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mind

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana



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Loosing My MIND

Vonda Heverly, Editor

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



We are solidly into our back-to-school routine here. Coordinating after-school pickups, deciding which clubs to join. We're ready for the weather to change to match our mood. Come on, fall!

This also means more time for me to work on those home improvement projects I've been procrastinating. Tree trimming, deck repair, mulching. Is it too late to mulch? Maybe that can just wait for spring to roll around again. Oh wait, the leaves are going to start falling again soon too...

Cheers!



Old Dog/New Tricks

Teresa Gregory, LocSec

If you don't mind flying night flights on Mondays or Fridays only, you can go from Los Angeles to Indianapolis non-stop for as little as \$59 one way (or \$49 each way on a round trip ticket) with Allegiant Air. Because of this, I recently had a lovely visit with my son, Jack, and his girlfriend, Jennifer here in Indy. It was a great weekend spent with family. It's been a long time. I last saw them on a trip to LA in February 2020. I have plans to go see them in late October of this year.



As we head into September, we have a few scheduling changes. I had hoped that I would be announcing more open live events, but the opposite is true. All our scheduled events have gone back to virtual except Mensans Dining Out. There will be no Sunday Socials on September 5 (Labor Day Weekend) or September 19 (Book Group and Dining Out weekend). Please be sure to check the calendar at IndyMensa.org, MeetUp, and the Monday CIM ReMINDER for the most up-to-date information. Things are changing from day to day.

Thanks to Rich Gibson for hosting Ham'n Eggs and Book Group ZOOMs which are both back online this month. Be sure to check out the fresh new reading list from the CIM Book Group. They meet the third Sunday of the month.

Thanks also to Jan Pfeil Doyle who hosts the Sunday Social each week at 7:00pm ET. Earlier this evening, I logged in to attend. I got a message that I was waiting for the host to start the meeting. It was 7:05pm, so I texted Jan "Sunday Social?" She replied "Tomorrow" with a winking face emoji. Yes, today is Saturday. We exchanged some laughing emojis and comments on the full moon. Then, at 7:39pm, I received a text message from another Mensan (I won't embarrass Alan Schmidt by mentioning his name) asking if I was going to open the meeting. HE thought it was Sunday, too. I didn't feel so bad about my own slip-up. I was in good company.

Have a safe and happy Labor Day!



Puzzle Column

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

What Were the Songs About? – contributed by Kedem Har-Shalom

Match the following songs with what (or whom) the song is about.

1. Michael Row the Boat Ashore
2. Funiculi Funicula
3. For What It's Worth- Buffalo Springfield
4. Fire and Rain- James Taylor
5. You're So Vain- Carly Simon
6. Killing Me Softly With His Song- Roberta Flack (or The Fugees)
7. I Don't Like Mondays- Boomtown Rats
8. American Pie- Don McLean
9. Kiss Them for Me- Siouxsie and the Banshees
10. Tears in Heaven- Eric Clapton

- A. A mass shooting
- B. A riot on Sunset Boulevard
- C. A death at a mental institution
- D. A son's death
- E. A train going up a mountain
- F. Slaves escaping to freedom
- G. Buddy Holly (in part)
- H. Don McLean
- I. Jayne Mansfield
- J. Warren Beatty

See answers on page 7.

***"No spring nor summer beauty hath such grace as I have seen in
one autumnal face."***

--John Donne, from the poem *The Autumnal*

2021-2022 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.

Sep 19: *A Thousand Small Sanities* by Adam Gopnik; 239 pages

Oct 17: *Trust* by Pete Buttigieg; 214 pages (see MIND 6/2021)

Nov 21: *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson; 388 pages

Dec 19: *Dare to Speak* by Suzanne Nossel; 259 pages

Jan 16: *How to Avoid A Climate Disaster* by Bill Gates 230/262 pages

Feb 20: *Unsettled* by Steven E. Koonin; 255/320 pages

Mar 20: *A Short History of Humanity* by Johannes Krause & Thomas Troppe; 237 pages

Apr 17: *Human Errors* by Nathan Lents; 216 pages

May 15: *Incognito* by David Eagleman; 227 pages

Jun 19: *Drug Use for Grown-ups* by Carl Hart; 304 pages

Jul 17: *The Reinvention of Humanity* by Charles King; 345 pages

Aug 21: *Science Fictions* by Stuart Ritchie; 368 pages



Answers to Puzzle Column on page 6:

Solutions:

1. Michael Row the Boat Ashore = F (Slaves escaping to freedom)
2. Funiculi Funicula = E (A train going up a mountain)
3. For What It's Worth- Buffalo Springfield = B (A riot on Sunset Boulevard)
4. Fire and Rain- James Taylor = C (A death at a mental institution)
5. You're So Vain- Carly Simon = J (Warren Beatty)
6. Killing Me Softly With His Song- Roberta Flack (or The Fugees) = H (Don McLean)
7. I Don't Like Mondays- Boomtown Rats = A (A mass shooting)
8. American Pie- Don McLean = G (Buddy Holly)
9. Kiss Them for Me- Siouxsie and the Banshees = I (Jayne Mansfield)
10. Tears in Heaven- Eric Clapton = D (A son's death)

Writing on the High Seas

Bryan Lundgren, Western Michigan Mensa

I go on a Mensa Cruise from time to time. Aboard the ship I'm too cheap to gamble (and I hate to lose), but I enjoy trivia quizzes, photo scavenger hunts, and afternoon naps.



At home, napping means I lost sleep the previous night. On a cruise, I enjoy an afternoon snooze because it is a welcome element of vacation relaxation. A little shuteye invigorates my creative thoughts and helps me stay awake at the evening stage performances. I like to doze in a quiet and secluded deck chair and wake up with inspiration to compose a Feghoot because: “If you snooze, you muse.”



New Members

Gary Combs	Greenwood	IN	Joined
Bruce Hoag	Anderson	IN	Joined
Christian Irvine	Bloomington	IN	MoveIn
Gabriel Penley	Bloomington	IN	MoveIn

September 2021 Events

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 t

11:30a.m.. ET Bring your own lunch! 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.

9/10 - Watch IndyMensa.org, MeetUp, and/or the Monday “CIM Meeting ReMINDer” for program information. - Contact: Teresa, ag18tg@yahoo.com

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

9/19 - Blind Owl Brewery, 5014 E 62nd St, Indianapolis
RSVP is appreciated.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Bob Zdanky at 317 912 3590.

VIRTUAL *Book Group*

9/19, 2:00pm ET

A Thousand Small Sanities – Adam Gopnik (2019) 239 pages

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



September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			1 *Indy Lunch Bunch*
5 NO SUNDAY SOCIAL	6	7	8
12 *Sunday Social*	13	14	15 *Indy Lunch Bunch*
19 *Book Group*; Mensans Dining Out	20	21 *ExCom*	22
26 *Sunday Social*	27	28	29

Virtual Zoom Events

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4 *Ham 'n' Eggs*
9	10 *Monthly Gathering*	11
16	17	18
23	24	25
30		

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

Board of Directors (AMC) Update

Jon Gruebele, RVC4



Every board member has three specific responsibilities:

1. **Duty of Care.** Members must monitor the organization's activities and ensure we are well informed. We must participate in making decisions, meaning we should attend meetings and participate on our committees. Each of us needs to exercise our independent judgement.
2. **Duty of Loyalty.** We must place the interest of the organization above our own interests or those of others. If we have a conflict of interest, it should be disclosed and if needed, we should recuse ourselves from discussions and votes on the matter. We need to maintain the confidentiality of sensitive information about things such as personnel issues and ongoing litigation.
3. **Duty of Obedience.** We need to ensure the organization abides by laws, regulations, and our own governing documents. We need to further the organization's purpose, including defining and executing a strategic plan.

On July 9th and 10th, the AMC met at our new national office in Hurst, TX. The first day was spent orienting the new AMC members to our roles and responsibilities. We reviewed the [strategic plan](#) and spent some time prioritizing potential projects to help achieve our goals. The meeting itself was fairly short. We approved:

- Nominations for the non-voting AMC positions of Membership Officer, Marketing Officer, and the Director of Science & Education. Our own Region 4 member Robin Crawford was appointed Communications Officer.
- Various committee members and Chairs. I will again be leading the Strategic Planning Committee plus serving on Research Review and Name & Logo.
- Our national representatives to the International Board of Directors.
- Lowell Aplebaum and Tabby Vos as 2023 Annual Gathering Co-Chairs

We also approved the audited financials, which will be presented to the membership at the Annual Business Meeting at the World Gathering on August 27th. Fortunately, we ended the fiscal year with a favorable operational result and our investments recovered smartly from their March 2020 lows, so we cut our net asset deficit almost in half.

It was my first visit to our new national office in Hurst, TX. You may recall that the Mensa Foundation, owner of our old office in nearby Arlington, TX, decided to sell the old building and purchase a new one. American Mensa leases those spaces from the Foundation. The new facility is nice and has enough space for the AMC to meet. We can now avoid renting meeting space in a hotel when we meet there.

This was our first in-person meeting since December 2019. While GoToMeeting can accomplish much, it's also important for the board to meet one another and form good working relationships. That's difficult to do on-line, particularly for people who haven't yet worked together. Our next meeting is scheduled for the World Gathering on Thursday August 26th. Members are welcome to attend.

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

Richard Gibson

Author: Adam Gopnik

Title: *A Thousand Small Sanities: The Moral Adventure of Liberalism*

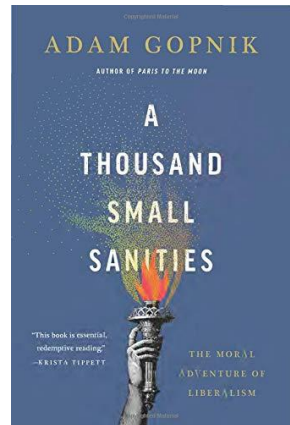
Publisher: Basic Books

Year: 2019

Book Description: This book is an impassioned defense of liberal humanism, a sober analysis of its strengths and weaknesses, and a fervent call for its rejuvenation. Gopnik begins by describing what the term “liberal” means: basically, it has completely different meanings in different countries; for instance, what we call a liberal, the French would call a republican! Then he has fun defining a liberal in today’s popular opinion (“in the insistent imagination of their enemies, not merely wrong, but craven, spineless;” “[h]istorically and still today, both the far right and the far left hate liberals even more than they hate their opposite extreme, with whom they share... a common ground of

absolutism.”). He moves on to his real purpose: to define and describe the *liberal tradition*: “an equal commitment to reform and to liberty... both greater equality among men and women and an ever-greater tolerance for difference among them.” While grounded in the individual, he asserts liberalism has a greater regard for community and relationships: “We can’t have an idea of individual liberty without an idea of shared values that include it.” (BTW, Gopnik is an accomplished aphorist and epigrammatist. It is very hard to paraphrase him without harming his argument. Better just to quote him directly). He deepens his argument, linking liberalism to the practices of compromising and accommodating contradiction that make for a happy marriage. Then he expands the importance of those same qualities to well-functioning communities and society. He expands the vocabulary of the liberal tradition: not just liberty and democracy, but also humanity, reform, tolerance, pluralism, self-realization, and autonomy. Gopnik’s strength is in his compression; you want to underline his throw-away thoughts: liberalism is the “search for radical change by humane measures.”

Gopnik’s main point is that liberalism has a heart, rather than a hard and fast ideology. It’s a way of seeing the world and living in it, rather than a one-size-fits-all doctrine. Gopnik again: “Liberalism is as distinct a tradition as exists in political history, but it suffers from being a practice before it is an ideology, a temperament and a tone and a way of managing the world more than a fixed set of beliefs.” He thus tells the history of liberalism as a story of people



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and couples, living in their times and reacting to it, seeking to reform it. He gives a picture of liberalism as a set of ideas driving people to action and making the world a better place.

He also is clear-eyed in the weaknesses in the liberal tradition. He addresses the actors and ideas that have risen in opposition to it. The book has five sections: an introduction; a chapter defining liberal humanism; a chapter describing why the far right hates it; a chapter describing why the far left hates it; and a conclusion.

The title of the book, *A Thousand Small Sanities*, emphasizes his assertion that the history of liberal accomplishment shows slow, incremental change that may seem too slow, even frustrating in the short term, but is most impressive in the long term. One of the major personal skills a liberal must have is patience

Has this book changed the way you think, your attitude toward life, or even your life itself? If so, how? As noted above, Gopnik is very good at putting complex ideas in simple, concise sentences. This book gave me many moments of realizing and recognizing deeply held feelings and thoughts in a purer, more solid form—real forehead-slapping, page after page.

Who should definitely read this book? Why? Any liberal who is frightened or discouraged, for encouragement and rejuvenation

Any sane progressive who's too impatient with the pace of reform, for the injunction to be more patient

Any sane conservative who's concerned about the idiocies of the far left or far right, for the insight that there might be sane people not so far to their left who can be dealt with constructively

Any idiot on the far left or far right, for a better idea of their adversaries

Provide a short characteristic section, an awesome sentence, or an inspiring quote: “Montaigne the essayist understood how divided we are as human beings; not just how fantastically likely we are to grow away from our ideals but how incompatible our ideas usually are with one another.”



Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 7/20/2021

Ann Hake, CIM Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, July 20, 2021.

LocSec Teresa Gregory called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm.

Members present: Teresa Fisher, Teresa Gregory, Nan Harvey, Ann Hake, 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 June 2021 ExCom meeting. Kurt Williams moved that the minutes be accepted. Nan Harvey seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The committee reviewed the June 2021 Treasurer's report. Ann Hake moved that the report be accepted. Teresa Fisher seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

A membership report was compiled by Teresa Gregory based upon the information available as of 6/30/2021 from American Mensa: 453 members, 1 new, 1 movein, 1 rejoins, and 11 prospects. No candidates were tested due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Old Business

Monthly Gatherings – Teresa Gregory had the opportunity to speak with the All Souls secretary, who reported that they are currently observing their Phase 2 COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy. This requires that groups larger than 10 still meet outdoors, observe social distancing, and wear masks. No physical contact between individuals who are not from same household is permitted. Building entry (including restrooms) must be preapproved, and no more than 2 people may be in the restroom at a time. In light of this information, we will plan to continue to hold our Monthly Gatherings virtually until the situation changes.

Teresa Gregory also attended a LocSec meeting yesterday (July 19), which was attended by about 8 other LocSecs as well as the new AMC chair. Among this group, most reported that their local groups are still not meeting indoors and many are using masks, although they are still tentatively planning their RGs. Many groups are requiring people to be vaccinated to attend events (but are not asking for proof.) A small amount of Mensa admission testing is being held (many groups still don't have venues available), using sanitizing and masks.

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Testing – has resumed but has apparently had low demand / low attendance. We will plan to keep the August date that has been scheduled and then plan for a testing session during testing month in October if possible.

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. Jon Applegate reports that he stayed at the Drury Inn on 96th Street a couple of weeks ago and said he was very favorably impressed. The hospitality was very good, friendly, and efficient, and the food during happy hour and breakfast was good.

Scholarship Committee – we are still looking for a new chair. Teresa Gregory also spoke with Becky Folger at National about the timing of our statements for the scholarship fund (we receive the statement in August each year, dated March, and then the “catch-up” contribution may not be credited in time for September.) Becky will bring this up with the financial person in the National office.

CultureQuest – The ExCom would like to congratulate CIM’s team CIMple Minds, who placed 9th in this year’s competition and brought fame, glory, and \$130 to Central Indiana Mensa. The team members were Jon Applegate, Ann Hake, Ken Koziol, Karen Steilberger, and Kurt Williams.

New Business

Bob Zdanky would like to start a “hyper local” group for CIM members who reside north of 146th street, with the objective of providing more social interaction for these individuals who live near each other. There are approximately 37 members who live in this area.

There being no other business, Kurt Williams moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ann Hake seconded the motion. The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Treasurer's Report

Matthew Zwick, CIM Treasurer

Balance Sheet (as of 07/31/2021)

Bank Accounts	6/30/2021	07/31/2021
Checking – Regular	\$7,874.85	\$8,066.18
Checking – Scholarship	-	-
Checking – MG Cash	25.00	25.00
Checking – Events Checking	6,415.04	6,415.04
Checking – USPS Stamps	419.05	418.50
Total Assets	\$14,733.94	\$14,925.82

Profit & Loss Statement (06/30/2021 – 07/31/2021)

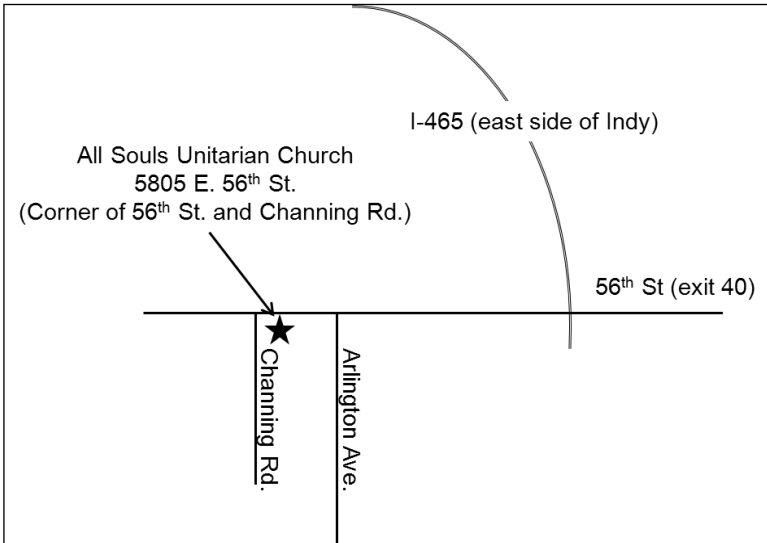
Income		
	401.1 – Monthly Gathering Inc.	0.00
	405.1 – National Support	386.75
	405.2 – New Member/Lapsed Member	2.00
	420.1 – Miscellaneous – Culture Quest	130.00
	420.2 – Miscellaneous – Testing Stipend	40.00
	Total Income	\$558.75
Expense		
	501.1– MG Hospitality	0.00
	505.1 – MIND Printing	366.32
	507 – Stamps	0.55
	Total Expenses	\$366.87

"Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree."
--Emily Brontë

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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