



# mind

Mensa Newsletter  
Of Central Indiana



*Welcome to Hospitality, Annual Gathering Style.  
Please join us at the JW Marriott Hotel,  
July 4-8, 2018.  
It will be Monumentally Mindbending!*

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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 98<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:mind.editor@yahoo.com), or Teresa Gregory, 6076 Dewey Avenue, Indianapolis, IN, 46219. Contributions may be edited for length or to remove offensive material 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 first Friday of the month for the following month's edition.

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# mind

## table of contents

Old Dog/New Tricks	4
LocSection	5
Mensa Admission Test	6
Book Group Reading List	7
Book Review	7
Catacomb Tour	9
Lunch Bunch Update	9
Welcome New Members	10
Cinder Update	10
March 2018 Events	11
RVC4 Column	15
The VML	16
Change to MG Fee	17
Alison Going Bald	18
Books on the Runway	18
ExCom Minutes	20
Location of CIM Monthly Meeting	22
Contact Information	23

## Old Dog/New Tricks

*Teresa Gregory, Editor*

Because the March MIND is assembled and mailed in February, I usually have a report on the success of our January Regional Gathering and we are looking forward to the May Outdoor Gathering. We have neither this year. We are focusing all our energy into putting on an Annual Gathering. Yikes! This is Mensa's biggest party and it's less than five months away.

Dayton usually has an RG in early April, but they have canceled for this year, too. If you are jonesing for some Mensa gathering action and can't wait until July, check the information in this issue about The VML that will take place in Cincinnati in April. This isn't an "official" Mensa event, more like Mensa duct tape mending the gap left by those other events.



In local news, March is the last month for you to gift your testing voucher to that friend you know should be in Mensa. Testing info is in this issue of MIND.

While you are thinking of your buddies who should be members, don't forget to renew your own membership. When you do, please go in and check all the info that is online or fill out the form they send. I get several MINDs returned every month. Also, if you want a paper MIND, make sure that's what you have on record. The system defaults to electronic.

Everything is going up. Sadly, our Monthly Gathering door fee is increasing this month. I have reprinted Karen Zwick's explanation of why this is a necessary evil. I have been a member since 2004 and this is the first increase I've witnessed. Members will now be \$7 and non-members will be \$10.

I also need to apologize for something last month. If you received a paper edition of MIND, and you read Petra Ritchie's Funny Page with guest punster, Larry Marcus's contribution, you might wonder which of them is on the AMC, or why that joke wasn't funny. Something from the RVC column attached itself to the bottom of that page and I did not see it before it was printed. Thank you to the reader who brought it to my attention.

Due to a last-minute family situation, there was no ExCom meeting in January. I had neither meeting minutes nor treasurer's report, so I went back twenty-five years and reprinted the minutes that were in the March 1993 MIND. There was no separate treasurer's report, but it was discussed. Was Karen Wilczewski taking notes with a quill pen back then?

Looking forward to the first day of spring on March 20, and two full moons (March 1 and 31), and be ready to lose an hour of sleep when Daylight Saving Time comes to visit.

## LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

**A Big Thank You** – To Scholarship Chair, **Laurel Richardson**, and also to **Charles Rawlings**, **Karen Zwick**, and **Elise Davidson** for judging scholarship applicants' essays. Laurel reports that 10 essays were sent on to the regional level for judging at that level. Laurel has run the scholarship program for Central Indiana Mensa for many years—we really appreciate her contributions to CIM!



**CultureQuest®** – If you're interested in participating in Mensa's nation-wide cultural literacy/trivia team competition, please let me know. The competition will be on April 29th this year. Applications are due March 31<sup>st</sup>, so if you want to be on a team, be sure to renew on time. More info at [www.us.mensa.org/attend/culturequest/](http://www.us.mensa.org/attend/culturequest/)



**Annual Gathering 2018 Updates** – AG registration rates go up March 1st. You'll save \$30 if you register before then. Register at [ag.us.mensa.org](http://ag.us.mensa.org) or call the national office at 1-800-66-MENSA (\$199 until Feb. 28th). Hotel reservations (\$134 to \$154+tax) are through the AG website link or by calling 866-704-6162; reference American Mensa Annual Gathering. If you're interested in speaking at the AG, click on the "Submit a Proposal" button. If you'd like to volunteer, shoot Teresa Gregory or me an email. . . . Continuing the countdown of "Top Ten Reasons to Come to the AG in Indy" - Reason #3: Take a Tour! From the iconic Speedway, home of the Indianapolis 500, to the internationally acclaimed architecture of Columbus, Indiana, there is something for everyone. Dog person? Wolf Park. Cat lover? Exotic Feline Rescue. Adult? Wine and Jazz. Kid (or kid at heart)? The world's largest Children's Museum. Visit the past at the Opalescent Glass factory or one of the oldest miniature golf courses in the US. Register now so you don't miss the bus.

**Don't Forget** – To give your testing voucher to someone you'd like to have as fellow member. Vouchers expire Mar. 31, 2018. Upcoming test dates are on our website – [www.indymensa.org](http://www.indymensa.org). . . . Our local election is later this year. If you'd like to run for the Executive Committee ("ExCom") or LocSec or would like to serve on the nominating or election committees, please contact me or any member of the ExCom.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!!!  
DUE DATE IS MARCH 31<sup>st</sup>

# **Mensa Admission Testing for 2018**

## **March - May**

We currently have three test sessions planned for the following dates in March through May 2018. Please contact Testing Coordinator Karen Zwick at [karen.zwick@outlook.com](mailto:karen.zwick@outlook.com) to reserve a space. The exact testing location will be provided when a candidate reserves a space.

Month	Date	Start Time	General Location
March	Sunday, March 18	1:00 P.M.	Indianapolis south side
April	Saturday, April 7	12:00 P.M.	Indianapolis south side
May	Sunday, May 13	1:00 P.M.	Carmel, IN

The fee of \$60 is payable by cash, check, or any major credit card. You can also purchase a voucher for the fee ahead of time at [www.us.mensa.org/join/testing/testingvoucher/](http://www.us.mensa.org/join/testing/testingvoucher/). Candidates between 14-17 years old are required to have one of their parents also sign the registration form in my presence at the testing site. We are not permitted to test candidates under 14 years old. Candidates under 14 will need to apply to the American Mensa, Ltd. national office in Arlington, Texas using approved prior testing evidence. A partial list of accepted tests and scores is available at: [www.us.mensa.org/join/testscores/qualifyingscores/](http://www.us.mensa.org/join/testscores/qualifyingscores/). Further questions about prior evidence admission to Mensa may be answered by calling Mensa's national office at 817-607-0060.

No smoking, calculators, or scratch paper are allowed. Candidates are permitted to take each of the two tests comprising the Mensa Admissions Test battery only once in their lives. Candidates who qualify on either test will be invited to become a member. Please bring a photo ID and one or two #2 pencils. I also have plenty of extras.

The information above refers to the regular Mensa Admission Test. Please contact the Testing Coordinator if you are interested in taking the Culture Fair test.

Karen Zwick  
Testing Coordinator – Central Indiana Mensa  
[karen.zwick@outlook.com](mailto:karen.zwick@outlook.com)

## 2018-19 Book Group Reading List

Rich Gibson

Here is the list of books to read for the CIM Book Group. It meets in Sunday afternoons once a month. Check the calendar for exact dates. Call or email Rich Gibson if you have any question or for directions.

Mar 18: *How to Think* by Alan Jacobs

- will also include an essay (to be announced) by Deborah Tannen

Apr 15: *Half Earth* by E O Wilson

- Will also include an article from The Atlantic refuting Kolbert's Sixth Extinction

May 20: *Time Detectives* by Brian Fagan

Jun 17: *Why We Sleep* by Matthew Walker

Jul 22: *Evolution of Beauty* by Richard Prum

Aug 19: Lewis and Clark. Read one of these (or another book on the topic) and come prepared to discuss it!

- *From Sea to Shining Sea*, by James Alexander Thom
- *Undaunted Courage* by Stephen Ambrose
- *The Journals of Lewis and Clark*

Sep 23: *Without You There Is No Us* by Suki Kim

Oct 28: *Reality is Not What It Seems* by Carlo Rovelli

Nov 18: *Venomous* by Christie Wilcox

Dec 16: *Dialogues: Conversations on the Nature of the Universe* by Clifford Johnson

Jan 20, 2019: *Hidden Life of Trees* by Hans Wohlleben Feb 17: *I Was Told to Come Alone* by Souad Mekhennet

Mar 17: *The Year of Lear* by James Shapiro

Apr 21: *Why Zebras Don't Get Ulcers* by Robert Sapolsky

[Ed. Note: *The Hidden Life of Trees* was reviewed by Margy Lancet Fletcher in the November 2017 edition of MIND.]



## Book Review

Alison Brown

*The Kids are Smart Enough, So What's the Problem?* by Richard W. Garrett  
*A Businessman's Perspective on Educational Reform and the Teacher Crises.* © 2017

Learning and teaching in the nation's schools is being sabotaged by a small group of disruptive students in almost every class. Teachers are being prevented  
*Continued on next page*

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from teaching and willing students are unable to learn while behavioral problems are dealt with day after day, taking an inordinate amount of time away from the actual subject matter.

The frustration of able teachers leads them to leave the profession. Word has gotten out, so fewer young people are going to college to get an education degree. The teacher shortage, already here in many places, is looming large on the horizon across the country.

Giving schools grades points to the problem but does not solve it. Giving teachers "incentive pay" does not solve the problem either, since teachers enter the profession, not to get rich, but to change lives. Handing schools over to for-profit organizations does not resolve the issue but costs the community valuable resources. Turning public schools into "charter schools" has been shown statistically to be useless, if not harmful. Finally, political teacher-bashing is counterproductive.

This lack of successful education of a large portion of the next generation will handicap the economy and social fabric of our country going forth. Garrett points to a viable solution that does not merely punish misbehaving students but works to reorient them while allowing eager peers and teachers to continue their education process uninterrupted. He provides several examples of schools that work, and the values taught there which should be part of every academic process, but especially if those values (which he repeatedly refers to collectively as character and grit) are not taught in the home.

Members of Central Indiana Mensa will recognize many names and places, as Garrett draws heavily on data from Indiana to support his point, but also looks to educational experts whose own publications are available to readers interested in pursuing the ideas. I also refer you to Garrett's website <http://www.elevateteachers.org/>

While the book sorely lacked a good editor and is extremely repetitive (100 pages instead of 149 would have been sufficient to get the points across but would not justify the high price of the book) Garrett has a valuable message. Garrett's lectures on the topic do not struggle with these issues, but rather are clear and riveting.



## **Catacombs Tour!**

Diane O'Brien

Discover the Secrets of the City Market on a Tour of the Catacombs  
March 17, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

A vast expanse of brick barrel arches, the catacombs are all that remain of Tomlinson Hall, which burned in 1958 and was torn down by the city. Visitors will see the huge limestone pillars that supported the hall, explore the network of arches, and learn the history of the underground labyrinth, which includes its use as a storage facility during the flood of 1913, and a refuge for the city's homeless during the bitterest winters.

This tour was originally scheduled for Mensa Youth in November, but so many streets were blocked by the Monumental Marathon, that many of those who had signed up were not able to attend (including me!). Since we have additional space available in the tour group, you are invited to join us. Cost is \$10.00 for ages 12 and older and \$5.00 for ages 6-11. Please let me know if you would like to join us – e-mail is [robrien25@comcast.net](mailto:robrien25@comcast.net).



## **Lunch Bunch Update: Temporary Location**

Because of renovations to the kitchen at the Double Eagle Café at the Scottish Rite Cathedral, the Indy Lunch Bunch will be meeting at Shapiro's at 808 S. Meridian on Feb. 21, Mar. 7, and Mar. 21. The time will still be 12:00 noon.

Thank you,  
Karen Steilberger





## New Member

Luke Austin	Utica	KY	Joined
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## New Muncie Coordinator

Welcome to Kevin Nemyer our new volunteer coordinator in the Muncie Area. If you are in that area, feel free to get in touch with him. I'd love to have a calendar event in Muncie and maybe he will make it to one of the Indy meetings in the near future.  
[knemyer@aol.com](mailto:knemyer@aol.com), (765)744-6532

Thanks, Kevin!



## Cinder Update

To CIM:

My friends, as the leader of Cinder I have worked to have fun discussion opportunities on important technological and philosophical ideas, to enjoy quirky and independent art/movies, and to explore the future of our species together. Unfortunately, with where I am in medical school my time is becoming less and less available. I know that I will be traveling several hours away for some of my rotations in the near future, and the rounds of applications, forms, and studying for boards will only take up more of my time. I regret to inform you that I will need to put Cinder on hiatus until I have enough free time to continue it. Should any of the members of this group want to take it over and run the SIG in my absence, I would be happy to get you set up accordingly. In short, I will still be working hard as a member of ExCom and you should still be seeing me at monthly meetings, but Cinder will be going away for a while. Thank you to everyone who has come to our SIG meetings, and I hope you all had fun.

Sincerely,  
Ethan Charles Blocher-Smith

## March 2018 Events

**Ham 'n' Eggs (Hamilton County Eggheads)** – 1st Saturday from 9:45 a.m. - 12 noon. Atrio, 11700 Illinois St. (Meridian & 116th 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).

**Indy Lunch Bunch** – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 12:00 noon at Shapiro's at 808 S. Meridian, Indianapolis. Contact: Karen Steilberger, [steilkr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:steilkr@sbcglobal.net).

**Monthly Gathering** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday, 7p.m. – 12 Midnight. **All Souls Unitarian Church, 5805 E. 56<sup>th</sup> Street, Indianapolis, IN 46226.** See last page of *MIND* for map and directions. NOTE NEW FEE: **Members: \$7.00, Non-Members: \$10.00; Children 6-12: \$5.00, under 6: free.**

**STEM Time with George Dunn** (formerly 10 Minutes of Math and Science) following the speaker.

**Mensa Admissions Test** - Sunday, 3/18, 1 p.m. registration. Testing will be conducted on the south side of Indianapolis. Contact: Karen Zwick at: [karen.zwick@outlook.com](mailto:karen.zwick@outlook.com) to reserve a space. The exact location will be provided when a candidate reserves a space.

**Additional Information:** The \$60 testing fee is payable by cash, check, or any major credit card. You can purchase a voucher for the fee ahead of time at [www.mensa.org/join/testing/testingvoucher/](http://www.mensa.org/join/testing/testingvoucher/). Candidates between 14 and 17 years of age are required to have one of their parents also sign the registration form in the presence of the testing coordinator at the testing site. We are not permitted to test candidates under age 14. Candidates under 14 will need to apply to the American Mensa Ltd. national office in Arlington, Texas, using approved prior testing evidence. A partial list of accepted tests and scores is available at: [www.u.s.mensa.org/join/testscores/qualifyingscores/](http://www.u.s.mensa.org/join/testscores/qualifyingscores/). Further questions about prior evidence admission to Mensa may be answered by calling Mensa's national office at 817-607-0060.

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## March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
4	5	6	7 Indy Lunch Bunch
11 Daylight Savings Time Begins	12	13	14
18 Mensans Dining Out Mensa; Admission Test; Book Club	19	20 <i>MIND</i> bending/ ExCom; Paducah Area Group Meeting; Vernal Equinox	21 Indy Lunch Bunch
25	26	27	28

## March 2018 (cont.)

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Ham 'n' Eggs; Cal. Deadline
8	9 Monthly Gathering	10
15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day
22	23	24
29	30	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 2018 Events (cont.)

**Book Group** – 2 p.m., Sunday, **March 18**. We will discuss *How to Think* by Alan Jacobs. The group will meet 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.

**Mensans Dining Out** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 6 p.m., **3/18**. Saffron Café, 621 Fort Wayne Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46204. 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)

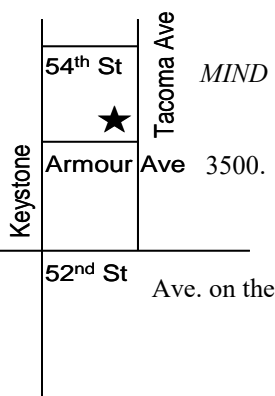
**MINDBending/ExCom** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

*MINDBending* is the preparation of next month's for mailing. Come help with sealing, labeling, and stamping the *MINDs*.

**3/20, 5:30 p.m.** Contact: Jan Pfeil Doyle, 317-431-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 northeast side of Indianapolis.

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



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

April 2018 *MIND* calendar items due 3/3/18 to: [biltmore@topdogcom.com](mailto:biltmore@topdogcom.com).

## Jon's Journal – News for Region 4

*By Jon Gruebele, RVC4*

One of the nice things about your Mensa membership is that you can easily manage what you are sent, how you get it, and what information you want to disclose to others. For example, I elect to:

Receive only the on-line version of my Local Group newsletter. I get it quicker, it's in full color, and we don't have to spend money printing and mailing me a copy. For the same reasons, I also get my election ballots electronically.



Receive a hard copy of the Mensa Bulletin, even though I often read it on-line. I also volunteer as an admission test Proctor. I hope that giving test candidates a Bulletin will help convince them to join if they qualify.

Disclose my e-mail and phone in case people want to contact me about something. I also allow my Local Group to contact me via e-mail or phone.

Show my picture, so people will know who I am. It's only one year old. Really.

Not disclose my birthday. It's probably doesn't matter, but I do worry about identity theft.

Not allow Mensa's partners to contact me about promotions.

Receive Mensa Brainwave, a weekly summary of news often of interest to Mensa members. I usually find something to read every week.

You may not have ever changed your preferences from the defaults. If that's working for you, great; otherwise, doing a quick review may improve your member experience. Simply log on to the web site and navigate to My Mensa -> My Profile. There are a lot of options, but definitely check out the "My Communication Preferences" section. You can subscribe to Mensa Brainwave under Read -> Brainwave.

On another topic, our long time Executive Director Pam Donahoo has resigned to take another position as CEO of USFN – America's Mortgage Banking Attorneys. Replacing Pam will be Trevor Mitchell, former Mensa Director of Membership and Strategy. The details of the process used by our Transition Committee to make that recommendation are available on-line under the Board of Directors (AMC) January 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting Reports.

Thoughts? Contact me at [rvc4@us.mensa.org](mailto:rvc4@us.mensa.org), via phone or text at +1 309 693 1359, or join us in our Region 4 Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/695847670490858>.

# The VML!.....What?.....The VML!

There wasn't an Indy RG and the Dayton RG has been cancelled. And that's just too long a time for there to not be a party. So Virginia and Mary Lee decided to throw one! (VML = Virginia/Mary Lee.)

It'll be April 6-8, 2018 in Blue Ash at the Double Tree Hotel, 6300 Kemper Rd. Friday 3 PM to Sunday 1 PM. Rooms are \$109 plus tax per night. Call 513-489-3636 for your room reservation. The "MEN" Block (they named it, not us) ENDS 3/16/18. They may not have rooms at our price after the block closes. They may not even have rooms at all after our block closes. PLEASE call to reserve your room now!

All meals provided. Speakers, tournaments, games and programs. And two Leadership Development Workshops - on Hotel Negotiation/Space Utilization, and on Best Practices for a Better Hospitality.

<u>Registration cost</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Ages 13-20</u>	<u>Kids Age 6-12</u>	<u>Under Age 6</u>
Full Weekend:	\$65	\$45	\$30	Free
Friday only:	\$25	\$15	\$10	Free
Saturday only:	\$45	\$35	\$25	Free

*Send your registration check to: Mary Lee Kemper, 1474 Windward Dr., Mason, OH 45040.*

*Need your name, address, phone and email please.*

*Sorry, no credit card or paypal. If you plan to pay cash when you walk in, PLEASE let us know ahead of time that you're doing that, so we know to order dinner for you for Saturday night.*

You can contact Virginia at [vboatplot@yahoo.com](mailto:vboatplot@yahoo.com) and Mary Lee at [maryleekemper@gmail.com](mailto:maryleekemper@gmail.com).

Yes, we need help. Please volunteer early and often! Contact Virginia if you will bake or volunteer for hospitality. Contact Mary Lee if you are willing to do a presentation or run a tournament.



## Change to Monthly Gathering Fee

Beginning on March 9, 2018, we will experience an increase in the fee collected at the door for Monthly Gatherings, which are held the second Friday of each month. The current door fees have not changed for over 12 years while our expenses have greatly increased. We sincerely hope that this increase will be received as reasonable.

New fees to attend Monthly Gatherings (effective March 9, 2018):

Admission Options	Amount
Mensa Member	\$7
Non-Member	\$10
Child under 6	Free
Child 6 to under 18	\$5
Bring food to share at Monthly Gathering	Free

### *Benefits of Central Indiana Monthly Programs*

Our Monthly Programs offer great benefits to those who participate including:

- Interesting presentations on a great variety of topics including Tai Chi, 3D printing, Kurt Vonnegut, Solar Eclipses, Exotic Feline Rescue Center, and so much more.
- A wide variety of yummy snacks and beverages (beer & wine included).
- Opportunities before/after presentations to visit and talk with fellow Mensans.
- Opportunities to make new friends and strengthen existing friendships.

### *Further Details Behind Increases*

The primary expense that has increased for the Monthly Gatherings is the cost of the meeting facility. In past years, we were able to rent the use of less expensive facilities for \$25 - \$35 per month. Those facilities are no longer available and/or cannot accommodate the average number of attendees.

Our current facility at All Souls Unitarian church provides adequate space and kitchen facilities and costs \$137.75 per month. When the current rental agreement expires in April 2018, we hope to further reduce that amount by limiting the time rented from six to four hours (7 – 11 pm).

### *Further Questions?*

If you have further questions, feel free to contact me or any member of the Ex Com.

Karen Zwick  
Treasurer – Central Indiana Mensa  
[karen.zwick@outlook.com](mailto:karen.zwick@outlook.com)

## Alison is going bald again!

Alison Brown

I am going bald again - that is, if I have the great support I got from my fellow Mensans last year again this year. (See picture from 2017.)

I have had my head shaved in support of childhood cancer research three times already. I hope to raise \$500 in this, my fourth year. It would be twice as much fun if some of the 500 other CIMensans join me in this endeavor (Mensa Cares).



Since 2005 St. Baldrick's has awarded more than \$230 million to support lifesaving research; making the St. Baldrick's Foundation the largest private funder of childhood cancer research grants. Many of the grants are used by researchers at both the Riley and the Peyton Manning Children's Hospitals, so your donation will benefit people in Indiana directly.

I promise to post a picture of my shaven pate (assuming someone has a camera, takes a picture and sends it to my inbox) after the event on March 23rd, 2018

[Alison Brown | A St. Baldrick's](https://www.stbaldricks.org/participants/mypage/946754/2018)

[Participant https://www.stbaldricks.org/participants/mypage/946754/2018](https://www.stbaldricks.org/participants/mypage/946754/2018)

Thank you in advance for supporting this important cause.



## Books On The Runway

Margy Lancet Fletcher

**Title:** *The Quartet: Orchestrating the Second American Revolution, 1783-1789*

**Author:** Joseph J. Ellis

**Year:** 2015

**Book Description:** There is a long tradition among Americans of celebrating July 4, 1776, as the date of the singular revolution that liberated Americans from British rule and gave birth to the United States as a nation. However, according to Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Joseph J. Ellis, this notion has as much substance as Yankee Doodle's fabled macaroni, because it does not begin to tell the complete story. In *The*



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*Quartet*, his scholarly yet freshly provocative account, Ellis makes a cogent, thoroughly researched case for the existence of a second American revolution - the formation of a truly unified national government through the creation and ratification of the Constitution of the United States - without which the first revolution could not have been realized and sustained. He credits four men in particular as the key players in this drama of nascent nationhood: George Washington, James Madison, John Jay, and Alexander Hamilton. In addition to presenting a richly detailed chain of events, starting with the formulation of the unwieldy and ineffectual Articles of Confederation and culminating in the establishment of the more robust Constitutional government, the author profiles the four founders, describing each man's personal background and the attributes that made him a uniquely qualified advocate for a consolidated America. The book also pays tribute to the major supporting players - Robert Morris, Gouverneur Morris, and Thomas Jefferson - and includes in its appendices the Articles of Confederation and the original versions of the Constitution of the United States (1787) and the Bill of Rights (1791).

**Has this book changed the way you think, your attitude toward life, or even your life itself? If so, how?** This book was recommended to me by my sister-in-law, Rhonda, during her last visit to Indiana and our customary stop at the local Barnes and Noble. Like myself, she is an avid consumer of historical literature and is inclined to keep an open mind regarding revisionist interpretations of our cultural heritage. We especially appreciate the admonition the author delivers throughout the book against judging prominent eighteenth century citizens according to twenty-first-century sensibilities (see the excerpt below). The four subjects of *The Quartet* should be commemorated for their roles in establishing an enduring democratic government based on a document that clearly delineates laws and institutions, and yet allows for growth and change - no petty achievement, certainly. So, if you please, folks, let those public statues stand proudly!

**Who should definitely read this book? Why?** Amateur and professional historians will enjoy this literary excursion outside of the school-textbook box. As *The Quartet* is as much a character study as a catalog of events, it should also appeal to readers with a taste for the theatrical.

**How long might it take to read this book?** A riveting read and a mere 220 pages in length, *The Quartet* should not tax anyone's schedule, and can be completed in 2 or 3 days.

**Provide a short characteristic section, an awesome sentence, or an inspiring quote:** "There is little doubt that the lost world of the founding was a more explicitly racist world than our own. The founders were truly remarkable for their ability to imagine a nation-size republic and a political framework that

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insisted on the separation of church and state, both of which were unprecedented social experiments that succeeded. But neither they nor the vast majority of white Americans were capable of imagining a biracial society. (Neither, for that matter, was such a staunch opponent of slavery as Harriet Beecher Stowe, who provided an appendix at the end of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* that described her plan for deporting all the freed slaves back to Africa.) We need to remind ourselves that racial integration in the United States was a mid-twentieth-century idea that few if any of the founders could have comprehended. Imposing our racial agenda on them is politically correct but historical irresponsible."

**Additional Remarks:** In light of what *The Quartet* has revealed about the tandem American revolutions, and how closely they complemented one another, I would propose that we add another summer holiday (we can never have too many of those, right?): June 21. On that day in 1788, New Hampshire, the last of the nine states required to ratify the Constitution, did so, to the benefit of all American citizens. And as we celebrate Constitution Day, let's add a prayer that our form of government based on that transformative document endures for generations to come. Amen!

*[Ed. Note: Congratulations to Margy on her recent retirement!]*



## **ExCom in Action (From the March 1993 MIND)**

*Minutes of Friday, December 11, 1992 Meeting*

Present: Rick Barbrick, Roger Larson, George Dunn, Diane Seaman, Karen Bauerschmidt, Karen Wilczewski, Gordon Lamb, and Marion Harcourt.

Absent: Richard DeLiberty

The Executive committee of Indianapolis Mensa met and called regular session on Friday, December 11, 1992, at the home of Karen Bauerschmidt. The meeting was called to order at 6:55 pm by Local Secretary Rick Barbrick.

To date, a new monthly meeting place has not been found. Rick announced that the ExCom meeting and monthly meeting will again be conducted at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church on the east side of Indianapolis.

Regarding the ombudsman position, Rick contacted National for information. He then discussed the new Indianapolis Mensa Phone – 54 MENSA, which is a voice mail system that saves the group substantial dollars over the former phone line. Grace Falvey will work with Indiana Bell to get the system up. Lois Kinneman will monitor calls from the new Mensa phone line.

Rick then reported receiving 71 registrations for the 1993 RG.

Karen Bauerschmidt reported four new members joining Mensa. She is also preparing new member packets and will draft a letter to members who are new to Indianapolis Mensa but were members of the group elsewhere.

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As Treasurer, Diane Seaman reported \$520 in the checking account with no additional support from National until January 1, 1993.

Karen B. moved to explore fund-raising efforts outside the RG at a future meeting. She said Adren Yates was a good person to discuss the project with. This would help relieve the strain on the general checking account. Gordon seconded the motion and the ExCom passed it unanimously.

Diane Seaman suggested accepting advertising in the MIND or transferring funds from the RG account into the general fund as another means of relieving financial pressures. She then suggested establishing guidelines on how to spend the group's money. Karen B. moved that \$500 be transferred from the RG account and deposited into the general account. Marion Harcourt seconded and the motion was unanimously passed.

Karen B. then moved that each ExCom member prepare a proposed preliminary expense budget for 1993 and asked them to document actual expenses incurred. ExCom members responsible for non-ExCom members who incur expenses were asked to bring those budgets to the next meeting as well. When these are turned in, Diane will project 1993 expenses to the ExCom. The motion was seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Diane then requested an annual audit of the Mensa books. The ExCom needs to recruit someone to conduct the audit, preferably a CPA or bookkeeper. Rick will announce this in his column in the February MIND.

Discussion then moved to scholarship funds. Karen B. agreed to research what other chapters do to distribute these funds, while Gordon Lamb moved to table discussion of scholarship funds until Grace Falvey could attend the meeting and bring the ExCom up to date on the status of the funds. Karen B. seconded the motion, and it was unanimously passed by the ExCom.

As Volunteer Coordinator, Sandy Sheehan will recruit volunteers to take money at the door during the monthly meetings.

Gordon then brought up conducting monthly meetings alternately between Fridays and Saturdays. He then moved that discussion be tabled until a permanent site has been established for the meetings. Roger Larson seconded and the ExCom passed the motion unanimously.

After some discussion, Gordon moved to dissolve the MIND liaison position. Karen B. seconded and it was unanimously passed.

The next ExCom meeting was set for Friday, January 8, 1993, at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church starting at 6:30 pm.

This meeting closed at 9:05 pm.

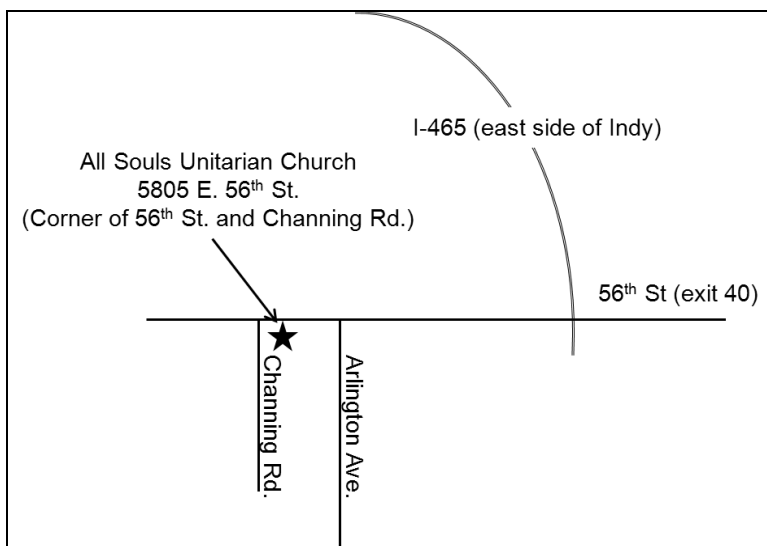
Respectfully submitted

Karen E. Wilczewski, Secretary

## Mensa Monthly Gathering Location

### All Souls Unitarian Church, The Beattie Room, 5805 E. 56<sup>th</sup> St., Indianapolis

- From I-465 on the east side of Indianapolis, take the 56<sup>th</sup> 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

Jon Gruebele [RVC4@us.mensa.org](mailto:RVC4@us.mensa.org).

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