

Mensa Newsletter Of Central **Ind**iana



1

### **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 98<sup>th</sup> 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 59, Issue Number 2 February 2023



# table of contents

Loosing My MIND	4
LocSection	5
Puzzle Column	6
Welcome New Members	6
Book Group Reading List	7
Mensa Book Group Book Reviews	7
Early Americans: South American Civilizations	9
February 2023 Events	11
RVC4 Column	14
Books On the Runway	16
AGOG	18
Theodore Talks	19
ExCom Minutes	20
Treasurer's Report	21
Location of CIM Monthly Meeting	22
Contact Information	23

3

# **Loosing My MIND**

Vonda Heverly, Editor

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



Stuck in the doldrums of winter? Do you like games? Then this is the month for you. I would draw your attention to A Gathering of Gamers (AGOG) taking place mid-month in Chicago. See page 18 in this issue for more details.

And this just in, closer to home, from member Candis King:

"Join us for an evening of Games & Conversation, February 25th from 6:30 to 10:30. Bring a game you enjoy or use one of ours. We'll provide tables, you provide the conversation. Please call 630-642-9063 or 630-253-1350 to indicate you will be there and to get the address. Proof of vaccination required. No Smoking."

#### Cheers!



# LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

ICYMI\* Games & Conversation Night – We had plenty of conversation, including discussing Petra's Peculiarities: odd things Petra Ritchie picks up at thrift stores throughout the year and brings to see if people can figure out what they are. Several of them stumped everyone there. The group playing the board game Pandemic cured all the diseases and saved the world in about 45 minutes. Curing the recent real life pandemic should have been so easy!



ICYMI\* Sunday Fun Day – There was a nice turnout for the get together in Madison County. (Pendleton has a beautiful library.) CIM NE Coordinator Paula Ferguson gave a brief history and overview of hobbies, then people shared how they like to spend their spare time. We heard about interests as varied as coaching a robotics team, collecting alphabets, and reading true crime books.

\* **ICYMI** = In Case You Missed It, a title I borrowed from a column we used to have in *MIND* years ago.

**CultureQuest**® – If you're interested in participating in Mensa's nationwide cultural literacy/trivia competition, please let an ExCom member know. The competition will be in late April (date to be announced). Our team's or (teams') application is due March 31<sup>st</sup>, so if you'd like to be on a team, be sure to renew on time. Teams have 4-5 members. More info at <a href="https://www.us.mensa.org/attend/culturequest/">www.us.mensa.org/attend/culturequest/</a>

Mensa Foundation Awards – The Mensa Education & Research Foundation is seeking nominations/applications for two awards: the Copper Black Award for Creative Achievement and the Gifted Education Fellowship for a graduate degree in gifted education. Applications are due March 1st. There are additional awards that have different application deadlines throughout the year. More information may be found at <a href="https://www.mensafoundation.org/what-we-do/awards-and-recognition/">www.mensafoundation.org/what-we-do/awards-and-recognition/</a>.

Congratulations – to CIM member Alison Brown who was recently elected to a 3-year term as President of the International Alliance of Women. The IAW (www.womenalliance.org) is an international NGO comprising 41 member organizations involved in the promotion of women's human rights, of equality and of the empowerment of women around the world. Good luck, Alison!

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!!!

DUE DATE IS MARCH 31st

### **Puzzle Column**

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

## **February Short Month Puzzles**

February is the shortest month of the year. All answers to the puzzles must contain the word *short* or a word that contains *short* in it.

For example, a Monopoly deed is the **SHORT** Line Railroad.

- 1. What Mama's little baby loves
- 2. Type of cook
- 3. Companion of a day late
- 4. Pancake option
- 5. Trail option
- 6. Losing pick at a soda fountain
- 7. Deficiency idiom involving cards
- 8. Isaac Pitman work
- 9. Often braised item
- 10. Royal Teens hit song

See answers on page 15.



# **New Members**

Mark Raspopov	Carmel	IN	MoveIn
---------------	--------	----	--------



## 2022-2023 Book Group Reading List

Rich Gibson

Book Group is meeting via Zoom ONLY this month. It meets Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m. once a month. Check the calendar for exact dates and contact information for Rich Gibson.

**February:** *Entangled Life* by Merlin Sheldrake, 225 pages **March:** *The Psychology of Money* by Morgan Housel, 209 pages

April: On Bullshit/Bullshit Jobs by Henry G. Frankfurt/David Graeber, 68/140

pages

May: Metaverse by Matthew Ball, 292 pages

**June:** Genetic Lottery by Kathryn Paige Harden, 256 pages

**July:** The Verge by Patrick Wyman, 343 pages

August: A Book Forged in Hell by Steven Nadler, 300 pages

September: The WEIRDEST People in the World by Joseph Henrich, 275 pages\*

October: Bittersweet by Susan Cain, 353 pages

**November:** *Power and Liberty* by Gordon S. Wood, 188 pages

\*Book is much longer; we'll furnish a reading guide to get it down to a friendlier length.

# **Mensa Book Group Book Reviews**

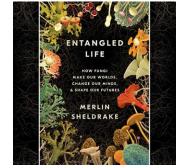
Rich Gibson

## THIS MONTH: Entangled Life by Merlin Sheldrake

225 pages, published in 2020. To be discussed at the MBG meeting on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 PM. See Calendar or Meetup for more information. Right now, bacteria are having a moment. Bacteria are all around us, even

inside us; bacteria species are uncounted and possibly uncountable; the total mass of bacteria on this planet is greater than all other life forms combined. What if I told you that, other than the total mass thing, these statements are also true about fungi?

Trees are also having a moment. The "wood-wide web" is upending our understanding of forests and woodlands. We are learning that trees share nutrients and minerals through their root systems, and that a parasite's attack on one



tree provokes defensive reactions among other nearby trees. What if I told you that fungi, mycorrhizal fungi to be precise, are the connective tissue in that wood-wide web? What if I told you that, countless eons ago, fungi were the important scene-setters in allowing life to leave the oceans and start colonizing the land?

Fungi are Merlin Sheldrake's passion, and he has written a book that spreads that passion far and wide. His focus is on mycorrhizomes, the fungi connecting to plants and connecting plants to each other. Diving into this work quickly reveals the aptness of the word "entangled." These fungi tangle up with each other and with tree roots, and the sum of all this entanglement results in something unsettlingly close to rational group decision-making. Trees give carbon to fungi, and fungi give minerals like nitrogen and phosphorus to trees. To call this "trade" may be too reductive or anthropomorphic, but it tends to fit. Minerals that are harder for fungi to get "command" a "higher price" in carbon from trees. (Again, this is a highly anthropomorphic way to describe it, but geez, it fits!)

These are only a few of the surprising nuggets to be mined from this book. We are very happy to have read it, and we are eagerly awaiting a chance to discuss it with you all. Please consider attending the Book Group and check it out.

# NEXT MONTH: The Psychology of Money—Timeless Lessons on Wealth, Greed, and Happiness by Morgan Housel

238 pages, published in 2020. To be discussed at the MBG meeting on Sunday, March 19th, at 2:00 PM. See Calendar or Meetup for more information. A fellow Mensan who acted as our financial advisor for several years loved to say, "People don't have money problems; money has people problems." Howsoever you wish to interpret this, I think the point is that people have problems, and a number of these problems stem from how people react to money, both in having and not having it. Likewise, the title of this book is about the psychology of people reacting to money.

Handling money well isn't so much about what you know, but how you behave. I haven't seen the statistics, but I'd bet a lot that intelligence and mature behavior around money are weakly correlated, at best.

There is certainly a mathematical component to handling money, whether it's a business or personal activity. Math is necessary but not sufficient to lead to good money management. Too many decisions are influenced by worldview, life experience, friends' anecdotes, ego, advertisements, even marketing, advertisements, groupthink, mob behavior and mass delusions.

Morgan Housel is a partner in a venture capital fund and has won several awards for his writing on finance, business and investing. This book contains 19 short stories that dig into the odd things going through people's minds when making money decisions. It can teach you how you can do better yourself. Some of his lessons are:

- Both luck and risk are hard to measure
- Social comparison is a problem. Comparison is the thief of all joy.
- Take advantage of long tails
- Compounding works, but you MUST give it time
- The ultimate form of wealth is the ability to do what you want, when.
- Reduce your ego. Wait for the best opportunities. Save so you can exploit them.

- Be reasonable rather than rational. It's more realistic.
- Some investment won't be winners. Learn to plan accordingly.
- Deal with market volatility. Accept and embrace it.

#### Some Great Quotes:

- Money's greatest intrinsic value—and this can't be overstated—is its ability to give you control over your time."
- "But there's only one way to stay wealthy: some combination of frugality and paranoia."
- "You are one person in a game with seven billion other people and infinite moving parts. The accidental impact of actions outside of your control can be more consequential than the ones you consciously take."
- "After spending years around investors and business leaders I've come
  to realize that someone else's failure is usually attributed to bad
  decisions, while your own failures are usually chalked up to the dark
  side of risk."

These are only a few of the nuggets to be mined from this book. We are eagerly awaiting the chance to discuss it with you. Please consider attending the Book Group and check it out. We'll meet both in-person and through Zoom on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 PM.

# **Early Americans**

Matt Brennan

#### **South American Civilizations**

The Pacific coastal regions of South America (now Ecuador, Peru, and Chile) spawned a variety of sophisticated societies. One culture among the suite of small, northern Peruvian entities, which included the Nazca, was the Moche (ca. 100-800 A.D). The Moche built pyramids, developed sophisticated agricultural systems, and crafted interesting portrait vases. They created intricate bronze and precious metal objects as most strikingly illustrated by the magnificent adornments of their famous "lords of Sipan." The Moche left behind graphic ceramics and abundant evidence of human sacrifice.

The crowning cultural achievement of the coastal regions was the **Inca Empire** (1438 A.D. - 1533 A.D.) that stretched across Ecuador, Peru, Chile, and parts of western Bolivia and Argentina. It was a generally peaceful, agricultural society that unfortunately had craftsmen skilled in making gold and silver objects. This attracted the gold-hungry Spanish conquistadores. The Inca empire lasted one year beyond first contact with Francisco Pizzaro and his gang of cutthroats. In 1532, the Spaniards invited Inca King Atahualpa to a meeting. He was arrested,

Continued on next page

#### Continued from previous page

imprisoned and killed the next year. The story is similar to the Spanish invitation to a meeting with Aztec King Montezuma in 1519. He was also arrested, imprisoned, and died in mysterious circumstances the following year. Spanish soldiers of that era were the product of centuries-long battles on the Iberian Peninsula. They regarded native peoples in the New World as slaves at best and did not seriously respect their right to live. Precious metals were



resources to be taken, melted down, or mined. The armored conquistadores with their guns, cannon, horses, halberds, pikes, swords, and vicious, massive war dogs were accompanied by disease, the deadliest weapon.

Diseases to which Europeans had developed at least partial immunity over the centuries were unknown in the Americas. Dutch, English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish carriers - explorers, settlers, soldiers and others - infected and reinfected native populations, causing

repeated epidemics and widespread death. Disease was truly the real conqueror of the Americas.

Native Americans, and in particular the Andean civilizations, gifted Europeans with avocado, cassava, coca, corn (maize), cucumber, gourds, green beans, peanuts, peppers, pinto beans, potatoes, pumpkins and other squashes, sweet potatoes, tobacco, tomatoes, etc. *Bon appetit*.

On the inland side of the Andes Mountain Chain, specifically in the Amazon Basin, widespread civilizations existed. They were documented by a conquistador named Francisco Orellana who served under Francisco Pizarro's brother, Diego. Orellana's 4000-mile journey began when he was second in command of Diego Pizarro's exploratory force of 4200 porters and soldiers. They left newly founded Quito (1534 A.D.) in 1541, crossed the Andes, and began a descent into unknown lands.

This is part of a continuring series by member Matt Brennan on Early Americans. –Ed.

# February 2023 Events

**Indy Lunch Bunch** – 1st and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays on \*Zoom\*

2/1 and 2/15, 11:30am - 12:30pm ET

RSVPs not required but appreciated.

Contact: Karen Steilberger, steilkr@sbcglobal.net

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

**2/4, 10:00pm - 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

<u>VIRTUAL \*Sunday Social</u> \*- Some Sundays (check the calendar) from **7:00pm -8:30pm ET** Drop in any time for casual chat. Contact: Teresa, <u>ag18tg@yahoo.com</u>.

LIVE \*Monthly Gathering\* - 2nd Friday, 2/10, 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. Proof of vaccination or recent test required.

Watch the Weekly CIM ReMINDer for details.

## **LIVE Mensa Admission Testing**

2/11, 1:00pm – 3:00pm ET

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

## VIRTUAL \*Book Group\* 2/19, 2:00pm ET

*Entangled Life* – Merlin Sheldrake (2020) 225 pages Contact Rich Gibson <u>hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com</u> or 770-548-5217 for more details, to RSVP, or for Zoom link.

<u>Mensans Dining Out</u> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday **2/19, 6pm ET**; Blind Owl Brewery – INDOOR seating; **5014 E 62nd St, Indianapolis,** IN 46220 **For more information or to RSVP**, contact Bob Zdanky at 317-912-3590.

LIVE Games and Conversation: Feb 25<sup>th</sup> 6:30-10:30. Contact Candis King to

**LIVE Games and Conversation**: Feb 25<sup>th</sup> 6:30-10:30. Contact Candis King to RSVP and receive address. 630-642-9063 or 630-253-1350.

⇒⇒⇒ Be sure to read the CIM ReMINDer in your email every Monday for more information, updates, and additions!

# February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			1 *Indy Lunch Bunch*
5 *Sunday Social*	6	7	8
12 *Sunday Social*	13	14	*Indy Lunch Bunch*
19 Book Group; Dining Out	20	21 * ExCom*	22
26 *Sunday Social*	27	28	

<sup>\*</sup>Virtual Zoom Events\*

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4 Ham'n Eggs
9	10 Monthly Gathering	11 Mensa Admission Testing
16	17	18
23	24	25 Games Night

If you lose your *MIND* (oh, my!) or want additional information, check <a href="https://www.meetup.com/central-indianamensa">www.indymensa.org</a> or join our Meet Up group, <a href="https://www.meetup.com/central-indianamensa">https://www.meetup.com/central-indianamensa</a>. 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

**Board of Directors (AMC) Update** 

Jon Gruebele, RVC4

The AMC met in Denver for its final meeting of 2022. It was the first meeting led by our new Chair, Lori Norris.

There were a variety of appointments made. We'll be welcoming Baker Ring back to the AMC as Second Vice Chair. In addition to other service for Mensa, he served as Regional Vice Chair 5. We also appointed Beth Anne Demeter as the 2024 Annual Gathering (AG) Chair. That event will be held in Kansas City MO, following the 2023 AG in Baltimore and preceding the 2025 AG in Chicago and the 2026 AG in Fort Worth.



Walking through the agenda:

- A motion to reassign members in specific ZIP codes to another Region was removed from the agenda after the affected RVCs were able to reach agreement on how to proceed.
- Between meetings, the ExComm (our nationally elected officers plus one RVC) approved hotel and meal funding for the Executive Director to attend the International Board of Directors (IBD) meeting in Montenegro. Several other appointment changes were announced.
- Taz Criss, Treasurer, reported on our financials through August 2022. As always, it's challenging to compare year-to-date numbers due to the timing of when expenses and revenues are recognized. Nevertheless, compared to the prior year, expenses were up and revenues were down. Investment-related losses driven by overall stock market performance also weighed on our results.
- Executive Director Trevor Mitchell reported that through December, membership was down about 3% compared to the prior year. While new and reinstating memberships were on trend, it's been challenging to get renewals from members who have lapsed for more than a year.
- The Gifted Youth Committee Chair was removed from the list of Professional Appointments. It was unclear what accreditation would be applicable here.
- We continue to struggle to pass bylaws change proposals related to the National Ombuds. Since we cannot amend these motions during the meeting, even the smallest change means everything gets pushed to the next meeting. These proposals were either withdrawn by the movers or referred back to them: giving

Regional Ombuds a vote in National Ombuds elections, handling Ombuds vacancies, and changing the term of office from six years to three. Two motions to prevent National or Regional Ombuds from simultaneously serving in other Ombuds roles were defeated.

- In Executive Session, the AMC voted no confidence in the National Ombuds for breaking the confidentiality of executive session in both the September and December AMC meetings.
- Robin Crawford reported on Volunteerism, I reported on Strategic Planning issues. We are revamping targets for Local Group testing and establishing goals for private testing. Tabby Vos reported on marketing initiatives and updated us on the 2023 AG.

Additional detail will be available on-line as always under Lead -> Board of Directors (AMC) -> Meeting Reports.

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



# **Answers to Puzzle Column on page 6:**

#### Solutions:

- 1. What Mama's little baby loves = shortening bread
- 2. Type of cook = short order
- 3. Companion of a day late = a dollar short
- 4. Pancake option = short stack
- 5. Trail option = shortcut
- 6. Losing pick at a soda fountain = short straw
- 7. Deficiency idiom involving cards = 2 cards short of a full deck
- 8. Isaac Pitman work = Shorthand
- 9. Often braised item = short ribs
- 10. Royal Teens hit song = *Short Shorts*



## **Books On the Runway**

Margy Lancet Fletcher

**Author:** Justin Gregg

Title: If Nietzsche Were a Narwhal: What Animal Intelligence Reveals About

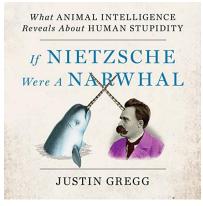
Human Stupidity

Publisher: Little, Brown & Company/Hachette Book Group

Year: 2022

Book Description: Readers familiar with music history are aware that the Richard Strauss tone poem, *Also Sprach Zarathustra*, was inspired by Friederich Nietzsche's philosophical novel of the same name, and in turn was repurposed as the theme music in Stanley Kubrick's 1968 futuristic film, *2001: A Space Odyssey*. Appropriately, the underlying theme of these three arguably brilliant tours de force is that human intelligence is far superior to that of any other earthly creature, and in

regard to our accomplishments, "the sky's the limit." On the other hand, a word of



caution is in order, according to Justin Gregg, a professor of animal behavior and cognition: Is the remarkable mind of homo sapiens really an evolutionary triumph, or has our complex brain rendered us incredibly stupid in ways that actually threaten our survival as a species? In his provocative critique of humanity, *If Nietzsche Were a Narwhal*, Gregg presents his case supporting the elegantly simple behaviors of the "lower" animals as more environmentally adaptive than our complex thought processes; more often than not, he states, we get in our own way.

In the book's introduction, the author provides a character sketch of Nietzsche, portraying the philosopher as a tortured soul who both pitied and envied creatures who lacked his self-awareness. The succeeding chapters present the aspects of human cognition that both make us unique and potentially condemn us to self-destruction. The first, and most basic, is abstract reasoning, or our ability to understand - or misunderstand - causal relationships, and our predilection to seek explanations for every behavior or phenomenon, even where no discernible one exists (e.g., the Stock Market). Another peculiarly human specialty is verbal communication, which enables us to establish and comprehend factual information and has also shaped our pathological lying and manipulative skills (hello, fake news!). We can also conceptualize time, and consequently imagine - and morbidly fear - our own deaths. Additionally, we have expanded our repertoire of behavioral norms (which are common to all animals) to include personal and cultural moral codes, which we have used to both guarantee order and safety and to justify such atrocities as torture and genocide. Probably our most (literally) earth-shaking cerebral power - and shortcoming - is our ability to plan for the future, which is marred by cognitive myopia, or our tendency to focus on immediate issues and disregard long-range consequences (e.g., pandemics and climate change). The

author concludes his entertaining, and often sobering, analysis of human exceptionalism with an obvious and simple solution for human survival, which includes showing our fellow terrestrial inhabitants a lot more respect (see excerpt below).

Has this book changed the way you think, your attitude toward life, or even your life itself? If so, how? Our everyday life abounds with examples of human misjudgment, so I was not surprised by the revelations contained in this book, although they occasionally shocked me out of my complacency. One example: Joni Mitchell's 1970 song "Big Yellow Taxi," which implored farmers not to kill birds and bees with DDT, barely hints at the pesticide's long-range effects on the human population, including susceptibility to cancer and obesity (another reason to refrain from the cognitively dysfunctional practice of "fat-shaming").

Who should definitely read this book? Why? Fans of Steven Pinker's (ahem) rosy views on human progress expressed in his Enlightenment literature may be a tad annoyed with Justin Gregg's more negative pronouncements, which turn Pinker's theories on their heads (so to speak). Others may acknowledge that, at least in this sense, we are benefitting from the product of one individual's superb mental capacity.

**How long might it take to read this book?** As a prognosticator, I'm as imperfect as my fellow humans, but I would estimate, given the moderate length (263 pages of text), large print size, and the mixed tone of frankness and ironic humor, a temporal investment of 2 to 3 days.

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

Human intelligence is not the miracle of evolution we like to think it is. We love our little accomplishments - our moon landings and megacities - like a parent loves their newborn baby. But nobody loves a baby as much as the parents. The planet does not love us as much as we love our intellect. Because we are indeed exceptional if not necessarily "good," we have generated more death and destruction for life on this planet than any other animal, past and present. Our many intellectual accomplishments are currently on track to produce our own extinction, which is exactly how evolution gets rid of adaptations that suck. It is the greatest of paradoxes that we should have an exceptional mind that seems hell-bent on destroying itself. Unless we can pull out a Pinkerian *Star Trek* solution in the nick of time, human intelligence is going to wink out of existence.

So instead of looking at the cows and chickens and narwhals in your life with pity because they lack human cognitive capacities, think first about the value of those capacities. Do you experience more pleasure than your pets because of them? Is the world a better place thanks to our species' intelligence? If we are honest about the answers to those questions, then there's good reason to tone down our smugness. Because, depending on where we go from here, human intelligence may just be the stupidest thing that has ever happened.



# A Gathering of Gamers (AGOG)

AGOG is back, in real life! We're holding it Friday through Sunday February 17-19, 2023 at the Westin Chicago North Shore in Wheeling – the same hotel where 'WeeM is held. We expect over 100 attendees enjoying 48 hours of board games. Be the first on your block to register!

Chicago Area Mensa has an extensive collection of games, including Mensa Select® winners and popular new games. Play your longtime favorites or learn something new that weekend! Compete, cooperate, socially deduct – it's all good fun!

Through January 6, you can register for the bargain rate of \$75 for adult members, \$45 for youth, FREE for children (8 years old and under, with accompanying adult) and \$5 extra for non-members. Hotel rates are \$122 through January 16.

Register at <a href="http://chicago.us.mensa.org/agog/">http://chicago.us.mensa.org/agog/</a> – we'd love to see you there! And bring your friends!



### **Theodore Talks**

Brad Lucht

The title of the February Theodore Talk is, "**Comedy is a Funny Business".** This virtual event will take place on Zoom February 26 at 2:30 CT.

#### ABSTRACT

We all like to laugh (or at least most of us do). From class clown to comedy kingpin, Dustin Kauffman has been making people laugh, one way or another, for most of his life. He first appeared in front of a crowd at an open mic night in 1999. Within six months he was performing professionally. He started touring in 2003, appearing in clubs in New York, Chicago, Seattle and Los Angeles.

Tired of the life on the road, he returned to Kansas City in 2014, where he ... sold flooring. Which he was very good at. But still, it didn't carry the same thrill as entertaining people. So, he began thinking about his own comedy club. In the summer of 2018, he signed a 5-year lease on what used to be a Waid's Diner, and before that a small four-screen movie theatre. In April of 2019 the Comedy Club of Kansas City opened. At least for a while, until Covid shut it down.

Dustin will talk about what it is like to run a comedy club. From obtaining a liquor license to booking comedians like Andy Dick, Andrew Dice Clay, Emo Philips, Margaret Cho, Paul Rodriguez and Marsha Warfield, it may not be as funny as you think.

Register for this presentation at <a href="https://tinyurl.com/3v7ejms5">https://tinyurl.com/3v7ejms5</a>.

You must register for each lecture with an email address associated with your Zoom account. If you don't have one, you can sign up for a free Zoom account at https://zoom.us/signup.

\_\_\_\_\_

Theodore Talks take place on Zoom the fourth Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m. CT.

A list of future Theodore Talks can be found on the Mensa National Events Calendar at <a href="https://www.us.mensa.org/attend/calendar/">https://www.us.mensa.org/attend/calendar/</a>.

Questions? Contact Brad Lucht at <a href="mailto:TheodoreTalks@MAMensa.org">TheodoreTalks@MAMensa.org</a>.

### Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 12/20/2022

Karen Wilczewski, CIM Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, December 20, 2022.

LocSec Jan Pfeil Doyle called the meeting to order at 7:16 pm.

Members present: Jon Applegate, Jan Pfeil Doyle, Paula Ferguson, Barb George, Ann Hake, Karen Wilczewski, Kurt Williams, and Bob Zdanky. Guests: Teresa Gregory, Pat Milligan

The committee reviewed the minutes of the November 2022 ExCom meeting. Kurt moved, Barb seconded, and the motion carried.

The committee reviewed the November 2022 Treasurer's report. Ann moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted with changes. Barb seconded, and the motion carried.

A membership report was compiled by Teresa Gregory based upon the information available as of 11/30/2022 from American Mensa: 472 members, 2 new, no move-ins, 5 rejoins, and 5 prospects.

#### **Old Business**

No old business was brought up.

#### **New Business**

Congratulations to Kurt for being Gifted Youth Coordinator.

Discussion ensued requiring vaccine requirement for attending monthly gatherings. Kurt motioned that we continue our current policy without modifications. Ann seconded. The motion passed.

Does CIM want to purchase a 13-month CD, considering interest rates are currently high. The interest can be earmarked toward the scholarship fund or another designated use. Kurt moved to transfer \$10,000 to purchase a one-year CD, Barb seconded. The motion passed.

Hybrid meetings (Friday and Saturday) were discussed. Barb will conduct research regarding any interest related to hybrid meetings/events and submit an article for February MIND.

There being no other business, Kurt moved that the meeting be adjourned. Bob seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

# **Treasurer's Report**

Kurt Williams

# **Balance Sheet (as of 12/31/2022)**

Bank Accounts	11/30/2022	12/31/2022
Checking – Regular	\$8,473.49	\$8,769.88
Checking – Scholarship	-	20
Checking – MG Cash	25.00	25.00
Checking – Events Checking	6,674.74	6,674.74
Total Assets	\$15,173.23	\$15,489.62

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

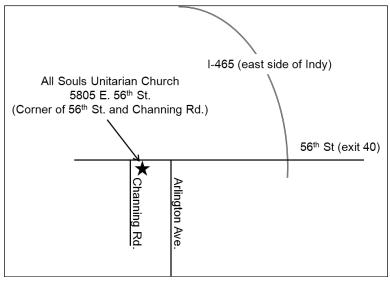
# **Profit & Loss Statement (11/30/2022 – 12/31/2022)**

Income	
Monthly Gathering Income	41.00
National Support	399.50
New Member/Lapsed Member	7.00
Scholarship Fund donation	20
National Testing Support	
Total Income	\$467.50
Expense	
MG Hospitality	154.29
MIND Printing	357.75
Total Expenses	\$512.04

# Mensa Monthly Gathering Location All Souls Unitarian Church 5805 E. 56th St., Indianapolis

- From I-465 on the east side of Indianapolis, take the 56<sup>th</sup> 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