

Mensa Newsletter Of Central **Ind**iana



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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 98<sup>th</sup> 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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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 11 December 2020



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## **Loosing My MIND**

Vonda Heverly, Editor

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



Happy December, fellow CIMs! First off, I want to send a huge thank you to Teresa Gregory and Jan Pfeil Doyle for completing last month's MIND for me. I dumped it unceremoniously in Teresa's lap with a plea for help, and she didn't bat an eye.

Secondly, I have another plea for the rest of you: check on each other. For me, this has been a year of isolation and change, most particularly the last two months. I'm not one who usually reaches out for help or someone to talk to, but I have that one friend who is a "caller". She

prefers to pick up the phone and chat rather than text. I was truly grateful to have the opportunity to share with her, three different times this last month. She's persistent! After talking with her, I realized with a difference it had made in how I felt.

And if you aren't a caller, try sending a note through the mail. The holidays can be tough in a good year, and we all know this hasn't been a good one!

Wishing you all peace in your hearts and minds. Cheers!



## **Old Dog/New Tricks**

Teresa Gregory, LocSec

Before I write my column, I usually look at last year's column to see if there's anything I might need to remember. This is how my column started out last year:

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...What will your Resolutions be? I finally picked one that I know I can accomplish.



Boy, howdy! I had no idea what I had just committed to do.

Then I talked about the annual CIM Holiday Party and the Gimmee Grabbee gift exchange While we will have a Zoom Monthly Gathering in December, there will be no Gimmee-ing and Grabbee-ing this year.

The next paragraph was about the January Regional Gathering. That is off the table for 2021.

Finally, I mentioned the scholarship contest. THAT is still happening, and nothing has changed here:

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. <a href="https://www.mensafoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships/">https://www.mensafoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships/</a>

I can also invite you to our virtual New Year's Eve party on December 31. It's a drop in event that starts at 8:00pm and lasts until 1:00am. We will do a share screen and watch the virtual ball-drop in Times Square. Yes, it's virtual. I told my kids it should be pretty spectacular based on the CGI in the action movies we see. Please bring your own beverage of choice to toast the New Year.

Finally, I closed with this statement:

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

This seems like a worthy and appropriate statement even now so I'm going to use it again. Please, everyone, stay safe until we can all meet in person.

Happy New Year!

## Central Indiana Mensa Cordially invites you to our

## Virtual New Year's Eve Party

December 31, 2020 8:00pm - 1:00am ET

Let's party like it's 2021 by meeting on Zoom for conversation, games, and to watch the ball drop at midnight virtually in Times Square. (Yes, there will be no live ball drop this year.)

Bring your own beverage of choice to toast at midnight.

Watch for more information and the Zoom link in the weekly CIM ReMINDer emails.



#### **Did You Know?**

Did you know that Central Indiana Mensa has four members who have been "members in good standing" for 50 continuous years or more?

- Mary Anderson (January 1965)
- Robert Thomas (February 1965)
- Bruce Ratcliff (September 1966)
- Leigh Valley (October 1967)

In November and December, two more joined their ranks.

- Alice Hertli (November 70)
- Peggy Sargent (December 70)

Congratulations to these long-time members.

Ed: By coincidence, I heard from one of these members this month, and he asked that I share the following with his fellow CIMs:

#### **Celebrations**

Robert "Bob" Thomas

In March 2020 I turned 90. Minor celebration, just in my head.

In February 2020 I finished 55 years in Mensa. I have been celebrating all year, also just in my head since attending Mensa functions was not possible.

My first meeting was in Indy very shortly after joining in 1965. I have been with Indy ever since except for about eight months with Chicago when I was on sabbatical at Argonne National Lab.

My deceased wife Doris later also became a member. We attended the first of the famous Halloweems and almost all since.

I'm sure you will all join with me in congratulating Bob and all the other members celebrating so many years with Mensa! –Ed.

"If you ask what is the single most important key to longevity, I would have to say it is avoiding worry, stress and tension. And if you didn't ask me, I'd still have to say it." -George Burns



## 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.

Dec 13: The Case Against Reality by Donald Hoffman; Lectures available on-

**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

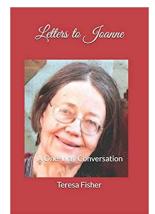
Apr 18: 1177 B.C. the Year Civilization Collapsed by Eric H. Cline

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 Books by CIM Member Available**

Teresa Fisher



Most active members of Central Indiana Mensa probably remember Joanne Ortman. She attended many of our gatherings from the 1980s until her debilitating stroke in 2015. That stroke left her totally paralyzed with Locked-in Syndrome, and the only way I could think of to continue our friendship was to write her an entertaining letter every month for the remainder of her life. Don Hargraves, her caregiver and companion, requested that I publish the letters in a book, which I have now done. The book is titled *Letters to Joanne – A One-Way Conversation*. It is available from Amazon.com.

Before the stroke Joanne frequently asked me to tell her of any Mensa gossip. I tried to comply and continued informing her in the letters. There are more than 60 names of Mensans in the book, and more than half of them are from Central Indiana Mensa. A few names have been rendered in asterisks to protect privacy.

I also just published a book I wrote about the many paranormal incidents that began happening to Bill and me in the mid-1990s. Its title is *The Spook – A Friendly Haunting*. It too is available from Amazon.com.

## **December 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 <u>ag18tg@yahoo.com</u>. We are still learning. We appreciate your patience and support.

**VIRTUAL Ham'n Eggs** (Hamilton County Eggheads) –1<sup>st</sup> 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

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

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

VIRTUAL Monthly Gathering - 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Our program will be a virtual tour of the Indiana Alzheimer Disease Center at IU with Drs. Bruce Lamb and Andy Saykin. Dr. Lamb is the Roberts Family Chair of Alzheimer's Disease Research and Executive Director of the Stark Neurosciences Research Institute at the IU School of Medicine. Dr. Saykin is the Director of the IU Center for Neuroimaging and Director of the Indiana Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. Watch IndyMensa.org, MeetUp, and/or the Monday "CIM Meeting ReMINDer" for program information. - Contact: Teresa, ag18tg@yahoo.com

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

<u>VIRTUAL Book Group</u> –12/13 -2:00pm - *The Case Against Reality* by Donald Hoffman, August 2019, 370 pages. Lectures available on-line.

Our books tend to be non-fiction and do not exceed about 300 pages in length. Contact Rich: <a href="mailto:hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com">hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com</a> or 770-548-5217 for more details or to RSVP

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

## **December 2020**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		1	2 Indy Lunch Bunch
6 Sunday Social	7	8	9
13 Sunday Social; Book Group	14	15 ExCom	16 Indy Lunch Bunch
20 Sunday Social	21	22	23 Hump Day
27 Sunday Social	28	29	30

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5 Ham'n Eggs
10	11 Monthly Gathering	12
17	18	19
24	25	26
31 New Year's Eve Party		

If you lose your *MIND* (oh, my!) or want additional information, check <a href="http://www.meetup.com/central-indianamensa">www.indymensa.org</a> or join our Meetup group, <a href="http://www.meetup.com/central-indianamensa">http://www.meetup.com/central-indianamensa</a>. 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

Messages from the Dearly Departed – and Other Stuff Jon Gruebele, RVC4

#### **Lapsed Member Survey**

At a recent Board of Directors (AMC) meeting, our Membership Officer Stephanie Thornton gave an <u>update</u> about members who haven't renewed. It was enlightening and provided ideas about how to improve locally and nationally. Overall, lapse rates for males and females were nearly identical. The highest lapse rates were for members 22-32 years old at 27%; conversely, for members older than 50, rates were under 10%. White members also lapsed infrequently (10%); all other groups were slightly higher at 12-13%. Those who don't renew aren't necessarily gone forever. Many had lapsed previously, some several times. 54% reported they



were either undecided about renewing or already planned to renew. It's therefore important to continue reaching out and encouraging them to rejoin.

The top reasons cited for lapsing were COVID, personal finances, and lack of local group activities. 53% said: "Dues are too high for what I receive from my membership." Interestingly, this was not quite as important (48%) to the younger members, even though they lapsed more frequently.

In verbatim comments from younger members, some cited lack of diversity, intolerance, and rude behavior both on-line and in person. At 42%, respondents identifying themselves as black were about twice as likely as others to cite lack of diversity as an issue. Given our membership demographics, we clearly have a long way to go to be more welcoming and inclusive.

Being a process improvement professional, I tend to dwell more on opportunities than past successes. Since nothing is ever perfect, there's always opportunity to improve. If you have ideas, I'm all ears.

#### **Regional Service Awards**

We not only need to work on improving, but we also need to celebrate the wonderful things in American Mensa. Our dedicated volunteers are a big part of that. At the virtual 'WeeM-Away Regional Gathering (RG), it was my honor to mention the Regional Service Awards given to five volunteers who made significant contributions to Mensa. Most of them volunteer in several capacities. Some held Local Group offices. Others led National SIGs. Some have been a major force at RGs, spending time volunteering instead of playing. One raised a bunch of money for the Foundation. It's people like this who make American Mensa so amazing. Please join me in congratulating Damian Christianson, Laura King, Barbara Kryvko, Rhonda Peek, and Susan Woodill for their many accomplishments!

#### Region 4 Facebook Group

At the end of my articles, I always include a link to our Region 4 Facebook Group. It's mostly for announcements and discussion about regional and National matters. Links to agendas for upcoming AMC meetings are posted so members can provide feedback before decisions are made. Events open to members from other Local Groups are often highlighted here. Please join us!

Feedback? Please contact me at <a href="revc4@us.mensa.org">revc4@us.mensa.org</a> or via phone/text at +1 309 693 1359. Region 4's Facebook group is:

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

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## **The Great Tom Swiftly Revival**

#### Margy Lancet Fletcher

- 1. "I'm sorry, I meant to hit the target," said Tom aimlessly.
- 2. "My flower garden is doing rather poorly this year," said Tom lackadaisically.
- 3. "Traveling in this desert sure does make me thirsty," said Tom drily.
- 4, "I love to read Mr. Vonnegut's books," said Tom curtly.
- 5. "I couldn't find any seashells at the beach this year," said Tom unconsciously.
- 6. "I am proud of my European ancestry," said Tom acerbically.
- 7. "I can't function without my iron lung," said Tom breathlessly.
- 8. "This airplane is mechanically unsound," said Tom uncontrollably.
- 9. "Those cheerleaders sure look great," said Tom pompously.
- 10. "There are no waves in the ocean today," said Tom calmly.
- 11. "I'd rather not eat Asian food tonight," said Tom derisively.
- 12. "My uncle just died and left me a fortune," said Tom airily.
- 13. "My artificial organ isn't working as it should," said Tom heartlessly.
- 14. "I think I'll start a riot tonight," said Tom insightfully.
- 15. "That guy will stab you in the back at the first opportunity," said Tom sharply.
- 16. "I'll never learn to play this guitar correctly," said Tom fretfully.
- 17. "That Mexican food is making me flatulent," said Tom breezily.
- 18. "I sure made an ass of myself," said Tom hoarsely.
- 19. "This course is a tough one; I have exams every day," said Tom testily.
- 20. "I like houses with lots of windows," said Tom painfully.



#### **Puzzle Column**

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

#### Secular Holiday Season Songs

There are many well-known secular holiday season songs. See if you can find these titles, in alphabetical order, from the year of release, the name(s) of the songwriter(s), a singer who recorded it, and the first letters of the title. None of the titles start with *The* or contain *Christmas* or *Santa Claus*.

- 1. 1950, Walter Rollins and Steve Nelson sung by Gene Autry FTS
- 2. 1978, Randy Brooks Elmo and Patsy GGROBAR
- 3. 1957, Joe Beat and Jim Boothe Brenda Lee JBR
- 4. 1857, James Lord Pierpont Bing Crosby JB
- 5. 1945, Jule Styne and Sammy Cahn Dean Martin LIS
- 6. 1963, Edward Pola and George Wyle Andy Williams MWTOTY
- 7. 1949, Johnny Marks Gene Autry RTR-NR
- 1950, Jay Livingston and Ray Evans Bob Hope and Marilyn Maxwell
   SB
- 9. 1948, Leroy Anderson and Mitchell Parish Bing Crosby SR
- 10. 1934, Felix Bernard Perry Como WW

See answers on page 16.



#### **New Members**

Samuel Anderson	Carmel	IN	Joined
Shawn Mullen	Madison	IN	MoveIn
Dan Payton	Columbus	IN	Joined

#### Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 10/20/2020

Ann Hake, CIM Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, October 20, 2020.

LocSec Teresa Gregory called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Members present: Teresa Fisher, Teresa Gregory, Ann Hake, Nan Harvey, Kurt Williams, Bob Zdanky, and Matthew Zwick.

Guests: Jon Applegate (Regional Ombudsman), Jan Pfeil Doyle, and Pat Milligan.

The committee reviewed the minutes of the September 2020 ExCom meeting. Kurt Williams moved that the minutes be accepted. Bob Zdanky seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The committee reviewed the Treasurer's report for September 2020. It was noted that the cost of MIND printing now includes the postage cost as well with our new printing and mailing arrangement. Ann Hake moved that the report be accepted. Nan Harvey seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

A membership report was compiled by Teresa Gregory based upon the information available as of 9/30/2020 from American Mensa: 473 members, 0 new, 3 moveins, 3 rejoins, and 3 prospects. No candidates were tested due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

#### **Old Business**

Regional Gathering (RG) – due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, an inperson RG has been cancelled.

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.

CIM ExCom election – The new CIM Executive Committee (ExCom) officers who were elected in the September 11, 2020 biennial election took office October 1, 2020. The new officers are: Teresa Fisher, Teresa Gregory (LocSec), Ann Hake, Nan Harvey, Kurt Williams, Bob Zdanky, and Matthew Zwick.

#### **New Business**

As per the CIM Bylaws, the following officers were elected by the ExCom: Vice Local Secretary (LocSec) – Kurt Williams (moved – Hake; seconded – Zwick; motion carried) Continued on next page Continued from previous page

Treasurer – Matthew Zwick (moved – Williams; seconded – Hake; motion carried)

Recording Secretary – Ann Hake (moved – Williams; seconded – Zwick; motion carried)

MIND Editor – Vonda Heverly (moved – Hake; seconded – Williams; motion carried)

Ombudsman – Alan Schmidt (moved – Hake; seconded – Williams; motion carried)

As per the Bylaws, the following officers were appointed by the ExCom:

Program Coordinator – Ann Hake

Membership Coordinator – Bob Zdanky

Testing Coordinator - Alison Brown

Publicity Coordinator – Nan Harvey

RG/OG Coordinator – Teresa Gregory

Gifted Youth Coordinator – David Bonner

SIGHT Coordinator – Alison Brown

Bloomington Area Contact – Nan Harvey

Muncie Area Contact - Kevin Nemyer

Southeast Indiana Area Contact – Teresa Fisher

Communications Coordinator – Jan Pfeil Doyle

Web Contact – Pat Milligan

Ann Hake moved that the above slate of officers be appointed. Teresa Fisher seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

Discussion ensued regarding whether to include the weekly and monthly virtual CIM events on the National calendar. It was decided to hold off at this time.

There being no other business, Ann Hake moved that the meeting be adjourned. Teresa Fisher seconded the motion. The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

#### *ಹಿ*ಹಿಡಿಕಿಡಿಕ

Solutions to the December puzzles:

- 1. 1950, Walter Rollins and Steve Nelson = *Frosty the Snowman*
- 2. 1978, Randy Brooks = *Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer*
- 3. 1957, Joe Beat and Jim Boothe = *Jingle Bell Rock*
- 4. 1857, James Lord Pierpont = *Jingle Bells*
- 5. 1945, Jule Styne and Sammy Cahn = *Let it Snow*
- 6. 1963, Edward Pola and George Wyle = (*It's the*) *Most Wonderful Time of the Year*
- 7. 1949, Johnny Marks = *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*
- 8. 1950, Jay Livingston and Ray Evans = *Silver Bells*
- 9. 1948, Leroy Anderson and Mitchell Parish = *Sleigh Ride*
- 10. 1934. Felix Bernard = Winter Wonderland

## **Treasurer's Report**

Kurt Williams, Outgoing CIM Treasurer

Following is the financial statement through October 31, 2020:

#### **Assets**

	10/31/2020	
Regular Checking	\$	7,412.97
Scholarship Checking	\$	-
Events Checking	\$	6,415.04
MG Cash	\$	25.00
USPS Stamps	\$	479.55
TOTAL	\$	14,332.56

## Revenue & Expenses

REVENUE October 2020

National Support		\$ 404.60
Testing Support		\$ -
New Member/ Lapsed Member		\$ 3.00
RG Income		\$ -
Lapsed Member Contact Incentive		
	<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$ 407.60

## <u>EXPENSES</u>

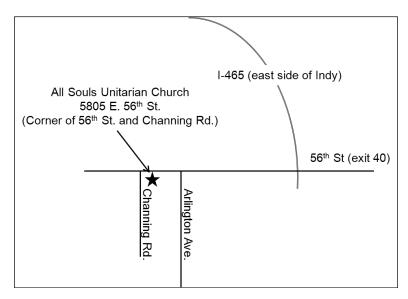
RG Hospitality	\$ -
MIND Printing	
MIND Hospitality	\$ -
Mensa Foundation (scholarship donation)	
Total Expenses	\$ -
Net revenue for the period (loss)	\$ 407.60

# Mensa Monthly Gathering Location\* All Souls Unitarian Church 5805 E. 56th St., Indianapolis

- From I-465 on the east side of Indianapolis, take the 56<sup>th</sup> 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.

\*In-person meetings are cancelled until further notice





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