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mind

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central **Indiana**



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Loosing My MIND

Vonda Heverly, Editor

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



Hello August! Our summer has flown by. My daughter starts back to school in two days (summer break is only eight weeks for them). No summer vacation for us this year, but we've tried to do several small fun activities. Last night it was a road trip to Dayton to see one of my favorite bands, Scythian. It was a great show, but getting home at 2 a.m.—well, let's just say those days should be firmly behind me.

We ate the first garden cucumber today. I also picked and nibbled on what I thought was an innocent banana pepper, not waiting to hear back from my brother that it was a HOT banana. Oy. Now I've touched my eyelids, my lips are burning, and I think it is even traveling into my ear canals. Stay safe in the garden, people!

Cheers!



Old Dog/New Tricks

Teresa Gregory, LocSec

August will see a lot of kids returning to school. My own grandson will be going back for the first time since March 2020. Several weeks ago, one of my childhood friends who now lives in Buffalo, NY, was in town for a visit. She invited me to go with her to St. Mary-of-the-Woods near Terre Haute to visit our 7th grade teacher, Sister Joseph. That was a treat. At the age of 84, she is as sharp as she was in 1965, and she still has that mischievous twinkle in her eye. What a wonderful visit and a nice Sunday drive in the country.



The scores have been posted and I would like to congratulate team CIMple Minds (Captain Ann Hake, Jon Applegate, Ken Koziol, Karen Steilberger, and Kurt Williams) for their 9th place finish in the annual CultureQuest competition. The March 2 event was held online again this year.

I'm still looking for someone to help with the annual scholarship competition. I would like to find a person to who would train to be the chair and we are always recruiting readers.

At the July ExCom meeting, we again discussed holding live meetings and events. I had contacted the church office manager at All Souls Unitarian Church to get an update on their facility policies. They have not opened their building yet. We will continue to Zoom the Monthly Gathering until further notice. In August, Ham'n Eggs, Lunch Bunch, and Mensans Dining Out will continue to meet at local restaurants. (Check the calendar for dates and location and please RSVP.) Book Group met in person in July but are returning to Zoom only in August. We will also offer the Mensa Admission Test on August 14. If you know anyone who would like more information on this, contact Alison Brown. (See the Calendar.) The ExCom meeting and the Sunday Socials will continue to be on Zoom.

Again, watch the Monday ReMINDER for updated information on all meetings this month. The ExCom agreed that CIM will continue to follow local, CDC, and American Mensa guidelines for public meetings. If there is a shift of any kind, or new regulations are put into place, events may be canceled or moved back to Zoom.

Enjoy the Dog Days of Summer.

Puzzle Column

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

Embedded First Names

Sometimes, a person's first name can be embedded in a sentence about the person. In these puzzles, the task is to find a word that contains the name within it (not at the beginning or end). Here's an example:

LOU went fishing and caught a (7-letter word). The answer is **FLOUNDER**.

1. SUE left before the fight (6-letter word)
2. DAN and his wife learned the (8-letter word)
3. ROB was sentenced to (9-letter word)
4. SAM works for Wikipedia as a specialist in (14-letter word)
5. IDA considered her history professor overly (8-letter word)
6. RIP was told that the Renaissance painting is a (8-letter word)
7. TOM was told that his mouth inflammation was caused by (10-letter word)
8. CAL once had a bad trip from taking (9-letter word)
9. DOT was criticized because her evidence was (9-letter word)
10. HAL learned that dopamine is produced by the (12-letter word)

See answers on page 13.

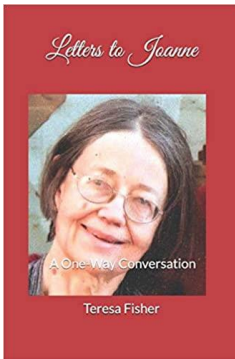


New Members

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------|----|--------|
| Derek Jamrog | Indianapolis | IN | MoveIn |
| Matthew Striegel | Brownsburg | IN | Joined |

Excerpts From Letters to Joanne

Teresa Fisher



I wrote my friend Joanne Ortman letters to try to cheer her up when she was bedridden, and they were all attempts at making the mundane details of my life entertaining. I have published them in a book, available on Amazon. Following are excerpts from *Letters to Joanne: A One-Way Conversation*.

Dec 2015

[After a discussion of my plan to take my granddaughter Rhianna to Portland, Oregon the next month to a cosplay convention, or nerd fest as I called it, as her combined Christmas and birthday gift.] I don't know what else I will get Dani, but so far, it's looking like there's a theme. I got her a fart piano with six modes, so it can also be a belch and vomit piano. You press a key, and there is a fart (or vomit) sound in the right note. There's only one octave's worth of keys, but really, is anyone going to play a fart concerto? Her other gift is some brown clay and a mold with which to make... I'll let you guess.

Jan 2016

The fart piano I got Dani for Christmas was a big hit, much more so than the make-your-own-poop mold and brown clay. (You wouldn't think one would need special equipment to do that, would you?) After she opened the package, I got to see what kind of musical instructions came with the piano. The keys were numbered, and the numbers to the first couple of bars of several songs were on a sheet of paper. The aspiring musician can play *Jingle Bells*, *When the Saints Go Marching In*, *Here Comes the Bride*, *Hail to the Chief*, *London Bridge*, *Row Row Row Your Boat*, and *Ode to Joy*, all in a variety of fart, burp, and retching sounds. Alas, one cannot mix sound types in the same song. That would be gauche.

Dani got another memorable gift from my niece, a jellybean game called Bean Boozled. The beans come in a variety of colors, and each color has two possible flavors. Players must guess which flavor it is, and then taste it to see if they are correct. The instructions advised that a trash can should be nearby for spitting. Were the yellow beans caramel corn or moldy cheese? Were the brown ones chocolate pudding or canned dog food? Other pairings were coconut or baby wipes (it didn't say whether the wipes were used), buttered popcorn or rotten egg, licorice or skunk spray (no way to win there), peach or barf, tutti frutti or stinky socks, blueberry or toothpaste (Dani thought there was no way to lose on that pair), lime or lawn clippings, and juicy pear or boogers. I wasn't brave enough to play.

Several of the other gifts I got Dani were items she circled in a catalog of educational toys. She circled a device that you put a gift or money into, and the recipient must figure out how to open it. You can see whatever is inside, and the illustration showed the device holding money. After circling it Dani wrote "just the money."

VML Too

(because we can:-)

Very Much Love *again* presented by Virginia and Mary Lee, featuring Vital Meals and Libations. Various Meeting and Leisure activities led by Visionary yet Merry Leaders. Verified Marvelous Lodging. Variable Mental Learnings. Vastly Meaningful Lunacy. And a really big Vat of Maneuverable Liquid outside for Boingy Boingy.



August 13-15. \$95 registration rate. Young Adult, kid, and daily rates below. Friday 3 PM through Sunday 1 PM. Checkout time is 11 AM.

DoubleTree by Hilton. 6300 E. Kemper Rd. in Sharonville/Blue Ash, Ohio.

\$109++/night. 800-222-8733. Reservation code: VML

https://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/C/CVGKRDT-VML-20210812/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

Make checks payable to Mary Lee Kemper. Mail to 1474 Windward Dr. Mason, OH 45040. Please note VML Too on the Memo line.

Name: _____

Email: _____ \$ _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

All weekend Fri only Sat only

Adult Young Adult 6-12 <6

All weekend: \$95 adult \$75 Young adult \$50 6-12 \$0 <6

Partial weekend:

Adult rates: \$50 Fri \$75 Saturday \$40 Sat after 5 PM

Young adult rates: \$40 Fri \$45 Saturday \$30 Sat after 5 PM

Ages 6-12 rates: \$25 Fri \$35 Saturday \$20 Sat after 5 PM

If you come Friday and decide to stay, we will prorate your Saturday.

If you want to pay as a walk in, please clue us that you are coming as soon as you can so we can count for the catered meal. Please volunteer to make this a better party!

Questions? Email maryleekemper@gmail.com for more info.

August 2021 Events

Ham'n Eggs (Hamilton County Eggheads) – 1st Saturday from **9:45am - 12 noon**.

11700 N Illinois St, Carmel (or contact Alison for ZOOM info)

We will return to our former home, the Atrio, which now has a very reduced menu, but remains a quiet, spacious place with comfortable seats. Contact: Alison Brown, 317-846-6798, SIGHT@indymensa.org.

Indy Lunch Bunch **11:30am, 1st and 3rd Wednesday**, Shapiro's Delicatessen, 808 S. Meridian St. RSVPs not required but appreciated. Contact: Karen Steilberger, steilkr@sbcglobal.net.

VIRTUAL *Sunday Social* – Some Sundays (check the calendar) from **7:00pm –8:30pm ET** Drop in any time for casual chat. Contact: Teresa, ag18tg@yahoo.com.

VIRTUAL *Monthly Gathering* - 2nd Friday, **7:30pm – 10:00pm ET** Our usual format of announcements at 7:45p.m., a short program, then conversation. Bring your own snacks and beverages.

8/13 - Watch IndyMensa.org, MeetUp, and/or the Monday “CIM Meeting ReMINDER” for program information. - Contact: Teresa, ag18tg@yahoo.com

Mensa Admissions Test

8/14, 1:00pm with registration before.

The exact location will be provided when a candidate reserves a space. Contact Alison Brown [.SIGHT@IndyMensa.org](mailto:SIGHT@IndyMensa.org) to reserve a spot.

Mensans Dining Out - 3rd Sunday, **6pm ET.**

8/15 - Fishers Test Kitchen, 9713 District N Dr Suite #1210, Fishers RSVP is appreciated.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Bob Zdanky at 317-219-3773.

VIRTUAL *Book Group*

8/15, 2:00pm ET Back to ZOOM only. 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 and schedule for the upcoming year or two, based on how many we get. Please contact Rich at hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com or 770-548-5217 for more details, Zoom link.

VIRTUAL *ExCom*– 3rd Tuesday of the month. **7:00pm. ET** All active members are welcome to see your board in action. Contact: Teresa, ag18tg@yahoo.com

August 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday |
|--|--------|---------------|---------------------------|
| 1 *Sunday Social* | 2 | 3 | 4 Indy Lunch Bunch |
| 8 *Sunday Social* | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 15 *Book Group*; Mensans Dining Out | 16 | 17 *ExCom* | 18 Indy Lunch Bunch |
| 22 *Sunday Social* | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 29 *Sunday Social* | 30 | 31 | |

Virtual Zoom Events

| Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|----------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 5 | 6 | 7 Ham 'n' Eggs |
| 12 | 13 *Monthly Gathering* | 14 Mensa Testing |
| 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 |
| | | |

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

Know Any Smart Kids?

Jon Gruebele, RVC4

I'm guessing you have some smarter-than-the-average-bear kiddos in your life somewhere. They may be your own children, grandkids, or first cousins once removed. Whether nature or nurture, Mensa members tend to have smart relatives.

We all have experiences about growing up as a gifted child. In school, I was totally bored until I was put in a gifted classroom. My parents didn't let me skip a grade, so I just had to endure listening to material I had already mastered – while unsuccessfully trying not to fidget too much.

Fortunately, Mensa has resources to help. Many Local Groups have Gifted Youth Coordinators who provide opportunities for enrichment and interaction with their gifted peers. If your Local Group doesn't have a Coordinator, you might want to contact your LocSec to ask about volunteering. [Note: A background check is required for at least one leader at each event, and other safety rules apply. A parent need not be a member to coordinate events. See the National [website](#) for more information.]

The Mensa Foundation (mensafoundation.org) also has many links to youth resources on its [website](#):

- The [Spark!](#) youth programs at the Annual Gathering for ages 4-12. This year, the multiple-day track includes events such as programming from the Space Center Houston. They'll walk kids through the planning and execution of modern spaceflight.
- The [Excellence in Reading Program](#), including age-appropriate lists of great children's literature. Kids completing a segment list get a certificate and a Mensa for Kids T-shirt for their first segment.
- [Parent/Teacher](#) resources including lesson and activity plans, projects on [Pinterest](#), and TED® Connections that guide the use of TED® talks in a classroom or home setting.
- The [Mensa for kids](#) website, with links for the [Young Mensan Magazine](#) YM², the Mensa Honor Society, and BookParade. The Summer 2021 YM² has articles from kids aged 5 through 17 on topics ranging from training guide dogs for the blind to being a pre-teen online instructor. Blog posts from Jamie Uphold, American Mensa's Gifted Youth Program Manager, discuss topics such as whether to tell kids they're gifted.

As a Proctor, I've tested many youths. Our Mensa admission tests are only normed for people ages 14 and older. Younger members can gain admission by



testing with psychiatrists, schools, or elsewhere. When a parent drops their kid off for a test, I always encourage them to also take a test. If their kid qualifies, they might too.

Providing support for our gifted youth is indeed important. Enrichment helps them grow into their full potential – and might help keep them from fidgeting so much. I know of one adult member who said that growing up in Mensa “saved his life”. The support and belonging he found with us helped him through some tough times.

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 Puzzle Column on page 6:

1. ENSUED
2. FANDANGO
3. PROBATION
4. DISAMBIGUATION
5. DIDACTIC
6. TRIPTYCH
7. STOMATITIS
8. MESCALINE
9. ANECDOTAL
10. HYPOTHALAMUS

2020-2021 Book Group Reading List

Rich Gibson

Book Group is currently meeting ONLY 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.

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.



Books on the Runway

Margy Lancet Fletcher

Author: Gyles Brandreth

Title: *Have You Eaten Grandma? Or, the Life-Saving Importance of Correct Punctuation, Grammar, and Good English*

Publisher: Atria Books

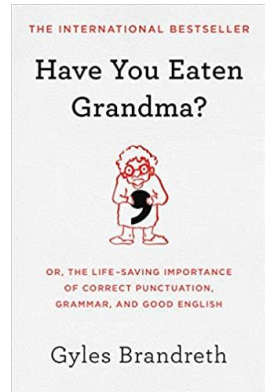
Year: 2018

Book Description: In Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe's perennially popular musical, "My Fair Lady," Henry Higgins, the pompous British phonetics professor, lyrically and rhetorically poses the question, "Why can't the English learn to speak?" Later in the song, Higgins manages to hurl an additional insult across the Pond: "There even are places where English *completely* disappears! In America, they haven't used it for years." One current British writer/entertainer/politician who concurs with this viewpoint, Gyles Brandreth, has composed a guidebook for wordsmiths on acceptable English usage: the enlightening, delightfully witty, and occasionally hilarious *Have You Eaten Grandma?* The title obviously refers to a phrase that reflects two different sentiments, depending on whether or not a comma is placed after the word "eaten" - either you're addressing your grandmother regarding her latest meal, or asking a cannibalistic third person if he or she has consumed a family member.

Although *Have You Eaten Grandma?* is basically Anglocentric, it is relevant to English speakers on both sides of the Atlantic, as it includes both versions of the common rules of written expression. (e.g.: In American English, any punctuation associated with the word or phrase within the quotation mark should come before the closing quotation mark: Money talks. All mine ever seems to say is "Goodbye." In British English, the associated punctuation is placed outside the closing quotation mark: Money talks. All mine ever seems to say is 'Goodbye'.) This comprehensive and marvelously entertaining linguistic handbook addresses the following topics, as indicated by the self-explanatory subtitles: Basic Punctuation; Dashes, Hyphens, Slashes, and More; Apostrophes, Possession, and Omission; Spelling Rules, Prefixes, and Silent Letters; Pluralization and Word Roots; British versus American English (see excerpt below); Homophones and Heterography; Abbreviations, Initialisms, and Acronyms; Offensive Language, Slang, and Wordplay; Guidance for Good Communication; and The Language of Grammar. Replete with examples drawn from history and popular culture, *Have You Eaten Grandma?* contains everything an English speaker or writer needs to know to ensure effective, concise communication.

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

As I was raised by two self-professed grammarians who have left that intellectual legacy to all four of their daughters, I have eagerly added this book to my reference collection. I retain one minor difference of opinion regarding the ending of a



sentence with a preposition: Brandreth states that this is permissible if the preposition “falls naturally” within the sentence; I maintain that the practice should be avoided if at all possible. To Winston Churchill’s alleged assertion: “This is the sort of English up with which I will not put,” I would reply with an alternate form of expression: “This is the sort of English that I will not tolerate.” There - problem solved!

Who should definitely read this book? Why? Anyone who shares my view that anarchy is inappropriate in regard to language, and that English usage rules and regulations have a vital purpose, will treasure this book. Written in plain language laced with irreverent humor, this book should simultaneously instruct and beguile prospective authors and orators.

How long might it take to read this book? One or two days should be an adequate time interval for this diverting page-turner. I guarantee that, upon completion, the reader will wish that high school English was half as enjoyable!

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

When it comes to American words and phrases creeping into British English, I like to think that I keep my cool and maintain my stiff upper lip. I’m that phlegmatic because I happen to know that “keeping your cool” and “stiff upper lip” are both American in origin. We may now think of the “stiff upper lip” - showing fortitude in the face of adversity and self-restraint in place of quivering-upper-lip emotion - as a quintessentially British attribute, but the phrase originated in America in 1815 and became popular thanks to the success of a poem by the American women’s rights activist Phoebe Cary (1824[?] - 1871), which featured the lines “And though hard be the task, / Keep a stiff upper lip.”

The reliable, talented, and influential British journalist Matthew Engel, author of the tremendous *That’s the Way It Crumbles: The American Conquest of the English Language*, is the acknowledged authority on Americanisms that have successfully invaded British English. The list of them is lengthy - and, as Matthew points out, includes “lengthy,” as well as “reliable,” “talented,” “influential,” and “tremendous”: “All of these words we use without a second thought were not normally part of the English language until the establishment of the United States. The Americans imported English wholesale, forged it to meet their own needs, then exported their own words across the Atlantic to be incorporated in the way we speak over here. Those seemingly innocuous words caused fury at the time. The poet Coleridge denounced ‘talented’ as a barbarous word in 1832, though a few years later it was being used by William Gladstone. A letter-writer to *The Times*, in 1857, described ‘reliable’ as vile.”

Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 6/15/2021

Ann Hake, CIM Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, June 15, 2021.

LocSec Teresa Gregory called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. Members present: Teresa Fisher, Teresa Gregory, Nan Harvey, Ann Hake, Kurt Williams, Bob Zdanky, and Matthew Zwick. Guests: Pat Milligan, Jan Pfeil Doyle, and Petra Ritchie.

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

The committee reviewed the May 2021 Treasurer's report. Kurt Williams moved that the report be accepted. Bob Zdanky seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

A membership report was compiled by Teresa Gregory based upon the information available as of 5/31/2021 from American Mensa: 448 members, 2 new, 0 moveins, 2 rejoins, and 21 prospects. No candidates were tested due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Old Business

In person events – the pandemic trajectory appears to be on track to allow some in-person events to resume in July. We are continuing to maintain contact with All Souls to determine when the in-person Monthly Gathering can resume; at present, only outdoor activities (with no restroom facility access) are permitted there for outside groups. The Committee agreed that in-person testing could resume after this month based on test site and proctor availability, with the caveat that it may be suspended again if there is a change in the pandemic trajectory or a local surge. Similarly, other in-person events can resume July 1, subject to venue availability and host discretion, again with the caveat that it may be suspended again if there is a change in the pandemic trajectory or a local surge. American Mensa National and CDC guidelines, as well as state and local regulations, will be followed at in-person events when they resume.

Outdoor Gathering (OG) – is scheduled for May 20-22, 2022, at Versailles State Park; reservations have been made and a deposit has been put down.

Regional Gathering (RG) – is tentatively scheduled for February 4-6, 2022. Teresa G. and Jan will inquire about venue availability, and the ExCom will continue to monitor conditions in order to be able to make a final decision by October.

New Business

There being no other business, Ann Hake moved that the meeting be adjourned. Bob Zdanky seconded the motion. The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Treasurer's Report

Matthew Zwick, CIM Treasurer

Balance Sheet (as of 06/30/2021)

| Bank Accounts | 5/31/2021 | 06/30/2021 |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Checking – Regular | \$7,818.18 | \$7,874.85 |
| Checking – Scholarship | - | - |
| Checking – MG Cash | 25.00 | 25.00 |
| Checking – Events Checking | 6,415.04 | 6,415.04 |
| Checking – USPS Stamps | 419.60 | 419.05 |
| Total Assets | \$14,677.82 | \$14,733.94 |

Profit & Loss Statement (05/31/2021 – 06/30/2021)

| Income | | |
|---------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| | 401.1 – Monthly Gathering Inc. | 0.00 |
| | 405.1 – National Support | 383.35 |
| | 405.2 – New Member/Lapsed Member | 2.00 |
| | 420.1 – Miscellaneous | 0.0 |
| | Total Income | \$385.35 |
| Expense | | |
| | 501.1– MG Hospitality | 0.00 |
| | 505.1 – MIND Printing | 328.68 |
| | 507 – Stamps | 0.55 |
| | Total Expenses | \$329.23 |

"The first week of August hangs at the very top of summer, the top of the live-long year, like the highest seat of a Ferris wheel when it pauses in its turning. The weeks that come before are only a climb from balmy spring, and those that follow a drop to the chill of autumn, but the first week of August is motionless, and hot. It is curiously silent, too, with blank white dawns and glaring noons, and sunsets smeared with too much color."—Natalie Babbitt, Tuck Everlasting

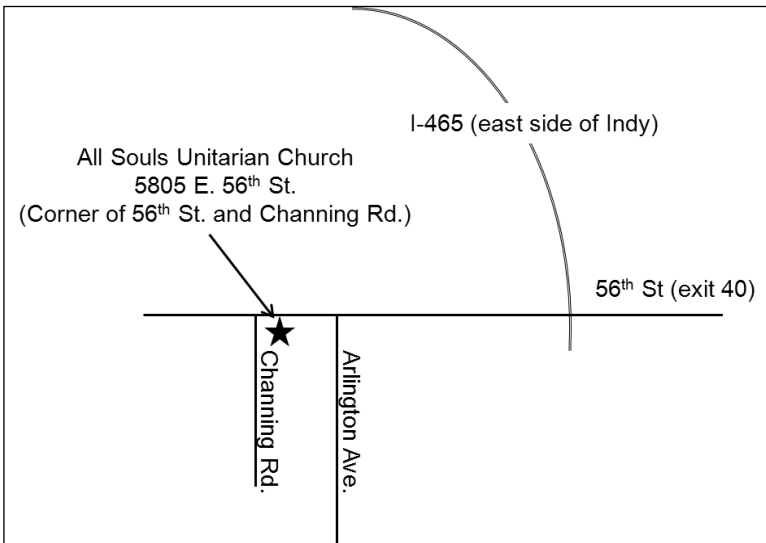
Mensa Monthly Gathering Location*

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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