



Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana

**Happy
Holidays!**

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 Richard Gibson, 5726 Toad Hollow Ln, Indianapolis, IN 46220. 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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From the Editor's Cubicle

Rich Gibson, Editor

Feliz Navidad! Joyeux Noel! Frohliche Weihnachten! And Happy Chanukkah! Happy Kwanzaa! Happy Solstice! Happy Hogwatch! Apologies if I missed anyone's winter holiday greeting; consider yourself greeted in the appropriate manner.

I hope you enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving among friends and family. As the boggies in *Bored of the Rings* greeted each other solemnly, "I hope you stuffed yourself until you were sick."

Yes, holiday season is upon us, with the annual turkey massacre behind us and Christmas, Chanukka and New Years Eve closing in fast. Time to be grateful for what beauty you can find in nature, home, family, friends, and yourself; and hopeful for better in the coming year. Time, or past time, to decorate the tree and the house, make up your lists of wishes and resolutions, find presents for your loved ones, prepare for holiday parties, swill eggnog, play holiday music on an endless Spotify loop until you lose your mind, put those stupid reindeer antlers on your car...or roll over and go back to sleep. Bah! Humbug!

Speaking of Scrooge, nothing ever puts me in the holiday spirit like the Alastair Sim version of [A Christmas Carol](#). No other Scrooge I have ever seen undergoes such an overflowing, exuberant, joyous transformation on Christmas morning. You can find it for free on the web; at least, I could.

Wishing you and yours a very merry ____ (insert holiday of your choice here), and a wonderful, productive, profitable, happy New Year.



LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

Holiday Party – I hope many of you can attend our annual holiday pitch-in dinner/gift exchange on Dec 8th in Indianapolis at All Souls Church (map in the back of *MIND*). Doors open at 7 pm; we'll eat at 7:30. Meat, bread, beverages, and tableware will be provided. **For the pitch in: If your last name starts with A – G, please bring a side dish (vegetable, fruit, or salad); if your last name starts with H – Z, please bring an appetizer or dessert.** Please **RSVP (Yes/maybe) to me at jan@mw.net or 317-431-3500 (text is fine) by Wednesday, Dec 6th** so we know how much meat to buy.



The gift exchange after dinner is always a hoot. We call it “**Gimmee Grabbee**” – when it's your turn, you may choose a gift that hasn't been selected yet or take one that someone else has already chosen. Presents remain wrapped until everyone has chosen. People choose based on the appearance of the package and/or what they think might be inside. Every year, there are a few imaginatively wrapped presents that are the hit of the party! Participation in the gift exchange isn't required, but you'll be missing out on some of the fun if you don't. Suggested price range is \$10-\$15.

Important for In-Person Events: Be Kind! – We are entering cold and flu season. If you're not feeling well or have symptoms such as a fever, cough, runny nose, or COVID, PLEASE be courteous to your fellows and don't attend.

ICYMI (In Case You Missed It) – In Search of the Edge: An Inquiry into the Shape of the Earth... At our November meeting, we watched and discussed this 1990 pseudo-documentary. It sets out to prove that the global (round) earth doctrine is an elaborate hoax and that, as every right-thinking person should know, the earth is really flat. The film itself is an inventive spoof and is really designed to get people thinking about any theory that is generally accepted at face value. It's interesting to watch now, 30+ years later, with the current increase in misinformation and a more widespread (or perhaps simply more vocal) belief in fringe ideas.

Coming Up

January Meeting Program: Games and Conversation Night – Bring a game to share if you'd like.

February Program: Weird Science with Rob Pyatt, PhD – Our guest speaker in February will be the always-popular Rob Pyatt! Get ready to be dazzled by Weird Science as he tells us about the latest questionable science research studies.

Happy Holidays to All!

2024 Book Group Reading List

Rich Gibson

We had a wonderful Bring-A-Book session in November, and are pleased and proud to present our next reading list:

Title	Author(s)	Date
The Flip	Jeffery J Kripal	1/21/2024
The Mindful Body	Ellen Langer	2/18/2024
Outlive	Peter Attia	3/17/2024
	Mustafa	
The Coming Wave	Suleyman	4/21/2024
The Matter With Things, Chapter 12	Iain McGilchrist	5/19/2024
The Elegant Defense	Matt Richter	6/16/2024
The Comfort Crisis	Michael Easter	7/21/2024
	Brian Cox	
Black Holes	Jeff Horshaw	8/18/2024
American Cosmic	DW Pasulka	9/22/2024
Being Heumann	Judith Heumann	10/20/2024
Anaximander	Carlo Rovelli	11/17/2024
Naked Statistics	Charles Wheelen	12/15/2024
The Gulf: Making of an American Sea	Jack E Davis	1/19/2025

Mensa Book Group Previews

Rich Gibson

THIS MONTH: *Power and Liberty: Constitutionalism in the American Revolution*

Power and Liberty: Constitutionalism in the American Revolution, by Gordon S. Wood, 188 pages (228 including appendices, notes, and index), published in 2021. To be discussed at the MBG meeting on Sunday, November 19th, at 2:00 PM. See Calendar or Meetup for more information.

The fifty years, from the onset of friction between the United Kingdom and its American colonies in 1760, to the early decades of the new American republic, has been called the most intense and creative period of constitutionalism ever seen. Gordon Wood, widely considered the greatest living American historian,

examines this period and offers up insight and clarity about the issues, the controversies, the experiments that worked and those that didn't, the discussions and the decisions that led to the American Constitution, the Bill of Rights. His story doesn't end there; he further describes the impact on each and all of the states as the Constitution was implemented, establishing a federal authority over them.

The first half of this book is a blow-by-blow account of the issues leading to the Revolution, the establishment of state constitutions as they declared their liberty, and the disorganization of the Confederation that led to the Constitutional Convention in 1787. I was astonished to learn a concrete example of Churchill's description of America and Britain as a single people separated by a common language. To the Americans, No Taxation Without Representation was a stirring slogan capturing a huge grievance. To the British, the term was close to nonsense. The idea in the 1770's that any Member of Parliament was answerable to a particular body of voters was outlandish. As is usual, mutual incomprehension did nothing to smooth the way to an equitable outcome, and so we lurched to war.

The remainder of the book focuses on some of the issues facing the convention, and the compromises that were hammered out. Among these issues were slavery, the role of the judiciary, and the differences between public and private. This latter was particularly interesting (I'd never thought about it before). In colonial times, the line between public and private was blurry. The state was weak, and private individuals often conducted public activities as if they were their private businesses. Also, asking/drafting/coercing private citizens to engage in public service was problematic. The Constitution changed all of this. To learn more, you need to read the book. To digest it, and ponder the way these issues affect our daily life today, necessitates your attending the December 17th Book Group meeting, 2:00 PM, either in person or via Zoom. Hope to see you there!

NEXT MONTH: *The Flip: Epiphanies of Mind and the Future of Knowledge*

The Flip: Epiphanies of Mind and the Future of Knowledge, by Jeffrey J. Kripal, 240 pages, published in 2019. To be discussed at the MBG meeting on Sunday, January 21st, 2024, at 2:00 PM. See Calendar or Meetup for more info.

This book's epigraph for Chapter 3 is a quotation from the German 20th century physicist and pioneer of quantum mechanics, Werner Heisenberg. To me, it is the best introduction to this book:

Some physicists would prefer to come back to the idea of an objective real world whose smallest parts exist objectively in the same sense as stones and trees exist independently of whether we observe them. That, however, is impossible.

Kripal's flip is a sudden, radical shift in perspective; in paradigm; in one's fundamental reality. Our long-standing, extremely successful rational-

materialistic view of the world may be reaching its limits. We can detect the presence of dark matter and dark energy, but we can't see them at first hand. We can detect gravitational waves, but are still unable to posit a grand theory that links them to electromagnetic waves or the nuclear strong and weak forces. We can map the brain, but linking its matter and electricity to the mind and consciousness remains out of reach. Can it be that consciousness is fundamental to reality? That the brain does not generate consciousness, but channels a universal awareness down into an individual one? That the moon isn't really there if we stop looking at it?

Kripal maintains that a flip is necessary for the next great step in human knowledge. He asserts that the long division between science and the humanities can be erased. He embeds anecdotes of changes in consciousness by scientists, philosophers and mystics within a history of science and religion. It's a wild ride!

Please come join us to discuss this fascinating book at the January 21st Book Group meeting, 2:00 PM, either in person or via Zoom. 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>)

A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE

All solutions must contain only the letters in A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE, according to the clues and letter counts. For example, created dinner (8) would be PREPARED.

1. low protective wall (7)
2. 4-base hit (6)
3. type of decimal (9)
4. author's aspiration (7)
5. visible (8)
6. influenza (6)
7. sorting the injured (6)
8. word in a 1988 film title
9. witty conversation (8)
10. line of ancestry (8)

Solutions on page 21

Gifted Youth Program

Angela Gotz

Hello Region 4 families! My name is Angela Gotz and I am the new Regional Gifted Youth Coordinator for Region 4. My role is to support Gifted Youth Coordinators in the region and also support Mensa youth, their families, and youth of Mensans in our region, especially those who do not have a local GYC or gifted youth program. I am working on settling into my role, reaching out to the LocSecs, GYCs, and learning about each local group's demographics. I hope to create our first regional event in January after the busyness of the holidays dies down. Until that time, it would help me better understand our membership and what they would like if youth and their parent(s) could take this survey. It is only three quick questions and does not require any name or e-mail.

<https://forms.gle/ajA3d6N8jvCFJzDD7>

I am looking forward to working with the gifted youth in our region. If you would like to reach out to me I can be reached by e-mail at

Region4gyc@gmail.com



Alice Benson	Fishers	IN	Joined
Daniel Ellis	Greensboro	IN	Rejoined
Jake Heffington	Pittsboro	IN	Rejoined
Nancy Leavitt	Danville	IN	Rejoined
Clare Skeehan	Indianapolis	IN	Rejoined
Michael Patrick	Terre Haute	IN	Rejoined
Evan Shearin	Indianapolis	IN	Joined
Keith Steward	Carmel	IN	Rejoined

December 2023 Events

Indy Lunch Bunch – 1st and 3rd Wednesday

12/6, 12:00 noon ET - Virtual *Online*

12, 12:00 noon ET - MCL Restaurant and Bakery, 2370 W. 86th St
RSVPs not required but appreciated.

Contact: Karen Steilberger, steilkr@sbcglobal.net

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

12/2, 10:00am - 12 noon ET - Atrio, 11700 Illinois St. (Carmel, IN, located at IU Health North). 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

12/13, 2:00pm ET Yats in Fishers, 8352 E 96th St, Fishers 46037

12/27, 2:00pm ET Mellow Mushroom (pizza), 2340 E 116th St, Carmel 46032

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,

12/8, 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. **Holiday Party and Gift Exchange** [See Jan's LocSec Column on page 5 and watch the weekly CIM ReMINDER for details.]

LIVE Bridge SIG – NEW

12/10, 2:00pm – 4:00pm ET

RSVP either Judy at bridgejudy@aol.com, or Candis at 630-642-9063

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

12/16, 7:00pm – 11:00pm 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.

VIRTUAL and LIVE Book Group

12/17, 2:00pm ET

Power and Liberty – Gordon S Wood (188 pages) 2021

RSVP - Rich Gibson hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com or 770-548-5217

LIVE Mensans Dining Out - 3rd Sunday

12/17, 6pm ET

Wolfies Grill Fishers, 7695 Crosspoint Commons, Fishers, IN 46038

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

Irish Mensa Lecture and Discussion: Christmas Lies and Legends

12/11, 2:00pm ET

This sounds like a fun event on the AML Calendar. If you ever want to see what's going on in other Mensa groups, check the calendar at [American Mensa National Events Calendar](#)

Is Santa really Dutch? Were Christmas Trees introduced by Prince Albert? Was Christmas once a time of faith, rather than riotous feasting?

In this lecture, social historian Judith Flanders considers Christmas myths and Christmas memory and will explore how everything you think you know about Christmas is wrong. She looks at the long history of nostalgia for a different kind of Christmas, and whether Christmas ever really existed at all.

Speaker:

Flanders is a historian, journalist, and an author, who has settled in London, England. Her writings center on the Victorian period. Flanders also writes as an arts critic, on books, dance, art, and recently video games. Her work has appeared in *The Sunday Telegraph*, *The Guardian*, *The Spectator*, and *The Times Literary Supplement*.

No registration is required for the Irish Mensa lecture series.

To join the meeting, simply click on the [Zoom link here](#) or enter the meeting ID and password below from your personal Zoom account.

Meeting ID: 819 1024 3003

Passcode: 278237

Please note the appropriate time zone: 7 p.m. Dublin time (2 p.m. ET, 1 p.m. CT, 11 a.m. PT). For more information, contact [Mary Reilly](#).

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
3 *Sunday Social*	4	5	6 *Lunch Bunch*
10 Bridge; *Sunday Social*	11	12	13 Chowhounds
17 Book Group; Dining Out	18	19 * ExCom*	20 Lunch Bunch
24	25	26	27 Chowhounds
31			

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.

■

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Ham'n Eggs
7	8 Monthly Gathering	9
14	15	16 Games and Conversation
21	22	23
28	29	30

If you lose your *MIND* (oh, my!) or want additional information, check www.indymensa.org or join our Meet Up group, <http://www.meetup.com/central-indiana-mensa>. Meet Up is free to join and you'll get reminders of upcoming events. It's a great way to stay in the loop.

Jon's Journal – News for Region 4

Jon Gruebele, RVC4

Honey Do

Being a proud Mensa member, my darling wife is smart enough to know that giving me a honey-do list might prove unproductive. This, however, is not going to stop me from suggesting a few things for you to do. Hopefully it won't be equally unproductive.

1. FOMO? A boatload of our members have not shared their e-mail address with Mensa. Even if they have, some have asked their Local Group not to use it. Unfortunately, some communication about events, Mensa news, and lots of other stuff is sent only via e-mail.

If you don't have your e-mail on file or your preferences set to let Groups use it, you're missing out. Learn about events that may not be in the newsletter. Consider subscribing to Mensa Wired and Mensa Leader. Find out what our Foundation is doing. Optionally get your electronic newsletter faster and in color. Whether they voted or not, in our last election we spent \$22 per vote cast snail mailing paper ballots to everyone who asked for one.

Learn more about what your membership provides and help keep dues manageable. It's easy. Go to the [website](#), register if you haven't already, and then go to My Mensa -> My Membership Profile -> My Communications Preferences. Select some things to start getting electronically. If it doesn't work for you, simply turn it off again later.

2. Attend something. If there isn't anything interesting to do, start something. At a recent Leadership Development Workshop, I suggested a few things that might be a good addition to the monthly Olive Garden® lunch. How about a visit to a scientific government laboratory, a business that gives tours, something active such as hiking or kayaking, a movie, a theater show, tours of an historic site, or a community service event?

The best Mensa events include something intellectually interesting, something the whole family can enjoy, and food. Not every event will do all three, but that's OK. If it works, do it again; if it doesn't, try something else.

Meanwhile, check out the events calendar

(<https://www.us.mensa.org/attend/calendar/>) on the National website. It lists many in-person and virtual meetings. In particular, registration for next July's Annual Gathering in Kansas City is open now. The earlier you register, the cheaper it will be.

3. December 1st is the official start of our National Mensa election season with various candidates starting petitions. To appear on the ballot next April, Regional Vice Chair candidates need 100 signatures; National Officer candidates need 250. They would really appreciate you going on-line and electronically signing their petitions. Simply navigate to <https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/elections/2024-election-portal/>. You may sign as many petitions as you'd like. If anyone is interested in learning more about service on the National Board of Directors (AMC), please feel free to contact me for more information.

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>.

BOOKS ON THE RUNWAY

Margy Fletcher

Author: T. J. English

Title: *Dangerous Rhythms: Jazz and the Underworld*

Publisher: William Morrow/HarperCollins Publishers

Year: 2022

Has Been Read by: Margy Lancet Fletcher

Book Description: Music is a key ingredient in any note-worthy Holiday celebration (puns intended, without apologies). In the spirit of paying tribute to melodies in all shapes, styles, and combinations, I offer a somewhat unorthodox approach: a pitch-perfect, unexpurgated, richly-detailed history of the unholy alliance between jazz and organized crime during the twentieth century. As bold and passionate as the musical genre itself, *Dangerous Rhythms* attributes the inception of jazz to the urgent need for relief from the pain and oppression suffered by African-Americans during the Antebellum and Jim Crow eras, expressed in a startlingly raw, complex, and syncopated style. And, in the manner of prototypical self-respecting, opportunistic capitalists, the crime lords soon realized that this mesmerizing new style of music had great earning potential, and that its performers were financially desperate enough to be exploitable.

Thus arose a reprise of the “plantation mentality” prevalent prior to the mid-nineteenth century, consisting of a grossly unequal partnership between the mob

nightclub bosses and the jazz musicians they hired (read: owned). This development is summarized in the book's initial section ("Intro"), a portion of which is cited below. Part One, entitled "Major Chord," designates New Orleans as the geographic birthplace of jazz, its stylistic origins influenced by aspects of the Crescent City culture: plantations, funeral parades, bordellos, and African rhythms. It traces the migration of jazz musicians and their gangster overlords to many other major American urban centers, such as Kansas City, Chicago, and New York City (Manhattan). A "founding father of jazz," Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong, is highlighted in this section, which also describes in lurid detail the violent atmosphere typical of mob-owned jazz venues, and the effect of Prohibition on the political and economic stature of organized criminals.

Part Two, "Flatted Fifth," spotlights Frank Sinatra, whose vocal talent, immense popularity, fighting spirit, and social conscience single-handedly transformed the relationship between jazz musicians and the mob. This section makes a few more stops in its jazzland journey - 52nd Street in New York City ('Swing Street'); Atlantic City, New Jersey; Havana, Cuba; and Las Vegas. Whereas the focus of Part One is on the courtship and dysfunctional marriage of jazz and organized crime, Part Two chronicles the gradual dissolution of this union, attributable to such cataclysmic socio-political events as the repeal of Prohibition, the 1959 Cuban revolution, the U. S. federal government's war on corruption, the civil rights movement, the genesis and subsequent overwhelming popularity of rock 'n' roll, and finally, the demise of the major players. "Coda," the book's final segment, affirms the enduring power of jazz after its emancipation from the stranglehold of the underworld, concluding that "the essence of what jazz was always meant to represent [is] Freedom."

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

As both of my parents were jazz enthusiasts, this lively musical medium was an integral part of my formative years. And discovering the lurid particulars regarding the jazz/organized crime partnership, of which I was only subliminally aware, only increased my respect for the amazingly gifted musicians whose contribution to the artistic world has endured despite the hardships imposed on them over the years. Journalist T.J. English symbolically (and poignantly) begins his volume with a reference to Billie Holiday's recording of "Strange Fruit," a desolate tune about lynching, and ends with high praise for the bright and hopeful phrasings of contemporary jazz vocalist Cecile McLorin Salvant, thereby acknowledging the dark and light sides of human nature.

Who should definitely read this book? Why? Both music historians and true crime aficionados will find this book a spellbinding page-turner. For readers with a penchant for drama, as well as for amateur psychologists, *Dangerous Rhythms* is replete with biographical sketches of renowned jazz musicians (e.g., Jelly Roll Morton, Louis Prima, Mary Lou Williams, Joe E. Lewis, Fatha Hines, Fats Waller) and underworld heavyweights (e.g., Big Tom Anderson, Salvatore

Matranga, T. J. Pendergast, Joe Glaser, Al Capone, Mo Levy, Owny Madden). Also included, for avid researchers, are vivid black-and-white photos and 26 pages of notes.

How long might it take to read this book? For maximum enjoyment, I recommend a leisurely pace, requiring at least one week, given the 376-page text length. Of course, if the reader wishes to sample, via YouTube or other websites, the various jazz pieces mentioned throughout the book, the process will be somewhat slower. Either way, satisfaction is guaranteed!

Provide a short characteristic section, an awesome sentence, or an inspiring quote: From the onset, social gathering places such as the saloon and, much later, the nightclub became places for people to meet. It became commonplace for the financiers and owners of these establishments to be people with one foot, or perhaps both feet, in the underworld. Night people liked to socialize and do business with other night people, and from the beginning music played a role as a facilitator of these interactions. As jazz evolved in the early decades of the century, moving from plantations and the streets into the saloons and clubs, it moved from the background into the foreground. Jazz was not music that had been carefully fostered in conservatories or academies. It was the music of the people. And the fact that it flourished mostly at night and became associated with vice - bordellos, gambling, drinking, and artful carousing - only added to its charm.

Many white people, from recent European immigrants to native-born Americans, were as enthused by this new music as were African-Americans. The idea that jazz could cross over and become a viable source of commerce became a gleam in the eye of gangsters from sea to shining sea.

The intermingling of jazz and the underworld was there from the beginning - if not musically, certainly as a business enterprise. And it wasn't always about the profit motive. Many gangsters of all ethnicities were drawn to jazz because they loved its energy and its rhythms. They sought to make this music part of their lives by owning the clubs where jazz was played, or by hanging out there, creating an atmosphere that contributed to and became interchangeable with the structural aspects of ragtime, Dixieland, swing, and bebop.

Thoughts

Rich Gibson

As noted in the Editor's column above, we are in the end-of-year holiday season. The earliest seasonal celebrators for this time of year, of whom I am aware, were the (probably) neolithic hunter-gatherers, roughly the same time as those who erected Stonehenge. Living in nature, they surely noticed the growing cold and shorter amounts of daylight at this time of year. It raised fears that the sun was leaving, never to return, and thereby condemning the planet to cold and darkness forever. The winter solstice, marking the end of the sun's

retreat and the gradual lengthening of the days, was obviously quite sufficient to justify a major blow-out.

Regardless of your spiritual or religious self-identification (or complete lack thereof), this time can be very fruitful for those wishing to review the state of their soul, or just their relationship with the natural world around them.

Accordingly, here are a few thoughts to ponder:

“I think it pisses God off if you walk by the color purple in a field somewhere and don’t notice it. People think pleasing God is all God cares about. But any fool living in the world can see it always trying to please us back.” --Alice Walker, *The Color Purple*

Karen Armstrong, an historian of world religions, notes that the Greeks had two words for language: *Logos*, which uses hard, concrete terms to describe the physical world; and *Mythos*, which uses metaphor to describe the deeper human truths that *logos* cannot capture. It’s inexact but helpful to think of *fact* as a *logos* word and *truth* as a *mythos* word. It’s sad that the modern word *myth* is obviously descended from *mythos*, but does not preserve this usage of describing a deeper truth. Re-reading the Greek or Norse myths with the idea that something deep about human nature is being revealed can bring fresh dimensions of appreciation.

In his book *Anaximander* (Book Group selection for November 2024), Carlo Rovelli asserts that this student of Thales in pre-Socratic Greece (roughly 650 BCE) was the first scientist because he improved Thales’ teachings before passing them on. This was the Axial Age, when world religions such as Judaism and Confucianism were being codified. Unlike Anaximander, these religions’ adherents passed on their teachings as close to word-for-word as they could. Anaximander’s innovation, that as you learn more you can modify, refine, and add to received wisdom, changed the world

Gaming Opportunity

Barbara George and Jay Andersen

(Ed. Note: Barbara introduced me to Mr Andersen. He invents games, and needs volunteers for beta testing. See below if you’re interested)

My relatively new game company is called Oaken Table Games (oakentablegames.com). My first release was at Gen Con this year, *The Mines of Pekari*. It was co-designed with Jen Felli of Devious Weasel Games. I am now working on my second game, which should be available at Gen Con 2024. Here is a brief description:

Sled Runners of Pekari is a table-top game for 2-6 players, ages 10+. In this game, each player is in charge of a sled, loaded up with precious gems. You need to race down the treacherous, snow-covered mountain passes of Mt Pekari to deliver your valuable cargo to the markets at the foot of the mountain. Along

the way you will encounter many obstacles, including the ornery sled runners from the other players! In this racing game, the winner is not the player to make it to market first, but the one that is the richest once all sleds reach market.

Play-testing has been ongoing since August and will conclude with two final sessions in early December. Both will be held at the Books & Brews location just south of 96th street, west of I-69 (9402 Uptown Dr Suite 1400):

- Sunday, Dec 3rd, 3:30 - 5:30. Only 2 slots are open for this game.
- Thursday, Dec 7th, 5:30 - 7:30. All 6 slots are open for this game.

I will buy food and drinks for all participants!

If you would like to play, please email me at jay17andersen@gmail.com, and I will reserve a spot for you!

In Case You Missed It

Nov 11 Chow Hounds



Nov 12 Santorini's Greek Buffet



[Courtesy Jan Pfeil Doyle]

Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 10/17/23

Karen Wilczewski, CIM Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday, October 17, 2023.

LocSec Jan Pfeil Doyle called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

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

Absent: Paula Ferguson

Guests: Teresa Gregory, Jon Applegate

The September minutes were reviewed. Kurt moved, Ann seconded to approve the September minutes as amended. The motion carried.

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

A membership report was compiled by Jan Doyle based on information available as of 9/30/23 from American Mensa: 449 members, 0 new, 1 move-in, 3 rejoin, 2 move-outs, and 8 prospects.

Old Business

No second October Mensa testing was scheduled.

Jan and 3 other volunteers will help pass out race credential gear for the Carmel Mini Marathon on Friday, October 20.

Jan attended the weekend of learning on September 30 and October 1. Kurt also participated. Both will contact National to see if they can get credit for attending these meetings.

New Business

Jan mailed out 22 updated monthly calendars to Ms who might not have email and she's requesting postage reimbursement for this effort.

RG: Jan and Teresa found possible new hotels for the 2024 RG through the website Hotels.com; however, the date and location for the 2024 RG is still yet to be decided. Leo is interested in presenting a program on lock-picking at the upcoming RG.

Barb will recontact a game creator who expressed interest in placing a classified ad in MIND for beta testing his game.

There being no other business, Kurt moved to adjourn the meeting. Barb seconded. The motion unanimously carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Wilczewski, Secretary

Solutions to Puzzle:

1. low protective wall (7) = PARAPET
2. 4-base hit (6) = DINGER
3. type of decimal (9) = REPEATING
4. author's aspiration (7) = REPRINT
5. visible (8) = APPARENT
6. influenza (6) = GRIPPE
7. sorting the injured (6) = TRIAGE
8. word in a 1988 film title (7) = TRADING
9. witty conversation (8) = REPARTEE
10. line of ancestry (8) = PEDIGREE

Treasurer's Report

Kurt Williams

Balance Sheet (as of 10/31/2023)

Bank Accounts	09/30/2023	10/31/2023
Checking – Regular	\$ 2,345.86	\$ 2,229.78
Checking – Scholarship	120.00	120.00
Checking – MG Cash	25.00	25.00
Checking – Events Checking	2,644.88	2,644.88
CD – First Internet	10,000.00	10,000.00
Total Assets	\$ 15,135.74	\$ 15,135.74
Unrealized accrued interest on CD	225.84	268.83
Other Assets		
USPS Stamps Value	\$ 341.00	\$ 341.00
Total Number of USPS Stamps	620	620

Profit & Loss Statement (09/30/2023 – 10/31/2023)

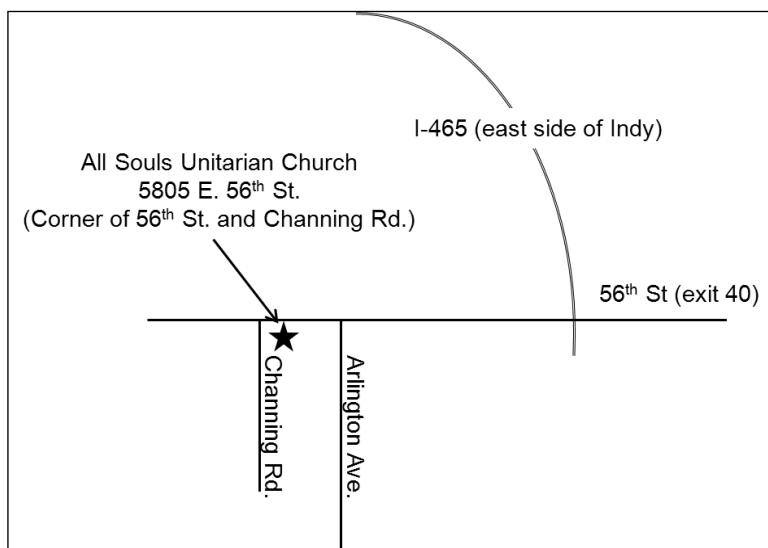
Income		
	Monthly Gathering Income	\$ 35.00
	National Support	384.20
	Testing Support	0
	Non-member MIND subscription	36.00
	New Member/Lapsed Member	3.00
	Total Income	\$ 458.20
Expense		
	MG Hospitality	\$ 91.59
	MIND Printing	356.24
	Testing expenses	5.65
	Facility Rental (All Souls)	100.00
	Total Expenses	\$ 553.48

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



Region 4 RVC

Jon Gruebele RVC4@us.mensa.org

2022-2024 Central Indiana Mensa Executive Committee (ExCom)

Local Secretary	Jan Pfeil Doyle, jan@mw.net , (317) 431-3500
Vice LocSec, Treasurer	Kurt Williams, williams.kurt@sbcglobal.net
Scribe	Karen Wilczewski; biltmore@topdogcom.com
Program Coordinator	Ann Hake, amhake@yahoo.com
Membership Coordinator	Bob Zdanky, zdanky@gmail.com , (317) 912-3590
Outreach Coordinator	Barb George; barbarageorge.indy@gmail.com , (317) 291-0109
NE Area Coordinator	Paula Ferguson; robert.v.ferguson@att.net , (765) 378-6625

Area Contacts

NE Area Coordinator	Paula Ferguson; robert.v.ferguson@att.net , (765) 378-6625
Muncie Coordinator	Kevin Nemyer, knemyer@aol.com , (765) 744-6532
SW Area Coordinator	Nan Harvey, NanHarvey@gmail.com , (812)345-9608

Other Volunteers

MIND editor	Richard Gibson, mind.editor@yahoo.com (770)548-5217
RG/OG Chair	Teresa Gregory, AG18TG@yahoo.com , (317) 430-1761
Testing Coordinator, SIGHT Coordinator	Alison Brown, SIGHT@indymensa.org
Communications Coordinator	Jan Pfeil Doyle, jan@mw.net , (317) 431-3500
Gifted Youth Coordinator	Kurt Williams, Williams.kurt@sbsglobal.net
Asst GYC	David Bonner, gcc@kids.indymensa.org , (317) 973-0258
Calendar Editor	Teresa Gregory, agt8tg@yahoo.com
Ombudsman	Dr. Alan Schmidt, alan.schmidt@att.net , (317) 695-5741
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