



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 following the ExCom meeting (usually the third Friday of the month) for the following month's edition.

Reprint Information

Mensa publications may freely reprint material from *MIND*. If a piece bears an individual copyright, publishers must obtain a release from the author.

Advertising

MIND accepts paid advertising. Contact the Editor for current rates.

MIND Staff

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
MensaPhone: (317) 539-1740**

Volume 58, Issue Number 9
September 2022



mind

table of contents

Loosing My MIND	4
Old Dog/New Tricks	5
Puzzle Column	7
Welcome New Members	7
Middle Eastern Walls	8
September 2022 Events	9
RVC4 Column	12
Book Review	14
Book Group Reading List	15
ExCom Minutes	16
Treasurer's Report	17
Location of CIM Monthly Meeting	18
Contact Information	19

Loosing My MIND

Vonda Heverly, Editor

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



My activity this past month was enjoying a free production of Shakespeare's *Richard III*. It was a hip-hop inspired production titled *Ricky 3*, and my daughter and I loved it!

The Indianapolis Shakespeare Company does a free play every summer at the beautiful Taggart Memorial Amphitheater in Riverside Park. We packed a picnic and the weather was accomodating.

Though I've never seen this play, I have studied the historical King Richard III some. What a fascinating period of history, and interesting to sort out what was true vs. what the Tudors might have rewritten.

Look around your community and see what great end-of-summer and fall entertainment can be had!

Cheers!



Old Dog/New Tricks

Teresa Gregory, LocSec

There is a lot to report this month, so let's just jump right in!

Elections are underway, and we will have a new ExCom seated on October 1. If you haven't voted, it's not too late. Ballots and info in the August MIND.

- Mail it to Election Committee Chair Larry Marcus, 9941 Logan Ln, Fishers, IN 46037-9457. The envelope must be postmarked on or before September 2, 2022 to be counted;
- Bring the larger envelope containing your ballot in a smaller sealed envelope to the September 9, 2022 monthly gathering and give it to a member of the election committee
- Blank ballots and envelopes will be available for voting at the September 9 monthly gathering.



Thanks to those committee members and candidates who took the time to make this election happen. Thank them by voting!

Speaking of the **September Monthly Gathering**, we are going to try to Zoom the program portion of the meeting. If you are patient and would like to help us Beta test this, watch for the Zoom link in the weekly ReMINDer. Please do not try to link in until after 7:30pm.

Please note there will be a special **Ham'n Eggs event in October**. Yes, I said October. Ham'n Eggs is invited to a pancake breakfast at the home of Margy and Rod Fletcher in Tipton, Indiana. The hosts are asking for RSVPs by September 26. Please read all the details on this in-person event on page 9.

This month is the **Book Group's** annual Bring-a-Book meeting. The reading list for the next 12 months will be determined by those in attendance. Got a favorite non-fiction book? Stop in and make your pitch. More information is on page 15.

Last month, I mentioned that we needed a **Scholarship Chair** for the coming season. Tamara Wardell stepped up and volunteered to take on that task for us. Thank you! Scholarship submissions open September 15 and run through January 15.

I am sad to announce that we have lost another member this month. Michael Hitson's wife contacted me to let me know that he had passed away. She said that his Mensa membership meant a lot to him. We will be sending a contribution to the John Matthews Scholarship fund in his name.

[Michael C. Hitson Obituary 2022 - Randall & Roberts Funeral Home \(randallroberts.com\)](http://randallroberts.com)

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

I asked the editor if I could have a second page this month. This is my last column as Local Secretary. I was elected in September 2018. Having served as LocSec before and taking this on right after Jan Pfeil Doyle and I co-chaired the 2018 Annual Gathering, I thought it would be easy-peasy. Jan, the previous LocSec, left the group in great shape. Things flowed along...until March 2020.

With the help and support of our amazing ExCom (Vicki Adang, Jan Pfeil Doyle, Ann Hake, Pat Milligan, Kurt Williams, and Bob Zdanky) we quickly pulled our wagons into a circle and did what we could to keep the group going. CIM was one of the first groups to go online with Zoom. After a shaky start, the newsletter was back in production. We faced an election year, and, with the help of RVC Jon Gruebele, we were able to make modifications to the rules and hold the election. Our new ExCom (Ann Hake, Kurt Williams, Bob Zdanky, Teresa Fisher, Nan Harvey, and Matt Zwick) has kept the group moving forward.

Alison Brown, Rich and Jackie Gibson, Karen Steinberger, and Bob Zdanky, continued to host their monthly events on Zoom. To try to stay connected with our members, Jan Pfeil Doyle started the weekly casual drop-in Sunday Social. I started sending out the CIM Meeting ReMINDER with the week's Zoom links.

We had two teams compete in CultureQuest online each year. We participated in the Mensa Foundation scholarship program thanks to the people who graciously offered to read the entries. We even had some murder mystery parties and watched the ball drop on New Year's Eve.

So many have stepped up and answered the call to help. I have been sitting here for several hours now writing and rewriting this column. I know I will leave someone out who needs to be thanked, so I will apologize and let you know you truly are appreciated. Now, I will thank a few who have made this whole experience doable for me, personally.

Someone told me that the most powerful person in a local group is the newsletter editor because they touch every member. Vonda Heverly has done a wonderful job helping to keep our members connected and informed plus she is a joy to work with.

RVC Jon Gruebele has been a great resource and patient listener for the last four years. He is very responsive to both legitimate questions and my "brilliant" ideas. We are so lucky to have him in our corner.

Who else can I text at 3am and know she's still up? My friend, Jan Pfeil Doyle. I have bounced so many ideas off her, unleashed so many rants that I can't unleash on anyone else. I trust her judgement implicitly. CIM would not be what it is without her.

And, of course, you, the members. You have enriched my life in so many ways and made me want to do the best I can. I have been a member 18 years and I can't imagine life without my Mensa family. Thank you.

Puzzle Column

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

SEPtember Narrative Puzzles

Sample puzzle: find three words that start with SEP, SPE, ESP, EPS, PSE, or PES that fit the narrative.

John hoped that [1. – 5 letters] salt would bring [2. – 6 letters] relief from the bite of the [3. – 5 letters] bug.

Solutions to the sample puzzle:

1. **EPS**om
2. **SPE**edy
3. **PES**ky

Actual puzzle: find ten words that start with SEP, SPE, ESP, EPS, PSE, or PES that fit the narrative.

An eccentric [1. – 15 letters], known for sporting [2. – 11 letters] on his feet, [3. – 8 letters] the theory that [4. – 10 letters] was once eliminated. He claimed that one [5. – 8 letters] ancient Greek physician used a [6. – 6 letters] to [7. – 8 letters] diseased soil from good soil. He [8. – 11 letters] an unsuccessful effort to raise funds to find an ancient [9. – 9 letters] with the letter [10. – 7 letters] on it.

See answers on page 13.



New Members

Angela Bruce	Seymour	IN	MoveIn
Blair Doneske	Evansville	IN	Joined
Kurt Miles	Avon	IN	MoveIn
Sofia Stanco	Carmel	IN	Joined

Middle Eastern Walls

Matt Brennan

Sumerian Amorite Wall

Also called the Wall of Mardu, this 155-mile-long structure in modern-day Iraq spanned the plain between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Construction was begun by King Shu-Sin of Ur in 2034 B.C. The wall of sun-dried brick was 29 feet thick and at least 30 feet tall. Its purpose was to protect the city of Ur from semi-nomadic Amorites. It was not effective. The Amorites came through and around the wall, founded the city of Babylon and eventually ruled a region in what is now Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Israel. After the Israelites reentered Canaan, the Amorites living there were defeated in several battles and largely ethnic cleansed in the Jordan River Valley.

Median Wall

This enormous, seventy-mile-long structure, also called the Wall of Nimrod, transected the plain between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, creating a land barrier that ran from 65-to-75-miles north of Babylon in modern-day Iraq. It is called the Median Wall because its purpose was to protect the great city from raids by the highland-dwelling Medes. The wall was seen in 403 B.C. by Xenophon, himself famous as a leader of 10,000 hoplite mercenaries on a journey home to Greece across Asia Minor (Turkey) and Thrace. He described the Median Wall as 20 feet thick and over 100 feet tall. It was constructed of red brick set in bitumen.

Although building this wall is often ascribed to King Nebuchadnezzar II (r. 605 B.C.-562 B.C.), some biblical and archaeological sources place its construction as early as 2200 B.C. The Median Wall had been repeatedly breached by the time Cyrus the Great conquered Babylon in 539 B.C. and ended the reign of the last Babylonian king - Nabonidus. Then Cyrus bade all captive peoples to return to their homelands and freely practice their various religions.

Limes Arabicus

The Romans were prolific builders of roads, fortifications and infrastructure, often with legionnaire labor. Their fortress lines, whether intermittent or continuous, were referred to as limes (singular) or limites (plural). The Roman province of Arabia (established in 105 A.D. under Emperor

Trajan) was located adjacent to the Sinai Peninsula and encompassed parts of modern-day Jordan, Israel, and Syria. The province was protected, in part, by the Limes Arabicus, a 930-mile system of forts, walls, legion camps, military roads, and watchtowers running from the Gulf of Aqaba to Northern Syria.



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

September 2022 Events

Indy Lunch Bunch – 1st Wednesday In Person; 3rd Wednesday on *Zoom*

9/7, 11:30am ET - Shapiro's, 808 S Meridian St. Indianapolis, IN 46225

9/21, 11:30am ET - Virtual *Online*

RSVPs not required but appreciated.

Contact: Karen Steilberger, steilkr@sbcglobal.net

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

9/3 - 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

***In October (10.1.2022) Ham'n Eggs is invited to a pancake breakfast at the Fletchers in Tipton, Indiana.

Margy says: The Fletchers will provide the following foods and drinks: eggs (cooked in any style upon request), bacon, ham, sausage, pancakes, French toast, plain yogurt, berries, granola mix, bottled water, teas (herbal and black) with creamer and Splenda. Any additional foods or drinks can be brought by our guests, but you must take any leftovers home with you.

PLEASE NOTE especially that we are **not coffee brewers or drinkers**, so you need to bring that, too, if you require it. We will be gathering outside on the back deck, where Rod will be utilizing his outdoor kitchen.

RSVP to Margy Fletcher romarge123@gmail.com by September 26th for time and directions.***

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, 9/9 - 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. Proof of vaccination or recent test required.

Our usual format of announcements at 7:45p.m., a short program, then conversation. We will be upstairs in the Beattie Room. Please do not arrive before 7:00pm. As usual, announcements at 7:45pm and program to follow.

ELECTION NIGHT! We will also try to do the program on Zoom. Watch the CIM ReMINDER for details.

VIRTUAL and IN PERSON *Book Group*

9/18, 2:00pm ET

Bring-a-Book (See page 15 for details.). Contact Rich Gibson

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

September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
4 NO *Sunday Social* due to holiday	5	6	7 Indy Lunch Bunch
11 *Sunday Social*	12	13	14
18 Book Group Dining Out	19	20 *ExCom*	21 *Indy Lunch Bunch*
25 *Sunday Social*	26	27	28

Virtual Zoom Events

Mensans Dining Out - 3rd Sunday; 9/18, 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.

9/20 - 7:00pm. ET All active members are welcome to see your board in action. Contact:

Teresa, ag18tg@yahoo.com

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Ham'n Eggs
8	9 Monthly Gathering	10
15	16	17
22	23	24
29	30	

If you lose your *MIND* (oh, my!) or want additional information, check www.indymensa.org or join our Meet Up group, <http://www.meetup.com/central-indiana-mensa>. Meet Up 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

The Ombudsman. Or is it Ombudsperson? The Ombuds?

Jon Gruebele, RVC4

At our July 7 Board of Directors (AMC) meeting, six motions were proposed to update our bylaws regarding the National Ombudsman. Only one passed.

As a reminder, bylaws amendments can be proposed by:

- A petition signed by 250 members
- A majority vote of the members at the Annual Business Meeting (held at the Annual Gathering)
- Two-thirds of members at regularly scheduled business meetings of one or more Local Groups attended by a combined total of at least 150 members
- A two-thirds vote of the AMC after including the proposed amendments in the written agenda



Once submitted, proposals are voted on by the entire membership, and a two-thirds majority is required.

The proposal that passed would reduce the Ombudsman's term of office from six years to three, the same as AMC officers. While the term lengths would be the same, they wouldn't be concurrent.

The other five motions didn't pass – at least not yet. We aren't in a rush since the next election won't be until 2024. There's still time to get them right, assuming we want to approve them at all.

One was about gender-neutralizing the term "Ombudsman". I've used it in this article because that's what the bylaws currently say. The proposal was to change "Ombudsman" to "Ombudsperson". After finalizing the agenda, we discovered that the preferred term is now "Ombuds". Normally, the AMC could have amended the motion and approved it during the meeting. Because any proposed bylaws amendment must be in the written agenda, we had to defer the motion to another meeting.

Another motion proposed making Regional Ombudspersons eligible to serve as National Ombudsman and allowing them to vote in the election. Yet another provided for a temporary Ombudsperson to be appointed in case of vacancy or refusal.

The more controversial motions dealt with aspects of the Ombudsman's role:

- In practice, the National Ombudsman's primary authority is to print unedited opinions in the *Bulletin* if they mark them "for publication". Should this authority apply only to matters submitted to the

Ombudsman for review and decision, or does it extend to articles about the cute things their cats do?

- What exactly does it mean that the Ombudsman may participate in any means the AMC uses to communicate? If one AMC member calls another about something, does that mean the Ombudsman must be on the call too? Or is it just that they may be part of communications between the entire AMC?

Mensa has had ongoing discussions about National Ombudsman's role. Is it fundamentally to mediate member disputes, or are they somehow a watchdog rooting out allegedly nefarious AMC actions? If any of these motions eventually pass, the membership will decide which direction our organization should lean regarding the role of our National "Ombuds".

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>.



“Don’t just teach your children to read. Teach them to question what they read. Teach them to question everything.” –George Carlin



Answers to Puzzle Column on page 7:

1. pseudoscientist
2. espadrilles
3. espoused
4. pestilence
5. specific
6. pestle
7. separate
8. spearheaded
9. sepulcher
10. epsilon

Book Review

Alison Brown

Author: Kent Durden

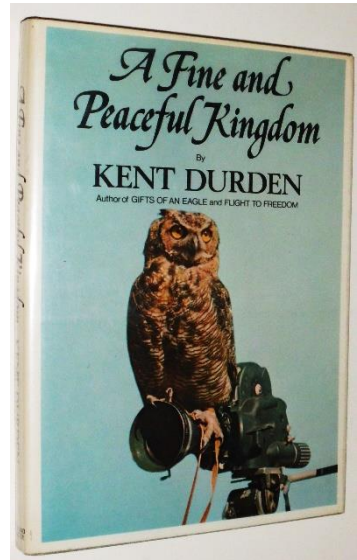
Title: *A Fine and Peaceful Kingdom* (out of print)

Publisher: Simon & Schuster New York

Year: 1975

ISBN 10: 0671219596; **ISBN 13:** 9780671219598

Treasures show up when one browses in the sale section of a used book store. Recently I was in Books in Stock in Wooster, Ohio and I found a book that allowed me to make the acquaintance of Kent Durden, a nature photographer and filmmaker. I had seen his work as a child, as he not only did work for Walt Disney, and the National Geographic Society, but also wildlife segments for the old television series *Lassie!*



After his successful books, *Gifts of an Eagle* (1971, non-fiction) and *Flight to Freedom* (1974, fiction), he followed up with this short memoir about how he came to be a nature cinematographer. The story starts with his adventures as a boy, when his family adopted a series of “pets” rescued from predicaments in their natural habitat. While the most famous of these “pets” was the Lady, Golden Eagle his father Ed Durden raised and who lived with the family for 16 years, Kent also cared for owls, hawks, ravens, a fox, otters, a hare, a skunk, a raccoon besides the usual assortment of dogs and cats! His beloved wife, Judi, whom he met at La Sierra College when he was taking a degree in biology was tolerant, indeed. Durden was also a lecturer for the National Audubon Society, showing his nature films, especially the documentary about Lady.

In an easy-going style, he chats with the reader about life in California in the 1950s and ‘60s. He describes vividly his surroundings, like the grove of eucalyptus around his boyhood home which he references in the first chapter as “a bit like living in a giant Vick’s Vaporizer” on warm, foggy days.

Each chapter brings vignettes of the wild animals who entered his life, how they interacted (not always positively) with him, his family, and the other animals in the neighborhood, and how the temporary relationships ended. Descriptions of the lengths he went to to set up scenes where his furry or feathered friends would react in a natural way, but also not abscond before a scene was in the can for his cinematic work were fascinating. Hours of construction could be

necessary for a few precious minutes of film for us to enjoy on the big or small screen.

The most endearing parts come when he describes the development of an animal like the owlet who had to be raised by hand, but then had the run (well, flight) of the property. He writes “By midsummer our tame owl could hoot as well as the wild ones, and often a chorus of owls would serenade us all night long with our pet leading them from our rooftop. He loved companionship and often joined us on our afternoon walks by flying ahead and waiting for us to catch up. Usually at suppertime he would appear at the screen door and hang by his talons from the screen while peering into the kitchen. Once we let him in, he would immediately take up a position on the back of a chair and wait for tidbits. Cheese was his favorite snack. ... Surely this night dweller that few people ever see is a most delightful citizen of the wild.”

We have become spoiled by excellent full color images of nature, but the dozens of black and white pictures taken through the years of the subjects of the anecdotes increase the charm of this slim volume. It is, of course, out of print, but I will gladly lend it to any *MIND* reader who wants to while away an afternoon or two with Kent Durden and his amazing menagerie.



2022-2023 Book Group: Bring a Book (or three!)

Rich Gibson

The Mensa Group has read every book on its current list, and September's meeting (the 18th at 2:00, Zoom or in person) will be our Bring-a-Book event. Please bring one or more books that you have recently enjoyed and show up or Zoom in ready to sell the group on why we all should want to read it. For those showing up in three dimensions, snacks and drinks will be provided, but you can bring something also.

We'll have fun, food and conversation until we've run through all the recommendations and pulled a schedule together for the next set of meetings.

If you're already on our email list, we'll send out a reminder a week or two before and get a headcount of Zoomers and 3-D'ers. If you'd like to attend anyway, please give us a shout at hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com and we'll welcome you with happy shouts and a warm welcome.

Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 7/19/2022

Ann Hake, CIM Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, July 19, 2022.

LocSec Teresa Gregory called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

Members present: 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 June 2022 ExCom meeting. Kurt Williams moved that the minutes be accepted as amended. Matthew Zwick seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The committee reviewed the Treasurer's report for June 2022. Kurt Williams moved that the report be accepted as amended. 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 6/30/2022 from American Mensa: 450 members, 0 new, 0 move-ins, 2 rejoins, and 12 prospects. No candidates were tested.

Old Business

Outdoor Gathering (OG): Is scheduled for the weekend of May 19-21, 2023, at Versailles State Park. Reservations have been made and a deposit put down.

CIM ExCom elections are due to be held this September. Ballots will be sent to all CIM members in the August MIND. Karen Guse (chair), Karen Steilberger, and John Blankenship have agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee. Larry Marcus has agreed to chair the Election Committee.

New Business

CultureQuestXXXIII – Both of the teams from CIM placed in the top 20 this year! Out Of Quaranteam, (Jan Pfeil Doyle, Teresa Gregory, Ken Koziol, Karen Steilberger, and Basil Vareldzis) placed 6th and won \$125 for CIM; CIMple MINDs (Ann Hake, Jon Applegate, Paula Ferguson, Kurt Williams, and Matthew Zwick) placed 13th and won \$90.

LocSec Teresa Gregory noted that long-time member Jeremiah "Jerry" Farrell passed away. A contribution to the John Matthews Scholarship Fund will be made in his memory.

There being no other business, Kurt Williams moved that the meeting be adjourned. Nan Harvey seconded the motion. The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Treasurer's Report

Matthew Zwick

Balance Sheet (as of 7/31/2022)

Bank Accounts	6/30/2022	7/31/2022
Checking – Regular	\$7,805.27	\$7,920.09
Checking – Scholarship	-	-
Checking – MG Cash	25.00	25.00
Checking – Events Checking	6601.74	6,601.74
Total Assets	\$14,432.01	\$14,506.83

Other Assets		
USPS Stamps Value	\$358.00	\$379.50
Total Number of USPS Stamps		690

Profit & Loss Statement (6/30/2022 – 7/31/2022)

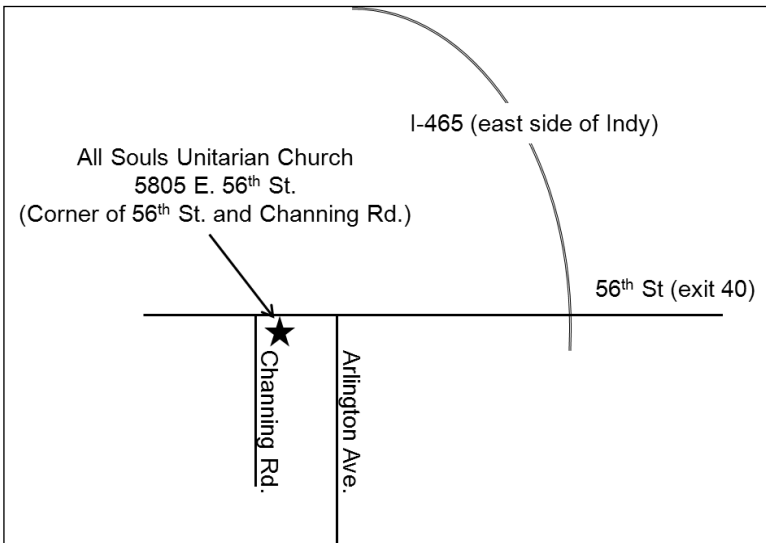
Income		
	401.1 – Monthly Gathering Inc.	63.00
	405.1 – National Support	389.30
	405.2 – New Member/Lapsed Member	5.00
	520.4 – Culture Quest	215.00
	Total Income	\$672.30
Expense		
	501.1– MG Hospitality	0.00
	505.1 – MIND Printing	557.48
	Total Expenses	\$557.48

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, meeting in Beattie Room



Central Indiana Mensa
Teresa Gregory
6076 Dewey Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46219