

February 2022
Volume 58, Number 2



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.

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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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Editor: Vonda Heverly, mind.editor@yahoo.com, 250 Anniston Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46227.

Publisher: Central Indiana Mensa

MIND is published monthly by Central Indiana Mensa.

Subscriptions are \$12 annually for those not members of CIM.

Postmaster: address changes to *MIND*, c/o American Mensa, Ltd, 1229 Corporate Drive West, Arlington, TX 76006-6103. Include membership number.



**Website: centralindiana.us.mensa.org
-or- www.indymensa.org
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Loosing My MIND

Vonda Heverly, Editor

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



Welcome to February, the longest shortest month. Waiting for winter to let go, it seems to take forever. This one promises to go a little faster for me, as I have to complete several hours of continuing education for license renewal. Whee.

I'm stealing Teresa's idea (see next page) and sharing a photo of a place I've been and a little story about it. These were taken in February 2006. Fellow Mensan Jodi Parks invited me to join her at her time share in

Grand Cayman for a week. We made so many great memories that trip, from the very tiny rental car (with right-hand drive, that was fun!) to getting Dominos cinnamon sticks that seemed to be mixed with garlic salt. The little stray cat we named TJ, someone pointing to our car and saying, repeatedly, "Gahzcahp WHOPEN" until we finally understood that, indeed, our gas cap WAS open! Sixteen years later we still say this. There were also the bigger events: I got

scuba certified on this trip; I also learned that I get terribly seasick. We saw a beautiful botanical garden, a turtle farm, and even went to Hell, a tiny town from which you can postmark your mail home. Hell is populated with a herd of wild chickens that amused me to no end. I'm hoping to introduce my daughter to this wonderful island this year. We had the trip planned in March of 2020.



Cheers!

Old Dog/New Tricks

Teresa Gregory, LocSec

February has a lot of meaning and memories for me. The Monthly Gathering description in January was: “To combat cabin fever, everyone is invited to share up to three photos of places they have been to, along with a story behind the picture.” I moved way more things than I should have to find a photo album with a picture I wanted to share. It was taken on February 21, 1977. We were living in Germany and had an opportunity to take a bus trip to Paris for the Presidents Day Weekend. We met the bus around midnight and arrived in France early the next morning. This is our obligatory picture proving that we were really there. As most pictures taken in the 1970s with an Instamatic camera, the quality is poor, but the memory isn’t. It was my daughter’s first birthday and we spent it in Paris. Even though I might not remember what I had for dinner last night, I still have vivid memories of wonderful times like this. And that’s okay. (This is not the picture I presented at the meeting, but it was from the same trip.)



I just looked back at my column from February 2020. It was all about buying a new-to-me 2016 Toyota Corolla. It had 24,000 miles when I bought it. It has not hit 30,000 miles yet. Does that tell you anything about the past two years?

I just saw a post on Facebook that former CIM member and friend, Duane Fischer, has passed away. The message is brief: “After an interesting life filled with love and laughter, Duane has passed away. A memorial service will be planned in the future.” He served on the CIM ExCom for several years. Duane was a funny thoughtful man. He will be missed.

As of February, we are back to Zoom meetings only. Fingers crossed that this is a short-term situation. Maybe the best we can hope for is an early spring so that we can meet outside. Please check the Monday ReMINDER that I send out each week for any changes or additions to the calendar.

Two years ago, when things locked down, we were stumped on how to hold an election. With RVC4 Jon Gruebele’s help, we did it. Guess what? It’s election year again! Yes, it does seem like it just happened. We need people to run THE election and to run FOR election. Please consider doing this for our group. We meet once a month on Zoom, so distance isn’t a barrier. We’d love to see some new faces. Please think about it.

Happy Valentine’s Day!

Puzzle Column

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

PRESIDENTS DAY PUZZLES

Each answer has only the letters of one of these two Presidential names: **GEORGE WASHINGTON** or **ABRAHAM LINCOLN**. A clue and letter count are given.

Example 1: A category in a questions game (6)

Answer: **ANIMAL**

Example 2: Underpaying (8)

Answer: **SHORTING**

1. A local resident (6)
2. Maturity (6)
3. Take on pallor (6)
4. Tooth no-no (8)
5. Tooth okay (9)
6. Like some villains (8)
7. Footprint maker (6)
8. Brainy (7)
9. A computer issue (7)
10. Poker action (8)

See answers on page 15.



New Members

Bethany Brown	Plainfield	IN	Joined
Doreen Kwok	Brownsburg	IN	Joined
Gwendolynn Plawecki	Zionsville	IN	Joined
James Rossow	Carmel	IN	Joined

Education at the Orchard School in the 1950s

Alison Brown

While having restoration work done on my cellar, I came across a trove of old workbooks from my grade school my late mother had saved.

I am perusing the Row-Peterson Arithmetic Primer intended for first graders and I discover it is very gender specific. Back then I got all the answers right, but I did not color between the lines and my drawings were *terrible!* The other first grade arithmetic book was "Making Sure of Arithmetic" by Morton and Gray. I am sure it was useful when I was 5 or 6, but it is pretty much a repeat of the previous book, only the illustrations are better. Tucked in that is a mimeographed sheet of "addition facts" - 80 single digit problems to be solved in 5 minutes. Addition and Subtraction went well, but Multiplication and Division I had to do over and over until I got all of them right in the time allowed. I think these were in 3rd grade and they were the idea of our wonderful math teacher Mary Alice Hobson. When she died, my love of math died with her. "Number Book 2 (changed to 3 by pencil) Growth in Arithmetic" copyright 1952 by World Book Company (from Yonkers-on-Hudson, where I would later go to college) has a lot of work with US coins and the Grade 3 "Practice for Understanding in Arithmetic" copyright 1956 by Laidlaw Brothers completed my workbook collection (so far). Both books are full of story problems featuring white children, some animals, and white adults.

"Let's Get Started" (copyright 1944 by The Benton Review Publishing Co. of Fowler, Ind.) is supposed to bridge the gap between kindergarten and pre-primer readers. It is mostly colors and coloring (no wonder I got better as the year progressed). As one gets further into the workbook, we do get to read things with the same gripping content that is known and ridiculed from the "Dick and Jane" series by Elson-Gray from the 1930s. "Fun with Tom and Betty" is a "pre-reader" from Ginn and Company. There the scenes are less gender specific; the littlest girl is shown building a structure from colored blocks, a boy is shown baking and ironing.

Also, for first grade there is the 1938 copyrighted (by Wesleyan University, my Father's *alma mater*) diagnostic reading workbook "Red Deer. *the* Indiana Boy" (yes, there is a period instead of a comma after Deer) printed in 1957 by Charles E. Merrill Books out of Columbus OH. My reading comprehension and writing were good, even my coloring was better, but I gave it up after a few pages. I read this and wonder how much is really true about the Blackfoot way of life transported in these snippets. Or is it good, outdated information that had nothing to do with lives of Blackfoot Indians in the late 1950s – or even the late 1930s when the book was originally written. Towards the end of the book the scene changes and we are among the Navajo where we are learning about how they work and play "today". The Blackfoot Indians, for example, bathe every day in a river whereas the Navajo bathe with white sand... We did not do the last two pages about going to school – didn't matter, I was getting 100% on the preceding 60 pages.

"My Blue Puzzle Book", a follow up to the Red Puzzle book I have not yet found by digging, is for the second half of first grade and it introduces capitalization, plurals (something that is still not well understood today, as I am reading a 2021 book that makes a hash out of them), use of the verb **may** (copyright 1953 – that was considered important back then). The book was abandoned less than halfway through.

In third grade I was using the "Think-and-Do Book" to accompany the new "Streets and Roads" from The Curriculum Foundation Series, but originally from our old friends Elson-Gray (I feel sure I actually also suffered through "Dick and Jane" in the second

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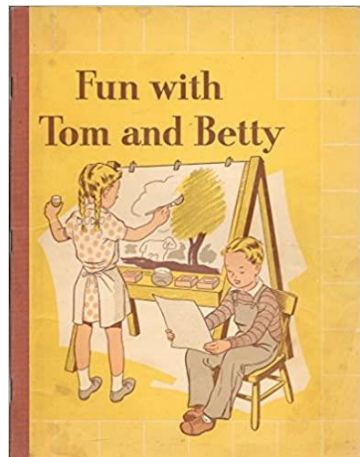
grade). Most of the names (and illustrations, show little white children with “Anglo” names like Tim or Betty. The only unusual name is “Sojo” who lives somewhere there are elephants. He is described as very lazy, but clever, as he gets other creatures to do his chores for him – typical trickster. Then there is the “Think-and-Do Book” for the new “More Streets and Roads” intended for fourth grade. It teaches what syllable to emphasize and also the proper division of phrases in a sentence. This is useful for reading aloud and that seems to be a lost art, much to the dismay of residents of nursing homes, whose recreational therapists read in such a robotic manner, pausing at the end of a line rather than at a comma or period, making the content unintelligible.

The last “Think-and-Do Book” was published in 1951 by Scott, Foresman and Co. and it also accompanies a William S. Gray production - “Times and Places”. All I can find about this is that it is a fourth-grade workbook. We get an introduction to hyphenation, short and long vowels, explanations of odd phrases encountered in fairy tales, and a dollop of history. It explains the Pledge of Allegiance in the then current version – with no mention of God. Nevertheless, God is present in the essays about St. George and Joan of Arc.

In the series “Reading for Interest” Paul Witty’s “Do and Learn” to accompany “Do and Dare” copyright 1951 by D.C. Heath and Company was considered a third reader, level two. It even has some simple crossword puzzles in it, but they never caught on with me. If someone got out of grade school reading at this level, it would probably be enough to be considered literate.

The final book in my stack was “Design for Good Reading” Level 1 by Schumacher, Schick, and Schmidt which Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc. put out in 1962 bound in a lovely green. I used it in sixth grade. They also published it as Level B in 1962 crediting only Melba Schumacher (from Broad Ripple High School!), leaving George and Bernard (both from Purdue) out of the picture. This purple volume is the only version I found on-line. One purpose of the book is to speed one’s reading without loss of comprehension. It is a collection of short essays of good content with a comprehension and vocabulary quiz after each. The vocabulary is pretty advanced and there is even some poetry involved. There are also vocabulary exercises and a batch of fun word-origin stories. As my reading has gotten slower since I spend so time on the computer, I may set this aside to work on my wpm.

As I go through them, accompanied by the distinct odor of mildew, before committing them to the recycling bin, I am amazed that I remember absolutely NOTHING about working through these books.



February 2022 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! RSVPs not required but appreciated. Contact: David Culp dbculp63@gmail.com

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

VIRTUAL *Book Group*
2/20, 2:00pm ET

Unsettled - Steven E. Koonin (2021) 255/320 pages
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

February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		1	2 *Indy Lunch Bunch*
6 *Sunday Social*	7	8	9
13 *Sunday Social*	14	15 *Ex-Com*	16 *Indy Lunch Bunch*
20 *Book Group* *Sunday Social*	21	22	23
27 *Sunday Social*	28		

Virtual Zoom Events

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

If you lose your *MIND* (oh, my!) or want additional information, check www.indymensa.org or join our Meetup group, <http://www.meetup.com/central-indiana-mensa>. Meetup is free to join and you'll get reminders of upcoming events. It's a great way to stay in the loop.

Jon's Journal – News for Region 4

How the Sausage is Made

Jon Gruebele, RVC4

Definition: com·mit·tee. noun. /kə-ˈmi-tē/. The place where good ideas go to die.

“I’ve searched all the parks in all the cities and found no statues of committees.” – Gilbert K. Chesterton

Change in American Mensa comes in many ways. Some is unofficial, simply the product of changes in society and reflected in our organization. Behavior that once may have been tolerated is now roundly condemned. Some egregious enough can become grounds for disciplinary hearings or even expulsion from Mensa.

Officially, changes to Mensa’s international [constitution](#) may impose new requirements on American Mensa. Changing American Mensa’s [bylaws](#) requires a two-thirds affirmative vote of our membership at a special or regular election. Putting a bylaws change on the ballot can happen via:

- A two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors (AMC)
- A majority of members at the Annual Gathering’s Business Meeting
- A proposal endorsed with 250 valid member signatures
- Two-thirds of members at Local Group business meeting(s) attended by a combined total of at least 150 members

Changing the International Constitution and our bylaws are intentionally difficult and hence are generally only used for high level issues. Changes to our Actions Still in Effect (ASIEs) are much easier. Here, all that’s needed is a majority vote by the AMC at a scheduled meeting. Any AMC member – including appointed officers – can write a motion. If a seconder approves, the motion will be put on the agenda. Then voting AMC members can approve it, defeat it, or send it to a committee for further consideration.

Interestingly, proposals made by individual AMC members tend to fare poorly compared to proposals coming from committees. Perhaps that’s because committees have multiple people considering potential ramifications before they’re submitted. Sometimes the AMC will find a motion objectionable and attempt to “fix” it by amending the language during the meeting. This seldom goes well.

Bottom line, working through committees is the best way to accomplish ASIE-level change. I currently participate on three: Strategic Planning (as Chair), Name & Logo, and Research Review. I’ve written about the first two in previous newsletter columns. Research Review was established to consider proposals – usually from academics or governmental agencies – to use our



members for studies. One recent example was a state wanting to survey Mensa members about gifted education. We do have exacting [criteria](#) to approve these proposals, including confidentiality and adherence to the Federal Policy for Protection of Human Subjects.

We currently have 28 volunteer committees and a couple of task forces helping to make Mensa better. Some work with an appointed officer (such as Marketing); many also work with the National Office. A [listing](#) of the committees is on the website under Lead -> Board of Directors (AMC) -> Committees. Members are always welcome to apply to help with these teams. 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>.



*If Candlemas Day be fair and bright,
Winter will have another fight;
But if Candlemas Day be clouds and rain,
Winter is gone, and will not come again.*



2021-2022 Book Group Reading List

Rich Gibson

Book Group is meeting in January 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.

Feb 20: *Unsettled* by Steven E. Koonin; 255/320 pages (Review p. 14)

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

Books on the Runway

Rich Gibson

Author: Steven E. Koonin

Title: *Unsettled: What Climate Science Tells Us, What It Doesn't, And Why It Matters*

Publisher: BenBella Books

Year: 2021

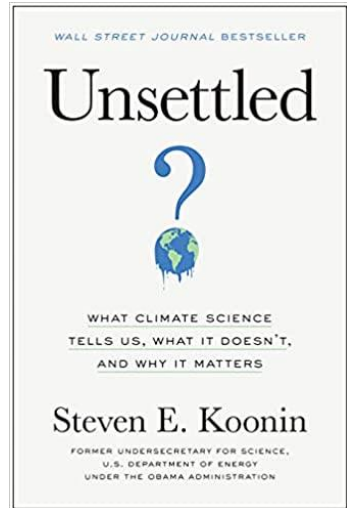
Book Description: This book is a thorough analysis of the state of climate science in 2021. It is also a critique of "The Science" as reported by the media and upon which policies are proposed to address the threat of climate change. Based on the title, you shouldn't be surprised that the author finds the actual science is much less settled than the media reports.

The author has a distinguished career, having been chief scientist for BP (focusing on renewable energy) and Undersecretary for Science in the Obama Department of Energy. He is absolutely affirming the reality that the climate is changing, and that human activity is contributing to it. What he is cautioning is that the actual research contains uncertainty that has been lost as the story progresses through extracts and summaries to media reports. He maintains that projections about how the climate will change over the coming decades are highly unreliable, as are projections about how our actions may affect things.

The book ends with a discussion of possible mitigation and adaptation strategies. As such, it overlaps with Bill Gates' *How To Avoid A Climate Disaster* (reviewed here last month), giving an opportunity for a fuller picture of the possible solutions under consideration.

Has this book changed the way you think, your attitude toward life, or even your life itself? If so, how? This book has reinforced my growing feeling that a gap exists between science as it is conducted and advanced, and 'The Science' that seems to drive so many public policy debates. Science is living and growing. Occasionally, new information comes that radically changes our understanding. A government spokesperson who cites 'The Science' had best emphasize that their guidance is their best guess for now and could change tomorrow. Otherwise, public trust in science takes a big hit.

Who should definitely read this book? Why? This book is for everyone who is aware of the polarization surrounding climate change, and wants to find the truth hidden beneath all the furor.



It's for anyone who suspects that truth does not live exclusively on one side of the political spectrum; or who suspects that truth may actually be orthogonal to it. As Mensans, we are uniquely equipped to study the actual science research and make up our own minds.

Provide a short characteristic section, and awesome sentence, or an inspiring quote: Here are two, from the introduction:

Most of the disconnect comes from the long game of telephone that starts with the research literature and runs through the assessment reports to the summaries of the assessment reports and on to the media coverage. There are abundant opportunities to get things wrong--both accidentally and on purpose--as the information goes through filter after filter to be packaged for various audiences.

Open debate is at the heart of scientific progress; it is absurd that scientists should fear being labeled 'antiscience' by engaging in it. In that light this book issues a challenge and solicits, even welcomes, informed argument and disagreement.



"There is always madness in love. But there is also always some reason in madness."—Friedrich Nietzsche



Answers to Puzzle Column on page 6:

1. A local resident (6) = TOWNIE
2. Maturity (6) = GROWTH
3. Take on pallor (6) = BLANCH
4. Tooth no-no (8) = GNASHING
5. Tooth okay (9) = WHITENING
6. Like some villains (8) = MANIACAL
7. Footprint maker (6) = CARBON
8. Brainy (7) = CRANIAL
9. A computer issue (7) = STORAGE
10. Poker action (8) = WAGERING

Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 12/21/2021

Ann Hake, CIM Secretary

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

LocSec Teresa Gregory called the meeting to order at 7:16 pm.

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

Guests: Dylan Brown, Jan Pfeil Doyle, and Pat Milligan.

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

The committee reviewed the Treasurer's reports for October and November 2021. Kurt Williams moved that the reports 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 11/30/2021 from American Mensa: 482 members, 0 new, 1 movein, 1 rejoin, and 6 prospects. No candidates were tested.

Old Business

Monthly and other Gatherings – All Souls is still not scheduling outside rental groups; we will continue the Monthly Gathering in virtual form for now. Mensans Dining Out will be suspended for now, the Lunch Bunch and the book group will meet virtually, and Ham 'n' Eggs will meet at Atrio.

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.

Registration is open for the 2022 Annual Gathering July 6-10 in Sparks, NV. Registration prices will go up January 3, 2022 (from \$219 to \$244), again on February 28 (to \$269), and again on May 31 (to \$299, the onsite registration rate.)

New Business

There being no other business, Ann Hake moved that the meeting be adjourned. Teresa Fisher seconded the motion. The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Treasurer's Report

Matthew Zwick

Balance Sheet (as of 12/31/2021)

Bank Accounts	11/30/2021	12/31/2021
Checking – Regular	\$7,590.01	\$7,584.46
Checking – Scholarship	-	-
Checking – MG Cash	25.00	25.00
Checking – Events Checking	6,415.04	6,415.04
Checking – USPS Stamps	414.65	414.10
Total Assets	\$14,444.70	\$14,438.60

Profit & Loss Statement (11/30/2021 – 12/31/2021)

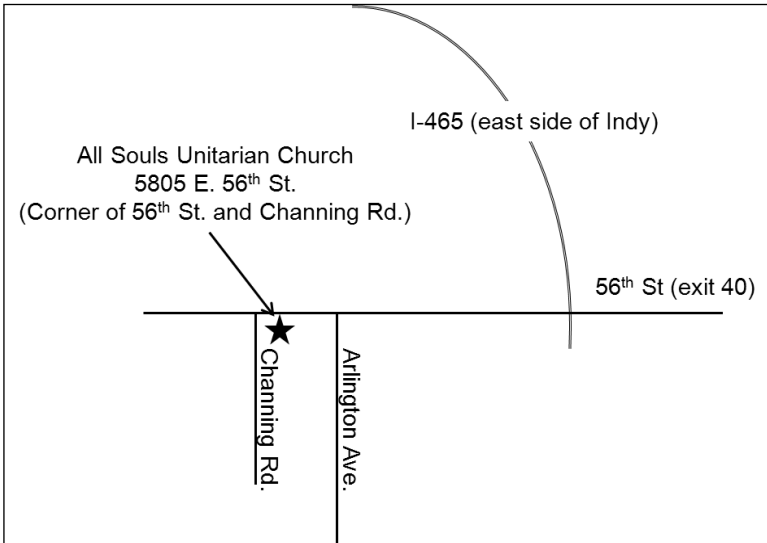
Income		
	401.1 – Monthly Gathering Inc.	0.00
	405.1 – National Support	413.95
	405.2 – New Member/Lapsed Member	4.00
	420.2 – Miscellaneous	0.00
	Total Income	\$417.95
Expense		
	501.1 – MG Hospitality	0.00
	505.1 – MIND Printing	423.50
	507 – Stamps	0.55
	508 – Miscellaneous	0.00
	Total Expenses	\$424.05



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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