



mind

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana



PICNIC TIME!!! September 22

Come out to the annual CIM Picnic at River Heritage Park in Carmel. Bring a chair, if you like, and a dish to share. There is a playground for the kids and a lot of good food and fellowship for everyone! Hope to see you there!

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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Old Dog/New Tricks

Teresa Gregory, Editor

My first Old Dog/New Tricks column last November was about online learning through Coursera.org, a partnership of 33 colleges and universities that offered classes at no charge. Less than a year later, Coursera has 85 learning partners world-wide. What a wonderful no cost opportunity for intellectual stimulation at 2:00am while wearing your bathrobe. (Maybe that's just me.)



My July column talked about Trade School where the teacher is paid by barter. They are getting ready to start their next “semester,” which is two months of classes. Check their website out and see if there's something you'd like to learn. If you live in an area that does not have a Trade School, you can start one yourself. <http://tradeschool.coop/Indianapolis/class>

Last month, I talked about learning to let go as I struggle to downsize. I very much appreciate the positive and supportive feedback I received from members who are also trying to cut back or who already have done it. I have read books and articles on how to let go. One of the best ones that I read several years ago is “It's All Too Much: An Easy Plan For Living A Richer Life With Less Stuff,” by Peter Walsh, a professional organizer, and host of TV's *Clean Sweep*. He counters any argument that you can think of for keeping something. It's brilliant...except ..he hasn't met me.

While talking to some Mensans, I realized what one of my hang-ups is I don't know how to get rid of some of my things “appropriately.” One example of this is my wedding dress. I used money I received as college graduation gifts to buy the fabric. I made it to fit me. Because of the fabric (it is Qiana, the shiny stuff the disco clothes were made from) and the style, it can't really be altered to fit anyone else. I can't just abandon it to a Good Will box. I can't throw it in the trash. Why? Because I think it deserves more respect than that. Yes, it's just a dress, but it represents an event that I will always cherish and a part of my life that's gone forever. So what do I do? I can keep it and let my kids deal with it at some point down the line, but that's not fair. They might keep it out of guilt or obligation just like I have with some of my mother's things. No, I have to take charge of this myself. After a lot of thought, I decided to bury it. Growing up Catholic, that's what we did with unwanted religious (blessed) articles like broken rosaries.

I'll let you know how that works out.

[Be sure to see Greg Crawford's slant on the treasures we keep on page 19, “Collectables and Treasures?”]

LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

The speaker for our August monthly meeting, Rob Pyatt, was totally entertaining and educational as usual. This was his fourth time speaking to our group. Rob has a deep passion for sharing science and the scientific method with anyone who will listen. He does that through presenting “wacky” (his term) science he's found in the scientific literature and by involving the audience as research subjects.



Rob presented the results of the experiment that he conducted last time he spoke to us—a study of how the speed with which you eat ice cream affects your likelihood of getting “brain freeze.” (I was in the Dipping Dots group and definitely got it. When I was little, my family's term for the phenomenon was “freezing your eyeballs.”) Yes, the faster you eat ice cream, the more likely you are to get brain freeze (or to freeze your eyeballs).

This time Rob had us think about eating chocolate after he had presented various scenarios and then rate how desirable eating the chocolate would be at that moment. Of course, after the data were collected, we got to eat the chocolate. The most amazing part of this experiment was that we actually had some chocolate left over—not the norm for Mensa functions!

Our annual picnic is September 22nd at 1 pm. We're holding it at a new place this year, the River Heritage Park in Carmel, IN. There's a nice play area for children and a large shelterhouse. CIM is providing drinks, sandwich fixings and tableware; please bring a side dish to share. It should be a nice relaxing afternoon. Park admission is free. Hope to see you there!

Coming up in October is HalloweenM, Chicago Area Mensa's Regional Gathering. Their costume contest on Friday night always has creative entries. Most winners are plays on words. One of my favorites from years past had three people walking together in a row. The outer two had on lion costumes. The person in the middle was reading a book. Their costume was “reading between the lions.” Matt Zwick won a prize a couple of years ago dressed as “Goth Brooks” (a goth guy with a guitar). They always have several tracks of interesting speakers and a wonderful hospitality suite. You can find more details or register at www.chicago.us.mensa.org/weem/

Suggestion

Greg Crawford

In previous editions of this rant, I have gone out on a limb with narratives of “What I would do if I were President, dictator or king;” that is, what fundamental changes I would enact given unlimited power. This month’s topic is America’s law suit crisis and its huge pass-through costs for all of us. First, a bit of perspective.

Each of us can visit a Lowe’s Lumber or a Home Depot and check out a common step ladder. There are about eight warning labels on each. How many of us actually read them? Probably very few. How many of us change our behavior afterward? Even fewer. So what’s their point? Litigation avoidance. C Y A.

Football helmets do not carry such labels. You would think that anyone participating in a high-contact sport would know the inherent risks of bone-crunching contact. Nevertheless, all save one helmet manufacturer has left the industry. Law suits have driven them away. For the last supplier, their litigation budget is a far greater cost than helmet manufacture.

Then there is the pharmaceutical industry. Wonderful new drugs take years (even decades) to get through trials. Some drugs don’t even get a shot. For “orphan diseases,” there is no realistic way to recoup development costs and certainly no way to break even when expected side-effects set in motion negligence actions. Some drugs never become available here despite being widely prescribed around the world; certain vaccines are good examples. Fear of litigation is paralyzing development.

I can go and on. So can you. We all are aware that fear of legal action is taking its toll on every industry. Insurance rates have sky rocketed. Nuisance suits are bought off. Jobs are moved off-shore to friendlier locales. Hiring and promotion quotas are instituted. Hucksters make outrageous claims hoping for a payday. Paperwork is endless. The legal system has slowed to a crawl.

No one answer will change this mess. My one answer will take a bite out of it. But only if I were President, dictator or king.

My thought, my fundamental change, would be to bring civil actions (law suits) much closer to the concept of criminal actions. Specifically, when one is convicted of a crime, that person is sentenced for an offence against the people. The sentence – whether fine or jail time – is served at the pleasure of the state. The convictee is never required to serve penance to his victim. Restitution, yes. Penal time, no.

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So why do civil actions differ? Far too often, the plaintiff seeks a nominal or modest amount of actual damages ... coupled with an excessive amount of punitive awards. That “pot of gold” is an incentive for spurious action. Defendants are then coerced to settle even the flimsiest cases based on litigation expenses, adverse media coverage and the unpredictable actions of a jury. Costs are passed along to consumers and to society.

My solution is to simply take away the incentive generated by punitive awards. Plaintiffs should receive only actual restitution and litigation costs. Break even reimbursement and no more. Rather than enriching those who file court actions, the punitive amounts would then be committed to a statewide fund for the benefit of victims of unfunded torts.

Think about that. All those punitive judgments would be set aside for counseling rape victims. All those dollars could be dedicated to healing those harmed by uninsured and/or hit-and-run drivers. Money would be on-hand for the elderly who are swindled out of retirement funds. Plus, the jury would be freed from regrets about awarding punitive dollars to the undeserving.

That’s the idea. Simply dedicate unearned punitive awards to un-restored victims. Take incentives away from ambulance chasers and lawsuit lottery seekers. Send in your comments.



A Man Named Pearl

(written and directed by Scott Galloway and Brent Pierson)

Teresa Fisher

The film opens with a 66-year-old black man climbing a 14-foot, A-frame ladder, with a heavy gas-powered hedge trimmer in one hand. The ladder is next to a cone-shaped tree, and it wobbles. The man throws his leg over the top of the ladder and stands with one foot on each side’s highest rung, and pulls the cord to start the trimmer. He leans toward the tree and begins removing the overgrowth. The next scene is at night, and we see the man again at the top of a ladder, trimming a tree that is illuminated from below. His work finished, he climbs down and unplugs the light for the night.

The man is Pearl Fryar, resident of Bishopville, SC, and gardener extraordinaire. Hoping to win a Garden of the Month award from the ladies’ garden club more than two decades ago, Pearl received

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permission to look through the discard bins at local nurseries. The share-cropper's son had no horticultural training other than a three-minute topiary demonstration, but it turned out he has a knack for it.

Pearl won more than Garden of the Month. People come from all over the world to see the three-acre wonderland the retired factory worker created from castoff plants. This is not your typical elephant and giraffe topiary (although I did spy one small elephant), but a display of shapes difficult to describe. Many are rounded, and some have a mushroom shape. There are the traditional spirals, tiered balls, and cones, and Pearl has perfected a way to make a square tree, but for the most part, the shapes defy categorization. Several look like something Dr. Seuss might have drawn. The first time I saw this film I kept trying to make something recognizable out of the shapes, but I finally realized there wasn't anything to recognize. Pearl had made it all up.

Pearl breaks all of the rules, and it works for him. He has a trench system that keeps him from having to do much watering, and he uses neither pesticides nor weed killers. He can help a Frasier fir thrive even though it's too far south, and he can prune a dogwood so in the spring it looks like a snowball. Dogwoods shouldn't be pruned, but Pearl says, "I don't go by the book." All of Pearl's figures are created without the aid of wire forms or sphagnum moss. When horticulturists tell him he shouldn't be able to do some of the things he excels at, he says, "I didn't know that. It's the one time in my life that ignorance paid off." He also said it wasn't important to him to create a garden. "I wanted to create a feeling that when you walked through, you felt differently than you did when you started."

It's heart warming to see the concern Pearl has for children, especially those who've been tossed into the discard bin. Pearl sees potential in all children, and wants to help them realize it. He teaches them topiary, and lectures at Coker College.

In 1997 Pearl was commissioned by the South Carolina State Museum to create a garden in front of the museum. He wanted to make an immediate statement, so he donated and transplanted a twenty-foot topiary. He also installed a piece in front of the local Waffle House, where he and his wife eat every day for free.

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Bishopville is in South Carolina's poorest county, and over the years the town lost jobs and fell on hard times. City officials are trying to capitalize on Pearl's fame, and have planted topiaries along Main Street's medians. They hope the busloads of tourists will stop in town and spend a little money. Pearl's rural neighbors, who at first thought he was nuts, now decorate their yards with topiary.

You could watch the movie and see many examples of his amazing work. You can hear the reverence with which friends, relatives, teachers, nursery owners, and town officials talk about Pearl; his opinion about having been given a woman's name; his technique for creating a square tree; his wife's attitude about his unlikely role as a sex symbol (all of that hard work has given him an admirable physique); and in the DVD's bonus feature you can hear the director talk about how horrified the film crew was while shooting the opening scene of Pearl on the tall ladder. But if you want the short version of the Pearl Fryar story, you can Google him to get a look at the results of his tireless efforts. To see the front of his property in Google Maps, type 165 Broad Acres Road, Bishopville, SC. That's no longer his correct address, but years ago he put small plants in his front yard and trimmed them to make 165, which was then his address. When his address was changed by the county he decided to keep the plants, and characteristically imprecise Google seems to agree that 165 is still his address. You can also scroll up and down the road to see how he has inspired his neighbors to take up topiary. I'm sorry that Google recently changed the photos near his house, because you used to be able to see Pearl on the road, driving his tractor.

Pearl Fryar shows us what one man can accomplish when he doesn't know that what he wants to do is impossible.



Fluctuations at Ham 'N' Eggs

Alison Brown, Ham 'n' Eggs Coordinator

Safely back home from an emergency trip to Austria, I, coordinator of the meeting in Hamilton County for all the local Eggheads, heard about the misadventure of the one lone Mensan who ventured into the Soho Cafe on the first Saturday in July to meet with his fellows. None were there. The usual participants were in Virginia, Michigan (or was that Wisconsin?), Iowa (or

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Utah...), Texas (at the RG) and anywhere but in Carmel. So typical Mensa, to be all over the map.

On the other hand, we all discussed this in a large group on the first Saturday in August. The 11 participants meant we had to change our seating arrangement twice before we could fit them all around a table in the popular café.

In September and again in October, your intrepid coordinator will be abroad on the first Saturday at 10 am - September in London, where, alas I am failing to connect with any Mensans, especially those who might be a SIGHT host for me, and October in Linz, where I am sure to meet up with my old local group a couple of times.

I have it on good authority that my absence will not keep other regulars from sipping coffee and tea and nibbling on goodies from soup to wraps to sweet treats at the large table in the second room at Soho (620 S. Range Line Rd, Carmel, IN 46032 (317-564-4800). We hope some new “Hamiltonian” Mensans will join them, and in November I can hear about all the fun I missed (and possibly about a venue change – that was what happened when I was out of town for a meeting last year). Decisions may be taken, make sure you are there to participate in them.



Welcome New and Returning Members!

Move In	Emily Longwith	Indianapolis	IN
New	Daniel Williams	Lebanon	IN
	Gary Myers	Bloomington	IN
	Charles G Gay	Saint Paul	IN
	William Lennon	Indianapolis	IN
Reinstating	Michael McBride	Indianapolis	IN
	Susan Gayle Hicks Parkerson	Greenfield	IN
	Steve Wasion	Mount Carmel	IL
	Cathi J McCracken	Hope	IN
Renewing	Thomas Ryan Showman	New Palestine	IN
	Kathy Ann Simpson	Shelbyville	IN
	Tony Ray Showman	New Palestine	IN

Sept. 2013 Events - Central Indiana Mensa

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

Muncie Area Group Meeting – 1st Saturday at 2:00 p.m.

The MTCup, 1610 W. University Ave in Muncie. For those familiar with the Ball State area, it's in the Village.

Contact: Jason Smith, munciemensa@gmail.com

Indy Lunch Bunch - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 12:00 noon, Double Eagle Café, 650 N. Meridian (at the Scottish Rite Cathedral), Indianapolis.

Contact: Alan Schmidt, 317-233-5190, alan.schmidt@att.net

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

West Lafayette/Lafayette

Lunch – 1st Wednesday, 12:00 noon.

Contact: Joe Stamper, 765-474-4759, jstamper@aii.edu

Monthly Gathering – 2nd Friday at 7:00 p.m., All Souls Unitarian Church, 5805 E. 56th St. See last page of MIND for map and directions.

Members: \$5.00, Non-Members: \$7.00; Children 6-12: \$3.00, under 6: free

9/13 We welcome our own Rich Gibson, who will speak on the topic of climate change. Rich is not only a Mensan, but also a member of the Citizens' Climate Lobby, an Air Force veteran, and a retired systems analyst. For more information on the CCL, please visit

<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/05/29/lobbying-for-the-greater-good/>

Esoteric SIG - Sun., Sept. 22, 3:30 p.m. at the annual picnic (see details elsewhere). We will gather at a nearby location for a discussion regarding "One of My Most Memorable Life Experiences". Come prepared to share so that we may get to know one another better. Questions? Petra, 786-8665, petraritchie@msn.com

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

September, 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
1	2	3	4 Indy Lunch Bunch; W. Lafayette Lunch
8	9	10	11
15	16	17 Paducah Area Group Meeting	18 Indy Lunch Bunch; Southside Supper Meeting
22 Annual Picnic (See Below); Esoteric SIG	23	24 MINDbending/ ExCom	25
29 Book Discussion; New Member Dinner	30	1 October 2013	2 Indy Lunch Bunch; W. Lafayette Lunch
6 Esoteric SIG	7	8	9
13	14	15	16 Indy Lunch Bunch; Southside Supper Meeting

PICNIC!!! Sunday, 9/22, 1:00: River Heritage Park, 11813 River Road, Carmel IN 46033. Mensa provides Sandwich fixin's, drinks, you bring a dish to share. DINNER IS SERVED AT 2:00. (See cover for map.)

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5	6	7 Ham 'n' Eggs; Muncie Meeting
12	13 Monthly Gathering; MIND deadline	14 Calendar Deadline
19	20	21
26	27	28
3	4	5 Ham 'n' Eggs; Muncie Meeting
10	11 Monthly Gathering	12
17	18	19 Mensa Test

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.

September 2013 Events (cont.)

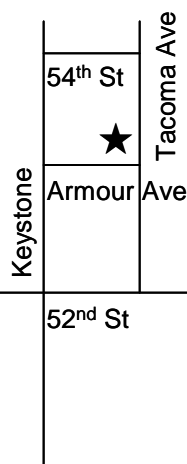
Book Discussion - Sunday, 9/29, 2:00 p.m.: Diane O'Brien's home on the northwest side. We'll be discussing *Thinking, Fast and Slow*, by Daniel Kahneman. Contact Diane at robrien@comcast.net for directions and to RSVP.

New Member Dinner - Sunday, 9/29, 5:30 p.m.: TGI Fridays, 6915 W 38th St, Indianapolis 46254. Contact Bob Zdanky, zdanky@gmail.com, (317) 503-0091

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

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. **8/27, 5:30 p.m.** Contact: Jan Pfeil Doyle, 431-3500. Pizza and soft drinks provided. MINDbending is held at the offices of Midwest Internet, **5348 N. Tacoma Ave.**, which is 1 block east and 1 block north of 52nd St. and Keystone Ave. on the northeast side of Indianapolis. A **Big Thank You** to all the July MINDbenders and thanks to Midwest Internet for hosting the event.



Coming In October

Esoteric SIG - Sun., Oct. 6th, 7 p.m., 719 East St. Clair, Basile Theatre, "Going...Going...Gone" A live *auction* comedy that lets the audience participate in the final sale at Ed's, an auction house filled with spontaneous stories and surprising revelations. What other show lets winning bidders (in the audience) take home the props? \$15 adults, \$12 seniors. Questions? Petra 786-8665, petraritchie@msn.com

Mensa Test- Saturday, October 19: Registration: 10 am. Test: 11 am. Eagle Library, W. 34th St. and Lowry Road, Indianapolis. Contact Steve Merchant at 317-240-3077 or blazingstar32@hotmail.com for more information.

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

October MIND calendar items due 9/14/13 to dbculp@sbcglobal.net.

Who is Mensa?

Ellen Voie, RVC 4

Perhaps, like me, you've attended a Mensa event where you've been introduced to a married couple. You might ask them which one is the Mensa member. Maybe it's both, and they are affectionately referred to as an M & M. If not, and they ask you to guess whether the husband or wife is the member, the odds are it's the husband.

American Mensa compiled demographic data through a membership survey mailed to nearly 60,000 current and lapsed members in addition to over 2,000 who had qualified, but not joined.

More than 10,000 of you responded. Maybe we like taking surveys as much as we enjoy puzzles and quizzes!

So, what did the researchers discover? Sixty-five percent of Mensa members are men. Hmmm. Does that mean men are smarter or does it mean they are more likely to join. I'll leave that debate to you and your friends.

We're a "mature" group, as 49 percent of our members are over age 55. Most of you are married (55 percent) and three fourths of us have no children at home (probably due to our maturity levels!) One quarter of us are single.

We appear to be a well-educated group, as 82 percent of us have an undergraduate degree or higher. Forty seven percent of us have a graduate or other advanced degree.

Our members appear to be loyal, as 37 percent have been members for twenty years or longer. Only eight percent of the respondents had been a member for less than a year. Of the current members, 71 percent have never let their membership lapse. More than half of you (55 percent) have held your membership for ten years or longer.

Most of us renew on a year-to-year basis (61 percent) but fifteen percent of you have chosen to become lifetime members. Congratulations on your commitment to the organization.

We also seem to be pretty happy with our American Mensa experience. Fourteen percent of you said you were "very" satisfied and 38 percent were "satisfied." Only one percent was very dissatisfied, but this was the current member population. For lapsed members, that number jumped to three percent who were "very" dissatisfied.

Our members are often introverts who prefer to participate without attending an event. However, attending an event seems to increase the satisfaction level as

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nearly sixty percent of the dissatisfied (or neutral) members do not attend American Mensa sponsored activities, while only 43 percent of our “satisfied” members stay away from events.

When asked, “What were you looking for by joining American Mensa?” the top reason was to experience intellectual stimulation (55 percent). More than half of you wanted to meet and socialize with like-minded individuals and 47 percent joined to meet interesting people.

Thirteen percent of you joined because you were looking for someone to date! Twenty four percent of our members joined because of the “prestige.” You are the ones who carry your Mensa membership card with you on dates, right?

When surveying the lapsed members, the top reason for their nonrenewal was the cost of the membership. The majority of lapsed members (31 percent) stayed 2-3 years to see if they would benefit from their association with Mensa. The good news is that sixty percent of lapsed members plan to renew, most of them within the next three years.

If you’re as interested in who makes up the association and why do we join, these are important to you. You never know, one of these statistics might be in the next trivia contest and you’ll know the answer. Just another bit of information to pack into our overstuffed brains in case we need it some day!



Citizens Climate Lobby

Rich Gibson

Do you accept that climate change is happening, and very likely to get worse?

Do you accept that human contributions to climate change are significant?

Are you frustrated at the Federal Government’s ability to do anything meaningful about it?

If so, the Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) may be for you! It has two goals: to change political will, and to empower citizens. It does this by forming chapters, aligned with congressional districts, and teaching/training volunteers to be active writing and speaking members of the community. Through letters to the editor and op-ed pieces in local newspapers, to speaking engagements and interviews with congressional staffers and members of congress, it seeks to gain support for a single, simple piece of bipartisan legislation: a revenue-neutral carbon tax.

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This tax seeks to impose a tax of \$15 per ton (of carbon-dioxide product) on every energy source, imposed at the source, be it a minehead, oilwell or port of entry. This tax will increase by \$10 each year. All the revenue produced will be returned to consumers at a rate of up to three credits per household (one credit per adult, one-half credit per child). CCL calculates that the lower two-thirds of households will get back at least the extra money they paid in energy costs.

I heard about CCL through a New York Times article (<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/05/29/lobbying-for-the-greater-good/>), and did some exploring on their website (<http://citizensclimatelobby.org/>). It turns out that no chapter exists in Indianapolis today, so I decided, what the heck. I'm trying to get one going. If you're at all interested, please let me know (hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com preferred, 317-735-2895 otherwise). BTW, I'll be speaking on this at the September Gathering. No experience is necessary to volunteer. There are lots to do, and writing/speaking skills are not a prerequisite. Whatever you want to do, CCL will try to help you get there, and thereby help everybody get more involved in making good change happen.



Altering the Sound Chamber

Judson Horning

As we grow older, many of us find ourselves appreciating the lower registers of sound more than we used to. Cellos and bass viols appeal to us more than violins or screaming fiddles. Spanish guitars seem more attractive than ukeleles. Kick drums give us deeper feelings than snares.

What do we need to get deeper resonating sound? Bigger chambers to allow the longer waves of deeper sound room to resonate within the instruments.

So, when the high-pitched sound of your toilet doesn't please you as it once did, what are you going to do? Oddly, the answer is not in the local music store.

Modern marketing being what it is, the businessmen of our communities have decided to place resonating extenders with canes and wheelchairs and other items that they feel will appeal to an older audience.

Therefore, if you are looking for a richer, deeper sound to the flush of your toilet, go to your local health supply store, and you will find the instruments to extend the musicality of your beloved household device. You will feel better all over if you do--especially in your knees.

Mensa Brings People Together

Alison Brown, SIGHT Coordinator

Mensa brings people together. This is why I am the SIGHT coordinator here for Central Indiana Mensa, as I was in Austria at the end of my years there.

Recently on our trip to Wooster, OH, to see a series of performances at the Ohio Light Opera, we touched bases again with the LocSec of East Central Ohio Mensa, John Schmid, and his fiancée Karen. She joined Mensa after being introduced to it by him. The last time we were in Wooster, they proudly announced their engagement; now we know they will be having their M & M wedding in September. Since it was mostly Mensans at the table, the topics ranged far and wide, from the musicals we were enjoying, the talents of the cast, merits of the local bookstores, love of pets, crossword and other puzzles, and the outfitting of the vehicle in which to take a honeymoon. We already look forward to our meeting next season.



John Schmid, ECOM; Alison Brown and Margy Lancet Fletcher, both CIM; and Karen (not yet Schmid), ECOM at the end of a typical Ohio lunch at Buehler's

Collectables and Treasures?

Greg Crawford

As a semi-professional eBay Seller, I have oft been asked about selling someone's items as well as what an item is worth. My aging Baby Boomer friends frequently comment, "I'll do my kids a favor and sell this stuff now so they won't have to deal with it." Those thoughts bring up much more than one would expect.

Never in history was there such a rise in affluence and disposable income as there was for we Baby Boomers. We have had lots and lots of \$\$\$ to spend on upscale, luxury and collectible goods. This is not true of Generation X and Gen Y which followed us. Inflated home prices, student loans, and unrealistic expectations have wiped out (what were seen as) extra bucks.

In addition, X & Y also expect to relocate more often, so they tend to think of collections and collectibles as unneeded baggage. With a big footprint.

Most important, the X & Y folks do not value fine art, hardwood furnishings, bone china, and such because their peers do not value it. The electronics generations spend their dollars buying faster iPods and cell phones with more and more features ... many of which are rarely used ... but which add bragging rights. "I just got a new, 5th generation cell. Come look."

As casualties of these generational preferences, Waterford & Wedgwood filed bankruptcy two years ago. Goebels ceased production of their Hummel figurines. Brands like Lladro, Tiffany, and Royal Doulton are becoming unrecognized. Many upper end furniture lines have disappeared while IKEA has thrived with its minimalist products.

Other areas getting hurt include wristwatches, antiques, oriental rugs, silver (flatware), family portraits, primitives, glass, linens and more. Gen X & Y have scant use for things which only get used for "company."

Next time you are in Macy's, notice how s-m-a-l-l their china displays have become. They are barely large enough to display single place settings of best-sellers. None is in stock; everything gets ordered. Next time you are in WalMart or Target, notice that the in-store photography franchises have disappeared nationwide. Bankrupt.

Generations X and Y also are fleeing stamps, pottery, coins, toys, figurines, antiquarian books, sports collectibles and more. Exasperating this drop in demand is an increase in supply. Every time a grandma or grandpa dies, their heirs dump a lifetime of treasures on an unforgiving market which has devalued

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Depression Glass, quilts, military relics, baskets, Native Americana, comics, etc, etc, etc.

Adding yet another "nail in the coffin" is the eBay Phenomenon. When you and I and other Baby Boomers were building collections, we would spend years scouting antique stores and flea markets hunting for that elusive item. With many collectibles, we would anxiously await every new issue.

Now, we simply do an eBay search and order whatever we seek. If the price is not right, we wait ... another will turn up.

Since there is no "thrill of the hunt" and no sense of urgency, eBay and internet buying have wiped out brick-and-mortar book stores, antique shops, specialty shops, flea markets and more.

So, what is the point of all this?

Because the folks who inherit Baby Boomer schtuff rarely know its value as well as its collectors, do them a kindness by cataloging, sorting, liquidating, whatever. Though the topic is unpleasant, it should be approached with the same resolve as writing a will and other estate planning. Better that you make knowledgeable decisions than leaving things to chance.

Second, since values tend to be dropping drastically, there is no better time to disappear schtuff which once made us smile but which now collects dust. You know how to describe, price and market your valuables more successfully than your offspring. Possibly you can gift special items as a pre-inheritance to a fellow collector.

Last, for those collections and hobbies which still make you smile, today is a great time to buy more.



Comment on the Royal Birth

Joanne Ortman

Free satirical paper The Onion did not do much with recent royal birth – if they'd asked me I'd have submitted this: which came to me 2:30 a.m. On a sleepless night:

Inside sources say the royal baby did have a slight birth defect which doctors were able to correct. A silver spoon protruding from the baby's bottom was repositioned in a brief procedure.

Treasurer's Report

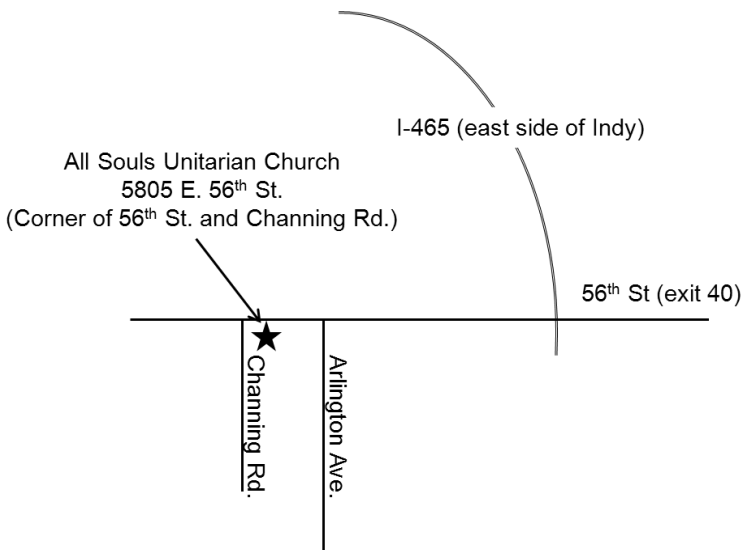
Karen Zwick, Treasurer

Balance Sheet (as of 07/30/2013)

Bank Accounts	07/30/2013	06/24/2013
Checking – Regular	\$8,555.88	\$8,620.08
Checking - Scholarship	344.00	344.00
Checking – Youth Mbrship	1110.00	1,110.00
Gathering Account	7,881.83	7,881.83
Vanguard Account	3,739.29	\$3,739.19
Total Assets	\$21,631.00	\$21,695.10

Profit & Loss Statement (06/25/2013 – 07/30/2013)

Income		
	401.1 - Monthly Gathering Inc (17 M's, 3 Non-M, 1 Speaker, 7 Food)	108.00
	402 - National Mensa Inc (514 mbrs, 3 New, 1 Rein, 1 Newsletter, 3 tests, 1 test site)	496.13
Total Income		\$604.13
Expense		
	501.1 - Monthly Gathering Hospitality	37.71
	501.2 – Monthly Gathering Facility	105.00
	504.1 - MIND Printing	224.70
	505 - Food for ExCom/MIND	231.60
	506.2 - New Member Expenses (office supplies)	40.00
	510 – Miscellaneous Expenses (Printing of bookmarks)	29.32
Total Expense		\$668.33



Mensa Monthly Gathering Location

All Souls Unitarian Church, The Beattie Room, 5805 E. 56th St., Indianapolis

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



Region 4 RVC

Ellen Voie RVC4@us.mensa.org,

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