



mind

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana



Happy 4th of July!

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.

Reprint Information

Mensa publications may freely reprint material from *MIND*. If a piece bears an individual copyright, publishers must obtain a release from the author.

Advertising

MIND accepts paid advertising. Contact the Editor for current rates.

MIND Staff

Editor: Vonda Heverly, mind.editor@yahoo.com, 250 Anniston Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46227.

Publisher: Central Indiana Mensa

MIND is published monthly by Central Indiana Mensa.

Subscriptions are \$12 annually for those not members of CIM.

Postmaster: address changes to *MIND*, c/o American Mensa, Ltd, 1229 Corporate Drive West, Arlington, TX 76006-6103. Include membership number.



**Website: centralindiana.us.mensa.org
-or- www.indymensa.org
MensaPhone: (317) 539-1740**

Volume 56, Issue Number 6
July 2020



mind

table of contents

Loosing My MIND	4
Old Dog/New Tricks	5
When Will CIM Host Live Events Again?	6
Book Group Reading List	7
Welcome New Members	7
Puzzle Column	8
July 2020 Events	9
RVC4 Column	12
Books On The Runway	13
ExCom Minutes	15
Puzzle Answers	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



How is your life looking as Indiana begins the slow process of re-opening? I've been back to work for about a month now. I admit I was hesitant to go back; it's hard to be a socially distant optometrist. In spite of all my PPE, I was pretty stressed for the first few weeks. Just this last week, I have finally started to relax a little and get back to the part of my job I enjoy, talking with my patients. Everybody has a story to tell, and I like to find out what it is.

I have ventured out a few times to our local Mexican restaurant, one of the mundane things I have missed most. That first margarita was simply amazing! For the most part though, we continue to eat mostly at home, enjoying an occasional carry-out or pizza delivery.

I confess, I never stopped seeing my parents during this time. A return of my dad's cancer has necessitated us being together for me to take him to his doctor.

The thing I miss most is travel! Spring break was cancelled, of course. A summer trip to Denver, cancelled. All the favorite festivals...sigh. I did cajole my daughter out on a recent backpacking trip—her first and, perhaps, last. I had fun but was seriously physically challenged!

I hope you are finding joy during this time and wish you peace.

Cheers!



Old Dog/New Tricks

Teresa Gregory, LocSec

I hope that everyone is well, and that you all received your June MINDs, either in your mailbox or your email box. We were very pleased with the new printer, and it couldn't be easier. We will miss our old MINDbending meetings. What started as a work party became a social event that many enjoyed attending.



Calendar – Repeating much of what was published last month regarding our monthly calendar, all our events in July will again be online with Zoom. For security reasons, we will not publish the links in a public place, but all active members of our group with an email address on file with the national office will receive an email from “American Mensa” with the subject line “CIM Meeting ReMINDer.” In it, you will find a list of the events for the week with the Zoom links. If you do not receive this email and you think you should, check your Spam folder. You may also have your email addressed blocked from the local group. I can help you figure that out, too.

For those of you wondering when we will start scheduling live events again (meeting in person), please see the information on page 6.

Book Group – The Book Group was the first to hold a Zoom meeting back in March. You will find the fresh new list of books that they will be reading for the rest of the year...and beyond...on page 7. The books are generally non-fiction and around 300 pages max. Contact Rich Gibson for more information. They would love to have you join them. hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com

Losses – When a member in good standing passes away, our group makes a \$50 donation to our CIM scholarship fund that is managed by the Mensa Education and Research Foundation. This month, I am sad to announce that we lost another member, Richard Bakemeier of Indianapolis. He was a member for 19 years.

July 4th - Even though a lot of communities have cancelled their July 4th parties, I'm sure that some of you will find a safe way to celebrate. If anyone is traveling, let me know how that goes. I'm overly eager to hit the road myself.

Have a safe and happy July!

When Will CIM Host Live Events Again?

Teresa Gregory, LocSec

Because this is a frequently asked question, we had a long and thoughtful discussion at the June 16th Executive Committee Meeting. American Mensa has given us some guidelines to consider when deciding whether to schedule or not. We talked about the Governor's recommendations as the state reopens. We looked at demographics.

Here is what we decided:

- The Governor of the State of Indiana and State Health Commissioner strongly advise caution, especially for older people and those who are around older people even as the state reopens.
- Per the "Member Generations" information provided by AML, slightly more than half of CIM members are over 60.*
- Per guidance from the AML, we need to consider our attendees' ages and general health, observe guidance from local government and the CDC, and take precautions. Those include recommendations that all attendees be health screened as they arrive and be required to wear masks.

I have chaired or co-chaired (usually with Jan Pfeil Doyle) over 25 events in the past 15 years. One of our priorities has always been to create a safe environment for anyone who comes. We feel an obligation to those who put their trust in CIM.

Because of this and a lot more, the ExCom decided that we will refrain from scheduling any in-person activities for CIM until that time when we would feel safe to attend them ourselves. We will err on the side of caution. We would rather that our members wish they could attend a live event than regret that they did.

As things unfold, we will be making decisions on future events. We are watching the news and monitoring local conditions. As it is, our Monthly Gathering venue, All Souls, is still closed. We have made hotel arrangements for our January 2021 Regional Gathering, but we are waiting to see if that will be feasible before we promote it. We have a contract for our May 2021 Outdoor Gathering in Versailles with fingers crossed. We are just as eager as anyone to break out and get together.

In the meantime, we will continue meeting online. Even when we do "go live" again, we will schedule regular online meetings. We have made some fun online connections with members we haven't met before. And we will keep you informed. Watch for your "CIM Meeting ReMINDER" each Monday for the latest.

If you have any questions or thoughts, please share them.



*Information available upon request.

2020-2021 Book Group Reading List

Rich Gibson

Book Group is currently meeting virtually via Zoom. It meets on Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m. once a month. Check the calendar for exact dates and contact information for Rich Gibson.

Jul 19: *The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life* by David Brooks

Aug 16: *The Meaning of Human Existence* by E. O. Wilson

Sep 20: *The Order of Time* by Carlo Rovelli; Videos available

Oct 18: *How Emotions Are Made: The Secret Life of the Brain* by Lisa Feldman Barrett

Nov 15: *Pleased to Meet Me: Genes, Germs, and the Curious Forces That Make Us Who We Are* by Bill Sullivan

Dec 13: *The Case Against Reality* by Donald Hoffman; Lectures available online

Jan 17: *Imbeciles: The Supreme Court, American Eugenics, and the Sterilization of Carrie Buck* by Adam Cohen

Feb 21: *When Books Went to War: The Stories That Helped Us Win World War II* by Molly Guptill Manning

Mar 21: *The World in a Grain* by Vince Beiser

Apr 18: *1177 B.C. the Year Civilization Collapsed* by Eric H. Cline

May 16: *Mortal Republic: How Rome Fell into Tyranny* by Edward J. Watts

Jun 20 (possibly) *The Deficit Myth: Modern Monetary Theory and the Birth of the People's Economy* by Stephanie Kelton

Jul 18: *Deaths of Despair and the Future of Capitalism* by Angus Deaton and Anne Case



New Members

No New	Members	This	Month
--------	---------	------	-------

Puzzle Column

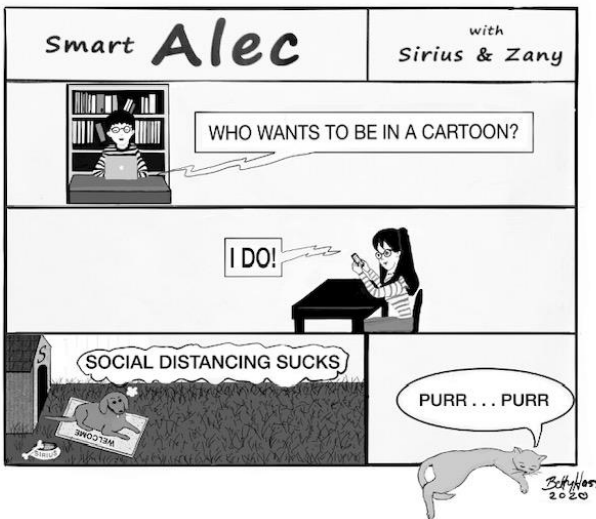
Written by Alan Stillson of Greater Los Angeles Mensa and reprinted with permission of the author (<http://stillsonworks.com>)

Embedded original states words

In honor of Independence Day, we're seeking words that contain the abbreviations of 2 of 13 original states. They are DE, PA, NJ, GA, CT, MA, MD, SC, NH, VA, NY, NC, and RI. For example, EXPANDED contains PA and DE. Find the words that contain 2 original state abbreviations, based on the clue and letter count.

1. A magician's trick (9 letters)
2. Doyle's famous creation (9 letters)
3. Chicken fat (7 letters)
4. Flapjack (7 letters)
5. Anonymity (7 letters)
6. Seemingly supernatural
7. Willful disobedience (8 letters)
8. Australopithecus, for one (7 letters)
9. A form of meditation (14 letters)
10. A long-necked swamp bird (7 letters)

See answers on page 16.



July 2020 Events

Please note that ALL regularly scheduled events are online. During this time of social isolation, Central Indiana Mensa wants to reach out to our members. We are hosting online virtual events and we'd love to see you. We chose to use Zoom videoconferencing software because it is very user friendly and it's free. You may connect via computer, tablet, or smart phone. Zoom meeting links will be sent weekly on Monday to all current members of CIM who have an email address on file with the national office. The subject line will contain "CIM Meeting ReMINDER." If you do not get the email, and you would like to join a meeting, contact the organizer who is listed prior to the meeting.

If you need help with Zoom, please contact Teresa at ag18tg@yahoo.com. We are still learning. We appreciate your patience and support.

VIRTUAL Ham'n Eggs (Hamilton County Eggheads) –1st Saturday from **9:45 a.m. - 12 noon.** Drop in any time for casual conversation and lively discussion. Contact: Alison Brown, 317-846-6798, SIGHT@indymensa.org.

VIRTUAL Indy Lunch Bunch - 1st and 3rd Wednesday at **11:30a.m.**. Bring your own lunch! Contact: Karen Steilberger, steilkr@sbcglobal.net.

VIRTUAL Sunday Social – Every Sunday from **7:00p.m. –8:30p.m.** Drop in any time for casual chat. Contact: Teresa, ag18tg@yahoo.com.

VIRTUAL Monthly Gathering - 2nd Friday, **7:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.** Our usual format of announcements at 7:45p.m., a short program, then conversation. Bring your own snacks and beverages. Contact: Teresa, ag18tg@yahoo.com

VIRTUAL ExCom– 3rd Tuesday of the month. **7:00 p.m.** All active members are welcome to see your board in action. Contact: Teresa, ag18tg@yahoo.com

VIRTUAL Book Group – 3rd Sunday at **2:00p.m.** *The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life* by David Brooks. Our books tend to be non-fiction and do not exceed about 300 pages in length. Contact Rich: hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com or 770-548-5217 for more details or to RSVP

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

July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			1 Indy Lunch Bunch
5 Sunday Social	6	7	8
12 Sunday Social	13	14	15 Indy Lunch Bunch
19 Book Group; Sunday Social	20	21 ExCom	22
26 Sunday Social	27	28	29

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4 Ham'n Eggs
9	10 Monthly Gathering	11
16	17	18
23	24	25

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.

Jon's Journal – News for Region 4

Mensa Across the World

Jon Gruebele, RVC4

Mensa was first conceived in 1946 in England after Roland Berrill and Lancelot Lionel Ware met by chance on a train. On October 1, 1946, Berrill printed the first piece of Mensa literature, and this date is generally recognized as when Mensa was founded. That of course was nearly 74 years ago. We'll celebrate our 75th anniversary with a World Gathering planned for late August 2021 in Houston, TX. We were an exclusively British club until 1960, when American Mensa first emerged. In 1963, a constitution for a worldwide organization was adopted. It provided for a U.N.-style voting, with one vote per national Mensa. The larger groups, including American Mensa, disliked the system since we had only one vote while shouldering a significantly larger financial obligation. In 1981, a compromise was reached more equitably relating voting rights to membership levels. Today, we list around 50 different countries as having national Mensa organizations, and we have members in over 100. Organizations are classified as:



- Emerging. To qualify, a variety of criteria must be met including at least 50 members
- Provisional. More requirements and 100+ members
- Full National. Even more requirements and 250+ members

The most recent country achieving Full National Mensa status is Mensa Mexico. This is an interesting achievement since the word “Mensa” reportedly means “stupid” or “foolish” in Latin American Spanish slang. That no doubt gave them a challenging branding issue to overcome.

Each National Mensa is required to contribute 7% of dues revenue to support Mensa International. A member paying our annual dues rate of \$79 would therefore have \$5.53 of that remitted. In return, we enjoy the ability to participate in services such as SIGHT (“Service for Information, Guidance, and Hospitality to Travelers”). I’ve used SIGHT twice internationally: once to get some excellent pointers as to what a Mensa member might find interesting in Dublin, and once to join an awesome group of Mensa Philippine members for dinner in Manila.

International groups also welcome American Mensa members to their events. I’ve attended Annual Gatherings in both Canada and Germany more than once. I’ve been to EMAG, the European Mensa Annual Gathering. I haven’t made it to an Asian Mensa Annual Gathering (AMAG) yet, but it’s on my list.

More information about Mensa International is available on this website:

<https://www.mensa.org/>. Click on “Login / Register”, and then “Create new account” to gain access to the member-only content.

Feedback? Please contact me at rvc4@us.mensa.org or via phone/text at +1 309 693 1359. Region 4’s Facebook group is:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/695847670490858>.

Books On The Runway

Margy Lancet Fletcher

Author: Lyanda Lynn Haupt

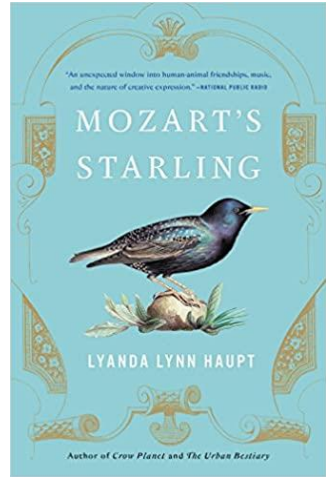
Title: *Mozart's Starling*

Publisher: Little, Brown Spark

Year: 2017

Book Description: For battle-weary souls who seek a reprieve from a world plagued by violence and viral incursions, I offer a delightful divergence from the beaten path (double meaning intended) in the form of an improbable but genuine interspecies love story. In fact, Lyanda Lynn Haupt's biography-cum-memoir, *Mozart's Starling*, interweaves a poignant tribute to the classical musician's affinity for his pet bird with the author's own challenging and exhilarating experience raising her avian companion. And a *starling*, no less - one of the most populous and reviled species of birds in America. Maintaining an undertone of ambivalence (for nurturing an invasive species) and extreme caution (birds are very sensitive

and high-maintenance, and thus are not ideal pets), she nonetheless expresses awe and joy upon discovering the starling's various talents, including mimicry, rudimentary language skills, curiosity, and adaptability. A fully-fledged exploration of Mozart's humanity and genius, and of the complex and wondrous world of avian growth and development, *Mozart's Starling* answers such intriguing questions as: What inspired Wolfgang A. Mozart to acquire his pet starling, *Vogel Stahr*, from a Vienna bird vendor in 1784, and maintain him until the bird died three years later (and how many of us are even aware that he owned a pet bird)? Why are starlings considered as pestilential and environmentally threatening as rodents by most Americans? Which sounds do starlings imitate most frequently, and to what extent can they be taught to speak? Was the domestic life of Wolfgang and Constanze Mozart as chaotic and impulse driven as is depicted in Peter Shaffer's play/film, *Amadeus*? What influence did the quirky, diminutive *Vogel Stahr* have on Mozart's musical stylings? The product of extensive documental research (a ten-page bibliography follows the text) and tours of Mozart's Austrian homes, *Mozart's Starling* is an engrossing musical, ornithological, and philosophical odyssey - a flight of fancy well-grounded in breathtaking reality.



Has this book changed the way you think, your attitude toward life, or even your life itself? If so, how? The title alone piqued my curiosity, as it posited a
Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

connection between one of the world's most beloved composers and a much-maligned bird. I was rewarded with some always-welcome bird lore, and the opportunity to reacquaint myself with Mozart's effervescent polytonal masterpieces. I gained new respect for Mozart's dedication to both his craft and his family, and a clearer concept of the interrelationship of all terrestrial life forms (beautifully summarized in the excerpt cited below).

Who should definitely read this book? Why? This book appeals much more to artists (particularly musicians) than technical experts, but scientists will appreciate the author's insights on learning techniques, comparative biology, mathematical relationships between musical tones, and contrasting perceptions of time.

How long might it take to read this book? At a relatively brief 264 pages, this captivating musical migration should not exceed two or three days in length.

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

In the creatures that intertwine with our lives, those we see daily and those that watch us from urban and wild places - from between branches and beneath leaves and under eaves and stairwells and culverts and the sides of walks and pathways - *we share everything*. We share breath, and biology, and blood. We share our needs for food and water and shelter. We share the imperative to mate and to give new life and to keep our young safe and warm and fed. We share susceptibility to disease and the potential to suffer and an inevitable frailty in the face of these things. We share a certain death. We share everything, constantly, every moment of every day and night, across eons. And in this shared earthly living, when we give our attention to it, we find the basis of our compassion, and of our empathy for other creatures.

And yet we have so much more in common than these of-the-body needs. We all poop, yes. But we all ponder, too, in a manner that may or may not be human but is whole and wondrous. We are at every moment surrounded by consciousness, a feast of unique intelligences. Every creature has its particular ways and wiles. Each being has its own presence, voice, silence, song, body, place. We are bound by our sameness and our uniqueness in equal measure - both spring from our shared being, on a vital, conscious earth. *This is a wild communion*. And it is in this recognition that we move beyond simple compassion to a more certain, more essential sense of relatedness, of *kinship*.



"I don't want to be alone, I want to be left alone."—Audrey Hepburn



Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 5/19/2020

Ann Hake, CIM Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, May 19, 2020.

LocSec Teresa Gregory called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

Members present: Vicki Adang, Jan Pfeil Doyle, Teresa Gregory, Ann Hake, Pat Milligan, Kurt Williams, and Bob Zdanky.

Guests: Jon Applegate (Regional Ombudsman), Varun Nagarajan, and Mike Semon.

Note that the Minutes for the March/April ExCom Meeting that took place via Zoom on 4/21/2020 incorrectly omitted the attendance of Kurt Williams, Treasurer and Vice LocSec.

The committee reviewed the minutes of the March/April 2020 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 the Treasurer's reports for April 2020. Ann Hake moved that the reports 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 4/30/2020 from American Mensa: 440 members, 1 new, 1 movein, 9 rejoins, and 8 prospects. No candidates were tested due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Teresa Gregory reminded the committee that the lower total membership number is typical for this time of year, when members will often have temporary membership lapses if they pay their dues late.

Old Business

Regional Gathering (RG) – preliminary planning is beginning for the 2021 RG.

Outdoor Gathering (OG) – has been officially cancelled by the State Parks Department, and CIM's deposit has been refunded. It will be reinvested into the deposit for the 2021 OG. EventBrite also refunded the fees associated with the event, which was gratefully noted.

Nominating Committee – Karen Guse has accepted the position of Nominating Committee chair. She and the committee will develop a slate of nominees for the upcoming election.

MIND printing – a printer located in Sarasota FL who has been providing newsletter and other printing services for several Mensa chapters across the country for several years is also able to provide this service for CIM. The total

cost for their service, which includes printing and mailing, appears to be similar or a bit less than the total previous cost of printing, postage, and MINDbending. Other groups have expressed their satisfaction with the service. It was agreed that CIM would adopt this service as well.

We will continue to hold ExCom and other meetings virtually via Zoom for the foreseeable future to protect the health of our members. It was noted that our lease with All Souls, which is also currently closed to in-person gatherings, will be up for renewal in the near future. Teresa Gregory will be in communication with them about this.

New Business

It was noted while checking on membership renewals, that 4 longtime members had died. Contributions will be made in their memory to the John Matthews CIM Scholarship fund, and their passing will be noted in the MIND.

There being no other business, Jan Pfeil Doyle moved that the meeting be adjourned. Kurt Williams seconded the motion. The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.



“I only go out to get me a fresh appetite for being alone.”—Lord Byron



Answers to Puzzle Column on page 8:

1. A magician’s trick (9 letters) = **coNJURIng**
2. Doyle’s famous creation (9 letters) = **DEteCTive**
3. Chicken fat (7 letters) = **SChMAltz**
4. Flapjack (7 letters) = **PANCake**
5. Anonymity (7 letters) = **pRIVAcY**
6. Seemingly supernatural (7 letters) = **uNCaNY**
7. Willful disobedience (8 letters) = **DEfiaNCe**
8. Australopithecus, for one (7 letters) = **pRIMate**
9. A form of meditation (14 letters) = **tranSCenDEntal**
10. A long-necked swamp bird (7 letters) = **aNHinGA**

Treasurer's Report

Kurt Williams, CIM Treasurer

Following is the financial statement through May 31, 2020:

Assets

	05/31/20
Regular Checking	\$ 7,536.82
Scholarship Checking	\$ -
Events Checking	\$ 6,862.92
MG Cash	\$ 25.00
USPS Stamps	\$ 537.85
TOTAL	\$ 14,962.59

Revenue & Expenses

REVENUE

May 2020

National Support	\$ 373.15
Testing Support	\$ 40.00
New Member/ Lapsed Member	\$ 10.00
RG Income	\$ -
MG Income	\$ -
Total Revenue	\$ 423.15

EXPENSES

RG Hospitality	\$ 679.36
MIND Printing	\$ 329.82
MIND Hospitality	\$ -
OG Refunds	\$ 325.00
Scholarship Fund (memorial donation)	\$ 250.00
Total Expenses	\$ 1,584.18
Net revenue for the period (loss)	\$ (1,161.03)

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