was in a bar in central Wisconsin where there were pennies embedded in some type of acrylic layer over the bar. I asked the bartender how many pennies were under the clear coating. He told me 12,600 pennies were displayed in the acrylic. Wow, over twelve thousand pennies!

The man next to me asked how much money that was and I said it was over a thousand dollars. I never was good at decimals, and maybe that’s why I have a Master’s degree in communication and not math! His comment to me was, “You really are a blonde, aren’t you?” Ouch.

Yes, I am a blonde, but no, I am not stupid. I just can’t carry decimal points. What I can do is communicate, make friends, and grow an organization - my day job is Association Management. I don’t need to know math with a calculator sitting on my desk.

One of my favorite motivational graphics shows a fish in a fish bowl and the caption reads, “Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.” Albert Einstein.

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Maybe we need to be a little more tolerant of diversity in Mensa. You might be a rocket scientist or a biologist or a world renowned mathematician, and all that means is that you have an area of expertise which differs from mine. Period.

Get over it and start accepting those of us with degrees in communication who can't carry decimal points. We've qualified and we're in Mensa just like you. We might ask stupid (in your opinion) questions, but we're not foolish and our hair color has no correlation to our intelligence. Sheesh, can we stop the dumb blonde jokes already?

Let the fish swim and the monkey climb the tree. And please let those who might not have your level of expertise in a subject ask questions. If you hear someone say to another, "You need to be retested," ask them to climb a tree with nothing but fins and we'll see who looks stupid.



Region 4 FaceBook Page

Hello My Fellow Mensans!! My name is George Haynes. I'm a Mensan from the St. Louis local group of our fine organization. I'm writing to let you know about a new Facebook group that many Mensans from our area have already joined. The group is called "American Mensa - Region 4."

As you may or may not be aware, our nation is divided into ten regions to make up all of American Mensa. Your local group falls within Region 4. Here is a listing of all the groups in Region 4:

- Group 461 - [Central Indiana Mensa](#)
- Group 463 - [Chicago Area Mensa](#)
- Group 467 - [Fort Wayne Mensa](#)
- Group 520 - [Iowa-Illinois Mensa](#)
- Group 530 - [Mensa of Wisconsin](#)
- Group 550 - [Minnesota Mensa](#)
- Group 615 - [Heart of Illinois Mensa](#)
- Group 620 - [St Louis Area Mensa](#)
- Group 627 - [Sangamon Valley Mensa](#)

Before creating this Facebook group, I collaborated with Ellen Voie, the current RVC4 (Regional Vice Chair of Region 4), to get her stamp of approval and blessing. I also contacted Marc Lederman on the Communications Committee to make sure I had a clear green light before proceeding.

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At last count, this group has 117 members and it is still growing. If you are on Facebook, we need YOU to join this group and contribute to the collection of unique voices which make up Region 4. As with any Facebook group, the topics discussed range from the arcane to the banal, the serious to the frivolous, the spirited to the calm. Below is the Facebook address of this group. Please indicate that you would like to join, and I (or Ellen) will approve your request. The settings of the group are also currently set so that any current member can add new members.

<https://facebook.com/groups/695847670490858>

If the Facebook link gives you trouble, simply search by name and you will surely find it: American Mensa - Region 4

A personal note: I am also petitioning to get on the 2015 ballot as a candidate for the RVC4 position. Please contact me directly if you have any questions regarding my candidacy. Below is my email. My Facebook account has my name spelled as GGeorge HHaines. The real spelling is George Haynes. See you online or at an upcoming RG!!

Warmest regards.....George
<mailto:haygeo@gmail.com>

[Editor's Note: Don't forget to join Central Indiana Mensa's Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/67015884487>]



In Case You Missed Him

Alison Brown and Cletus



←-First Cletus assisted David Culp and Karen Zwick at MINDBending (getting out the members monthly magazine) and the ballots for the upcoming Central Indiana Mensa elections



Then at LunchBunch he listened to Alan talk about → his triumphs on the Caribbean Cruise before his wedding.

[Rumor has it that Cletus will be taking a road trip soon.]

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Books On the Runway

Margy Lancet Fletcher

Title: *We Two – Victoria and Albert: Rulers, Partners, Rivals*

Author: Gillian Gill **Year:** 2009

Book Description: This fascinating biography is an intimate, richly-detailed portrait of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, who comprised one of history's most powerful alliances. Unlike the typical renderings of Victorian artists, the author is both respectful and revealing of her subjects, highlighting their admirable qualities without glossing over their imperfections. The book initially expounds on both the romantic and political nature of their union, and then follows a timeline beginning with each of their somewhat lonely childhoods and progressing through the major private and public events of their adult lives, both as individuals and as a couple: their wedding ceremony, the births of their nine (!) children, the purchase of their Osborne House and Balmoral retreats, Albert's refinement of the Prince Consort role, the construction of the Crystal Palace for London's Great Exhibition, their involvement in the Crimean War and in the unification of the German states, the marriage arrangements for their two eldest offspring, and finally, Albert's untimely death. Along the way, the author adds depth to her characterizations of the royal couple through their relationships with parents, siblings, in-laws, children, prime ministers, foreign monarchs, tutors, employees, and each other.

Has this book changed the way you think, your attitude toward life, or even your life itself? If so, how? My interest in the British royalty has always been one of my guilty pleasures, not necessarily because I consider them bona fide rulers, but because their unique lifestyle, replete with customs and traditions and constantly under public scrutiny, is intriguing in its own bizarre way. In spite of their wealth and arbitrary entitlement, the royals face very human challenges and experience their own triumphs and tragedies. This marvelously nuanced narrative, based on the vast extant collection of letters and journals that they each produced, elicits the admiration and sympathy that Victoria and Albert, as individuals, deserve in many respects.

Who should definitely read this book? Why? My fellow Anglophiles, as well as world history aficionados, will find this a satisfying read. Those of a scientific bent will be interested in reading about Albert's academic and industrial leadership roles, and the unfortunate genetic outcome of multi-generational endogamy among members of the European royal families (i.e., the chapter on hemophilia).

How long might it take to read this book? One week, at the most. The prose flows as smoothly as the Thames.

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Provide a short characteristic section, an awesome sentence, or an inspiring quote: “Albert was handsome and intelligent and ambitious. He had always done what his elders told him to do, and above all, he had never shown a flicker of interest in the opposite sex... To marry such a youth to a strong-willed, passionate, mature woman was hardly a recipe for conjugal bliss, but dynastic marriages did not aim for happiness, as Lady Diana Spencer would discover in 1981. The long, faithful, loving partnership of Victoria and Albert has come to be a dusty old fact enshrined in the history books, but as a lived reality, it was an extraordinary feat achieved against the odds. A young man and a young woman, one in Germany, one in England, dreamed of finding in marriage things that neither had seen as children: love, affection, companionship, trust, intimacy, a private space in which they could be delectably alone – just ‘we two.’”

Additional Remarks: As the editors of *Life* magazine succinctly assert, the latter-day “constitutional” royals are fun. Their legitimacy and actual contributions to society in general can be debated ad infinitum, but there’s something to be said about an institution that has survived major social and political upheavals and is still treasured by a large percentage of the populace. Victoria and Albert, like their descendant, Queen Elizabeth II, were major players on the world stage, despite their lack of true authority. In reality – at least, in my opinion – they are no less mandated by the people than our self-perpetuating federal governmental system with its unholy alliance between politicians and wealthy corporations. With “democracy” like this, who needs tyranny?



Central Indiana Mensa ExCom Minutes 7/22/14

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held at Midwest Internet on Tuesday, July 22, 2014.

LocSec Jan Pfeil Doyle called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were: Jan Pfeil Doyle, David Culp, Ann Hake, Karen Steilberger, Karen Wilczewski, Bob Zdanky, and Karen Zwick. Absent: Teresa Gregory. Guests: Alison Brown, Leo Doyle, Siegmund Haider, Jud Horning.

The committee reviewed the minutes of the June ExCom meeting. Ann Hake moved that the minutes be accepted as presented, Bob Zdanky seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

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Karen Zwick presented the Treasurer's report and explained one entry regarding checkbook reconciliation. David Culp made a motion to accept the report as presented, Ann Hake seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The membership report shows 4 new, 1 reinstating and 3 renewing members; 1 offer of membership; and 24 prospects.

Old Business

Buzz Fund event: The subcommittee has not met yet. They will meet before the next ExCom meeting.

New member dinner: The next new member dinner will be on Sept.14, at George's Neighborhood Grill.

Brick donation in memory of Jean Rodgers: Donations are still being accepted for a memorial brick for Jean Rodgers in the Walk of Minds in front of the Mensa Education and Research Foundation building in Texas. Alison Brown will be assembling suggestions for the text to be inscribed.

New Business

National Scholarship fund: Jan Pfeil Doyle said that our chapter is below the minimum amount of \$500 in the scholarship fund with the national office. Karen Zwick will transfer money from the local fund to make up for the difference.

Web site: Jan Pfeil Doyle said that the ownership of the Indymensa.org name has been transferred from James Amato to Leo Doyle. Leo has suggested adding the treasurer as a second owner to help ensure that the fee is paid on time. Leo informed the ExCom that the site is down now. The site, which is hosted by Midwest Internet at no charge, was hacked, leading to degraded response time for Midwest Internet's paying customers. The committee discussed the technology and the options for preventing a similar incident in the future. Jan will ask National what would be involved with having them host our site.

Jan Pfeil Doyle displayed the Sapphire Award that Central Indiana Mensa received at the Annual Gathering. We were ranked as the 3rd best among groups having 400-899 members.

There being no other business, David Culp made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ann Hake seconded the motion. The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Steilberger

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Treasurer's Report

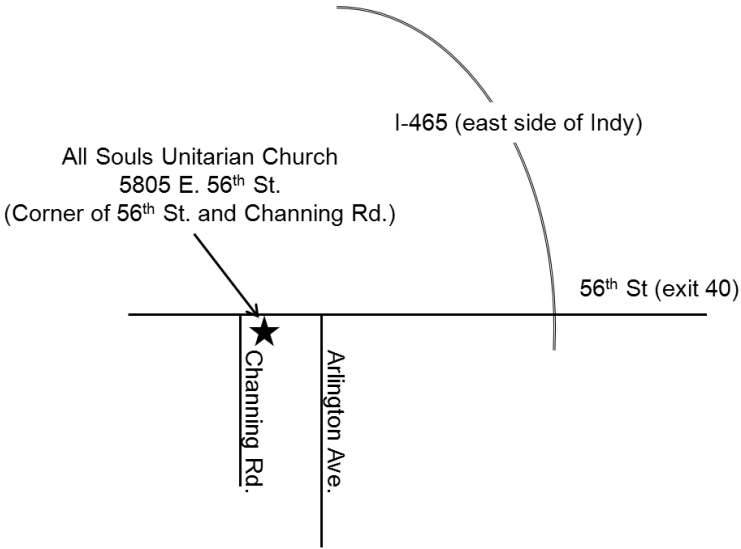
Karen Zwick, Treasurer

Balance Sheet (as of 08/18/2014)

Bank Accounts	08/18/2014	07/21/2014
Checking – Regular	\$15,373.33	\$15,283.68
Checking – Scholarship	295.53	445.53
Checking – Youth Mbrship	849.00	849.00
Checking – Buzz Fund	540.00	520.00
Vanguard Account	\$3,740.00	3,740.00
Total Assets	\$20,797.86	\$20,838.21

Profit & Loss Statement (07/21/2014– 08/18/2014)

Income		
	401.1 – Monthly Gathering Income (August)	112.00
	402 – National Mensa Inc.	583.54
	406 – Income for Buzz Fund	20.00
Total Income		715.54
Expense		
	501.1 – Monthly Gathering Hospitality	23.33
	505 – Food for ExCom/MIND	80.25
	505.1 – MIND Printing	295.83
	505.2 – MIND Postage	196.00
	520 – Miscellaneous (\$150 sent to MERF for John Matthews Scholarship fund, \$10.48 to Midwest Internet for hosting)	160.48
Total Expenses		\$755.89



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.



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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 Local Sec	Vacant
Recorder	Karen Steilberger, steilkr@sbcglobal.net
Editor	Teresa Gregory, mind.editor@yahoo.com , (317) 430-1761 6076 Dewey Avenue, 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

Cinder SIG	Ethan Blocher-Smith, MensaCinder@gmail.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
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

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