

March 2023
Volume 59, Number 3



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 59, Issue Number 3
March 2023



mind

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	10
March 2023 Events	11
RVC4 Column	14
Books On the Runway	15
Trivia	17
OMG! Save the Date	17
Theodore Talks	18
ExCom Minutes	20
Treasurer's Report	21
Location of CIM Monthly Meeting	22
Contact Information	23

Loosing My MIND

Vonda Heverly, Editor

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



Well, spring appears to have arrived in central Indiana...in mid-February. My daffodils are all blooming away! March marks not only the official start of spring, but also has my favorite holiday. I managed to squeeze in a St. Patrick's Day trivia column and I raise a glass to you all!

Please take time to read about those who weren't so lucky below, Indy's own Southside Animal Shelter. If you can't make the meeting to donate in person, you can follow the link to the website and purchase through Amazon, or mail directly to the animal shelter. Please consider helping them replenish their supplies.

Cheers!



To the Editor:

The Southside Animal Shelter in Indianapolis had a devastating fire on the night of February 13th. Thankfully, none of the animals were killed or injured, but the warehouse burned to the ground. All of their supplies, washing facilities, and the feral cat safe shelter were destroyed. Miraculously, none of the feral cats were "home" at the time. The rest of the facilities suffered much smoke and water damage.

I will be collecting any kind of pet supplies, mostly consumables like canned food and, of course, monetary donations at the March 10th Mensa meeting. If you would like some suggestions, check their "wish list" page.

[Wish List | Rosie's Southside Animal Shelter \(ssasi.org/wish-list/\)](http://ssasi.org/wish-list/)

Petra Ritchie
317-786-8665

P.S. Two special needs chihuahuas need a home.



LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

CultureQuest® – CultureQuest® is U.S. Mensa’s trivia/knowledge competition. Teams of up to five people compete at the same time on Sunday, April 30th at 4 pm. Teams of up to 5 decide whether to meet in person or by videoconference. There’s also a “Next Generation” quiz for teams whose members were born on or after May 1, 2005. If you’re interested in leading or being on a team, please contact me or another ExCom member well before March 31st and be sure to renew by March 31st! More info at www.us.mensa.org/attend/culturequest/.



A Big Thank You – To CIM Scholarship Chair, Tamara Lynn Wardell, and to all who volunteered to read and judge applicants’ essays.

ICYMI (In Case You Missed It) – We had a good turnout for our February Monthly Gathering. Jeremy Kranowitz, President and CEO of Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, spoke passionately about KIB and the work they do. He talked about their extensive tree planting programs and about creating greenspaces from vacant lots.



Ham’n Eggs also had a nice crowd.

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>)

March Walk Puzzles

To march is to walk in a certain way. In these puzzles, *walk* is used in a certain way to clue the answer.

Example: Her boots were made for walking. Answer: Nancy Sinatra

1. Chuck Norris's Walker
2. The Walker with the Red that might make ones face red
3. The city to which Fats Domino was walking
4. A toy that enables one to walk the dog
5. A person who walks it may hear "arrrg"
6. Debussy's Cakewalk
7. She walked on by
8. He popularized the duck walk in the 1950s
9. What the Four Seasons walked like
10. Walken's 1978 success

See answers on page 9.



New Members

Jim Burkhardt	Madison	IN	MoveIn
Troy Pierson	Bloomington	IN	MoveIn
Keith Stewart	Carmel	IN	MoveIn

2022-2023 Book Group Reading List

Rich Gibson

Book Group is meeting via Zoom AND in person 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.

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

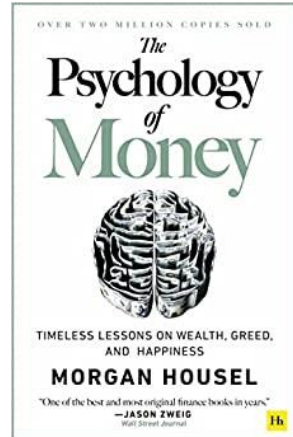
238 pages, published in 2020. To be discussed at the MBG meeting on Sunday, March 19th, at 2:00 PM. See Calendar or Meetup for more information.

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

Continued on next page



Continued from previous page

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.

NEXT MONTH: *On Bullshit*, by Harry G. Frankfurt; 68 pages, published in 2005. ***Bullshit Jobs: A Theory*, by David Graeber;** 285 pages, published 2018. Both books to be discussed at the MBG meeting on Sunday, April 16th, at 2:00 PM. See Calendar or Meetup for more information.

On Bullshit is a short book that was expanded from a shorter essay by the philosopher Harry Frankfurt. We will provide an excerpt from this book to regular attendees and on request to anyone else. This excerpt sets the stage for

the longer book, *Bullshit Jobs*. Even more briefly: “The *liar* cares about the truth and attempts to hide it; the *bullshitter* doesn’t care if what they say is true or false but cares only whether the listener is persuaded.”

David Graeber was an anthropologist and anarchist who also wrote the provocative book *The Dawn of Everything*. In *Bullshit Jobs*, he advances the argument that almost half of the jobs in America today are meaningless and unproductive, and lead to both psychological and societal harm. He begins with John Maynard Keynes’ prediction in the early 20th Century that automation would lead to (at most) a 15-hour work week. Graeber argues instead that the 40-hour week has been preserved by inflating the work to be done with make-work. He goes on to assert that the number of jobs has expanded owing mainly to “managerial feudalism,” in which a supervisor’s status depends on the number of employees under them. Meanwhile, society has evolved an ethos that work underlines self-worth; as a result, workers are grateful for their meaningless jobs, even though they realize their work serves no productive purpose. The disconnect leads to psychological harm.

Graeber’s solution involves both labor unions and a universal basic income. He contends that a UBI would allow workers more leisure time and allow them to structure their work according to a more human cycle of working and slacking, as occurs naturally to farmers, fishers, and writers.

Whether Graeber is correct or not, what role unions would have, and how he counters the argument that business competition would have eliminated bullshit jobs long ago, is something you’ll have to judge for yourself. Read the book and attend in-person or via Zoom on Sunday, April 16th at 2:00, and join the discussion. Hope to see you there!



Answers to Puzzle Column on page 6:

Solutions:

1. Chuck Norris’s Walker – Texas Ranger
2. The Walker with the Red that might make ones face red - Johnny
3. The city to which Fats Domino was walking – New Orleans
4. A toy that enables one to walk the dog - yoyo
5. A person who walks it may hear “arrrg” - plank
6. Debussy’s Cakewalk - Golliwog
7. She walked on by – Dionne Warwick
8. He popularized the duck walk in the 1950s – Chuck Berry
9. What the Four Seasons walked like – a man
10. Walken’s 1978 success – the Deer Hunter



Early Americans

Matt Brennan

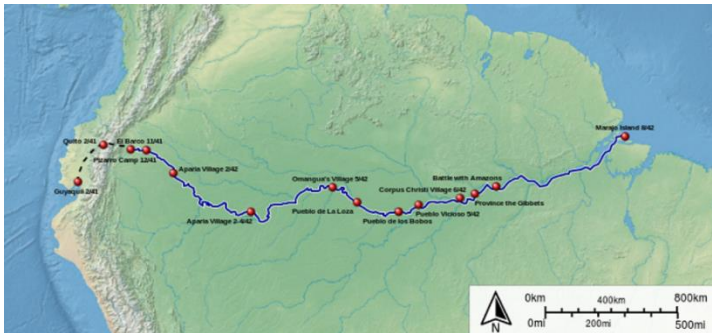
Orellana's Journey

Near the inland foothills of the Andes, Francisco Orellana, leading 57 men on a scouting expedition, was tasked with identifying the headwaters of a river system. He found the headwaters, only to realize that the current made it impossible to return upriver. Diego Pizarro waited for Orellana to return and then trekked back to Quito leading 80 men dressed in dirty, torn rags--all that remained of the original 4200 porters and soldiers.

After waiting for Diego Pizarro to join him, hunger forced Orellana to continue inland on two makeshift boats. He soon encountered the Amazon River. Both banks teemed with plantations, villages, forts, and well-organized societies with a variety of social and cultural structures. Orellana fought repeated small engagements with the inhabitants, but also benefited from elaborate banquets and welcoming chiefs. The Spaniards were given what they needed, stole it, or took it by force. After a battle with women warriors, he was prompted to name the river Amazon in honor of the Amazons of Greek mythology. As information, frequent battles with formations of female warriors occurred during the French conquest of Dahomey (now Benin) in the early 1890s.

Orellana's journey ended in 1542 when 43 survivors (out of the original 57) arrived at a Spanish outpost near where the mighty Amazon emptied into the Atlantic Ocean.

The Amazon basin that Orellana visited was not entirely the rainforest we know today. The inhabitants had built complex societies that relied on creating rich, black



soil from the generally poor tropical soil. Gardens and plantations, duck, chicken and goose farms were

common. Fifty years after Orellana's voyage, nothing remained, and his firsthand accounts were called into question.

As territory in Amazonia is cleared today, traces of densely populated, intensely farmed, and human modified regions emerge. There are two explanations for today's aboriginal inhabitants. The tribes were always isolated and thus escaped the ravages of disease, or these peoples are remnants of earlier, more sophisticated, societies.

Both factors are probably in play.

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

March 2023 Events

Indy Lunch Bunch – 1st and 3rd Wednesday

3/1, 11:30am ET - Yats 5363 N. College Ave.

3/15, 11:30am ET - Virtual *Online* RSVPs not required but appreciated.

Contact: Karen Steilberger, steilkr@sbcglobal.net

LIVE Ham ‘n’ Eggs (Hamilton County Eggheads) – 1st Saturday

3/4, 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

LIVE Mensa Chowhounds Lunch – 2nd and 4th Wednesday

3/8, 2:30pm ET - CR Heros, 10570 E 96th St, Fishers, IN 46037

3/22, 2:30pm ET - Sahn’s, 11505 Allisonville Rd, Fishers, IN 46038

Late lunch or early dinner? You decide!

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

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.

LIVE Monthly Gathering - 2nd Friday, **3/10, 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. **Our speaker will be Jeff Papa**, Editor-in-Chief of the Mensa Research Journal, CIM member, and so much more. **Watch the Weekly CIM ReMINDER for details.**

VIRTUAL and LIVE Book Group

3/19, 2:00pm ET: *The Psychology of Money* – Morgan Housel (2020) 209 pages. Contact Rich Gibson hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com or 770-548-5217 for more details, to RSVP, or for Zoom link.

LIVE Mensans Dining Out - 3rd Sunday; **3/19, 6pm ET**

Garbanzo Mediterranean Fresh 1340 E 86th St #56, Indianapolis, IN 46240

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

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

March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			1 Indy Lunch Bunch - NEW LOCATION
5 *Sunday Social*	6	7	8 Chowhounds
12 *Sunday Social*	13	14	15 *Indy Lunch Bunch*
19 Book Group; Dining Out – NEW LOCATION	20	21 * ExCom*	22 Chowhounds
26 *Sunday Social*	27	28	29

Virtual Zoom Events

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4 Ham'n Eggs
9	10 Monthly Gathering	11
16	17	18
23	24	25
30	31	

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

On the Fence?

Jon Gruebele, RVC4

If you're not a life member or in the middle of a 3- or 5-year membership term, 'tis the season for you to be mercilessly bombarded with pleas to renew. Personally, I bought a life membership back when dues were still \$45. That may have been my best financial investment ever. Not only can I avoid the yearly entreaties and dues increases, but I've gotten tremendous value for those dues.

Value is, of course, in the eye of the beholder. For some, getting the *Bulletin* and Local Group newsletter is enough. Others enjoy meeting their Mensa friends for a meal or games, having an on-line chat, or attending a regional, national, or international gathering. Some use SIGHT (Service of Information, Guidance, and Hospitality to Travelers) to enhance their vacations. Special Interest Groups (SIGs) abound. Some enjoy volunteering, either in service to Mensa or their communities through Mensa Cares. Many of us want to help support the Mensa Foundation's philanthropic pursuit of excellence in human intelligence. Fortunately, around 90% of us renew within 12 months. Of those that don't, many aren't gone forever. They may return when their life circumstances change, finances improve, or they simply miss our Mensa community. With new members joining, our membership has been down only slightly over the last few years – despite the pandemic.

Anyone looking for a [deal on dues](#) should consider multi-year or life memberships. Our 3-year memberships are priced at about a 10% discount; 5-year memberships are about 12% off. Life memberships are structured such that they're always a great deal actuarially and protect you from future dues increases. For example, anyone ages 40 to 44 could buy a life membership for \$1,380. That's equivalent to 17.5 years of today's dues, so a 40-year-old would break even at age 57 – or earlier if dues go up. I hope you're one of the people who renew or have already purchased a discounted multi-year or life membership. If you're on the fence, consider becoming more active in what Mensa has to offer. People who attend things tend to be happier with their memberships. If you can't find something you like, perhaps you could invite other Mensa members to join you in doing what you already enjoy. We're always looking for great ideas for the calendar.

I always end these articles by inviting feedback and urging you to join the Region 4 Facebook group. I'm very serious about wanting feedback. What should we be doing better? If you aren't renewing, why? What should we have done differently to keep your interest? If you did renew, I'd be interested in hearing about that too. We need to do more of the things that work and fewer of the things that don't. Sometimes knowing which is which can be challenging.

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

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



Books On the Runway

Margy Lancet Fletcher

Author: Scott A. Small

Title: *Forgetting: The Benefits of Not Remembering*

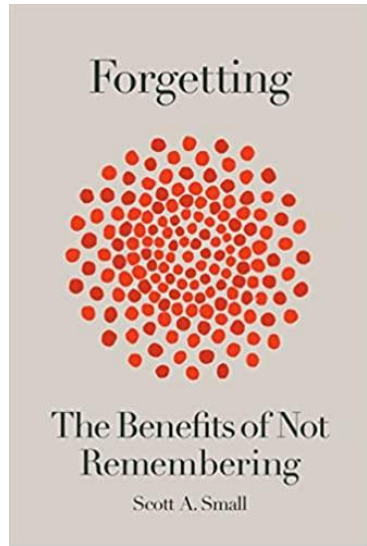
Publisher: Crown Publishing

Year: 2021

Book Description: Many of us harbor an adversarial attitude toward the aging process and its accompanying physiological deterioration, but nothing fills us with more dread than the prospect of memory loss. Indeed, nothing evokes paroxysms of panic more quickly than the misplacement of one's keys or wallet and the inability to remember where and when we last used them. And, as we painfully witness an older family member's retreat into dementia, we wonder if we will suffer the same fate as we approach old age. In *Forgetting*, Columbia University neurology and psychology professor Scott A. Small advises his readers to calm down and take a breath, assuring us that a certain amount of forgetting is not only normal, but is essential to maintaining a healthy, fully functioning mind.

After concisely summarizing his views on memory versus forgetting - a portion of which is excerpted below - Dr. Small takes his readers on an anatomical tour of the brain, with emphasis on the components responsible for the acquisition, processing, and retrieval of memories: the prefrontal and posterior areas, the hippocampi, the amygdalae, and the vast quantities of nerve cells and dendrites contained within these mnemonic "hot spots." This organic exploration is followed by a detailed account of the cellular behaviors linked to remembering and forgetting. The remaining chapters focus on the cognitive signals that indicate either an ideal mix of, or a toxic imbalance between, gaining and losing memories: autism, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), prosocial and antisocial personalities, creativity, metacognition and heuristic biases, codes of ethics, nostalgia, and Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Small concludes with a hopeful report on the scientific progress on diagnosing and treating memory-related disorders. Through his liberal use of case studies and interviews with prominent individuals engaged in a variety of professions, Dr. Small presents a convincing case for the beneficial effects of the human brain's capacity to occasionally selectively forget.

Continued on next page



Continued from previous page

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

This book is a wonderful source of solace for my husband and myself, who have lost three close family members to dementia, and thus are grateful for the author's thorough review of the cerebral activity involved in remembering, and his physiological comparison of normal forgetting with the two types of dementia - cognitive aging and Alzheimer's disease. For Parkinson's patients such as myself, who are well aware that pathological forgetting may be an eventual health issue, knowledge of what to expect and the types of treatments to seek are vital bits of information for future disease management.

Who should definitely read this book? Why? Physicians, anthropologists, and biologists will be particularly intrigued by the author's delineation of similarities and differences between us humans and our two closest relatives, chimpanzees and bonobos - in essence, contrasting antisocial and prosocial proclivities, respectively. Perhaps allowing fear- and rage-inducing memories to (literally) shrink and fade into the background is a pathway to world peace. An idea worth exploring, right?

How long might it take to read this book? This volume is blessedly brief, containing a mere 197 pages of text, presented in a pleasantly lucid and earnest style. You can schedule a maximum reading time of one or two days.

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

Only in the past decade or so has a new science begun to coalesce to explain why forgetting in balance with memory is the true and very natural cognitive power bestowed on us to live in an ever-fluctuating world, one that is also often frightening and painful. The "right to be forgotten" was legally determined in European courts in 2010, when it was successfully argued that a permanent record, in this case on the internet, could have damaging consequences for a person's life. In a similar spirit, our brains are right to forget.

...[F]orgetting in balance with memory is required for sculpting cognition: for granting us the flexibility to accommodate to an ever-changing environment, for extracting abstract concepts from a scattered mess of stored information, for seeing the forest for the trees. Forgetting is required for emotional well-being: for letting go of resentments, neurotic fears, and hurtful experiences that fester. Too much memory or too little forgetting imprisons with pain. Forgetting is required for societal health and for creativity, lightening the mind for those eureka moments when unexpected associations are made. Without forgetting, all flights of creative fancy would be moored by memory.

St. Patrick's Day Trivia

Courtesy of [Trivia Champ](#), answers on page 19

1. When did St. Patrick die?
2. What kind of creature does legend say St. Patrick drove out of Ireland?
3. What kind of plant is associated with St. Patrick?
4. What kind of staff did St. Patrick carry?
5. Where is the largest St. Patrick's Day parade?
6. What color was originally associated with St. Patrick?
7. What other religious holiday often fall close to St. Patrick's Day?
8. Where is St. Patrick buried?
9. Which of these cities is known for dying its river green: Chicago, Belfast or Dublin?
10. Where is the shortest St. Patrick's Day Parade?
11. Which of these things is associated with St. Patrick? A sword, a rock or a bell?
12. Who is buried along with St. Patrick?
13. What does legend say St. Patrick used to help explain the holy trinity?
14. Where was St. Patrick born?
15. Which of the following foods might be served at a feast for St. Patrick? Corned beef and cabbage, roast pig or salted cod?

Save the dates! May 19, 20, 21, 2023 OMG! Outdoor Mensa Gathering! LIVE! Versailles State Park, Indiana

Join Central Indiana Mensa for a laidback weekend in the woods. If you're thinking that you aren't the "outdoorsy" type, think again!

Things to know:

- There are no cabins with toilets anymore..
- All meals are provided, along with lodging, scenery, and MENSANS!
- We will not be providing alcohol, but please feel free to bring your own. There will be designated refrigerator space. As in the past, we will provide soft drinks, bottled water, and coffee.

Fees::

- Adults full weekend is **\$65** per person!
- Saturday only is **\$45**.
- Kids up to age 6 are **\$25**, and ages 6-12 are **\$40**.
- There is also a per-car park entry fee: **\$7** Indiana Resident, **\$9** Visitor

So grab your sleeping bags and towels, and join us at Versailles State Park.

Watch the CIM ReMINDER email for registration and payment info.

Theodore Talks

Brad Lucht

The title of the March Theodore Talk is, “**The Societal Foundations of National Competitiveness**”. This virtual event will take place on Zoom March 26 at 2:30 p.m. Central Time (3:30 Eastern, 12:30 Pacific, 7:30 GMT).

ABSTRACT

Nations rise and fall, succeed or fail in rivalries, and enjoy stability or descend into chaos because of a complex web of factors that affect competitive advantage. One critical component is the package of essential social characteristics of a nation. The ultimate story of the Cold War is that the United States was simply a more competitive society than the Soviet Union: more energetic, more vibrant, more innovative, more productive, more legitimate.

The RAND Corporation undertook a 15-month study, supported by the Office of Net Assessment in the Pentagon, to search for shared qualities of nations which enjoyed success in the international system. Through analysis of comparative studies of historical eras and trends, historical case studies, and the findings of issue-specific empirical research historical case studies, the resulting report explores how seven characteristics of a society determine its competitive standing and distinguish dynamic and competitively successful nations.

If the history surveyed in this report provides an accurate guide to the future, fate of the United States in today’s rivalries will not be determined solely, or even in significant degree, by the numbers of its weapons or amounts of defense spending or how many proxy wars it wins but by the basic characteristics of its society.

Dr. Michael Mazarr, Senior Political Scientist at the RAND Corporation, applies the seven leading characteristics that affect national standing to the United States to create a snapshot of where the country stands. That application provides some reason for optimism. The United States continues to reflect many of these characteristics, and the overall synergistic engine, more than any other large country in the world. However, multiple trends are working to weaken traditional U.S. advantages. Several, such as the corruption of the national information space, pose acute risks to the long-term dynamism and competitiveness of the nation, raising the worrying prospect that the United States has begun to display classic patterns of a major power on the far side of its dynamic and vital curve.

Register for this presentation at <https://tinyurl.com/mvwuppjj>.

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 <https://www.us.mensa.org/attend/calendar/>, or by viewing the January issue of the Mensa Bulletin. The article on the 2023 Theodore Talks begins on p. 26. The PDF for the magazine can be found here:

<https://cdn.coverstand.com/28885/770839/b31f233c57e663919d0e24eaaf61c9f62f52e902.pdf>

Questions? Contact Brad Lucht at TheodoreTalks@MAMensa.org.



Answers to St. Patrick's Day Trivia

1. 420 AD - Historians argue about the exact year of his birth and his death. However, this date is probably the most accurate.
2. Snakes - There are no snakes in Ireland.
3. Shamrock - He is said to have left the shamrocks as a symbol that the snakes would never return.
4. Ash - He is said to have stuck his staff into the ground wherever he was preaching.
5. New York - This parade is also the oldest in North America.
6. Blue - This gradually changed to green.
7. Easter - If Easter and St. Patrick's Day coincide, the Church chooses another day to celebrate the Saint.
8. Downpatrick - He is said to be buried in Down Cathedral in Downpatrick.
9. Chicago - A hundred pounds of dye was used the first year and the river remained green for a week.
10. Hot Springs - This city holds the parade in the street which is, according to Ripley's, the shortest street in the world.
11. A bell - The shrine of St. Patrick's Bell is located in the National Museum of Ireland.
12. St. Brigid - He is also said to be buried with St. Columba.
13. The shamrock - He used the leaves of the shamrock to illustrate the trinity.
14. Britain - He was taken captive and transported to Ireland when he was sixteen.
15. Corned beef and cabbage - You might also serve Irish stew or potatoes.



“Diligence is the mother of good luck.”
– Benjamin Franklin

Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 01/17/2023

Karen Wilczewski, CIM Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, January 17, 2023. LocSec Jan Pfeil Doyle called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

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

The committee reviewed the minutes of the January 2022 ExCom meeting. Kurt moved to approve as amended, Ann seconded, and the motion carried. The committee reviewed the December 2022 Treasurer's report. Ann moved that the Treasurer's Report as amended accepted. Barb seconded, and the motion carried.

A membership report was compiled by Jan Doyle based upon the information available as of 1/31/2023 from American Mensa: 472 members, no new, 1 move-in, 0 rejoins, and 7 prospects.

Old Business

Related to previous discussion of purchasing a \$10,000 CD, Kurt researched CD rates for First Internet Bank, which currently offers 4.65% for 13 months; however, the bank requires specific documentation, and the bank may not accept such, because CIM doesn't have a local tax ID.

PNC is another option for the CD. They have a 3.5% rate on their CDs; however, no additional documentation is required, due to CIM having an existing account with PNC. Kurt will talk with the National Office to see if they can assist with documentation for First Internet Bank.

Either way, the funds from the CD purchase will be designated to go to the Scholarship Fund.

New Business

According to Jan, it came to the attention of the ExCom that a social group was started by a CIM member on Facebook that used Mensa in its name. CIM was not aware of this.

Use of the Mensa name and logo requires national approval. Jan is pursuing this with our RVC.

A beautiful afghan has been crocheted was donated by one of our members for a possible raffle with the proceeds going to the Scholarship Fund. Teresa will bring raffle tickets to meetings. Tickets are \$1 each. The drawing will be conducted at the 2023 Holiday Party in December. ExCom members asked if the raffle can be advertised in the newsletter. A comparable afghan was donated in the past. The raffle is open to all CIMs. Teresa offered to be the contact for Ms to purchase tickets for the drawing. Kurt and Teresa will review what is being written up related to the raffle.

Culture Quest teams are forming. Kurt moved to pay the entry fees and Barb seconded the motion. It unanimously passed.

Postage stamps are going up to \$.58 later in January from the current discounted first-class rate of \$.55. The printer can handle bulk rate mail for our newsletter. The potential savings can be up to 30% per mailing if bulk rate is used, and it will significantly bring

down the price of postage. The drawback is that the newsletter will take longer for members to receive. Will get a quote from our printer and find out the pros and cons of handling bulk mail. Further discussion has been tabled for next month.

Bob reported another new member attending our dinner meetings.

There being no other business, Kurt moved that the meeting be adjourned. Barb seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Treasurer's Report

Kurt Williams

Balance Sheet as of 01/31/2023

Bank Accounts	12/31/2022	01/31/2023
Checking – Regular	\$8,769.88	\$8,080.85
Checking – Scholarship	20.00	20.00
Checking – MG Cash	25.00	25.00
Checking – Events Checking	6,674.74	6,674.74
Total Assets	\$15,489.62	\$14,800.59

Other Assets		
USPS Stamps Value	\$379.50	\$374.00
Total Number of USPS Stamps	690	680

Profit & Loss Statement (12/31/2022 – 1/31/2023)

Income		
	Monthly Gathering Income	\$ 0
	National Support	401.20
	New Member/Lapsed Member	0
	Scholarship Fund donation	0
	National Testing Support	40.00
	Total Income	\$ 440.20
Expense		
	MG Hospitality	\$ 0
	MIND Printing	392.48
	Facility Rental (All Souls)	400.00
	Total Expenses	\$ 792.48

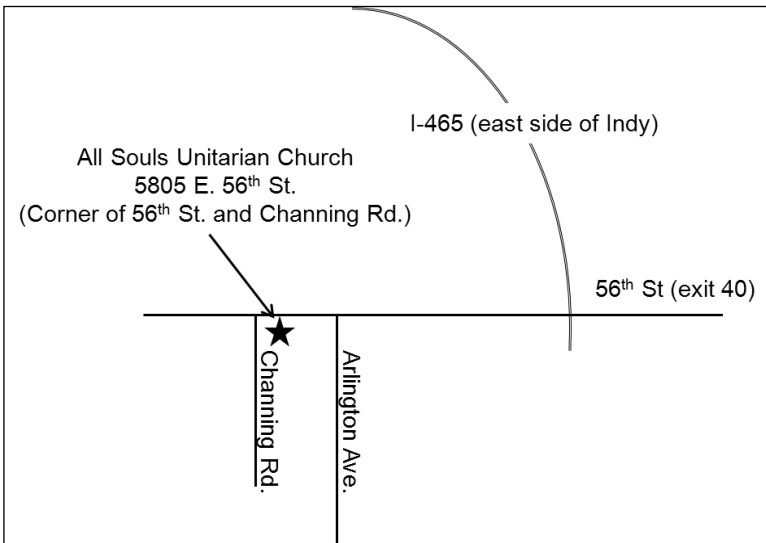


Mensa Monthly Gathering Location

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