



mind

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana



Friends Gather at OMG! for the First Time in Three Years

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



Check out that front cover! Mensans gathered at Versailles State Park in May for the first Outdoor Mensa Gathering (OMG) since 2019. What a wonderful sight.

Also a wonderful sight are the flowers popping up in my yard. Summer is here, and there is a riot of color and scent around me. The lilacs just finished, and now I've got peonies and

irises galore. This beautiful blue one only put out a few blooms, but it is my favorite.

Summer brings to mind Shakespeare's Sonnet 18. I like his sonnets; they are an easily digestible size.

Cheers!



*Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate.
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date.
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimmed;
And every fair from fair sometime declines,
By chance, or nature's changing course, untrimmed;
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st,
Nor shall death brag thou wand'rest in his shade,
When in eternal lines to Time thou grow'st.*

*So long as men can breathe, or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.*

--William Shakespeare

--Sonnet XVIII, 1609

Old Dog/New Tricks

Teresa Gregory, LocSec

I got up super early (for me) so that I could get this written before I leave for the Outdoor Gathering this afternoon. We have a small group registered, but that's okay. It's going to be fun. After two years, I'm kind of rusty and having to knock the dust off the Gatherings tote and my brain. The 2023 OG will be May 19-21 next year. How do I know that? I have already made the reservation. If you couldn't come this year, we'll see you next year. You have been notified!



Looking forward to June

Yes! The Monthly Gathering will be at All Souls this month. Guaranteed! This will be our first gathering since February 2020. There have been some changes:

- We will require proof of Covid vaccination or a negative Covid test within the last 72 hours.
- We will not have access to the kitchen area of the facility, so if you bring food, please also bring any necessary serving pieces. We will provide drinks and paper goods, as usual.
- There will be no alcohol (venue policy). No, you may not bring your own.
- We have the space from 7-11pm. Please do not arrive before 7:00. Announcements will be at 7:45 so you won't miss anything by coming a little later.

In other LIVE news, CIM will resume testing this month. Seats are limited. Please see the calendar for more information.

- Ham'n Eggs will be in-person as it was in May.
- Book Group will continue as a hybrid meeting so you may attend in person or by Zoom.
- Dining Out is back! Bob Zdanky will be hosting members outdoors at Blind Owl Brewery until further notice. Please RSVP.
- Lunch Bunch will be changing it up again. The first Wednesday in June will be the live meeting at Shapiro's. (Everyone who was there at the last meeting wanted to do it again.) The third Wednesday meeting will be back on Zoom.

Please be courteous and RSVP the live events so the hosts may know how many seats to reserve.

And please continue to check the weekly ReMINDER for any updates. In May there was a last-minute dinner scheduled at St Yared Ethiopian Restaurant when someone found out it was closing.

Welcome to SUMMER!

Puzzle Column

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

Back to the Eighties – Contributed by Kedem Harshalom

There were many memorable hit songs during the 1980's. In each puzzle, the title is rewritten in a descriptive way. Try to find the original titles and recording artists.

Example – completely unearned income = *Money for Nothing* – Dire Straits

1. A celestial place is a location on the home planet
2. Reptile that changes colors according to one's merit
3. Unclean goddess of the hunt
4. Father, refrain from giving a sermon
5. Do you seriously have a desire to launch an attack on me
6. I used the telephone to tell you about my affections
7. Similar to an ask to God
8. The seasons when the vital signs were active
9. A type of wood and an illegal product from Africa
10. Willhelmina Joanne

See answers on page 13.



New Members

Mark Caudill	Indianapolis	IN	MoveIn
Knox Hodges	Seymour	IN	Joined
Glen Locke	Tennyson	IN	Joined
Nicholas Timperman	Indianapolis	IN	Joined

Great Wall of China

Matt Brennan

This 13,000-mile series of stone walls is the crowning monumental achievement of mankind. I walked part of that massive wall and can confirm that the battlements and garrison towers project an aura of immense power. It is easy to imagine the impression they must have had upon bands of Gobi Desert nomads.

Building materials varied with whatever natural resources were available at a given location. A “typical” section might have been built from tamped soil, stone slabs, and rock overlayed with a brick facade. The structure’s average measurements are 21 feet wide at the base, 16 feet wide on top, and 33 feet high.



Photo by CEphoto, Uwe Aranas

[View original image](#)

Initial construction began around 700 B.C. Five hundred years later, linking various segments and the building of more courses began in earnest. Thereafter, each successive emperor expanded and improved existing segments. Extensive expansions and improvements were made throughout the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644 A.D.) and later. Recently the focus has been on repairing damage caused by Red Guards during the Cultural Revolution, and by brick-and-stone-stealing farmers throughout the ages.

This is the first in a series of articles by member Matt Brennan on walls. Look for more in upcoming issues. —Ed.

2021-2022 Book Group Reading List

Rich Gibson

Book Group is meeting in person and 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.

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



Mindy and Bruce make ice cream using liquid nitrogen at OMG last month. Always a hit!

“Science is magic that works.”

—Kurt Vonnegut, Cat’s Cradle

June 2022 Events

Indy Lunch Bunch – 1st Wednesday

6/1, 11:30am ET

Shapiro's, 808 S Meridian St. Indianapolis, IN 46225

RSVPs not required but appreciated.

Contact: Karen Steilberger, steilkr@sbcglobal.net

Ham 'n' Eggs (Hamilton County Eggheads) – 1st Saturday

6/4 - 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon ET Atrio, 11700 Illinois St. (Carmel, IN, located at IU Health North). Located just off the atrium on the first floor on the left as you enter the building from the north entrance. Breakfast served till 11 a.m., then lunch starts. Drop in any time for casual conversation, lively discussion, and good food and beverages.

RSVP: Alison Brown, 317-846-6798, SIGHT@indymensa.org

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.

Monthly Gathering - 2nd Friday,

6/10 - 7:00pm – 11:00pm ET

All Souls Unitarian Church, 5805 E. 56th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46226. See last page of MIND for map and directions. Members: \$7.00, Non-Members: \$10.00; Children 6- 18: \$5.00, under 6: free.

Our usual format of announcements at 7:45p.m., a short program, then conversation.

Mensa Admission Testing

6/12, 1:00pm ET By appointment only

Contact Alison Brown, 317-846-6798, SIGHT@indymensa.org

VIRTUAL and IN PERSON *Book Group*

6/19, 2:00pm ET

Drug Use for Grown-ups – Carl Hart (2021) 304 pages

Contact Rich Gibson hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com or 770-548-5217 for more details, to RSVP, or for Zoom link.

Mensans Dining Out - 3rd Sunday

6/19, 6pm ET

Blind Owl Brewery – Outdoor seating

5014 E 62nd St, Indianapolis, IN 46220

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

VIRTUAL *ExCom* – 3rd Tuesday of the month.

6/21 - 7:00pm. ET All active members are welcome to see your board in action.

Contact: Teresa, ag18tg@yahoo.com

June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			1 Indy Lunch Bunch (See location)
5 *Sunday Social*	6	7	8
12 Mensa Testing *Sunday Social*	13	14	15 *Indy Lunch Bunch*
19 Book Group Dining Out	20	21 *Ex-Com*	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

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

Having Fun With Mensa

Jon Gruebele, RVC4

Surveys show most members don't participate in Mensa activities, preferring to get their entertainment from the *Bulletin* and reading wonderful articles in their Local Group newsletters – maybe even this column? OK, perhaps not that.

Over a span of just over three months, I personally intend to attend:

- [CultureQuest®](#). Teams of up to 5 Mensa members compete to answer pesky trivia questions about things that don't matter. Our team usually winds up in the middle of the pack, but it's fun reminding ourselves about all the things we don't know. Other teams win cash prizes.
- [Mind Games®](#). Board game creators submit products hoping to win the coveted Mensa Select® seal that can be included on the games' packaging and marketing. Several hundred Mensa members ("judges") play at least thirty games over a long weekend, rating each on characteristics such as game play and whether the instructions are any good. This year's winners were Atheneum, Genotype, Life of a Chameleon, Miyabi, and Shifting Stones.
- Two Regional Gatherings. Local groups host events that often include tours, speakers, games, tournaments, food, and more. For me, the best part is meeting new Mensa friends who range from fascinating to quirky — usually in a good way.
- The [Annual Gathering](#), our premiere national event that in past years has attracted well over 1,000 attendees. This year it's in Sparks, NV (near Reno). The gala speaker, Margot Lee Shetterly, wrote *Hidden Figures*. As usual, there will be multiple speaker tracks, tours, games, tournaments, and hospitality. This year we're having a Sunday drag brunch. The Board of Directors (AMC) will meet. We'll have an Annual Meeting where members can learn about the organization's progress, express their opinions to leadership, and vote on any bylaws proposals.
- Many Local Group events including monthly gatherings, dinners, lunches, a Memorial Day picnic, Zoom events, a museum visit, and more.



Sadly I won't have time to attend the [Colloquium](#) on "Giftedness Across the Lifespan", not to mention a whole bunch of other local group events including those posted on the national [website](#). Really, there's only so much fun one person can have.

Many of us also read Mensa's electronic offerings. To see what's available, you can review your communications preferences on the national website by navigating to My Mensa -> My Membership Profile -> My Communications Preferences. Among others, I enjoy Mensa [Brainwave](#). It offers news about interesting scientific developments. Some people love seeing content posted in [Mensa Connect](#), others not so much. In each of your subscribed Connect communities, you can elect to get notifications every time something is posted, a daily digest, or turn off notifications entirely.

Hopefully at least something here will prompt you to have more fun with Mensa, and I hope to have you join us at an event soon!

Feedback? Please contact me at rvc4@us.mensa.org or via phone/text at +1 309 693 1359. Region 4's Facebook group is:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/695847670490858>.



Answers to Puzzle Column on page 6:

1. A celestial place is a location on the home planet = **Heaven Is a Place on Earth**- Belinda Carlisle
2. Reptile that changes colors according to one's merit = **Karma Chameleon**- Culture Club
3. Unclean goddess of the hunt = **Dirty Diana**- Michael Jackson
4. Father, refrain from giving a sermon = **Papa Don't Preach**- Madonna
5. Do you seriously have a desire to launch an attack on me = **Do You Really Want to Hurt Me**- Culture Club
6. I used the telephone to tell you about my affections = **I Just Called to Say I Love You**- Stevie Wonder
7. Similar to an ask to God = **Like a Prayer**- Madonna
8. The seasons when the vital signs were active = **The Living Years**- Mike and the Mechanics
9. A type of wood and an illegal product from Africa = **Ebony and Ivory**- Paul McCartney & Stevie Wonder
10. Willhelmina Joanne = **Billie Jean**- Michael Jackson

Books on the Runway

Margy Fletcher

Author: Elizabeth Williamson

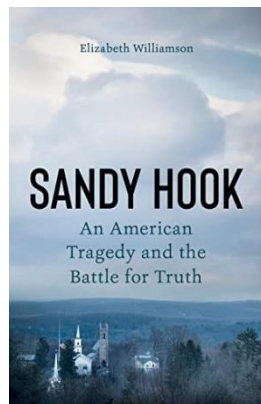
Title: *Sandy Hook: An American Tragedy and the Battle for Truth*

Publisher: Dutton/Penguin Random House LLC

Year: 2022

Book Description: During the past decade, in the aftermath of a horrific school shooting, Sandy Hook Elementary School has been transformed from a hallmark of idyllic suburban living to a symbol of mass murder. Sandy Hook is journalist Elizabeth Williamson's exploration of the actual event and its effect on various players - good and bad - in this tragedy that has become an all-too-familiar American news theme.

The author commences her narrative with a comprehensive, minute-by-minute account of the violent confrontation that left twenty first graders and six educators dead and ended with the mentally- deranged shooter's suicide. But the anguish continues for the victims' families as, what seems to be typical of our current toxic political environment, two camps emerge surrounding the mass murders: conspiracy theorists who claim that the school shooting was faked in order to advance an anti-firearms agenda; and a courageous group of Sandy Hook survivors fighting against personal harassment and the promulgation of false narratives via social media outlets. Williamson candidly and passionately chronicles the sadistic behavior of Infowars' bombastic, amoral leader, Alex Jones, and his more vocal supporters (including, shamefully for American higher education, several college professors with PhDs); and the powerfully heroic actions of the survivors, peacefully counter- attacking the hoaxers' pernicious physical and verbal assaults by establishing outreach organizations and winning defamation lawsuits against the conspiracists. Painstakingly researched through countless interviews from both sides of the political divide and access to a trove of official documents and presented in a lyrical narrative style that is both rational and fervent, *Sandy Hook* is a lesson on the promotion of responsible journalism, and the power and perils of "free" speech.



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

Always sympathetic to the families of shooting victims, I was unaware of the extent and sources of personal abuse that are often visited upon these people, merely because they are perceived as a threat to the ideologies of certain fanatical groups. *Sandy Hook* provided me with a well-rounded perspective on overcoming adversity and some hope that sanity has not completely disappeared from American life despite the efforts of various domestic terrorists. I was also

gratified to learn that, according to a report in the April 29, 2022 edition of The Week, Alex Jones “is drowning in legal fees resulting from false claims about the 2012 Sandy Hook school shooting, forcing his media outlet Infowars and two other businesses to file for bankruptcy this week.” You know what they say about karma, Mr. Jones...

Who should definitely read this book? Why? MIND readers will appreciate the relevance of this book to topics covered in other reviews: trust (Pete Buttigieg’s appropriately titled volume), free speech (Dare to Speak by Suzanne Nossel), and human cognitive flaws (Why We’re Wrong About Nearly Everything by Bobby Duffy, and Human Errors by Nathan E. Lents). Readers unfamiliar with the above-mentioned publications will nevertheless find Sandy Hook a worthwhile and informative – albeit disturbing – read, from a sociopolitical standpoint, at least.

How long might it take to read this book? The book is, at 446 pages - excluding the acknowledgments, notes, and index - rather lengthy, but will prove to be a riveting page-turner with numerous astonishing, if not completely unexpected, revelations. For the full import of the book’s essential message, allow one week’s reading time.

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

Lenny [father of massacre victim Noah Pozner] was chillingly prescient when he predicted nearly a decade ago that what the Sandy Hook families were enduring would become a feature of life in the digital age. The struggle to defend objective truth against people who consciously choose to deny or distort it has become a fight to defend our society, and democracy itself. The nature of conspiracy theorizing has changed, from relatively harmless speculation about the Bermuda Triangle or Bohemian Grove to sinister theories that place democratic governments at the center of dark plots to control, sicken, and murder their own citizens. These online accusations are now often invented and spread by demagogic leaders around the globe, who use social media platforms to undermine trust in the very institutions that keep the powerful in check - elections and the courts, competing branches of government, and objective journalism. These political opportunists play to constituencies willing to relinquish objective truth for attractive, fantastical Deep State schemes in which political opponents are pedophiles and satanists, and society’s most vulnerable morph into villains deserving vigilante justice. As the world saw during the Capitol insurrection on January 6, 2021, some believers in these myths have proved themselves increasingly willing to use violence. Societal chasms between adherents to truth and consumers of fantasy are widening, aided by those who deliberately manipulate social media channels and discourse. By the end of the second decade of this new century, foreign adversaries and domestic extremists, the traditional culprits, had been joined by a significant swath of the Republican Party.

Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 4/19/2022

Ann Hake, CIM Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, April 19, 2022. LocSec Teresa Gregory called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm.

Members present: Teresa Fisher, Teresa Gregory, Ann Hake, Nan Harvey, 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 March 2022 ExCom meeting. Kurt Williams moved that the minutes be accepted. Matt Zwick seconded the motion, and the motion was carried. The committee reviewed the Treasurer's report for March 2022. Ann Hake moved that the report be accepted. Nan Harvey seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

A membership report was compiled by Teresa Gregory based upon the information available as of 3/31/2022 from American Mensa: 494 members, 2 new, 1 movein, 2 rejoins, and 6 prospects. No candidates were tested.

Old Business

Monthly Gathering: Teresa Gregory has spoken further with the All Souls administration regarding returning to meeting in person for the Monthly Gathering. We still have a 3-month credit from before the pandemic; after that, there will be a rental agreement in which CIM will pay monthly. Either All Souls or CIM may terminate the agreement with 30 days' notice. For the time being, we will meet in Harris Hall while work on the HVAC system in the Beatty Room is being done.

Other Gatherings: Mensans Dining Out and Ham 'n' Eggs have resumed meeting in person, the Lunch Bunch will alternate meeting formats (virtual on the 1st Wednesday of the month and in person on the 3rd Wednesday), and the book group will continue meeting in hybrid format. Other opportunities for virtual meetings (for example, Sunday Social) will also continue.

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. We will plan to move forward with this event, but be prepared to cancel if circumstances dictate. The American Mensa National Covid policy will be observed. Prospective participants will be reminded that parking is limited and admission fees are per car, so carpooling is encouraged; children under age 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult; and no pets are permitted at the venue.

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

CultureQuest XXXIII will take place Sunday, April 24; two teams from CIM will participate.

The annual financial review mandated by our bylaws has been completed by Kurt Williams and presented in executive session. We have had below average financial

activity due to the pandemic, but our financial situation is sound. Ann Hake moved that the financial review report be accepted. Teresa Fisher seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

CIM ExCom elections are due to be held this September; formation of the Nominating Committee and the Election Committee continues. Karen Guse has agreed to chair the Nominating Committee.

New Business

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 8:29 pm.

Treasurer's Report

Matthew Zwick

☐ **Balance Sheet (as of 4/30/2022)**

Bank Accounts	3/31/2022	4/30/2022
Checking – Regular	\$7,543.15	\$7,432.56
Checking – Scholarship	-	-
Checking – MG Cash	25.00	25.00
Checking – Events Checking	6,415.04	6,415.04
Checking – USPS Stamps	358.00	358.00
Total Assets	\$14,341.19	\$14,230.60

☐

☐ **Profit & Loss Statement (3/31/2022 – 4/30/2022)**

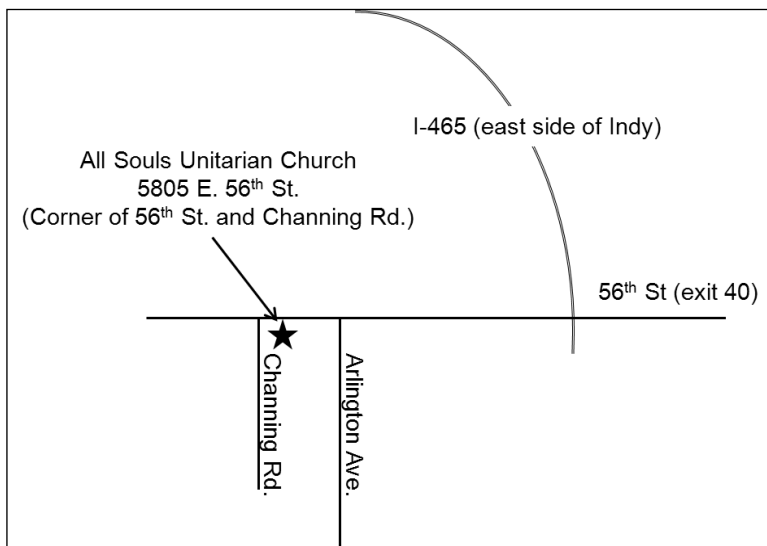
Income		
	401.1 – Monthly Gathering Inc.	0.00
	405.1 – National Support	374.00
	405.2 – New Member/Lapsed Member	8.00
	420.2 – Miscellaneous	0.00
Total Income		\$382.00
Expense		
	501.1– MG Hospitality	0.00
	505.1 – MIND Printing	492.59
	507 – Stamps	0.00
	508 – Miscellaneous	0.00
Total Expenses		\$492.59

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.



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