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Volume 59, Number 8



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 Teresa Gregory, 6076 Dewey Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46219. Contributions may be edited for length or to remove offensive material and may not include personal attacks. No anonymous contributions will be published, but the Editor will withhold the author's name from the public on request. Contributions should be submitted no later than the Friday following the ExCom meeting (usually the third Friday of the month) for the following month's edition.

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Please be nice to this man! ----->

(He's Rich Gibson!)



The Old Dog Is Back

Teresa Gregory, “Just Fillin’ In” Editor

I am temporarily back as we search for a new editor. It looks like my “fillin’ in” days are coming to an end. This will be my last MIND as I turn it over to its new captain, Rich Gibson. Please be nice to him!



The Baltimore Annual Gathering was...well...okay. Each AG is influenced by its location and by its chair(s). When I asked online if this AG had a name, the chair responded no, she was bucking tradition. That seemed to be a recurring theme from the program with no scheduling information, to the fancy name badges with no pockets for your hotel key, and the absence of hug dots. (They said to just ask before you hugged someone you didn’t know. Right. That always works out.)

It was great to see people I had not seen in five years, five long pandemic-riddled years. I think some people have changed more during the past five years than any other time in their adult lives. For a number of people like me, this was the first big event outside the bunker. I did enjoy sitting at a table in hospitality with several other former AG chairs playing “What would you have done differently here?”

I attended the AG with two of my best friends. We flew out together then we Amtraked back to Indy. This was their first train trip and my first trip with a traveling companion. I always travel alone. It was also my first trip east of Indianapolis. I’d love to tell you about it. In fact, I am presenting the program at the Monthly Gathering. I was supposed to talk about my Amtrak adventures in June, but I had a medical situation that prevented it. Now, I have even more to share. Warning: this will not be your typical travelogue.

While I won’t be seeing you from this page, I do hope to see you at other events. I’ll be around, but you already knew that.

I C U – Recognizing Good Deeds

✓From Teresa Gregory: And a big Thank You to the regular contributors to MIND: Rich Gibson and Margy Lancet Fletcher for their stellar book reviews; Matt Brennan for his enlightening essays; Jon Gruebele for his always informative RVC4 columns (we have had RVCs in the past who sent nothing.); the ExCom members who faithfully send in their reports, and all the people who occasionally contribute something meaningful or entertaining to spice up our publication. And thank you, the people who read MIND.

LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

MIND Has a New Editor! – Rich Gibson has volunteered to take over as our newsletter editor. Many thanks in advance to you, Rich! He will start with the September issue. We really appreciate **Teresa Gregory's** filling in as interim editor – in addition to all the other things she does for our group. Thanks as always, Teresa!



You Won't Want to Miss –

- Sunday Fun Day #4 on August 13th in Pendleton. The theme is favorite books.
- Games and conversation at the Kings on August 19th

More details on these and other upcoming events in the calendar.

Remembrance Gathering for Nancy White – There will be an informal gathering on August 27th to remember CIM member **Nancy White**, who passed away in May. It will be held in the event room of Jockamo's Pizza, 9165 Otis Ave, Indianapolis, at 2 pm. Food and drinks will be provided by Nancy's longtime friend Ross Alexander. Non-members are welcome to attend. RSVPs to me at jan@mw.net or 317-431-3500 (mobile with text) are appreciated but not required.

Congratulations to CIM's CultureQuest team - "CIMple Minds"!! – They placed 3rd in American Mensa's annual culture/trivia contest and earned an award of \$300. The team included **Ann Hake (Captain), Emily Boomershine, Paula Ferguson, Teresa Gregory**, and **Ken Koziol**. Our second team, **"Did We Really Qualify for Mensa?"** with **Jan Pfeil Doyle (Captain), Matt Brennan, Catherine Knox, Karen Steilberger**, and **Kurt Williams** had fun but didn't finish in the money.

ICYMI (In Case You Missed It) – We had a nice turnout for Dining Out at Phô Saigon in Indianapolis, including two new (rejoining) members. See picture(s) elsewhere in MIND.

Bridge SIG (Special Interest Group) – **Candis King** and **Judy Weitzman** are forming a group with emphasis on "play." This is to be a fun, casual group, so you don't have to be an expert. Please contact either Judy at bridgejudy@aol.com, or Candis at 630-642-9063 to RSVP and for location. It will be mostly party bridge, but duplicate is possible as well.

The Language Dilettante Studies Mandarin Chinese

Teresa Fisher

I purchased access to every language Rosetta Stone offers, and I've completed all of the German I'm going to attempt. I finished the six-week Basic section, but won't go on to Intermediate or Advanced. I didn't really learn much German (other than *belegtes brot*, meaning sandwich, which literally translates to occupied bread), but I did enjoy seeing its similarities to English, the only language I know.

My second attempt is Mandarin Chinese, supposedly one of the most difficult languages to learn. Boy howdy.

As with German, the lessons began simply. We see a picture of people greeting us, with a caption that means "hello," and a picture of people waving goodbye, with a different caption. Then it gets more difficult. The words are made with English letters, but with none of the familiarity that Latin-based languages often have. We continue with pictures of people engaged in various activities, and as with German, it was like a puzzle. You can soon pick out words that indicate gender, relative age, events, and whether there is more than one participant, and can make a good guess as to which sentences fit with which pictures. Rosetta Stone gives you no instructions, so you must figure out everything for yourself, but I did fairly well with the first lessons.

Correct pronunciation requires that you copy the narrator's nuanced cadences, and after a little practice I got pretty good at that. Look at me – learning to speak Chinese!

And then they introduced Chinese characters. Uh oh. Several characters appeared on screen and the narrator made a sound. There was no way to know which character represented the sound, so of course I missed them all the first time around. And the second time around. On the third try I correctly guessed a couple.

The longer I work at learning Chinese, the more my successes are due to guesswork and luck. The Chinese writing is on the wall. I can already see I probably won't make it all the way through the basics on this one. I bought the language lessons to entertain myself, not to aggravate myself to death.

2022-2023 Book Group Reading List

Rich Gibson

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

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

October: *The Sweet Spot* by Paul Bloom, 304 pages **NOTE CHANGE*

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

Mensa Book Group Book Reviews

Rich Gibson

THIS MONTH: *A Book Forged in Hell: Spinoza's Scandalous Treatise and the Birth of the Secular Age*, by Stephen Nadler, 304 pages, published in 2013. To be discussed at the MBG meeting on Sunday, August 21st, at 2:00 PM. See Calendar or Meetup for more information.

Baruch Spinoza was a Portuguese Jew. As many other Iberian Jews did, his family left Portugal rather than be subject to the Inquisition; they settled in the Dutch Republic. At the time, Holland was a beacon of freedom and tolerance; around the same time, a community of dissenting Christians calling themselves

Pilgrims fled England and settled in Leiden for several decades before embarking on the *Mayflower* for the New World. Spinoza was born just after this, in 1632. And yet, in this haven of religious tolerance, he was excommunicated from his synagogue in his twenties. A close friend died in prison for having published a book denying the divinity of Jesus and Mary. Tolerance? Everything is relative, I suppose; prison is better than torture and burning at the stake.

At any rate, Spinoza left Amsterdam, settled in a small town nearby, and made a living as a lens grinder. He continued thinking and writing, and published a treatise in 1670 on religion, the state, and even included some thoughts on relations between the two. Even today, some on the religious right would consider it heretical. Back then, it caused a furor, and evoked universal condemnation. It is to Holland's credit that he was not imprisoned, tortured, or burned.

This treatise, the subject of this book, is not Spinoza's *Ethics*, which is more well-known. All the same, it and the reaction to it have been called one of the most important events in European intellectual history. In the treatise, Spinoza became the first to argue that the Bible is a human creation, and not the literal word of God; that the authentic relation between human and God has nothing to do with theology, ceremonies, or dogma; and that religion has no role in the modern state.

A Book Forged in Hell is a wonderful read about Spinoza, his treatise, and the reaction to it. This revolutionary, radical work was absolutely seminal in the development of western liberal thought; there is a straight line from this treatise to the European Enlightenment and Enlightenment values of democracy and tolerance.

Stephen Nadler is a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Another of his books, *Rembrandt's Jews*, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2004. Please read the book, and attend in-person or via Zoom on Sunday, August 21st at 2:00, and join the discussion. Hope to see you there!

NEXT MONTH: *The WEIRDest People in the World: How the West Became Psychologically Peculiar and Particularly Prosperous*

The WEIRDest People in the World: How the West Became Psychologically Peculiar and Particularly Prosperous, by Joseph Henrich, 489 pages (plus appendices, notes, and index), published in 2020. To be discussed at the MBG meeting on Sunday, September 21st, at 2:00 PM. See Calendar or Meetup for more information.

REASSURANCE! Please do not be put off by the page length! We have compiled an excerpt of the book that gives you 99% of its import, in only 275 pages. This is so important not to scare you off, that I'm listing the pages to read right here and now. I'll tell you about the book after. Please read at least the following pages:

- 3-58
- 85-86
- 121-122
- 151-159
- 233-237
- 252-283
- 320-489

WEIRD stands for Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, and Democratic. WEIRD people tend to live in Western Europe, North America, Australia, South Africa, and New Zealand. Hard psychological fact about WEIRD people: They (OK, we) are different from everyone else in the world, and from almost everyone else who ever lived. We are *highly individualistic, self-obsessed, control-oriented, and nonconformist. We rely on impersonal trust more than family ties. We are the outliers of the world. The general psychology of the average human being, found in textbooks worldwide, is actually the psychology of a WEIRD person. Western psychologists have studied WEIRD people, especially the undergraduate psychology students who volunteer for psychology studies, to a fare-thee-well, and assumed that everyone else was like them. However: Nobody else, anywhere else in the world, is like them (us).*

In the MBG August book selection (The Verge) we learned about the Great Divergence of the early 16th Century, when Western Europe suddenly accelerated its development and soon dominated the world in science, technology, and industry. This month's book delves into the psychological uniqueness of what made it happen. The answer lies in the unique cultural evolution of the Western world, beginning as far back as the 4th Century CE, when the (then) monolithic Christian church decreed that marriage between cousins was forbidden. The church had its reasons for this, basically to loosen family ties and give the church room to establish itself as a social force; but the effect was profound and long-lasting. Even today, you can correlate the level of WEIRDness in a

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country to how long ago Christianity was introduced there.

Even more important to the WEIRD psychology is reading. Reading induces large and significant changes to our neurology, biology and psychology without changing our genetic code. Historically, one of the largest spurs to literacy was the Reformation, in which the belief and trust in priests as intermediaries between God and humanity was replaced by a belief that each human must find God themselves through intense Bible study. You can't study the Bible without being able to read, now, can you? The initial spread of the Reformation was to several north German principalities. Today, you can correlate the level of WEIRDness in areas of Germany to their distance from those original Protestant municipalities.

*Final nuggets: Owing to the loosening of family ties in the WEIRD psychology, we WEIRD people are much more open to contracts and trusting relative strangers. This was a factor in the growth of long-distance financial instruments in 16th Century Western Europe that led to the explosive growth in voyages of discovery and large-scale war that we read about in *The Verge* last month. In the WEIRD world, hiring your nephew is frowned on; everywhere else, it's the most natural and expected thing in the world.*

This book has received rave reviews from such public intellectuals as Francis Fukuyama, Daniel Dennett, Cass Sunstein, and a host of others. Joseph Henrich has been called perhaps the dominant social scientist of the first half of the 21st Century. This is an important book, and you'll be entertained and educated by it. Please read it and come in person or by Zoom to discuss it with other Mensans on Sunday, September 21st, at 2:00 PM. Hope to see you there!

Puzzle Column

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

QUICK ON THE TRIG – GER

All answers start with one of these trigonometry function abbreviations – SIN, COS, TAN, SEC, or COT.

Example: legendary racehorse = SECRETARIAT

1. He tried to trick the gods into eating his murdered son
2. Armed clash between 2 large countries in 1929
3. Famous Harlem nightclub during the Prohibition era
4. Decision-making tool before investing in machinery
5. Barbra Streisand hit song from *Funny Girl*
6. HUD program first authorized in 1974
7. 1960 movie about an Allied victory at sea
8. Large scenic region that includes Oxfordshire
9. Egyptian location in ***Raiders of the Lost Ark***
10. Retailer whose house brand is Kirkland

August 2023 Events

Indy Lunch Bunch – 1st and 3rd Wednesday

8/2, 12:00 noon ET - Virtual *Online*

8/16, 12:00 noon ET - MCL Restaurant and Bakery, 2370 W. 86th St, Indianapolis

RSVPs not required but appreciated.

Contact: Karen Steilberger, steilkr@sbcglobal.net

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

8/5, 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..

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

LIVE Mensa Chowhounds Lunch – 2nd and 4th Wednesday

8/9, 2:00pm ET

Wolfies, 7695 Crosspoint Commons, Fishers, IN 46038

8/23, 2:00pm ET

Sauce on the Side, 12751 N Pennsylvania St Suite 130, Carmel, IN 46032

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.

VIRTUAL and LIVE Monthly Gathering - 2nd Friday,

8/11, 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. **This month’s program is “Amtrak: It’s Not Just Transportation –**

It’s an Adventure” presented by Teresa Gregory

VIRTUAL and LIVE Book Group

8/20, 2:00pm ET

A Book Forged in Hell - Steven Nadler(2011) 300 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

8/20, 6:00pm ET

Barry's African Restaurant, 4253 Lafayette Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46254

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

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Nancy White Remembrance

8/27, 2:00pm – 4:00pmET (See Jan's column)

***In Person* Bridge SIG – NEW**

8/13, 2:00pm – 4:00pm ET

Candis King and **Judy Weitzman** are forming a group with emphasis on “play.” This is to be a fun, casual group, so you don’t have to be an expert. Please contact either Judy at bridgejudy@aol.com, or Candis at 630-642-9063 to RSVP and for location. It will be mostly party bridge, but duplicate is possible as well.

***In Person* Games and Conversation Night** – Hosted by Candis King

8/19, 6:00pm – 10:00pm ET

Join us for an evening of Games & Conversation. 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.

MENSA SUNDAY FUN DAY

Join Central Indiana Mensa members for congenial company and casual talk as we discuss our **favorite books** and join us for an intellectually stimulating discussion like no other.

Feel free to bring a favorite friend, as well!

WHEN: SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2023
2 P.M.

WHERE: PENDLETON
COMMUNITY LIBRARY
MAGNOLIA ROOM
595 E. WATER ST.
PENDLETON, IN 46064

HOST: PAULA FERGUSON
NORTHEAST
COORDINATOR
CENTRAL INDIANA
MENSA



August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
		1	2 *Lunch Bunch*
6 *Sunday Social*	7	8	9 Chowhounds
13 Bridge; Fun Day, *Sunday Social*	14	15 * ExCom*	16 Lunch Bunch
20 Book Group; Dining Out	21	22	23 Chowhounds
27 Nancy White; *Sunday Social*	28	29	30

Virtual Zoom Events

Important Info for In-Person Events: Be Kind!—As we are entering cold and flu season, if you're not feeling well or have any symptoms such as a fever, cough, runny nose, COVID, etc, PLEASE be courteous to your fellow members and don't attend.

■

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Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5 Ham'n Eggs
10	11 Monthly Gathering	12
17	18	19 Games & Conversation
24	25	26
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

Being on American Mensa's National Board of Directors (AMC)

Jon Gruebele, RVC4

The AMC election season starts in October when candidates can submit signatures to qualify for the ballot. You may be eagerly awaiting the opportunity to support an incumbent, replace them with someone new, or even be a candidate yourself. You may instead be dreading the associated electioneering, wishing it would all just go away. Only 11% of members voted in the last election, so you'd have plenty of company.



Volunteering to be on the AMC has been a joy as I've worked to help shape the organization I love. Every AMC job is different, and while we have ten Regional Vice Chairs (RVCs), each of them faces unique circumstances and approaches the role in their own way.

Region 4 has 9 Local Groups ranging from 1,500 members to fewer than 60. Living in Chicago, I can drive to all these Groups, although I've also flown or taken Amtrak to some. Only two Local Groups – St. Louis and Minnesota – are too far for me to make the round trip without an overnight stay. Other RVCs have up to 20 Local Groups and a geography that requires plane trips for in-person visits.

I try to visit each of my Local Groups frequently, although it's harder with the ones farther away. Virtual meetings have helped. Keeping in touch helps me understand each Group's circumstances and lets their members know where they can get help when needed. If they don't need it, I try not to meddle.

RVCs typically get reimbursed up to \$2,000 annually to cover regional travel and other expenses. Last year I spent more, paying for the overage myself. I was glad to do that, but not everyone can make such a contribution.

Besides keeping in touch with Local Groups, an RVC is also a member of the Board. This means travel to AMC meetings 3 – 4 times per year, plus attending occasional virtual meetings. Most meetings take place at our National Office near Dallas.

Despite being a voting AMC member, initiating change is hard. Much work is done in committees. If you're not on a particular committee, the opportunity for input into their area of responsibility can be limited. Besides that, anything that costs money must somehow be included in a budget that's approved once a year. In the end, each AMC member has just one of fifteen votes.

Working with Local Groups, doing AMC work, and Committee memberships can add up to a time commitment equivalent to a demanding part-time job. Some jobs such as Chair involve much more time, knowledge, experience, and

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effort. We need leaders who will do more than just “phone it in.” Next April, I trust we’ll elect volunteers to the new AMC who will make us proud.

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/americanmensaregion4>.



Luke Braden	Bloomington	IN	Joined
Kirstin Maguire	Columbus	IN	Joined
Shannon Tibbs	Bloomington	IN	Joined
Jeremy Ye	Zionsville	IN	Joined
Paula Cardoza	Indianapolis	IN	Rejoin
Nathan Fite	Speedway	IN	Rejoin
Geoffrey Mooney	Indianapolis	IN	MoveIn

Books On the Runway

Margy Lancet Fletcher

Title: *I Swear: Politics Is Messier Than My Minivan*

Author: Katie Porter

Publisher: Crown/Penguin Random House

Year: 2023

Book Description: As another school year commences in our communities, it behooves us to adhere to two moral imperatives: allowing ourselves a vacation from cynicism - that is, the belief that our local, state, and federal officials are in their positions of authority for personal gain rather than for public service; and honoring our educators, without whom none of our other professions is possible. *I Swear*, House Representative Katie Porter’s memoir detailing her amazing and frequently problematic personal journey to her much-coveted chair in the Capitol Building, beautifully fulfills both requirements. Famous for her aggressive interrogations of wealthy, entitled business and political leaders in Congressional Oversight

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Committee hearings, certainly causing many corporate cases of blistered feet that Ms. Porter has held to the fire, she was initially an unlikely candidate to represent California's 45th district - a single parent lacking a sizable bank account and conventional pulchritude. Fortunately for California and the nation as a whole, she persevered through commitment, resourcefulness, superior intelligence, and a strong motivation to improve the lives of her constituents. Ms. Porter's account of her rise to prominence is presented as a series of lessons learned from both rewarding and traumatic experiences, rather than as a chronological chain of events. She is, after all, a teacher - a law professor and consumer finance expert, to be exact - and approaches her multiple duties from an educational perspective, complete with white boards for visual aids at Congressional sessions. Among her talking points are her personal financial struggles after discovering that Congress members are not compensated for expenses incurred while commuting from D.C. to one's home state (indicative of a class division within the Houses of Congress); how she achieved damage control as a victim of defamatory rumors; the inestimable value of dedicated, competent, and energetic staff and volunteers; and the vital connection between individuals and government that ensures a healthy democracy (see below quote). Her willingness to both instruct and learn from voters in her district makes her one of this nation's most effective lawmakers, past and present.

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

I was first introduced to Ms. Porter's brilliant knack for verbally eviscerating the "bigwigs" of finance and pharmaceuticals, as well as the pathetically incompetent Trump cabinet appointees, when I watched an example thereof on YouTube: her noteworthy interview of then Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson, described in this book, during which Carson demonstrated his blatant ignorance of his job responsibilities by confusing the acronym REO (real estate owned) with Oreo cookies (!). I have been following her impressive performance record ever since, and eagerly added her memoir to my library once I learned of its publication. As I am married to an educator, I admire her didactic approach to policy making - refreshingly original and long overdue.

Who should definitely read this book? Why? Readers at both ends of the political spectrum should appreciate this Congress member's strong sense of mission, and her conviction that government is strengthened through the identification and resolution of underlying issues rather than through finger-pointing and assigning blame. Democrats especially will be gratified to acquaint themselves with a true warrior for the disadvantaged and marginalized masses.

How long might it take to read this book? The author's plainspoken style, infused with a magical mixture of ironic humor, poignancy, and candor,

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guarantees a swift and satisfying reading experience, consuming a maximum of one to two days.

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

The first [of three interrelated issues] is...[that] [a]cross the board, Donald Trump put people in positions for which they were unqualified. He wasn't the first president to do that, but he certainly was the best at it. The second problem is the false belief that our government should have no role in our economy. President Trump could appoint people without qualifications and capitalism would thrive anyway, without government. This is nonsense and wrong. A strong and stable capitalist economy needs guardrails, and it's the government's responsibility to put them in place. The pillars of capitalism - competition, access to information, enforcement of contracts, protection of private property, and consumer choice - develop from the right mix of markets and regulation. The third issue is the most pernicious: the belief that our economy rewards the deserving (and, the unspoken counterpart, punishes those who are not). If you are making money and saving, you should be thankful to your employer and pretend the government had no role. Either way, in our economy, you get what you get and you shouldn't get upset. The government isn't responsible for your prosperity or your poverty. You are. These beliefs mask the reality that government shapes the contours of economic opportunity at every turn, from funding financial aid to allowing tax deductions on vacation homes. Those with income and wealth sufficient to cozy up to a president and get appointed to a cabinet can literally afford to take a rosy view of capitalism and a dim view of government intervention. No experience is required for financial regulators because there is no job to do; the economy, left unchanged, continues to build their wealth. And if today's economy doesn't work for you, that's your fault.

Solutions to the August puzzles:

1. He tried to trick the gods into eating his murdered son = TANTALUS
2. Armed clash between 2 large countries in 1929 = SINO-SOVIET CONFLICT
3. Famous Harlem nightclub during the Prohibition era = COTTON CLUB
4. Decision-making tool before investing in machinery = COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS
5. Barbra Streisand hit song from *Funny Girl* = SECOND HAND ROSE
6. HUD program first authorized in 1974 = SECTION 8 HOUSING
7. 1960 movie about an Allied victory at sea = SINK THE BISMARCK!
8. Large scenic region that includes Oxfordshire = COTSWOLDS
9. Egyptian location in *Raiders of the Lost Ark* = TANIS
10. Retailer whose house brand is Kirkland = COSTCO

In Case You Missed It In Pictures

**Mensans Dining Out
enjoyed food and
conversation
at Pho Saigon.**



**“Dance
Your PhD” at
the Monthly
Gathering.**



[Courtesy
Jan Pfeil Doyle]

Early Americans

Matt Brennan

Britain and America on the Frontier

The United States again tried to subdue Indian tribes in 1791 and was defeated by Chief Little Turtle at the Battle of the Wabash. Three months before, Little Turtle's wife and daughter had been captured in an American raid. They were never heard from again. In the Battle of the Wabash, 1194

Americans were killed or wounded out of an initial force of 1400. The event, also called "St. Claire's Defeat" or "The Battle of 1000 Dead," not unsurprisingly receives scant attention in early American history accounts.

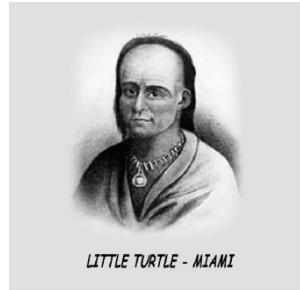
In 1794, the American army fought and finally won against the Northwestern Indian Confederacy at a place in central Ohio called Fallen Timbers. The engagement took place among trees that had been bowled over in a tornado, thus the name. The story of this fight provides a microcosm of what was then happening on the frontier.

During this fight, when the natives retreated to Fort Miami, a place that had recently armed and supported them, they found that the English commander, who had promised to shelter them if they were defeated, had barred the gates. Some of them were killed in front of the gates as they begged for entry. The confused remainder turned and ran. The battle involved the loss of 33 United States soldiers and a similar number of Indian Confederacy dead, including six white Canadian militiamen dressed as Indians. A British-led company of Canadian militia had been involved in that battle on American territory.

A treaty was signed that same year which ceded vast southern Midwest native lands to the United States, meaning that these places could now be legally settled by white men and exploited as agreed by all parties. The English continued harassing Americans and organizing Indian resistance to the new USA.

Matters once again came to a head in 1808 when Northwest Territory Governor William Henry Harrison signed a treaty with central and northern Indiana tribes (Delaware, Eel, Kickapoo, Miami, Potawatomie, and Wea) to acquire three million acres along the Wabash River in exchange for a cash payment and annuities. The deal enraged Shawnee Chief Tecumseh and his brother known as "The Prophet."

Tecumseh set about organizing a new confederation with considerable English help. A string of unfortunate events led to a decisive engagement at Tippecanoe in 1811, near present-day Terre Haute, Indiana. Tecumseh was away from his brother's village, called Prophetstown, at the time, but against Tecumseh's



LITTLE TURTLE - MIAMI

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advice, the Prophet attacked the Americans and was defeated. Prophetstown was destroyed. The rebellion ended. The next treaty opened up the entire Northwest Territory for white settlement and exploitation.

The War of 1812 stemmed from three major issues: 1.) greed - a desire to incorporate British Canada into the United States, 2.) English impressment of American sailors on the high seas, and 3.) continuing English meddling on what was then the far frontier. Chief Tecumseh joined the lobsterbacks in that war and was killed in 1813 at the Battle of the Thames, just across the Michigan border in Ontario. After the war, the English continued to meddle in native affairs where they could, particularly in Florida, Georgia, and Alabama.

The rest we know – the ethnic cleansing, the wars with Comanches, Apaches and Plains Indians, Little Big Horn, Wounded Knee, etc.

Three Mensans in search of dinner in Baltimore

Catherine Knox, David Bonner, and Teresa Fisher hit the sidewalk looking for dinner on July 4th. You can see that the streets were not overflowing with holiday revelers.



Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 6/20/2023

Karen Wilczewski, CIM Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

LocSec Jan Pfeil Doyle called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Members present: Jan Pfeil Doyle, Barb George, Ann Hake, Karen Wilczewski, Kurt Williams, and Bob Zdanky

Guests: Jon Applegate, Teresa Gregory, Pat Milligan, Tamara Lynn Wardell

The May minutes were reviewed. Ann moved and Barb seconded that the May minutes be approved as amended. The motion carried.

The committee reviewed the May 2023 Treasurer's report. Ann moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved as amended. Barb seconded, and the motion carried.

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A membership report was compiled by Jan Doyle based upon the information available as of 5/31/2023 from American Mensa: 435 members, 2 new, 0 move-in, 2 rejoin, and 3 prospects.

Old Business

OG: 16 people registered and 17 attended. Half of the participants signed up from EventBrite. There was a \$30 loss, due to an increase in EventBrite fees. For the 2024 OG, we have reserved the group camp. Fortunately, the park fee hasn't gone up since we instituted the event.

Recognition initiative: Kurt submitted recommendations that summarized actions to recognize volunteers. Suggested 2-4 items that recipients could choose from. The plan was to order a sufficient amount to last a few years. An honor system would need to be configured for volunteers who have served for a number of years, then give them an item of recognition. The consensus was to have separate budgets for the dinner and a gift. Volunteers will be asked to specify their favorite part of volunteering. Ms can nominate other Ms.

A budget would be determined based on the amount spent on a gift and how many would attend the event. This could be made an annual event to recognize current and emeritus volunteers.

Ann motioned, Kurt seconded, that we look for 2-4 recognition items in the \$5 range. The motion carried.

New Business

Tamara Wardell resigned as Scholarship Chair, stating that the potential new chair needs to donate up to 400 hours to judging essays. Some discussion followed, including difficulty using National's computer system, which we are required to use. An alternative could be putting the local scholarship fund on hiatus for a period of time. Other Mensa groups are facing the same challenge due to the lack of ease of using the computer system. This can be discussed with Jon Gruebele. Jan will contact Jon for advice on how best to handle this.

Jan shared news of the passing of longstanding member Nancy White, which is a sad loss for our group. A \$50 line item to the scholarship fund will be designated on her behalf.

Discussion arose whether a 2024 RG should be planned for the weekend of February 2-4, 2024. Ann moved and Kurt seconded that we have a 2024 RG. The motion carried.

There being no other business, Ann moved to adjourn the meeting. Barb seconded. The motion unanimously carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Wilczewski, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Kurt Williams

Balance Sheet (as of 6/30/2023)

Bank Accounts	05/31/2023	06/30/2023
Checking – Regular	\$1,935.94	\$ 2,243.84
Checking – Scholarship	20.00	120.00
Checking – MG Cash	25.00	25.00
Checking – Events Checking	2,666.02	2,666.02
CD – First Internet	10,000.00	10,000.00
Total Assets	\$ 14,646.96	\$ 15,054.86

Other Assets		
USPS Stamps Value	\$ 355.85	\$ 350.90
Total Number of USPS Stamps	647	638

Profit & Loss Statement

Income		
	Monthly Gathering Income	\$ 76.00
	National Support	368.90
	Testing Support	55.00
	New Member/Lapsed Member	4.00
Total Income		\$503.90
Expense		
	MG Hospitality	\$ 0
	MIND Printing	331.12
	Facility Rental (All Souls)	100.00
Total Expenses		\$ 431.12

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

