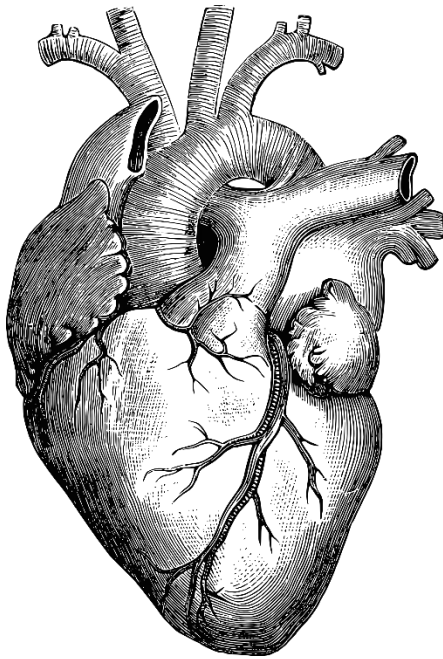


February 2020
Volume 56, Number 2



mind

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

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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MVP Code Deadline Extended

If you know someone who should be in Mensa, give them the gift of a free testing voucher. Tell them to go to US.Mensa.org (or just put "American Mensa" in a search engine), click on "Join," select "Redeem My MVP Code," and follow the instructions. When they get to the end, enter code HOOSIERS19. They have until March 31 to redeem this, but the voucher is good for at least two years. They can also use this to submit previous test scores. How about tucking this info in a nice Valentine card to show how much you care. If it's a coworker or a neighbor, a Post-It note will do.

Loosing My MIND

Vonda Heverly, Editor

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



Ah, February! The last big push through the winter doldrums before the hints of spring start to pop up. And, O Joy! There's another day of it this year.

My daughter and I are preparing to go on an eyeglass mission trip this month with the Lions Club. It will be my fifth trip, her first. We typically serve 5000-6000 people, providing them with donated glasses. I'm excited because I love the work; she's excited to miss a week of school! I guess I was too at her age.

Whatever your February holds, I wish you peace and *warmth*!

Cheers!



A Feghoot is a story pun which is a humorous vignette typically ending in a play on a well-known phrase. It is a type of shaggy dog story. Ferdinand Feghoot, a fictional character, said similar pun endings in a series of short science fiction pieces in Fantasy and Science Fiction magazine between 1956 and 1973.

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.”

This is how I started my December column. I had intended to *choose* something that I had not done before, but Karma took that decision right out of my hands in January.

My beloved 1999 Mitsubishi Spyder had just up and died on me the first Sunday in December. I had her hauled home and didn’t get around to having her looked at until late in the month. Consensus among friends and relatives was the fuel pump. When my mechanic called at 8:30am on New Year’s Eve and told me she was dead (a broken timing belt that “destroyed” the engine), I was stunned. I said, “Happy New Year to me.” I had no choice but to buy a car.

I have never bought a car before. I have been a partner in auto purchases, but never the sole buyer. Alone. And not for a very long time. I wasn’t quite sure where to start, but I soon figured it out. I decided that I wanted something very reliable, not brand new but not too old, less than 30,000 miles, and economical. I researched online through several sites including Consumer Reports. I bought a 2016 Toyota Corolla with 24,000 miles.

The Carfax said that it had been a three-year lease in Florida, and it had been driven less than 8,000 miles per year. I thought the owner was probably a senior citizen who didn’t go out much. When I got it home, I found a receipt in the glove box and other evidence of the previous owner, Emily. I looked her up on Facebook. Emily is a hot 20-something blond in a bikini. This car might not have just been driven to Bingo.

I went from having a very distinctive car (the only one like it in Indy) to having the most popular, therefore most common, car in the world. I’m okay with that. At least it’s red.

[Old meets New]→

The whole car-buying experience was not as terrible as I had anticipated. It was really not bad at all, but I don’t intend to do it again for, oh, say, another 20 years.

2020 is a CIM election year. Please think about running for ExCom. Our updated bylaws allow for telecommuting, so you don’t have to live in Indianapolis. There is no Central Indiana Mensa without volunteers. We need YOU.



Hindsight in 20/20

[Articles From The MIND Archives]

Teresa Gregory

As we approach the 75th anniversary of Mensa International next year, it might be fun to look to our own past.

In December 1994, LocSec Rick Barbrick recounted a recent meeting's activities. Scott Flood was MIND Editor. Should we revive this?

LocSection

Our first annual "Sex and Chocolate" theme meeting was, as expected, quite successful. (But then, how could we miss?) Members responded to the call for chocolate with fudge, brownies, Dove chocolate, turtles, cookies, white chocolate, bon bons, tiger butter, and chocolate-covered rice crispies and garlic. We shamelessly and wantonly washed it down with Choc-ola. There was also an assortment of candy that could have been used to assist the study of human anatomy, with something sure to please almost everyone. The most lauded and admired chocolate art form was the handiwork of Pete Smith, attending only his second function, Pete drew oohs and aahs with his chocolate sculpture of a male and female in an embrace, surrounded by Hershey's kisses and hugs. It was so esthetically pleasing that none of us would touch it. Of course, we couldn't provide everything (in spite of my beseeching), and the other half of the equation was fulfilled by our speaker, Shelley Natkow, who discussed the relationship between sex and the wonderful derivative of the cacao-nut. To top off the evening's entertainment, Petra Ritchie brought a puzzle depicting an assortment of fine chocolates. I'm told it was finished at 12:45AM.

Such a scandalous event could only have been suggested by one of this group's basest, most ignoble debauchers. But I cannot take full credit. Greater New York Mensa used it on several occasions. Their Local Secretary, Ian Randal Strock, recommended it at the New England AG workshop, "What works for the Ten Biggest Local Groups."



In July 2000, Grace Falvey was LocSec, George Dunn was MIND Editor, and Rhoda Israelov, Program Chair, made an appeal that is still valid. I couldn't have said it better. [Incidentally, I took over from Peggy in February 2005.]

HELLO OUT THERE!

Real Mensans Don't Stay Home!

Won't you join us every month? Mensa has many aspects, and different SIGs and activities meet the needs of different members. But in this FM's view, the Monthly Meeting is the core activity of Central Indiana Mensa. This is our forum to catch up on each other's lives, make new friends, and share ideas with like-minded (play on words intended) folks.

...When I'm not busy being Mensa Program Chair, I'm a salesperson by profession. I know that the question on every prospect's mind is STATION WIIFM (What's In It For Me?). When it comes to the Mensa Monthly Meetings, I can answer that question with a big smile and lots of confidence. What's in it for you? Fun, friendship, sharing, knowledge, awareness challenge, great food (thanks to Peggy Sargent and her committee – if you haven't been around for a while, you're in for a very tasty surprise), and...well, why don't you just come on down and find out for yourself what you've been missing?

Why? Because Real Mensans Don't Stay Home!

If you have any stories to share from our illustrious past, please let me know. Or if there are any articles you would like to see again, I'll see what I can do. Drop me a line at ag18tg@yahoo.com.



New Members

Mark Reichel	Indianapolis	IN	Joined
Mark White II	Nashville	IN	Joined
William Zieburzt	Bloomington	IN	Joined

Petra's Triple Rhyme Time

Petra Ritchie

JEOPARDY Category:

- 1 - What is a pleasant pheasant present?
- 2 - What is a pliant giant client?
- 3 - What is a Tahiti graffiti treaty?
- 4 - What is a calm psalm palm?
- 5 - What is a fine wine shrine?

ANSWERS:

- 1 - A congenial game bird under glass given as a gift.
- 2 - A flexible and enormous customer.
- 3 - In Papeete and the rest of the isle, a signed agreement to quit spray painting.
- 4 - A sedate date tree that's the subject of a biblical poem.
- 5 - Sacred place for your most exceptional bottle of Bordeaux.

Enjoy a FegHoot!

Lyan Brudgren, Western Michigan Mensa

Last spring, I attended the Wisconsin Regional Gathering (RG) and participated in a fun paper mache hat making session. It was recommended by the LocSec, "All of the regional Mensa leaders attend because it is a really fun session."

A dairy farmer, who was coincidentally the LocSec, lead the effort. She had students put newspaper and water and wool blanket scraps in a old blender. We poured the resulting slurry over a hat shaped screen, making thick and soggy paper/wool mache hats. These could be shaped to one's head with the use of a little plastic wrap and a bit of practice. Failures were recycled until most students reached millinery perfection.

One Mensa hat making student added potpourri (from the hotel restroom) to the mixture and created a hat with a spicy-flowery odor. Soon, a dairy farmer in the room brought in cheese curds (her favorite snack) and made a triangular cheese-hat that smelled like cheese. She even added yellow food coloring for a more realistic look.

The hat making class was written up in the WiscoM newsletter of Mensa of Wisconsin: Leading Mensans Like Curding Hats.



February 2020 Events

Ham ‘n’ Eggs (Hamilton County Eggheads) – 1st Saturday from **9:45 a.m. - 12 noon**. Atrium, 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.

2/14- Announcements at 7:45; program at 8:00

STEM Time with George Dunn following the speaker.
Artificial Nucleosynthesis – How Far Does the Periodic Table Go?

Mensa Admissions Test — Sunday, 2/9, 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 \$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.

February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
2	3	4	5 Indy Lunch Bunch
9 Mensa Admission Testing	10	11	12
16 Mensans Dining Out	17	18 <i>MIND</i> bending/ ExCom	19 Indy Lunch Bunch
23 Book Group	24	25	26

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Ham 'n' Eggs
6	7	8
13	14 Monthly Gathering	15
20	21	22
27	28	29

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.

February 2020 Events (cont.)

Mensans Dining Out - 3rd Sunday, 6 p.m., **2/16** – Matteo's Ristorante Italiano, 40 N 9th St, Noblesville, IN 46060. Last year, the owner of this restaurant held a fundraiser dinner for our member, Karen Wilczewski, and gave her the gross amount collected at the end of the night. As a "Thank You" for his generosity, please attend this special Mensans Dining Out. For more information, contact Bob Zdanky at 317-912-3590.

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.

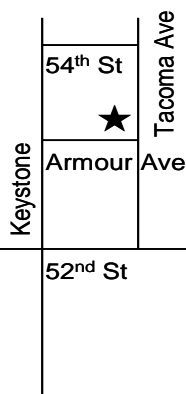
2/18, 5:30 p.m. Contact: Jan Pfeil Doyle, 317-431-3500.

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 January MINDbenders and Midwest Internet for hosting the event.

Book Group –2/23, 2pm at the Gibsons'. *I Contain Multitudes*, by Ed Yong 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



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.

Get more information at <https://indymensa.org/big-events/>

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

Jon's Journal – News for Region 4

Board of Directors (AMC) Update—Longer Term of Service?

Jon Gruebele, RVC4

The quarterly AMC meeting was held December 7th in Elk Grove Village, IL, not far from O'Hare. Despite a relatively short agenda, it went well into the afternoon with discussions on financials, liability, risk, the Mensa Foundation, and strategy. My thanks go to the members who attended the meeting, and the others who read the mini-minutes and reports or listened to the audio recording posted on-line.

Our most detailed discussion centered around changing our elected officers' terms from 2 to 3 years. Since this is a bylaws change, first the AMC would vote to pass the measure to the membership, then members would vote on it at our next election in April, 2021. This measure was proposed because the International election cycle was recently changed from 2 to 3 years. If approved, American Mensa's election schedule would then match International's.

When I posted about this in our Region 4 Facebook group before the meeting, I got mixed feedback. Some were in favor, others against, and some weren't sure. To summarize the various viewpoints:



Con

- Two years is long enough. We need a constantly changing board, enthusiastically bringing in new ideas.
- We only see AMC members when they're campaigning. If we lengthen their terms, we'll see them even less frequently.
- If we get a bad AMC member in office, it'll be an extra year before we can get rid of him or her (absent a recall election)
- We could have fewer members running for office if they must commit to a longer term
- Sometimes RVCs resign for various reasons. Typically, they are replaced by an appointed "Regional Coordinator" who can do everything an RVC can do but doesn't have a vote on the AMC. A 3-year term could mean a longer time for a Region to go without a voting representative.

Pro

- Reduced cost for fewer elections. Today we have 3 elections every 6 years. If this doesn't pass, we'll have 4 including International's; if it does, we'll have only 2.
- There's a big learning curve to becoming an effective AMC member. Today, a new AMC officer spends a year or so figuring out the job and

(for RVCs) building relationships with their local groups. Six months later they're running for re-election. There's no time to be effective.

- Some members are annoyed by the e-mails and social media chatter that accompany elections. Fewer elections might drive more interest and better participation.
- We'd get more new board members with 3-year terms. That's enough time to accomplish what a new officer wants, so there'd be fewer officers seeking re-election.

In the end, I voted with the majority to pass this proposal to our members for their consideration. I felt the cost savings and learning curve arguments were compelling.

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>.

Books On The Runway

Alison Brown

Author: Bruce Schneier

Title: *Click Here to Kill Everybody: Security and Survival in a Hyper-Connected World*

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company

Year: 2018

Book description (max. 5 sentences): The

Internet of Things offers great promise but also threats. By taking advantage of technological ease of controlling our lives, we also are exposed to manipulations of those who do not have our best interests in mind, but rather their own. Malevolent actors come in many flavors: individual criminals, large international criminal bands, corporations, governments both foreign and domestic. The author, who works at both IBM Security and Harvard University, describes the many dangers that an interconnected environment contains. It is very disturbing reading. He narrates incidents that have occurred and extrapolates likely future scenarios. He also discusses remedies for the cyberthreats that careless use of connectivity brings and at the same time, lays out all the current things in our political and economic world that work against these solutions.



Has this book changed the way you think? your attitude towards life? even your life itself? If so, how? It has confirmed my skepticism about the Internet of Things. However, I know that I am already surrounded by it and with each new purchase of equipment, I will be drawn deeper into it.

Who should definitely read this book? Why? Everyone with a computer in their possession, that is everyone with a mobile phone, an automobile younger than a couple of decades, an alarm system, that is everyone living in the 21st century.

How long might it take to read the book? A week, especially if you read all the footnotes.

Provide a short characteristic section, an awesome sentence, or an inspiring quote: My pessimism arises more from the US's collective inability to imagine government as a force for good in the world. When I review the current Internet security landscape, I see an environment shaped by corporate decisions to maximize profits and government abdication of its regulatory role to protect all citizens. I see a populace mesmerized by the frankly amazing capabilities of these new networked technologies, and negligent in considering the stupendously profound social repercussions of it all. Our current level of security is determined by the market, and I know – and hopefully have demonstrated – that it will be inadequate for the Internet+. (p.219)
Despite the pessimistic tone of much of this book, I am optimistic about cybersecurity in the long term. Eventually, we will solve this. (p. 220)

We invite you to read this book and come to discuss it on March 22, 2020 at 2 p.m.

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 questions or for directions.

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!



Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 11/19/2019

Ann Hake, CIM Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held at Midwest Internet on Tuesday, November 19, 2019.

LocSec Teresa Gregory called the meeting to order at 7:13 pm. Members present were Vicki Adang, Jan Pfeil Doyle, Teresa Gregory, Ann Hake, Pat Milligan, Kurt Williams, and Bob Zdanky. Absent: none. Guest: Basil Vareldzis

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

The committee reviewed the Treasurer's report for October 2019. Ann Hake moved that the report be accepted. 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 10/31/2019 from American Mensa: 498 members, 1 new, 1 movein, 2 rejoins, and 9 prospects. Seven candidates were tested in two test sessions.

Old Business

Regional Gathering (RG) – will take place January 24-26, 2020. Teresa promoted the gathering at WeeM and will promote it at the Cincinnati RG. The comedy troupe “The Authors” will perform on Saturday night. Registration is available on EventBrite.

Outdoor Gathering (OG) – will take place the last weekend of May (May 29-31, 2020) in Versailles State Park. It is noted no animals and no unaccompanied minors are permitted. Registration is available on EventBrite.

New Business

January admission testing is \$39.99. All local groups will automatically be given MensaConnect sites in 2020 but are permitted to opt out if they choose. After discussion, the Committee agreed to opt out for now. Ann Hake made the motion and Kurt Williams seconded, and the motion was carried.

It was also reported that the cost for the Meetup subscription will be going up. Although it has been the general consensus that this has been a valuable tool for communication and recruitment, it was felt that it would be useful to gather data to see if this is true given the impending price increase. Bob Zdanky and Pat Milligan will prepare a usage report to help evaluate whether the account should be continued.

Additional discussion took place regarding potential activities around Gen Con, such as sponsoring a meetup at a local bar or restaurant, or providing a type of identifying tag that attendees can use to find each other (similar to the flag pins of yesteryear). Discussions will continue.

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 8:13 pm.

Treasurer's Report

Kurt Williams, CIM Treasurer

Following is the financial statement through November 30, 2019:

Assets

	11/30/19
Regular Checking	\$ 4,652.31
Scholarship Checking	\$ -
Events Checking	\$ 9,259.58
MG Cash	\$ 25.00
USPS Stamps	\$ 410.85
TOTAL	\$ 14,347.74

Revenue & Expenses

REVENUE

November 2019

National Support	\$ 424.15
Testing Support	\$ 115.00
New Member/ Lapsed Member	\$ 3.00
MG Income	\$ 83.00
Total Revenue	\$ 625.15

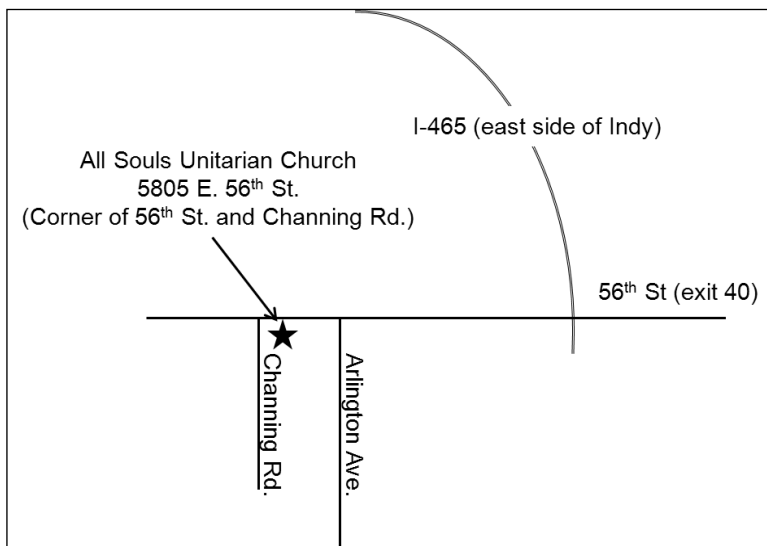
EXPENSES

MG Hospitality	\$ 20.49
MIND Printing	\$ 298.77
MIND Hospitality	\$ 65.02
New Member Dinner	\$ 20.00
Supplies	\$ 87.25
Total Expenses	\$ 491.53
Net revenue for the period (loss)	\$ 133.62

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
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Indianapolis, IN 46219

Stamp