



mind

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana



Cover Photo and Caption by CIM Basile Varelzis

**Take a moment to reflect
on where you're going in life**

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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MIND contributions may be sent to mind.editor@yahoo.com, or Vonda Heverly, 250 Anniston Drive, Indianapolis, IN, 46227. Contributions may be edited for length or to remove offensive material and may not include personal attacks. No anonymous contributions will be published, but the Editor will withhold the author's name from the public on request. Contributions should be submitted no later than the Friday before MINDbending (usually the second Friday of the month) for the following month's edition.

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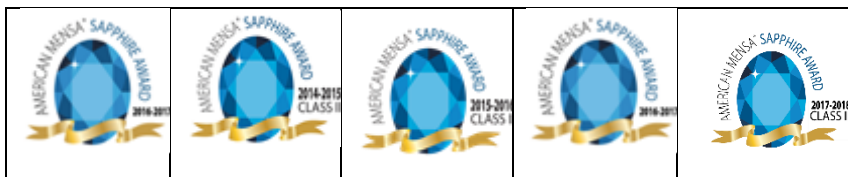
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mind

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Loosing My MIND

Vonda Heverly, Editor

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



I've got to tell you, being an editor is a lonely job. You've often got to be the one reaching out for content (even for the regular columns). You put the issue out, often to zero response.

Imagine my joy when I heard from alert reader Charles Graft about my last editor's column. I have to admit, when I first read it, I was unsure of his meaning. A month had passed since I wrote it, and his correction was so gentle I barely noticed it for what it was.

Mr. Graft kindly pointed out that my grandmother could *not* have voted in 1920 even if she was so inclined. Americans were not guaranteed to the right to vote at age 18 until the passing of the 26th Amendment in 1971. This was the quickest an amendment had been passed, just over three months from its proposal to ratification. Its adoption was driven by the draft during the Vietnam War. Proponents for the amendment believed if you were old enough to fight, you were old enough to vote. Thank you, Mr. Graft!

So, October is here again. Typically, it is my favorite month, with various festivals, my birthday, and Halloween. Not much on the calendar this time around. As with the rest of the year, I'll try to make the best of it. Be safe in whatever your plans are.

Cheers!



Old Dog/New Tricks

Teresa Gregory, LocSec

When I took office in October, 2018, Jan Pfeil Doyle and I were still basking in the afterglow of the Monumentally Mindbending Annual Gathering that we had co-chaired a few months earlier. That was two years ago but it seems like a lifetime.

I have been LocSec for a total of eight years, and this has been one of the most challenging, not only because of the events that occurred but because of the uncertainty that still exists. Our Regional Gathering in January was one of the last in the area. Since March, we have not met in person for anything. Old habits die hard: I started bringing the refreshments to the Monthly Gathering in early 2005. Even now, each month, as it gets closer to the second Friday, I start thinking about what I need to get. I still think about pizza when I think about MINDbending. I still miss seeing everyone.

But some good has come from it. We have now connected via Zoom with members who were not able to attend in the past. We can see each other but we must bring our own snacks.

None of this would be possible without the volunteers in this organization. I want to thank every member of our outgoing ExCom for all the support, the creativity, the level-headed thinking that they brought to the virtual table to give our members the best possible experience. They were awesome. I also got a lot of help and advice from RVC4 Jon Gruebele. I can't imagine going through all of this with anyone else at the helm.

October sees a new ExCom taking office. I'd like to welcome back Ann Hake, Kurt Williams and Bob Zdanky, and welcome new members Teresa Fisher, Nan Harvey, and Matt Zwick. My sincere thanks go to outgoing members Vicki Adang, Jan Pfeil Doyle, and Pat Milligan. And a big thank you to the Nominating Committee, the Election Committee, and the wonderful people who ran but didn't get elected this time. I hope they will give it another try in the future.

We continue to conduct all meetings on Zoom. I send out an email with the Zoom links for that week every Monday. If you are not getting it and would like to, let me know. Also, I have been trying to add a little bonus item each week that might be of interest, so even if you don't think you will be attending any of our meetings that week, scroll down to the bottom and take a peek. If you are not familiar with Zoom, or you are hesitant to join and you would like some help, please contact me. I would be glad to help you get into it and maybe even do some online practice. Zoom keeps upgrading and improving, so we are all learning this together.

It's hard to believe, but I can honestly say, Happy Halloween!



Election Results

Karen Guse

The votes are in and have been tallied and double-checked by the Election Committee.

Our new Central Indiana Mensa Executive Committee (ExCom):

- Teresa Gregory (LocSec)
- Teresa Fisher
- Ann Hake
- Nan Harvey
- Kurt Williams
- Bob Zdanky
- Matt Zwick

We express sincere gratitude to the following:

- Thanks to the ten wonderful members on the year's CIM ExCom ballot. We had a fabulous slate of candidates.
- Thanks to the Nominating Committee: Karen Guse (Chair), John Blankenship and Jon Applegate.
- Thanks to the Election Committee: Diane O'Brien (Chair), Karen Steilberger, and Karen Guse.

Puzzle Column

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

Wheel of Campaign Issues

Imagine that you're on Wheel of Fortune and the category is campaign issues in the upcoming 2020 Presidential election. Try to identify a campaign issue, based on the blanks and the exposed letters. In each puzzle, an exposed letter cannot be hidden elsewhere.

Example: P _ _ E _ _ I _ _ E _ _ _ I _ _ _ P _ _ _ E _ _
Solution: PRESIDENTIAL POWER

1. _ _ O _ _ _ O _ _ _ T _ _ T _ _ _
2. H _ _ _ _ _ H C _ _ R _ _
3. _ _ N _ _ _ N _ _ _ _ L
4. _ _ A _ _ D _ _ M _ _ _
5. W _ _ _ L T _ _ D I _ _ T _ _ I _ _ _ T I _ _ _
6. _ _ S T _ _ F F _ _ _ _ F _ _ _ D _ _ _ G
7. _ _ U S _ _ _ _ S S R _ _ _ U _ _ _ T _ _ O _ _
8. _ _ _ Y R _ _ _ _ _ _ _ X _ _ _
9. _ _ Q _ _ _ _ _ _ _ G H _ _ _
10. S _ _ A _ _ _ _ A _ _ _ _ _ _ _ Y A _ _ _

See answers on page 16.

Feghoots

Bryan Lundgren, Western Michigan Mensa

The Wagyu Beef Ranch

I was driving along the Mississippi Blues Trail last winter, reading interpretive markers and seeing where blues music was born. Along the route, I visited a ranch where pampered Wagyu/Angus cattle were raised. These animals provided tasty, tender, and well-marbled steaks for fine restaurants. The owner, Todd, was a proud member of the American Wagyu Association, which educated affiliates in ways to provide the very best beef.

Todd took particular pride in the peacefulness of his cattle. Walking through an expansive barn, I observed calm and laid-back animals that made mooing, lowing, grunting sounds. Some were slurping an ugly-looking tan slurry from a very long and narrow trough. "What is in that water?" I asked. "It looks terrible!"

Todd replied, "That is spent mash from a local brewery. It still has enough alcohol to make the cattle happy. Hear those contented moos?" Todd continued, "That's music to my ears, Bliss is Sippy Moos."



Ancient History

Due to security issues with the scoffing public, Noah placed a strong lock on the stout barn doors leading to the animal pens in the Ark.

When he and his wife were out gathering pairs of beasts, Noah would lock the heavy oak doors. A large iron key hung from a string on his rope belt

The time of departure was near and two of each species had been loaded. The last pair in were (alas) male unicorns. Heavy rains began falling upon the face of the earth.

Noah looked at his wife with rising panic. Running his hands around and around his rope belt, Noah wailed, "Oh, no! I can't find the key. The string broke. What can we do?"

His smart wife said, "Dear, run to the village and bring the ark-key-ologist."



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.

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 on-line

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

Dr. Len Farber	Indianapolis	IN	MoveIn
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October 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. Watch IndyMensa.org, MeetUp, and/or the Monday "CIM Meeting ReMINDER" for program information. - 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.**

10/18 - *How Emotions Are Made: The Secret Life of the Brain* by Lisa Feldman Barrett 290 pages March 2017. 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

October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
4 Sunday Social	5	6	7 Indy Lunch Bunch
11 Sunday Social	12	13	14
18 Book Group; Sunday Social	19	20 ExCom	21 Indy Lunch Bunch
25 Sunday Social	26	27	28 Hump Day

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Ham'n Eggs
8	9 Monthly Gathering	10
15	16	17
22	23	24
29	30	31

If you lose your *MIND* (oh, my!) or want additional information, check www.indymensa.org or join our Meetup group, <http://www.meetup.com/central-indiana-mensa>. Meetup is free to join and you'll get reminders of upcoming events. It's a great way to stay in the loop.

Jon's Journal – News for Region 4

The Credly Kerfuffle

Jon Gruebele, RVC4

You probably received several e-mails from Credly/Acclaim in August that looked like spam. Like many of you, I didn't click on the links – until I learned what it was about. Afterwards, I did claim my “[badge](#)”. While badges are apparently a thing these days, they were new to me. Microsoft for example uses them to verify someone has passed a certification exam. People share their badges on social media and professional platforms such as LinkedIn.

For Mensa purposes, this badge is your digital membership card. Some members couldn't care less; for others, a digital badge may be more valuable than a physical membership card. Also, if people share their badge on social media, this helps promote our organization.

If you deleted the e-mails and now want to claim your badge, simply go to <https://www.youracclaim.com/>, click on “Create account”, and follow the instructions using the e-mail address you use with Mensa.

For many, this offer arrived as a surprise. It had been communicated in advance via our Mensa Wired and Mensa Leader e-mail blasts, but not everyone gets those and fewer still read them thoroughly. We also posted a [FAQ document](#) on-line. [As an aside, you can subscribe to Wired and Leader by going to <https://us.mensa.org> and navigating to My Mensa, My Membership Profile, and My Communication Preferences.]

Some people asked why they received this offer despite having opted out of external promotions. The National Office considered this a benefit, not a promotion. This isn't GEICO trying to sell you discounted car insurance. Credly/Acclaim isn't asking you to pay for anything. They don't sell your information. This company acts as a data processor and only carries out the tasks we assign to them. Using outside companies to provide member services isn't unusual. Another example is the company that handles on-line voting for our elections.

How much did this initiative cost? Our agreement allows all existing members to get badges at no cost to us. If a new member is offered a badge and claims it, we'll pay a nominal fee for the service. The total cost will depend largely on how many new members we get and how many of those will claim a badge. Overall, I expect the financial impact to amount to about as much as a rounding error on our overall budget.

This was a National Office initiative not voted on by the Board of Directors (AMC). I'm personally in “wait and see” mode as to how effective this initiative will be. I've requested the National Office review the process and communications they used with this initiative to see if “lessons learned” could improve future results. Meanwhile, my own badge is proudly displayed on the [website](#) I use for Mensa purposes.

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

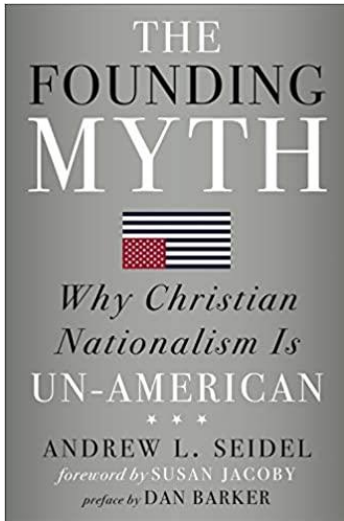
Margy Lancet Fletcher

Author: Andrew L. Seidel

Title: *The Founding Myth: Why Christian Nationalism is Un-American*

Publisher: Sterling Publishing Co., Inc.

Year: 2019



Book Description: For as long as most United States citizens can remember, the Judeo-Christian biblical ideology has permeated our cultural fabric with such slogans as “God bless America,” “In God we trust,” and “one nation under God,” etched into our artifacts and minds. Consequently, American conservatives have conflated Christianity with the ideals of individual liberty on which our Founding Fathers expounded in the Declaration of Independence, and which formed the basis of the new government outlined in the U. S. Constitution. However, according to author and Constitutional attorney Andrew L. Seidel, the notion that Christianity and democracy are inextricably linked is a monumental - and dangerous - misconception. In *The Founding Myth*, Seidel refutes the various talking points

utilized by the Christian nationalists and other ultra-conservative evangelical groups to “prove” that America is a Christian nation. He presents his case for a secular democracy through a comprehensive comparison of the Bible with the Founding documents on key issues, such as: unquestioning obedience of authority versus self-determination, tribalism versus universal respect, faith versus reason, and tyrannical vengeance versus due process. His critical examination of the Ten Commandments (effectively summarized in the excerpt cited below) is especially noteworthy, as it exposes these so-called universal rules as threatening, punitive toward innocent people, intolerant of free speech, misogynous, pro-slavery, and - in the context of the entire book - selectively enforceable (e.g., if a family member disobeys a “higher authority”, she can be murdered with impunity). The author also debunks widely-held myths about the religious affiliations of the Founders, the incentives that drove the resettlement of the various Christian sects, the references to a higher power in the Founding documents, and the origin and significance of “in God we trust” and other standard American mottos. Seidel concludes with the assertion that the only wall that should concern us is the Constitutionally-guaranteed barrier between state and church, which must remain intact.

Has this book changed the way you think, your attitude toward life, or even your life itself? If so, how?

Perusing this riveting expose of the morally questionable aspects of American
Continued on next page

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Christianity made me painfully aware of my lack of familiarity with the Bible, especially in light of my Disciples of Christ membership as opposed to the author's atheism. For me, this book was simultaneously disturbing, enlightening, and - actually, reassuring, through the knowledge that the rights of myself and my fellow church goers to focus on our humanitarian mission - in essence, to turn biblical lemons into lemonade - is protected by the Constitution, as long as we do not try to invade the political landscape. I plan to take very seriously the author's exhortation to protect this right against theocratic "experiments on our liberties," to quote James Madison.

Who should definitely read this book? Why? Dyed-in-the-wool Christians may be scandalized by this revelation of the religion's moral shortcomings, but I like to think that most Mensans are critical thinkers rather than subscribers to ideas based on faith alone and would welcome an alternative viewpoint. All readers should appreciate the author's clarity of style and prodigious research, evidenced by the appended 30+ pages of notes.

How long might it take to read this book? Seidel writes with the energetic zeal of a fire-and-brimstone revival preacher, and the reader will be similarly mesmerized. Thus, the temporal investment should not exceed the length of the Biblical creation -- five to seven days.

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

RELIGION IS NOT MORALITY. Of course, religion will reflect the morality of the time and place of its origin. Such morality is often archaic, as the Ten Commandments illustrate. The Ten Commandments and the rest of the mosaic laws are not a moral code - they are a religious code. They enforce religious conformity, not morality. The most important question for determining whether a commandment has been broken is: do you believe in the right god? If so, you can get away with murder, so long as the victim believes in the wrong god. These commandments are so fundamentally at odds with our laws, with our morality, with our principles that one is almost forced to choose: are you a Christian or American? Your answer to that question, which, if incorrect, the biblical god punishes with death, is protected under our Constitution. The separation of state and church and our First Amendment protect our right to be an American Christian. Christians can choose to personally follow the Ten Commandments' totalitarian tendencies because their rights are protected by the Constitution. The Constitution puts checks and limits on what would otherwise be unbridled, tyrannical power, while the Ten Commandments demand worship and obedience to just such a power. The Constitution protects us by limiting power and defining our rights. God's commandments limit our rights and impose power on us. The Ten Commandments punish crimes against an all-powerful god. The Constitution proclaims that our rights cannot be infringed, no matter how powerful the ruler.



Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 8/18/2020

Ann Hake, CIM Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, August 18, 2020.

LocSec Teresa Gregory called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

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

Guest: Jon Applegate (Regional Ombudsman).

The committee reviewed the minutes of the July 2020 ExCom meeting. Kurt Williams moved that the minutes be accepted as amended. Vicki Adang seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The committee reviewed the Treasurer's report for July 2020. Ann Hake moved that the report 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 7/31/2020 from American Mensa: 466 members, 1 new, 1 movein, 4 rejoin, and 8 prospects. No candidates were tested due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Old Business

Regional Gathering (RG) – tentative planning is still in progress for the 2021 RG, with the recognition that this may not be able to take place due to the pandemic.

Outdoor Gathering (OG) – is still planned for the weekend of May 14-16, 2021. Reservations have been secured at Versailles State Park and a deposit has been made. This deposit is 50% refundable if we cancel more than 90 days before the event, and 25% refundable if we cancel 90 days or fewer before the event.

New Business

LocSec Teresa Gregory noted that she has seen several emails and Mensa Connect posts from members expressing concerns about the new Mensa Acclaim badges that were recently introduced by AML. These are optional / voluntary badges that can be used on social media platforms such as LinkedIn, and are a product of the credentialing provider Credly.

Laurel Richardson has agreed to serve again as the chair for the CIM scholarship committee for the forthcoming year.

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In order to assure that the John Matthews CIM scholarship fund balance is greater than \$500, Ann Hake moved that \$200 be added to the fund. Jan Pfeil Doyle seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The deadline for registration for Culture Quest, which has now been rescheduled for October 18, is August 31. However, unless virtual participation will be permitted, CIM will not field a team for 2020 in order to continue with the current virtual meeting policy.

There being no other business, Ann Hake moved that the meeting be adjourned. Vicki Adang seconded the motion. The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.



“Fight for the things that you care about but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.” –the amazing and incomparable Ruth Bader Ginsburg (1933-2020)



Answers to Puzzle Column on page 6:

Solutions to October puzzles:

1. _ O _ _ O _ _ T _ T _ _ = CORPORATE
TAX

2. H _ _ _ H C _ R _ = HEALTH CARE

3. _ _ N _ _ N _ _ L = GUN CONTROL

4. _ A _ D _ M _ = PANDEMIC

5. W _ _ L T _ D I _ T _ I _ _ T I _ _ =
WEALTH DISTRIBUTION

6. _ _ S T _ F F _ _ F _ _ D _ _ G = POST
OFFICE FUNDING

7. _ U S _ _ S S R _ _ U _ _ T _ O _ =
BUSINESS REGULATION

8. _ _ Y R _ _ _ _ _ X _ S = PAYROLL TAXES

9. _ Q _ _ _ _ _ G H _ _ = EQUAL RIGHTS

10. S _ A _ _ A _ _ _ _ Y A _ _ = STATE
AND CITY AID



Treasurer's Report

Kurt Williams, CIM Treasurer

Following is the financial statement through August 31, 2020:

Assets

	08/31/20
Regular Checking	\$7,799.31
Scholarship Checking	\$ -
Events Checking	\$6,415.04
MG Cash	\$25.00
USPS Stamps	\$480.10
TOTAL	\$14,719.45

Revenue & Expenses

REVENUE

August 2020

National Support	\$394.40
Testing Support	\$ -
New Member/ Lapsed Member	\$5.00
RG Income	\$ -
MG Income	\$ -
Total Revenue	\$399.40

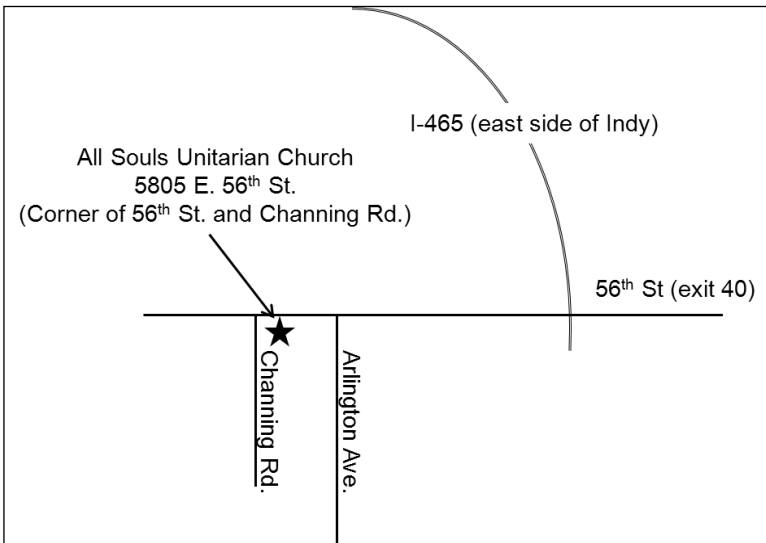
EXPENSES

RG Hospitality	\$ -
MIND Printing	\$583.38
MIND Hospitality	\$ -
Mensa Foundation (scholarship donation)	\$175.00
Total Expenses	\$758.38
Net revenue for the period (loss)	\$(358.98)

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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