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Mensa Newsletter Of Central Indiana



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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 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 MINDbending (usually the second Friday of the month) for the following month's edition.

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Loosing My MIND

Vonda Heverly, Editor

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



Is it really May? I swear I was covering my delicate flowering plants from a vicious snowstorm less than a week ago. Most all seem to have pulled through, thank goodness.

With the return of warmer temperatures, I'm also happy to see the return of some of my usual activities. I attended a small local festival last weekend, and received word that the Spirit of Vincennes Rendezvous, a Revolutionary War event I've been a part of for two decades, is back over Memorial Day

weekend at Vincennes. Here's to slow and steady forward progress.

Cheers!



Betty Hass 2021

Old Dog/New Tricks

Teresa Gregory, LocSec

Each month, I have been looking at my column from last year to see what we were doing. When I looked for my old May column, I didn't see one and thought I must have mislabeled it. Then I remembered that there hadn't been a May MIND.

In 2020, we continued to meet online and, one year later, nothing has changed. Each month, the ExCom considers the available information and has a thoughtful discussion. We continue to be cautious, so we have not scheduled any in person meetings again this May. Our Monthly Gathering



venue has not reopened yet and I don't know when it will. Trust that we want to meet in person as much or more than you do.

We cancelled the Outdoor Gathering last year. We had hoped that we would be able to party in the park this year, but the ExCom voted to cancel again due to continuing uncertainties. Cross your fingers for next year.

Some of you old-timers may remember Joanna Soper. She wanted the CIM members to know that her husband, Paul Soper, passed away. I heard this last month the day the April MIND was mailed.

We also lost long-time member Charlie Graft. He has had several serious health issues in the past year. This should remind us to check in with our friends until we can meet again.

Last month I mentioned planning my garden for this year. I started a bunch of seedlings, but they were getting really leggy. I jumped on Pinterest and saw that they needed to be under a grow light. I now have 148 seedlings sitting on some plastic shoe boxes on my kitchen stove. The light is in the range hood. So far, it's working. If the weather will cooperate, I may get them out of the house soon. No more spring weather shenanigans, please. I woke one morning to two inches of snow and the next morning to the sound of my yard being mowed.

I am not a Master Gardener, so I don't know what some of the things growing in my back yard are. I downloaded a great phone app last year called Picture This. When I see something and don't know whether to pull it up or nurture it, I open the app, take a picture of the mysterious stranger, and it pops up with the name of the plant and a lot of information on it. It's a fun app to use on a walk, much like a guidebook for bird watchers.

Enjoy the spring weather and Happy Memorial Day!

Puzzle Column

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

PLUS OR MINUS – contributed by Gilbert Chan of Smoky Mountain Mensa

Each clue produces a two-word phrase where the second word either adds or subtracts the displayed letter.

Example: _____ T ____ (uneven depression) = ROUGH TROUGH

1	U (sufficient sealed glass vial)
2	A (creche supervisor)
3 P	(marine mammal making ceramics)
4 P	(smelly joke)
5 B	(hitter power source)
6 S	(support escapee)
7 U	(indigent periodical)
8 M	(chickpea spread turned to dust)
9 E	(trickery insult)
10 R	(dead person woods)

See answers on page 7.

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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. **Note change for June*

May 16: *Mortal Republic: How Rome Fell into Tyranny* by Edward J. Watts **Jun 20**: *Four Pillars of Investing: Lessons for Building a Winning Portfolio* by William J. Bernstein

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

Aug 15: Bring a Book! Come with your favorite book/books that you think would spark a lively conversation. Be prepared to talk about it and get other folks excited to read it too. We'll build a list for the upcoming year.

Letter to Editor

J. Scott Keller

I note that in the April Issue "Earth Day" is shown as being on April 22nd. This year, however, it will be called "Earth Day Indiana Festival," and will be on Saturday, June 5th, in Garfield Park. Kindly correct for the May Issue.

Editor's response: Thank you for bringing attention to Indiana's celebration of Earth Day. "Earth Day" as celebrated by most did indeed go off without a hitch on April 22nd. However, it looks like a nice local event to look forward to in June. Check out the website at <u>earthdayindiana.org</u> for more information.



Answers to Puzzle Colum on page 6:

- 1. (sufficient sealed glass vial) = **AMPLE AMPULE**
- 2. (creche supervisor) = MANGER MANAGER
- 3. (marine mammal making ceramics) = **OTTER POTTER**
- 4. (smelly joke) = **RANK PRANK**
- 5. (hitter power source) = **BATTER BATTERY**
- 6. (support escapee) = **BOLSTER BOLTER**
- 7. (indigent periodical) = **PAUPER PAPER**
- 8. (chickpea spread turned to dust) = **HUMMUS HUMUS**
- 9. (trickery insult) = **SLEIGHT SLIGHT**
- 10. (dead person woods) = **CORPSE COPSE**



J. Scott Keller

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May 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 <u>ag18tg@yahoo.com</u>. 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, <u>SIGHT@indymensa.org</u>

<u>VIRTUAL Indy Lunch Bunch</u> - 1st and 3rd Wednesday at **11:30a.m.** ET 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**. **ET** Drop in any time for casual chat. Contact: Teresa, <u>ag18tg@yahoo.com</u>.

<u>VIRTUAL Monthly Gathering</u> - 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.

5/14 Watch IndyMensa.org, MeetUp, and/or the Monday "CIM Meeting ReMINDer" for program information. - Contact: Teresa, <u>ag18tg@yahoo.com</u>

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

VIRTUAL Book Group - 3rd Sunday at 2:00p.m. ET

5/16 - *Mortal Republic: How Rome Fell Into Tyranny* by Edward J. Watts 281 pages Nov. 2018

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

VIRTUAL Hump Day Happy Hour 5pm – 6:30+ pm ET

Join us for casual conversation with your favorite beverage, alcoholic or not.

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
2 Sunday Social	3	4	5 Indy Lunch Bunch
9 Sunday Social	10	11	12 Hump Day
16 Book Group; Sunday Social	17	18 ExCom	19 Indy Lunch Bunch
23 Sunday Social	24	25	26 Hump Day
30 Sunday Social	31		

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

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

If you lose your *MIND* (oh, my!) or want additional information, check <u>www.indymensa.org</u> or join our Meetup group, <u>http://www.meetup.com/central-indiana-mensa</u>. 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 Board of Directors (AMC) Update—and a Reminder to Vote Jon Gruebele, RVC4

The last scheduled meeting of the AMC's 2019-2021 term was held March 20th. As usual, it was livestreamed and the <u>recording</u> posted online. Actions included:

• Adopted the 2021-2022 fiscal year budget. It anticipates a surplus of \$158k without a dues increase. As an aside, the anticipated 2020-2021 surplus and strong investment returns may cause our net asset deficit to shrink by as much as 50%.



- Adopted Event Safety Standards, essentially a code of conduct for attendees at national events
- Updated our acts inimical definition to include harassment and retaliation. Anyone perpetrating such acts may be subject to sanctions pursuant to a hearing.
- Created a job description for the Advocate, a person who can help members involved in disciplinary hearings for alleged acts inimical
- Updated Regional and National hearings processes to include a standard of review (preponderance of evidence), contents of notices, and rules standardizations
- Approved a process to handle situations where a Regional Vice Chair (RVC) position becomes temporarily vacant (my motion)
- Clarified how RVC funds may be spent (also my motion)
- Reduced the price of a Practice (Home) test from \$18 to \$9.99
- Updated the Minimum Standard Local Group Bylaws to use gender-neutral language and improve clarity
- Defeated a motion to simultaneously schedule all Annual Gathering (AG) Regional Meet and Greet sessions, and to ensure no programming conflicts with the Annual Business Meeting

We also reviewed the results of the February <u>membership</u> and <u>Local Group</u> <u>leader</u> surveys. Points of interest include:

• Our "net promoter score" (NPS) dropped from 23 in 2017 and 14 in 2018 to 7. This score is calculated by asking: "How likely is it that you would recommend Mensa to a friend whom you suspected would qualify?" We subtract the percent who answer "not at all likely" (0 to 6 on a scale of 0 to 10) from those answering "extremely likely" (9 or 10). Milleninials, GenX, Parents, newer members (<20 years) and African American respondents had negative NPS scores. We clearly

have more work to do here. We got higher scores from older members (>20 years), Hispanics, boomers, white, non-Hispanics, and members who volunteer.

- Members who said they weren't renewing cited dues being too high for what they get, and unappealing Local Group activities
- 79% of members reported being proud to be a member. 17% have claimed their digital badge from Credly/Acclaim. 31% of those with a badge display it on their LinkedIn profile.
- The Leader survey recommended we work harder to recruit new leaders.

Finally, American Mensa's election runs from April 15 through May 15th. Aside from a referendum proposal, we have many fine volunteers running for positions on the AMC. Please honor their willingness to serve by taking a moment to vote. Thanks!

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

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





New Members

Patricia Banks	Fishers	IN	Move In
Thomas George	Anderson	IN	Move In
Fiona Kissinger	Evansville	IN	Joined
Elizabeth Larson	Indianapolis	IN	Joined
James Maloney	Mount Vernon	IN	Move In

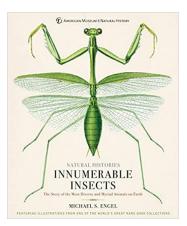
Books on the Runway

Margy Lancet Fletcher

Author: Michael S. Engel

Title: Innumberable Insects: The Story of the Most Diverse and Myriad Animals on Earth **Publisher:** Sterling Publishing Company/American Museum of Natural History **Year:** 2018

Book Description: Springtime revitalizes our spirits with the promise of warmth and reactivates our senses with its profusion of colors - but also ushers in a host of miniscule, six-legged creatures that seemingly spoil the party with their stinging, biting, garden-consuming, and windshield-defiling proclivities. But any entomologist worthy of the title would shriek in protest against massive



bug-killing sprees, as beneficial insects, in fact, far outnumber dangerous ones. Moreover, as biologist Dr. Michael S. Engel and the American Museum of Natural History affirm in *Innumerable Insects*, these diminutive living entities outnumber all other animals on this planet, and their existence predates that of practically every non-aquatic life form on earth.

This weighty, oversized tome puts on full display the extraordinary attributes of insects, summarizing in its introduction their vital roles in the sustenance of every other terrestrial species (see below for a segment thereof), and intricately detailing in the remaining chapters, respectively: the history of entomology as a scientific discipline; the development of hierarchical classification systems; insect evolution, including early and current wingless varieties; the developmental success and prominence of winged insects; complete metamorphosis as an adaptive trait; insect pests, including parasites, herbivores, and disease vectors; eusocial insects (colony dwellers); methods of communication among individual species; camouflage techniques of insects; and, finally, the symbiotic relationships of insects and plants. Additionally, this exquisite volume contains a complete description of every existing order of insect, and translations of the Latin or Greek names thereof; illustrations culled from the Museum's vast rare book collection; and biographies of such entomological luminaries as Ulisse Androvandi (15??-1605), Sir John Lubbock (1834-1913), John O. Westwood (1805-1893), Jan Swammerdam (1637-1680), Henry Denny (1803-1871), Charles Butler (1560-1647), and - my personal favorite - the intrepid proto-feminist explorer Maria Sibylla Merian (1647-1717). Buzz words were never put to more effective use than in this delightful, enlightening compilation of insect lore.

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

I have been a "bug nut" as far back as I can remember. One of my fondest memories of my summers on my grandparents' farm south of Indianapolis was my capture of

butterflies in swooping nets, collections of cicada "shells" (exoskeletons), and the raising of caterpillars to adulthood in Ball jars (which I continued to do until fairly recently with Monarchs, until their populations started plummeting - sigh!). During the last Holiday season, my sister-in-law, Rhonda, a fellow bibliophile, presented me with a Barnes and Noble gift card, which prompted a (pandemic-safe) trip to the nearest bookstore and resulted in the discovery of *Innumerable Insects* - luckily - on one of the sale price tables. Ka-ching! I am eternally grateful to Rhonda for her generosity, encouragement, and contributions to my personal library.

Who should definitely read this book? Why? *Innumerable Insects* is a treasure trove of fascinating entomological facts, and thus should be literary ambrosia and nectar to a variety of life scientists. They - as well as artists - will appreciate the skill and accuracy of the historic renderings of insects that are featured in this book, produced by multi-talented researchers without the aid of modern technology. Truly impressive!

How long might it take to read this book? Although this volume is heavy enough to double as an upper-body strength enhancer, it is not lengthy - less than 200 pages. I recommend a leisurely reading pace for pure enjoyment, which entails setting aside 3 to 5 days. I guarantee that it will be time well spent.

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

Whether as a flight of butterflies, a hum of bees, a concerto of crickets, or a cloud of flies, insects in one form or another fill us with fear, revulsion, comfort, admiration, and even delight. We have a love-hate relationship with insects, as we compete with them for our crops, yet they are critical as pollinators of the same fields as well as of our forests; they recycle our wastes and till our soils, but they also invade and damage our homes; they are infamous for spreading pestilence and plagues, yet they may also cure disease. Further, insects are used to dye our fabrics and foods, alter our atmosphere and landscapes, inform our engineering and architectural efforts, inspire great works of art, and even rid us of other pests. They outnumber all other species combined and many individual insect species dwarf humans in terms of abundance. From this perspective, Earth belongs more to the insects than to us. Our evolution, physical and cultural, is inseparably connected with insects as both pests and benefactors. Were humans to disappear tomorrow, our planet would thrive. If insects packed up and left, Earth would quickly wither, become toxic, and die. With all of this in mind, it is a wonder that we don't show greater appreciation for our multitudinous neighbors...

Insects outnumber us all. Their segmented body plan is remarkably labile, and they have low levels of natural extinction with rapid species generation, leading to a history of successes eclipsing those of the more familiar ages of dinosaurs and mammals alike. Insects were among the earliest animals to transition to land, the first to fly, the first to sing, the first to disguise themselves with camouflage, the first to evolve societies, the first to develop agriculture, and the first to use an abstract language, and they did all of this tens if not hundreds of millions of years before humans ever appeared to mimic these achievements. Today's insects are the various descendants of life's greatest diversification.

Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 3/16/2021

Ann Hake, CIM Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, March 16, 2021. LocSec Teresa Gregory called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm. Members present: Teresa Fisher, Teresa Gregory, Ann Hake, Kurt Williams, Bob Zdanky, and Matthew Zwick. Members absent: Nan Harvey. Guests: Jon Applegate (Regional Ombudsman), Frank Casuso, and Jan Pfeil Doyle.

The committee reviewed the minutes of the February 2021 ExCom meeting. Kurt Williams moved that the minutes be accepted as amended. Matt Zwick seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The committee reviewed the February 2021 Treasurer's report. 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 2/28/2021 from American Mensa: 498 members, 1 new, 1 movein, 3 rejoins, and 8 prospects. No candidates were tested due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Old Business

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 75% refundable if we cancel more than 90 days before the event, and 50% refundable if we cancel 90 days or fewer before the event. Teresa Gregory is checking the DNR website periodically to see the status of reservations.

Mensa Scholarship applications/essays were due online by 11:59 pm Central time on January 15, 2021. Essay judging for the John Matthews Scholarship (CIM's local scholarship) has been completed. CIM's scholarship committee chair, Laurel Richardson, expressed her gratitude for the assistance from committee members Charles Rawlings, Karen Steilberger, and Jae Kim. Laurel has also stated that she would prefer to step down as chair for next year; she is willing to assist the next chair if needed, however.

Policy on guest attendance at meetings – Kurt Williams formulated a draft proposal based on the discussion from last month's ExCom meeting. The proposal was published in the MIND for review and comment by the CIM membership. The main question raised was whether close family members/household members would have to get ExCom member permission for every event after their third event attended; it was discussed that approval could be extended for multiple events. Ann Hake moved that the attendance proposal be approved. Teresa Fisher seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

New Business

CultureQuest will be held virtually on May 2, 2021. We will field 1 or 2 teams, depending on the number of individuals interested. Registration closes March 31, 2021.

News from National: The spring AMC Meeting will be livestreamed on GoToMeeting on March 20, 2021. It is also National election season, with the voting period for the upcoming election scheduled for April 15 through May 15, 2021. Members who are in good standing on April 1, 2021 are eligible to vote. A Zoom "Meet the Candidates" meeting for the Region 4 RVC candidates will take place on Tuesday, April 6, 2021.

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 8:03 pm.

Treasurer's Report

Matthew Zwick, CIM Treasurer

Balance Sheet (as of 03/31/2021)

Bank Accounts	2/28/2021	03/31/2021
Checking – Regular	\$7,629.43	\$7,779.73
Checking – Scholarship	-	-
Checking – MG Cash	25.00	25.00
Checking – Events Checking	6,415.04	6,415.04
Checking – USPS Stamps	476.25	475.70
Total Assets	\$14,545.72	\$14,695.47

Profit & Loss Statement (02/28/2020 – 03/31/2021)

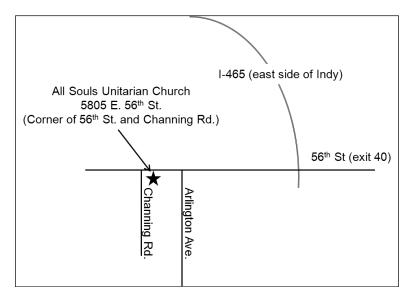
Income	
401.1 – Monthly Gathering Inc.	0.00
405.1 – National Support	434.35
405.2 – New Member/Lapsed Member	6.00
420.1 – Miscellaneous – Advertising for the MIND	100.00
Total Income	\$540.35
Expense	
501.1– MG Hospitality	0.00
505.1 – MIND Printing	390.05
507 – Stamps	0.55
Total Expenses	\$390.60

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

- From I-465 on the east side of Indianapolis, take the 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 6076 Dewey Avenue Indianapolis. IN 46219