



mind

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana



Several Mensans enjoyed dining out at Aristocrats for the November event. Join them in December and try Ethiopian cuisine!

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 *MIND*bending (usually the second Friday of the month) for the following month's edition.

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mind

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Loosing My MIND

Vonda Heverly, Editor

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



A very happy holiday season to everyone! We had our first snow on Halloween, leading me to wonder what December has in store. Like a well-crafted snowball, this issue is packed tight.

Are you looking for a chance to help out CIM and get to know people? Check out the Help Wanted “ad” on page 8. Also note Petra’s time-sensitive message in her column on the same page.

Guest columnist Bryan Lundgren is back to talk about haiku and the SIG for enthusiasts of these little poems. With the anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor this month, Margy Lancet Fletcher reviews *When Books Went to War*.

Lastly, I’ve gathered up some holiday trivia for you. I feel pressured to find questions I deem difficult enough for Mensans. I hope you enjoy them!

Cheers!



Alan Schmidt and Karen Steilberger both wore the same shirt for Alan’s talk at the last Monthly Gathering

Old Dog/New Tricks

Teresa Gregory, LocSec

I realized that I have not been living up to the title of this column. I know it's early, but my New Year's Resolution is to learn a new trick/have a new experience at least once a month. I was thinking about this a few days ago when I attended a midnight showing of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show." I have seen it many times, but never in a theater. (In an example of ~~bad~~ imaginative parenting, I used to watch this with my children when they were around 15 and 9. We really only watched the first part so that we could sing and dance along.) I went with someone from a Meet Up group for women over 55. Several signed up, but she and I were the only actual attendees. She went in costume. I did not. It was fun and I would go again, but I would brush up on the songs beforehand. I was rusty on the lyrics. What will your Resolutions be? I finally picked one that I know I can accomplish.



Our annual Holiday Party is December 13. As in the past, we are having a pitch-in dinner, so bring a side dish to share. Afterwards we will have our Gimmee-Grabbee Gift Exchange. When your name is drawn, you may choose a gift from the pile or take one from someone else. Nothing is opened until all gifts are taken, so wrap creatively. Participation is not required but it's certainly encouraged.

January 24-26, 2020, WTF is back! Our "Winter Time Fun!" RG returns to the Waterfront Hotel on the west side. It's a small group but very relaxing and friendly. You just never know what might happen. Our outstanding comedy show headliner from last January, Ryan Niemiller, went on to place third on "America's Got Talent" this past August. I like to think W.T.F was his launch pad. This year, our show will feature The Authors, a comedy troop who create persona and talk about their (fake) books. They are tailoring their show to us. This should be fun. Register at cim-rg-2020.eventbrite.com. See more info on the calendar page.

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/>

In your holiday mail, you may get something from American Mensa; a membership renewal form. Don't just toss it.

I hope that everyone has a lovely December and we look forward to a new year full of hope and promise.

Haiku Playfulness

Join the Mensa Haiku SIG

Smack! Right to the Brain

Bryan Lundgren, Western Michigan Mensa

Why not a Haiku title? It is just part of the fun. I joined Mensa's Haiku Special Interest Group (SIG) in 2018 to try something fresh.

Engineer, writer;
Academic stuff, you know.
Now try something new.



My engineer's brain especially liked the form and format of Haiku:

- Haiku form is usually a non-rhyming 3-line poem.
- The composer uses 17 syllables in three lines, having 5, 7, and 5 respectively.
- Haiku implies a cutting word between two juxtaposed images, frequently of nature or seasons.

For me, writing Haiku was like solving a crossword puzzle with clues from my own imagination. Creating something interesting within the rules is really a challenge and can be a lot of fun.

SIG I want to join
Poetry with unique form
Surprise! Zen insight

The Haiku SIG's six newsletters per year give topical suggestions and then print dozens of submitted Haiku plus letters to the editor. Here is one for the theme of Waterfall.

Dry

Polished groove down cliff
Silent white slash, dry of blood
Cutting force is gone

Haiku can be emotional and serious. This elegy for a Mensa friend was printed in a Mensa local group newsletter and I was thanked by a family member for the thought.

Gentle soul absent
At Mensa RGs no more
Remember wry wit

Getting back to playfulness: My submission to the November 2019 Mensa Bulletin "write 6 words for us" challenge was a 6-word Haiku.

Seasonality
Nature's renewal project
Dying, freshening

The Haiku SIG's newsletter, *Pebbles*, mentioned my 6-words, so I felt challenged to write a silly 4-word Haiku. That was the fewest number of words I could imagine.

Overheatedness.
Civilization's response?
Refrigerator

But why stop at 4-words?

Intimidating
Superficiality:
Popularity.

Unbelievable
Oversimplification.
Abominable!

If these 3-word Haiku poems somewhat meet the three Haiku criteria, could two words work?

Anti-dis-estab-
Lish-mentarian-ism
Vocabulary!

Naah. Two words will not make Haiku.

Bottom line: Try a new Mensa SIG sometime. You might have a lot of fun and learn something new.

Bryan's Bio

Bryan Lundgren is a lifetime member of Mensa living in the cute little Lake Michigan resort town of South Haven. He joined the Haiku SIG from the Mensa website's SIG listing page. Bryan is Coordinator of the Isolated M SIG and gets pleasure taking the newsletter into its 47th year of publication. He says, "Assembling the travel articles, jokes, and letters about life give me pleasure. For your reading pleasure go to isolatedm.com and click the JOIN US button."

Help Wanted!

Greeter, host, hostess, bouncer, gatekeeper, lord of entry, ambassador, (create your own title)

We don't care what you call it, we just hope you'll help us out. Central Indiana Mensa is looking for a couple of friendly Mensans to welcome members and guests to our Monthly Gatherings.

Responsibilities include:

- Arriving around 6:45 to set up the welcome table
- Manning the welcome table
- Taking the admission fee
- Tracking the number of people who bring food or beverages to share
- Explaining to guests and new members what to expect during the meeting

Teresa will have all the items you need (name tags, pens, change, etc.).

We'd love to have a group of people who could work out a rotation to share responsibility for the position so you would not be on the hook every month. If you're interested, please contact Loc Sec Teresa Gregory at a meeting or at ag18tg@yahoo.com.

Petra's "Have a Seat" Bench Project

Petra Ritchie



Due to the terrific response to requests for plastic lids that will be recycled and formed into a bench, we now have enough to go on to the next step which is sorting the lids. Any ones with a triangle sign need to be separated from the other lids. A "sorting station" is set up in a corner of Harris Hall. This is a very time-consuming effort and anyone who can take even just a few minutes to help sort would be very much appreciated. The lids will then be taken to a recycling center in Evansville and formed into a bench that will be placed at the end of the sidewalk for All Souls members and guests to use as needed. If you have lids saved but not yet brought to a Mensa meeting, please do so by the December 13th, and then discontinue saving them.

Making use of these many pounds of plastic lids means that these lids will not end up in landfills.

Question? Petra: 317-786-8665; petraritchie@msn.com

Holiday Trivia

Editor

From conversationstartersworld.com/christmas-trivia

1. Before becoming tied up with Christmas, what was Yule?
2. In which century was the first written use of Xmas?
3. What political cartoonist is largely responsible for defining what the modern Santa Claus looks like?
4. In which decade did Coca-Cola first use Santa Claus in advertisements?
5. In what decade did NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command, formerly CONAD) start tracking Santa on Christmas Eve?
6. What popular holiday song was written during the Cuban missile crisis and was a plea for peace?
7. What was the original title for the popular Christmas song *Silver Bells*, written by Jay Livingston and Ray Evans?
8. From what animal parts were the first artificial Christmas trees made?
9. What plant-based Christmas tradition did servants in Victorian England popularize?
10. Who created the first electric light Christmas display?
11. What northeastern state holds the Guinness record for largest snowman?
12. How tall was the tallest cut Christmas tree?
13. What country is the Poinsettia, with its red and green foliage, native to?
14. What large former retail outlet commissioned and published Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer?
15. The man who voiced the Grinch in *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* was most famous for playing what popular Hollywood monster?
16. What is the most popular meal for Christmas in Japan?
17. In what northern European country might you receive gifts from a different Yule Lad each night if you leave your shoes on the windowsill the each of the 13 days before Christmas?
18. In what European country might you find money under the tablecloth when you sit down to eat the traditional Christmas Eve supper Wigilia?
19. In what Central American country might you find yourself kicking off the holiday season by burning the devil on December 7th while sweeping your house?
20. What cartoon character is a Christmas Eve staple in Sweden and is watched by millions of Swedes every year?



Answers to Holiday Trivia

1. A pagan midwinter festival. It was celebrated by Germanic peoples and was connected to Norse mythology. Yuletide is about two months and falls roughly mid-November to early January.
2. The 16th century. The X in Xmas comes from the Greek letter Chi, the first letter in Christ, which looks like an X.
3. Thomas Nast. Nast drew a picture of Santa Claus for the January 1, 1881 issue of Harper's Weekly.
4. 1920s
5. The 1950s. The NORAD Tracks Santa program officially started on December 24th, 1955 and has continued every year since.
6. *Do You Hear What I Hear?*
7. *Tinkle Bells*. The song was changed after Jay's wife pointed out that tinkle could also mean peeing.
8. Goose feathers painted green. These feather trees were first made in Germany during the 19th century.
9. Kissing under the mistletoe.
10. Thomas Edison. In 1880 he put up the first Christmas display made from electric lights to advertise his light bulbs.
11. Maine, in the town of Bethel. It was a snowwoman, named Olympia. She was 122' 1" tall. The record was set in 2008.
12. 221 ft. It was a Douglas fir and was put up in 1950 at the Northgate Shopping Center in Seattle, Washington.
13. Mexico. Named for Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first US minister to Mexico. He introduced the plant to the US in 1825.
14. Montgomery Ward. They ordered a new Christmas book to be made to hand out for free to customers, which would be cheaper than buying and giving away coloring books for Christmas as they had done in the past.
15. Frankenstein's Monster. He was William Henry Pratt, whose stage name was Boris Karloff.
16. KFC fried chicken. People order in advance or face standing in long lines to get their Christmas fried chicken. Some even line up on Christmas Eve.
17. Iceland. If you've been bad you might receive a rotten potato. Each Yule Lad specializes in one bad behavior. The Lads include Sausage-Swiper, Stubby, Window-Peeper, Door-Sniffer and so on. Read more on Wikipedia's Icelandic Christmas Folklore page.
18. Poland. But first you'll have to fast all day and then wait until someone spots the first star in the sky to sit down to eat.
19. Guatemala. People traditionally sweep their houses while the devil burns so that he won't be able to hide in their house.
20. Donald Duck. In 1959 the Disney special *From All of Us to All of You* but titled *Donald Duck and his friends wish you a Merry Christmas* in Sweden ran on television. There were very few channels in Sweden at the time, so it was watched by many Swedes and ended up becoming a Christmas Eve tradition.

December 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 – 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 12:00 noon, 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.**

12/13 This month, it's the HOLIDAY PARTY pitch-in dinner, followed by the Gimme Grabby Gift Exchange. Please bring something delicious to share. Meat, bread, and drinks are provided. There is no door fee if you bring a dish.

STEM Time with George Dunn will not meet this month.

Mensans Dining Out - 3rd Sunday, 6 p.m., **12/15** St. Yared Ethiopian Cuisine, 11210 Fall Creek Rd, Indianapolis, IN
For more information, contact Bob Zdanky at 317-219-3773.

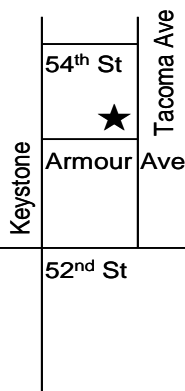
Book Group – 2 p.m., Sunday, **12/22.** Come prepared to discuss *Genius of Birds*, by Jennifer Ackerman. The group will meet at Rich and Jackie Gibson's house on the NE side of Indianapolis. Please contact Rich at hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com or 770-548-5217 for more details or to RSVP.

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*.



12/17, 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 November *MIND*benders and Midwest Internet for hosting the event.

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
1	2	3	4 Lunch Bunch
8	9	10	11
15 Mensans Dining Out; Mensa Test	16	17 <i>MIND</i> bending/ ExCom	18 Lunch Bunch
22 Book Club 	23	24	25 
29	30	31	

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5	6	7 Ham 'n' Eggs
12	13 Monthly Gathering	14
19	20	21
26	27	28

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.

December 2019 Events (cont.)

Mensa Admissions Test — Sunday, 12/15, 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.

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

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

Check www.indymensa.org for details as they unfold.

OMG! Outdoor Mensa Gathering!

May 29-31, 2020

Versailles State Park, Indiana

Please note later date this year!!!

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-2020.eventbrite.com

See IndyMensa.Org for more info.

Jon's Journal – News for Region 4

American Mensa's \$1.7m Net Asset Deficit

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.

If you've been reading my columns, you know I have a keen interest in American Mensa's financial situation. I've consistently supported a budget that generates a net surplus and avoids dues increases.

Members often ask about our net asset deficit. At the end of the last fiscal year, we had \$1,742,921 more in liabilities than we had assets to offset them. Most of this deficit stems directly the Inpharmatica trademark protection lawsuit filed late 2007. Some has accrued since 2015.

We didn't borrow the \$1.7m deficit from a bank; we borrowed it from ourselves – specifically from the 3- and 5-year member dues fund. Theoretically, if American Mensa ceased operation today, we wouldn't have enough money to pay back everything everyone was owed. Fortunately, nobody anticipates we'll be going out of business, so that's a moot point.

Our real challenge is that absent a deficit, we could have more money invested. Earning a modest 5% return on \$1.7m would net an extra \$87,000 every year. That could be used to implement one of our many high priority projects or reduce annual dues by a couple of dollars.

Some have advocated we should immediately erase this deficit. One obvious "solution" is to drastically raise dues, at least for the short term. Unfortunately, that's counterproductive as members fail to renew at the higher rates, potentially offsetting much of the anticipated revenue increase. Following the 13% dues increase in 2017, membership dropped nearly 6% by 2019.

Another approach is to dramatically cut expenses. To reduce \$1.7m in costs in one year, we'd have to cut expenses by over 36%. We'd probably have to lay off many staff members, reduce Local Group support, no longer provide print copies of the Bulletin, and make other unpalatable choices. These service reductions would lead to member dissatisfaction, fewer renewals, and reduced revenues. There are always ways to gain efficiencies and reduce costs, but a 36% cut would not do so in a way our members would appreciate.

Fortunately, every year we have a net budget surplus we'll reduce the deficit. If we do it long enough, it'll go away. We can maintain surpluses by providing a great member experience, keeping dues under control, and diligently managing our expenses. This year's budget anticipates a modest \$43,000 surplus, enough to retire 2.5% of the deficit. That's not a lot, but it's a start.

As a final note, please don't forget to register for one of the two great events in Region 4 the weekend of January 24-26, 2020:

Continued on next page



Continued from previous page

- Chicago Area Mensa's [A Gathering of Gamers \(AGOG\)](#) at the 'WeeM hotel in Wheeling, IL
- Central Indiana Mensa's [Winter Time Fun](#) Regional Gathering

Don't miss the early registration rates.

Happy holidays!

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>.

***** JANUARY 24-26, 2020 *****

W.T.F. (Winter Time Fun)

Join us at our "usual place," The Waterfront Hotel. (2930 Waterfront Parkway West Drive, Indianapolis 46214) Hotel rooms are \$79 and FREE PARKING.

Full Weekend	Day Rates
\$75 until 12/31/2019	Friday Only \$30
\$85 until 1/20/2020	Saturday Only \$60
\$90 at the door	Saturday After 5:00 pm \$40
\$50 Kids Ages 6-12	Sunday Only \$10
\$35 Kids under 6	Kids Ages 6-11 \$20 per Day

Once again, we will be offering Bring-a-Buddy free Mensa testing on Saturday morning for any guest who registers for the full weekend. Anyone else may test for \$39.99 (American Mensa's January promotion).

We will also have a raffle to benefit the John Matthews/CIM Scholarship Fund.

And, as always, our usual hijinks will ensue. Expect the unexpected. Speakers, tastings, games, ALL MEALS included and FREE PARKING.

You may register with Eventbrite online at www.cim-rg-2020.eventbrite.com or mail a check with registration information to Teresa Gregory, 6076 Dewey Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46219.



New Members

Andrew Bailey	Bloomington	IN	Move In
Andrew Mathews	New Palestine	IN	Joined

Books On The Runway

Margy Lancet Fletcher

Author: Molly Guptill Manning

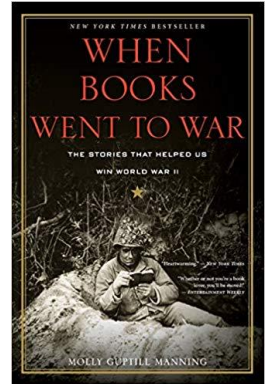
Title: *When Books Went to War: The Stories That Helped Us Win World War II*

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Year: 2014

Book Description: When English author Edward Bulwer-Lytton cannily observed that “the pen is mightier than the sword” back in 1839, he could not have imagined that his adage would be a call to arms in a global conflict a century later. In her exceptional publication, *When Books Went to War*, United States Court of Appeals attorney Molly Guptill Manning vividly recounts the major battles for both territory and ideas during World War II. Her calendar of events begins with the horrific book-burning rally at Berlin’s Friedrich Wilhelm University on May 10, 1933, and continues with America’s struggles with conscription and basic training on the home front, our actual armed battles - from Pearl Harbor in 1941 to the Japanese surrender in 1945, and the period of readjustment to civilian life after the euphoric victory celebration. Juxtaposed with our martial history are the principal episodes in the United States governmental and media anti-censorship blitz: the initiation and activation of the National Defense Book Campaign (renamed the Victory Book Campaign), which solicited and collected books for servicemen; the formation of the Council on Books in Wartime to oversee the selection and dissemination of these books; the creation of Armed Services Editions (popular books resized and formatted for easy transport by soldiers and sailors); the devotion of a “Mail Call” section of the military newspaper *Stars and Stripes* to enable military readers to provide feedback on the ASEs; the Army and Council’s fight to eliminate the Soldiers Voting Act Title V rider, which placed restrictions on ASE book content; the creation of Overseas Editions for the benefit of newly-liberated European nations; and finally, the passage of the G.I. Bill, which provided a variety of domestic and educational benefits to returning veterans. Throughout her energetic narrative, Guptill Manning stresses the vital role of literature in the victory of the Allies - as sources of escape from constant tedium and trauma, morale enhancement, much-needed amusement, and information on the world at large (see excerpt below). Extra features include excerpts of correspondences between servicemen and authors; character sketches of such key players as Althea Warren, Lt. Col. Raymond Trautman, and Philip Van Doren Stern; eight pages of high-quality black-and-white photos; a partial list of authors banned by the Nazis and a complete catalog of books and authors included in every ASE series; and twenty-seven pages of notes.

Continued on next page



Continued from previous page

Has this book changed the way you think, your attitude toward life, or even your life itself? If so, how? A recent visit to the “backwoods” cabin of my sister-in-law and her husband in upstate New York gave me a taste of a life of isolation and enabled me to understand the need for human connection that books have provided for Rhonda, from whom came this particular recommended reading. As a lifelong avid reader, I cannot fathom existence anywhere - particularly in the brutal environment of the “trenches” or the open seas - without the solace of the printed page.

Who should definitely read this book? Why? Both history buffs and bibliophiles will appreciate this inspiring tale of victory over oppression.

How long might it take to read this book? This eminently fascinating little volume (less than 200 pages) can be mastered in a mere day or two.

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

The story of the Armed Services Editions - portable, accessible, and pervasive paperbacks like the edition of *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* that so moved a young Marine to write Betty Smith - is a remarkable one. They were everywhere: servicemen read them while waiting in line for chow or a haircut, when pinned down in a foxhole, and when stuck on a plane for a milk run. They were so ubiquitous, one sailor remarked that a man was “out of uniform if one isn’t sticking out [of] the hip pocket!” They were the most dependable distraction available on all fronts. Whenever a soldier needed an escape, the antidote to anxiety, relief from boredom, a bit of laughter, inspiration, or hope, he cracked open a book and drank in the words that would transport him elsewhere. Every soldier and sailor abided by a strict policy of swapping and exchanging books, no matter how worn. The print could be smudged, the pages ripped or falling out, and still a book would continue to make the rounds. As one sailor said, “To heave one in the garbage can is tantamount to striking your grandmother.”

They weren’t just for entertainment and diversion. Books also served as the premier weapon in fighting Adolf Hitler’s “war of ideas.” Nazi Germany sought control over people’s beliefs, not just their bodies and territory. From the 1933 state-sanctioned book burnings in Germany to the purging of libraries across Europe as nations were conquered by the Nazis, “un-German” reading material was threatened with extinction. The scale of destruction was impressive. By V-E Day, it is estimated that Germany had destroyed over 100 million books in Europe.

And yet the story of the Armed Services Editions is largely untold. It was an astonishing effort. The government supplied more than 120 million free

books to ensure that America's fighting men were equipped with spirit and resolve to carry them through their battles.

Additional Remarks: Shortly after he designated April 17, 1942 as Victory Book Day, President Franklin D. Roosevelt released this eloquent statement [highlighted in this book]: “We all know that books burn - yet we have the greater knowledge that books cannot be killed by fire. People die, but books never die. No man and no force can abolish memory. No man and no force can put thought in a concentration camp forever. No man and no force can take from the world the books that embody man's eternal fight against tyranny of every kind. In this war, we know, books are weapons.” Well, folks, in light of the fact that our current administration considers the free press “the enemy of the people,” and also that many college and university officials are inimical to opposing viewpoints, we know that our censorship battle rages on. *When Books Went to War* is a delightful source of ammunition for this fight - as well as a truly captivating reading experience.

“One glance at a book and you hear the voice of another person, perhaps someone dead for 1,000 years. To read is to voyage through time.” – Carl Sagan



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.

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!



“A lovely thing about Christmas is that it's compulsory, like a thunderstorm, and we all go through it together.”—Garrison Keillor

Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 9/17/2019

Ann Hake, CIM Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held at Midwest Internet on Tuesday, September 17, 2019.

LocSec Teresa Gregory called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. Members present were Vicki Adang, Jan Pfeil Doyle, Teresa Gregory, Ann Hake, Pat Milligan, Kurt Williams, and Bob Zdanky.

Absent: none.

Guest: Alan Schmidt

The committee reviewed the minutes of the August 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 report for August 2019. Ann Hake moved that the report be accepted as amended. Jan Pfeil Doyle seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

A membership report was compiled by Teresa Gregory based upon the information available as of 8/31/2019 from American Mensa: 489 members, 0 new, 0 moveins, 1 rejoin, and 9 prospects. One candidate was tested.

Old Business

The November Monthly Gathering will be a presentation by Alan Schmidt on the Nobel Prize for Chemistry. There will be a costume contest – “dress as your favorite scientist”.

October is National Mensa testing month; 2 local testing sessions will be scheduled.

The Mensa Foundation Scholarship application period has been changed to Oct 7 through Jan 15.

New Business

Vicki Adang reports that her husband is in the process of closing down his dance studio, and that his sound system (a karaoke machine) may be available for purchase for use at Monthly (and other) Gatherings. Ann Hake moved that we investigate purchasing this. Jan Pfeil Doyle seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

Planning is underway for the 2020 Regional Gathering. It appears that the best venue continues to be the Waterfront Hotel and Conference Center.

There being no other business, Ann Hake moved that the meeting be adjourned. Kurt Williams seconded the motion. The motion was carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Treasurer's Report

Kurt Williams, CIM Treasurer

Assets

	09/30/19
Regular Checking	\$ 4,390.64
Scholarship Checking	\$ -
Events Checking	\$ 9,269.10
MG Cash	\$ 25.00
USPS Stamps	\$ 664.40
TOTAL	\$ 14,349.14

Revenue & Expenses

REVENUE

September 2019

National Support	\$ 414.80
Testing Support	\$ 40.00
New Member/ Lapsed Member	\$ 32.00
MG Income	\$ 118.00
Total Revenue	\$ 604.80

EXPENSES

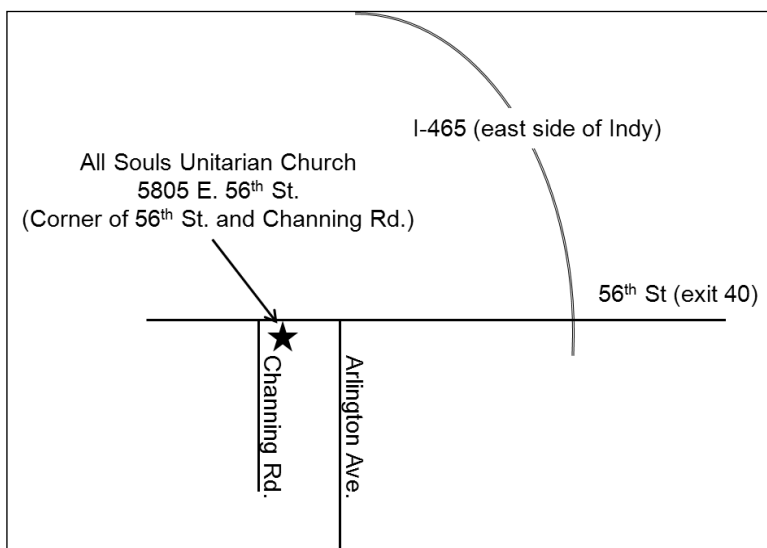
MG Hospitality	\$ 50.30
MIND Printing	\$ 282.13
MIND Hospitality	\$ 55.74
Supplies	\$ 16.03
Total Expenses	\$ 404.20
Net revenue for the period (loss)	\$ 200.60

“Anyone who lives within their means suffers from a lack of imagination.” – Oscar Wilde

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.



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

Stamp