



mind

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana

SUMMER



Publishing Statement

Central Indiana Mensa, a Local Group of American Mensa, Ltd., publishes *MIND* monthly. Mensa is a not-for-profit organization open to all persons scoring in the 98th percentile on a standardized intelligence test. Mensa neither endorses nor opposes the opinions published in *MIND*, which are those of the individual contributors.

Contribution Guidelines

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

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mind

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Loosing My MIND

Vonda Heverly, Editor

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

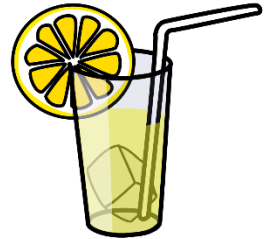


Welcome summer! My yard is bursting with beautiful flowers, and the garden is put in.

It feels so surreal to be making plans. Activities I usually participate in every year are making a comeback. By the time you read this, I'll have participated in the Rendezvous at Vincennes. June holds, for me, a fiber festival and a retreat. July, dare I hope, a concert?

I'm trying to restrain myself and realize any or all of these can still be canceled. Quiet optimism!

Cheers!



BettyHass 2021

Old Dog/New Tricks

Teresa Gregory, LocSec

I feel like I am watching a disaster movie. As it nears the end, the sun is rising, and the survivors are looking into the light with hopeful eyes. I hope that we can all experience this feeling as the Pandemic restrictions are lifting. We aren't entirely out of the woods yet, so there will be no changes to our calendar for the month of June. Our ExCom visits this topic each month, and we are so close, but we aren't there yet. As of our last meeting (May 18), All Souls Unitarian Church, our Monthly Gathering venue, has not reopened. Hopefully, we will have more news on this next month.



We will continue to have some online meetings even after things are fully open. We don't want to lose the connections with people we have met while Zooming.

Something we can look forward to is May 20-22, 2022. Those are the dates of our next OMG! (Outdoor Mensa Gathering). The reservation has been made, so I'm hoping that "three's the charm" and we will be back at beautiful Versailles State Park next spring.

There will be a gathering to celebrate Charlie Graft's Life on July 10, 1:00 – 4:00 pm, at Edelweiss Restaurant, 8602 S Meridian St, Indianapolis, IN 46217.

Today is May 22, and I am still waiting to see or hear the cicadas. There have been some sightings, but not in my neighborhood.

Last month, I mentioned that I had started seedlings. They were living under a grow light on my kitchen stovetop. Well, that wasn't as successful as I had hoped. I had one tray that I had not labeled, and I couldn't remember what they were. I have mentioned a phone app called Picture This. It identifies plants from a photograph. It's not fool-proof as I found out. I'm sure one of them is mislabeled or I would have paid a lot more for the seeds...



I did plant a couple of new roses this year. I like to plug them and forget them. Once mosquito season hits, I retreat into the house, so we'll see how well they do on their own.

Enjoy the sunshine and the bright promise of summer ahead.

Summertime Trivia

These questions were taken from the website [HobbyLark](#).

1. The English word *summer* developed from what Proto-Germanic word for the season?
 - a. zimer
 - b. sumaraz
 - c. sama
 - d. bumhot
2. Summer solstice occurs on what 2-sequential days in the Northern hemisphere?
 - a. June 20-21st
 - b. July 14-15th
 - c. July 20-21st
 - d. August 9-10th
3. What are the three summer signs of the Zodiac?
 - a. Gemini, Cancer, and Leo
 - b. Scorpio, Sagittarius, and Capricorn
 - c. Cancer, Leo, and Virgo
 - d. Capricorn, Aquarius, and Pisces
4. Before the advent of artificial dyes, the most popular way people put the pink into pink lemonade was by doing what to the drink?
 - a. adding a few drops of beet juice
 - b. adding a few teaspoons of cherry juice
 - c. adding a little red wine
 - d. using pink lemons
5. The summer's *Dog Days* are named for what?
 - a. Dogmat, the Babylonian god of summer and patron of canines
 - b. Doggrrirhea, an ancient Semitic goddess of fire
 - c. For Sirius—the Dog Star- which rises and sets with the sun, and which ancients believed added heat to the summer
 - d. the annual week-long event in summer when ancient Greek athletes sacrificed dogs in the hopes of being blessed with bulging muscles and the ability to pee while holding one leg up
6. What summer blockbuster film was the first to be promoted to the public by a blitz of expensive television advertising?
 - a. Psycho
 - b. Batman (1966, starring Adam West)
 - c. 2001: A Space Odyssey
 - d. Jaws
7. The famous song, *In the Good Old Summer Time* by George Evans and Ren Shields, was composed and published in what year?
 - a. 1891
 - b. 1902
 - c. 1930
 - d. 1949

8. According to hospital statistics in the U.S. what summer recreation historically claims the least number of injuries and fatalities each year?
 - a. volleyball
 - b. swimming in a pool
 - c. fishing
 - d. skinny dipping

9. In the U.S. what is the most popular selling grilling meat throughout the summer?

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| a. hamburgers | c. chicken |
| b. hotdogs | d. vegan patties |

10. Of these “summer-time” smells which one do social researchers say is most often found to stimulate pleasant memories in human beings?

| | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| a. coconut | c. chlorine |
| b. cut grass | d. charred hamburger |

See answers on page 13.

Puzzle Column

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

INFRASTRUCTURE BILL PUZZLES

The infrastructure bill is expected to be a major item in the Congress. There will be many questions and problems to be solved. Perhaps, if some Mensans can solve related puzzles, our leaders can do the same. The task is to find words or 2-word phrases loosely related to the infrastructure bill, using only the letters in **INFRASTRUCTURE BILL**, no more often than they appear.

Example: the quality of avoiding excess – 9 letters

Answer: **RESTRAINT**

1. Provides full details – 9 letters
2. California project under consideration (2 words) – 6 letters + 5 letters
3. Quick to be defiant – 9 letters
4. Use of a delaying tactic – 12 letters
5. Time when benefits will be realized – 6 letters
6. Differences that may cause disagreement – 8 letters
7. Inability to pass the bill – 7 letters
8. Some tavern patrons who debate the merits of the bill – 8 letters
9. An industrial group that stands to benefit – 8 letters
10. A geographic area that stands to benefit (2 words) – 4 letters + 4 letters

See answers on page 17.

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*

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.



New Members

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|----|--------|
| Frederique Deiss | Indianapolis | IN | Joined |
| Brian Johnson | Noblesville | IN | Joined |
| Elianna Lawson | Avon | IN | Joined |
| Shashidhar Vashisht | Fishers | IN | Joined |
| Adam Warnke | Carmel | IN | Joined |



June 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.

6/11 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**

6/20 - *Four Pillars of Investing: Lessons for Building a Winning Portfolio* by William J. Bernstein

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

June 2021

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

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

| Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|----------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 3 | 4 | 5 Ham'n Eggs |
| 10 | 11 Monthly Gathering | 12 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 |
| | | |
| | | |

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

Wherefore Mensa?

Jon Gruebele, RVC4

Our International Constitution states Mensa's purposes are to:

1. Identify and foster human intelligence for the benefit of humanity;
2. Encourage research into the nature, characteristics, and uses of intelligence; and
3. Provide a stimulating intellectual and social environment for its members.



We tend to focus on the social aspects. After all, they're the most fun. The first two purposes are important too – and have largely been delegated to the [Mensa Foundation](#). The Foundation was established as a separate entity, primarily for tax purposes. Contributions to the Foundation may be tax deductible, although Congress has made writing off donations harder in recent years. Having it as a separate entity may have inadvertently led some to feel the Foundation is less relevant or important to American Mensa.

American Mensa supports the Foundation in many ways. We usually donate about \$1 per member per year to support their work. The Foundation's [Annual Report](#) lists hundreds of donations from individual Mensa members. Many Local Groups donate, fund their own scholarships, and provide judges to evaluate scholarship essays.

Beyond the \$150,000+ given away last year in scholarships, the Foundation also bestows a variety of awards, fellowships, and grants to support research, gifted education, and distinguished teachers. They host a [Colloquium](#) in conjunction with the Annual Gathering and provide significant support for gifted youth with the [mensaforkids.org](#) website.

The Foundation is governed by trustees elected by the voting members of the American Mensa Board of Directors (AMC). While the Foundation and American Mensa file separate IRS forms 990, we produce an audited [financial report](#) every year that combines finances for both organization. In 2020, the Foundation reported \$4.3m in net assets.

Bottom line, the Foundation does a lot of good work and I'd recommend you do what you can to support them. [Donations](#) are always welcome.

Thoughts on the AMC Election

As I write this, voting is still underway for the AMC election, so we don't yet know the outcome. Seven of the fifteen positions had only one candidate. The RVC5 (Southeast U.S.) race had no candidates, so the current RVC5 retains her position. Two AMC members will change jobs. Our nonvoting Communications

Officer will be RVC3 (Great Lakes & Ohio Valley); RVC1 (Northeast) will be Secretary.

If all incumbents retain their seats, we'll have six new voting AMC members; if none retain their seats, we'll have eleven. Regardless, we'll have new voices helping shape our decisions. Depending on the bylaws referendum's outcome, they'll have either two- or three-year terms of office.

If history is any guide, fewer than 1 in 10 members will vote. Some say low turnouts favor incumbents; others say it provides opportunities for upsets.

However it turns out, many thanks to those who honored those seeking office by casting your vote.

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>.



Answers to Summertime Trivia on page 6:

1. b. sumaraz
2. a. June 20-21st
3. c. Cancer, Leo and Virgo
4. a. adding a few drops of beet juice
5. c. For Sirius—the Dog Star—which rises and sets with the sun, and which ancients believed added heat to the summer
6. d. Jaws
7. b. 1902
8. d. skinny dipping
9. b. hotdogs
10. b. cut grass



Books on the Runway

Margy Lancet Fletcher

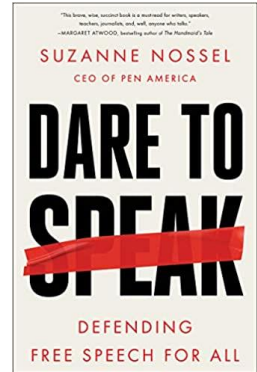
Author: Suzanne Nossel

Title: *Dare to Speak: Defending Free Speech for All*

Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers

Year: 2020

Book Description: While the majority of Americans welcome the return of rational leadership to our government’s executive branch, we bewail the fact that the partisan war is only intensifying. As our ears and minds are bombarded with invectives, insults, and threats hurled between the political tribes, it seems counterintuitive to suggest that free speech is the key to ensuring our safety and peace. But this is precisely what Suzanne Nossel, CEO of the writers’ human rights organization PEN America, affirms in *Dare to Speak*, her clearly-worded, effectively organized, and user-friendly handbook on preserving free expression in our fractious, culturally diverse society.



Dare to Speak presents twenty guidelines for defending free speech while simultaneously fostering tolerance for opposing viewpoints, grouped under the following four categories of principles representing aspects of verbal interaction: speaking, listening, debating free speech questions, and considering speech-related policies. The twenty guidelines are explained in detail, using prominent Federal and Supreme Court cases and other well-publicized news events as background information. Each chapter covers an individual guideline and contains bullet-point lists of examples (e.g., “Alternative Phrasings to Avoid Offense”), basic instructions (e.g., “Ways to Protest without Silencing”), and concluding summaries (e.g., “Why We Should Be Leery of Expanding Government Controls on Speech”). The final chapter encapsulates the author’s rationale for writing her free-speech manifesto, and appropriately concludes as follows:

WHY WE DEFEND FREE SPEECH IN THE FIRST PLACE

- Free speech enables society to uncover truth.
- Free speech promotes tolerance and lessens violence.
- Free speech is essential to individual autonomy, identity, and self-actualization.
- Protections for free speech foster economic prosperity, scientific progress, and creative achievement.
- Safeguards for free speech have been essential to virtually every form of progress attained by democracies.

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

I greatly appreciate the author’s inclusion of both extremes of the political spectrum in her discourse, as both factions have been guilty of the suppression of contrarian

ideas throughout our history. I have noted, as a former small-government advocate, that her book supports the lone libertarian ethic to which I still cleave: that persuasion is ultimately more effective and morally defensible than the use of force to achieve one's ends. Granted, getting both far-right cultists and collegiate left-wing extremists to subscribe to this approach may prove to be a major challenge, but *Dare to Speak* is a good place to start. One prominent personality that embodies the fusion of courage and sensitivity that the author endorses is Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, a Liberal public servant who has frequently appeared on the ultra-conservative Fox News network. Buttigieg has published an excellent book on a closely-related subject, *Trust*, on which I will elaborate in a future Books on the Runway installment.

Who should definitely read this book? Why? *Dare to Speak* should convince serious history students that free speech is just as vital to the health of a democracy as nutrients are to the day-to-day functioning of the human body. Indeed, as Edward J. Watts observed in *Mortal Republic*, censorship was a contributing factor in the demise of ancient Rome's democratic government. *An additional note to all CIM Book Club participants:* Please be apprised of my intent to offer this book as one of our 2021-2022 discussion topics. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

How long might it take to read this book? At 259 pages, this book is not overly long, but it is replete with valuable insights that should be fully absorbed. Thus, allowing no less than a three-to-five-day reading period would do it justice.

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

Defenders of free speech reject the notion that certain ideas are categorically out of bounds. The categories of speech that the First Amendment polices most forcibly, such as child pornography and incitement to imminent violence, are not simply ideas that someone opts to articulate but involve dangerous or abusive actions that physically harm others. Yet there are protected forms of speech whose value seems dubious. When political debate descends into racist slurs or sexist tirades, it can be easy to conclude that the harm caused outweighs any possible benefit. Indeed, the reasons to protect this speech lie not in the merit of the expression itself but in the risk of empowering the state to step in. The question we ask is not whether particular speech is worthy of protection but whether we want to afford our government the leeway to restrict it, knowing that once such power is granted, officials will use it as they see fit. Affording government that authority - even if intended for sparing use only to target avowedly hateful speech - would open the door to the kinds of restraints once used to silence civil rights organizers and feminist activists. We rely instead on taboos, counterspeech, and social and institutional norm enforcement to deter and blunt the damage of speech that is hateful. But this should leave room for reasoned, fact-based discourse on contestable - and even combustible - topics, including religious, racial, and gender differences, the roots of terrorism and inequality, and challenges to scientific consensus on various topics. Amid a "gotcha" culture, supporters of free speech need to make space for discussion of difficult topics, defend those who take part, and model modes of discourse that can keep tough issues on the table.

Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 4/20/2021

Ann Hake, CIM Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, April 20, 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 March 2021 ExCom meeting. Kurt Williams moved that the minutes be accepted as amended. Nan Harvey seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The committee reviewed the March 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 3/31/2021 from American Mensa: 511 members, 2 new, 3 moveins, 4 rejoins, and 12 prospects. No candidates were tested due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Old Business

Outdoor Gathering (OG) – is cancelled 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. We have not cancelled with the park, in case they cancel.

In person events – the National Office has not yet published a national policy.

CultureQuest was held virtually on May 2, 2021. CIM registered 2 teams.

News from National: Voting for the National election is scheduled for April 15 through May 15, 2021. Members who are in good standing on April 1, 2021 are eligible to vote. International elections are also in progress.

New Business

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 8:18 pm.

Treasurer's Report

Matthew Zwick, CIM Treasurer

Balance Sheet (as of 04/30/2021)

| Bank Accounts | 3/31/2021 | 04/30/2021 |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Checking – Regular | \$7,779.73 | \$7,849.12 |
| Checking – Scholarship | - | - |
| Checking – MG Cash | 25.00 | 25.00 |
| Checking – Events Checking | 6,415.04 | 6,415.04 |
| Checking – USPS Stamps | 475.70 | 475.15 |
| Total Assets | \$14,695.47 | \$14,764.31 |

Profit & Loss Statement (03/31/2021 – 04/30/2021)

| Income | | |
|---------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| | 401.1 – Monthly Gathering Inc. | 0.00 |
| | 405.1 – National Support | 375.55 |
| | 405.2 – New Member/Lapsed Member | 7.00 |
| | 420.1 – Miscellaneous | 0.0 |
| | Total Income | \$383.55 |
| Expense | | |
| | 501.1– MG Hospitality | 0.00 |
| | 505.1 – MIND Printing | 314.16 |
| | 507 – Stamps | 0.55 |
| | Total Expenses | \$314.71 |

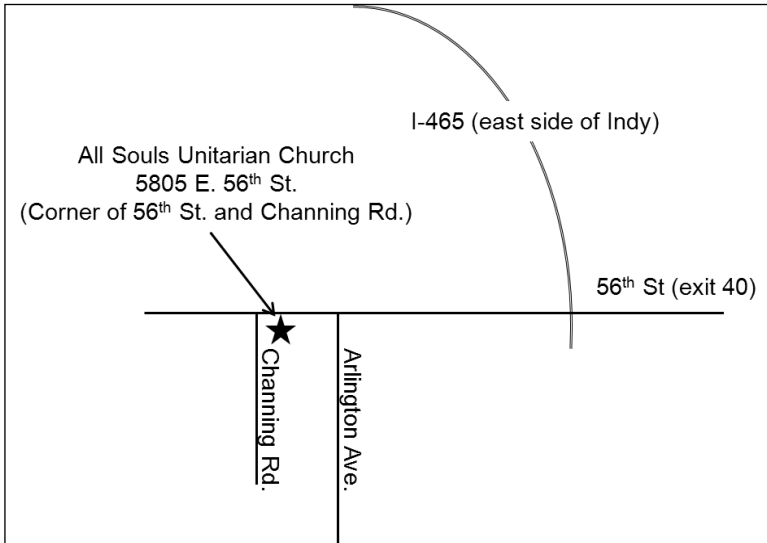
Answers to Puzzle Column on page 7:

1. Provides full details = **CLARIFIES**
2. California project under consideration (2 words) = **BULLET TRAIN**
3. Quick to be defiant = **TRUCULENT**
4. Use of a delaying tactic = **FILIBUSTER**
5. Time when benefits will be realized = **FUTURE**
6. Differences that may cause disagreement = **CULTURAL**
7. Inability to pass the bill = **FAILURE**
8. Some tavern patrons who debate the merits of the bill = **BARFLIES**
9. An industrial group that stands to benefit = **AIRLINES**
10. A geographic area that stands to benefit (2 words) = **RUST BELT**

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
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