



# mind

Mensa Newsletter  
Of Central Indiana



## **Mensa Foodie Tour at Fogo de Chao**

**Clockwise from left: Jeff Docot; Jessica, Bianca, and Derek Crager; Carol and Bob Bussel; Jan Pfeil Doyle; and Leo Doyle**

## ***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 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.

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*MIND* contributions may be sent to [mind.editor@yahoo.com](mailto:mind.editor@yahoo.com), or Vonda Heverly, 250 Anniston Drive, Indianapolis, IN, 46227. 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 submitted no later than the Friday before *MIND*bending (usually the second Friday of the month) for the following month's edition.

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## Loosing My MIND

Vonda Heverly, Editor

loose (/loo̩s/): v. 1. set free, release. 2. Relax



March is nearly upon us, hallelujah! February gets under my skin and I think it will never end. Even as I write this it is spitting snow, gray and gloomy.

However, seed catalogs are piling up on my table (I've never ordered from one, where do they come from?), daffodils are pushing up in my front yard, and the Canada geese seem more plentiful. No robins yet.

Hopeful things are popping up on the calendar as well: one of my favorite holidays--St. Patrick's Day, Spring Break, and don't forget OMG!, the Outdoor Mensa Gathering. We've attended several years and always look forward to it. Enjoy good food, games, hiking, chatting, or just plain loafing. Something for everyone, I think. Mark your calendars for it May 17-19!

If food adventure is more to your liking, check out the Mensa Foodie Tour on page 6. You'll want to be sure and join the next outing. Our Book Group Reading List is growing short, but it will soon be re-populated with another year's reads.

*"May your troubles be less, your blessings be more, and nothing but happiness come through your door."*

Sláinte!



## Old Dog/New Tricks

*Teresa Gregory, LocSec*

Let me take this opportunity to say “Good-Bye” to our members in Western Kentucky. They joined CIM as part of the Evansville group that merged with us in 2010. Our RVC, Jon Gruebele, has worked with the members to find a better Mensa “fit” for them. By the end of February, all of them will have moved to their new home, Mid Tennessee Mensa. Dan Brown, the LocSec of MTM has promised to bring them into the fold and offer them more opportunities than we could. We wish them good luck in their new home.



The RG was a big success. The numbers were low, but the people who attended had a great time. We had quality programs and most of the meals were catered. The thing we kept hearing was how relaxed it was and that everyone had time to really catch up with friends. We liked this idea and will try to emulate it in future RGs. After the hustle and bustle of 1700+ attendees at the AG last summer, it was nice to relax with a handful of old friends from the area and meet a few new ones. We also tested six prospects. Two of them stayed for lunch. We hope to see some new faces very soon. Thanks, especially, to our volunteers. There is no Mensa event without them.

If you don't want to wait until next January for a CIM weekender, register for the OMG! (Outdoor Mensa Gathering). See the Event pages in this issue for more details.

Laurel Richardson has, once again, made sure that our scholarship entries were processed and submitted for the next level of judging. She wanted to thank Charles Rawlings, Marcele Everest, and Karen Guse for serving as local judges. Each judge read 43 entries which does take a bit of time and effort. The above three have been dependable volunteers for several years -- simply wonderful and prompt. Thanks to Laurel and her team.

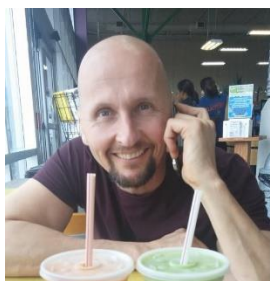
Please remember to renew your membership by the end of March so that you can continue to receive the Mensa publications and that you will be qualified to vote in the National and International elections this year.

We will be looking for some MensaCares! projects very soon. The “official” week is in April, but we can do a MensaCares! project any time. Ideas? Please let me know.

If you are not a member of Meetup, please consider joining. This is where you will find updates on events and events that were too late for MIND. Also check our website, [www.IndyMensa.org](http://www.IndyMensa.org) for updates to the calendar.

# Mensa Foodie Tour: Fogo de Chao

Derek Crager



Traditions come and go and with the new year Indy Mensa begins a new tradition. Announced at our January RG the Mensa Foodie Tour has come to Indy and guess what? You're invited.

Great food and great experience are our goal. While it would be cool to be the first ones to visit a brand-new unproven restaurant, our choices will be judged upon the experience of others; public ratings, sure, but more importantly detailed positive reviews left in earnest by patrons who also love food. We'll look past the raw numbers for one of a kind stories, the kind of stories that you would want to share when they happen to you.

Our first visit of 2019 was to Fogo de Chao to take advantage of their \$10 off all-you-can-eat menu during Devour Indy. Fogo is a Brazilian steakhouse that specializes in fire roasted meats carved table side by gaúcho chefs, the fresh and seasonal Market Table and an award-winning wine list. Included dessert was a choice of New York cheesecake, chocolate mousse cake or key lime pie.



We arrived at 2pm on Saturday to avoid both the lunch and dinner rush. It worked well as we were seated quickly after we arrived.

It was a fairly simple process to have the all you can eat entree delivered to our table. After our own trip to the salad & appetizer bar we each play a game of red light / green light with the service staff. Start with an empty plate, flip your coaster to green light and you are visited by an endless stream of ten different meats freshly roasted on a skewer and delivered by an expert wait staff. When your plate is full flip your coaster to red light and you are left in peace to enjoy your meal. Repeat the process until you are done eating.



Our eight mensa foodie group members shared an array of stories across many topics and we had so much fun the conversation lasted long past our dessert.



Fogo de Chao is typically rated between 4 and 5 stars and our experience fell into this range as well. It's a good meal at full price but keep your eye out for the discounts that happen twice a year. Their email list offers a similar discount once in a great while as well.

If you missed this event, that's okay, we're choosing a new place each month and would love for you to join us. For seat planning it's imperative that we have an accurate count for each event so until we get a reliable alternative, text Derek at 317.796.9825 if you are interested in finding out about our next excursion.

Events will also be posted to our facebook group at <http://bit.ly/indymensa>



*“If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world.” –J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit**



**New Members**

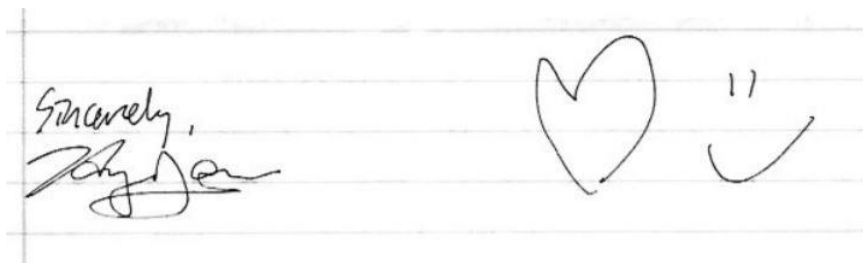
Jerome Colletti	Lafayette	IN	Joined
Jason Huckelberry	Noblesville	IN	Joined
Robyn Szczelaszczyk	Indianapolis	IN	MoveIn

## Letter to CIM From Boot Camp

*CIM recently received a handwritten letter from J (Hyun Joon) Kim, one of our own who recently joined the Army. J Kim ran in the most recent ExCom election. Thanks to Jan Pfeil Doyle for the letter and transcription. –Ed.*

Dear Mensans at C.I.M.

Hello, this [is] J writing to all my smart friends. I have safely arrived to Fort Leonard-Wood and currently waiting to be “shipped out” to the actual living quarters for Basic Combat Training. It was not too cold until today, but I am ready for it. I was also wrong on “Drill Sgts. Do not cuss any more.” Honestly I picked up on skills on how to be a creative cusser. I have not been talking much and was planning to stay under the radar, but being a Specialist amongst Privates did not help nor does the 7-inch scar on my forehead help me “stay low.” I have been suppressing my urge to comment fun-facts/useful facts but it slips out every now and then. At least I’m not the one who tells other fellow trainees “do this and that.” I miss you all.



P.S. I was a little sad that I could not say bye to everybody, especially Karen S. but as the terminator once said, “I will be back!”

*J would love to receive mail! If you would like to write him a letter, please follow these instructions:*

- *White envelopes only*
- *On the back of the envelope, write a circled number “2” to indicate his platoon*
- *Address to: SPC. KIM, HYUN JOON. 0584; A 2-10 INF REG 2nd PLT; 755 Colorado Ave.; Fort Leonard Wood, MO 65473*
- *“Pictures are cool. I could use Rhoda’s Riddles and Petra’s Puns, always thought they were very good. THANK YOU ALL!”*



## 2019 Book Group Reading List

Rich Gibson

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

March 17: *I Was Told to Come Alone* by Souad Mekhennet

April 14: *Why Zebras Don't Get Ulcers* by Robert Sapolsky [Note: date change!]



## Petra's Funny Page

Petra Ritchie

### OXYMORONS

**GOOD GRIEF!** What is an *oxymoron*?  
(PART I) \*

- 1 - Military Intelligence
- 2 - Jumbo Shrimp
- 3 -Junk Food
- 4 - Student Teacher
- 5 – Freezer Burn
- 6 - Political Promise



\*OXYMORON: from the Greek : *oxys*, “sharp” and *moros*, “dull” or “foolish”



*“With mirth and laughter let old wrinkles come.”* –William Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*



## Letter to CIM

*George Haynes, Candidate for Second Vice Chair of Mensa*

If there existed a secret Mensa handshake, I'd ask you to pretend I was offering it to you now. Hello, Mensans all. My name is George Haynes and I'm just popping in to your newsletter to raise awareness that I'm running for a national office within Mensa that YOU will have the opportunity to vote for.

Second Vice Chair is the name of the office for which I'm running. It's like the Vice Vice President of Mensa. If Alexander Haig held this position, his grasp of the rules of succession would be correct (that's my attempt at making a joke).

This is not my official campaign statement or my official biography. This is just a friendly howdy. Although my tone is more informal in this article, you can rest assured that I take this election very seriously and the responsibilities that come with being on Mensa's national board of directors. I served on the AMC (that's the national board) from 2015- 2017. I'm currently the LocSec (that's the president) of St. Louis Area Mensa. I was also the newsletter editor for St. Louis from 2010-2015.

Interesting tidbit, I ran in 2015 for the AMC as a total newcomer to elected office for national Mensa. At that time, there were two ways to get on the Mensa ballot: The Nominating Committee (NomComm) was one way and the other way was by petition, i.e. getting enough signatures to get your name on the ballot. The NomComm initially rejected me because they thought my supposed "lack of experience" should keep me out of the running for national office. Thankfully, the people who signed my petition thought otherwise and indeed got me on the ballot. I won that election against my two opponents who were, ironically, favored by the NomComm. By the way, the two guys who were my opponents were great candidates; I consider them both my friends. My victory in 2015 as an AMC member was made even sweeter by a ballot initiative that eliminated the NomComm.

I share that story to respectfully highlight that I was a big outsider candidate four years ago. Even though I have substantially more Mensa experience, now, that outsider mentality still pervades my thinking. Everyone plays politics to a degree; there's no avoiding it. If you say you don't EVER engage in political machinations (at work, at home, etc.), I have a hard time believing you. However, there comes a point where every person should ask the question, wherever they find themselves, "Am I primarily just an authentic person or am I a politician?" My desire is to be an authentic hard-working person (with skills and strengths) who serves the organization faithfully and diligently. Politics are real, but they don't have to pervade everything. Here comes the campaign slogan (forgive me if it's cheesy): "We're all in this together. You're a Mensan too." If you have specific questions, please email me at: [haygeomensa@gmail.com](mailto:haygeomensa@gmail.com)

Please vote George Haynes for Second Vice Chair. Your vote is very much appreciated.



# March 2019 Events

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

**Indy Lunch Bunch** – (NEW TIME!) 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at **11:30a.m.**, Double Eagle Café, 650 N. Meridian (at the Scottish Rite Cathedral), Indianapolis. Contact: Karen Steilberger, [steilkr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:steilkr@sbcglobal.net).

**Monthly Gathering** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday, 7 p.m. – 11 p.m. All Souls Unitarian Church, 5805 E. 56<sup>th</sup> Street, Indianapolis, IN 46226. See last page of *MIND* for map and directions. Members: \$7.00, Non-Members: \$10.00; Children 6-18: \$5.00, under 6: free.

**3/8** – Announcements at 7:45; program at 8:00. Jeannie Regan-Dinius shares her knowledge of symbolism and history found in headstones in “A Walk Through the Cemetery”.

**STEM Time with George Dunn** following the speaker. Topic: Avian Radiation.

**Mensans Dining Out** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 6 p.m., **3/17** Pizzology, 13190 Hazel Dell Parkway, Carmel, IN. For more information, contact Bob Zdanky at 317-219-3773.

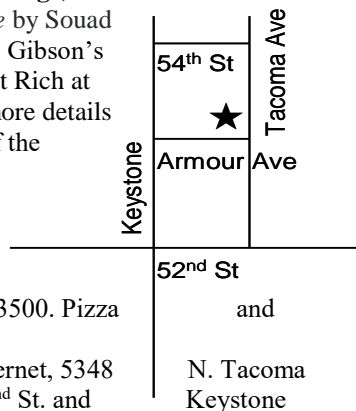
**Book Group** – 2 p.m., Sunday, **3/17.**(Note Title Change) Come prepared to discuss **3/17: I Was Told to Come Alone** by Souad Mekhennet. The group will meet at Rich and Jackie Gibson’s house on the NE side of Indianapolis. Please contact Rich at [hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com](mailto:hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com) or 317-735-2895 for more details or to RSVP. **MINDbending/ExCom** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

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

**3/19, 5:30 p.m.** Contact: Jan Pfeil Doyle, 317-431-3500. Pizza soft drinks provided.

*MINDbending* is held at the offices of Midwest Internet, 5348 Ave., which is 1 block east and 1 block north of 52<sup>nd</sup> St. and Ave. on the northeast side of Indianapolis.

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



# March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
3	4	5	6 Indy Lunch Bunch
10	11	12	13
17 Mensans Dining Out; Book Group	18	19 <i>MIND</i> bending/ ExCom;	20 Indy Lunch Bunch
24	25	26	27

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Ham 'n' Eggs
7	8 Monthly Gathering	9
14	15	16
21	22	23 Mensa Admission Testing
28	29	30

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 2019 Events (cont.)

**Mensa Admissions Test** — Saturday 3/23, 1:00pm with registration before. Please arrive a few minutes early. Testing will be conducted on the southeast side of Indianapolis. Contact Alison Brown [SIGHT@IndyMensa.org](mailto:SIGHT@IndyMensa.org) to reserve a spot. 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/). For further questions about prior evidence admission to Mensa, call 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 photo ID and one or two #2 pencils.

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### OMG! Outdoor Mensa Gathering!

Howling At The Moon

May 17-19, 2019

Versailles State Park, Indiana

**Saturday, May 18, there will be a full moon. Who knows what can happen???**

Join Central Indiana Mensa for a laidback weekend in the woods. If you're thinking that you aren't the "outdoorsy" type, think again! You get food, lodging, scenery, and more for only **\$65** per person! Saturday only is **\$45**. Kids up to age 6 are **\$25**, and ages 6-12 are **\$40**.

There is also a per-car park entry fee.

So grab your sleeping bags and towels, and join us at Versailles State Park.

Register and pay online at: [cim-og-2019.eventbrite.com](http://cim-og-2019.eventbrite.com)

See [IndyMensa.Org](http://IndyMensa.Org) for more info.

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Please send Calendar Items to [MIND.editor@yahoo.com](mailto:MIND.editor@yahoo.com)

## Jon's Journal – News for Region 4

### Secret Squirrels

*Jon Gruebele, RVC4*

We sometimes hear concerns that American Mensa decisions are made via secret e-mails, hidden from the membership until it's too late to object. Reality isn't like that. Transparency is incredibly important. Many great ideas come from listening to others. Mensa members have a wealth of experience and knowledge. If they don't know what's going on, they can't contribute.



Mensa's Board of Directors (AMC) does many things to keep members informed. Mensa's web site has tons of information under "Lead". This includes upcoming AMC agendas, recordings of meetings, detailed budgets, financial results, audit reports, policy documents, and much more. Even more is in our publicly available IRS forms 990.

Sometimes we go well beyond that. Prompted by reported incidents at the Annual Gathering, the AMC formed an "Event Safety Task Force" of which I am a member. While Ombudsmen and other avenues can often help resolve disputes, sometimes that isn't enough. One thing we reviewed was Regional Hearings, used to sanction members who commit acts inimical to Mensa. Today, Regional Hearings are difficult for injured parties to initiate, sanctions are limited, and they are almost never invoked.

The AMC approved putting a bylaws amendment to revise Regional Hearings on the upcoming election ballot. How was that initiated? We started with an in-person Task Force meeting before a regular board meeting. That team then used electronic communications to craft a proposal. Were these visible to the membership? Not yet, because crafting a strawman proposal is just the first step and done most efficiently with a small team. Big groups are much better at reviewing something concrete than wordsmithing something new. What's important is what we did next. We posted that draft proposal to many member forums, asking for feedback. That included the official Mensa Facebook groups, Hospitality and Firehouse. We also posted it to several Mensa Connect groups.

The proposal was included in the October 30<sup>th</sup> AMC meeting agenda. Before the meeting, I posted a link to the agenda in the Region 4 Facebook group. Based on member feedback, the proposal was modified and the AMC openly discussed it. Any member can read the meeting minutes or listen to the audio recording by going to the website's Lead → Board of Directors (AMC) → Meeting Reports pages. Finally, we crafted a proposed "Pro" statement for the amendment. We posted that to those same member forums asking for feedback before submitting it for publication.

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While we don't do all this for every AMC decision, we took extra steps this time since it was particularly important. If you have ideas about how we can be even more open, please let me know. We try our best to let members know what's happening, before it happens.

Thanks for reading!

Feedback? Please contact me at [rvc4@us.mensa.org](mailto:rvc4@us.mensa.org), via phone or text at +1 309 693 1359. Region 4's Facebook group is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/695847670490858>.



**st. louis area mensa regional gathering**  
**April 5th, 6th, and 7th, 2019**

Registration:	3 Day	Saturday Only	
before Jan 31:	\$70	\$50	General
before Mar 4:	\$75	\$55	
after Mar 4:	\$80	\$65	
Youth Rates	\$40*	\$25*	Under 18
	\$20*	\$10*	Under 12

The Saturday only rate for General Membership includes the banquet. The youth rates (\*) include the entire RG, but do not include the banquet.

**Drury Inn & Suites, Brentwood** 8700 Eager Rd, Brentwood, MO  
**314-968-3704** Reservations by Mar. 4, 2019: \$129.00 per night; after that, the market rate of the hotel will apply. Group#: 2356622

**For more details see the St. Louis Area Newsletter, MSLancous or visit our website at <http://stlouisareamensa.weebly.com/gathering.html>**



## Books On The Runway

Margy Lancet Fletcher

**Author:** Ron Chernow

**Title:** *Alexander Hamilton*

**Publisher:** The Penguin Press

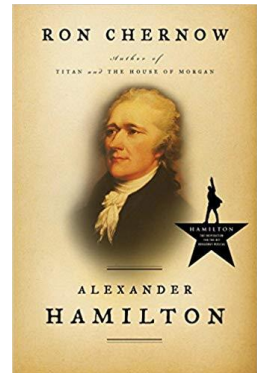
**Year:** 2004

**Book Description:** Arguably the brightest star in the American Revolutionary firmament, Alexander Hamilton is probably the least understood and appreciated Founding Father, according to multiple-award-winning biographer Ron Chernow, whose magnum opus inspired Lin-Manuel Miranda's immensely popular musical, *Hamilton*. Chernow asserts that the biggest misconception is that Hamilton was allied to reactionary, monarchistic ultra-conservatives, whereas his political rivals, such as Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, were icons of the underprivileged, common working folk.

This minutely detailed, diligently researched account of Hamilton's brief but extraordinary life begins with his less-than-illustrious origins as the illegitimate son of a working-class French Huguenot mother and the ne'er-do-well youngest scion of a Scottish nobleman. The narrative thereafter traces Hamilton's rise to prominence: his clerkship for a St. Croix shipping firm, his formal secondary and college education, his ardent public support of the American Revolution, his leadership position in the Continental Army, his marriage to a member of a prominent New York family, his participation in the Constitutional Convention and subsequent appointment to the first Treasury Secretary post of the new United States government, and his post-Cabinet success as a lawyer and journalist prior to his tragic, untimely death.

Hamilton packed a lot of major achievements into a scant forty-nine years of existence: contributing his military management skills toward freeing America from its British overlords; co-creating the United States Constitution; establishing the American Customs Service and Coast Guard; initiating the Federal banking, trading, and taxation systems designed to establish national credit and to alleviate public debt; and founding the *New York Evening Post*, "now the oldest continuously active paper in America." Practically every second between these remarkable accomplishments was spent debating with his opponents, voraciously reading, and writing as if, to quote Miranda's *Hamilton* lyrics, "he was running out of time," his constant underlying motive being not self-aggrandizement or accumulation of wealth (contrary to so-called Liberal accusations) but securing a bright socio-economic future for his adopted country. Notwithstanding his serious lapses in judgement attributable to his fiery temper, stubborn intolerance, and occasional vindictiveness - his involvement in the James and Maria Reynolds extortion plot, his ruthless crusade to sabotage John Adams's 1800 presidential campaign, which destroyed

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the Federalist Party and Hamilton's own political career, and, of course, his fatal duel with Aaron Burr, are just a few examples - Alexander Hamilton emerges as an energetic, literate champion of both individual empowerment and national unity.

**Has this book changed the way you think, your attitude toward life, or even your life itself? If so, how?** I acquired my copy of *Alexander Hamilton* shortly after it was published, and after years of procrastination, and recent raves from friends and relatives regarding *Hamilton: The Musical*, I finally felt compelled to discover what the "cultural phenomenon" buzz was all about. The biography massively (in both respects) exceeds expectations; every leaf of this 731-page powerful human drama is captivating.

**Who should definitely read this book? Why?** American history experts and enthusiasts will find in Chernow's biography confirmation that no facile parallels can be drawn between the late eighteenth century Federalist and Republican political parties, and our current Republicans and Democrats, respectively (see excerpt below). The emphases and issues may have changed over the years, but the preponderance of perception over reality and the tendency toward hypocrisy remain the same. Alexander Hamilton's story underlines humankind's corruptible nature as well as our superhuman efforts to overcome it - e.g., by fighting for democracy.

**How long might it take to read this book?** Ron Chernow has become the modern master of the mega-biography; he has authored five since 1990, and incredibly, the 818-page *Alexander Hamilton* (including 50+ pages of appended notes) is his *shortest*! I highly recommend that you set aside two to three weeks of your reading schedule and enjoy this lengthy, stimulating excursion into the Revolutionary era.

**Provide a short characteristic section, an awesome sentence, or an inspiring quote:**

Hamilton had promoted a forward-looking agenda of a modern nation-state with a market economy and an affirmative view of central government. His meritocratic vision allowed greater scope in the economic sphere for the individual liberties that Jefferson defended so eloquently in the political sphere. It was no coincidence that the allegedly aristocratic and reactionary Federalists contained the overwhelming majority of active abolitionists of the period. Elitists they might be, but they were an open, fluid elite, based on merit and money, not on birth and breed - the antithesis of the southern plantation system. It was the northern economic system that embodied the mix of democracy and capitalism that was to constitute the essence of America in the long run. By no means did the 1800 election represent the unalloyed triumph of good over evil or of commoners over the wellborn.

The 1800 triumph of Republicanism also meant the ascendancy of the slaveholding south. Three Virginia slaveholders - Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe - were to control the White House for the next twenty-four years. These aristocratic exponents of “democracy” not only owned hundreds of human beings but profited from the Constitution’s least democratic features: the legality of slavery and the ability of southern states to count three-fifths of their captive populations in calculating their electoral votes. (Without this so-called federal ratio, John Adams would have defeated Thomas Jefferson in 1800.) The Constitution did more than just tolerate slavery: it actually rewarded it. Timothy Pickering was to inveigh against “Negro presidents and Negro congresses” - that is, presidents and congresses who owed their power to the three-fifths rule. This bias inflated southern power against the north and disfigured the democracy so proudly proclaimed by the Jeffersonians. Slaveholding presidents from the south occupied the presidency for approximately fifty of the seventy-two years following Washington’s inauguration. Many of these slaveholding populists were celebrated by posterity as tribunes of the common people. Meanwhile, the self-made Hamilton, a fervent abolitionist and a staunch believer in meritocracy, was villainized in American history textbooks as an apologist of privilege and wealth.

**Additional Remarks:** Brace yourselves for my commentary on the Hamilton versus *Hamilton* controversy. I have yet to see a live production of the Lin-Manuel Miranda musical, but I have extensively examined the lyrics and sampled the music - and, being an admittedly old-fashioned music purist, I am not convinced that the rap/hip-hop/pop genre utilized by the composer jives with the subject’s character or culture. I would be more comfortable with the style of, say, *1776*, which is much more appropriate. Also, *Hamilton* glosses over the darker aspects of Alexander Hamilton’s personality, such as his basic distrust of the uneducated masses; after all, he did originally propose that the President serve a lifetime term. Additionally, once Hamilton self-educated his way out of his impoverished St. Croix environment, he did not look back. As inordinately proud as he was of his mastery of the English language, he would never have resorted to slang usage, even in everyday speech, as the mammoth extant collection of his documents amply testifies. Miranda is also more charitable in his characterization of Aaron Burr than Chernow was in the *Hamilton* tome, in which Burr is described as a borderline sociopathic, narcissistic opportunist (sounds familiar), with a downright creepy relationship with his daughter, Theodosia (Ivanka, anyone?).

All that said, I admire the supreme artistic dedication of both Chernow and Miranda, and I fervently believe that *Hamilton: The Musical* and its multiracial cast (cringe-worthy to the original Founding Caucasians, in all probability) have earned their Broadway acclaim. And the show could be an effective history lesson, as long as the students also learn the meaning of artistic license (which was also liberally employed by the composers of *1776*). I hope that I am able to take in a production of *Hamilton* someday, and perhaps be proven wrong. But for now, I say this: While *Hamilton* is, no doubt, first-class entertainment, for historical authenticity, read Chernow’s book, which is the superlative tribute to the man and his influence on American culture.

## **Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 12/18/18**

*Ann Hake, CIM Secretary*

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held at Midwest Internet on Tuesday, December 18, 2018.

LocSec Teresa Gregory called the meeting to order at 7:23 pm. Members present were Jan Pfeil Doyle, Teresa Gregory, Ann Hake, Pat Milligan, Kurt Williams, and Bob Zdanky.

Absent: Karen Wilczewski. Guests: None.

The committee reviewed the minutes of the November 2018 ExCom meeting. Kurt Williams moved that the minutes be accepted. Jan Pfeil Doyle seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The Treasurer provided balance sheets for the months of September and November 2018, an income statement for 10/1/2018 through 11/30/2018, and a limited financial review report for April 1, 2015 through September 30, 2018 after having transferred the accounts into the new software. These were very thorough and were discussed at great length. After discussion, it was agreed that the Treasurer would consolidate the Balance Sheet and Income Statements into a single report that will reflect Assets [broken down into Petty Cash and Bank Balances, which will be further subdivided into the funds earmarked for General (Regular), Scholarship, and RG/OG]; Revenues; and Expenses. The Treasurer will provide a reformatted report for the period of 10/1/18-11/30/18 virtually to ExCom members for review prior to the next MIND deadline. The LocSec will be given access to online bank statements to enable performance of the quarterly review that is mandated in the Bylaws; additional individuals will be added as indicated. It was also determined that the fiscal year should run from October 1 through September 30 to coincide with ExCom terms. Further recommendations will be presented by the Treasurer for discussion at the next ExCom meeting.

A membership report was compiled by Teresa Gregory based upon the information available as of 11/30/2018 from American Mensa: 523 members, 7 rejoins, 7 moveins, and 7 prospects.

### **Old Business**

2019 Regional Gathering (RG): Will take place January 25-27, 2019 at the Waterfront Hotel and Conference Center on the west side of Indianapolis. Planning continues; the Eventbrite registration page is available online, and Jan Pfeil Doyle has set up a CIM RG Facebook Event page.

2019 Outdoor Gathering (OG): Will take place May 17-19, 2019 at Versailles State Park in Versailles, IN. Planning is in progress.

### **New Business**

A donation will be made to the CIM scholarship fund in MERF in honor of Joan Falvey, who passed away earlier this year.

There being no other business, Kurt Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ann Hake seconded the motion. The motion was carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 pm.

## Treasurer's Report

*Pat Milligan, CIM Treasurer*

The finances for this December were better than in previous years. We had a large turnout for the Monthly Gathering which led to more income than usual. Additionally, Jan used a loyalty discount and greatly reduce the *MIND*bending food costs. There are outstanding Monthly Gathering receipts from the quarter that will be paid in January.

### Assets

	11/30/2018	12/31/2018
Regular Checking	6,454.31	6,371.85
Scholarship Checking	35.00	35.00
Events Checking	9,016.63	9,156.63
MG Cash	20.00	20.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$15,525.94</b>	<b>\$15,583.48</b>

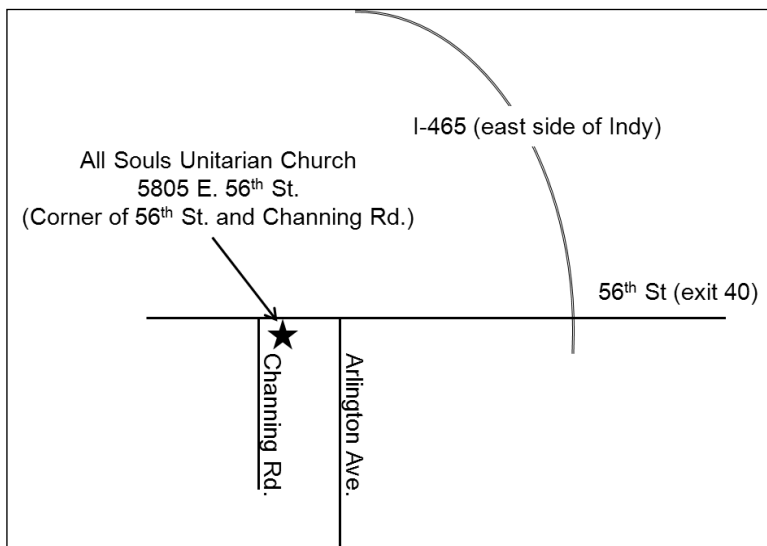
### Income For December 2018

MG Income	56.00
National Support	457.50
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$513.50</b>
MG Hospitality	87.88
MIND Hospitality	14.59
MIND Printing	351.84
Promotional Exp	89.94
New Members' Dinner	40.00
Testing Expenses	5.71
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$589.96</b>
<b>Net loss for Period</b>	<b>(76.46)</b>

## **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),

### Central Indiana Mensa Executive Committee (ExCom)

Local Secretary	Teresa Gregory, <a href="mailto:ag18tg@yahoo.com">ag18tg@yahoo.com</a> , 317-430-1761
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### Other Volunteers

Ham 'n Eggs	Alison Brown, <a href="mailto:SIGHT@indymensa.org">SIGHT@indymensa.org</a>
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Stamp