



mind

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana



Certificate of Appreciation

On March 6, 2019, Proctor Ann Hake and LocSec Teresa Gregory presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Vice-president of Private Banking Marla Steigerwald and Retail Center Assistant Manager II Sandy Peterson at the Old National Greenwood East Branch

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 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 MINDbending (usually the second Friday of the month) for the following month's edition.

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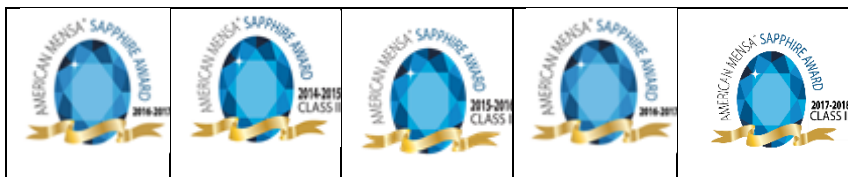
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Loosing My MIND

Vonda Heverly, Editor

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



As I write this, spring is a mere two days away on the calendar. There was a definite improvement in the temperatures this weekend.

Check out all the activities coming up and mark your calendars so as not to miss anything. The Mensa Foodie Tour continues in April to the Saffron Café. The Esoteric SIG will be attending the Oddities and Curiosities Expo, and a group will hear the Indiana Wind Symphony

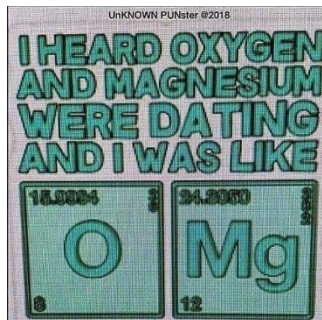
You can join in with the Book Club for their final selection of this season. If you would like to have a say in what they'll be reading next time around, start thinking about it now for the June planning meeting.

Member Vicki Adang asks that you save the date for Saturday, August 3, 2019. Central Indiana Mensa is heading to Candles Holocaust Museum in Terre Haute to hear Holocaust survivor Eva Mozes Kor speak and tour the museum. Watch the May MIND for more details. Learn more about the destination here: <https://candleholocaustmuseum.org/>.

Lastly, if you are like me and get your MIND on paper, I'd encourage you to go look at the online version. One, the print appears a whole lot larger, and two, the photos are in color. I still like having my printed version for handy reference, but it's okay to peek at the online one as well!

Cheers!

P.S. Don't forget the best event!



Old Dog/New Tricks

Teresa Gregory, LocSec

As I write this in mid-March, we are still on the crazy weather roller coaster. I heard the word “snow” on the news this evening. Just a few days ago, it was 70°. Oh, Indiana weather, you are a fickle mistress.



I needed a break so last Thursday, I went to the 61st Annual Indiana Flower and Patio Show at the State Fair Grounds. After attending the very first one, this became an annual pilgrimage for my parents. No longer a regular attendee, this year I wanted to see something fresh and blooming.

I chose this particular day because it was rainy and windy and gloomy. I gambled that fewer people would venture out, and I was right. The best part was no crowd. The worst part was no crowd because that made me a target for all the sales people there. Somehow, they all knew that, with my replacement knee, I couldn't outrun them, so I had to resort to my usual litany of lies.

“Ma’am, are you tired of climbing a ladder to clean out your gutters?”

“That’s not my job!” (This was true. I have someone else do it.)

“Do you want to sign up for a free estimate on new windows/siding/alarm system?”

“I just got that last year.” (That was NOT true)

I think my favorite was the older woman who was desperate to make a sale. As I said, it was rainy and windy, and my hair was doing its own thing. She was trying to entice me to look at a straightening iron. I told her that I didn't straighten my hair. She was on the verge of insulting when she commented that I must do something to smooth it down when I went out. “Your hair is so...thick.” I told her I liked it that way.

The gardens were amazing and fragrant and peaceful, and that was what I went to see. And when I left, the sun was shining brightly. Ah, spring. I'm ready for you.

Don't forget to register for the OMG! (Outdoor Mensa Gathering). The snow forecasts should be past by then. See page ten in this issue for more details.

If you are not a member of Meetup, please consider joining. This is where you will find updates on existing events and new events that were too late for MIND. Also check our website, www.IndyMensa.org for updates to the calendar. Events are being added after MIND publication so check the calendar lest you miss an update.

Mensa Foodie Tour: Yanni's Golden Gyros

Derek Crager

Saturday March 2nd our Foodie Tour stopped in to see Yanni and his father at 6658 West Washington Street. Laura was exceptional at the counter register and made sure we had everything we needed.

It's NOT (YEE-ro)

First off, I have to clear the air. How do you pronounce "Gyro"? I've known since 1984 because I used to bowl every week with a first-generation Greek couple that treated me like their grandson, and like all Mensans I was curious enough to ask and OCD enough to remember. Check out <http://bit.ly/gyrogyro> for a YouTube video to hear for yourself the 'G' at the beginning of the word and the tongue rolling 'r' in the middle.



Consensus was that if you missed today's Mensa Foodie Meetup then you missed out on a good meal. This relatively new restaurant has garnered 5.0 Star Reviews one after another and we had to see for ourselves.

As you walk in this repurposed building, you'll meet Laura at the counter where you order and pay for your food, grab your condiments and find a seat. You'll either be called up to the counter to get your food or they will bring it to you if they are not busy themselves. It's the over the top service when available.

Jon Applegate ordered the Dinner Gyro Plate and it was more than he could handle...a figurative ton of food.

For 2 p.m. on a Saturday the rest of us enjoyed some version of a lunch combo centered around the gyro sandwich itself. For a perspective on a different menu item Bianca ordered the Italian Beef with spicy and sweet peppers.

For a side we had the choice of fries or salad. Jan added hot mozzarella cheese sticks. For review purposes I added sides of cole slaw, kalamata olives & feta cheese to share with the table. Three of us finished with baklava for dessert.

Yanni's menu is filled with assorted food options including steak, pork chop, chicken, fish (cod, perch, catfish), polish sausage, chili dog, shrimp, cheeseburger and wings.

I'll share that the primary meat in gyros is lamb, that you often see spinning on a vertical rotisserie behind the counter and which can easily be found to be dry when you order a sandwich from a mall fast food stop. However, this was not the case at Yanni's. The lamb was sweet, tender, moist and tasty.

Food Photos

Be sure to view FULL COLOR photos of this story in the newsletter section online at indymensa.org. Photos are also posted online at the IndyMensa Facebook Group <http://bit.ly/indymensa>.

We've experimented with different event posting and RSVP methods and I've decided that the master source for all future Mensa Foodie Tour postings will be our official Indy Mensa group on Meetup.com, so go here now: <http://bit.ly/mensafood>.

April Preview

Mark your calendars because Saturday April 6th at 4 p.m. the Mensa Foodie Tour will stop at the Saffron Cafe in downtown Indianapolis, located at 621 Fort Wayne Avenue. Two foodies suggested Saffron during table discussion at our first meetup and continuing with our mission of new food, new tastes, new experiences you'll have the option to see for yourself how this place stacks up.

Saffron Cafe offers flavors from Morocco and you may review their menu at <http://saffroncafeindy.com>. By the way, did you know that Morocco was the first country in the world to acknowledge the USA as an independent country and pledge themselves an ally? Let's all meetup at Saffron to share a late lunch with our oldest friends in the world.

Our guest contributor this month is Sharon Merriman and here is her review:

Going Greek

Sharon Merriman

A small but elite group of Mensans ventured out west to Yanni's Golden Gyros. Housed in a former Long John Silvers, you would never know except for the architecture.

We all agreed it was time well spent--not just our own scintillating company but of course the food. The gyros are some of the best in the Indianapolis area--moist and tender with excellent flavor. The portions are very generous and the prices extremely reasonable. They also have Italian beef sandwiches which got good reviews as well and the baklava was well-received as 'buttery, flaky, sticky' and all-around excellent. I wouldn't call it a destination place but if you are in the neighborhood, it is definitely worth a visit.



“People who love to eat are always the best people.” Julia Child



FarSIGHTed Berlin: A Match Made in Heaven

Alison Brown

After some struggle (which lasted over six months) and with the aid of the US SIGHT coordinator, Ziggy, I got in contact with the current SIGHT coordinator in Berlin and he agreed to send out an e-mail with my wish for one night with a Mensa Host in October before I started my conference in a hotel.

Once he sent out the information that I had copied out of the regular SIGHT guest form into an e-mail, I got three offers. One from a gentleman who had read about my long search and the exchange I had with the coordinator and offered a spot at his place even though it was not really convenient that particular day. Next an offer came in from a young family who were enthusiastic about hosting me (which is what one really wants from a SIGHT host) so I accepted with thanks. Finally, another offer came in from a woman who was my age and shared many of my interests. However, I had already said yes to the family and had to give my regrets. Then, in September, it became evident that the young family was expecting me a whole month early and could not host me on the day I was actually going to be in Berlin, and I renewed contact with my third potential host. After a short time, Brigitte answered with joyful expectation and the offer to meet me at the train station. My SIGHT visit in Berlin was all set and I looked forward to stimulating conversation, despite the long journey which would precede it.

Of course, traveling always brings its surprises. After an uneventful flight and three hours of sitting platform with my luggage, an announcement came that the train my hostess was planning to meet was not late but canceled altogether! I dashed off to the ticket office to exchange my ticket and find out when I really would be arriving in Berlin. My European cell phone was not charged, so the gentleman at the ticket office placed the call and I could inform Brigitte that I would get to Berlin only 25 minutes later and on a different track. She knew what I looked like (we had exchanged pictures) and what I would be wearing, and she found me right away. She speaks English as well as I speak German and we started gabbing away in a mixture of both. We like a lot of the same kinds of music, we both eat vegetarian (she more exclusively than I) and her apartment was full of books (YES!). She had worked for years in various social projects and is currently employed in a senior residence, while I am a Senior Home Companion.

Like me, Brigitte tends to activism. Currently, she is looking into a campaign to alert women of a side effect of denosumab (Prolia). Various medical journal and websites report that if one is taking this medicine and then stops without replacing it with some other osteoporosis drug, one's bones turn to lace and the slightest wrong movement can cause severe complicated fractures.

While recovering from an accident, to while away the long hours, she became an active knitter and, while I do not knit, I enjoy admiring well-crafted projects she both wears and has around the house. Brigitte loves having guests and has hosted people from all around the world. After a perfect supper of roast

vegetables which lay lightly in my jet-lagged tummy, I withdrew into the room she had prepared for me and slept like a top.

Brigitte had arranged her work schedule to be free the next morning so we could have a relaxed breakfast with more conversation. She looked at the program of the seminar I was to be attending and said she would try to attend one of the sessions, since it was a series of topics that interest her. She accompanied me to my hotel by public transportation, saw me situated in my room and took me on a walk along the Spree River, pointing out the Friedrichstrasse train and subway station as well as a fascinating museum called The Palace of Tears. After we said goodbye at the station with many promises to see each other again and to keep in touch, I peeked into the small Museum of the German Separation. The Palace of Tears was the glass train station built by the East German State especially for transit passengers between east and west. The name comes from the tears of joy shed when families were reunited and of sorrow when the time came to get on the train bound back to the West. Lots of school classes were there, learning of their recent history. All the items were described in both German and English. Stories of individuals who traveled between the zones or escaped before the Wall was built were made real by pictures, letters and artifacts in open suitcases. Documents with pictures of politicians east and west hung on the walls, along with a couple of cases of pen pals across the border. The Stasi report on the East German youth's inappropriate behavior (and disinterest in politics, rather singing in his father's church choir) was available to read in German. Nevertheless, he was "allowed" to study medicine because his grades were excellent. After the Wall fell, he and his pen pal from the West were able to reestablish personal contact and eventually they married and had a family! My favorite part of the exhibit was the newsreels, with segments from both Western and Eastern media covering the same events. The images were pretty much the same, but the take on the events in the spoken texts was radically different (English subtitles were provided).

Alas, my SIGHT hostess did not make it to the seminar the next afternoon. I reconciled myself to further contact in writing. But fate had another encounter in store. My meetings were over, and my roommate and I went to a museum to see special exhibition. She is faster than I am in museums (I read everything, sometimes in both languages) and when I got through seeing the 250 items, I looked around for her. I went back through the rooms; I checked the gift store, the coffee shop, the ladies' room. Nothing. I called to hear she was almost back at the hotel. So, I set off to the subway in order to join her. I found the right track and when I walked down the platform, who should I see standing there, but Brigitte! We celebrated reunion as if we had been friends forever. I was so excited that I forgot to punch my ticket, but she said, "no worry, it is the weekend and I can take a guest with my monthly pass." So once again she hosted my travel. She and I both got off at Friedrichstrasse, where she was going to the grocery store as I walked on to my quarters. Our Mensa arranged connection indeed appears to be a match made in heaven. She says she will return the visit sometime in 2020 (possibly for the Outdoor Gathering in May) and otherwise, send more Mensa guests her way, as she loves having them. SIGHT forever!

Thank You, Old National Bank

Teresa Gregory

Central Indiana Mensa is fortunate to have several Old National Bank branches in Indianapolis that have meeting rooms. As a community service, they allow us access to conduct Mensa admission testing at no charge. The real benefit to us is that these are available on weekends when the bank is closed.

We recently presented framed certificates of thanks to those branches. See the Greenwood Branch on the cover.



March 8, 2019, Testing Coordinator Alison Brown and LocSec Teresa Gregory presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Vice President and Personal Banking Manager, Sydney Blumenthal, along with the staff at the Old National Carmel Branch.

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

See IndyMensa.Org for more info.

April 2019 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.

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

Monthly Gathering - 2nd Friday, 7 p.m. – 11 p.m. All Souls Unitarian Church, 5805 E. 56th 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.

4/12 – Announcements at 7:45; program at 8:00.

Our speaker for the April Monthly Gathering will be fellow Mensan Alan Schmidt, who will give us the inside scoop on how to make the most of a sightseeing trip of Washington, D.C. What should I prioritize? What are the hidden gems? What is the best way to get there? All these questions and more will be answered.

STEM Time with George Dunn following the speaker. Topic: Geography: A Novel Approach to Estimating the Earth.

Mensans Dining Out - 3rd Sunday, 6 p.m., **4/21** Lucky Lou Seafood Dimsum Restaurant, 3623 Commercial Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46222. For more information, contact Bob Zdanky at 317-219-3773.

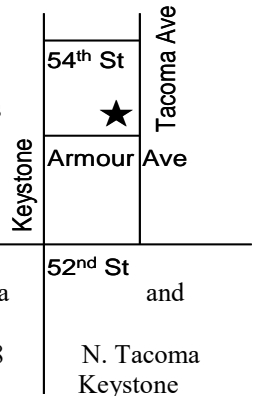
Book Group – 2 p.m., Sunday, **4/14 (Note Date Change)** Come prepared to discuss *Why Zebras Don't Get Ulcers* by Robert Sapolsky. The group will meet at Rich and Jackie Gibson’s house on the NE side of Indianapolis. Please contact Rich at hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com or 317-735-2895 for more details or to RSVP.

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

4/16, 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 52nd St. and Ave. on the northeast side of Indianapolis.

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



April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	1	2	3 Indy Lunch Bunch
7 The Palladium	8	9	10
14 Book Group	15	16 MINDbending/ ExCom	17 Indy Lunch Bunch
21 Mensans Dining Out	22	23	24
28 Mensa Testing	29	30	

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 Oddities and Curiosities Expo	5	6 Ham 'n' Eggs Mensa Foodie Tour (see p. 8)
11	12 Monthly Gathering	13
18	19	20
25	26	27

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'll get reminders of upcoming events. It's a great way to stay in the loop.

April 2019 Events (cont.)

Mensa Admissions Test — Sunday, 4/28, 1:00pm with registration before. Please arrive a few minutes early. Location is in the area of 116th St. and Rangeline Road in Carmel. 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/. 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/. 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.

4/4, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. (we won't be there all day!) *ESOTERIC SIG: Oddities & Curiosities Expo*, Thursday, Indiana State Fairgrounds. We will meet for brunch at 10 a.m. (suggestions needed as to where) and carpool to the venue so that we won't each have to pay for parking. For detailed info on this event, go to: odditiesandcuriositiesexpo@gmail.com. If you plan to join us, contact Petra Ritchie: 317-786-8665 or petraritchie@msn.com

4/7, 3 pm The Palladium, Center for the Performing Arts, 4 Center Green, Carmel, IN. The Indiana Wind Symphony performs Global Song & Dance: Four Scottish Dances to St. Louis Blues. Soloist Demondrae Thurman, euphonium. RSVP SIGHT@indymensa.org

NOTE: As of the first of this month, all members who have not been tested in the last five years will be required to re-test.

Please send Calendar Items to MIND.editor@yahoo.com

Jon's Journal – News for Region 4

Elections and My Economics Professor

Jon Gruebele, RVC4

I once had an economics professor who proudly proclaimed to his class that he never voted. This evoked quite a ruckus. He opined that it's extremely rare for elections to be decided by a single vote, so his wouldn't make any difference. What, we asked, would happen if everybody felt the same way and nobody voted? "Well," he said, "then I'd go vote." That's about where Mensa elections are. In our last election, well under 10% of members voted. One contest was decided by just 3 votes. Internationally, participation is even lower.



As I am unopposed this year, I have already been declared elected. Thank you very much for your support! I am honored to serve another term as your Regional Vice Chair (RVC). There are, however, three candidates vying for Chair and two for Second Vice Chair. Mensa International has several contested positions. All are worthy of your consideration.

I'd also urge you to look carefully at the proposed bylaws changes. Two merit special attention. The first updates the way American Mensa handles Regional Hearings. These are called to consider charges of acts inimical to Mensa. Today a Regional Hearing is very difficult for an injured party to request, and sanctions are limited. They are therefore almost never used. The proposed amendment streamlines the process and implements a new avenue of appeal.

One statement opposing this amendment will make several misinformed claims. It says the proposal was developed in "secret". As last month's column showed, that's just not true. The wording was widely circulated on our official Facebook groups and on Mensa Connect, and member responses caused us to update the proposal. It was advertised in the AMC meeting agenda, and I put a link to it in the Region 4 Facebook Group asking for comments.

This "con" statement will also claim it somehow precludes Ombudsman involvement. I fail to see how. Members should try to resolve problems themselves before escalating. RVCs worth their salt will insist on Ombudsman involvement if appropriate. The statement will claim we'll be sued. Given that we live in a litigious society, that is a risk. I would, however, rather take that chance than keep members in our organization who may continue causing issues. Moral of that story: Please look beyond the rhetoric and decide appropriately.

A proposal on the International ballot would change the terms of office from two to three years. It would reduce election expense and improve efficiency because office holders would have to suffer through fewer learning curves. If it passes, I would expect American Mensa to consider synching our terms of office

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Continued from previous page
with International.

Please honor the volunteers wanting to work for you by taking a few minutes to vote in the election starting April 15th. Thank you!

Feedback? Please contact me at 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>.



Petra's Funny Page

Petra Ritchie

OXYMORONS

GOOD GRIEF! What is an *oxymoron*?
(PART 2) *

- 1 – Athletic Scholarship
- 2 – Tight Slacks
- 3 - Small Fortune
- 4 – Educational Television
- 5 –Great Depression
- 6 – Down Escalator



*OXYMORON: A figure of speech in which contradictory terms are combined.



New Members

Carol King	Indianapolis	IN	MoveIn
Laura Latimer	Greenfield	IN	Joined
Randal Neff	North Salem	IN	Joined
Dr. Heather Winter	Fishers	IN	MoveIn

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.

- April 14: *Why Zebras Don't Get Ulcers* by Robert Sapolsky [Note: date change!]
May: THERE WILL BE NO MEETING.
June 2: Bring a book or two to help build the reading list for 2019-20!



Cold Fusion Confusion

Bryan Lundgren, Western Michigan Mensa

It was confusing, a whole new sensation for her. Alice had a Ph.D. in cold fusion, after all. Tabletop Cold Fusion reactors (TCFs) were well understood and had always performed safely and reliably.

“So, what happened, Dr. Mosser?” asked Professor Lewis.

Alice pointed at the basketball-size tunnel through the concrete floor and said, “The TCF was producing 50 kilowatts into a stable load, then the whole unit just winked out of existence.”

“Winked?”

“Yes, Dr. Lewis, there was a deep purple flash and a long and loud whoosh; air rushing in, I suppose. Look, the hole has a shiny micro-finish surface with the same purple color that the flash had.”

“Amazing! That hole might be a view to a parallel universe. We should set up the video feed over the tunnel and leave. I’m worried the TCF unit might come back up.”

“I’m still in shock from it tunneling down. Do you think we’re in danger?”

“Hell yes, Alice. I’m squinting down a glowing purple hole with my good eye, *damn lasers anyhow*, and see no bottom. The TCF probably consumed all of the hole’s matter. Suppose the little reactor pops back into this time continuum as a ball of raw energy from all of that matter that is missing. The blast would make an atomic bomb look like a firecracker.”

“Really now, Dr. Lewis! Are you hypothesizing from a one-eyed observation that the TCF is a purple peep-hole eater?”

Song: *The Purple People Eater*, 1958, Sheb Wooley

Books On The Runway

Margy Lancet Fletcher

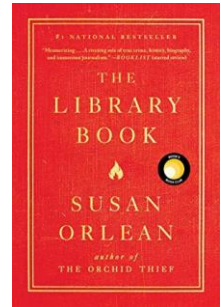
Author: Susan Orlean

Title: *The Library Book*

Publisher: Simon and Schuster

Year: 2018

Book Description: At first glance, it would seem that I am pulling an April Fool prank on loyal MIND readers, for how can a book with such a generic, nondescript title - one that describes countless books sitting on innumerable shelves throughout the world - be the least bit appealing? In truth, *The Library Book* is a treasure trove of historical gems and lustrous characterizations that are typically featured in high-quality fiction - except that they reflect the real, not-so-mundane world of one of our most revered and victimized institutions: the public library. The focus of Susan Orlean's lively narrative is the Central branch of the Los Angeles Public Library, which, it turns out, has a fairly long and eventful history dating back to 1873, and an amazing variety of functions in addition to book lending: it provides a cost-free venue for college and language classes, homeless outreach programs, computer booths for indigent citizens, small-ensemble musical concerts, and even beekeeping - among many other endeavors. Orlean interweaves fascinating episodes from Central Library's past - including the devastating fire of 1986 - with intriguing personal profiles of prominent key players in the library's previous and current enterprises. She also explores the motivations behind book burnings, the vital functions of libraries in the lives of individuals and communities, and her own compulsion to research and write a literary tribute to what many of us consider our second home. *The Library Book* comprises everything a reader might want to know about public libraries - and much, much more.



Has this book changed the way you think, your attitude toward life, or even your life itself? If so, how? My bibliophilic background mirrors that of the author, in that my mother passed on her love of reading to all of her offspring. While school libraries figured more prominently during my childhood than did public libraries due to my parent's disharmonious relationship, as both an adult military "dependent" and civilian, I have patronized many city and base libraries nationwide, and have valued these book repositories as a constant source of entertainment and enlightenment. As was the case with Orlean's mother, the local library was the center of my mother's existence during her later years until - sadly - she, too, lost her memory and succumbed to dementia (see excerpt below). Orlean beautifully makes a compelling case for free speech via the preservation of the magnificent buildings that contain our written works, and thus connect us with our antecedents and with each other.

Who should definitely read this book? Why? Anyone who has ever patronized a library (including our CIM Book Club participants, most of whom are regular borrowers) will appreciate this scholarly, evocative tribute to the bookworms among us.

How long might it take to read this book? A mere 310 captivating pages ensure a pretty quick read - a day or two at the most.

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

My mother imbued me with a love of libraries. The reason why I finally embraced this book project - wanted, and then needed, to write it - was my realization that I was losing her. I found myself wondering whether a shared memory can exist if one of the people sharing it no longer remembers it. Is the circuit broken, the memory darkened? My mother was the one person besides me who knew what those gauzy afternoons had been like. I knew I was writing this because I was trying hard to preserve those afternoons. I convinced myself that committing them to a page meant the memory was saved, somehow, from the corrosive effect of time.

The idea of being forgotten is terrifying. I fear not just that I, personally, will be forgotten, but that we are all doomed to being forgotten - that the sum of life is ultimately nothing; that we experience joy and disappointment and aches and delights and loss, make our little mark on the world, and then we vanish, and the mark is erased, and it is as if we never existed. If you gaze into that bleakness even for a moment, the sum of life becomes null and void, because if nothing lasts, nothing matters. It means that everything we experience unfolds without a pattern, and life is just a wild, random, baffling occurrence, a scattering of notes with no melody. But if something you learn or observe or imagine can be set down and saved, and if you can see your life reflected in previous lives, and can imagine it reflected in subsequent ones, you can begin to discover shape and purpose - a tangible, familiar past and a constantly refreshed future. We are all whispering in a tin can on a string, but we are heard, so we whisper the message into the next tin can and the next string. Writing a book, just like building a library, is an act of sheer defiance. It is a declaration that you believe in the persistence of memory.

Additional Remarks: Equally impressive is the book's inventive format: each chapter is headed with a selection of titles, presented card-catalog style with Dewey decimal codes, that are germane to the reading material contained within. Example: *Fire!: 38 Lifesaving Tips for You and Your Family (1995)* by Gibbons, James J.
614.84 G441

[This is the first of four books listed at the beginning of the chapter that describes the 1986 library fire.]

So, I would encourage all readers, regarding both this book and their local library, to ... check it out!

Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 1/15/19

Ann Hake, CIM Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held at Midwest Internet on Tuesday, January 15, 2019.

LocSec Teresa Gregory called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm. Members present were Jan Pfeil Doyle, Teresa Gregory, Ann Hake (via FaceTime), Pat Milligan, Kurt Williams, and Bob Zdanky.

Absent: Karen Wilczewski. Guests: Vicki Adang, Eric Ellis.

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

The Treasurer provided the reformatted Treasurer's report for the period of 10/1/2018-11/30/2018 as described in the December 2018 ExCom Minutes. This was reviewed by the committee; Ann Hake moved that this report be accepted as presented. Kurt Williams seconded the motion, and the motion was carried. The committee reviewed the Treasurer's report for December 2018; Ann Hake moved that this report be accepted as presented. Kurt Williams seconded the motion, and the motion was carried. Efforts continue to provide appropriate access to officers to the bank account. Teresa and Pat went to PNC again to add Pat as a signatory to the account with a copy of the MIND showing the list of elected officers, as the bank had specified; however, they were next told they needed to bring a signed letter on letterhead. This will be done as soon as possible. Further discussion took place regarding any other possible needed changes to the account.

A membership report was compiled by Teresa Gregory based upon the information available as of 12/31/2018 from American Mensa: 533 members, 3 new, 1 movein, and 6 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. We will be able to enjoy a full moon (the flower moon) on Saturday night of the event this year! Planning continues; the Eventbrite registration page is now available online.

New Business

A Certificate of Appreciation will be presented to Midwest Internet from Central Indiana Mensa for their contributions and support for many years.

Certificates of Appreciation will be presented to the Carmel Banking Center and Greenwood East branches of Old National bank for donating the use of their community rooms for admissions testing.

There being no other business, Bob Zdanky made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pat Milligan seconded the motion. The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Treasurer's Report

Pat Milligan, CIM Treasurer

January marks the return of our RG after its hiatus when the AG was held in Indianapolis last year. The online registration service sends the money collected about a week after the event, which falls in the next month. With the RG expenses in January, the assets and income statements both show a four-figure loss. Next report will show a recovery from this when the rest of the RG income is received.

We typically rebuild our scholarship fund with a raffle at the RG. There wasn't a raffle at this year's RG, so the fund is still anemic at this point.

Assets

	12/31/2018	01/31/2019
Regular Checking	6,371.85	6,387.28
Scholarship Checking	35.00	35.00
Events Checking	9,156.63	6,112.18
MG Cash	20.00	20.00
RG Cash		454.31
Total Assets	15,583.48	13,008.77

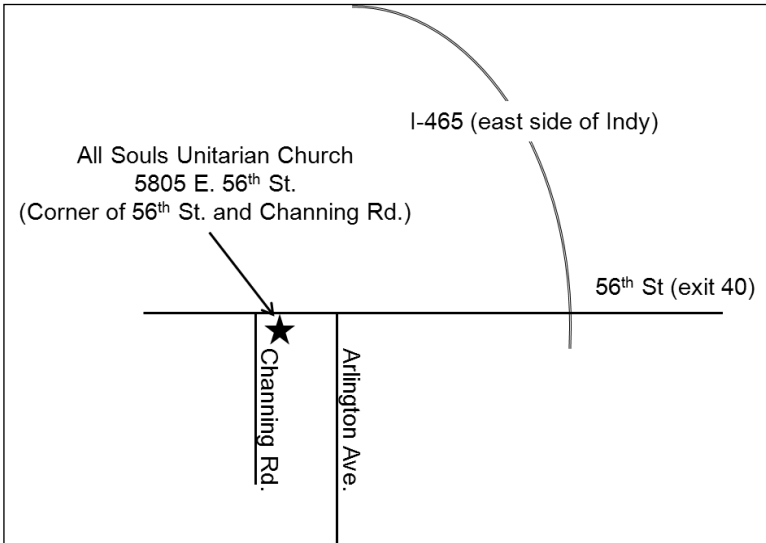
Income for January 2019

MG Income	121.00
RG Income	715.00
National Support	456.05
Total Revenue	1,292.05
MG Hospitality	128.90
RG Hospitality	2,087.64
RG Facility	802.50
RG Presenters	275.00
MIND Hospitality	26.65
MIND Printing	351.84
Banking Fees	19.99
Other Expenses	34.24
Total Expenses	3,726.76
Net loss for Period	(2,434.71)

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

Jon Gruebele RVC4@us.mensa.org,

Central Indiana Mensa Executive Committee (ExCom)

Local Secretary Teresa Gregory, ag18tg@yahoo.com, 317-430-1761

Communication Coordinator
Vice LocSec,
Publicity
Treasurer,
Webmaster
Scribe, Program
Chair
Membership,
Volunteers
At Large

Jan Pfeil Doyle, jan@mw.net, (317) 431-3500

Kurt Williams, Williams.kurt@sbcglobal.net

Pat Milligan, pat.no.plait@indy.rr.com

Ann Hake, amhake@yahoo.com

Bob Zdanky, zdanky@gmail.com, (317) 219-3773

Karen Wilczewski, biltmore@topdogcom.com, (317) 849-9022

Area Coordinators

Bloomington Nan Harvey, NanHarvey@gmail.com, (812) 345-9608

Muncie Kevin Nemyer , knemyer@aol.com, (765)744-6532

Other Volunteers

Ham 'n Eggs Alison Brown, SIGHT@indymensa.org

Gifted Children David Bonner, gcc@kids.indymensa.org, (317) 973-0258

SIGHT Coordinator,
Testing Coordinator
Ombudsman

Alison Brown, SIGHT@indymensa.org

Dr. Alan Schmidt, alan.schmidt@att.net, (317) 695-5741we33

RG/OG Chair Teresa Gregory, AG18TG@yahoo.com, (317) 430-1761

Central Indiana Mensa
Teresa Gregory
6076 Dewey Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46219

Stamp