



mind

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana



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

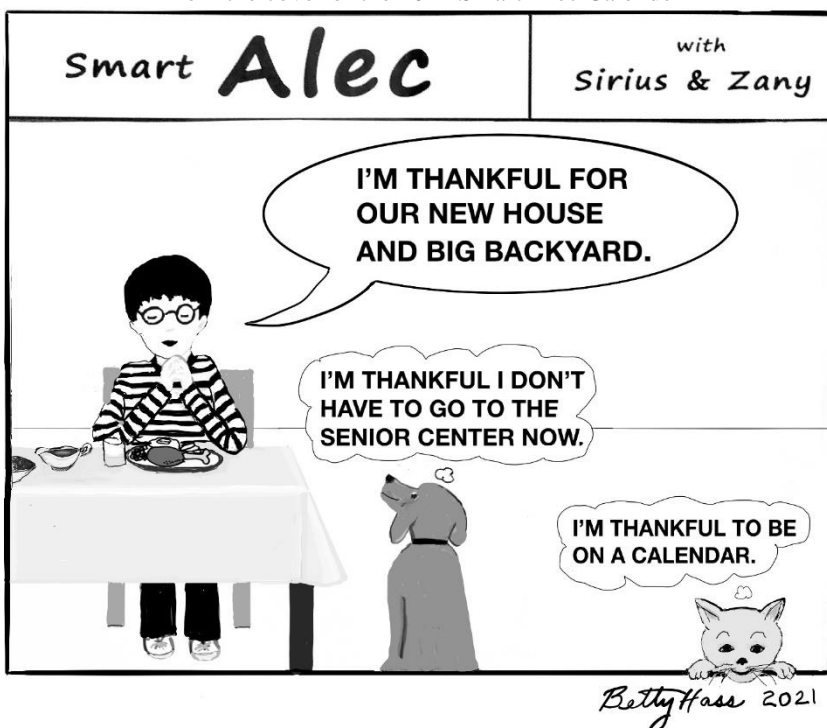


Fall is finally here. Summer seemed to linger a little too long for my liking, like that last guest at the party that just won't give up. My leaves still refuse to change color, though a few in the neighborhood are starting. After 10 years in this house, I know which ones are the "good" trees.

I recently drove a whirlwind trip to Virginia and back. We did some sightseeing and family research. It is just so good to travel a little again. I wish you all a happy Thanksgiving!

Cheers!

From the cover of the 2021 Smart Alec Calendar



Teresa Gregory, LocSec

A portrait of a woman with short, wavy, light-colored hair, wearing glasses and a dark headband. She is smiling broadly, showing her teeth. She is wearing a dark-colored top. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

[Robert Thomas Obituary - Greencastle, IN \(dignitymemorial.com\)](#)

Speaking of scholarships, it's open! The Mensa Foundation Scholarship Program awards more than \$175,000 in assistance every year to college-bound students around the globe. Scholarships are awarded based solely on 550-word essays expressing applicants' academic and professional goals and how their personal experiences will help them to accomplish those goals. There are several things I love about the Scholarship Program.

- Entries are being accepted now until January 15. Pass this information along to any student or teacher you know. For information and entry instructions, go to: mensafoundation.org/scholarships

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Puzzle Column

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

Month number XI

Find words containing **XI**, consecutively and in that order, based on descriptions, letter counts, and starting letters.

Example: The study of nature, effects, and detections of poisons (10 T).
Answer: TOXICOLOGY

1. Self-evident, following acceptance of a postulate (9 A)
2. Appearance of one's skin (10 C)
3. Extreme lack of appetite for food (8 A)
4. An ore rich in hydrated alumina (7 B)
5. It usually follows landing (7 T)
6. A low-growing plant of poor soils (9 S)
7. A form of mixed martial arts (10 K)
8. Extreme wasting of the body (8 C)
9. Death by loss of oxygen (12 A)
10. Surgeon who treats the jaws and face (13 M)

See answers on page 15.



New Members

Stanley Chen	Carmel	IN	Joined
Steven Erlandson	Anderson	IN	Joined
Luke Gerhardt	Indianapolis	IN	Joined
Alexander Smith	Greenwood	IN	Joined

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.

Nov 21: *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson; 388 pages (see MIND 10/2021)

Dec 19: *Dare to Speak* by Suzanne Nossel; 259 pages (see MIND 6/2021)

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 (see MIND 1/2021)

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



“After a good dinner one can forgive anybody, even one's own relations.” —Oscar Wilde, A Woman of No Importance

Thoughts on the Train from Nuremburg to Linz

Alison Brown

The visit with a long-time friend was a success and many heartfelt thoughts were exchanged. It was chilly (yes, fall in Germany is usually cool) and we spend a delightful half an hour browsing in the Deutsches Museum, Museum of the Future, gift shop

(www.deutsches-museum-shop.com), a playground for lovers of little science-related gadgets - I could not resist a little tea infuser shaped like a robot! There will be toys and games aplenty when her grandsons get a bit older.



The train takes about 3 hours to cover the distance, even though it is an InterCity Express (ICE) with speeds up to 200 kmh. The usual speed was around 120 kmh when I saw it displayed in the car. Plenty of time to look out into the countryside, read and reflect. The Deutsche Bahn (DB - German Railroad) now publishes a magazine for its customers, similar to the ones found in airplanes. I read it and was pleasantly surprised with the variety of information and the interesting personalities presented. I learned that the DB now runs its 1300 daily trains, 331 of which are ICE, using 61% renewable energy and expects to be completely CO2 neutral by 2040! This would account for the many lines of solar panels along the tracks, especially in villages and towns. Indeed, there are vast numbers of roofs covered in panels along the route as well, demonstrating how fully Germany is adopting alternative energy. In the distance windmills dance on hilltops, looking like white and red pinwheels, a toy I dearly loved as a child. Some consider energy producing windmills a blemish in the landscape, but I find them graceful as well as practical.



I enjoyed a portrait of the mechanical engineer, Maren Heinzerling, who began her studies in the 1950s as the only woman among 300 male students. She was successful; she was significantly involved in the development of the ICE and Transrapid locomotives, but she found the lack of women in the MINT fields problematic. MINT here is pretty much the same as STEM for us - Mathematics, Informatics, Natural Sciences and Technology. To remedy the situation, she

started the Munich Girls' Technology Day which soon developed into "Girls' Day". She died this year at the age of 82, her work for girls' education still unfinished, but in 2021, the leaders of the Girls' Day project report that 30% of MINT students are female instead of 1 to 300!

As I left sunny Franken and headed south into cloudy Bavaria, a rainbow arched across the sky, striking against the coal-grey clouds.

November 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 at **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.

11/12 - Our November speaker is perennial CIM favorite, Robert “Rob” Pyatt, PhD. Dr. Pyatt is a Clinical Molecular Geneticist at Kean University in Bridgewater, NJ; but more importantly, he is a roving science educator, relentlessly stalking science illiteracy and cognitive biases across the Universe and beyond. Those who have not yet partaken of his “Weird Science” must immediately plan to join his latest visit with us to rectify this void in their lives. Those who have had the pleasure of this experience will already know that attendance will only further enrich their lives. Please join us in Dr. Pyatt’s fight for Truth, Justice, and the Scientific Method!

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.**,

11/21 - Alley’s Alehouse, 13825 Britton Park Rd, Fishers, IN 46038

The restaurant has HEPA filters in their HVAC system.

Mensans Dining Out will continue to meet in person; however, with the change in seasons, dining will need to move indoors. Because of this, **participants will be required to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19**. Acceptable documentation of this includes your current COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card, a copy/photo of the card, or a copy of the documentation from Access Indiana.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Bob Zdanky at 317-912-3590 or zdanky@gmail.com

Book Group – In-Person and VIRTUAL

11/21, 2:00pm ET

Caste – Isabel Wilkerson (2020) 388 pages

Please contact Rich at hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com or 770-548-5217 for more details, to RSVP, or 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

November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	1	2	3 *Indy Lunch Bunch*
7 *Sunday Social*	8	9	10
14 *Sunday Social*	15	16	17 *Indy Lunch Bunch*
21 Book Group; Mensans Dining Out; NO*Sun Social*	22	23	24
28 *Sunday Social*	29	30	

Virtual Zoom Events

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

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

I'm Told I'm Wrong, and About Nitpicky Logo Stuff Too

Jon Gruebele, RVC4

Being married, I am occasionally told I'm wrong – colossally, astonishingly, dead wrong. Sometimes it's not quite that dramatic, but I'm still wrong. For a Mensa member used to being right about many things, this can be quite a shock, but I soldier on as best I can.

People read this newsletter column and also inform me I'm wrong. I appreciate that, as I can learn something from it and hopefully not repeat the mistake. Recently I noted that our Mensa administered admissions tests are not available to people younger than 14. Youngsters are admitted to Mensa, but they need “prior evidence”. I wrote that this could be a test administered by a psychiatrist.

While I suppose that could happen, it's more common to have a test ordered by a psychologist and administered by someone else. This is the same model American Mensa uses for our testing. Our Proctors test candidates under our Supervising Psychologist's license. As a Proctor I suppose I knew that, but somehow it didn't come out right. My bad.

I also serve on the National Name & Logo Committee. This is important work; it helps to protect our name. Other organizations have lost the rights to use their name exclusively. One early example was Bayer. They had exclusive rights to “Aspirin”. The National website has [information](#) about name and logo use. Most questions we get are about the stylized “M” logo, since members want to use it in fancy designs for their Local Group or Regional Gathering (RG). Some are very creative and cool, yet sadly unacceptable. Name & Logo are the bad guys who get to tell them that. I have also been learning about how best to use the “Mensa” name. In theory, it should always be used by itself or as an adjective – not a noun. Thus, we should say “The Mensa Annual Gathering”, not “Mensa's Annual Gathering”. Similarly, “Mensan” is inappropriate; instead, we should be referred to as “Mensa members”. That's one reason why the [SIG Handbook](#) says in part: “no SIG can use the name “Mensa” – or any inflection thereof – within its title without first receiving special permission from the AMC's Name & Logo Committee, which they almost never extend to SIGs because the Committee seeks to continually maximize the integrity of the Mensa trademark.”

I counted the number of times I used “Mensa” in my newsletter articles since I started writing them in 2017. Prior to this month, I used it 379 times, and managed to do it incorrectly 44 times (12%). Oops, my bad – again. Mostly I used the possessive “Mensa's”, although somehow a “Mensan” snuck in there too.

Someone will probably write to tell me I counted wrong. Par for the course.



Feedback? Please contact me at rvc4@us.mensa.org or via phone/text at +1 309 693 1359. Region 4's Facebook group is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/695847670490858>.

Books on the Runway

Margy Lancet Fletcher

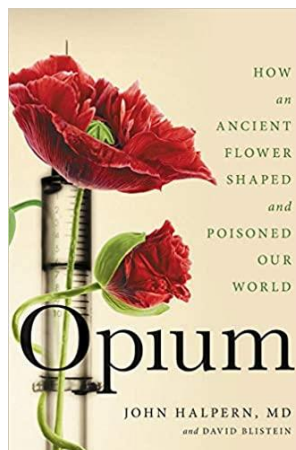
Author: John H. Halpern, MD and David Blistein

Title: *Opium: How and Ancient Flower Shaped and Poisoned Our World*

Publisher: Hachette Book Group, Inc.

Year: 2019

Book Description: Since the early years of the millennium, when horrifying reports of the skyrocketing number of opioid-related deaths first captured the attention of the general public, enough ink has been spilled on this subject to fill countless syringes. What makes the perspective of psychiatrist Halpern and author/journalist Blistein particularly meaningful is their focus on the root of the problem, so to speak: the opium poppy, *Papaver somniferum*, a small, aesthetically pleasing, innocuous-appearing plant that has somehow unleashed humanity's darkest, self-destructive appetites, wreaking havoc on our species during most of our time on earth.



The extraordinary saga of this potent poppy, as masterfully chronicled in *Opium*, features classic human conflicts between opposing forces: progress and destruction, tolerance and violent oppression, magnanimity and small-minded bigotry, altruism and unbridled greed. The Old-World cast of characters in this protracted cautionary tale includes Neolithic hominids, ancient Egyptians and Assyrians, Hippocrates, Alexander the Great, Paracelsus, Marco Polo, Vasco da Gama, Christopher Columbus, Sir Francis Drake, and the Chinese bureaucrat Lin Zexu. Prior to the participation of the United States in the opium trade, the “Silk Road” linked the East with the West, nations periodically battled one another for market dominance (e.g., the infamous Opium Wars), the first opium derivatives (“smoking” opium and laudanum) were created, and capitalism was invented via Queen Elizabeth I’s endorsement of the East India Company, which also shipped and sold opium. The more recent history of American use and misuse of opium and its derivatives has been characterized by draconian efforts to eradicate the plant and prohibit its use, while simultaneously utilizing it as currency for forming secret alliances, as a source of immense wealth for the Delano and Sackler families (among others), and as weapons against enemy nations.

The authors devote the final two chapters of the book to an analysis of the repeated failure of America’s “war on drugs” waged during several presidential administrations, and suggestions as to how we can effectively

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

overcome (or, at least, reasonably manage) our current opioid overdose crisis. They conclude their narrative with an appeal for a rational, rather than visceral, approach to resolving this life-threatening issue (see excerpt below).

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

I consider myself extremely fortunate to have never had direct experience with opioids; my vicarious encounters include my Wicked Witch character theatrically creating opium poppies as an obstacle to prevent the quartet in *The Wizard of Oz* from reaching the Emerald City, and the publication of a study co-authored by my daughter, Bentley Walker, for the Oregon State Department exposing veterinary over-prescription of opioids. I am also gratified to receive confirmation by two experts of my long-held opinion that drug addiction is an illness, rather than a crime, and should be treated accordingly.

Who should definitely read this book? Why? *Opium* is a veritable fount of vital information for readers concerned about the epidemic of opioid misuse in this country, particularly those who have lost friends and loved ones to opioid overdoses. The book is also teeming with chemical and botanical references for scientists, historical and psychological material for social scientists, and the etymological origins of such common drug-culture terms as heroin, dope, and morphine for linguists - a satisfying and engrossing read for intellectually curious and politically conscientious individuals. For readers with trust issues, the 38-page bibliography affirms the veracity of the information contained in the book. *FYI to all CIM Book Club participants: I am recommending this book for our 2022-2023 discussion schedule.*

How long might it take to read this book? Readers will appreciate this book's user-friendly format: relatively large print with footnotes at the bottom of each page for easy access. The straightforward style of prose infused with irony and dry humor contribute to a pleasant and rewarding reading experience that can be completed in just two to three days.

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

As the United States begins its third decade of its worst health epidemic since HIV/AIDS - with more than 70,000 Americans dying per year from overdoses and thousands more brought back from the brink in ambulances and emergency rooms, the crisis can seem not just overwhelming but utterly unsolvable. [Note: *This publication predates the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which not only has proven deadlier in the short term, but also has exacerbated the opioid addiction problem.*]

History has a lot to teach us about this crisis, but if we're going to learn it, we need to let go of the conceit of modernity: the notion, in other words, that

this crisis is worse, or fundamentally different, than any that has come before. We have to realize once and for all how absurd it is to think harsh penalties will reduce drug use when we've seen how those same harsh penalties have failed time after time; how preposterous it is to imagine that eradicating one source of supply will solve anything when we've seen again and again how quickly a new one will arise to take its place; how arrogant it is to think we can legislate behavior when governments have failed for centuries to do just that.

Most of all, we have to confront the unreasonable fear and unenlightened self-interest that enables our leaders to argue that addiction is a choice to be punished rather than an illness to be cured. In addition, we have to resist the seduction of seemingly easy solutions such as guarding borders, locking up users, or telling kids to just say no.

Perhaps the hardest, most crucial step is to admit the crisis will never end. As long as one person dies from an overdose, it will be a crisis for his or her family, friends, and community. Let's not have that person die due to our fear and ignorance. Let's show that we have the wisdom, guts, humility, and compassion to save the lives of thousands of others.



“Thanksgiving dinners take eighteen hours to prepare. They are consumed in twelve minutes. Half-times take twelve minutes. This is not coincidence.” —Erma Bombeck

Answers to Puzzle Column on page 6:

Solutions:

1. Self-evident, following acceptance of a postulate (9) = **AXIOMATIC**
2. Appearance of one's skin (10) = **COMPLEXION**
3. Extreme lack of appetite for food (8) = **ANOREXIA**
4. An ore rich in hydrated alumina (7) = **BAUXITE**
5. It usually follows landing (7) = **TAXIING**
6. A low-growing plant of poor soils (9) = **SAXIFRAGE**
7. A form of mixed martial arts (10) = **KICKBOXING**
8. Extreme wasting of the body (8) = **CACHEXIA**
9. Death by loss of oxygen (12) = **ASPHYXIATION**
10. Surgeon who treats the jaws and face (13) = **MAXILLOFACIAL**



Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 9/21/2021

Ann Hake, CIM Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, September 21, 2021.

LocSec Teresa Gregory called the meeting to order at 7:19 pm.

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

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

The committee reviewed the minutes of the August 2021 ExCom meeting. Kurt Williams moved that the minutes be accepted. Teresa Fisher seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The committee reviewed the August 2021 Treasurer's report. Kurt Williams moved that the report be accepted. 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 8/31/2021 from American Mensa: 461 members, 3 new, 0 movein, 2 rejoins, and 13 prospects. Three candidates were tested in 1 test session.

Old Business

Monthly and other Gatherings – All Souls is reportedly continuing to hold their own activities outdoors and virtually through October, and our Monthly Gathering similarly will remain virtual. In addition, our other current activities will continue in their current format for now (i.e., virtual with the exception of Mensans Dining Out.) We will continue to follow CDC guidelines and state and local regulations for our gatherings.

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) – had been tentatively scheduled for February 4-6, 2022. Discussion ensued regarding the relative benefits and risks of holding either an in person or virtual Regional Gathering in 2022 given the ongoing prevalence of COVID infections, the infectiousness of variants, the timing with cold weather, and the unsatisfactory nature of a virtual gathering. Ann Hake moved that we not have the RG in 2022. Nan Harvey seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

Scholarship Committee – Teresa Gregory has agreed to take on the duties of Scholarship Committee chair and would welcome any assistance with the

endeavor in order to achieve the requisite minimum 3 or more Scholarship Committee members to judge the entry essays. Scholarship application forms became available September 15, 2021, and must be submitted by applicants by January 15, 2022. Local judging of essays must be completed and information entered online by February 23, 2022.

New Business

There being no other business, Kurt Williams moved that the meeting be adjourned. Matt Zwick seconded the motion. The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Treasurer's Report

Matthew Zwick, CIM Treasurer

Balance Sheet (as of 09/30/2021)

Bank Accounts	8/31/2021	09/30/2021
Checking – Regular	\$7,732.09	\$7,769.07
Checking – Scholarship	-	-
Checking – MG Cash	25.00	25.00
Checking – Events Checking	6,415.04	6,415.04
Checking – USPS Stamps	417.95	417.40
Total Assets	\$14,590.08	\$14,626.51

Profit & Loss Statement (08/31/2021 – 09/30/2021)

Income		
	401.1 – Monthly Gathering Inc.	0.00
	405.1 – National Support	401.20
	405.2 – New Member/Lapsed Member	10.00
	420.2 – Miscellaneous	0.00
Total Income		\$411.20
Expense		
	501.1– MG Hospitality	0.00
	505.1 – MIND Printing	374.22
	507 – Stamps	0.55
Total Expenses		\$374.77

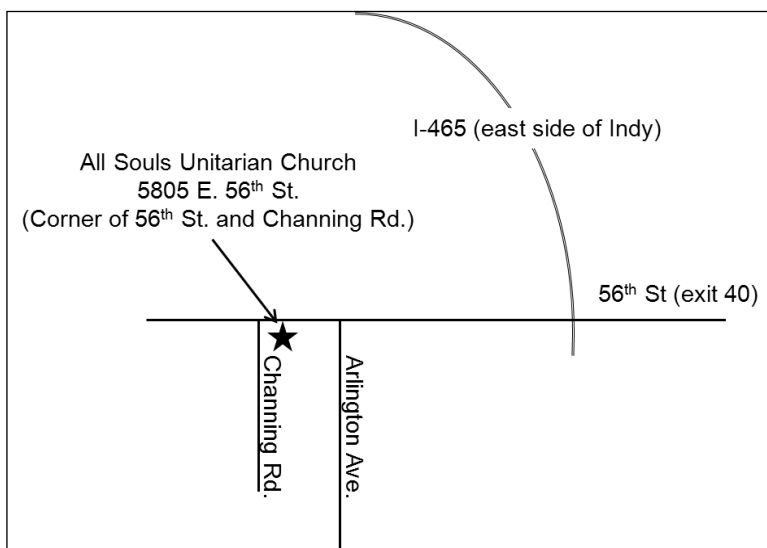
Mensa Monthly Gathering Location*

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.



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