



mind

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana



*Skeptic Leo Doyle demonstrates his ghost detectors at the
October monthly gathering*

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.

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table of contents

Loosing My MIND	4
Old Dog/New Tricks	5
Spooky Stories Contest Winners	6
CIM Members Participate in Alzheimer's Walk	7
Book Group Reading List	8
Welcome New Members	8
November 2019 Events	9
RVC4 Column	13
Petra's Aphorisms	14
Books on the Runway	15
ExCom Minutes	16
Treasurer's Report	17
Location of CIM Monthly Meeting	18
Contact Information	19

Loosing My MIND

Vonda Heverly, Editor

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



Happy Thanksgiving to everyone! I've been editing the MIND for a year now. That went quickly. As editor, I'm thankful for all the people who contribute to the newsletter and the quick response times to my emails. I'm also thankful that I'm usually off the day before the deadline.

Did you know that the monthly gatherings are featuring contests? Read about the prize winners from October and see what they won on page 6. Then for November, choose your favorite scientist and come dressed as that person at the second

Friday gathering. It's hard to pick just one, but mine might be Leonardo da Vinci. Did you know that the British Library digitized his Codex Arundel? You can view the original online at <https://tinyurl.com/b9j2zhf>.

Wishing you all a peaceful Thanksgiving,

Cheers!



Old Dog/New Tricks

Teresa Gregory, LocSec

I mentioned last month that I would be visiting my son the first week in October. It was a great time to go with Indy temperatures in the 90s. I left on Tuesday and came home Thursday, enough time for a nice visit but not enough time to disrupt his life too much. The highlight of the trip was a visit to the Los Angeles Central Library. I had read “The Library Book” by Susan Orlean about the 1986 fire, but also about the history of the LA library itself. I highly recommend the book and a visit to the library if you are ever in Los Angeles.



My son, Jack, took me for a drive along Hollywood Boulevard and the Sunset Strip around 11:30pm. It was mid-week so there weren't a lot of people out, but I did get to see a man with a goat on a leash talking to some folks. I had to wonder if he lived in one of those tiny overpriced apartments.

We had so much fun at the Monthly Gathering writing spooky stories that we are having another “creative” contest: Come as your favorite scientist, real or fictional. Think Albert Einstein or Mr. Spock. Again, there will be prizes.

If you have family member, buddy, co-worker, neighbor, letter carrier, hair stylist, etc., who you think is a good candidate for Mensa, you may also give them the CIM voucher code (HOOSIERS19). That offer is good until December 31st but the voucher is good for two years. We have one code per group, and we can use it as many times as we want. You should have received an email about this on September 3. If you have any questions, drop me a line.

The national scholarship contest is open until January 15! This is open to anyone in post-secondary education. Winners are chosen based on a short essay. Grade point average, class rank, or financial need do not factor into the decision. This is a great opportunity for an average student to shine. See this site for information: <https://www.mensafoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships/>

Our own Alison Brown was featured in John Blinke's Supplementally column in the September 2019 issue of the Bulletin (page 18). If you like puzzles, check it out. This paragraph was also lifted and reprinted in the Mensa World Journal.

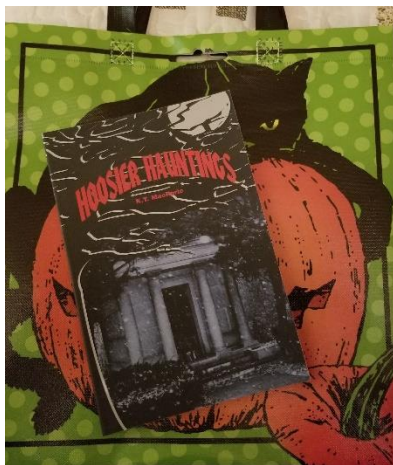
We will be having our regular gatherings in 2020. I'm just slow getting the word out. Our Regional Gathering will January 24-26 at the Waterfront Hotel as in the past. The Outdoor Gathering will be in the usual location, beautiful Versailles State Park, but it will be later this year. Memorial Day weekend is early, so we will gather the weekend AFTER that, May 29-31. Everything else will be the same. Check our website IndyMensa.org for updates on these. There will be more in our next MIND.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Spooky Stories Contest Winners

Teresa Gregory

At the October Monthly Gathering, attendees were asked to share spooky stories, fact or fiction, around 50 words. After the submissions were collected, Ann Hake and Teresa Gregory alternated reading them aloud. Attendees were asked, “Fact or Fiction”? Then they applauded for the story. Ann has a “clap-o-meter” phone app so she measured the response. All the stories scored the same except for these two. They were the clear crowd favorites. The winners each received a Trick or Treat bag with a book of Indiana ghost encounters.



Fact

I saw my wife in the kitchen in glowing white. We converged by the refrigerator and I gave her a heartfelt hug. I awoke with my hands encompassing my pillow. The tears streaming down my face, I affectionately stroked her walnut urn. She was with me one last time.

--by Dr Alan D. Schmidt

Fiction

The path was long, the night was chill,
the sickle Moon below the hill,
as Rudy young braved the moor,
to reach the fair Katherna's door.

For her part she set a light
to guide him through the gloomy night.
She was all his plighted lover
doomed at noon to wed another.

If but he kept the trackless way,
by sunrise they would be far away.
At last! The light, off to the west,
He had wandered in his quest!

He ran, in haste to keep his tryst.
Alas! It was the Will o' Wisp.

--by George Dunn

Continued on next page

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Honorable Mention: Entry from Farthest Away

“Wake up!!”

Who said that? I’m driving alone. Barely saw the big cross and torn-out guard rail.

Finally home! But I needed time away and incommunicado. Newspapers on the porch. Which one’s this? Two days old. Headline... “Man Dies Driving Through Guard Rail and Into Ravine.” Oh no...

...my twin brother.

--by Dom Jervis of northern New Jersey

CIM Members Participate in Alzheimer’s Walk

Alison Brown

CIMensans Margy Fletcher and Alison Brown raised a total of \$215 from Central Indiana Mensa members to support the Alzheimer’s Association during the Walk to End Alzheimer’s on Oct. 12, 2019. It was a beautiful, if chilly day and the route along White River was crowded with walkers bearing flowers, purple for people with family members with Alzheimer’s, yellow for people who care for Alzheimer’s patients. It is still possible to donate to the cause to save precious brains:

https://act.alz.org/site/TR?px=12827925&fr_id=12236&pg=personal



Margy Fletcher and Alison Brown

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.

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!



“If we encounter a man of rare intellect, we should ask him what books he reads.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson



New Members

Barton Bridge	Indianapolis	IN	Move In
Jon Liechty	Bloomington	IN	Move In
Steven Oberlin	Fishers	IN	Joined

November 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 11:30am, 1st and 3rd Wednesday, Shapiro's Delicatessen, 808 S. Meridian St. 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.

11/8- Announcements at 7:45; program at 8:00. Mensan Dr. Alan D. Schmidt will present the 2018 Nobel Prize in Chemistry on the Directed Evolution of Enzymes. Random mutations with directed evolution have produced biofuels, pharmaceuticals, combatted autoimmune diseases, and cured metastatic cancer.

Contest: This month, it's a costume contest. Come as your favorite scientist, real or fictional. This is a chance to drag out that Star Trek uniform in the back of your closet.

STEM Time with George Dunn following the speaker. The topic: Game Theory.

Mensa Admissions Test – Saturday, 11/16, 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 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.

November 2019

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

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

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.

November 2019 Events (cont.)

Mensans Dining Out - 3rd Sunday, 6 p.m., **11/17** – Aristocrat Pub & Restaurant, 5212 N College Ave, Indianapolis, IN

For more information, contact Bob Zdanky at 317-219-3773.

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.

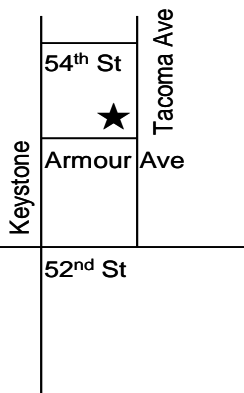
11/19, 5:30 p.m. Contact: Jan Pfeil Doyle, 317-431-3500.

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 September MINDbenders and Midwest Internet for hosting the event.

Book Group –**11/24**, 2pm at the Gibsons'. "Rise and Fall of the Dinosaurs" by Steven Brusatte and come prepared for a lively discussion. We will provide refreshments, but feel free to bring something to share. Our books tend to be non-fiction and do not exceed about 300 pages in length. 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 770-548-5217 for more details or to RSVP



COMING SOON to IndyMensa.org

WTF (Winter Time Fun)

January 24-26, 2020, at the Waterfront Hotel.

OMG (Outdoor Mensa Gathering)

May 29-31, 2020, at Versailles State Park.

(Note, this is the weekend AFTER Memorial Day.)

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

Jon's Journal – News for Region 4

Board of Directors (AMC) Update

Jon Gruebele, RVC4

We held American Mensa's Board of Directors' September meeting in Arlington, TX, near our national office. The first of two days was spent on strategy planning; the second day was our quarterly board meeting.

Our [current strategic plan](#) was for years 2016 through 2020. It has served us well but it's due for a refresh. As Chair of AMC's Strategic Planning Committee, I helped facilitate along with our Executive Director Trevor Mitchell and Chair LaRae Bakerink. We spent a full day covering our current status; examining our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT); visioning our future; prioritizing; and providing direction to the Finance Committee as they begin reviewing budget priorities for our upcoming fiscal year.



One particularly interesting idea was provided to me by a Region 4 member who noted she qualified for membership via her ACT test. She wondered if Mensa could contact people who score well to extend membership offers. Of course, ACT tests taken after September 1989 aren't accepted, but other tests (GMAT, LSAT) are – and companies are often happy to sell targeted contact information. Whether there will be room in the budget for that remains to be seen, but it's a great example of how members' good ideas can make a difference. I really appreciate the member who passed that idea along – thank you!

As you might expect, key strategic concerns continue to revolve around membership, providing good value for your dues, and fiscal responsibility. At this writing, we are still in our early stages of formalizing the new five-year plan. I'll be sure to keep you updated as details emerge.

At the AMC meeting, we started with some appointments. Of note, Brian Reeves was named as Advocate. That position can assist members with the National Hearings process. The Event Safety Task Force was dismissed with thanks, and a new Member Safety Subcommittee was established in its place. Our History Committee will be chaired by Howard Prince.

We received status reports from Frost, our investment management firm, and our executive director. Several motions were made and passed, mostly for clarification. Our investment policy was also updated. Our current financial asset allocation is a reasonably conservative 1-20% in cash equivalents, 60-90% fixed income, and 10-40% in equities. As before, we retain all contributions to

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the Life Membership Fund's principal in perpetuity. Only investment returns are available to help support operations and life member costs.

Depending on when you read this, Chicago's HalloweeM may already be over, but it's not too late to sign up for [A Gathering of Gamers \(AGOG\)](#) January 24-26, 2020 at the 'WeeM hotel in Wheeling. Central Indiana Mensa's [Winter Time Fun](#) Regional Gathering is that same weekend and we'd love to see you there. 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>.



"I am grateful for what I am and have. My thanksgiving is perpetual." –Henry David Thoreau



Petra's Aphorisms

Petra Ritchie

1. I read that 4,153,237 people got married last year. Not to cause any trouble, but shouldn't that be an even number?
2. I find it ironic that the colors red, white, and blue stand for freedom until they are flashing behind you.
3. When wearing a bikini, women reveal 90% of their body. Men are so polite they only look at the covered parts.
4. Relationships are a lot like algebra. Have you ever looked at your X and wondered Y?
5. America is a country which produces citizens who will cross the ocean to fight for democracy but won't cross the street to vote.



"Imagination was given to man to compensate him for what he is not; a sense of humor to console him for what he is."

--Francis Bacon

Books On The Runway

Rich Gibson

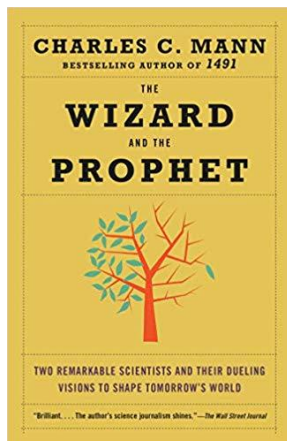
Author: Charles C. Mann

Title: *The Wizard and the Prophet: Two Remarkable Scientists and their Dueling Visions to Shape Tomorrow's World*

Publisher: Knopf

Year: 2018

Book description (max. 5 sentences): This is a story of two men, Norman Borlaug (the Wizard) and William Vogt (the Prophet), who separately came to embody and express two contradictory visions of humanity's place in the world. Borlaug's Green Revolution embodied the idea that human ingenuity and technology has been, is, and probably will be sufficient to solve humanity's problems. Vogt's work and those of his disciples (Ehrlich's Population Bomb, for one) embody what might be called apocalyptic environmentalism: that we're all doomed unless we take a number of radical; painful; and probably impractical and infeasible steps. The author takes pains to present the two visions as objectively and non-judgmentally as possible. However, a recent reader of Rosling's Factfulness or Pinker's Enlightenment Now may well find herself greatly favoring Borlaug.



Has this book changed the way you think? your attitude towards life? even your life itself? If so, how? This book has emphasized and clarified my pre-existing suspicion that the world is complex and humanity faces extremely complex challenges; that the beginning of making meaningful progress to addressing those challenges is facing facts, as hard as they may be; and to base policy on truth, rather than massage “truthiness” to fit your preferred policy. Fit policy to truth, not “truth” to policy.

Who should definitely read this book? Why? Anyone and everyone. If you're concerned about humanity's place in the world, this is an excellent overview of how we got here and how we might get ourselves out

How long might it take to read the book? I'm probably a slow reader for a Mensan. I read this avidly, but it took me almost a week, not counting breaks for housework, yardwork, church work, Mensa work, and so on

Provide a short characteristic section, an awesome sentence, or an inspiring quote: [To focus on the disagreements of these two visions slights their shared agreement on the severity of the problem. To illustrate the problem, the author cites Lynn Margulis, one of the most important biologists of the last 50 years:] “Homo sapiens, she once told me, is an unusually successful species. And it is the fate of every successful species to wipe itself out--that is the way things work in biology...Borlaug and Vogt might have wanted to stop us from destroying ourselves, she would have said, but they were kidding themselves.”

Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 8/20/2019

Ann Hake, CIM Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held at Midwest Internet on Tuesday, August 20, 2019.

LocSec Teresa Gregory called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm. Members present were Vicki Adang, Jan Pfeil Doyle, Teresa Gregory, Ann Hake, Pat Milligan, Kurt Williams, and Bob Zdanky. Absent: none.

The committee reviewed the minutes of the July 2019 ExCom meeting. Jan Pfeil Doyle moved that the minutes be accepted as amended. Kurt Williams seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The committee reviewed Treasurer's reports for April, May, June, and July 2019. It was noted that two annual expenses were paid in advance during this time period; thus, the balance is currently showing a loss. Ann Hake moved that the reports for April, May, June and July be accepted as amended. 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 7/31/2019 from American Mensa: 486 members, 4 new, 1 movein, 2 rejoins, and 6 prospects. Three candidates were tested.

Old Business

Given that the program for the October Monthly Gathering will be a presentation by Leo Doyle on his ghost detectors, the themed contest will be mini-ghost stories.

As part of the lapsed member contact program, LocSec Teresa Gregory has sent renewal letters to members who have not renewed their membership, reminding them that they can renew any time and inviting them to let her know any reasons that they did not renew if they would like to do so. She has had some replies to this latter question.

New Business

Treasurer Pat Milligan reports that he has had a great number of unexpected additional family responsibilities in recent months and will not be able to fulfill the duties of Treasurer because of this. Kurt Williams moved that Pat's resignation as Treasurer be accepted. Ann Hake seconded the motion, and the motion was carried. The ExCom is greatly appreciative for all of Pat's dedication and hard work as Treasurer and is very glad that he will continue to serve on the ExCom as an at-large member, and that he will continue to serve as webmaster.

Ann Hake moved that Kurt Williams be elected as the new Treasurer. Vicki Adang seconded the motion, and the motion was carried. Kurt Williams abstained from the voting.

Laurel Richardson has agreed to serve again as the chair for the scholarship committee. She would like to have more publicity / promotion for the scholarships, which are awarded solely on the basis of an essay. In addition, we need to be sure that the fund for our Central Indiana Mensa scholarship, the John S. Matthews Scholarship fund, is fully funded to at least \$500 by September 1 in order for it to be awarded. Ann Hake moved that \$400 be sent to the Mensa Foundation to cover the balance needed for the JSM Scholarship fund. Kurt Williams seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

It was also noted that a “spearphishing” attempt was made recently on the Treasurer’s email, which was likely obtained from the last page of the MIND on the web. It was decided that the contact information page will be deleted from the MIND in the version that is posted on the IndyMensa website.

There being no other business, Ann Hake moved that the meeting be adjourned. Pat Milligan seconded the motion. The motion was carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Treasurer’s Report

Kurt Williams, CIM Treasurer

Since the transition between the prior Treasurer and current Treasurer is still ongoing, the Asset Statement for August is still in progress.

Revenue & Expenses

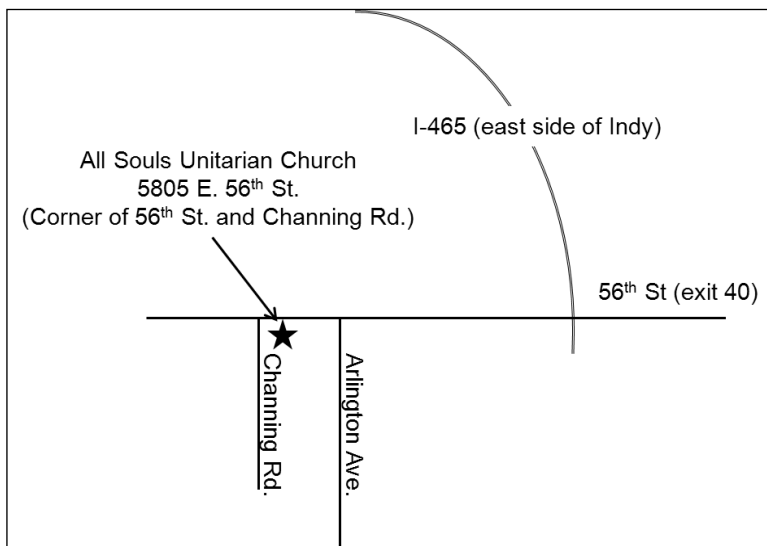
August 2019

National Support	\$ 413.95
Testing Support	\$ 100.00
New Member/ Lapsed Member	\$ 7.00
MG Income	\$ 102.00
Total Revenue	\$ 622.95
New Member Dinner	\$ 21.00
Scholarship Fund	\$ 450.00
MG Hospitality	\$ 21.62
MIND Printing	\$ 282.13
MIND Hospitality	\$ 77.82
Testing	\$ 5.70
Total Expenses	\$ 858.27
Net revenue for the period (loss)	\$ (235.32)

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.
- Look for signs within the building.



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Stamp