



mind

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana



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

Contribution Guidelines

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

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Loosing My MIND

Vonda Heverly, Editor

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



As I write this, Thanksgiving is fast approaching. With the loss of two family members this past year, I'm looking forward to a new venue and establishing some new traditions.

We put our Christmas tree up pretty early this year. My daughter and I needed a little cheer, and the twinkling lights and familiar, meaningful ornaments seemed just right. I hope however you are celebrating that you find peace in your heart.

Cheers!



Old Dog/New Tricks

Teresa Gregory, LocSec

Last month, I wrote my column right before I left on my Amtrak trip. I won't bore you with the details, but it was wonderful! I was on the train seven of the eight days I was gone. I know it's not for everybody, but it was perfect for me. I am going to be saving my pennies and looking for another Amtrak sale for next year.



I feel like a broken record, but, once again, we will not be resuming in-person Monthly Gatherings soon. Our venue's building committee is reevaluating their policies. In the meantime, you may attend the book group in person at Rich and Jackie Gibson's house or via Zoom. All other meetings will remain on Zoom. Please check your Monday CIM ReMINDER email for specifics and Zoom links.

We will be having another New Year's Eve party on Zoom this year. There will be a murder mystery game that you may attend, either as a participant or as an observer. This year, it is an Ugly Sweater Office Holiday Party. Check on page 17 for more information. There will also be breakout rooms for people who would like to attend but don't want to be murdered. (Those who just want to socialize.)

We lost another long-time member last month. Greg Crawford joined Mensa in 1992. We learned of his passing from Marcia Mariacher via this Facebook post on October 30:

Most of you have known that Greg's been ill with heart disease for many years. Well, his time came this morning. His friend George found him beside his favorite chair in his office. I'd spent last weekend with him and, true to form, he'd wanted to go out. So we hit two last brew pubs with the last of his energy. He wanted to live till he died, and he did.

Greg was insistent that there be no services or memorial for him, and I'm going to respect his wishes. He only wanted his college fraternity and Mensa to be apprised and that is why I am writing this announcement. Feel free to share the news with other Mensans but no one else. You were all a very important part of his life and he was thinking of you till the end, planning a large giveaway at the upcoming Cincinnati RG. Thank you for being good friends to him.

At this time of year, I usually spend some time contemplating the previous twelve months and planning for the upcoming year. I saw a question from author James Clear today that I will be pondering, "What has been your favorite period of the last decade? How can you recreate some of that magic over the next year?"

May you find peace and contentment this holiday season.

Puzzle Column

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

START CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS.

Find words that start with CH for Christmas or with HA for Hanukkah, given the letter counts.

Example: A Cary Grant one-word film title (7) = CHARADE

1. A paper circular (8)
2. The fastest land animal (7)
3. Overused (9)
4. Number 72 on the table (7)
5. A violent thunderstorm (9)
6. Secure with a wedge (5)
7. It might belong to a bowler or golfer (8)
8. Creation of Ross Bagdasarian (9)
9. A powerful punch (8)
10. Armor for a horse's head (8)

See answers on page 15.



New Members

Clarence Brooks	New Castle	IN	MoveIn
Dylan Brown	Indianapolis	IN	Joined
Christopher Ciburowski	West Lafayette	IN	MoveIn
John Lockridge	Madison	IN	MoveIn
David Rodgers	Bloomington	IN	MoveIn
Kay Taylor	Carmel	IN	MoveIn
Jonnan West	Whitestown	IN	MoveIn

Musings from Washington DC

Dr. Basil Vareldzis

I'm thoroughly enjoying being back home in Washington after a 25-year absence! The French gave a lasting gift to this country in the form of the architectural legacy left by Pierre L'Enfant's design for the District of Columbia. More than two hundred years later, the city of Washington remains one of the best places to live in the World. It's the greenest capital city on the planet thanks to the amazing Rock Creek Park which runs through the city, it's well laid out with a logical grid intersected by the angled avenues and wonderful circles which allow for public park spaces and good light interspersed throughout the city. The architecture, culture,



history, pedestrian-friendly way of life, intellectual stimulation and social intelligence / social consciousness of the inhabitants (I make no mention of the elected politicians who are merely transients) and overall convenience of finding everything you need within a ten-minute walk makes this place one of the most civilized places to live in the United States. I was never bored during the eight years that this was my home and I'm realizing just how much I've missed this place and its amazing people. Outsiders often mistakenly associate this city with the big-name politicians that make a lot of noise, but there is a whole culture that is independent of the political shenanigans coming out of the political arena and that culture is simply unparalleled. Even cities like Paris, Rome or Athens are less cosmopolitan than Washington, which can definitely solidly claim its place among the world's great cities.

At the practical level, crime rates are dramatically lower than they were when I lived here and the transformation of huge areas of the city that were run down slums into upscale and very safe neighborhoods where young families walk with their children in tow is just amazing. The change is starker for me because I'm back in the same neighborhood where I lived over thirty years ago and am noticing similarities and changes over that time span. On the whole it's improved dramatically from what was a fairly run down and dangerous city at the time.

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All that said, this only applies to the city of Washington, once you get out to the beltway or the suburbs it's a different ballgame. While the metro serves the whole metropolitan area, and there are walkable town centers around every metro station, you are still car dependent out there and traffic jams can be of hellish proportions on the beltway—which ranges from 8 to 18 lanes wide in certain spots. One accident brings the whole thing to a halt and it's truly a nightmare best avoided. Thankfully there are little shortcuts known to the locals

that allow for very pleasant drives across the city while avoiding the congested highways.



The best part of all are the people—not the transient political types that change with every election cycle—but the real Washingtonians that call this place their home. They are intelligent, curious, very well informed on what is happening throughout the country as well as abroad, and remarkably open and tolerant with a real sense of social conscience. I can tell you amazing stories of discussions I had with store clerks and supermarket cashiers that would blow your minds. Just amazing.

2021-2022 Book Group Reading List

Rich Gibson

Book Group is currently meeting in person and 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.

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

December 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.

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

Mensans Dining Out – will be suspended until further notice.

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

Book Group – In-Person and VIRTUAL

12/19, 2:00pm ET *Dare to Speak* – Suzanne Nossel (2020) 259 pages

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

VIRTUAL *New Year's Eve Party* 12/31, 7:30pm ET

Everyone is invited!! Let's party like it's 2022 by meeting on Zoom for conversation, a murder mystery game, and watching the ball drop at midnight virtually in Times Square. Bring your own beverage of choice to toast at midnight. For information or to RSVP, contact Teresa. ag18tg@yahoo.com (See page 17 for details.)

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			1 *Indy Lunch Bunch*
5 *Sunday Social*	6	7	8
12 *Sunday Social*	13	14	15 *Indy Lunch Bunch*
19 Book Group; NO*Sun Social*	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	31 *New Year's Eve Party*	

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

Bravely Enjoying Mensa

Jon Gruebele, RVC4

Having now been triple Pfizered and an owner of many masks, I've been venturing out to enjoy Mensa events across the Region and beyond. Many of our Local Groups are offering in-person events. Gary Lehman from Northeast Indiana Mensa regaled us with his exploits as a naval aviator. St. Louis Area Mensa had a terrific Labor Day Picnic, even though it rained. Restaurant lunches and dinners are reemerging. Chicago's flagship event, HalloweeM, was a rousing success – albeit with some fewer attendees than usual. Vaccinated attendees could get a stamp on their badge, thus helping the cautious among us decide where they wanted to sit. Hospitality was reimagined to avoid the hazards inherent with buffets. Attendees were generally good about respecting Illinois' mask mandate. Amongst all that, presentations, our puntastic costume contest, pretentious drinking, contests, and games were available as usual. Our heartfelt thanks go to the organizing committee and all who volunteered to make it possible.



St. Louis is planning a Regional Gathering (RG) April 1-3 in Brentwood, MO and Central Indiana will have their OMG (Outdoor Mensa Gathering) May 20-22 at Versailles State Park. Minnesota Mensa is considering scheduling something next fall. Beyond our Regional events, I'll be attending the Sweet Carolina RG in Charlotte, NC and Brilliance by the Bay RG in San Jose, CA. I'm also signed up for Mind Games® April 28 – May 1 in Portland, ME and our "Sparks of Genius" Annual Gathering (AG) June 6-10 in Sparks, NV (near Reno). Anyone interested in speaking can submit a proposal on the AG [website](#) by navigating to Programming -> Submit Session Proposal. Zoom and Discord haven't disappeared from the Mensa experience, and I expect they won't. It has saved me a lot of driving, but it's just not the same as meeting face-to-face. Virtual meetings have nevertheless afforded people living away from major metropolitan population centers the opportunity to get more from their membership. I totally get that not everyone is ready to venture back to in-person meetings. Concerns for our own health and the well-being of others are very real. For many, the risks are still too high. Each of us needs to decide for ourselves when the time will be right.

Some people have never attended an in-person event – even before COVID became a way of life. Personally, it took me 10 years before I attended my first Mensa event. For some, events may have been uninteresting, too far away, or at an inconvenient time. Some may have been intimidated, thinking our meetings consist entirely of computing asteroid orbits. As much fun as that might be, that's not what happens. Chats about our daily lives, doing jigsaw puzzles, and trivia are much more common. Online or in-person, we'd love to have you join us!

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

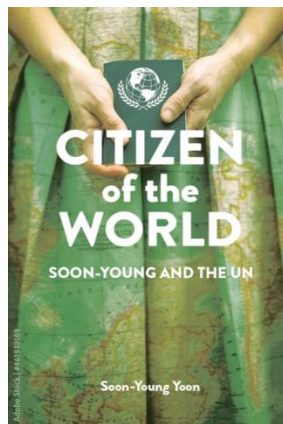
Author: Soon-Young Yoon

Title: *Citizen of the World: Soon-Young and the UN*

Publisher: Ewha Womans University Press

Year: 2021

Book Description: The Holiday Season has arrived, and regardless of our individual preferences for Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, or pagan celebrations, we express in unison - musically or otherwise - our wish for “peace on earth.” But the question - as thorny as the symbolic winter rose - remains: how do we achieve this humanistic ideal? According to Soon-Young Yoon, a renowned anthropologist, United Nations representative, journalist, and international civil rights activist, the solution is simple: good will towards *women*. For, as Soon-Young unhesitatingly and emphatically declaims to the world at large, *women’s rights are human rights*. Indeed, oppression of and violence against women threatens the survival of every creature on this planet.



Of course, *simple* does not necessarily mean *easy*, as *Citizen of the World*, Soon-Young’s memoir encapsulating her decades of public women’s rights advocacy, vividly illustrates. This insightful, articulate, highly personal collection of essays is a testament to the prodigious amount of energy that Soon-Young has invested in her cause. The essays cover a wide range of topics germane to the social and political status of women, and are arranged under the following categories, as designated by the author:

- Chapter 1: About Me - The author’s childhood as a North Korean refugee, her educational background, her initial meeting with her journalist husband, and her reasons for joining the UN.
- Chapter 2: Navigating the Boundaries of Identities - An exploration of women’s roles in relation to, and how they are perceived by, men and societies at large.
- Chapter 3: Violence Against Women - An examination of the motivations behind abusive behavior toward women and girls within various cultures, and ways to end these horrific practices.
- Chapter 4: Finding the Earth’s Balance - An explanation of the importance of the feminine perspective on environmental issues.

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- Chapter 5: Claiming the Right to Health - A discussion of the various afflictions against which women are underprotected, e.g., AIDS, leprosy, secondhand smoke, life-threatening pregnancies.
- Chapter 6: Economic Empowerment - A commentary on the effectiveness - and necessity - of female participation in the commercial sphere of every culture.
- Chapter 7: Collective Voices - A summary of the numerous human rights organizations and events to which Soon-Young Yoon has contributed her leadership talents
- Chapter 8: Circle of Women: Portraits - Profiles of notable women's rights activists with whom the author has been acquainted.

Has this book changed the way you think, your attitude toward life, or even your life itself? If so, how? This slim volume was loaned to me by fellow CIM member Alison Brown in the hope that I would find the author's life stories impressive. In fact, I was awestruck by Soon-Young's writing skill, as well as her dedication and unflinching courage that has enabled her to interview citizens from all walks of life - from gleaming metropolises to primitive rural villages. Alison's friendship with Soon-Young stems from their joint decades-long membership in the International Alliance of Women, for which Soon-Young is the UN representative, and which, according to the website, is "an international NGO comprising 41 member organizations involved in the promotion of the human rights of women and girls globally." In the eternal struggle for justice, she is definitely someone I would want on my side.

Who should definitely read this book? Why? Anyone who shares the author's belief that "gender equality and women's empowerment, particularly for the poorest and most vulnerable populations, is essential to our collective good" will appreciate Soon-Young's unique observations on gender equality, refreshingly earnest without descending into pedantry. Unfortunately, available copies are limited and Amazon does not offer it, but this book can be acquired through the following sources: (1) Travis Area District Library - <https://catalog.tadl.org> (2) Kong and Park - www.booksonkorea.com/product/9791158904340 (3) Author's website - www.soon-young.com (4) Online book - www.soon-young.life (5) Or simply ask Alison Brown if you can borrow her copy.

Note from the author: This book should be available on Amazon next March.

How long might it take to read this book? The author's forthright and heartfelt style will captivate the reader to the last page. The only impediment to a swift reading process might be the abbreviated versions of the many political terms and organizations that are part of Soon-Young's activist history, but she

has kindly provided an identification guide at the end of the book entitled “Alphabet Soup.” The essays are brief - just 2 to 4 pages - so the reader may break any time but should nevertheless finish in a day or two.

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

I never thought that potatoes and onions would ever attract my intellectual curiosity, but lately, these two legumes have turned into a giant metaphor about gender and politics. Potatoes as a cornerstone of political analysis appeared long ago when Karl Marx wrote about French peasants as potatoes in a sack. Marx didn’t think highly of the French landed peasantry as an ingredient in his recipe for class revolt. If anything, this highly individualistic, entrepreneurial group symbolized everything he didn’t like: citizens who would never unite as a class to defend their own interests. He turned his attention instead to the industrial working class. He hailed factory workers and their potential for direct action with flattering metaphors, none of which were vegetables.

A gender perspective on Marx’ metaphor about potatoes and peasants exposes a gender bias in his assumptions. As feminist scholars have often noted, he had only one gender in mind: men. Taking his analysis one step further, we can raise the unflattering analogy to an outright insult. The exterior of the potato holds its main nutrients, seeds, and cellular complexity. On the other hand, the innards are dismissed as uniformly bland. Drenched in gravies, curries, sugar, and spices, their true flavors are hidden. As the ultimate culinary chameleon, the potato’s essence is kept hidden from view.

My latest thought about women is that we are not potatoes but rather a flavorful collection of onions. The complexities of private life are much more exposed for women. Each of us carries around layer upon layer of identities.

Being a woman is just one way I see myself as an onion. Peeling away other identities to arrive at this is not only possible, but it can be done without crying. In fact, for many women who join in a demonstration or successfully rally around International Women’s Day, the creation of a oneness that is united across all differences is an empowering experience.

Answers to Puzzle Column on page 6:

1. A paper circular (8) = HANDBILL
2. The fastest land animal (7) = CHEETAH
3. Overused (9) = HACKNEYED
4. Number 72 on the table (7) = HAFNIUM
5. A violent thunderstorm (9) = CHUBASCO
6. Secure with a wedge (5) = CHOCK
7. It might belong to a bowler or golfer (8) = HANDICAP
8. Creation of Ross Bagdasarian (9) = CHIPMUNKS
9. A powerful punch (8) = HAYMAKER
10. Armor for a horse’s head (8) = CHAMFRON

Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 10/19/2021

Ann Hake, CIM Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, October 19, 2021.

LocSec Teresa Gregory called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Members present: Teresa Fisher, Teresa Gregory, Nan Harvey, Ann Hake, Kurt Williams, Bob Zdanky, and Matthew Zwick. Guests: Jon Applegate (Regional Ombudsman) and Pat Milligan.

The committee reviewed the minutes of the September 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 September 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 9/30/2021 from American Mensa: 472 members, 5 new, 0 movein, 5 rejoins, and 6 prospects. No candidates were tested.

Old Business

Monthly and other Gatherings – All Souls will be opening up for their own activities in hybrid form in the near future, but the policy for external groups, especially groups that will meet late in the evening such as ours, is not yet known. We will continue the MG in virtual form for now. Ham 'n' Eggs and the Lunch Bunch will remain virtual for now, while the book group will switch to hybrid. 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.

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.

Scholarship Committee – \$500 was sent to the Mensa Foundation to achieve the required balance for the John Matthews CIM Scholarship fund, and receipt was acknowledged.

New Business

LocSec Teresa Gregory noted that long-time CIM member Bob Thomas has died; a contribution will be made to the Mensa Foundation toward the John Matthews CIM Scholarship fund in his name.

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 7:47 pm.

New Year's Eve Party, December 31, 2021
(Party starts at 7:30pm, Murder Game starts at 8:00pm ET.)



The Tasty-Ful Design Company's holiday office party is swinging—as well as a party can when it's held in the breakroom on a Friday afternoon. And when everyone, from the VP down to the Security Guard, is decked out for an “Ugly Sweater” contest.

But things are about to get uglier, as someone peeks into the copy room and finds Nepo Tasty, the owner's nephew, strangled with the sleeves of his own sweater.

Who would do such an ugly thing on such a festive occasion? It could have one of the employees that Nepo had insulted. It could have been someone who was jealous of his place in the owner's affections.

And ugliest of all—it could have been YOU!

Please join us for an interactive murder mystery party. Come as yourself to observe or as one of the suspects. If you wish to play, please email Teresa ag18tg@yahoo.com to reserve a spot. You will receive your script and instructions a few days before the party.

If you don't want to be part of the Murder Mystery Game, come anyway. Breakout rooms will be open for casual chat. We will watch the ball drop and toast the New Year at midnight.

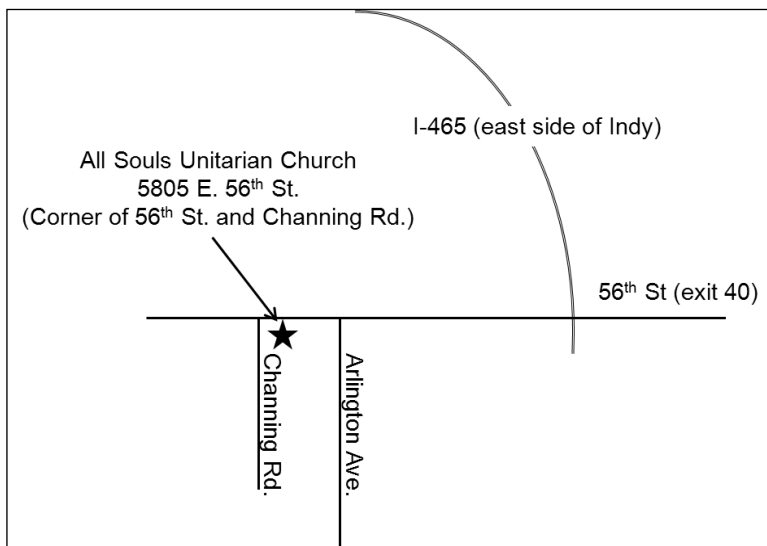
Mensa Monthly Gathering Location*

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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