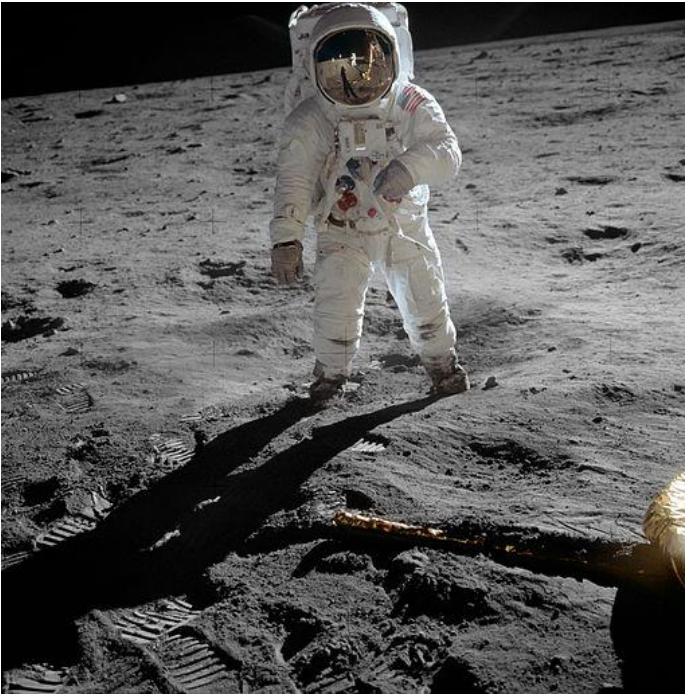




mind

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana



50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing
Buzz Aldrin poses as Neil Armstrong snaps the photo, reflected in
the visor

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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August 2019



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Loosing My MIND

Vonda Heverly, Editor

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



Now that summer appears to be in full swing, it's--- back to school time! For many of us in Indianapolis, classes begin July 24th. Way too early in my book, but so it goes. I hope you are enjoying some sunshine and sneaking in a little relaxation time.

I was saddened to hear of the passing of Eva Mozes Kor on July 4th. CIM was scheduled to hear her speak on August 3rd at her holocaust museum in Terre Haute. The trip and museum tour will go on as planned, though I surely wish I could have met

its founder.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the moon landing, which took place on July 20th, 1969. Our Vice LocSec, Kurt Williams, will speak on the topic at our August meeting. Support him by attending, and you can tell what *you* were doing when the landing took place. All tales are welcome, true or tall. Prizes for best stories!

Cheers!



Cousins enjoying a summer night at the Johnson County 4-H Fair

Old Dog/New Tricks

Teresa Gregory, LocSec

My fiancé and I graduated from college in 1974 and we planned our wedding for September of that year. When acquaintances asked about my plans, I would tell them I was moving to Leavenworth, KS, to be near my husband. I left them wondering if he was in the Army and stationed at the fort, or if he was in one of the prisons.



The military (yes, he was in the Army) offers strange opportunities. He enlisted as a Craft Specialist. At that time, Fort Leavenworth was a training school for officers with the rank of Major, therefore it had nicer amenities.

One of those was a large Arts and Crafts Center. My husband's job was to teach painting and drawing classes and to help with the ceramics and photography. My parents were older and in poor health, so we drove home to visit every three weeks. We had a zippy little sports car, a Chevrolet Vega, that got great gas mileage. I can tell a number of crazy funny stories about life in Kansas. I have been thinking about them because the 2020 Annual Gathering is in Kansas City. I plan to attend and take a little side trip to visit 444 Fourth Avenue in Leavenworth to see where the adventure began.

(AG registration opens sometime in August. Watch for more information.)

Congratulations to CIM for earning yet another Sapphire award at the AG.

In local events, save the date for the 2020 Outdoor Mensa Gathering (OMG!). Someone had already swooped in and reserved our usual weekend, so we will be heading to Versailles State park the last weekend of May, the weekend after Memorial Day. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions on activities, please let me know.

If you know anyone who is interested in Mensa Testing, we have a "sale" on it in August. The candidate may either pay \$39.99 at the door (cash, check, or charge), or they may buy a voucher online. If they don't want to take the test in August, the voucher is good for 24 months. It's a good time to snap up a deal.

If you are in the area, or even if you aren't, consider coming to the Monthly Gathering on August 9. Our own Kurt Williams will be presenting a program on the 1969 Lunar Landing. Where were YOU when a man walked on the moon? Be prepared to share. (And if you weren't born yet, make up something.) Kurt is offering two lucky Best Story winners a copy of a beautiful book called "Apollo: Through the Eyes of the Astronauts." Each of the living Apollo astronauts chose his favorite photograph from his flight. While reading it, the winners can enjoy a delicious freeze-dried ice cream sandwich. (See the calendar for more information on the contest.)

As the song says, "See you in September..."

Try Some Trivia

MIND Editor

Test yourself with some general knowledge trivia. These questions are from LaffGaff.com in their "hard" category. See what you think! –Ed.

1. What musical term indicates a chord where the notes are played one after another rather than all together?
2. Where in the human body would you find the medulla oblongata?
3. *Good King Wenceslas* is a popular Christmas carol. But of which German region, now part of the Czech Republic, was Wenceslas king?
4. "Les Fauves" was a name given to a group of artists that included Matisse. What is its literal meaning?
5. What is the legislature of the Netherlands called?
6. What is the name for a line of poetry with twelve syllables consisting regularly of six iambic feet, with a pause after the third?
7. In which sport are barani, rudolph and randolph all techniques?
8. Which gas is formed when a hydrogen bomb is detonated?
9. Aconcagua is the highest mountain in the Andes. But in which country does it lie?
10. What color does gold leaf appear if you hold it up to the light?
11. Who collaborated with Karl Marx to produce *The Communist Manifesto*?
12. Shostakovich's Symphony No. 7 is a musical tribute to which battle of World War II?
13. In which sea battle was Mark Antony defeated by Octavian in 31 BCE?
14. Which Jacobean dramatist wrote *The Alchemist*?
15. Where would you find an oxbow lake?
16. What is the capital city of Paraguay?
17. How many legs does a lobster have?
18. The Cassegranian, Schmidt, and Gregorian are all types of what scientific instrument?
19. What is the family name of the ruling dynasty of Monaco?

Turn to page 14 to see how well you did.

Petra's Funny Page

Petra Ritchie

1. In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth and populated the Earth with broccoli, cauliflower and spinach, green and yellow and red vegetables of all kinds, so Man and Woman would live long and healthy lives.

2. Then using God's great gifts, Satan created Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream and Krispy Creme Donuts. And Satan said, "You want chocolate with that?" And Man said, "Yes!" and Woman said, "and as long as you're at it, add some sprinkles." And they gained 10 pounds. And Satan smiled.



3. And God created the healthful yogurt that Woman might keep the figure that Man found so fair. And Satan brought forth white flour from the wheat, and sugar from the cane and combined them. And Woman went from size 6 to size 14.

4. So God said, "Try my fresh green salad." And Satan presented Thousand-Island Dressing, buttery croutons and garlic toast on the side. And Man and Woman unfastened their belts following the repast.

5. God then said, "I have sent you heart healthy vegetables and olive oil in which to cook them." And Satan brought forth deep fried fish and chicken-fried steak so big it needed its own platter. And Man gained more weight and his cholesterol went through the roof. God then created a light, fluffy white cake, named it "Angel Food Cake" and said, "It is good." Satan then created chocolate cake and named it "Devil's Food."

6. God then brought forth running shoes so that His children might lose those extra pounds. And Satan gave cable TV with a remote control so Man would not have to toil changing the channels. And Man and Woman laughed and cried before the flickering blue light and gained pounds.

7. Then God brought forth the potato, naturally low in fat and brimming with nutrition. And Satan peeled off the healthful skin and sliced the starchy center into chips and deep-fried them. And Man gained pounds.

8. God then gave lean beef so that Man might consume fewer calories and still satisfy his appetite. And Satan created McDonald's and its 99-cent double cheeseburger. Then said, "You want fries with that?" And Man replied, "Yes! And super-size them!" And Satan said, "It is good." And Man went into cardiac arrest.

9. God sighed and created quadruple bypass surgery.

10. Then Satan created Cuts to the Health Care System.

Amen



New Members

James Detwiler	Zionsville	IN	Joined
Nathan Fite	Speedway	IN	Joined
Kristi Gonzalez	Indianapolis	IN	MoveIn
Archit Kalra	Carmel	IN	MoveIn
Basil Vareldzis	Indianapolis	IN	Joined



2019-2020 Book Group Reading List

Rich Gibson

Here is the list of books to read for the CIM Book Group. It meets on Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m. once a month. Check the calendar for exact dates. Call or email Rich Gibson if you have any question or for directions.

August 25--American Nations, by Colin Woodard
September 22--Melting Pot or Civil War? by Reihan Salam
October 13--Love Your Enemies by Arthur C Brooks
November 24--Rise and Fall of the Dinosaurs by Steven Brusatte
December 22--Genius of Birds, by Jennifer Ackerman
January 12--Firefighting, by Bernanke, Geithner and Paulson
February 23--I Contain Multitudes, by Ed Yong
March 22--Click Here to Kill Everybody, by Bruce Schneier
April 26--Why Does the World Exist by Jim Holt
May 31--American Dialogues by Joseph J Ellis
June 16--Bring a Book!

“Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read.”

—Groucho Marx, *The Essential Groucho: Writings For By And About Groucho Marx*

August 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 [NOTE: Shapiro's Delicatessen, 808 S. Meridian St.] The dates (1st and 3rd Wednesday) and time (11:30 a.m.) are not changing. 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.

8/9– Announcements at 7:45; program at 8:00. The speaker will be our own CIM Vice-LocSec, Kurt Williams. Kurt is the Deputy Director and COO of Link Observatory and Space Science Center in Mooresville, Indiana. He will present the remarkable story of the Apollo 11 Mission, which achieved the first moon landing 50 years ago.

A CONTEST! *In 50 words or less, tell us where YOU were during the moon landing. There will be two winners: one for fact and one for fiction. Bring your story with you or you may write it at the meeting. Entries will be judged, and prizes awarded after the programs.*

STEM Time with George Dunn following the speaker. This month's topic is Heraldic Communication.

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*.

8/20, 5:30 p.m. Contact: Jan Pfeil Doyle, 317-431-3500. Pizza and soft drinks provided.

MINDBending is held at the offices of Midwest Internet, 5348 N. Tacoma Ave., which is 1 block east and 1 block north of 52nd St. and Keystone Ave. on the northeast side of Indianapolis.

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



August 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
4	5	6	7 Indy Lunch Bunch
11	12	13	14
18 Mensans Dining Out	19	20 <i>MIND</i> bending/ ExCom	21 Indy Lunch Bunch
25 Book Group	26	27	28

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Ham 'n' Eggs; Mensa Admission Test CANDLES Museum Visit
8	9 Monthly Gathering	10
15	16	17
22	23	24
29	30	31

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.

August 2019 Events (cont.)

Mensans Dining Out - 3rd Sunday, 6 p.m., **8/18** - Greek Islands, 906 S Meridian St, Indianapolis, IN
For more information, contact Bob Zdanky at 317-219-3773.

Mensa Admissions Test — **Saturday, 8/3, 1:00pm with registration before.**
Please arrive a few minutes early. Testing will be conducted on Indy's South side. 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 **special \$39.99 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/. Vouchers are valid for 24 months from the date of purchase. 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.

Book Group – **8/25**, 2pm at the Gibsons'. "American Nations" by Colin Woodard. 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

8/3, CANDLES Museum Visit. Contact Vicki Adang at vickiadang@yahoo.com for more information.

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

Jon's Journal – News for Region 4

Growing Our Membership

Jon Gruebele, RVC4

Oops! I may have confused some people in reporting our membership numbers in my column last month. I'm very sorry. I had data from our 2017-2018 fiscal year, which ended down nearly 5% over the prior year at 52,365 members. For the 2018-2019 fiscal year ending March 31st, we dropped another 411 members to 51,953, or about 0.8%. While many factors contributed to that decline, some was likely related to the 13% dues increase in 2017.

Overall, we're down a little over 10% from our peak membership of nearly 58,000 in 2009-2010. While alarming, other organizations such as Rotary, Masons, Shriners, Elks, JCI and others have experienced more dramatic declines. Hopefully that's sufficient motivation to do better.

Membership growth happens by:

- Getting new members
- Keeping the members we have

To succeed, we need both.

Among other things, here's what we've done to attract new members in Region 4:

- Minnesota Mensa has a booth in the Education Building at the state fair
- Central Indiana promoted Mensa at GenCon, "The Home of Tabletop Gaming", with attendance around 60,000
- Similarly, Chicago has a Mensa booth at "geek" conventions such as WindyCon and Anime Midwest
- Funded by a trust and donations, Chicago's Rainbow SIG sponsors a float in the Chicago Pride Parade, where around 1 million people see 50+ enthusiastic Mensa member marchers
- Several Local Groups open certain events to non-members including AGOG, A Gathering of Gamers (<http://chicago.us.mensa.org/agog/>)

Nationally, we do things such as advertise, partner with companies including Hasbro, generate buzz on social media, and continue our deal with American Airlines to include a Mensa puzzle and occasional ads in their in-flight magazine.

Unfortunately, we struggle with word-of-mouth referrals, traditionally one of the most effective marketing tools. Many members are reluctant to even mention they belong to Mensa. Some don't even tell family members they belong. That's one reason why the vouchers for free testing we've offered over the last few years haven't been as successful as hoped.

Continued on next page



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As someone who's been open about my membership from the time I've joined, I have a secret for you. People are pretty darn perceptive. They may not know you're in the top 2%, but they already know you're smart. Chances are they won't be that surprised if you show up to work with a Mensa coffee mug. Yes, you'll probably be in for a bit of ribbing the next time you make a mistake. That can also be an opportunity to confess that those in the top 2% are neither all-knowing nor perfect, and by the way they seem smart too, so why not take the test?

If anyone has any ideas on how to better promote Mensa, please let me know. I'll have some thoughts on retaining existing members in a future column.

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>.

Answers to Trivia from page 6

1. Arpeggio.
2. In the brain.
3. Bohemia.
4. The Wild Beasts.
5. The States General.
6. Alexandrine.
7. Trampolining.
8. Helium.
9. Argentina.
10. Green.
11. Friedrich Engels.
12. Leningrad.
13. Actium.
14. Ben Jonson.
15. On a meandering river.
16. Asuncion.
17. Ten.
18. Telescopes.
19. Grimaldi.

“Game shows are designed to make us feel better about the random, useless facts that are all we have left of our education.”

— Chuck Palahniuk, *Invisible Monsters*

Books On The Runway

Margy Lancet Fletcher

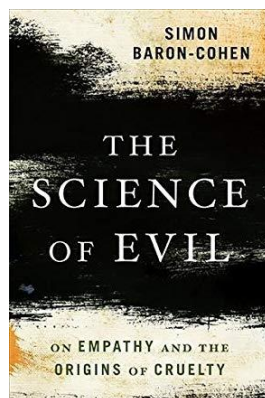
Author: Simon Baron-Cohen

Title: *The Science of Evil: On Empathy and the Origins of Cruelty*

Publisher: Basic Books/Perseus Books Group

Year: 2011

Book Description: This is a rather bizarre segue from my previous book review: Matt Simon expounding on animal cruelty for the sake of survival in *The Wasp That Brainwashed the Caterpillar*, followed by Simon Baron-Cohen examining the seemingly inexplicable sadistic acts between humans in *The Science of Evil*. Baron-Cohen, a professor of developmental psychopathology at the University of Cambridge (U.K.), devotes his work to the demystification of the concept of “evil,” renaming it “empathy erosion” and subjecting it to scientific scrutiny. He begins by defining and citing worldwide examples of human cruelty (of which the Holocaust is just one of many). He then presents a workable definition of empathy, describes methods of measuring empathy via the Empathy Quotient questionnaires for adults and children and the Empathy Bell Curve graph based on those scores, and details the ten regions of the brain that comprise the Empathy Circuit (e.g., the medial prefrontal cortex that processes social information, and the orbito-frontal cortex that helps judge emotional content in words and situations). The ensuing chapters extensively discuss the three categories of negative zero-degree empathy (Zero-Negative) personalities: Borderline - Type B, Psychopath - Type P, and Narcissist - Type N, the Zero-Positive individuals (those afflicted with Asperger Syndrome or Classic Autism), and the various genes that have been linked to empathy or the lack thereof. He concludes with some additional thoughts on human brutality: unanswered questions (e. g., are there other forms of zero-degree empathy, such as anorexia?), reasons for rethinking mental illness diagnoses, the twelve factors that affect the empathy circuit, environmental and biological risk factors involved in “empathy erosion,” the potential for therapeutic intervention, the benefits and dangers of super-empathy, and the inestimable value of empathy as a resource for resolving conflicts on every scale.



Has this book changed the way you think, your attitude toward life, or even your life itself? If so, how? Of particular interest to me is the segment on Zero-Positive characteristics, as it enhances my understanding of acquaintances and family members with autism spectrum conditions, who possess both an admirable talent for systemizing and detecting patterns and a pathological aversion to change. The author also challenges readers who favor the death

Continued on next page

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penalty (including me) to reconsider that viewpoint, stating that the practice is “not just barbaric (and, ironically, makes the state as unempathetic as the person it seeks to punish), but it closes down the possibility of change or development within the individual.” Point well taken.

Who should definitely read this book? Why? All Mensans should enthusiastically welcome Baron-Cohen’s efforts to exorcise “evil” from the depths of superstition and black-and-white religious orthodoxy into the light of scientific inquiry. For readers that are all too familiar with the dark side of humanity, this book explains a great deal.

How long might it take to read this book? Although the author makes this initial disclaimer - “[I]f you’re looking for a fun read, proceed no further” - I can assure you that the book is packed with vital and fascinating information, and its overall tone is optimistic. Its straightforward and earnest prose and relatively short length (256 pages, including 61 pages of appendices, notes, references, and index) ensure a quick and rewarding reading session - 2 to 3 days at the most.

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

...Philosophers and theologians have long debated what we mean by truth. My definition of truth is neither mystical nor divine, nor is it obscured by unnecessary philosophical complexity. Truth is (pure and simply) repeatable, verifiable patterns. Sometimes we call such patterns “laws” or “rules,” but essentially, they are just patterns. Sometimes the truth might not be all that useful (e.g., the British postman uses red rubber bands to bundle the envelopes), and sometimes the truth might be very useful (e.g., an extra chromosome twenty-one will switch a baby to develop Down syndrome). Sometimes the truth will reflect a natural pattern (e.g., left-handedness is more common in boys than girls), and sometimes the truth will reflect a social pattern (e.g., in India you shake your head to show agreement). But it is the repeatability of a pattern that elevates it to the status of truth.

Additional Remarks: A couple of minor disappointments, at least to me: (1) The author only mentions his cousin, the notoriously shameless British comedian Sacha Baron-Cohen, in passing, praising his Borat character for “exposing contemporary anti-Semitism by posing as an anti-Semite himself.” Simon Baron-Cohen does not so much as hint at where he would place his infamous relative on the empathy continuum. (2) The publication of this book predates the 2016 election by five years, and thus cannot offer any type of diagnosis of any member of the current U.S. administration (double drat!). Nevertheless, perusing this engrossing and comprehensive study of the best and worst of human nature should enable the reader to make a sound judgement in that regard. And maybe, as an added bonus, to retain hope for a sane and compassionate society.

Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 5/21/2019

Ann Hake, CIM Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held at Midwest Internet on Tuesday, May 21, 2019.

LocSec Teresa Gregory called the meeting to order at 7:53 pm. Members present were Vicki Adang, Jan Pfeil Doyle, Teresa Gregory, Ann Hake (via speakerphone), Pat Milligan, Kurt Williams, and Bob Zdanky.

Absent: none.

The committee reviewed the minutes of the April 2019 ExCom meeting. Kurt Williams moved that the minutes be accepted as amended. Vicki Adang seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The committee reviewed the Treasurer's report for April 2019. The committee had a few questions regarding the report which the Treasurer needed some time to answer. Kurt Williams moved that the report be tabled until the next meeting. Vicki Adang seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

A membership report was compiled by Teresa Gregory based upon the information available as of 4/30/2019 from American Mensa: 467 members, 1 new, 1 movein, 2 rejoins, and 8 prospects.

Old Business

2019 Outdoor Gathering (OG): Took place May 17-19, 2019 at Versailles State Park in Versailles, IN. There were approximately 31 attendees and the gathering made a small profit; final figures are pending.

Actions Taken Since the Last Meeting

Our current yearly lease with All Souls for our Monthly Gatherings has expired as of our May meeting. Because of ongoing issues with the HVAC system, the committee has been reluctant to commit to another year's lease. All Souls has agreed to a month-to-month lease at the previous rate (minus the discount granted for paying the entire year in advance).

New Business

CIM will be participating in the lapsed member contact program.

There being no other business, Kurt Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vicki Adang seconded the motion. The motion was carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm.

Treasurer's Report

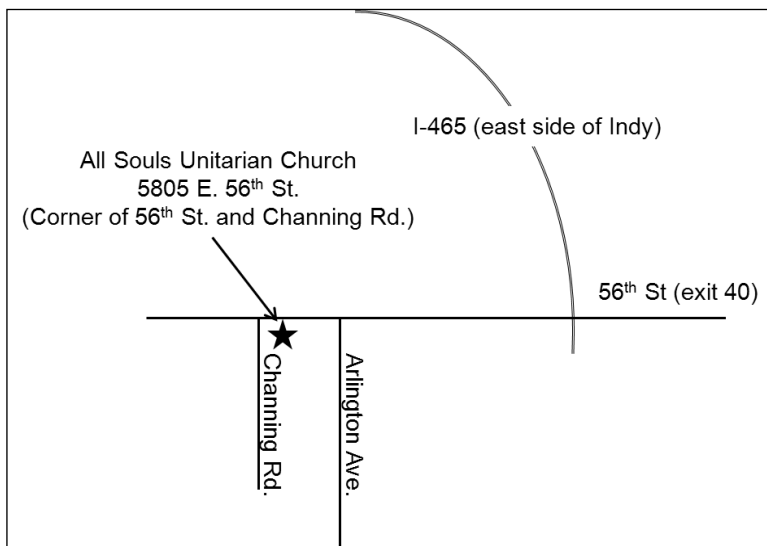
Pat Milligan, CIM Treasurer

There is no approved treasurer's report for this month

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
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Treasurer, Webmaster	Pat Milligan, pat.no.plait@indy.rr.com
Scribe, Program Chair	Ann Hake, amhake@yahoo.com
Membership, Volunteers	Bob Zdanky, zdanky@gmail.com , (317) 219-3773
At Large	Vicki Adang vickiadang@yahoo.com , (317) 549-5176

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

Other Volunteers

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SIGHT Coordinator, Testing Coordinator	Alison Brown, SIGHT@indymensa.org
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