



mind

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana

 **Happy** 
St. Patrick's Day !



festivities.com, dazdraema

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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 57, Issue Number 3
March 2021



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Loosing My MIND

Vonda Heverly, Editor

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



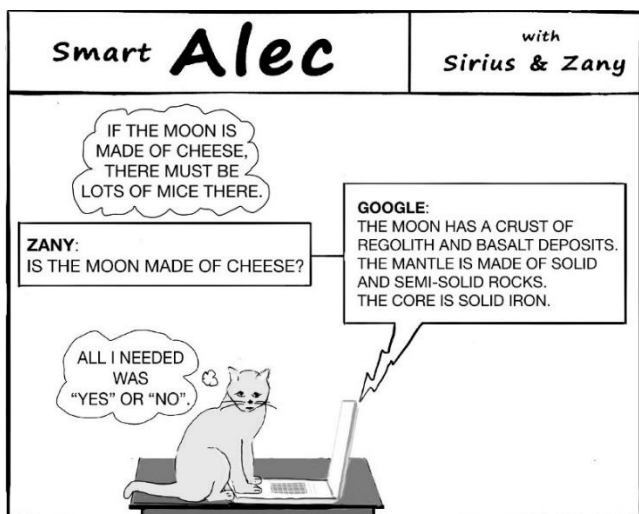
Hold on to your hats, fellow CIMs! This is the first issue since last June where I've gathered enough content for a full 24-page issue! You'll find several pages regarding books (lots of spare time for reading these days), and some extra trivia for my second favorite holiday (behind Halloween, of course). There's even a trip to the circus planned! Well, kind of. I'll let Teresa explain.

I got my second dose of vaccine. It was a little rough going the day after, with a low-grade fever, but all was well soon enough. My daughter's school will be returning to in-person learning tomorrow. I'm taking all this as positive signs of things to come.

Well, it's officially been one year since my Last Fun Thing. I caught one of my favorite bands at an early St. Patrick's Day concert in March 2020. Going virtually this year won't be quite the same, but I've discovered that fun is where you make it.



Cheers!



Betty Hoss 2020

Old Dog/New Tricks

Teresa Gregory, LocSec

When I worked, I always made and displayed a count-down to spring calendar. January 1 is day 78, and it counts down from there until March 20. I marked off each day when I walked in the door. I usually decorated it with flowers. I think I need to revive that tradition.

March 20 is also a special anniversary with Mr. Right. I had a total knee replacement in 2012 on March 20. That particular year, we had a very early spring and I remember a rose blooming next to the steps into my house when I came home from the hospital. What a lovely surprise! Right now, I am spending a lot of time online looking at seeds and gardening tips. I am late getting my seeds started, but to quote my dad, "No one is standing over you with a stick." I just don't want to order something only to find that it is already sold out.



A year ago, I wrote in my column, "I sent for (but have not yet received) the Indiana state festival guide. Having reliable transportation for the first time in several years has me excited to start planning my spring and summer adventures. Do you have a favorite festival that you can recommend? Look for some of these on our calendar. I'd love to have company." I did receive the guide, but we all know what happened. This year, even though I have received my first Covid-19 vaccine and have the second scheduled for March 1, I don't foresee attending any summer festivals. I plan to be home which is why I am planning to have a small garden. Anyone have any tips? I'm always open to suggestions.

This month, as an added treat, CIM is Zooming to the Circus. Sadly, we won't get to see the show. A murder has occurred and a team of Mensans is needed to solve the case. Like our New Year's Eve murder mystery party, you may sign up to be a suspect or you can just come as an armchair detective (see page 17.)

Please check the weekly email CIM ReMINDER that you receive. We sometimes add events that weren't on the MIND calendar. We are open to adding events if people want something not on the schedule. We can't promise to always say yes, but we will do our best to accommodate. We will continue to Zoom for the foreseeable future.

Also, I try to add a *Bonus item each week in that ReMINDER. It's something that might interest Mensans. We have such varied tastes, so I try to mix it up. If anyone would like to suggest a *Bonus item for this, please let me know. I have used some great suggestions received in email. If you like something there is probably another Mensan who would like it, too. Also watch for other Mensa group Regional Gathering announcements.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Proposed Policy on Non-Member Attendance at CIM Events

Ann Hake

For CIM Member Review and Comment by March 15, 2021:

Proposed policy regarding non-member attendees to Central Indiana Mensa events and activities:

As noted in the January 2021 ExCom Meeting Minutes (see page 19), the policy for non-member attendees to CIM events and activities has not been available in writing. Based on the policies that have been followed for the past several years and upon the discussion that took place at the January 2021 ExCom meeting, Vice LocSec Kurt Williams formulated this draft proposal to reflect these policies. CIM members are invited to provide any questions or feedback before final adoption at the March 2021 ExCom meeting, which will be held on March 16, 2021. Please contact Kurt Williams (williams.kurt@sbcglobal.net) or Nan Harvey (nanharvey@gmail.com) by March 15, 2021 with any comments, questions, or suggestions.

“Non-Mensa attendees are invited to join CIM events in order to learn about our organization.

Spouses and family members of Mensa members in good standing are also invited to attend as a guest of a member in good standing.

These invitations are limited so as to not diminish the value of the membership.

Any member inviting a guest to an event is required to attend with their guest.

Non-members attending events are limited to three (3) events. Any request to attend more events by a non-member must be approved by two (2) ExCom members.”



New Members

No	New Members	This	Month
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April Book Discussion

Alison Brown

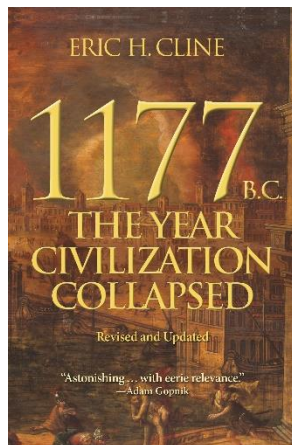
At the suggestion of our Mensa friend Judson Horning and myself, we will be reading *1177 B.C. The Year Civilization Collapsed* by Eric H. Cline. It is only about 180 pages of text, interspersed with charts and illustrations. There is a useful list of the individuals named in the text because most will not have heard of them. As this is a book in the scholarly edition **Turning Points in Ancient History**, there are a lot of end notes and a generous bibliography as well.

The editor of the series, Barry Strauss, says "Each book in the series looks at a crucial event or key moment in the ancient world. Whether famous or forgotten, they are moments that matter... Our focus is on why and how as well as on when.

Series authors are scholars who know how to tell a story and narrators who have the latest research at their command...**Turning Points in Ancient History** reflects wide-ranging trends in the study of the ancient world. Each book integrates archaeology and classic texts; that is, it combines the evidence of material and literary culture. Books look both at the elite and at ordinary lives. Now more than ever we realize that understanding the ancient past is essential to our understanding of the present and just plain fascinating... Few events had a bigger impact on the evolution of the ancient world than the end of the Bronze Age. It was then that the great kingdoms and city-states of prehistory fell. Yet the end of the massive palatial states of the Bronze Age opened the door for the growth of a new world on a more human scale, the world of the first millennium BC, a world in which we are still at home today."

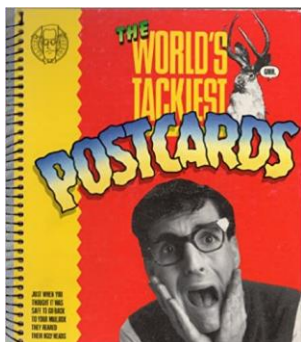
In his preface Eric H. Cline writes: "The economy of Greece is in shambles. Internal rebellions have engulfed Libya, Syria, and Egypt, with outsiders and foreign warriors fanning the flames. Turkey fears it will become involved, as does Israel. Jordan is crowded with refugees. Iran is bellicose and threatening, while Iraq is in turmoil. AD 2013? Yes, but it was also the situation in 1177 BC.... Although this book is primarily concerned with the collapse of Bronze Age civilizations and the factors that led to that collapse more than three millennia ago, it may contain lessons relevant to our globalized and transnationalized societies today."

We hope you will be inspired to borrow or buy this book, read it, and join our discussion on-line on Sunday, April 18th at 2 pm. The Link to join will be sent out in the CIM ReMINDER e-mail on April 12th.



Tacky Book Review (excerpted from *Letters to Joanne*)

Teresa Fisher



In the late 1980s I bought a book titled *The World's Tackiest Postcards* and liked it so well I later bought the sequel, *Revenge of the Son of The World's Tackiest Postcards*. They were published by Klutz Press, and each book was filled with reproductions of postcards you could tear out and mail. Some were advertising cards from the 1950s, some were obviously for tourists with low souvenir standards, some were just unexplainably tacky, and some didn't seem tacky to me at all. Maybe that says more about me than it does the cards. Over the years I mailed a few, but it pained me a little each time I did. That

postcard was gone forever. But I finally realized the cards weren't fulfilling their humor potential if I kept them in a box and never shared them. With the kind of thought that comes more and more often as I age, I figured someone would just throw them out when I died, so I might as well use them now. I decided that instead of buying birthday cards, if the recipient wasn't getting an enclosure of money, I could just mail them a tacky postcard and write "Happy Birthday" on it.

Recently it occurred to me to see if the books were available from Amazon. I didn't plan to buy any, since I figured they would be outrageously expensive collectors' items. To my great surprise both books were available for under \$10 each. (I had paid \$5.95 apiece for them when they were new.) How could I not buy them? It was a hoarder's dream come true. I could use the cards and keep them at the same time.

Here are reviews of some of the cards from *The World's Tackiest Postcards*. My comments are in italics.

The picture: A man holds a large snake and forces it to inject venom into some equipment. He has a female assistant. They are dressed in white to suggest they are medical professionals.

Back caption: Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Haast at work. Scientific force-feeding has been developed by Director W.E. Haast for snake and venom research. Force-feedings climax each tour of the serpentarium. "Thus the days begin and end at the Miami Serpentarium, a strange place, where serpents are groomed to sink their fangs into the world, and relieve its pain."

Further research: Bill Haast became fascinated with snakes as a boy, and at the age of 12 received his first venomous bite. He opened the Miami Serpentarium in 1947 and extracted venom between 70 and 100 times per day for the entertainment of paying customers. The venom was used for medical and research purposes. Haast

died in 2011 at age 100 and held a Guinness World record for having been bitten by venomous snakes 172 times.

The picture: A line of shirtless men hold up their arms while women in lab coats sniff their armpits.

Back caption: Lautenberg Laboratories is the leader in controlled environment Beta testing for the personal hygiene and pharmaceutical industry. Providing clinical, laboratory, and random field testing for both consumer as well as industrial products. Ask your rep for details. FDA approved.

This card is my favorite of them all. The caption claims they provide clinical, laboratory, and random field testing. I can see how they would provide clinical and laboratory testing, but how do they do random field testing? Track their test subjects and when they least expect it, run up and sniff their pits? "Ask your rep for details."

The picture: A pig has jumped off a large rock and is in mid-air, just before landing in a big pool of water.

Back caption: Ralph, the world-famous swimming pig, performs his well-known swine dive in the "World's Only Submarine Theatre."

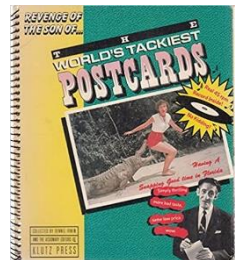
Swine dive. Oh, ha ha.

Further research: Ralph the Swimming Pig was a featured performer at a popular tourist attraction in San Marcos, Texas called Aquarena Springs. Ralph swam and did his swine dive from 1950 until the park closed in 1996. You would be right to question whether a pig can live 46 years. A pig could only do the job until it was about eight months old, so there were many Ralphs over the years. An eight-month-old pig gets large enough and smart enough to think, "Why the hell am I doing this?!?"

The picture: Two young women underwater in an open-top submarine, waving at us.

Back caption: Just two of the lovely mermaids at Florida's Weeki Wachee cruise the depths during the Mermaids' all new underwater show, 'MERMAID FOLLIES.'

Confession: During much of my adolescence a small clipping cut from a magazine about the mermaids at Weeki Wachee and how to apply for that job was floating around my bedroom. Eventually I faced reality and threw it away.



Puzzle Column

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

Embedded Pi Day words

In celebration of Pi Day on 3/14, find words, with **tan, sin, cos, cot, sec, or arc** embedded in them, based on the clues and letter counts. All answers have one or more letters before the Pi Day word and one or more letters after it.

Example: Popular dance club in 70s and 80s (11 letters)

Solution: discotheque

1. A wooden ruler's shape (9 letters)
2. An ADA recommendation (8 letters)
3. Raid, for example (11 letters)
4. Commit battery (6 letters)
5. Popular trim for rooms (11 letters)
6. Hollywood and Vine, for example (12 letters)
7. Having the potential to cause cancer (12 letters)
8. C₆H₁₂O₆ (7 letters)
9. A Greek wine with a woody taste (7 letters)
10. Anise-flavored Italian pastries (8 letters)

See answers on page 18.



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.

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

March 2021 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.ET** 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. ET** Bring your own lunch! Contact: Karen Steilberger, steilkr@sbcglobal.net.

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

VIRTUAL Monthly Gathering - 2nd Friday, **7:30 p.m. – 10 p.m. ET** 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. ET** 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. ET**

3/21 *The World in a Grain* by Vince Beiser. 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.

Murder Under the Big Top! Another Interactive Murder Mystery Game
3/27, 7:30p.m. Gathering and 8:00p.m. Game starts

(See page 17 for details.)

March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	1	2	3 Indy Lunch Bunch
7 Sunday Social	8	9	10
14 Sunday Social	15	16 ExCom	17 Indy Lunch Bunch
21 Book Group; Sunday Social	22	23	24
28 Sunday Social	29	30	31

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

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4	5	6 Ham'n Eggs
11	12 Monthly Gathering	13
18	19	20
25	26	27 Murder Mystery Party

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

Enough Already!

Jon Gruebele, RVC4



I don't know about you, but I really miss seeing my Mensa friends in person. 2020 was a year without an Annual Gathering or Mind Games®. RGs were cancelled. Local Group events couldn't happen. While there's hope for a return to some sort of "normal", 2021 hasn't started out much better. Fortunately, many Mensa events moved on-line. CultureQuest® was postponed but was reimagined to allow virtual participation. In Region 4, Central Indiana Mensa pretty much moved their entire calendar to Zoom. Iowa-Illinois, Minnesota Mensa, Mensa of Wisconsin, Northeast Indiana

Mensa, and St. Louis Area Mensa have changed their usual dinners or monthly gatherings to virtual events. Sangamon Valley has offered delightful get-togethers. Chicago moved the Halloween RG to Discord and had hundreds of attendees. Mensa members are creative. We've shown it by offering totally new alternatives. We've had mixology classes. In two different murder mysteries, I've played a sleazeball casting director and "Cal Von Cline", a world-famous designer from the 80s. For the record, I wasn't guilty either time. And yes, I was wearing a mullet wig, but let's not talk about that. We've seen speakers from across the country. Some Local Groups have opened their events to all Mensa members (see <https://www.us.mensa.org/attend/calendar/>).

For a card-carrying extrovert, these events have been a reasonably good substitute. I used to drive hundreds of miles to attend many of them. Now I just walk into my office and fire up my laptop. While it's still nice to see everyone and is certainly more convenient, it's just not the same. I sure look forward to attending events in person again, and hope we continue making some events available virtually. Nationally, the [World Gathering](#) (WG) 24-29 August in Houston TX is still scheduled as an in-person event. It will be preceded by the Mensa Foundation's [Colloquium](#) on "Advances in Food Science". Registration for both is open now; rates for the WG go up again April 30th. I hope we can see each other there.

Election Eligibility Reminder—And a "Meet the Candidates" Opportunity

American Mensa and Mensa International elections are coming in April. To vote, you must [renew](#) your membership by March 31st. In contrast to other years, this election has many more contested races and a bylaws referendum proposal, so your election participation will be even more important.

For Regional Vice Chair 4, three candidates have qualified for the ballot: Jon Gruebele (Chicago), Laura King (Sangamon Valley), and Barbara Kryvko (St. Louis). We're cordially inviting you to attend a "meet the candidates" [Zoom meeting](#) on Tuesday April 6th at 6:30 pm (Meeting ID: 971 1254 7917, Passcode: 216 773). We'd love to see you there!

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

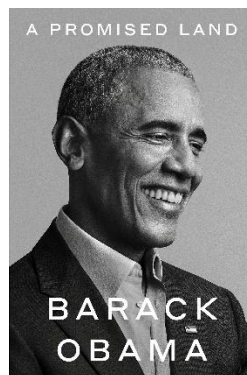
Author: Barack Obama

Title: *A Promised Land*

Publisher: Crown

Year: 2020

Book Description: After enduring a tempestuous, seemingly endless post-election period, witnessing a dazzling and cathartic inauguration ceremony, and breathing a sigh of relief that our better civic angels have prevailed, I am in a celebratory mood. And I can think of no better gesture of welcome to President Biden than a tribute to the extraordinary leadership and writing talents of his former boss, Barack Obama. *A Promised Land*, the first of Obama's two volume autobiographical magnum opus, is probably one of the most comprehensive, richly detailed inside look at the U. S. Presidency that the reader will ever encounter.



Barack Obama's political odyssey begins with his unconventional, multi-national youth under the tutelage of an intellectually active single mom, and proceeds at a comparatively rapid pace through his higher education at Columbia University and Harvard Law School; his summer internship at Sidley and Austin, the Chicago-based law firm where he met his future wife, Michelle Robinson; his successful campaign for Illinois state senator, followed by a failed Congressional bid and his election to the U.S. Senate; and his audacious decision to break down a seemingly insurmountable racial barrier and catapult into the White House.

The remaining six parts of this mammoth, 700-page tome contain a moment-by-moment narrative of the myriad challenges of the Presidency. The timeline commences with his 2008 Presidential campaign and ultimate victory over John McCain and ends with the successful 2011 Operation Neptune Spear mission to eliminate Osama bin Laden. With his trademark blend of objectivity and passion, Obama intimately recounts and assesses his legislative successes: TARP (Troubled Asset Relief Program), the Affordable Care Act, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; and his failures: the DREAM Act, the defeat of his party in the 2010 midterm elections. He also reflects at length on his interpersonal relationships with his staff personnel, political colleagues and adversaries, immediate and extended family members, and foreign leaders and dictators. While alternately elated and frustrated by events that unfold during the first half of his term of office, Obama's reminiscences never become bogged down in either recrimination or self-aggrandizement; his rationality and optimism endure throughout this powerful and engaging memoir.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

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

Prior to reading *A Promised Land*, my awareness of the extraordinary amount of stress that the position of U. S. President inflicts on its holder was limited to graphic before-and-after photographs of such dedicated leaders as Abraham Lincoln and Barack Obama himself. The author has disabused me of any notion that the job is a cakewalk through hundreds of pages of reporting and commentary on his daily, continual multitasking - which encompasses merely half of his term of office! This revelation, in my view, renders the Trump administration's massive dereliction of duty all the more egregious, and makes me count my blessings that the current President promises to follow Obama's example of prioritizing problem solving over grandstanding.

Who should definitely read this book? Why? This book should captivate all political activists and advocates, regardless of party or ideology. Social scientists will appreciate the author's in-depth cause-and-effect analyses of the various events in which he participated, and the astute historical insights that he provides.

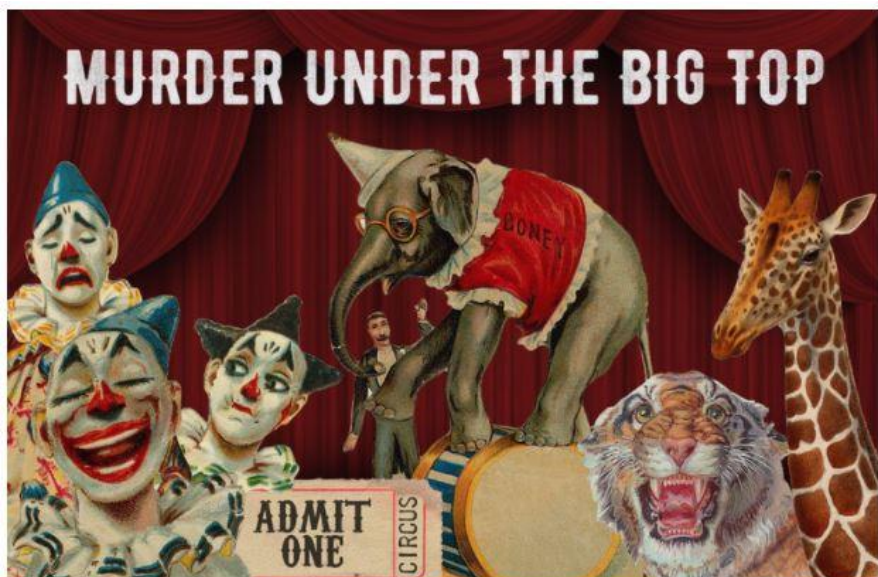
How long might it take to read this book? The volume's immense size will require the devotion of one to two weeks of leisure time, but the intellectual and spiritual rewards will be copious.

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

Rarely does a week go by when I don't run into somebody - a friend, a supporter, an acquaintance, or a total stranger - who insists that from the first time they met me or heard me speak on TV, they knew I'd be president. They tell me this with affection, conviction, and a certain amount of pride in their political acumen, talent spotting, or soothsaying. Sometimes they will cloak it in religious terms. God had a plan for you, they'll tell me. I'll smile and say that I wish they had told me this back when I was thinking about running; it would have saved me a lot of stress and self-doubt.

The truth is, I've never been a big believer in destiny. I worry that it encourages resignation in the down-and-out and complacency among the powerful. I suspect that God's plan, whatever it is, works on a scale too large to admit our mortal tribulations: that in a single lifetime, accidents and happenstance determine more than we care to admit; and that the best we can do is to try to align ourselves with what we feel is right and construct some meaning out of our confusion, and with grace and nerve play at each moment the hand that we're dealt.





Saturday, March 27, 2021

(Party starts at 7:30pm, Murder Game starts at 8:00pm ET.)

It's 1952, and P. U. Barnhum's world-famous three-ring circus has come to Podunk! The town is overwhelmed by the excitement, the lights, the animals, and the—dead body of the ringmaster. Yes, there lies Rhett Coate, shot to death right in the center ring. The circus owner, P. U. Barnhum, is in a tizzy.

Was the murderer a fellow circus performer, like Malcolm Laff the clown, or the trapeze act Jess Fling/Ann Ketch? Was it one of the carnival attractions, like Christa Bawle the fortuneteller or Isalotta Herr the bearded lady? Or maybe it was a member of the audience like Arlo Kell, someone with cause to dread the reappearance of a Podunkian who ran off to join the circus...

But hold onto your popcorn—the murderer may be YOU!

Please join us for an interactive murder mystery party. Come as yourself to observe or as one of the suspects. If you wish to play, please email Teresa ag18tg@yahoo.com to reserve a spot. You will receive your script and instructions a few days before the party.

St. Patrick's Day Trivia

Editor

Free trivia courtesy of [Trivia Champ](#). Answers can be found on page 20.

1. When did St. Patrick die?
2. What kind of creature does legend say St. Patrick drove out of Ireland?
3. What kind of plant is associated with St. Patrick?
4. What kind of staff did St. Patrick carry?
5. Where is the largest St. Patrick's Day parade?
6. What color was originally associated with St. Patrick?
7. What other religious holiday often falls close to St. Patrick's Day?
8. Where is St. Patrick buried?
9. Which of these cities is known for dying its river green? Chicago, Belfast, or Dublin?
10. Where is the shortest St. Patrick's Day Parade?
11. Which of these things is associated with St. Patrick? A sword, a rock, or a bell?
12. Who is buried along with St. Patrick?
13. What does legend say St. Patrick used to help explain the holy trinity?
14. Where was St. Patrick born?
15. Which of the following foods might be served at a feast for St. Patrick? Corned beef and cabbage, roast pig, or salted cod?



Solutions to the February Puzzle on page 10:

1. A wooden ruler's shape (9 letters) = rec**TAN**gle
2. An ADA recommendation (8 letters) = flos**SIN**g
3. Raid, for example (11 letters) = in**SECT**icide
4. Commit battery (6 letters) = ac**COS**T
5. Popular trim for rooms (11 letters) = wains**COT**ing
6. Hollywood and Vine, for example (12 letters) = inter**SECT**ion
7. Having the potential to cause cancer (12 letters) = c**ARC**inogenic
8. C₆H₁₂O₆ (7 letters) = glu**COSE**
9. A Greek wine with a woody taste (7 letters) = ret**SIN**a
10. Anise-flavored Italian pastries (8 letters) = bis**COT**ti



Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 1/19/2021

Ann Hake, CIM Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

LocSec Teresa Gregory called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

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

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

The committee reviewed the minutes of the December 2020 ExCom meeting. Kurt Williams moved that the minutes be accepted. Nan Harvey seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The committee reviewed the Treasurer's reports for November 2020 and December 2020. Kurt Williams moved that the reports be accepted as amended. Ann Hake seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

A membership report was compiled by Teresa Gregory based upon the information available as of 12/31/2020 from American Mensa: 492 members, 2 new, 3 moveins, 4 rejoins, and 7 prospects. No candidates were tested due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Old Business

Regional Gathering (RG) – due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, an in-person RG has been cancelled. Those who registered early will receive refunds.

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. Teresa Gregory rechecked the cancellation policy and found that it is 75% refundable if it is cancelled more than 90 days before the event, and 50% refundable if cancelled 1-90 days before the event (this was previously reported in meeting minutes as 50% refundable and 25% refundable, respectively.) Discussion ensued regarding the fact that in order to receive the larger refund, we would need to cancel on February 12, 2021 or before; however, the amount of money at risk to give us the additional flexibility to wait to see what conditions are sooner before the event is approximately \$130. Kurt Williams moved that we do not cancel at this time but continue to plan for now. Ann Hake seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The BONUS Holiday Zoom socials for Christmas evening and New Year's Eve were well attended. The New Year's Eve social included a murder mystery breakout that was enjoyed by the attendees, who agreed that this was an activity worth doing again.

Mensa Scholarship applications/essays were due online by 11:59 pm Central time on
Continued on next page

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January 15, 2021. Essays for our local scholarship have been forwarded for judging to CIM's scholarship committee chair, Laurel Richardson, who is now recruiting judges.

New Business

A question has arisen regarding the policy on guest attendance at meetings. A written policy is no longer available. Discussion ensued as to whether the number of meetings that nonmembers may attend should be limited; and if so, whether the number of meetings they could attend as a guest of a member should also be limited. Kurt Williams will formulate a draft proposal based on the discussion for further discussion at the next ExCom meeting.

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 8:31 pm.



Answers to St. Patrick's Day Trivia on page 18:

1. 420 AD - Historians argue about the exact year of his birth and his death. However, this date is probably the most accurate.
2. Snakes - There are no snakes in Ireland.
3. Shamrock - He is said to have left the shamrocks as a symbol that the snakes would never return.
4. Ash - He is said to have stuck his staff into the ground wherever he was preaching.
5. New York - This parade is also the oldest in North America.
6. Blue - This gradually changed to green.
7. Easter - If Easter and St. Patrick's Day coincide, the Church chooses another day to celebrate the Saint.
8. Downpatrick - He is said to be buried in Down Cathedral in Downpatrick.
9. Chicago - A hundred pounds of dye was used the first year and the river remained green for a week.
10. Hot Springs - This city holds the parade in the street which is, according to Ripley's, the shortest street in the world.
11. A bell - The shrine of St. Patrick's Bell is located in the National Museum of Ireland.
12. St. Brigid - He is also said to be buried with St. Columba.
13. The shamrock - He used the leaves of the shamrock to illustrate the trinity.
14. Britain - He was taken captive and transported to Ireland when he was sixteen.
15. Corned beef and cabbage - You might also serve Irish stew or potatoes.

Treasurer's Report

Matthew Zwick, CIM Treasurer

Balance Sheet (as of January 31, 2021)

Bank Accounts	12/31/2020	01/31/2021
Checking – Regular	\$7,514.44	\$7,580.58
Checking – Scholarship	-	-
Checking – MG Cash	25.00	25.00
Checking – Events Checking	6,090.04	6,090.04
Checking – USPS Stamps	477.35	476.80
Total Assets	\$14,106.83	\$14,172.42

Profit & Loss Statement (12/31/2020 – 01/31/2021)

Income		
	401.1 – Monthly Gathering Inc.	0.00
	405.1 – National Support	419.05
	405.2 – New Member/Lapsed Member	1.00
Total Income		\$420.05
Expense		
	501.1– MG Hospitality	0.00
	505.1 – MIND Printing	326.39
	507 – Stamps	0.55
	520 – Miscellaneous – Postage to FedEx a check	27.52
Total Expenses		\$354.46



“Life isn’t about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself.”—George Bernard Shaw



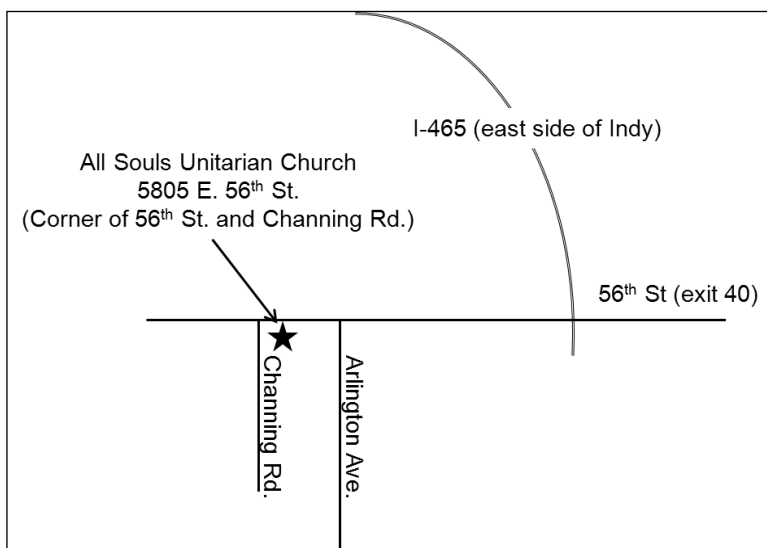
Mensa Monthly Gathering Location*

All Souls Unitarian Church

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.

*In-person meetings are cancelled until further notice



Central Indiana Mensa
Teresa Gregory
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